

TOWN Reminder

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12U team captures JSL title



Submitted photo

Congratulations to the J.S.L. 12U Division Champions. This championship team includes Gavin Marion, Gavin Callery, Reid Papineau, Ivan Dusza, Luke Boone, Thomas Curran, Quinn Dufault, Isaac Shewmaker, Cam Damours, London Shepard, Sam Lacasse, and Bradley Krupski. Congratulations to all the players on an outstanding season and a well-earned championship.

Neighbors against proposed overlay zone

By **Walter Hamilton**
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – A proposed new “overlay” zoning district that would allow smaller houses on smaller lots on a curving, narrow section of East Street, was blasted at a July 13 Planning Board “listening session” by current neighborhood residents as “horrible,” “terrible” and prone to traffic nightmares.

The proposal by local builder Dan Luis to create a “Multigenerational Housing Overlay Zoning District” by-law that would, if approved by Town Meeting, allow the construction of 70 two-bedroom homes in the 800-square foot size range.

The latest draft would allow a maximum of four houses per acre, or roughly 10,000 square feet each, down from six houses per 10,000 square feet, or 7,000 square feet

each. The total number of homes had originally been set at 78.

The project would occupy a 17–18-acre site near the dead-end portion of the road that abuts a town conservation area and existing housing.

Luis said the plan, first presented on May 29, has been modified to allow some 2-family homes (duplexes), to modify open space considerations and to add sidewalks on both sides of the streets. No more than 50 percent of the homes would be duplexes.

The proposed district closely reflects a statewide ballot question that voters in the November general election will be asked to approve. The measure, dubbed “Legalize Starter Homes,” drew enough signatures from registered Massachusetts voters in a process authorized by the state Constitution.

That law, if approved by a

majority of voters, would allow single-family homes to be built in a residentially zoned area, as long as the land on which it is to be constructed is at least 5,000 square feet, has at least 50 feet of land bordering the street, road, or public way that it faces, and has access to public sewer and water services.

According to the ballot measure, cities and towns would be allowed to reasonably regulate certain aspects of those single-family homes, including their height, distance from neighboring buildings, open space, parking requirements, and whether they can be rented out on a short-term basis.”

At the most recent listening session, several East Street residents said they are forced to drive off the existing narrow pavement when ap-

Please see **ZONE**, page 7

Granby taps new financial, senior leaders, weighs state review

By **Melina Bourdeau**
Correspondent

GRANBY – Selectboard members appointed a new town accountant and Council on Aging Director, endorsed a state financial review and advanced a long-running dispute over the Winehouse’s permits during its July 19 meeting in Town Hall.

The board voted to bring back a longtime financial hand as part-time town accountant, hire an experienced Council on Aging leader from Hadley, invite the state Department of Revenue to scrutinize Granby’s books and send unresolved Winehouse permitting questions to the Planning Board for site plan review.

Martin appointed part-time town accountant

Town Administrator Ron Aponte recommended former administrator Christopher Martin as Granby’s next town accountant, saying Martin’s deep familiarity with the town’s finances made him an obvious choice.

Please see **REVIEW**, page 10

Wine house issue continues to be litigated by town boards

By **Ben Hernandez**
Staff Writer

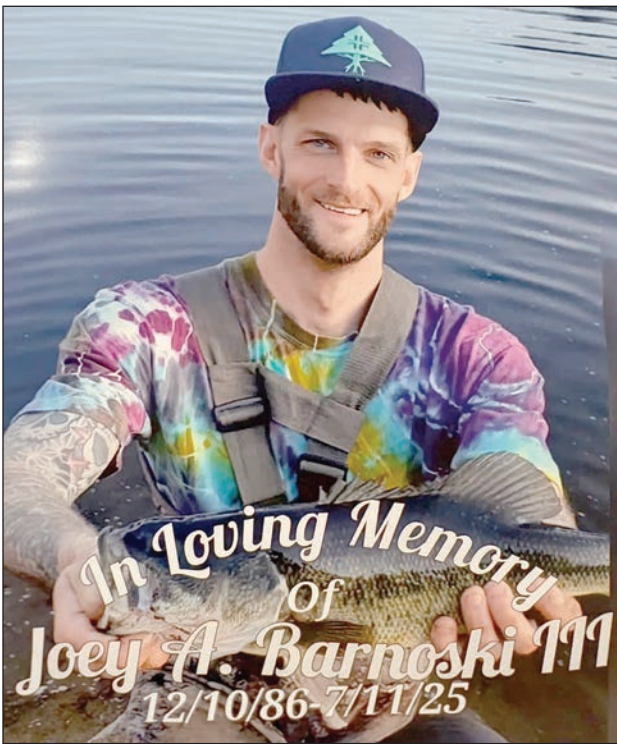
GRANBY – The Granby Select Board gathered to hear complaints and allegations against the local wine house.

“If you recall, approximately two to three meetings ago, the board was presented

with a packet of concerns and complaints regarding the wine house,” Town Administrator Ron Aponte said. “At the direction of the Select Board, I reached out to Attorney Costa, who was obviously very familiar with this particular case and issue, and had him review the packet.”

Attorney Costa is a special municipal counsel for the town in regards to regulatory and zoning issues within Granby. He served as a consultant regarding allegations lodged against the wine house, one outstanding alle-

Please see **WINE**, page 7



This year’s festivities are in memory of Joey A. Barnoski, the son of event organizer Dennis Doucette.

DinoFest roars back to life

By **Ben Hernandez**
Staff Writer

GRANBY – DinoFest is back. The beloved one-day festival will be taking place on Church of Christ Congregational land on Sept. 12 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Festivities taking place across the one acre campus will include craft vendors, food trucks, live music and a myriad of fan favorite contests. Proceeds will benefit the local church.

DinoFest is being run this year in memory of Joey A. Barnoski, the man who coined the festival’s name

and son of event organizer and DinoFest Grand Pohbah Dennis Doucette. A festival enthusiast, Joey suggested the name due to Granby’s famous ties to the prolific dinosaur fossils found throughout the area.

“DinoFest is an arts, crafts and music festival,” said Doucette. “It’s an old-school kind of festival. We have a pie eating contest, a pie baking contest, a what we call a ‘dino dance’ where the kids dress up in dinosaur costumes and they dance to a couple of tunes.”

Please see **DINOFE**, page 5



Submitted photos

Beloved festival mascot Zippy poses with festival attendees.

A group of four young adults and a dog are sitting around a light-colored wooden table. They are all smiling at the camera. On the table is a large, colorful mandala with various patterns and colors. A black dog is sitting on the floor next to the table. In the background, another person is standing and looking at a poster on the wall. The room has green walls and a white ceiling.

