

BOAT holds annual vigil

to honor those lost to overdose

By Emily-Rose Pappas
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BELCHERTOWN – On Aug. 31, many communities across the nation hold vigils and ceremonies in honor of National Overdose Awareness Day, remembering and paying respects to the thousands of people lost to overdose around the world.

Belchertown Overcoming Adversity Together, or BOAT, hosted on the town common its annual Overdose Awareness Vigil, in order to honor those lost to overdose, and provide a space and time for reflection, remembrance, and community healing.

“The Vigil is an important space to take time to acknowledge the lives impacted by opiate use disorder. This affects families, friends, and loved ones as substance dependence is a family disease. It is important to honor that,” said Alene Motta, a member of BOAT.

The stigma in society today around addiction is often why people do not seek help when struggling, and why people who have lost loved ones to overdose do not reach out, either. BOAT seeks to destroy that stigma and offer a place and resources for all those who struggle.

Please see **VIGIL**, page 7



A memorial of photos to memorialize the loved ones no longer with us.

SUBMITTED PHOTO



PHOTO BY GABI FOX, GABI FOX PHOTOGRAPHY

Max Kellogg keeps the ball away from his defender.

Boys basketball shoots hoops for charity

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

The game was played on Tuesday, Aug. 12, as a fundraiser to support the Julia Haynes Scholarship Fund, a 501c3 nonprofit, which annually awards Belchertown High School

Seniors for both students entering the trades and going to college.

The basketball game was another fundraising opportunity for the Fund, in order to help students like Julia achieve their dreams.

“Julia was an eighth-grade student in Belchertown when she passed away, and she passed away after an 18-month battle with brain cancer,” said Julia’s mom, Misty Haynes. “After she passed away, four of her really good

Please see **HOOPS**, page 13

Family Center looking for a new home

By Emily-Rose Pappas
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BELCHERTOWN – The Family Center began at the Old Town Hall about 20 years ago, when a group of parents came together with toys for their kids to play with and grow together.

“It was an opportunity for the children to play, and for the parents to connect and get to know one another,” said Family Center Committee Chair Natasha Martin.

Soon enough, a non-profit group formed in order to support the center, and the Belchertown United Church of Christ allowed the group to use the basement at their Parish House, and volunteers would bring toys and



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The kids even got to walk in the parade.

supplies fown from the attic for the children to play with.

“Eventually, the town created a committee and allowed the Center to use the Franklin Street building, and the Family Center part-

nered with the Collaborative for Educational Services to provide play groups, parent education, and a whole host of other resources - these

Please see **CENTER**, page 5

Fin Com discusses Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust

By Melina Bourdeau
Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN – The Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust faces a critical financial crisis that could impact municipal and school employees across 73 participating units, according to detailed discussions in a recent Finance Committee meeting.

The trust’s financial challenges stem from years of what committee members describe as questionable fiscal management and potentially inadequate accounting practices.

The Finance Committee is considering multiple scenarios to address a potential \$1

“You’ve got HR managers, town managers, making these decisions about money when I think they’re not really, truly understanding the claims process.”

– Nicole Miner

million shortfall, including a 60/40 split between town and school budgets.

Brian Gibbons, a committee member, presented a stark analysis of the trust’s financial position. “I found an average of a \$10 million delta between what they say they have and what’s in the financial statement,” he said, highlighting significant discrepancies in

the trust’s financial reporting.

The trust’s executive director, Joseph Shea, has acknowledged the severity of the situation. In a July executive committee meeting,

Shea stated they are seeking substantial financial intervention.

“Joe stated himself... they felt they waited too long to ask around, and we need to get ahead of this, if there’s be any solvency here,” said Gibbons.

Shea reported they are

Please see **FIN COM**, page 7

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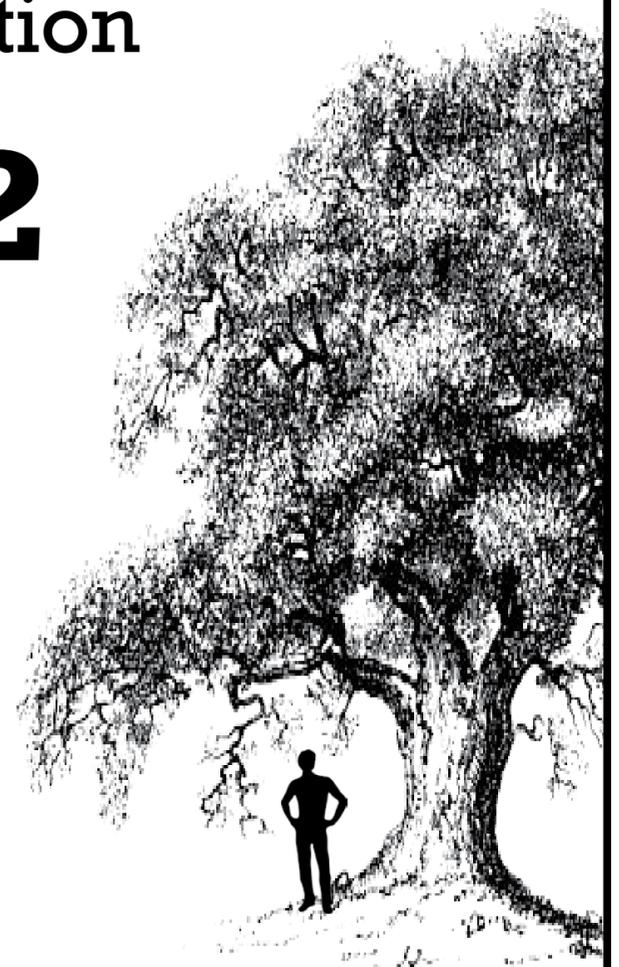
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■ COMMUNITY

Belchertown Farmers and Artisans Market Wins 2025 Readers' Choice Award

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown Farmers and Artisans Market has been honored with the 2025 Readers' Choice Award by the readers of the Daily Hampshire Gazette, recognizing it as one of the region's top destinations for fresh, local food and artisan goods. Beyond being a marketplace, the Belchertown Farmers and Artisans Market strives to be a gathering place where neighbors connect – not only with local farmers and artisans but also with essential community services and organizations. Each week, the market hosts a variety of non-profits, wellness providers, and educational groups offering resources such as: health and wellness information, animal rescue and adoption events, workshops and demonstrations, local outreach programs and more. Market Manager, Brittini Robidou, proudly accepted the award on behalf of the market, crediting the hard work of dedicated vendors, community supporters, and sponsors, and the Market Board.

