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Beloved school garden

holds a special place within the community



An adorable little spice bush caterpillar, a resident of the school's garden.

Welcome to the garden, let's explore the beautiful flowers and learn about pollinators.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS
Staff Writer
epappas@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – The public schools have a beautiful garden on the campus, and the garden is a sanctuary of learning and relaxation for all who enter it.

Originally created by Carol Wagner in the 1990's, the garden

was revitalized in 2006 by Darryl Clark, who helped to kickstart the garden into what it is today.

“The garden is open to the public throughout the whole year, and all community members are encouraged to stroll through all areas of the garden, relax on the benches, take a book from the little library, or enjoy the flowers,” Holly Field, the coordinator for

garden use, said. “I volunteer in the school garden so it is there as a resource for all teachers who want to take advantage of the space,” Field said. “I’ve seen children gain so much confidence from working in the soil.”

The vegetable beds are reserved for the classes at Belchertown Public Schools and local educa-

tional groups, and the circle of benches can convert into tables so that teachers can have classes outside.

“Food produced from the vegetable beds is currently being donated to the senior center and local food distribution centers,” Field said.

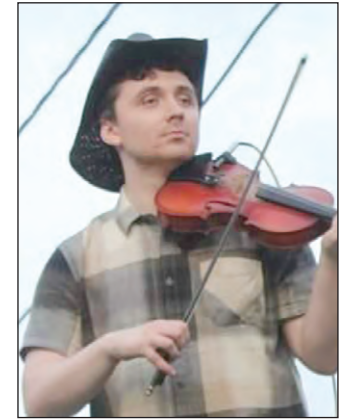
Please see **GARDEN**, page 7

Local musicians make it to the big stage

BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS
Staff Writer
epappas@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – Local resident David Breguet, at 25-years-old, is releasing his third album soon, and has only been moving up in the music world.

Over the spring, Nashville recording artist AK Cody, reached out to him, and Breguet is now touring across New England with him as his fiddle player.



David Breguet playing the fiddle onstage.

He has two upcoming shows, one on June 22 at the Country in the Country Festival in Hadley, and another on Aug. 25 as the opening band for Jason Aldean in Gilford, New Hampshire at the TD Bank Pavilion.

“It’s honestly crazy,” David Breguet said. “I’ve grown up hearing (Jason Aldean’s) songs on country radio... and just being offered to open for him this summer is an honor.”

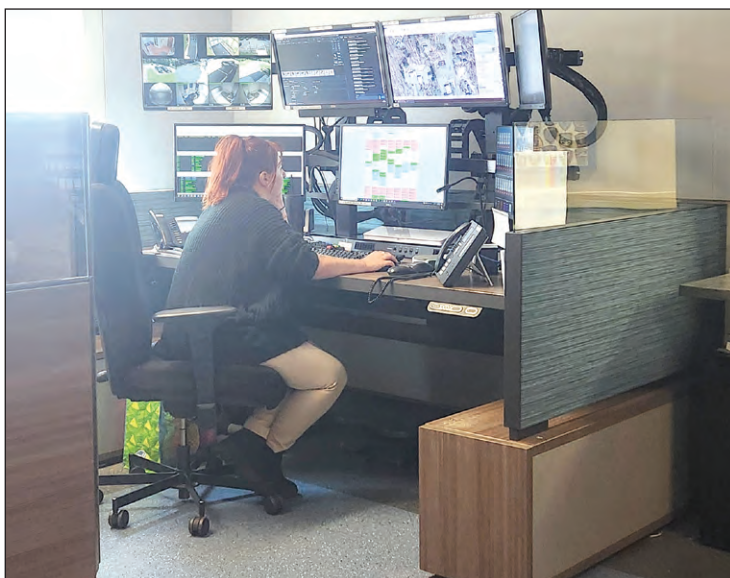
“It’s one of those moments where you look back on your whole career and all the steps that lead you to this point. I’m so grateful for this opportunity,” David said.

David has been performing for almost ten years, and most recently and consistently for the past six, travelling with AK Cody and many more artists.

“I grew up in a musical household,” David said. “My

Please see **MUSICIAN**, page 9

Phase one of joining regional dispatch kicks off



An action shot of one of the regional dispatchers at work responding to a 911 call.

BY KRISTIN RIVERS
krivers@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN - The Wilbraham Regional Dispatch Center kicked off phase one of adding Belchertown to its regional dispatch on June 17.

During the announcement, officials and first responders from Wilbraham, Hampden and Belchertown gathered in the police department’s community room for remarks from Regional Communications Director Anthony Gentile and for the three towns to officially sign the agreements.

Afterward, the officials and first responders toured the Wilbraham Regional Emergency Communications Center to meet the regional dispatchers and learn about the state-of-the-art equip-

ment to enhance dispatchers’ abilities to serve the member communities, including Computer Aided Dispatch, a NextGen 9-1-1 system with GPS mapping, a radio console that covers all member communities and surrounding communities including several talk-groups for statewide communications and camera systems that monitor several locations.

On duty for the dispatch that day were Gentile and Dispatchers Brian Kibbe, Annie Murphy and Katherine Howland.

Gentile expressed excitement for the announcement, explaining the move is “part of a trend where municipalities consolidate their emergency dispatch services to improve efficiency and response times.”

Please see **DISPATCH**, page 8

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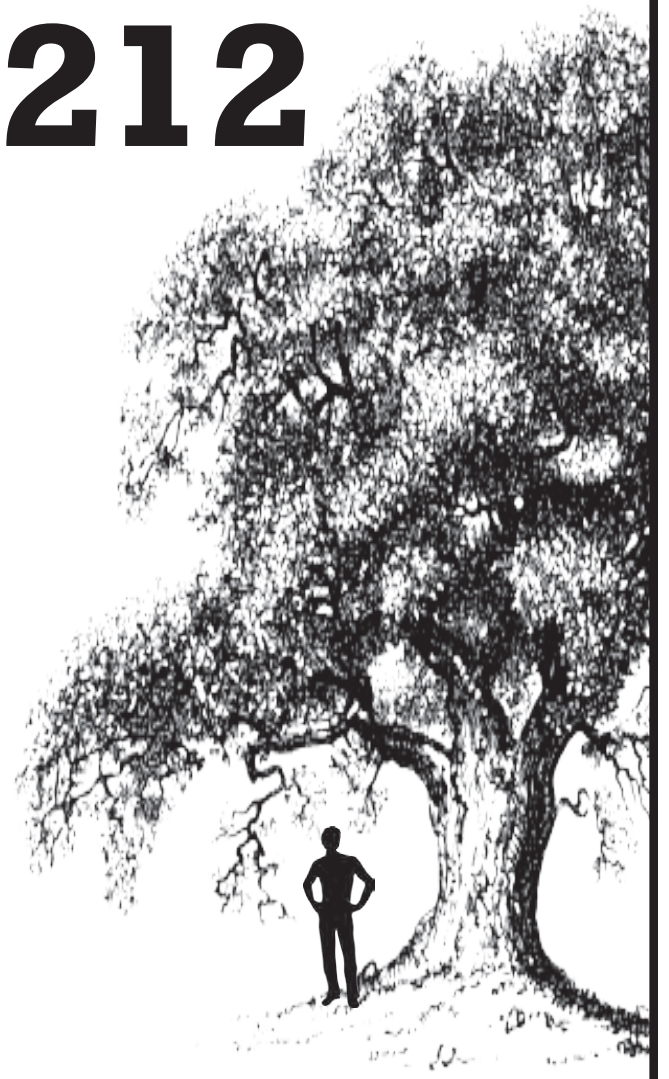
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EDUCATION

High school chemistry club reaches out

BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS
Staff Writer
epappas@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – On May 20, the high school’s Chemistry Club of twenty students held a community event at Swift River Elementary School, providing an opportunity to conduct experiments and learn about chemistry.

“During our visit, we organized several hands-on activities, including demonstrations of rainbow capillary action, creating homemade lava lamps (and more),” Joseph Yoon, a member of the club, said.

The club’s outreach program for the younger students and learned a lot through the process. The response from the students, and the teachers, was “overwhelmingly positive”.

“This is our first year having this club, and we are very proud and happy to have had a successful year,” Yoon said. “Our club aims to foster a love for chemistry and biology through hands-on experiments.”

The club did a lot in its first year, including collaborating with other clubs such as the cooking and environmental clubs.

They also connected students with a counselor from a health professional program to share about undergraduate opportunities in the health professions.

During the demonstration at SRE on May 20, the club put together four different experiments: a homemade lava lamp, a milk rainbow demo, a floating paper clip demo, and rainbow capillary action.



Submitted photos of Joseph Yoon and his friends working on a lab together during the club.

