



TURLEY PHOTO BY AMANDA MUNSON
ABOVE: The logo for Nick's Waves of Change.

RIGHT: Nicholas R. Boileau's family with mom Jennifer, dad Glenn, and sister Erica Lasewicz.



The life of Nicholas R. Boileau honored at Nick's Waves of Change fundraiser

By Amanda Munson
Staff Writer
amunson@turley.com

LUDLOW – “I made many changes to the world that, despite their seemingly small size, may ripple into something amazing.” During the evening of May 7, the fifth annual spaghetti dinner fundraiser was held at the Ludlow Elks Lodge in support of Nick's Waves of Change.

The dinner included spaghetti with meat sauce, salad, rolls, with dessert.

The dinner also served up an impressive raffle, donations from local community businesses like Shelburne Falls Coffee Roasters and Randall's Farm, with 'Nick Trivia' and other activities that honored the life of Nicholas R. Boileau.

Referring to the fundraiser website, Nick's journey

was described as a special one, described as a wonderful young man who was on a journey towards helping others, when he was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia in 2017. Battling through chemotherapy, underwent a stem cell transplant from his sister Erica Lasewicz and went into remission until 2020, when the cancer came back in both his blood and spinal fluid.

Fighting bravely and maintaining a strong and positive attitude in his final months, Boileau started a blog in hopes others could understand his perspective on his life and diagnosis. “It is our goal to make sure that the WAVES he made, ripple into something amazing.

We could not be more proud of our son, love our son or miss our son more than we do.”

The fundraiser's goal is to maintain a scholarship fund to give back to the community. Boileau graduated from Belchertown High School in 2011, Western New England University in 2015 with his BA in Psychology, University of Michigan in 2017 with his Master's in Public Health with a concentration in Epidemiology, and was in his second year of his PhD program for Clinical Psychology at the University of Alabama, Birmingham when his cancer relapsed.

In Boileau's memory, the family offers scholarships to local students to pursue their education and hopefully make a change in the world.

Please see **NICK'S WAVES** page 2

SB backs land conservation

Approves sober home repairs and eyes government review

By Melina Bourdeau
Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN – The Select Board advanced two conservation land deals, approved opioid settlement funds for a sober home and renewed calls for a government study as Town Meeting turnout lags.

“We have, how many voters in this town? Right, we're just under 200 people... making all the decisions for the town.”

– Jen Turner

In a meeting that spanned housing affordability, clean energy, public health and democratic participation, the board endorsed conservation acquisitions and approved \$8,900 in opioid settlement money for Honest Beginnings. Members also moved toward reviving a government study process, citing unease that roughly 200 voters are routinely making major decisions for a community of thousands.

In a Town Meeting debrief, Select Board members praised new outreach efforts but voiced concern over low turnout and the town's overall form of government.

Selectboard member Jen Turner said her “biggest takeaway” from the May 13 Town Meeting was the need to prioritize a government study committee recommended by the state Division of Local Services in 2021.

“We have, how many voters in this town? Right, we're just under 200 people... making all the deci-

sions for the town,” Turner said. “I have grave concerns about the direction. I feel like we need to get that government study going, so that we can take a hard look at what we're doing here.”

Selectboard member Nicole Miner, describing herself as “pretty staunch traditionalist,” said she favors preserving New England's open Town Meeting but wants to explore ways to “drum up participation.”

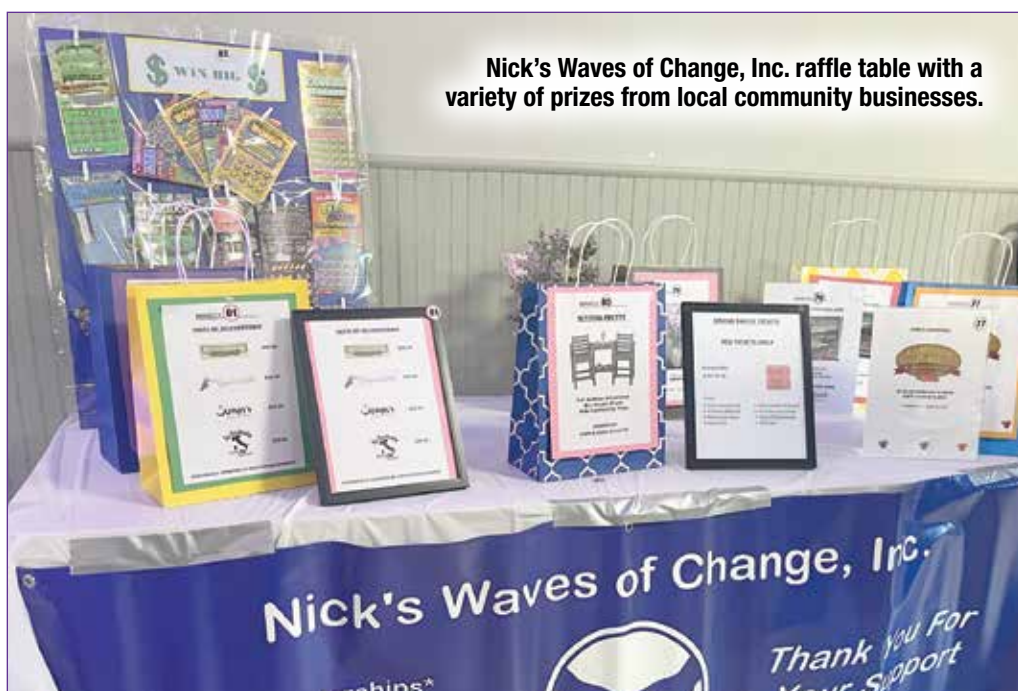
Town Manager Steve Williams said he had already contacted officials in Ludlow, which recently completed a charter review and that the first step would be bringing in an expert to outline options and process.

“The first step is really to get an expert in that can kind of glean from the board what it is exactly that you want to look at. And then from there they'll guide you through the process of forming a committee,” he said, noting there would likely be consultant and legal costs and that a feasibility study could go through the capital planning process.

Board members also discussed using reverse-911 calls or texts to remind residents about Town Meeting, improving publicity around childcare and transportation, and reestablishing awards to honor employees and volunteers outside the warrant.

Williams praised the Communications Committee and staff for “enhanced town meeting packets,” saying the more detailed information likely contributed to a more “efficient” meeting.

Please see **SELECT BOARD**, page 5



Nick's Waves of Change, Inc. raffle table with a variety of prizes from local community businesses.

2026 RELAY FOR LIFE Schedule

The Relay for Life will take place this Saturday, May 30. This is a list of events happening throughout the day of the relay, including a

craft fair on the town common. There will also be gift baskets for raffle during the event. The relay goes from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

May 30, 2026 On the Belchertown Common

- 10 a.m. Opening Ceremony + Survivor Lap+ Team Lap
- 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Craft Fair
- 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Gift Baskets in Old Town Hall
- 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Face painting with Nikki
- 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Touch a 'Truck
- 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Stilt walker
- 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Giant Lawn Games
- 12 to 3 p.m. Ed Popliarzek: Balloon sculptures
- 12:30 p.m. Survivor Lunch (Hamel's Creative Catering)
- 12:30 to 2 p.m. UMASS Mounted Police
- 1 p.m. Boomer of the Springfield Thundeeii>irds
- 1:30 p.m. Trick of Treat Lap/ Kids costume contest (prizes)
- 2 p.m. Pirate Pinata Time
- 2:30 p.m. K9 Dogs Oe,no
- 2:30 to 4p.m. Lost Town All Stars
- 3 p.m. Raffle prizes picked
- 4 p.m. Thriller Lap (get your zombie on)
- 5 p.m. Monster Mash Lap?
- 6 p.m. Selfie Lap #QVRELAY
- 7 p.m. Message/Call a Survivor or Caregiver
- 8:45 p.m. Luminaria Ceremony
- 9:15 p.m. Go Green Lap
- 9:30 p.m. Closing Ceremony

Local photographer featured in presentation

By Ben Hernandez
Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN – The Quabbin Photo Group hosted a presentation from local landscape photographer Jamie Malcolm-Brown on May 18 at the Belchertown Recreation Department. The presentation, entitled “Weather, Light and Luck: The Reality Behind the Shot,” described the photographer's thought process for scouting locations, shot compositions and lessons learned in the field.

“My other job is for an indigenous rights organization called Cultural Survival,” said Malcolm-Brown when asked what got him into photography. “And with the work I did for them, I did a lot of traveling around the world and getting to know different cultures. And that was what got me into photography; documenting those travels.”

