

Summer kicks off with food trucks and summer reading

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

BELCHERTOWN – Food Truck Friday is back, and it kicked off on Friday with seven food trucks, and the perfect weather to accompany the day.

Kyle Toelken and other members of the Belchertown Cultural Council have been working hard to plan a line-up of events and more to be enjoyed on Food Truck Fridays, all to bring the community out to enjoy time with one another and eat some good food.

“I love this,” said Toelken. “It brings the community together to enjoy the food trucks, and you can set up your lawn chair and listen to the music. It’s all about the community, and spending

time with friends.”

The day featured three music performances from Amanda Meli, Todd Perry, and the band Baby Driver, with a variety of food to try and fan-favorites like ice cream and gyoza and potstickers.

Radically Rural was present, and they had a table set up with two fun crafts: one to crochet granny squares and paper collages to go with the theme of the travelling quilt.

Over the weekend, the team hosted a Yarn Bomb event where people came together to knit some more granny squares into a line to wrap around a tree, continuing the theme of community-made projects to “knit” us all together.

Please see **KICK OFF**, page 7



TURLEY PHOTO BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

Madison, Grayson, and mom Shelby Seymour enjoying some mac and cheese on their blanket.



TURLEY PHOTO BY ABIGAIL MCCOY

Children going around the Ferris Wheel at high speeds.

Charter Days returns for weekend of fun

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
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GRANBY – Step right up, the fair has returned, and last weekend, Granby and surrounding communities came together to have some fun, eat cotton candy, and jump in the bouncy houses at Charter Days.

Granby Charter Days is a weekend celebration to commemorate and celebrate the day the town of Granby received its Charter on June 11, 1768.

“Key features I would say, would be the amount of community support we all have for the event. It is always the second weekend in June,” said Randy Guevin, the Chair of the Charter Days Committee. “The event is bringing multiple commu-

nities together to celebrate and meet with older community members, and also new community members.”

There were fourteen non-food vendors with some returning year after year, and new vendors including Mr. B’s Kettle Korn, Andean Creations, Runas Crafts, Enchanted Gardens, Henna + Facepainting + Crafts, LooBug Design, Amy’s Rt 9 Bakery, Mad Eatz, Crazy Arepa, D Smoker, Heart-Moser, and Moser Concessions.

Fanelli’s Entertainment provided the carnival games where people could win anything from a squirt gun to a stuffed animal the size of a chair.

They also brought along

Please see **CHARTER DAYS**, page 8

Artist’s sculpture reflects the library to the world

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
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BELCHERTOWN – Art is the process of how we perceive the world around us in our own, entirely unique ways, and allows us to express our deepest feelings and make them into something tangible.

Local sculptor Brendan Stecchini has always found joy in art, specifically in the realm of sculpting, receiving his master’s degree in Sculpture in 1972 from UMass Amherst.

“Motion has always been a part of my art, and more recently, light,” Stecchini said. “You have to be outside in the wind and the light to truly experience it.”

Stecchini has found joy in creating these sculptures, making a point to use found and upcycled items as a part of his sculptures.

He spent time in New York, studying at Hofstra University, before moving to Belchertown, and found inspiration from all around

him.

“You could see the World Trade Center and read the New York Times,” Stecchini said. “You got to see the art changing around you, and it was a wonderful time.”

Stecchini spent time meeting countless other artists, taking inspiration from them and their pieces as he explored public art, and his passion for and the importance of it.

Stecchini’s thesis was Art in Public, and

“This idea of reflections inside the library, then reflects the reflections outside with this art piece. Public art needs something you can hold onto, and that makes it public. The reflections at the library entry also provide reflections into the library itself,” said Stecchini.

During his time working at an iron foundry in a neighboring town, Stecchini brought home iron shavings, and inspiration struck as he mixed the shavings into

Please see **SCULPTURE**, page 11



TURLEY PHOTO BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

Brendan Stecchini with his sculpture outside the Clapp Memorial Library.

Summer reading levels up with bingo

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
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GRANBY — Summer is here, and that means summer reading is beginning, with libraries left and right creating book displays for kids and teens to select a book for their summer reading

TURLEY PHOTO BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS
Reagan proudly showing her new book for summer.

requirements.

The Granby Free Public Library hosted their kick-off for summer reading event last week, and it featured Book Bingo, where kids got to participate in bingo for a book of their choice.

There were picture books and chapter books for the smallest of toddlers to teens in middle school, and prizes like candy, light up toys, and mini notebooks.

The books and prizes were all donations from

the Friends of the Granby Free Public Library, and the Friends also purchased some ice cream cups from All Star.

The prizes weren’t done yet, and at the end, kids got the chance to be drawn in a raffle for some fun mystery toys, mini Legos, and fun fruit cups.

The community room was filled with children, and Youth Services Librarian

Please see **READING**, page 14

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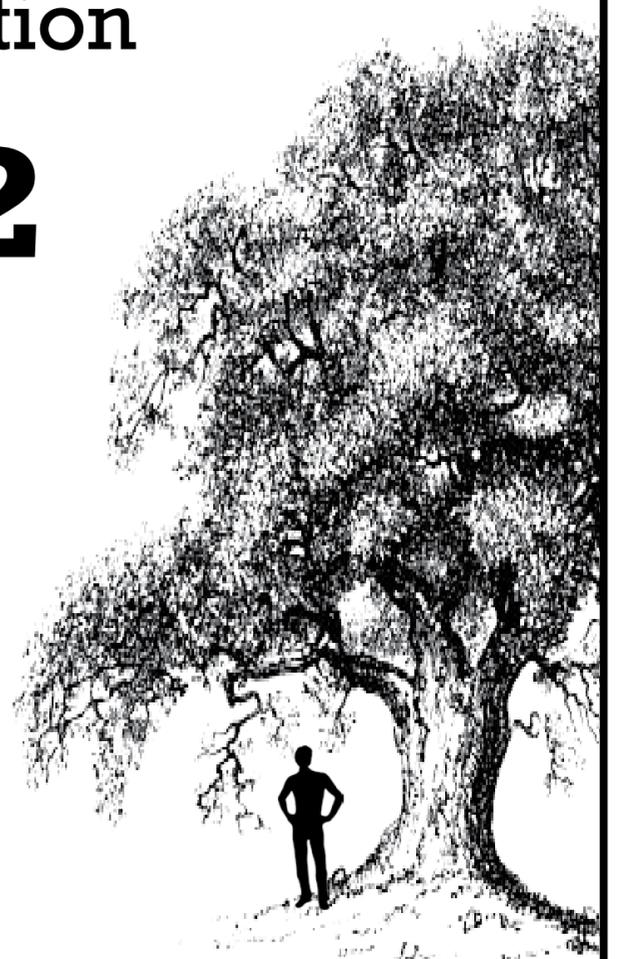
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INSURED AND CERTIFIED

Dwight Day returns for second year, highlighting history

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

BELCHERTOWN – Our town has a rich history, whether it's seeing great generals crossing the town, famous writers finding inspiration, or hosting conservation lands and parks to explore, it is certainly a treasure trove of history.

Dwight Day, a day to commemorate and celebrate the history and culture of Dwight Village with music, food, and more for people to come together and enjoy.

"We were very pleased with the turnout for our second year of producing a community day full of music and history, food, nature, and fun," said Carolan.

Dwight Village had many names, being called Logtown for its many forests and timber, Pansy Park for the beautiful flower garden, and Dwight's Station for the railroads that would soon cross through the land.

Justus Dwight moved to the land because of "consternation" with the Congregational Church in the center of town. He had been given the land by his father, Nathaniel Dwight, who was one of the founding members of Belchertown.