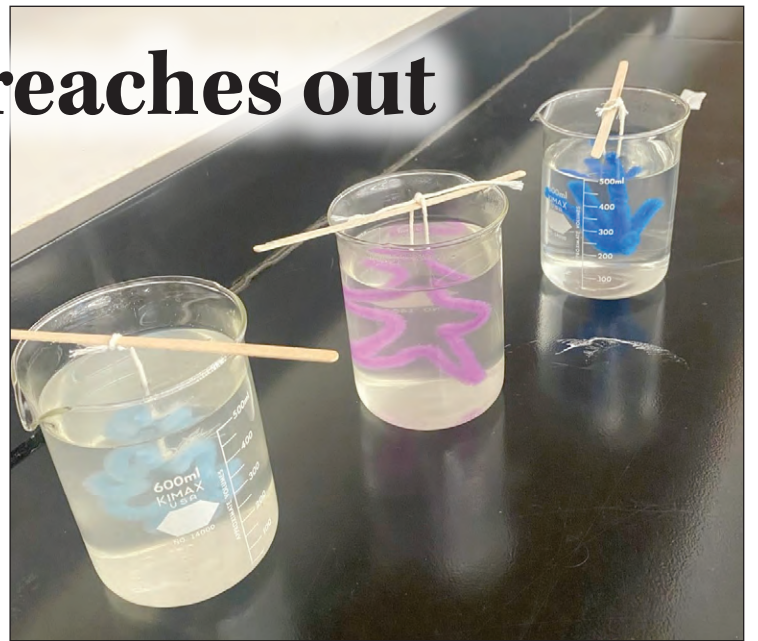
The lava lamp demo, which “was the favorite among the elementary schoolers”, had students add vegetable oil, food coloring, and an Alka-Seltzer tablet to a mini water bottle.

“In the milk rainbow demo, students observed a colorful visual by dropping different food colorings into a petri dish of milk and touching the surface with a cotton

swab dipped in liquid dish soap,” Yoon explained.

The floating paper clip was accomplished by illustrating how surface tension on water works to hold tissue paper, and therefore keep the paper clip afloat.

The final experiment showed how water can “climb” up paper. The club members held paper over a petri dish of water and food



One of the many interesting and fun experiments done during Chemistry Club.

coloring, and students watched as the water carried the ink up and spread through the paper.

“As a group, we collectively chose which experiments to conduct, focusing primarily on the properties of water, which aligned with the theme of the grant we had applied for,” Yoon said.

The grant, which they received from the American Chemical Society, was awarded in the amount of \$400 after submitting their application and explaining that the goal of the outreach was to work in tandem with the elementary school’s current curriculum.

“This event taught us many things, and among which is the significant impact we can have on young minds and portrayed the potential of our chemistry club when we work together towards a common goal,” Yoon said.

“Personally, my favorite part of participating in the outreach

program was seeing these young, enthusiastic students showing interest in science and the world around them,” Yoon said. “It reminded me of my own childhood passion for science.”

Joseph Yoon showed his dedication to the club, and even more, a desire for it, by going to his chemistry teaching and asking for the club, and as a result, at the beginning of the 2022-2024 school year, the club was formed.

“The first year has been quite successful for the Chemistry Club. However, I believe there is potential for even greater achievements,” Yoon said. “We are eager to organize the community outreach program again as it was incredibly valuable.”

The chemistry club, with all of its dedicated members and a supportive advisor, are eagerly waiting for the next school year to begin, so they can dive deeper into the world of chemistry.

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 holi-

day, 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.”

Registration now open for Jimmy Fund Walk

BOSTON— Registration is now open for the 2024 Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk presented by Hyundai. Scheduled for Sunday, October 6, funds raised from the Jimmy Fund Walk support all forms of adult and pediatric patient care and cancer research at the nation’s premier cancer center, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Due to ongoing construction in Copley Square, the Jimmy Fund Walk Finish Line location has been moved to the Boston Common for 2024.

The Jimmy Fund Walk is the

only organized walk permitted on the famed Boston Marathon course, and participants have the flexibility to choose from four distance options: 5K Walk (from Dana-Farber Cancer Institute’s Longwood Medical Campus); 10K Walk (from Newton); Half Marathon Walk (from Wellesley); and Marathon Walk (from Hopkinton).

Whatever route walkers choose, participants will be treated to refueling stations with refreshments throughout the course. Poster-sized photographs of

patients, Jimmy Fund Walk Heroes, are displayed along the course as inspiration. Walkers can participate virtually, as well.

All routes will conclude at the Jimmy Fund Walk Finish Line Powered by Schneider Electric at Boston Common, by the corner of Charles and Beacon Street. The finish line will include a celebration with food, entertainment, and more. Public transportation is encouraged.

The Jimmy Fund Walk has

Please see **WALK**, page 13

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Belchertown Council on Aging *Happenings*

Happy Independence Day!

The Senior Center will be CLOSED on July 4th and July 5th. Enjoy your holiday weekend!

July is National Ice Cream Month

Join us for lunch on Wed. July 10; Thurs. July 18 or Wed. July 24, and have an ice cream sundae for dessert! Call Kim 323-0420 ext 508 to sign up!



Summer Sunflower Paint and Sip

Join us at the Senior Center on Wed. July 17 at 10 a.m. to paint your own summer sunflower on canvas with Paint Sip Fun!

We'll enjoy some delicious mocktails, while learning to paint step-by-step with a professional artist! You will learn simple techniques and easy to understand methods.

This class is FREE to attend, thanks to a generous grant from the Belchertown Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency! We thank them for their support!

Space is limited, so registration is required.

Call Stephanie 323-0420 ext 501 to sign up by July 12th

Cake Decorating Workshop

Join Sarah from Cake's By Pip on Monday, July 15 at 10 a.m. to take your cake decorating skills to the next level! Each participant will learn to decorate flower cupcakes, and take home their edible arrangement! This class is sponsored in part by the Belchertown Senior Citizens Center Association, and we appreciate their support of this, and many other valuable Senior Center programs! Cost is only \$10/ per person, and pre-registration is required. Call Stephanie at 323-0420 ext 501.



Our 2024 BCOA Summer Outdoor Concert Series continues

All shows are FREE to attend, and open to all ages! Be sure to bring a chair!

In the event of rain, call 323-0420 ext 504 after 8 a.m. the day of the show for information regarding cancellation and/or rescheduling.

Charlie Lask (Neil Diamond Tribute): Friday July 12, 10 a.m. - 11a.m.

Stephen George Friday July 26, 10 a.m. - 11a.m.

Thank you to the Belchertown Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency for sponsoring Charlie Lask!

Thank you to Christopher Heights of Belchertown for providing refreshments at all 5 shows!

The BCOA is grateful for your support!

No preregistration required, but if you'd like to attend lunch indoors immediately following the performance, please call Kim 323-0420 ext 508 to sign up!

Farmer's Market Coupons Distribution Update

As in years past, the Belchertown Senior Center will be distributing Farmer's Market Coupons. This year however, staff from WMEC will be here handing out the coupons!

On a date to be determined, staff from WestMass ElderCare (WMEC), the sponsor for this program, will meet with potential coupon recipients at the Senior Center. Most often this happens in late July, and once we are notified of the exact date, it will be posted at the Senior Center, and on the Senior Center Facebook page.

The date of coupon distribution will be the ONLY day coupons will be available. This is a new procedure being implemented to ensure that there are enough coupons for each individual requesting them to receive one set.

Should an individual not be able to attend the coupon pick up day, Heather and I will keep a waitlist of those interested in receiving coupons. If WMEC informs us that there are still coupons available, those on the waitlist will be notified with a pick up time at the Senior Center.

At this point, nothing is set in stone and details are still being worked out by WMEC. For this reason, it is important that anyone wishing to obtain coupons, monitors updates closely.

Any additional questions you may have, please contact 323-0420 Laurene (Ext 505) or Heather (Ext 509).

Ukulele fun

Bring your ukulele and play for fun with friends!

Mondays at 12:30 p.m.

Wholefood Workshop

Join Becky Martin on Thursday, July 18 at 10 a.m. to learn how a whole food plant-based diet can transform your health!

Walking/hiking group walks

Our walking/hiking group walks on most Tuesday mornings at 9am. Walks last about 90 minutes and range in difficulty. For more information, email Stephanie at SFraleigh@belchertown.org

Thank you

Our Deepest Thanks for the recent donations to the Council on Aging.

The Transportation Program received an anonymous donation, and a donation from Patricia Libucha in memory of Stanley Libucha.

The Gift Account received donations in memory of Anita Patullo from her crafting friends.

Programs and Activities received donations from exercise clients.

We thank you kindly for your thoughtfulness, generosity, and continued support!

Exercise Classes

Yoga Mon/Wed/Fri 9:30am \$5/class (pd monthly) Call Stephanie 323-0420 ext 501 for availability

Tai Chi Outdoors Tues/Fri NEW TIME 9am Zoom Tues/Fri 3pm

Suggested Donation \$.50 No need to preregister

Healthy Bones & Balance Tues/Thurs 10am

Suggested Donation \$.50 No need to preregister

Hearing Aid Clinic

Stop in to see Christine Kelley, Au.D. of Florence Hearing Health Care! Have your hearing aids checked and cleaned, and get all your hearing related questions answered!

Monday July 22 at 10 a.m.

Nurse "Office Hours"

Kirsten Krieger, RN, BSN, Public Health Nurse, visits our Senior Center twice a month! Stop in to have your blood pressure or glucose checked, and get answers to many of your health questions! July 8 and July 22 10-11 a.m.

Grief/Loss Support Group

Join Liane Smola, Certified Grief Coach, on Wednesday July 3 at 12:30 p.m., for help working through difficult emotions in a wonderful, supportive group setting.

A huge THANK YOU to Beers & Story Funeral Homes and Cremation Services for continuing to sponsor this valuable program!

