

SB hears mosquito control pitch, library growth report

By Melina Bourdeau
Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN – The Select Board weighed joining a regional mosquito control program and heard an upbeat, but space-strapped report from the public library, as officials debated risks, costs and how to main-

tain services in buildings. At the Aug. 3 Select Board meeting, Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District officials urged Belchertown to add enhanced surveillance and optional mitigation to its public health toolbox, while Clapp Memorial Library leaders outlined rising patron use, substantial grant awards

and mounting capital and space challenges inside the town's historic library building.

Mosquito district offers surveillance, targeted mitigation

Vice Chair of the Board of Health Ken Elstein appeared on behalf of the Board

of Health to support Belchertown joining the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District, a regional program that would cost the town \$5,250 a year for membership and surveillance.

Recalling an earlier Eastern Equine Encephalitis outbreak in the region, he underscored the seriousness

of mosquito-borne illness.

"Mosquitoes worldwide are one of the biggest killers," Elstein said, adding that "with respect to some of the diseases... this is something that you carry with you... for the rest of your life."

He framed the proposal as a modest investment given the potential consequences.

"It just seems worthwhile for \$5,000," Elstein told the board, noting the Board of Health had voted unanimously in support of joining the district.

John Briggs, director of the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District, said the

Please see **CONTROL**, page 7

Operation Backpack celebrates 12 years of service

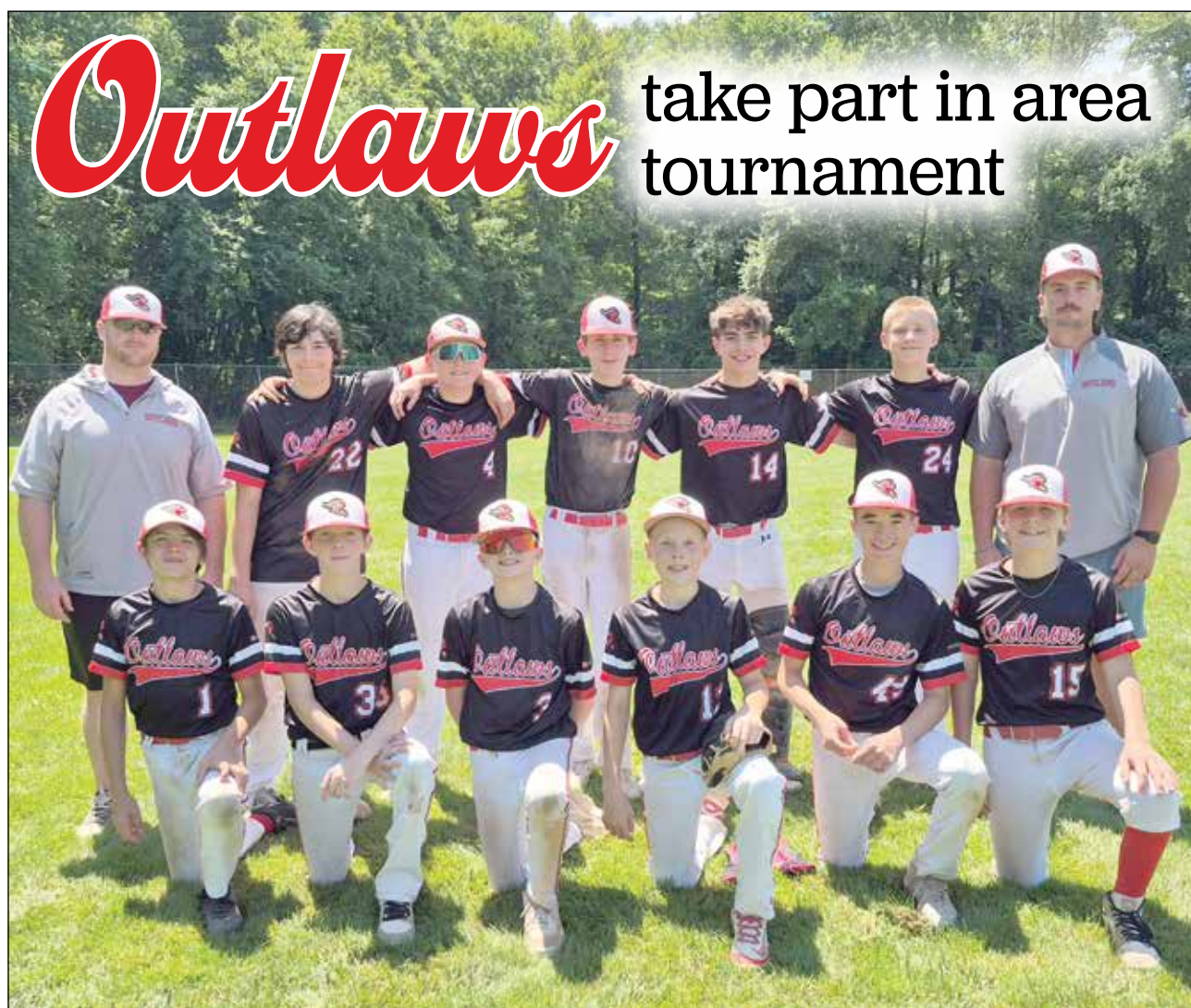
By Ben Hernandez
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY/GRANBY – Local charity Operation Backpack remains a staple of the South Hadley and Granby communities. Inspired by her time volunteering at Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Sheila Adams created Operation Backpack to ensure no student goes to school without a backpack and school supplies.

"A long time ago I retired and I got involved with Neighbors Helping Neighbors," Adams said as she recalled how she got involved with charity work. "They would give out just a few pencils or whatever they could get their hands on and I realized that was a good thing. You don't realize how many kids go to school with a paper bag or don't have the supplies to utilize in the classroom."

Seeing an opportunity to help the wider community and deciding to expand the service, Adams created Operation Backpack to ensure no student had to go to school ill-equipped. Sponsored by St. Pat's Church, she still sources her own donations and supplies.

Please see **BACKPACK**, page 3



The Massachusetts Outlaws competed in the War on the Shore: Clash of the Bats tournament held on July 10 to 12 in Stonington, CT. Pictured is the U13 team which included: (top l-r) Coach Tim Bailey, Lucas Nesbitt, Justin Bouffard, Rylan Menard, Sam Leblond, Jaxon Laliberte, Coach Bobby Trigilio. (bottom l-r) Liam Gleason, Xavier Landers, Wyatt Carver, Lucas Roy, Jacek Lavoie, Owen Williams. Team members not pictured are: Ryan Dowling, Alex Vieu, and Evan Gosselin.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Energy saving tips for the summer

By Quinn Suomala
Correspondent

Many people see their energy bills increase in the summer due to the amount of appliances needed to keep their homes cool.

National Grid offered

some advice to help keep energy costs low.

They suggested that you only run full loads in the dishwasher and dryer, setting your refrigerator temperature to 38 degrees Fahrenheit and utilizing a toaster oven to reheat or

cook small meals, as it utilizes less energy than a traditional oven.

It can also be beneficial to cook outside when possible and even use a clothesline to dry clothes, rather than a dryer.

These strategies reduce

electrical costs and can help to keep house temperatures lower.

Additionally, switching fan directions in the windows during the day can

Please see **ENERGY SAVING TIPS**, page 5

Talks continue on website updates

By Ben Hernandez
Staff Writer

GRANBY – The Granby Select Board gathered to discuss updates to the town website. Town Administrator Ron Aponte raised the issue of the town's outdated website and summarized his conversation with a potential website consultant and web master.

"I had a chance to sit down with Jenny Hajdamowicz. She is certainly on board with being able to address what I'm referring to as phase one of the website project," Aponte said. "That's really to go in and correct the incorrect data."

Aponte pointed out glaring weakness with the website's current presentation. Identified necessary work would involve "fixing links that end up going nowhere" and updating dated information. He also mentioned Hajdamowicz said the work was possible but envisioned it would "take a little bit of time."

"The problem was the people we had in place managing the process were not effective."

– Mark Bail

"My personal preference is we just contract with her to actually perform that phase one," Aponte said, though mentioned her current responsibilities with the school department would cause logistical conflicts with hiring her as a full-time town employee.

"We would have to designate her as a special municipal employee as well," Aponte said. "So she can enter into that contract. So, if the board is amenable to that, I can certainly drop that paperwork and we can address that at our next meeting."

Aponte noted they scheduled a meeting with the municipal consultant Walton Schilling to provide an overview of "what we're looking to do with the website." He expressed hope both Hajdamowicz and Schilling

Please see **WEBSITE**, page 7

Belchertown Community Band offers free summer concerts



Trumpet player Joseph Brozek takes the lead during "Song to the Moon."

By Ben Hernandez
Staff Writer

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown Community Band performed last Thursday, July 30 as part of their summer concert series.

The concert was both to commemorate the country's 250-year anniversary and as a celebration of the band's 40th season. Due to "very wet weather" on the green, as explained on the band's Facebook page, the Thursday event took place within the Belchertown High School's auditorium. The concert was a musical history tour of popular culture, with melodies from

John Williams, Leonard Bernstein and traditional American folk songs.

