

TOWN Reminder

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

Serving the town of South Hadley

www.townreminder.turley.com

Grace Notes hits the right pitch for fundraising

By Ben Hernandez
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – Our Savior’s Lutheran Church hosted a fundraising concert for Neighbors Helping Neighbors on May 17. The concert, dubbed Grace Notes by the parish and held at the church’s Granby Road address in South Hadley, featured Falcetti students under the instruction of Music Director Ania Binczewski. The event, organized by church members Paul Terkelsen and Debbie Brown, featured a night of song and sound for residents.

“We’ve done this for three years now,” said church member and refreshments organizer Barbara Callan-Bogia. “The first year we raised

\$1000. Last year, it was like 600 and something. And this year was 805.”

Callan-Bogia reported the event was initially conceptualized by fellow church member Mary Newcomb, who reached out to the local music director. The idea was to create a showcase to not only feature local talent, but to raise funds for the local charity.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors is a non-profit organization designed to combat food insecurity. Operating out of the United Methodist Church on Carew Street, the charity provides on average six to eight days of food each month for those in need, getting support from food drives, fundraisers and the Food Bank of Western

Massachusetts.

“I actually volunteer there every week on Wednesday afternoons from 3:00 to 6:00,” Callan-Bogia said as she reflected on the partnership. “So, it’s near and dear to my heart.”

She noted the partnership between the two parishes has “just been lovely” and seeing the student musicians perform was “unbelievable.” The student ages range widely but are unified with a collective love of music.

“I think the youngest is 10 or 11,” Callan-Bogia said. “And she blew me away. Then there’s this retired engineer. It was just a beautiful afternoon.”

The concert offered a

Please see **GRACE**, page 12



Submitted photo

The concert raised much needed funds for local charity Neighbors Helping Neighbors

CLASS OF 2026

Granby High School graduates celebrated

By Ben Hernandez
Correspondent

GRANBY – The Granby High School class of 2026 celebrated their graduation on June 6 on Junior Senior High School campus grounds. There were 45 students in the graduating class. Mylin Laliberte was the class Salutatorian and Kaitlyn Curran was Valedictorian.

The ceremony featured speeches from principal Allison Jordan, Senior Class President Faith Ramos, Senior Class Treasurer Ava-Elizabeth Loughman, Superintendent Mary Jane Rickson, class Salutatorian Mylin Laliberte, class Valedictorian Kaitlyn Curran, and guest speaker Norman Racine. Additional guests in attendance were the Granby School Committee Chair Jennifer Bartosz, School Committee Vice Chair Travor Augustino, School Committee members Thomas Hammel and Elizabeth Lafond and Director of Pupil Services Nicole Heroux. All musical sections were performed by the Junior Senior High School band directed by Robert Castellano. The Class of 2026 Marshalls for the graduation was class of 2027’s Bre-

ena Moreno and class of 2028’s Ralph El Aouji.

Principal Jordan welcomed attendees after a band rendition of the “Star Spangled Banner” by John Standford Smith. She thanked the graduates for

Please see **GRANBY**, page 8

Right: Valedictorian Kaitlyn Curran and Salutatorian Mylin Laliberte pose for the camera.



Turley photos by Ben Hernandez

Excited graduates and families line up to prepare for the day’s events.

Playground padding sparks school funding debate

By Ben Hernandez
Correspondent

GRANBY – The annual Granby town meeting wrestled with the school budget for upcoming financial year 2027. Article 26 was a massive budget proposal of 39 items contained within it. The \$9,175,457 requested was broken down into two parts; a sum of \$7,885,077 labeled under “personal services” and a \$1,290,380 sum requested for “expenses.” Much of the discussion, however, centered around the local East Meadow playground.

Resident Crystal Dufresne contested the proposed article item with an immediate amendment proposal to add \$30,000 to the budget and stated the increased sum requested was to fund the missing playground safety surface.

“The reason why I’m asking for the taxpayers to amend this is because right now, at East Meadow, the playground does not have a safety service,” Dufresne said. “The wood chips are gone. It hasn’t been able to be maintained. We don’t have the funds to take out of the resources that we’re teaching the kids and paying for other services.”

She went on to explain

the lack of safety surface was a liability for the public playground, as a child could “get seriously injured” should they fall off the swings with the current arrangement. She suggested the General Stabilization Fund as a possible way to cover the additional ask of \$30,000.

“I don’t want to shut the park down,” Dufresne said. “I just want our kids to be able to go out for recess and play and be safe.”

Director of Finance and Operations Todd Dorman stepped up to the podium to reply. During his address, Dorman touched upon the missing element in the line item and stated there was originally verbiage to add the request, but there were complications with getting it into the original proposed article.

“We originally did have a line for replacement of the mulch at East Meadow,” Dorman said. “As the budget development process went, we felt we need to come in at a level service. So, any new additions that we had to our budget were eliminated, including the surface mulch.”

Dorman stated the budget process for this year “involved a lot of work by a lot of

Please see **SCHOOL**, page 12

Belchertown hosts last town Relay for Life

By Ben Hernandez
Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN – The last Relay For Life in Belchertown took place in the Town Common and the UCC Church on May 30. Activities at the event included a raffle, a live outdoor band, baked goods, catered food and a costume contest. However, due to the rainy weather, most of the festivities were held indoors. Signed participants still braved the bad weather, with five teams registered to walk the laps to raise funds for the American Cancer Society.

“Relay for Life is the biggest fundraiser for the American Cancer Society,” said Eleanor Gray from Team Lynn

Peach Pedestrians. Gray has been a member of the relay team and a key figure in organizing the Belchertown event for 13 years and has dedicated her time in memory of her daughter Lynn, who was lost in 2014 to uterine cancer.

“We have raised over \$193,000 for the American Cancer Society,” Gray said. She reported the original regional relay was held in Ware in 2002 to 2007, then moved to Belchertown. She enjoys the fundraising but due to her age and recent health complications, she reported this year would be the final one for her team. However, she isn’t done doing her part to end cancer.

“I’ll still fundraise because I’m going to get

\$200,000 if it’s on my deathbed,” Gray said.

The event’s theme was Halloween, a concept reported by event lead Brian Meehan as a way to “spread the joy, spread the meaningfulness of the cause” and to “show some support for the survivors out there.”

A survivor of esophageal cancer, Meehan took the masters of ceremony role during the event as he coordinated a raffle which contained numerous unique prizes, including a standalone arcade cabinet for Street Fighter 2. Donned in a pirate outfit, he lead the rained-in and yet still spirited crowd through reviewing the costume contest.

Please see **RELAY**, page 5



Turley photos by Ben Hernandez

Cancer survivor and event lead Brian Meehan poses with volunteers readying for the day’s events.

Greater Holyoke Chamber invites local businesses to 58th Annual Chamber Cup

HOLYOKE — The Greater Holyoke Chamber is inviting businesses, professionals, local leaders, and community partners from across Western Massachusetts to participate in the 58th Annual Chamber Cup on Friday, Sept. 25, at Westover Golf Course. Registration is now open for the annual event, which brings together the regional business community for a day of golf, networking, visibility, and relationship-building.

The Chamber Cup offers companies and organizations a valuable way to connect outside the traditional meeting setting. Participants can build business relationships, strengthen team connections, and engage with professionals from across the region in a relaxed and welcoming environment. The event is open to Chamber members and non-members alike, making it a regional opportunity for businesses looking to expand their reach and community presence.

Businesses can participate in several ways, including registering a foursome, becoming an event sponsor, sponsoring a hole or meal, donating raffle prizes, or volunteering during the event. Each option offers a different path to visibility and engagement, whether a company wants to host clients, recognize employees, promote its brand, or support a signature community event.

The day will include golf at Westover Golf Course, breakfast, lunch, raffles, and opportunities to connect with business owners, executives, public officials, nonprofit leaders, and professionals from throughout Western Massachusetts. For sponsors and raffle donors, the event provides added exposure before and during the tournament, helping businesses stay visible among a broad and engaged audience.

The Greater Holyoke Chamber encourages businesses to register early, secure



The 58th Annual Chamber Cup will be held in September.

sponsorship opportunities, and plan now for participation in the 2026 Chamber Cup. Companies interested in playing, sponsoring, donating

raffle prizes, or volunteering can visit holyokechamber.com or contact the Chamber for more information.

St. Francis seeks donations for upcoming tag sale

BELCHERTOWN — The St. Francis Parish Giant Tag Sale team invites the community to make donations to this annual event on Aug. 22. The team will gratefully accept most donated items.

As you begin sorting, please be aware that the following donated items will be appreciated: bed and table linens, new dust-free candles, craft items, hardware, kitchenware, luggage, backpacks, handbags, children's clothes up to size 2T only, children's books, small working appliances, working lamps, toys, pictures, frames, holiday decorations, hand tools, yard tools, jewelry, shoes, boots, sporting goods, baby gear, small but not-upholstered furniture, knick-knacks, and collectibles. The team politely requests that donors clear all donated items of storage dust, bugs, mold, and critter residue.

Unfortunately, the following items cannot be accepted: partially used dusty candles, any clothing larger than size 2T, cookbooks or non-children books, bed pillows, baby cribs,

car seats, computers, monitors, 8-track or cassette or VHS tapes, skis, exercise bikes, treadmills, gas grills, propane tanks, hazardous materials, mattresses, clothes hangers, medical equipment, bed pillows, and any large furniture items.

The proceeds from this annual effort are earmarked for the parish's Living Our Faith, Building Our Future Capital Campaign in support of the much-needed building of the proposed St. Francis of Assisi Parish Center on the grounds of the Jabish Street campus.

This year, the Tag Sale Team will only accept donations for a ten-day period — Aug. 7 to 16 only. Donations will be accepted Monday to Saturday from 9 am to 7 pm with Sunday donations only accepted noon to 5 p.m. Please do not leave donations outside the Pine Room door when a team member is not there to receive them.

The team is grateful for the continuing, generous support of our Belchertown community.

Town hosting Beaver Management Presentation and Walk on June 27

BELCHERTOWN — Residents are invited to a free, all-ages presentation and walk about beaver management on Saturday, June 27, from 1 to 3 p.m., beginning at the Belchertown Recreation Department, 66 State Street.

The Beaver Institute will give a presentation at the Recreation Department, after which the group will walk to the Lake Wallace spillway at Foley Field to see a "beaver deceiver" flow device in action. The device, also known as a Pond Leveler, allows the town to manage water

levels while letting beavers remain in place. A table will be set up lakeside with pond critters, giving attendees a chance to explore local biodiversity and aquatic macro-invertebrate biomonitoring.

Beavers play a vital role in flood control, water retention and infiltration, and habitat biodiversity. The event offers families a fun, hands-on look at how these complex animals shape the local landscape and how the town coexists with them.

The presentation and walk are made possible through Massachusetts Vul-

nerability Preparedness (MVP) Program funding for the culvert replacement project on Warren Wright Road over Hop Brook.

The walk to the spillway is approximately one-third of a mile. Anyone arriving after the group has departed the Recreation Department can meet them at the Lake Wallace spillway at Foley Field.

For more information about this program please call or email Belchertown Department of Public Works at 413-323-0415 or lleduc@belchertown.org.