“This award is a true reflection of our amazing community,” said Robidou. “Our vendors bring their best every week – fresh produce, unique handmade products, and a warm, welcoming atmosphere that makes the market a special place for everyone on Sundays.” The Belchertown Farmers and Artisans Market continues to grow as a hub for local food,

art, and connection. Visitors can expect seasonal produce, specialty items, live music, and family-friendly activities throughout the season. The market runs every Sunday on the Belchertown Common, June through the first Sunday in October, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (except for Belchertown Fair Weekend). Be sure to follow Belchertown Farmers Market on Facebook and Instagram to get all the latest updates and get to know their amazing vendors and wonderful products. Sign up for their weekly Newsletter to keep up-to-date on products available each week – visit their website at www.belchertownfarmersmarket.weebly.com.

Mission Statement: Belchertown Farmers and Artisans Market, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that provides a unique venue for the public to purchase foods and other products directly from local producers in an enjoyable and friendly atmosphere.



Brittini Robidou with the People's Choice Award for the Belchertown Farmers Market.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Come to the Farmers Market for fun, a good time, and home-grown.

Quabbin Day: Celebrating the Beauty and Heritage of the Quabbin Region

BELCHERTOWN – This fall, the Friends of the Quabbin invite residents and visitors alike to discover the beauty, history, and importance of the Quabbin Reservoir during Quabbin Days (www.quabbindays.org), a celebration of the region's role as both a critical drinking water supply and one of New England's most scenic outdoor destinations. Quabbin Days will be held the holiday weekend of October 10-13, 2025.

Taking place in the Quabbin Region (www.quabbindays.org/quabbinregion), which is made up of the dozen towns in the Quabbin Watershed, Quabbin Days is a community-driven initiative designed to raise awareness about the Quabbin as the primary water source for 2.7 million Massachusetts residents, and a breathtaking landscape that offers world-class hiking, fishing, bird-watching, and photography opportunities.

“Most people don't realize that one of the most pristine and carefully protected water supplies in the country is also an incredible place to explore,” said Ed Comeau of the Friends of the Quabbin. “Quabbin Days is about encouraging people to connect with this resource as a place of remarkable natural beauty and cultural history by exploring the Quabbin Trail(www.quabbindays.org/quabbintrail) that connects these towns.”

Held during the peak of fall foliage season, October 10-13, Quabbin Days encourages towns, businesses, and organiza-

tions within the Quabbin Region to host events, walks, tours, and open houses that spotlight what this area has to offer. Participation is informal and flexible: anyone can contribute an event, and visitors can plan their own adventures through www.QuabbinDays.org, which offers a growing calendar and interactive map of the region.

The Quabbin Reservoir, created in the 1930s, is one of the largest man-made public water supplies in the United States. Managed by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA), the reservoir and surrounding lands form a protected ecosystem that supports wildlife and clean water while offering miles of trails and stunning vistas.

Whether you're a hiker, angler, nature photographer, or history enthusiast, Quabbin Days is your invitation to rediscover, or discover for the first time, this extraordinary region.

To learn more, plan your visit, or submit an event, visit www.QuabbinDays.org.

About Friends of the Quabbin

The Friends of the Quabbin is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the natural, cultural, and historical significance of the Quabbin Region. Through advocacy, education, and community partnerships, the organization works to protect the watershed and share its stories with future generations.

Read the Sentinel online at www.sentinel.turley.com



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COMMUNITY

Belchertown Select Board announces board/committee vacancies

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 two associate member seats 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.

Belchertown Buildings & Grounds Committee: The Town wishes to fill one (1) full real estate member seat and one (1) associate member seat on the Belchertown

Buildings and Grounds Committee. The committee will advise the Town and the Select Board on funding opportunities for maintaining and developing Town buildings that fit the guidelines of repurpose and/or renovation to benefit the local economy and population as well as advising on historical and cultural development opportunities. Expertise with real estate/architecture, grant writing, or historical experience to strengthen the skill set of the committee is highly preferred.

Belchertown Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force: The Town of Belchertown is looking to fill a vacancy on the Belchertown Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force. The focus of the Task Force is to develop a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement for the Select Board to review and to consider adopting, to seek out opportunities to acknowledge and/or celebrate the diversity within our own community and to welcome the whole to community to join in, and to offer suggestions on how the town addresses specific or potential acts of violence, including hate speech, should such acts arise in our community, region or state. Efforts should be made to include voices from the community or communities that are directly affected. Partnership oppor-

tunities with surrounding towns to strengthen regional or state efforts might also be explored. This is a seven-member committee to include: A representative from law enforcement, a representative from Town Hall, and five community members representing diversity in one or more of the following areas: racial and ethnic backgrounds, social positions with respect to gender identity and sexual orientation, social positions with respect to disability, and age groups and prior vocational experiences. All are encouraged to apply.

Board of Assessors: The Town of Belchertown is looking to fill a vacancy on the Board of Assessors. This recently vacated position will be appointed in accordance with the provisions outlined in MGL Chapter 41, Section 11, by a joint appointment of the Board of Assessors and Select Board. The appointed individual will fill the seat's remaining term and shall perform the duties of the office until the next annual election in May 2026. The applicant must be a registered voter in the Town of Belchertown.

In accordance with MCL Chapter 59, Section 21, the Assessors shall assess all taxes duly certified to them and perform all necessary duties as defined in MGL Chapter 59. Some of the duties include the classification and valuation of all real and personal property, along with setting the tax rate each fiscal year.

For further information, contact Jay Whelihan, Director of Assessments, at 323-0413, jwhelihan@belchertown.org, or Steve Williams, Town Manager, at 323-0403.

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 Communications Committee is seeking a new full member to help shape how our town shares information and connects with the community.

This committee works closely with the Communications Manager, BCTV Director, IT Director, and Town Manager to support clear, effective, and inclusive communication across all departments. Whether it's advising on public messaging, supporting digital outreach, or helping shape the future of how the town communicates, your voice matters here. We're looking for individuals with experience in communications, social media, and/or digital strategy. We're especially interested in those with a background or working knowledge in artificial intelligence, as your expertise could help us explore and guide the responsible use of AI in local government.

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

Historic District By-Law Commission:

The Town wishes to fill a member Real Estate seat on the Historic District By-Law Commission. The Commission has regulatory control over new construction, reconstruction, alterations, movements, and demolition of all exterior architectural features of buildings and structures within the Historic District which are visible from any public street, public way, or public park.

Pioneer Valley Transit Authority Advisory Board: The Town is seeking an individual to represent and serve as a Liaison to the Town of Belchertown on the PVTAA Advisory Board. Interested individuals should have the time and desire to attend respective meetings in Springfield and periodically review the PVTAA's services to the Town and its contiguous communities.

