



Renovations underway

First phase of West Street School buildings have begun

By Ben Hernandez
Staff Writer

GRANBY – West Street School renovations are underway. As the elementary school gets new life as a “one-stop” municipal building for local government services, Town Administrator Ron Aponte commented on the project’s status.

“They’re making some good programs,” Aponte said. “Of course, with any large construction renovation project, there’s some glitches and surprises but we think, for the most part, the bigger surprises are behind us.”



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The site is still under construction and is prohibited to the public.

The town administrator discussed how “receptive” the construction company was in addressing concerns and stated the renovation was “pretty much” still on schedule and on budget. The goal

is to finish preliminary work in time for a target opening date in December. Currently, the building is still under construction. Aponte reported the location is still concerned a

hard-hat area, complete with a list of strict requirements for permitted entry. The site is still off limits to the

Please see **RENOVATIONS**, page 2

Select Board fields commission intro, parade sash requests

By Ben Hernandez
Staff Writer

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown Select Board gathered on July 6 to discuss an open position for both the Conservation Commission and to hear requests from the Communications Commission. Conservation Administrator Julie Meyer from the Conservation Commission presented role qualifications during their hearing, which included a desire to learn about natural resources and an interest in

conservation.

“I think you do not need to be someone like a hydrologist or a wildlife biologist or a land conservation expert,” Meyer said. “These are folks sitting on the bench.”

The administrator mentioned there were plenty of opportunities for training for interested applicants and cited conferences at the Massachusetts Association for Conservation Commissions as a potential

Please see **SELECT BOARD**, page 2

Keeping seniors safe in the heat

By Quinn Suomala
Correspondent

With summer time in full swing, already communities have been facing record temperatures. It is important to keep in mind key safety tips to keep seniors safe in the heat.

High temperatures lead to an increased risk for conditions like heat stroke and heat exhaustion.

Seniors are especially at risk for heat stroke due to a decrease in the body’s ability to regulate temperature as they age.

Signs to watch out for for heat stroke include: a body

temperature of 104 degrees Fahrenheit, a change in mental state (including confusion, delirium, or irritability), a change in sweating pattern, nausea, flushed skin, rapid heart rate or breathing, and a headache.

If you notice any of these signs, call for medical assistance and then get the person inside or into shade, remove excess clothes and take action to cool them down immediately.

Senior centers do their best to remind elders of steps to take for prevention.

“We encourage them to turn their air conditioners

Please see **HEAT**, page 13

Local leaders present case for more Quabbin funding

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
zachf@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – Local leaders gathered at the Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center to present their case to the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority board of directors for additional funding for the towns bordering the Quabbin Reservoir.

The discussion centered on Senate bill S546 and House bill H1042, which would, in part, create a \$35 million trust fund for the dozen Quabbin towns to receive annual payments, and give the towns more representation on the MWRA.

Attendees included state Rep. Aaron Saunders, state Sen. Jo Comerford, state Sen. Peter Durant and state Rep. Todd Smola. Members of local leadership such as select boards from several Quabbin towns gave speeches, with the exception of

Phillipston and Wendell.

The first to speak was Saunders, who represents the 7th Hampden District, including Belchertown. He talked about how the Quabbin is a water extraction operation, with about 180 million gallons extracted per day.

Despite this, he said,

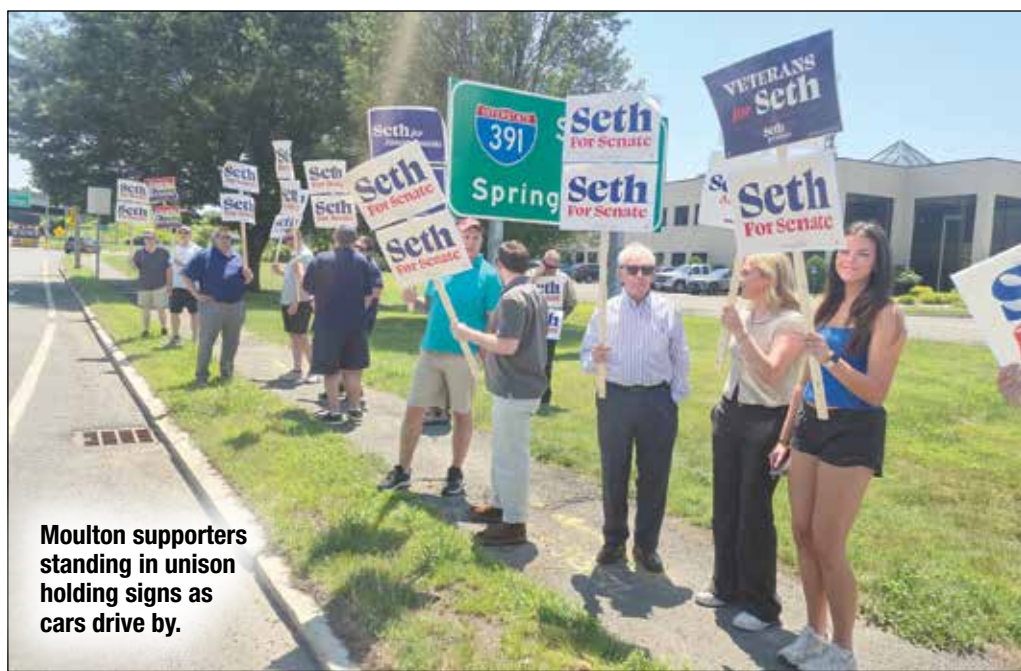
there is little water access in Belchertown, as there is a mandatory water ban in the town. The only town in the state that receives water from the reservoir and currently has a water ban in place is Reading.

Please see **FUNDING**, page 7



SUBMITTED PHOTO

State Rep. Aaron Saunders spoke about drought concerns in Belchertown.



Moulton supporters standing in unison holding signs as cars drive by.

TURLEY PHOTO BY BRENDAN ROONEY

The race is on for U.S. Senate

Rep. Seth Moulton challenges Sen. Markey

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

CHICOPEE — The race for the Senate is on, and last Wednesday, July 8, 79-year-old incumbent Sen. Ed

Markey (D) took the stage in the first televised debate against challenger 47-year-old Rep. Seth Moulton (D-MA-06), right here in Western Mass.

This was the 1st official debate between the candidates, as the state primary election fast approaches, on Sept. 1, with early voting beginning on Aug. 22.

The debate was included

panelist from multiple local media outlets.

Markey, the incumbent, is seeking another six-year term. He was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1976 and has served in the Senate since 2013. If victorious, Markey confessed this would be his last year running for re-election.

Please see **RACE**, page 8



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Getting your photos off your hard drive and into the world

BELCHERTOWN — Many photographers have thousands of images stored on hard drives that are rarely seen beyond a computer screen. Yet a photograph often reaches its full potential when it is printed, framed, displayed, or shared with others.

The Quabbin Photo Group (QPG) will present “Getting Your Photos Off Your Hard Drive and Into the World” on Monday, July 27, at 7 p.m. at the Belchertown Recreation Department, 66 State Street, Belchertown. The program is free and open to photographers of all experience levels.

The evening’s presenter, Kelly Ackerman, Vice President of Strategic Growth & Development for Frame It Easy, will discuss practical considerations for presenting photography.

Drawing on more than 20 years of experience in the custom framing industry, Ackerman will share ideas and techniques to help photographers showcase their work, whether for their homes, exhibitions, gifts, galleries, or sales.

Topics will include selecting print materials, choosing framing and matting options, understanding paper choices, planning single- and multi-image displays, and preparing photographs for presentation. Ackerman will also discuss considerations for photographers who exhibit or sell their work, along with ways to simplify the printing, framing, and fulfillment process.

“For many photographers, the joy is in taking the photo, said QPG Program Chair Ed Comeau. “Whether it is planning for

the shoot, the experience of being out in nature, or the post-production editing that go into an image. Printing a well-crafted nature photograph, whether is wildlife or landscape, provides an opportunity to share nature’s beauty as seen by the photographer through the lens of a camera.”

Before joining Frame It Easy, Ackerman spent more than two decades working in her family’s picture framing business in Cincinnati, Ohio. Her experience spans both traditional custom framing and modern online printing and framing services, providing photographers with practical insights into today’s display options.

Whether you’re looking to decorate your home, prepare for your first exhibit, or begin selling your photography, this presentation offers practical guidance for turning digital images into finished pieces that can be enjoyed and shared.

The Quabbin Photo Group welcomes photographers of all skill levels and interests. Meetings are open to the public, and new members and guests are always welcome.

The Quabbin Photo Group (QuabbinPhotoGroup.com) is a community of photographers based in Belchertown with a shared interest in nature, wildlife, and landscape photography, particularly within the Quabbin Reservoir region. The group hosts regular meetings, guest speakers, and workshops designed to help photographers of all experience levels improve their skills, share their work, and connect with others who appreciate the natural environment.

SELECT BOARD
from page 1

resource, which occur twice a year.

“Talk to me if you want to go to that in your free time,” Meyer said.

Community questions about the open positions centered around possibilities for community education programs, the nature of the commission’s work and how they funded operations. Meyer admitted they hated public speaking but were willing to talk to interested parties on a personal basis.

“I’m always available if someone wants to send me off to someplace to talk,” Meyer said. “I am trying to network and find grant opportunities and go everywhere to kind of get woven into the fabric of all what’s been happening here.”