Malcolm-Brown stated that his draw to photography was borne out of a love for the outdoors and being outside. He focused further on landscape photography “around 2015,” where he



PHOTO COURTESY OF JAMIE MALCOLM-BROWN PHOTOGRAPHY
A sunrise captured over a glistening lake, just one of many photographs shared in a presentation held last Monday night.

gravitated towards capturing the central and western Massachusetts area.

“I really love photographing the weather with the

landscapes, so trying to find lightning or the aurora,” said Malcolm-Brown. “I especially love chasing fog in the Pioneer Valley because

we get it a lot and it really opens up the opportunities.”

Mountains are a special point of interest for the photographer. Malcolm-Brown stated that mountains of the Holy Oak range are the best in the region, which offer picturesque opportunities that he described as serene.

“It's really beautiful in the different ways that it kind of undulates,” Malcolm-Brown said. “Especially when there's a low fog so that you don't see Route 9.”

The presentation covered Malcolm-Brown's methods in getting the right shot, a process that he described as an “arduous journey” that requires an extensive amount of preparation work. Much of his process involves planning the site before the shot, using technology in conjunction with his experience to predict variables, such as the Sun's positioning over a horizon.

“I use digital tools to figure out when the best time would be to capture a compelling image,” said Malcolm-Brown. He

Please see **PHOTO GROUP**, page 7

COMMUNITY

Relay for Life set for this Saturday

BELCHERTOWN – The Quabog Valley Relay for Life is on May 30 on the Belchertown Common from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

We are looking for more teams, more participants and more survivors for our event. If you wish to form a team in memory or honor of someone, please call 800-227-2345 and get your team registered. If you wish to join a team already formed you can join Team Lynn - Peach Pedestrians by going to the following link <http://main.acevents.org/go/to/eleanorgray>

If you are a cancer survivor, we want you to join us on May 30 so we can honor you. You need to be registered for our event and you can do so by calling the above 800# or going to the above link. Registered survivors will get a free Survivor shirt, a free luncheon at the relay plus a

goodie bag. If you aren't able to walk the Survivor Lap, just come and hang out with us and enjoy the activities.

There will be many things to do on May 30. There will be a big craft fair with more than 60 vendors, A Touch A Truck display at the McCarthy end of the common, a Gift Basket Sale in the Old Town Hall where there will be Lots of baskets for you to win, K9 demonstrations, Face Painting, Photographer will take your picture and you can get it right away, Food Trucks and more. Come and check this out.

This is a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society and we hope to be able to donate a lot of money to ACS from this event and we are hoping for your help.

If you wish more information on this event, please email ctellie@juno.com

Town receives grant for growth of services

BELCHERTOWN – Belchertown Animal Control is proud to announce it has been awarded a 2026 grant from the Massachusetts "I'm Animal Friendly" Pet Plate Program, supporting its ongoing efforts to provide low-cost spay and neuter services to pets in the community.

This funding will help increase access to affordable surgeries and serve underserved pet owners, directly addressing pet overpopulation and improving animal welfare across the region.

Animal Control Officer Anna Fenton of Belchertown Animal Control said: Behind every litter is a ripple effect—crowded shelters, difficult decisions, and animals waiting far too long for homes. This grant helps us break that cycle. It gives

us the chance to stop overpopulation at its source and create a more humane future for animals in our community. This grant is more than funding—it's hope. Hope that fewer animals will be born into uncertainty, and more will live safe, healthy lives. It's an investment in long-term solutions that truly make a difference

Administered by the Massachusetts Animal Coalition (MAC), the Pet Plate Program provides critical funding each year to organizations that demonstrate the ability to deliver accessible spay and neuter services. To date, MAC has distributed more than \$3.5 million to support these efforts across Massachusetts.

"Choosing to spay and neuter is one of the most powerful ways to save lives."

Animal Control holding pet supply tag sale

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown Animal Control will hold a pet supply tag sale. Everything you pet may need could be available at the sale. Quality new and used products for your furry friends. The event will be

held this weekend Saturday, May 30 and Sunday, May 31 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at 165 George Hannum St. For more information, call (413) 519-1754 or email aco@belchertown.org.



The volunteers of the Nick's Waves of Change spaghetti dinner fundraiser.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY AMANDA MUNSON

WAVES OF CHANGE from page 1

President of Nick's Waves of Change and Mother Jennifer Boileau shared what this night meant to her family and what she hopes people take away from the event. "Five years ago, our son passed away in 2021. He did get a second stem cell transplant from me, but by then it had gone not just in his blood, but also in his spinal fluid.

There wasn't much they could do and he was 28 years old; he never gave up on his dream of becoming a clinical psychologist. He wrote 30 papers for clinical journals, and he loved his time in Michigan when he got his masters, then went on for his doctorate in Alabama when he relapsed and then came back home to be with us.

He spent his final days in Massachusetts. He wrote a couple of blog posts on the website, nickswavesofchange.org. He wrote a couple of things about his battle and what it meant to him.

This charity was done in his name and to honor him, we give out scholarships to one Belchertown High School Student and one Western Mass student," said Jennifer.

Jennifer spoke about how close Nicholas and his sister Erica were and the loss was huge, "She's the one that does all the slide shows every year, she did the 'Nick Trivia' this year, she misses him terribly. Our family did everything

together.

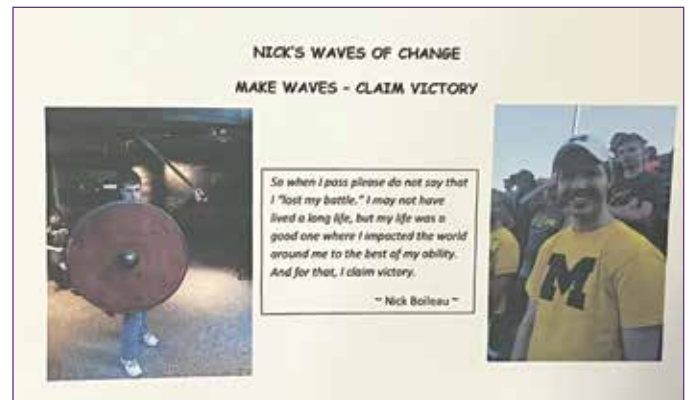
Dinners were always together at the table," said Jennifer.

Dad Glenn shared that nobody left the dinner table until everyone was finished, "We brought him up right and he was a really shy kid. He was very intelligent and never boasted. He was definitely a true friend," said Glenn.

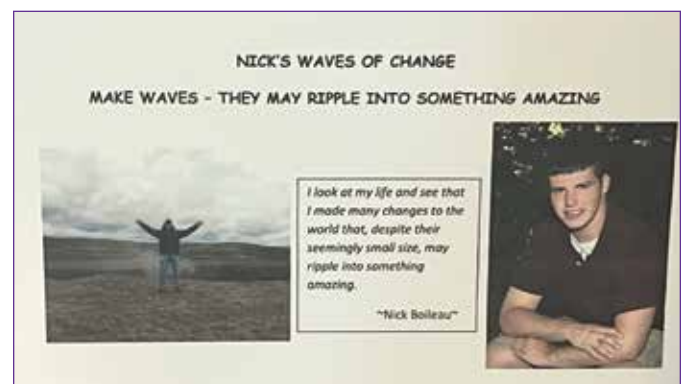
When asked what they hope families take away from their story, Glenn and Jennifer hope that people take the time for their own family. "Our last year with him, I like to tell people, when a lot of 20 something year olds pass, a lot of parents don't have a chance to say goodbye to them. We did.

He knew we loved him and vice versa," Glenn said. Jennifer continued, "For parents who have lost their children, talk about them. Not sharing who they are is a disservice to them," said Jennifer.

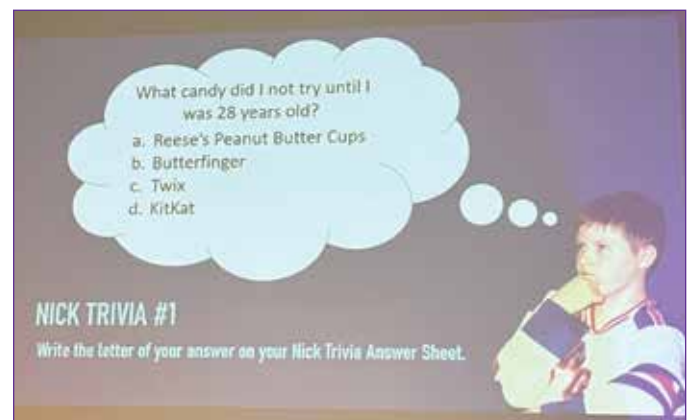
Glenn and Jennifer agreed that the spaghetti dinner with everyone attending was soothing to them because they're able to talk about him, stating that it's meant to get everybody together and see what they can do to continue to honor him. All proceeds/donations help support the local community through educational scholarships/grants and other community outreach. Nick's Waves of Change, Inc. is a public charity, in loving memory of Nicholas R. Boileau 1993 to 2021.