South Hadley Democratic Committee sponsoring food drive benefit

SOUTH HADLEY — The South Hadley Democratic Town Committee is sponsoring a food drive to benefit Neighbors Helping Neighbors on June 27 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at South Hadley High School (rain or shine).

Residents can drop off non-perishable items in the high school parking lot—no need to even exit your car as members of the committee will be on hand to unload your donations and place them in the on-site Neighbors Helping Neigh-

bors van.

All non-expired, non-perishable items will be accepted, but the following items are most in demand:

- Any and all feminine hygiene products
- Shampoo/conditioner
- Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Bar soap
- Soups
- Canned meats such as spam, beef stew, corned beef, hash
- Pet Food-Canned and Dry for cats and dogs

Please check expiration dates before donating.

Monetary donations are also welcome, with checks made payable to Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

Additional information about the June 27 event is available at southhadleydems.com. Questions can be sent to southhadleydemocrats@gmail.org. You can also follow South Hadley Democrats on Facebook (facebook.com/SouthHadleyDTC) and on Instagram (instagram.com/southhadleydems).



Dickinson Farms & Greenhouse

PICK YOUR OWN STRAWBERRIES!

7:00am - 5:00pm • Weather & Crops Permitting.

Call Our Greenhouse or Check Our Facebook Page For Up-To-Date Information

413-467-3794 • New Ludlow Road • Credit Cards Accepted!

Our Farmstand Will Be Opening June 25

Route 202, 309 East State St., Granby

413-467-3794

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

www.dickinsonsfarm.com

~ Family Owned & Operated ~

Most Major
Credit Cards Accepted
Sorry No Checks
Gift Certificates Available

LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET!

INFLATION

PRICE BUSTERS

PRICES IN RED ARE AT OR BELOW LAST YEAR'S PRICES!

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS CENTER CUT PORK LOIN CUT FREE..... \$1.99 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF STRIPLOIN CUT FREE..... \$9.77 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN WINGS 10 LB BAG \$1.44 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN VARIETY PACK CUT UP CHICKENS 15 LB BOX \$13.99 ea
USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN COUNTRY STYLE PORK RIBS \$2.22 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF SIRLOIN STEAKHOUSE TIPS \$9.99 lb	USDA INSP. HILLSHIRE FARMS POLSKA KIELBASA TURKEY 13 OZ or REGULAR 14 OZ \$3.79 ea	USDA INSP. FROZEN SUPER SIZE APPLE PIE LATTICE TOP 5 LB..... \$6.99 ea
USDA INSP. FATHER'S DAY CHOP CHULETA PORK KAN KAN... \$3.99 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF RIBEYE TOMAHAWK STEAKS \$14.99 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN AT SEA JONAH CRAB FULLY COOKED..... \$6.99 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN COOKED SHRIMP 16/20 COUNT 1 LB..... \$8.88 lb
USDA INSP. STOREMADE BONELESS CAROLINA GOLD MARINATED CHICKEN THIGHS \$3.69 lb	USDA INSP. STOREMADE FROZEN HAMBURGER PATTIES 80% LEAN 20 CT BOX \$17.50 ea	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 5px; font-size: 0.8em; font-weight: bold;"> 90 Meat Outlet HOURS: Mon. - Wed. 8-4 Thurs. 8-6 • Fri. 8-6 • Sat. 8-3 </div> <div style="margin-left: 20px; text-align: right;"> 90 Avocado St. Springfield 413-737-1288 www.90meat.com We reserve the right to limit quantities. </div> </div>	
USDA INSP. FROZEN ST LOUIS PORK RIBS..... \$2.99 lb	USDA INSP. STOREMADE BONELESS KOREAN BBQ MARINATED PORK BUTT STRIPS..... \$3.35 lb	USDA INSP. DEUTSCHMACHER NATURAL CASING HOT DOGS 2 1/2 LB BOX \$11.99 ea	

FATHER'S DAY

SALE DATES: 6/18-6/24/26 BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE

Property Maintenance & Improvements

Excavation • Underground Utilities
Water • Sewer • Septic • Drainage
Grading • Paving • ADA Accessibility

Lance Bristol • email: albristol381@aol.com
Cell: (413) 519-0483 • Bus. (413) 532-3911

A.L. Bristol & Sons, Inc.

Est. 1968 Licensed/Insured
www.albristolandsons.com • South Hadley

Adventure tours of Warren

Share the Adventure with us!





Provincetown by Fast Ferry \$220

June 27....Lake George Cruise & Lunch	\$185
July 11Provincetown by Fast Ferry.....	\$220
Sept. 26 ..Pickity Place Lunch.....	\$130
Nov. 7Great Gatsby at PPAC	\$165
Aug. 307-Night Nova Scotia Cruise	from \$1699

Share the Adventure with us soon!

For further information call Randall at (413) 436-5357 or email adventuretours@att.net or go to www.adventuretoursforwarren.com

HCC offering weekly introductory golf lessons

HOLYOKE – Interested in learning to play golf but don't know where to start? Holyoke Community College is offering weekly introductory golf lessons at Twin Hills Country Club in Longmeadow led by LPGA teaching pro Marissa Kulig Crow.

For flexibility and convenience, each five-week lesson series runs on either Wednesdays, Thursdays, or Saturdays, with different start dates and times.

Wednesday sessions meet from 10-11 a.m. June 17 through July 15.

Thursday sessions meet from 6-7 p.m. June 18 through July 16.

Saturday sessions meet from 10-11 a.m. June 20 through July 25 (no class on July 4).

Kulig Crow is an LPGA professional from Westfield and director of instruction at Twin Hills.

These introductory golf classes are designed for beginners. In five, one-hour

long sessions, she will teach new golfers everything they need to know to play their first round of golf.

Classes will cover the basics of the golf swing, putting, short game techniques, rules and etiquette. Golf clubs will be provided at the course; and Kulig Crow will make equipment recommendations for players who want to buy their own.

The cost for each five-week series is \$199, which includes a golf workbook and reference guide.

Please note that in accordance with golf course etiquette, men should wear collared shirts, pants, or golf shorts. Cargo shorts, cutoff shorts, and jeans are not allowed.

Women should wear pants, skirts or golf shorts. Jeans, leggings, racer back or tube tops, short shorts, or short skirts are not allowed.

To register for a five-week introductory golf lesson series, please go to: hcc.edu/golf

Granby Police Log

Editor's Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 138 calls for the week of June 5, through June 11. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The Granby Police Department provides all information.

Friday, June 5

2:31 p.m. – A motorist reported a two-car accident on Taylor Street. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries.

Tuesday, June 9

3:46 a.m. – The on-duty clerk reported an unwanted patron in the store. An officer

responded and the party left without incident.

5:34 p.m. – Officers responded to a report of a disturbance at Dufresne Park amongst workers for the ride company setting up for Charter Days. The manager asked that the employee leave the area and not return. The employee left the park without further incident.

Thursday, June 11

2:09 p.m. – An officer took a report of attempted check fraud at the bank. An officer responded and completed an incident report.

Crafters wanted

LUDLOW – Crafters Wanted for the Rosary Sodality's St. Nicholas Craft Fair and Raffle on Saturday, Nov. 14, 2026, at Christ the King Church located at 41 Warsaw Avenue in Ludlow from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The cost is a non-refundable \$40. fee for an 8-ft table, which will be provided by the church.

To reserve a table or for more information contact Debbie Martell at 413-547-8739 or Lorraine Bernier at 413-519-7658.

Light refreshments will be available.

Granby Lions sponsoring bus trip

GRANBY – The Granby Lions Club will be sponsoring a bus trip to Boston on Tuesday, July 14, 2026. The chartered bus will be leaving the East Meadow School Parking Lot at 8 a.m. and dropping us off in the Seaport District at approximately 10 a.m.

Come help us celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States at SailBoston 2026, an international maritime event that brings tall

ships and naval vessels from around the world to Boston Harbor. You will be on your own to visit the ships and the bus will depart Boston at 4 p.m.

The cost per person is \$75. Please make your checks payable to the Granby Lions Club, and mail to Granby Lions Club, c/o Jim Pietras, 280 East State St, Granby, MA. 01033. Questions – email Jim at jpietas@comcast.net

Council-on-Aging holding health and wellness fair

SOUTH HADLEY – The South Hadley Council-on-Aging will be holding the 2026 Aging in Place: Health and Wellness Fair coming up on Wednesday, June 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event will be held at the South Hadley Council-on-Aging located at 45 Dayton St. The event is open to the public, including se-

niors, family members, and caregivers. There will be 40-plus vendors and elder care providers and free raffles and giveaways. This event will provide attendees with comprehensive information on a variety of aging in place options, equipment, devices, services, and resources. For more information, call 413-538-5030.



FIVE ISLANDS

Georgetown, Maine
2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathroom
Washer/Dryer, Fully Equipped

- Walk to Five Islands Wharf and Ledgewood Preserve Beach
- Close to Reid State Park



\$1200/week
207-607-9333

FD2 water quality information available

WONDERING ABOUT YOUR WATER QUALITY IN SOUTH HADLEY FIRE DISTRICT NO.2?

To view your Annual Water Quality Report and learn more about your drinking water,

Go to, <https://www.shdistrict2.org/DocumentCenter/View/842/2025-Consumer-Confidence-Report>

This report contains important information about the source and quality of your drinking water. If you would like a paper copy of the 2025 Annual Water Quality Report mailed to your home please call, 413-532-9210.



Tree Removal

Structural Pruning

Crane Service

Storm Damage

Stump Grinding

Lot Clearing



Give us a call today for your free estimate and tree evaluation by a ISA certified arborist

413-478-4212

dlandgtree.com

DL&G TREE

INSURED AND CERTIFIED



Opinion

SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

Why don't we have a minimum Social Security benefit?

Dear Rusty:

I think we should have a Social Security baseline of \$2,500 for each person.

When I retire, my Social Security benefit will not be enough to survive. There are many of us, who worked low paying jobs all our lives because we raised families and only started saving later in life. Considering all the money our government wastes on other countries and welfare programs for people who have not worked, it seems unfair that they will not reward those of us who contributed to society all our lives.

Signed: Needs More Social Security

Dear Needs More:

For information, the concept of a "minimum" Social Security benefit is not new and, indeed, already exists, but it is one which few beneficiaries qualify for.

The so-called "special minimum benefit" was meant to lift low-earning workers above the poverty line, but less than 32,000 SS beneficiaries (out of about 59 million retirees) currently qualify.

That's because Social Security's benefit formula turns out to be more generous because it is based on lifetime earnings (wages), while the "special minimum benefit" program is based on consumer prices. That causes the SS benefit formula to provide a higher SS benefit than is provided by the "special minimum benefit" option. In other words, people get a higher benefit because their SS benefit is based upon their actual lifetime earnings vs. an artificially created special minimum benefit.

In short, the existing SS benefit formula usually provides more than the established "special minimum benefit."

The SS benefit program is based on each person's average monthly income over their lifetime.

However, it is very important to understand that the program is also designed to provide a higher monthly benefit to those with a lower lifetime income.

Thus, the percentage of "replacement income" for those with lower lifetime earnings is more than it is for those with higher lifetime earnings.

Typically, a lower-lifetime income person will get about 40% of their average pre-retirement monthly income as their Social Se-

curity benefit, whereas a higher-income person will get about 20% or less of their pre-retirement monthly average income.