Members from the Communications Committee then took to the podium. During their open hearing, Communications Committee Chair Kate Nadeau requested the review and approval of a person only identified as “Sean” for nomination as Employee Citizen Volunteer of the Year.

“So it’s not necessarily a Communications Committee item,” Nadeau said as they opened conversation. “That came from the Select Board saying ‘hey, we want to get those sashes together so that way we can have the winner’s march in the parade and they have the sashes.’”

The sashes would not only be awarded to the cur-

rent recipient but also to past recipients as something to wear during the parade. Nadeau reported they already had a mock up of the proposed sash with the company they were working with and explained they were only able to get a “black-and-white print” of what it may look like. She also stated the mock up may not “do it justice.”

“So the idea would be that they would all be the same color,” Nadeau said. “Then the only thing that would change on them would be whether it says Employee Citizen or Volunteer. So, looking for feedback and if that’s approved or not, so we can go ahead and get the rest of them on order and then use it for marketing.”

“Just to confirm, so we have it all set out for future years. We’re not going to ask for them back,” Nadeau said as they questioned the sash’s ownership. She stressed the question arose as an ownership logistic concern due to previous year’s requisitions and mentioned she just wanted to ensure the Select Board wasn’t asking for the sashes back after the parade.

She brought up the idea of creating plaques for the occasion as well as the sashes, as it would offer something for them to keep and “hang on their wall.” The motion to approve the sashes, which was described as a “lovely banner” for the Employee Citizen of the Year, was unanimously approved by the Board.

Lions Club holding meatball sub sale

BELCHERTOWN — Skip the prep and skip the clean-up. Let us prepare lunch for you this coming Saturday, when the Belchertown Lions Club holds its July Sub Sale.

As always, we will be set up on the grounds of the Belchertown United Church of Christ on Park St. and will begin serving 12-inch meatball subs with sauce and mozzarella, a bag of chips, and a beverage shortly after 10 a.m., all for the same low price of \$10.

Come on out and support our Lions Club’s fundraising efforts--knowing that all proceeds will support our charities close to home.



Historical Association announces ice cream social

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown Historical Association is hosting its annual Ice Cream Social on Sunday afternoon, July 26 from 2 to 4 p.m. on the grounds of the Stone House Museum. The public is invited to attend and share in a typical, community gathering from the 19th and early 20th centuries. Bring your blanket or lawn chair and find a shady spot to sit and enjoy your Rondeau’s ice cream.

RENOVATIONS
from page 1

general public, a policy reinforced by large industrial No Trespassing signs.

“The concept is once we do receive our certificate of occupancy, then we will take the town hall,” Aponte said. “That consists of really the second floor of the senior center building, 108 West State Street.”

The first round migrations to the new building include the annex offices, which currently sit isolated from other municipal buildings. The priority is to move the Town Clerk, the Collector, Board of Assessors and “most of the town hall offices.”

“There are hopes that, for phase two, we would be able to consolidate the senior center and some of the Council



Foundational reconstruction is the current focus.

on Aging programs and services down there as well,” Aponte said. Current construction focus-

things along those lines were still in very good shape.”

The concrete flooring was reported to be “less than expected” in terms of condition and a decision was made to re-carpet the entire office area as a result. Aponte stated the crew originally thought to polish up the flooring to save money, but the attempt “didn’t work out.”

“The good news, like I said, the walls and the foundation; those were all in pretty good shape,” Aponte said. “Certainly reusable. There was some additional insulation that was blown into the rafters in the ceiling prior to obviously them being closed up by the dropped ceiling. So, that should help in fire retardation as well as energy cost savings.”

Despite hardships, the town administrator mentioned how the entrance and parking lot foundations were in “pretty good shape,” a “nice little surprise” for the on-site workers. Though the project is far from completion, Aponte remains optimistic about the “one-stop” building’s future.

“Again, the bones are good,” Aponte said.





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es center around adding wall studs, electrical conduits and some of the “IT infrastructure.” Though much of the foundational work is already underway, including re-wall-ing necessary locations and restructuring the floor, Aponte stated there was still “a good ways to go.”

“To quote the project manager,” Aponte said. “The bones of the school were still good. So, a lot of the infrastructure foundation, walls,

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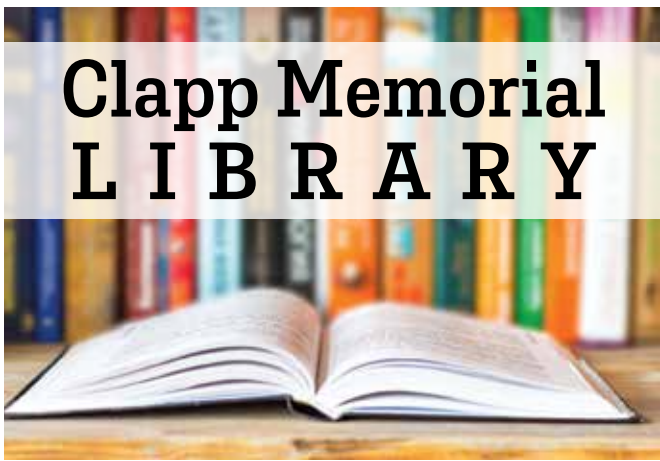


Upcoming Programs and Events
What's going on at the Library? Check it out!

For General Audiences: Plant Swap
Tuesday, July 21, 6-7 p.m.
Bring a plant (or not!) to the library and swap it for a new one. This program takes place on the library lawn each month on the third Tuesday from May to September. This program is funded by the Belchertown & Around Plant Swap.

Puzzle Competition
Wednesday, July 22, 4-6 p.m.
Are you ready to puzzle? Sign up in a team of two for a speed puzzling competition where pairs of contestants race to finish a 500 piece puzzle. The 1st place finishers receive a puzzle. Register online at clapplibrary.org or call 413-323-0417. The puzzles for this program were generously donated by Ravensburger.

For Adults: Sourdough Workshop
Friday, July 17, 4:30-6 p.m.
Join Amanda of Morning Glory Bread to learn how to make sourdough bread using a basic and intuitive



approach. You will learn simple strategies for maintaining a sourdough starter, a straightforward method for mixing and working with dough, and various methods to bake your own sourdough bread. All attendees leave the class with bread dough ready to proof and bake, a jar of starter, and a freshly baked loaf of bread! Registration is required. Register online at clapplibrary.org or call the library at 413-323-0417.

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

Emily and J.G.
Monday, July 20, 6-7 p.m.
Join character reenactors and educators, Amy Lanham and Michael Carolan for a

lively presentation on Emily Dickinson and J.G. Holland. For much of her life, poet Emily Dickinson corresponded with Belchertown's own J.G. Holland and his wife, Elizabeth, sharing the intimate moments of their lives through language - currents of the 19th century, recipes, snippets of poems, news of children, the nature of friendship, love, art, longing and grief. These conversations bring to life the ideas, humor and wisdom of the lifelong relationship between the poet and Holland, whose newspaper, The Springfield Daily Republican, printed the only poems Emily published in her lifetime. This program is funded in part by a grant from the Belchertown

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

What "YA" Readin'? Book Group
Thursday, Aug 6, 7- 8p.m.
Select Board Meeting room at the Town Hall
The library's What "YA" Readin'? Book Group, a group for adults who read Young Adult books, will meet Thursday, Aug 6th in the Select Board Meeting room at the Town Hall to discuss The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas. Copies of the book are available for check-out at the circulation desk. New members are welcome!

For Teens: Teen Book Club
Wednesday, July 29, 3-4 p.m.
The Clapp Memorial Library has a book club for teens in grades 7-12! This Teen Book Club is in conjunction with the MA Teen Choice Book Awards (MTCBA), the only book award in the state selected by teens. Each month teens will read and meet to discuss one book from the 2026 Nominee List. On Wednesday, July 29th, teens will meet to discuss Into the Sunken City by Dinesh Thiru. Copies of the

book are available for check-out at the library's circulation desk and on the Libby and hoopla apps. Snacks will be provided at the meeting. Email clapplibrarytab@gmail.com with any questions.

Teen Crafternoon: Upcycled Planters
Monday, August 3, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.
Teens ages 12-18 are invited to the library to upcycle tea tins into planters to celebrate the 2026 Teen Summer Reading Program theme, "Plant a Seed, Read"! This program will take place Monday, August 3rd on the front lawn of the library, except in the case of rain in which the program will be rescheduled to Friday, August 7th at the same time. This program is drop-in; teens can come by any time over the hour to create their planter as supplies last. This program is funded by the Friends of the Clapp Memorial Library and thanks to the generosity of our community spider plant donors.

For Teens and Tweens: Studio Ghibli Movie Night: Spirited Away
Friday, July 24, 6 to 8 p.m.
Teens and tweens entering

grades 6-12 are invited to the Clapp Memorial Library for a Studio Ghibli Movie Night on Friday, July 24th! Join us as we watch Spirited Away, a perfect film to pair with this year's Summer Reading theme: Plant a Seed, Read! Free popcorn and beverages will be provided. Students can sign up for the program at the library or by emailing macona@cwmar.org. Participants of the Teen Summer Reading Program will earn a raffle ticket for their attendance. This program is funded by the Friends of the Clapp Memorial Library.

