

## POLICE and FIRE



The Police and Fire Departments together for a match of friendly competition.

Compete in a battle on the field

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

BELCHERTOWN – A little friendly competition is always fun, and for the Belchertown Police and Fire Departments, a game of softball has been their go-to for the past three years, affectionately called the Battle of the Badges.

So far, the Polie Department is the reigning champ, with their

three wins, and the most recent one this year with a close 21 to 18 win.

“My favorite part is doing something besides responding to 911 calls with the Fire Department, because really the only time we get to see them is when we have to respond to calls togeth-

Please see **BATTLE**, page 8



Oops.

TURLEY  
PHOTOS BY  
EMILY-ROSE  
PAPPAS

## State school power plant demolished

By Emily-Rose Pappas  
Staff Writer  
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BELCHERTOWN – The State School’s Power Plant was demolished last week as the town prepares for its Carriage Grove Development, a project already begun with the building of Christopher Heights, an assisted living facility.

Rob Arcese with the American Environmental Department was there to share that most of the material from inside the

building would be recycled and reclaimed.

“A lot of it’s going to be going to local recycling alternatives here in town,” said Arcese. “There’s a place called Pine Valley just over the border in Connecticut... by and large, whatever isn’t deemed hazardous is going to be recycled and repurposed for future reuse.”

Demolition of the building began just before 10 a.m., with the members of

Please see **STATE SCHOOL**, page 7



Abatement of the exterior.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Learning the way of the sword with Castle Nitor

By Emily-Rose Pappas  
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BELCHERTOWN – The art of learning new things is quite easy, especially when considering the library is available with its wealth of knowledge, resources, and guides, and its ability to access other libraries’ troves of knowledge.

The Clapp Memorial Library, in the spirit of “Levelling Up” this summer, hosted Castle Nitor, where Allison Pettengail taught the European martial art of the long sword and the basics of using the weapon.

“I think for me, what I like about this as a theme for the libraries, is that reading is amazing for you, and learning in general changes you and makes you a better person,” said Pettengail. “There are so many ways you can take ‘level-up,’ and it can all be done through your library, and I get to be a part of that.”

With the theme of leveling up dealing with video gaming, but also in the realm

Please see **SWORD**, page 14



Maria Stening at the ready.

TURLEY PHOTO BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

## Underdog BHS students win ‘As Schools Match Wits’

By Emily-Rose Pappas  
Staff Writer  
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BELCHERTOWN – Getting the chance to be on TV is a dream not many would imagine, but for six BHS students, it is a dream come true.

“As Schools Match Wits” is a local quiz show for western MA and northern CT high school students,

with quiz categories for a variety of topics including math, science, pop culture, and others, and the show has been going since the 60s.

This year, it was hosted at Westfield State University, and the group of high schoolers went in to play for the first time ever and won for Belchertown for the first time in years.

They played for a total of four episodes, with four

matches, and they were hosted in gaps throughout the school year last year on weekends, where the students would go to compete.

“My favorite part was playing with these people, and experiencing it with people I know, and my friends that I can share this experience with,” said Sean Lindsay.

Please see **MATCH WITS**, page 3



Underdog winners of the 2025 As Schools Match Wits, Belchertown High School students.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Hubbard Memorial presents *Becoming Darlene* by Author Ed Orzechowski

By Amanda Munson  
Staff Writer  
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LUDLOW – On July 10, Author Ed Orzechowski visited the Hubbard Memorial and presented his second book, *Becoming Darlene*. Orzechowski has written two books *Becoming Darlene* and *You’ll Like it Here* that tell and reveal the stories of two individuals and their experiences when attending the Belchertown State School that opened in 1922 and closed in 1992.

The Belchertown State

School for the Feeble-Minded is known due to the inhumane conditions, poor treatment of the patients who suffered with intellectual and physical disabilities, lack of privacy and medical treatment, solitary confinement, misuse of restraints, and much more. The presentation

TURLEY PHOTO BY AMANDA MUNSON  
**Becoming Darlene that gave critical insight of Darlene’s beginnings of the Belchertown State School and Ed Orzechowski read the first chapter of how she was able to grow afterwards.**



at the library focused on the book *Becoming Darlene*, The Story of Belchertown Patient #4952 and Orzechowski connection to her whilst creating her story over five years.

Showing pictures of Darlene and Donald, sharing personal stories and interactions with both individuals, and previewing what the school looks like now, the audience was invested in Orzechowski’s presentation from the very beginning.

Sitting down with Orzechowski, he began by describing his co-writing experience creating her mem-

oir, and how publishing a book of this subject was closer to home than people may realize.

“I co-wrote her memoir. It’s about her growing up at the state school and how that experience affected the rest of her life. I’ve written two books; the first one was about a man named Donald who had also went to the state school and was there about ten years earlier than Darlene. We were here, referring to his wife Gail, for Donald’s book event and I

Please see **DARLENE**, page 4

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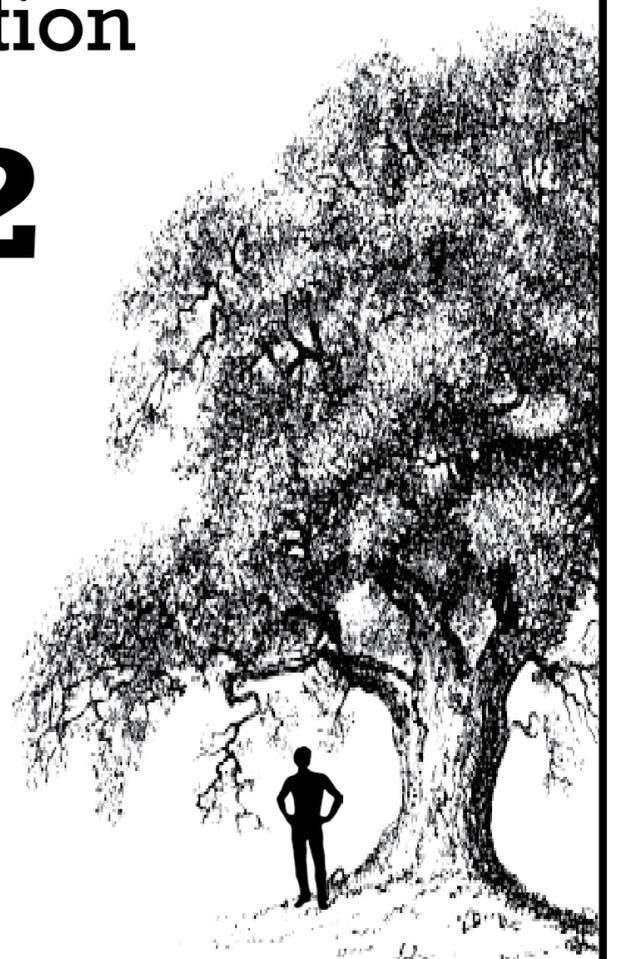
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# DL&G TREE



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## Fall Book Sale coming to Granby Library

Find new-to-you books, magazines, and more from Sept. 2 through 30.

GRANBY – Book lovers! Bargain Hunters! The Friends of the Granby Free Public Library will host their annual Month-Long Fall Book Sale during September in the Community Room of the Library. You will be able to choose from a large assortment of used and like-new hardcover, softcover, paperback books, teen books and children's books, along with a selection of CDs, DVDs, video games and audiobooks. The sale will run during regular library hours from September 2 through 30.

The Library is now accepting donations of hardcover and paperback books, DVDs, music CDs, playable video games, and audiobooks in good condition acceptable for resale. The Library does not accept donations of: Textbooks, encyclopedias, Reader's Digest books, or books with smoke, mold, mildew, or water damage. Donations are accepted at the Library during open hours. Please do not leave donated books outside the library or in our book return. Donations accepted until August 28. Thank you for your support!

The Granby Free Public Library is located at 297 E State St, Granby, MA 01033. Visit [granbylibrary.org](http://granbylibrary.org) for hours and more information.



## Belchertown VFW to host 2nd annual motorcycle ride

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown VFW will be hosting its second-annual Motorcycle Benefit Ride on Saturday, August 9, 2025, to raise money to benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Registration is from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Belchertown VFW, and the two stops will be Atlas Pub in Chicopee, and the American Legion in

Granby. For riders only, including a t-shirt, it is \$25, and is \$15 for a passenger. You can purchase your tickets in advance at the VFW, and shirts will be limited at the door. There will also be food provided by the North Elm Butchers, live music by the Bermudez Triangle, and raffles to follow at the VFW.

## Donate your clutter for a worthy cause

### The Saint Francis Annual Giant Tag Sale returns this August

BELCHERTOWN – The Saint Francis Tag Sale Team is preparing to receive your welcomed donations to stock their Annual Giant Tag Sale on August 23, 2005. All proceeds from this event will benefit the future new Saint Francis Parish Center in the Jabish Street campus.

This year, the Tag Sale Team will accept donations for only a twelve-day period – Wednesday, August 6 to Sunday, August 17, 2025 only. Note that this is a change from previous years.

On Wednesday, August 6, at 9 a.m., the Tag Sale Team will open the doors to the Pine Room on the lower level of the existing St. Francis Parish Center on Park Street and begin to accept donations. Donations will not be accepted at the Park Street front area! At the lower-level entrance way to the Pine Room, donations will be accepted Mondays



to Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; on Sunday August 10 and 17, donations will only be accepted from noon to 5 p.m. The Pine Room donation center will close at 5 p.m. sharp on Sunday, August 17.

If you are donating, you must be acknowledged by a team member before drop-

ping off your treasures. Do not leave any donation items outside of the St Francis Parish Center, Park Street front door or the lower Pine Room side door. To assist the army of tireless volunteers, if the donation center is closed, return with your donations when it is open.

The St. Francis Giant Tag

Sale acknowledges that we cannot have a successful sale without donation participation. The team asks that you consider all the guidelines to make this a successful event for everyone. The team is grateful for the continuing, generous support of our Belchertown community.

### Drop off your donations for the book sale on Aug. 15

BELCHERTOWN – The Friends of the Clapp Memorial Library are collecting books, DVDs, CDs, and Puzzles for their semi-annual book sale. We will have volunteers in the Library parking lot who will remove the

items from your vehicle. You don't even have to get out of the car! So, drive on down to your Library and donate those Books, DVDs, CDs, and Puzzles. No VHS tapes, please. Thank you for your support!

### Belchertown Community Band to host free community concerts

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown Community Band is in its 39th year of performing for free on the Belchertown Town Common. Concerts are on Thursday nights, with an additional Sunday afternoon concert. If it is raining, the Thursday concerts

are held at the Belchertown High School. Dates and times are as follows: Thursday, July 24 at 7 p.m., July 31 at 7 p.m., August 7 at 7 p.m., August 14 at 7 p.m., and Sunday, August 17, at 4 p.m. If Sunday, August 17 is raining, the concert is cancelled.

