

New sign placement policy executed

By Melina Bourdeau
Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN - The Selectboard adopted a new policy restricting sign placement on public property, particularly on the town common, in response to growing concerns about sign proliferation.

Town Manager Steve Williams explained the rationale behind the new policy during the July 21 Select Board meeting.

"According to our bylaws, chapter 145, section 22, no signs are allowed on the common or anywhere within public ways without Select Board permission," Williams said.

The policy stems from numerous community complaints about excessive signage throughout the town.

Please see **SIGN**, page 4

Music and fun to raise money for vet's memorial

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

GRANBY - Last weekend, members of the community got together at the pavilions at Dufresne Park for an evening of good food, good music, and the

chance to support a worthy cause.

The Friends of the Granby Veterans hosted a Saturday in the Park event with music from A Ray of Elvis, as well as some good food from the grill, 50/50 and basket raffles, T-shirts, and more to raise money

to support the Granby Veterans Memorial Fund.

"It's really nice, and we love to see the support and have people come out. Tonight is evidence of a tremendous outpouring of

Please see **MEMORIAL**, page 11



The memorial at the center of town by the Public Safety complex.

TURLEY PHOTO BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS



Time for a magic trick with colors...

TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

Jungle Jim brings laughter and fun to children at the library

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

GRANBY - Taking some time out of your day to visit the library is the perfect thing to do on a hot summer Friday, but seeing a balloon magic show at the library is even better.

The library hosted Jungle Jim last Friday for a fun and special performance of magic and colors as a part of the end of the Minecraft Week.

Jim Manning has been a family entertainer for the past 22 years, finding a love for it after going to Australia in 2003 after he

graduated college. While in Australia, he showed off his balloon twisting skills to some kids who had never seen it, and they loved it. He realized then he had found what he wanted to do with his life.

Please see **JUNGLE JIM**, page 14

Local author teaches kids to care for animals

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

BELCHERTOWN - Author Jennifer Welborn teaches the art of empathy with animals with her children's book, "Dr. Rosie Helps the Animals", which is based on her husband, a wildlife veterinarian.

"I started thinking about whether or not a giraffe got sore throats, and then I started to think about other animals in the same way, and I learned a lot about how similar animals are to us," said Welborn.

Using her undergraduate degree in wildlife management, master's degree in science education, and experience as a fifth-grade teacher, she created a story that makes learning about science fun.

"I loved working directly with a former colleague who was an illustrator, and it was during Covid when we had time to touch base via Zoom," said Welborn. "Now that I'm a retired STEM educator, this book brings back parts of my life that feel very full circle for me. It's got education in it and empathy and learning to take care of



TURLEY PHOTO BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

Janina Lavoie and loveable Bari, who let her practice with her handmade stethoscope.

animals. This book really encompasses all those themes and things I am passionate about."

The book's illustrator, Rozillia MH, illustrated the story the way she saw it, tying in her African American roots into the story

with Rosie. "There is also a social justice part in the book represented, and I really like that," said Welborn.

Fewer than 2% of vet-

Please see **DR. ROSIE**, page 7

Belchertown Twirlers win nationals

BELCHERTOWN - Belchertown Twirlers traveled to South Bend, Indiana, to compete at the National Baton Twirling Association (NBTA) Championships held July 14 to July 18 at the University of Notre Dame. The Belchertown Twirlers competed in the week-long Nationals Championships with twirling athletes from the United States and Canada. Team and individual competitions are held each day. Individual events are judged on the variety and difficulty of tricks within routines, the

speed used to execute tricks, and the showmanship and presentation on the competition floor. Team events are judged by the choreography of routines, unison, and difficulty.

Belchertown Twirlers are proud to be awarded numerous Top Ten placements. The team competed in 8 team events in various age divisions. The team proudly represented MA and was awarded plaques for their 2nd, 3rd (2), 4th, 6th (2),

Please see **TWIRLERS**, page 5



Beloved great-grandmother celebrates her 100th birthday

BELCHERTOWN - Helen Bokyo Towne, born July 31, 1925, in Enfield, MA, will celebrate her 100th birthday this week. She moved to Belchertown in 1935 with her family when the Quabbin was flooded. She has led a very active life, including helping her husband establish and run Don's Auto Service from 1957 to 1991. She helped to pick up parts as there were no delivery services in the 50s and made many trips to South Hadley, as there were

no commercial banks in town at the time. Along with helping to run the business, she raised two daughters and held down the household chores. In her free time, she kept up an incredible garden with her husband, belonged to the Belchertown Garden Club, took part in many flower shows, was the treasurer of the Swift River Valley Historical Society in New Salem, MA, and enjoyed playing golf into her 80s. Today, Helen enjoys reading, playing Mahjong, making puzzles, baking, making soup, watching the Boston Red Sox, golf, bird watching, and most of all spending time with her family.

SUBMITTED PHOTO
Helen Bokyo Towne will be celebrating her 100th birthday this week.

DL&G TREE

Tree
Removal



Structural
Pruning



Crane
Service



Storm
Damage



Stump
Grinding



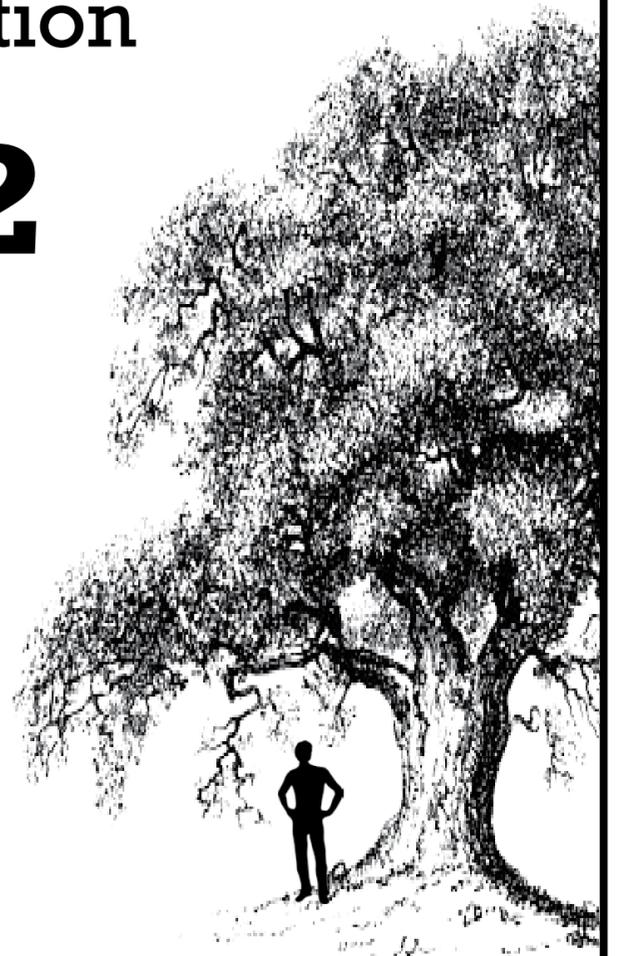
Lot
Clearing



Give us a call for your free estimate
and tree evaluation

413-478-4212

DL&G TREE



INSURED AND CERTIFIED

Annual golf tournament raises funds for leukemia

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

BELCHERTOWN – A picture perfect day was the setting for a golf tournament to benefit a former Palmer High School student

The Matt Z Foundation was formed in honor of Matthew Ziemian, a beloved friend and family member who passed from leukemia in 2012.

“I’ve known Matt ‘Z’ (Ziemian) most of my life; we grew up playing sports together and were part of a lot of very good baseball teams over the years, including the 2005 Western Mass Championship team at Palmer High,” said Matt Skowronek, one of the founders of the Matt Z Foundation.

“We graduated from Palmer High together in 2006, and he went on to play baseball at Nichols College. Matt was inspiring to a lot of people, and he always had an aura of happiness surrounding him and could light up anyone’s day with one of his stories,” said Skowronek.

Matt Skowronek, with his brother, Jim Skowronek, and their friends Matt Marciniak, Chad Windyka, and Matt Z’s sister Becky Evans, started the Matt Z Foundation this past October officially in order to continue their friend and brother’s legacy and his love for both athletics and music.

“The Ziemian family had run a golf tournament almost every year following Matt’s death in 2012 from Leukemia, with a bit of a slowdown during COVID, and after some unfortunate events last year, we thought that the foundation would be the perfect next step,” said Skowronek.

The golf tournament was hosted at Cold Spring Country Club and featured raffles, a food buffet from the Tables Restaurant, and more for the 29 teams of 4 who came out to play for the day.

“We really want to share Matt’s love of sports and music with people,” said Skowronek, sharing that the money raised by the fundraiser goes towards cancer charities like the Jimmy Fund and the Dear Jack Foundation.

The Dear Jack Foundation was founded by Andrew McMahon, the lead singer of Something Corporate, Jack’s Mannequin, and Andrew in the Wilderness, a favorite music artist of Matt Z’s, and who also survived the same cancer Matt Z had.

A huge part of the Matt Z Foundation’s goal and mission is to provide scholarships to graduating seniors who exemplify the spirit of Matt Z with his love passion for music and sports. The goal is to select seniors every year, starting at Palmer High, where Matt Z went, and branching out to other communities over time.

“I’d love for the community to know that this foundation was created to honor a life that was taken way too soon from us, and to continue to tell his story, Matt was an incredible story teller, we used to gather around him in the mornings before school



A group photo of all the 116 teams that came out for the tournament.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



The Foundation’s board of directors, from left to right: Jim Skowronek, Chad Windyka, Becky Evans (Z’s sister), Matt Marciniak, Matt Skowronek.



Don’t forget to stay hydrated before going back onto the course.



Riding in the golf cart to the next part of the course.



Don’t forget your clubs and gloves for a good day on the course.

started just to hear him tell one of his classic stories (like the Hook-em story), so continuing to tell his story and spread the love that he had is our main goal,” said Skowronek.

“It’s an absolute honor to be able to host fundraisers in Matt’s honor, and even more of an honor to have Matt’s family be a part of the foundation. We couldn’t have created the foundation and had a successful fundraiser like this past The Matt Z Foundation Classic without the work that the Ziemian family, Dave (Dad), Sharon (mom), Becky (sister), and friends had put in over the years,” said Skowronek.

Because the Foundation itself is newly established as a 502c(3), they are working hard on outreach to the community, as well as working on more ways to figure out fundraising, as well as preparing for next year’s golf tournament as well.

“The annual golf tournament is great because it brings together a lot of people that have moved away from Palmer over the years, re-unites old high school and college friends and gives the opportunity to create new friendships and share some great stories about Z,” said Skowronek.

“We had an amazing turnout this year, which was

fantastic to see. Hosting it for the first time, we were a bit nervous going in, but everyone rallied in support, especially the local businesses,” said Skowronek. “We wouldn’t have been able to hold this tournament and future tournaments without their support.”

You can reach out to the Foundation with questions or to donate by emailing themattzfoundation@gmail.com, or finding them on their Facebook page, The Matt Z Foundation. You can also donate to their charity Venmo account @ [TheMattZFoundation](https://www.venmo.com/TheMattZFoundation).



It’s a beautiful day to support a worthy cause, and members of the Matt Z Foundation smile for the camera.

LEFT: Getting a hole-in-one is the perfect way to end the day.



Our Own Fresh Corn is Here!