On Saturday, July 18, South Hadley Public Library Jigsaw Puzzle Race winners are: Hannah Bevis, Laura Lyman, Jen Markey, and Revecca White, with assistant Nolan. The winning time was in 1:23:33.

Thanks to those who donated last year, 213 backpacks were filled with last year's drive.

elections' covers you for all of 2026. Primaries: Choose your party ballot if unenrolled. The deadline for the state primary/special town election is Aug. 25 at 5 p.m.

Applicants will not be required to be interviewed if they choose not to be, but still may be considered. The joint committee, by way of nomination and subsequent vote to appoint, will fill the vacancy on the South Hadley Board of Assessors for a term from the date of appointment to the next annual town election, scheduled for April 2027.

If a person's car does not have the ability to lower the windows using the key fob, it will be best for them to open the car doors for a few minutes before getting inside.



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Fire and Water study group offers update

SOUTH HADLEY – A Study Group, consisting of South Hadley residents, former and current personnel, and governance leaders from Fire and Water Districts 1 and 2 has been meeting over the past two months. The group has reviewed previous merger study reports, conducted a SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) based on current operations and a potential merger, and is embarking on developing a business plan “mock-up” of what a South Hadley merger might look like.

In addition, the group is seeking best practices developed by other Massachusetts municipalities that have conducted mergers.

The South Hadley Fire and Water Study Group was organized in response to current town budgetary challenges and a town-wide 2024 non-binding referendum that favored exploring a merger. Meetings are open to the public. Upcoming meetings will be held Aug. 5 at 6 p.m. at the South Hadley Senior Center and Aug. 26 at 6 p.m. at the South Hadley Public Library. The Study Group will continue to provide ongoing updates of their work. For more information, contact Study Group Chair, Christine Phillips, caphill33@gmail.com, 413-531-1063.

Town administrator, school superintendent holding community meeting

SOUTH HADLEY – Join town and school officials for an important community meeting. Learn more about town finances and operations on Saturday, Aug. 1 at 9:30 a.m. at the South Hadley Senior Center. Share your ideas and concerns. The discussion

is moderated by TA Lisa Wong and School Superintendent Jennifer Voyik.

Can’t make it in person? Join on Zoom: tinyurl.com/SHCommunity1

Send comments and questions to Selectboard@southhadleyma.gov or call 538-5030 ext 6181.

Please fill out survey for Cultural Council

SOUTH HADLEY – The South Hadley Cultural Council wants to hear from residents. The council seeks input to develop community priorities. Your response will influence guideline for grants for future local cultural programs. To take the survey, go to <https://tinyurl.com/shcc-survey>.

Fleury awarded scholarship from Chicopee Savings Bank Foundation

SOUTH HADLEY – Allison Fleury, a 2026 graduate of South Hadley High School, has been awarded a \$3,000 William J. Wagner Memorial Scholarship from the Chicopee Savings Bank Charitable Foundation, an affiliate with Westfield Bank. Fleury is one of 12 highly deserving scholarship recipients from 12 local high schools invited to participate in the Foundation’s 20th annual scholarship program.

Fleury has distinguished herself through academic excellence, leadership, athletics, and service. Ranked third in her class, she maintained an exceptional academic record while completing a rigorous course load of Advanced Placement and honors courses in STEM disciplines. Her achievements include receiving the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Medal for excellence in math and science, as well as multiple Certificates of Excellence recognizing her dedication, work ethic, and intellectual curiosity. Beyond the classroom, Fleury served as President of the National Honor Society and held key roles as a Class Officer, helping organize fundraisers and school events to strengthen her school community. As a District Advocate, she led student listening sessions and collaborated with administrators to improve the student experience across the district. She was also active in Student Council, Service Club, and Best Buddies, where she promoted inclusion and community engagement. In athletics, Fleury was a four-year varsity soccer player and two-year team captain, earning All-Western Massachusetts and All-State honors,



Submitted photo
Allison Fleury has been awarded a scholarship from the Chicopee Savings Bank Foundation.

and also contributed to varsity track and field.

Giving back to others has been central to Fleury’s high school experience. She dedicated herself to tutoring middle and high school students in STEM subjects, founded a community-based tutoring initiative, and volunteered as a youth soccer coach and mentor. She also supported outreach efforts through school programs and her church, including helping prepare meals for individuals in need, reflecting both compassion and initiative. This fall, Fleury will attend Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute to study biomedical engineering. Inspired by her hands-on internship experience in the life sciences engineering field, she plans to pursue a career developing innovative medical devices and treatments that improve health-care outcomes, with aspirations to further expand her expertise through advanced study and leadership in the industry. One of her references noted that Fleury “embodies the qualities of ambition, resilience, and leadership and relentlessly pursues excellence in everything she does.” Her achievements reflect both talent and a sincere commitment to serving others.

The Chicopee Savings Bank Charitable Foundation was established in 2006 as a private 501(c)(3) foundation, through a gift of stock from Chicopee Bancorp, Inc., valued then at \$5.5 million, upon the successful conversion of Legacy Chicopee Savings Bank to a publicly traded company. Now, in its twentieth year, the Foundation has donated in excess of \$7.1 million back into our local communities. The Foundation grants funding to qualified 501(c)(3) organizations serving the communities of Chicopee, Ludlow, South Hadley, Ware, West Springfield and their immediate surrounding communities.

In 2022, the Foundation’s Board of Directors proudly renamed its scholarship to the William J. Wagner Memorial Scholarship in recognition of the Foundation’s founding President, who served in that capacity until his passing in 2021. Mr. Wagner was a community servant, who was notably passionate about helping youth succeed and lived by the old adage that, “What you do has far greater impact than what you say.” Through and since Mr. Wagner’s leadership, the Foundation has proudly awarded 172 academic scholarships totaling \$514,000 to eligible high school graduates.



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SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

I was cheated; I delayed claiming Social Security but didn't get my full benefits

Dear Rusty:
I'm 70 now and took my Social Security benefits at age 68.
Social Security would not allow me to take all my increased percentage earned by waiting until age 68 to claim. My local Social Security office said I would get an increased amount but not my full age 68 amount because it was "not an option;" they said I could take it only the way "they said." That's our illegal government.
Signed: Feeling Cheated

Dear Feeling Cheated:
Regarding your comment that SS "would not allow" you to take all of your "increased percentage," I assume you are referring to a Social Security rule which applies whenever benefits are claimed after full retirement age (FRA) but before age 70. That rule says that the Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs), which are earned when someone delays claiming until after their Social Security full retirement age, are applied only in January of each year. What that means is that whenever benefits are claimed mid-year after FRA but before age 70, only the DRCs earned through the end of the previous year are immediately applied, and any additional DRCs earned during the current year are not applied until January of the following year. The only exception to that rule is if someone applies for benefits to begin in the month they turn 70 (or after) when all earned DRCs are applied immediately.