### Elevator maintenance project now underway

BELCHERTOWN – The Town of Belchertown is moving forward with the planned elevator maintenance project at Town Hall.

During this project, the elevator will be out of service for the duration of the work, which is estimated to take 4 to 6 weeks. The exact timeline for completion will be confirmed as the project progresses.

"This elevator repair project has been in the works for years now. It will be good to finally get it underway on the 14, with completion later this summer. I understand this will cause a temporary inconvenience, so I thank everyone in advance for their patience," says Linda Leduc, Director of Public Works in Belchertown.

To help visitors navigate during this time, signs will

be posted on the doors at Town Hall with directions for entering the building.

For individuals who are unable to use the stairs, assistance will be available: - Please use the intercom located at the top of the wheelchair ramp, to the right of the door. - A staff member will come to assist you as needed.

We appreciate the public's patience and understanding as we complete this important maintenance project to ensure safe and reliable access for all visitors in the future.

Periodic updates about the project will be published on the town's website, [www.belchertown.org](http://www.belchertown.org), and on their Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/TownofBelchertown>,

### MATCH WITS from page 1

"My favorite part was watching them compete because I was a reserve, and I liked the Victory Van and being with my friends, and the donuts," said Cian Lindsay. Every time they won, Mr. Vigneux got them donuts from Dunkin, and it became a highlight for the team.

"My favorite part was answering the question during the final championship round, which was about the 30 Years' War, and what century it was in," said Owen Lorenzo. "So many people came up to me to say they saw me on tv, including a boss from Springfield."

"I'd say my favorite was in between matches going to Dunkin in the Victory Van and hanging out together and being with friends," said Naveen Berryhill. "It was

cool that a lot of people in town followed the show and saw it."

"My favorite part was when Naveen buzzed for an answer, and I randomly guessed and got it right," said Miles McNamara. "I liked that everyone saw me on tv."

Belchertown, in the final match, went against Longmeadow, and won by five points, 310 to 305. While Belchertown takes part in Match Wits very year, the town has never won the whole competition before.

Mr. Vigneux coaches the school's As Schools Match Wits club, where the teens plan strategy, and get ready for competitions together. The boys joined the club with enthusiasm as they grew up watching the program with their families.

"It was really cool to be on TV, because you'd never picture being on TV, and some-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Sean Lindsay, Jack Meyers, Naveen Berryhill, Miles McNamara, Cian Lindsay, and Mr. Vigneux with the host of As Schools Match Wits in their matching Hawaiian shirts.

one at the book sale even congratulated me," said Sean Lindsay.

While the competition doesn't have a study guide, it's important to know your stuff and be ready for whatever

may be asked as a question.

To study, they watched all the previous shows, studied hard during classes, and spent time looking up and researching topics during their free time.

"Be comfortable and confident with your answers because it's a team game, and you don't have to answer a question you don't know," said Sean Lindsay.

"Everyone else is going to

answer faster than you for the first few months, but you'll get better, just keep going. It takes practice, and the more you practice, the better," said Lorenzo.

"Even if you know a lot of things, you have to be able to answer fast. You can't be sitting there, you've gotta be quick," said McNamara.

The team worked hard, and it paid off, granting them a win that set a record for Belchertown.

"It's helped grow the program we have, and we have buzzers now for practice, and hopefully it will help us be better and win again," said Sean about the win.

The "As Schools Match Wits" competition is a test of the wits, but it is also a time for their friendship to grow as they entered the competition as underdogs, and came out winners.



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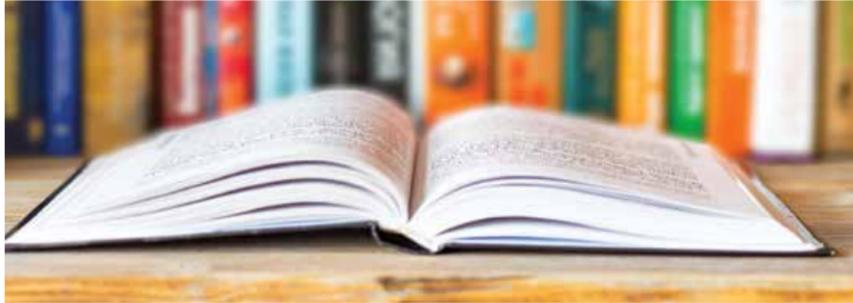
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# Clapp Memorial LIBRARY



## Upcoming July events

BELCHERTOWN – The Clapp Memorial Library is in full summer mode with programs and events for all ages! Check out our calendar, join our Summer Reading programs, and cool off in the air-conditioned library while you browse, borrow, and see what's new.

### For All Ages

#### "Level Up at Your Library"

#### Summer Reading Programs

Ongoing! Clapp Memorial Library has an amazing calendar of events throughout the summer for Adults, Teens, and Kids. This year's theme is "Level Up at Your Library," and there's a Summer Reading Program group for every age! Summer Reading Programs include reading challenges, raffles and prizes, special events, parties, and more! Register now online at [clapplibrary.beanstack.com](http://clapplibrary.beanstack.com) or via the Beanstack app. For more information, visit our website, [www.clapplibrary.org](http://www.clapplibrary.org). To register offline, stop by the Circulation Desk or call 413-323-0417.

**Peregrine Road Concert at the Belchertown United Church of Christ, 20 Park St., Belchertown Friday, August 1, 7 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.**

Join us at a performance by the musical duo, Peregrine Road, at the Belchertown United Church of Christ, where the library's 1877 Steinway grand piano is housed. Peregrine Road features Karen Axelrod on piano & accordion and Rachel Bell on accordion. Their captivating acoustic music blends Celtic, Appalachian, Quebecois, and other traditions. This program is funded by the Friends of the Clapp Memorial Library.

### For Adults

**Puzzle Competition**  
Tuesday, July 29, 6 p.m. to 8 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. Sign up online at [clapplibrary.org](http://clapplibrary.org) using the link on our calendar, or call (413) 323-0417. The puzzles for this program were generously donated by Ravensburger.

### For Teens

**Teen Card Making for Cards for Hospitalized Kids**  
on Friday, July 25, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Teens ages 12-18 are invited to the library to do good by making greeting cards to be sent to Cards for Hospitalized Kids (C4HK). Email [clapplibrarytab@gmail.com](mailto:clapplibrarytab@gmail.com) or call the library to register. All attendees will earn a raffle ticket for the Teen Summer Reading Program.

**Pokémon Diamond-Painting** Wednesday, July 30, 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Teens ages 12-18 are invited to diamond-paint a Pokémon drink coaster at the library! All materials will be provided, but Pokémon options and space are limited; email [clapplibrarytab@gmail.com](mailto:clapplibrarytab@gmail.com) or call the library to register. All attendees will earn a raffle ticket for the Teen Summer Reading Program. Teens must be registered for the Teen Summer Reading Program to attend. This program is funded by the Friends of the Clapp Memorial Library.

**Teen Summer Reading Party: Tie-Dye, Ultraviolet, and Free Books!** Friday, August 1, from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Teens ages 12-18 are invited for a fun evening of activities on the library's lawn at the Teen Summer Reading

Party! Belchertown's own teen band, Ultraviolet, will provide the entertainment and music as teens choose their free book for participating in the Teen Summer Reading Program. Teens are also encouraged to bring a white shirt (bonus points if it's a past Summer Reading shirt!) to tie-dye on the lawn during the event. Email [clapplibrarytab@gmail.com](mailto:clapplibrarytab@gmail.com) or call the library to register. The rain date for this event is August 8. All attendees will earn a raffle ticket for the Teen Summer Reading Program; teens must be registered for the Teen Summer Reading Program to attend. This program is funded by the Friends of the Clapp Memorial Library.

### For Kids

**Ultraviolet Concert**  
Wednesday, July 30, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Come rock out with Belchertown's own teen band on the Clapp Memorial Library Lawn! Ultraviolet is made up of Lily (vocals), Wesley (bass), Jake (drums), and John (guitar). They've performed at local venues and events such as Food Truck Friday, Auction Allegro, the Belchertown Fair, Arcpoint Brewery, and the DCU Center in Worcester. From rock to pop punk they play hits from bands such as Green Day, Paramore, Pat Benatar, and more. In the event of rain, we'll move to the Town Hall Auditorium. Made possible by the Friends of the Clapp Memorial Library and our Community Sponsors.

### The Clapp Memorial Library is open:

- Mon. 9:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- Tues. 9:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.
- Wed. 9:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.
- Thurs. 9:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.
- Fri. 9:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- Sat. 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

## Ware Grange hosts several workshops for kids, fair

WARE – The Ware Grange has multiple upcoming events. Please include these in your paper between now and July 25:

### Ware Grange Gardening Workshop

Ware Grange's next gardening workshop, "Spring Flowering Bulbs," will be held on Friday, July 25, at 7 p.m. at the Grange Hall at 297 Belchertown Road in Ware. Our presenter will be Roberta McQuaid, author of the weekly "In the Garden" column for Turley Publications. It seems untimely, but now is the best time to order spring-flowering bulbs for planting in October. Let's learn about the different types of bulbs from the usual favorites, such as Daffodils and

Tulips, to the so-called minor bulbs, including Snowdrops, Siberian Squill, and more. Visit Ware Grange on Facebook or at [waregrange.org](http://waregrange.org) for more information.

### Kids' Corner Workshop

The next Kids' Corner workshop at Ware Grange will be "Nocturnal Creatures" and will take place on Saturday, July 26, at 10 a.m. at the Ware Grange hall, 297 Belchertown Rd. in Ware. Kids' Corner workshops are designed for preschool and elementary school-aged children and are led by local preschool teacher, Jen McNally. Kids will learn about raccoons, owls, bats, and more through stories, songs, and crafts. Visit Ware

Grange on Facebook or at [waregrange.org](http://waregrange.org) for more information.

### Ware Grange Fair

Available Now - The Ware Grange Fair program books are here! Plan your exhibits by checking out the categories of exhibits in the fair program book. Books are available online at [waregrange.org](http://waregrange.org) or to receive a book by mail, call 413-284-1135 or email [waregrange164@gmail.com](mailto:waregrange164@gmail.com). Exhibitors may enter in a variety of categories, including vegetables, fruits, eggs, cut flowers, baked goods, fancywork, arts and crafts, and photography. Plan your exhibits now for the fair, which takes place August 22 to 23. See [waregrange.org](http://waregrange.org) for schedule and details



TURLEY PHOTO BY AMANDA MUNSON

Ed Orzechowski presented pictures of the Belchertown State School and specifically, before and after pictures of the school, showing patrons photos as it stands today.