Tai Chi Field Trip!

Join the members of Tai Chi on Friday July 12 after class at 10 a.m., as they visit the Belchertown Community Gardens and local organic farms! Tai Chi member Caren Baker, one of the directors of the Community Gardens, will take us on a tour! We will carpool after Tai Chi class, but we'd appreciate your letting us know if you plan to attend. Please email Ljuba at ljubamarsh@hotmail.com.

Holiday Schedule Changes!

NO Yoga 7/1-7/5
Massage moved to July 9
Grief/Loss moved to July 10
Senator Olivera moved to July 11 at 9 a.m.
Declutter moved to July 12

Book Club

Our Senior Center Book Club meets on Monday, July 15 at 10 a.m. (and the 3rd Monday of every month).

This month we will be discussing "The Authenticity Project" by Claire Pooley. Hope to see you there!

BSCCA Travel Club Upcoming Bus Trips

Additional 2024 Trip information available at the Senior Center!

Contact Roseann 413-364-8161 or Tony 413-283-3966 for info!

August 7 - "The Eagles Experience" Tribute Show and Lobster Dinner The Log Cabin, Holyoke. \$125/pp (pmt due by 7/5)

September 8-10 - "Daniel" Experience and 3 Day Tour Lancaster, PA; \$549/pp double occ. (pmt due by 8/8)

October 2 - Lakeside Turkey Train, Lake Winnepesaukee, PA; \$139/pp (pmt due by 9/6)

October 15-17 - Tropicana Atlantic City 3Days/2 Nights; \$331/pp double occ. (pmt due by 9/13)

Silver Sisterhood

Looking to meet and connect with other women?

Join our new Silver Sisterhood, a fellowship for older adult women interested in making new friends, sharing interests, laughter and support.

Our group will meet at the Senior Center on Thursday July 11 at 10 a.m.

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Hills of East Quabbin Ride



The Pumpkin Heads were one of the road biking clubs that participated in the East Quabbin Land Trust's inaugural Hills of East Quabbin Ride held June 22. Shown from left are Randy Thomas of Belchertown, Jen Ayre of Belchertown, Marcy Thomas of Belchertown, Karen Davis of Palmer, Lloyd Ortman of Belchertown, Jim Davis of Palmer, Melinda Rigney of Belchertown, Brad Hoffman of East Longmeadow, Moe Esposito of Lakewood Ranch, Florida and David Casey of South Hadley.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE

Inaugural bike ride benefits East Quabbin Land Trust

BY PAULA OUIMETTE
pouimette@turley.com

NEW BRAINTREE – On the morning of June 22, 71 cyclists took to the road to conquer the rolling hills of the region, with the goal of raising money to benefit the East Quabbin Land Trust.

EQLT Executive Director Cynthia Henshaw said the Hills of the East Quabbin Ride was the idea of Ware resident and avid cyclist John Hogan, who helped lay out two courses, a 25-mile and a 50-mile, through the towns of New Braintree, North Brookfield, West Brookfield, Hardwick, Barre and Oakham. The ride started and ended at Farmer Matt's.

Hogan said he has attended a few events sponsored by EQLT, but this was his first time being an active participant in organizing one.

"It really just came about because as far as cycling, there's several nice cycling events in the area. Two of the ones I really enjoy have been fundraisers for land trusts," Hogan said.

Hogan has been cycling as his primary form of exercise for about 10 years, joining his friends and fellow cyclists The Pumpkin Heads for rides around the region every Sunday. Many of The Pumpkin Heads signed up for the ride, ready to take on the 25-mile course.

The Pumpkin Heads hailed from Belchertown, Palmer, South Hadley, East Longmeadow and even Florida.

One of The Pumpkin Heads, so named because of his bright orange helmet, is Belchertown resident (and former North Brookfield Public Schools teacher) Lloyd Ortman. Hogan said Ortman was very instrumental in building this event and mapping out the courses using an app.

"Lloyd was essentially the brains of



Lloyd Ortman and Melinda Rigney of Belchertown rode their tandem bike on the 25-mile course.

the project. I know these roads well, but Lloyd knows how to do apps...It worked fantastically," Hogan said.

Ortman was one of two tandem bike teams that participated in the Hills of East Quabbin Ride, partnered with his wife, Melinda Rigney.

"John and I designed the course, with Melinda's help," Ortman said.

The biggest challenge on both courses, Hogan said, is the degree of climbing, which he said is reflective of this area.

"Both really had respectable elevation for those distances...this area is just loaded with gorgeous back roads most of which are in really good shape and do not have a lot of traffic."

These two things combined make the roads of the East Quabbin region especially appealing to cyclists.

"You just get a chance to put your head up and breathe the air and look around," Hogan said.

Ortman and Rigney are now on their third tandem bike, and they have traveled roads near and far for adventures, including Sicily, France, Netherlands, Majorca and more.

Please see **RIDE**, page 13

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OPINION



Grieving husband asks about his survivor benefits

Dear Rusty:

My wife died May 4, 2024. I notified Social Security, and they have removed the direct deposit made to my joint checking account on May 8, 2024. What are my options now for obtaining any benefits from my wife's Social Security account?

Signed: Grieving Husband

Dear Grieving Husband:

Please accept our sincere condolences for the loss of your wife. Rest assured that we're here to assist with any Social Security questions you may have at this difficult time.

FYI, a person must live the entire month to be eligible for SS benefits for that month. Social Security benefits aren't paid for the month a person dies. For this reason and as a matter of standard protocol, Social Security instructed the bank to return any payments received for your wife after her death. This is often referred to as the "claw back" rule.

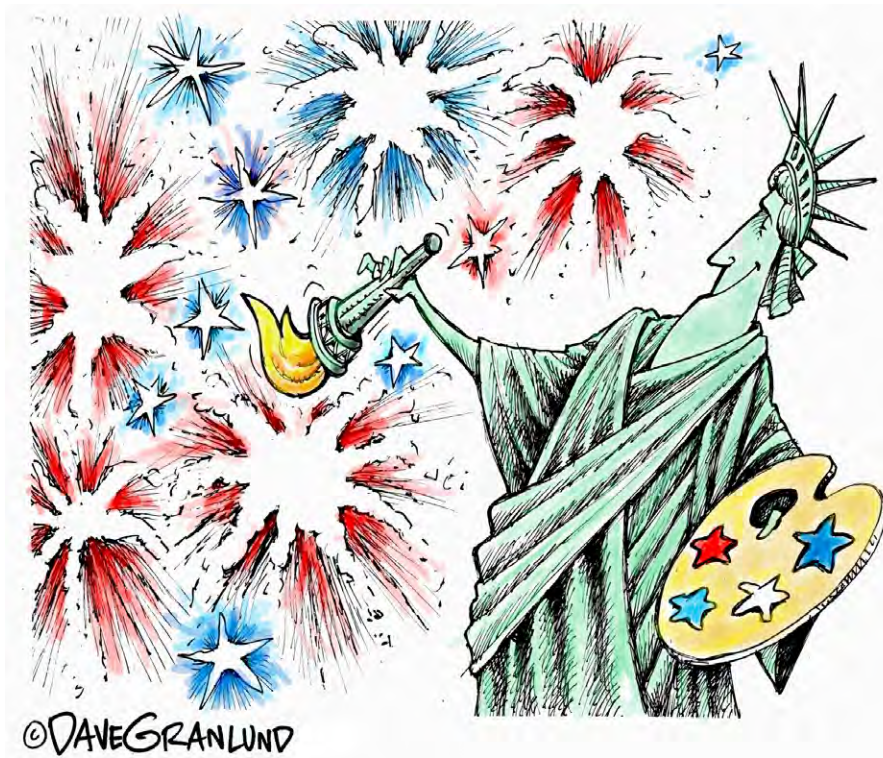
In some circumstances, however, Social Security "claws back" money, which rightfully belongs to the deceased, as they did in this case. Your wife's Social Security payment received on May 8 was her payment for the month of April, and she was fully entitled to that payment because she lived for the entire month of April. I suggest that you download, fill out, and submit Form SSA-1724 to your local Social Security office to recover that May 8 payment, which rightfully belongs to your wife's estate. Note that the bank will automatically return any future SS payments received for your wife.

As your wife's surviving spouse, you are also entitled to a one-time lump sum "death benefit" of \$255, which you can request by calling your local SS field office (get the number at www.ssa.gov/locator), or by calling 1.800.772.1213. During that call you can also explore whether you are entitled to any additional SS benefit as a surviving spouse.

If your wife's monthly SS retirement benefit was more than your current monthly SS benefit, you will be entitled to receive her higher monthly amount instead of your own smaller amount (FYI, if you haven't yet reached your own full retirement age your survivor benefit will be reduced). And if you are not yet collecting your own SS benefit, you have the option to claim your survivor benefit from your wife first while allowing your personal SS retirement benefit to continue to grow, up to maximum at age 70 if you like.

Just be aware that if you haven't yet reached your Full Retirement Age and you are still working, any SS benefit you take before your FRA will be subject to Social Security's "earnings test," which limits how much can be earned before they take away some of your SS benefits. The 2024 annual earnings limit is \$22,320 (changes annually) for those who claim prior to the year they attain full retirement age, and SS will take away \$1 of benefits for every \$2 over the annual limit. The "earnings test" no longer applies after you reach your full retirement age.