"When I moved here, I would tell people that I was moving to Belchertown, and I looked at a map and saw I was moving closer to someplace called Dwight, and I got curious about that," said Carolan. "So I got on the internet, and that brought me to the Stone House Museum, where I learned more about it."

Justus Dwight built a cabin on the land in 1769 and attended church in Pelham. He started a farm and built his home in 1775.

"He did return to the Belchertown church later in life, but he primarily stayed out in Dwight on the farm there, and he had a lot of children, and one of his sons, Nathaniel Dwight, took over the farm," said Carolan.

Justus' grandson, Harrison Dunbar Dwight, took over the farm, and when the Amherst/Belchertown railroad started up, he donated land to the railroad, and built a little depot train station on his land in 1853, earning the spot the name Dwight's Station.

In 1887, another railroad line was built 50 feet away, and it would eventually become known as the Boston and Maine Railroad, and had a flag stop named Pansy Park, where people could get off the train and explore the garden.

People would come for miles to visit Pansy Park, which was founded by photographer Lafayette Goodell, who lived between 1851 and 1920.

All the people who came together to make Dwight Day possible spent time

exploring the archives and history of the village, and through the sponsorship of the Massachusetts Cultural Council and Belchertown Historical Association, as well as the donated beautiful Dwight Chapel from the Christ Community Church, the day was a success.

The day featured live music performed by local band Flies in the Kitchen, and the Austin Brothers Valley Farm was there grilling fresh burgers.

Jill Bierly with Radically Rural also had a table set up with seed paper for people to write what their favorite thing is about Belchertown, and then plant it to celebrate "Place-Based Joy".

"It was a day for everybody who lives in Belchertown, because while Dwight is in a northern section, we got to see a lot of people come up from the center to celebrate," said Carolan.

Dwight Day also featured nature talks on the conservation lands, hiking and recreational outdoor spaces, as well as historical reenactments of writer Josiah Gilbert Holland by Michael Carolan, and Emily Dickinson by Amy Lanham, who danced with General Lafayette when he came through Belchertown.

"My favorite part of Dwight Day was performing the famous writer from Dwight, Josiah Gilbert Holland, the most famous writer no one's ever heard of," said Carolan. "Emily Dickinson used to write him and his wife many letters, and they were great friends."

Holland was born just off Federal Street in Dwight, moved as a child, and primarily lived in Springfield, and then in New York City.

Literary clubs all around the country in his honor

"All the ideas that we developed together that would be entertaining, a little educational, and fun for people that would come to spend the day at the beautiful grounds of the Dwight Chapel," said Carolan. "That



Allison, Camryn, and Zoë coloring together the Dwight Day poster.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS
Emily Dickinson at Dwight Chapel shares her gingerbread recipe.



Jill Bierly with Radically Rural and the travelling quilt.



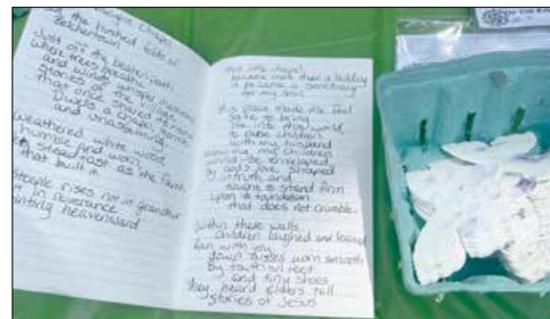
Some historic yard games to try out.



The members of the Austin Brothers Valley Farm grilling up some delicious burgers.



Local band Flies in the Kitchen offering some music.



Writing about Belchertown and the sense of "Place-Based Joy" in town.

was my favorite part. We wanted to make it different this year than last year, and I think that everybody had a good time."

The Historical Association is looking forward to seeing what the new year will bring, and wants to get more people involved in the planning of the event for the future to carry on the history of Dwight Village.

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COMMUNITY

West Street School project moves forward with strategic cost-cutting plan

By Melina Bourdeau
Correspondent

GRANBY — The West Street Building Committee is moving forward with its school renovation project, focusing on strategic cost management and exploring potential funding sources, committee members revealed in a recent meeting.

The committee discussed reducing the project's scope to fit within a \$5.7 million budget while maintaining critical infrastructure improvements. Project manager Tim Widman indicated the team will prioritize essential elements like electrical service, fire protection and accessibility upgrades.

"We're going to look at what makes the most sense and is going to be the most cost-effective in terms of sizing the electrical system, the fire protection and the HVAC," Widman said.

A key strategy involves bidding the project with multiple options. Committee member Neil Joyce suggested presenting a "bare bones" base bid with alternates that could restore the project to its original comprehensive design if additional grants become available.

"If we get any grants, we're not going to know

where to place them," Joyce said. "So, if it goes out to bid, we want to know what bare bones is. But we also want to know in alternates what [Level] C is."

The committee is actively seeking funding through multiple channels. They plan to reapply for an ADA grant after developing a required maintenance procedure and are exploring potential support from state legislators.

"We need to turn around and put some pressure on them a little bit," said Micheline Turgeon, referring to legislative outreach efforts. Additionally, the team is investigating the Massachusetts Mass Save program, which offers potential energy efficiency grants. Committee member Steve Chojnacki highlighted the program's potential benefits, particularly for window replacements and insulation.

"We are a green community," Chojnacki said. "If they want us to insulate differently or get windows, we might be able to get some money for the windows."

The current project focuses on renovating the north wing of the school, with careful consideration of future expansion possibilities. The committee discussed strategically preparing infrastruc-

ture like electrical service and fire suppression systems to accommodate potential future growth.

Joyce from the project management team emphasized the importance of forward-thinking infrastructure planning.

"The prudent mind would say buy a fire pump and a service that's big enough for the entire building and leave the piping and the capacity to a future contract," he said.

Budget constraints remain a significant challenge. The proposed budget includes approximately \$4 million for construction, with a \$400,000 construction contingency and \$100,000 in soft costs.

The committee will continue to refine project details, with regular meetings scheduled for Tuesdays at 4 p.m. Their next meeting is set for June 24, where they expect to receive updates from their design and engineering teams.

Committee members remain committed to the project despite financial limitations.

"We've been hard work so far into this project, I'd like to see it through," Chojnacki said.

4 Towns Food Drive coming June 28

SOUTH HADLEY/GRANBY/BELCHERTOWN/LUDLOW — The local Democratic Committees are hosting a Food Drive on June 28 to fill up local food pantries to fight food insecurity.



Granby – 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Granby UCC's parish parking lot to fill the Granby to Go Food Pantry. For more information, contact Susan Knightly at susan.knightly@gmail.com.

Belchertown – 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., held at and benefiting the Helping Hands Cupboard on 18 Park Street, as well as on the Belchertown Common. Contact Cara Lapenas at belchertowndem-chair@gmail.com for more

information.

Ludlow – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the parking lot of the Ludlow Department of Veterans Services at 487 Holyoke Street. Please get in touch with Mia Alves at miaalves@charter.net for more information.

South Hadley – 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the parking lot of the South Hadley

High School to fill the pantry for Neighbors Helping Neighbors. For more information, contact Ann Stockton at astockton15@gmail.com.

Please remember to check expiration dates, and to not donate anything past the date on the item. Monetary donations are also accepted to help the food pantries stock their shelves.

Sign up for Belchertown's email newsletter

BELCHERTOWN — The Town of Belchertown is pleased to introduce a new monthly email newsletter, The Carriagetown Chronicle, a joint project of the Town Manager's Office and the Communication Committee launched earlier this spring. Each new issue goes out on the 1st of the month; you can find out more, view past issues, and sign up for free at www.belchertown.org/newsletter or by scanning the QR code.