In this way, Social Security is already a "progressive" program. But it's important to understand also that Social Security, from its beginning, was never meant to provide 100% of a person's income needs in retirement.

Thus, each beneficiary should plan to supplement their retirement income in other ways such as retirement savings, investment income, working longer, working part-time, etc.

Having said that, it is also important to know that Social Security is a completely self-sustaining program and not dependent on general public funding, which would make it more susceptible to political she-nanigans (imagine giving re-election seeking politicians easy access to Social Security's separately held resources).

While it is certainly true that the government spends freely on "welfare programs" for those who have not worked, Social Security is not a program, which is dependent on government largesse. Rather, it is a benefit which is earned by working and contributing to the program, which provides retirement benefits based upon each person's average lifetime work income.

If you expect financial difficulties when you retire, I encourage you to visit this website sponsored by the National Council on Aging (www.benefitscheckup.org). Here you can enter your zip code and find many public programs which you might be eligible for where you live, including assistance with healthcare costs, housing, utilities, etc.

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.

Strawberry culture 101

Melissa, who gardens in Belchertown asked this question of the Garden Lady.

"It's always so hard to install strawberry plants and pinch off the flowers the first year. Do you really have to? It would be so wonderful to enjoy some fruit."

I completely understand where you are coming from! Last year I was in the same boat. This year, the fruit is coming in and boy, am I enjoying it!

Removing the flowers redirects the plant's energy away from reproducing to forming strong roots and more shoots, so yes, it recommended practice.

I thought you might find this column, one of my very first, helpful. It contains lots of good tips for strawberry culture.

I have fond memories of strawberry picking. One of the first days of summer vacation was always spent at a local pick-your-own farm with my mom, filling boxes with luscious red berries.

Like any kid I did my share of sampling out there in the rows, and my taste buds never forgot the intense sweetness found only in fresh picked fruit. Now that I have my own space to garden I am able to go strawberry picking in my backyard.

With a lot of patience and a little labor, so can you!

My bare-root strawberry plants arrived by mail in early spring. I had prepared the sunny space intended for them ahead of time, by eradicating all weeds and tilling in two-inches of finished compost and some slow release organic fertilizer.

Lime wasn't necessary, as strawberries prefer a slightly acidic soil.

The plants looked a bit limp from their trip so the roots were soaked in water for an hour to rehydrate them prior to planting. I set the crown of the plant right at soil lev-

el with the roots spread over a small mound of soil in the hole.

Keeping in mind that strawberries send out runners (daughter plants), I set my plants in a single row roughly two-feet apart with three

remove the protective boughs. Pull stray weeds and reapply mulch. If frost threatens during blossoming cover the plants with spun poly floating row covers or old bed sheets.

Keep up with watering. Lightweight netting works well to deter birds, while slugs can be captured in shallow containers filled with beer and buried at ground level.

Remove dead slugs and top off the beer nightly.

June-bearing strawberries bear fruit for two-three weeks. Harvest when the berries are bright red; if fruit is picked unripe it may turn red, but flavor will be sacrificed.

The season can be extended a bit by growing early, mid and late season varieties, or by growing day-neutral types which bear smaller amounts of fruit over a longer period, from June-October.

Nourse Farms (noursefarms.com) of South Deerfield is an excellent local source for strawberry plants.

After fruiting is complete mow down the plants with a push mower. I had to cross reference a few advice books before I had the courage to do this, but it surely did wonders to renovate the bed.

Rake away the mowed leaves, thin runners that are too close, and remove the oldest plants. Top-dress with compost and a sprinkling of fertilizer before remulching.

Although labor intensive, strawberries are worth the work. Managing a strawberry patch in this manner will likely keep it productive for five years. Imagine, your own flavorful memories!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 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.



feet between the rows. This wide spacing allowed for four daughters to be positioned four-five inches apart from mom and each other.

Some gardeners prefer to pinch away all runners, and nourish only the original mother plant. Initial yields may be higher, but without replacement plants the patch will expire sooner.

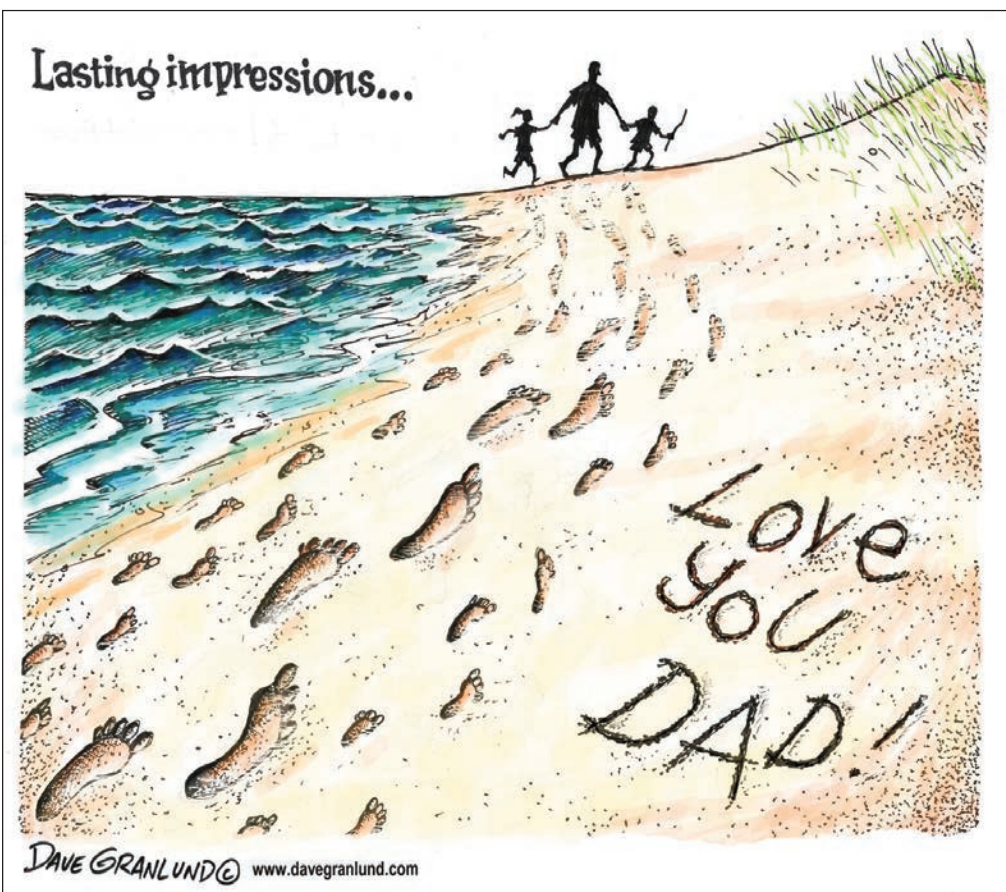
All blossoms, although it is tempting to leave them, must be removed the first season so that energy will be spent on building strong roots.

I set up a soaker hose among the plants to be sure that they would continue to grow with gusto during droughty spells. If you choose to do the same, be sure to position runners under the hose, otherwise removing it for winter storage may be a difficult and tangled task.

A mulch of chopped leaves conserves soil moisture and prevents weeds from sprouting. Evergreen boughs laid over the row after the ground has frozen lessens temperature extremes, preventing the plants from being heaved out of the ground during winter freeze/thaw cycles.

Anticipation begins to build in the spring of the second season. It is only a matter of time before the plants will be loaded with ripe berries.

As new growth emerges



Holyoke Arts League to be featured at Wistariahurst

HOLYOKE – During the month of June, the Wistariahurst Museum at 238 Cabot St. in Holyoke will host an exhibition of artwork by members of the Holyoke Arts League (HAL). The museum and gardens are the historic home of the Skinner Family that owned and operated the Skinner Silk Mill, the world's premier silk fabric production facility in the city's Canal District. We hope you will attend our opening reception and meet the artists who live in Western Massachusetts and Northern Connecticut on Monday, June 1, from 5-7 p.m. This event is free and open to the

public. Throughout the month of June, the exhibition may be viewed free of charge during the museum's open hours, Mondays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Tuesdays from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. This juried show will include entries in oil and pastel, watercolor, acrylic, tempera, gouache and other non-oil wet media, graphite, charcoal, printmaking and other graphic media, sculpture and ceramics. Light refreshments will be served. The arts league was founded in 1923 and is now celebrating its 102nd year in Holyoke. The League holds

artist demonstrations and weekly adult figure drawing sessions. For more information about HAL, visit <https://www.holyoke-arts-league.org> online. You may also address inquiries to holyokeartsleague@gmail.com. For more information about Wistariahurst, call (413) 322-5660 or online at info@wistariahurst.org. You may direct inquiries about Wistariahurst by emailing munselle@holyoke.org. This program is funded in part by a grant from the Holyoke Local Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass. Cultural Council, a state agency.

Community Band set to begin rehearsals

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown Community Band wants you to join them for their 40th Anniversary Season. It doesn't matter what town you are from, what instrument you play or your skill level, you are invited to be part of this celebratory season. Rehearsals start June 23 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Belchertown High School. From the parking lot, go into the left door and walk down the hall that is slight-

ly to the left.

There is no fee to participate, but you can anticipate a wonderful experience of playing music and making new friends. If you can't come June 23, come June 25, same time, same place. You will be part of 4 concerts performed on the Belchertown Common on Thursdays in July and August. So brush off that instrument and come enjoy music again

OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the Editor have a maximum of 350 words. We require writers to include their name, address and phone number in order for our office to authenticate authorship prior to publication. Addresses and phone numbers are not published.

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions. Libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks or defamation of character are not allowed. Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

Please email (preferred) letters to townreminder@turley.com. Mailed letters can be sent to Town Reminder, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

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.

TOWN Reminder

We Want to Hear From You

EDITOR

townreminder@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES

Nick Brady
nbrady@turley.com

SPORTS EDITOR

Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

The Town Reminder is published every Friday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.



WEB
townreminder.turley.com



PHONE
(413) 283-8393



ADDRESS
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069

Turley
Publications, Inc.
www.turley.com

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

Eversource introduces new tool for storm response

SPRINGFIELD – As severe weather events grow more frequent and electric systems become increasingly complex, Eversource will unveil its new Wareham Electric Training Center on Monday, a first-of-its-kind facility designed to improve storm response, enhance electric reliability and prepare the next generation of highly skilled electric workers.

Built inside a former movie theater and transformed into a 29,000-square-foot operations and training complex, the facility represents one of

Eversource's most significant investments in workforce readiness and emergency preparedness in Massachusetts. The center will serve as both the company's premier electric training facility and a regional storm response hub where crews, equipment and restoration resources can be strategically staged before and after major weather events impacting Southeastern Massachusetts, the South Coast and Cape Cod.

"When customers see crews restoring power after a storm, they're seeing the re-

sults of thousands of hours of preparation, training and planning that happen long before severe weather arrives," said Eversource President of Massachusetts Electric Operations Doug Foley. "This facility was built with that mission in mind. It gives our employees a realistic environment to develop critical skills while strengthening our ability to stage resources and restore power safely and efficiently when our customers need us most."