So, if you applied for your benefits to begin when you turned age 68 mid-year in 2024 (but before the end of that year), you would initially only get DRCs earned through the end of the previous year (through December 2023) and the DRCs earned in 2024 wouldn't have been credited to you until January 2025.

Which means you now actually do get your full percentage of delayed retirement credits earned by waiting until age 68 to claim, but you did not get them all until January 2025. Essentially, those extra benefits earned from the beginning of 2024 to the month your SS benefits started were delayed until the beginning of the following year.

We run into this complexity fairly often here at our AMAC Social Security Advisory Service, which is why we counsel those who contact us about waiting longer to claim are aware of this rather obscure rule.

Not to defend your local SS office, but they are required to pay benefits according to the established Social Security law. Thus, they were required to inform you that paying you the full age 68 benefits effective immediately when you applied was not an option. It wasn't personal; they were just following the rules.

I know this explanation doesn't dissuade you from "feeling cheated," but I hope understanding how SS works in this case assures you it wasn't personal – SSA applies the same rules to all beneficiaries.

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 ssadviser@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

Gardener's joys of harvest season

It's been a fun week in the garden! I love it when the harvest starts to roll in.

This week I picked broccoli, kale, green beans and zucchini. I also replanted a few crops in hopes of a second harvest prior to the first frost.



Read on to hear about my adventures.

You may remember my column from a few weeks back, where I was having a hard time getting "into it" this year. I guess like building any relationship, the more time you spend, the more time you may want to spend as things start to progress and go well.

Anyway, I am happy with my garden again and it feels good to spend time out there. Back to the harvest.

I enjoy harvesting broccoli. It's always fun to see just how big you can get the heads to grow before they want to flower.

The first one I cut was maybe six inches in diameter. Not bad, but the second one was closer to nine inches.

More heads will be ready in the coming weeks. After that I will be harvesting side shoots.

This year, cabbage moths were kept at bay by using a tightly woven bug netting draped over the plants and supported by wire hoops and secured at the base by old wooden planks or stones. So far so good; no worms of any kind in the water left over after steaming.

Kale is broccoli's cousin and is subject to the same

pests. Because of that I also grow it under the netting.

I've been harvesting the kale for well over a month and we already have several bags of it in the freezer. I am starting to rethink my use of plastic baggies, but for now the leaves are washed, patted dry then ripped into pieces and stuffed into baggies pushing out as much air as possible. When my husband makes his vegetable juices and stews, all he does is empty the contents into his creation.

I noticed that the older leaves of the kale were starting to have a yellow cast, so I got out the organic granular fertilizer and gave the plants a sprinkle and a good watering. Hopefully that will reinvigorate the plants for picking well into the fall.

My bush bean seeds got planted late; well after Memorial Day. The harvest is just starting. I will be sure to pick often to keep the plants producing.

I have been saving my own bean seeds for a few years now. It's easy, just harvest the dry pods of "the ones that got away." Make sure they are crispy dry.

Break open the seed pods and store the seeds with a packet of desiccant (usually

in a bottle of vitamins or with leather shoes) in a jar. If you are growing open pollinated or heirloom, non-hybrid varieties you will reliably get the same variety back again. They don't cross pollinate with neighbor beans.

This week I was happy to harvest four zucchinis with more coming. It's funny that already I see freebies at the end of driveways on my commute. I truly hope I have an abundance.

To avoid "boat-sized" squash, pick them small, say six to eight inches long. The seed cavity won't be too big that way and you will encourage the plant to keep producing.

No doubt the vine borer will do in my early sowing soon enough, but never fear, I have sown additional seeds under cover to hopefully have a later harvest once this one expires. I try and keep them covered until the plants bloom, at which time the cover needs to be removed so that the flowers can be pollinated and fruit can form.

I hope you are enjoying the start of the harvest season as much as I am.

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

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.



A Belchertown resident shared this photo of a glossy ibis he took at Lake Wallace.

The glossy ibis is a medium-sized wading bird, 18.9 to 26 inches long, with compact body, long neck, long legs and long, curved bill.

The plumage appears dark, almost blackish, at a distance or in poor light. Up close, the body is maroon with wing coverts showing a metallic green, bronze and violet tones.

Juveniles are a duller brown color with some white streaking on their neck

Glossy Ibis occur in flocks, both at nesting colonies and when foraging. They typically feed by lowering the bill into water, mud or soil, to feel for prey.

In addition to consuming animal matter, plants may constitute a major portion of their diet during some seasons.

They frequent almost any wetland environment with shallow water or exposed mud and also readily feed in farm fields or open areas

where soils are moist.

They inhabit shallow freshwater wetlands as well as brackish and saltwater wetlands, man-



across the globe. Their range has greatly expanded in the 20th century in North America.

This species has gone from a rare and local Florida species to regularly breeding as far north as Maine and occasionally along the east coast of Canada. The first Massachusetts nests were found at coastal sites in 1974.

The oldest recorded glossy ibis was at least 21 years old and lived in Virginia between 1971 and 1992.

Sutton birds

Recently, my brother and sister-in-law hosted a pool party. My brother, Ted, puts out grape jelly for the Baltimore orioles and a nectar feeder for the ruby-throated hummingbirds on his deck.

Birds included male and female ruby-throated hummingbirds for the nectar feeder. Baltimore orioles, red-bellied woodpecker, downy woodpecker and a scarlet tanager came to the deck.

They also have a pond that abuts their backyard. They have a pair of mute swans on the pond. They raised a family for several years in a row.



Juvenile glossy ibis

Great blue heron

I often see a great blue heron wading in Long Pond in Rutland. Every time I drive along Route 122 by the pond,

I look for the heron.

People may report a bird sighting by emailing edowner@turley.com or calling or texting 774-262-5882.



TOWN Reminder

We Want to Hear From You

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Granby library set for Fall Book Sale

GRANBY – Book lovers. Bargain Hunters. The Friends of the Granby Free Public Library will host their annual Month-Long Fall Book Sale during the month of September in the Community Room of the Library. You will be able to choose from a large assortment of used and like-new hardcover, paperback books, teen books and children’s books, along with a selection of CDs, DVDs, video games and audiobooks. The sale will run during regular library hours from Sept. 1 to 30.

Starting Aug. 1, the Library will be accepting do-

nations of hardcover and paperback books, DVDs, music CDs, playable video games, and audiobooks in good condition acceptable for resale. The library does not accept donations of: Text-books, encyclopedias, dictionaries, thesauri, Reader’s Digest books, or books with smoke, mold, mildew, or water damage. Donations are accepted at the library during open hours. Please do not leave donated books outside the library or in our book return. Donations accepted until Aug. 27. Thank you for your support! The library is located at 297 E State St in Granby MA 01033.