Dickinson Farms & Greenhouse

Our Farmstand Is NOW OPEN!

PYO BLUEBERRIES!

7am-5pm • Weather & Crops Permitting • New Ludlow Road - Now Accepting Credit Cards!
Call Our Farmstand for up-to-date information 467-3794

Our Own Radishes, Leaf Lettuce, Pickles, Scallions, Squashes, Beans, Beets, Cucumbers, Blueberries, Tomatoes, Peaches & Dill

Local Vendors: Gourmet Oils, Fresh Baked Goods, Kettle Corn, French Meat Pies, Turkey Pies, Gibble Potato Chips, Belchertown Maple Syrup, Ice Cream Products

Check Out Our NEW LOCAL VENDORS:

Healthy Dough by Jessica, Wickedly Wild Gourmet Sauces, Beef from Cote’s Longhorn Cattle & More!

Family Owned & Operated

Route 202, 309 East State St., Granby

Open: Mon.-Sat. 8am-7pm
Sun. 8am-6pm

413-467-3794
www.dickinsonsfarm.com



EBT In Store
Most Major Credit Cards Accepted
Sorry No Checks
Gift Certificates Available

COMMUNITY

Belchertown launches senior and veteran tax work-off program

New initiative offers up to \$1,000 in property tax relief in exchange for community service.

BELCHERTOWN – The Town of Belchertown is proud to announce the launch of its Senior and Veteran Tax Work-Off Program, a new initiative that allows eligible residents to reduce their property taxes by up to \$1,000 per year in exchange for volunteer service to the Town. The program was approved at the May 2025 Annual Town Meeting and will begin with a pilot this fall.

Open to residents aged 65 and older or veterans as defined by Massachusetts law, the program offers participants the opportunity to earn tax credit at the state minimum wage by volunteer-

ing in a variety of municipal roles. The credit is applied directly to their property tax bill.

Volunteer positions are available in many areas of Town government and services. Opportunities include outdoor work to help beautify public spaces, working with and supporting students, community outreach efforts, and important office-based roles that help the town run smoothly.

“This is a meaningful way to support residents who have served our community, whether through military service or simply by spending their later years here in Belchertown,” said Town Manager Steve Williams. “The Tax Work-Off Program not only provides financial relief but also creates opportunities for civic engagement and keeps our seniors and veterans connected to the town and its government.”

The pilot phase of the program will run from

September 1 through November 15, 2025, with credits applied to the December 2025 tax bill. Up to ten participants will be accepted in this first year.

To qualify, residents must: Be 65 years of age or older or a veteran;

Have owned and lived in a Belchertown home for at least two years;

Meet income and asset limits;

Submit a completed application by August 15, 2025.

Participants will be interviewed and matched with available assignments based on their skills and interests as well as the needs of the Town.

Applications are available at the Belchertown Senior Center or online at www.belchertown.org/taxworkoff-program. The program is administered by the Senior Center, and interested residents can call (413) 323-0420 with any questions.

Soccer jamboree remembers beloved 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 host-

ed 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 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 @julia3v3jamboree Instagram or Julia’s 3v3 Soccer Jamboree Facebook pages or through Runsingup:



Enjoy a meatball sub while admiring the cars.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Get ready for meatball subs and Cruisin’ on the Common Aug. 9

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown Lions Club will combine its next Meatball Grinder Sales with its “Cruisin’ the Common Memorial Car Show on August 9th (rain date: Aug. 10th)---right on the Town Common, next to the Bandstand. Same deal

as always--12-inch meatball grinder with sauce and cheese, a bag of chips, and a soft drink...all for \$10.

Only this time, you get to walk the Town Common and take in the memories provided by over 200 classic cars, trucks, and motorcycles! Spectators have

free admission. Contestant vehicles--\$20--vying for 25 laser-engraved slate trophy plaques to be awarded following the drawing of the winners of dozens of raffle prizes and a 50-50 Raffle at 1:00 PM.

Spotted Lanternfly confirmed in nearby South Hadley: Belchertown urges residents to stay vigilant

BELCHERTOWN – The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) has confirmed the presence of the invasive spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*), or SLF, in South Hadley. This pest poses a significant threat to local agriculture, forests, and outdoor recreation, and Belchertown officials are urging residents and businesses to be on the lookout and report any sightings. The spotted lanternfly feeds on more than 70 species of plants, including grapevines, maples, hops, and tree-of-heaven. While it does not bite or sting humans or animals, the insect gathers in large numbers and leaves behind a sticky substance called “honeydew”, which can attract other insects and promote mold growth on surfaces. “While no infestation



has been identified in Belchertown at this time, the proximity of this confirmed sighting underscores the need for awareness and early reporting,” said Town Manager Steve Williams. “We encourage residents to familiarize themselves with this pest and report any sightings immediately.” MDAR and USDA surveyors will be working in the region throughout the summer, inspecting trees and other host plants to determine the extent of the infestation. How to Report Spotted Lanternfly:

- Take a photo if possible
- Record the location of

the sighting - Report directly on MDAR’s website: <https://mass.gov/spottedlanternfly>.

Resources for Residents and Businesses:

MDAR has provided fact sheets, identification guides, and public service announcements to help communities recognize and respond to this invasive insect. These materials are available in multiple languages and can be accessed at <https://mass.gov/spotted-lanternfly>.

The Town of Belchertown also has additional information available on its website: <https://www.belchertown.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=82> For more information or to request educational materials, please contact the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources directly or visit the Town of Belchertown website.

SIGN from page 1

Under the new guidelines, organizations and groups must submit a formal request to the Selectboard at least two weeks in advance of their proposed sign placement.

Selectboard member Jen Turner highlighted the challenges faced by local organizations trying to communicate upcoming events.

“We have so much activity going on in town, there’s no way that [one] sandwich board can be enough for everyone,” she said.

The policy creates a significant change for local groups accustomed to more informal

sign placement. Community organizations will need to plan and seek explicit approval for any signs they wish to display on public property.

As an example of the new process, the Belchertown Community Band received special permission to place signs for their upcoming summer concert series. The board approved their request for signs on specific dates: July 24, July 31, Aug. 7, Aug. 14 and Aug. 17.

Board members acknowledged the potential difficulties the new policy might create. Selectboard Chair Lesa Lessard Pearson suggested exploring alternative

communication methods, including the possibility of installing an additional electronic sign near Town Hall to help community groups advertise their events.

“Maybe we could get a grant,” Pearson said, referencing the electronic sign used by the fire department as a potential model.

The town is also developing a comprehensive communication strategy to help organizations navigate the new requirements. Williams indicated committees will be notified about the new sign placement protocol, with a focus on advance planning and formal request procedures.



BELCHERTOWN VFW PRESENTS



2ND ANNUAL MOTORCYCLE BENEFIT RIDE

REGISTRATION 10am - 11am

9TH
AUGUST
2025

\$25 Riders Only - includes shirt

\$15 Passenger

MEETING POINT

Atlas Pub - Chicopee
American Legion - Granby

Tickets can be purchased
in advance at the VFW.

Shirts will be limited at the door



Food / Raffles & Entertainment to Follow at VFW

Food Provided: North Elm Butchers

Entertainment: Bermudez Triangle

THE DOCTORS ARE IN...

NOW ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS!

Call our office to learn more about our practice



Gary J. Nielan, M.D.
Thirza C. Lareau, M.D.
Amy C. Kasper, M.D.
Kimberly A. Dewey, M.D.
Kimberly J. Martins, M.D.
Priya S. Malik, M.D.
Julia Komatsu, M.D.

Melissa Maciborski, M.D.
Shatabdi Pinky, M.D.
Rachel McKenna, N.P.
Solmaz Masoudi, P.A.
Nicole Santos, LMHC
Rachel Kluk, MHC

2 Convenient Locations!

Most Insurances Accepted

2207 Boston Road, Wilbraham • 35 Turkey Hill Road, Suite 205, Belchertown
(413) 599-1201 • Fax: (413) 596-2940 • www.pamcares.com

Wishing this couple a very happy anniversary



Gerry and Barbara Lavalée are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Donate your clutter to St. Francis's giant tag sale

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 dropping 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.

TWIRLERS from page 1

7th, and 8th. Members of the winning teams are Everly LaVallee, Piper LaVallee, Quinn LaVallee, Emelia Maldanis, Evelyn Maldanis, Delaney Ochs, and Mya Weise.

The Belchertown Twirlers competed in the week-long Nationals Championships with over 1,200 twirling athletes. Team and individual competitions are held each day. Events are judged on the variety and difficulty of tricks within routines, the speed used to execute tricks, and the showmanship and presentation on the competition floor.

Delaney Ochs competed in individual events in all Advanced divisions, which is the highest level of competition. Ochs competed in the Grand National Championships, where there is a preliminary round, a Top 20 semifinals round, and a finals round. Ochs had to qualify at the MA State Championships to compete in this event and represent Massachusetts. Ochs was announced as a Top 20 Semifinalist in the Pre-Teen Grand National Solo. She went on to compete in the Semifinals and was awarded 7th place, just missing the Top 6 Finals. Ochs also won 8th in Advanced Solo, 9th in



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Pictured left to right are: front row Delaney Ochs and Emelia Maldanis, middle Piper LaVallee, back row Evelyn Maldanis, Quinn LaVallee, Mya Weise, and Everly LaVallee.

Advanced 2 Baton, and 10th in Advanced Rhythmic Twirl. Delaney is the Pre-Teen Miss Majorette of Massachusetts & the Northeast; She represented Massachusetts and the Northeast in the Miss Majorette of America Pageant.

Emelia Maldanis also competed in the Advanced divisions, which are the highest level of competition. Maldanis took 9th place in the Advanced Rhythmic divi-

sion. A rhythmic twirl routine consists of twirling and dance moves choreographed to the music of the twirler's choice. Maldanis also came away with 6th place in Advanced 2 Baton and 10th place in Beginner 3 Baton. Emelia is the Pre-Teen Miss Majorette of Massachusetts and the Northeast Royalty and represented Massachusetts and the Northeast in the Miss Majorette of America Pageant.

Quinn LaVallee is the Novice Strutting winner for her age. LaVallee was also awarded 10th in Intermediate Solo and 3rd in Novice 2 Baton.

Everly LaVallee is the Novice 2 Baton winner for her age. LaVallee was also awarded 5th in Beginner Solo and 6th in Novice Strut.

Evelyn Maldanis took home a 4th place in Novice 2 Baton.

Belchertown Twirlers also competed in a duet competition. Emelia Maldanis and Delaney Ochs competed in the Advanced division and won 6th place for their winning duet. Delaney Ochs and Mya Weise won 6th place in Beginner Duet with teammates, Quinn LaVallee and Mya Weise won 4th in Beginner Duet.

Congratulations to Belchertown Twirlers on a successful National Championships. Kristi Ochs is the proud primary coach of the Belchertown Twirlers, and Kristi is assisted by Britanni Ladd. Come join the National Winning Belchertown Twirlers and sign up for fall classes through the Belchertown Rec Department beginning August 24th at Old Town Hall.

THE BEST FRESH LOCALLY GROWN!