### DARLENE from page 1

was in Florence at a coffee shop talking with him about book events when a woman overhead and said, 'I grew up in the Belchertown State School too.' Meeting Darlene was a real coincidence, so she came to the table, and they started talking and before Darlene left, I gave her a copy of You'll Like it Here. I told her there's a lot of pictures in the back of the book of the school and when she opened the back and saw the pictures of where she had grown up, her hands started to tremble. That's when I knew I'd like to talk to her about writing her story," explained Orzechowski.

Orzechowski added that his wife Gail's sister was also a resident at the school and the couple has dedicated their lives advocating for her at each level of government, going all the way to Washington, DC. When Orzechowski was asked

about what people can expect at his future book events, "It's for Darlene and Donald, Donald wanted his story to be told because he didn't want what happened there to happen again, the abuse of them and the neglect they experienced. Donald has since passed. Darlene was in a similar situation. She said because there's so much redevelopment of the property now, a lot of the buildings are gone and there's new construction, it's hardly recognizable. She said eventually, there's going to be nothing there and eventually all those buildings are going to be gone, they'd be like she never existed," said Orzechowski.

With a background in teaching high school English, working in radio, magazines, and newspapers, Orzechowski retired and took up these writing projects in an opportunity to keep telling their stories. Becoming Darlene launched in Dec. 2024

and Orzechowski had the chance to speak with Darlene's sons who both attended their mom's book launch, where Orzechowski commented that he was pleased with Darlene's trust in him and their trust in their mom in writing her story.

Orzechowski wrote You'll Like it Here about Donald's story in seven years, "It took that length of time because I had to learn how to write a book. I took courses and workshops and joined writers' group. I'm still a member in those writing groups so I get a lot of feedback from them and for Darlene's book, it was at least five years."

Orzechowski's book was recognized by New York Times best-selling author Jacqueline Sheehan, PhD, and quoted praising Orzechowski for Becoming Darlene saying, "Ed Orzechowski's masterful rendering reveals the unspeakable conditions of institutional life for children in mid-twentieth-century America. He writes with searing honesty about the survival of a remarkable girl who creates her own inner resources to emerge with her dreams intact."

Orzechowski ended by words of advice to aspiring authors, "Share your writing with others so they can give you feedback. Read your work out loud, you miss things and if you hear things that you don't catch otherwise and read a lot."

Orzechowski books are available at [www.levelpress.com](http://www.levelpress.com)

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# Belchertown COA's upcoming events

## 2nd Annual Belchertown Community Yard Sale

August 8 to 10,  
8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

(rain date August 15 to 17)  
Come shop for treasures big and small! This event brings together local households and vendors offering antiques, collectibles, books, furniture, and more! New this year, visit the Town Fields next to the Senior Center, where vendors will be selling in one central location! Proceeds from the event will benefit the Belchertown Senior Center and Council on Aging, supporting important programs and services for our older adult community! For more information, visit [belchertownyardsale.com](http://belchertownyardsale.com) or email [belchertownyardsale@gmail.com](mailto:belchertownyardsale@gmail.com)

### Games:

Cornhole and Bocce available every Friday, weather depending, on our patio from 12 noon to 2 p.m.

Interested in playing Dominoes? Call Stephanie at 323-0420 ext 501.

Billiard Room: Open daily 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Join your friends for a round of pool. No appointment necessary.

### Clubs and Weekly Events: Grief Loss Support Group

Join Liane Smola, owner and founder of GuidanceByLi, on the first Wednesday of every month at 12:30 p.m. for help processing difficult emotions associated with grief. Sponsored by Beers & Story Funeral Homes and BSCCA.

### Sit 'n Stitch

Join this group on Tuesdays and Fridays at 9 a.m. to make items for yourself or to donate to be sold at our annual bazaar!

Line Dancing: Beginner Line Dancing classes will

continue throughout the summer! Stop in on Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. for some exercise and lots of fun!

**Ukelele Group:** Every Monday at 12:30 p.m. Bring your own ukulele, and play for fun!

**Rainbow Coffee Hour:** Second Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m.

**Veterans Social Hour:** Second Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m.

**Book Club:** Third Monday of the month at 10 a.m.

**Wii Bowling:** Every Friday at 10 a.m.

**Silver Sisterhood:** First and third Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

**Wholefood Plant Based Group:** Third Thursday of every month at 10 a.m.

**Declutter Group:** First Friday of every month at 10 a.m.

**Zendoodle:** Every Thursday at 10 a.m.

**Hand, Foot & Elbow:** Mondays at noon.

**Cribbage:** Tuesdays at 10 a.m.

**Mah-Jongg:** Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m.

**Canasta:** Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m.

**Pitch:** Thursdays at 10 a.m.

**Bingo:** Tuesday and Thursday at noon.

### Exercise/Health Classes and Resources:

**Fitness Equipment Room:** Free to use! No appointment necessary. Open daily Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Yoga:** Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 9:30 a.m. \$5/class (paid monthly)

**Tai Chi:** Tuesday and Friday at 10 a.m. (outdoors). Suggested donation of \$0.50.

**Healthy Bones & Balance:** Tuesday and Thursday at 9:15 a.m. AND 10:30 a.m. Suggested donation of \$0.50

**Boomer Bootcamp:** Mondays at 3 p.m., \$5/class, paid weekly.

There will be NO Meridian Tapping in July or August. Stay tuned for an exciting beginner workshop coming in September.

Email Stephanie at [SFraleigh@Belchertown.org](mailto:SFraleigh@Belchertown.org) or call 323-0420 ext 501 to sign up, or for more info!

### Second Best Thrift Shop

Second Best accepts donations of clothing, shoes, jewelry, home décor, and household goods (please, NO electronics). Donations may be brought to the store during their normal business hours (do not leave outside), or they may be left inside the front entrance of the Senior Center, Monday to Friday from 8 to 4:30 p.m.

Currently, they are also accepting donations of NEW items to be used for the raffle at the Annual Bazaar in November.

If interested in volunteering, see Liz in the store for info!

Stop by the Senior Center for a cup of coffee, use our computers to check email, surf the internet, build a puzzle, play some pool, or visit with friends!

### BSCCA Travel Club Upcoming Bus Trips

Additional 2025 Trip information available at the Senior Center!

**August 19, 2025:** RI Lighthouse Cruise w/Cap'n Jack's Restaurant: \$157 per person (payment due July 19)

**September 9 to 11, 2025:** Ogunquit & Portland, ME: \$600 per person. Double Occ. (Deposit due at sign-up, balance due August 9)

**September 24, 2025:** "St. Charles is Dead" at Newport Playhouse: \$143 per person (payment due August 24)

**October 9, 2025:** Boston Harbor Cruise \$115 per person (payment due August 1)

**October 22, 2025:** Lakeside Turkey Train, Lake Winnepesaukee, NH: \$145 per person (payment due September 22)

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

### July Field Trips:

Tuesday, July 29 at 10 a.m.: Amherst College Beneski Museum of Natural History

Meet at the Senior Center and we'll carpool to the museum, rated one of the best museums in the Pioneer Valley! It has a variety of collections of plants, animals, and minerals. Bring a lunch and a chair, and we will have lunch together on campus or the town common. Email Ljubamarsh@hotmail.com.

Did you know that the BSCCA (Senior Center Friends Group) sponsors many of the programs and services here at the Senior Center? They run the Second Best Thrift Shop, the Annual Bazaar, and the Travel Club. If you'd like to get involved, stop by their monthly meeting at noon on Tuesday, July 1, or email [DHSsmall@yahoo.com](mailto:DHSsmall@yahoo.com).

### Volunteers Needed! Kitchen Staff

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday morning shifts needed. Volunteers would perform basic food prep and assist with lunch service. Visit the Senior Center or email Stephanie for a volunteer application at [SFraleigh@belchertown.org](mailto:SFraleigh@belchertown.org).

We'll have ICE CREAM for dessert every Friday after lunch in July! Call Kim 323-0420 ext 508 to sign up for lunch!

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## Chamber golf tourney supports Belchertown Education Foundation

AMHERST/BELCHERTOWN – The Amherst-area Chamber of Commerce will feature the Belchertown Education Foundation as the highlighted non-profit organization at its annual golf tournament at Cold Spring Country Club in Belchertown on Friday, July 25.

This year's tournament will benefit the Belchertown Education Foundation, an organization with a mission of enriching education for students in Belchertown Schools, including academic, artistic, and athletic pursuits.

The Belchertown Education Foundation has provided more than \$100,000 in grants to Belchertown Schools, supporting innovative projects

that would have otherwise gone unfunded.

"We are excited to have this special spotlight to share our impact, make more friends, and showcase the many wonderful businesses and organizations in Belchertown," says Jennifer Faulkner, president of the Board of Directors, Belchertown Education Foundation. She encourages local businesses and organizations to take part in numerous ways.

Golfers can register at [business.amherstar.com](http://business.amherstar.com). Businesses who wish sponsor a hole on the green, donate to the raffle or be involved in another way may contact Polina Potochevska, Amherst Area Chamber of Commerce, at 413-253-0700.



## Soccer jamboree remembers teen

BELCHERTOWN – The 3rd Annual Julia's 3v3 Soccer Jamboree is scheduled to be held at the State Street Fields in Belchertown on August 16, 2025. The annual event is held in memory of 13 year old Julia Haynes who passed away in March of 2023 following a battle with brain cancer. All of the funds the Jamboree raises benefit the Julia Haynes Scholarship Fund, which is a 501(c)(3) founded by four of Julia's classmates.

The first two events hosted over 60 teams, each year, in grades 3 through high school for the all-day

event bracket which also featured food trucks, raffle and dunk tank.

There is a new bracket for the class of 2022 - 2025 participants. There will again be food trucks, a DJ, and some fun activities for attendees including a raffle.

Those interested in registering a team, becoming a volunteer, sponsor or donating to the raffle can get more details on the @julias3v3jamboree Instagram or Julia's 3v3 Soccer Jamboree Facebook pages or through Runsignup:

<https://runsignup.com/Race/MA/Belchertown/Julias3v3SoccerJamboree>

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## OPINION

SOCIAL SECURITY  
*Matters*

By Russell Gloor

## What is the formula for deciding when to claim?

Dear Rusty:

I am curious about the "formula" to decide when to take Social Security while still working.

I am past the Full Retirement Age. How do you best address such? Should we schedule a call?

Signed: Wondering When

Dear Wondering:

Well, you can always contact us by phone on 1-888-750-2622 to speak to one of our certified Social Security Advisors or you can send your questions to us via email at SSadvisor@amacfoundation.org. You don't need to pre-schedule a meeting, as we have multiple advisors answering the phone on most normal business days. If they all happen to be busy when you call, simply leave a voicemail and an Advisor will return your call promptly.