The band began with a rendition of the Star Spangled Banner by Francis Scott Key. The lead conductor was Band Director Mike Bauer, who was educated at the New England Conservatory of Music and taught music in Palmer before his current position. He has directed the community band since its creation in 1986.

Local trumpet player Joseph Brozek, a featured performer, played Song to the Moon in memory of founding band member and former Belchertown Citizen

of the Year Robert "Bob" Wilson. The initial haunting solo was then supported by fellow band mates Antonin Dvorak and Ward Miller before lifting off into a full orchestral piece.

Assistant Director Veronica Richter took the conductor's stand for an arrangement which combined music from late composer Henry Mancini, who Bauer mentioned wrote music for TV series "Peter Gunn" and "many movies and TV shows stretching across five decades." The medley included a combination of the "Pink

Please see **CONCERT**, page 13



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The Lions Club will host a car show in Belchertown for the third time.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Lions Club’s 3rd Annual Cruisin’ the Common Memorial Car Show

BELCHERTOWN – This Saturday, Aug. 8 (rain date: Aug. 9), our Town Common will begin filling up with vintage classic automobiles, trucks, and motorcycles starting at 9 a.m.

Public viewing (free to spectators) and judging take place until 1 p.m., at which time raffle winners for the dozens of prizes being given away will be announced, followed by the presentation of 25 laser-engraved trophies to the best-of-the-best vehicle entries that day. Don’t forget to get in on the 50/50 Raffle as well. It’s your chance to walk away with hundreds of dollars in your pocket.

Plenty of food will be served up, including meatball grinders, burgers, cheeseburgers, hot dogs, French fries, and soft drinks. Free coffee and donuts will be available in the earlier hours of the show, so stop on in---and while you’re at it, grab a sheet of raffle tickets



There will be many raffle prizes at this year’s show.

for our Chinese auction!

Our annual car show has quickly become one of our club’s biggest fundraisers---only made possible through the greatly appreciated support of our towns-

people and local businesses. Please come out and join us for the day with the entire family, grab a bite to eat, try your luck at our raffle table, and take a stroll down Memory Lane as you take

in the views of some of the finest classic vehicles in the northeast. All proceeds from this event will be distributed to our local charities and civic organizations.

Town seeks trustees for Affordable and Resilient Housing Trust

BELCHERTOWN — The Town of Belchertown is seeking three residents to serve as Trustees on the newly established Belchertown Affordable and Resilient Housing Trust, a public charitable trust created to help current homeowners make critical repairs and improvements that protect their homes from extreme weather and climate-related impacts.

Town Meeting voters approved the Trust on May 11, 2026. It was created under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 55C, for the purpose of creating, preserving, rehabilitating, and supporting community housing, as defined in Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44B, for the benefit of low- and moderate-income households in Belchertown.

The Trust grew out of the Town’s work on the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) 2.0 program, where housing stability and resilience were identified as ongoing community needs. Rather than building new housing, the Trust is designed to help residents make these repairs and improvements in cases where existing programs, such as Mass Save, do not provide coverage.

The Board of Trustees will have five members: three Belchertown residents, one Select Board member, and one Planning Board member. The Town Manager appoints all Trustees. For the initial board, terms will be staggered, with three Trustees serving one-year terms and

two serving two-year terms.

“This project is funded through the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, not local tax dollars, and Belchertown was fortunate to be selected as an MVP pilot community, making us eligible to pursue significant state grant funding in the years ahead,” said Steve Williams, Town Manager. “Now we need three residents to step forward as Trustees so this important work can move ahead.”

“This is about helping people stay in their homes,” said Cyndi Harbeson, Clapp Memorial Library Director and member of the MVP Core Team. “It’s about making sure our seniors, families, and longtime residents have the support they need to maintain safe, livable housing — especially as costs rise and homes age. This is a practical, community-focused solution that meets people where they are.”

What the Trust Will Do

- Help current homeowners repair and improve their existing homes
- Support projects that increase resilience to extreme weather
- Address gaps where existing programs, such as Mass Save, do not provide coverage
- Focus on keeping residents safely housed in the community they already live in
- Prioritize residents who are often financially strained by repair costs, including seniors, vet-

Please see **HOUSING TRUST**, page 11

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Belchertown Police Log

Editor's note: The following are brief explanations of select entries in the Belchertown Police log and arrests for the weeks of July 24, through July 29. 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

Saturday, July 25
1:25 a.m. – A 45-year-old Pittsfield man was issued a summons for receiving a stolen motor vehicle and stolen property. An officer was dispatched to Daniel Shay's Highway for a report of a person that was napping there. It was reported that a work truck stolen from Leominster late in the evening on July 24. An officer responded and saw the vehicle with its light on. The driver's side door was wide open. Then the officer saw three people standing on the side of the road. Two of them were identified. The work truck was in the middle of the road.

The person ran them down because they were out of gas. It was reported the vehicle was stolen around 8:50 p.m. the night prior. The vehicle was equipped with a dash camera to video the person driving it. The operator said they worked for the company and relative owned the vehicle, but they did not work for the company nor were they a relative. The area where the truck was stolen was behind a hospital in Leominster. A tow company was called, and the suspect was charged accordingly.
2:55 a.m. – A 19-year-old Amherst man was issued a summons for leaving the scene of property damage and operating a vehicle with a suspended license. A vehicle traveling on West Street crashed into a rock. It was towed and no injuries were reported.
Wednesday, July 29
5:11 a.m. – A 49-year-old Belchertown woman was placed under protective custody for use of drugs.
3:58 p.m. – A person was arrested on domestic violence charges.
ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS
Friday, July 24
7:54 a.m. – An officer spoke with a Mill Valley Road resident who reported



ed three children rang their doorbell then ran off. There was video of the suspects. The following day, the resident posted the video on social media and the children were identified. One of the children's parents were contacted and the officer was going to contact the other two children's parents.
8:54 p.m. – An officer dispatched to Chauncey Walker Road for a report of two vehicles on the side of the road. One vehicle was disabled. The operator said they were unable to steer the vehicle and pulled over. The operator called a tow company and waited for two hours. Due to the vehicle being a hazard, the officer requested a police tow. The vehicle was brought to the person's residence.
Saturday, July 25
12:23 p.m. – An officer

spoke with a person about a fraud attempt. The person got a notification the computer was frozen and were told to contact the number provided. The person called and told to open a bank account and dump money into it. The person didn't do it and called her bank to inform them of the matter.
1:13 p.m. – A person came in to the station to talk about a suspicious glass object with a light inside on the dashboard of their vehicle. It was there and then the person noticed it was missing there were scratches in the area where it was removed. They wanted the matter documented.
2:13 p.m. – A pair of prescription eyeglasses were found on Cold Spring Road and was placed into evidence.
4:21 p.m. – An officer responded for a report of a

stolen bumper. The person said their front bumper of their vehicle was stolen when they were at a residence in town. The officer determined the front grill cover was missing, not the bumper. They were advised to get a new registration plate in the front.
Monday, July 27
9:32 a.m. – An officer spoke with a parent who wanted to report their child was missing. They spoke with the parent who said their child left the house on their bicycle at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, July 24. The person didn't take any of their medications with them. They were entered into the system as missing.
4:58 p.m. – An officer responded to Bardwell Street for an accident. A vehicle going north on Bardwell Street crashed into a tree. A witness said the person was on the phone and looking down when the vehicle side-swiped a tree. The operator was transported to the hospital. The trees were on town property. No tows were needed.
7:08 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on North Main Street. A vehicle turning right into a North Main Street business collided with another vehicle waiting to turn into a driveway. No

injuries were reported and no tows were needed.
Tuesday, July 28
1:04 p.m. – An officer responded to a residence facilitate an owner tow. The person was in the hospital and requested to have the vehicle towed from the side of the roadway. The vehicle will remain with the tow company until the owner can retrieve it.
Wednesday, July 29
4:56 p.m. – An officer went down to West Street to assist Belchertown Fire with a vehicle partially submerged under the underpass. The vehicle was disabled due to the flooded roadway. They traveled under the underpass when the vehicle stopped running and were unable to get the vehicle into gear. The occupants were able to get out of vehicle safely. Belchertown Fire requested a tow company to the scene.
5:10 p.m. – An officer took a report of harassment. They got a text from a person who was pretending to be someone else.
4:30 – 8 p.m. – Officers responded to several reports of flooding roadways, downed trees and downed wires.