Arriving Daily Locally Grown

From Nearby Farms
Green Peppers, Eggplant, Yellow & Green Beans, Yellow & Green Squash, Cucumbers, Red Raspberries & MORE

Locally Grown BUTTER & SUGAR SWEET CORN!
Picked Fresh Daily

Locally Grown BLUEBERRIES
From Kosinski Farm ~ Westfield, MA

PACK A PICNIC FROM RANDALL'S
GOURMET SANDWICHES, SUMMER SALADS, Fresh Baked Pies, Cookies & Muffins
Randall's Blueberry Sour Cream Pie!

Perennial Special "BUTTERFLY BUSH" BUDDLEIA
Now 20% OFF
2 & 3 Gallon Pots
Lavender, Pink & Purple
Sun Loving Butterfly Magnets

Sunny Fresh Cut SUNFLOWER BOUQUETS
5 Stem Bunches **\$9.99**

HANGING SUCCULENT GARDENS
Easy Care **\$12.99**
6 Inch Pots

"JEWELRY" FOR YOUR YARD & GARDENS
Garden Stepping Stones
SEASONAL GARDEN FLAGS
Colorful Kinetic Spinners

Elsie's Creamery
The Best Homemade Ice Cream
Limited Edition ~ Now Available!

"CHUCK'S" MADAGASCAR VANILLA ICE CREAM

ALWAYS FRESH AT



631 CENTER ST., Route 21, Mass Tpke Exit 54
LUDLOW • 589-7071 • www.randallsfarm.net
OPEN EVERY DAY 7AM - 8PM

Find us on [facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)



JIM POTTER

Your Local Home Town REALTOR® Since 2007

EXPERIENCE | KNOWLEDGE | PERSONAL ATTENTION

Excellent Service • Exceptional Results

"Glad I put my trust in Jim!"

413.221.5230

Jim.Potter@Raveis.com

200 Triangle Street | Amherst, MA 01002



NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for The Sentinel, please email sentinel@turley.com

A TURLEY PUBLICATION
www.turley.com



OPINION

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters
By Russell Gloor

I'm turning 70. When should I apply for Social Security?

Dear Rusty:
I have a very simple question: I will turn 70 on Sept. 20 and want to start my Social Security benefits in September.
What month should I file my claim? Have there been delays with the reductions in SSA staff? Thank you for your help.

Signed: Ready to Claim

Dear Ready to Claim:
Social Security allows you to submit your application for benefits up to four months prior to the month you wish benefits to start (you will specify your desired benefit-start-month on the application).

Thus, to have your benefits begin in September (the month you turn 70), you can submit your application as early as May 2025. That will give SS plenty of time to get your benefits started on time.

Remember, though, that SS pays benefits in the month following the month earned, so if you start benefits in September, you will receive your first SS payment in October on the third Wednesday.

And, since you will be turning 70 in September you are entitled to full benefits effective from the first of that month. Congratulations on choosing a strategy, which maximizes your monthly payment. By claiming at age 70, your monthly SS benefit will be about 31% more than it would have been at your Full Retirement Age and you will get that higher monthly amount for the rest of your life.

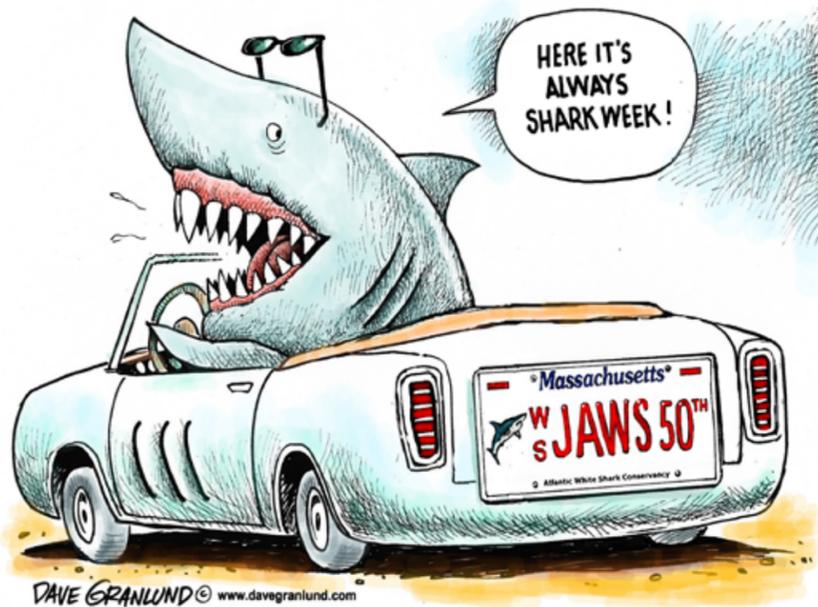
Re your question about possible delays, Social Security staff reductions have not included "front-line" agents, those who handle applications, so the SS recent staff adjustments should not likely delay processing your

application. Although some back-office staffing turmoil currently exists at SSA, they have been moving more people to front-line positions to try to improve their service. Just be aware, however, that it normally takes the SSA about two to three months to process new applications, which is why they allow applications up to 4 months in advance. You will specify the month you wish benefits to start on your application. In any case, although your application should be fine if you submit it this month, rest assured that they will pay you starting with the month you requested, even if they must do so retroactively.

FYI, people can apply for Social Security in person by making a telephone appointment to do so at 1-800-772-1213 or they can apply online at www.ssa.gov/apply. To apply online, they need to have first created their "my Social Security" online account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. Here is a video which explains the online application process: www.ssa.gov/hlp/video/iclaim_r01.htm.

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

Massachusetts White Shark lic. plates ...



LETTERS

Protecting the animals in our community is essential

To the Editor,

Nobody likes to hear about animal abuse. Most of us want to close our ears and eyes and wish it away, often because we feel helpless to stop it. But the reality is, in our state, animals suffer in severe ways every day. Domestic animals from neglect and willful abuse, wild animals from unreported harm, animals in entertainment from forced activity, and animals in research from captivity. Animal issues are the proverbial, elephant in the room that everyone wants to avoid. Animals, however, are residents in this state just as much as you and I are. Their voices, needs, and concerns must be heard and seen.

Though well-intentioned people have tried to alleviate animal suffering, the task is challenging when state laws are not in place and enforced. Each year, the legislature hears countless advocacy bills on animal issues. Some bills make it to law, while others, crucial ones, do not. The piecemeal cobbling year after year leaves giant loopholes in policy.

Two Belchertown residents, Steve Baer and Denise Tetrault, chose to

hear and see "the elephant in the room" and have filed a bold citizen bill this legislative session addressing animal abuse with a thoroughly comprehensive approach. S.1234, An Act Prohibiting The Harassment of Animals, is a landmark bill that would ban practices that inflict both physical pain and psychological suffering-acts that are often normalized, hidden, or ignored under current state laws. The bill seeks to outlaw some of the most violent, painful, and hidden forms of cruelty that animals endure every day, including mutilation, forced breeding, live dismemberment, and sexual abuse.

Bill S.1234 is an ethical opportunity for those of us who feel helpless facing the truth of animal abuse. Its passage would be a powerful step toward reducing violence in our communities and embracing a culture of compassion and accountability for all our state residents, human and animal alike.

Please Find My Legislator to take this opportunity to act on behalf of animals by asking your Senator to support the passage of S.1234 into law.

Pam Youngquist, Belchertown

Advocacy for those who are truly vulnerable

Letter to the Editor,

As a former volunteer at and employee of Belchertown State School I appreciated the (July 24) Sentinel article by Amanda Munson on the book "Finding Doreen" by Ed Orzechowski. As noted, this is the second book Mr. Orzechowski has written in cooperation with an individual who lived at Belchertown State School. His first was about a man named Donald and was titled, "You'll like it here." In the article, Mr. Orzechowski is quoted as saying, "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."

Advocacy for services can take many forms and is a key to protecting vulnerable individuals from neglect and abuse. In the article, it is noted Mr. Orzechowski's wife's sister lived at Belchertown State School, and he and his wife have advocated for her "all the way to Washington D.C." Benjamin Ricci, the parent of a man who lived at Belchertown State School, engaged in decades of advocacy for individuals living at Belchertown State School. His advocacy included a lawsuit against the state of Massachusetts (Ricci v. Greenblatt); he won and thus helped improve services for all individuals at the State School.

An effective and efficient form of advocacy we can all do is calling or emailing our Massachusetts State Senator or Representative or our U.S. Representative or Senators, to let them know services for people with disabilities are important to us. One could also join an organization like The Arc of Massachusetts, which specializes in advocating for people with disabilities.

Let's all do something to help protect those who are vulnerable.

Chris Fox, Belchertown

Second Chance thanks community for excellent fundraiser

To the Editor,

On behalf of all of us at Second Chance Animal Services, I'd like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who made our 13th Annual Golf Tournament a wonderful success.

It was a great day on the course at Cold Spring Country Club, made even more special by the incredible community that came together in support of pets in need. Whether you played, volunteered, sponsored, donated, or bid in our silent auction, you helped make a real difference for animals who rely on us for a

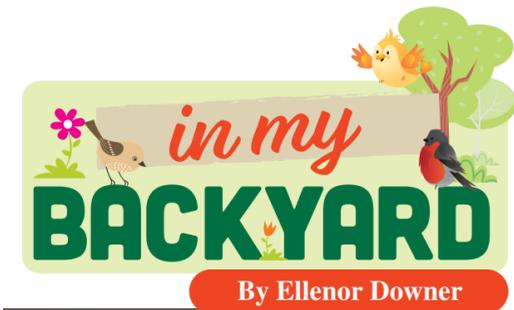
second chance.

We'd especially like to thank our generous sponsors, including The Republican and Ted & Barbara Hebert of Teddy Bear Pools & Spas, who also sponsored our Hole-in-One contest. Your support helped make this event such a success.

Thanks to you, it was more than just a great day of golf - it was a day that changed lives.

With deepest gratitude,

Lindsay Doray, Chief Development Officer for Second Chance Animal Shelter



Male common yellowthroat

Yellowthroats are small songbirds about 4 to 5 inches long. The males sing a "wichety-wichety-wichety" song. Both sexes give a full sound-

ing "chuck" note. During migration, the yellowthroat is the most common warbler found in fields and along their edges.

These warblers live in open areas with thick, low vegetation ranging from marsh to grassland to pine forests. The females select a nest location, near or on the ground supported by sedge, reeds, cattails, briars and other low plants. Nests

Please see **BACKYARD**, page 7



YOUR VIEW!

What are your thoughts on issues in town? Voice your view!

Write to us in Letter to the Editor format and we'll print your opinion on our Op/Ed page.

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

Turley Publications Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the editor should be 350 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources. Send letters to: Sentinel, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 or via email to sentinel@turley.com. The deadline for submissions is Friday at 5 p.m.

Turley Election Policy

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

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

SENTINEL TEAM

EDITORIAL
sentinel@turley.com



SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com



STAFF WRITER
Emily-Rose Pappas
epappas@turley.com

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



@ The Sentinel

WEB
www.sentinel.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President



www.turley.com

Turley Publications, Inc. cannot assume liability for the loss of photographs or other materials submitted for publication. Materials will not be returned except upon specific request when submitted.

Drive up and drop off for the book sale

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!

BCB to host free 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.



Rorin and his Aunt Audrey are creating their own stethoscope.



Jacob, Maya, and Lydia learning about how stethoscopes work.