Redevelopment funding grant applications available

SOUTH HADLEY – Applications are now being accepted for projects that rehabilitate or redevelop blighted, abandoned, vacant or underutilized properties in the Falls. Priority projects include multifamily buildings, commercial buildings, and mixed-use buildings. Program guidelines: <https://southhadley.org/Document-Center/View/15218/Falls-Redevelopment-Fund---Guidelines--Application>

Applications are being accepted on a rolling basis and funding will be provided on a first-come-first served basis for eligible projects. Total funding available is \$50,000. Additional technical assistance will be provided to align eligible projects with additional funding to achieve program objectives.

For more information contact: acapra@southhadleyma.gov

Chicopee St. to receive work

GRANBY – Road resurfacing on Chicopee St. between School St. and Carver St. Work will commence the week of Aug. 18. Please seek alternate routes if possible. Roadway detours and/or closures are anticipated.

Residents may experience short-term inconvenience/delays due to construction operations.

Library hosting hand-on animal presentation

GRANBY – Granby Free Public Library will host Jennifer of Stealie Jam Farm in Belchertown at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 5 for a special, hands-on live animal presentation where kids of all ages will meet real animal ambassadors up close, learn cool facts about their habitats, and discover fantastic books to take home!

This performance is free for the public, for all ages. It was sponsored by the Friends of the Granby Library. Those interested can sign up to save a spot by calling 413-467-3320.



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DINOFEST from page 1

The town tradition contains a lot of action in a small amount of space. The festival has been growing at a constant clip to the point where a previous event became a “traffic hazard” for the town of Granby. The energetic Doucette stated though he was pleased at the event’s exponential growth, he acknowledged the need to downscale.

“I couldn’t have asked for better advertising,” Doucette said. “That was wonderful. But we figured we’d scale back because it was turning into a problem. We were turning into a mini Woodstock.”

The event will feature musical talent from Soular Eclipse, a rock and roll band set to play crowd-pleasing tunes intended to keep “the mood of the festival going.” Antique cars and trucks will also feature on the grounds, in addition to around 50 craft vendors all packed within the one acre campus.

“This is a craft fair,” Doucette said. “And the music is the music. I do have an open mic, so anybody in the audience can come up and sing or do acts.”

Yo-yo artists, local comedians, magicians and poets have also graced the DinoFest stage in the past; a testament to how varied interests and talents are within the region. In addition to live music and craft vendors, the fan-favorite Dino Dash and Dance event is

set to make its return this year as well. Participants make their own dinosaur costumes with cardboard, duct tape and other supplies provided by festival staff, followed by a costumed race about 100 feet long in length and a dance contest.

“They’re all kinds of goofy-looking costumes,” Doucette said as he recollected notable costumes. “One girl took an egg crate, cut up all the little cups and kind of glued them in her hair. This one girl, I think her parents were professional marionette makers and she came in with a costume that when you move her fingers, the costume’s fingers moved...what a costume, man. It was above and beyond.”

Plans are in the works to move the festival down to Duffrense Park to meet up with current demand. A couple of years ago, DinoFest pulled 118 craft vendors to the campus grounds, a figure Doucette believes will only increase in coming years. The goal remains the same as previous years; offer a spotlight to local artists and give them an opportunity to show their wares, as well as a place for residents to enjoy themselves.

“This place is just hugs and smiles,” Doucette said as he recalled past feedback from a local resident. “It was great. So that stuck as our motto. I try to run it like a family reunion where everybody is welcome to do their thing.”

Submitted photo
Festival mascot Zippy advertises for local non-profit food scarcity organization Neighbors Helping Neighbors Inc.

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Here for Beer earns first-round bye



Ally Fleury heads up the field.



Rachel McKenna, of Granby, dribbles near the sideline.



Martine Worrall-Turgeon guides the ball near midfield.

SOUTH HADLEY – Here for Beer, a women’s soccer team in the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League featuring women from all over the region, has continued to have successful summer campaigns. They have earned the No. 1 seed in this year’s playoffs. With that, they have a first-round bye to the semifinals. If they get past their semifinal opponent, they would play in the finals on Friday, July 31 at Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Shean Smith sends a free kick away.

Blue Sox nearing end of regular season



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Trey Spees swings and makes contact.

HOLYOKE – The Valley Blue Sox went 1-for-2 in a double-header against the Mystic Schooners on Saturday. Entering Saturday’s doubleheader against the Schooners (22-17) Valley sat at 16-18-1, sixth in the South Division and outside the playoff picture, trailing both Danbury and Bristol for one of the division’s postseason spots. The Blue Sox (17-19-1) responded with a convincing 10-3 victory in Game 2 to split the twin bill and remain in the postseason hunt.

Mystic struck first in the first game and opened the inning when Bryce Detwiler lifted a sacrifice fly to right field after consecutive singles from Jack Harley and Anthony Belisario put runners on the corners.

The Schooners added another run in the fourth as Chris Walsh lined a two-out single before Adam Troch followed with an RBI double

down the left-field line, giving Mystic a 2-0 advantage. Valley answered immediately in the bottom half; however, Chris Cancel launched a solo home run to left field to cut the deficit in half.

Andrew Oppenheimer kept the Blue Sox within striking distance throughout his six-inning start, allowing three runs, only two earned, while striking out four. But Mystic manufactured what proved to be the decisive run in the sixth after a hit batter, a walk and a Valley error loaded the bases. Walsh singled to center to score Detwiler and extend the lead to 3-1.

Valley mounted one final rally in the seventh. Chris Carson doubled to center before pinch-hitter Alex Hill delivered an RBI single to trim the deficit to one. With