BACKPACK from page 1

"It's about 12 years ago that this now has ballooned into this big operation," Adams said. "It's done out of my home."
Adams says Operation Backpack is an "all year" effort, with requests pouring in for everything from books to binders. She even receives calls from local schools asking for help supplying students. The program is also confidential, with minimal input required to fulfill filed requests, such as gender and grade. From there, Adams sets up anonymous and secure drop-offs at the appropriate school with a trusted authority figure, such as a counselor, who ensures the items are given to the anonymous student.
"I work closely with the schools because I do not want any child to be embarrassed or go to school without what they need to be a success," Adams said. "That's my story. It's a very simple one but I enjoy doing it."
Adams offered gratitude for the overwhelming support she receives from the community. Though she stated



her family room "looks like a Staples" with the amount of material she's collected from generous donors, she nonetheless loves what she does.
Adams mentioned the program filled 213 backpacks for the operation last year and though she voiced concerns for the upcoming fall, she reported she is already getting phone calls, with word of mouth spreading throughout the food pantries

in South Hadley and Granby.
"This year, with the economy being the way it is, I don't know what my figure will be at the end of October," Adams said. "I don't know what it will be. Hopefully, I capture everybody."
Despite concerns about what the fall will bring with rising costs, Adams remains stalwart in being the reliable helpful community figure

she's become. She emphatically stated she would "commit herself to fill every backpack" to ensure no child is left behind in the fall.
"I don't want someone, a family, sitting out there not knowing I'm available," Adams said as she discussed possible figures for the upcoming school semester. "I don't know what this year will end up as, but whatever it is, I will take care of these children."
The Chamber of Commerce will also recognize her at the Boathouse Restaurant in South Hadley on Aug. 12. Those looking for supplies may reach her at shoperationbackpack@yahoo.com and several drop off locations exist around South Hadley. Drop off boxes are located at 74 Lamb Street, St. Pat's Church at 30 Main Street, Neighbors Helping Neighbors on 30 Carew Street or at Newton Dental on 488 Newton Street.
Those seeking to donate to the project can write and send checks to Operation Backpack, 36 Chestnut Hill Road, South Hadley 01075.

Multiple recycling events being held

BELCHERTOWN – Street, Granby, MA 01033)
Green Day Recycling is hosting several Saturday electronics recycling event fundraisers in the area, and we would like to invite everyone to participate.
Here is the schedule for our upcoming events:
Saturday, Aug. 8
- Most Holy Redeemer Church (120 Russell Street, Hadley, MA 01035)
- Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish (256 State
Saturday, Sept. 12
- St. Francis Church (10 Park St, Belchertown, MA 01007)
Event Details:
- Time: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Rain or shine)
- Pricing: Some items are free to recycle, while others range from \$5 to \$40 each.
- Benefit: A portion of the proceeds will benefit the hosting parishes.
Everyone is welcome to attend.



Chicopee St. to receive work

GRANBY – Road resurfacing on Chicopee St. between School St. and Carver St. Work will commence the week of Aug. 18. Please seek alternate routes if possible. Roadway detours and/or closures are anticipated.
Residents may experience short-term inconvenience/ delays due to construction operations.



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

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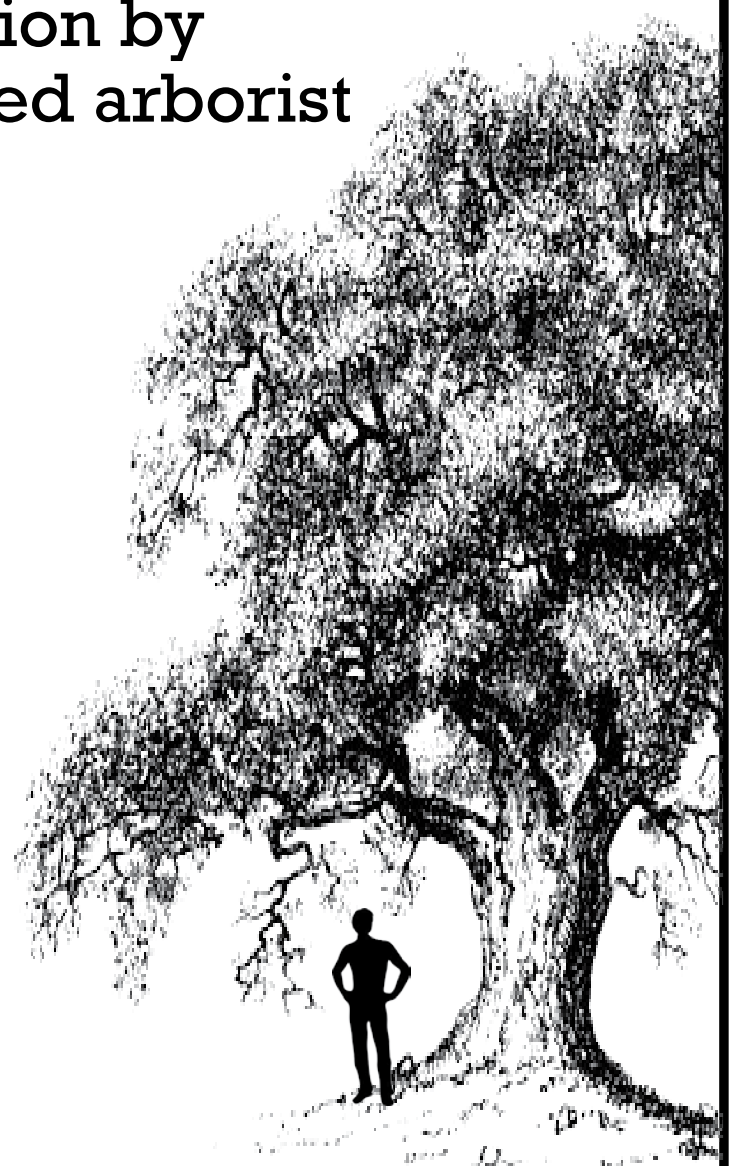


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Logo unveiled for town’s America 250 celebration

BELCHERTOWN — The Town of Belchertown has announced the name and logo for its celebration of the United States Semiquincentennial: Red, White & Belchertown.

The celebration began this summer with a flag raising ceremony marking the nation’s 250th anniversary. The name and logo announced today were created by the US250 Task Force, a group made up of community partners, town employees, Select Board members, committee members, and nonprofits working together to plan the town’s US Semiquincentennial celebrations.

The first major Red, White & Belchertown event will take place on Sept. 24 at the Chestnut Hill Recreation Area, 59 State Street. The evening will include a community gathering followed by fireworks, marking the return of a fireworks display to Belchertown after a long hiatus. The date falls the day before the Belchertown Fair begins.

Planning for the September 24 event is still underway, and additional details will be announced in the coming weeks.

Looking further ahead, the US250 Task Force is also exploring a time capsule burial and a liberty tree planting to mark the anniversary at later dates.

The public is encouraged to follow the Town website and social media pages for updates on Red, White & Belchertown and other US250 activities.

BOAT hosting outdoor movie night Aug. 15

BELCHERTOWN — Belchertown Overcoming Adversity Together (BOAT), in partnership with the Belchertown Recreation Department, invites families and community members to join “Making Waves: A Summer of Prevention” for a free outdoor showing of Dolphin Tale on Saturday, Aug. 15 at Belchertown Town Beach.

Parking opens at 7 p.m., and the movie begins at 8 p.m. Families are encouraged to bring their favorite chairs and enjoy an evening together at the beach. Free popcorn will be available, and the concession stand will be open.

Prevention starts with connection

While Dolphin Tale is a family movie about an injured dolphin and the people who come together to help her, its themes reach well beyond the story on screen. The film highlights resilience, perseverance, friendship, family, mentorship, compassion, and the importance of having a supportive community—all important components of prevention.

“Prevention isn’t just about preventing substance use or mental health challenges,” said Kris Hoag, Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Program Director/BOAT Co-Chair “It is also about creating communities where people feel connected, supported, and valued. Events like this give families an opportunity to spend time together, build relationships, and experience healthy, positive recreation.”

BOAT recognizes that substance use disorder and mental health conditions are public health issues. The organization supports and implements a proactive approach through preventative education, harm reduction strategies, reducing stigma, and ease of access to treatment.

Please see **MOVIE NIGHT**, page 13

ENERGY SAVINGS TIPS from page 1

also help keep temperatures down. Switch the fans to push out hot air during the day and pull in cool air at night.

Eversource also recommended closing curtains on direct sunlight and turning off the air conditioning when no one is home.

Furthermore, regularly cleaning the AC filters improves air flow and extends the life of the AC unit.

It is also important to check that an AC unit is correctly draining any and all moisture. AC units remove moisture from the air as they work, and incorrect drainage can lead to leaks, mold and a broken AC.

A simple way to prevent



this is when installing a window AC unit, ensure that the unit is tilted backward slightly. This ensures that the water drips down and out, rather than into the room the AC was installed in.

Furthermore, when installing the AC unit people should make sure that there is at least five feet of clearance from walls, trees, hedges or yard ornaments.

If there is not enough clearance it can block airflow and reduce the efficacy of the unit.

Another tip for keeping

costs low, as suggested by Lisa Sullivan from Holyoke Gas and Electric, is sealing any air leaks in windows and doors to help keep all cool air in.

“Additionally, we encourage customers to consider installing a smart or programmable thermostat,” Sullivan said.

Having a programmable thermostat allows people to turn up the temperatures in their home while they aren’t there, effectively cutting down energy costs.

Moreover, when installing a thermostat in a home, ensure that it is out of direct sunlight. Having the thermostat in direct sunlight can lead to incorrect temperature readings, which then cause an increased energy output.

The thermostat should also be kept away from windows and doors, as drafts from

those can also alter temperature readings.