Quaboag Valley Business Assistance Corporation (QVBAC) / Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation (QVDC): The Town is seeking an individual to represent and serve as a Liaison to the Town of Belchertown on the QVBAC to bring the concerns of Belchertown's residents and small business community forward to ensure that the services provided by the QVBAC/QVDC are in line with the town's needs. The board member also helps disseminate information from the QVBAC board to Belchertown's residents and small business community, especially when there is a particular program or initiative they'd benefit from.

While no business acumen is required, an interest in and or connections with Belchertown's small business community would be advantageous. Enthusiasm for Belchertown and the

ability to determine and communicate the interests of its residents are the most important qualifications. For more information about the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation and the Quaboag Valley Business Assistance Corporation, please visit www.qvdc.org.

Taxation Aid Committee: The Select Board is accepting names of individuals wishing to be considered as members for the Taxation Aid Committee. This is a one-year appointed volunteer position which will consist of the Chair of the Board of Assessors, the Treasurer/Collector, and three residents from Town with the purpose of defraying the real estate taxes of elderly and disabled persons of low income and which shall be funded by voluntary donations made by taxpayers through an earmark on their real estate and motor vehicle excise tax bills.

Veterans' Services Advisory Board (VSAB): The Town is looking to fill two (2) vacancies on the VSAB. The Board works closely with the Town's Veterans' Agent on issues pertaining to veterans to include but not limited to Veterans Day and Memorial Day ceremonies, war memorials, veterans' graves or any other related areas of concern.

Zoning Board of Appeals: The Town wishes to fill one (1) opening for a full member seat and 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.

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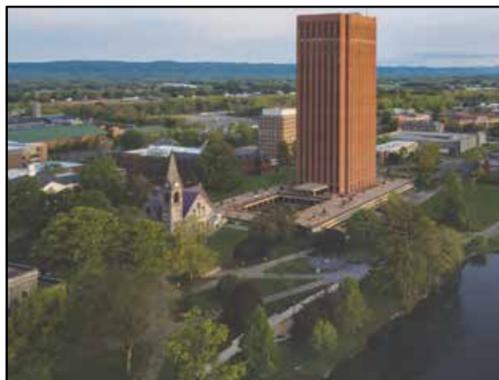
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Belchertown to host first Lake Wallace Fall Fest

BELCHERTOWN – Belchertown will host its first-ever Lake Wallace Fall Fest on Saturday, October 4, 2025, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This community celebration will feature three inclusive trail events: a 5K, a 1K, and an All Abilities Roll & Stroll designed to welcome participants of all ages, abilities, and mobility levels.

Beyond the races, attendees can enjoy celebrating the new enhancements to the Lake Wallace Sensory Trail, including expanded trailheads, a new Pocket Park, and original sculptures and benches created by local artists. The day will also feature live music, food trucks, and local vendors.

The Lake Wallace Fall Fest is also an opportunity for the public to contribute to the Lake Wallace gift account, which supports trail maintenance, repairs, educational programming, and future expansions. Current funding priorities include:

- Installation of an informational kiosk with inclusive educational materials
- Wayfinding & signage aligned with Belchertown's branding plan
- Repairs to existing observation decks

- Trail cameras for security, maintenance, and live nature viewing opportunities

Local businesses and individuals are invited to become sponsors or community partners to help ensure a memorable, inclusive experience for all participants. Sponsorship levels range from Champion Donor (\$500+) with premium recognition, to general event sponsorship tiers starting at \$49.

For sponsorship details, contact recreation@belchertown.org.

Donations can be made by mailing a check to: Town of Belchertown, Belchertown Recreation Department, 66 State Street, Building #1, Belchertown, MA 01007

About the Lake Wallace Sensory Trail

The Lake Wallace Sensory Trail is a fully accessible, inclusive nature trail in the heart of Belchertown, designed to welcome visitors of all ages and abilities. Featuring tactile guide cables, Braille signage, and open viewing areas, it provides both passive and active recreation opportunities while connecting the community to the natural beauty of Lake Wallace.

Firefighter's Association to host 3rd annual golf tourney

The Belchertown Firefighters' Association is having their 3rd annual golf tournament at Cold Spring Country Club, 330 Chauncey Walker Street, Belchertown on Friday, October 3rd. Registration is at 9 a.m., with a shotgun start

at 10 a.m. For more information, visit the Belchertown Firefighters' Association Facebook page, send an email to Belchertownfireassociation@gmail.com, or call Tanner Clark (413) 315-0003 or Kevin Vickers (413) 575-1072.

CENTER from page 1

programs were free for families," said Martin.

Later, the town relocated the Family Center to the building at 51 State Street, where the Center was able to hold programs up until July of 2023.

"The Family Center's purpose has been to support families of young children by providing playgroups, community, parent education, and free resources. The building at 51 State Street housed two playrooms and the Community Closet, as well as three other rooms that the Committee was working to develop," said Martin.

However, the building was in desperate need of a roof replacement, as well as a new boiler, in order to be habitable, and this has given the Committee the hard choice as of July of 2023 to close the building because of these ongoing leaks and other problems.

"Since the building was closed, the Family Center Committee has not been able to find a suitable space in which we could organize programming - any space that we have been able to secure would require that we carry in and carry out all supplies and furniture, which has been a significant barrier for us," said Martin.

To further tighten the need, the town also made the decision to no longer lease the current storage unit where most of the furniture, outdoor toys, and equipment are stored, which brought the Committee to the choice to give away nearly all items to families and community members.

"The most special thing about the Family Center has always been the bonds that we have formed while spending time there. I have heard from so many about how their kids met their best friends at the center when they were little, or how they met their closest friends at the center when they were attending programs years ago," said Martin.

However, the Committee hasn't given up, and continues to hold seasonal swaps, like the recent school supplies swap at the Market in August, and in December of last year, they held a successful event which provided families with free resources and free professional photos the Committee paid for.

"One family commented that it was the first time they had been able to have family photos taken," said Martin, sharing how meaningful these events and opportunities truly are to families.

The Committee is also looking for a way to relaunch their former Community Closet in a new way, which is completely donation-based and helps families to gain access to toys, supplies, books, and gear for babies and children.



The family center was a big part of our community.



Jennifer Whitehead with the Center's pop-up tent with school supplies for the community.

"The Family Center Committee needs a home, first and foremost. Without a dedicated space, it is very difficult to build momentum, providing ongoing support and regular programming for families in our community," said Martin.

For those interested in helping the Committee financially, they can accept monetary donations as checks made out to the Town of Belchertown, and their events will have donation buckets as well.

You can find the Family Center Committee at the upcoming Lake Wallace Fall Fest on Oct. 4 for a Halloween Costume Swap, and are seeking donations, and you can drop off at the Recreation Department, the Library, and at the Farmers Market until Friday, Oct. 3.

You can also volunteer to run children's programs, and all who are interested can locate their Facebook page and contact them through the page, or attend one of their meetings, which meets monthly, and the Committee is always looking to hear from the community on how they can serve them.

