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THURSDAY,

JUNE 27, 2024

A TURLEY PUBLICATION **I** www.turley.com

Volume 109 • Number 16

www.sentinel.turley.com



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Westover Auto celebrates 30 years...p. 7



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### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Belchertown, Granby police logs..p. 11

# make a return to Belchertown Common TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

Belchertown firefighters Lucas Slowinski (left) and Ernie Flory (right) enjoying some ice cream from the Batch Ice Cream truck.

Chloe, Melanie, Amelia, and Rob Donovan posing together for a family photo after enjoying some yummy food from the

### Held every third Friday in June, July and August

### BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

Staff Writer epappas@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN - The Belchertown Cultural Council hosted their first Food Truck Friday of the year last week, and they hosted six trucks on the common for all to enjoy.

"What the BCC does, is we take money from the state and give it as grant money to fund events for the community," Melanie Donovan, Chair of the BCC, said.

The local churches, senior center, and library all work with the BCC and host these events with the help of the grant money.

Donovan has worked with the council for many years and has enjoyed working to put together these Food Truck Fridays with fellow BCC member Kyle Toelken.

The Food Truck Fridays have been an

annual event for Belchertown that the community members and food truck owners get excited for every year.

On the town common, the events hold a number of food trucks owned by community members, and local residents in surrounding towns, as well live music, games, and a local co-host for the event.

This month, the Clapp Memorial Library volunteered and had stickers and flyers about

Please see **FOOD TRUCK**, page 8

# Next steps with Jabish unclear

BY MELINA BOURDEAU

Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN - Voters spoke at the polls last week, with 33% voter turnout to turn down the ballot question to decide to allow for a debt exclusion for funding the Jabish Brook Middle School project.

The first of two required votes to authorize the town to move forward with the construction of a new middle school to replace the existing 60-year-old school building failed with 2,539 opposed and 1,548 in favor, according to the Town Clerk's website.

Last week, the Special Town Meeting, which would have occurred on June 24, was cancelled by the Selectboard.

The proposed facility was going to serve grade levels six through eight with a designed enrollment of 475 students, at an estimated cost of \$122,600,000, of which Belchertown was expected to be responsible for approximately \$78 million due to a grant from the state.

School Committee Chair Heidi Gutekenst said the building committee decided not to move for-

"There is a contingency we could try if we thought we could change the vote, but we didn't think we could take off enough

Please see JABISH, page 4

# Selectboard moves to a regionalized dispatch service

### BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

Staff Writer epappas@turley.com

Board met last week and reviewed several permit requests, applications, and other miscellaneous updates including the fusion of three towns' dispatch centers.

In Chair Edward G. Bosher's absence, Vice Chair Lesa Lessard Pearson held the June 13 meeting, along with Clerk Jennifer D. Turner, and members Nicole Miner and Whitney Jorns-Kuhnlenz.

Town Manager Steven J. Williams was also in attendance.

### **Regionalized Dispatch** Service between Wilbraham and Hampden

The current dispatch center will BELCHERTOWN - The Select close on June 30, and as such, the dispatch centers in Wilbraham, Hampden, and Belchertown will come together and combine into

> The board was reassured by Town Manager Steven J. Willaims that the dispatch teams in the other two towns have "spent time working with the Belchertown team and getting to know the town."

> "This is a trend we are seeing all over the state," Williams said. "The state is really encouraging this of dispatch centers across the

### This is a trend we are seeing all over the state."

STEVEN J. WILLIAMS Town Manager

Commonwealth, and that's why they are putting grant money on the table (in support of this)."

For example, while a given dispatch center may only have one dispatcher at a time, now with this unification, there will be three in one room. There will also be monitors with a display of town maps to aid the dispatchers across the three towns.

"All of these things are in place to allow us to be very efficient and accurate. The safety of our residents is not being compromised in any way," Williams said.

One concern addressed was customer service, and Williams reassured them there would be clerks staffed at the station fifty hours a week in order to assist the community with whatever they

"A lot of what takes place will happen on a computer, and they'll be able to see the address pop up," Williams said. "We hire dispatchers from out of town... because they have this technology. They are trained to use it."

The majority of the equipment will be slowly upgraded through grants given by the state so that the dispatching centers stay up-todate with any and all technology advances.

The board moved forward with approving the finalization of the reorganization and combination of the three town's dispatch

### New position appointments

The board moved to appoint several new people to various roles and positions within the

Please see **DISPATCH**, page 4



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# Health board discusses noncompliant septic system

BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

Staff Writer epappas@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – The Board of Health met last week to discuss the re-organization of the board, as well as new programs and members to join various departments.

Chair Colleen DuroShea hosted the June 12 meeting, along with Vice Chair Leeanne Connolly, Signatory Kenneth Elstein, and members Jim Potter and David Gottsegen, MD.

### Discussion of 248 Amherst Road's new septic system

Back in the fall of 2023, there was a request from a local resident to install a well, that is no longer in compliance with Title V, from when it was originally installed in the 90's, before additions and renovations were made to the property.

The house had six bedrooms,

and currently has the septic system for a four-bedroom, single-family unit. Now, there is two families, and more flow within the system, there needs to be an upgrade in order to remain within compliance.

The owner is looking to sell the property, and she and her lawyer were present at the meeting, and they came to appeal to the board in order to get the well and sceptic system back up to code and compliance.

"We're here back to discuss this, because... if there's an issue, we have to resolve it," Connolly

"If you have these other measures in place, you can expect that you can have a safe, compliant system that is meeting the needs of those residing there," the owner of the building's lawyer said.

"The top priority is to get it fixed," Potter said.

Because the property is rented,

it is important to ensure that the septic is fixed because the safety of the inhabitants is top priority.

The board approved the new septic system, bit put forward several conditions and requirements before it could be done.

Before the septic can be installed, they required for the water to be tested, and a four-bedroom restriction, as well as the well head be raised above ground in to be in accordance with Title V

### Pre-Rental Housing Inspections Vote

The board discussed the Pre-Rental Housing Inspections, which is a voluntary inspection for landlords to have that will work to protect renters, and landlords, in the event of something going wrong.

"This protects the renter, and it also protects the landlord because they will have documentation... the goal ultimately, is compliance with the housing code, and to increase compliance with rental properties," Connolly said.

The board moved to approve and accept the pre-rental inspections.

### Quabbin Health District's Syringe Service Program

The Syringe Service Program is a program where the town will provide a kit with a sharps container, clean needles, and a way for the needles to be disposed of in a safe manner.

The program would also be a way to provide tests for free, and also provide resources for help and how to access tests for substances like fentanyl and other drugs.

The program would be for residents that are in need of new, clean needles, so that the used needles can be properly disposed of.

"We want to run it very similar (to Ware), and we're going to be taking data," Connolly said. "How many people came in to do this program, how many clean needles we gave out, how many full sharps containers we disposed of."

The board moved in support of the program and moved to approve of the program being installed for the residents of Belchertown to benefit from this

### **Board re-organization**

The board discussed nominating Leeanne Connolly for the new Chair, Jim Potter for Vice Chair, and Ken Elstein to remain as Signatory.

### **New Burial Agent for FY25**

The board discussed having Assistant Town Clerk Jennifer Cote becoming the new Burial Agent for the Fiscal Year 2025. They moved to approve of her appointment and moved to appoint her to the position.

# Sponsors needed for upcoming Lions Club 'Cruisin' the Common show

BELCHERTOWN — Belchertown Lions Club Seeking Local Business Sponsorship for its 1st Annual "Cruisin' the Common" Car Show on August 10.

In an effort to defray the costs (trophies, permits, entertainment, flyer printing, and distribution, etc.) the Belchertown Lions Club is appealing to our local businesses to have an 18 x 24" weather-resistant sign with ground stake

custom-printed and prominently displayed on the Town Common during the event on August 10. We will handle the set-up design and printing for a donation of \$100 for this worthy cause – Breakthrough T1D — formerly The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Alternately, or in addition to the sponsor sign, businesses can opt to submit a gift certificate in any amount to be displayed for a

Pick-A-Prize raffle, where attendees can purchase a sheet of 25 tickets...and place as many of their tickets into whichever gift bags they desire.

If you are the owner or representative of a local business and would like to sponsor a ground sign or submit a gift certificate for this event, send an email to Lion Mike Mathras at mmathras@charter.net and you will receive the necessary information.

As you consider your donation, please keep in mind that all profits from the sale of food, raffle tickets, and sponsor signage at this event will go directly to the Breakthrough T1D (Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation), and because we are a non-profit 501c 3 entity, all donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Our Tax ID number is 04-6137653.

S t a y tuned for u p c o ming information regarding the "Cruisin" the Common"



Car Show in the Sentinel or visit our website at belchertownlionsclub.com or scan the QR code.



In observance of July 4th, there will be an

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Gold Medal Belchertown Twirler team winners with Coaches Kristi Ochs and Cate Senecal

# Belchertown Twirlers compete at Bay State Games

BELCHERTOWN - The Belchertown Twirlers competed June 9 at the 2024 Bay State Summer Games at Regis College in Waltham. Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals are awarded for team competition and individual competition. The Belchertown Twirlers won a total of 19 gold medals, 12 silver medals and 8 bronze medals.

