

Chambers unite for fundraiser

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

SOUTH HADLEY – For the past several years, the South Hadley and Granby Chamber of Commerce and the Amherst Area Chamber of Commerce have hosted a joint gathering to partner together in order to support a nonprofit organization a part of the chambers.

“This River Cruise is a perfect example of how we can combine resources and energy to create memorable events for our members. In the year ahead, we’re excited to explore more joint networking and impact-based initiatives, such as an upcoming multi-Chamber event in November hosted at Mount Holyoke College to support our local food banks in the area,” said Amherst Director Jacob Robinson.

“Every year, we enjoy a partnership with the Amherst Area Chamber of Commerce! A multi-chamber event is like combining the best parts of several communities into one event. It gives our members the chance to meet new businesses, expand their reach, and build partnerships across town lines. It also creates something bigger,” said Steve Laplante, the President of the South Hadley and Granby Chamber of Commerce.

The event was a part of the Business After 5 series of events, where the Chambers get together to host a non-



TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS
Fungai Tichiwangana, Ben Palkowski, Polina Potochevska, Brandi Parker, Alex Laguerra Sierra, Jacob Robinson, Katarzyna Bernash from Amherst.

profit organization and provide additional ways to market and work with others.

The nonprofit featured at the event was the Collaborative for

Educational Services, which provides paid internships for high school students where they can work alongside science professors in real labs, all while getting paid.

“This program has been so meaningful for me because it’s helped me get more into the bioengineering field,” said Helen Tejirian, one of the students in the program.

The program runs through the summer, their Steamwork Paid Internship

Please see **CHAMBER**, page 13

Board charts course for TM

By Melina Bourdeau
Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN – A comprehensive set of goals and objectives for the Town Manager for the upcoming year was approved by the Selectboard on Monday, with economic development emerging as a central priority.

Town Manager Steve Williams presented an extensive list of goals spanning six key areas: economic development, public safety, communications, conservation, finance and buildings and infrastructure.

The meeting concluded with a unanimous vote to accept the goals and objectives, with the understanding that quarterly updates would allow for adjustments and refinement.

Economic development took center stage, with board members emphasizing the need for a strategic, multi-pronged approach. Selectboard member Jen Turner articulated the core objective “The top priority is to attract appropriate new businesses and investments,” said Turner.

Williams acknowledged the complexity of the task, noting some objectives would depend on collaboration with other agencies.

He highlighted ongoing efforts to work with the town planner and communications director.

The board recognized the importance of supporting existing businesses while simultaneously attracting new investments. Selectboard Chair Lesa Lessard Pearson stressed the dual importance of “supporting and retaining our current businesses” while also pursuing new economic opportunities.

Human resources presented another challenge, particularly considering ongoing health insurance complications.

The board discussed the practicality of conducting comprehensive job description reviews, ultimately agreeing to a measured approach. Williams said completing reviews across all departments within 10 months was unlikely.

The board settled on a

Please see **TM**, page 5



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

A couple enjoy the ride on a beautiful day.

Soccer jamboree remembers beloved friend, Julia

By Emily-Rose Pappas
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BELCHERTOWN – Sports are a way for people to come together to have some fun, but many sporting events are also opportunities for people to support the people within their communities.

Every year for the past three years, the Julia’s 3v3 Soccer Jamboree occurs, where players and lovers of soccer can come together to play, and support the Julia Haynes Scholarship Fund, a 501c3 nonprofit, which annually awards Belchertown High School Seniors scholarships for both students entering the

trades, and going to college.

“Julia was an 8th-grade student in Belchertown when she passed away, and she passed away after an 18-month battle with brain cancer,” said Julia’s mom, Misty Haynes. “After she passed away, four of her really good friends wanted to remember her, so they started the soccer jamboree to raise money for the scholarship fund.”

Julia wanted to go to college to be a specialist to help other kids with cancer, and loved playing soccer for the former Cold Spring Soccer Club

with her friends.

Since her passing in 2023, her friends and family have made sure to keep the jamboree going

“It means a lot, and it’s a way to remember her and keep her memory alive, but also to be with the community. It’s wonderful because

Julia Haynes with her soccer ball, getting ready to play. Please see **JULIA**, page 4



VFW hosts second annual motorcycle ride for St. Jude

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
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BELCHERTOWN – On a beautiful Saturday, Aug. 9, the VFW hosted their 2nd Annual VFW Ride for St. Jude, with over 70 bikes and over 100 participants joining in to raise money for a good cause.

“It was a really good time, nobody got hurt, and it was just a good shout-out to Window World for sponsoring us,” said Archie Archambault, the VFW’s Commander.

“The event was a great success,” said the event’s coordinator, Rachel Chagnon. “Thanks to our riders and support from so many local businesses, I’m proud to share that we raised over \$4,500!”

The Belchertown Veterans of Foreign Affairs works to ensure that the veterans who come home are well-taken care of, connecting them to resources like Home Base, which raises money to support the families of veterans, and other resources to help them when they come home.

The VFW works to serve and give back to the veterans who gave so much for our country, providing financial support to scholarships for the children of veterans.

“If a veteran from Belchertown can’t heat their home, we do,” Commander Archie said. “We are here to give back to the veterans who gave it all.”

In order to become a Please see **VFW**, page 11

Clapp Memorial Library book drop-off a huge success



Posing with a trunk full of boxes ready for new readers.

BELCHERTOWN – On Saturday August 16, so many of you showed up to show your support for the Library Book Sale by donating your used books, CDs, and DVDs. It was a record setting day! Thank you to everyone who donated to the library book sale, and to the teens and adults who helped take boxes and bags out of cars. We are grateful to everyone who believes in our beautiful Clapp Memorial Library. We are still taking donations, so if you missed this event, you can drop off your donations directly at the library. We look forward to seeing you October 13-18 at the book sale.



A cart makes it easier to carry the many, many books to be sorted.

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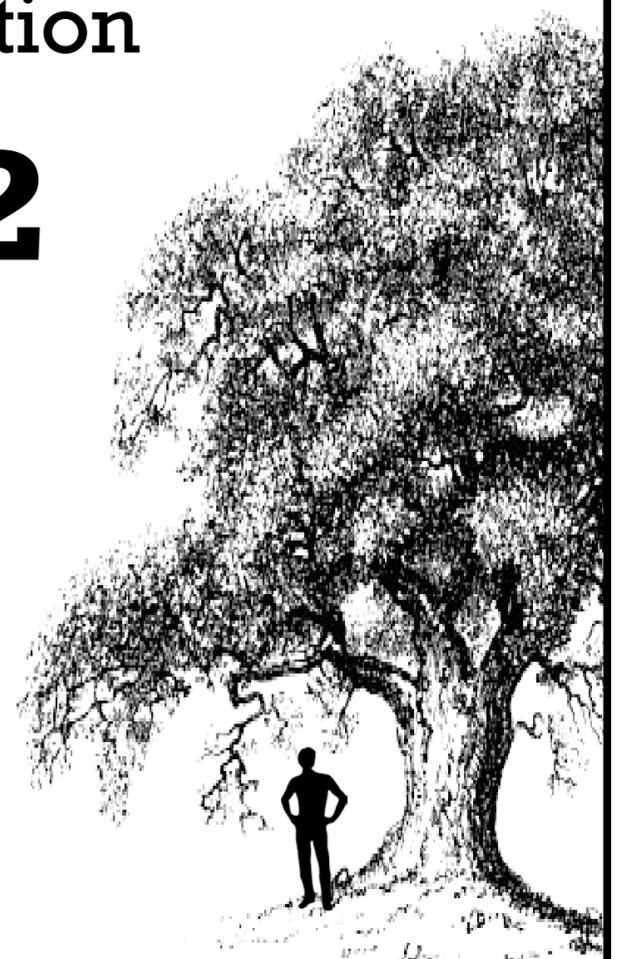
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Arc Point Brewing celebrates a full house for anniversary



The line was out the door at the anniversary party to try the new feature brews.