"So, when I pass please do not say that I, 'lost my battle.' I may not have lived a long life, but my life was a good one where I impacted the world around me to the best of my ability. And for that, I claim victory," said Nicholas R. Boileau.




At each table, guests were welcomed with quotes from Nicholas R. Boileau and photos from his travels.



At the spaghetti dinner, the 'Nick Trivia' made by Sister Erica Lasewicz had questions based on Nick's interests and life.


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COMMUNITY

Lions Club seeks sponsorship for car show

BELCHERTOWN – In an effort to defray the costs (trophies, permits, entertainment, flyer printing, and distribution, etc.), the Belchertown Lions Club is appealing to our local businesses to have an 18" x 24" weather-resistant sign with ground stake custom-printed and prominently displayed on the Town Common during the event on Aug. 8. We will handle the set-up design and printing for a donation of \$100. All proceeds from this year's car show will stay locally as we support our Senior Center, Fuel Assistance Programs, Veterans' Organizations, Scouting America, Girl Scouts, Relay For Life, Aaron's Day, local Food Pantries, Belchertown Little League, College and Continuing Ed. Scholarships for seniors at BHS and Pathfinder, as well as emergency requests regarding sight and hearing concerns.



desire.

If you are the owner or representative of a local business and would like to sponsor a ground sign, kindly email Lion Mike Mathras at mmathras@charter.net, and you will promptly receive the necessary information to do so.

If you would like to donate

a gift certificate or prize for our raffle table, please get in touch with Barb Greene at br123199@charter.net

As you consider your donation, please keep in mind that all profits from the sale of food, raffle tickets, and sponsor signage at this event will go directly to the local charities mentioned

above.

Stay tuned for upcoming information regarding the "Cruisin' the Common" Car Show in the Sentinel, by visiting our website at www.belchertownlionsclub.com, or by checking out our Facebook page: Belchertown Lions Club.

Granby Police Logs

Editor's Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 138 calls for the week May 15, through May 21. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The Granby Police Department provides all information.

Friday, May 15
2:19 p.m. – Several callers reported a motorcycle accident. Granby Police and Fire responded. The operator was transported by ambulance with non-life-threatening injuries.

Saturday, May 16
3:45 p.m. – A resident reported hearing gunshots in the area of Amherst Road. Officers checked the area and did not hear any gunshots.
10:02 p.m. – Granby Fire and Police responded to a reported brush fire. The fire was extinguished.

11:57 p.m. – Passing motorists reported seeing a suspicious male walking around the parking lot

and between vehicles at Dressel's Service Station. Officer checked the area and did not locate anyone.

Monday, May 18
3:34 p.m. – A motorist came to the station and reported that they were involved in an accident earlier today on Batchelor Street. An accident report was completed.

6:16 p.m. – A resident reported that their vehicle had been damaged yesterday. An incident report was completed.

Tuesday, May 19
3:27 p.m. – Several callers reported a two-vehicle head-on accident. Granby Police and Fire responded. One of the operators was issued a citation speeding and crossing marked lanes. There were no injuries.

Wednesday, May 20
4:26 p.m. – Several callers reported that a vehicle struck a utility pole. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries.

Learn to grow edible mushrooms on May 30

BELCHERTOWN – The New England Small Farm Institute, located at 275 Jackson Rd. in Belchertown, will host a workshop teaching people how to grow edible mushrooms on Saturday, May 30 from 2 to 5 p.m. Hosted by NEFSI and Forestopia, come enjoy a hands-on workshop that explores all dimensions of shiitake mushroom cultivation on home and commercial levels. The workshop will provide an introduction to the agroforestry practice Forest Farming, cover the fundamentals of mushroom cultivations, and review basic considerations of those interested in grow-



ing commercially. Participants will also have the opportunity to take home an inoculated shiitake log. The event has a suggested donation of \$20 to \$30 (add \$15 for participants wishing to take home one inoculated shiitake log). All are welcome. To register, please contact Sara Weil at info@smallfarm.org or call 413-323-4531.

Local original tag sale to return to Town Common

BELCHERTOWN – St. Francis Parish of Belchertown is excited to announce that the original annual St. Francis Giant Tag Sale returns to the Belchertown Town Common on Saturday, Aug. from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. This nearly 40-year-old sale is the parish's major fundraiser for the Capital Campaign for the New Parish Center on the Jabish Street campus. The parish is focused on replacing the aging, 100-plus-year-old former church which now operates as the St. Francis Parish Center on the Belchertown Common with a new, efficient, comprehensive structure.

In contrast to the scheduled Town Wide Tag Sale, all items will be on sale through the categorized display on

the Town Common. The St. Francis Giant Tag Sale is truly one-stop-shopping for perusing over 16 departments of goods - all in one location! Buyers will also be able to purchase a delicious grilled burger, hot dog, or grab a thirst-quenching beverage at the open-air food booth under the maple trees.

After volunteers spend hundreds of hours sorting and boxing, the many donated items become the treasured inventory of the well-organized and departmentalized St. Francis Parish Giant Tag Sale that will occupy nearly half of the Town Common and the interior of the existing Parish Center on Aug. 22. This giant tag sale experience resembles the large well thought out department stores of days

gone by.

When interested donors are searching their personal treasures for donation possibilities, the Tag Sale Team encourages donors to consider the following items: bed and table linens, craft items, hardware, kitchenware, luggage, backpacks, handbags, children's clothes up to 2T, small working appliances, working lamps, toys, pictures, frames, holiday decorations, hand tools, yard tools, jewelry, shoes, boots, sporting goods, children's books, baby gear, small but not-upholstered furniture, knick-knacks, and collectibles. The following items are not accepted: partially used candles, cookbooks and books, clothing, pillows, cribs, car seats, and large furniture items. All items from

the acceptable list that are donated will only be received if they are clean and in working condition. The Team requests that donors clear all donated items of storage dust, bugs, mold, and critter residue. All donors and their donations will be greeted by a volunteer worker. As they have every year for nearly 40 years, the dedicated volunteer "army" looks forward to joyfully serving their customer clients.

Collection dates and time will be released soon.

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INSURED AND CERTIFIED

COMMUNITY

Electric vehicle overview and new charger in town

BELCHERTOWN – The Energy and Sustainability Committee has submitted an overview of the new charger that will be located in town.

Electric vehicles of various types are frequently in the news, and it is important for consumers to understand what options they have available to them. Electric vehicles come in three broad categories:

Fully electric (BEV, battery electric vehicle): These have a battery with no gas engine, leading to a simple design with typically lower maintenance

Plug-in hybrids (PHEV): These use electricity until the separate battery runs out, then switch to gas, or continue as gas/electric similar to non-plug-in hybrids

Non-plug-in hybrids (HEV): These use gas and electric together, using regenerative braking to charge the battery

Currently Massachusetts offers rebates for certain models of BEV and PHEV vehicles, both new and used, through their MOR-EV program. For information on the rebate program and help finding EV's, go to Green Energy Consumer Alliance at greenenergyconsumers.org.

Electric vehicle charging can be performed at a variety of speeds. Most fully electric BEVs can use any of the following methods depending on the user's needs and situation:

"Level 1" AC charging: This uses a regular household outlet and is primarily used to charge at home as this is the slowest type of charger

"Level 2" AC charging: This uses a larger circuit similar to what a clothes dryer uses and is faster than Level 1. Most municipal and destination chargers (e.g. hotels and restaurants) are Level 2

"Level 3" DC charging: This is typically found along freeways and is primarily used when driving large distances. This type of charging is the fastest but also the most expensive type of EV charger. Not all cars can utilize Level 3 charging, although most newer EVs currently being sold do support this method

One important difference between charging an EV and fueling a gas vehicle is that when charging an EV, the owner does not need to wait by the vehicle. This means that if you plug it in at home you can go inside like nor-

mal and when you come out the next morning the car will likely be finished charging. Similarly, if you stop at a Level 2 or Level 3 charger, you can go get a coffee, take a bathroom break, get something to eat, etc. while your car is charging.

Most cars in North America more than a couple years old use the J1772 plug type for Level 2 charging. If your car doesn't have this type, adapters are available. For level 3 charging, cars may use a CCS charger (which adds two additional pins to the J1772-style plug), or NACS (a.k.a. Tesla charger), which can be used by non-Tesla cars with an adapter. Some cars will require an adapter to use NACS. Most automakers are transitioning to NACS so an adapter won't be needed for newer cars in the future. This allows access to most of the over 20,000 Tesla superchargers in this country.