Additionally, many people find themselves adding appliances in the summer to keep on top of the heat.

Having multiple appliances plugged in can cause safety concerns, including power surges or electrical fires.

To avoid these problems, Sullivan recommended that people should avoid plugging multiple high-energy devices into the same outlet, inspect cords for damage before use, and follow manufacturer’s instructions for installing and operating devices.

“If breakers are frequently tripping, outlets feel warm, or lights flicker when equipment is running, we recommend contacting a qualified electrician to evaluate the home’s electrical system,” Sullivan said.

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OPINION

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

When should my wife file for spouse benefits?

Dear Rusty:
My wife is 66 (born February 1960) and started taking Social Security retirement benefits just over one year ago at age 65.
She was a stay-at-home Mom for most of her adult life. I turned 62 this past March and received my first SS payment recently for a May 2026 start. We are scheduled to meet with SSA in late July to initiate spousal benefits because my wife's current benefits are less than 50% of mine.
We also have an adult disabled son, who receives Supplemental Security Income and Social Security benefits (this split in benefit sources happened after my wife filed - that whole process was confusing and we don't understand it).
My question relates to spousal benefits (I was a career finance person but don't completely understand these rules). We were going to file in July but is there any benefit to waiting until she turns 67? And will her 50% benefit be 50% of my lower benefit due to my filing at 62 or is that based on another amount?

Signed: Confused Finance Guy

Dear Confused:
First, be aware that your wife's spousal benefit will be based on her age when she claims it, and half of your Full Retirement Age, (although you claimed at 62, her benefit as your spouse will still be based on your FRA entitlement).
Because she claimed her SS retirement at 65, your wife will not get 50% of your FRA entitlement; rather she will get her own reduced SS retirement benefit (which was reduced by about 13% from her FRA entitlement) plus a "spousal boost." The amount of that "boost" will be the difference between her own FRA entitlement and half of your FRA entitlement, but that boost amount will also be reduced because she will be claiming in July before her FRA.
Your wife will reach her FRA in February 2027, so by claiming her spousal boost in July her boost amount will be reduced by about 5% and the "boost" will be added to her already reduced SS retirement about. The result will be your wife's benefit as your spouse will be less than 50% of your FRA entitlement. And, FYI, your wife will be automatically deemed to be filing for her spousal benefit, she will not be able to defer claiming it.
As your son is now collecting SS benefits based on your wife's personal SS record, you should ask Social Security to switch him over to payments based on your record because you have the higher SS benefit.

FYI, because your son is now receiving Supplemental Security Income, the SS disability benefit he receives will offset by his SSI benefit, and the payment amount will consist of two sources - SSI and SSDI. Nevertheless, he cannot get more than 50% of your SS retirement amount and will likely be affected by the Family Maximum, which may further reduce his SSDI entitlement.

Your wife's benefit as your spouse will also be affected by the "Family Maximum," which limits how much can be paid on any one person's SS record (on your SS record).

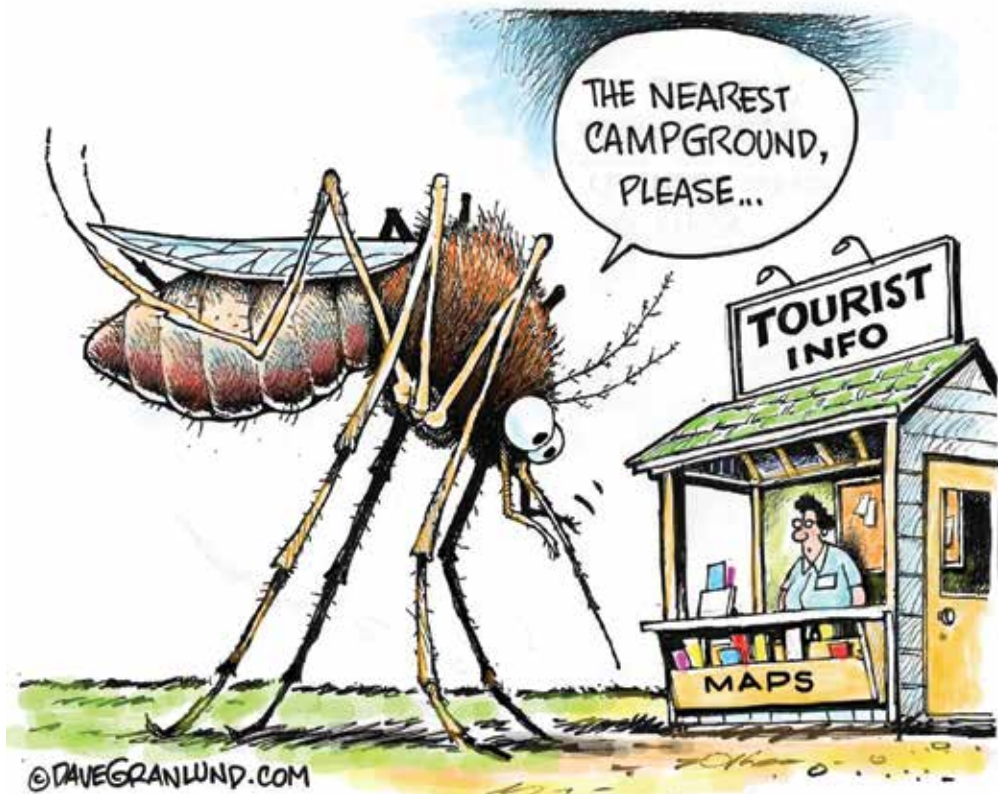
That also means that your wife will not get a full 50% of your FRA entitlement; rather she will get less because the family maximum limits how much all your dependents can receive to somewhere between 50% and 88% of your FRA benefit amount (after subtracting your own SS entitlement).

That also means that your son's SS payment, as well as your wife's SS payment as your spouse, will be reduced to less than 50% of your FRA entitlement. SSA will be able to guide you through the Family Maximum calculations for both your son and your wife when you meet.

To recap all of this: a) your wife will be automatically deemed to be filing for her spousal benefit; she cannot delay until her FRA. b) her amount as your spouse will be less than 50% of your SS FRA entitlement. And c) both your wife's and your son's SS benefit will likely be also affected by the Family Maximum and, thus, be less than half of your FRA entitlement.

Nevertheless, it was likely the right decision to claim as you have, considering that your son and wife have been receiving SS benefits for some time now, and both will continue to receive more as your dependents.

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Privet pruning leads to instruction

Every year when we head off to the Cape, the "yard" talk becomes privets, and bunies, but that is a whole other column.

When we visited in June, the privets where we stay had been cut way back in an effort to reduce height and width. This trip, I noticed those cuts had grown back nicely, achieving the desired results.

Read on while we revisit a column from the archives on pruning hedges.

A living hedge offers multi-seasonal interest. A number of shrubs suited for hedges flower or have appealing fall leaf color.

Others are evergreen and fulfill the "need for green" even in the off-season.

Some make great homes for wildlife, and others are the perfect backdrop for our holiday decorations.

Whatever the case, a hedge doesn't have to be old and overgrown to require your attention. Perhaps it is a little misshapen, or too tall and gangly. Maybe it has lots of dead wood.

Anyway, there is no time like the present to get out the loppers and hand clippers and do some pruning.

Old and overgrown

Hedges that fall into this category should be rejuvenated over the course of three years. The general rule of thumb is to remove no more than one-third of a shrub's mass at one time.

Working from the interior of each plant, cut out the oldest stems first to ground level. Fresh new growth will fill in the gaps.

Repeat in years two and three, until all the old wood

has been pruned away. If you prune more drastically than recommended, there will be less leaf power for photosynthesis, and vigor may be reduced; curb your impatience and stick to the three year rule.

bring down its height, then prune the sides of the shrub to outward facing buds to encourage a wider hedge.

This technique works especially well with hedges comprised of Rose of Sharon.



Misshapen

Hedges can sometimes be disproportionate and appear top or bottom-heavy. Proper pruning can alleviate this problem.

Before horticulture college, it never occurred to me that I could determine the direction in which my shrub will grow based on the pruning cuts I make. I used to think I was merely shortening stems!

Grab a branch and examine the buds closely. Some point inward while others point out. Voilà!

For a top-heavy shrub make cuts at inward facing buds on the upper section - this will curb outward facing growth. On the lower portion make your cuts at buds facing out to encourage outer branching.

Best cuts are made on a 45 degree angle just after the bud of choice. Try this pruning method on privet.

Too tall and gangly

Hedges that are tall and thin need more than just "a little off the top." Here you will employ pruning strategies that you've already learned.

Cut deep into the plant to

Lots of dead wood

The quickest way to prune a hedge has always been to employ shears or electric trimmers and simply remove new growth each season. Unfortunately this method makes for lots of green leaves at the plant's tips but for very little on the interior of the shrub.

If you should decide you want to reduce the overall size of the hedge you will be in for trouble - all that will be visible is dead wood. Start making "windows" now by cutting out large stems back to main branches.

Light will penetrate inside the plant spawning lots of fresh green growth. Eventually you will be able to cut the hedge back to that point. The three year, one-third rule that I spoke of earlier should apply here as well.