Gold Medals awarded to each Belchertown Twirler Team Member in the Cadet Small and Junior Small Twirl Team division and the Cadet Small Dance Twirl division. We also won the silver medal in the Junior Small Dance Twirl team division. Members of the winning teams are Everly LaVallee, Quinn LaVallee, Emelia Maldanis, Evelyn Maldanis, Harper Oberly, Delaney Ochs and Mya Weise.

Individual Gold Medal Winner in

Advanced Cadet Basic March division is Everly LaVallee. Emelia Maldanis and Delaney Ochs were awarded gold medals in the Advanced Junior Duet division.

Individual Silver Medals were awarded to Delaney Ochs in Advanced Junior Solo, Advanced Junior Strut and Advanced Junior 2 Baton. Quinn LaVallee won the Silver Medal in Beginner Junior Solo, Evelyn Maldanis won the Silver medal in Beginner Cadet 2 Baton and Everly LaVallee won the Silver medal in Beginner Cadet Strut. Quinn LaVallee and Evelyn Maldanis won the silver medal in the Cadet duet division.

Individual Bronze Medals were awarded to Emelia Maldanis in Advanced Junior Solo, Advanced Junior 2 Baton and Beginner Junior Strut. Delaney Ochs won

a bronze medal in Advanced Junior Basic March, Ouinn LaVallee won a Bronze medal in Beginner Junior 2 Baton and Evelyn Maldanis won a Bronze medal in Beginner Cadet Solo. Everly LaVallee and Harper Oberly won a Bronze medal in the Cadet duet division.

The Belchertown Twirlers are coached by Barbara Kupras, Kristi Ochs, Cate Senecal, Brittani Ladd and Megan Senecal. The Belchertown Twirlers are a program through the Belchertown Recreation Department. Come learn twirling skills and join the Belchertown Twirlers at the Baton Twirling Clinic August 19-21. Registration is at the Recreation Department.

# Free concert to be held at Keep **Homestead** Museum July 7

MONSON - The Keep Homestead Museum, 35 Ely Road in Monson, is excited to present The Peter J. Newland Trio on Sunday, July 7, at 1:30 p.m. This free concert will be held on the side lawn weather permitting, please bring a chair or blanket.

Although singer/songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Peter still performs with FAT and his quintet RadioX, he is seen most regularly with his sophisticated Peter J. Newland Trio. Peter is joined in the trio with Mark Pappas, guitar journeyman and Ralph Whittle on keyboards.

An afternoon with the energetic Trio combines Peter's original compositions along with their unique interpretations of rock, pop, and blues standards from the 50's to present and a sampling of the American Songbook in the Sinatra style.

The concert is open to the public free of charge, though donations are always welcome. This performance is generously sponsored by Monson Savings Bank. Free popcorn (while supplies last) will be compliments of Squier Lumber and Hardware.

## **Holiday closure** of town offices

The Belchertown Town Hall and the Select Board's Office at the Finnerty House will be closed on Thursday, July 4, 2024 and Friday, July 5, 2024 for the 4th of July Holiday. Offices will reopen at 8 a.m. on Monday, July 8, 2024.

### **DISPATCH** from page 1

town government. For the Assistant Town Treasurer/Collector, they moved to reappoint Sarah Mann to the position.

For the position of Assistant Town Accountant, the board moved to reappoint Kim O'Grady to the position until the end of term in 2025.

The board discussed having a member join the community preservation committee from the board, and it was decided that the current member, Robert, would continue on.

### **Special Permit Requests** from Planning Board

The Planning Board submitted three special permit applications to the selectboard for three Accessory Apartments.

The locations of the Accessory Apartments are 35 Lake Drive, 1029 Federal Street, and 45 Kopec Avenue. The

Board of Health received these permit applications as well in order to review any safety or health concerns.

The board approved of the Accessory Apartments at 35 Lake Drive and 1029 Federal Street but sent the application back to the Planning Board to revise for the 45 Kopec Avenue location.

### **Town Manager's Report**

Williams began his report with endorsing and approving of two warrants, #2449 for \$1,428,229.59, and #2450 for \$737,243.26.

Williams has been working on maintaining annual appointments with various people, and also by appointing various people to new positions within the Creative Economy Committee and a Part-Time Library Page at Clapp Memorial Library.

On June 1, the town hosted an event to celebrate the start of Pride Month, which Williams attended, as well as an opening ceremony for the Relay for Life on the same day.

Williams also conducted a meeting with Selectboard member Jen Turner, Anne Gobi the Director of Rural Affairs, Maude Haak-Frendscho the Creative Economy Coordinator, and the Belchertown Community Alliance at Tadgell Building to discuss the future of the facility.

Williams has also been continuously working with the DPW in developing Contract Negotiations and met with department heads to discuss the fiscal year tran-

### **Updates on old business**

Williams also provided an update on the economic Development Industrial Corporation (EDIC), as well as negotiating and working out a Land Transfer within Parcel D.

He also shared the continuing work at the removal of the Tadgell Tower, which was erected by the state in the 1950s and

WILLIAM

raveis.com

what part of the properties it was originally a part of.

The board discussed the Special Town Meeting on June 17 regarding the Jabish Brook Middle School Construction project as well and read a letter from a community member in support of the project.

The board discussed the town website, and various updates to make to it, as well as updates on the pollinator garden at the

### Other information and business

The discussion regarding public discourse will be held off until the next meeting on July 1, so that all members can be present, especially with the vote so close on the horizon.

The members of the board each gave updates on what they had been working on in the past month, and what they are looking forward to doing in the coming weeks.



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# Sales tax holiday approved

BOSTON— The Massachusetts Legislature approved Aug. 10 and Aug. 11 as a sales tax holiday weekend for Massachusetts. On those days, the Massachusetts sales tax of 6.25% will be suspended for most items that retail for less than \$2,500.

The holiday welcomes Massachusetts residents to visit retailers and small businesses around the state. A spike in consumer activity routinely boosts indirect tax revenues. According to the Department of Revenue, during the 2023 sales tax holiday, indirect tax revenues due to increased economic activity were approximately \$3.54 million.

"I am glad to see the sales tax holiday be approved in the legislature today, giving our residents a great chance to get outside and embrace their local businesses and community at a little bit of a discount," said Sen. Adam Gomez (D-Springfield). "This annual holiday gives a boost to our small business owners and consumers, and I am proud to support this measure annually."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Division 12U Champs

Belchertown Remax Majors win the Division 12U Championship on Saturday, June 8 at Mini-Fenway Park in Belchertown. Pictured in the front row left to right are Bryson Gauthier, Jacek Lavoie, Watson Phelps, Luke Raymond, Ethan Bowder. In the back row are Sebastian Hevey, Kiernan Crosby, Orelio Manduley, Eliza Boyko, and Nathan Murray. Coaches are Asst. Coach Ryan Lavoie, Coach Chris Boyko, and Asst. Coach Orelio Manduley. Missing from photo: Declan Hoy, Lucas Kofidis, Logan Martin.

## Giant Tag Sale returns to Belchertown Town Common

BELCHERTOWN— The annual St. Francis Giant Tag Sale returns to the Belchertown Town Common on Saturday, Aug. 24, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Tag Sale Team will accept donations for a two-week period from Aug. 4 to Aug. 18 only.

On Sunday, Aug. 4, at noon, the doors to the Pine Room on the lower level of the St. Francis Parish Hall on Park Street will open to accept donations. Donations will be accepted Monday to Saturday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday donations will be accepted noon to 5 p.m.

After volunteers spend hundreds of hours sorting and boxing, the many donated items become the treasured inventory of the well-organized and departmentalized St. Francis Parish Giant Tag Sale that will occupy nearly half of the Town Common on Aug. 24. The finished Tag Sale effort will resemble the large well thought out department stores of days gone-by.

When donors are searching their personal treasures for donation possibilities, the Tag Sale Team encourages donors to consider the following items: bed and table linens, craft items, hardware, kitchenware, luggage, backpacks, handbags, children's clothes up to 4T, small working appliances, working lamps, toys, pictures, frames, holiday decorations, hand tools, yard tools, jewelry, shoes,

boots, sporting goods, children's books, cookbooks, baby gear, small but not-upholstered furniture, knick-knacks, and collectibles. Candles, clothing, pillows, and large furniture items are not accepted. All items that are dropped off will only be included if they are clean and in working condition. The Team requests that donors clear all donated items of storage dust, bugs, mold, and critter residue. All donors and their donations will be greeted by a volunteer worker.

The proceeds from this annual effort are earmarked for a new parish hall which will be built on the present grounds of the Jabish Street church.

### JABISH from page 1

money to make a difference to anybody," she said. "We opted not to move forward."

Currently, "there is nothing catastrophic" that would prevent students from returning to the building in the fall, Gutekenst said. However, repairs such as the leaking roof will need to be addressed in the future.