"Despite what has felt like years of setbacks, we are still



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Kids got the opportunity to learn practical skills, like planting flowers.

here, and we are still actively trying to find ways to provide meaningful support for families in town. We meet publicly approximately once a month, and we are always

open to hearing from members of the community about programs they would like to see, ways that they might like to help," said Martin.

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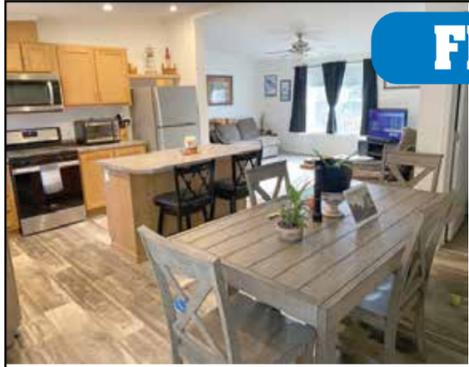


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OPINION

SOCIAL SECURITY
Matters

By Russell Gloor

I'm in poor health and need to know my SS options

Dear Rusty:

I plan to stop working very soon.

My health is not good. I am 66 years old, born in June 1959, so my full retirement age is 66 years and 10 months. My wife passed away in March 2024 and she was collecting SS benefits when she died. I have no dependent children. In general, what benefits am I entitled to?

Signed: Unhealthy and Struggling

Dear Unhealthy and Struggling:

Sorry to hear that your health is failing and that you will need to stop working soon. But do not fear, Social Security will be there for you. Here is some info to help you decide your next possible steps:

Since you will not reach your full retirement age until next year in April 2026, your earnings limit from working for this year is \$23,400 or \$1,950/month. The earnings limit will apply only if you decide to claim Social Security early (this year).

If you decide to take Social Security this year, your earnings from before you take SS won't count, but your monthly earnings for the remaining months of this year will be subject to the 2025 monthly limit (\$1,950). If your monthly earnings exceed that amount, you won't be entitled to SS benefits for that month, unless your total earnings for 2025 are less than \$23,400. If you don't exceed the annual limit, your 2025 Social Security benefits won't be affected by your work earnings.

Next year, the year you attain your Full Retirement Age, your earnings limit will be much higher about 2.5 times more or something more than about \$63,000. If your 2026 earnings up through March do not exceed that limit, then you can claim your SS benefits a bit earlier in 2026 before your FRA and your benefits won't be affected, except that your monthly benefit amount will be permanently reduced by .556% for each month you claim before your FRA.

For example, if you were to claim for your SS to start in January 2026, you would get 98.3% of your FRA amount. So, provided your work earnings won't exceed about \$63,000 between January and March 2026, you could claim effective January 2026 without worrying about Social Security's earnings test.

So, depending upon your health, you could claim SS to start in January 2026, likely without worry about the earnings test and would get about 98.3% of your FRA benefit. Or, health permitting, you could wait to claim SS starting in April 2026 to get 100% of the benefit you've earned from a lifetime of work-

ing. Point is, you just need to be careful not to exceed Social Security's earnings tests prior to reaching your Full Retirement Age or SS will take away some of your benefits.

They "take away" by withholding future monthly payments as long as needed to recover what you owe. Worse case penalty for exceeding the 2026 monthly limit would be no benefits for any month you exceed about \$5,300 or a penalty of \$1 for every \$3 over the limit if you exceed the 2026 annual limit before your FRA.

You do, however, have another option as your wife's surviving spouse: You can claim your benefit as a surviving spouse prior to claiming your own SS retirement amount. But the earnings test described above (if you claim before your FRA) would also apply to your survivor benefits. So, again, your plans for working enter this decision. If you decide to stop working this year, you could, for example, decide to claim your survivor benefit this year and collect that until you reach your FRA in April 2026 when you would get 100% of your personal SS retirement amount. In fact, you might even decide to collect your survivor benefit longer, allowing your own SS benefit to grow until you are 70, at which time you would get about 25% more than your FRA amount. Indeed, if your survivor benefit is higher than your personal age 70 amount, you can just continue to claim the higher amount.

I suggest that when you decide that you must stop working full time, you contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 to discuss whether it is best to claim your survivor benefit from your wife first and delay claiming your own until a later time to get a higher amount. You can make an appointment to discuss your options with SS over the phone, before deciding when (and what) to claim. And, of course, if you have any further questions, we are always here to assist you with your decision.

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



LETTERS

Boys and Girls Club wanted for Belchertown

To the Editor,

Many families in Town require both parents working 8 hours a day, 40 hours a week, and more with travel time. Caring for their children when school is out and working creates insurmountable problems, not only for parents but more importantly for youth. It can also affect unsupervised after-school youthful behavior in the Town.

In association with the Recreation Department, a Boys and Girls Club in Belchertown would provide structured professional activities before school, after school, on weekends, and in

the summer. As a parent of three (now in their 50s), we also struggled!! Especially during summer school vacations! In the past, some local groups have tried to meet this need. Studies show many benefits for development and maturation in individual youth. They don't need cell phones when they are together!

A meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 24, 2025, at 7:30 pm in the Selectmen's Meeting Room (alternatively, the auditorium) in Memorial Hall to discuss a proposal to establish a Local Club for Belchertown, and to assess the level of support/commitment for such by

the Town. If there is little to no support, the proposal will be dropped.

Interested parties are asked to educate themselves by reviewing the Boys & Girls Club of America webpage or the webpage of any of the 17 local clubs in the Greater Springfield area.

Local tax support is not affected by this proposal, though a vacant building such as Taddell Hall would be required. Support is by membership fees and local fundraising efforts. Yes, "Car Washes"!

Daniel Fitzpatrick
Belchertown

Letter of appreciation to the Belchertown community

To the Editor,

The Belchertown Lions Club would like to offer its deepest gratitude for the support it received from the various facets of our local town-ship in its recent Cruisin' the Common Car Show.

Beginning with our very efficient Select Board and Town Manager's Office in the Finnerty House, the ladies who work the desks made our initial request to reserve the town common a snap... and continued to afford us assistance throughout.

Many thanks to Max Bock and our DPW for, once again, providing the Lions Club with picnic tables, trash cans/liners, caution tape/posts, and traffic cones, which afforded a smooth entry and parking experience to the 200+ entrants in the show. Thank you also to the Beach, Parks, and Rec Dept., along with the Water Dept. crew, for affording us restroom rental in the Old Town Hall and for providing water for our food wagon throughout the day. A tip of the hat to our Board of Health and Fire Department, which provided guidance throughout the permit application and inspection processes. We all know that it takes a team to get things done, but when the town's major departments pitch in so

willingly as well, it certainly makes for a smooth finish to what could be a red-tape nightmare.