For Teens and Children 7 and up: Comics Workshop with Jarrett J Krosoczka Live Webinar
Thursday, July 30, 6- 7 p.m.
Belchertown Town Hall Auditorium
Join us at the Town Hall auditorium for an engaging live webinar with New York Times-bestselling graphic novelist Jarrett J. Krosoczka! Learn how to make comics and collaborate live with Jarrett to create characters and get a look around his art studio. This program is Please see **LIBRARY**, page 5

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CLUES ACROSS

- Tire pressure measurement
- Request
- Clairvoyance
- 007's creator
- Adult male
- God of battle (Scandinavian)
- Cloths spread over a coffin
- Breeze through
- Ladyfish genus
- We all take them
- Earl's jurisdiction
- Members of U.S. Navy
- Rummy-like card game
- Affected by injury
- Member of a Semitic people
- Withdrew from a union
- Woman's cloak
- Spanish river

CLUES DOWN

- Indoor plant
- Marketable
- Rather
- Collected
- A bag-like structure in a plant or animal colony
- Irish hip-hop trio
- Ageless
- Course requirements
- Pokes at
- TV channel
- They ____
- Cooking material
- Investment account
- Iron-containing compound
- Swiss river
- Small coin (French)
- Electronic countermeasures
- Taxi
- Helps little firms

- Unhappy
- Midway between northeast and east
- Glowing
- Item to be addressed
- An informal body of friends
- Intrinsic nature of something
- Neural structures
- Brews
- A place for ships
- One who sings holiday songs
- Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- Scottish town
- The most worthless parts
- Sticky
- Put to work
- Precursor to the EU
- Retrospective analysis (abbr.)

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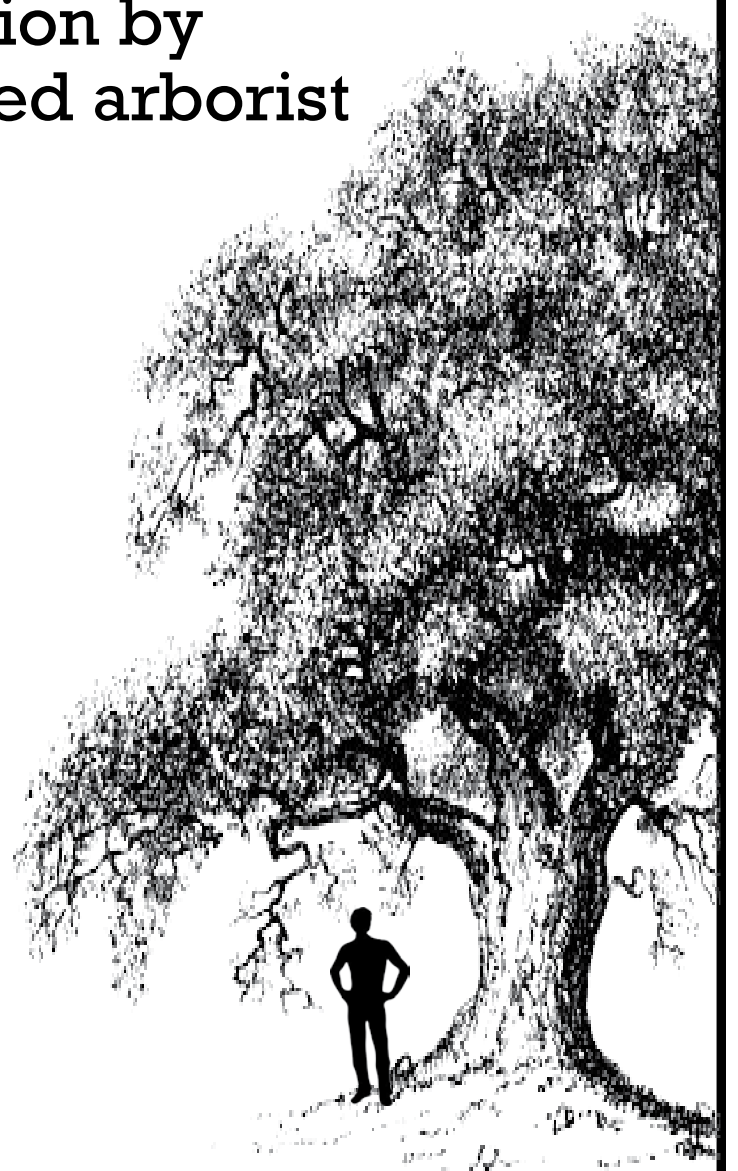


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INSURED AND CERTIFIED

Granby library announces upcoming August activities

GRANBY – The library announced the following activities for August:

Yoga Demystified
Saturday, Aug. 1 at 11 a.m.
Join Laurie of Laurie Cameron Studio in Granby for an introduction to Yoga! Bring your own mat or use one of ours.

Sci-Fi and Fantasy Book Club
Thursday, Aug. 6 at 5 p.m.
Join our discussions on the first Thursday of every month! The Raven Scholar by Antonia Hodgson for August. Copies are available now!

Adult Book Group
Thursday, Aug. 13 at 6 p.m.
The book group will be discussing My Friends by Fredrik Backman. Grab a copy and join us!

Tabletop Games Club
Saturday, Aug. 15 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
The Granby Library Tabletop Games Club invites players of all ages 8 and up to gather and enjoy a variety of board, card, dice, tile, and other in-person tabletop

games in a welcoming, social environment.

Knitting Group
Every Wednesday afternoon at 2 p.m.
Bring your latest project and join us for conversation, tips and tricks.

Friends of the Granby Library Meeting
Thursday, Aug. 20 at 4:30 p.m.
Did you know that the Friends sponsor our events? Join us for a meeting and see what’s new.

Revolution in Their Words
Thursday, Aug. 27 at 5:30 p.m.
Join us for a unique thematic exploration of the American Revolution through the voices of the people who lived it. Hosted by Denise Kindschi Gosselin, PhD and the Massachusetts Daughters of the American Revolution, Betty Allen Chapter.

Adult Summer Reading – Plant a Seed, Read!
Ends Aug. 21
Get your tickets in by Aug. 21 to win great prizes.



Vote early – voting by mail applications ready

BELCHERTOWN – All Massachusetts voters have the option to vote early by mail in all 2026 elections, with no excuse required. Forty-five days before each statewide election, the Secretary of the Commonwealth will send a pre-addressed, postage pre-paid Vote by Mail application to every registered voter before each statewide election. This mailing is required by state law and is going out the week of July 5, 2026. You won’t be sent an application if you’ve already applied to vote by mail for the upcoming elections. You can use this application to request a bal-

lot for the next statewide election, or for all remaining elections this year. Simply mark your selections, sign the application, and drop it in the mail or the drop box here at Town Hall at 2 Jabish St., Belchertown. For primaries only: If you are not registered in a party, you must include which party’s ballot you would like to receive, Democrat or Republican. The deadline to request a ballot for the Sept. 1 State Primary is Tuesday, Aug. 25 at 5 p.m. Please contact the Town Clerk’s office at 413-323-2081 or email clerk@belchertown.org, with any questions or concerns.

LIBRARY from page 3
for ages 7 and up. No event registration required but students must be registered for either our children’s or teen’s summer reading program. Funded by the Friends of the Clapp Memorial Library and our Community Sponsors.

For Children: Messy Outdoor Art
Saturday, July 18, 10-11 a.m.
Art fun for everyone who doesn’t mind getting messy! Create and explore with paint, glue, water, bubbles, shaving cream, and more! Wear play clothes, sunscreen, bug spray and bring a towel. Activities are geared towards children ages 2 to 7, but all are welcome. No registration required. If we need to cancel due to inclement weather, we will post on our website and social media pages.

Magic: the Gathering
Saturdays: July 18 & 25th, August 1, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Join us for Magic the Gathering in the Activity Room. Bring your own deck or use one of our learning decks. Everyone is welcome, however players must be fluent readers. Players under the age of 10 must have a caregiver who is at least 14 years old on the Library premises. Join us for every session or just one - it’s up to you! We will have two instruc-

tors to help get games started and assist with the rules of the game. No registration is required. Join the email list so if the group needs to be postponed, we can notify you, by sending an email to Jennifer at jwhitehead@cwmars.org.

Games Night
Wednesday, July 22, 5-6:30 p.m.
Come play at the Library! Board games, lawn games, card games and more! The main floor and front lawn of the library will have fun stations set up for groups of all ages to explore. Stop by anytime but to have enough time to enjoy some games, please arrive by 6 pm. Each family who participates will receive a free game, donated by Learn2Play, geared towards ages 4 to 8. Part of our “Plant a Seed, Read!” Summer Reading Program. No Registration is required.

Princess Story Time
Wednesday, July 29, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Belchertown Town Hall Auditorium
Meet our visiting princess from Alyssa’s Happily Ever Afters! The Wayfinder princess will sing some of her favorite songs and tell her story. We’ll have fun crafts and activities while you wait to have your picture taken with her! Wear a costume or come as you are. This pro-

gram will be held in the town hall auditorium and requires registration. Register online at clapplibrary.org or call 413-323-0417. All children who register for this program must also be registered for “Plant a Seed, Read!” our summer reading program. Ages 2 and up. Children can also register for the movie showing that will follow at the Library at 7 pm. Funded by the Friends of the Clapp Memorial Library and our Community Sponsors.