She added that following pending bill payment, the next step for the Jabish Brook Building Committee would be to disband.

She added she wanted to thank members of the committee, the archi-

tects and building managers for their hard work.

"Everybody put in lots of time and I'm glad they did. I know it's not the outcome we were hoping for, but I think they all worked really hard," she said. "I hope the town has a plan to address things in the future."

Additionally, this new school building would have enabled the town to restructure the housing of grades Preschool through eighth across individual schools, allowing the closure of the 72-year-old Cold Spring School building

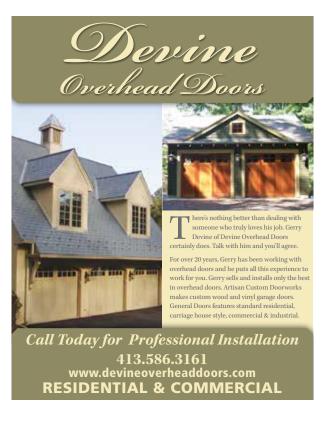
A number of scenarios were considered by the Jabish Brook Building

Committee, including renovations and repairs to the existing building and different design options, before this proposal was brought forth to the community.

This project was accepted into the Massachusetts School Building Authority program in 2021, a highly competitive grant program that provides access to significant funds. During a Belchertown Special Town Meeting on March 7, 2022, voters authorized the expenditure of \$990,000 to conduct a feasibility study related to the design, reconstruction, or construction of the Jabish Brook Middle School.









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### OPINION



## Health care from a nurseadvocate's point of view

Hello, readers!

Having spent my growing-up years and graduating from nursing school here in western Mass, I am delighted to be able to share my perspective on today's health care with you in this new weekly column.

Health care has changed in a million ways since I earned my RN at Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in Worcester in 1976. I went on to become a critical care nurse and worked for decades in hospitals. I am now a board-certified patient advocate, owner of NShore Patient Advocates, and considered a national authority in the field of patient advocacy.

My columns and two Amazon best-selling books arise from my philosophy of health care: That knowledge is power and that we are empowered to take charge of our health.

As a private patient advocate, I help people do just that: Take charge. I leverage my knowledge of the health care system to help them navigate complex issues, whether it's caring for a loved one with dementia or getting a second opinion.

While I believe everyone needs a health-care advocate, I also believe that we can learn to advocate for ourselves and our loved ones. It just takes a bit of common sense and preparation.

Here are a few of the basics:

Be a good patient.

You are a good patient if you are on time for your appointments, have your questions written down in advance, are succinct in your questions and comments, take your medications as prescribed and follow all health-care instructions. Sometimes, it's also helpful to bring someone with you – spouse, partner, child, friend – who can listen, fill in information gaps and help you remember what the doctor said.

Good patients are also respectful. You want to be the patient who doctors, nurses and health-care providers enjoy serving.

Be prepared.

A medical emergency can happen at any time, and when it does, our minds seem to go blank because of fear and worry. Here's where a little bit of preparation comes in handy.

Compile the following and keep it where you or first responders can find it:

- Health conditions (i.e. heart disease, hypertension, cancer, diabetes, etc.)
- Copies of insurance cards
- All surgeries
- All medications, with dosages and when they're taken
- Allergies
- Name and contact information for the primary care doctor
- Name and contact information for the patient's representative, if that person isn't on hand
- A signed HIPAA release form

Be knowledgeable.

In this era of internet scams, bogus information and deep-fake videos, we must take care to get our health-care information from reputable sources – and it's not some random Facebook account or website.

When you're searching for information about healthy lifestyles or medical conditions, stick with tried-and-true resources such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (cdc.gov), WebMD (webmd.com) or Harvard Health (health.harvard.edu).

Know your rights.

Who owns your health-care information? You do! Not the doctor or the hospital. You have the right to see and review your medical records, doctor's notes after an appointment and what medications you might be receiving in the hospital.

You also have the right to appoint a patient representative, also known as an advocate. This is someone who is authorized to communicate on your behalf with health-care providers – they are your stand-in. In most states, the default patient representative is a spouse or a parent, if a child is under 18.

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# Why is there a Social Security Earnings Limit?

**Dear Rusty:** 

I try to read your article in the Carmichael Times each week and appreciate the information you provide. I am 62 and considering my retirement options and when I should do that to get the most benefit. I understand my full retirement age is 67, but what I don't understand and I hope you can answer, is why there is such a thing as the Social Security earnings limit? I know that if I was to retire before 67, my benefits would be reduced. But since I have been paying into SS for 45+ years and that money is technically money I have earned, why does SS care if I make more than the earnings limit? It doesn't affect them or my benefits. Can you tell me about the reasoning behind the earnings limit? I will, for many years after "retiring," continue working in my field.

Signed: Working American

### **Dear Working American:**

This is a great question and, as a point of interest, our parent company, the Association of Mature American Citizens, advocates doing away with Social Security's earnings test which affects those collecting benefits before reaching their SS Full Retirement Age. In AMAC's view, it discourages people from working and, thus, paying Social Security taxes on their earnings. It is, after all, SS taxes from the earnings of working Americans, which largely pays for the benefits provided to Social Security beneficiaries. Eliminating the restriction would tend to improve Social Security revenue and help ease Social Security's current financial stress.

Well, when Social Security was first enacted in the 1930s, the intent was that Social Security was for retired workers, meant to keep them from poverty in old age. The logic back then was that if a person worked they didn't need Social Security to sustain them, so those who worked could not collect Social Security at all. The current rule, after

many adjustments over the years, says that annual earnings for those who collect early SS benefits are limited. If each year's earnings limit (\$22,320 for 2024) is exceeded, Social Security will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 over the limit (FYI, the penalty is less severe in the year FRA is attained).

Historical accounts suggest that the reasoning behind the wording in the original Social Security Act - that "No person shall receive such old-age annuity unless he is not employed by another in a gainful occupation" - was quite controversial, except for the fundamental thought that if someone worked they didn't need Social Security. Over the ensuing decades the rule has been softened to provide that only those who collect benefits before their Full Retirement Age would have a portion of their SS benefits offset by their work earnings. In any case, the earnings test, in its mitigated form, still persists today. FYI, H.R. 5193 - The Senior Citizens Freedom to Work Act was recently introduced in Congress proposing to repeal the SS earnings test, but has not advanced in the legislative process since introduced in August 2023.

In any case, under current rules, if you continue working after your FRA, the earnings test will not apply to you. And, if you lose any benefits before your FRA due to the earnings test, when you reach your FRA you'll get time credit for any months that benefits were withheld, resulting in a somewhat higher monthly payment after your full retirement age.

One final point: if you continue to work after starting your Social Security benefits and your recent earnings are higher than any of those in the inflation-adjusted 35 years used to originally calculate your benefit, your entitlement will be recalculated to give you credit for those higher recent earnings.

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.

### **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.

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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.
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Fax (413) 289-1977.



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### **BUSINESS**

# **WESTOVER AUTO SALVAGE**

celebrates 30 years of serving the community

BELCHERTOWN—Westover Auto Salvage might just be Belchertown's best kept secret for all those with automotive needs. Spread out back on 147 Bay Road, surrounded by stacks of lumber and located under the recently hoisted American Flag, is Westover Auto Salvage.

A business who has been proudly serving the community for 30 years. Westover Auto provides all customers with quality auto parts and vehicles, at affordable prices. They stand behind their product and do their best to showcase all parts through above expectation product presentation, accurate descriptions, and transparency.

Business Owners Paul Bachand and his son, Brian Bachand, are here to stay and want to spread the word of what they do.

Paul Bachand built the business from the ground up in 1994 in Chicopee, Mass, located near Westover Air Force Base. Paul obtained a Class 3 license, purchased property in Belchertown, and relocated here in 1996. He took the name Westover Auto Salvage and about 50 parts vehicles with him and opened his auto salvage here in town.

When asked about how things got started, Paul said, "I really started to grow the business in Belchertown. I rented an office trailer, and the bay in the garage that is now Bay Road Inspection and bought the 9 acres outback that our current facility sits on. This is when the road was dirt and they did the turkey shoots in the field on Sundays, where my main building is now."

Paul grew up in the automotive industry and worked in Auto Repair and Auto Salvages since he was kid. He always dreamt of owning and operating his own auto salvage and in 1994 he made it happen.

"This is my dream, I am here at 5:30 a.m. every morning, every day is a holiday, and I get to come to work each day and do what I love", says Paul. A dream of Paul's that has turned into a success of a family business.

P&T Enterprises, Inc. is the name on the Class 3 license, and it stands for Paul & Trish. The couple have been happily married for



An engine that has been removed from a car are just some of the parts available at Westover Auto Salvage.

over 35 years and have been diligently working as a team over the years to struggle together, build together and grow together.

Trish Bachand, a long tenured employee at UMass Amherst & Amherst College, makes the time to assess the finances and handle a lot of the bookkeeping. Add in raising a family of 3 kids, and now more recently helping to care and love 7 to be grandchildren, it is safe to say it has been a full workload for the couple.