Boxwood and yews benefit from this type of rejuvenation.

Kudos to the privet pruner; you did well!

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

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your health



By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column

The gland guys don't want to talk about

For something the size of a walnut, the prostate looms large in men's imaginations and concerns as they age. That said, a recently published report said only about 6% of men talk to their doctors about prostate cancer screening.

Now, obviously, I'm not

a guy so I have no personal experience. But 40% of men who were surveyed in 2025 said they'd rather stew in traffic or watch their favorite sports team lose than talk about prostate health with their doctors, even though about one in eight men will be diagnosed with prostate

cancer in their lifetime.

Some doctors feel that discussions regarding urinary symptoms and sexual health are very personal in nature and can sometimes make patients feel self-conscious.

So, let's demystify this little troublemaker and see if we can encourage greater awareness and conversation.

Where it is and what it does

The prostate is tucked below the bladder and is involved in urinary and sexual health. It adds fluid to semen and helps muscle it out of the urethra. It weighs about an ounce, and though it starts out small, it tends to get larger as a man ages. This condition is called BPH, benign prostatic hyperplasia, which is believed to be brought on by hormonal changes.

The urinary symptoms that come with BPH are unpleasant: frequent need to urinate, especially at night; an inability

Please see **HEALTH**, page 7

CHECK OUT ALL THE

Turley Publications
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Herrell's Ice Cream opens new location in Mill District

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

AMHERST – The Mill District in North Amherst welcomed a new establishment this past weekend.

The community and locals arrived to celebrate the grand opening of Herrell's Ice Cream as they opened a new location in the Mill District. Owner of Herrell's Ice Cream, Judy Herrell, arrived on the scene and shared the story of this beloved ice cream establishment.

Herrell's Ice Cream opened their first location in Northampton in 1980, under the leadership of founder Steve Herrell. Judy said her original business partner was an innovator in the ice cream industry. He added new and unique ice cream flavors to his menu, including the incorporation of cookies and candy into his ice cream, and introducing gourmet ice cream options that would soon be frequently requested by his customers.

Steve retired from the business in 2014, and Judy took the reins as the owner of Herrell's Ice Cream, continuing the company's legacy. Judy is a proud owner and operates Herrell's Ice Cream alongside her husband, Stephen Wurmbrand, who serves as CFO and COO of Herrell's Ice Cream.

Herrell's offers more than 400 flavors of gourmet ice cream year-round and is a beloved New England ice cream parlor. Herrell says what makes the ice cream business so special is not only the delicious ice cream, but the dedication of the staff.

"We have the best staff in the valley," Herrell said.

There came a time when Herrell's Ice Cream wanted to expand and add another location in the region. Judy said Herrell's Ice Cream arrived at the Mill District back in 2024 for a pop-up event.

Sticking with tradition and the ice cream shop's legacy, Herrell brought the famous bears to the grand opening. The bear theme at Herrell's started when the first location in Northampton opened in 1980.

The original bears were two stuffed animal grizzly bears.

At the Mill District, the front doors at Herrell's Ice Cream were guarded by two polar bears, Max and Myrna. Inside the shop was a stand-



Jacob Robinson, Executive Director of the Amherst Area Chamber of Commerce, spoke during the grand opening of Herrell's Ice Cream.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO

A ribbon cutting ceremony took place during the grand opening of Herrell's Ice Cream at the Mill District in North Amherst.

ing polar bear named Randy, sporting a cowboy hat.

Joining Herrell's Ice Cream for the grand opening is the Amherst Area Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber's Executive Director, Jacob Robinson, arrived and said the chamber is excited to welcome Herrell's Ice Cream to the Mill District and to Amherst.

According to Robinson, a new addition to the community welcomes "innovation and quality to the valley."

Robinson said the Chamber is always delighted to hear when a new business wants to bring a location to town.

"A business that has been loved throughout the valley," Robinson said.

Robinson and his fellow representatives of the Amherst Area Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting for the grand opening of Herrell's Ice Cream location in the Mill District.

Herrell was also joined by President and CEO of W.D. Cows, Inc. and innovator of the Mill District, Cinda Jones, who wanted to congratulate and welcome Herrell's Ice Cream to the Mill District.

Regional Manager from the Office of James P. McGovern, Koby Gardner-Levine attended the ribbon cutting and stayed around to enjoy some ice cream. Easthampton Savings Bank arrived at the Mill District to celebrate the grand opening and was a big supporter and

sponsor of the event.

"We're thrilled to be a part of Amherst," Herrell said. "It's wonderful for all of you to be here."

After the ribbon was cut, the crowd formed a line to enjoy ice cream.

Staff members Tessa, Etta and Kate were busy preparing ice cream orders for the packed crowd inside the new location of Herrell's Ice Cream. Customers did not hesitate to order some of the unique gourmet choices.

The new location of Herrell's Ice Cream is 69 Cows Road, North Amherst, at the Mill District.



Sitting from left are Gwyneth Ivory, Koby Gardner-Levine, Melody Biittig and Zoë Naughton-O'Connor, who enjoyed a visit to Herrell's Ice Cream's new Amherst location.



Judy Herrell made it official with giant scissors as Herrell's Ice Cream officially opened at the Mill District in North Amherst.

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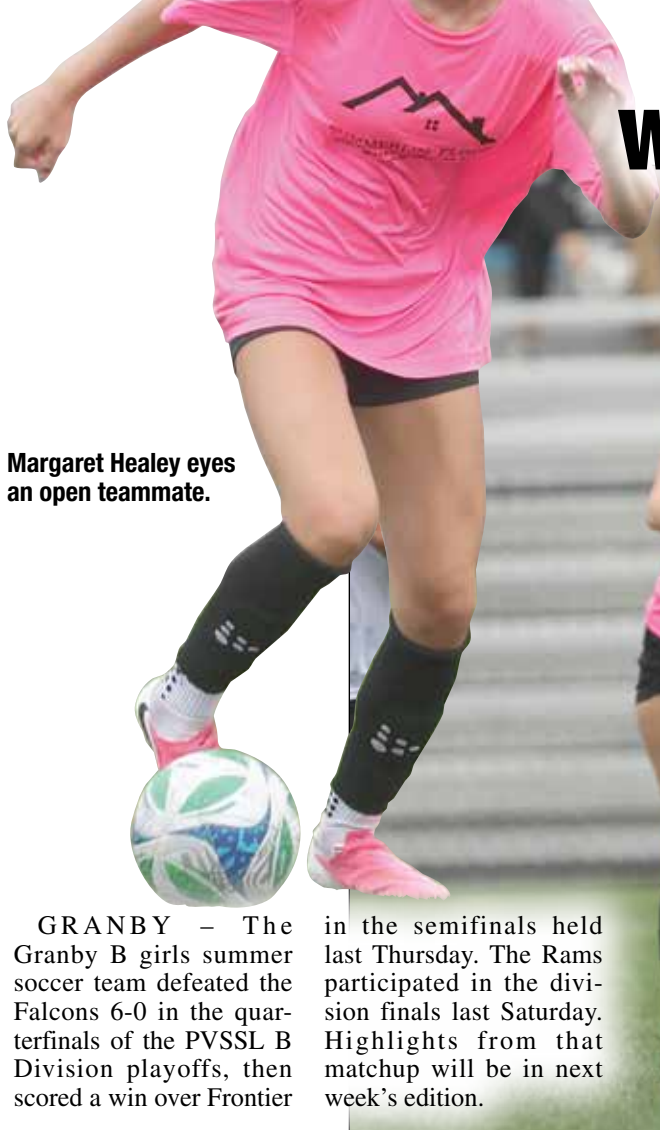
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Margaret Healey eyes an open teammate.

Rams power their way to PVSSL finals



GRANBY – The Granby B girls summer soccer team defeated the Falcons 6-0 in the quarterfinals of the PVSSL B Division playoffs, then scored a win over Frontier in the semifinals held last Thursday. The Rams participated in the division finals last Saturday. Highlights from that matchup will be in next week's edition.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Ken Schubert heads into second base.

Valley Wheel regular season concludes

WILBRAHAM – The regular season has concluded for the Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League, one of several adult baseball leagues that plays in the region. This year, with play concluding this past Sunday, the Angels were able to finish the regular season with the top record, going 11-4. The Angels matched the Twins with the same record, but won two out of three head-to-head for the tiebreaker advantage in the playoffs. The Orioles finished third and the Cubs overcame the A's by tiebreaker for the final of four playoff spots. The semifinals for the league are set for this Sunday at Spec Pond in Wilbraham. In the first matchup, the No. 2 Twins host the No. 3 Orioles at 2:30 p.m. Then, the top-seeded Angels face No. 4 Cubs at 6 p.m. The championship game will be held on Sunday, Aug. 16 at Spec Pond at 3 p.m.