In the past five years, the Transportation subcommittee of the Belchertown Energy and Sustainability Committee worked to get a Level 2 electric vehicle charging station installed in Belchertown. We evaluated the feasibility of potential locations, a variety

of equipment vendors and installers, and also conducted surveys, interviews, and site visits. Our work culminated in the installation of a 4-port Level 2 EV charging station, located in the parking lot next to the Finnerty House at 1 S. Main St, which became operational on 1/1/26.

There are many free apps for your smartphone that will display electric vehicle charging stations near your current location, and give information on the level, plug type, software app, and cost. The Belchertown station near the Finnerty House uses the AmpUp app, but also accepts credit cards, so you don't have to use the associated app or a smartphone.

The new EV chargers benefit Belchertown in several ways:

People will take electric vehicle charging availability into consideration when choosing where to live, work, and shop. Electric vehicle charging can be marketed as an amenity for apartments, condos, shopping, etc. In the future, electric vehicle charging will become a necessity, and it will be as

Please see **EV OVERVIEW**, page 11

SELECT BOARD
from page 1

"We were able to get the information out... it's a step in the right direction, and we know next year's is going to be better," he said, adding that wider vote margins may have reflected voters having "more information and being able to make a more informed decision."

The meeting opened with land conservation business as the board endorsed a purchase-and-sale agreement for about 50 acres known as the Boyce property off Old Farm Road, a project contingent on state grant funding.

Doug Albertson, Town Planner, told the board the town has a signed purchase-and-sale and will now pursue a state LAND grant before closing.

"The voices have agreed to this and have signed that. And that's the town meeting vote last week. This one is dependent on our getting a land grant from the state and that one is due application is due in July," Albertson said, adding that if the grant is not awarded, "then we don't do the deal."

Albertson said the acquisition covers "50 acres parts of two parcels" where house lots are being carved out, plus "a couple of forest and parcels," and that it "scores extremely high on a lot of the ecological measures," including forest integrity and recreational value.

The board also accepted a donation of conservation land referred to as the Green property, off Ware Road. Albertson said the land was historically part of the Greens' farm and later hosted mini golf, a solar array and nearby condominiums.

"This section of land was retained as specific habitat for wildlife, and so the Greens are donating it to the Conservation Commission," Albertson said.

Albertson later drew attention to looming affordability concerns at the Lord Jeffrey housing complex after tenants received a notice that federal affordability restrictions are set to expire in 2028.

He told the board he had heard from a "fairly reliable, well-connected source" that the current affordability arrangement may not lapse as soon as some fear and that "there's a good chance that the property owners will choose to renew this" because Congress has kept the program funded.

Board Chair Lesa Lessard

Pearson then read from the letter tenants received:

"The residents of Lord Jeff... received a letter that says this letter... constitutes notice under Section Two A of Chapter 40T that the affordability restrictions required by the Rural Housing Loan Program applicable to the development are scheduled to terminate on April 16, 2028," she said, adding that "has not been made public" and that she wanted "Belchertown to be aware of that."

Miner asked to table the matter until the agenda item was reached later in the meeting so members could pose detailed questions.

The board then revisited an opioid settlement grant request from Honest Beginnings, a sober living home on Federal Street, after previously raising questions

about conflict of interest and bidding.

Gail Gramarossa, chair of the Opioid Settlement Committee, said members had secured a new third bid and eliminated a previously questioned proposal.

"Based on some of your comments and questions, we reached out to Honest Beginnings... from the committee's perspective, that bid is discarded, and the one that was brought in as a third bid... is the new third bid," Gramarossa said.

She said the committee still strongly backed the request.

"We're hoping that you might, if you feel comfortable... take a vote this evening, and encourage you to support this. I know they're anxious to get the work done," she said.

She clarified that the orig-

inal recommendation was for \$8,900 and that if Honest Beginnings chose a higher bid, it would need to cover the difference or reapply.

Miner noted that one of the bids, from contractor Sean Bannon, was \$8,090 and "that would probably be the way that... they would go," but Gramarossa reiterated that anything above \$8,900 would be on the organization unless it sought more funding.

Nick Southwick Hall of Honest Beginnings told the board they are willing to work within the recommended amount.

"We might just have to choose some expensive products, or maybe some of the guys can volunteer from the house, and we'll just have to make it work," he said.



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OPINION

SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

Help, SSA says I'm not eligible for benefits

Dear Rusty:

Help, the Social Security Administration says I didn't pay enough into my Social Security account, despite being a business owner and paying taxes.

What can I do?

Signed: Self-employed American

Dear Self-employed:

For all potential SS beneficiaries, it is very important to know how Social Security determines if you are eligible for retirement benefits: Everyone including the self-employed must have earned at least 40 "quarter credits" contributing to the SS program, which is usually about 10 years' worth of earnings.

You can earn up to four "quarter credits" per year, depending on your earnings including your net earnings from self-employment. For example, this year (2026) you will get one "quarter credit" for each \$1,890 of earnings, up to four credits maximum for the year.

As a self-employed business owner, only your net earnings are counted, e.g., after all your reported business deductions are taken. The SSA gets your earnings information from the IRS, so SSA goes by whatever information you submitted in the self-employment income tax returns you submitted to the IRS over the years.

If you don't have at least 40 "quarter credits" over your lifetime, you won't be eligible for Social Security retirement benefits.

The best way to further investigate this is to create your personal "my Social Security" online account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. When you have done that, you will be able to see how many quarter credits you currently have (apparently less than 40) and deter-

mine how much more you must earn to be eligible for SS retirement benefits.

For example, if you have 36 or more credits now, you could likely work just another year or part of a year, to be eligible for SS benefits next year. Knowing how many "credits" you now have will tell you how much more in annual net earnings from self-employment you must have to become eligible for SS benefits.

When you create your online SS account, you will also be able to see your entire lifetime record of your earnings reported to Social Security and you should review that record to make sure that your lifetime earnings have been correctly reported to Social Security.

If there are any discrepancies in your lifetime earnings record, they can be corrected by using form SSA-7008. You can find additional guidance on this at the following SSA web link: www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10081.pdf.

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 informational purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisory@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



The fragrant five

I have fond memories of the patterned herb garden I created at my old house. Gone are the days of having an entire garden devoted to "useful plants."

Now I tuck them in here and there among the veggies in my raised beds. While I harvest some herbs for culinary purposes, most are grown for the olfactory experience.

Here are my favorite fragrant five.

Lemon Balm is a member of the mint family (Labiatae). Look closely at the plant and you will see the characteristic four-sided stems.

Although many mints possess the bad reputation of running rampant in the garden, lemon balm does not; it increases in girth but manages to stay where planted. It is easy to grow, and like most herbs, it will thrive in a well-drained sunny spot.

Many gardeners think lemon balm looks weedy and unkempt by midseason. I tend to agree, but this negative feature can easily be remedied with a hair cut, nearly to the ground, after flowering. Not long afterwards it will rebound and once again look respectable in the border.

Speaking of flowering, bees love the white, tubular flowers that appear in early summer. Botanists of old must have recognized this centuries ago, since its genus name "Melissa" actually means bee!

Lemon balm's claim to fame is not its appearance, or its flowers, but its scent—best described as lemony with a hint of mint. Crush a leaf between your fingertips to get full effect.



Another favorite fragrant herb is Anise Hyssop, again a well-behaved member of the mint family. This plant can grow quite tall, upwards of three-four feet, and has lilac-purple flowers from midsummer on.

The individual flowers are borne in whorls that can grow as long as six inches if left to mature on the plant. Bees, butterflies and hummingbirds all love them!

For years I carefully picked the young flower heads and dried them for use in everlasting wreaths and arrangements, now I simply enjoy rubbing the foliage between my fingers for an amazing rush of licorice scent.

If you have ever grown Anise Hyssop you will likely agree that this herb is showy enough for the flower garden. It self-sows a bit, but never becomes a pest. Simply pull up unwanted

seedlings.

What would an article on fragrant herbs be without mentioning Lavender? Its early summer flowers are a claim to fame, but honestly, the foliage smells great too.

Probably the biggest drawback to this plant is how it looks (dead!) after the winter has run its course. Don't expect the gray foliage to show signs of new growth until mid-May or even later, and you may have to cut deep within the plant to find it.

An application of fertilizer and lime as well as some extra water for a time will result in spry plants once more. And in the event you are wondering, Lavender is also technically a mint, but it differs from the others in that it is more shrub-like and generally does not die completely to the ground over the winter.

The last two herbs I will mention are annuals. The first is Sweet Marjoram.

I have a hard time explaining what this low growing, small leaved plant smells like. A fine cologne? A pizza topping? A nice smelling bug spray?