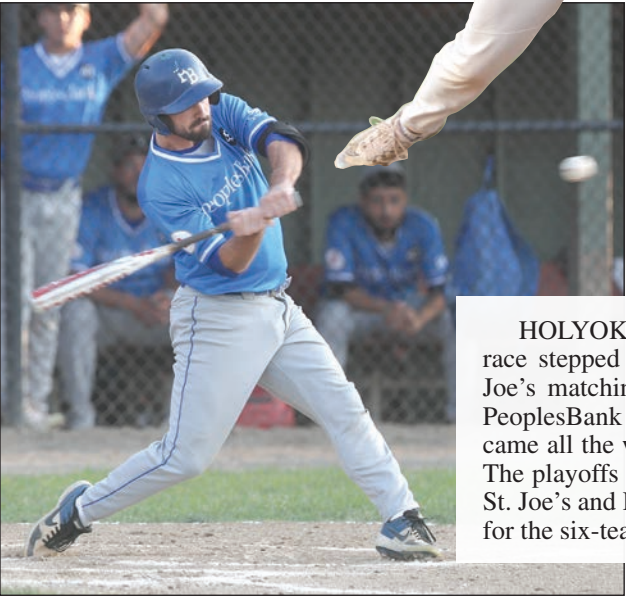
Please see **SEASON**, page 7



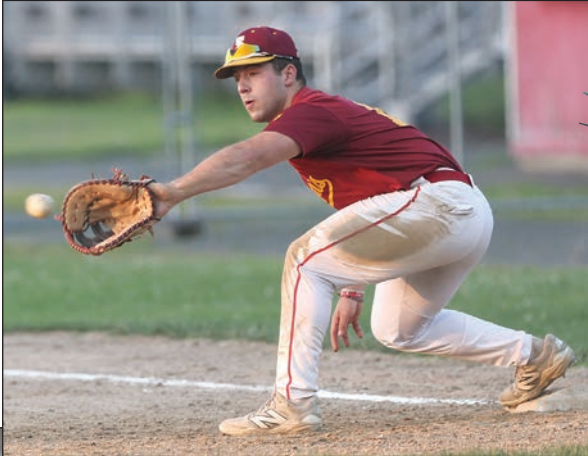
Nick Tomasetto looks to turn a double play during recent action last week at Mackenzie Stadium.

Saints beat rival PeoplesBank

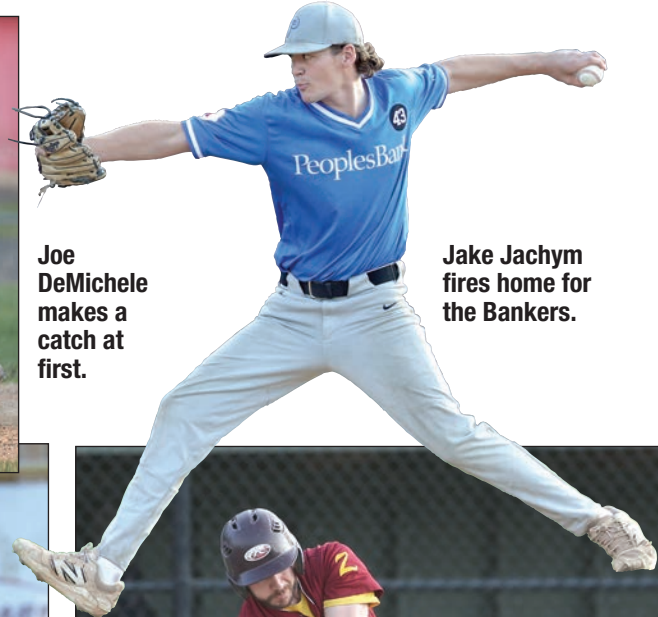
Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Tre Yesu, of Monson, fires home for St. Joe’s.



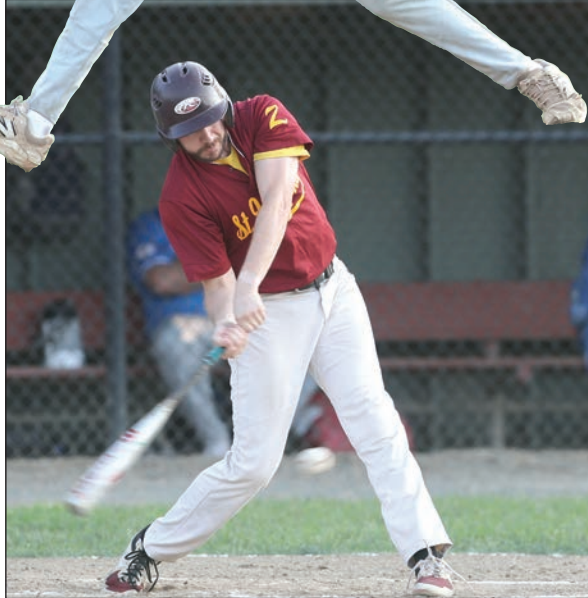
Seth Adams swings and connects.



Dave Clark sends a throw to first for PeoplesBank.



Joe DeMichele makes a catch at first.



Brandon Magni swings and connects for the Saints.

HOLYOKE – Last Thursday night, the pennant race stepped up with rivals PeoplesBank and St. Joe’s matching up at Mackenzie Stadium. While PeoplesBank trailed early in the game, they nearly came all the way back, but St. Joe’s prevailed 9-7. The playoffs are on the horizon in the league with St. Joe’s and PeoplesBank likely drawing top seeds for the six-team playoffs.

Thunderbirds Caravan has two more dates

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds will continue to be a busy presence in the Greater Springfield community throughout the offseason, as the team is happy to announce its summer event calendar.

The T-Birds Community Caravan, with support from MassMutual, will host two more dates of fun throughout the summer months:

- Friday, July 31 at Basketball Hall of Fame, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Kids dressed in T-Birds gear receive free admission to the Hall of Fame museum;
- parents will receive discounted admission
- Benefiting Foundation for TJO Animals - fans are encouraged to bring dry/wet dog and cat food for donation; everyone who donates will be entered to win four T-Birds game tickets & T-Birds prize pack
- Saturday, August 22 at Amelia Park Arena (Westfield), 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Caravan will coincide with T-Birds Street Hockey Tournament (9 a.m. to 2 p.m.)
- Ages 9-12; games to be played 3-on-3
- Registration in-

cludes one ticket to Opening Night + T-shirt for each player

- Public ice skating inside Amelia Park Arena (skate rental available)

Additionally, the Thunderbirds are proud to collaborate with the Springfield Hockey Heritage Society to be part of the Heritage Society’s annual HockeyDay on Saturday, July 25 from 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Better Living Center at the Big E. The annual event will kick off a celebration of 100 Years of Hockey in Springfield, dating back to the original Springfield Indians of the Canadian-American Hockey League in 1926.

Numerous past Springfield Indians, Kings, and Falcons are scheduled to appear as part of the celebration, which is open to the public. Tickets are available now by clicking here.



Jack Emerson grabs win at Thompson Speedway

THOMPSON, CT – The Crown Vics began Wednesday’s showcase with multi-time winner Ethan Williams showing the way early before youth prevailed. Upon his first time at the Thompson 5/8-mile, young Jack Emerson would take over the lead with eight laps remaining and never looked back to take the win over Williams and Ty Mello.