The Wareham center will also play an important role

during major weather events. By serving as a storm response staging hub, the facility allows Eversource to strategically position crews, specialized equipment and restoration materials closer to areas expected to be impacted by severe weather, improving coordination and supporting faster restoration efforts once conditions are safe.

The facility brings together overhead, underground, substation, meter and transmission training in one centralized location, allowing employees to practice real-world scenarios

in a controlled environment that mirrors conditions they encounter in the field. From new hires learning the fundamentals of electric operations to experienced crews sharpening storm restoration skills, the center provides year-round opportunities to strengthen operational readiness and reinforce Eversource's commitment to safety.

"This facility is about much more than training," Foley added. "It's about making sure we're ready for whatever comes next. Every skill practiced here, every scenario

simulated and every lesson learned helps improve our response, improve safety and build a more resilient electric system for the communities we serve."

The opening comes as Eversource continues to make year-round investments in electric reliability across Massachusetts through infrastructure upgrades, advanced technologies, vegetation management and emergency preparedness initiatives aimed at strengthening the electric grid and improving service for customers.



Eleanore Gray (on the right), described as a fundraising "pitbull" by her peers, continues to fight the good fight for the American Cancer Society.

RELAY from page 1

Due to even crowd response across the participants, Meehan declared everyone present as a winner.

"Relay is kind of my way of giving back," Meehan said. "The fact that I'm still here makes me want to make sure as many people get the same result as I did. So I do everything I can to kind of further the cause, spread the news."

Those interested in supporting the cause can contact the American Cancer Society at 1-800-ACS-2345. Meehan reported volunteers may also use their website at cancer.org to review and sign up for events in their area. He pointed out Road to Recovery as one such specific activity, a volunteer program designed to help cancer patients get to their appointments through ride sharing.

"It's basically a good place to get real resources

because Googling is scary," Meehan said.

Meehan stated the next Relay For Life took place in Northampton on June 13. Branded as the Relay for Life of Hampshire County, he reported the Belchertown event would be absorbed into the existing Northampton relay. He recommended anyone interested in participating should sign up and get involved. For those concerned with potential cancer symptoms, Meehan advocated to screen early and often with qualified professionals.

"Cancer is not a death sentence. Fight it. We're winning. We're winning this battle. We are increasing cancer rates all the time. If you have have symptoms, if you have anything that makes you think hey, that's not normal, get it checked out because early detection saves lives. That's the biggest thing I can suggest. Early detection saves lives. So get your screenings done."



Costume contest winners smile for the camera.



Participants line up for the costume contest.

Turley photos by Ben Hernandez



A live band braved the rain to provide a life performance for the relay attendees.

WE ♥ OUR READERS

Donovan's Irish Pub 80 Jarvis Ave., Holyoke 413-543-0791 donovanspub.com
Sun. 12pm - 8pm; Mon.-Thurs. 11:30am-9:30pm; Fri. & Sat. 11:30am - 11pm

Sat., June 20 Corner Boys	Sun., June 21 Jimmy McArdle & Jerry Murphy 2-5pm	Sat., June 27 Lower Valley Guys
-------------------------------------	---	---

GRANBY GRAIN

Feed • Pet Supply • Lawn & Garden
Curbside Pickup Available

CONGRATULATIONS
Granby High School
CLASS OF 2026

108 West State Street, Granby, MA
467-3838
Monday-Friday 8-5 • Saturday 8-4

Adventure tours of Warren Share the Adventure with us!

Three Great Norwegian Cruise Experiences

Experience MORE with Norwegian

March 1-13, 2027 12-Night Eastern Caribbean from \$2499
May 23-30, 2027 7-Night Halifax & Bermuda from \$1799

BOOK THESE TWO BACK-TO-BACK

Aug. 23-29, 2027 7-Night Halifax & Bermuda from \$1799 **BOOK EARLY FOR BEST CABINS** Aug. 29-Sept. 5, 2027 7-Night Canada & New England from \$1699

Share the Adventure with us soon!
For further information call Randall at (413) 436-5357 or email adventuretours@att.net or go to www.adventuretoursofwarren.com

EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of July 4th, there will be an **EARLY AD, PUBLIC NOTICES & CLASSIFIEDS DEADLINE**

To advertise, place your ad no later than **NOON**

Thursday, July 2

– Thank you!

A TURLEY PUBLICATION www.turley.com

HANNOUSH JEWELERS CHICOPEE

"A Family Business You Can Trust"
704 Memorial Dr., Chicopee 413-377-1433

Turn Your Gold Into Cash!
We Buy Gold in Any Condition

GOLD Is At An All-Time High!

10% Extra Cash When Cashing In Your GOLD

25% Extra When You Use Your GOLD Towards A New Purchase

10% Off Jewellery Repairs expires 9/30/26.

Offers Valid at Hannoush Jewelers Chicopee ONLY
www.hannoushma.com

SPORTS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

www.sports.turley.com

Aldenville Legion falls to visiting Northampton

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

CHICOPEE— Matt Sutton, a right-handed pitcher for the Aldenville (Chicopee) Post 337 Legion baseball team, was the starter in last Friday night's home opener against Northampton Post 28.

Sutton should've gotten out of the top of the first inning without allowing any runs.

However, Northampton wound up scoring five unearned runs during their first at-bats of the game en route to an 11-3 victory at Szot Park.

"We made three costly errors in the first inning, which changed the complexity of the entire game," said Aldenville assistant coach Ray Carillon. "We have a bunch of talented ballplayers on this year's team and we're going to clean things up."

Nate Carillon, who's the Aldenville manager, couldn't attend last Friday's Legion game because he was playing in a Tri-County League game for St. Joe's.

Sutton, who was a sopho-

more on the Chicopee Comp varsity baseball team this past spring, pitched the first three innings against Northampton. He allowed eight runs (three earned) on seven hits. He walked three and struck out three. It was Sutton's third appearance on the mound during the first week of the Legion season.

"Matt recorded a save in our season opener against Westfield on Monday. He also pitched an inning in relief at Sheffield the other night," Carillon said. "I liked the way that he pitched in tonight's game. He threw more than 70 pitches."

Aldenville entered this week's action with a 1-1-1 record. They defeated Westfield Post 124, 6-3, and tied Sheffield 6-6, in a game called due to darkness.

"We were a young team last year and we didn't make the Legion playoffs," Caril-

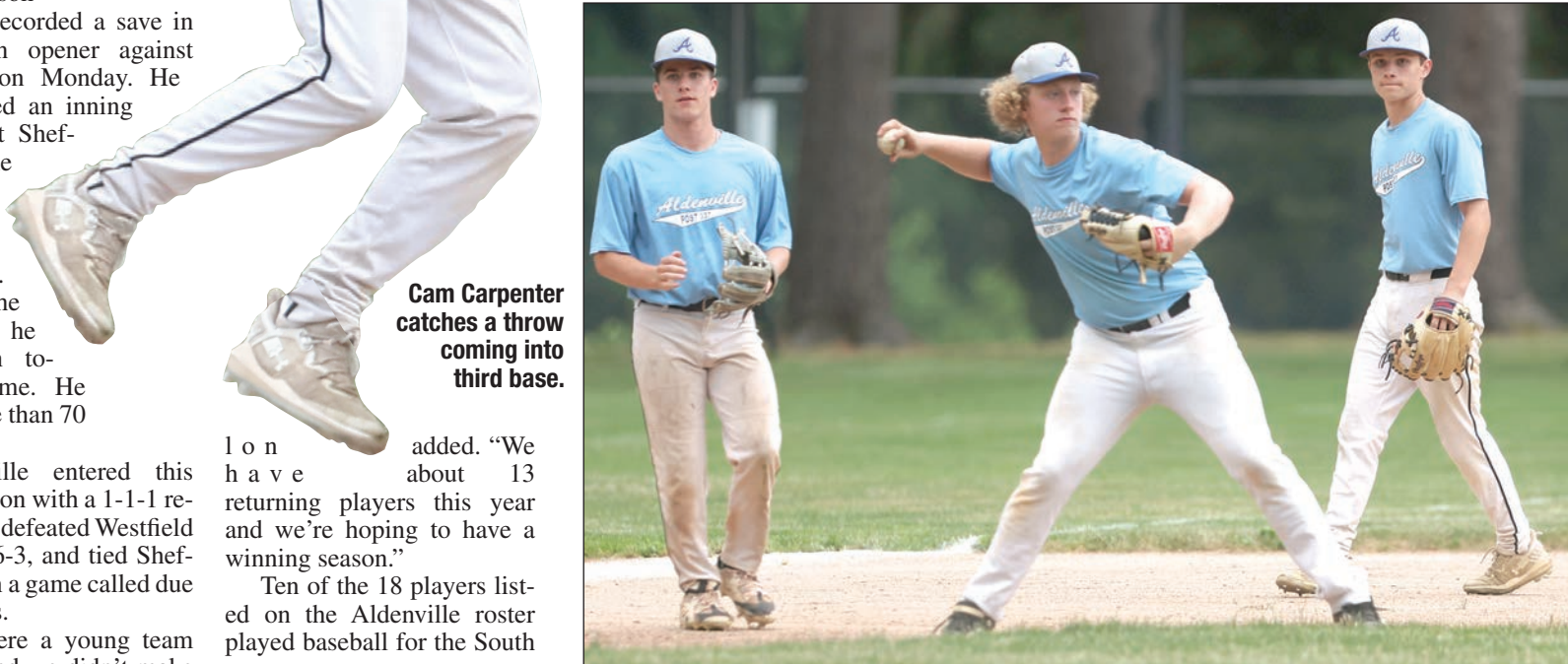
lon added. "We have about 13 returning players this year and we're hoping to have a winning season."

Ten of the 18 players listed on the Aldenville roster played baseball for the South

Please see **LEGION**, page 7



Memphis Huertas tries to corral a pitch in the dirt. Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Cam Carpenter catches a throw coming into third base.

Aiden Robinson makes a throw to second.

Mutiny defeats Maine Footy

LUDLOW – Last Sunday afternoon, June 7, Maine Footy made their annual visit to Luistano Stadium. The New England Mutiny continued their success against the Footy, defeating Maine 4-0. The UWS win was followed by a win at the Worcester Wanderers 3-0. The Mutiny did suffer a USL-W loss against Hudson Valley 2-1 last Tuesday. The Mutiny will face Hudson Valley against on Saturday, June 20 at Luistano Stadium.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Gabby Williams goes after a loose ball.



Darcy Dwyer winds up for a long kick.



Eva Blatz sends a free kick away.



Milla Lee starts up the field.



Sophia Scyocurka tries to overcome an opponent.



Valentina Molinari looks to get around an opposing player.

Teddy Bears Pools scores rare win over defending champs

SOUTH HADLEY – Teddy Bear Pools and Spas wasted no time last Monday evening at South Hadley High School, sending eight men to the plate in the bottom of the first and not looking back en route to a 15-0 blanking of PeoplesBank. The margin was never in question.

The first inning established the tone with swift and relentless efficiency. Bailey Griggs drew a walk that scored a run, Xavion Maldonado doubled to bring home two more, a PeoplesBank error allowed another pair to score, Sean Rosemond drew a walk to push across yet another, and Alex Gochinski grounded out with enough to score one more. Six runs — before PeoplesBank could exhale.