As the Latin name of Origanum Majorana, suggests, oregano is a close relative, so pizza topping may be a good guess, but it also has undertones of balsam and spice...Hmmm.

To keep the plant producing its wonderfully scented

Please see **GARDEN**, page 11

Turley Publications Letters to the Editor Policy

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

Turley Election Policy

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

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

Belchertown board and committee slots remain unfilled

BELCHERTOWN — The Belchertown Select Board is looking for citizens interested in sharing their expertise by serving on a Town Board/Committee. If you have time and are interested in getting involved in your Town's activities, please submit a letter of interest to: Select Board, The Finnerty House, One South Main Street, P.O. Box 670, Belchertown, MA 01007 or by email to selectboard@belchertown.org (unless otherwise indicated below). You may also submit a volunteer form on our website: <https://www.belchertown.org/374/Volunteer>

All vacancies are posted until filled.

The Town wishes to fill the following vacancies:

Agricultural Commission: The Town wishes to fill one (1) associate member seat on the Agricultural Commission. This commission promotes agricultural-based economic opportunities; preserves, revitalizes and sustains the Belchertown agricultural industries, and encourages the pursuit of agriculture as a career opportunity and lifestyle.

Capital Improvement Planning Committee: Belchertown is seeking two (2) residents with demonstrated knowledge of construction, facility maintenance, fleet management, architecture, engineering, or a related

field to fill a full member seat.

Communications Committee: The Belchertown Communications Committee is looking for two (2) associate members to help shape how our town shares news and stays connected. This group has supported projects like the Belchertown.org upgrade, Carriagetown Chronicles, and installing a broader social media strategy. We're seeking residents with everyday skills in communications, document preparation, accessibility, social media, or technology — especially individuals with practical experience using AI in workplace or business settings, to support the careful and responsible adoption of these tools in town government.

Conservation Commission: The Town of Belchertown is currently seeking to fill a vacancy on the Conservation Commission. The Commission is a volunteer board that reviews projects that fall under jurisdiction of the Wetlands Protection Act and local Bylaw. The position requires attending meetings every second and fourth Monday of the month, a basic comprehension of the local, state, and federal wetlands regulations, and occasional site visits. Qualified candidates have also demonstrated an interest, expertise, or experience in environmental protection. Commissioners must also

have a willingness to attend training sessions, gain the relevant knowledge in a timely fashion, remain current, and generally make the necessary time commitment. If interested, please send a letter of interest to the Conservation Department at conservation@belchertown.org. Any questions call the office at 413-323-0405.

There are also two vacancies for associate members, who although are not voting members, they can gain knowledge and experience and could be elevated to a voting member in the future

Economic Development and Industrial Corporation — Industrial/Real Estate/ or Government Full Member: The Town wishes to fill a full member seat (industrial, real estate, OR government) on the EDIC. If you are interested in being considered, please submit a letter of interest indicating your expertise to the Select Board's Office. The EDIC was formed under Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 121C, with the mission to develop and implement a development plan on the former Belchertown State School property.

Energy and Sustainability Committee: The Town wishes to fill a full member vacancy on the Energy and Sustainability Committee. Its purpose is to develop and recom-

mend sound energy and sustainability programs and policies for the Town. Energy relates to the fuel choices we make for buildings, vehicles, and industry. Sustainability means meeting our own needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Visit their webpage at www.belchertown.org.

Finance Committee: Belchertown is looking for a volunteer to fill an anticipated vacancy on the Town Finance Committee. The Finance Committee consists of five members, each with a three-year term. The primary duties of the Committee are to advise and make recommendations for the Annual Town Meeting and any Special Town Meeting regarding the budget and other areas of finance. Members are required to attend regularly scheduled public meetings and any special meetings as needed.

Historical Commission: The Town wishes to fill an unexpired term on the Historical Commission. The Commission's basic goal is the preservation of historic places and is completing an inventory of Belchertown's historic assets and structures that are more than 50 years old.

Please see **VACANCY**, page 11

SENTINEL

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PHOTO GROUP

from page 1

cited that programs such as PhotoPills are important to his process, as they allow him to track weather patterns and plan shots in advance. "So it's important to be able to kind of marry those two things together. The technology assists me in creating the images that I want to create."

Patience was the hardest lesson he learned while growing as a photographer. One of his hardest shots was his photo of lightning strikes down at the Quabbin, which he stated took over five trips to capture. Dedication was another identified key aspect for success. The last bit of advice that the photographer gave was to be familiar with the area and to be open with the possibilities it offers.

"The one thing is to always look behind you," Malcolm-Brown said. "Look around because sometimes there's something happening behind you that is more compelling than what is in front of you. Really get to know your area because almost any place can look beautiful and magical given the right conditions."

Fog rolls over a picturesque tapestry of red-green forest.



A lone lush green tree stands on top of a hill



The Sun rises over a scenic forest.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JAMIE MALCOLM-BROWN PHOTOGRAPHY

The use of fog is a common theme in the photographer's framing.



■ GRANBY

Lawson takes open seat on Selectboard

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

GRANBY – On Monday, May 18, voters decided who would succeed Glen Sexton on the Selectboard with two candidates vying for the open season.

In the end, it was Jeffrey Lawson who garnered enough votes to occupy the open season. Lawson defeated Rosemarie Rosen in the Annual Town Election, getting 488 votes. Rosen received 387 votes.

The Selectboard has many challenges coming ahead in the next few months as it looks to balance budget issues and improvements needed in various areas throughout the community.

There are two new members of the school committee following the election. There was only one candidate who was on the ballot, Trevor Augustino, who received 599 votes. There was a write-in candidate, Thomas Hamel, who received just four votes, but it was the most among write-in candidates and Hamel will be invited to occupy the second seat on the committee that was up for grabs.

Augustino was up for re-election on the committee with Michael Durham the other candidate whose term was set to expire this year. However, Durham did not seek re-election. There was also an unexpired term of one-year available on the school committee that

did not have any candidates on the ballot as well.

In that election, Hamel also "won" the election, receiving three write-in votes. Tim Abbott, who received two votes as a write-in for a three-year seat. Abbott also received two votes for second place in the one-year seat. Depending on which seat Hamel decides to take, if he takes on, Abbott could be offered the other seat on the school committee.

The other contested race was on the Library Board of Trustees. There were four candidates for three open seats on the board.

The top vote-getter was Paula Beaulieu with 555 votes. Candace Ribiero had 518 votes, and Angela Chagnon had 427 votes. Nita Abbott was on the outside of the vote, but not far away, with 409 votes. Abbott was up for re-election and the only candidate not to be re-elected. Ribiero and Beaulieu were also up for re-election and received new terms to the board. Chagnon wins election to the board for the first time.

There were not contested races for seats on the Board of Assessors, Board of Health, Commissioner of Burial Grounds, or Housing Authority this year.

The position of Tax Collector and Treasurer are elected positions in town, but are not up for election until 2027. The Town Clerk is up for re-election in 2028.

HCC honors students for 2025-2026 achievements

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College is proud to celebrate the students who earned honors and awards for their outstanding achievements during the 2025-2026 academic year.

Awardees were honored Wednesday, May 20, during a ceremony in the Bartley Center for Athletics and Recreation.

Below is a list of HCC honorees and award recipi-

ents for the 2025-2026 academic year. Some students received multiple awards.

A full list of students along with their specific honors and awards can be found at hcc.edu/awards-2026

HCC Honors & Awards for 2025-2026:

Belchertown: Gabriel Ibekilo, Allison Morrisette, Kaitlyn Park.

Granby: Megan Lawson.

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Lia Pikul looks to pass ahead of a block.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY
WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Piper Laurenzo looks to pass.



Lily Tellier gets around an opponent.

Offense leads South Hadley co-op to win



James Janssen holds the ball.

Orioles reach WMass finals

SOUTH HADLEY – In recent action, Belchertown High School girls lacrosse had been on a heater, winning eight games out of nine up to the semifinals of the Western Massachusetts Class B tournament. On May 11,

Belchertown went to South Hadley and scored a 10-5 win over the Tigers. They followed that with a 13-7 win over Pope Francis to finish out the regular season. The Orioles then entered the Western Mass. tournament, defeating

Chicopee High in the semifinals. The girls were scheduled to face Amherst in the finals held on May 19, then enter the state tournament. More on the Orioles' successful campaign in next week's edition.

MONSON – Last Tuesday afternoon, Monson High School met a tough challenge, losing 13-3 at home. South Hadley got a huge game from Tyler Quist with seven goals and five assists. Gavin Quist and Mason Peters had two goals each. South Hadley, which now co-ops with Granby, is 9-7, while Monson, which has been co-oping with Pathfinder for the last few years, is now 9-6 on the season.