Jared Materas and Jason Williams may have brought the Late Model field to green but it was Matt Lowinski-Loh who quickly took over the top spot within the first lap. Materas would bring out the first caution on lap 10 after spinning across the nose of Jared Roy’s #1CT. Things went sideways once again on lap 18 with a mechanical issue slowing Jake Johnson leaving Williams and Mike Benvedides to pile in for a massive wreck into the turn four wall. Back to green, Lowinski-Loh drove away with the 25-lap win over rookie Travis Hydar and Jared Roy.

Todd Douillard ran away with the lead at the start of the SK Light Modified feature before Austin Goff made it a two-man show by lap four.

RJ Marcotte, John O’Sullivan, Kevin Davis and Daltin McCarthy ran nose-to-tail behind the leaders, keeping them honest before Goff was shuffled back on the inside groove. Motoring into turn one, Davis and O’Sullivan launched sideways into the corner to bring out the lap nine caution that also ended the day for newcomer Brandon Michael with a hard lick into the turn one wall.

Douillard would be next on the wreck on the restart with Marcotte leaving no room to race, making hard contact with the turn one wall to end his day. Back to green, McCarthy, Goff and Eddie Gomarlo ran nose-to-tail at the head of the field. The busy night for the Thompson Speedway wreckers continued on lap 13 with McCarthy and O’Sullivan piling into the turn three wall. Under green for the final time, Austin Goff would run away with the win followed by RJ Marcotte and rookie Milania Shilosky.

Dan Bowes took off at the start of the Twisted Tea 40 for the New England Supermodified Series with hopeful winner Jon McKennedy dropping out on lap five with mechan-

ical issues. All the while, Jeffrey Battle began reeling in Bowes out front as Ben Seitz lay in wait back in third. Battle would finally nab the lead on lap 22 while Seitz and PJ Stergios went to war for third behind him. Stergios would win that battle and one more against Bowes as the right-rear tire on the #25 was all but expired through the final fifteen circuits. Jeffrey Battle lambasted the field for the win with PJ Stergios coming home second and Dan Bowes holding on for third to round out the victory lane podium.

Ryan Lineham would bring out the lap one caution in the Street Stocks when a three-wide move in the first corner didn’t pan out. Back under green, Nick Anderson and Mike Viens showed the way up front with Jerrod Soucy and Al Stone III keeping the pressure on behind them. Soucy would make his way around to lead the half-way marker and never looked back for win number one on the season ahead of Lineham and Viens.

The Thompson Sunoco Modifieds rounded out Wednesday’s racing program under the leadership of Na-

than Pytko and Derek Ramstrom at the head of each lane under the initial green flag. Keith Rocco and Todd Owen made their way to the front by lap five just as contact between Bryan Narducci and Ramstrom sent the #35 into the turn one retaining wall. The remainder of the 50 lap feature saw Rocco and Owen wage their classic over-under battle for position before Owen finally began to drove away with fifteen laps remaining to take his first Sunoco Modified victory of the season. Keith Rocco came home second with Narducci coming back from his penalty for the lap five caution to claim third.

The NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour returns to Thompson Speedway on Wednesday, August 5 for the Thompson 150 presented by FloSports.com. The August midweek showdown at the Big-T will also feature the Thompson Sunoco Modifieds, Late Models, SK Light Modifieds, Street Stocks and Crown Vics with a 6:00pm Post Time. Event schedule will be released in the near future.

Correction

In our July 24 story on the cover reveal for “Calm-ing the Chaos,” the name was misspelled. The correct spelling is Mary-Anne Schelb. We apologize for the error.

WINE from page 1

gation being against the wine house not having a site plan approved by the Planning Board. Aponte quoted the attorney’s verdict and stated, if the Board wished, he could “reach out to the Planning Board” regarding the attorney’s opinion, as the complainant didn’t agree with the conclusion.

“In essence, he had indicated that all the issues that were brought up had been adjudicated by the appropriate authority,” Aponte said as he summarized the report. “Be it at the local level, the state level or the federal level. In his expert opinion, those matters were closed.”

Town Clerk Jeffery Lawson questioned the if the missing site plan would be an issue “this late in the game” and wondered if the issue would have to go through the Planning Board to determine if the complaint was merited.

“Obviously, we really don’t have any authority over the site plan,” Aponte said as they reiterated the outstanding concern would be up to the Planning Board’s discretion. He also mentioned this potential concern was the “one box that needs to be checked.”

Local resident Jay Joyce also quoted from bylaw 6.360

from the audience, which states the building cannot be licensed any permits until the site plan has been completed. Select Board Chair David Labonte addressed the concern and stated they were “dealing with council” and were told to move forward with site plan processing.

“We are going to allow this to go on as is and we will get with the Planning Commission and also with Attorney Costa if activities at the wine house will need to cease and desist until the Planning Board comes to a conclusion,” Labonte said. “We will make that decision down the road.”

The chair concluded until the Board had enough information to make a conclusion regarding the missing site plan’s ability to affect legal operations, they wouldn’t be able to make an informed decision without input from the Planning Board. Labonte also took the opportunity to thank Joyce for the input and stated the Board would also “dig into that.”

Due to this outstanding circumstances, Lawson made a motion to forward this concern to the Planning Board and to “put this in their hands.” The motion passed with unanimous support and will be pending further updates as of this writing.

SEASON from page 6

the tying run aboard, Mystic closer MJ Bollinger recorded the final two outs to preserve the 3-2 victory. Despite matching the Schooners with seven hits, the Blue Sox came up just short.

The Blue Sox wasted little time putting the loss behind them in the nightcap.

Nick Tomasetto ignited the offense with a solo home run in the first inning before Michael Iannazzo added a sacrifice fly later in the frame to give Valley a 2-0 lead. Tomasetto drove in another run with an RBI single in the second, and after Mystic answered with one of its own, Valley broke the game open in the third.

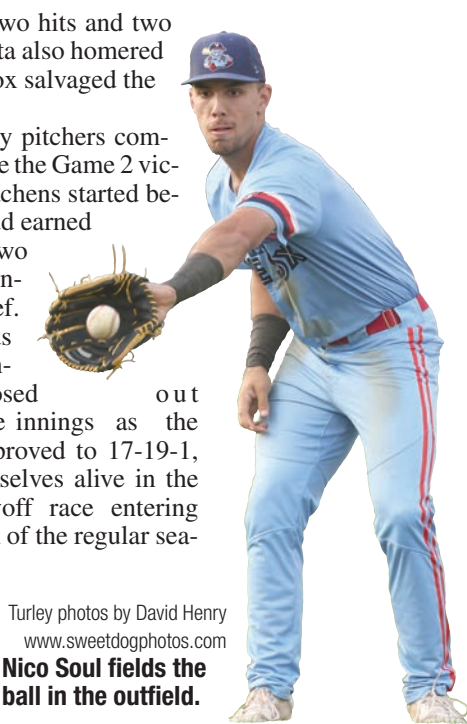
Nick Spaventa blasted a solo home run to center before Chris

Carson added an RBI single. A wild pitch later scored Michael Iannazzo to cap a three-run inning and extend the Blue Sox’s lead to 6-1. Valley continued to add insurance the rest of the way, highlighted by Tomasetto’s two-run single in the fifth, an RBI single from Iannazzo in the sixth and Nico Soul’s sacrifice fly in the seventh. The Blue Sox finished with 10 runs on 14 hits.