The purpose of the newsletter is to help increase and circulate information for Belchertown residents and others who work in and visit Belchertown. Each issue contains announcements, updates, and other informational pieces from Belchertown departments and committees as well as

non-profit community groups and organizations. You can expect to find information about town events, services, and programs, updates from departments and committees on work and projects, staff introductions, and more.



Please visit www.belchertown.org/newsletter for more information and reach out with any questions or comments to newsletter@belchertown.org.

CORRECTION

In last week's article "Selectboard reorganizes liaison duties" there was an error. The liaison duties for the Selectboard are as follows:

- Jonathan Ritter**
- BCTV
 - Board of Assessors
 - Cable Services Committee
 - Communications Committee
 - Fair Committee
 - Hazard Mitigation Committee
 - Memorial Committee
 - Veteran's Services Advisory Board

- Lesa Lessard Pearson**
- Capital Improvement Planning Committee
 - EDIC
 - Law Account

- Jennifer Turner**
- Belchertown Overcoming Adversity Together (BOAT)
 - Conservation Commission
 - Creative Economy Committee
 - DEI Task Force
 - Historic By-Law Commission
 - Historical Commission

- Lakes Committee
- McPherson Garden Committee
- Parks, Beach and Recreation Committee
- Planning Board

- Whitney Jorns Kuhnlenz**
- Belchertown Age & Dementia Friendly Implementation Group
 - Belchertown School Committee
 - Clapp Memorial Library
 - Community Preservation Committee
 - Cultural Council
 - Energy & Sustainability

- Committee**
- Family Center Committee
 - Scholarship Committee

- Nicole Miner**
- Agricultural Commission
 - Animal Control Advisory Board
 - Belchertown Buildings & Grounds Committee
 - Belchertown School Committee (Alternate)
 - Belchertown Branding Committee
 - Council on Aging
 - Finance Committee
 - Zoning Board of Appeals

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. 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. Let us know if you can help with check-in, decorating, or as a hall sitter.



Belchertown Public Schools School Choice PROGRAM 2025-2026 School Year

The Belchertown Public School District is now accepting applications for the following School Choice openings for the 2025-2026 school year:

Grade K	2	Grade 7	10
		Grade 8	10
		Grade 9	5
		Grade 10	5

The Belchertown Public Schools combine innovation and tradition to provide positive educational experiences for all of our students through quality programs, dynamic teaching and healthy relationships.

The deadline for submitting a **complete** application is 4:00 p.m. on **Friday, July 18, 2025**.

The selection of non-resident students for admission will be in the form of a random drawing when the number of requests exceeds the number of available spaces. There will be two drawings for this purpose. The first will take place on July 18, 2025, and in the event of unexpected additional openings, a second drawing will be conducted on August 22, 2025.

The application and guidelines can be downloaded at www.belchertownps.org or picked up at 14 Maple St., Belchertown, MA 01007.

The Belchertown School District does not discriminate in the admission of any child on the basis of age, sex, gender identity, race, religion, color, national origin, sexual orientation or ancestry, athletic performance, physical handicap, special need, academic performance, disability or proficiency in the English language in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

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SCHOOL

Belchertown announces Honor Roll

7th Grade High Honors

Elizabeth Andrews, Bailey Bachand, Miranda Barrett, Ryan Blazejowski, Jack Bolduc, Hannah Boyko, Olivia Brach, Sophia Brown, Laurah Chaverri, Natalie Couture, Emma Dean, Bridget Donah, Amelia Donovan, Brielle DuBois, Archer Goraj, Ruby Harrington, Matilda Hellyar, Natalie Kalveen, Lucas Kofidis, Ryan Litz, Torrence MacTavish, Emelia Maldanis, Orelia Manduley, Sovanmolika Mao, Aliah Miller, Avery Miller, Olivia Murphy, Madelyn Murray, Tenzin Namgyal, Gracelynn Nite, Giana Patrino, Katalina Pazos, Quinn Rathburn, Emma Scoon, Zachary Wall, Logan West, Amelia Wilcox, and Carter Winterle.

7th Grade Honors

Tucker Almeida, Joshua Annis, Rhea Antunes, Mason Archambault, Rioghan Auffrey, Eliza Boyko, Caleb Cassella, Isabella Chapman, Kiernan Crosby, Lilliana Deleo, Benjamin Dowling, Ariaah Dubreuil, Awrenna Duncan, Alina Fisher, Leo Fisher, Heaven Foster, Ayla Frost, Maya Garipey, Gianna Gassnola, Flynn Goldman, Ethan Himes, Melina Jackson, Delaney Jacque, Caitlynn Jones, Alilah Jordan, Lillian Jurczyk, Willa Keefe, Kristofer Kelly, Olivia Leahy, Samuel Leblond, Nolan Martinez, Nathan Murray, Alexa Pobieglo, Bentley Pope, Kianna Ripley, Zackary Ritter, Cody Robinson, Matthew Santos, Ella Smith, Jacob Staples, Jordan Stone, Brynn Wilcox,

and Benjamin Williams.

8th Grade High Honors

Matthew Almeida, Ommy Alvarez-Orling, Cecilia Bermudez, Ashlynn Brunell, Jillian Currier, Jeremiah Dahlke-Wheeler, Mary DiBona, Devin Duquette, Jake Foss, Jackson Goodsell, Grace Gouvin, Zoey Hale, Greta Kristensen, Madison Lacroix, Noah LaSante, Harper Laurenzo, Piper Laurenzo, Josephine Lian, Joshua Lisek, Lily Mann, Amalia Martins, Max Matthews, Natalie Parent, Annalie Roggie, Kierstyn Shaink, Ashley Siri, Ava Stelmokas, Lukas Versace, Gianna Viens, Juliette Wojnas.

8th Grade Honors

Damien Alley, Bridget

Benoit, Gianna Boisjolie, Adilyn Bottari, Lillian Boyko, Kylee Burnham, Quinten Chen, Nolan Chianciola, Charles Cozine, Tovah DelPrete, Maevie Donah, Hannah Fillion, Patrick Gibson, Celia Goodrich, Helaine Holt, Asher Johnson-Jones, MaryRose Johnson-Jones, Ryan Longe, Nathan Loranger,

Kayleigh Malone, Charles Maurer, Jeremy Metzger, Annabelle Morra, Logan Motta, Jada Okyere Baffour, Janice Okyere Baffour, Joshua Page, Charlotte Perry, Cora Podraza, Kyla Riley, Mackensie Rodriguez, Brayden Slattery, Tyler Stahl, Ella Stelmokas, Shay Teixeira, Lucy Toner, Amaya Valentin, and Jayden Volz-Benoit.

Belchertown Scholarship Fund awardees announced

BELCHERTOWN - The Belchertown Scholarship Fund is proud to announce the recipients of its 2025-2026 scholarships. These scholarships are awarded to deserving Belchertown residents who wish to pursue post-secondary education. The recipients are selected from a pool of applicants from Belchertown High School, Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School, and homeschooled students.

The Town of Belchertown Scholarship Committee sincerely thanks all current and past supporters. Your financial contributions make a real difference, supporting the education of our town's children. We are deeply grateful for your ongoing support and belief in education.

This year, the Belchertown Scholarship Fund awarded a total of five \$1,500 scholarships to students who demonstrated academic excellence, community involvement, and financial need.

The recipients of the 2025-2026 scholarships are:

Alexandra Barabolkin graduated from Belchertown High School and plans to study Diagnostic Medical Sonography at Regis College in the Fall.

Meera Berryhill graduated from Belchertown High School and plans to study Marketing at the University of Massachusetts Amherst in the Fall.