Natalie Bodon looks to get between a pair of defenders.



Izabella Haggerty makes her way up the field.



Madelyn Philpott is pursued by the opposition.



Gavin Quist heads up the field.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Ryan Shea tries to get through a pair of blockers.

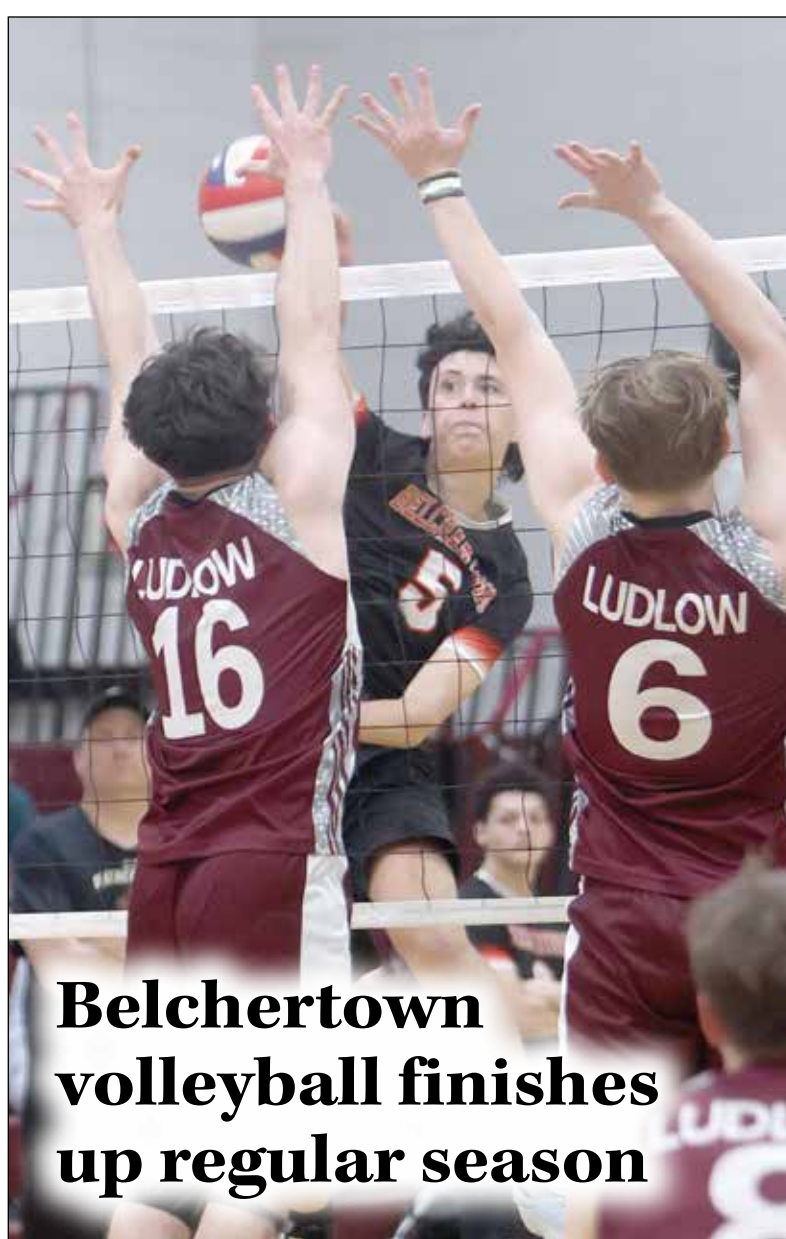


Henry Walter gets an easy bump.



Brian Burns attempts a spike.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY
WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Belchertown volleyball finishes up regular season

LUDLOW – The Belchertown High School boys volleyball team finished up the regular season on Wednesday, May 13, defeating host Ludlow 3-1.

It was the only meeting of the season between the neighboring rivals, and lifted the Orioles to 9-10 for the season. The Orioles moved on to beat Sci-

Tech in the Class B semifinals in Western Mass. Highlights from Belchertown's appearance in the Western Mass. finals will be in next week's edition.



Arda Cayan goes for a set.

Gavin Couchon goes for a block.

Volley Hall announces Class of 2026 inductees

HOLYOKE – The International Volleyball Hall of Fame (IVHF) is proud to announce its 2026 induction class, with the official ceremony scheduled for October 17 in Holyoke, Mass., USA, the Birthplace of Volleyball. This prestigious group of nine legends, representing eight distinct disciplines within the sport, has been selected for their history-making contributions, standard-setting excellence as global icons on the field of play and significant impact off the court. In addition, four special award honorees will also be honored for their contributions to the sport.

The 40th IVHF induction class features transformational leader and former FIVB President Dr. Ary Graça (Brazil, leader); three-time Olympian and FIVB World Champion April Ross (United States, female beach player); two-time Olympic Gold Medalist and legendary libero Fabiana “Fabi” Alvim (Brazil, female indoor player); two-time Olympian and World Cup Gold medalist Yoel “Joël” Despaigne (Cuba, male indoor player); four-time Olympian and two-time World Champion Ekaterina Gamova (Russia, female indoor player); three-time Olympian and two-time World Champion Alison Cerutti (Brazil, male beach player); legendary player who also coached his country’s first Olympic Gold Medal-winning team Laurent Tillie (France, coach); the architect of Paralympic inclusion Denis Le Breuil (England, ParaVolley) and three-time Olympic referee Takashi Shimoyama (Japan, referee).

Also announced are four special award winners, recognized for their contributions to the IVHF or the global sport of volleyball itself. They include the late Gabriel Cherebetiu (Mintonette Medallion of Merit, Romania/Mexico), John Cook (Mayoral Award of Excellence, United States), Starlings USA (Court of Honor, United States) and Alejandro Coccia (Award for Media Excellence, Argentina). “The IVHF 2026 Induction Class brings together some of the most outstanding figures in our sport. Big congratulations to the inductees and to the IVHF

Leadership,” said Fabio Azevedo, President of the FIVB. “The entire Global Volleyball Movement thanks and fully supports the excellent work carried out by the IVHF in promoting the values, legacy and heritage of our sport by honouring the athletes, leaders and officials who have made an exceptional contribution to the development of volleyball and beach volleyball around the world. Celebrating these legends strongly aligns with the FIVB Strategic Vision 2032, and our continued partnership with the IVHF helps bring this vision to life. Together as One!” All told, the IVHF has inducted 185 individuals from 27 countries into its historic Hall of Fame – those totals will rise to 194 inductees from 28 countries after the 2026 event, as this will be England’s first inductee. Three of the inductees also earned one of their votes by winning the Fan Vote for their respective category. More detailed information on each inductee can be found below. “The International Volleyball Hall of Fame continues to serve as a bridge between the sport’s remarkable history and its exciting future,” said Steve Bishop, President of the IVHF Board of Directors. “The Class of 2026 reflects the worldwide growth, diversity, excellence, and enduring legacy of volleyball across every level and discipline of the game. On behalf of the International Volleyball Hall of Fame Board of Directors, we are proud to honor these extraordinary individuals whose achievements and lifelong contributions have helped inspire generations of athletes, coaches, officials, leaders, and fans while continuing to shape the future of our sport around the world.” The 2026 International Volleyball Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will take place in Holyoke, Massachusetts, USA on Saturday, October 17, 2026. The event is open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis, and ticket packages are available online now at VolleyHall.org/Induction-Celebration. “This is one of the most historically significant classes ever assembled by the International Volleyball Hall of Fame,” said George

Please see **INDUCTEES**, page 11

What’s going on at the Library? Check it out!

FOR GENERAL AUDIENCES:

Kinti Ensemble
Tuesday, June 2nd, 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Join us for an inspired collaboration between cellist Rebecca Hartka and Andean musician Curi Cachimuel! This unique duo has a sound rooted in the music of their Celtic and Andean indigenous ancestors, as well as original looped and partially improvised compositions inspired by the natural world. This program is funded by the Friends of Clapp Memorial Library.

The Common Seed Project Free Sunflower Seeds

Calling all gardeners! The Common Seed Project, inspired by common read programs, builds community through gardening and seed saving. While supplies last, the library is giving away Hopi Black Dye Sunflower seeds to plant in your garden. Stop by the circulation desk to pick up your seeds. This program is funded by the Mass Aggie Seed Library.