Earlier, Carson was named an NECBL All-Star, and the outfielder backed up the honor with another productive performance. Carson finished the doubleheader 3-for-7 with a double, an RBI and two runs scored, helping pace a Valley lineup that received contributions throughout the order. Tomasetto led the way by going 3-for-5 with a home run and four RBIs, while Iannaz-

zo collected two hits and two RBIs. Spaventa also homered as the Blue Sox salvaged the split.

Four Valley pitchers combined to secure the Game 2 victory. Lukas Jachens started before Niall Todd earned the win with two scoreless innings in relief. Jon Shields and Jason Pinsonnault closed out the final three innings as the Blue Sox improved to 17-19-1, keeping themselves alive in the NECBL playoff race entering the final week of the regular season.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Nico Soul fields the ball in the outfield.



Joshua Toole frames up a pitch.



Estaban Garcia has his eyes on the ball as he swings.

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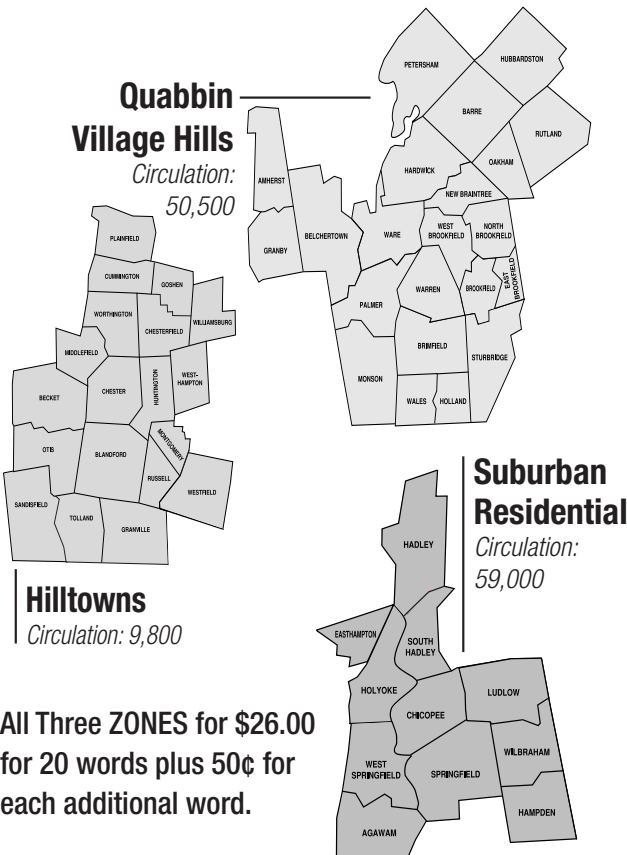
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Pickleball enthusiasts gather for awards events

BELCHERTOWN – On Sunday, July 19, 35 Belchertown Pickleball Community (BPC) Pickleball enthusiasts assembled for a celebratory annual barbeque at the home of Denise Smith.

The enthusiasts celebrated the “75 Honors Club Golden Paddle award” recipients of the past and handed out the 2026 award to another person honored in the five year history of the award.

The first recipient in 2022 was Bonnie Strickland on the occasion of her 86th birthday. A once renowned tennis player, she applied her skills playing pickleball, perfecting a “dink shot” on the pickleball court that matched her expertise on the tennis court.

In 2023 the Golden Paddle was awarded to Dusty Miller. She and Dorothy Cresswell were the first to introduce pickleball to the Belchertown Recreation Dept. To date they continue to offer beginner and novice classes.

Jim Barry joined the 75 Honors Club in 2024 for his contributions as an advocate for financing the courts and fencing which resulted in the 4 courts now located in Belchertown. Jim insisted on handwriting thank you notes to all the donors who helped to create our wonderful facilities.

The 2025 award was given to one of our great founders and facilitators, Larry Davis, who sadly passed away December 29, 2025. His family accepted the Golden Paddle on his behalf at a BPC memorial event in March of this year. Larry will always be remembered for his enthusiasm on the courts and his advocacy and being one of BPC’s initial instructors. He was known for exclaiming “the net is your friend” when a good shot favored his opponent.

According to Wilbur Quirk, tournament organizer and long time BPC enthusiast: “This prestigious award is given annually to one individual who exemplifies continuous dedication to the Belchertown Pickleball Community.” Wilbur further addressed the gathering by sharing “All of us have so many friends because of the pickleball community. You are all wonderful. I have become friends with this one woman (pointing at Debbie) who has done so much for our pickleball community. You can’t believe the hours she has spent. It’s just great.”

Debbie has served on the Leadership Team since the birth of the Belchertown Pickleball.

Wilbur then congratulated Debbie Wood as the 2026



Great day for the BPC Annual Awards event.

Submitted photos

recipient of the “75 Honors Club Golden Paddle.” Debbie gracefully accepted the Golden Paddle and expressed her appreciation for the many friends and supporters she has made since first learning about pickleball in 2017. She then expressed her gratitude to Denise Smith for hosting this annual event at her lovely estate.

Members of the BPC are known for welcoming many people from around the area who come to play, learn to play, and just have fun and good times in Belchertown. All would not be as good if not for the Recreation Department, Selectboard, Community Preservation Committee, local sponsors and many other great people who have made BPC into what it is today.



Debbie Wood displays the Golden Paddle individual award and the legacy paddle.



Denise Smith of Belchertown hosts the awards event.

Legal Notices

**Town of Granby
Massachusetts
Conservation Commission**

The Granby Conservation Commission will hold Public Hearings pursuant to the Wetland Protection Act (MGL Chapter 131, Section 40) on **Tuesday August 12, 2026** *1 Library Lane- Carnegie Building-Top Floor to consider the following:

1. 7:30 pm “**RDA**” filed by John Myslinski, owner to see whether the area depicted on plan(s) referenced is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act, with regards to property located on 80R East Street and known as Map 5A-B, Lot 19 in the Town of Granby.

2. 7:30 pm “**RDA**” filed by Robert Hall, owner to see whether the area depicted on plan(s) referenced is subject to the jurisdiction of the Wetlands Protection Act, and to see whether the Activities depicted on plan (s) referenced is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act and its regulations property located on 11 Philip Circle and known as Map 4, E-14 in the Town of Granby.