Trish, now retired, has more time to read and enjoy books that are not Quickbooks, or Westover Check Books, and to be with friends and family. Oldest son, Brian Bachand, has over the years stepped into a more transitional position alongside his father Paul.

Brian has a bachelor's degree in accounting from WNEU or WNEC at the time, and went out in the world to work on the finance side of things. After 2 years away from the place he has known since adolescence, Brian came back aspiring to grow the

dream his dad built. A dream that has Westover Auto Salvage continuing to be a leader in the automotive recycling industry and showing they are not just some junkyard.

Westover Auto Salvage works hard to show that they are not a junkyard but rather are a fully certified and compliant auto recycling operation.

You do not see junk here, there are no cars stacked, or parts being hacked or torched out, or disorganization and messes", Paul says.

"Everything is dismantled professionally, all parts are disconnected, plugged, cleaned and washed and come with a 6-month warranty," said Paul.

Both Paul and Brian are Directors on the Board of the Massachusetts Automotive Recyclers' Association and are proud members of the National Association the ARA. Together they are leading the charge to re-educate the public that they are rebranding.

When asked about this Brian



Cars, crushed and piled high on flatbed transporter.

stated, «junkyard is our origin, it is how we are viewed and searched for, but it is not what we are. It is a label we are trying to re-brand and re-image by operating in a way that exemplifies we are a clean & compliant, customer first, parts second, environmentally aware and friendly auto recycling outfit, and not some Bad Bad Leroy Brown Junkyard Dogs of the past."

The company has backed this claim up most recently by becoming one of only 4 CAR Certified and Gold Seal Auto Recyclers in the state of Massachusetts. An admirable accolade to have achieved in their 30th year of business.

The business has seen incredible growth over their 30 years in business and significant expansion just in the past 5 years. Paul has gone on to point out that "It is quite a feeling of accomplishment to go from 50 cars, a trailer and a rented bay, to now almost soon to be 40 acres, 3 operation buildings on site, a car crusher, wastewater system and at any time 1200-1500 cars on location"

What was once a handful of people serving the immediate Pioneer Valley, Westover is now close to a 30-employee operation with 4 delivery trucks on the road each day, delivering throughout all of MA and parts of CT, RI, VT

The business ships and freights multiple parts daily across the nation. Manager Rich Bixby, Lead Sales & Inventory Person Greg Wypych, and Secretary & HR Katie Grandmont, who are all excellent long tenures at Westover

Auto Salvage, help to continue and contribute to the success of Westover Auto Salvage.

"It's a family business, from my parents who started it, to the longterm contributors like Rich, Greg, Katie and Myself, this group has built something special, that continues to adapt, evolve and grow each day. It is something we all take a lot of pride in and put a lot of hard work and great effort into building. It was my dad's dream, and my dream to work with him and build it to something neither of us could imagine. My son Brayden loves working here, and I hope he dreams big and decides for himself what he wants to do. But you never know, maybe he, or all or one of my daughters Bailey, Marianna or baby on the way, will want to join the family business at some point," stated Brian Bachand.

A small business, a family-owned business, and one that has persevered through recession, market trends and changes, cash for clunkers, regulation changes and a Pandemic. Westover Auto continues to strive to do what is right and not what is easy.

So, what is next for Westover Auto Salvage?

When asked, Paul Bachand says "We are going to continue to move forward and grow and make it happen, we are going to install a Solar Canopy to cover all our parts cars in our yard. We are going to continue to do things by the book, drain and recycle and reuse all the fluids from our de-polluted vehicles, and to buy

Please see **WESTOVER**, page 12



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Olivia Snow, Mark Nute, and Cole Chevalier ready to serve delicious food at the Rustic Fusion food truck.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS
Marcy Megarry, owner of Nom Nom
Hut, which sells fresh and delicious
home-made gyoza, dumplings, and
more.



Jennifer Whitehead and Danny Gobrial showing off the new summer reading program the library is hosting this summer.

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# Four-run fifth paces Post 239 to win

### BY TIM PETERSON

Sports Correspondent

PALMER—The first four innings of last Monday's Senior Division Legion baseball game between Belchertown Post 239 and Monson Post 241 was very close.

Belchertown scored four runs in the fifth inning enroute to a 6-3 victory at Legion Field in Palmer.

"I'm very proud of the way my players played against a very good Monson team," said Belchertown manager Todd McDonald. "We had a little bit of trouble against their starting pitcher early in the game, but we were able to get the job done."

The come-from-behind victory improved Belchertown's early season record to a perfect 3-0.

A year ago, the Post 239 squad represented District 3 in the Senior Division Legion state tournament.

Monson (1-1) began the legion season with a walk-off victory against North Adams Post 12 a week earlier.

"We just made a couple of costly errors, which you couldn't afford to do, especially against the

district champions," said Monson manager Steve Tripp. We're capable of beating any team in this league if we don't make very many mistakes.'

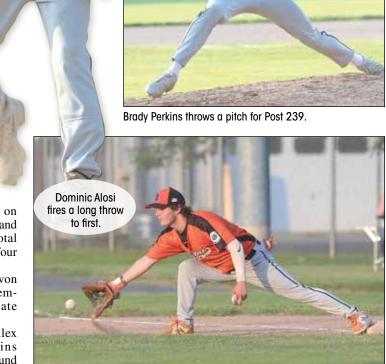
The winning pitcher in the only meeting of the regular season between the two squads was lefthander Brady Perkins, who graduated from Belchertown High School in 2023.

Perkins allowed three runs on three base hits with four walks and two strikeouts. He threw a total of 52 pitches during the first four

This past spring, Perkins won two games as a freshman member of the Framingham State University baseball team.

Belchertown righthander Alex West, who attends Hopkins Academy, took over on the mound in the bottom of the fifth inning.

Please see POST 239, page 10 Evan Ferguson reaches out to get the throw at first.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

# Pioneers keep playoff hunt alive with win

### **BYTIM PETERSON**

Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Just like every other player listed on the Western Mass. Pioneers roster, Alec Hughes would like to play for a professional soccer team in the future.

Led by Hughes, who recorded a hat-trick in the first half, the Pioneers remained in the playoff hunt by defeating Boston City FC, 6-1, at Lusitano Stadium last Friday night.

"It's always nice to get off to a fast start in every game," said Hughes, who only played the first 45 minutes of last Friday's home match. "The turf field was a little bit slick which helped us move the ball a little faster. It was very similar to playing on grass."

While it rained prior to the start of last Friday's match, the rain stopped sooner than it was expected to and it was a pleasant evening weatherwise.

The Pioneers had a 7-1-1 overall record and they moved into second place behind first place Seacoast in the USL League Two Northeast Division standings.

Since losing to the Seacoast United Phantom, 3-2, at home on June 7, the Pioneers have gone 3-0-1 in their next four matches.

"It was another very good performance, especially since it was at home," said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. "Everyone is playing very well."

Hughes entered last Friday's



Jared Smith corrals the ball.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM Oscar Sears changes the direction of play.

contest tied for the most goals in the USL-2 with eight. He finished the match with a total of

Hughes scored a team-leading 15 goals for the UMass men's soccer team last season.

He also attended the MLS combine in Arizona, but he wasn't selected in the MLS draft last December.

Hughes will be wearing the Minutemen uniform again this

"I wasn't drafted last year, but I was planning on going back to school," Hughes said. "I'm hoping to play for a professional soccer team in the future. It would be a great honor."

Molinari, who has watched several of his players turn pro during the past 15 years, is hoping Hughes is drafted.

"It's Alec's dream to play professional soccer and I really hope he makes it," Molinari said. "He's our leading goal scorer this year. I'm very happy for him."

Boston City (1-5-2) had a golden opportunity to take a 1-0 lead during the ninth minute of the opening half, but Western Mass. goalie Gianluca Cersosimo (2 saves) made a diving save.

Two minutes later, Laurie Goddard sent a crossing pass into the box from the right side and Hughes headed it into the right corner past Boston City goalie Sebastian Montoulieu.

"I always try to find a gap between the defenders," Hughes said. "It was a perfect pass from Laurie and all I needed to do was head the ball into the net."

The Pioneers took a 2-0 lead twenty minutes later.

This time, Aidan Kelly sent a

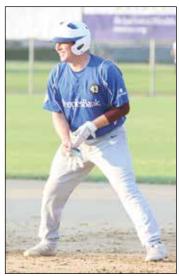
Please see **PIONEERS**, page 10

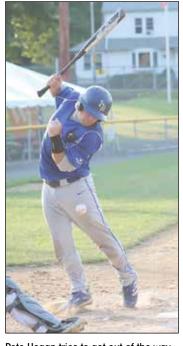
# Bankers out to 3-2 start

HOLYOKE - Last week, PeoplesBank was in action in the Tri-County Baseball League. The Bankers faced Chicopee and BankESB during the week. The Bankers narrowly defeated ESB to improved to 3-2 on the young season. The Bankers are in the middle of the pack currently with Hilltown Tents holding an 5-2 record for first place. Chicopee and Teddy Bear Pools have second place with four wins each.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI PeoplesBank pitcher Jimmy Flahive makes a pickoff throw to first.