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

BELCHERTOWN – Celebrating its one year in business, Arc Point Brewing celebrated a successful party last weekend, where the parking lot, field, and the brewery were packed with guests to celebrate and enjoy the warm weather.

They offered special beers, including two collab beers with Great Awakening out of Westfield, a hazy IPA and a vanilla orange sour IPA, as well as a third special version of their flagship IPA, Journey.

The anniversary party featured live music performances from bands Woodshed and Baby Driver, and guests came out with their lawn chairs, blankets, and pop-up tents to enjoy the weather.

You can find Arc Point Brewing Company open Tuesdays to Thursdays from 4 to 8 p.m., Fridays from 3:30 to 10 p.m., Saturdays from noon to 10 p.m., and Sundays from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. You can also find available trivia on Wednesdays, pitch on Thursdays, and cribbage on Fridays.

So, grab your lawn chairs, your friends, your family, and your eagerness to relax, and stop by somewhere local, and support veterans who gave their all for our country, and a little town called Belchertown.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Setting up blankets and chairs for a relaxing day of good food, drinks, and music.



Sitting at the high table and getting some sun.

Rustic Fusion's food truck, Egg Roll Evolution, came to serve their famous egg rolls.



Firefighter's association to host golf tournament

The Belchertown Firefighters' Association is having their 3rd annual golf tournament at Cold Spring Country Club, 330 Chauncey Walker Street,

Belchertown on Friday, October 3rd. Registration is at 9 a.m., with a shotgun start at 10 a.m. For more information, visit the Belchertown Firefighters' Association

Facebook page, send an email to Belchertownfireassociation@gmail.com, or call Tanner Clark (413) 315-0003 or Kevin Vickers (413) 575-1072.

Immaculate Heart of Mary's Summerfest returns

GRANBY – Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Granby, MA will be having their Summerfest Chicken BBQ on Sunday August 24, from noon 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 a bottled water. Hamburgers and Hot Dogs

will also be available. Raffle Prizes of \$500, \$250, and \$100, Raffle Baskets, Bake Sale, Kids Games, Prizes, Lottery Trees, and Music! Fun for the whole family!

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Adalyn Mongano, Rylee Salem, Halle Kelsen, and Cailin Donah ready to play.



Kyla Moseley and Alexa Pobieglo wearing gold for their game.



Abby Canoa, Rylen Fortier, Khloe Shaink, and Karlie Rose practicing before their game.



Erica Rose, Amanda Gladu, and Eileen Cooper at the booth for sign-ups.

JULIA'S 3V3

is expecting this year to be successful, as last year raised over \$50,000.

"We had no idea it would turn into this," said Haynes.

The jamboree had both a girls' division and a boys' division, and there were 56 teams this year. The ages for the players range from third grade all the way up through high school.

"I would say that my favorite part is the kick-off, where everybody shows up and we get the whole day started," said Haynes.

"It always takes my breath away to know people are remembering her and having a day that is fun, and it's so impactful," said Haynes. "Even the younger ones, they may not have known Julia, but the spirit they bring and

the fun they have is just really special."

Some parents had kids in both divisions, and many families stayed the whole day to cheer on their teams and their friends. There were over 100 volunteers, including referees, people at the stands, and the DJ volunteered his time to support them.

"We can get so caught up in the bad things going on, that's it's good to have the good things happen, and it's refreshing," said Haynes.

"I admired Julia's resilience. She took everything in stride, and they told her everything about her cancer. She always had that positive spirit," said Haynes.

People can donate to the scholarship by writing checks or through Venmo, and all information on how to apply for the scholarship, deadlines, and options for donations can be found on their Facebook, Julia's 3v3 Soccer Jamboree, and Instagram, @julias3v3jamboree. You can reach out through direct messaging to the profiles.

The event was a great success as people from all over came together to cherish and



TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS
Lauren Cooper, Lindsey Chrabasz, and Jonna and Trish Gleason manning the dunk tank.



Kevin and Sharon Marino, Edith Audette, and Molly and Vinnie Mazzaferro enjoying their time together and rooting on their friends.

remember Julia, playing soccer and getting goals just for her, as she was with them all in spirit.

JULIA from page 1

there's so much support," said Haynes.

The food trucks that came to the jamboree volunteered and donated their time at the jamboree, and some donated some proceeds back to the organization. There was also

a dunk tank and time to see friends and have fun.

"The dunk tank, her friends decided, would have been a fun thing to do and right up her alley," said Haynes.

The Julia Haynes Scholarship Fund committee

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- CLUES ACROSS**
- Mongolian politician
 - Coconut palms
 - Rounded knob
 - Japanese city
 - Covers in soft material
 - Walk around
 - Ancient region in Syria
 - French painter
 - Grandmother
 - Cow part
 - Rocky peak
 - Secret plan
 - Sings to one's lover
 - More (Spanish)
 - Father
 - Chinese philosophical principle
 - Hat
 - In agreement
 - A person's brother or sister
 - Evil spirit
 - Monetary units
 - Partner to cheese
- CLUES DOWN**
- Two-toed sloth
 - Cooking ingredient
 - Iranian city
 - Publicly outs
 - Steep-sided hollow
 - Spoke
 - General law or rule
 - Extravagantly theatrical
 - Very fast airplane
 - Arm bones
 - Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
 - ___ fide: legitimate
 - Gemstone
 - Counsels
 - Top exec
 - Cool!
 - Touch lightly
 - Extract money via taxation
 - Dyes
 - Cloying sweetness
 - Soft drinks
 - Capital of Guam
 - Chemical compound
 - The bill in a restaurant
 - Car mechanics group
 - Late comedian Newhart
 - Health care for the aged
 - Wise individuals
 - A passage with access only at one end
 - Trim
 - Former OSS
 - The upper surface of the mouth
 - Edible lily bulbs
 - Type of reef
 - Vaccine developer
 - Mottled citrus fruit
 - A place to store lawn tools
 - Rare goose native to Hawaii
 - Hollywood pig
 - Musician Clapton
 - Take a chance
 - Spanish soldier
 - Mark Wahlberg comedy

BOAT to host annual Overdose Awareness Vigil

BELCHERTOWN - BOAT (Belchertown Overcoming Adversity Together) will host its annual Overdose Awareness Vigil on Wednesday, August 28, 2025, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM on the Belchertown Town Common. This event honors those lost to overdose and provides space for remembrance, reflection, and community healing. The evening will include personal stories, remembrance activities, and access to local support

resources. From 6:00 to 6:45 PM, attendees may visit reflection stations including:

- A Memory Table / Wall of Light
- A Creative Healing Station with kindness rock painting, dragonfly art, and luminary bag decorating
- A Comfort & Care Station
- Resource Tables with information on recovery and grief support
- A Legacy in Action Table for honoring loved ones

through future service. At 6:45 PM, BOAT Co-Chair Angela Battle will open the speaking portion, followed by remarks from State Representative Aaron Saunders. BOAT Secretary Alene Motta will share a poem, and community members are invited to read their own tributes. The evening also includes a First Light Candle Relay, collective name reading, moment of stillness, and an open mic for personal stories.