For starters, since you have reached your Full Retirement Age, know that your work earnings will no longer negatively affect your Social Security benefits. You can earn as much as possible and your monthly SS amount will be the same, based on your average lifetime monthly earnings for your highest 35 years and based on your age when you claim. Since you have not yet claimed SS, you are already earning Delayed Retirement Credits, which increase your monthly SS amount by .667% for each month you continue to delay. That's 8% for each full year you delay past your FRA. You should not, however, wait longer than age 70 to claim because that is when you will get your maximum SS benefit amount. For you, that means that your age 70 amount will be 28% more than the amount you would have received at your FRA of 66 years and 6 months in October 2023 and about 15% more than if you were to claim now.

Note too, that if your more recent income is among the highest of your lifetime, Social Security will automatically increase your monthly SS retirement amount to account for that event. They will check your work earnings each year to see if you are entitled to a larger SS amount because of your recent

earnings.

Since (according to your AMAC member record) you are married, you may also wish to consider whether your wife will get a spousal benefit from you when you claim. If your wife's personal SS retirement amount at her FRA is less than the amount you were entitled to at your FRA, then she will get a spousal boost when you claim. With her spousal boost (if claimed at her FRA), her total SS benefit should be about 50% of your FRA benefit amount not half of the higher amount you will get because you waited longer to claim. But your wife cannot get a spousal boost until you are collecting your SS.

And here is something else to think about: received SS benefits will become part of your overall income taxed by the IRS when you submit your income tax return. If you file your income tax as "married/jointly" and your combined income from all sources is more than \$32,000 then some of your SS benefits will become taxable income. If your combined income is between \$32,001 and \$44,000, then half of the SS benefits you received during the tax year becomes part of your taxable income. Or, if your combined income from all sources exceeds \$44,000, then about 85% of your received SS benefits will become part of your income taxed by the IRS. Just something to keep in mind, especially since you are still working.

*The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit [amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

## LETTERS

## Town Patriots marched to Lexington and Concord 250 years ago

To the Editor, an important note about history:

BELCHERTOWN – It is worth noting the names of our Town (Belchertown) patriots who marched April 20, 1775, precisely 250 years ago this last spring, to the Battles of Lexington and Concord.

These minutemen served only a fortnight, but many of them reenlisted and others joined them, some serving over three months up to August, according to Reverend P. W. Lyman's Belchertown War Record published in 1889 and held in the Stone House Museum.

Capt. John Cowles Company, in Col. Woodbridge's Regiment: Captain John Cowles, Sergeant James Walker, Sergeant Gideon Hannum, Corporal David Town,

Corporal Asa Smith. Privates: Deacon Joseph Smith, Elijah Dwight, William Kentfield, Gideon Stebbins, Phinehas Lee, Moses Cowles, Asa Newton, Micah Pratt, Thaddeus Fairfield, Matthew Moody, David Worthington, Elisha Root, Joseph Bardwell, Martin Bardwell, William Bliss, Solomon Hannum, Samuel Clark, Amasa Towne, Jonathan Kentfield, David Kentfield, Calvin Chapin, David Bridges, Philip Carrier, Israel Cowles, Joseph Hulit, Solomon Smith, Levi Shumway, Elisha Warner, Benjamin Whitney and Pliny Dwight.

Capt. Jonathan Bardwell's Company, in Col. Jonathan Warren's Regiment: Captain Jonathan Bardwell, First Lieutenant Aaron Phelps, Second Lieutenant Sylvanus Howe, Sergeant

Moses Howe, Sergeant Asa Shumway, Sergeant Abner Eddy, Sergeant Thomas Torrence, Corporal Elijah Thayer, Corporal Philip Bartlett, Corporal Simeon Bardwell, Corporal Joseph Billings, Drummer Elijah Howe. Privates: Stephen Ayers, Solomon Bartlett, John Bardwell, Abner Cooley, Calvin Chapin, Matthew Clark, Caleb Dodge, John Howard, Jesse Harwood, Salmon Kentfield, Calvin Kinsley, James McCardner, David Pratt, Joseph Ramsdell, Solomon Shumway, Nathan Shumway, Jonathan Smith, Enoch Thayer, Asa Shrewbrooks, Joseph Williams and Obadiah Ward.

Michael Carolan,  
Belchertown

## Revisit wildflower gardening

After driving by an exquisite wildflower border, I was prompted to revisit and update a column I wrote some years back on the topic of wildflowers.

If you wish to give the natural look a go, preparation is the key. Read on for more useful advice.

Wildflower or meadow gardens can be beautiful, even breathtaking, if properly cared for. Besides being pretty, they are low maintenance and environmentally friendly, and they often attract butterflies, bees and other pollinators.

Our goal at the time of sowing is a grass-free, weed-free seed bed. Since wildflower seed is sown in winter or early spring, we have lots of time to achieve that goal.

At summer's end rototill the spot intended for your wildflowers. If the grass is especially thick you may need to go over it several times. Allow what is left of the grass to decompose.

Pull any weeds that sprout, or lightly cultivate the soil – don't go too deep or you'll expose more weed seeds to the light! You can also skip the tiller, and eradicate the grass by use of black plastic or a tarp- of course you'll have to look at it for several weeks!

If that's okay, then start now by mowing the grass as close as possible. Lay the black plastic or tarp on top and secure it in place with bricks or rocks. The heat, coupled with the absence of

light will kill the grass underneath.

By early fall you will be able to rake away any debris that remains. Plan to sow



your seeds in early spring.

There are many wildflower mixes to choose from. I'd recommend selecting one that is suited to the northeast.

A mix that contains both annual and perennial flowers is a good option – the annuals providing you with color the first year while the perennials are establishing themselves.

Don't skimp on the seed. In fact, use up to three times more than the packet says you need to ensure you'll end up with lots of blooms. To avoid bare spots, divide your seed in half and sow the entire area with the first half, then go to the second.

Don't cover the seed at all, just firm it into the soil. A lawn roller works great!

Gently water until your seeds have sprouted and your plants are up and growing – this will usually take at least a month. Watch now, as the season unfolds in all of its beauty!

At the end of the growing season, after the plants have gone to seed, you should mow the entire field with your mower on its highest setting. This will prevent

trees and shrubs from establishing themselves in your meadow. The mower will do a fair job of chopping up spent stems and leaves – just let them fall where they will.

First, they will act as winter mulch. Then, over time they will break down and add organic matter to the soil – just as leaves and twigs do in the woods. In the absence of a mower you can go the old fashioned route and cut the meadow with a scythe or hedge clippers.

In all instances care should be taken not to damage the crown of the plants, this can severely weaken or even kill perennial wildflowers.

As far as fertilizers go, wildflowers generally don't need it! In fact, rich soil does more harm than good, causing weeds to thrive and compete with your flowers for sunshine and water. Speaking of water, once your meadow is established it will only require water in cases of severe drought or if you plan to re-sow annual seeds in bare spots the following spring.

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*

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



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**STATE SCHOOL**  
from page 1

the Belchertown Community TV standing a safe distance to capture moments of the demolition.

The power plant demo is part of the Carriage Grove Redevelopment Project, which is a project put forth by the town to put in residential units, businesses, and public spaces in place of the State School.

The Belchertown State School was built in 1922, and closed in 1992, and has remained empty and abandoned since its closing. The one-acre property is in the process of demolition, and they are still working on it as they have completed the demolition of the Power Plant.

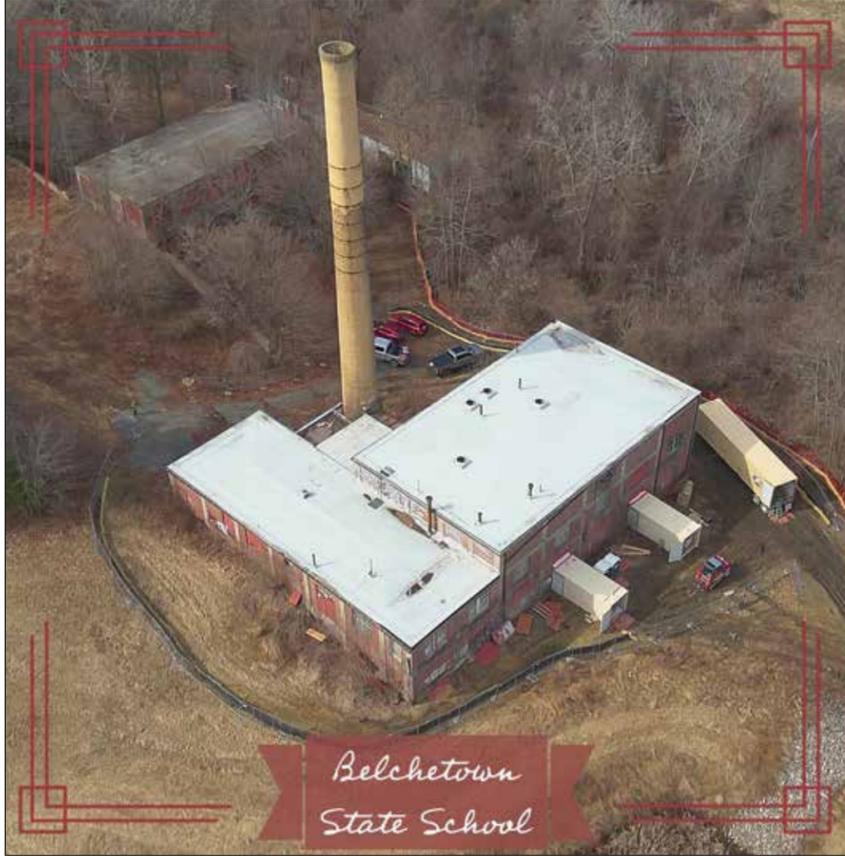
Kelsey Schiller, the Belchertown Economic Development and Industrial Corporation's agent, helped to get the master plan coordinated and finished for the State School to become the new, planned Carriage Grove.

"A mixed-use community, MassDevelopment continues to work with the BEDIC under the guidance of the Carriage Grove master plan to bring affordable housing and commercial/industrial uses to the site," said Schiller about the plan, which was approved in 2015.

The BEDIC and MassDevelopment have been working towards reusing the materials from the demolition while keeping within the state requirements, and to limit landfill use and "reduce the environmental footprint of demolition", Schiller explained.

"MassDevelopment, in partnership with the BEDIC, has worked with Mass Historic on the overall Carriage Grove master plan, which targets the reuse of the former Administration Building on the site," said Schiller.

"The demolition of the former power plant is an important step forward in the development of Carriage Grove. Our long-term goal is the



An aerial view of the Power Plant taken by the town.



Demolition underway.



A closer look at the roof caved in.

reutilization of a real asset in the former Belchertown State School campus to address housing needs and encourage economic activity."

The demolition project is one of the many steps the town is taking towards the plan and vision of Carriage Grove, and what it means to the community to have the land used for something better, despite its dark past.

The demolition of the Power Plant is almost done, with the final bits of it being complete by, at an estimate, the end of July 2025, and the town and BEDIC is looking for further funding and support to advance the demolition process to the rest of the property.