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.



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By Ellenor Downer



Eastern towhee

A Brimfield resident reported his wife saw an Eastern towhee in their driveway.

It has been some time since I saw a towhee. It saw it hopping to get seeds on the ground under my feeder.

The towhee is eight inches long with a long tail. The male has a dark hood, beak and back with reddish brown flanks and white belly. The female is brown on top with the reddish flanks and white belly.

They hop backward, raking up leaf litter in search of insects and seeds. They eat insects, spiders, lizards, snakes and weed and grass seeds. They come to feeders for seeds on the ground.

The female lays two to six cream with brown spotted eggs in a nest of leaves, strips of bark and grasses lined with finer grasses. The female places the nest on the ground in a scratched depression under brush.

Towhees inhabit edges or open woods with shrub cover. Often towhees are heard rather than seen. The distinctive "chevink" or "chwee" call note of both sexes is a good clue to their presence. The noise from their "raking" of leaf litter is another clue they are nearby.

In the spring, the male sings and counter sings with neighboring males. He courts the female with song and by displaying with wings and tail spread. Their song is two whistles followed by a high trill like "drink your teee."

During egg laying and incubation, the male rarely comes near the nest and the

female is secretive. Both parents feed the young.

Bobolinks

An Oakham resident sent an email, he said "In 1982, after graduating with my M.S. degree from Cornell, I worked as a field assistant on a bobolink study. We assembled staging in the fields to construct elevated observation platforms. Then we needed to capture and mark all the individuals. Several mist nets were set up."

He said, "When a bird landed near one of the nets we would rush to it and try to scare the bird into a net, quite effective. With 'bird-in-hand' we needed to mark it to allow us to recognize it. So we painted the tails with different combinations of colors. Capturing the very last bird took a lot of time and effort." He also said, "When females returned repeatedly to a particular spot, we searched there for the nests, which was very difficult, as the nests were well hidden. We could then monitor nest success."

Bluebirds

I received an email from a woman, who also sent photos of fledgling bluebirds, in her yard. She said, "At the end of winter the mated pair shooed off their offspring and got down to nesting. We now have four fledglings visiting our mealworm feeder. They are too funny to watch, so hungry and they keep their parents very busy." The bluebirds laid eggs for second time.

More Brimfield birds

The Brimfield resident, who sent the email about the towhee also said, "The other day I spent a couple of hours at the pond in South Street where the osprey nest is located. In addition to the osprey nest there are four great blue heron nests with at least eight chick, I can't see the fourth nest very well but an adult is standing on the nest so I assume there are young chick there also. Young herons can't stand for awhile so they probably wouldn't be visible yet."

He said he saw common grackles, chickadees and tree swallows at the pond as well phoebes, Eastern kingbirds and belted kingfishers.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

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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.

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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.

GARDEN from page 1

This year, the garden has partnered with the Clapp Memorial Library for their Summer Reading Program.

In early June, the garden announced the installation of a Little Free Library, and books can be traded and enjoyed there. You can find it under the big sign.

“Starting July 1st, the pollinator garden will feature a different pollinator each week for seven weeks. Participants in the Summer Reading Program can pick up a journal at the library and go to the garden to read, observe, and draw pictures of that week’s highlighted pollinator,” Field said.

Deb Lapointe planted the Pollinator Garden, and she attends to the upkeep and rotates the pollinator information.

Laura Bishop, who leads the Outdoor Learner’s Program, uses the garden both during the summer and through the school year.

People can take the chance to volunteer, after being CORI-checked, to help teachers lead lessons out in the garden. The garden volunteers are also developing three new lesson plans for the future.

Students from different learning programs planted peas, kale, spinach, lettuce, radishes, turnips, and herbs, and learned how to water and harvest the crops.

They also planted tomatoes, cucumbers, basil, and carrots after the other crops were harvested.

“And even when there isn’t gardening to do, there is a great deal that children can learn in the garden about soul and compost, pollinators and other insects, and cooperation and kindness,” Field said.

The DPW works to keep the

grounds around the garden beds mowed and tidy, and school kitchen staff also work the vegetables grown in the gardens into the meals.

Debra Lapointe, the Master Gardener and creator of the Pollinator Garden, bought specific pollinator trees, bushes, and plants for the garden, and created it for everyone to enjoy.

“I would say this garden consists of 80% natives, and 20% of what I like, because that’s what gardening is all about,” Lapointe said.

“I love everything about this garden,” Lapointe said. “I really enjoy the new Sensory part of the garden. I enjoy reaching the kids about textures, smells, and sounds. Come take a stroll, enjoy the beauty, and support the garden.”

The volunteers for the garden love it for different reasons and take pride in their roles and different contributions.

“Volunteering at the Belchertown garden allows me to pursue my passion for working with children in a safe outdoor environment,” Charlotte Cassidy, a volunteer who works with the first grade students at SRE, said.

“Through this experience, I’ve deepened by gardening knowledge and forged strong connections with the first-grade class I work with,” Cassidy said. “...I am grateful for the opportunity to be outdoors, learn, and play alongside my community.”

Laura Bishop, the leader of the Outdoor Learners group, said, “I would say the garden is a great place to belong. In the garden we work, and we play.”

“They planted lettuce, saw it grow, and then got to contribute it to their school lunch,” Bishop said. “They were able to say, ‘I did that’. Kids feeding kids- an



Charlotte Cassidy smiling with a group of first grade students in the background enjoying the garden. PHOTO FROM CHARLOTTE CASSIDY

example that kids can do big things.”

But it isn’t just the volunteers that have something positive to say about the garden. Eight-year-old Ellie said, “I like the sensory garden because anyone can decorate it with creativity. Whenever I go to the garden I always go to the fairy garden.”

“I hope some of these kids will be inspired by their time outdoors,” Field said. “This kind of experience may encourage some kids to become farmers, while others may become scientists, poets, or wonderful parents because of their time nurturing, and being nurtured by, the garden.”

The garden is a source of community pride and joy, and for the children and volunteers who tend to it and keep it maintained, it is so much more. Its home.



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Where does this path lead?

TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS



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DISPATCH from page 1

Phase one of the consolidation entails answering and dispatching all 911 calls for Belchertown.

“By joining forces with Wilbraham’s dispatch, Belchertown aims to streamline emergency services, enhance coordination between neighboring towns and potentially reduce operational costs through shared resources and technology. This phase marks a significant step towards modernizing emergency response capabilities in the region,” Gentile said.

Gentile said over the past decade, there has been a growing trend to regionalize emergency dispatch services among municipalities in the state, with a desire “to improve efficiency, enhance response times and achieve cost savings through shared resources.”

“Prior to the decision, feasibility studies were conducted to assess the potential benefits and challenges of joining a regional dispatch center. These studies would have analyzed factors such as operational efficiency, financial impact and logistical considerations,” Gentile said.

From there, the dispatch center and officials and representatives from Belchertown met to discuss the possibility of integration.

“These discussions have involved negotiations regarding service levels, staffing requirements, technology upgrades and financial arrangements. After assessing the feasibility and negotiating terms, an agreement has been reached between Belchertown and the Wilbraham Regional Dispatch Center,” Gentile said. “This agreement outlines the terms of integration, including timelines for implementation, cost-sharing arrangements and operational procedures.”

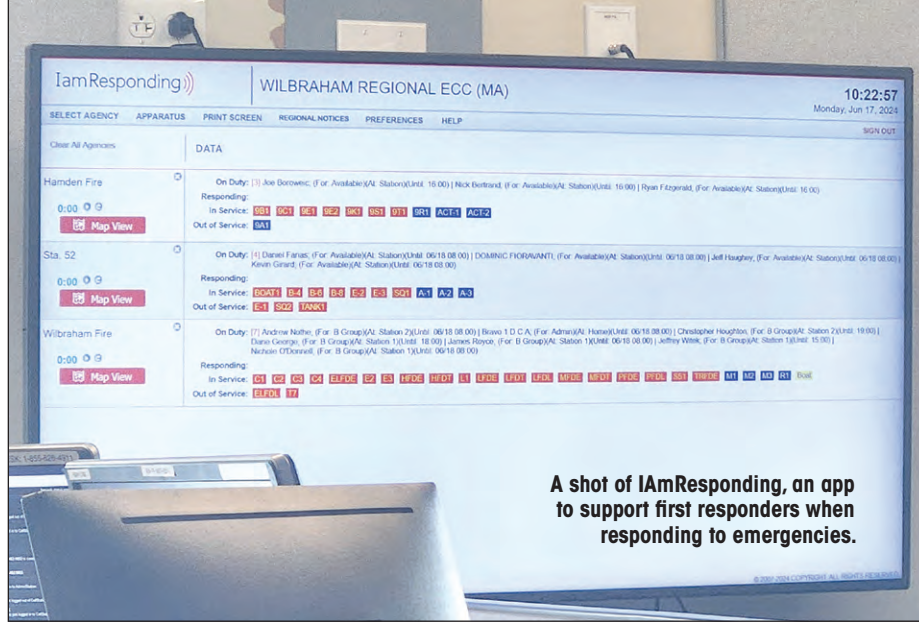
Leading up to the integration, Gentile shared the dispatch center and Belchertown engaged in preparations including training dispatch personnel, upgrading technology systems to ensure compatibility and establishing protocols for seamless coordination of emergency response services.