Benjamin Les graduated from Belchertown High School and plans to study History and Government at Wesleyan University in the Fall.

Noah Les graduated from Belchertown High School and plans to study Optical Engineering/Photonics at Bridgewater State University in the Fall.

George Wheeler graduated from Belchertown High School and plans to study Occupational Therapy at Worcester State College in the Fall.

Relay for Life craft fair and 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.

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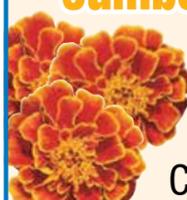
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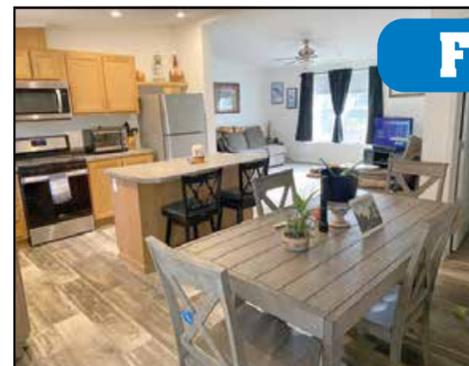
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OPINION

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

Dear Rusty:

In your answer to the retired U.S. Navy veteran about why he is forced to enroll in Medicare, you focused on military TriCare's requirement for the member to enroll in Medicare. But you said nothing about regular VA health care. If a non-career veteran is eligible for VA health care, couldn't that be used in place of Medicare?

Signed: Veteran Advocate

Dear Veteran Advocate:

Thank you for your feedback. FYI, I have previously explained numerous times that veterans who rely on the VA for 100% of their healthcare can, indeed, disenroll from Medicare Part B (thus saving the monthly Part B premium). I don't personally recommend it because of my personal experience, but it certainly is possible to do so.

Personally, I use the VA for some of my healthcare needs usually an annual checkup and optometry services at my local VA clinic, which is only a mile away from where I live. But for any extensive treatment needs medical tests, etc., I must travel about 40 miles to the nearest VA hospital facility.

For contrast, I have numerous private healthcare services, specialists and hospitals very near where I live, but to use them under the VA I must get VA preapproval and use only certain VA approved providers, which is inconvenient for me.

Personally, I prefer the freedom to go to any healthcare service provider I choose, without restriction, at any time I need to. So, I use my VA coverage when it is convenient for me, but rely also on non-VA, Medicare-approved specialists who I can choose to use or not at will. For me, it's a matter of convenience and the freedom to use whichever healthcare provider I want.

That said, I fully understand that some veterans rely exclusively on the VA for their healthcare needs,

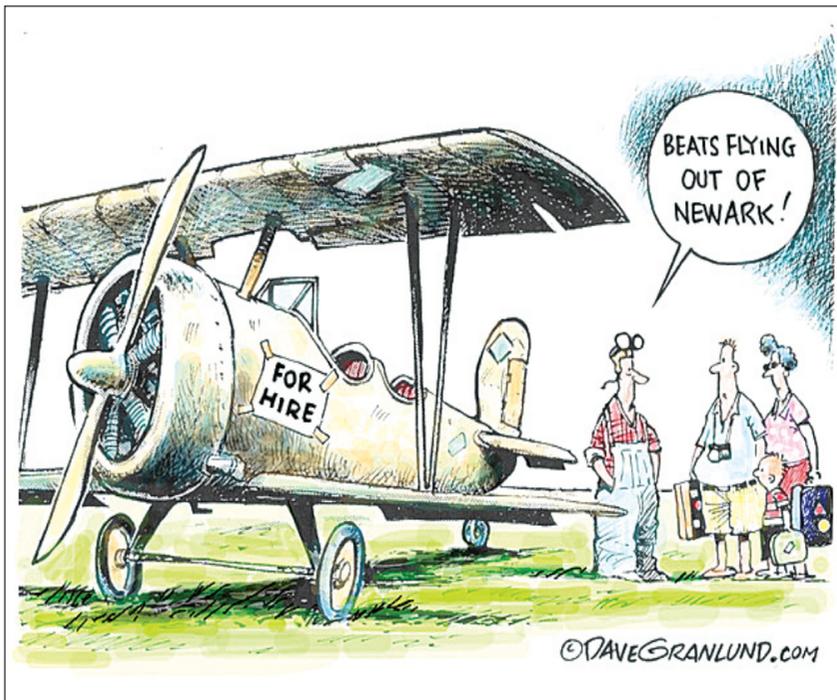
and I have explained to many who have written to me that they have that option. I have also published several public articles about this as well. Here is one such article:

<https://socialsecurityreport.org/ask-rusty-why-should-a-veteran-pay-for-medicare/>

So, please rest assured that we regularly advise our veterans about their healthcare options under Medicare, including the ability to decline Medicare Part B coverage if they have full VA healthcare coverage. FYI, free Medicare Part A (inpatient hospitalization coverage) is mandatory to collect Social Security after age 65, but Medicare Part B coverage is always optional because there is a premium associated with Part B.

A veteran can decline Medicare Part B coverage and save that monthly premium, but they would need to contact Social Security to do so. Social Security will want to interview the veteran to ensure they are aware of the potential financial consequences of not having Medicare Part B. And they may need to file form CMS-1763 Request for Termination. But a non-career veteran can opt out of Medicare Part B if they get all of their healthcare services through the Veterans Administration.

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.



Renovate your strawberry patch and divide those irises, too

I started over with new strawberry plants this year, but for those of you who are completing your harvest, it's high time to renovate your patch so that it will remain productive.

Sure, it will be hard work, but it's absolutely necessary if you want to keep the berries coming!

First, get up the courage to run the lawnmower over your row of strawberries. Yes, you heard correctly. This will give you an opportunity to see what you have to work with in a dense planting, as well as cut down on foliar diseases. Set the mower at a height of two and a half to three inches and use the bagger attachment if you have one. Small plantings can be clipped away by hand. Compost the leaves away from your patch.

Now, assess your surroundings and think back to when you were doing all that picking. Was your back sore from reaching in to a very wide row? Were most of your berries on the small side? If you answered yes to both of these questions, then serious renovation is in order.

Use the tiller or a shovel to shrink your row back to a manageable width. Fourteen inches is about as wide as the experts recommend. Choose the healthiest part of your row and measure out fourteen inches. Then, remove all the runners that have emerged outside of the boundaries.

Those of us in the business of growing things usually find this part difficult. "Can't just this one stay?" Ease your guilt by giving away the extras; or, use them to start another patch.

Next, get rid of any "mother" plants that are four years or older. Unfortunately, they have aged beyond their productivity. Simply dig them up and send them off to the compost pile.

Finally, remove daughter plants that are spaced closer than four inches from one another—another difficult task, but one that must be accomplished if we want large, healthy berries. As you work within the row, be sure to eradicate any and all weeds that you come upon, since these will compete

with your strawberry plants for moisture and nutrients.

Now that your patch has been renovated, it's time to

site altogether, keep in mind that irises need at least six hours of full sun a day for optimal flowering. They despise "wet feet," so plant where drainage is good.

If your soil is lean, compost can be added to richen it up. While you're at it, add a sprinkling of lime as well; irises prefer a soil near neutral. Dig a shallow hole wide enough to fit the rhizome. Make a ridge of soil in the hole for it to sit on so that its fibrous roots can hang down.

The top of the rhizome should be level with the soil surface and exposed, not buried. This goes for bark mulch as well, keep it clear or blooms may be sacrificed. If your irises hardly flower but aren't overcrowded and are planted where they receive enough sun, assess your planting depth and adjust if necessary.