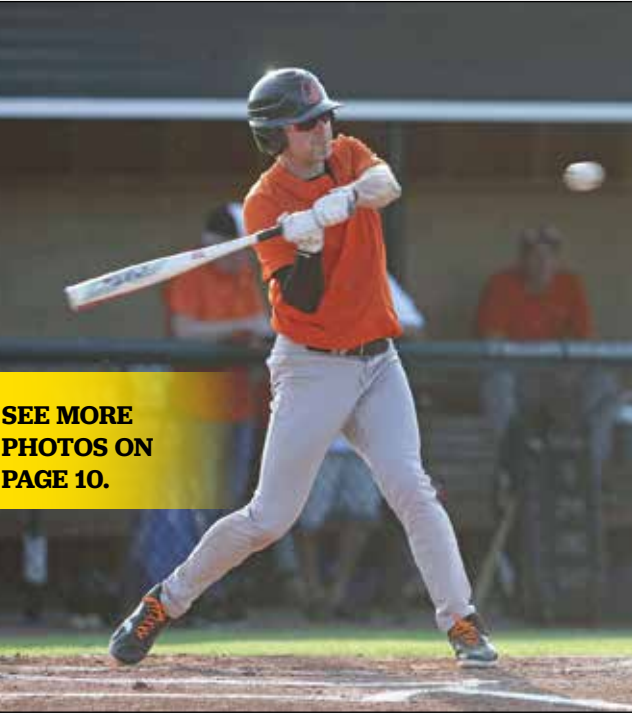
Sophia Press sends a pass away.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

McKenna Cudworth tries to separate the defense.



McKenna Zumbruski makes her way up the field.

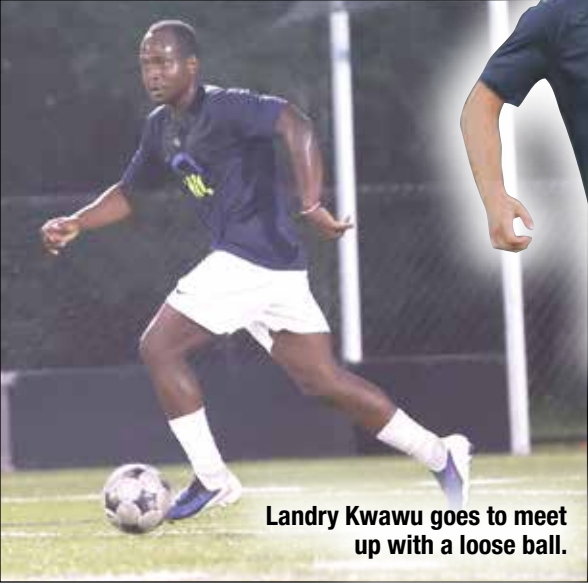


SEE MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 10.

Sam Ribeiro takes a swing.

CF Arbor reaches semifinals

SOUTH HADLEY – In last week's PVSSL summer playoffs, the CF Arbor Men's soccer team, which was the No. 4 seed in the playoffs, was able to advance into the semifinals and took on Mt. Carmel, which defeated CF Arbor by a score 2-0, ending CF Arbor's chances of reaching the championship game this year. Mt. Carmel would capture this year's men's championship.



Landry Kwawu goes to meet up with a loose ball.



Troy Remillard outplays an opponent for the ball.

LEFT: Owen Dieterle heads up the field.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Ryan Sunshine socks a free kick away.

LEFT: Tyler Lewis advances up the field.

SPORTS

Blue Sox fall in Game 1 of first playoff series

SANFORD — The Valley Blue Sox (0-1 postseason) dropped Game 1 of their first-round NECBL playoff series against the Sanford Mainers (1-0 postseason), 5-2. This marks the first time that the Blue Sox have lost to the Mainers this season, as Valley won the two previous outings.

The first inning remained scoreless for both teams, but the Mainers got themselves on the board in the second. Nater Watcher (UConn) hit a 2-run home run out to left field with Steven Kraus (Binghamton) on base to give Sanford an early 2-0 lead.

Valley, however, was able to tie the game back up shortly in the fourth after Mainers' pitcher Andrew Middleton (Maryland) had a lackluster inning, allowing 2 runs and 3 hits.

Nick Spaventa (UPenn) got the first run to score when he singled to the shortstop, who made an error, which allowed Esteban Garcia (Boston College) to score and Spaventa to advance to second.

Anthony Tirado (Penn State) then hit a sacrifice fly to right-center, letting Spaventa make his way around the bases to tie the game 2-2.

While it seemed like it was panning out to be a close

game, Sanford broke things open in the sixth. Kraus was up to bat with the bases loaded when he singled to third base, sending Albert De La Rosa (Maine) and Brian Connolly (Rhode Island) home to score, breaking the tie 4-2.

The Blue Sox loaded up the bases once again for Sanford, but it was Valley who sent the run home for the Mainers when Michael Goodman (UMass) hit Brennan Stauble (Elon) with a pitch, forcing in the fifth tally for the Mainers.

While the Blue Sox still had plenty of time to mount an offense, the Mainers' pitching staff locked it down, retiring batters in order over the final three innings.

"You got to tip your cap when [Sanford's pitching] does their job," said head coach John Raiola postgame. "We had some tough at-bats; it's tough to string a bunch of hits together against guys like that."

Though it was not the result the Blue Sox were looking for, Raiola still has full confidence in his team's ability to win Game 2.

"The fun thing about getting to this time of the year [is] it truly can be any random person who puts one good swing on a ball that changes the game."



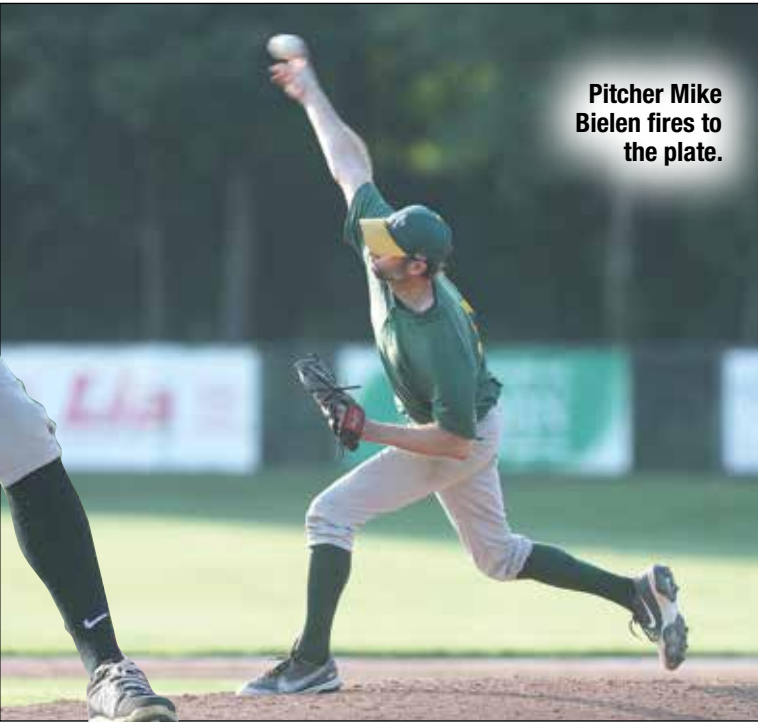
Nate Woodland makes a catch for the A's during regular season action in the Valley Wheel league.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY
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Adam Strain fields a grounder.



Mike Burgos pitches in a game for the Orioles on July 26.



Pitcher Mike Bielen fires to the plate.

Emerling picks up win at Monadnock

WINCHESTER, NH – If there's any end in sight to Patrick Emerling's current dominance of the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour, it wasn't visible Saturday, July 25 at Monadnock Speedway.

The Orchard Park, NY speedster won the fifth annual JDV Productions Duel At The Dog energized by USNE Power Modified main event at the storied high-banked oval, using his third consecutive Tour victory to stay atop the points parade and, as an added bonus, picked up an additional \$5,000 check for topping the three-race JDV Whelen Midsummer Championship.

And he did it with relative ease. Beating Tyler Rypkema to the checkers by 2.321 seconds, Emerling now has 13 Whelen Modified Tour victories to his credit, two of them scored at Monadnock.

With a huge crowd on hand for the JDV Duel event,

other winners Saturday at the fast quarter-mile included Granite State Pro Stock Series rocketman DJ Shaw, and third-year Pro Truck Challenge hot shoe Jason Paquette, who scored his first career Pro Truck victory in front of the thundering Duel at The Dog crowd.

Matt Hirschman set fast time in Whelen Modified Tour qualifying, touring the high banks in 11.836 seconds. The Keystone State hot shoe was one of ten drivers in the 21-car field to turn sub-12 second laps. It was the third week in a row that Hirschman had set fast time but a top-ten redraw Saturday would place him ninth on the starting grid for the night's 200-lap main event.

Jon McKennedy, a winner of many events at Monadnock over the years, started on the pole, with defending Tour Champion

Austin Beers at his side. At their bumpers, were six-time Champion Doug Coby and Emerling. McKennedy quickly took charge.

With Coby, Beers, and Ronnie Williams riding in his shadow, McKennedy would lead the first 35 laps. Emerling, content to survey the task before him, moved up to third on lap 18.

The first lead change occurred on lap 37, with Beers low-lining to the front. Two circuits later, his mirror was filled by Emerling. He would take charge on a lap 86 restart and never look back. Beers would stay right with him on restarts, racing wheel-to-wheel with the eventual race winner, but each time Emerling would again best him and pull away.