He added phase one of integration also involves transitioning specific operations or services to the regional dispatch center while maintaining communication and coordination with existing local resources.

“Throughout this process, the goal is to enhance emergency response capabilities, improve service delivery to residents and achieve operational efficiencies through regional collaboration. Each step is carefully planned to ensure a smooth transition and effective integration of emergency dispatch services,” Gentile said.

Gentile said establishing a regional dispatch center between the three communities has many benefits, including enhanced efficiency and coordination, cost savings, access to advanced technology, improving inter-agency collaboration, standardized training and procedures and community benefits.

“Regional dispatch centers streamline emergency response operations by cen-



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

tralizing communication and coordination. This means quicker dispatch of emergency services, improved resource allocation and enhanced situational awareness during critical incidents,” Gentile said. “For instance, a centralized system can optimize the deployment of fire, police, and medical responders across multiple towns, reducing response times and potentially saving lives.”

On cost savings, Gentile explained this concerns financial savings for participating towns.

“By sharing infrastructure, technology and personnel costs, municipalities can achieve economies of scale that are not feasible with standalone dispatch operations. This can result in more efficient use of taxpayer dollars while maintaining or even enhancing service levels,” Gentile said.

Access to advanced technology and improving interagency collaboration are additional benefits.

“Regional dispatch centers typically have access to state-of-the-art technology and communication systems that may be cost-prohibitive for individual towns to implement on their own. This includes advanced computer-aided dispatch (CAD) systems, integrated mapping tools and interoperable communication networks. These technologies improve the accuracy and speed of emergency response operations,” Gentile said. “Collaboration among neighboring towns fosters a stronger sense of regional cooperation and mutual support. During large-scale emergencies or events that require mutual aid, such as natural disasters or major accidents, a regional dispatch center ensures seamless coordination among multiple agencies and jurisdictions. This enhances overall emergency preparedness and response capabilities across the region.”

Standardized training and procedures will also be important.

“Operating under a unified dispatch system promotes standardized training for dispatchers and emergency responders. This ensures consistency in procedures, protocols and communication practices, which are critical for effective emergency management and public safety,” Gentile said. “Ultimately, the primary beneficiaries of regional dispatch centers are the residents and businesses within the participating communities. They receive faster and more coordinated emergency services, leading to enhanced safety and peace of mind.”

Gentile shared how regional dispatch has helped the towns of Wilbraham and Hampden.

“They have seen improvements in response times, operational efficiency and cost-effectiveness since joining forces,” Gentile said. “For Belchertown, integrating into this established regional system promises similar advantages, paving the way for a more resilient and effective emergency response infrastructure.”

For Gentile and the dispatch center, the addition of Belchertown creates several important developments and responsibilities.

First, expanded coverage and support.

“Incorporating a third town into the regional dispatch center broadens our operational scope and geographic coverage. This means we are now responsible for handling emergency calls, coordinating responses and supporting public safety across a larger area,” Gentile said. “This expansion requires us to ensure that our systems, personnel, and procedures are capable of efficiently managing the increased volume and diversity of emergency incidents.”

Next, enhanced collaboration and integration.

“Adding a third town fosters deeper collaboration and integration among multiple municipalities. It strengthens regional partnerships and promotes a unified approach

to emergency management. By working together, we can leverage shared resources, standardize protocols, and improve overall emergency response capabilities across the entire region,” Gentile said.

Another factor is additional operating challenges.

“Managing emergency 911 calls from multiple towns brings additional operational challenges. These include maintaining high service levels, ensuring seamless communication among dispatchers and responders, and adapting to the specific needs and dynamics of each community. It requires robust planning, ongoing training, and continuous improvement to effectively meet the demands of a larger service area,” Gentile said.

Commitment to public safety, Gentile said, is another huge component.

“Above all, supporting a third town reaffirms our commitment to public safety and community well-being. Every emergency call we handle represents someone in need of urgent assistance, and our role is to ensure that help arrives promptly and effectively. This responsibility underscores the importance of our work in safeguarding lives, property, and the overall quality of life in the communities we serve.”

Finally, opportunities for innovation and growth.

“With each new town added to our regional dispatch, there are opportunities for innovation and growth. We can implement new technologies, refine operational strategies, and explore collaborative initiatives that enhance emergency response capabilities. This proactive approach helps us stay at the forefront of emergency dispatch services and continuously improve the support we provide to our communities,” Gentile said. “Overall, adding a third town to our regional dispatch is a significant milestone that requires careful planning, strong partnerships, and a steadfast commitment to delivering exceptional emergency services. It underscores our role as a critical lifeline for residents and emergency responders alike, ensuring that help is always just a phone call away.”

Gentile wants the communities to know the regional dispatch is committed to serving and supporting them.

“I would like all communities to know that we are committed to providing the highest level of emergency dispatch services possible and to meet the evolving needs of our communities.”

Gentile’s message for the three communities was this.

“As your regional dispatch center expands to include Belchertown, we want to assure you of our unwavering commitment to your safety and well-being. We sincerely appreciate your trust and confidence in our regional dispatch center. We are honored to serve you and remain committed to delivering the highest standard of emergency dispatch services to our communities,” Gentile said.



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CAMPUS NOTES

American International College celebrates 2024 graduates

American International College (AIC) held its 139th commencement ceremony on May 11 at the Mass Mutual Center in Springfield, celebrating more than 600 graduates in the Class of 2024.

Cenai Collins of Amherst received a Bachelor of Arts degree in the Communication program.

Rebekah Higgins Molina of Belchertown received a Bachelor of Science degree in the Psychology program.

Sabrina O'Grady of Granby received a Bachelor of Science degree in the Health Science program.

Nora Young of Granby received a Bachelor of Science degree in the Criminal Justice program.

Hailey Fernandes of Belchertown received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree in the Nursing program.

Lauren Hartling of Granby received a Master of Arts degree in the Clinical Mental Health Counseling program.

Jeffery Lefebvre of Amherst received a Master of Education degree in the Elementary Education program.

Students named to Spring 2024 Champlain College President's List

The following students have been named to the Champlain College President's List for achieving a grade point average of 4.0 or higher in the Spring 2024 semester.

Cole Davis-Brand of Amherst is majoring in Computer Networking & Cybersecurity

Ina Fricke of Amherst is majoring in Computer Networking & Cybersecurity

Ryan Rogowski of Belchertown is majoring in Computer and Digital Forensics

Students named to Spring 2024 Champlain College Trustees' List

The following students have been named to the Champlain College Trustees' List for the Spring 2024 semester. Students on the Trustees' List have achieved a 4.0 grade point average for two or more consecutive semesters.

Cole Davis-Brand of Amherst is majoring in Computer Networking & Cybersecurity

Ina Fricke of Amherst is majoring in Computer Networking & Cybersecurity

Cooley earns degree at Susquehanna University

Susquehanna University is pleased to announce its May graduates.

Colin Cooley, of Amherst, graduated cum laude from Susquehanna with a Bachelor of Arts in communications.

Becket White named to President's List at Plymouth State University

Becket White of Amherst has been named to the Plymouth State University President's List for the Spring 2024 semester. To be named to the President's List, a student must achieve a grade point average of 3.70 or better for the Spring 2024 semester and must have completed at least 12 credit hours during the semester, at least nine of which must confer grade points, at the time the lists are finalized. White is a Cell and Molecular Biology major at Plymouth State.

Kayla Pogoda named to the College of Charleston Dean's List

Kayla Pogoda of Belchertown was named to the College of Charleston Spring 2024 Dean's List. Pogoda is majoring in Business Administration.

To qualify for the President's List (Highly Distinguished), students must earn a GPA of 3.800 or higher and complete a minimum of 12 semester hours.

To qualify for the Dean's List (Distinguished), students must earn a GPA of 3.500 or higher and complete a minimum of 12 semester hours.

Quinnipiac University dean's list for the Spring 2024

HAMDEN, Conn. - The following area students were named to the dean's list for the Spring 2024 semester at Quinnipiac University:

Sarah Cormier of Belchertown and **Stephen Kotfila** of Hadley.

To qualify for the dean's list, students must earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 with no grade lower than C. Full-time students must complete at least 14 credits in a semester, with at least 12 credits that have been graded on a letter grade basis to be eligible. Part-time students must complete at least six credits during a semester. Names followed by an asterisk denotes with honors.

Kruse graduates from Univ. of Hartford

Jenna Kruse of Belchertown has received the degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Hartford's Hartford Art School.

Jenna is one of 964 students who received graduate and undergraduate degrees this spring as part of the class of 2024.

MUSICIAN from page 1

sister played the clarinet, and my mom and dad played the guitar."

His mom and dad, Teri and John Breguet, who homeschooled David so he could work on and develop his passions, loved seeing their son grow and broaden his skills.

David received his first fiddle as a Christmas present when he was twelve, and by the time he was fifteen, he was teaching classes at the East Brookfield Fiddle Center.

"Now he's realizing a dream that he never thought was possible- performing with Nashville recording artists on bigger stages," John Breguet said.

David grew up playing music at many nursing homes and for charitable events, and still does. His first ever performance was a recital in 2013, where he played a bluegrass tune, and a song from The Lord of the Rings.