The scoring resumed in the second when Travis Kagan singled to plate one, and the third inning became an exercise in patience and plate coverage. Ray Toth hit a sac-

rifice fly, Willie Landman singled to center, Griggs singled to right, Kagan grounded into a fielder's choice, Ty Evans doubled to center, Rosemond singled down the right-field line, and Ryan Magni singled down the left-field line — each driving in a

Please see **WIN**, page 7



Cam MacDonald makes a strong throw to first.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Danny Gaines pitches for the Bankers.

LEGION from page 6

Hadley varsity team. Sutton struck out two of the first three batters that he faced in the opening frame. He walked the other hitter before his defense let him down. Following another walk, Northampton (2-1) scored a pair of runs on back-to-back fielding errors by the first baseman. Then DH James Lavalle, who graduated from Smith Voc-Tech in 2025, belted a two-run triple to right field giving the visiting team an early 4-0 lead. Northampton's fifth run crossed the plate on a throwing error by the third baseman. Aldenville starting centerfielder Justin Rivera, who recently graduated from Holyoke High School, led off the bottom of the first inning with

an infield base hit against lefthander Andrew Gagne, who was a senior on the Pope Francis baseball team. After stealing second base, Rivera advanced to third base on a groundout by DH Lincoln Belsky, who's one of the South Hadley players, before scoring on a wild pitch. Northampton retook a five run lead in the second inning when second baseman Matt Vassallo (Hopkins Academy) hit a sacrifice fly to right field. The home team answered back an unearned run in the second inning. Alex Savlick (Minnechaug Regional) reached first base leading off the inning on a throwing error by the third baseman. A wild pitch moved him to second and he went to third on a

balk. Another balk by Gagne scored Savlick, who played three different positions in the game. He started at third baseman before moving to left field. Savlick finished the contest on the mound. Sutton gave up two more runs in the third, which gave Northampton an 8-2 advantage. Savlick took over on the mound at the start of the fourth inning. He struck out the first two batters before issuing back-to-back walks. Both baserunners scored on a triple by centerfielder Carter Styspeck (Hopkins). Trailing 10-2, Aldenville shortstop Brandon Carillon drew a walk with one out in the bottom of the fifth inning. After stealing second and third, Carillon scored on Gagne's third balk of the

game. Gagne, who was replaced by righty Thomas Moore at the start of the sixth inning, had more balks than base hits (one) in the first five innings. Aldenville loaded the bases in the sixth inning, but they failed to score. Savlick finished his outing by striking out the side looking in the top of the seventh inning. Rivera (2-for-4) smacked a double to the gap in left center against Vassallo, who's a righty, leading off the bottom of the seventh. Vassallo retired the next three batters ending the ballgame, which almost took almost three hours to complete.



Matt Sutton, from Chicopee Comprehensive, pitches for Aldenville Post 337.



Noah Carillon makes a play on a bouncing ball.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Ryan Netkovick gets ready for contact.

WIN from page 6

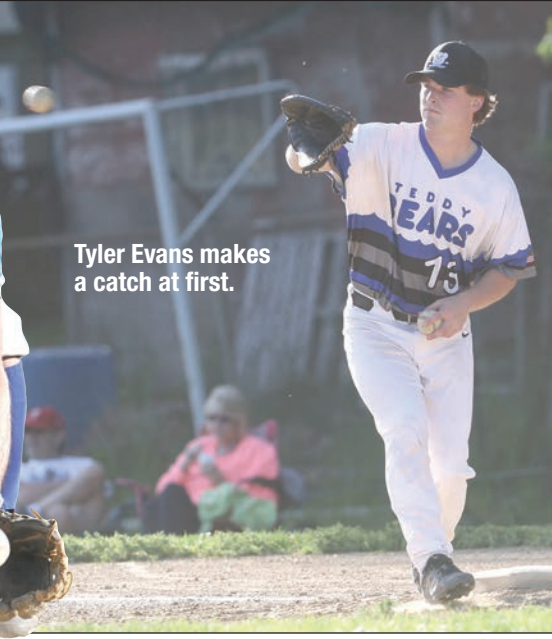
run. Seven different players contributed to that inning. Kagan finished the night with four RBI on a single hit, the most efficient line on the card. Nate Kelleher-Mochak was untouchable on the mound. The starter worked five innings without allowing a run, giving up just two hits, striking out four, and walking one. It was the kind of outing that makes a winning pitcher's night feel almost anticlimactic — he threw strikes, got outs, and watched his offense do the rest.

Jackson Lavalley absorbed the loss for PeoplesBank, lasting just one inning and allowing one run on one hit. The final score reflected a difficult evening for the visitors, who managed only two hits on the night — one apiece from Hogan G and Macdonald. Teddy Bear collected 10 hits as a club, with Magni, Rosemond, and Maldonado each going 2-for-the-night. Equally notable was the team's discipline at the plate: eight walks drawn, with Griggs and Gochinski each earning two. Ted-

dy Bear also played a clean game in the field — no errors, with Evans handling the most chances at five. On this Monday, everything worked.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Dave Clark picks up a grounder for PeoplesBank.



Tyler Evans makes a catch at first.



Bailey Griggs slings a throw to first base for an out.

Blue Sox out to impressive start this summer

HOLYOKE – The Valley Blue Sox (6-1-1) took down the Danbury Westerners (3-5) by a score of 4-2 June 13, driven heavily by strong pitching performances from RHP Jackson Hinchliffe (Richmond) and RHP Jake LeFrancois (UMass Lowell). It was the second night in a row where the Blue Sox's starter pitched at least five complete innings and was relieved by one pitcher who finished the rest of the game. The ability of Valley's starters to consistently work efficiently through the fifth inning as well as head coach John Raiola's willingness to keep his starters in the game seemingly have a correlation to the team's early success. Opponents in 2026 have not left a starting pitcher in more than 3.2 innings against the Blue Sox. Valley has done so in all but one game this season.

mance showcased the kind of pitcher he's built himself to be. "With the two-seam sinker thing, just getting weak contact early in counts allows you to get deep in games, save the bullpen and let the defense work." As of the morning of June 14, Hinchliffe and RHP Dylan Reid (Brown) lead the NECBL in innings pitched, each with 11.0. Hinchliffe's second start was a nice recovery after his first start of the season where he lasted five innings, but allowed five earned runs and five hits. For LeFrancois, it was his fourth appearance of the season and his second in three days. With the Blue Sox still waiting on select arms to join the team for the summer, the bullpen has stepped up in a major fashion with relievers recording longer outings in order to preserve other pitcher's arms.

"It's all them and their ability to throw strikes and to get off the field," Raiola said. "We talk a lot about trying to get length in five or six innings, whatever it is. But the reality is, it's pitch count more than anything. And if we have quick, efficient innings, then they can keep going." Hinchliffe did exactly that on Saturday night. His final line from June 13 was six innings pitched, four hits, zero earned runs, three strikeouts, and zero walks, all on 70 pitches. LeFrancois, who earned the nine out save, pitched three innings, allowing one hit, one earned run, striking out two and walking none. "100 percent," Hinchliffe said when asked if his perfor-

"When you play every single day you can't just go 1-1-1 and not have guys available," Raiola said. "You need some length at times and you have in this case, [LeFrancois] down for a couple days. We have the off day on Tuesday, and we'll get him back on Wednesday. And so, it sets us up nicely for Sunday and Monday." With the Blue Sox off to one of the hottest starts in the NECBL, the team mentality will not change. "We talk about it all the time, it is: short memory, show up, continue to get better every single day," Raiola said. "Let the process dictate what the results are going to be."

T-Birds agree to bring back head coach Steve Ott

SPRINGFIELD – St. Louis Blues President of Hockey Operations and General Manager Doug Armstrong announced today that the team has signed Steve Ott to a two-year contract extension as head coach of the Blues' AHL affiliate, the Springfield Thunderbirds. Ott, 43, took over as Springfield's head coach on January 19, 2026. In the club's final 34 regular-season games, he led the team to an 18-14-2 record, clinching a berth as the sixth seed in the Atlantic Division for the 2026 Calder Cup Playoffs. Ott then guided the Thunderbirds to the Division Finals following a first-round series win over the third-seeded Charlotte Checkers and a historic victory over the Macgregor Kilpatrick Trophy-winning Providence Bruins (the regular-season champions) in the Division Semifinals. Springfield's win over Providence marked the single biggest upset in AHL history, as the two teams

were separated by 38 points in the regular season. Ott originally joined the Blues' coaching staff on May 25, 2017, spending seven seasons as an assistant coach before being elevated to associate coach ahead of the 2024-25 season. During his tenure, the Summerside, Prince Edward Island, native helped the Blues compile a 350-244-74 regular-season record and make five postseason appearances, including 2019, when he played an instrumental role in helping the organization capture its first Stanley Cup championship. As a player, Ott put together a 14-year NHL career, including 122 regular-season games and 21 postseason games with the Blues after the team acquired him via trade from the Buffalo Sabres on February 28, 2014. Overall, he appeared in 848 career regular-season games, totaling 288 points (109 goals, 179 assists) and 1,555 penalty minutes.

HELP WANTED

- Produce news and/or feature stories of local interest for various towns and cities.
- Must be dependable, professional and able to meet strict deadlines.
- Salary based on a flat rate by story and photo.

EXPERIENCED WRITERS & JOURNALISTS

Send writing samples with resume to:

PAULA OUIMETTE
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069
or email directly to:
pouimette@turley.com

Turley
Publications, Inc.
www.turley.com

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.

		I	S	H		A	S	P	I	R	E			
		N	A	E		B	U	E	N	O	S			
A	M		J	N	R		F	E	A	T				
G	R	E	E	C	E		F	I	N	A	L	E	S	
E	N	A	C	T	S		O	N	E	T	I	M	E	
R	A	T	T	A	I	L		C	G		O	R	A	N
				E	I	R	A				R	A	I	N
S	P	F		S	T	A	T	E			S	L	A	
T	A	L	C		E	D	E	R						
A	Y	A	H		C	R		S	E	S	S	I	L	E
R	E	G	A	L	I	A		C	A	C	A	O	S	
R	E	S	T	A	R	T		T	U	R	N	I	P	
			T	H	R	U		I	D	O		N	Y	
		R	E	T	U	R	N		N	I	T			
		C	R	I	S	E	S		G	S	A			

SERVICE DIRECTORY

To advertise on this page call the Town Reminder at 283-8393

ELECTRICIAN

GAGNON ELECTRIC

All Types Of Electrical Work.
Fully Insured.
All Work Fully Guaranteed
Free Estimates. Lic. #14960A
533-8867

TREE SERVICES

LUCCHESI TREE SERVICE

AND LANDSCAPING
Lot Clearing, Retaining Walls,
Mowing, Pruning, Stump Grinding,
Irrigation. Insured
534-1002

GRANBY from page 1

their commitment and stated the students “met challenges with determination” and “embraced opportunities with confidence.” Principal Allison Jordan advised the graduating class to “take pride” in what they accomplished over the years and to be open for what life had to offer. She reminded the class to be ready for those opportunities and to embrace the challenges to come.

“The moments that challenge you, surprise you or take you in a new direction may ultimately become the experiences that define you. As you move forward, embrace new possibilities with confidence, learn from those setbacks and remain open to the unexpected,” Jordan said. “Granby will always be part of your story. Wherever life takes you next, know that we are so proud of you, that we believe in you and we look forward to all that you accomplish.”