"We gather not only to grieve, but to remember with intention and to support each other in healing," said Angela Battle. "Every name, every story, every light matters." The event is free and open to the public. Guests are encouraged to bring photos for the memory table. For more information or to volunteer, contact BOAT at khoag@belchertownps.org

Celebrate the end of summer with the CML

BELCHERTOWN - Did you know? The Library has free passes or discounts to the following museums and attractions: the Children's Museum at Holyoke, the Clark Art Institute, the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, Historic Deerfield, Magic Wings Butterfly Conservatory, Massachusetts DCR Parking pass, Mass MOCA, the New Salem Museum and Academy of Fine Art, the Norman Rockwell Museum, Old Sturbridge Village, Pioneer Valley Symphony, the Springfield Museums, and the Zoo in Forest Park. Passes are available at the circulation desk on a first-come, first-served basis. Call or stop by on the day you wish to go. More information is available on our website: clapplibrary.org or call the library at 413-323-0417.

are available for checkout at the circulation desk. New members are welcome!

For Teens
Teen Advisory Board - 1st Meeting of the School Year! Friday, September 12, 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The Clapp Memorial Library's Teen Advisory Board will meet in the library's Activity Room for its first meeting of the 2025-2026 school year! TAB is a group of 7th-12th grade students who meet monthly during the school year to propose library programming for teens, provide input on teen services, volunteer, and have fun! At this meeting, teens will socialize, discuss the year ahead, and plan their community craft for the Belchertown Fair's Exhibit Hall. Teens can email clapplibrarytab@gmail.com to register.

The Clapp Memorial Library is open:
Monday 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.*
Tuesday 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Wednesday 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Thursday 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Friday 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
**The Library will be closed Monday, September 1st in observance of Labor Day.*

Pack 507 gers ready for annual field day fundraiser

BELCHERTOWN - Pack 507 will be hosting their annual field day fundraiser on Saturday, September 27, featuring 11 different goofy, entertaining, and challenging events. The field day begins at 10 a.m. for registration, with an opening ceremony at 10:30 a.m., and the games begin at 10:45 a.m., ending with the field's close at 12:30 p.m.

Bring blankets and lawn chairs to watch games and take breaks at, some water, and an eagerness to have some fun. You can find more information on their website at <https://sites.google.com/view/pack-507-family-field-day/home>.

Fall Book Sale coming to GPL

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

back 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.

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pragmatic strategy, agreeing to focus on reviewing job descriptions for one department and addressing vacancies as they occur. Lessard Pearson proposed an incremental solution. "Let's at least say one department, and then any folks who leave," she said. Health insurance emerged as a critical underlying issue affecting multiple municipal objectives. The board plans to invite the Hampshire County Insurance Trust representative to a Sept. 7 meeting to address community concerns. Lessard Pearson prepared a list of questions, including inquiries about the trust's financial stability and potential contingency plans. The goals discussion reflected a commitment to transparency and achievability. Williams emphasized the

importance of flexibility. "Let's get headed in the right direction, and in a couple of months," he said. "When I come back, we can evaluate to adjust priorities." Union contract negotiations were identified as

another top priority. Board member Jonathan Ritter highlighted the critical nature of these negotiations, stating they are essential "because without the contracts, we can't establish a budget." In a moment reflecting the

board's collaborative spirit, Lessard Pearson summarized the approach: "It's not supposed to be pie in the sky. It's supposed to be achievable."

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- Auction Day Registration: 10:00 A.M. to 11:45 A.M.

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OPINION

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

I'm still confused about Medicare Part A and Part B enrollment

Dear Rusty:

I'm 64 and still working full time, and plan to continue working at least until I'm 70 ~ it's a good job, and I enjoy it.

My job comes with health insurance, so I don't really need additional coverage, but I understand I will be required to sign up for Medicare Part A anyway when I turn 65 next year. What I don't understand is Part B: A colleague of mine, who is a little older than I am, said she signed up for Part B because a penalty will be incurred if we wait until we retire from our jobs and actually need the additional insurance. I'm not sure she's right. Can you explain what I should do?

Signed: Confused About Medicare

Dear Confused:

We're happy to assist you with understanding this. First, enrolling in Medicare Part A (coverage for inpatient hospitalization service) is mandatory to collect Social Security after age 65. If you do not plan to take your Social Security benefits yet, you can defer enrolling in Part A until you claim Social Security. But Medicare Part A is also free to those eligible for Social Security, so there is little reason not to enroll in Part A at age 65 and, when you claim Social Security, you will be automatically enrolled.

Part B, which is coverage for outpatient health-care services (doctors, medical tests, etc.), is different. Part B is always optional because there is a premium associated with it (standard premium is \$185/month in 2025), but nearly everyone over age 65 requires health-care coverage. If, however, you are employed and have "creditable" health-care coverage from your employer ("creditable" is a group plan with more than 20 participants), then you can defer enrolling in Medicare Part B until your creditable employer coverage ends. And you can do so without incurring a "late enrollment penalty" for enrolling in Part B outside of your Initial Enrollment Period. When your creditable coverage from your employer ends, you will enter an 8-month Medicare "Special Enrollment Period," which permits you to enroll in Part B without penalty.

Thus, as long as your employer coverage is "creditable," you can

defer enrolling in Part B without penalty. FYI, you can also enroll in Part B a couple of months prior to your employer coverage ending, asking that your Part B coverage starts when your employer coverage ends, to avoid any gap in healthcare coverage. Note you will likely need your employer to provide you with proof of creditable coverage when you later enroll in Part B.

A couple of extra thoughts:

If you require prescription drug coverage when your employer coverage ends after age 65, you only have 63 days to acquire that drug coverage without incurring a "Part D" (drug plan) late enrollment penalty. So, if needed, you should not wait to get insurance coverage for prescription drugs after your employer coverage ends.

If you now have a Health Savings Account through your employer, you should discontinue any HSA contributions well before (perhaps as much as six months before) your enrollment in Medicare Part A. That's because Part A is not considered a "high deductible" insurance plan (a "high deductible" plan is a requirement for having a Health Savings Account). If you do not have an HSA, you need not be concerned about this. If you do, we can also provide you with more info on this.

I hope this answers your questions, but we are always here to assist if you need anything further. Contact us at SSAdvisor@amacfoundation.org or at (800-750-2622).

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



Rust is no joke

This time of year I always get a few questions from gardeners who wonder what type of disease is afflicting their treasured hollyhocks.

Sadly, it's affecting mine too. Read on for more information on this malady.

Two years ago I planted Hollyhock seeds indoors. The plants grew wonderfully that first year with nice deep green basal foliage.

Being biennial in nature, year two is when they came into their glory with incredibly beautiful pink flowers on towering six to seven foot spikes. Now it's year three – a gift when biennials are concerned.

The plants started out fine and then I noticed a few raised orange-brown spots on the leaves. By season's end, the plants are pale in color and covered with the rusty orange spots.

Most of the lower foliage has been destroyed and has dropped to the ground.

My hollyhocks are suffering from a fungal problem by the name of rust. It first appears as waxy orange blisters, known as "pustules" on the undersides of the lower most foliage. On the surface of the leaves small, orange-yellow spots form.

Hollyhock rust rarely kills its host, but it can make plants look quite unsightly. In a severe infestation like mine, premature leaf drop occurs.

Next spring, if I dare to grow hollyhocks again, I'll have to do it in a different part of my landscape and escape any spores that the

soil is harboring. The best way to control

plant diseases. First, give perennials adequate space from one another to allow for good air flow.