Examine your rhizomes closely when replanting. If you notice a lot of soft, rotten tissue, your iris patch could be infected with the iris borer.

Usually by midsummer, one to one and a half inch larvae have made their way from the leaves into the rhizomes. They hollow out the fleshy roots causing foliage to collapse and rot to take over. Control this pest by proper sanitation.

In the fall, after a hard frost, cut iris foliage back to the ground as low as possible. Throw it and any nearby debris or mulch away. With any luck, overwintering eggs will be removed by your efforts.

In the spring, about the time that the tulips are blooming, inspect iris foliage for chew edges, small holes, or tan colored water marks running down the leaf. If these are present, tiny larvae can be crushed inside the leaf before they burrow into the rhizome.

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 with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



LETTERS

Local author riding for a change

To the Editor,

On Saturday, June 28, I'm challenging myself by riding in the Gran Fondo of Vermont, a 107-mile ride over 4 mountain passes in northern Vermont. It includes 10,000 feet of climbing, including the steepest graded paved road in the United States—up Lincoln Gap. I'm doing it to raise money for the largely unsung heroes at the Hospice of the Fisher Home in Amherst—one of only two hospices in Massachusetts to be rated with 5 stars by Medicare, and the only one in Western Massachusetts.

I'm doing it in memory of Leah Kunkel, who was my literary attorney for a book I've just written, but Leah was much more than this. Sister of Mama Cass Elliot, Leah raised Mama Cass's daughter, and became a famous singer in her own right, singing with Arlo Guthrie and Livingston Taylor and forming her own band. She moved to the Pioneer Valley, went to

Smith, and became not only an arts attorney but a public defender; at age 76, she was still going to court to defend those who could not afford lawyers. She was also a champion of girls in popular music. She was well-loved. Sadly, she died of a brief illness last Fall.

She spent her last days in the Fisher Home, where, like so many others, she received excellent, compassionate care. I have known others who have received this kind of care at this homey and historic institution and at hospices in general. Close friends and her son, whom I talked with, agreed that this would be an excellent way to honor Leah.

To make a donation, simply go to the Fisher Home website, and click "Events" to donate to my ride, per mile, or as a lump sum. Or you can simply click the tab which says donate; it all goes to the same place! Thank you so much.

David Gottsegen MD,
Belchertown

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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Email it to sentinel@turley.com. Include your hometown and a phone number at which we can reach you for confirmation.

KICK OFF from page 1

"I joined the BCC to help out, and to have fun, and having the Food Truck Fridays helps to bring the whole community together," said Toelken. "It's laid back- grab some food, and just enjoy the time with your neighbors and make some new friends, too."

The Climate for Health was there also with a craft to make paper hand fans, raising awareness about the heat, and how people can stay safe when the temperatures rise, especially those who need more assistance in finding

relief from the heat.

The Clapp Memorial Library hosted their summer reading kick-off at Food Truck Friday, too, and Charlotte Cassidy, Ruthie Sterling, Jennifer Whitehead, and several teen volunteers wearing their new t-shirts were there to help.

Kids who signed up at the event, or were already signed up, got to pick out a fun prize, and they also offered a fun dragon craft with toilet paper rolls and cut paper, tying them on a string to fly in the wind.

The summer reading

theme, Level Up at Your Library, serves to encourage kids to learn different things as they read, with themed weeks and more coming up.

"My favorite part of the Food Truck Friday is to see people, and some I haven't seen in a while," said Jennifer Whitehead. "I love the community feel, and that its for everybody."

The community of Belchertown is close, and whether you are there for the food trucks, the library, or the music, there's something for everyone, and it was the perfect way to start a new summer, with many new opportunities to level it up.



Cookie dough, bacon mac and cheese. The options are endless at this egg roll stop.



A group of friends enjoying some yummy food, and the beautiful weather.



Melanie Donovan and Sarah Maroney with Radically Rural showing off their crafts and displaying the travelling quilt.



Helen Bierly with her adorable dragon craft.



Is Asian-style cuisine more your thing? Try the gyoza at Nom Nom Hut.



Charlotte Cassidy and Ruthie Sterling with matching dinosaur swag at the library table.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS
Set up your chair and listen to some good music.

Community band in search of musicians for summer concerts

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!

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Granby Charter Days Returns

Pharaoh's Fury, a swing-based ride common at most festivals and fairs.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY ABIGAIL MCCOY AND MURPHY FITTS



Autumn enjoys a day at Granby Charter Days with her family.



CHARTER DAYS from page 1

their fun rides and amusements, including the Ferris Wheel, and spinning and swinging rides, enough for everyone.

Lead Food Brewing also had their beer tent, which was there for the first time this year, and many people stopped by to enjoy some craft brews.

There was an animal show and a mini animal show, and the Northeast Kingdom Express drove around to give rides.

Charter Days is made possible by the community coming together and helping to make it happen.

"I love the fact that so many people in the community are willing to come out and help our fully volunteer committee make the weekend exciting for everyone by also volunteering to help with everything from parking, trash, and bathroom maintenance," said Guevin. "Everyone gives their hard work and time to help out. It makes me feel great to know the community is behind the entire committee."

Members of the Charter Days Committee: Chair Randy Guevin, Glenn Durham, Steve Sabourin, Jon Szymonik, Martin Laliberte, Kim Kibbie, Dan Paquin, Leora Bergeron, Amanda Paquin, and Crystal Dufresne.

"In the future, we look forward to making the event even more enjoyable for all of our community and the surrounding communities around us," said Guevin.

Sponsors included Polish National Credit Union, Wheeler & Taylor (Jubenville Insurance), Laflamme Gardens, Dickinson Farm, Cote Cattle Company, Class Grass, and Everson Construction, with a special thanks to: WM (Waste Management), New England Paving, and Granby Grain.

"I would like to say thank you to everyone who helped out, from our committee members to all of the volunteers in the community. That without all of them, we would not have had such a great event. Thank you to everyone," said Guevin.

Charter Days is not only a celebration of the day Granby got its Charter, but also a time to celebrate and remember the way the community comes together, and works together, to create something truly magical.



Tim and Nita Abbott with the Friends of Granby's Parks & Recreation holding a raffle for two handmade raised flower beds.



Two young children participate in a skee-ball-like game while their grandfather watches.



Amy from Amy's RT Nine Bakery with an assortment of baked goods.



Viewing the food and merchandise vendors through the trees at Dufrense Park while walking the path that leads to the carnival and game side of the Charter's Days Festival.



The Northeast Kingdom Express makes its way through the crowd.



Kids get spun around with joy on the Twister.



Teenagers Emma Murphy (left) and Telyn Kelly (right) fight to the death on top of the bouncy house obstacle course.



The adventure slide offers a classic ride for people of all ages.

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Girls soccer shut out by Wilbraham



Jaden Bean sends a kick away.



Lily Mann corrals the ball near the sideline.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Adelina Gualberto tries to get around an opponent.

WILBRAHAM – Last Friday evening, Belchertown A girls summer soccer was shut out by Wilbraham 5-0. The girls were back in action earlier this week. After two weeks of play, Belchertown is 2-2.



Alexa Karabetsov tries to get a kick away.



Madelyn Philpott clears the ball away.



Lainey Holt heads to take on an opponent.

Granby out to perfect start

SOUTH HADLEY – For the past few years, South Hadley High School has hosted multiple summer soccer teams thanks to rain-friendly turf. Last week, there was a doubleheader that included Granby girls facing Ludlow B, with Granby picking up the win. Granby is now a perfect 3-0 to start the summer season.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Eleanor Szlosek emerges up the field.



Kalli White tries to get away from an opponent.



McKenna Cudworth comes across the field.