DR. ROSIE from page 1

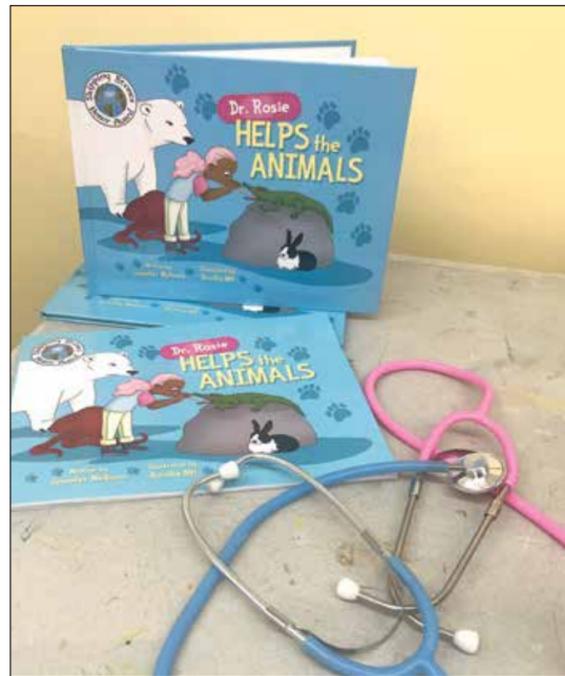
erinarians are African American, and in the book became a story about how anyone can take on the mantle. The book and program proceeds are also donated towards the Doctor Jodie G. Blackwell Scholarship Fund for African American Veterinary Students, further helping the message that all can be veterinarians.

“While the book is a picture book, I put advanced science words in it so that the kids can learn more, and it levels up their vocabulary by learning about the words in context,” said Welborn. “The other part of levelling up empathy skills is seeing how to treat and take care of animals. It levels up their understanding, and they’re learning something that’s scientific and science-based.”

Not just the kids learn a lot from the book and programs, but the adults, too, and since she started the programs in the fall of 2022, she has been able to teach skills for hundreds of pet owners from all over.

“My favorite part is helping kids understand and empathize with animals, and realizing that they are more similar to us than we might think, and it also makes a way for them to create empathy by using their stuffies,” said Welborn. “One of the things I loved as a teacher was the creative part of making lessons. I really love the creativity and education, and this really allows me to do both.”

Welborn brings along her dog, Bari, to her programs, who is a therapy dog certified under Bright Spot Therapy.



The book, featuring Dr. Rosie learning to help different animals.

She would bring him to local public schools for Read to a Dog programs for kids struggling with reading.

“He’s got a very good disposition with all animals, other dogs, and is very sociable with people. He has all the qualities that I wanted to share with people,” said Welborn. “He loves kids, and when I heard about the Bright Spot Therapy Dogs, I knew it was perfect. When I put his vest on and he knows he’s about to work, he gets very happy.”

You can find more from Welborn on her website, www.drrosiehelpstheanimals.org, which has lesson plans for teachers and more. She

TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

has been working with teachers and used the lesson plans in her book. The plans are geared towards K-2 educators who don’t have a lot of time for full science lessons.

The lessons are all sorts of fun, with opportunities for kids to learn all sorts of things about the world around them, and their beloved pets, using things at home.

The programs and the book truly allow for the kids and their families who get them learn more about just how similar animals are to us, and unlock a sense of wonder about the world around them.

BACKYARD from page 6

in marshy areas are usually higher off the ground where they are safer from flooding. Sometimes the nest has a roof like the ovenbird nests. They are one of the species that cowbirds lay their eggs in their nests.

People may designate an area of dense or tangled low-growing grasses and other vegetation to attract common yellowthroats to their yards. Yellowthroats prefer larger yards of at least half an acre or more.

Phoebe nest

I received an email containing a photo of an Eastern phoebe nest filled with phoebe nestlings. Eastern phoebes nest near humans often selecting a spot over a door or in a shed.

Wild turkeys

My grandson and I had to stop and wait for several hen turkeys with their poults to move them along a backroad in Barre. The largest hen led the way, walking down the middle of the road. Three other hens took up the rear with the poults walking all over the place. Some even stopped to explore the edge of the road, but then ran to catch up. Finally, they headed into the grass and woods on the edge of the road.

More Brimfield birds

The Brimfield resident said he has seen more birds in his yard since his last email. “Baltimore orioles

have been seen more often at the birdbath, probably because of the warm weather we have been having.” On a recent day he had a robin, three orioles, cardinals, a titmouse, a chipping sparrow, blue jays, catbirds and a common yellowthroat all stopped by the birdbath and a black and white warbler was seen in the yard.

He said he took down the bird feeders because of bears. “We had a bear make a daytime visit. It was not seen, but we discovered that it had cleaned out the feeding station. All the black oil sunflower seed, two suet cakes, a “log” of compressed seeds and fruit and suet pellets were all gone. Fortunately the bear didn’t damage anything or steal any of the feeders which they often do.”

His wife checks a town Facebook page and has seen many reports of bears in town and many of them are in the daytime so he figured it was time to take the feeders down. He still throws a seed mix around in several places like he always has and only put handfuls of black oil and whole peanuts in a small try hanging from a Shepard’s crook.

He said, “I’ve started to see young of the year around the yard. Several days ago two juveniles were following an adult male red-bellied woodpecker around, two juvenile Baltimore orioles were seen at the bird bath and I also saw a juvenile chipping sparrow take a bath.”

Bobolinks

He said, “A few years back I took part in a citizen science project monitoring bobolinks at Moore State Park in Paxton. Because the Mass Department of Conservation and Recreation has failed to maintain two large fields at the park for the benefit of grassland species the bobolink population at the park has declined. Milkweed, multi flora rose, bindweed, crown vetch and other non-grass type vegetation is slowing invading the once grass fields. The first year I monitored the park there were 149 bobolinks seen in the largest field in August but unfortunately the numbers declined every subsequent year.”

Osprey

This Brimfield resident visits a pond in Warren often to check on an osprey nest. He said, “The osprey nest in Warren may have only produced one young this year. The nest has gotten bigger over the years so I hoping

that there are more young in the nest that have been unseen because the nest is deeper now.”

People may report a bird

sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com

or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.



THANK YOU FOR 75 YEARS

friendships belonging memories fun

HELP US RAISE \$75,000 FOR CLUB NEEDS!

DONATE ONLINE AT
AUCTRIA.EVENTS/LBGC75
OR SEND A CHECK TO
91 CLAUDIA’S WAY
LUDLOW, MA 01056



Since 1950, the Ludlow Community Center/Randall Boys & Girls Club has been a safe place for youth to play, learn, and grow. Over the years, The Club has evolved and found new ways to support our community.

We now serve adults, preschoolers, teens, and more.

What hasn’t changed is our commitment to inspire and enable youth and adults to build better communities by providing life-enhancing experiences and programs through which they will realize their full potential as responsible and caring citizens.

We couldn’t do it without you.



ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS



- Open 363 days a year. Nursing staff & an on-call physician available by phone to our patients 24 hours a day, including weekends and holidays.
- Newborns to age 20, lactation services, behavioral health services, routine well child visits, sports physicals, on-site lab in Holyoke, most insurances accepted



413-536-2393 Option 3
www.holyokepediatrics.com



HOLYOKE PEDIATRICS
150 Lower Westfield Rd, Holyoke
84 Willimansett St, South Hadley

Fall Book Sale coming to Granby Free Public Library

Find new-to-you books, magazines, and more from September 2 to the 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 assort-

ment 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 audio-books. 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 for hours and more information.

Belchertown Lions Club to host Cruise on the Common

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown Lions Club will be returning to the Belchertown Town Common on August 9, 2025 (rain date: Aug. 10) for its 2nd Annual Memorial Car Show, and it promises to be even bigger and better than ever!

This year, our trophy awards will be custom-made laser-engraved slate plaques with leather hanging straps—no two the same! We hope that your ride will take home one of our very unique Top 20, four specialty, or Best in Show presentations!

Burgers, dogs, meatball grinders, fries, and canned soft drinks are available, along with a raffle table and a 50/50 raffle!

All vehicles are welcome (with specialty awards for best motorcycle, import, paint, and engine.)

Spectators get free admission! Participant parking on the grass: \$20

NO PRE-REGISTRATION (So please don't be a victim of online pre-show registration scams!)

Registration begins at 9 a.m. at 28 Park St. on the Town Common. Judging continues until 1 p.m., followed immediately by the raffle drawings and the awarding of trophies.

All proceeds will go to local charities, including Veterans' Affairs, the Senior Center, fuel assistance, Girl Scouts, Scouting America, high school scholarships, food pantries, and more.

More information and possible rain date updates can be found at <https://www.belchertownlionsclub.com/car-show.htm>, and our Belchertown Lions Club Facebook page.

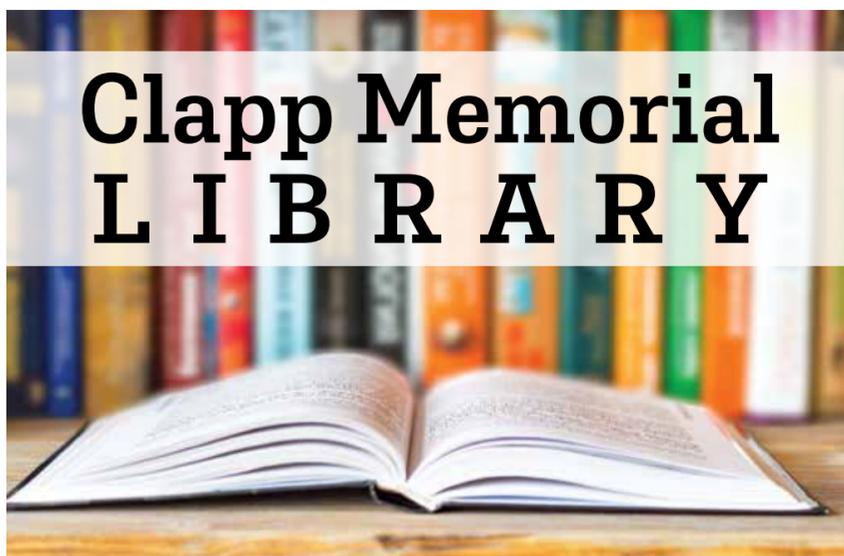
Belchertown VFW to host 2nd annual motorcycle ride

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.



What's coming up this August at the library

BELCHERTOWN – The Clapp Memorial Library has programs and events for all ages coming up in the first half of August. Visit our website: clapplibrary.org or stop by the library at 19 South Main Street in Belchertown to find out everything that's going on. We love to see our friends and neighbors! For All Ages: "Level Up at Your Library" Summer Reading Programs - Through August 16th! This year's Summer Reading Program theme is "Level Up at Your Library". We have a Summer Reading Program for every age group with reading challenges, raffles and prizes, special events, parties, and more! Register online at clapplibrary.beanstack.com or via the Beanstack app. For more information, visit our website: clapplibrary.org. To register offline, please visit the Circulation Desk or call 413-323-0417.

Peregrine Road Concert Belchertown United Church of Christ, 20 Park St, Belchertown Friday, August 1, from 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. The Friends of the Clapp Memorial Library funds this program.

Ask-a-Nurse Friday on August 15, from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Kirsten Krieger, RN, BSN, the Public Health Nurse for the Quabbin Health District, will be at the library for this free health and wellness clinic. Learn about health conditions, receive blood pressure and blood sugar checks, find out about community resources including harm reduction, health and wellness education, and more! No appointment needed.