FOR ADULTS:

What “YA” Readin’? Book Group

Tuesday, June 4th, 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Location: Select Board Meeting Room, Belchertown Town Hall

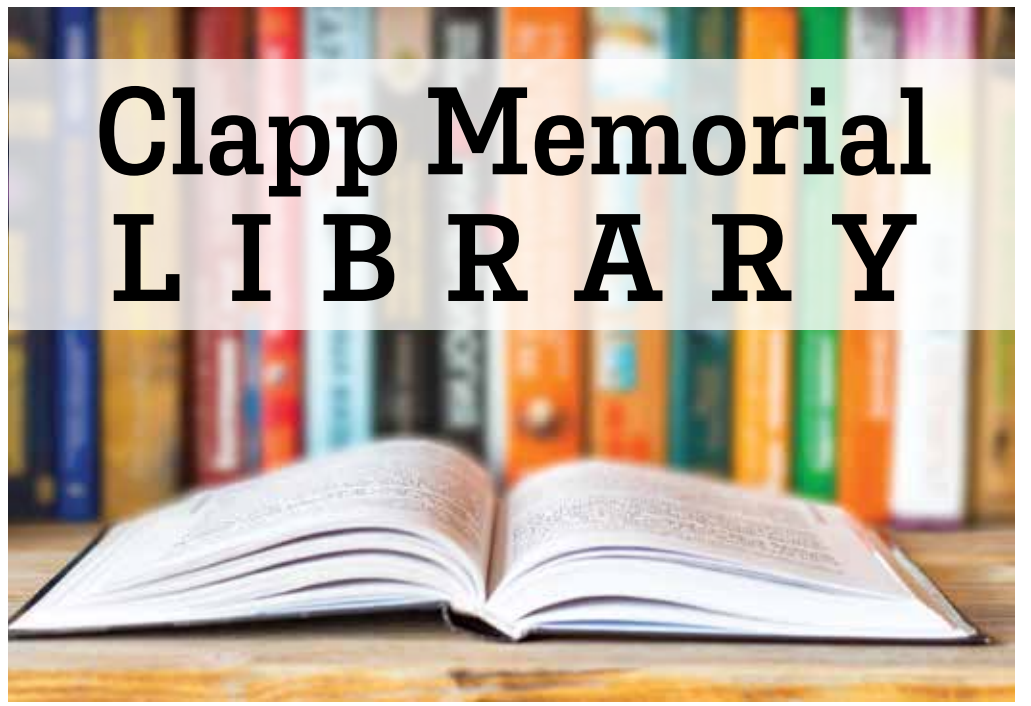
The library’s What “YA” Readin’? Book Group, a group for adults who read Young Adult books, will meet Thursday, June 4th in Town Hall to discuss Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe by Benjamin Alire Sáenz. Copies of the book are available for checkout at the circulation desk. New members are welcome!

Pride Month Movie Matinees

Tuesday afternoons in June, showings at 3:00 pm

Tuesday, June 9th: Were the World Mine (2008), TV14, 1hr 36min

Grab your popcorn for this program series! Tuesdays in June we’re showing a series of films for Pride Month in our Activity Room! On Tuesday, June 9th, we’ll show Were the World Mine, a coming of age romance at a private boy’s school where a gay teen is cast as Puck, in the school’s production of A Midsummer Night’s Dream, and ends up with a love potion that causes havoc in his conservative town. Starring Tanner Cohen, Nathaniel David



Becker, Zelda Williams, Judy McLane, and Jill Larson. No registration required. Public performance rights provided through Kanopy.

Role Playing Game Nights

Tuesday, June 9th, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Break out your dice and join us for a monthly game! Our current RPG campaign is a Gothic setting steeped in Nordic folklore and the old myths of Scandinavia! Dive into mysteries where old struggles against the new, and myths come alive. We meet inside the library on the second Tuesday of each month. No experience necessary, email tmannino@cwmars.org to join.

Fabric of a Revolution: Recreating a 13 Star American Flag

Tuesday, June 9th, 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Join fiber artist Holly Field to discuss her “Fabric of a Revolution” project creating a historically accurate 18th century American flag. Holly will detail how she constructed the flag starting with the raw materials of sheep’s fleece and flax, then spinning, weaving and dyeing the fabric, and finally sewing the flag. Learn about the connection this same process had to people in American history. The flag will be featured at the talk and displayed at the library through June. This program is funded in part by a grant from the Belchertown Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

FOR TEENS:

Seeking Summer Reading Program Junior Volunteers Apply now!

The library is officially looking for Junior Volunteers to help out at the library this summer! Responsible and friendly students entering grades 7-12 and graduates from the Class of 2026 are

invited to apply to be Junior Volunteers. JVs play a crucial role in the success and operation of our Summer Reading Program. Students selected for the JV program will volunteer 10-15 hours throughout the summer. Volunteer tasks may include: manning the Children’s Summer Reading Program table, helping at library programs under the supervision of library staff, assisting at a story time/children’s activity, sharing a special talent, using the copier, shelving books, and more! The application closes on June 10th. Learn more and fill out the application on our website: clapplibrary.org under “Teens”.

Teen Crafternoon: Show Your Pride with Perler Beads!

Friday, June 5th, 4:00 - 5:00 pm

Teens in grades 7-12 are invited to a special Pride-themed Teen Crafternoon on Friday, June 5th. Teens will show their pride or allyship by making Pride-themed perler bead keychains and magnets. No prior experience with perler beads is necessary. Space is limited; email clapplibrarytab@gmail.com to register. This program is funded by the Friends of the Clapp Memorial Library.

Teen Book Club

Wednesday, June 24th, 3:00 - 4:00 pm

Are you a tween or teen age 12-18? The library has a Teen Book Club in conjunction with the MA Teen Choice Book Awards (MTCBA), the only book award in the state selected by teens. Each month teens will read and meet to discuss one book from the nominee list. On Wednesday, June 24th, teens will discuss The Dead of Summer by Ryan La Sala. Copies of the book are available for checkout at the library’s circulation desk and on the Libby and hoopla apps. Snacks will be provided at the meeting. Email

clapplibrarytab@gmail.com with any questions. All attendees will earn a raffle ticket for the Teen Summer Reading Program!

FOR CHILDREN:

Summer Story Times For Kids 3 Months to 6 Years Old Stories and fun for children and their care givers! We’ll tell stories, sing, dance, have finger plays, do crafts, and play instruments. Registration is required. Emails will be sent to confirm enrollment. When sessions are full, children will be put on a waitlist. Register online at clapplibrary.org/story-hour, or call 413-323-0417.

MONDAYS: July 6th through August 10th

Seeds 3 months to 12 months 9 am - 9:45 am

Sprouts 13 months to 24 months 10 am - 10:45 am

TUESDAYS: July 7th through August 11th

Seedlings 2 - 3 years 9:30 am - 10:30 am

WEDNESDAYS: July 8th through August 12th

Getting Ready for Kindergarten (entering Kindergarten this fall) 9:30 am - 10:30 am

THURSDAYS: July 9th through August 13th

Sunflowers 3 - 7 years 9:30 am - 10:30 am

Coming up! Get ready for our Summer Reading Programs for Kids, Teens, and Adults starting Saturday, June 20th.

CLAPP MEMORIAL LIBRARY HOURS:

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9:30 am – 6:00 pm
- Tuesday**
9:30 am – 7:00 pm
- Wednesday**
9:30 am – 7:00 pm
- Thursday**
9:30 am – 7:00 pm
- Friday**
9:30 am – 6:00 pm
- Saturday**
9:30 am – 2:00 pm



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INDUCTEES from page 9

Mulry, Executive Director of the IVHF. "Collectively, the Class of 2026 and this year's special award recipients have helped shape, elevate and redefine the sport of volleyball across multiple eras, disciplines and continents. From Olympic champions and transformational global leaders to innovators in coaching, officiating, media and ParaVolley, their influence can be seen in nearly every corner of the game today. Together, they represent the evolution of volleyball itself

— honoring the sport's rich history while inspiring its future generations." Volleyball enthusiasts are encouraged to sign up for the IVHF Insider e-newsletter for behind-the-scenes and exclusive content before, during and after Induction Weekend, including the new series "The Road To Holyoke." To sign up for free, please visit ivhf.org/. The International Volleyball Hall of Fame is a 501c3 nonprofit based in Holyoke, Mass., and is dedicated to honoring the legends, recognizing the greats and preserving the history of volleyball at all levels - men and women, amateur and professional players, coaches and contributors, around the world. The IVHF was incorporated in 1978 and continues to create a diversely representative institution from a wide range of countries and disciplines. For more information on the induction events, please visit the Hall's website at www.ivhf.org or email info@ivhf.org.