Movie Night
Wednesday, July 29, 7- 9 p.m.
In this PG rated animated movie from 2016, an adventurous teenager sails out on a daring mission to save her people. During her journey, she learns how to be a Master Wayfinder. It’s an action-packed voyage, with enormous monsters and nearly impossible odds. Registration is required. Register online at clapplibrary.org or call 413-323-0417. All children who register for this program must also be registered for “Plant a Seed, Read!” our summer reading program. Ages 3 and up. Children can also register for the story time with the Wayfinder which occurs prior to the movie showing. All children under the age of 10 must be accompanied and continually supervised by a parent or caregiver who is age 14 or older while in the Library.

Carrie Ferguson and The Grumpytime Club
Wednesday, August 5, 6-7 p.m.

Put on your dancing shoes and come sing and dance with us! The Grumpytime Club offers children and families welcoming and inclusive messages about accepting feelings, celebrating differences, and loving ourselves exactly as we are. This event will take place on the library Lawn or in Town Hall if it rains. Part of the library’s “Plant a Seed, Read!” summer reading program. Funded in part by the Belchertown Cultural Council, a local agency funded by Mass Cultural Council, a state agency; Friends of Clapp Memorial Library, and library sponsors.

Clapp Memorial Library
19 South Main Street
Belchertown, MA 01007
Phone: 413-323-0417
Website: clapplibrary.org

HOURS:
Monday 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Tuesday 9:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Wednesday 9:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Thursday 9:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.
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Pioneer Valley Financial Charitable Fund donates \$10,000 to support TJO Animal Shelter’s response to parvovirus and panleukopenia

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — The Foundation for TJO Animals is pleased to announce a generous \$10,000 donation from Pioneer Valley Financial Charitable Fund to support the Thomas J. O’Connor Animal Control and Adoption Center (TJO) as it responds to recent cases of parvovirus and panleukopenia that temporarily disrupted shelter operations.

The gift will provide critical funding to help the shelter recover from the outbreak and ensure it has the supplies needed to continue providing lifesaving care to animals. Funds will be used to replenish personal protective equipment (PPE) and parvovirus vaccines for the veterinary clinic, as well as purchase diagnostic tests, treatment supplies, cleaning and disinfecting products, and food for the animals currently in the shelter’s care.

“An outbreak like this, places an enormous strain on shelter resources,” said Janna Brown, Executive Director of the Foundation for TJO Animals. “Every day, the veterinary and animal care teams are working tirelessly to protect

the health of the animals while preventing further spread of disease. This generous donation from Pioneer Valley Financial Group allows the clinic to replace critical supplies and continue providing the highest level of care during a very challenging time.”

Parvovirus and panleukopenia are highly contagious viral diseases that primarily affect puppies and kittens, as well as unvaccinated animals. Managing these illnesses requires strict isolation protocols, enhanced sanitation procedures, additional personal protective equipment, specialized medical treatment, and increased vaccination efforts, all of which significantly increase operating costs for the shelter.

“This contribution is about more than replacing supplies,” Brown added. “It’s about ensuring that every animal who comes through the doors has access to the medical care, protection, and nutrition they need while their team works to safely navigate this situation.”

The Foundation for TJO Animals serves as the nonprofit fundraising part-

ner for the Thomas J. O’Connor Animal Control and Adoption Center, providing financial support for veterinary care, medical equipment, shelter improvements, enrichment programs, and emergency treatment for thousands of animals each year.

The Foundation extends its sincere gratitude to Pioneer Valley Financial Group for stepping forward when the need was greatest. Their generosity will have an immediate impact on the health and well-being of the animals in TJO’s care.

For more information about the Foundation for TJO Animals or to support its mission, visit the Foundation’s website or contact the Foundation office.

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OPINION

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters By Russell Gloor

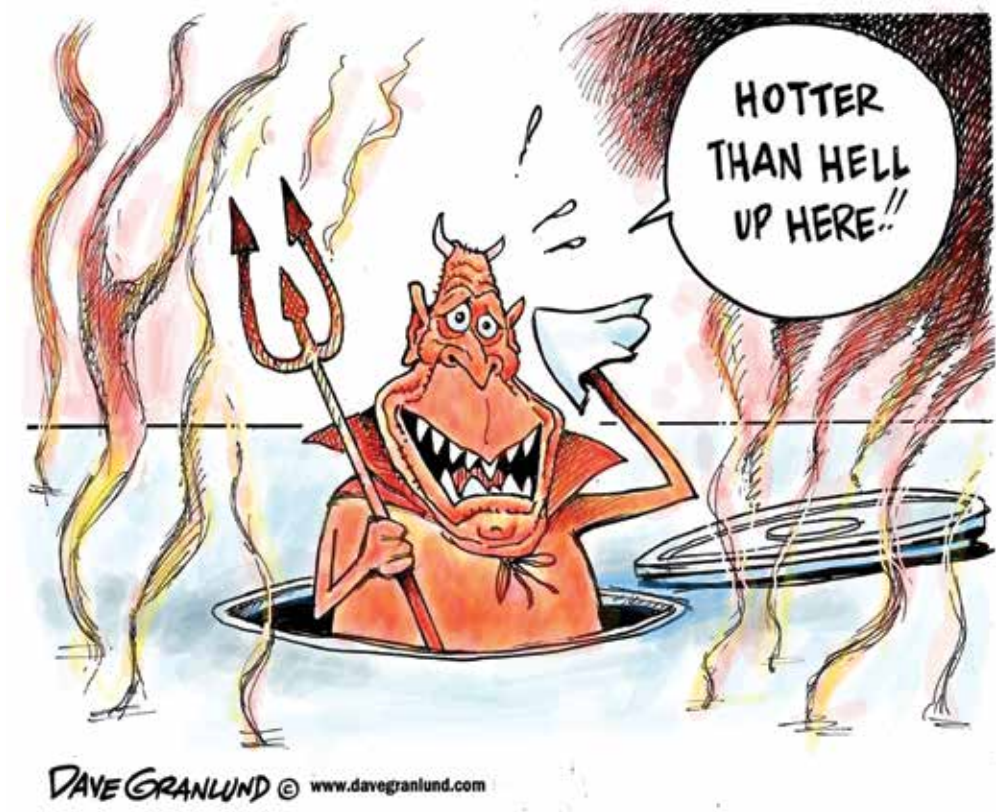
Should I claim spouse benefits now, or my own SS benefit?

Dear Rusty: I am writing to get advice on the optimal time to sign up for Social Security benefits. I am a 64-year-old female and my birthdate is August 1961. My husband is already taking his SS benefits, so I have also wondered if it be advisable to take spousal benefits or full benefits. Signed: Wondering Spouse

Dear Wondering: If you take your Social Security benefits at age 64, they will be permanently reduced. And, for information, you cannot take only your spousal benefit; you must take your own SS retirement benefit whenever you claim and, if you are entitled to more as your husband's spouse, you will also get a "spousal boost" to bring your monthly payment up to what you are entitled to as a spouse. If you claim at any time before your SS Full Retirement Age of 67, both your own SS retirement amount and your spousal boost amount will be actuarially reduced for claiming early. All of which means that claiming before your FRA (e.g., at 64) will mean your monthly benefit will be less than 50% of your husband's monthly FRA amount. Now, for clarity, it's important to know how spouse benefits are calculated: if your FRA entitlement is less than 50% of your husband's FRA entitlement, then you will get a "spousal boost" added to your own SS retirement amount. Note that FRA amounts are always used to calculate spousal amounts, regardless of the age at which benefits are claimed. If your husband waited until age 70 to get a higher monthly benefit or even if he claimed before his FRA, your spousal amount would still be based on his FRA entitlement. If your FRA benefit is less than half of his FRA entitlement, you will get a spousal boost. If not, you won't. Assuming you will be entitled to a "spousal boost," the decision you must make is whether to claim early (e.g., now at 64) or wait until you are 67 to get your maximum amount as your husband's spouse. The factors to consider are these:

Are you still working? If so, claiming before FRA means you will be subject to an annual earnings limit until you reach FRA. The earnings limit for early filers in 2026 is \$24,480 and, if that is exceeded, SS will take away benefits of \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit (the limit increases a bit yearly). If you substantially exceed the earnings limit by working, you may even be temporarily ineligible for SS benefits until you either reach your FRA or stop working full time. Do you expect your husband to predecease you? If so, then your benefit as a widow will be 100% of the larger amount he is collecting when he passes provided when that occurs you've reached your FRA and your own SS retirement is less. Depending on timing, that may mean that taking a reduced spouse benefit now, which will be replaced by your larger widow benefit later, is a logical choice. What is your own life expectancy? If you have health issues or have other reasons to believe you will not achieve "average" life expectancy average is about 87 for a woman your current age, then claiming your Social Security benefits early is likely a prudent choice. So, as you can see, you must evaluate your personal circumstances to make this decision. Although we aren't able to say exactly when you should claim your SS benefits, I hope this provides the information you need to make an informed decision.