For Adults What "YA" Readin'? Book Club on Thursday, August 7, from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Still loving The Hunger Games? Not over Twilight? Are you curious about what teens are reading these days? Clapp Memorial Library has a book discussion group for individuals aged 18 or older who read Young Adult books! At our August meeting, we'll discuss Sunrise on the Reaping by Suzanne

Collins. Copies of the book are available to borrow on hoopla. Physical books and CD audiobooks can be requested and picked up at the library's circulation desk. New members are welcome! Email rsterling@cwmmars.org with any questions.

For Teens 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 or call the library to register. The rain date for this event is August 8th. 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 Book Club on Wednesday, from August 13, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Join the library's Teen Book Club for its last meeting of the summer to discuss Star Splitter by Matthew J. Kirby. This Teen Book Club is in conjunction with the MA Teen Choice Book Awards (MTCBA), the only book award in the state selected by teens. Copies of the book are available for checkout at the library's circulation desk and on the Libby app. Snacks will be provided at the meeting. Email clapplibrarytab@gmail.com with any questions. All attendees will earn a raffle ticket for the Teen Summer Reading Program.

Taylor Swift Diamond-Painting on Wednesday, August 13, from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Taylor Swift will never go out of Style! Have The Best Day at the library at this Diamond-Painting program for teens ages 12-18! Make your own Bejeweled Diamond-Painted Swiftie Eras bookmark! Space (and Eras) are limited so don't wait a Fortnight! Email clapplibrarytab@gmail.com or call the library to register! Are you... Ready for

It? 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 Carrie Ferguson and The Grumpytime Club Concert on Wednesday, August 6, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The Grumpytime Club offers children and families welcoming and inclusive messages about accepting feelings, celebrating differences, and loving ourselves exactly as we are. This concert will take place on the Library lawn, or in case of rain, Town Hall. Made possible by the Friends of the Clapp Memorial Library and our Community Sponsors.

Jacques' Concert on Wednesday, August 13, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Join us for an evening of music on the Library Lawn! Singing, dancing, and fun for all ages with Ann Marie Messbauer and Jacques "Pop" Hooten. We'll meet in Town Hall if it rains. Made possible by the Friends of the Clapp Memorial Library and our Community Sponsors.

Billy Goats and Beyond: Wildlife Bridge Challenge on Friday, August 15, from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

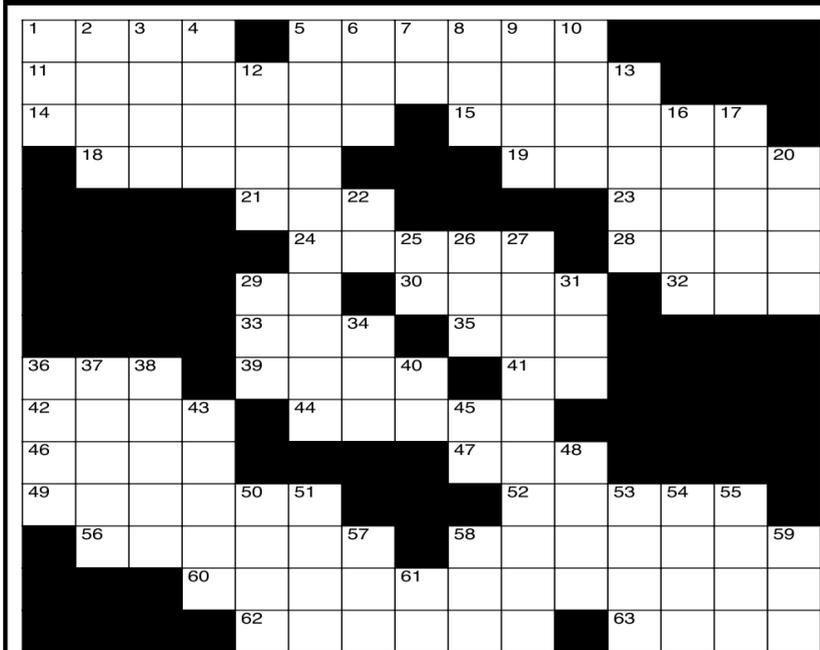
Three goats crossing a bridge? Sounds like a fairytale, but it's a great way to keep animals safe! Join a Hitchcock Center for the Environment educator for this hands-on children's program. We'll read a quick story about a real-life animal crossing; then, express your inner engineer as you and your adult design, build, and test a bridge using simple materials. Can it stand strong in a salamander stampepe or a mammal migration? And we'll end with a visit from a live critter who puts wildlife bridges to use. Best for children ages 5 to 10 with an adult. Registration is required. Sign up online through our calendar at clapplibrary.org, or call 413-323-0417. This program is funded by 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.

Digital Photos
TURLEY PUBLICATIONS, INC.
Purchase a photo that recently ran in one of our publications.
\$12.50 Each
Go to newspapers.turley.com/photo-request

Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

- Popular potato snack
- Guards the Pyramids
- Furnish anew
- Herb
- Preoccupy the mind continually
- The lowest adult male singing voice
- NATO commander (abbr.)
- A major division of geological time
- New Zealand parrot
- Notions
- Lump in yarn
- Indicates position
- Lose hold of
- Hindu honorific
- Former OSS
- Electronic data processing

- Cost per mile
 - Snake-like fish
 - They start the alphabet
 - Taylor Swift's tour
 - Intermediate ecological stage
 - Scarlett's home
 - Of he
 - Ohio city
 - Breakfast item
 - An evening party
 - Falls
 - Linked together
 - Mythological spirits
 - Small Eurasian deer
- CLUES DOWN**
- Earliest human form: ___-Magnon man
 - Flavoring
 - Notion

- Bundy and Fenwick are two
- Qualities of sound
- One who gets paid
- Expresses surprise
- O.J. trial judge
- Pointed ends of pens
- Shield bugs genus
- Container for shipping
- Upper body parts
- Closes tightly
- Nigerian World Heritage Site
- Volcanic island in Fiji
- Commercial
- denotes past
- They ___
- Confraternities
- A way to gain a point
- Parts per billion

- (abbr.)
- Brew
- Badgers group
- Sailing boat
- ___ Polo, explorer
- Elder citizen (abbr.)
- Frankish law code
- Exclamation of surprise
- Groan
- It presses clothing
- Do not allow
- Gelatinous substance
- Common Japanese surname
- Present in nature
- Electronic countermeasures
- Last or greatest in an indefinitely large series
- Commercials
- News agency

FIVE ISLANDS
Georgetown, Maine
2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathroom
Washer/Dryer, Fully Equipped
• Walk to Five Islands Wharf and Ledgewood Preserve Beach
• Close to Reid State Park

\$1200/week
207-607-9333

 sports@turley.com

 @turleysports

 facebook.com/turleysports

SPORTS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

www.sports.turley.com

Post 239 upset in rematch with North County

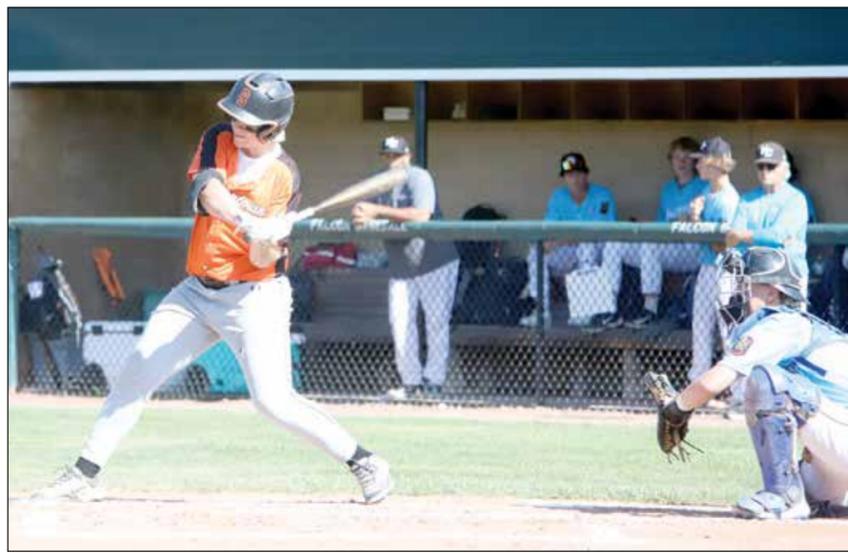
By **Tim Peterson**
Sports Correspondent

WILBRAHAM—Todd McDonald is the Vice President of Sales and Strategy for the Springfield Thunderbirds. While hockey is his profession, McDonald has also spent a lot of time on the baseball field.

During the past several years, McDonald has been the manager of the Belchertown Legion baseball team, which has been very successful.

Belchertown finished first in the District 3 standings with a 12-1 record, which allowed them to host a pod in the state playoffs.

Belchertown's outstanding season came to an end following a 10-5 loss to North County in a state playoff elimination game held at Spec Pond in Wilbraham, last Monday afternoon (July 21).



Jake Waller takes a swing.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

"Baseball is a beautiful game, and it doesn't always go your way," McDonald

said. "That's part of what makes it so great. There's no clock in baseball, so you've

got to play the innings, you've got to get the outs, and we just didn't get enough

runs in the end."

It was the second time that Belchertown lost to North County, who finished sixth in District 4, during the double elimination state playoffs. North County posted a 3-0 win in the opening round game, which took place at Belchertown High School.

"When we faced them two days ago, I thought they controlled the game," McDonald said. "We did hit the ball very hard early in today's game, and we kept battling back."

The five Belchertown Legion players who won't be eligible to return next summer are Dom Aloisi, Spencer Waite, Jacob Smith, Evan Ferguson, and Alex West.

"We're losing five outstanding players, but we do have a lot of guys coming back next year, which I'm very excited about," McDonald added. "I wake

up every morning during the baseball season looking forward to coming to the field. It was a lot of fun coaching this team and we did win some big games this year."

During the final week of the regular season, Belchertown defeated East Springfield Post 420, 3-2, and Pittsfield Post 68-1,3-0, which locked up first place in the standings.

Belchertown's lone victory in the state playoffs was a 5-0 shutout against Northampton Post 28, who was the only team to beat them during the regular season.

Just like they did in the opening game of the state playoffs, North County, who plays their home games at the Winchendon School, took the lead in the top of the first inning.

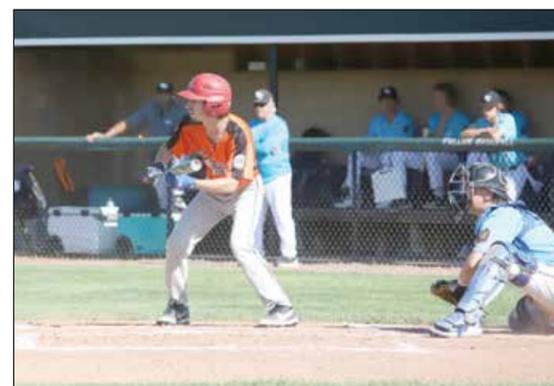
Please see **POST 239**, page 10



Chace Earle makes the out at first.



Catcher Jacob Smith catches the foul pop.



Alex West squares to bunt.

Post 241 advances in Legion tourney

By **Tim Peterson**
Sports Correspondent

WORCESTER—Nate Kaczuwka will be ineligible to play for the Monson Post 241 Legion baseball team in the summer of 2026.