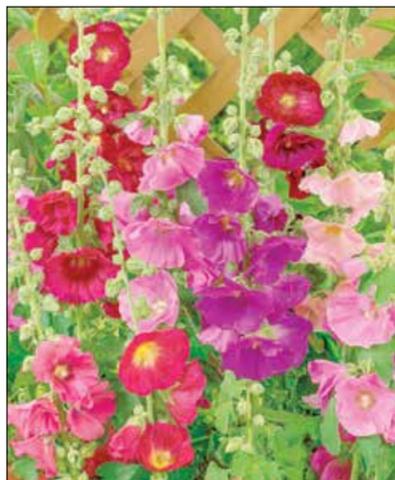
In the case of hollyhocks, I'd recommend about 18 inches. We can't control when and how often it rains, but when we supply the moisture timing and application count. Water around the base of the plants, without it touching the foliage, and do so early in the morning so that leaves have a chance to dry before nightfall.

Apply new bark mulch each spring to cover spores that may be waiting in the soil. And lastly, when planting new seedlings, locate them as far away as possible from previously grown plants even if they didn't have a serious infestation.

Although I've never tried this myself, I have read a few testimonials from gardeners who had luck applying corn meal to their soil in an effort to control soil borne fungal diseases such as rust. Reportedly it stimulates beneficial organisms that feed on pathogens. Two pounds per one hundred square feet is recommended.

Even if it doesn't work, it probably won't hurt!

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



hollyhock rust is to remove infected leaves and discard them in the trash. The quicker you act, the better.

Other members of the hollyhock family (Malvaceae) are prone to this disease as well, so scour your perennial bed for spotted leaves on Lavatera and Malva (Tall Mallow and Musk Mallow) and dispose of them.

A common weed that goes by the name "cheese weed" or "cheeses" is also a Malva and likewise is susceptible. Cut down on the chance of infestation next year by removing all foliage and debris from these plants prior to winter. Even go as far as to remove the bark mulch beneath them to further reduce the spore population. Proper cultural practices also make a difference in combating hollyhock rust and most

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.

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Upcoming events at the Quabbin: hikes, nature, and history galore

REGION – The Friends of the Quabbin would like to share these upcoming Quabbin programs from the Department of Conservation and Recreation. You can learn more about all of these programs and register by going to www.friendsofquabbin.org/dcr-programs.

Discover the Quabbin
Join us for engaging, family-friendly programs that explore the rich history and natural beauty of the Quabbin Reservoir. From guided hikes to indoor talks, there's something for everyone, just be sure to dress for the weather and bring water!
Please note: Dogs are not allowed anywhere on Quabbin property.
All programs are free, but registration is required. Space is limited-25 spots for outdoor programs, 45 for indoor events-so sign up early! Learn more and register by going to www.friendsofquabbin.org/dcr-programs/

Quabbin Park Cemetery Tour
Sunday, Aug. 31, 1 to 2 p.m.
Easy but uneven ground
Take a walk through the Quabbin Park Cemetery and learn about the history and lives of residents (both prominent and ordinary) of the Valley towns. Meet in the Quabbin Park Cemetery off Rt. 9 in Ware. Please dress appropriately for the weather. No dogs are allowed.
Learn more and register by going to www.friendsofquabbin.org/dcr-programs/

Late Summer Meadow Visit
Thursday, Sept. 11, 2025, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Approx. 1 mile Easy
Middle Entrance Parking Lot, Quabbin Park
This hike will meet at the parking area at the Middle Entrance and walk along the Spillway Road to a small meadow across from the Boat Cove. The walk is

easy, but the road along the Spillway is heavily trafficked, so caution is advised. Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear, bring water, and come prepared for insects. Dogs are not allowed anywhere at Quabbin.
Learn more and register by going to www.friendsofquabbin.org/dcr-programs/

Exploring the Ware River Watershed - group hike near Rutland State Park
Saturday, Sept. 20, 2025 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
4.4 miles • Moderate
Ware River Watershed, Mass Central Rail Trail (MCRT)/Mid State Trail Parking Area, Route 122, Rutland
Join us for a 4.4-mile lollipop loop hike in the Ware River Watershed. The route climbs/descends roughly 200 ft. in elevation.
We will all meet at the MCRT parking area located on Route 122 in the town of

Rutland. The hike begins/ends on the MCRT with a loop in the middle consisting of Camel's Hump, Long Meadow Road, and Prison Camp Road. Please dress appropriately for the weather and bring water and snacks.
Learn more and register by going to www.friendsofquabbin.org/dcr-programs/

Hidden History: Webster Road
Sunday, Sept. 21, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Relatively flat terrain, approximately 2.5 miles round-trip.
Hanks Meadow Parking Lot, Quabbin Park
Quabbin's ghost towns are hiding in plain sight - if you know where to look. This two-hour guided interpretive walk will teach you how to read the natural landscape as you uncover clues that reveal the hidden history of Webster Road. Explore old cellar holes and histor-

ic stone walls, get to know some native and invasive plants, and learn more about the families who lived in the town of Enfield a hundred years ago.
Meet at Hanks Meadow parking lot. Please bring water and dress appropriately for the weather. All ages welcome. Dogs are not allowed.
Learn more and register by going to www.friendsofquabbin.org/dcr-programs/

Soapstone Mountain Hike
Limited to 10 people
Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
2.7 miles • Difficult
Quabbin Reservoir Gate 37 - From Rt 122 in New Salem take Monson Turnpike Rd and follow to Gate 37
This scenic hike will begin at Gate 37 and follow an easy woodland road before branching off to a short but very steep hike up the mountain. Hike is challenging and has points which require

climbing over large rocks, however the summit is one of the best views of Quabbin Reservoir. Please dress appropriately for weather and insects, wear safe, suitable footwear, and bring water. Dogs are not allowed.
Learn more and register by going to www.friendsofquabbin.org/dcr-programs/

Hidden History: Webster Road
Sunday, Oct. 12, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Relatively flat terrain, approximately 2.5 miles round-trip.
Hanks Meadow Parking Lot, Quabbin Park
Quabbin's ghost towns are hiding in plain sight - if you know where to look. This two-hour guided interpretive walk will teach you how to read the natural landscape as you uncover clues that reveal the hidden history of Webster
Please see **QUABBIN**, page 8

Have you experienced a housing need?

Share your story online or in person

We want to address housing needs in our region with storytelling! If you have a story to share about your current housing situation, challenges with finding housing, or being unhoused, we want to hear your story. Housing stories will be used to build awareness about the housing challenges in the region to bring further change. Stories will be collected through an online form or video interview. Photos or videos will be used with permission, or you may ask to remain anonymous.

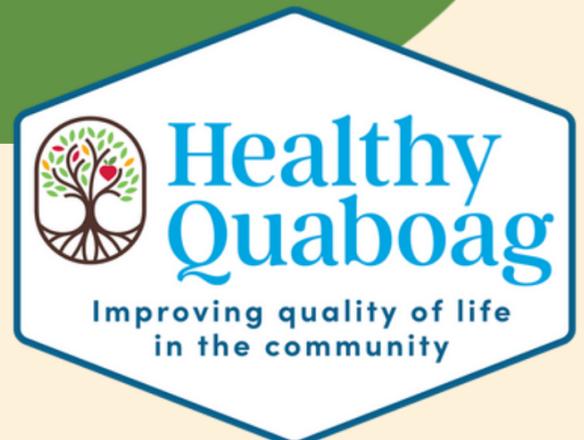


Submit stories through an online form (scan QR code or go to: <https://tinyurl.com/HQHousingStory>) or a recorded interview. You have the option of being anonymous for either format.