Senior Class President Faith Ramos then took the podium. During her Class Welcome speech, Ramos reflected on her time in high school and stated though people viewed her as someone who “got it all together,” a perception she made clear couldn’t be farther from the case. During her heartfelt speech, Ramos grappled with perfectionism and her struggles in attempting to be the ideal student.

“I thought being a leader meant being perfect,” Ramos said. “I thought I had to follow a specific script, blend in and make sure my personality didn’t make anyone else uncomfortable.”

Ramos admitted she spent a lot of her time in high school keeping up appearances and the exhaustion of trying to “fit into a mold that wasn’t made for us.” She empathized with the graduating class’ feelings

of inadequacy caused by pressures to conform. She nonetheless stated “high school was a team sport” and it was important to show gratitude for support systems.

“To the families here today, thank you,” Ramos said. “Thank you for being our rocks. You’ve seen us at our best and you’ve definitely seen us at our worst when we were swamped over our laptops at midnight, stressed out and exhausted.”

She applauded her class for their courage to grow into themselves. She mentioned the graduating body was one of artists, athletes who pushed the limits, activists and “brilliant thinkers who challenge the status quo” and encouraged them to continue being themselves in a world all too eager to tear them down. She also reflected on her own journey of self-discovery.

“I realized that we don’t owe the world a version of ourselves that makes them comfortable. I had to stop looking for everyone else’s approval to realize I’m perfect exactly the way I am,” Ramos said. “Not because I don’t make mistakes because trust me, I have made plenty, but because I’m entirely, un-apologetically, myself.”

Ramos encouraged others to follow their own path, to be brave enough to pursue authenticity and to be courageous on the journey of self-discovery. As she ended her speech, she offered one final challenge to the graduating class.

“I have one final challenge for you,” Ramos said as she turned towards her classmates. “Be too much. Be too loud about your passions. Be too kind in a cynical world. Dream a little too big, love a little too hard and be so completely yourself you don’t make an ounce of sense to anyone else but you. You don’t need a blueprint. You

just need to show us who you are.”

Senior Class Treasurer Ava-Elizabeth Loughman presided over the presentation of the class gift, a regional tradition. The gift was revealed to be new chairs, an idea proposed by the vice president. In the dedication speech, Loughman mentioned the chairs were also representative of the class spirit, which she described as a “strong, supportive and tight-knit community.”

“This gift represents our gratitude to the administration, teachers, staff, families, underclassmen, athletes and everyone who has supported us throughout our journey,” Loughman said as she dedicated the chairs. “We hope these chairs serve the school well and provide comfort for future students, families and community members for years to come.”

Salutatorian Mylin Laliberte’s speech recalled her time in high school and the nervous anticipation of “stepping into a world that doesn’t come with instructions.” Laliberte spoke on the twelve years the class spent together as they grew up in the school district, getting lost on the first day of school, leaving the car running with the AC on and the friendships forged along the way.

“Looking back, it’s funny how the years we once thought would take forever suddenly seem to have flown by,” Laliberte said. “The moments we couldn’t wait to move past are now the moments we wish we could revisit one last time.”

She encouraged the class to look back on what they’ve been through and to celebrate what they accomplished. Laliberte thanked her parents for the support through all the years and for believing in her when she didn’t believe in herself. She thanked her



Turley photos by Ben Hernandez

Former high school students, soon to be graduates, march to the day’s proceedings.

classmates for their time together and for the lessons learned from them. In the speech’s closing words, she called upon the class to “embrace uncertainty rather than fear it.”

“I’m so proud of everything you accomplished,” Laliberte said as she closed the speech. “I’m so excited for our futures. I can’t wait to see where life takes each and every one of us.”

Valedictorian Kaitlyn Curran spoke on the difficulties of writing her speech, as she found it hard to distill twelve years in the Granby school district into a few minutes. She questioned what excellence met in the classroom and what the real high school experience was.

“I found myself asking ‘how can I even sum up 12 years of growth, mistakes, lessons and memories?’ I thought success was mea-

sured in percentages and trophies, the tangible items that prove you work hard,” Curran said. “While those things still matter, I realize now they’re only a small part of the story. The real measure of our high school experience isn’t found on our transcripts...it is truly the people that define the place.”

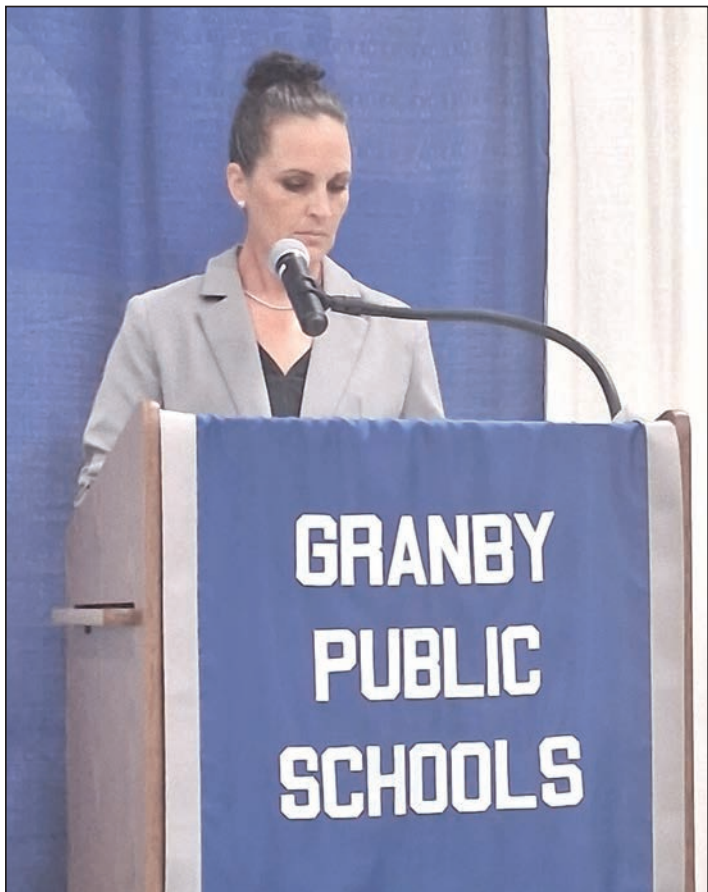
Curran reminisced on racing to the swings at recess, eating lunch with the same people she knew since kindergarten and prom. She stated the things people remembered most about high school wasn’t the grades or their overall academic performance, but in the little moments they shared with the people around them. She asked the class to recall their best memories in Granby as she guessed at what those memories contained.

“You’re probably remembering a time where you

laughed so hard with your friends your stomach hurt,” Curran said. “Or the time a teacher told you they believed in you when you felt like giving up...We’ve spent the last four years surrounded by people who are just as foolish about the future as we are.”

Curran referred to the teachers who guided them through the past four years as “anchors” who gave them the chance to grow, to make mistakes and the opportunity for self-discovery. She thanked the teachers for being patient when the class was struggling, for being kind when the class was confused and supportive “when we didn’t ask for help.” She emphasized the value of the human experience, the importance of community and “what it means to be a part of something.”

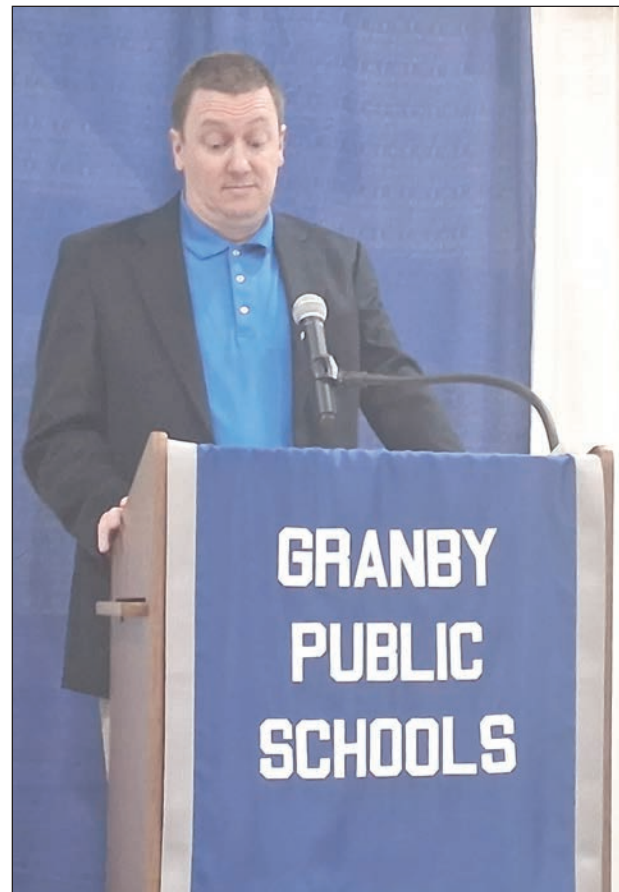
Please see **GRANBY**, page 9



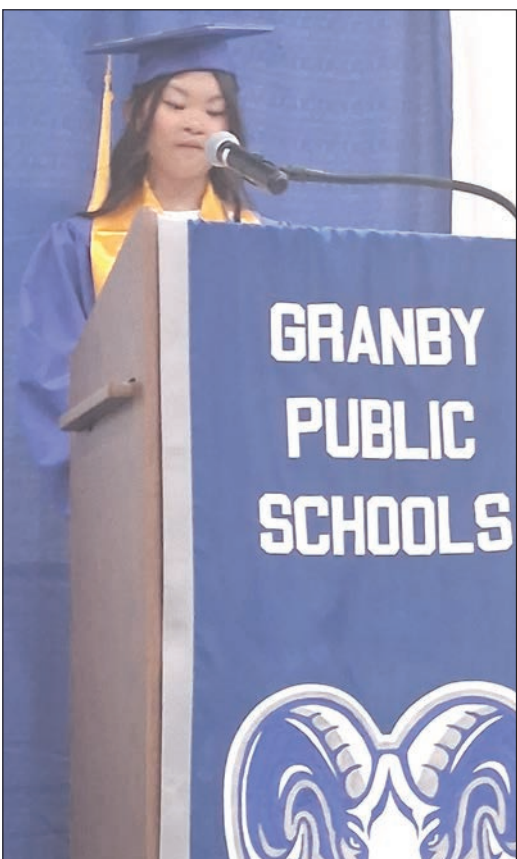
Principal Allison Jordan greets the crowd and begins the opening ceremony.