Kaczuwka hurled a three-hitter as Monson stayed alive in the 2025 state playoffs with a 7-1 victory over the Wilbraham Falcons at Fitton Field located on the College of the Holy Cross campus, last Sunday.

"Unless we can make a heck of a run in the state playoffs, this was the last start of my legion career," Kaczuwka said. "Being the winning pitcher in my final start is a great way to go out."

Monson, who finished the regular season with a 7-6 record, began the playoffs with a 7-1 loss to Shrewsbury Post 297, who were the top-seeded and host team in the Region 3 pod.

The Wilbraham Falcons (7-6), who finished tied with Monson in the District 3 standings, lost 5-4 to Lowell Post 87 in the opening round game.

At the start of the regular season, the Falcons squeaked out an 8-7 home win against Monson.

"We lost a close game to Wilbraham at the beginning of the season," said Monson manager Steve Tripp. "We had some timely hits, and we broke the game open after the rain delay in the sixth inning."

Monson held a slim 2-1 lead when it began raining with one-out in the sixth inning. The members of the grounds crew began rolling out the tarp in left field before the home plate umpire stopped the game.

When play resumed 30 minutes later, Wilbraham righty Anthony Ardolino, who played baseball at Pope Francis, recorded his seventh strikeout which was the second out of the frame.

Monson would send six more batters to the plate before the final out of the inning was made.

"We just stayed focused in the dugout during the rain delay," said Monson catcher Kyle Kaczuwka. "We managed to pull away after that."

Monson third baseman Brayden Mega kept the inning alive with a line-drive single to right field. Then Dylan Holbrook, who had been a pinch hitter two innings earlier, was safe at first base following a throwing error by the third baseman.

Centerfielder Zack Youngberg, who attends Worcester Academy, greeted relief pitcher Robert Bouchard by hitting a hard groundball single into left field scoring the first run of the inning. Two more runs crossed the plate when Kyle Kaczuwka (3-for-4) blasted a triple that bounced off the center field fence.

"Kyle is our best hitter," Tripp said. "He was our

Please see **LEGION**, page 10



Mason Barcomb fields a grounder to short.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

PeoplesBank advances to Tri-County finals

HOLYOKE – In a best-of-three games series, the PeoplesBank Tri-County baseball team swept Teddy Bear Pools in two games to advance to the league championship series. St. Joseph's won its series in three games, two games to one, to face PeoplesBank. That championship series was scheduled to begin earlier this week. PeoplesBank defeated Teddy Bear in both games by a final of 7-2.



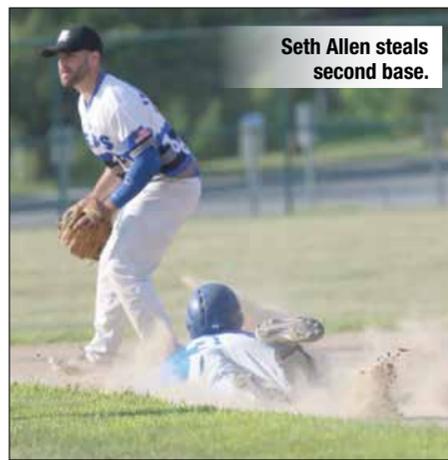
Dave Clark flips a throw to first.



Cam MacDonald sends the ball from third to first.



Brendan Fournier throws a pitch home.



Seth Allen steals second base.



Alex Gochinski makes a throw to first for Teddy Bear Pools.

SPORTS

Valley Blue Sox score win over Bristol

HOLYOKE – The Valley Blue Sox hosted the Bristol Blues in what was a phenomenal game. Bristol (25-17) scored two runs in the top of the second. Blues' Dean Oneill singled, which was then followed by a Thomas Ahlers single. The first baseman Trevor Hansen smacked a double into left to score Oneill and Ahlers. The Blues were in business up 2-0.



Valley (19-21) responded in the bottom of the fourth inning. Second baseman Sean Darnell singled into left for the Blue Sox's first hit of the night. An E4 by Bristol's Danny Infante allowed Michael Elko to advance to first. John LaFleur then came up to the plate. He doubled off the right field wall to score Darnell and advance Elko to third. Tim Ford hit a sac-fly to right, which scored Elko and advanced LaFleur to third. Valley's Catcher, Hayden Perry singled, scoring LaFleur to give the Blue Sox the lead 3-2 after four innings.

The Blues found their offensive footing in the top of the fifth. Tyler Benick reached first on a walk. Blue Sox's Starting Pitcher Conor Wolf got replaced by Jake Andrews with one out in the inning. Andrews struck out the first batter he faced, that

being Infante. Kristopher Giangreco walked to put another runner on base for Bristol. The three-hole hitter, Gianni Merlonghi, ripped a single into shallow right field, scoring Benick to tie the game at 3-3. Valley's relief pitcher Andrews, got out of the inning by striking out Oneill to limit the damage to one run.

In the bottom of the sixth the Blue Sox's First Baseman Elko blasted a homer into right field as the crowd roared in cheers. Valley was now up 4-3 after the go ahead homer by Elko. Blue Sox Head Coach Endy Morales was hyped after the homer. "He's unbelievable. Off the field he's a high character guy and on the field he does all the little things right." Ford then lined a single in the gap into left but then got caught on a pickoff by Bristol's Pitcher Mason Glickman. The Blue Sox were not able to score more runs after the homerun but reclaimed the lead to end the inning.

No more runs were scored and the game ended 4-3 in favor of Valley. Morales gave his thoughts on the game. "I thought we pitched really well. We got ahead of a bunch of hitters and that makes a big difference when you're getting ahead."

Silk conquers Monadnock Speedway

WINCHESTER, New Hampshire – After a series record eight different to open the year, Sunday's Cheshire County Clash 200 at Monadnock Speedway yielded the first repeat winner of the 2025 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour season.

Ron Silk would be the one to snap the streak, earning his first Monadnock victory with the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour in the process. The triumph did not come without drama for Silk, who collided with race leader Patrick Emerling in Turn 3 with 30 laps remaining, sending the latter for a spin.

Silk attributed the collision to two drivers going for the win. Although he was disappointed to see Emerling spin after the contact, Silk was more than satisfied to finally visit Victory Lane at Monadnock in his 15th appearance.

"We were racing pretty hard," Silk said. "I pulled out on the exit of Turn 2 and he didn't give me a lot of room, but I don't blame him. I feel like we both kind of got loose in and made some contact. I wish he could have held onto it, but that's hard racing."

Silk attributed the collision to two drivers going for the win. Although he was disappointed to see Emerling spin after the contact, Silk was more than satisfied to finally visit Victory Lane at Monadnock in his 15th appearance.

"We were racing pretty hard," Silk said. "I pulled out on the exit of Turn 2 and he didn't give me a lot of room, but I don't blame him. I feel like we both kind of got loose in and made some contact. I wish he could have held onto it, but that's hard racing."

Matt Hirschman celebrates after claiming the Whelen Short Track Cup for the second time during the Cheshire County Clash 200 for the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour at Monadnock Speedway in Winchester, New Hampshire on July 20, 2025. (Photo: Jaiden Tripi/NASCAR) Bonsignore held on to finish second while Hirschman secured third, which enabled him to claim his second Whelen Short Track Cup. Hirschman endured an odyssey just to reach the top five, as a mistake in qualifying relegated him to 20th on the starting grid.

By utilizing strategy and persevering with a car not to his liking, Hirschman narrowly edged out his Mud Lane neighbor Austin Beers for the Whelen Short Track Cup and a \$3,500 bonus

courtesy of JDV Productions. "I did not think this was possible," Hirschman said. "I do think we gave it away last night, but we ended up with a third place finish with a car that felt like it was on six or seven cylinders. My guys worked hard, nobody knows what the problem is, but it's nobody's fault. The Cup wouldn't have even been a contest if we finished remotely close to where we should have last night."

"I feel like I drove my rear end off today with what I had."

Anthony Nocella and Trevor Catalano made up the rest of the top five. Rounding out the top 10 at Monadnock were Joey Cipriano III, Luke Baldwin, Emerling, Beers and Tommy Catalano.

Quabbin Valley 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 welcoming 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 wood-bat 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.

POST 239 from page 9

Logan Cormier, who was North County's starting pitcher in last Monday's game, helped himself with a run scoring double to right field. Another run crossed the plate following a throwing error.

While Cormier, who's a righty, was the winning pitcher, righthander Jake Waller was the losing pitcher. He allowed five runs (four earned) on seven hits during the first four innings.

Over the final three innings, righty Canyon Charron also gave up five runs, but only one of them were earned.

Belchertown answered right back against righthander Logan Cormier in the bottom half of the inning.

First baseman Thatcher Rudnik, who went 3-for-4, began the rally with an infield hit.

Rudnik stole second base before the next two batters



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Canyon Charron leads off first base.

struck out and flied out. Second baseman Chace Earle, who also had three base hits, drove home Rudnik with a line-drive single to left. Third baseman Josh Misiaszek (2-for-4) followed with a double down the right field line which tied the score.

Belchertown also scored a pair of runs in the second

inning. With one-out, shortstop Ian McDonald knocked home the go-ahead run with a ground-ball single that just got past shortstop Aiden LaPointe's diving attempt. Their other run scored when Smith, who was the starting catcher, bounced into a fielder's choice play.

North County scored a run

in the third inning before retaking the lead in the following frame.

Centerfielder Johnny Losordo gave his team a 5-4 advantage with two outs in the fourth following an RBI single to center.

With one-out in the bottom of the fifth, Earle and Misiaszek had back-to-back singles, but Cormier managed to retire the next two batters.

North County broke open the close game by scoring four runs on four hits in the top of the sixth.

Belchertown also made a costly throwing error allowing two of the runs to score.

Post 129 scored another run in the seventh before Earle's RBI single cut Belchertown's deficit to 10-5 with no outs in the bottom of the seventh.

The returning Belchertown Legion baseball team will be looking to making another run in the state playoffs at this time next year.

LEGION from page 9

starting catcher in today's game, but he can also play any infield position. He just loves playing baseball."

Second baseman Miguel Velasquez continued Monson's rally with an RBI single to right field, which gave Monson a 6-1 advantage.

Then Nate Kaczuwka, who was the ninth batter of the inning, also hit a triple down the rightfield line scoring another run.

The righthander then kept Wilbraham off the scoreboard during the final two innings finishing his complete game performance.

Monson took a 1-0 lead with no-outs in the top of the second inning.

Velasquez, who hit a leadoff single, scored the first run of the game when Nate Kaczuwka doubled to left. It could've been a much bigger inning for Monson, as they left the bases loaded.

Wilbraham tied the score in the bottom half of the frame.

Bouchard, who began the game in centerfield, drew a walk before advancing to second base following a wild pitch. After the next batter flied out to right, leftfielder Ethan Steigmeyer drove home Bouchard with a single.

Wilbraham's other two base hits were by shortstop Luke Stejna and first baseman Liam Howe.

Monson quickly retook the lead in the next inning with an unearned run. Kyle Kaczuwka knocked home the go-ahead run with a single to left.

Post 241 made another trip to Worcester less than twenty four hours later and played another elimination game.

"My older brother pitched a great game, and it feels great winning our first playoff game," Kyle Kaczuwka said. "We just need to take it one day at a time."