\$50 compensation for those who share online or \$100 for recorded interviews

For any questions, please contact Nisha Humayun at nhumayun@townofware.com or (413) 207-7698



GRANBY

Granby library's August, September programs

GRANBY – This August and September, the Granby Free Public Library has many different events and activities to enjoy before school begins, and after.

Fly Away With Books!

Finished Summer Reading and want another challenge? Pick up a "Fly Away With Books!" sheet. Read 5 picture books or 1 chapter book at home & write the title(s) on the lines in the hot air balloon. Color your hot air balloon, then return the sheet to the library for a small prize by August 29. For kids up to age 11 years.

Going Back to School? Starting School? Check out our large selection of starting school books to help your child's transition go more smoothly whether it's preschool, kindergarten or other grades.

CFCE PLAYGROUPS

Fall Playgroup dates: September 10 on, every Wednesday and Friday 10:30 a.m. to noon. Join us for this free playgroup, where you & your child (birth- 5yrs.) can enjoy playtime, an activity, and story circle time with Marti.

Playgroups are made possible with funding from a Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CF CE) grant from the

MA Department of Early Education and Care, administered by the Collaborative for Educational Services.

Reading Buddies with Bright Spot Therapy Dogs
Thursdays 3:30 to 5 p.m.
Dates: September 4 and 18, October 2, 16, and 30.

Children in Kindergarten & up will enjoy reading aloud to gentle, comforting Reading Buddies with Bright Spot Therapy Dogs as they practice their reading. Pre-register for a time slot.

Mochi Squishy Scavenger Hunt! August 12 to 23

Cute little Mochi Kawaii critters are fun to play with, but they are very sneaky and we've had many of ours escape. Can you help us find them? Take a find sheet, find them, then turn in your sheet for your own *Mochi Kawaii to take home! Ages 4 to 11 years, one time per child, while supplies last.

Be a Kid Spy!

August. 26 – September 13

Check out an I Spy or Look & Find type of book and get a DIY mini "I Spy" bottle kit *while supplies last - Ages 4 and up.

Play I SPY Look in our I Spy terrarium, find and count the items on the Find Sheet as you go. When you've spied everything on this

sheet, then you receive a little toy/treat! September's Read for Treats "Apples" Sheets

Pick up a sheet & get a treat for reading! Read 5 picture or 1 chapter book at home, then write the book title(s) on the lines inside the apple. Color the apple & return the sheet to the library to redeem for a treat/toy. Ends September 23.

Meet a Balloon Artist

A Sensory Friendly Experience with Brie's Balloons **September 25, from 5:30 to 7 p.m.**

Sign up for a 15-minute, one-on-one balloon twisting session with Brie's Balloons. Spaces are limited, please pre-register. Choose between 2 experiences with Brie's Balloons when you register: *Exploration session (ages 3-4 years) is great for those getting comfortable with different sensory experiences or as an introduction to balloon twisting.

*Balloon twisting teaching session (youth ages 5 years and up) is good for those who are ready to learn how to twist 1 to 2 balloon animals.

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten - At Home Program

Make sure your child is

as ready as they can be for one of the biggest moments of their little life - starting school. Read them 1,000 books before kindergarten & keep track with this nationwide program. Sign up and get a folder at the library. Read a book (any book) to your newborn, infant, or toddler. The goal is to read 1,000 books (yes, you can repeat books) before your child starts kindergarten. Vist www.1000booksbeforekindergarten.org for more information.

To Granby Library patrons,

I am retiring at the end of September. As a Youth Service Librarian, I have been able to combine my love of youth and libraries in the perfect setting, Granby. The years flew by and now it is time to embark on a new adventure - Retirement! I have been touched by so many memories. It has been a pleasure to get to know you and to foster a love of reading. I will miss you all and wish everyone well as you continue your library adventures!

With sincere thanks and gratitude to everyone who has touched my life,

Miss Janice
 (Janice McArdle,
 Youth Service Librarian)

REGION

Ware Grange to host barbecue dinner this Saturday

WARE – Ware Grange is holding a Barbecue Dinner at the Fair on Saturday, August 23, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. The menu includes pulled pork, chicken, brisket, baked beans, coleslaw, cornbread, drink, and dessert for \$25. Eat outside under

the tent and enjoy live music by Brianna Lamb during dinner. Take-out is also available. Reservations are required. Please call 413-284-1135 or email waregrange164@gmail.com to make your reservations for the barbecue.

QUABBIN from page 7

Road. Explore old cellar holes and historic stone walls, get to know some native and invasive plants, and learn more about the families who lived in the town of Enfield a hundred years ago.

Meet at the Hank's Meadow parking lot. Please bring water and dress appropriately for the weather. All ages welcome. Dogs are not allowed.

Learn more and register by going to www.friendsofquabbin.org/dcr-programs/

Exploring Quabbin Park via the East Gate Trail and the Goodnough Dike paved walk

Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025
 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

4.2 miles • Intermediate
 Quabbin Reservoir, East Gate entrance, Rt. 9, Ware

Join us for a 4.2-mile hike that will feature the scenic view from the road at the top of the Goodnough Dike. We will be walking on a mix of foot paths, forest roads, and paved roads. The hike is mostly flat except for walking up and down the road to the Dike.

The hike begins at the East Gate parking area. The parking area is located on the north side of Rt. 9 in Ware, across from the Quabbin Park Cemetery.

Please dress appropriately for the weather and bring water. Dogs are not allowed.

Learn more and register by going to www.friendsofquabbin.org/dcr-programs/

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Orioles captured 7-8 title



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
The Orioles captured the Spec Pond Summer Basketball League Championship on Aug. 10.



Gia Grazioso goes after a loose ball.



Rioghan Auffrey take a free throw.



Gianna Gassndo looks to shoot.

Bridget Donah makes her way down the court.

WILBRAHAM – On Sunday, Aug. 10, the Belchertown Orioles defeated West Side Blue to capture 7-8 A Championship in the Spec Pond Summer Basketball League with a 46-29 win. The Orioles went 3-7 in the regular season before popping off three straight wins in the playoffs to capture the title.

Former BHS coach wins award

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

CHICOPEE – Following a very successful 2025 campaign, Chicopee High School girls' varsity lacrosse coach Ashley Ziemba was selected as the Massachusetts High School Girls Coach of the Year by USA Lacrosse.

"I've been coaching lacrosse at the high school level for the past 18 years," said Ziemba during a recent interview. "I was shocked when they informed me that I had been selected as the Massachusetts High School Coach of the Year."

Several other girls' lacrosse coaches from Western Mass. were nominated for the award.

"There are so many outstanding girls' lacrosse coaches in Western Mass., and we always support each other," Ziemba said. "I'm very grateful just to have been nominated for the award. I just want to keep growing the sport and our lacrosse program."

Mirella Vargas, who's the Lady Pacers assistant lacrosse coach, nominated Ziemba for the Coach of the Year award.

"It meant a lot to me that Mirella was the person who nominated me," said Ziemba, who received a certificate from USA Lacrosse. "I coached her for three years at the varsity level. She has been my assistant coach for the past five years. We work very well together."

According to the USA Lacrosse website, the Coach of the Year award is intended to recognize the individual's overall coaching performance and contribution, not just coach-

ing wins. Nominees must demonstrate outstanding sportsmanship on and off the field, and demonstrate excellent rapport with their players, officials, and other coaches.