"Despite his growth, he continues to collaborate with musicians of all ages and talent levels," John Breguet said. "One of the most impressive things is that he has always stayed true to himself, and it has paid off."

"We just want him to have fun with it all," Teri Breguet



SUBMITTED PHOTO

As the smoke crosses the stage, the audience cheers for the musicians.

said. "One of the impressive things is that he has always stayed true to himself, and it has paid off."

David got the chance to take fiddle lessons with two fiddle players, Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy, even driving up to Cape Breton, Nova Scotia to take lessons with them.

"Without them, I wouldn't still be playing fiddle today.

Their incredible music is a huge inspiration for me," David Breguet said. "I'm so grateful to have so many people who care about me and my passion so much."

David has released two music albums so far with his trio, Shindig, and is currently working on his first solo album made of all original music.

"Witnessing others discover his talent and appreciate it, and seeing his confidence grow is so rewarding," John Breguet said. "We continue to this day to attend his performances when we can. We cannot wait for the August opening in New Hampshire- we will be there!"

David Breguet is a talented singer, and with all of these skills and supportive parents and friends encouraging him forward, it's no wonder he is heading to the big stage.

David's story is sure to encourage anyone to reach for their goals, stay true to themselves, and pursue their passions.

Make sure to take a trip up to New Hampshire on Aug. 25 to get the chance to see him perform on the stage, opening up for Jason Aldean himself.



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GRANBY

Granby Library's youth summer events

GRANBY— Granby Library hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Thursday from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

All library programs are free of charge and open to the public. Call the library at 413-467-3320 during open hours for more information and to pre-register for programs. The Granby Free Public Library is located at 297 East State St.

Reading Adventure through August 9, ages birth to 11yrs.

How the Granby Library's Summer Reading Adventure Works.

1. Sign Up, Fill out a sign up slip, then take an "Adventure" folder, all logsheet materials and instructions are included.

2. When you reach 25 days of reading - bring in your folder and logsheet. You will receive a Cindy's Coupon & a free book. Turn your Adventure Log Sheet - it will be your raffle ticket for summer reading prizes which are: Grand Prize: FAMILY \$200. Gift Card to Southwick Zoo and Second Prize: A Seasonal Pass for Lupa's Zoo. Weekly theme raffle baskets too.

Summer Reading Activities & Events:

Super Hero Take- Home Lego Mystery Challenge Boxes June 21- July 25 Sign out a box of Lego and return it by July 25 with a creation on the top using the included super hero figure. Returned creations on display July 25-31. Ages 4 and up.

Gotta catch 'em all July 2 to July 6. Check out a Pokémon book this week & get a raffle ticket for a Pokémon prize (1 ticket per visit.) Do the Pokémon Scavenger hunt for another chance to win the prize (1 ticket per child) Pokémon activity table too.

Rock & Mineral Program: Saturdays: July 13 & August 3 at 10:30 a.m.. Jack Marcy, local rock and mineral enthusiast, will show you his collection & teach you how to identify and catalog rocks & minerals. Age 8 to 12. *Pre-register for each session.

Craft Camp - Thursday, July 11 at 3 p.m. Suncatchers, paint a plaster pet, Perler Beads, craft basket raffle & more. Get your craftiness on. Drop in, ages 3 and up.

CFCE Summer Playgroups - Wednesdays July 10 through August 21, at 10:30 a.m. Families with children birth through 5 years and siblings welcome.

Disney Week July 9 to July 13, Check out a Disney book or DVD this week and get a raffle ticket for a Disney Basket. Disney activity table too.

Artful Mechanisms Thursday, July 18 at 10:30 a.m. Jay Mankita of Playful Engineers presents this hands-on, creative engineering workshop in which imagination meets the marvels of mechanical movement. Construct your own mechanisms. Pre-register. Ages 7 through teens.

Guess What Book is in the Jar July 16 through July 30. If you guess what book is shredded in the jar you win a surprise (book related) pack!

Local business grants available

The South Hadley & Granby Chamber of Commerce has created a capacity building grant program for businesses in our municipalities. Under our grant program, funded by the Commonwealth of MA's Workforce/Economic Development Initiative, the SHG Chamber will award eligible South Hadley and Granby businesses up to \$5,000 each. Grants may be used in the following areas:

Website Design or Redesign, Marketing, Social Media, IT Infrastructure Enhancements, Professional Development, Resource Skill Development, Business Coaching, and Strategic Planning.

Applications now being accepted online: www.shgchamber.com.

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.



Annual Giant Tag Sale returns Aug. 24

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 per-

sonal 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.

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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 11, 2024.**

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

Deadline for Calendar submissions is August 12.

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 _____

Location _____

Description _____

Cost _____

Contact name & phone number for more information _____

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.**

sports@turley.com

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Breena Courschesne looks to punt the ball away.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Alexis Canoa gets around an opponent.



Camilla Adamczyk fights to keep the ball.



Natalie Bodon sends a pass away.

Ava Swiatlowski tries to settle the ball.

Orioles pick up draw

CHICOPEE – On Monday night, Belchertown A girls soccer had a big matchup with Chicopee Comprehensive under the lights and picked up a 2-2 draw. The Orioles will return to action following the Fourth of July holiday.

Mutiny racks up another home win

BY TIM PETERSON
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—A parade, a block party, and fireworks were held June 16 as part of Ludlow’s year-long 250th anniversary celebration.

The New England Mutiny joined in the fun by celebrating a 4-0 shutout victory in their first ever meeting against the Hudson Valley Crusaders before a large gathering at Lusitano Stadium.

“This is a very good win for the ladies,” said Mutiny assistant coach Ciro Viviane. “I thought we played very well in tonight’s match, especially during the second half.”

Viviane and Joe Ferrara, who’s the Mutiny’s Owner and General Manager, shared the coaching duties during last Saturday’s home match.

Federico Molinari, who’s the Mutiny’s first-year head coach, is also the longtime head coach of the Western Mass. Pioneers. He coached the Pioneers match at Vermont Green, which ended in a scoreless draw, last Saturday night.

The Mutiny remained in first place in the United Women Soccer East conference standings with a perfect 5-0-0 overall record.

“It feels really good to be 5-0,” said Mutiny defender Rachel Marchini, who scored her first goal wearing a Mutiny uniform. “We’re just looking forward to continuing playing well in each game.”

Because only the top four teams in the East Conference standings will qualify for the league playoffs, the Mutiny can’t afford a loss in their final three regular season matches.

Please see **MUTINY**, page 16

Rams tie Chicopee

GRANBY – On the turf of South Hadley High School, Granby boys soccer, which plays in the B Division, picked up a tie against Chicopee. Granby would lose later in the week at Wilbraham and is off this week for the Fourth of July holiday.

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Riley Goodhind clears the ball.



Anthony Santiago kicks a pass away.



Cole Fuller tries to compete to stay in possession.



Cody White goes after the loose ball.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Avery Klingensmith follows through on a pass.

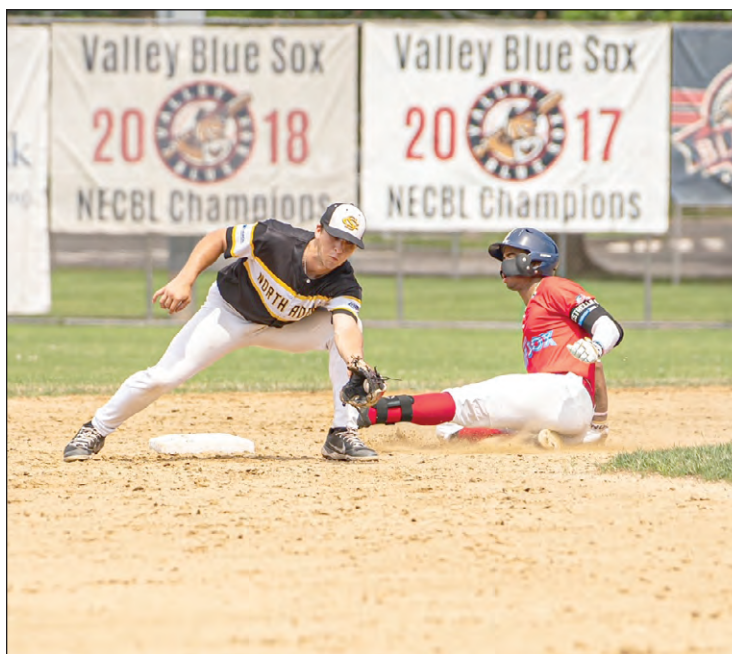
SPORTS

Blue Sox continue season into July

HOLYOKE – The Valley Blue Sox are the local attraction for college baseball. The Blue Sox have played about half its schedule and continue their 42-game slate into July. Home games are played at Mackenzie Stadium in Holyoke. There are numerous promotions and fun deals for individuals and families. The Blue Sox have several home games throughout July and hopefully beyond with the New England Collegiate Baseball League playoffs.



Jonathan Hogart swings and connects.



Andrew Estrella slides safely into second.