Your Local BUSINESS CONNECTION

TILTON AUTOMOTIVE
GENERAL REPAIRS
3 AMHERST ROAD (RT. 9) BELCHERTOWN
323-5051

WE HAVE MOVED!
115 North Main, Belchertown
SWIFT RIVER
HEATING & OIL COMPANY
Sheet Metal Fabrication
Is Our Specialty
• Automatic Fuel Delivery
• 24 hr. Burner Service
• Replacement of Furnaces & Boilers
• New Construction & Renovations
• New Customer Discounts
413-323-4123

Complete A/C Service
Glass Installations
Used Cars • Windshields
Expert Body & Fender Repair • Painting
REECE AUTO BODY
323-6664
FREE ESTIMATES
Old Springfield Road
Belchertown
Visa-Mastercard Accepted

SEPTIC PUMPING
• pumping
• new installation
• repairs
• Title 5 inspection
Complete
Septic Service LLC
Jason Lafleur • David Kibbe
413-323-4327

\$5.49 /each **SAVE UP TO 50%**
Chevron® Techron Fuel System Cleaner
LINE PART DESCRIPTION SIZE PRICE
CHV 87740 Chevron® Techron Fuel System Cleaner 12 oz. \$5.49
CHV 37802 Chevron® Techron Fuel System Cleaner 32 oz. \$12.99
Belchertown Auto Parts NAPA AUTO PARTS
116 FEDERAL STREET (RT.9) BELCHERTOWN, MA (413) 323-7661 OR 323-9296

GET HITCHED
AT AMHERST WELDING
TRAILER HITCHES SALES & REPAIRS
Welding • Fabrication • Hydraulic Hoses & Hydraulic Repairs • Snow Plow • Sanders
DID YOUR MAILBOX POST GET CRUNCHED THIS WINTER?
Stop in and see our exclusive "Steel" retractable mailbox posts!
Amherst Welding, Inc.
(413) 253-4867
330 Harkness Road, Amherst, MA

ROBERTS ROOFS
SPECIALIZING IN
Slate • Copper • Architectural Shingles • Gutters
Historical Restoration • Flat Roofing • Snow Removal
Tel. 413-283-4395 • Cell 413-237-9434
www.RobertsRoofsInc.com
Trusted Name Since 1982

Turley Publications, Inc.
www.turley.com
Proud publishers of 12 community newspapers
Call 413-283-8393 to advertise your business here

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 18
1:14 p.m. – A summons was issued for an 18-year-old Ware male for charges of larceny under \$1,200. An officer was dispatched to a Turkey Hill Road business for a past report of larceny involving an employee. The person was trespassed from the property.

Friday, July 18
2:01 p.m. – An officer responded to a Bay Road residence for a report of a stolen dirt bike. The person said it

had been several weeks since the dirt bike was last seen. The matter is under investigation.

7:36 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Town Beach Road. A vehicle struck a trunk of a tree while backing out of a parking space. No tows were needed, and no injuries were reported.

Saturday, July 19
4:09 p.m. – An officer responded to North Main Street residence to speak with a person being threatened by another person.

Sunday, July 20
1:31 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Warren Wright Road. A vehicle went off the roadway, through a garden in front of a residence, and came to stop on a tree stump. There was damage to the right front and right side of the vehicle. No injuries were reported.

5:31 p.m. – An officer and Belchertown Fire and paramedics responded to a Shaw Street residence about a person stuck in a vehicle. A large tree fell on top of the vehicle and it was unknown if the wires came down.

There was a large storm that came through town that had knocked down other trees and wires in the area. It broke fell on a dumpster and the front portion of the truck the electrical knocked down. The operator was advised to stay in the vehicle. National Grid arrived on scene and turned off the power lines, allowing the person to get out of the vehicle. Photos were taken.

Monday, July 21.
5:06 p.m. – An officer responded to assist a resident. A person reported stolen mail. A person saw a blue vehicle pulled up to mailbox, removed its contents and drove away. The person wasn't able to get a registration plate number. The local Post Office was contacted.

Tuesday, July 22
12:41 p.m. – An officer took a report of a relative's finances that had odd activity on their bank account. There were activities that weren't done by the person. They mailed a check to a business to pay a bill then check was altered, and a new name was put in. The person contacted the US Postal Service. The matter was forwarded to a

detective for additional follow up.

Wednesday, July 23
3:37 p.m. – An officer spoke with a person who was being stalked by a former friend. They got text and video calls they didn't want to receive.

7:43 p.m. – An officer responded to a Chauncey Walker Road business for a report of a person passed out behind the wheel of a vehicle. Belchertown Fire and ambulance also responded to the scene. The person was found sitting in the vehicle. They were identified and said they were fine. They were evaluated and refused transport. A friend was contacted to pick up the person.

Thursday, July 24
11:50 a.m. – An officer responded to Federal Street for an accident. A vehicle going east on Federal Street turned left to go into the gas station parking lot and a second vehicle struck the first as it turned. The second vehicle was traveling westbound on Federal Street. No injuries were reported and no tows were needed.

4:25 p.m. – An officer

responded to a report of child abuse.

6:01 p.m. – An officer took a report of debit card fraud. Multiple fraudulent transactions of different values were reported by the person. They were in contact with the bank which required a police report on the matter. The bank was able to reimburse the person.

8:39 p.m. – An officer responded to a residence for a report of neighbor issues.

Granby Police Log

Editor's Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 108 calls for the week of July 18 through July 24. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The Granby Police Department provides all information.

Friday, July 18
25-3679 12:37 p.m. – A resident reported that a tree fell into the roadway and was blocking the travel lane. The highway Department removed the tree.

Sunday, July 20
10:06 a.m. – A motorist reported striking a deer. There were no injuries.
4:27 p.m. – A resident reported that a vehicle hit their mailbox. There were no injuries.

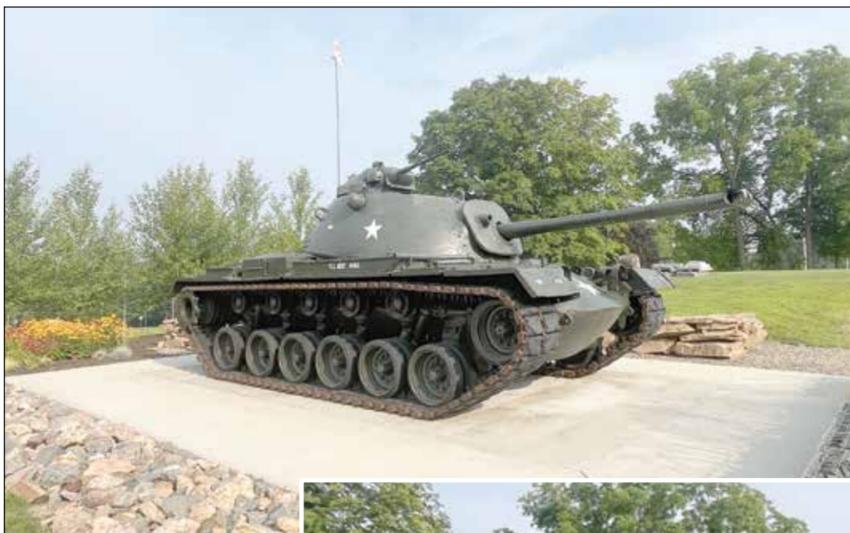
Monday, July 21
3:40 p.m. – A motorist reported a minor two-car accident. There were no injuries.

Tuesday, July 22
8 a.m. – A resident reported that a vehicle in their driveway was broken into last night and tools are missing. The matter is under investigation.

Wednesday, July 23
1:35 p.m. – A caller reported a minor two-car accident in the parking lot. There were no injuries.

Thursday, July 24
5:29 a.m. – A motorist reported a two-car accident. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries.

2:34 p.m. – A resident came to the station to report the theft of money and jewelry from their home. The matter is under investigation.



The battle-scarred tank from Fort Devens.

MEMORIAL from page 1

support,” said Jason Richard, the Chairperson for the Granby Veterans Memorial Committee.

The committee is volunteer-driven, and the community had truly shown its support for the veterans and the memorial itself to pay homage and respect to the brave men and women who gave their lives.

“It’s a place to honor all of Granby’s veterans, and it’s been a work-in-progress for decades. It’s a lot of work, but it’s coming together,” said Richard.

The committee formed in 2012 to begin work and on and get the memorial going. Right now, phase one of installing the battle-scarred tank from Fort Devens, as well as the wall of names of Granby’s veterans, is complete.

Phase two, the construction of the pavilion and gazebo, is underway, and they are in need of \$50,000 in order to finish the project after getting a quote from a local business for the wooden frame.

“It’s a great tribute to the service of Granby’s veterans,



A wall of names from the different wars and battles of veterans from the Revolution to the Middle Eastern Wars.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

LEFT: The ground being dug and foundation being set for the gazebo.

and all veterans. I hope to see it become the centerpiece of the town,” said Richard.

Through the help of the community and donations, some state grants, and the approval of \$50,000 from Town Meeting about four years ago, the ten-year-old project has truly become something bigger.

“We want it to be a place for the whole community, for people to come and relax and just enjoy the space,” said Richard.

The next phase, phase three, is for the 12 acres the town owns around the memorial to be turned into walking and hiking trails to further making the space somewhere for all community members to enjoy, just

as much as a place to honor these heroes.

Ray Guillemette Jr., known for his Elvis impersonation and singing skills donated his time for the evening, sharing about how many family members he has who has served.

“These veterans have inspired me,” said Guillemette. “When I was asked to do this, of course I would. Music is magical, and can truly heal all wounds.”

You can learn more about this project, as well as find links to donate to help the project move forward on their website, www.granbyveteransmemorial.org.



Ray Guillemette Jr. singing for the evening.



Getting some dinner fresh off the grill from the Friends of the Granby Veterans.

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com



OBITUARIES

MaryBeth Russa Kimball

February 4, 1963
to July 24, 2025

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of MaryBeth (Russo) Kimball, who left this world peacefully on July 24, 2025, at her home in Belchertown, MA, with the love of her family surrounding her. Born on February 4, 1963, in Springfield, MaryBeth spent her formative years in Chicopee before establishing her loving home in Belchertown in 1990.

MaryBeth was a cherished wife, devoted mother, and doting Mimi. She is survived by her father, Sebastian Russo; beloved husband of 20 years, Mark Kimball; her sons, Nicholas Harris and his wife Jacqueline and Ryan Harris and his wife Christina; her



twin sister, Marie Heath and her husband Steven; and her brother, Michael Russo and his wife Julie. Her adoring grandchildren, Sofia, Lilliana, and Connor were a constant source of joy in her life, to whom she dedicated countless hours.

Throughout her professional career, MaryBeth had a deep passion for her work, evidenced by the impact she made on countless students - many of which were physicians and bankers - serving as the Director of New Business Development and Administration at the Isenberg School of Business at UMass Amherst. Beyond her professional achievements, MaryBeth led a rich and fulfilling life through her hobbies in painting, crocheting, gardening, traveling, attending bluegrass

music festivals, and pampering herself with manicures and shopping excursions. Many fond memories were made at Prudence Island, her second home in which she maintained a large fruitful garden and took long walks to socialize with friends each summer. She enjoyed family vacations and holiday gatherings alike in which her chicken cutlets and kale salad were always on the menu. MaryBeth's warm smile, enthusiastic hugs, and infectious personality were a constant pleasure to all around her.