The main goal of Carriage Grove is to support and encourage private development here in Belchertown, allowing for new families and businesses to come in

and utilize land otherwise stagnant and empty, enjoying the views of Lake Wallace just next door.

"This type of project is at the heart of what we do. As the state's land bank, MassDevelopment is able to deploy our expertise and partner with local communities to help revitalize and redevelop underutilized, blighted, or abandoned property and create opportunities for housing and commercial development," said Schiller.

"Other examples of this work include the Village Hill Northampton (the former Northampton State Hospital), the expansion of Myles Standish Industrial Park in Taunton, and Devens, the former U.S. Army base."

The development of Carriage Grove has received about \$18 million in funding from many different sources, includ-

ing state grants and appropriations, federal grants, and "MassDevelopment's deferred management costs and capital contributions to advance the project that will be reimbursed from future land sales," said Schiller.

Carriage Grove is also home to Christopher Heights, the 83-unit assisted living facility.

Carriage Grove has also attracted private investment for specific developments (like the 83-unit assisted living facility Christopher Heights, for example.

You can learn more about the project on the town website, as well as more about Carriage Grove and the available properties on their website, <https://www.massdevelopment.com/products-and-services/real-estate/development/carriage-grove/>.



ABOVE: The abated boiler inside the Power Plant.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



A tunnel filled with old and rusted pipes and equipment.



Another view of the interior before abatement.



The interior of the Power Plant before abatement.



The old pump room.



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## Park Administrator

Full-time Park Administrator for a large, over-55 mobile home community. Responsibilities include overseeing facilities and maintenance crew, as well as enforcement of cooperative rules. Individual would be expected to take an active role in day-to-day operations, in coordination with President, Board of Directors, maintenance crew and office staff.

Requirements include previous management experience; general knowledge of building, property and vehicle maintenance; excellent organizational, communications, and time-management skills.

Resumes can be sent to:  
**Pine Valley Plantation Cooperative,**  
**281 Chauncey Walker St., OFC30,**  
**Belchertown, MA 01007**  
 or emailed to [office@pvpcop.com](mailto:office@pvpcop.com)  
**Attention: Richard Kelleher, President**

Please include days and times that you would be available for an in-person interview.

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# POLICE VS. FIRE



The fire department at the dugout having some fun.



The police department getting ready to make another win.

**BATTLE** from page 1

er,” said Jason Robinson, the president of the Belchertown Police Officers’ Association.

“My favorite part of the game is seeing all the people I work with engage in a friendly game of softball as well as the fans coming out to cheer us on,” said Fire Department Association President Kevin Girard

“This is also the same for my coworkers in the police department, as most of us only socialize at work. It is a great bonding experience. It is also great to have a crowd show up and watch us play and have fun,” said Robinson.

The Battle of the Badges raises money to support both associations, the Fire Department’s two associations, one for all firefighters and that funds the museum, and the other for the full-time firefighters, and serves as the union.

The Police Association is a 501c3 non-profit that works to provide charity and education to the community, and also supports the department’s needs, selling themed patches throughout the year, and making donations to organizations, helping local sports and other causes like helping residents who are battling cancer. They also have a yearly scholarship for a BHS senior going into a criminal justice field.

“I have been with the Belchertown Fire Dept for 12 years. I watched this department grow over those 12 years, and proud to be a part



Officer Murphy from South Hadley came by to be the best ball fetcher.

of it,” said Girard.

“I have been with the Belchertown Police for a little over 4 years now. I grew up and went to school in town, and it feels really nice to work in the community I spent my whole childhood in,” said Robinson.

The Belchertown Firefighter’s Association includes all current firefighters, as well as retired and former members, and the Full-Time Firefighters Association is for all current full-time and retired full-time firefighters.

The Police Association is volunteer-run and has a board of 10 members of the department who make decisions and plan activities and fundraisers, and everything done as a part of the association is outside of the regular roles of an officer.

“The community has always supported the fire department and association.

Whether it be stopping by the station to talk with us, sending thank you cards or attending fundraiser events. This community really does show a lot of support for the fire department,” said Girard.

“My favorite part about being a first responder in Belchertown again goes back to being raised in town, giving me a stronger connection to the local area and people. Also, this is a job I really enjoy doing overall,” said Robinson.

The Firefighters Association will be holding its annual raffle at the Belchertown Fair as its next fundraiser, and tickets will soon be able to be purchased.

The Police Officers Association will be holding its next fundraisers at the Belchertown Fair as well, and will host their Breast Cancer Fundraiser in October, where they have raised a few thou-



Squaring up for some friendly banter.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS



Watching at the fence.

sand dollars for the cause. You can also always purchase hats, patches, and more to support them.

“Belchertown is a great town and I enjoy how it still has a small-town feel. Being able to use the police association to give back to different parts of the town feels really good too, especially when a lot of people come out and support whatever

cause or event we are doing at that time,” said Robinson.

“Belchertown is a great community. The support from our town is incredible,” said Girard. “Community in Belchertown to me means unity and support. Whether it’s the Fire or Police department or even community members who are battling illnesses this community shows its support and unity. I just

like to thank the community for its support.”

You can find the Police Officers Association on Instagram and Facebook, and the Fire Department also posts regularly on Facebook with updates and more.

The community is truly lucky to have such dedicated teams of men and women ready to serve and protect their town, their home.

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The reigning champs, the police department with the trophy.



The fire department smiling after a good game- get them next year, guys!

**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Pacific Standard Time
- 4. Extracts through heating and melting
- 10. Express delight
- 11. More curvy
- 12. Expression of uncertainty
- 14. Indicates before
- 15. Daughter of Hera and Zeus
- 16. Southwestern CA city
- 18. Unified
- 22. Less attractive
- 23. Base of jellies
- 24. A large and noisy party
- 26. He was traded for Luka
- 27. Wolverine genus
- 28. «Happy Days»

- actress Moran
- 30. Root of taro plant
- 31. Student environmental group (abbr.)
- 34. Silk garments
- 36. Unique power
- 37. Ray Liotta cop film
- 39. Leak slowly through
- 40. Notion
- 41. Atomic #55
- 42. Fixed in one place
- 48. About heat
- 50. Type of baseball pitch
- 51. Seedless raisin
- 52. Large wading birds
- 53. Similar
- 54. Time zone
- 55. Atomic #34
- 56. Program
- 58. Old world, new

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Plain-woven fabric
- 2. Classed
- 3. Suppositions
- 4. Midway between south and west
- 5. Tropical American trees
- 6. Leveled
- 7. Published false statement
- 8. Adolescent
- 9. Junior’s father
- 12. Aurochs
- 13. Not low
- 17. Boxing’s GOAT
- 19. Short musical composition
- 20. Small immature herrings
- 21. Eavesdropper
- 25. Parcels of land
- 29. Anger
- 31. Irritations
- 32. Hindu holy man
- 33. Wicker basket for fish
- 35. Natural object
- 38. Transporting in a vehicle
- 41. A dog is one
- 43. Smaller portion
- 44. Sew
- 45. Belonging to a thing
- 46. Horsley and Greenwood are two
- 47. Scottish language
- 49. Producer
- 56. Exclamation of surprise
- 57. Russian river



# SPORTS

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## North County defeats B-Town in Legion playoffs

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN—Following a loss at Northbridge Post 343 on June 28, the North County Post 129 Legion baseball team had a 2-7-1 record. The Post 129 squad closed out the regular season by winning seven of their final ten games and qualified for the state playoffs.

While North County just squeaked into the playoffs as the sixth-place finisher in District 4, Belchertown was the best baseball team in District 3 throughout the regular season.

The two Legion baseball teams faced each other in the opening round of the state playoffs at the Belchertown High School baseball field last Saturday afternoon. North County scored three unearned runs in the first inning and posted a 3-0 shut-out victory over the top-seeded team in the Region 1 pod.

"We started playing very well as a team during the second half of the regular season," said North County righthander Levi Hessel, who was the winning pitcher in the opening round game. "I had a 3-0 lead to protect before I walked out to the mound for the first time in the bottom of the first

inning."

Hessel was a member of the Oakmont Regional varsity baseball team, which won back-to-back Division 3 state titles in 2023-24. He'll be playing baseball at Wheaton College next year.

The righthander only allowed four base hits in 5 2/3 innings in his start against Belchertown.

North County, which plays its home games at the Winchendon School, has a total of seven Oakmont players listed on their roster. They also have three players from Quabbin Regional in Barre.

They are Alijah Flint, Adam Adams, and Aiden Lapointe, who pinch hit in the seventh inning.

The Legion playoff format was changed this year. The first round of the Legion double elimination playoffs were held at seven different sites throughout the state. Each of the pods had four teams.

The Senior Division Championship Tournament is scheduled to take place at Adams Field, Quincy, Massachusetts starting on July 26.

North County (9-10-1) was one of the three Legion teams who defeated the top-seeded team in the opening round.

"We managed to score three runs in the first inning

before they shut us down over the final six," said North County head coach Gregg Picucci. "We played well defensively, and our two pitchers pitched very well. We just need to perform a little bit better offensively."

The only team from District 4 who beat Belchertown (12-2) during the regular season was Northampton Post 28 on June 13.

"We don't enjoy losing, but it's part of baseball," said Belchertown head coach

Please see **LEGION**, page 10

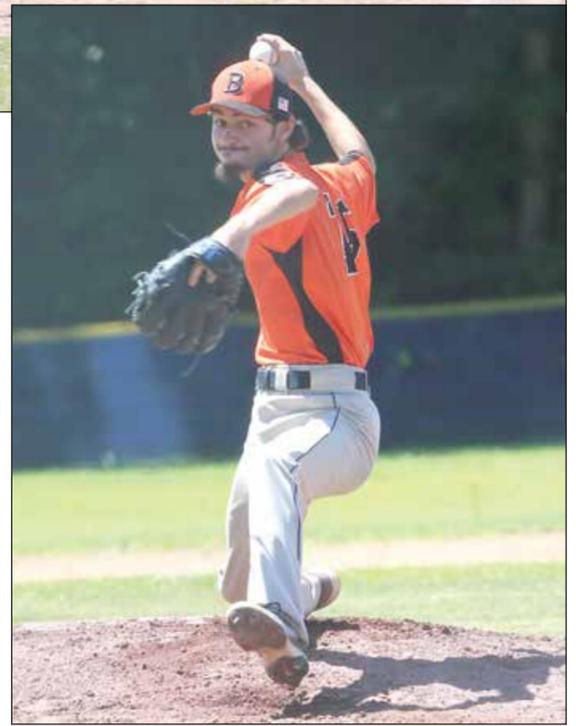


TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY  
WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Ian MacDonald ranges to his right to make a play.



Jake Waller grabs a grounder.



Alex West delivers a pitch home.