Tyler Rypkema, aboard the fabled Boehler Old Blue, blasted into second on lap 137, actually inching ahead

of Emerling to lead lap 148 by inches, but two go-rounds later, the Empire State star was back in front to stay. Rypkema's strong second-place performance was his third Whelen Modified Tour runner-up finish of the summer.

Beers held strong to earn the third-place hardware, followed by 15-year-old rookie sensation Paule Hartwig III and Tommy Catalano.

Positions six through ten went to Teddy Hodgdon, Eric Goodale, McKennedy, Coby, and Stephen Kopcik. Hirschman, after his promising start, finished 12th on the night.

Second generation superstar DJ Shaw did what's become expected of him in big northeast Pro Stock events Saturday. The Center Conway, NH ace patiently

Please see **EMERLING**, page 11

Thunderbirds pick up new goalies coach

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds announced today that the club has hired Brandon Wildung as Goaltending Coach.

Wildung, 32, joins the T-Birds and replaces Dan Stewart, who was appointed Goaltending Coach by the New Jersey Devils earlier this month. Wildung most recently served as Associate Head Coach for the USHL's Sioux Falls Stampede from 2024-26, where he helped the Stampede to a Clark Cup championship this past season.

Prior to his coaching career, the Nassau, Minn. native stood between the pipes for four NCAA seasons with Mercyhurst University from 2014 to 2018 before skating in seven pro games with the ECHL's Utah Grizzlies and Manchester Monarchs.

Wildung began his junior coaching career as an assistant coach with the Stampede in 2022-23, then served as an assistant coach in 2023-24 for Augustana University, the program's first season as an NCAA Division I school.



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Granby library set for fall book sale

GRANBY – Book lovers. Bargain Hunters. The Friends of the Granby Free Public Library will host their annual Month-Long Fall Book Sale during the month of September in the Community Room of the Library. You will be able to choose from a large assortment of used and like-new hardcover, 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 Sept. 1 to 30. Starting Aug. 1, the Library will be 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, dictionaries, thesau-

ri, 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 Aug. 27. Thank you for your support! The library is located at 297 E State St in Granby MA 01033.

HOUSING TRUST from page 2

erans, retirees, and first-time homeowners

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- Build new homes
- Create new affordable housing developments
- Increase housing density
- Provide assistance to non-residents
- Replace or duplicate existing programs like Mass Save
- Offer “free money” without homeowner participation or responsibility

- Raise taxes, fees, or assessments

How to Apply

Applicants must be Belchertown residents. Experience in affordable housing, real estate, banking, finance, architecture, climate resilience, or social services is desirable, though not required.

Residents interested in serving as a Trustee should send a letter of interest to:

Select Board
The Finnerty House
One South Main Street
P.O. Box 670
Belchertown,

Massachusetts 01007

Letters of interest may also be emailed to select-board@belchertown.org.

Once the Board of Trustees is seated, the board will finish establishing its policies and processes. Homeowners will then be able to apply for repair assistance, and the Trust will continue to pursue additional grant funding and private donations.

For more information on the Belchertown Affordable and Resilient Housing Trust, please visit the Trust’s webpage.

EMERLING from page 10

worked his way to the front in the 100-lap Granite State Pro Stock Series main event, pounced at the first opportunity, and then sped off to victory.

Teen star Cole Robie – the series’ defending champion and defending Duel at the Dog Champion – set fast time in Pro Stock qualifying Saturday with a lap of 12.136 seconds, but a redraw put Tom Carey III and Cory Casagrande up front as the race went green.

Carey, with Casagrande glued to his bumper, had the best seat in the house for the first 72 circuits, but Shaw – from row three – was

methodically working his way to the front. Taking third from points leader Jeremy Sorel on lap 11, he was content to sit there until low-lining into turn three 40 laps later to swipe second from Casagrande.

With the same move on lap 73, Shaw was at the front and off to the races, Casagrande kept it close, but there was no stopping Shaw once he was in front. Saturday’s big Duel At The Dog score was his second GSPSS victory of the summer.

With Casagrande holding strong for a close second, Carey’s strong performance brought him home third. Hudson, NH’s Joey Pole was fourth under the checkers,

and Robie completed the top five.

Pro Truck Challenge driver Jason Paquette couldn’t have picked a better day to earn his first win. Racing in front of the huge Duel crowd, the Scotland, CT hot shoe took the lead from pole starter Nate Smith on lap 26 and then held ageless wonder Duane Noll at his bumper the rest of the way.

With Noll finishing glued to the winner’s bumper, Tyler Chapman was third on the day. Four-time winner and series points leader Randy Burr got as high as third before settling for fourth, and Adrien Paradis was fifth in the 16-truck field.

OBITUARY

Richard R. Racine, 79

March 24, 1947 - July 25, 2026

BELCHERTOWN – Born in Holyoke to Raymond and Rhea Racine, Ricky grew up in South Hadley and attended Springfield Trade as an auto mechanic before retiring from John S. Lane & Sons in Amherst as a member of the Operating Engineers Local Union 98.



Those that knew him will never forget him. He was the most caring and giving family member and friend anyone could ask for. He was that dad that would be at your door at 6 am to have coffee with you. The friend that always showed up when you needed him.

We’ll never forget the day we had to program his new phone with all your numbers. As we sat there and asked who someone was, he repeatedly responded “my neighbor up the street”. After fifty plus numbers of “my neighbor” we realized how many friends, acquaintances and folks he would be willing to drop anything for and give a helping hand. He was the man that would just walk up to anyone and have a conversation-and yes you were probably one of the many neighbors we added to his phone.

Rick always took care of everyone, showing up in his cowboy boots, large belt buckle, and a smile to help in any way possible. He always had the tools that you needed and knew how to fix anything.

We will remember you for the laughs, your jokes, the Miller High Life and the dancing....you always knew how to cut a rug to those Elvis songs. We’ll miss the smell of the barn, and you

coming out to greet us at the garage door with your smile and waving hello. For the many calls leaving a message “hello this is your dad calling, just wanted to call and say hello.”

Up until just the last few years, horses were always part of your life. You truly were the cowboy everyone will miss. Thank you to the friends that used to go trail riding, Rick loved the times you shared with him on so many trails, with so many memories.

There were many gatherings in his garage as well, thank you to all the friends who would swing by to say hello.

Thank you to his friends that would meet him at 6 am for breakfast. Please know you meant the world to him meeting before the sun came up.

Your love for so many people (and animals....your dogs will miss you) over the years brings great memories. Dad, Grandpa, Ricky you will forever be missed. You loved life to the fullest, may we all take away and learn to live the life you lived and shared.

Ricky leaves behind his wife Carrie Racine, his children Rebecca and Michael LaFleur, Patricia and Michael Matty, Raymond Racine and Christian Turney. He also leaves behind his brother Roland and Sharlene Racine, grandchildren Jacques LaFleur, Mathieu LaFleur, Sophia Faginski, Raymond Faginski, Emily Racine, Travis Quarters, Ethan Turney and 3 great grandchildren, Owen, Esme and Axel as well as many nieces, nephew and cousins. Most of

DEATH NOTICE

Richard R. Racine
“Ricky”
Died July 25, 2026

The Sentinel
OBITUARY
POLICY

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

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

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

all, he leaves behind many treasured memories and friends. Thank you all. He is predeceased by his parents Raymond & Rhea Racine and his brother Ronnie Racine.

Per his request there will be no services...in typical Rick style, he didn’t want to put anyone out. Please feel free to honor him with a smile and a laugh over a memory.



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CLUES ACROSS

1. Bleated
6. Snakelike fish
9. Database management system
13. Social evolution anthropologist Service
14. American rocker Grohl
15. Greek personification of compassion
16. Negatives
17. Rescued
18. Self-immolation by fire ritual
19. Assigns tasks
21. Popular type of cigar
22. Discounts
23. The whole quantity
24. New York Giants legend
25. Indicates before
28. Lentils
29. Extremely angry
31. Body part
33. “North Star State”
36. David __, US playwright
38. Lower and raise one’s head
39. Private rendezvous
41. In a way, improved
44. A place to play
45. Astronomical period of 18 years
46. Automobile
48. Something you can take
49. A radio band
51. Jaws of a voracious animal
52. Short-billed rails
54. Chinese province
56. Shameless
60. Horizontal passage from the surface into a mine
61. Indian respectful titles
62. Fail to entertain
63. Dried-up
64. Central Utah city
65. Southern U.S.
66. German river
67. Necessary for breathing
68. Put into play

CLUES DOWN

1. Curved segment
2. Wings
3. Yellowish volatile liquid
4. Makes less severe
5. Debit note
6. Overhang
7. The nights before
8. Type of light
9. Lacking enthusiasm
10. Tattle
11. Some is “heavy”
12. One who is canonized
14. Indicates date and place of writing
17. “Peace” in Arabic
20. “Olaf” actor Josh
21. Fragmented rock
23. They __
25. Advanced degree
26. Backside
27. Influential architect and design couple
29. An act of undue intimacy
30. Words from which later words are derived
32. 10 meters
34. Neither
35. Fungal sacs
37. The law of God revealed to Moses
40. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
42. A promise
43. Challenges
47. British Air Aces
49. Large bank
50. Served as an omen
52. Cavalry sword
53. Vaccine developer
55. Belgian WW2 resistance leader Jules
56. Italian Seaport
57. Hip joint
58. __ Clapton, musician
59. Insect repellent
61. Constrictor snake
- 65 “The First State” (abbr.)