MaryBeth's family and friends are invited to honor her memory during a visitation on Sunday, August 3, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., with remembrances shared at 3 p.m. at the Beers & Story Belchertown Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Autistic Self Advocacy Network.

Patricia Ann Krakowski

We have a tendency to lionize the dead and not face the true reality of their lot in life, especially when it is not very good. Patricia Ann Krakowski had to overcome a great deal. Brought to an institution for people with developmental disabilities when she was 5 and left by her family. Whomever admitted her didn't even get her last name right. Later in life when she finally got a birth certificate, she was surprised to learn the name on her birth certificate wasn't the name she was known by. Pat died this week at the age of 92. Living to that age is a remarkable feat in itself. Never mind taking into account how awful her early years must have been. Her apartment was on the second floor. She must have gone up and down those stairs 10 times a day. That was probably what accounted for her agility and strength right up to the end.



The 1930's was a dark time to be in need of services. She went undiagnosed as being deaf until she was in her 30's. Never went to school or had the benefit of a formal education. What she learned was through the grace of friends and true grit. She longed to live in her own place by herself. She wanted her life and the things around her to be how she wanted them. Through her own determination, she finally moved into her own apartment. Not having to live with other people was what she had always wanted. She was never interested in the niceties. She wasn't interested in polite social behavior. People were often taken aback by her direct-

ness. The social deprivation of living in an institution for such a long time had taken its toll. Once out, Pat thrived. She found the people she could trust. People she somehow knew would help her achieve her dreams. People she could relate to. She liked being active and keeping busy. She worked at Swift River Crafts for over 40 years doing work that made her happy and satisfied. She loved birds, nature, being observant of the beauty around her, and watching things grow. She lamented the decline of soap operas. Going to Market Basket was an adventure. She loved the lighting. After she pointed it out, I saw it too.

It takes a village, and the center of Belchertown was her place to be. The kindness of people she ran into at the bank, the post office, or just walking around town who were willing to take the time to engage, interact, and watch out for her was touching. What she wanted most in life was to be part of something larger, needing to be independent, doing what she wanted. Living in Belchertown gave her that. Pat leaves her lifelong friends Terry and Paul, Kristen and Greg, Jacki and Rudy, their respective families, and the many acquaintances she made in the town she called home. She will be missed. Happy trails until we meet again.

Pat was laid to rest on Saturday, July 26 at 10 a.m. at South Cemetery in Belchertown. Beers & Story Belchertown Funeral Home was entrusted with the arrangements.

DEATH NOTICES

MaryBeth Russa Kimball
Died July 24, 2025
Services Aug 3, 2025
Beers & Story
Funeral Home, Belchertown

Patricia Ann Krakowski
Died July 19, 2025
Services Sept. 6, 2025
Funeral Home, Belchertown

Earl Leander Plant
Died June 18, 2025
Services Sept. 6, 2025
Hope Methodist Church

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.

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

Earl Leander Plant

November 14, 1929
to June 18, 2025

Earl was born in Boston, MA, to Harry and Marion (Webb) Plant on November 14, 1929. While living in Belchertown, MA, he graduated from a local trade school.

Earl married Elinor (Heath) on February 11, 1950. They were happily married for over 65 years until her passing in 2015.

Earl worked as a well digger for a short time before becoming a builder and carpenter for most of his life. In Belchertown, there are homes he built or renovated throughout the town. He also beautifully reconstructed the stone walls at his 2

previous homes. Upon moving to NH, he purchased an old farm and proceeded to rebuild it from the ground up, including the huge barn, 90% of it on his own. Earl enjoyed playing music and was in a country band for many years, playing the steel guitar. He especially liked jamming with his brother Jay and his grandson Grant. He also enjoyed playing poker, landscape painting, doing puzzles, his cat, and spending time with family and friends.

Earl is survived by his daughters, Doreen (Edward J) Barkowski and Hollis (Philip) Nepus; grandchildren Edward E Barkowski, Christine (Barkowski) Hartman, Erin (Morneau)

Rodriguez, Grant Morneau; great-grandchildren Kyle and Connor Corey and Tiberius Rodriguez along with countless nieces and nephews.

He is preceded by his wife Elinor, their son Steven, and brothers Harvey and Everett.

There will be services in Belchertown on September 6, 2025, at 11 a.m. in the Hope Methodist Church. Then to the South Cemetery in Belchertown. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Granite VNA, Concord, NH, or the Humane Society.

To sign an online guestbook, please visit www.chadwickfuneralservice.com.

~ DORSEY MEMORIALS ~

• Monuments & Cemetery Lettering • 707 Main St., Amherst, MA • 413-253-5212
• Civic Memorials & Custom Designs • www.DorseyMemorials.com

You can count on Dorsey Memorials to guide you through the Memorial Stone Process.

Haluch's
MEMORIALS
haluchsmemorials.com

Cemetery Memorials + Markers
Granite Benches
Religious Statuary + Outdoor Display
RAY HALUCH INC.
1014 Center St | Ludlow, MA | 583-6508

PUBLIC NOTICES

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampshire Probate and Family Court
15 Atwood Drive
Northampton, MA 01060
(413)586-8500
Docket No.
HS25P0424EA
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 Representative 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 thir-

ty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION
UNDER THE
MASSACHUSETTS
UNIFORM PROBATE
CODE (MUPC)**

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Diana S. Velez Harris, First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 03, 2025

Mark S Ames,
Register of Probate
07/31/2025

**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 Adelphi 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 sub-

ject to any and all unpaid taxes and other municipal assessments and liens, and subject to prior liens or other enforceable encumbrances of recorded title 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
Hampshire Probate and Family Court
15 Atwood Drive
Northampton, MA 01060
Docket No.
HS24P0060PM
In the matter of:
Hunter I Carr of Belchertown, MA
Protected Person/Disabled Person/Respondent
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF CONSERVATOR'S ACCOUNT**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the First and Final account(s) of Gordon M Carr of Belchertown, MA as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance.

You have the right to object to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 08/27/2025. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the

Probate & Family Court.

You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the Petition and account(s) at no cost to you.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

Witness, Hon. Diana S. Velez Harris, First Justice of this Court.

Date: July 22, 2025

Mark S. Ames
Register of Probate
07/31/2025

**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

JUNGLE JIM from page 1

“What I really loved was making kids laugh,” said Manning. “My favorite part of it is seeing the children’s reactions and their joy.”

During the performance, he called kids up to participate in cup stacking, and Magic tricks with colorful cloths, and as well as some “Minecraft Magic” of putting himself into a six-foot balloon.

“I focus on libraries and educational shows because that’s where I feel I can make the biggest difference,” said Manning. “I especially love coming to libraries because when I was a child, I was very shy, but I loved reading. My shows in libraries not only encourage the kids to read, but also to see the library as a regular destination, which is so important.”

Manning lives in Cambridge, and travels all over to different public libraries, sharing his performances and making people smile.

“There’s a lot of traveling, and the break down and set up is a lot of work, but all that work is worth it when I see the kids’ reactions and smiling faces,” said Manning.

Manning has done over a 1,000 library shows, averaging about 200 performances each year, and his shows and talents have taken him to Hawaii, South Carolina, and even Ireland.

In 2015, he reached out to the public libraries in Hawaii, and Maui County ended up loving his shows so much that they flew him back for another show.

“There’s cool thing about this job is that I’ve gone to libraries all over Massachusetts, and have gotten to see so much,” said Manning. “I really like that I created something where I can be happy every day to go to work. I feel like I can make a difference.”

His acts involve getting the audience into the performance, calling for brave volunteers to stack cups, or to laugh over some silly pranks like the color and size-changing magic wands, and the multi-colored handkerchiefs that become one giant tapestry.

“What I like about the six-foot balloon act is that not a lot of people see it in person, and it really helps



Jim Manning directing the kids to get up and get ready for some fun.



Just like that, the different handkerchiefs become one tapestry.

explains their imaginations,” said Manning.

Since he learned how to twist balloons and juggle at the age of 19, Manning has put his whole life and energy into making these shows as wonderful as possible for the kids and their families who come to see his shows.

“My favorite part of all this is bringing in the kids,” said Manning. “When they can feel a part of the shoe they are watching, that’s really exciting to me. ‘People support what they help create,’” Manning said, quoting what one of his mentors had said to him.

The performance from Jungle Jim was truly one-of-a-kind, and allowed for a whole new way to experience color and the magic in the world around us.

With a smile and some laughter, everyone can have fun, and leave with new memories for all to enjoy and cherish for years to come.



Time for the crowd-favorite six-foot balloon trick.



Getting into the balloon.



Popping his head out, and the room fills with laughter.



You know it’s a great time when even the moms are laughing, too.

Find it in the Classifieds

413.283.8393 • classifieds@turley.com
24 Water St., Palmer • 80 Main St., Ware

Are you having difficulty communicating with your partner, struggling with boundaries, and healthy relationships?

We invite you to join us Friday afternoons from 1-2:30 pm to explore these topics and more.

This group will be held in zoom, is educational, confidential, and free. Please contact Pat James 413-726-8661.

ADVERTISING SALES HELP WANTED

- Do you want to work in your community helping local businesses connect with their customers?
- Do you want a career supporting local journalism, which tells the unique stories of our communities?
- If so, then join our team! Turley Publications is looking for an outgoing, energetic person interested in selling advertising for our community newspapers. The right candidate will assume an established territory with a portfolio of customers.

You must be a self-starter with excellent communication and organizational skills. Basic computer skills are required. Previous print sales experience is preferred but we will train the right candidate.

Turley Publications, a locally owned family business, offers a competitive commission structure, 401k, and health plan.

Send resume & cover letter to:
Jamie Joslyn
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069
Email:jamie@turley.com

Turley Publications, Inc.

LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET! INFLATION PRICE BUSTERS PRICES IN RED ARE AT OR BELOW LAST YEAR'S PRICES!

USDA INSP. FRESH COUNTRY STYLE PORK RIBS \$222 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF RIB EYE CUT FREE \$989 lb	USDA INSP. STORE SHAVED BEEF SHAVED STEAK..... \$699 lb
USDA INSP. FRESH PORK SIRLOIN CUTLETS \$229 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP ROUND LONDON BROIL \$669 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN WINGS 10 LB BAG \$222 lb
USDA INSP. FROZEN PORK SHOULDER PICNIC. \$139 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH DAILY 80% LEAN GROUND BEEF 7 LB BAG \$399 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS 10 LB BAG..... 77c lb
SLICED IN OUR DELI	USDA INSP. STOREMADE CAROLINA GOLD MARINATED BONELESS CHICKEN THIGH \$369 lb	USDA INSP. OLD FASHIONED GLAZED DONUTS 6 PAK..... \$149 ea
USDA INSP. ROAST BEEF \$777 lb	USDA INSP. STOREMADE TERIYAKI MARINATED BEEF BLADE STEAKS \$699 lb	USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN SALMON FILLETS SKINLESS \$699 lb
USDA INSP. PROVOLONE CHEESE..... \$466 lb		

90 Meat Outlet 90 Avocado St. Springfield 413-737-1288 www.90meat.com

SALE DATES: 7/31/25-8/6/25 BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE

HOURS: Mon. - Wed. 8-4 Thurs. 8-6 • Fri. 8-6 • Sat. 8-3