## Mustangs squeak by Rams in summer tilt

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

MONSON—Many outstanding soccer players have played for the Monson girls' varsity soccer team over the years. You can certainly add Hannah Murphy's name to that list.

During last Friday night's Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League B-Division match-up with Granby, Murphy recorded a hat-trick as the Lady Mustangs

squeaked out a 3-2 victory at Larry Tassinari Field in Monson.

"We were very excited about playing tonight's game because we play in the same league as Granby during the regular season," Murphy said. "It gave us an opportunity to see how they'll be in the fall. We were missing a couple of key starters, but we were still able to pull off the win. We're just getting ready

Please see **RAMS**, page 10



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY  
WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Kaelynn Slapski sends a pass away.



Caroline Koziol watches a pass go away.

## Pioneers grab win in playoffs

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Four days after giving up a pair of stoppage time goals and having to settle for a tie against rival Vermont Green FC in the regular season finale, the Western Mass. Pioneers hosted the Long Island Rough Riders in a USL League Two play-in match.

Once again, the Pioneers held a two-goal advantage late in the second half, but this time there wouldn't be any miracle comeback by the opposing team. The Pioneers advanced into the Eastern Conference quarterfinals with a 2-0 shutout victory before a large crowd at Lusitano Stadium, last Tuesday night.

"We're very happy with this result, especially after what happened on Friday night," said longtime Western Mass. Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. "It was in the back of my mind during tonight's game. You just hope it doesn't happen

again."

The Pioneers, who finished the regular season with a 10-1-3 record, played their last home game of the season.

Pioneers' goalie Trey Sheppard, who made his first home start of the season against Vermont, was feeling much better after posting his first shutout against the Rough Riders.

"I didn't sleep very well the other night, but I received a lot of support from my teammates," said Sheppard, who's from Columbus, Ohio. "I just forgot about the past and focused on tonight's game. I'm really looking forward to playing for this team again next year."

Sheppard is also one of the goalies listed on the Amherst College men's soccer roster. The Mammoths are the defending NCAA Division 3 National Champions.

Sheppard, who's going to

Please see **PIONEERS**, page 11

## Catalano scores win at Monadnock

WINCHESTER, New Hampshire — For Tommy Catalano, watching his brother Trevor earn his first NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour victory at Monadnock Speedway last year was emotional for several reasons.

Trevor's triumph came in only his eighth NASCAR

Whelen Modified Tour appearance. Entering Saturday's Duel at the Dog 200 at Monadnock Speedway, Tommy had 96 career starts on his resume, none of which had resulted in a win despite several close calls.

Years of patience and hard work brought a second

Catalano to Monadnock's Victory Lane in thrilling fashion.

Tommy was tasked with fending off Patrick Emerling during an overtime restart while on older tires. Emerling briefly took the lead from Tommy, but

Please see **RACE**, page 10

## Western Mass. softball captures gold

DEVENS — Earlier this month, the entrant from Western Massachusetts captured the gold in this year's Bay State Summer Games for softball.

The tournament began this year with West team actually suffering a loss 3-0 in the opener playing in the Willard Field Complex in Devens. The tournament started on July 8

with two games. Following an opening loss, the West bounced back with a 4-3 win over the Northeast team.

Action continued on Wednesday July 9 as the West scored two wins in the game. They defeated Metro 2-1 and then trounced on Central Mass. team 10-2 to earn a spot in the gold medal game, which took place on

Thursday, July 10. The West found itself in a rematch with Coastal and this time prevailed in a slugfest, winning 11-7.

Among the players on this year's team from Western Mass., Chelsea Hull of Monson High School, Agawam's Alexina Lentos, and Holyoke's Mia Bauer were on the team.

## SPORTS

# Blue Sox scored slugfest win before break

HOLYOKE – The Valley Blue Sox had great offensive success in their 14-11 victory over the Sanford Mainers. Valley (16-19) had the bats going early thanks to shortstop Michael Elko and right fielder Isaac Wachsmann, however, Sanford (18-18) started the offensive explosion first.

In the top of the first, Mainers' Zack Kent singled up the middle to score Domenico Tozzi. Peter Koblinsky scored an earned run on an E2 by Hayden Perry and Kent scored unearned. Sanford had a dominant top of the second inning, scoring four more insurance runs thanks to wild pitches and an error by the Blue Sox.

Valley found their footing in the bottom of the inning. It started with Wyatt Hunt being hit by a pitch which was followed by Andrew Loikits' double. An E6 error occurred which allowed Hunt to score and Loikits to advance to third. Kai Cunningham then singled into center field scoring Loikits. Cunningham found his way down to second base on a nice steal and was then driven in to score off of a single by Chris Carson. It was now 7-3 at the end of two innings.

Sanford acquired two

runners on first and second before Sam Miller nuked a three run home run shot into left field to make it 10-3 heading into the bottom of the third.

Just when it looked like the Blue Sox were going to be crushed by the Mainers, Valley had an incredible offensive explosion. Wachsmann crushed a homer into left field to start the scoring frenzy. Nichols Spaventa and Hunt walked and then Loikits reached first base on an E1 which allowed Spaventa to score to make it 10-5. Cunningham hit a sac ground out to score Hunt and advance Loikits. Hayden Perry walked to reach first. Carson drove a ball into left center to score Loikits and advance Perry to third. Then Michael Elko came to the plate. Elko ripped a triple into right field scoring Perry, Carson and himself on an E4 to tie the game at 10-10. Wachsmann came up to bat for the second time that inning and crushed a homer into the same exact spot as before to give Valley their first lead of the night 11-10 to end the inning.

Wachsmann was hyped about his home runs. "There was not a lot going through my head [during the home runs.] I was just trying to

put together good at bats and help the team get back into the game."

Valley's Head Coach Endy Morales was impressed with Wachsmann's performance. "He's a super talented guy and when pitchers make mistakes and when facing really good hitters, you make them pay, that's just the name of the game right there."

More scoring occurred in the bottom of the fourth. Hunt tripled which was then followed by Loikits walking and stealing second. Cunningham then walked to load the bases up. Perry's sac ground out scored Hunt and advanced Loikits to third. Carson walked and then Elko slapped a double off the center field wall to drive in Loikits and Carson. The Blue Sox were now up 14-10.

Sanford was ultimately not able to catch up to Valley's explosive offensive momentum as the game ended 14-11 in favor of the Blue Sox.

Morales was hyped about the win. "Absolutely incredible [game]. I told the [team] in the second inning this game was going to be a dog fight and they responded," Morales said.

## Quabbin Valley Baseball set to host second over-28 fall league

Following up on the resounding success of its inaugural campaign, the Quabbin Valley Baseball League, an over-28 adult baseball league will hold its second Fall League this September and October.

Seeking to create a similar competition environment to its spring/summer league, Quabbin Valley, with contributions from the Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League, created a four-team fall league last year featuring the Braves, Dodgers, Cardinals, and Twins.

Those same four teams are set to return and each team tends to have openings on them. Additionally, the league is open to wel-

coming more teams in to the league if it finds enough interest.

While the fall league schedule is still under construction, it will mostly feature Sunday morning games played with woodbat only, which is customary for fall baseball. There could be some Saturday games added to the schedule depending on the completion of the spring/summer season as well as to makeup rainouts, potentially. Games are nine-innings long and there is a small playoff and championship held at the end of the season. Last year's fall season was eight games and that is the goal for this year. Free and low-cost fields

are used as well as just one umpire in an effort to keep the costs lower for players. The cost to play will likely range from \$40 to \$60 for the eight-game schedule. Players from outside the Quabbin League may also pay a small fee for insurance as well.

An interest/registration form, will be forthcoming soon, but until then, to express interest in the league, you can email the coordinators of the league at either GScibelli22@yahoo.com or ikhandfield@gmail.com.

Scheduled and team placement for unaffiliated players will be finalized in mid-to-late August. Please join in the fun this fall.

### RACE from page 9

a nudge to Emerling's back bumper knocked him out of the groove just enough for Tommy to earn an emotional breakthrough victory by the slimmest of margins – .007 seconds.

"I didn't really want to get [Emerling] like that into [turn three]," Tommy said. "I was hoping to kind of move him up the hill a little bit. Everyone was kind of tight right there. Justin [Bonsignore] was right on my bumper. It's unbelievable. "Hopefully this isn't the last one."

After starting 12th, Tommy cycled to the second position after electing to stay on track during a caution with 42 laps remaining that, ironically, involved his brother Trevor.

Tommy lined up second behind Luke Baldwin for the ensuing restart, with Tyler Rypkema providing the two a buffer between Emerling, who led the remaining lead lap cars off pit road. Knowing he needed to move quickly, Tommy dove underneath Baldwin in Turn 1 to take the lead, which also pinned Emerling on the top line.

By the time Emerling worked his way back to second behind Tommy, another caution would trigger an overtime restart. The fastest

car at Monadnock all evening would now be lined up to Tommy's outside for the final two-lap sprint, but even with the odds against him, the seasoned veteran was not ready to surrender the win just yet.

Emerling led at the white flag. Through determination and sheer will, Tommy led at the checkered flag, albeit just barely.

The scene in Victory Lane was nearly identical to last year's Duel at the Dog 250, with the only difference being the role reversal of the brothers.

As the Catalanos celebrated, Emerling felt a mix of frustration and disappointment with his second-place effort. He was critical of the maneuver Tommy pulled on him to take the victory but does not plan to linger on Saturday's defeat for long.

"We had the best car today," Emerling said. "We led basically the whole race and the whole team executed really good. We were doing exactly what we had to do and had the race won in the last corner but got smashed out of the way. That's not the type of racing that I do, but I guess that's how it goes."

If Emerling had edged Tommy at the line, he would have snapped a streak of different winners to open 2025, having previously won at New Smyrna Speedway.

Austin Beers' victory at Lancaster Motorplex last weekend tied the record for seven different winners in seven events that was set in 1999.

Instead, Tommy's valiant effort during the final laps set a new NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour record; eight winners in the first eight races.

Building up Catalano Motorsports has been a prolonged, methodical effort not only by Tommy, but his mother Amy, his father Dave, his brothers and every member of his team. That elusive first victory finally arrived on Saturday, a day Tommy wasn't sure would ever materialize.

"It's just nuts," Tommy said. "You see all the people that have won so far this year and if you said any of them were going to win their second race [this year], that wouldn't have surprised me at all. To come here and do what we did is phenomenal."

"You start getting down thinking it's not meant to be, but you keep plugging away and keep at it."

Kyle Bonsignore finished third in his 100th NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour start, followed by his cousin Justin Bonsignore and Beers. The rest of the top 10 included Rypkema, Baldwin, Stephen Kopcik, Craig Lutz and Anthony Nocella.



Margo Healey gets ready to clear the ball.



Kaylee Vincelette looks to trap the ball.

### RAMS from page 9

for the fall."