Marcela Tapia chases down a loose ball.



Emily Durham takes a free kick.

Gaines shines for PeoplesBank in win over rival St. Joe's

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

THORNDIKE—People's Bank, who captured the last eleven Tri-County League championship titles, and the St. Joseph's Baseball Club are scheduled to face each other four times during the regular season.

The first two meetings on the baseball diamond were won by People's Bank without very much trouble.

A week after defeating St. Joe's, 13-3 at Mackenzie Stadium in Holyoke, People's Bank celebrated a 6-1 road victory at St. Joe's Park in Thorndike, last Friday night.

"This is a very big win early season win for us against St. Joe's, who's currently in first place," said People's Bank player/manager Joe Ferry. "I thought our pitching and defense was the difference in tonight's game. We also had some timely base hits."

People's Bank, who had two games postponed last week, had a perfect 4-0 record following the road win, while St. Joe's had a 5-2 record.

Each of the five Tri-County League teams gets two points for a victory and one for a tie.

"We always want to beat

People's, but they're a very veteran team and we have a bunch of younger players," said St. Joe's player/manager Brian Hayes, who shares the coaching duties with Paul Marcinek. "They don't swing at many bad pitches. They also don't make very many mistakes defensively."

People's Bank jumped out to a 2-0 lead against St. Joe's lefthander Jackson Petrin in the top of the first inning.

Petrin, who was a senior on the Pope Francis baseball team this past spring, tossed a two-hitter against Minnechaug Regional in the Western Mass. Class A finals, which was held at Mackenzie Stadium on May 27. He didn't have the same kind of success in his start against People's Bank.

With one-out in the opening frame, second baseman Dave Clark (3-for-3) lined a single down the right field line. First baseman Kyle Platner followed with a ground ball single up the middle into center field putting runners at the corners. Platner moved into scoring position on a wild pitch. Catcher Frankie Ferrentino, who's a first-year player, drove home both runners

Please see **ST. JOE'S**, page 10

SPORTS

Pioneers suffer rare league loss

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

BURLINGTON, VT. — Not very much went the right way for the Western Mass. Pioneers against Vermont Green FC in the first match-up of the regular season between the USL League-Two rivals.

Vermont Green scored a goal at the end of both halves leading to a 2-0 shutout over the Pioneers before 2,500 enthusiastic soccer fans at Virtue Field, which is located on the University of Vermont campus, last Tuesday night.

“I thought we played well, but we just couldn’t put our chances away,” said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. “They did put their chances away.”

The Pioneers had a 5-1-2 record following the road loss.

Vermont Green (6-0-1) took over sole possession of first place in the

Northeast Division.

Since joining USL League-Two in 2022, Vermont has finished in third place behind the Pioneers in the league standings.

The overall series record between the two clubs is now tied 3-3-1. Three of the seven matchups ended 1-0.

In the second meeting of last season, Vermont made the trip south on Rte. 91 needing to defeat the Pioneers to qualify for the league playoffs. They got the job done with a 3-1 victory.

Their first meeting of 2024, which was played at Virtue Field, finished in a scoreless draw.

The last time the Pioneers celebrated a victory over Vermont Green was a 1-0 home shutout in the second meeting of the 2023 campaign. The lone goal of that match was scored by Mamadi Jiana, who played soccer

at Chicopee High School, and is still a member of the Pioneers. He also plays for the men’s soccer team at Bryant University.

The Pioneers had a couple of scoring chances during the first half of last Tuesday’s match.

In the eighth minute, Robbie Lyons fired a shot from the top of the box, but Vermont goalie Niklas Herceg managed to make the save.

A little more than ten minutes later, a Lyons free kick sailed wide

Herceg made another save following a shot attempt from Augustine Boadi during the 32nd minute.

Vermont Green took a 1-0 lead 11 minutes later.

The scoring play began with Stephane Njike sending a crossing pass into the box from the left side. Then Joseph Picotto flicked a shot into the back of the net past Western Mass goalie Cam Hall.

The Pioneers had an opportunity to score the tying goal in 52nd minute when Boadi sent a pass to Lyons, but his shot went over the crossbar.

In the 73rd minute, Jared Smith’s free kick just missed going into the net.

With the Pioneers still trailing by a goal late in the second half, Vermont goalie Niklas Herceg received a yellow card from referee Elvis Jandric.

Molinari thought his team should’ve been given a free kick following the card, but the referee gave the home team a goal kick instead.

“It should’ve been a free kick for us because the referee gave their goalie a yellow card,” Molinari said. “The referee made a mistake and it’s a



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY
WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Augustine Boadi hustles up the field.



Gustavo Barbosa traps the ball and heads up the field.



Jaiden Williams shoots on goal.



Robert Lyons crosses the field.



Mamadi Jiana runs down the loose ball.

very tough loss for loss.” Following the match, Molinari and several of the Pioneers got into a heated argument with Jandric in the middle of the field.

The home team sealed their victory when Hall attempted to make a diving save on a shot taken by Tyler Trimmel. The ball bounced away from the Pioneers keeper and Njike put the ball into the back of the net sending the Vermont Green supporters into a frenzy.

The Pioneers did get back into the win column following a 2-0 win against the Boston Bolts.

The Pioneers goals were scored by Jorge Veintimilla and Jiana.

The second meeting between Vermont Green and Western Mass. is scheduled to take place at Lusitano Stadium on July 11. It’s also the regular season finale for the Pioneers.

Motocross Nationals set for WMass return this weekend

SOUTHWICK – Since 1976, the intimate, serpentine layout of Southwick, Massachusetts’ iconic The Wick 338 has provided the most unique and grueling challenge in American motocross. Nestled behind the American Legion outpost for which it is named, amidst a sea of trees and the nearby Great Brook, the hidden gem is a pillar of the globally prestigious Pro Motocross Championship and has a legacy that spans nearly five decades. On Saturday, June 28, the 44th running of the Crestview Construction Southwick National will see the town of Southwick become the global epicenter of the motocross world,

as the most legendary race teams and an international contingent of the fastest racers on the planet converge on Western Massachusetts for the ultimate battle of man and machine at the “moto sandbox.”

With its one-of-a-kind racing surface, endless stream of flowing turns, and an undulating terrain that is surrounded by spectators, The Wick 338 stands alone in the world of motorsports. It is rare to find a racetrack of such global significance, with such a rich history seamlessly interwoven into the community that surrounds it, but the embrace of this summer tradition has become a fixture of

Southwick living and an economic boon for the Hampden County town. Hundreds of racers, race team personnel, event staff, and race fans from across New England will make the journey to Western Massachusetts for an action-packed day of racing that will play a pivotal role in the quest to crown champions.

With legendary track elements like Jo Jo’s Powerslide and Buckley Berm, The Wick 338 has long put riders to the ultimate test. The ever-changing sand means the track is constantly evolving, getting rougher and

Please see **MOTOCROSS**, page 11

ST. JOE’S from page 9

with a bloop single to center. Ferrentino is a member of the Merrimack College baseball team.

Petrin retired the next two batters on a foul pop-up caught by third baseman Jacob Petrin and a strikeout.

St Joe’s threatened against People’s Bank lefty Danny Gaines, who’s from Holyoke, with one-out in the bottom half of the first inning. Jacob Petrin (2-for-4) began the rally with an infield hit and right fielder Pat Fitzgibbons drew a walk. Gaines escaped further trouble by getting the next batter to hit into an inning ending double play.

After neither team scored in the second inning, People’s Bank centerfielder Seth Allen hit a groundball to the third baseman leading off the third inning. He wound up at second base following a throwing error. A Clark pop-up sin-

gle to center and a walk by Plater loaded the bases.