Besides being the head coach of the Lady Pacers varsity lacrosse team for the past decade, Ziemba is the Director of the Girls' Lacrosse program for the Springfield Ballers.

"I also coach the Ballers high school travel team. We played in a couple of local tournaments this summer," she said. "We have players from 13 or 14 different high schools in the area. We also have several youth teams, which are coached by the high school players. My main goal is to help the girls develop into very good lacrosse players."

Ziemba, who's currently a Special Education Teacher at Chicopee High School, began her coaching career as the junior varsity lacrosse coach at West Springfield High School, which is her alma mater. She was also the girls' varsity lacrosse coach at Belchertown High School before starting the girls' program at Chicopee High School in 2015.

Prior to 2015, the girl's lacrosse players from Chicopee High were able to play for the Comp lacrosse team as part of a co-op.

"At that time, I was coaching the girls' soccer team here at Chicopee High and was teaching at Chicopee Academy," said Ziemba, who also played lacrosse at Elms College. "I had a meeting with (former Athletic Director) Jim Blain about starting our

Please see **COACH**, page 10

Short-handed Villa FC captures PVSSL Men's Championship

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—After being forced to play the final 20 minutes of regulation with only ten players, the chances of winning the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League men's championship title for the second consecutive year didn't look very promising for third-seeded Villa FC.

The defending champions, who were trailing 1-0, managed to tie the match against top-seeded Cap & Hitch at Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow earlier this month.

The score remained tied during the two 10-minute overtime periods.

During the ninth round of the penalty shootout, Villa goalie Lucas Morales-Fernandez made an outstanding diving save giving his team an exciting 1-1 (9-8 PK's) win over Cap & Hitch at Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow earlier this month.

"This is our second championship in a year, and it feels excellent," said Villa player/coach Mike Lima following the match, which lasted more than two hours. "We're one of the better teams in this league, so everybody always wants to



Villa FC captured the PVSSL Men's Championship earlier this month.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Brandon McCarthy, heads up the field.

be beat us. We were trailing late in second half, but we were able to battle back."

Lima, who shared the coaching duties with Ruben Sousa, is one of the Villa FC players who graduated from Ludlow High School.

The other former Ludlow High School soccer players listed on the Villa FC roster are Kyle Tomas, who received a red card during the 60th minute, Brandon McCarthy and Enzo Botta.

A year ago, Villa FC, who plays their home matches at Minnechaug Regional, defeated Lusitano White in

the men's finals. They also took home the championship trophy in 2017 with a 3-2 win over Pros Malaca.

Anthony Basile was selected as this year's MVP award winner. He was also the M.V.P. of the 2017 championship match.

"This is a very special team with a lot of very special players," said Basile, who's from East Longmeadow. "I'm very happy that I'm still able to be a part of it."

Villa FC, who finished the regular season with a 9-1-2 record, advanced into this

year's finals after defeating sixth-seeded STCC Alum in a penalty shootout in the quarterfinals, and Lusitano Red, 6-2, in the semifinals.

Cap & Hitch (11-1) joined the prestigious summer league a year ago. They dispatched eighth-seeded Empower Health, 5-0, in the quarterfinals and the White's 6-2 in the semifinals.

"This was just an unbelievable match by both teams. It's tough that someone had to lose," said Cap & Hitch head coach Bennett Walsh. "I've never been involved in a match where they were 18 shots in the penalty shootout. I'm very proud of my guys."

Both teams had chances to take the lead during the first half, which was 40 minutes long.

Cap & Hitch had the first opportunity during the 26th minute.

Ethan Czaprowski, who played soccer at Belchertown High School, weaved around a couple of defenders inside the box before firing a shot that deflected off the crossbar.

Another former Belchertown player listed on the Cap & Hitch roster is Shay O'Neill, who's father, Devin, is the longtime men's

Please see **MEN'S**, page 10

SPORTS

More teams wanted for Quabbin 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.

The league is looking for at least one full team to join the league. If you play in an adult league in the region and have most of your team comprising of players over the age of 28 and would like to enter the league, please get in touch as soon as possible. The league is looking to finalize its schedule by Aug.



25. 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.

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

MEN'S from page 9

soccer coach at Western New England University.

A minute later, Gabriel Ganzer, who plays for Villa, had a breakaway opportunity, but his shot attempt bounced off the left post.

Ganzer, who's a former member of the Western Mass. Pioneers, recorded a hat-trick in last year's finals. He was also selected as the 2024 MVP winner.

This year's championship match was still scoreless at the half.

Cap & Hitch was given a penalty shot by referee Fabio Cardoso following a foul in the box twenty minutes into the second half.

Kamer Nuhui, who graduated from Agawam High School, stepped up to the line and fired a shot into the net past Morales-Fernandez.

During that sequence, Cardoso gave Tomas a red card leaving Villa with only ten players on the field.

Cardoso continued to issue yellow cards like they were parking tickets, which kept the match from getting out of control.

Basile tied the score at 1-1 after putting a shot into the net past goalie Alberto Truoiolo with only a couple seconds remaining in regulation.

"I just saw an opportuni-



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHTOS.COM
Anthony Basile, an Agawam High School graduate, poses with the trophy and league co-president Dianna Kolodziej.

ty," he said. "I just swung my foot and watched the ball roll to the back of the net. It just felt great."

At the end of the second overtime period, Bryant Keeney had a chance to be the hero for Villa, but his line-drive shot hooked wide.

The nine Villa players that made PK's during the shootout were Andre Morrison, Joao Miranda, Shane Sewell, Andrew Ortiz, Quin Serafino, Mason Perham, Mike Willis,

McCarthy, and Ganzer.

The eight PK's made by the Cap & Hitch players were Simba Pelletier, Bennett Walsh Jr., John Senn-McNally, Dominic Cirelli, Connor Weslocki, Czaprowski, O'Neill, and Nuhui.

Morales-Fernandez finally ended the match by making a save on a shot attempt by Nathan Sanchez.

It was another memorable summer for the members of Villa FC.

Emerling takes Thompson 150 win

THOMPSON, CT — An incredible flood of fans entered Thompson Speedway on Wednesday night for the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour's annual midweek Thompson 150 with plenty of magic in the air. Along with a much anticipated visit from Geoff Bodine and the original Big Red Machine #1 from his stellar 1978 campaign, the NASCAR touring teams battled in the Tour's 750th event back where it all began in 1985.

Ron Silk got the capacity crowd on their feet during Hoosier Racing Tire qualifying as he earned the pole position by just breaking the nineteen-second mark with an 18.999-second run. Silk launched on the start of the

750th NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour event with a rearview mirror full of Thompson arch-rival Justin Bonsignore. The first caution flag flew on lap 14 as Eric Berndt moved up across the front bumper of Luke Baldwin at the start/finish line sending Berndt into the wall and Baldwin pitside for damage control.

Silk maintained control at the front of the field until the hard turn one wreck for Baldwin around lap 70 as the leaders jumped pitside for fresh Hoosier rubber. Jon McKennedy led the pack under the return to green and pulled away from Stephen Kopcik, Jake Johnson and point leader Austin Beers as Silk and Bonsignore began

the long march from deep in the field. A turn-two-tap between Kopcik and McKennedy rapidly took both out of the top five with Johnson stealing the show out front.