The Belchertown Lions Club is indebted to the hundreds of townspeople who came out in droves to support our cause by purchasing raffle tickets and patronizing our food wagon.

Of course, without the 200+ classic vehicle contestants, many of whom drove large distances to attend, this entire production would never have gotten off the ground. In a similar vein, we are extremely beholden to our judges (Scott Tetrault, and Duane Wilson), who gave up their day and applied their expertise to attack the daunting task of selecting and ranking the best of the best vehicles on display. They all agreed that they could have easily handed out the TOP 50 awards without a problem because the quality of the cars and trucks was so impressive!

Special thanks go out to Barb Greene, who took over the raffle table tent coordination along with Becky Pease and Gina Vanasse, who put in many hours over the past months to keep the raffle ticket sales running so smoothly! Check out the dozens of local donors below who contributed to the huge success of this fundraising component of our

endeavor.

Thank you, Wendy Bowers, for always pitching in when we need a hand---this time at the registration table AND the food wagon!

The club would like to send thanks, once again, to Suburban Propane of Belchertown for supplying us with propane to keep our equipment fueled for action!

The Belchertown Lions Club is especially thankful to Ron and Mary Larivee of Cape and Islands Entertainment for their gift to the club of an entire P.A. system: Two speakers, speaker stand, two mics, mixer, and all required cabling. We will now be able to use this system not only for our car shows but also for our Super Raffles and similar events.

And, of course, we are extremely grateful to the local businesses listed below who supported our venture by purchasing sponsor signs, offering gifts for our raffle table, and by making monetary donations to the club, which will go directly to our chosen charities. It was due to this business input, along with our raffle and food sales, that we can make donations to local charities this coming year of several thousand of dollars!

Michael Mathras,
Belchertown

Turley
Publications
Letters to the
Editor Policy

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

Turley
Election
Policy

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

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

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It's harvest time! How to cure and store for optimal longevity

I harvested my garlic well over six weeks ago. It's been curing in my mud-room stems and all, first with a fan on it to speed the drying process.

Yesterday I cut the stems away and put the garlic fists that were left in mesh bags. Some will be seed garlic, in other words,

it will be broken apart into planting cloves. The rest will be used for cooking

It's so important to cure your vegetables well, both for optimal taste and for longevity.

As for garlic's cousin, the onion, there is a two step curing process. When three-quarters of the tops have fallen over push down the rest and let them stay in the ground a little while longer. Then, unearth the bulbs and lay them, tops and all, on

Please see **GARDEN**, page 8



all through the winter and hopefully into the spring.

CHECK OUT ALL THE

Turley Publications

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VIGIL from page 1

Stare Representative Aaron Saunders and Senator Jake Oliveira came to share some words and pay their respects, as well as members of the town leadership, and Co-Chair of BOAT Angela Battle gave the introductory speech.

“We gather not only to grieve, but to remember with intention and to support each other in healing,” said Angela Battle. “Every name, every story, every light matters.”

The Vigil hosted Empower Recovery Group from Northampton, and Adcare, who provided resources for people to access or provide for loved ones, friends, and family they may know who are struggling with addiction.

“Being part of BOAT means that I can put my passion to purpose and help others through my own knowledge and personal experiences,” said Motta.

Motta also wrote a poem, which she shared with those gathered, which read: “Though you cannot speak/ You have been heard/ We hear you./ Though you cannot see/ You have been seen/ We see you./ Though you cannot feel/ Your life has been seen/ We see you./ Though you are no longer embodied/ You are still a soul./ A soul who has always been/ And always will be/ Significant across all dimensions of time.”

The poem, titled “Heroic Souls,” tells the story of remembrance and of never letting the memories of those we have lost fade. That they were never a burden to us, and that they will forever be in our hearts and on our minds.

“The poem came naturally to me as an outlet to express the heaviness of what it feels like at times when doing this work. The intention behind sharing it is to somehow connect the community,” said Motta.

BOAT works to hold several different events and awareness programs throughout the year, with the main goal and mission of raising awareness of this disease, known as addiction, and for the students to learn about nicotine and how addictive it can be through the program Helping Hands.

“Working with Helping Hands is an opportunity for me to show youth that there are many ways to make a difference in someone’s life who may be struggling or know someone who is struggling with substance use and mental health issues. We are all in this together, and staying connected will lead to the best chance for positive outcomes,” said Motta.

The vigil was a beautiful, yet somber reminder that those who struggle are not alone, and that those who have lost friends, family, and loved ones to overdoses are not alone in their grief.



Paying respects to those lost.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



A purple flag, one for each of the thousands of people lost to overdose with paper luminaries shining for them.



Many people gathered to pay their respects.



Reading the stories, writing letters, talking with a new friend, and picking up a ribbon to remember a loved one: that’s what the vigil is for.



Danny Gobrial (left) is visiting representatives from the Empower Health Group.



Angela Battle with Senator Jake Oliveira and State Representative Aaron Saunders.

FIN COM from page 1

seeking \$5 million in short-term funding to sustain operations until new premiums arrive, with a long-term request of \$20-\$25 million.

The financial strain has prompted discussions about potential drastic measures. The executive committee has begun exploring contingency plans, including “the need to make a contingency plan for what a dissolution of the trust would look like.”

Committee members expressed significant concern about the trust’s financial decision-making processes. Selectboard member Nicole Miner noted that municipal leaders often lack the expertise to make informed financial decisions.

“I never have clients go against what I tell them to do,” said Miner. “You’ve got HR managers, town managers, making these decisions about money when I think they’re not really, truly understanding the claims process.”

Gibbons highlighted historical financial patterns, noting that “in 2017, the same thing happened. They didn’t deplete all the reserves. They lost about \$10 million.”

The trust’s current financial situation has raised questions about its leadership and decision-making.

The committee is preparing for a critical meeting on Sept. 2, where Shea will provide more details about the trust’s financial challenges. The Finance Committee plans to approach the meeting with a solution-oriented mindset.

“I think on that meeting, we should keep it positive. Keep it on the future. Be solution-oriented,” Gibbons said.

Potential solutions under consideration include plan design changes, increased co-pays and possibly switching from self-insured to fully insured plans. The trust is also exploring ways to reduce costs, including potential changes to prescription drug coverage and benefit structures.