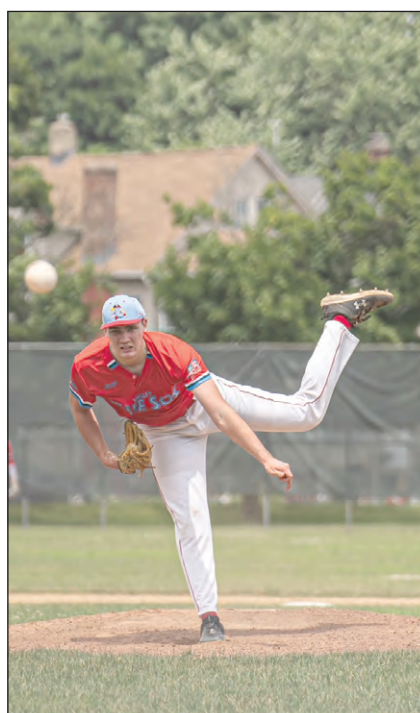
TURLEY PHOTOS BY SOFIA DIGRANDE



Logan Hugo leads off second base.



Michael O'Connor enters the field.



John Kwitkowski delivers a pitch for the Blue Sox.

New matchup announced for showcase

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced the updated lineup for the 2024 Basketball Hall of Fame Showcase. The event will now take place on Dec. 14 at Mohegan Sun Arena in Uncasville, Connecticut.

Revised Hall of Fame Showcase matchups:

- Saturday, Dec. 14
- Providence vs. St. Bonaventure
- Bryant vs. Fordham

Tickets for the 2024 Basketball Hall of Fame Showcase will go on sale Friday, September 6, via Ticketmaster and on sale at the Mohegan Sun Arena Box Office starting Saturday, September 7.

Details surrounding the game time, broadcast information, and credentials will be provided at a later date. For more information, please visit hoophall.com.

Coaches participating in the event commented.

“We are always looking for unique situations in scheduling where we can put our program on a big stage. We are very thankful for the Basketball Hall of Fame continuing to allow us these opportunities,” said Phil Martelli Jr., Bryant.

“We are excited to be invited to play in the Basketball Hall of Fame Men’s Showcase. The Basketball Hall of Fame does a fantastic job at hosting these events and Mohegan Sun is a great venue for basketball. It will be a tremendous experience and test for our program as we compete against some strong early season competition. I’m sure that Fordham fans are just as excited and will come out to support their Rams,” said Keith Urgo, Fordham.

“We are looking forward to the opportunity to participate in the 2024 Basketball Hall of Fame Showcase at Mohegan Sun. Providence College has a proud tradition of participating in past Hall of Fame events at Mohegan Sun. This is a great event for our team and our fans in a first-class facility. It also will be a good chance for our team to compete against one of the top programs in the Atlantic 10,” said Kim English, Providence.

“We are excited to participate in this season’s Basketball Hall of Fame Showcase at Mohegan Sun. These are exactly the types of games we strive to play every year. Providence is a storied program with good players who are very well-coached. This will be a great challenge, but one we are looking forward to. I anticipate a large contingent of Bona Nation in the building that day. Thanks to the BHOFF for another great opportunity,” said Mark Schmidt, St. Bonaventure.

Registration now open for Owl tournament

WESTFIELD – Registration is now open for the 18th annual Owl Club Golf Tournament, which will be played on Monday, Aug. 5 at Crestview Country Club in Agawam, Mass.

The tournament is a primary fundraising event to support Owls athletics.

Registration is open at www.westfieldalumni.org/OwlGolf

New Owls’ head football coach Lou Conte, Jr. will be the guest of honor for the tournament. Meet coach Conte and learn about his plans for the future of the Owls program, while enjoying a great day of golf.

“It’s a great chance for us to introduce Lou to some of our most loyal alumni, and the folks that support Westfield State athletics,” said Westfield State director of athletics Richard Lenfest, Jr. “It’s great that Lou has ties here in the local area,

and I think that everyone will look forward to hearing his approach to Westfield State football.”

Conte joins the Owls after a year as head coach at American International College in Springfield, and a seven-year stint as an assistant and offensive coordinator at The Citadel, a NCAA Division I program in the Southern Conference.

The Owl Club Golf Tournament includes 18 holes with cart in a scramble format, a cookout style lunch before the round, and a buffet dinner following. Raffles, on course contests, and a player’s oasis on the course helps to ensure an enjoyable round for golfers of all levels. For more information on the tournament, [CLICK HERE](#).

The event has been popular with alumni, parents, friends and fans, and has sold out for the last 15 events. Westfield Bank

will serve as the lead sponsor for the event.

Register early to ensure your team’s participation. Foursomes are preferred, but we will pair individuals or smaller groups.

“It’s always a great day to see a lot of old friends and classmates, and some of the sponsors that really help to support the accomplishments of our talented student-athletes,” added Lenfest. “The golf is fun, but the proceeds help to put our Smith Cup-winning programs in position to be as competitive as possible on the field and in the classroom.”

Westfield Bank serves as the title sponsor of the event. Additional sponsor packages are still available; contact Associate Athletic Director Dave Caspole at 413-572-5433 or dcaspole@westfield.ma.edu.

T-Birds announce coaches, promotions for upcoming season

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds today announced the promotion of James Woodward and Katherine Ferri to Account Executives, as well as the hiring of Joe Manning as an Inside Sales Representative.

Originally from Hartford, Conn., Woodward joined the Thunderbirds as a Game Operations and Merchandise intern before joining the sales department as an Inside Sales Representative for the



2023-24 season. He graduated with a degree in Sport Management from Western New England University.

A Springfield native, Ferri is a graduate of Westfield State University, where she competed on the swimming and diving team while completing her

degree in communication with a concentration in Media Arts and Analysis. She joined the Thunderbirds during the

2022-23 season as an intern in the ticket sales department before serving as an Inside Sales Representative during the 2023-24 season.

A recent graduate of Springfield College, Manning joins the Thunderbirds as an Inside Sales Representative after interning in the ticket sales and media relations departments during the 2023-24 season. The native of Wilbraham, Mass., was also a member of Springfield College’s club ice hockey team during his time in school.

SHHS band reunion

SOUTH HADLEY— There will be a reunion for the South Hadley Marching 100 during Roger Farnworth’s tenure from 1965-1980. There will be a three-day celebration of the band and accomplishments. The schedule is as follows:

Friday, August 16, Casual gathering, place and time TBD.

Saturday, August 17, SHHS Meet and Greet at 9 a.m.; Donuts, coffee, photo-op and tour of the band room.

Saturday, August 17, Main Event, The Elks Lodge in Holyoke at 5 p.m., \$25 per person.

Sunday, August 18, Breakfast Buffet at the Boathouse in South Hadley MA at 9:30 a.m., \$29 per person.

Join in for all the events or any of the events to make new memories and celebrate the old. For tickets or more information visit: The South Hadley Tiger Marching 100 on Facebook or contact Karen Kawalec Quinn at jkequinn@gmail.com or Craig Parker at craig1414p@gmail.com.

WALK from page 3

raised more than \$176 million for Dana-Farber in its 35-year history, raising a record-breaking \$9.4 million in 2023. Funds raised from the Jimmy Fund Walk support all forms of adult and pediatric patient care and cancer research at the nation's premier cancer center, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The Boston Athletic Association has supported the Jimmy Fund Walk since 1989, and Hyundai has been the presenting sponsor for more than 20 years.

Register as an individual walker, team member, or start a team. Take advantage of this unique opportunity and lead a group of family, friends, or colleagues to the finish line. The Jimmy Fund can help you start a team, grow your fundraising, and defy cancer, together.

RIDE from page 4

"It's the most fun you'll ever have on a bicycle," Rigney said of the tandem.

Rigney said at first, she was opposed to riding on the tandem but now it has been a bonding experience for her and her husband.

Another cycling club, the Seven Hills Wheelmen, also had a strong showing, including member and past president, Bill Dobson of Spencer. Dobson has been a member of the club for 25 years.

Dobson, a regular customer at Farmer Matt's, said he rides for six hours a week and also enjoys mountain biking.

Dobson said he "blames the bikes" for helping him overcome the side effects of his cancer treatment following his diagnosis two years ago. He is now cancer-free and enjoying the challenge the hills of East Quabbin and Worcester give him every time his tires meet pavement.

"It's been great," Dobson said of the ride. "This is the time of year you want to do this."

Matt Koziol of Farmer Matt co-hosted the ride on his farm located at 860 West Brookfield Road, offering barbecue

Volunteers are needed to cheer on participants, serve snacks, distribute T-shirts, and more, at the four start locations, along the course, and at the 2024 Jimmy Fund Walk Finish Line Powered by Schneider Electric, located in the Boston Common. The Jimmy Fund Walk would not be possible without the hundreds of dedicated volunteers who donate their time, talent, and energy. Register to volunteer today.

To register for the 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.

food options while Lost Towns Brewing brought cool, refreshing brews. Live music was provided by Serena Mae of Mama Kilsmith and Andrew Paulin.

"I'm an avid supporter of the East Quabbin Land Trust," Koziol said, adding that one of its kestrel nesting boxes is located on his farm.

Koziol said he saw a lot of his regular customers as well as new faces at the ride.

Hogan said the feedback he received following the event from cyclists was overwhelmingly positive.

"The feedback was good, and people were happy. We were lucky, too, the weather was decent. Considering how the weather was a couple of days before," he said.

Hogan and others are already looking forward to next year's event after the success of Saturday's ride.

"It was really just the idea to do something that I think would be nice locally for an annual event," Hogan said. "It's a win-win. Helping the land trust is something I feel strongly about...it's just what I had hoped it would be."