As laps wound down, Patrick Emerling made his case known as he grew ever closer to Johnson's rear bumper. Emerling pulled up on lap 124 to lead lap 125 and fortunately never had to deal with another caution period. Unspoiled, Patrick Emerling took down the Thompson 150 win in the Big Red Machine look-a-like #1 complete with Geoff Bodine in the 750th NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour victory lane celebration.



Kamer Nuhui, of Agawam, possesses the ball for Cap & Hitch.



Shay O'Neill, of Belchertown, heads up the field with the ball.

COACH from page 9

own girls' lacrosse team here at Chicopee High. He asked me if I was ready to start the program and I told him absolutely."

While Ziemba is no longer the Lady Pacers soccer coach, she's an assistant girls' basketball coach at Holyoke High School under varsity coach Andrea Enright. The duo were coaching the girls' basketball team at Longmeadow High School the same year Ziemba began the lacrosse team at Chicopee High School.

"A lot of the Longmeadow

lacrosse players also played basketball. They helped me a lot during my first year coaching the Chicopee lacrosse team," Ziemba said. "They donated their old sticks or goggles, which most of my players at Chicopee didn't have. We now get grants to buy equipment. I just wanted to give the kids in Chicopee the opportunity to play lacrosse."

While Ziemba has coached several different sports, lacrosse has always been her favorite sport.

"I picked up the lacrosse stick for the first time when I was in the sixth grade and

I just fell in love with the game," Ziemba said. "I just loved that lacrosse is different from the other sports. My passion for lacrosse has carried over to coaching."

This past spring, the Lady Pacers finished the regular season with a 15-2 record.

After losing at Northampton in the Western Mass. Class B semifinals, which snapped their 14 game winning streak, Chicopee entered the Division 3 state tournament as the 36th-seed.

After pulling out a thrilling 10-9 victory against 29th-seeded Dedham in a preliminary round road

match, the Lady Pacers lost at fourth-seeded Wayland in the round of 32.

"This was probably our best season," Ziemba said. "The players development has grown a lot during the past ten years. A lot of the kids are now playing lacrosse during the offseason. That's one of the reasons why we've been so successful."

A couple of the Lady Pacers key players this past season were senior goalie Nyeira Wilson, senior attack Ashley Galica, senior defender Jocelyn Coira, senior defender Ivelise Aponte, and junior middle

Madison Thibault.

"We did have several very good upperclassmen," Ziemba added. "We also had a strong freshmen class. Most of those players played lacrosse at the youth level."

The Lady Pacers posted a 12-1 victory against cross-town rival Comp in the middle of the regular season.

"It's a very big rivalry game because both high schools are separated by a little more than two miles," Ziemba said. "A lot of the kids went to school together when they were younger. The families all know each other."

The winner of the High

and Comp girls' lacrosse match receives a stick.

Both teams will be members of the same league next year.

The Lady Pacers, who also qualified for the state tournament in 2024, will be looking to host a state tournament match for the first time in the spring of 2026.

"We did a lot of team building activities this past season," Ziemba said. "I'm very excited about the next couple of years."

Ziemba is planning to coach the girl's lacrosse team at Chicopee High School for many more years.



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OBITUARIES

Richard John Coville

BELCHERTOWN – Richard “Rick” Coville of Belchertown passed away peacefully with his loving family by his side on August 10, 2025. Rick was the youngest of three and grew up in Palmer, with his two sisters. As a youth, he played football for the Palmer Cowboys. He graduated from Palmer High School in 1993, where he played football and hockey and then went on to work as an apprentice plumber. Rick continued to excel at his craft as a plumber and was also skilled in all HVAC capacities. Rick was very hardworking and always willing to take on any job with great knowledge and dedication. He loved working for his current employer, DF Plumbing and Mechanical Contractors in Belchertown, MA, where he has many friends. His strong work ethic and unwavering humor will be greatly missed by his team.



Rick was predeceased by his grandparents, Mary and Richard Coville, Sr; Elaine and Donald Brunelle; his father, Richard Coville, Jr; and stepfather, Robert Hafner. Rick is survived by his two children, Alexis Eve Coville and Ayden Joseph Coville; his mother, Melodie Hafner of Belchertown; his sisters and brothers-in-law, Jennifer and Kevin Lynch of Wilbraham; Kimberly and Kyle Cote of Warren; his stepbrother, Gregory Hafner of Las Vegas, NV; his nephew, Matthew Dreisch; his nieces, Mackenzie Fagan and Molly Lynch; and many aunts, uncles and cousins, locally and in California. Rick is loved by many for his humor, his quick-witted nature, and his personable demeanor. He made every occasion more fun. Rick was also very generous with a heart of gold and would help anyone in need.

Rick was a devoted Red Sox baseball fan his whole life. He also loved football and was a fan of the Green Bay Packers. His favorite pastime was playing golf. He always loved spending his leisure time on the golf course. He was an amateur chef at home with a natural talent for cooking. For many summers, Rick and his sisters took their children on an annual beach trip, and he would be up early each morning to cook breakfast for everyone. He loved his family and took pride in caring for his children. Rick will always be remembered for making people laugh and for making life so much more enjoyable. He is loved for so many reasons and is greatly missed by his family with profound sadness. The family is keeping final plans private. There will be a “Celebration of Life” event to honor Rick’s memory in October. Further information to follow.

Judith A. Davis

BELCHERTOWN – Judith A. (Goodreau) Davis, 85, of Belchertown, passed peacefully away on Tuesday, August 12, 2025 with her two daughters by her bedside. Born in Ludlow, MA on December 26, 1939 she was the daughter of the late Joseph and Beatrice (Bousquet) Goodreau. Judy lived and worked most of her life in Ludlow. Judy is survived by her daughters Judith Birks (Donald Wright) and JoAnne Tetrault (Joseph). She leaves beloved grandchildren, Brittany Cassese (Andrew), Justin Tetrault (Katelyn), Caitlyn, Tommy, and Jennifer O’Neill; her great-grandchildren Scarlett and Emily Cassese and Joy-



Anna O’Neill. One of 15 children, Judy leaves 6 siblings Joanne, Janice, Donna, Gail, Renee and her godson and brother Wayne Goodreau (Cindy). In addition, she leaves her godson and brother Wayne Goodreau (Cindy). Judy also leaves her dear friend Joyce Rougeau. Judy was predeceased by her husband Phillip Davis, her son Joseph H. O’Neill IV, 8 of her siblings, and her much-loved friend Jean Linnehan. Judy was a compassionate lady who took exemplary care of ailing and homebound siblings and neighbors. She was thrilled to spend time in New Jersey with her great-grandchildren, Scarlett and Emily. Judy

enjoyed sewing, knitting, quilting, crocheting, reading books, and most especially playing cards with siblings and neighbors. She loved her infrequent visits to the casinos, too. Visiting hours for Judy will be Wednesday, August 20, 2025 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Kapinos-Mazur Funeral Home, 64 Sewall Street, Ludlow, MA. A funeral home service will follow at 10:30 AM. Burial will be private, at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, donations in Judy’s name may be made to Shriners’ Hospital for Children, 516 Carew St, Springfield, MA 01004 or www.shrinerschildrens.org. For more information, please go to www.kapinos-mazurfh.com.