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The Town of Belchertown

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY

Saturday, September 13, 2025

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED



Location: DPW, 290 Jackson St. (Highway Garage Location)
Time: 9:00am-12:00pm (noon)
Vehicles arriving after noon will not be accepted



***PAYMENT IS DUE AT TIME OF EVENT. CASH/CHECKS (Payable to Town of Belchertown)**

For a registration form and a list of Do/Don’t items visit:
<https://www.belchertown.org/206/Hazardous-Waste-Day-Information>

Surrounding Towns are Invited to Take Part

COMMUNITY

Cooper's is accepting supply donations

Rounding up for foundation for TJO animals

REGION – For a limited time, Cooper's Gifts, Apparel, Home of Agawam, Mass., is accepting shelter supply donations for Foundation for TJO Animals, which is located at 237 Memorial Drive Springfield, MA., 1104

The Foundation for TJO Animals raises funds to provide resources and support for critical veterinary care and enrichment for the animals at the Thomas J O'Connor Animal Control and Adoption Center. They are 501(c)(3) organization. Donations will be collected at Cooper's now through September 30. "We invite everyone to help out the animals at TJO and be entered to win a \$100 Cooper's Gift Card," said Kate Gourde, owner of Cooper's Gifts, Apparel, Home.

Items to keep the shelter clean and well stocked: paper towels, bleach, pet food, treats, toys and litter, are their current needs. "We hope that while people are out purchasing items for themselves, that they will consider picking up a few extras for the Foundation for TJO Animals.

And, you'll be entered into our raffle!" said Gourde.

"We will swap a raffle entry for every item donated to the Foundation for TJO Animals. One lucky winner of a \$100 Cooper's gift card will be notified on October 1st. Entry tickets can also be purchased at the store for \$1 each, or 6 tickets for \$5. All ticket sales will also be donated to the Foundation for TJO Animals. Especially for people outside the Greater Springfield area, it's easier for them to bring donations here, and we are open 7 days a week," Gourde said. Items may be brought to the shop anytime up until September 30. Cooper's is located at 161 Main St., Agawam, Mass., and is open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sundays noon to 4 p.m.

"This drive coincides with Foundation for TJO Animals as our September Round-Up charity; so, it's the perfect time to spread the word about their mission and really help them out," Gourde said. Each month Gourde chooses a local charity to receive the profits of the store's Round-Up Program, through which customers are invited to round up their purchase total to the nearest



(L-R) Kate Gourde, Owner of Cooper's Gifts, Apparel, Home has teamed up with Janna Brown, Executive Director of Foundation for TJO Animals for the month of September.

dollar amount. Gourde will then match 50% of the total collected. The program has donated more than \$62,000 to local organizations since its inception in 2014. More

information on the Round Up program and how to nominate a charity may be found on Cooper's website www.coopersgifts.com/round-up/.

Pack 507 gets ready for annual field day fundraiser

BELCHERTOWN – Pack 507 will be hosting their annual field day fundraiser on Saturday, September 27, featuring 11 different goofy, entertaining, and challenging events.

The field day begins at 10 a.m. for registration, with an opening ceremony at 10:30 a.m., and the games begin at 10:45 a.m., end-

ing with the field's close at 12:30 p.m.

Bring blankets and lawn chairs to watch games and take breaks at, some water, and an eagerness to have some fun.

You can find more information on their website at, <https://sites.google.com/view/pack-507-family-field-day/home>.

Gardening workshop coming to Ware Grange

WARE – Ware Grange's next gardening workshop, "Seed Saving and Food Preservation," will be held on Thursday, September 18, at 7 p.m. at the Grange Hall at 297 Belchertown Road in Ware. Our presenter will be Roberta McQuaid, author of the weekly "In the Garden" column for Turley Publications. As the grow-

ing season comes to a close, it's time to store what you can for the winter months and save seeds to grow next year. We'll discuss some techniques, including roasting peppers, saving tomato seeds, and curing squash and onions. Visit Ware Grange on Facebook or at waregrange.org for more information.

Livy's VIP Dance Oct. 5

LUDLOW – Livy's VIP Dance, in support of a fundraiser for Rett Syndrome, will take place on Sunday, Oct. 5, from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Gremio Lusitano Club.

The special dance is in memory of Livy, who succumbed to Rett Syndrome at the age of five.

Sparkle, shine and support!

Music and memories with VIP Princess guests.

To learn more, contact Maggie Wurm at maggie@rsangels.org or Shanon at shanon.m.hardy@gmail.com.

To learn more about Rett Syndrome, visit rsangels.org.

For the event page, visit rsangels.org/event/livys-vip-dance/.

Community Preservation Committee) FY 2026 grant application

BELCHERTOWN – The Community Preservation Committee will be accepting applications for grant requests for the 2026 fiscal year. The applications

can be submitted between Wednesday October 1, 2025 through Friday, November 7, 2025. The current application form can be found on WWW.Belchertowncpc.org.

CPC approved grant requests will be considered for the May 2026 Annual Town Meeting. Approved grant requests will be funded during the 2027 fiscal year.

Any questions on the application process can be sent to Jim Natle at Jnate7007@aol.com.

Visit us at www.turley.com

GARDEN from page 1
the ground in the sun, turning occasionally.
When they turn completely brown cut the stems to one inch and spread them on

screens single file in a warm and dry, well-ventilated area to cure further. They can rest in that location for up to two months, then store at temperatures close to 40 degrees. Store apples, bananas, and

tomatoes away from onions, these vegetables excrete ethylene gas as they ripen, causing onions to sprout prematurely. Use bulbs that have two centers first, they won't store well.

It is interesting to note that the same compound that starts the tears flowing when we cut into onions- sulfur, is also a potent fungicide and bactericide. No wonder they store so well!

space is sufficient for curing, at which point the skin should be hard enough to resist the dent of a fingernail.

Potatoes are perhaps the most tricky vegetable to store. Curing them properly will help to prevent rot, premature sprouting, and toxic greening of the skin and flesh. By waiting a week or more after the plant has died before digging up the tubers, the skins will thicken and be less prone to injury during harvest.

Gently washing squash in a 10% bleach solution will help to prevent rot prior to storing at temperatures between 50 and 60 degrees.

Once they are dug, a week spent in a cool and totally dark space will further firm their skin and change sugars to starch, completing the ripening process. Never wash potatoes prior to storage!

The flavor of many of our favorite squashes only improves with age.

Gently brush off dirt and store in a single layer in the darkness at 55-60 degrees. Darkness will prevent greening, which renders potatoes inedible. Use any pitchforked or shovel-marked spuds first, as damage to the skin will invite rot.

I remember my mom used to store our butternuts up off of the floor in our basement. I've heard of other people storing theirs under the bed in a spare bedroom.

For me, my mudroom serves as an all purpose storage area with mesh bags of onions and garlic hanging from hooks on a shelf, the squash on a small pallet on the floor. I have yet to have enough potatoes to store, but this year might just be the exception and I'll come up with a dark enclosure to store them well.

Get creative and you too will be enjoying the fruits of your labor through winter into spring!

Harvest winter squash after vines have died back or prior to an impending frost. A pretty New England autumn scene is fields of pumpkins or colorful squash curing under sunny skies.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village.