Pete Hogan tries to get out of the way, but is drilled by a pitch.

### **■** SPORTS

# Blue Sox get big win over North Adams

HOLYOKE - Sunday was a statement game for the Valley Blue Sox against the North Adams Steeplecats.

Scoring in the first inning off a double hit by Chris Jans, the Blue Sox never trailed in this game.

However, the Steeplecats did not give up whatsoever.

With the Blue Sox holding onto that 1-0 lead, both teams were in a stalemate going into the fifth inning. Pitcher Jax Traegar took early care of the Steeplecat offense in the top of the inning, to give the bats back to the Blue Sox. It was just the momentum needed to deliver a shot to blow the game wide open.

The Blue Sox did just that, starting with Jonathon Hogart's RBI single bringing Chris Jans home and Michael O'Conor following it up with a highlight, two run home run. When it was all said and done, the Blue Sox scored five total runs to extend

their lead to 6-0.

The Steeplecats scored two runs over the last three innings, but the deficit was simply too large to overcome. The most intriguing aspect of this game was that both teams had eight total hits, yet the Blue Sox took advantage of far more to win the game.

In a game where early on it was clear hitting and scoring was going to be a deciding factor for the victor, the Blue Sox came together as a team to deliver just that. Throughout this season, it has been discussed that hitting was a "work in progress" for the Blue Sox, and that they leaned on their pitching for many of their wins. However, tonight they proved that when needed their hitting was also reliable. It's a major stepping stone for the Blue Sox offense, and it helps them advance to a 2-0 season record over the Steeplecats and 8-5 overall.

# Bonsignore wins Mohegan Sun 100

LOUDON, N.H. – Justin Bonsignore had a busy Saturday at New Hampshire Motor Speedway - one that ended with his 42nd career NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour victory - and a strong performance in his NASCAR Xfinity Series debut with Joe Gibbs Racing.

Bonsignore started the day early - as the Whelen Modified Tour hit the track for the Mohegan Sun 100 at 10 a.m. Bonsignore ran inside the top-three for the duration of the race after rolling off on the front row for the 100-lap event. In the final laps, he battled with his cousin, Kyle Bonsignore, for the win. Justin kept control of the race for the final restart, then drove away from Kyle on the backstretch and back to the start-finish line to rocket to Victory Lane.

The Whelen Modified Tour win was Justin's second of the season through seven events, and tied Ted Christopher for third all-time on the series wins list. Bonsignore now sits behind Reggie Ruggerio (44) and Mike Stefanik (74) on the wins list.

"We have 16 awesome races in a year, but this is our Daytona 500," Justin said. "Everyone wants to win this race. There's so much that goes into putting yourself in position and having a good car. It's mentally tough to control and understand what you need to do in these late restarts."

Bonsignore pulled within two points of leader Ron Silk in the championship standings as the series heads for the halfway point of the season in the next race, set for July 20 at Monadnock Speedway.

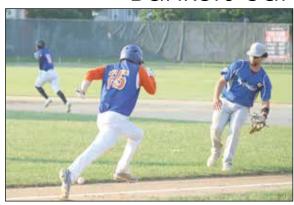
After the Whelen Modified Tour win, Bonsignore moved to his NASCAR Xfinity Series debut with Joe Gibbs Racing, competing in the SciAps 200. Driving the M3 Technology, USNE No. 19 Toyota GR Supra, Bonsignore started 25th in the

field after qualifying was canceled on Friday due to rain. In the early part of the race, Bonsignore pitted and stayed out at the end of the first stage, taking the lead of the race. From there, he ran in the top-five for a large portion of the day.

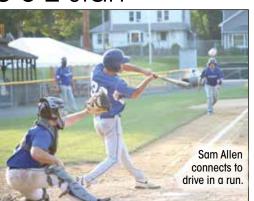
After a late caution, contact in turn one sent Bonsignore spinning, pushing him to a finish of 23rd in his debut. However, the result didn't show the day the New York native had on NASCAR's National Series stage.

"You really couldn't have asked for a better day with Joe Gibbs Racing," Bonsignore said. "Our crew chief played some great strategy to get us up there. I was still learning even right to the end of the race. I was getting better and better all day long and we had a really good car. I can't thank M3 Technology, USNE and everyone else who made this possible enough for the opportunity."

## Bankers out to 3-2 start



First baseman Carlos Pena attempts to field a slow roller.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

### **POST 239** from page 9

He only allowed just one base hit over the final three frames.

Righty James Delaney was the Monson starting pitcher.

Delaney lives in Palmer, but he graduated from Belchertown High School a year ago where he was a member of the Orioles varsity hockey team.

"James asked me if he could be the starting pitcher in tonight's game," Tripp said. "He was an outstanding hockey player at Belchertown High School, but he didn't make their baseball team. In my opinion, he got a raw deal."

Delaney also played hockey at Phillips Academy (Andover) this past winter.

He allowed six runs (four earned) on five hits with three walks and three strikeouts.

After scoring two unearned runs during the first three innings, Belchertown put-together a rally in the fifth.

Derek Gould, who was a senior on the Orioles varsity baseball team this past spring and was selected as an Academic All-American by the High School Baseball Coaches Association, drew a leadoff walk.

His younger brother, Ryan followed with a bunt hit and Pat Fitzgibbons also walked which loaded the bases.

At that point, Delaney was relieved by righty Nate Kaczuwka, who was a pitcher on the Ware varsity baseball team.

Another walk by Beau Elson (Hopkins) forced home the tying run.

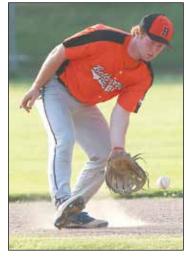
Then Ryan Gould scored on a wild pitch giving the visiting team a 4-3 lead.

Two more runs crossed the plate when Chace Earle (2-for-4) doubled to right center with one out.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Chace Earle looks to take a throw at second.



Patrick Fitzgibbons fields the in-between hop.

West retired six of the final seven Monson batters that he faced

Belchertown took a 1-0 lead in the top of the first inning.

With two-outs, Fitzgibbons

was safe at first base following a throwing error by the Monson third baseman. Fitzgibbons came home when Elson blasted a triple to right field.

Belchertown didn't keep the lead for very long,

Monson took a 2-1 lead in the bottom of the first when Dylan Sutkaitis(2-for-2) blasted a two run double to the gap in right center. Sutkaitis is one of the five players from Ware High School listed on the Monson legion roster. He's planning to play baseball at Anna Maria College in Paxton next year.

After Belchertown tied the score with another unearned run in the third inning, Monson answered right back in the bottom half of frame.

Jason Mumper, who's another Ware varsity baseball player, broke the tie with an RBI single to right

Monson held onto the one run lead until the fifth inning.

### **PIONEERS** from page 9

long pass to Hughes, who controlled the ball with his chest before tapping it across the line.

Hughes capped off his hattrick by firing a shot into the left corner of the net during the 34th minute.

With about five remaining in the opening half, it looked like Oscar Sears had scored his first goal in a Pioneers uniform, but it was disallowed by referee Jonathan Luk because a Pioneers player was offsides.

Sears, who has been on the Pioneers roster all season long, played in his first game at Pathfinder FC, which was a 2-0 win, last Tuesday night.

Sears was a member of the men's soccer team at Wake Forest. He'll be playing soccer at Bryant University this fall.

Holding a 3-0 halftime advantage, Hughes was replaced by Scott Testori at the start of the second half.

Testori, who's a member of the UConn men's soccer team, added his name to the score sheet with an unassisted goal during the 55th minute.

Goddard scored the Pioneers fifth goal two minutes later, which was assisted by Camilo Comi

Josh Tubbs, who made his first appearance of the season for the Pioneers, replaced Cersosimo in goal during the 68th minute.

Boston City got on the scoreboard with a goal by Thiago Goes with 20 minutes remaining in regulation.

Ali Taleb capped off the scoring for the Pioneers with a breakaway goal in the 88th minute. Testori was credited with the assist.

The Pioneers are scheduled to host the Albany Rush at 7pm on Friday night. They'll then play three road games before returning to Lusitano Stadium to face the Vermont Green on July 13 in the regular season finale.



Abdel Talabi sends a pass up the field.



Leonel Vergara meets up with the ball.



Augustine Boadi fakes and heads up the field.

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### PUBLIC SAFETY

### Belchertown Police Log

Editor's note: The following are brief explanations of select entries in the Belchertown Police log and arrests for the weeks of June 5 through June 18. The information was provided by a member of the police department based on the review of the detailed log summary. This feature is designed to provide context and explanation to some of the calls police respond to every day. Of the 843 calls police responded to, there were 35 incidents, 12 accidents, three arrests/summons and 111 citations.

### ARRESTS/SUMMONS Friday, June 14

5:54 a.m. - Joseph Mango Jr. 21, 640 Chicopee Street, Apt. 101, Chicopee was arrested on charged of operating under the influence of liquor, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, an unregistered motor vehicle, resisting arrest and assault and battery on a police officer.