The visitors, who had seven base hits in the game, took a 3-0 lead when Ferrentino was hit by a pitch. Then right fielder Cam Rivest, who’s the varsity baseball coach at Ludlow High School, hit a sacrifice fly scoring another run.

St. Joe’s broke the ice an inning later.

Fitzgibbons, who hit a hard ground ball into left field leading off the fourth inning, scored when centerfielder Aaron Little, who played baseball at Ludlow High School, hit a sacrifice fly.

Second baseman Nate Carillon continued the St. Joe’s rally with a walk and catcher Bobby Trigilio was hit-by-a-pitch loading the bases with one-out. Just like they did in the first and third innings, People’s Bank ended the inning with a double play.

“Our defense was awe-

some tonight,” Ferry said. “We turned three double plays early in the game.”

Gaines, who allowed one run on three hits in four innings, was relieved by fellow lefty James Flahive, who’s normally a starter, at the start of the fifth inning.

“Danny has been one of our top starting pitchers for a very long time,” Ferry said. “It’s still early in the season and we knew he could give us at least four strong innings.”

Flahive, who threw 70 pitches over the final three frames, was credited with the win. He didn’t allow any runs on two hits.

People’s Bank final two runs were scored in the fifth and sixth innings on sacrifice flies from designated hitter Johny Gegetskas and Plater.

The third meeting of the regular season between the two teams was scheduled to be played at Mackenzie Stadium on Tuesday night.



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Summer Eats is back-fueling kids and teens all summer long

BOSTON - Summer Eats - the Massachusetts Summer Food Service Program - is kicking off across the Commonwealth, providing free meals to all kids and teens, ages 18 and under. In 2024, more than 2.8 million meals were served across over 1,450 sites statewide through the Summer Eats program. During Summer Eats Awareness Week, Project Bread is encouraging community members to help spread the news about this free program statewide, with free promotional materials available online.

Throughout the school year, children in Massachusetts rely on free school meals to meet most of their daily nutrition needs. Summer Eats closes the gap when the school year ends, helping to ensure children and teens continue to grow, learn and thrive over school vacation. On an average day in July 2024, 70,000 kids ate at least one Summer Eats meal.

Participating meal providers operate and staff meal sites, often in conjunction with activities and educational programming at schools, libraries, local park and recreation areas, and more. Kids and teens are required to eat onsite at most Summer Eats sites. Grab & Go meals are available in select rural communities. All are welcome. No registration or ID is required. In 2024, more than 2.8 million meals were served across over 1,450 sites statewide

through the Summer Eats program. Another summer food resource is SUN Bucks (Summer EBT), which is a federal food benefit providing additional funding for groceries for low-income families with school-aged children.

For more than 20 years, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and statewide food security nonprofit Project Bread have partnered to support communities in offering Summer Eats meals to children in Massachusetts. Throughout the school year, the nonprofit and DESE also partner to expand access to and participation in school meal programs. This year, Project Bread has granted a total of \$236,482 to Summer Eats sponsors statewide for their program development and capacity-building, such as equipment to transport meals or increase kitchen efficiency and meal quality, as well as staffing support and items to enhance site engagement, outreach and promotion efforts.

"We hear from families all the time who are finding ways to stretch their budgets during the summer months, who are unsure about what resources are available to them, and who are just trying to put food on their tables each day," says Erin McAleer, President & CEO of Project Bread, the leading food security organization in Massachusetts. "Food is not a luxury. The Summer Eats program is a vital resource that makes sure that every

child can have their basic need of hunger met and can simply focus on learning, growing, and enjoying summer fun."

Summer is better with full bellies and big smiles. For more information about Summer Eats, including meal site locations, visit www.projectbread.org/summer-eats, text FOOD or COMIDA to 304-304, or call 1-800-645-8333 for help in any language. A personal contribution to support Summer Eats can be made at www.projectbread.org/donate.

About Project Bread

Project Bread connects people and communities in Massachusetts to reliable sources of food while advocating for policies that make food more accessible-so that no one goes hungry. Summer Eats is one of the many nutrition programs they support. Any resident of Massachusetts struggling to afford food or worrying they might run out before they have money to buy more can call Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline for help in 180+ languages (1-800-645-8333) or send a confidential chat on www.gettingsnap.com for compassionate, personalized assistance. Counselors are available Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There is also a dedicated line available to those who are hearing impaired. For more information, visit: www.projectbread.org.

Sunday school youth receive honor certificates

On Sunday, June 8th the Sunday School Youth class at Hope United Methodist Church in Belchertown received certificates honoring their participation in Sunday

School classes this past year. They took part in the morning worship service that day.

Allison Morris, a graduate of the Belchertown High School class of 2025,

was awarded The Hope United Methodist Church Scholarship. Allison will be attending a four-year college pursuing her education in Physical Therapy.

SCULPTURE from page 1

paints, going on to make a series of paintings that won prizes.

"My work comes from where I am, but I always pick up pieces out of a jumble, and then all of a sudden, the pieces come together. The solutions come seemingly out of nowhere as I look at the pieces, and they become a sculpture," said Stecchini.

Currently, you can find his piece, "Solar Reflective Movement," standing proudly outside the Clapp Memorial Library, catching light from its surroundings with the dozens of mirrors hanging from it.

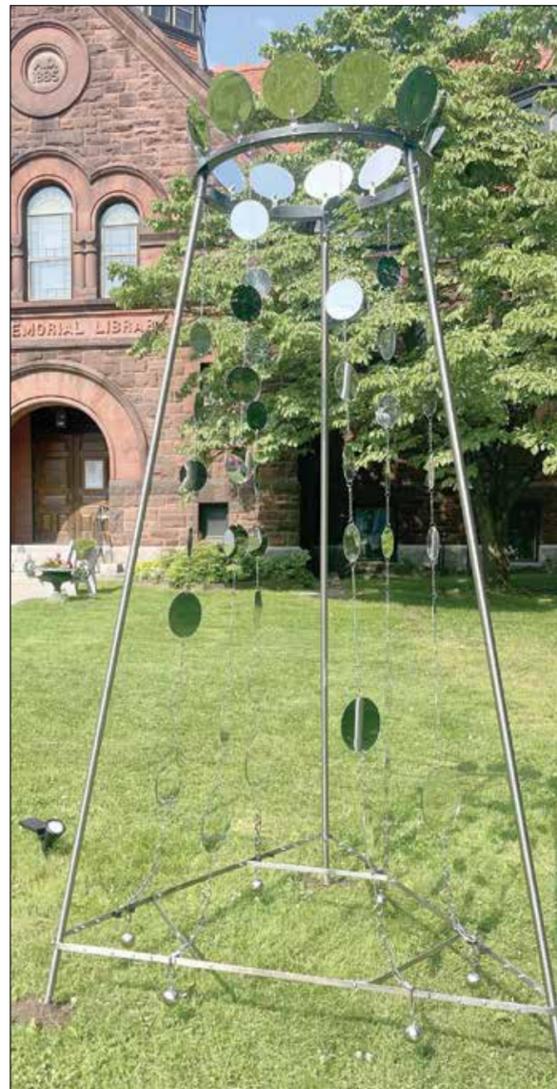
"Solar Reflective Movement is a celebration reflected in art, sculpture, people, wind, and solar energies," said Stecchini in his artist statement.

The sculpture is made of 120 total acrylic mirrors, and the mirrors are strung together with jewelry chain and fishing lure swivels so that they can spin on the chains and catch and reflect as much light as possible.

"I thought more about reflective movement and its relation to the library, and how power and life comes from the sun, and these reflections mimic our understanding of the world, much like the library reflects what we know of it through the books and the words and pictures inside it," said Stecchini.