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 ssadvisior@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



An endless supply of flowers for the windowsill

I must admit that I feel unmotivated in the flower garden this summer. It took me forever to sow my seeds, and even longer to install the resulting plants. The seedlings finally went into the ground a good two weeks after Memorial Day (gasp!) but they are making up for lost time despite my bad attitude! Just last week the first bouquet graced the kitchen windowsill. In a few weeks I will have a collection of different vases filled with flowers in that very spot; it's something I look forward to doing every summer. But if I am going to have flowers to fill the vases, I have to keep up with maintenance. It's not enough to sit back and watch them grow. Here is some great advice worth repeating that will help to keep summer annuals looking their best.

Deadhead

Most annuals will continue to bloom abundantly if they are deadheaded on a regular basis. Deadheading is an entertaining term used to define the removal of spent flowers.

You see, a plant produces flowers for one purpose: to survive. Once a flower has been pollinated it will produce seed, seed that will grow future plants.

If a plant has produced enough flowers that have gone to seed it will consider its job to be done, flower production will cease and it will begin to decline.

By deadheading, we keep the plant in reproductive mode, in other words, in flower! When you remove dying blossoms, make sure to pinch off the entire flower, not just the petals, or it will do no good. Include the stem as well to keep the plant tidy.

Petunias, marigolds, zinnias and salvia, among others,



ers, are examples of plants that require regular deadheading to look their best throughout the growing season.

Shear them back to encourage new growth

Some annuals start to get a leggy appearance about now. Others may have brown tips. These plants require more drastic measures to bring back their youthful good looks.

Give them a good haircut. Simply look within the plant and find healthy, green growth. Cut calendulas, pansies and snapdragon back to that point.

Alyssum or lobelia can often be sheared to within inches of the ground.

Don't worry; they won't look bad for long! You can jump start regrowth with a bit of liquid fertilizer.

Feed your plants

Occasionally, even plants that are well fertilized at planting time begin to have issues. If foliage is pale and flower production is nil, pull back the bark mulch and sprinkle some organic fertilizer granules at the base of each plant.

Cultivate gently and water in.

You can also use a water soluble liquid fertilizer every couple of weeks. If going natural is your cup of tea, make some!

Compost or manure tea has long been used to keep growth lush. Steep a burlap bag of either compost or aged manure in a large trash bucket filled with water

and use as needed. Smaller batches can be made right in a watering can.

Likewise, there are numerous blends of seaweed and fish emulsion on the market that can be watered in or used as a foliar feed.

Water, water, water If Mother Nature fails to provide at least an inch of rain each week, then unfortunately we must make up the difference. It is so easy to forget to perform this very obvious maintenance task, especially when we are busy doing other things.

If we are negligent often enough, however, our plants will suffer.

Sometimes pale green foliage is a nitrogen deficiency from simply a lack of water. When you water the garden, remember to do so in the early morning, if possible, to avoid evaporation.

Early evening is another good option, but try to get the job done with enough time for the foliage to dry before darkness sets in.

Deep waterings twice a week are far better than numerous quick showers. The former will promote deep, penetrating roots and future drought tolerance.

Well-watered, well-fed and well-groomed annuals will reward you with beautiful bountiful blossoms for another two months or more – well worth the effort for vases of flowers on the windowsill!

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

stripe and black streaks on back and sides.

The adult male has black throat and cheeks and the female and young paler or whitish there.

Their song is a thin, high-pitched, monotonous "weezy-weezy-weezy-weezy" like a squeaky wheelbarrow. The call is a chirp or chip.

The black and white warbler breeds in mature or second-growth forests, deciduous and mixed. Males arrive on breeding grounds in late April, before the females.

During courtship, a male chases female, with much singing and fluttering. The female lays five creamy white eggs flecked with brown in a cup shaped nest on the ground or less than

Please see BACKYARD, page 7

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

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

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in my BACKYARD By Ellenor Downer

My daughter, Paula, saw a black and white warbler and as the name implies it has black and white feathers.

The black and white warbler is easy to spot and easy to recognize. Its former name was the black and white creeper. Like the white-breasted and red-breasted nuthatches and the brown creeper, it climbs about on the trunks and



Black and white warbler

major limbs of trees seeking insects in the bark crevices. It often feeds low, and nests even lower, usually on the ground.

This warbler inhabits forests, woodlands, shrubs, Savannas, and thickets from Alaska and the north, California, eastern Canada, Florida, Great Lakes, mid Atlantic, New England, northwest, Plains, Rocky Mountains, southeast, southwest, Texas and Western Canada.

Spring migration begins rather early and takes place mainly at night. Migration is spread over a lengthy period in both spring and fall.

The sexes are similar and are about 4.3 to 5.1 inches long. The black and white warbler feather pattern is stripes, white central crown

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RACE from page 1

“I need one more term to finish the agenda, this progressive agenda,” Markey stated. “And then I will step down. But we need to complete the agenda. We need Medicare for all, we need a green new deal, we need to make sure that we are fighting for every family who is out there who justifiably feels that they have been left behind.”

Moulton argued it’s time for a new generation of Democratic leadership.

“A lot of people in Massachusetts feel like they don’t have a voice in politics, and they’re struggling to afford basic needs, and we need a fighter,” Moulton said. “We need someone who’s going to change the playbook, invest in a new generation of the years, and start making Democrats win again.”

Rallies for both candidates took place prior to the debate.

Moulton first arrived and revealed that this is the 6th time he has been in Western Mass, reinforcing the congressman’s emphasis on the region’s importance throughout the commonwealth as the race continues to tighten.

“Being here in Western Mass is huge, it’s where my uncle [Andy] grew up, it’s where my chief of staff went to school, my district director grew up here, so as you can see Western Mass has been always close to my heart,” Moulton said. He then pivoted to share how he feels



Incumbent Sen. Ed Markey’s supporters standing in unison holding signs as cars drive by as well.

that the region has been “left behind” by politicians in Washington and Boston alike.

“I’m here and have been because you deserve a senator who shows up, and I will continue to show up; that’s why I’m hosting a town hall/watch party in Chicopee tonight,” he said.

It was later revealed that the Moulton campaign took a stake in the city as the Rumbleseat Bar & Grille,

which hosted the congressman and his supporters to field additional questions and watch and react to the debate live, which was his 50th town hall across the state.

Markey showed up, citing the list of local endorsements he has garnered, by revealing a few such as Holyoke Mayor Joshua Garcia, Chicopee Mayor John Vieau, and countless others, citing, “I have consistently delivered for Western Massachusetts, and I’m looking forward to being able to tell that story,” Markey said.

Its Showtime

The highly-contested Democratic Primary debate featured a plethora of national issues, as well as a variety of local topics, such as the recent influx of local hospitals struggling, including Baystate, and funding for the West-East Rail project.

Markey kicked off the discussion by revealing that if he returns to the Senate, he would be the chairman of the subcommittee on health if the Democrats can win back the House and the Senate in the midterm elections. He then acknowledged that if that does come to term, then he would restore the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

“We’re going to restore the \$300 billion from the Affordable Care Act, which was cut, that went to people out here in western Massachusetts to ensure that there was solvency, and then we have to go beyond that,” Markey said. “We have to



Incumbent Sen. Ed Markey takes time to talk to his supporters, sharing his campaign goals and values.

double funding for community health centers. We have to double the funding for NIH research on Alzheimer’s, Diabetes, Parkinson’s, Heart Disease, and all of those other diseases that run right through every single family. That has to be the goal. And in Western Massachusetts, I have stood up, and I’ve fought for this cause; I’ve met with all the hospital leaders out here, and we are going to deliver next January.”

He then added that if funding isn’t expanded and private equity isn’t weeded out, Western Mass hospitals will be in crisis.

“You have to make sure on a permanent basis these hospitals in Western Massachusetts are not weighted by private equity, rooted in emergency rooms and our eyes, otherwise our communities are just shut down; that’s what happened

in Easthampton,” Markey said.

Moulton shared that he isn’t against universal healthcare, but believes that people should keep the health plan they prefer and those that unions fought for in contract negotiations.

“Look, I stand with President [Obama] and say we should have Medicare for all, but you should also be able to keep the health care plan you prefer if that’s what you want,” Moulton said.

He then shared that, as an Iraq war veteran, he chose to use Veterans Affairs benefits for healthcare in part to ensure problems with that system are improved. Markey responded, saying VA benefits are a single-payer system and that many people would appreciate the chance to receive those benefits.

Moulton responded by declaring that universal healthcare, housing, and education should be human rights.

The conversation then pivoted to the ongoing development of the West-East Rail project, a proposed concept to bring high-speed rail service from Boston to Pittsfield and Springfield. Markey revealed that he and U.S. Congressman Richard E. Neal, of Springfield, have secured \$157 million for the region to fund the long-overdue project.

“We were able to secure the funding for the project because it is absolutely essential that we connect the Western Mass economy to the rest of the commonwealth. I understand it’s been long overdue, and that’s why I worked so hard on the infrastructure bill of 2022 to ensure we get that funding,” Markey said. “However, we also acknowledge that we needed the funding for this asthma crisis, which had happened, and now it is absolutely indispensable that that funding be made available, and it is there, and we are working to ensure that it gets built on in cooperation with Governor Healey as quickly as possible.”

Moulton argued that the amount Markey noted will only fund up to 10 miles of rails, which isn’t up to par.

“\$152 million will be for about 10 miles of rail; that’s not enough to get to Boston, and I want to add that no one

is going to ride your train because it is too slow,” he said.