3. 7:30 pm “**RDA**” filed by 185 W State St, LLC, (Marilyn Iannaccone) owner to see whether the area depicted on plan(s) referenced is subject to the jurisdiction of the Wetlands Protection Act, and to see whether the Activities depicted on plan (s) referenced is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act and its regulations with regards to property located on 185 West State Street and known as Map 3-D, 1/1 in the Town of Granby.

4. 7:30 pm “**RDA**” filed by Wayne Gaudrault, owner to see whether the activities depicted on plan(s) referenced is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act and its regulations, with regards to property located on 317 Chicopee Street and known as Map 16A, Lot 9-4 in the Town of Granby.

5. 7:30 pm “**RDA**” filed by Jonothan Szymonik, owner to see whether the Activities/area depicted on plan (s) referenced is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act and its regulations or any Municipal wetland ordinance or bylaw of the Town of

Granby with regards to property located on 193 Amherst Street and known as Map 2B, 3 in the Town of Granby.

Members of the public can attend virtually by phone at +1 (312) 757-3121 using **Access Code:** 282-289-421or by visiting <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/282289421>.

Anyone wishing information and/or to be heard on this matter should appear at the time and place designated. The complete materials (including text and maps) relative to this “RDA” are available for inspection during regular business hours at the Selectmen’s Office located in the Granby Senior Center Building, 2nd Floor, 10-B West State Street. Additionally, copies of the application may be inspected on the Conservation Commission’s web page at www.granby-ma.gov.

William Shaheen, Chair
Granby Conservation Commission

07/31/2026

Lions Club Car Show set for Aug. 8

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown Lions Club will be returning to the Belchertown Town Common on Aug. 8 (rain date: Aug. 9) for its 3rd Annual Memorial Car Show...and it promises to be even bigger and better than ever.

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

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

All vehicles are welcomed (with specialty awards for best motorcycle, truck, paint, and engine.) Spectators get free admission! Participant parking on the grass: \$20

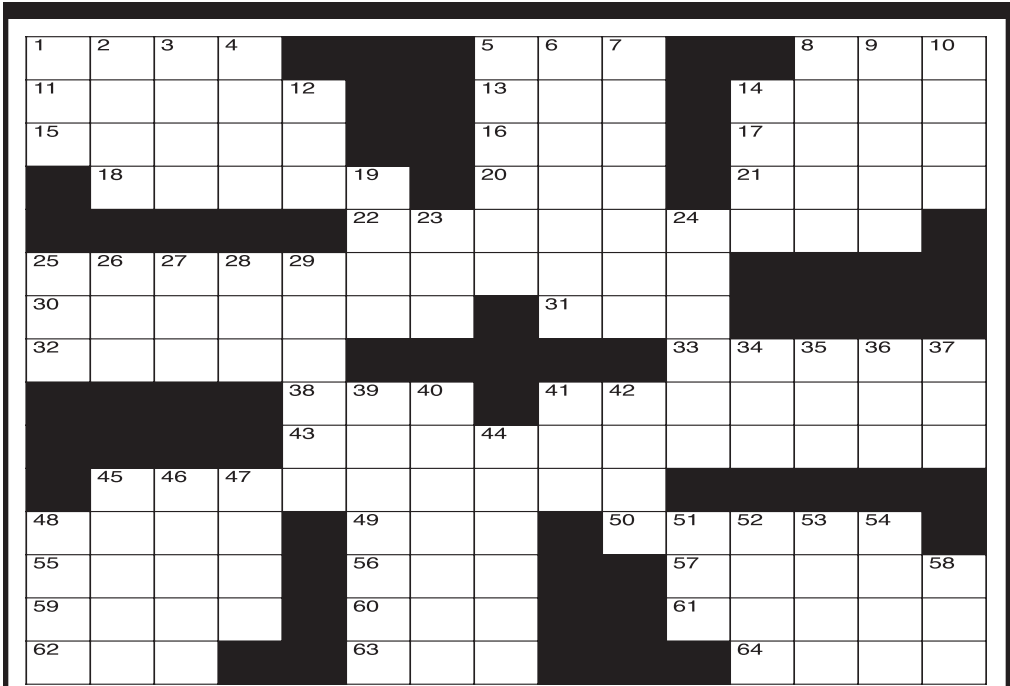
No pre-registration (So please don’t be a victim of online pre-show registration scams.)

Registration begins at 9 a.m. at 28 Park St. on the

Town Common. Judging continues until 1 p.m.—followed immediately by the raffle drawings and the awarding of trophies.

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

More information and possible rain date updates can be found at <https://www.belchertownlionsclub.com/car-show.htm>



- CLUES ACROSS**

 - 1. Egyptian bull god
 - 5. Romanian monetary unit
 - 8. Santa’s helper
 - 11. Fictional Pink Floyd corporal
 - 13. Sea eagle genus
 - 14. Broad volcanic crater
 - 15. Minneapolis suburb
 - 16. Actual commercial worth (abbr.)
 - 17. Exchange rate
 - 18. Ethnic peoples in Guinea
 - 20. Men’s fashion accessory
 - 21. Craft material
 - 22. Offerings
 - 25. Early
 - 30. Large room
 - 31. Soviet Socialist Republic
- CLUES DOWN**

 - 1. Bridge building degree
 - 2. Expression of sorrow or pity
 - 3. Large, stocky, lizard
 - 4. Rumanian river
 - 5. Missive
 - 6. Stout-bodied moths
 - 7. Brings out
 - 8. Bird of prey
 - 9. King of Thebes
 - 10. Cleaving tool
 - 12. African antelope
 - 14. Three are particularly famous
 - 19. Satisfy
 - 23. C. European river
 - 24. Dictator
 - 25. Portion of (abbr.)
 - 26. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
 - 27. Consume food
 - 28. Woman (French)
- 29. Scrape or wear away by friction
 - 34. Popular vegetable
 - 35. Pacific Standard Time
 - 36. Brazilian state capital
 - 37. Paddle
 - 39. Cause to become insane
 - 40. Drier and flakier
 - 41. Mimic
 - 42. ESPN host Kimes
 - 44. One who mokes
 - 45. Secret political clique
 - 46. Behind the stern of a ship
 - 47. Supernatural force
 - 48. Sanctuary in Orthodox churches
 - 51. Swiss river
 - 52. Grayish white
 - 53. Engrave
 - 54. UNC’s chief rival
 - 58. Midway between south and southeast

Turley Publications is looking for an outgoing, energetic person interested in selling advertising for our community newspapers plus more! The right candidate will assume an established territory with a portfolio of customers.

LET’S WORK TOGETHER

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

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