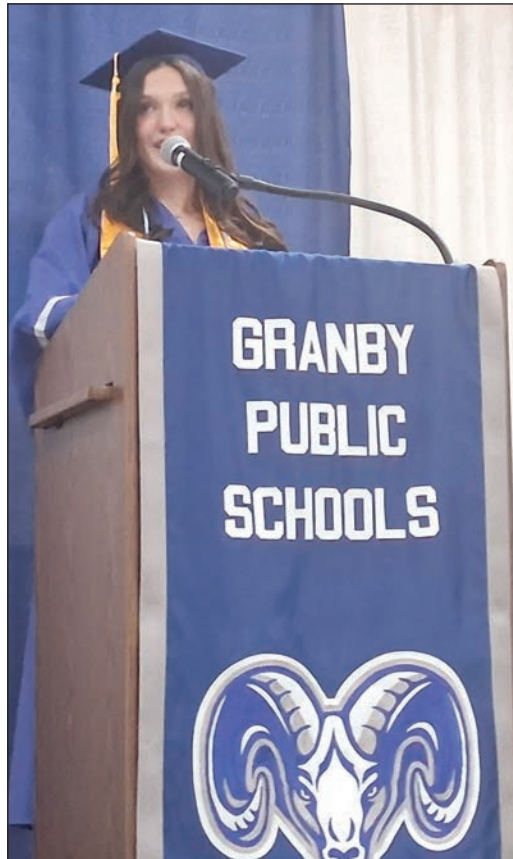
Superintendent Mary Jane Rickson reminds graduates to appreciate the journey over the destination.



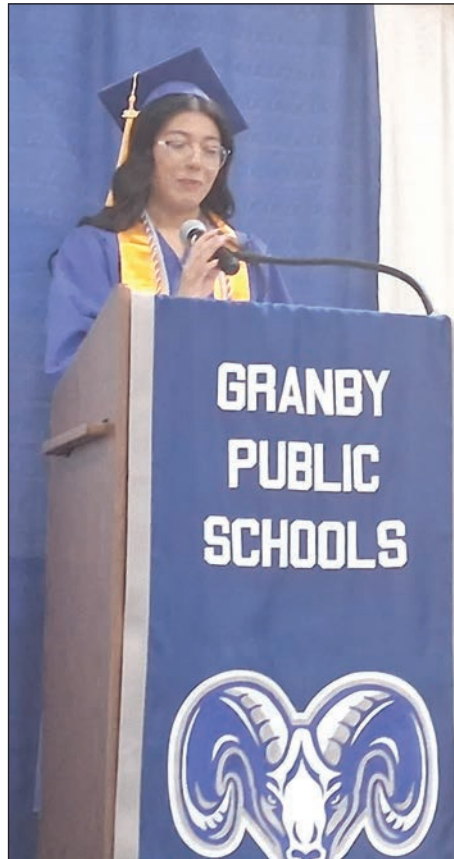
Social Studies teacher and class-appointed guest speaker Norman Racine thanks the class for making a difference.



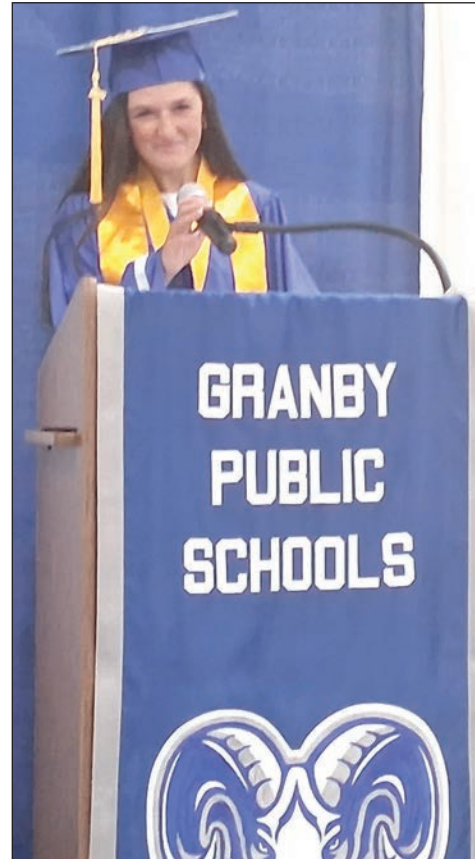
Salutatorian Mylin Laliberte reflects on the past and encourages gratitude for the bonds forged along the way.



Senior Class Treasurer Ava-Elizabeth Loughman reveals the class gift of chairs to Granby Junior Senior High School staff.



Senior Class President Faith Ramos encourages graduates to carve their own path in the years ahead.



Valedictorian Kaitlyn Curran urges community and to value people over process.

GRANBY from page 8

"We hope we do you proud," Curran said. "I hope for all of us this: we continue to value people over performance, that we remember the strength of showing up even when it's hard...no matter how far we go, we stay grounded in the truth that who we are matters more than what we achieve."

Social Studies teacher Norman Racine, introduced by Senior Class Corresponding Secretary Allison Maslak, was hand-picked by the Class of 2026 to be a guest speaker for the class. During his tearful speech, Racine thanked the class for the honor.

"I really do appreciate it but it reminds me of something that I have caught myself saying so many times this year," Racine said as he addressed the beginning words of his speech to the graduates. "I really did not expect this and I'm touched that you guys selected me. Thank you. I hope that I can deserve this and I won't let you down."

Racine reflected on getting hired in July 2000, on

the fact he had spent half of his working life at the school and how his time in the district changed him. As he recalled his time, he mentioned he "used to care more about essays and test scores" than he did at the present time. He stated what mattered to him now was getting to know the students and to help them on the way to being good people. He asserted the real journey was yet to begin for the class.

"I mean no disrespect but this is high school we're talking about. Graduation is a big deal but I don't want any of you to think that this is it, that you're peaking here," Racine said. "You're only on the start of your journey...Be brave and creative. Be adventurous and make mistakes. You're young and you have plenty of time to figure out what you want to do with the rest of your lives."

The Social Studies teacher applauded his "squad" and thanked them for helping him make a better version of himself. He expressed gratitude for the times he shared with both the class and staff and how essential it was to



The Class of 2026 performs the ceremonial cap toss after receiving their diplomas.

show the people in their lives how much they cared. As his speech came to a close, Racine urged the students to share their feelings with each other.

"You've truly taken care of me," Racine said to the graduates. "Please do this with your friends and family and teachers. Tell them that you care. Tell them that they

have made a difference and thank them for the time that you have shared with each other."

Superintendent Mary Jane Rickson offered a brief speech prior to the diploma acceptance ceremony. In her speech, she discussed the meaning of the class' chosen theme song "Life is A Highway." She stated the

song was about treating life as a journey filled with twists and turns, one each student wouldn't have to travel alone. Using the analogy of a car race, Rickson described the people who help along the way as a "pit crew" in place to aid the graduates throughout the course of their life. She mentioned the point of life wasn't the destination, but the

path taken. "Success is not about just crossing the finish line. It is about growth, humility, resilience and relationships that we build along the way," Rickson said. "Life is a highway and today marks the beginning of an exciting new stretch of your journey. Congratulations, graduates."



**YOUR LOCAL
TRUSTED
DEPENDABLE**

HOMIE PROs

OVERHEAD DOORS

Devine Overhead Doors

Call Today for Professional Installation
413.586.3161
www.devineoverheaddoors.com
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

TREE WORK

INSURED AND CERTIFIED
dlangtree.com

- Tree Removal
- Structural Pruning
- Crane Service
- Storm Damage
- Stump Grinding

DL&G TREE

Give us a call for your free estimate and tree evaluation 413-478-4212

LAWN & GARDEN

AMHERST FARMERS SUPPLY

Fertilizers, grass seeds, natural stone, wall/walkway/patio, block, masonry, gardening, outdoor tools, mulches, pond supplies, muck boots & more!

320 South Pleasant St., Amherst
413-253-3436
Mon.-Fri. 7:30-5:00, Sat. 7:30-4:00 • Est. 1945

PAINTING

Pennington Painting Svc.

Start your interior projects today!

- INTERIOR
- EXTERIOR
- RESIDENTIAL
- COMMERCIAL

413-813-7328
Dustin Pennington
www.penningtonpaintingco.net

Build Your Business HERE

Special Advertising Rates for Local Small Businesses - Ad Design Included!

CALL: 413.283.8393
EMAIL: nbrady@turley.com

Reach local households, in print and online!

TRAILER SALES

YANKEE TRAILER SALES

450 New Ludlow Rd., Chicopee
Phone (413) 532-0515
www.yankeetrailersales.com

SALES: Enclosed Utility Dump Equipment

ROOFS

ROBERTS ROOFS

SPECIALIZING IN
Slate • Copper • Architectural Shingles • Gutters
Historical Restoration • Flat Roofing
Snow Removal
Snow/Ice Damage Repair

Tel. 413-283-4395
Cell 413-237-9434
www.RobertsRoofsInc.com

Trusted Name Since 1982

GLASS

YANKEE GLASS

AUTO • HOME • COMMERCIAL
450 New Ludlow Rd., Chicopee
532-0515
YANKEEGLASS.COM

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

FOR SALE

FIREWOOD

FIREWOOD
 Fresh cut & split \$240.00
 Seasoned cut & split \$375.00
 All hardwood.
 Tree length available
 *Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap).
 Quality & volumes **guaranteed!!**
 New England Forest Products
(413)477-0083

MORE HEAT LESS WOOD. Central Boiler Classic Edge HDX Outdoor Wood Furnace. EPA Certified. Titanium Stainless Steel. \$2K Tax Credit.
 Call **(508) 882-0178**

PRAYERS ANSWERED

THANK YOU Thank you St. Jude for prayers answered and publication promised. J.M.C.

WANTED

WANTED! CASH for:

- Machinist tools, power tools & Snap on.
 - Electronics & Audio Equipment.
 - Sports Cards.
 - 70s/80s/90s Toys.
 - Antiques & Collectibles.
- Much, much more!

Call/Text Sam
413-531-5381

WANTED TO BUY

ALL ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.

BUYING Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, kitchenware, cookware, knives, military, automotive, fire department, masonic, license plates, beer cans, barware, books, oil cans, advertising tins, hunting, fishing, signs, and more.

Donald Roy **(860) 874-8396**

ALWAYS BUYING ALL ANTIQUES:

Musical instruments, guitars, horns, keyboards, vintage electronics, jewelry, coins, watches, military cameras, sports memorabilia, art, sterling, signs, automotive, hunting, advertising, radios, ham radio equipment, audio equipment, toys, one item or entire estate.

Call Paul **413-206-8688**

JUNK REMOVAL

A Call We Haul FAST REMOVAL

Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts.
 We load it & take it.
413-531-1936
 CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

ARA JUNK FURNITURE REMOVAL

Full house cleanouts, attics, basements, garages, pools, hot tubs, sheds, decks. Same day service. 8am-9pm. Credit cards accepted. Free estimates on phone.
 Fully insured.
 Call Pete **413-433-0356**.

SERVICES



A B Hauling and Removal Service

2*****A & B HOUSEHOLD REMOVAL SERVICE*****

Cellars, attics, garages cleaned, yard debris. Barns & sheds demolished. Swimming pools removed. Cheaper than dumpster fees and we do all the work. Lowest rates. Fully insured. **(413)283-6512, cell (413)222-8868**.

DRYWALL, PAINTING AND CEILINGS, plaster repair. Drywall hanging. Taping & complete finishing. All ceiling textures. Fully insured. Jason at Great Walls. **(413)563-0487**

ELECTRICIAN

PJ's Electrical MASTER ELECTRICIAN

• Licensed & Insured •
 Providing safe, reliable electrical services for residential and commercial projects.