Murphy will be the only senior listed on the Monson varsity soccer roster.

"It's my last year playing for the varsity soccer team," Murphy said. "I just want to leave my team off in a good place. I really like helping the younger players on the team."

Granby and Monson are members of the Central Division.

A couple of Monson's younger key players are Avery Beaudoin, and Emma Maziarz.

The Lady Mustangs entered the final week of the PVSSL regular season sitting in first place in the B-Division standings with an 8-1 mark.

The Lady Rams (6-3) were tied for third place with the Chicopee Pacers, Frontier and Ludlow.

In the second meeting of last season between the two squads, which was also played at Tassinari Field, Murphy scored a late goal giving her team an exciting 2-1 senior day victory.

Murphy, who has been playing for the varsity team since she was an eighth grader, has compiled 150 career goals. She netted 49 of those goals as a junior last fall.

After graduating from Monson High School in the spring of 2026, Murphy plans to continue playing college soccer at the Division 1 level. She has made a



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM  
Bri-Anne Kraus dribbles up the field.

verbal commitment to join the women's soccer team at Sacred Heart University, which is in Fairfield, Connecticut.

Murphy's older sister, Emma, is a member of the UMass-Dartmouth women's soccer team.

Monson took a 1-0 lead in last Friday's summer league match in the fifth minute of the opening half.

After receiving a pass, Murphy made a move around Granby goalie Meredith Bartosz before firing a shot into the open net.

A little more than ten minutes later, Murphy weaved around a couple of defenders before putting a low shot into the left corner giving the home team a 2-0 advantage.

Then a shot attempt by Eleanor Szlosek was saved by Monson goalie Audrey Gregoire, who's entering the seventh grade.

The Lady Mustangs nor-

mal starting keeper is Grace Berry.

Granby managed to cut the deficit in half when Carli Zobka delivered a pass to Sofia Marsh, who scored a goal, with a couple of minutes remaining in the opening half.

The score remained 2-1 until the middle of the second half when Murphy completed her hat-trick.

With about ten minutes remaining in regulation, Marsh netted her second goal, which made the score 3-2.

Margo Healey had a shot on goal for the visiting team, but Gregoire made the save, which helped the Lady Mustangs keep the lead.

The two regular season meetings between the Granby and Monson girls' soccer teams are scheduled to take place on Sept. 19 and Oct. 9.

### LEGION from page 9

Todd McDonald. "We just made a couple of costly mistakes in the first inning of today's game. Their starting pitcher also pitched well. He just kept throwing strikes."

North County, who was the visiting team, began the top of the first inning with a leadoff walk by centerfielder Johnny Losordo. After the next batter hit a pop-up caught by Belchertown shortstop Ian McDonald, Losordo stole second base. Then Hessel hit a flyball that was misplayed by the right fielder, which turned out to be a key play in the inning. Following another pop-up caught by second baseman Jake Waller, North County scored their first run when leftfielder Ben Forbes hit a line-drive single to left.

Two more runs crossed the plate following another single into left field by third baseman Steven Escano.

Hessel set down the side in order in the home half of the first inning before Belchertown put together a rally in the bottom of the second.

Catcher Jacob Smith (2-for-3) began things with an infield hit to third before advancing to second base on a throwing error. DH Chace



TURLEY PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM  
Evan Ferguson fires a throw back to the infield.

Earle also had an infield hit before a walk to first baseman Thatcher Rudnik loaded the bases. Hessel then proceeded to strike out the next threat batters ending the threat.

Hessel finished his outstanding performance with a total of nine strikeouts.

Belchertown had three more base runners in the following frame, but once again failed to score.

After allowing three unearned runs in the first inning, Belchertown righthander Alex West retired eight consecutive batters

before giving up another single to Escano with one out in the fourth.

At that point, West was relieved by Earle, who loaded the bases with two outs in the inning.

Belchertown center fielder Spencer Waite made an outstanding diving catch on a line drive hit by Losordo which ended the fourth inning.

The home team loaded the bases again with two outs in the bottom of the sixth.

Forbes, who replaced Hessel on the mound during that inning, got out of that jam without allowing any runs following a strikeout.

Earle, who's a righty, retired the final eight batters that he faced. McDonald set down the only batter that he faced in the top of the seventh on a flyball to center.

Forbes, who plays baseball at Fitchburg State University, also retired the three batters that he faced in the seventh inning, which sealed the upset victory for North County.

Belchertown kept their season alive with a 5-0 win against Northampton on Sunday morning.

North County suffered an 11-3 loss to Leominster Post 151 in a winner's bracket game.

**PIONEERS** from page 9

be a sophomore in the fall, missed most of the Pioneers regular season because the Amherst men's soccer team made a trip to Europe where they played several matches.

"It was definitely a very cool experience," he said. "We played a few games over there, but I'm very glad they gave me an opportunity to play here."

Sheppard certainly enjoyed having a solid defense in front of him led by Pioneers captain Aidan Kelly, who's a member of the UMass-Amherst men's soccer team.

"Aidan is a great defender," Sheppard said. "He makes all of the plays."

The other three Pioneers starting defenders in the home finale were Jaiden Willems, Juan Hermoso, and Gustavo Barosa.

Willems suffered an injury in the middle of the first half against Long Island (9-3-1). He was replaced by Jared Smith.

"I thought Jared was the man of the match," Sheppard added. "We have a very good defense."

The play-in match was scoreless until the 26th minute of the opening half.

That's when Mamadi Jiana, who graduated from Chicopee High School, received a pass from Israel Neto before blasting a shot into the net.

"I felt very good after scoring what turned out to be the game winning goal in front of the hometown crowd," said Jiana, who mostly likely played his final match wearing a Pioneers jersey at Lusitano Stadium. "It's always very special whenever we're playing at home."

A couple of minutes later, Neto fired a shot from the top of the box, but Long Island goalie Ethan Wood managed to knock the ball over the crossbar resulting in a corner kick.

The Pioneers held a 1-0 halftime advantage.

In the middle of the second half, Neto chipped a pass



Juan Hermoso heads up the field but eyes an open teammate.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM  
Rees Sheppard socks a free kick away.

from the right side of the box to a wide Santiago Blasco Gomez, who put the ball into the net giving the Pioneers a 2-0 advantage.

Unlike what happened in

the regular season finale, Sheppard and the defense didn't allow the Rough Riders to make a late comeback.



Gustavo Barbosa gets a leg on the ball.

**■ PUBLIC SAFETY**

**Belchertown Police Log**

*Editor's note: The following are brief explanations of select entries in the Belchertown Police log and arrests for the weeks of June 27 through July 1. 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**

**ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS**  
**Friday, July 11**

12:59 p.m. – A resident turned in a sword they no longer wanted to own. It was entered into the property to be destroyed.

1:47 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on George Hannum Road. A vehicle traveling westbound going to the underpass was forced off the road into an embankment by a second vehicle that failed to yield going eastbound. The driver of the first vehicle said they weren't sure if they were struck by the second vehicle. It was a dark colored pickup truck. One vehicle was towed, and no injuries were reported. The second vehicle was not found.

**Monday, July 14**

1:04 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Daniel Shay's Highway. A vehicle stopped to take a turn onto Munsell Street and was rear-ended by a second vehicle. Both vehicles were traveling north on Daniel Shay's Highway. There was heavy front-end damage to the second vehicle, which was towed. No injuries reported.

2:37 p.m. – An officer spoke with a resident concerning an ongoing neighbor dispute. There were property stakes removed from the property line.

3:37 p.m. – Police and fire responded to a single-vehicle accident involving a broken utility pole. There was a rollover with injuries. The vehicle was rolled onto the driver's side, and there was a snapped utility pole hanging in the air. Warren Wright Road is a 35-MPH, thickly settled area, and an officer spoke with a passenger in the van. They were transported to the hospital. Allegations were made that the person was speeding at the time of the accident. The operator was also transported to the hospital. A person got out of the vehicle and then lay on the side of the road after get-



ting out of the vehicle. They were able to get video from a security camera of the incident. The video showed the vehicle rolling over on the driver's side, and showed the person getting out. An immediate threat was filed. The incident is under investigation. The vehicle was towed.

**Monday, July 14**

4:32 p.m. – A 60-year-old Belchertown man charged with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon. An officer responded to a residence concerning an incident earlier that day involving a lost pet. The person advised that the pet was found. The person went to a residence to retrieve the pet. An argument ensued. The resident hit the person on the shoulder with their door. The person said their shoulder was injured but declined medical treatment. They requested that charges be filed.

**Tuesday, July 15**

12:40 p.m. – Belchertown police responded to assist Belchertown Fire and paramedics with an accidental overdose.

4:09 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident. Vehicle one stopped on Federal Street, and vehicle two rear-ended the first vehicle. No tows and no injuries.

5:17 p.m. – An officer spoke with a resident about folks on a boat along the lake while they were out, who were yelled at by a person. The person used offensive language. The officers spoke with the person who didn't answer the door.

10:25 p.m. – An officer responded to State Street for a report of threatening and hostile messages. They wanted extra patrols around the residence.

**Granby Police Log**

*Editor's Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 144 calls for the week*

of July 4 through July 10. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The Granby Police Department provides all information.

**Friday, July 4**

9:46 p.m. – Numerous fireworks complaints were reported throughout town. Officers patrolled the areas in question, but the fireworks had ceased before their arrival.

**Monday, July 7**

4:35 p.m. – A resident called to inform us of a potential scam on Facebook involving identity theft.

**Tuesday, July 8**

12:39 p.m. – A resident reported that they had been on the phone for an hour with a scammer. The scammer wanted the resident to pick up money that they had reportedly won. The resident was advised that it was a scam and to stop talking with the caller.

**Wednesday, July 9**

1:21 p.m. – A motorist reported an aggressive driver who was tailgating them and then passed them and other cars in a no-passing zone. The vehicle was described as a green Subaru. Officers checked the area but were unable to locate the Subaru.

**Thursday, July 10**

6:18 a.m. – Several callers reported that a vehicle drove off the road, struck a utility pole, and was on fire. Callers reported that the utility pole was knocked down and was blocking the roadway. Granby Police and Fire responded. The roadway was closed for several hours while the utility pole was replaced. There were no injuries. The operator was issued a written warning for crossing marked lanes and failure to notify the RMV of an address change.



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**OBITUARY**

**Jacquelyn Corbett**

May 31, 1932, to July 16, 2025

Jacquelyn Corbett, 93, a cherished mother, grandmother, and friend, passed away peacefully on July 16, 2025, at Baystate Hospital in Springfield, MA. Born on May 31, 1932, in Sterling, MA, she was the daughter of Franklin Jacobs and Marion (Pearson) Horta.



and five siblings: Doris, Marion, Ramona, Donna, and Juanita. She is survived by her four daughters: Linda White and her husband Robert of East Lyme, CT; Sheila Masi and her husband Mark of West Springfield; Jacquelyn Demers and her husband Scott of Belchertown; and Patricia McDonald of Enfield, CT. She took immense pride in her nine grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren, who brought her endless joy and love. Additionally, she leaves behind many nieces and nephews who cherished her deeply.