Richard Steiner

In Loving Memory of Richard Steiner, February 14, 1944 - May 23, 2025. Richard Steiner passed away peacefully on May 23, 2025, at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, MA, after a courageous battle with cancer and other illnesses. He was surrounded by his loving wife Annie, daughter Michaella, son Alex, and “adoptive” son Keith. Born and educated in England, Richard led a vibrant life filled with professional achievements, global travel, and deep devotion to family and community. His career took him from lab research at Pfizer in England to roles in marketing, sales, and ISO at Westinghouse Electric in Belgium and the U.S, later joining Turbocare in Chicopee, MA. He also taught Business Systems at Holyoke Community College and served on the



Belchertown EDIC Board and with BNI. In partnership with Annie, Richard co-founded the Mucky Duck B&B in Belchertown and later welcomed international students into their home through McDuffie Preparatory School, experiences that brought them lifelong friendships and joy. Richard was a triathlete in his younger years and found great happiness in his dog-walking community later in life. He was known for his gentle spirit, generous heart, and the warmth of his ever-present smile. Above all, he was devoted to his family, proud of his children and grandchildren, and loved sharing in their accomplishments. He is survived by Annie, his wife of 56 years; his children Alex and Michaella; grandchildren Zachary and Abigail; his sister Helen and her husband Mike; as well as his

DEATH NOTICES

Richard Steiner
Died May 23, 2025
Services August 23, 2025
Willits-Hallowell Center,
Mount Holyoke College,
South Hadley, MA

Richard John Coville
Died August 10, 2025
Services private

Judith A. Davis
Died August 12, 2025
Services August 20, 2025
Kapinos-Mazur
Funeral Home

brother-in-law Freddy, and extended family across the UK, Australia, Belgium, and France. In his final days, Richard left us with these simple, powerful words: “Life is short. Be kind to everyone.” A celebration of Richard’s life will be held on Saturday, August 23, 2025, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Willits-Hallowell Center, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA. RSVP: steiner_annie@yahoo.com

PUBLIC SAFETY

Granby Police Logs

Editor’s Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 109 calls for the week of Aug. 8 through Aug. 14. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The Granby Police Department provides all information.

- Friday, Aug. 8**
11:33 a.m. – A motorist reported a minor two-car accident in the parking lot. There were no injuries.
- Saturday, Aug. 9**
9:54 p.m. – A resident

reported someone was setting off fireworks. An officer checked the area and was unable to locate any fireworks being set off.

- Monday, Aug. 11**
12:54 p.m. – A resident came to the station to turn in an envelope, with money in it, that was found at the end of his driveway. The owner was located and the money was returned.
- Thursday, Aug. 14**
1:11 p.m. – A resident reported being the victim of a scam. A report was completed and it is under investigation.

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

VFW from page 1

member of the VFW, you have to have gone to war. Less than one percent of the nation are veterans, and a smaller percentage actually got deployed out of the country. “Who we are as veterans takes care of 99% of the population,” Commander Archie said. “That 1% took care of you, so why can’t that 99% help the 1% when they come home?”



George “Archie” Archembault, Commander of the Belchertown VFW.

Riders were escorted by two officers on motorcycles from the Sheriff’s department, and the ride itself was just over 40 miles long, beginning at the Belchertown VFW. The ride took stops at Atlas Pub in Chicopee and the American Legion in Granby. “It felt really good to get on the bike this year,” said Archembault, who got the chance to ride this year after recovering from an accident. “Any time that we can have help to help the veterans of foreign wars, we take it. We take the money we raise, and we help others in any way we can,” said Archembault. The ride was a great success, bringing together people from all over to unite together under the goal to raise money for those in

need. “It’s really very heartwarming to know that somebody is out there in need, and you have the ability to offer some help to get them back on their feet,” said Archembault. “It’s a really good feeling.” Window World, the VFW’s biggest supporter, covered the cost of food from North Elm Butchers and the Sheriff’s escort. Other major sponsors included monetary contributions from Valet Park of America, Hulmes Transportation, Don’s Auto, Clark and Son’s, Pelham Auto, Tilton Auto, Pioneer Valley Fiberglass Pools, Colonial Café, and Parker’s Portables. GG Inks provided shirts

at a discounted rate to help with costs, North Elm Butchers of Westfield provided all food, and the Bermudez Triangle provided music and generously donated back all their tip earnings. The event also featured a raffle and money prizes, made possible by donations from McCarthy’s Pub, Atlas Pub, Stop & Shop, Nelson’s Barbershop, Nat Falk Clothing Store, and Village Package Store. The VFW is looking forward to continuing the practice into next year, allowing for the opportunity to raise more for the people who fought for our county, and came back willing to continue to serve it.



A group of riders returning to the VFW.

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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.

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CHAMBER from page 1

Program allows for the students to not only get some real-world experience in the fields they want to study, but be paid along the way to achieving their life goals and dreams.

The program has awarded over 40,000 hours of internship time, and paid more than \$600,000 since its beginning in 2018. The program works with high schools and regional schools around the region, including the public high schools in Belchertown, Granby, and South Hadley, as well as many more.

"I love seeing the connections that happen when someone meets a new client, finds a collaborator, or simply feels more rooted in the community because of an event we hosted. Those moments are what make our work worthwhile," said Robinson.

"There's a remarkable spirit of collaboration here. People are passionate about supporting local businesses, investing in their neighbors, and finding creative solutions that make our region stronger and more vibrant."

"What I love most about our community is the way we truly care for one another. You see it in the way people shop locally to support their neighbors, in the volunteers who give their time without hesitation, and in the way we celebrate each other's successes like they're our own," said Laplante. "There's a genuine kindness that makes you feel like you're part of something bigger. It's not just where we work, it's where we live."

The guests packed the section of the first floor of the Boathouse, and people milled about enjoying appetizers and good conversation while groups took turns on the boat, the Lady Bea.

The focus on the Collaborative for Educational Services, CES, allowed for many to learn more about this resource to the community, and how people can utilize it, especially those at risk. The



Eating good food and spending some time with friends.

program has helped benefit hundreds of students since it began seven years ago, and as a nonprofit, it relies on the community and grants to continue its work.

The Amherst Area Chamber is looking forward to hosting their own fall After 5 events, as well as their Internship Fair at UMass Amherst, the A+ Awards, and community events like their Holiday Gift Card Match programs and Lighting of the Merry Maple.

"It's an honor to represent such a diverse and engaged membership. My role is about being a connector, linking businesses to opportunities, to each other, and to the community at large, while advocating for the conditions they need to thrive," said Robinson.

The South Hadley and Granby Chamber is also looking forward to their future events, including their Annual Trunk-or-Treat, Oktoberfest Themed Business After 5 at the Yard Tavern, their Annual Celebrity Bartender Event at Sok's Bar and Grill for Neighbors Helping Neighbors, and their Annual Holiday Stroll and lighting the Christmas Tree on the



Steven Laplante, Regina Zebrowski, Cody Goncalves, Polina Potochevska, and Jameson Glanville on the Lady Bea.

common. They will also be co-hosting a multi-chamber event at Summit View in Holyoke.

"The South Hadley Granby Chamber's goals are all about growth, connection, and impact. We want to expand networking opportunities for our members, strengthen partnerships with local organizations, and advocate for policies that help businesses thrive. Everything we do comes back to supporting

our business community and making our region a place where businesses and people want to be," said Laplante.

You can find both Chambers on Facebook, and learn more about what they do for their communities, and the small businesses and nonprofit organizations that truly are the heartbeat of these communities.



Students a part of the CES Program, Helen Tejirian, Yatharth Rajkumar, Desmond Schein, and Kai Imperial-Jewett.



Sponsors BankESB members Amy Fyden, George Michelakis, and Alex Holbrook.



ABOVE: The beautiful Lady Bea herself.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS



LEFT: Joni Fleming and Cody Goncalves with the beautiful scenery.

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