He then discussed the prospect of linking the state together if the project was correctly funded, as he drew a comparison to the \$2 billion he delivered to the city of Lynn for infrastructure, and the possibility of what \$2 billion could do for the project instead of the \$152 million Markey and Neal raised.

“Imagine what \$2 billion would do for so many cities out here in Western Massachusetts,” Moulton said. “Imagine what that would do for job opportunities. Imagine what that would do to knit our state together. That’s why I think we need high-speed rail transportation, because not only do I think it would be transformative for the state, but I feel Americans in Massachusetts should be traveling the same speed as the rest of the world, and I’m going to continue fighting to get it done.”

Post-Debate Questions

After the debate, we then talked to both candidates, where we had an additional chance to inquire about the recent influx of Combined Sewage Overflow (CSO) issues that stem from Holyoke, Chicopee, and Springfield dumping into the Connecticut River.

Markey told us he’s aware of the situation and shared a quick comment on how to solve the issue. “Well, I’m going to be senior on the infrastructure committee in the Senate and we need a trillion-dollar infrastructure bill beginning in January of this year coming up to make sure the funding is there for CSO making sure the funding is there for communities who absolutely cannot pay for it by themselves. They’re going to need help. They’re going to need federal help, and I will be there to make sure that help is present,” Markey said.

Moulton opened his thoughts by sharing, “It’s just absolutely appalling that this has happened,” he said. “And it’s also happened across the commonwealth, in Haverhill, which has dumped into the Merrimack River, which flows through my district; it has closed a lot of beaches right over the holiday weekend, and this is why we need Democrats to win so that we can deliver infrastructure back here. And when the senator says he supports all these great ideas, the reality is that those great ideas cannot come to fruition if Trump and the MAGA Republicans are still in charge.”



TURLEY PHOTOS BY BRENDAN ROONEY
Rep. Seth Moulton interacts with his ralliers outside the news station.

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ORIOLES TAKE DOWN COMP



Lily Mann tries to head the ball.



Madison Brown guides the ball up the field.



CHICOPEE – Last Monday evening, Belchertown A girls summer soccer defeated host Chicopee Comprehensive 4-1. The Orioles improved to 4-3-1 on the summer season and are in line to make the playoffs, which are set to get underway next week. Comp fell to 0-7-1 and are in last place. The Orioles and Colts were back in action earlier this week.

Ryan Blazejewski sends a pass away.



Ryan Blazejewski sends a pass away.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY
DAVID HENRY
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Bridget Donah makes the stop.



Avery Cooper navigates a crowded midfield.

Vermont Green hands Pioneers defeat

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—The members of the Western Mass. Pioneers gathered for a team photo before kicking off their regular-season finale against rival Vermont Green FC last Friday night.



TURLEY PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY
WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Santiago Blasco hustles with the ball.

Having been eliminated from the USL League 2 playoffs for the first time since 2018, the Pioneers were hoping to end Vermont Green’s long unbeaten streak.

The Pioneers overcame a 2-0 halftime deficit to tie the score early in the second half, but Vermont Green stretched their unbeaten streak to 37 matches following a 4-2 victory before a large crowd at Lusitano Stadium.

“Our main goal was to make the playoffs, which we’ve been able to do every year since 2018,” said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. “We battled back in the second half, but it just wasn’t enough.”

Vermont Green (13-0-1), who are the defending USL League 2 champions, haven’t suffered a loss since a 3-0 setback against Seacoast United in the 2024 Eastern Conference semifinals.

Alfred Baafi, who completed his first season playing for the Pioneers, was a member of the Seacoast United squad, which wound up winning the National championship title, two years ago.

“We really wanted to beat our rivals in tonight’s game,” said Baafi, who led the Pioneers with four assists. “It was a great feeling after my Seacoast team beat them in the playoffs two years ago. I really enjoyed playing for the Pioneers this summer. My dream is to play for a professional soccer team.”

One of the Pioneers veteran players is Santiago Blasco Gomez, who was the team captain.

“This is my third season playing for the Pioneers and I love this place,” Gomez said. “We’ve made the playoffs the past two years, which was an amazing experience. It’s disappointing not making it this

Please see **PIONEERS**, page 10

St. Joe’s grabs win over PeoplesBank

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

HOLYOKE— Since 1995, the PeoplesBank baseball team has built a dynasty in the Tri-County League, capturing 21 championship titles, including each of the last 13 seasons.

The St. Joseph’s Saints, who are looking to win the TCL championship title for the first time in two decades, are determined to knock PeoplesBank from its perch this summer.

In a span of 48 hours last week, the Saints celebrated two victories in the rivalry series.

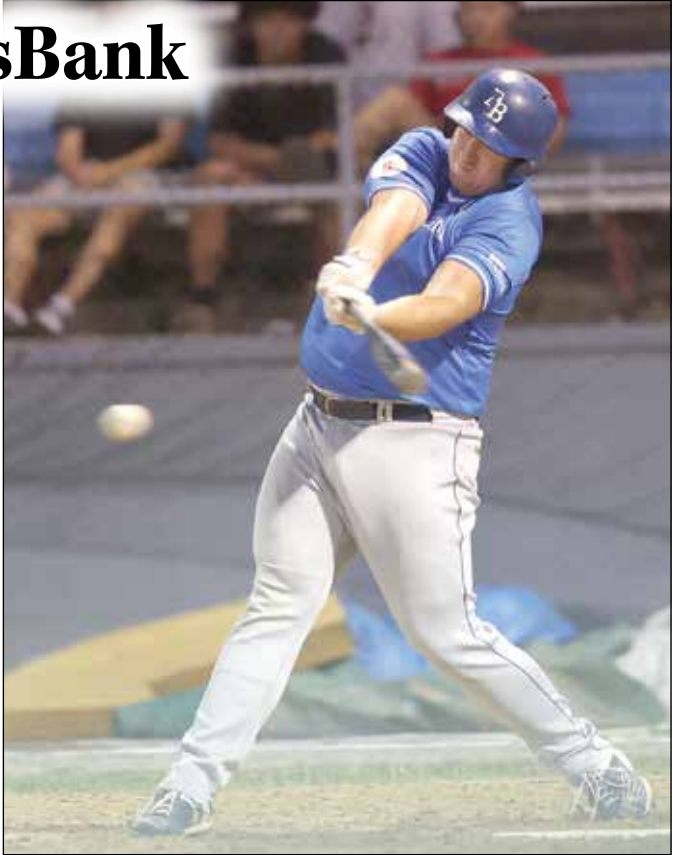
St. Joseph’s traveled to Mackenzie Stadium in Holyoke last Wednesday night and defeated PeoplesBank, 10-5, which kept them in first place in the league standings.

“We’ve faced Peoples in the championship series the past couple of years, and they’ve gotten the best of us,” said St. Joe’s short-stop Devin Slattery, who had a base hit and scored three runs in last Wednesday’s game. “We beat them in a

regular season game last year and they’re a great team. We’re also outstanding team this year and we’re trying to win the championship title.”

St. Joe’s entered this week’s action with a 13-3 overall record, while Peoples had an 11-3-1 mark.

“We made a couple of



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

ABOVE: Johnny Gegestkas connects on a base hit.
LEFT: Cam MacDonald sends a throw across the diamond.

mental errors in tonight’s game,” said Peoples player/manager Joe Ferry. “We out hit them, but we left too many runners on base. It’s a frustrating loss.

Peoples, who fired a 6–0 shutout victory in the first meeting of the regular sea-

Please see **TRI-COUNTY**, page 10

Here for Beer shuts out Monson Mustangs

SOUTH HADLEY – Last Thursday evening, Here for Beer scored a big win over Monson Mustangs 5-0 in Women’s summer soccer action. The two teams were in a key matchup with both teams near the top of the Women’s Division in the PVSSL. Here for Beer is now alone in second place at 6-1 while Monson is now 5-2 heading into the final weeks of the regular season.



Martine Worrall-Turgeon eyes a teammate up the field.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Cassie Ashwell sends a pass away.



Shean Smith socks a free kick away.

PIONEERS from page 9

year. I’m hoping to play here again next year.”

Gomez, who’s from Alborache, Spain, was a graduate student on the Bryant University men’s soccer team a year ago.

The Pioneers, who finished their season with an 8-3-3 overall record, haven’t beaten their archrivals from Burlington since a 1-0 road win on June 17, 2023.

Vermont Green, who are hosting the first two rounds of the playoffs this weekend, now holds a 4-3-2 edge in the series against the Western Mass. squad.

Vermont Green took the lead when Samson Kpardeh sent a pass from the left side into the box where Jeremy Fancou fired a shot into the right corner past Western Mass. goalie Ben Alexander during the 24th minute of the opening half.

Fancou scored his second goal seven minutes later, which was assisted by Ryan Zellefrow.

The score was 2-0 at intermission.

Nine minutes into the second half, the Pioneers sliced their deficit in half following a corner kick goal.

Ronan O’Brien booted the ball into the box from the left corner. After the ball was headed by Dylan Hunston, Riley Priddy put another header into the left corner past Vermont Green back-up goalie Seth Wilson.

During the 59th minute,



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Ronan O'Brien heads past midfield.



Martin Echarren booted a free kick into the right corner tying the score at 2-2. It was also his team leading seventh goal of the season.