Jacquelyn devoted her life to nurturing those around her. She worked as a caregiver for many years, devoting herself to the well-being of others. Her compassionate spirit was evident in every aspect of her life. Prior to her caregiving career, she was employed at the Belchertown State School.

A woman of varied interests, Jacquelyn found great joy in family gatherings and cherished moments spent at York Beach in Maine, her happy place. She also dedicated her time as a volunteer at the Holyoke Soldiers' Home.

In 1978, Jacquelyn moved to Belchertown. She spent the last eight years of her life at Christopher Heights, a residence where she enjoyed the company of fellow residents. Her family expresses heartfelt gratitude to the staff there for their exceptional care and support throughout her final years.

In honoring Jacquelyn's memory, all services will be held privately, in accordance with her wishes. For more information, please visit [www.beersandstory.com](http://www.beersandstory.com)

Jacquelyn was predeceased by her beloved husband, Robert D. Corbett,

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**PUBLIC NOTICE DESTRUCTION OF STUDENT SPECIAL EDUCATION RECORDS**

Please be advised that the Special Education Records from Granby JR. SR. High School Class of 2016 and 2017, along with the records of students released from special education services during the 2015-2016, 2016-2017 school year, will be destroyed the week of August 18, 2025. If you wish to obtain your records, please contact the Special Education office @ 413-409-5393 ext. 1024 prior to Friday August 15, 2025 in order to make arrangements for pick up. Please note that identification will be required at the time of record retrieval. 07/17, 07/24/2025

**NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE**

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage Deed, Security Agreement and Assignment of Leases and Rents, given by 55 Main Project, LLC and Shelle Realty, LLC, to Bluedog Capital Partners, LLC, dated March 30, 2022, and recorded at the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 14510 Page 40 (the "Mortgage") of which Mortgage Bluedog Capital Partners, LLC is the present holder, for breach of conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at **Public Auction at 11:00 a.m. on August 5, 2025**, on the mortgaged premises located at 55 Main Street, Belchertown, Massachusetts 01007, a portion of the premises described in the Mortgage.

TO WIT:  
The land in Belchertown,

Hampshire County, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a point on the southerly side of Jackson Street, formerly known as Walnut Street, said point being the northwest corner of the parcel herein conveyed and thence running:

N. 92 ° 1' E. along Jackson Street, two hundred forty-seven (247) feet to the point of intersection of the southerly line of Jackson Street and the westerly line of Main Street; thence turning and running

S. 18 ° 24'20" E. along Main Street, seventy-seven (77) feet; thence turning and running

S. 72° 30' E. two hundred thirty-seven (237) feet; thence turning and running

N. 14° 45' W. one hundred fifty (150) feet to the point of beginning.

Meaning and intending to convey and hereby conveying the land described in a deed of Majorie D. Peeso to Adelphis R. Germain, et ux, dated April 20, 1946 and recorded with Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 1004, Page 50, EXCEPTING so much of the land as was conveyed by deed of Catherine M. Germain to Sidney T. Wheble, Jr., et ux, dated May 18, 1954 and recorded in Book 1167 at Page 333.

For reference, see plan entitled "Land in Belchertown, Survey by A. D. Lapolice", recorded as aforesaid in Book of Plans 45, page 60.

For title reference see deed recorded herewith.

The premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and other municipal assessments and liens, and subject to prior liens or other enforceable encumbrances of recorded entitled to precedence over the Mortgage, and subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, reservations and conditions of record and subject to all tenancies and/or rights of parties in possession.

**TERMS OF SALE:**  
A deposit of Twenty-five Thousand and 00/100

(\$25,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The high bidder will be required to sign a Memorandum of Sale upon acceptance of bid. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Peter A. Saulino, P.C., 550 Locust Street, Fall River, Massachusetts 02720, or by mail to 550 Locust Street, Fall River, Massachusetts 02720, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said Mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

**Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.**

Bluedog Capital partners, LLC, Present holder of said Mortgage Deed, Security Agreement and Assignment of Leases and Rents,

By its Attorneys,  
PETER A. SAULINO, P.C.  
PETER A. SAULINO,  
Saulino & Silvia, P.C.  
550 Locust Street  
Fall River, MA 02720  
PH: (508) 675 - 7770  
07/17, 07/24, 07/31/2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No.  
HD25P0424EA  
Estate of:  
James Joseph Szymt  
Also known as:  
Jim Szymt, James J. Szymt  
Date of Death: 05/25/2025  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**  
To all interested persons:  
A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy And Appointment of Personal Rep-

resentative has been filed by **Jonathan J. Szymt of Wilbraham, 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: **Jonathan J. Szymt of Wilbraham, 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 08/06/2025. 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. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: July 03, 2025  
**Rosemary A Saccomani,**  
Register of Probate  
07/24/2025

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*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 and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

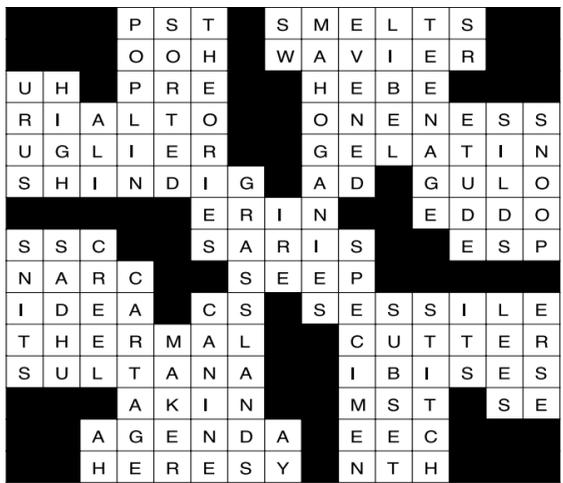
Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

**PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE**

- 1 Email all notices to [notices@turley.com](mailto: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.

**Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.**

visit [www.publicnotices.turley.com](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)



**Send Us Your Autumn Event Information**

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

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

**Deadline for Calendar submissions is August 11.**

**Community Autumn Events**

**Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public**

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

Event Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date/Time \_\_\_\_\_

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](mailto:jamie@turley.com)  
\*Be sure to indicate "Autumn Event" in the subject line of your email.

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**TOWN OF WORTHINGTON HIGHWAY POSITION OPENING**

The Town of Worthington is soliciting letters of interest and resumes from qualified candidates for a **full-time Equipment Operator/General Laborer** position within the Highway Department. Valid MA CDL operator, Hydraulic Hoister's licenses and OSHA-10 certification is preferred.

More in-depth information can be found on the Town's website: **www.worthington-ma.us**  
Questions will be answered by the Highway Superintendent at 64 Huntington Road, Monday - Friday, 7 AM to 3 PM; the telephone number is 413-238-5830 or send letter of interest, resume and three (3) references with relevant contact information to **highway@worthington-ma.us** and **sboard@worthington-ma.us**. This posting will remain pertinent until the position is filled.  
*The Town of Worthington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

**Post your job openings in our classifieds. WE GET RESULTS!**

**HELP WANTED**

**TRUCK DRIVER/LABORER**

The Town of Peru Highway Department is now accepting applications for the position of **Truck Driver/Laborer**. Preferred applicants will have a valid Class B CDL, Class 2A Hoisting license, and a current DOT Physical card. Construction and mechanical experience preferred. Must be able to work in all weather conditions. Position is full time 40hrs/week with mandatory overtime during snowstorms. Excellent benefits. Email resume to: **townadmin@townof-peru.ma.com** or mail to **Town of Peru, Board of Selectmen, 3 East Main Rd. Suite 107, Peru MA 01235**. For additional information contact the Highway Superintendent at (413) 655-8224. *(The Town of Peru is an equal opportunity employer).*

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**ALL REAL ESTATE** advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.  
This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
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The Zawalski family: Jeff, JenaRose, and Zackery ready to learn the basics of swordplay.



Allison Pettengail teaching the group how to hold the sword properly.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

**SWORD** from page 1

of Dungeons and Dragons, including an event on learning to wield a longsword, was the perfect match to an adventure-filled theme for the summer.

"I'm a curious person, and I love learning, so keep levelling up and learning more because it's fun," said Pettengail. "Having access through your library makes a huge difference."

The lessons are taught from a variety of old European texts, where the master's themselves wrote out their lessons and drew pictures, but in a language that is now dead, making the process challenging.

"European sword fighting is different from Middle Eastern and Asian sword fighting, and the techniques you have to learn about are pretty much in foreign languages, so you have to translate them into something you can understand and look at the pictures that were drawn before perspective drawing became a thing," said Pettengail.

The tradition of European

Martial Arts was almost lost because of the introduction of gunpowder and guns, but people today have found a way to bring back the old ways of the sword.

The lesson teaches the students to guard, but also how to move when "cutting" so you are protecting yourself and pick out a picture from one of the manuals to try to help people figure out how to do it.

"The sword lessons I teach are pretty hard and fast, for ages 12 and up only. The reason I do that is because the organization HEMA, or the Historical European Martial Arts, which is trying to bring back Eastern European Martial Arts," said Pettengail.

From learning to hold the sword to learning to swing it the right way, the lessons bring you into history in a more real way, where you can experience it as you learn about what the masters of old taught and how they fought.

"It is fun, and it is challenging, and you get to reach

out and hit your friends," Pettengail joked. "It's a lot of fun, though, and learning the techniques is a lot of fun."

The way you swing the sword is different from what many might believe, because you have to have it at the right angle, or you'll just slap someone with the face of the blade rather than cutting with the edge of it.

Pettengail started teaching in the early 2000s, and since then has found many more books translated to include the techniques of many individuals, including both left and right-handed duelists.

"When I first got into it, we wore these really padded swords with hockey gloves and padding, and now HEMA has whole suits you can purchase, and now we also have more translations and even more knowledge of the martial arts."

Learning the way of the sword also helps dispel a popular myth that longswords are heavy, whereas the reality is that they are much lighter, only about two to four pounds each, to make swinging the sword easier and much more realistic.

We can find this in the evidence that the 10-pound swords were used for parades or show, as they rarely, if ever, saw battle with not a nick in the metal to be seen. Another source is the tale of the Black Knight, who fought for a full day, swinging his sword for hours on end, a feat hardly believable with something more than a few pounds.

"I believe that for anyone who studies anything in history, getting to dispel all the myths is the best part," said



Two facsimiles, books that are a reproduction to be a look-alike to its original.



The longswords ready to be wielded.



Alex Pettengail showing how to hold the sword.



Learning to wield a sword is definitely a bragging point.

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