Classifieds

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Church hosting summer event

GRANBY – Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Granby will be having their Summerfest on Sunday, Aug. 23 from 12 to 4 p.m. Chicken dinner is \$15 and includes a half bbq chicken, baked potato and corn on the cob, as well as dessert and bottled water. Hamburgers and hot dogs will also be available. Raffles prizes including \$500, \$250, \$100. Raffle baskets, bake sale, kids games, prizes, lottery trees and more. Fun for the whole family.



TURLEY PHOTO BY BEN HERNANDEZ
The night was filled with striking performances from local musicians.

CONCERT from page 1
Panther Theme,” “Moon River” from “Breakfast at Tiffany’s” and the “Baby Elephant Walk” from the adventure film “Hatari!”
Bauer reclaimed his position for a sweeping exploration of John William’s compositions, who has created movie scores for eight decades. The band also played lesser known yet still recognizable film music from the famous composer, an effort which the director confessed he enjoyed exploring. The three-piece medley included “The Planet Krypton” from “Superman”, “Flight to Neverland” from “Hook” and “Somewhere in My Memory” from “Homeworld.”
Band President Melissa Hurst’s demand for more cowbell couldn’t be denied. Bauer introduced the musical assortment with reference to the infamous Saturday Night Live skit. He stated the “more cowbell” phrase took on new life in the public conscious, as it asked for “an extra quality that will make

something or someone better.” During the assortment, Hurst commanded the stage with spirited dancing and working the crowd as she kept rhythm on the unusual instrument.
Bauer’s self-described favorite piece of the night was a musical review of composer Leonard Bernstein. In the musical segment labeled “West Side Story,” the director recalled the life and times of the later composer; who he described as far more from Massachusetts than ever was New York.
“He was born in Lawrence,” Bauer said in his brief biography. “He went to Harvard. He went to the first year there in the Tanglewood Institute...he was there for 50 summers until 1990, when he actually passed away.”
Children collected donations for the Belchertown Community Band from the audience prior to the closing pieces from the orchestra. The named Bucket Brigade

was introduced by the assistant director, who expressed gratitude for the “wonderful group of little people” helping to raise funds for production costs.
Final songs were musical covers of pieces created by Richard Rodgers for the 1950’s TV series “Victory At Sea,” which included an oboe solo from Christine Morei. “America the Beautiful” followed, with a rendition of “Stars and Stripes Forever” by John Philip Sousa closing the night’s proceedings.
The summer Concerts at the Common series will continue every Thursday night, through Aug. 13. Concerts begin at 7 p.m. The concerts are free of charge, though donations will be collected during performances. Unless otherwise stated on the band’s Facebook page, concerts take place at the Belchertown Town Common.

MOVIE NIGHT from page 5
Building Protective Factors Through Community
Prevention works best when communities invest in the conditions that help people thrive. Positive relationships, supportive adults, meaningful activities, healthy coping skills, and a strong sense of belonging can all serve as protective factors, particularly for young people.
The evening’s themes include:
Resilience: Learning that setbacks do not have to define our future.
Connection: Understanding the importance of supportive family, friends, mentors, and community members.
Healthy coping: Finding constructive ways to manage challenges and adversity.
Belonging: Creating spaces where people feel welcomed, included, and supported.
Positive recreation: Providing substance-free opportunities for families and young people to enjoy time together.
Compassion and reducing stigma: Recognizing that everyone experiences challenges and that asking for help is a strength.
“BOAT believes prevention is something we do with our community, not simply for our community,” said Alene Motta, DFC Community Engagement Coordinator. “By bringing people together, creating opportunities for connection, and making prevention part of everyday community life, we can help build a stronger and healthier Belchertown.”

PUBLIC NOTICES

Belchertown Conservation Commission LEGAL NOTICE
Pursuant to the authority of the Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Ch. 131, Sec. 40, its Regulations (310 CMR 10.00) and the Belchertown Wetlands Protection Bylaw (Chapter 139), the Belchertown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Monday, August 17, 2026 at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall Auditorium, located at 2 Jabish Street in Belchertown, MA 01007** to review a Request for Determination of Applicability permit application submitted by Thomas Ablicki for the **proposed work to permit a secondary accessway at 67 South Liberty Street (Assessor’s Map 278-20) in Belchertown.** Work is proposed to occur within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands. Anyone interested in this matter should appear at the time and place designated.
08/06/2026

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08/06/2026

Belchertown Education Foundation 2025 Financial Records
The financial records of 2025, Form 990, for Belchertown Education Foundation, Inc. are available for public inspection by contacting Belchertown Education Foundation, Attn. Stephen Bourgeois, P.O. Box 435, Belchertown, MA 01007, Or, you may contact Stephen at info@BelchertownEducationFoundation.org for an appointment.
08/06/2026



Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

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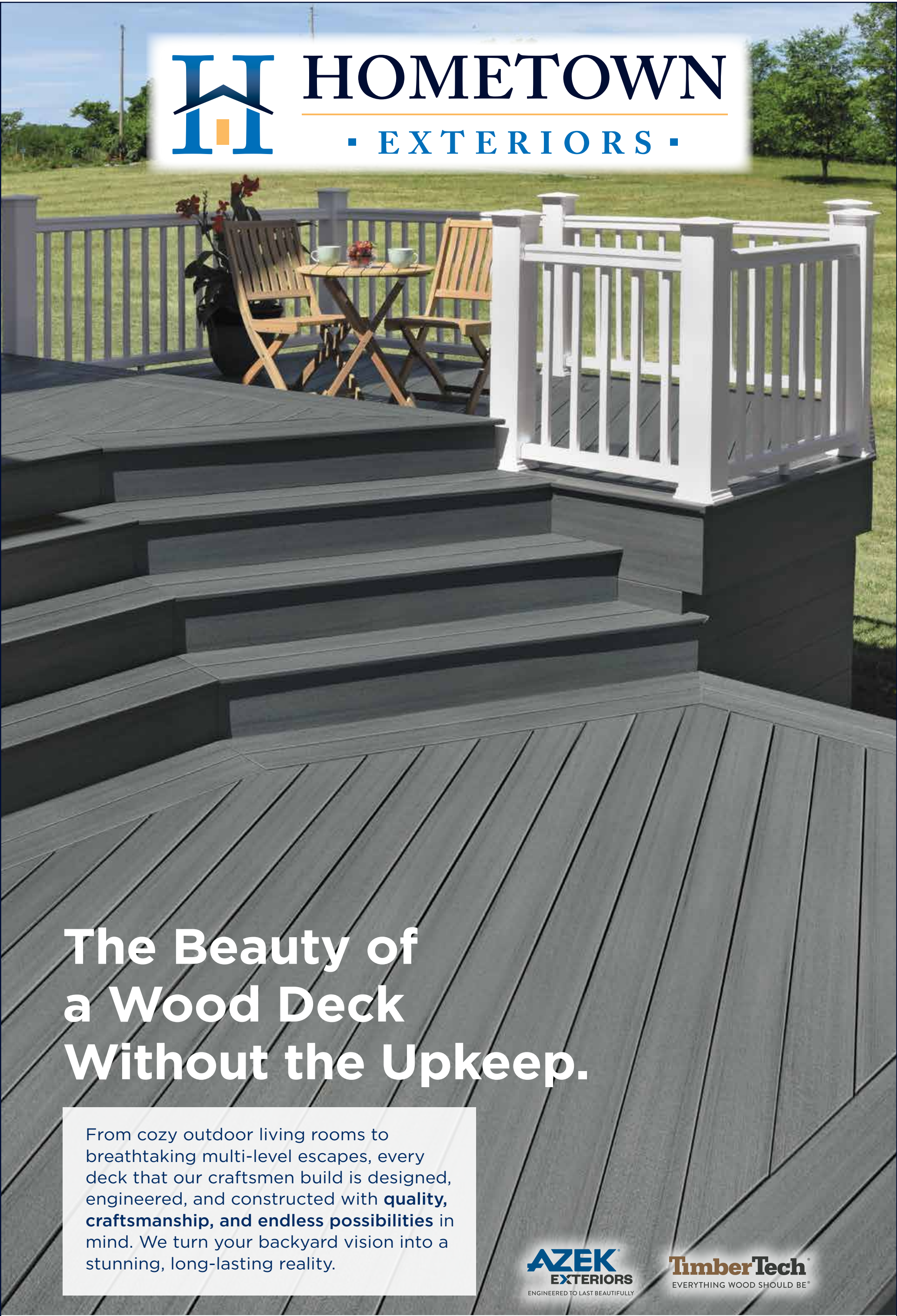
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