Vermont Green retook the lead following a goal by Kpardeh during the 74th minute.

Another goal by William Sawin during stoppage time sent the Vermont Green rowdy supporters into a frenzy.

The Pioneers will be looking to qualify for the league playoffs, and they’ll also be looking to celebrate a victory against the Vermont Green during the summer of 2027.

LEFT: Shun Murasawa sends a free kick away.

TRI-COUNTY from page 9

son between the teams, never held the lead in last Wednesday’s game.

The visitors took a 3-0 lead against lefty James Flahive in the top of the second inning.

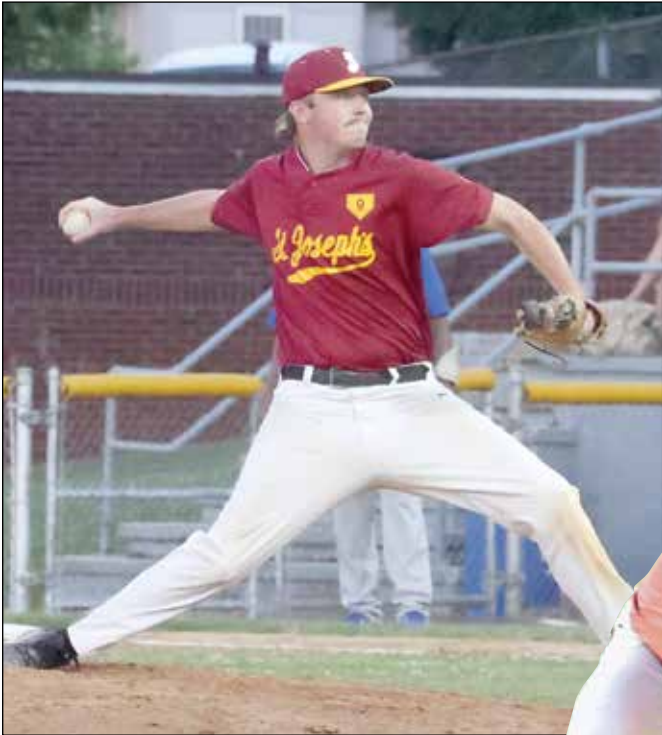
After loading the bases with no outs, St. Joe’s second baseman Greg Vouros, who’s the Athletic Director at Westfield High School, grounded into a double play plating the game’s first run. First baseman Dillon

Slattery, who singled to center, and his older brother, Devin, (walk) both crossed the plate on an errant throw by the catcher that bounced into left field.

“I believe baseball games are won and loss on the bases,” said Devin Slattery, who played for Peoples for one season before moving to St. Joe’s. “We put some pressure on them in the second inning, and they made a throwing error.”

Dillon Slattery, who finished the game with two base hits and scored three runs, and his older brother were teammates on the Ware varsity baseball team for a couple of years.

Peoples first baseman



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Jack Feltovic sends a pitch away.

Cam Rivest, who’s the varsity baseball coach at Ludlow High School, led off the bottom of the second with a line-drive single into left field before scoring on a wild pitch.

With two outs in the top of the fourth inning, third baseman Joey DeMichele (3-for-

4) delivered a two-run single into centerfield, which increased St.Joe’s lead to 5-1.

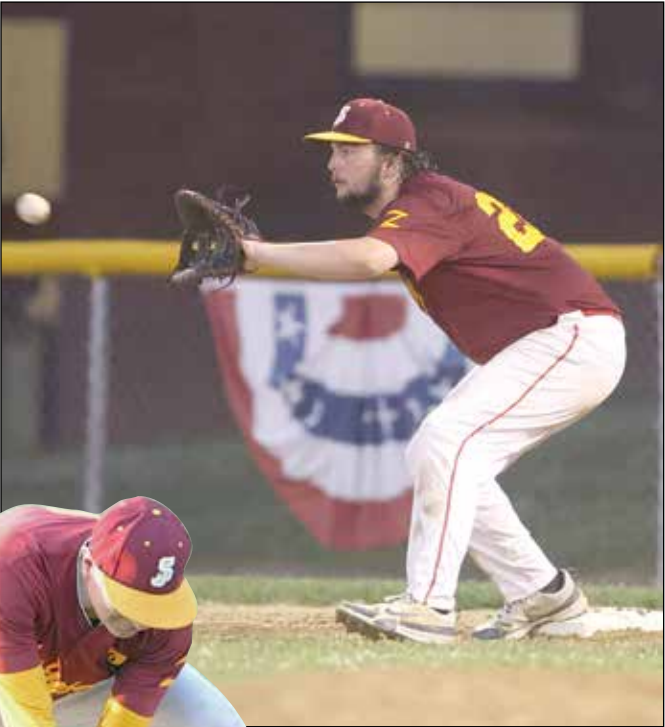
St. Joe’s scored five more runs in the following frame with the benefit of only one



Greg Vouros fields a grounder.

base hit.

Right fielder Brian Hayes, who was hit-by-a-pitch, and



Dillon Slattery makes the catch at first for an out.

Dillon Slattery (Walk) both scored on wild pitches.

Centerfielder Jacob Hayes drove home another run with a sacrifice fly. Another sacrifice fly by leftfielder Mark Jodoin scored two more runs.

PeoplesBank battled back against righty relief pitcher Jack Feltovic, who wound up

as the winning pitcher, during the final three innings.

Feltovic replaced lefty starter Jackson Hayes on the mound with two outs in the fourth inning. He allowed four runs on eight hits.

With two-outs in the bottom of the fifth, third baseman Cam McDonald drew a bases loaded walk cutting Peoples deficit to 10-2.

After scoring another run in the sixth, Peoples catcher Pete Hogan knocked home two runs with two outs in the seventh.

The home team couldn’t get any closer than five runs, as Feltovic ended the game with a groundball out.

Fueled by a complete game performance from Monson’s Trey Yesu, St. Joe’s posted an 8-5 home victory in last Friday’s contest against the Bankers.

Yesu, who was the ace of the Bridgewater State University pitching staff the past couple of years, allowed five runs on 12 hits with eight strikeouts and just one walk. He threw 108 pitches.

The two rivals are scheduled to face each other again in a make-up game before the end of the regular season.



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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 July 3, through July 9. The information was provided by a member of the police department based on the review of the detailed log summary. This feature is designed to provide context and explanation to some of the calls police respond to every day.

ARRESTS/SUMMONS
Friday, July 3

8:23 a.m. – A 22-year-old Springfield man charged with larceny from a person and larceny under \$1,200. An officer investigating a previous incident to find the suspect. They prepared a flyer to be prepared to identify the person and then followed up with the victim. They wanted to press charges. On June 26, an officer got an email from a state trooper and got the suspect's name. Then, on June 29, the Hampshire County Sheriff's office sent information on the booking information sheet. The person had an active arrest warrant out of an area department

for failure to appear in court. The officer asked the court to issue a warrant for the charges.

Thursday, July 9

2:12 a.m. – A 51-year-old West Springfield male was issued a summons for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle. An officer going west on State Street saw a vehicle crashed into a tree with airbag deployment. The officer approached the vehicle and the person exited. Then Belchertown Fire arrived on scene and a friend to translate for the person. The officer ran the license, there was no record. A tow company was called for the vehicle. It was also discovered they struck a mailbox and it was damaged.

ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS
Friday, July 3

2 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Boardman Road. A vehicle going east on Boardman Road went off the side of the road, went 70 to 80 feet, struck a rock, struck a tree and went onto the driver's side. The operator said a truck was going into their lane and was going to strike head-on, the operator swerved to avoid collision, causing the vehicle to go off the road. No injuries were report-

ed and the vehicle was towed from the scene.

12:11 p.m. – An officer took a report of an accident. A vehicle parked in a driveway was struck by another vehicle while it was backing up. There was minor damage to both vehicles. No injuries were reported.

2:01 p.m. – An officer took a report of identity fraud. A resident was looking through their bank account and a withdrawal taken without their permission. They rejected the transaction. They found out the payment was for a lease agreement opened in their name. They wanted the matter on file.

8 p.m. – An officer spoke with a person about going to a storage facility to get some belongings with a person who they have a restraining order against. The officer showed up and they wanted information on the matter.

Saturday, July 4

2:50 a.m. – An officer responded to a building where an alarm went off. It was found to be a smoke detector that was activated. The officers were unable to contact the residents and knocked on the door alarm going off since got home at 9 a.m. The landlord

was contacted and Belchertown Fire Department was called, and it was determined to be a faulty detector.

4:12 p.m. – An officer spoke with a resident of a group home concerning medications that were allegedly being withheld from them.

Sunday, July 5

1:26 p.m. – A registration plate that was found was turned into the station. The officer ran the plate which showed it was revoked for insurance and the plate was put into property.

7:50 p.m. – An officer got a residence for a report of a missing juvenile. The juvenile left a note that they left. It was over an hour since they left the area. It was heavily wooded and the K-9 officer was contacted, the drone unit was called and state troopers were requested to respond. While out in the area, it appeared the juvenile was walking back. They were transported to the hospital.

Monday, July 6

1:30 p.m. – An officer responded to assist Belchertown Fire paramedics.

7:10 a.m. – An officer responded to assist Belchertown Fire with

a person having a mental health crisis.