Police and Belchertown Fire dispatched to Barton Avenue for a report of vehicle that crashed into a small fence and the operator was passed out behind the wheel with an open bottle of liquor in the vehicle. The officer on scene attempted to wake the person several times. The person was identified by the officer. Finally, the back window was cracked, and the officer was able to unlock all the doors. The officer tried to arouse the person several times, then asked the operator to step out of the vehicle. The person got out of the vehicle and was unsteady on their feet. They did a field sobriety test and a breath test. The person then began yelling at an officer. The matter escalated and the suspect became assaultive. The officer was able to block the attempt to strike them in the face. The officer subdued the person and they continued to resist. They were escorted to the ground position. Belchertown Fire and paramedics transported the person to the hospital and the officers accompanied them.

### ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS Wednesday, June 5

7:04 a.m. - An officer took a report of breaking and entering a motor vehicle. A resident reported a purse and car keys that were stolen out of an unlocked vehicle.

3:29 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on George Hannum Road. A vehicle left the roadway for an unknown reason and hit the guardrail. The vehicle stopped a quarter mile down the road where a witnessed called the station to report the incident. There were no injuries reported and no tow was needed.

4:40 p.m. - An officer took a report of an accident. A vehicle pulled into a State Street business to use a gas pump while a vehicle was backing out of parking spot in front of the establishment. The vehicles collided. No injuries were reported, and no tows were needed.

### Thursday, June 6

11:19 a.m. - Officers responded to assist Belchertown fire and paramedics.

### Saturday, June 8

8:26 a.m. - An officer responded to a residence for a report of a disturbance. The officer was advised a person was camping at the location and was having a mental health crisis. They were allegedly assaulting people. The officer responded and continued to attempt to calm the person. Belchertown Fire and ambulance were requested to respond, and the person was transported to the hospital.

3:07 p.m. - An officer took a report of an accident. A vehicle parked at the Swift River boat launch was struck by another vehicle in the parking lot. No injuries were reported, and no tows were needed.

6:40 p.m. - An officer responded to Keyes Street for a report of an argument where a firearm was brandished. The person reported they yelled at a driver who was speeding, and the person came back while brandishing a firearm. The vehicle then left the area. Belchertown Police responded and Palmer Police responded to the suspect's residence. The person denied having any firearm but talked about the interaction with the Belchertown resident.

11:09 p.m. - Officers responded to assist Belchertown fire and paramedics.

### Sunday, June 9

12:54 a.m. - An officer responded to an accident on Federal Street. A vehicle traveling north on Federal Street struck a deer that ran into the roadway. The vehicle left the scene, no injuries were reported. There is no information on the deer.

11:52 a.m. - An officer responded to a 911 call for report of a person was bitten by a dog while trying to break up a dog fight. The officer got information the dogs were separated and secured. The person suffered bite injuries. It was when a dog food bowl was taken away and the other dog was too close. The person was transported to the hospital and Belchertown Animal Control was advised of the incident.

7:41 p.m. – An officer took a report of a relative who got money from another relative. The caller was concerned about their wellbeing and their ability to manage their bank account.

8:48 p.m. - A person located an Adidas bag at Jessica's Playground. The bag was placed into property.

### Monday, June 10

3:20 p.m. – A landlord called the police

after they saw another person return to a property who wasn't supposed to be there. The person was in process of getting evicted through housing court. Everything removed from the apartment, and they decided to come back and get more property. The landlord thought they already moved out and there was no reason for them to be back. The landlord wanted the person to be trespassed from the property and escorted from the property.

3:24 p.m. – An officer responded to Metacomet Street about a mailbox struck by vehicle. The reporting person saw a blue Hyundai strike their mailbox and drive away. The neighbor said their mailbox was damaged too. There no registration available for the vehicle. The officer checked the area and couldn't locate the vehicle.

5:58 p.m. - An officer spoke with a resident about ongoing issues with neighbor going onto their property. The officer served a trespass order and explained the consequences if the neighbor were to return

7:19 p.m. – An officer took a report that a resident received calls from an unknown out of state number. The person reported they were a representative from a company that monitored threats and the resident was eligible for a rebate. The caller requested the name of bank and fill bank form out to get the rebate. The person said they did that and then when they submitted the amount, it was greater than she needed to withdraw money. The person was told they needed to give the scammer more money or they would get bank fraud charge. Their credit card company was advised.

### Tuesday, June 11

2:27 a.m. - An officer responded to a business for a report of a glass break alarm then got a 911 call that someone was trying to break into a car around another business. The officer responded to the area and said they didn't see anyone suspicious. The officer then searched for any suspicious activities and contacted Palmer Police Department about a person who was causing a disturbance. The person was identified but was not involved in the previous report.

6:52 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on State Street. Two vehicles were stopped at a traffic light when the light turned green. The second vehicle went forward, but the first vehicle didn't, causing the second to strike the first. There were no injuries reported. The first vehicle was towed from the scene.

11:52 a.m. – The station got a call about a stolen item. The matter was forwarded to a detective.

3:55 p.m. - An officer responded to Bay Road for a report of an erratic operator who struck a mailbox and left the scene. The officer saw the vehicle pass through and

continue onto Sergeant Street. The officer contacted the vehicle owner who was identified, and the person denied driving all over the road. They said they didn't think they damaged the mailbox. It was snapped in half. There was damage to the person's vehicle and hood area. Their mirror was hanging by its electrical wiring. Photos were taken. The person arranged for a ride home and an immediate threat was filed.

### Wednesday June 12

8:16 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Stebbins Street. A vehicle traveling north on Stebbins Street struck a bear that ran out in front of the vehicle. The bear continued running. No injuries were reported, and no tow was needed.

8:43 a.m. – An officer responded to speak with the staff at a municipal staff at a building. A person was coming to the location and was causing a minor disturbance with staff. There were complaints about the person smoking. They were advised about trespassing procedures.

6:57 p.m. – An officer responded to the area of Corner Road for a report of a sick raccoon wrapped in a blanket. There were flies flying around it. The animal needed to be euthanized.

### Thursday, June 13

6:10 a.m. - An officer spoke with a person about harassing texts they received. The matter appeared to be a neighbor issue spoke with both parties. The other person said they would get a harassment prevention order.

7:58 a.m. - An officer responded to an accident on Warren Wright Road. A vehicle traveling south on Warren Wright Road struck a curb, then a rock that caused the driver's side tire to pop. No injuries were reported. The vehicle was towed from the scene. The operator reported they got off a midnight shift and fell asleep at the wheel.

1:33 p.m. – An officer responded for a report of a juvenile experiencing a medical emergency. Belchertown fire and paramedics were notified.

1:32 p.m. - An officer responded to an accident on Federal Street and Allen Road. A vehicle stopped at Federal Street and Allen Road attempting to go forward. Another vehicle was going forward toward Amherst and swerved out of the way to avoid the first vehicle and it was struck by a third vehicle. The third vehicle went off the roadway and struck a tree.

6:47 p.m. - An officer responded for a wellbeing check on a person accompanied by a CHD clinician to speak with the person. Based on the interaction, a Section 12 was completed, and the person was sent to the hospital for an evaluation. Mutual aid

Please see **POLICE LOG**, page 13



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**Turley Publications** offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a Paid Obituary, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

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should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

### ■ OBITUARIES

### **DEATH NOTICES**

Cynthia Ann (Carey) Loftus Died on June 14, 2024 Beers & Story Funeral Home

Yvonne C. (Rocheleau) Neilson Died June 19, 2024 Services are private Beers & Story Funeral Home

### Cynthia Ann (Carey) Loftus

Cynthia Ann (Carey) Loftus passed away on June 14, 2024 at Baystate Medical Center after a short illness. She was born on October 12, 1961. She leaves her loving husband of 38 years, Michael Loftus. She leaves her sister, Jill and husband Peter Paciorek, and their son, Michael and wife, Lara and daughter, Lena. She also leaves her best friend, Sue Voudrin and her uncle, Charles Williams and his wife Donna and daughter, Stephanie, as well as the members of her husband's family, Sheree (Andy) Fader, Kathleen (Richard) Kimball, Laurie (Harry) Ritter and Patrick Loftus. She also leaves her cat, Earl. She has been employed at Goodwill Industries for many years as the Senior Director of Administration. She graduated with a Bachelor's degree from UMass and a Masters degree from AIC. Per her wishes, there will be no services.