NOW OFFERING FREE CONSULTATIONS.
 Call today to schedule your appointment.
(413) 366-1703
 (Lic. #24046-A)

DANNY'S ELECTRICAL SERVICES LLC

I offer good quality electrical work, no project too small. Service upgrades, pools, budget friendly, committed to satisfaction, dependable & insured. Master Lic. #20773-A, Business Lic. #9310-A1. Text or call Daniel at **413-218-3301** or visit my website at dannyelectrical.com to fill an online work request.

GAGNON ELECTRIC

All types of electrical work. Fully insured. All work fully guaranteed. Free estimates. Lic. #14960A. **413-533-8867**

SERVICES

ZEN ELECTRIC COMPANY LLC
 Fully licensed and insured; Master Electrician on staff. Call for all your electrical needs. No job too small. Senior citizen and Veteran Discount. A veteran owned company. MA License #8101A1.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

HOME IMPROVEMENT SPECIALIST

Decks, porches, repair service, roofing and siding contractor.
 Tim **413-563-2229**. Licensed/insured. 35 year construction supervisor.

CHAMELEON PAINTING & REMODELING

INTERIOR/EXTERIOR Remodeling & Deck Specialists
 Residential/Commercial
 Fully Insured • Free Estimates
413-351-1147

HOME IMPROVEMENTS. REMODELING Kitchens, baths. Ceramic tile, windows, painting, wallpapering, siding, decks. Insurance work. Fully insured. Free estimates. **(413)246-2783** Ron.

LANDSCAPING

A+ ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BOBCAT SERVICE

Excavator Services
 Overgrown property?
 Extreme Brush Cutting!
 Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal
 Lawn/Arborvite Installed
 Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand
 Storm Clean-up
 Small Demolition/ Junk Removal
 Insured
 Josh Rozell **413-636-5957**

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Walker Handyman Services
Home Improvement
 Finish Carpentry • Framing • Drywall • Painting • & more!
(413) 687-5552

SERVICES

****ALL SEASON**** Specializing in shrub trimming, pruning, design, deliveries, loader, backhoe, insured. Professional. Please call Bob **(413)537-5789**.

MATT GUERTIN LANDSCAPING

Landscape Design and Installation
 Paver Patios, Walkways
 For more services visit mattguertinlandscaping.com
 Call or text **413-266-9975**
 Insured - Commercial - Residential

MASONRY

STOP WET BASEMENTS

ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT WATERPROOFING
 All brick, block, stone, concrete. Hatchway doors, basement windows, chimneys rebuilt & repaired, foundations repaired, basement waterproofing systems, sump pumps. BBB+ rating. Free estimates. Lic #14790. Call **(413)569-1611, (413)374-5377**

PAINTING

B&D PAINTING - Home improvement contractor. Reg. #175887. Free estimates. 30 years experience. 300 excellent references. 4.83 rating out of 5 on Angies List. **413-727-9846**.

PRO PAINTING

Low, low prices. All phases interior, exterior painting and wallpapering. Also minor carpentry. **413-310-5099**.

PLUMBING

GREG LAFONTAIN PLUMBING & HEATING Lic #19196 Repairs & Replacement of fixtures, water heater installations, steam/HW boiler replacement. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30 years experience. Fully insured. \$10 Gift Card With Work Performed. Call Greg **(413)592-1505**

SERVICES

RUBBISH REMOVAL

BOB ROBILLARD'S RUBBISH REMOVAL Attics, Cellars, Garages cleaned, Pools/Hot Tubs Removed. Family owned/operated since 1950 **(413)537-5090**.

TREE WORK

AAA-TROM'S TREE SERVICE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE. Residential removal of trees, Free estimates, Fully insured W/Workman's Comp. Remove them before the wind takes them down. Cordwood, stump grinding. Call **413-283-6374**.

AFFORDABLE STUMP GRINDING Fast, dependable service. Free estimates. Fully insured. Call Joe Sablack **413-436-9821, Cell 413-537-7994**

DL & G TREE SERVICE. Everything from tree pruning, tree removal, stump grinding, storm damage and brush chipping. Honest and Dependable. Fully insured. Now offering a Senior Citizen and Veteran discount. Call today for free estimate **(413)478-4212**.

TUNE-UPS

LAWNMOWER TUNE UP & REPAIR

A&M TUNE-UPS
 Push Lawnmowers, Riding Mowers and Small Engine Repair.
Work done at your home.

FREE PICKUP OF UNWANTED LAWN EQUIPMENT
 Call Mike **(413) 348-7967**

STUMP GRINDING

DL & G STUMP GRINDING Grinding stumps of all sizes, insured & certified. Senior discounts. Call Dave **413-478-4212**

AUTO

VOLVO ENTHUSIASTS/ COLLECTORS!

1998 S-70 Volvo w/cracked engine, body/interior very good. New: radiator, alternator, remanufactured rims, good tires. \$1500 OBO. Text **413-579-2903**.

PETS

GERMAN SHEPHERD PUPS. Champion Czech and Belgian bloodlines. 30 years experience. 3M, 2F. READY NOW, \$1,200. **413-218-2321**

PETS

LIVESTOCK

CHICKENS FOR SALE. Barred Rocks, Reds, Australorp, Hybrid. All large brown New England type layers. \$20 each/6 for \$100. **413-218-2321**

HELP WANTED

PAINTER'S HELPER. Part-time, experience preferred, must have own transportation. **413-310-5099**.

SERVERS WANTED

Inquire at Girly's Grill, 1315 Park St., Palmer, MA 01069 or call **413-284-0005**.

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT

2 BEDROOM, 1.5 bath, condo in Chicopee. Very quiet, parking/2 cars. First/last/security. Just remodeled. \$1600. **413-204-9828**



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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

FOR RENT



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

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
 or call: 413-283-8393

DEADLINES: FRIDAY AT NOON

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40

Quabbin Village Hills
 Circulation: 50,500

Hilltowns
 Circulation: 9,800

Suburban Residential
 Circulation: 59,000

All Three ZONES for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word.

Name: _____ Phone: _____
 Address: _____
 Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Number of Weeks: _____ X per week rate = \$ _____
 Credit Card: MasterCard VISA Discover Cash Check# _____
 Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____
 Amount of charge: _____ Date: _____

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

GREAT VALUE!
 ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!

Make checks payable to Turley Publications

Classified Advertising DEADLINE FRIDAY AT NOON



STAY ON TOP OF IT ALL!
 Subscribe Today!

Turley Publications, Inc.
 12 HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS
413.283.8393
www.turley.com
 24 Water Street
 Palmer, MA 01069

Hampden hood cleaner's license suspended after fire at Holyoke Mall

Admits Code Violations after Investigation by DFS and Holyoke FD

HOLYOKE – State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine this week suspended a commercial cooking exhaust hood cleaner's license for up to two and a half years after failing to clean the ductwork where a fire later broke out at the Holyoke Mall.

The State Fire Marshal's office issued the following press release relating to the incident.

The order bars Joseph Gorecki and his business,

Gorecki & Sons LLC, from performing any regulated work until September 2029, but it would allow him to seek reinstatement after 15 months if he takes and successfully passes a certification exam administered by the Office of the State Fire Marshal's office. The remaining 15 months would be considered a probationary period during which his individual and business licenses could again be suspended and new penalties could be imposed if he violates any aspect of the State Fire Code. Neither Gorecki nor his

business is alleged to have started the February 18, 2026, fire at the Holyoke Mall. That fire began when sparks from work in the area ignited built-up grease within the exhaust ducts.

Rather, a joint investigation by the Department of Fire Services' Code Compliance & Enforcement Unit and the Holyoke Fire Department determined that Gorecki & Sons LLC had failed to properly clean that ductwork of grease, failed to document his work accurately, and failed to notify the property owner of any areas that were inaccessible,

not cleaned, or not compliant with the Fire Code. Gorecki admitted to these violations and similar violations at three restaurants in Haverhill, Westfield, and Marlborough.

"The Fire Code's hood cleaning provisions protect lives and property," said State Fire Marshal Davine. "They were put in place after a grease fire in restaurant duct work killed two firefighters. The overwhelming majority of hood cleaning license holders understand the risks and do effective, professional work. Those who don't put people and businesses in

harm's way."

"Every day, families put their trust in the Fire Code to make restaurants, malls, and other public spaces safe to visit," said Holyoke Fire Chief John Kadlewicz. "Code violations aren't administrative technicalities – they're serious business. Holyoke firefighters spent four hours fighting the three-alarm fire at the Holyoke Mall, and we're extremely fortunate that no one was seriously injured."

The license suspension was based on cooperative efforts by the Department of Fire Services and the Holy-

oke Fire Department following the February fire; witness interviews; Gorecki & Sons inspection records; and spot-checks of various locations where Gorecki & Sons had performed regulated work. They were also based on Gorecki's admissions, in which he took responsibility for the violations.

Anyone aware of hood cleaning work performed by Joseph Gorecki or Gorecki & Sons LLC prior to September 2027 is asked to contact the DFS Code Compliance & Enforcement Unit at 978-567-3375.

GRACE from page 1

number of different musical options, from pianists to organ players. Callan-Bogia mentioned this year was the first time vocalists were featured, who were also sourced from Binczewski's class.

She reported the addition was a mind-blowing experience and was surprised by the student's musical range. Out of all the performances, the refreshments organizer was the most impressed with a student she called "Maya," a 12-year-old who has played for Grace Notes ever since she was nine years old.

"I mean, when she stood up to go up, we were like 'okay, this is going to be like a recital,'" Callan-Bogia said.

"No, she played the hardest music just beautifully, flawlessly. Classical pieces."

As for future plans, Callan-Bogia mentioned the congregation thought about running a holiday performance around Christmas time. However, the plans are still in the idea stage. She also expressed gratitude for being part of the greater church community, as she gets "to do a lot of different things" while serving the greater community.

"Being part of a small congregation means everybody has to step in and help," Callan-Bogia said as she reflected on her time helping out at the concert. "And that's a good thing, I think, because Lutherans are about being of service."



A provided sample of the program and list of staff for the Grace Notes event.

Submitted photos



Congregation member Deb Brown, music director Ania Binczewski and Pastor Anna Tew pose for the camera.

SCHOOL from page 1

people" and the volume of line items required the various teams involved to make difficult funding choices and tradeoffs to fund their respective departments.

"Everybody got together and decided, all right, this is

what we can do because we know this is what we need," Dorman said. "No point in Granby running out of money faster than it has to."

Resident Joe Furnia took the stand in public comment and stressed the surface replacement was a "child safety issue" and though it

would "take away from other departments," it was worth the investment. Arguments against the measure arose around budget tradeoffs, which centered the unmet needs of other departments and an already stretched budget process.

The discussion prompt-

ed a rewriting of the item amendment, which prompted a five minute recess for the town meeting. After the recess, the item was introduced with the included addition of \$30,000 to fund the mulch replacement at the playground. The measure passed by a two-thirds majority.

Send Us Your Autumn Event Information

Turley Publications will print your Autumn event **FREE OF CHARGE** in our **Autumn Fest Supplement** which will be published **September 9, 2026.**

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

Deadline for Calendar submissions is August 19.

Community Autumn Events

Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

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

Event Name _____

Date/Time _____

Location _____

Description _____

Cost _____

Contact name & phone number for more information _____

MAIL YOUR LISTING INFORMATION TO:
Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069
or email* them to: jamie@turley.com

*Be sure to indicate "Autumn Event" in the subject line of your email.