12:30 p.m. – Security at a George Hannon Road business called to report a past incident of shoplifting. The video provided by security showed a person wearing a white tank top and baseball cap driving a dark colored pick-up truck. The person was seen walking into the store and took over \$200 worth of goods.

3:21 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Federal Street. A vehicle turning left onto Federal Street didn't see a second vehicle going around another stopped vehicle. The operator said they were waved to go forward by the stopped vehicle. There were no injuries and no tows.

4:17 p.m. – An officer was asked to transport a person to a residence to get a vehicle. There officer went to confirm there was a vehicle at the resident to retrieve. Then shortly after the people did the exchange, the other person texted them and they reported it was in violation of a restraining order. The officer contacted the local New Hampshire police where the order was issued and was told that it wasn't a protection order for them. New Hampshire police got the informa-

tion for further action.

Wednesday, July 8

4:39 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Federal Street. A person was parked at a Federal Street business came out and saw their vehicle was hit and the involved vehicle was no longer there. No other information at this time. The second operator returned later to exchange information.

6:16 p.m. – An officer responded to assist Belchertown Fire paramedics.

Thursday, July 9

9:18 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Franklin Street. A vehicle traveling south on Franklin Street stopped to turn left onto Shay Ave was struck in the rear. The operator said they didn't see the stopped vehicle. No injuries were reported and no tows were needed.

8:29 p.m. – An officer responded to a residence for a report of a person who attempted to leave the residence intoxicated. The person was found walking on foot. They backed into a shed which caused the bumper to fall off. They were evaluated and were transported to the hospital.



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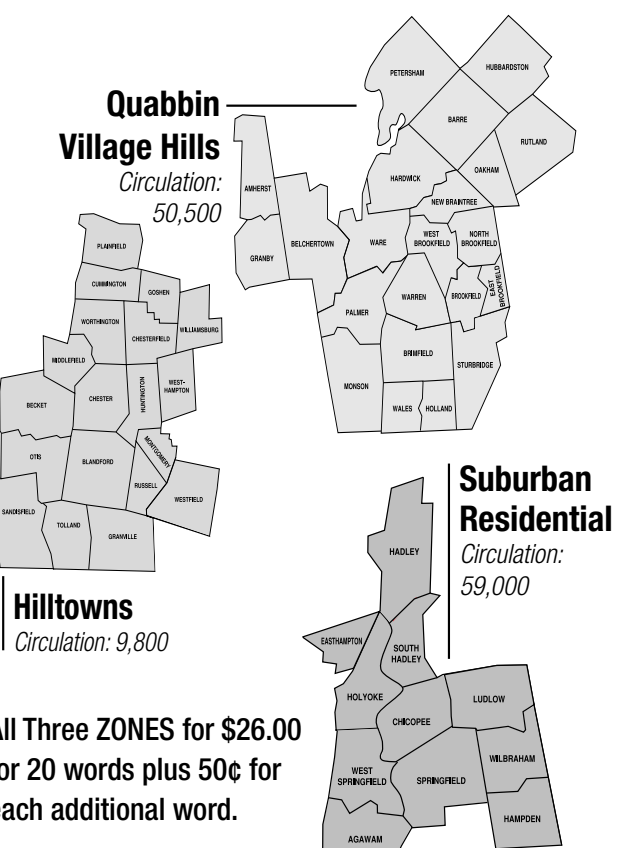
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OBITUARIES

Theresa Marie (Gosselin) Garrison

1937-2026

Theresa Marie (Gosselin) Garrison, a beloved wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, July 7, 2026 at the age of 88. Born on September 23, 1937, in Holyoke, MA, she was the daughter of Ulric and Marie (Corriveau) Gosselin. Theresa resided in Belchertown, MA for over 25 years. Prior to Belchertown, Theresa Lived in Chicopee.

Theresa dedicated 12 years of her professional life to J Polep Distributors, where she worked in Quality Control within the manufacturing industry. She was a cherished member of St. Francis Church in Belchertown and sang in the choir both there and previously at the Immaculate Conception Church in Holyoke.



Theresa's heart was deeply rooted in her family. She is survived by her husband of 41 years, David H. Garrison; her children, Edward Beauchemin and his wife Valerie of Eastham, Jane Wolfe of Belchertown, Diane Blais and her husband Jeffrey of Brookfield, Judith Beaudry and son in law David of Springfield, and Lorna DiSantis and her husband Peter of Feeding Hills; her 10 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. Her legacy also lives on through several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents, her brother Laurier Gosselin, her children Michelle Beauchemin and Kenneth Beauchemin, her granddaughter Bethany Blais and son in law George Wolfe. Theresa found joy in the

simple pleasures of life, particularly in camping trips to Springbrook Camp Ground in Shelburne, MA, where she made lasting memories with her family. Her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren were the center of her universe, and she cherished every moment spent with them.

Visitation will be Wednesday, July 22 from 4-7 pm at the Beers & Story Belchertown Funeral Home. A Funeral Mass will be on Thursday, July 23 at 10 am at St Francis Church. Burial will follow in Notre Dame Cemetery. Friends and family are welcome to gather at the funeral home on Thursday morning at 9 am to process together to the church.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations in her memory to St. Francis Church Building Fund, PO Box 612, Belchertown, MA 01007.

Denis Robert Pete, Sr.

1953-2026

Denis Robert Pete Sr., a lifelong resident of Belchertown, passed away on Monday, July 6, 2026, at the age of 73. Born on February 22, 1953, in Chicopee, Denis was son to the late Leonard and Leah (Ducharme) Pete.

Denis' life was a testament to hard work and dedication, having built a career in the transportation industry as a trucker. His passion for trucking was unmatched, earning him every endorsement possible on his license. Beyond his professional life, Denis loved building and fixing things, a "Jack of all trades, Master of none" with skills in carpentry, electrical work, plumbing, and everything in between. Denis was an Elvis fanatic and

he accumulated quite the memorabilia collection over the years.

Denis was preceded in death by his parents, his sisters Irene Smith and Doris Spaulding, and his lifelong friend, Tom Monette. He leaves behind a loving family, including his beloved wife, Anita Pete; their children, Richeline Breckenridge, Lorianne Housman, Denise Pete, Denis Pete Jr., David Pete and his wife Jessica Alice Pete, and Duke Pete; as well as many cherished grandchildren.

Visitation will be held on Friday July 17, 2026 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Beers & Story Belchertown Funeral Home. Burial will immediately follow in South Cemetery.



DEATH NOTICES

Pete, Denis Robert Sr.
Died July 6, 2026
Visitation July 17
10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Beers & Story
Belchertown Funeral
Home

Garrison, Theresa Marie
Died July 7, 2026
Visitation July 22
from 4 to 7 p.m.
Beers & Story
Belchertown Funeral
Home

The Sentinel
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph.

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

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

HEAT from page 1

on, even despite the costs, and to drink lots of water," Executive Director of the Agawam Senior Center Cynthia Sullivan said.

Senior centers like Agawam's also have people on staff who keep an eye on seniors who are visiting.

"We're always checking up on people to see how they're doing," Sullivan said. "We see many of the people

here quite often, so we know when they don't look okay."

If people do want to get outside in the heat, it is best they do so in the early morning or later in the evening, when the sun is not at its peak. Also, activities should be kept to low impact to prevent over exertion.

Additionally, many senior centers are open as cooling centers for the public during heat waves. The Agawam Senior Center, the

Holyoke Senior Center, the RiverMills Senior Center and the Wilbraham Senior Center are just some of the options available.

These senior centers also offer a variety of activities to help keep seniors entertained while also beating the heat.

The Agawam Senior Center, for example, has a performance by the band Solar Eclipse on July 14 at 5:30 p.m. (with free ice cream included) and Bunko

(a dice game) on July 21.

The Holyoke Senior Center is offering Tai Chi lessons on Thursdays from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. from now through Sept. 3.

For those interested, the RiverMills Senior Center is also offering an ice cream social on July 17 at 1:30p.m. They also have a visit from Paul Revere on July 28 at 2 p.m.

In addition to these activities, the senior centers also

offer meals for people to come in, purchase and enjoy.

"Come in and eat, our meals are \$4," Sullivan said. "There is no need to turn on your stove or oven and make your house warmer."

The senior centers always welcome people to come by while they are open and take advantage of their activities and air conditioning. Utilizing them is a great way to beat the heat and have some fun.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampshire Probate and Family Court
15 Atwood Drive
Northampton, MA 01060
(413)586-8500
Docket No.
HS26P0405EA
Estate of:
George R. Hodgins
Date of Death: 03/17/2026
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
To all interested persons:
A Petition for S/A - Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Douglas E. Hodgins of Granby, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that Douglas E. Hodgins of Granby, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 08/06/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of

assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Diana S. Velez Harris, First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 09, 2026
Mark S Ames,
Register of Probate
07/16/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampshire Probate and Family Court
15 Atwood Drive
Northampton, MA 01060
(413)586-8500
Docket No.
HS26P0441EA
Estate of:
Nancy A. Paquette
Date of Death: 05/04/2026
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Shelby-Lynn Klekotka of Hampden, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that Shelby-Lynn Klekotka of Hampden, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 08/05/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

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inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Diana S. Velez Harris, First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 06, 2026
Mark S Ames,
Register of Probate
07/16/2026

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

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