Just as art is a reflection of thoughts and emotions, libraries are as well, and provide reflections of the cultures of the towns they stand in, bringing people together.

"Every piece of art is some



TURLEY PHOTO BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

Stop by the library to admire this work of art.

kind of reflection, and I want it to be fun, I want it to be interesting, and I want to have people find something to be inspired by it," said Stecchini.

Stop by the library and

take some time to sit under the shade of the tree, and admire the reflected light bouncing off the mirrors and across the grass with the library ready and filled with inspiration.

Call for walkers: Register for the 37th Annual Jimmy Fund Walk presented by Hyundai

REGION — Registration is open for the 2025 Jimmy Fund Walk presented by Hyundai. Scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 5, funds raised from the Jimmy Fund Walk support all forms of adult and pediatric care and research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The Jimmy Fund Walk will aim to raise \$9.5 million this year in the effort to prevent, treat, and defy cancer.

The Jimmy Fund Walk is the only organized walk permitted to use the famed Boston Marathon@course, and participants have the flexibility to choose from four distance options:

5K walk: Starting at Dana-Farber's Longwood Medical Campus

10K walk: Starting in Newton

Half Marathon walk: Starting in Wellesley

Marathon walk: Starting in Hopkinton

All along the route, walkers will be motivated by poster-sized photographs of patients—Jimmy Fund Walk Heroes—that are the heart of the event and appear along the course as inspiration. Walkers will also be treated to refueling stations with refreshments throughout the course.

The event will conclude

at the Jimmy Fund Walk Finish Line at Boston Common, by the corner of Charles and Beacon Streets. Finish line activities will include a celebration with food, entertainment, and more. Walkers who prefer to participate virtually can complete their chosen distance from any location

Register as an individual walker, team member, or start a team. Take advantage of this unique opportunity and bring a group of your family, friends, or colleagues together against cancer. To register for the

Please see **WALK**, page 13

MOTOCROSS from page 10

tougher as the day wears on and is usually complemented by elevated summer temperatures and humidity, adding another layer to an already monumental task. Despite its challenges, it's a race all athletes want to win and those who have prevailed on these hallowed grounds take immense pride in knowing they earned that success. For spectators, there's simply nothing like it, as virtually every vantage point provides spectacular visuals and puts fans on top of the action.

The Pro Motocross Championship comprises 11 rounds of competition amongst the most high profile superstars of motorcycle racing, like American-born champions Eli Tomac and Chase Sexton, as well as championship-winning Australian phenom Jett Lawrence, Spaniard world champion Jorge Prado, and many more. The series will visit 10 different states from late May to late August, visiting the most hallowed venues in racing with legacies that span upwards of five decades. In the end, a pair of athletes will emerge with the sport's most distinguished title, celebrated as an AMA National Champion.

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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 or via the Beanstack app.

For more information, visit our website: 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 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.

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 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 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 Teens: 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 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 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.

The Clapp Memorial Library is open:

- 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.

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.

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.

Announcing new kid’s event at the 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 ware-grange.org for more information.

WALK from page 11

Walk (#JimmyFundWalk) or to support a walker, visit www.JimmyFundWalk.org or call 866-531-9255.

Registrants can enter the promo code NEWS for \$5 off the registration fee. All registered walkers will receive a bib, medal, and a Jimmy Fund Walk T-shirt. You can also sign up to volunteer on Walk Day.

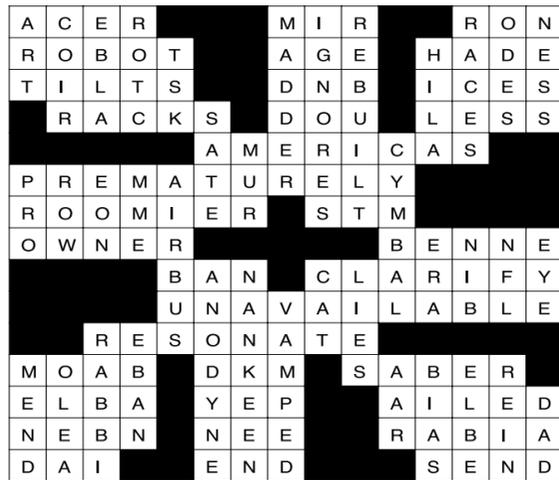
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Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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Send Us Your Autumn Event Information

Turley Publications will print your Autumn event **FREE OF CHARGE** in our **Autumn Fest Supplement** which will be published **September 10, 2025.**

Total circulation of 85,000 reaching over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley.

Deadline for Calendar submissions is August 11.

Community Autumn Events

Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

FREE Calendar Listings Reaching over 200,000 Readers in the Pioneer Valley

Event Name _____

Date/Time _____

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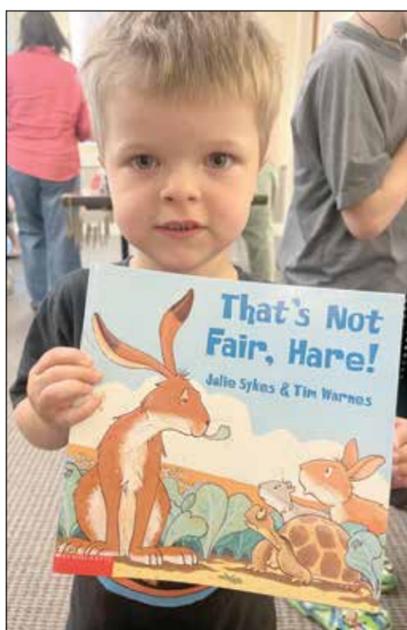
MAIL YOUR LISTING INFORMATION TO:

Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or email* them to: jamie@turley.com

***Be sure to indicate “Autumn Event” in the subject line of your email.**



Emmaline with her new dragon book.



Jack is ready to read his book.



Alyssa with her two new chapter books for summer.



Jaxon ready to win some prizes.



No party is complete without a balloon toss!

TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS



The line-up of books ready to go home with someone.

READING from page 1

Janice McArdle was happy to see so many kids come in to participate in Book Bingo.

"I love seeing the kids get excited about reading," said McArdle. "The activities and weekly themes are a lot of fun, and help encourage them to read, too."

Every year, libraries follow a theme for their summer reading program.

grams, and this year it's to Level Up at Your Library.

McArdle has planned countless themes, from cats and dogs to superheroes, and Minecraft and jokes and laughter.

"When I thought of leveling up, I thought of video gaming, but I also thought about how we can spend time leveling up skills and ideas," said McArdle. "I'm excited for the kids to join in, and I had a lot of fun designing and creating the themes and activities to go with each one."

The summer reading program will take place between Friday, June 20, when it kicked off with Book Bingo, and go until August 8 before school starts up again.

Children under the age of five need to read or be read to for 10 minutes a day, and children over the age of five for 15 minutes a day.

There are calendars at the desk for you to pick up to keep track of your child's reading, and every week a different prize to be raffled off for the theme of that week.

From Mystic Aquarium tickets to a bucket of prizes



There's plenty of fun prizes, too.

themed of Mine raft, there is so much to choose from, and many items you could potentially win!

"I love summer reading programs because it brings the kids into the library and gets them excited to read," said McArdle. "Having these activities ready and available makes it more fun, too."

The teens will also have their own summer reading prizes to earn, with book

challenges and tickets to win for gift cards and more, as well as take-home and drop-in crafts and activities.

All kids who reach their 25-book goal will receive a coupon for a free ice cream cone from Cindy's Drive-In, who always donates ice cream coupons every year.

Summer reading is here, so pick out your book, and get ready to win some prizes.



The room was packed with dedicated bingo players.

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