### Yvonne C. (Rocheleau) Neilson

June 19, 2024 at her home surrounded by family. She was predeceased by her loving husband of 68 years, Asbury S. Neilson in 2011. Yvonne was born March 17, 1921 in Scotia, NY, daughter of the late Delphis and Emilie Rocheleau. After graduating from Scotia High School she worked at General Electric in Schenectady as a

secretary. That is where she met the love of her life, Asbury. They married August 23rd, 1942 in Scotia. Throughout their married life they lived in El Paso, TX, Huntsville, AL, Vestal, NY, Berwyn, PA, and Lee, MA. Following Asbury's retirement, they lived at Lake Wallenpaupack in the Poconos. They eventually moved to Belchertown, where she resided for the last 35 years. Yvonne was a consummate homemaker, and found joy in cooking, gardening, and being in the company of her family. Yvonne was a proud recipient of Belchertown's Golden Cane for being the oldest citizen of the town. Yvonne will be

BELCHERTOWN—Yvonne C. deeply missed by her three daughters and (Rocheleau) Neilson, 103, passed away their families; Janice Haller (Stanley) of

West Chester, PA, Kathleen Kita (James) of Jim Thorpe, PA and Denise Murphy of Belchertown. She also leaves behind 8 grandchildren, Debra Presley, Kimberly, Travis, and Christian Kita, along with Heather Murphy, Megan Carr, Ashley Mullins, and Laura Bracey, who she helped raise. Additionally 17 great grand-

children survive her; Anthony and Teagan Murphy and Keaton Silvis-Murphy, William and Nora Mullins, Lily, Noah, Jacob, and Andrew Carr, Amelia, Odin, and Cassius Bracey, Nicholas and Adalynn Kita, Annie Presley, and Michael and Zachary Kita. She was preceded in death by her siblings, Delphis Rocheleau and Jeanne Gibbs. Funeral services will be held privately at Beers & Story Belchertown Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory can be made to Baystate Hospice or a charity of your choice. Please visit www.beersandstory.com to extend online condolences.

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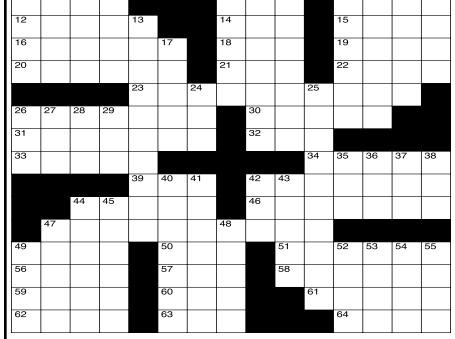
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### **CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Volunteer school aroups
- 5. Cash machine 8. Title of various
- Muslim rulers 12. Indian hand clash cymbals
- Scarf 15. Easily manageable
- 16. Crv
- 18. Financial term 19. Reactive structure in organic chemistry
- (abbr.) 20. Clean out a riverbed
- 21. Seaport (abbr.)
- 22. English seascape painter
- 23. Bring back again 26. Subtracted from
- 30. Related on the mother's side
- 31. Mooches
- 32. Commotion
- 33. Boer War general 34. Silklike nylon fabric

- 39. CNN's founder Sarcastic in a bitter
- wav 44. Minute reproductive
- unit 46. Nourishment 47. Large predatory
- tropical fish 49. Small, rich sponge cake
- 50. Drink a small amount
- 51. Golfer Rodriguez 56. Norse personification of
- old age 57. Large flightless bird
- 58. Capsized 59. Convicted American SDY
- 60. Music genre 61. Makes tractors
- 62. Undergo cell disintegration 63. Patti Hearst's
- captors 64. Selfs

- **CLUES DOWN** 
  - Post-traumatic stress disorder 2. Goat-like mammal
  - 3. Swiss river 4. Slithered
  - 5. Humiliate 6. Tumbled 7. Popular alcoholic
  - drink 8. Small round hole in a leather cloth
  - 9. Fertilizer 10. State of affairs that seems deliberately
  - contrary 11. Count on 13. One who discriminates against
  - 17. New Hampshire city 24. One who cares for teeth
  - 25. Sent off 26. Mutual savings
  - bank 27. Initial public offering

- 28. Denial
- Northeastern institution of higher learning (abbr.)
- 35. A doctrine
- 36. Consumed 37. Trent Reznor's band
- 38. Perform in a movie 40. Schoolhouse
- implements 41. Mathematical term 42. Man who behaves dishonorably
- 43. Expression of regret 44. Martens
- 45. Approval 47. Pleasantly warm 48. The Eurasian
- hoopoe 49. NBAer Bradley 52. Engineering
- organization 53. Horsefly
- 54. Type of sandwich
- 55. A day in the middle of the month

## Highly anticipated film of the summer

AMHERST— Amherst Cinema is thrilled to announce the release of Janet Planet, a film by Pulitzer-Prize winning playwright and Amherst native Annie Baker. Opening on Thursday, June 27, the film is one of the cinema's most anticipated movies this summer.

Renowned for her evocative storytelling in theatre, Baker transitions to the silver screen with Janet Planet. Her directorial debut captures a child's experience of time passing, and the ineffability of a daughter falling out of love with her mother.

Janet Planet was shot entirely in Western Massachusetts and features significant contributions from area communities-such as Double Edge Theatre in Ashfield and with many residents participating as cast and crew. Including a few of Amherst Cinema's very own staff.

'For months, we've fielded calls from so many folks eager to share their stories and ready for their big screen debut. That day has finally come," said Amherst Cinema Executive Director Yasmin Chin Eisenhauer. "Janet Planet has arrived with critical acclaim and lots of buzz. We're excited to celebrate with neighborhood friends and filmgoers and look forward to a successful run at the Cinema."

Set in rural Western Massachusetts, Janet Planet transports viewers to the summer of 1991, where 11-year-old Lacy (Zoe Ziegler) spends her days at home, enthralled by her own imagination and the attention of her mother, Janet (Julianne Nicholson). As the months pass, three visitors enter their orbit, all captivated by Janet and her spellbinding nature. In her solitary moments, Lacy inhabits an inner world so extraordinarily detailed that it begins to seep into the outside world.

Tickets are now available online and at the Box Office. For more information, visit: www.amherstcinema.org/films-andevents/janet-planet.

### **HEALTH CARE** from page 6

But if you can designate anyone by completing a HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) release form, which is available on the Massachusetts Department of Public Health website. Make sure it's on file with your doctor and the hospital.

My first experience advocating for a patient was during a family cruise in the Caribbean when my then-father-in-law developed a life-threatening health emergency. I stayed with him in order to communicate with doctors and make sure he was well-attended.

Back at work in the hospital ICU, I advocated for a patient who was experiencing complications from surgery. The doctor didn't like my questioning the patient's

treatment, so I was placed on leave - and during my downtime, I realized the good I could do by helping other patients in similar situations. A patient advocate was born.

I hope you'll join me every week as I discuss current issues in health care and provide the tips you need to advocate for yourself and loved ones.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN, is a board-certified patient advocate and Monson resident. A critical care nurse for 30+ years, she is founder of NShore Patient Advocates, (www.NorthshoreRN.com). Her book, "How to Be a Healthcare Advocate for Yourself & Your Loved Ones is available on Amazon. She is offering a free phone consultation to Turley Newspaper readers. Contact her at Teri@northshorern.com to

### **WESTOVER** from page 7

more and newer vehicles".

Westover Auto Salvage offers parts for a wide variety of vehicles including hybrids and EV. All of its inventory is listed on their website, westoverautosalvage.com, including what it has for sale for used vehicles.

We Celebrated 30 Years in Business with becoming a Certified Recycler, we are going to continue to offer our facility & vehicles to Belchertown Fire & Police Departments and Local Vocational Schools for training and education, as well as offering to take used oils, batteries and metals free of charge to the community," said Brian Bachand.

The Bachand Family plans to continue to expand their operation, while focusing on the important fundamentals that have led to their continued business such as quality control, product presentation, inventory accuracy and most of all customer service and satisfaction.

They would like to thank the Town of Belchertown, its members & municipalities, and all of their customers for their continued support and business.

Westover Auto Salvage cannot say enough to how much they appreciate everyone who has been involved and impacted by its business. The company recommends everyone to give them a call at 413-323-4210 with all and any of your automotive

Westover puts the people before the parts and works to connect anyone in need with the correct & quality parts, vehicles, and services they need that are reliable and affordable. A job well done in 30 years of continued business, Westover Auto Salvage, here is to another successful 30 years.

### **POLICE LOG** from page 11

from Amherst was contacted.

### Friday, June 14

10:52 a.m. – An officer spoke with a person about an abandoned vehicle on Jackson Street. There was a camper on the property and the caller said they attempted to have the person move the camper. The officer was unable to locate id number on private property. A private tow was done.

### Saturday, June 15

10:50 p.m. – Officers responded for a report of a motorcycle accident with injuries on Chauncey Walker Road. A vehicle left the scene of the accident, it was reported it was a blue Jeep Wrangler. According to an involved operator, a vehicle traveling south on Chauncey Walker Road said the Jeep came to an unforeseen stop for no reason. One motorcycle swerved then collided with the left rear of the vehicle, the passenger on the back of the motorcycle fell to the ground. The second motorcycle swerved to the right and came to stop past the Jeep. The operator said the Jeep began to drive toward them and then left the scene. The person was struck by the mirror of the vehicle. There was a cut that required stitches, and they declined transported. A third motorcycle and swerved to avoid the Jeep. There were no injuries reported. An area search completed, but no one was found.