If you follow the farmers lead, just be sure to lift squash off the ground, and cover if rain or frost threatens. Two weeks in the field or a sunny, well-ventilated

She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

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

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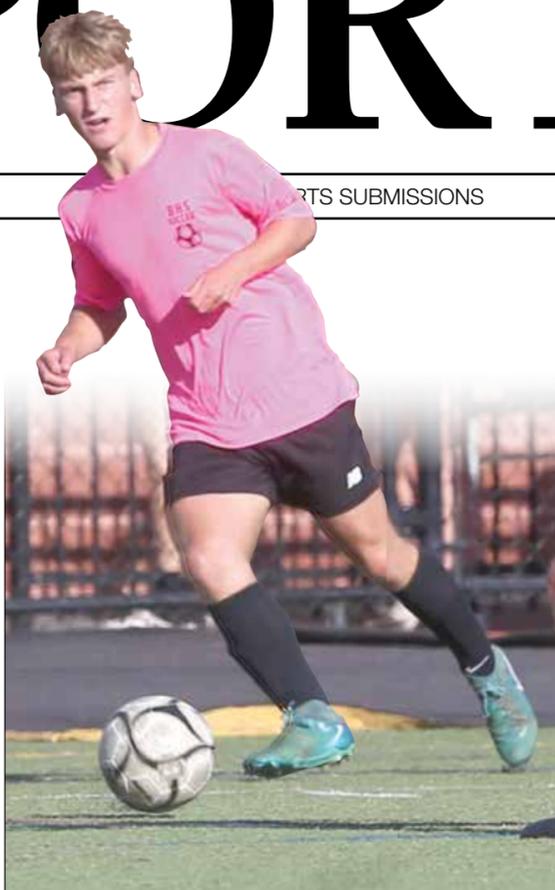
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Chase Connor chases down a ball.



Tyler Buffows possesses the ball for Belchertown.



Timmy Haley makes his way up the field.



Liam Verrochi sends a pass away.

Orioles ready for 2025 fall season

BELCHERTOWN – Last week, Belchertown High School boys soccer continued its preparation for the fall season, having a scrimmage at Chicopee Comprehensive and then practices every day. The Orioles get the regular season going this week with a matchup against Chicopee, then a road match at East Longmeadow at 7 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 5. The Orioles home opener is Monday, Sept. 8 against Ludlow at 6:30 p.m.



Belchertown boys soccer practices last week.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Anthony Arventos heads up the field.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Pathfinder scrimmages against Chicopee last week.

Pioneers lock up with Panthers in scrimmage

PALMER – Last week, both Pathfinder and Palmer girls soccer got together for scrimmage action with both teams preparing for the regular season. Pathfinder faced off with Lee High School earlier this week in the season opener for both teams. Coming up on Friday, Sept. 5, the Pioneers have their home opener on Commerce at 4 p.m. They will face Renaissance on Tuesday, Sept. 9 at 4 p.m.



Megan Clark tries to clear the ball ahead of pressure.



Dustyn Cook extends for a catch.



Trevor Alexander hugs the football as he goes on a run.



Cassion Kowalik looks for an opening to go on a long rush.

Pioneers scrimmage as season nears

PALMER – Last week, Pathfinder Regional football had a scrimmage with Chicopee High School as the regular season approaches.

The Pioneers are scheduled to open up the regular season against neighboring rival Palmer High School next week. Pathfinder did have one final

scrimmage on Sept. 5 against Bishop Guertin before facing the Panthers at Legion Field on Sept. 12 at 7 p.m.



Evelyn Wood goes after the ball.



Taylor Allen holds possession.



Addison Doktor attempts a save.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

SPORTS

Former minor league brings regional camp back



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Sam Lacasse works on his pitching.

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WILBRAHAM—There were many different sports camps held throughout Western Massachusetts this summer.

The last one was called the Summer Sendoff Baseball Camp, which took place on the baseball fields at Spec Pond in Wilbraham during the third week of August and featured players from all over the region. The

camp director is Dustin Brisson, who played Minor League Baseball for the Boston Red Sox.

"This is our second year holding the baseball camp and it has been absolutely incredible," Brisson said. "All of the kids have been great. They understand that this isn't just a normal day camp, it's a skills camp. They're learning different things about baseball every day."

Brisson, who was born in Florida,

played college baseball at the University of Central Florida from 1997-2000. He was drafted by the New York Mets and the Miami Marlins before signing with the Red Sox.

He advanced to Double A before his professional baseball career came to an end due to an injury.

"I was blessed to have the opportunity to play professional baseball," said Brisson, who also owns Forge Athletics. "I'm doing what I can to give back."

During one of his college baseball games in Orlando, Brisson hit a long flyball down the right field line. The base umpire was Don LaValley, who's from Chicopee.

LaValley ruled that the ball was foul, but it was a home run. LaValley told the campers that story at this year's camp.

"I've known Don since I was playing college baseball," Brisson said. "We're good friends now."

About 45 youth baseball players between the ages of 7-15 from Wilbraham and the surrounding communities attended the baseball camp. The campers were split up into groups depending on their age.

"Once we know how many kids will be coming to the camp, we like to put them

in groups depending on their age," Brisson said. "We just want to make sure that the kids are in the appropriate skill level. It's hard to put eighth or ninth graders with third or fourth graders. I want them to have fun and learn some new things at the same time. They're learning for some of the best coaches in the area."

A couple of the camp instructors were Chade Shade, who was the first-year head coach of the Springfield College baseball team, Dan Gomez, who's the head baseball coach at Western New England University, and Terry Doyle, who coaches baseball at New England College which is in Henniker, NH.

Minnechaug Regional varsity baseball coach Mike Netkovick also worked at this year's camp.

"This is an outstanding baseball camp for the kids," Netkovick said. "Dustin is a great guy, and he has an outstanding baseball resume. I'm glad that I was able to help at this year's camp. I never attended a camp like this one when I was a kid."

Ray Fagnant, who grew up in Chicopee and is the Boston Red Sox Northeast Regional Scouting Supervisor, also helped at the camp.

A few of the different sta-



Rick Colon practices his technique behind the plate.

tions were hitting, fielding, and throwing.

One of the older campers was Nolan Witek, who's from Wilbraham.

"This baseball camp is a lot of fun," said Witek, who's a sixth grader. "This camp will prepare me for my baseball tryouts for the Wilbraham Falcons in a couple of weeks. Baseball is my favorite sport."

Brisson was also aided at the camp by his wife, Kasey.

"My wife is the backbone of the organization," Brisson said. "She keeps everything in order. I appreciate all the support from many different people that I've received running this camp."

Brisson and his staff are already looking forward to holding the baseball camp again next summer.