Dr. Rosie's Science of Helping Animals program

GRANBY – Local author Jennifer Welborn (author of Dr. Rosie Helps the Animals) will be at Granby Free Public Library on May 28 at 4 p.m. for a hands-on workshop. This workshop will teach participants about natural treatments used to help animals. Participants will make their own hot/cold compresses, a working stethoscope, and aloe lotion. They will also learn how veterinarians

stitch up cuts and use real veterinary instruments to take the vitals of a certified therapy dog. Children will receive mini vet kits and treatment sheets. Jennifer and Rozillia will demonstrate how to use the kit and sheet to diagnose and treat a stuffed animal.

Children should bring their own stuffed animals. Mini stuffed animals will be provided for those who do not have any.



Program for ages 6-12, sign-ups are required.

GARDEN from page 6

leaves, pinch off the flowers as they form. It is a great candidate for growing in mixed herb planters or individually in small pots.

Last but not least is my all-time favorite fragrant herb: Cinnamon Basil. Like its pesto-producing cousin, this variety can be used in cooking, mainly where its cinnamon scent would complement the cuisine, such as fruit salads or vinegars.

I have honestly never grown it for culinary use, but when some herbal renewal is

needed it sure serves a purpose. One sniff will give me a burst of energy, enough to tackle that last garden chore. See for yourself!

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.



VACANCY from page 6

Veteran's Graves Officer (VGO): The Town is seeking a Veteran's Grave Officer beginning June 1, 2026. The VGO is responsible for ensuring that all veterans' graves within Belchertown are properly maintained and kept in a respectful condition. This includes tasks such as clearing weeds, repairing or resetting headstones, and maintaining grave surroundings and fencing as needed. They also coordinate plac-

ing flags on graves for observations such as Memorial Day.

Zoning Board of Appeals: The Town wishes to fill two (2) openings for associate member seats on the Zoning Board of Appeals. The ZBA is responsible for hearing and deciding on applications for Special Permits, Variances and Appeals from decisions of the Zoning Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector.

EV OVERVIEW from page 5

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Belchertown Conservation Commission LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to the authority of the Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Ch. 131, Sec. 40, its Regulations (310 CMR 10.00) and the Belchertown Wetlands Protection Bylaw (Chapter 139), the Belchertown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Monday, June 8, 2026 at 7:00 PM in the Lawrence Memorial Hall Auditorium, located at 2 Jabish Street in Belchertown, MA 01007** to review a **Request for Determination of Applicability** permit application submitted by Ramzi Natour to determine if the proposed sewer and water line extension at 109 Channel Drive (Assessor's Map 101-52) in Belchertown is subject to jurisdiction of the Wetlands Protection Act. Anyone interested in this matter should appear at the time and place designated. 05/28/2026

(Assessor's Map 107-27) in Belchertown is subject to jurisdiction of the Wetlands Protection Act. Anyone interested in this matter should appear at the time and place designated. 05/28/2026

grass in Lake Holland for the purpose of preventing cyanobacteria blooms is subject to jurisdiction of the Wetlands Protection Act. Anyone interested in this matter should appear at the time and place designated. 05/28/2026

Belchertown Conservation Commission LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to the authority of the Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Ch. 131, Sec. 40, its Regulations (310 CMR 10.00) and the Belchertown Wetlands Protection Bylaw (Chapter 139), the Belchertown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Monday, June 8, 2026 at 7:00 PM in the Lawrence Memorial Hall Auditorium, located at 2 Jabish Street in Belchertown, MA 01007** to review a **Request for Determination of Applicability** permit application submitted by Daniel Baecher to determine if the proposed placement of barley

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLE
This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch. 255, Sec. 39A as of May 29, 2026 the following motor vehicle will be for sale to satisfy a garage keeper's lien:
Vehicle: 2011 Kia Sorento
Vin #: 5XYKT3A12BG112000
Color: Gray
LKO: Sugelis Reyes
Address: 83 Pleasant Street
Ware, MA 01082
Relentless Towing
Belchertown, MA
413-530-3804
05/14, 05/21, 05/28/2026

Belchertown Conservation Commission LEGAL NOTICE

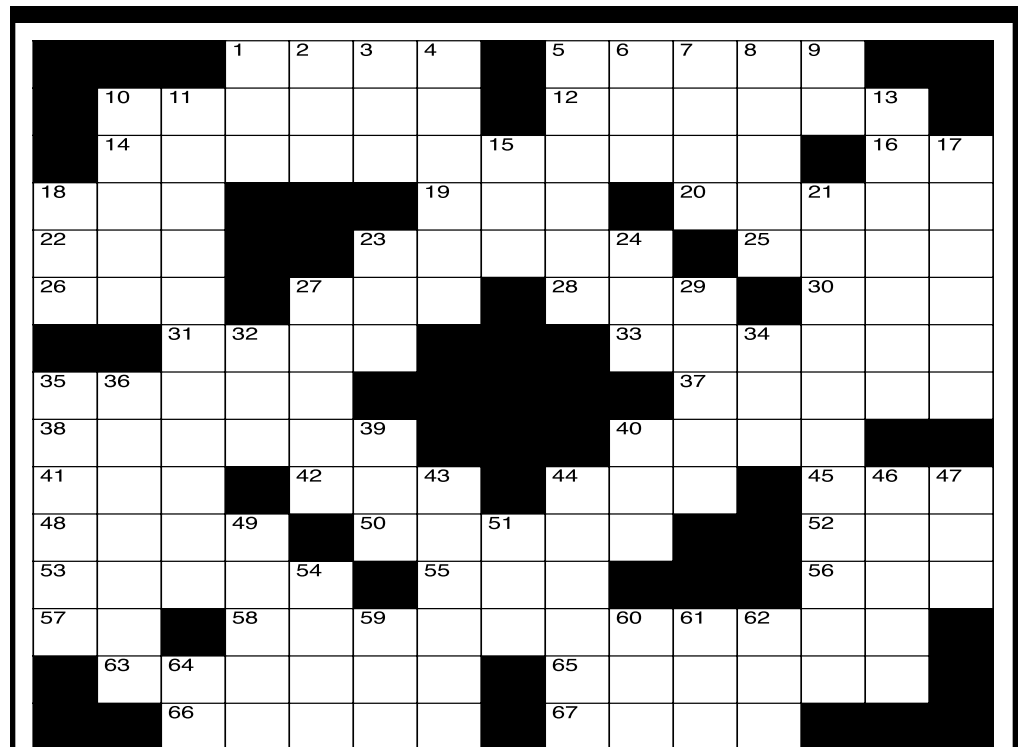
Pursuant to the authority of the Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Ch. 131, Sec. 40, its Regulations (310 CMR 10.00) and the Belchertown Wetlands Protection Bylaw (Chapter 139), the Belchertown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Monday, June 8, 2026 at 7:00 PM in the Lawrence Memorial Hall Auditorium, located at 2 Jabish Street in Belchertown, MA 01007** to review a **Request for Determination of Applicability** permit application submitted by Daniel Walker to determine if the proposed sewage system replacement at 366 Allen Street

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Streetcar
5. Take __ of it!
10. SW Asia peninsula
12. Beating wings to escape from a perch
14. One who revitalizes
16. Indicates position
18. Dishonorable man
19. Singer King Cole
20. Short-tailed marten
22. One point east (clockwise) of due north
23. The god of the underworld in ancient mythology
25. Dirt
26. Superconducting super collider
27. Not good
28. A way to sink
30. Unwell
31. Follow orders
33. Deep ravine
35. Perfumery practice
37. Indian film director Sultan
38. Member of U.S. Navy
40. Wing-like
41. Very fast airplane
42. Slang for cigarette
44. Most cars still need it
45. Political war chest
48. Cools down
50. Diminish toward one end
52. Indigenous person of Thailand
53. Combined
55. Container
56. Expression of satisfaction
57. Thou
58. Return a favor
63. Go over once more
65. Removed
66. "Silence of the __"
67. Comedian Rogen

CLUES DOWN

1. Children's game
2. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
3. Own (Scottish)
4. Female follower of Bacchus
5. Subsides
6. Protects from weather
7. Spanish municipality
8. Supermarket chain
9. Domain name
10. Semitic peoples
11. Designs anew
13. City associated with Jesus
17. Bank employee
18. Central nervous system
21. Standardized piece of text
23. A type of fever
24. Baglike structure in a plant or animal
27. Threaten persistently
29. Aspirations
32. Baby's eating accessory
34. Actress Thurman
35. Turn into bone
36. One who saves you
39. Consume
40. Swiss river
43. A part of a river where the current is very fast
44. Categories
46. Expressed amazement
47. It's important in respiration (abbr.)
49. Greek war dance
51. Bland, semi-liquid food
54. Regard in a specified way
59. Taxi
60. Naturally occurring solid material
61. Feline
62. Post-burning residue
64. Elevated railroad



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