### Sunday, June 16

9:08 a.m. – An officer responded to the Town Common for a report of a disturbance. A person was yelling at people at the farmer's market. The officer later found the person left in a vehicle. The officer found the involved vehicle and stopped the person. It was determined they were having a mental health emergency, and they were transported to the hospital.

### Monday, June 17

8:57 a.m. – An officer responded to a residence to deliver a suspension of a license to carry. The person was out of state and the officer was told the firearms were locked

in a safe. Later, the officer returned to the residence and a relative helped to get the officer in touch with the person. They spoke and had the letter read to them and the officer asked for the code to the safe. The person said didn't have the guns in possession and they gave them to a friend. The officer checked in the community where the friend resided to see if there was any documentation about the guns. The friend didn't have the documentation needed to purchase them from the suspect. They were advised they needed to initiate transfer paperwork.

10:54 a.m. – An officer took a report of identity fraud. A resident was contacted regarding a loan that was issued in their name. They said they didn't apply for a loan. The person was advised to contact the local police department to have the matter on file. There was no additional fraud activity.

11:46 a.m. - An officer spoke with resident about a stolen wallet. The resident said they were at a business in town when they put their purse in a lock in a locker room area. The locker wasn't locked. They noticed their credit card had charges they didn't make on it. They presumed it was stolen. All the charges occurred in Holyoke. The officer contacted the businesses to see if there was any video footage of the person using the card. The department later got a call from a Connecticut police department with a recovered stolen motor vehicle and the missing wallet was in the car, appearing to match the description of the wallet stolen in town. The person was arrested for stealing a car. There were shopping bags from the Holyoke business in the car. The resident was updated about what was going on. Pending more information from the Connecticut police, the matter is under investigation.

3:51 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Turkey Hill Road. A vehicle traveling west on Turkey Hill Road saw a fox or a dog run into the roadway. The operator swerved and struck a guard rail. A National Gird pole may have been disturbed as well. The vehicle was towed.

### Tuesday, June 18

11:50 a.m. - An officer took a report of a past assault. The School Resource Officer

was contacted about a student in a fight after

1:09 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Bay Road. A vehicle attempting to pass another vehicle that was turning to enter a driveway struck the second vehicle in the rear. There was damage to the first vehicle's front driver's side bumper and to the second vehicle's rear passenger's side bumper. Both vehicles were driven from the scene and no injuries were reported.

6:11 p.m. - An officer was monitoring Ware Road and Jabish Street when they noticed seven vehicles traveling west on Ware Road turn onto Jabish Street. The vehicle didn't have a registration plate on the rear of the motorcycle. The officer pulled over the motorcycle and when the other vehicles pulled over, the officer noticed two more motor vehicles didn't have inspection stickers on their plates. The original motorcycle had the registration plate tucked under the rear fender. The person had a valid learner's permit. Two other operators lacked a permit or endorsement citation. A towing company was contacted to take them away.

10:27 p.m. – Officers responded to assist Belchertown fire and paramedics.

### **Granby Police Log**

Editor's Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 170 calls for the week of June 14 through June 20. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The Granby Police Department provides all information.

### Friday, June 14

6:49 a.m. – Several motorists reported a vehicle struck a tree. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries. The operator was issued a criminal citation for crossing marked lanes and negligent operation of a motor vehicle.

3:43 p.m. – A motorist reported a twocar accident near Dunkin Donuts. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries.

6:21 p.m. – A motorist reported a two-car accident. Granby Police and Fire responded. One operator was transported to the hospi-

tal with non-life-threatening-injuries. One operator was issued a civil citation for failure to yield and failure to stop at a stop sign.

11:35 p.m. – Residents reported a loud bang near Common Street. Officers discovered a vehicle had drove off Route 202, across the Town common, and struck a tree. The occupants of the vehicle fled the scene prior to police arrival and were unable to be located.

### Saturday, June 15

6:52 p.m. – A resident reported a two-car accident. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries.

### Monday, June 17

10:15 a.m. – A resident reported being a victim of identity theft. An incident report was completed.

3:35 p.m. – A motorist reported a vehicle struck a tree stump. Granby Police and Fire responded. The operator was transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening-injuries.

### Wednesday, June 19

9:25 a.m. – National Grid workers at the power substation reported a suspicious vehicle parked near their facility. Officers responded and determined that it had been reported stolen. The vehicle was recovered and the police department that entered the vehicle as stolen was made aware of the recovery.

10:16 a.m. – MSR Utility reported that a water main was struck while they were working in the area. The road was shut down until South Hadley District 1 could shut off the water and repair the water line.

2:25 p.m. – Several motorists reported that a landscape truck towing a trailer struck a utility pole. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries. The road was closed for several hours due to low hanging wires.

### Thursday, June 20

10:30 a.m. – A motorist reported finding a backpack leaf blower in the roadway on Route 202. They dropped it off at the station for safekeeping.

a high resolution, clear

photograph for printing.

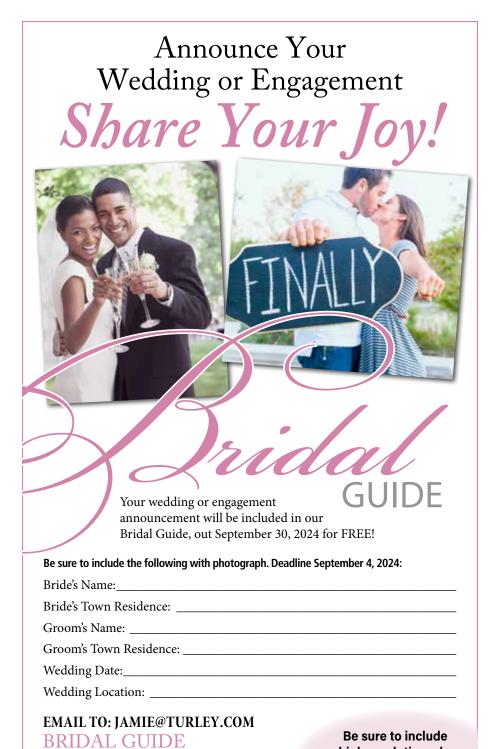


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### **MISCELLANEOUS**

**DUE TO NON PAYMENT.** storage units G2 and G4 Morse Ave. storage will be emptied and the contents disposed of the first week of July unless amount in arrears is paid in full by June 30, 2024.

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**DEADLINES: MONDAY AT NOON** 

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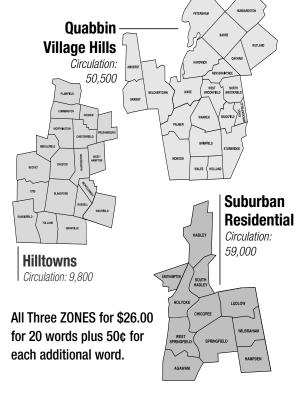
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3rd shift sweeper operator – operate vacuum sweeper at various route sites. Experience preferred but not required. No CDL required. MUST obtain a DOT card and have a clean driving record and be dependable. Will train qualified applicants. Email resume and interest to admin@jrsweeping.com or call 413-786-2168.

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To advertise, place your ad no later than NOON

Thursday, June 27



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\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

### **PUBLIC NOTICES**

EARLY AD DEADLINE Place your public notice

no later than NOON

Thursday, June 27

- Thank you!

## ARLY SALE OF

## MOTOR VEHICLE This ad is pursuant to

**PUBLIC NOTICES** 

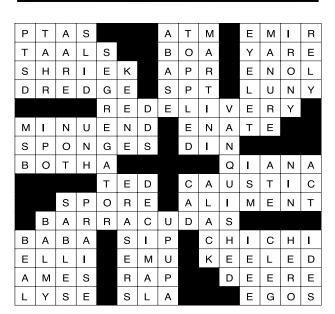
This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of June 28, 2024 the following motor vehicle will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien:

Vehicle: 2007 Ford Focus VIN: 1FAHP37N37W260049 Color: Grey

Color: Grey
LKO: Richard Serrano
Address: 33 S Main Street
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the accuracy of
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### **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.

# **South Hadley** fireworks set for July 3

Raindate July 5

SOUTH HADLEY- The South Hadley fireworks are held annually at the Michael E. Smith Middle School located on 100 Mosier St., on July 3. If the event is rained out then the rain date will be July 5.

Thanks to all of the town departments that helped make the 2023 Fireworks Celebration possible. There is a ton of work that goes into this event, and we want to thank anyone that has helped us make this possible. South Hadley Fire Districts #1 and #2, South Hadley Police Department, South Hadley DPW/Parks Dept, South Hadley School Department, South Hadley Electric Light/Fibersonic, and Board of Health.

Thank you to the food trucks and vendors for creating a great experience for everyone in attendance. Bruiser's Bar-B-Que, Batch Ice Cream, Crazy Arepas, All Purpose Bakery, Lemonade Clamshell, SHHS Cheer, Girl Scouts, United Methodist Church, Happy Face Painter, Rockwall, Archery, TC's Disc Jockey & the South Hadley Community Band.

This event would not be possible without the sponsors. Many of the sponsors have supported this event for years. The Major Corporate Sponsor is PeoplesBank, and have been so for over the past 20 years.





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