PUBLIC NOTICES

Belchertown Conservation Commission LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to the authority of the Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Ch. 131, Sec. 40, its Regulations (310 CMR 10.00) and the Belchertown Wetlands Protection Bylaw (Chapter 139), the Belchertown Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on **Monday, July 15, 2024 at 7:00 PM in the Lawrence Memorial Hall Auditorium, located at 2 Jabish Street in Belchertown, MA 01007** to review a Request for **Determination of Applicability** permit application submitted by Soundscape Merchandise c/o Brian Giggey for the proposed work to construct a 2,100 square foot addition to an existing building within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands at 40 Front Street (Assessor's Map 243-178.04) in Belchertown. Anyone interested in this matter should appear at the time and place designated. 07/04/2024

Memorial Hall Auditorium, located at 2 Jabish Street in Belchertown, MA 01007 to review a **Request for Determination of Applicability** permit application submitted by Karen Sumaryono for the proposed work to remove two hazardous trees within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bank of Lake Holland at 600 Federal Street (Assessor's Map 101-65) in Belchertown. Anyone interested in this matter should appear at the time and place designated. 07/04/2024

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PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
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- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

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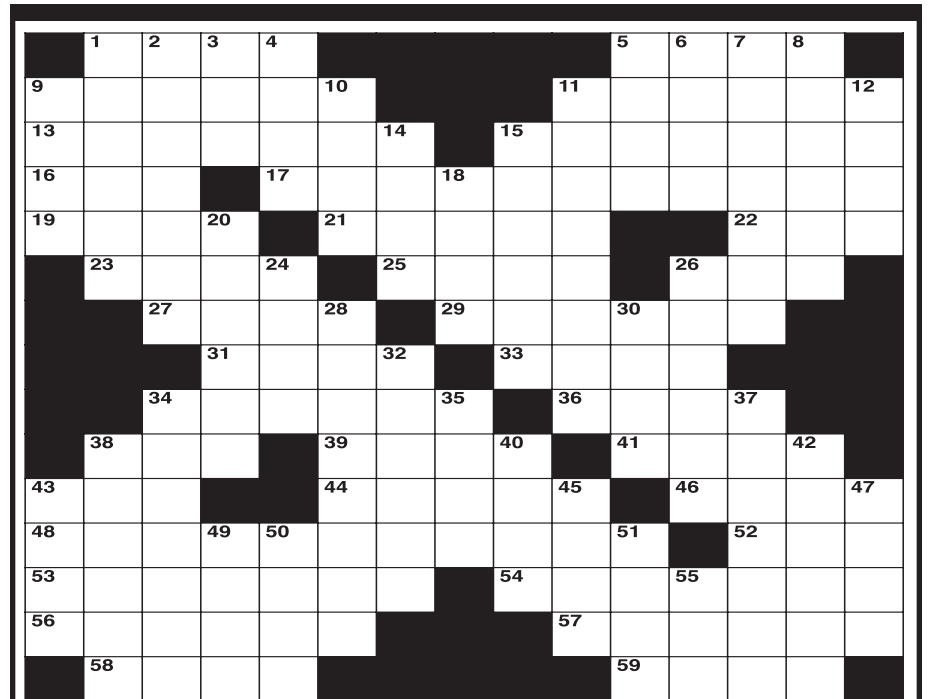
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|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Six (Spanish) | 34. Looked for | 2. Assign | 26. Annoy constantly |
| 5. Invests in little enterprises | 36. Arranges | 3. Wrath | 28. Orchestrate |
| 9. Large dung beetle | 38. Political action committee | 4. Self-immolation by fire ritual | 30. Z Z Z |
| 11. Gored | 39. Middle eastern nation (alt. sp.) | 5. Parts of an organism | 32. Astute |
| 13. Partially paralyzed | 41. Hair-like structure | 6. Person from England | 34. Highly decorated tea urn |
| 15. Still a little wet | 43. Parts producer | 7. Tropical plants of the pea family | 35. Teach to behave |
| 16. Legal field media company | 44. Greek city | 8. Body part | 37. Endurance |
| 17. Not working | 46. Subway dwellers | 9. Practice boxing | 38. Urinating |
| 19. 500 sheets of paper | 48. Norm from "Cheers" | 10. Containers | 40. Barbie friend dolls |
| 21. Church structure | 52. Clean a floor | 11. Contrary beliefs | 42. Repents |
| 22. Sheep disease | 53. Vied for | 12. Bleached | 43. Man-eating giant |
| 23. Small drink of whiskey | 54. Canned fish | 14. Pre-Islamic Egyptian | 45. Jewish calendar month |
| 25. Weaving tradition | 56. Inspire with love | 15. A group of similar things ordered one after another | 47. Accelerated |
| 26. Pestilence | 57. Sent down moisture | 18. Innermost spinal cord membranes | 49. Husband of Sita in Hindu |
| 27. Body part | 58. Wrest | 20. Cassava | 50. Lump of semiliquid substance |
| 29. Nabs | 59. Partner to carrots | 24. A restaurant's list of offerings | 51. Lying in wait |
| 31. Places to stay | | | 55. Cease to exist |
| 33. Witnesses | | | |

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MUTINY from page 12

They're scheduled to play a road match against the Connecticut Rush on Saturday night.

The same two teams will face each other again seven days later at Lusitano Stadium, which will be the Mutiny final regular season home match.

The Mutiny will then close out the regular season with a road clash against the Worcester Fuel on June 30.

"We're looking forward to finishing the regular season on a positive note," said Viviane, who's also the Pioneers goalie's coach. "I think our next two matches against the Connecticut Rush will be hard fought battles. Worcester might be struggling, but you can't overlook any team in this league."

The Mutiny won't have the services of forward Cat Berry, who's one of the team's leading scorers, during the final three regular season matches. She went back to the University of South Carolina last weekend to take summer classes and prepare for her final collegiate season as a member of the Gamecocks women's soccer team.

Berry has been a member of the Mutiny for the past three seasons and is a fan favorite. She'll most likely be drafted by a National Women's Soccer League (N.W.S.L.) team next year.

"Cat will definitely be drafted by a N.W.S.L. team next year," Ferrara said. "It was awesome having her play for our soccer team during the past couple of years. Not only is she a very talented soccer player, but she's also a great kid."

The Mutiny, who outscored their first five opponents of this season, 19-3, have compiled an 18-5-2 overall record since the start of the 2022 regular season.

The Crusaders (3-1-1), who joined the U.W.S. this season, entered last Saturday's contest with a 3-0-1 mark. They had only given up two goals in the first four matches. The Mutiny doubled that total in a span of 90 minutes.

The home side took a 1-0 lead during the 11th minute of the opening half following a corner kick goal.

Mutiny midfielder Abbey Jones, who's a member of the UConn women's soccer team, booted the ball into the box from the left corner. Marchini, who also played soccer at UConn a couple of years ago, sent a volley shot into the back of the net past Hudson Valley goalie Natalie Kelchner.

"I've been playing for the Mutiny for two years now and I scored my first goal in tonight's game," said Marchini, who also scored only one goal during her collegiate career. "I was just in the right spot at the right time. My goal gave us a lot more confidence because they were also an unbeaten team."

Marchini was also a member of the Connecticut Fusion before joining the Mutiny.

"I used to play for the Fusion, but when they folded, I decided to come play here," Marchini said. "It has been a lot of fun playing soccer at this stadium during the past couple of years."

Marchini anchors the Mutiny defensive unit along with Logan Jacobs, Laci Lewis, and Sam Breton.



Hope Santaniello gets past an opponent.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Goalkeeper Natalie Mutschler only had to make a couple of saves in recording her second consecutive shutout.

The Mutiny second goal was scored by forward Chioma Okafor during the 29th minute. Forward Maddy Theriault, who graduated from Palmer High School a couple of years ago, was credited with the assist.

Another local player listed on the Mutiny roster is Hope Santaniello, who

was an All-American soccer player at Agawam High School.

Santaniello, who'll be a member of the UMass-Lowell women's soccer team in the fall, scored her team's second corner kick goal, which was assisted by Okafor, during the 71st minute.

She also converted a penalty kick during the final minute of regulation, which kept the Mutiny undefeated heading into the home stretch of the regular season.



Chioma Okafor settles the ball.



Jess Mazo sends a quick pass away.



Maddy Theriault advances up the field.

June 2024

**Quabbin Health District
Public Health Nurse Newsletter**

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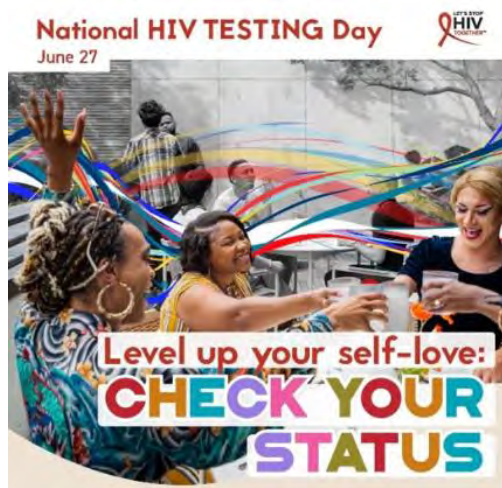
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