RIGHT: Parker Duquette winds back for a throw.



Luke LaChappelle eyes the ball as he swings.



Alex Nunlist takes a swing.



Eli Olbrych frames up a pitch.

Quabbin Fall League expands to six teams

SOUTH HADLEY – After successful recruiting, the Quabbin Valley Baseball League has reached a decision to expand this year's fall league to six teams.

With the expansion, there are still some open roster spots for players who are age 28 and older. The league is set to get underway with its Sunday schedule beginning on Sunday, Sept. 7.

All players in the league will get to experience an

eight-game slate with the cost in the range of \$45 to \$60 depending on the number of players on the team. The cost reflects paying for insurance, umpires, baseballs, and fields.

Primary fields being used this fall include Mittineague in West Springfield and Beachgrounds Park in South Hadley, with a third field being finalized this week.

Players potentially interested in participating in the league this year, don't wait to

sign-up.

Go to www.quabbinvalley-baseball.org and click on the registration page. If you have more questions, you can contact the league's co-coordinators at gscibelli22@yahoo.com or ikhandfield@gmail.com

The Quabbin Valley Baseball League is an over-28 baseball league playing games during the spring and summer in Western Massachusetts. The league

recently expanded to offer an over-28 fall league to allow players in the age range to face like competition during the fall months. There were four teams last year, and the league is expanding due to higher interest in its second year.

The tradition of fall league is to play with wood bats only. The league has nine-inning games and participants are guaranteed time in the field for at least four innings.

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Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching "turleysports." We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow



and share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.

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■ POLICE LOG

Belchertown Police Log

Editor's note: The following are brief explanations of select entries in the Belchertown Police log and arrests for the weeks of Aug. 22 through Aug. 28. The information was provided by a member of the police department based on the review of the detailed log summary. This feature is designed to provide context and explanation to some of the calls police respond to every day.

**ARRESTS/SUMMONS
Friday, Aug. 22**

8:13 p.m. – A 66-year-old Belchertown woman was issued a summons on charges of shoplifting. An officer responded to a report of shoplifting at a Federal Street business. The officer met with an employee and other witnesses who said the person came into the business, put a bottle of wine into a shoulder bag then didn't pay for it. The business had security footage of the incident. The employees were familiar with the person. The person was identified and trespassed from the building.

Sunday, Aug. 24

2:43 p.m. – A 69-year-old Belchertown male was issued a summons on charges of negligent operation of a motor vehicle. An officer was dispatched for a report of a past disturbance involving a neighbor. They said they felt a vehicle was unsafe to drive and being operated in a reckless manner. They had video of the vehicle being operated at a high rate of speed. The officer went to speak with the involved resident and noticed the vehicle had some structural issues. They had a confrontation with the neighbor before the officer's arrival. Due to the video submitted an immediate threat was filed against their license.

Monday, Aug. 25

5:15 p.m. – Kyle Giuffre, 37, of 7 Michael Sears Road, Belchertown was arrested on charges of operating a subsequent offense of operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license. An officer monitoring traffic on Mill Valley Road when they were familiar with a vehicle that passed by. They knew the person didn't have a valid license. They stopped the vehicle. They confirmed they did not have a license. They said they knew it was suspended and wasn't supposed to be driving. They also had a warrant for not appearing in court. They were placed under arrest. A family member received the car.

**ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS
Friday, Aug. 22**

8:41 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident State Street. A vehicle traveling south on State Street when a vehicle in the road attempted to pull a U-turn. The first vehicle struck the second. No injuries were reported, and no tows were needed.

Saturday, Aug. 23

3:19 p.m. – An officer traveling on Franklin Street when saw sport bike going at a high rate of speed. They were going 60 MPH in a 40 MPH zone and passed several vehicles behind it. The officer attempted to catch up to the bike and when the operator of the bike noticed the cruiser, they continued onto Depot Street at a high speed. The officer notified Palmer Police and Ware Police about the bike. The officer was unable to locate the bike and discontinued pursuit.

11:03 p.m. – An officer responded to a report of a missing person from a residence. It was a juvenile who ran away from a residence. They checked the house and

were unable to locate. A K-9 unit from Monson Police Department responded to the scene. They conducted a search, and they weren't located. Around 2 a.m., they were located at a residence.

Sunday, Aug. 24

12:38 p.m. – An officer responded to a report of fraud. The officer spoke with a resident who went to a storage unit in town and there were items missing. The officer was going to follow up with the storage unit company.

2:58 p.m. – An officer traveling south on Franklin Street saw a vehicle going north at a high speed of 50 MPH in a 30 MPH zone. The officer looked up the vehicle's registration which came back as expired and non-renewable. The operator was identified and a citation for speeding and operating an unregistered motor vehicle were given to the person.

Monday, Aug. 25

2:05 p.m. – A resident wanted to surrender firearm reloading items. The items were taken and turned into property.

Tuesday, Aug. 26

11:35 a.m. – An officer took a report of identify fraud from a resident. They were a victim of fraud for a second time this summer. There was a checked cashed in their name. They didn't write the check the bank needed a police report. They provided a copy of the check to the officer.

12:06 p.m. – A person called the department to report a person who got a restraining order against them was contacting them. They wanted the matter documented.

3:38 p.m. – An officer responded to the town common for a report of a stolen motor vehicle. The officer saw a vehicle matching the description provided by Palmer Police and contacted the department. The vehicle was towed and the record of it being stolen was cancelled. The owner was contacted that it was recovered.

5:46 p.m. – An officer responded to an alarm company for a burgherly alarm at the residence. A rear door of the garage was opened. The wood frame was damaged. The interior door to the house was undamaged. There was a single vehicle to the basement was knocked out, allowing access. The basement appeared to be okay. The officer made a report, and the residence will continue to be monitored by regular patrols.

Wednesday, Aug. 27

1:55 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident. A vehicle parked off the right side of the road and the second was backing out of a driveway. The parked vehicle sustained a broken headlight.

12:22 p.m. – An officer responded to assist Belchertown Fire and paramedics.

1:13 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Allen Road and Daniel Shay's Highway. A vehicle attempting to turn from Allen Road onto Daniel Shay's Highway pulled out into the road and was struck by a second vehicle. The operator of the first vehicle said they believed the second vehicle had its blinker on. Both vehicles were towed from the scene.

5:07 p.m. – An officer responded to a report of an aggressive person at a Federal Street business. It was reported the person left before the officers arrived. The officers spoke with the person who reported the incident. The person said the order they placed was wrong

and the suspect began using derogatory language.

Thursday, Aug. 28

10:09 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Granby Road. A vehicle traveling south on Granby Road and the operator's foot slipped from the brake pedal. The vehicle went forward from the stop sign and struck the second vehicle traveling west on Ludlow Road.

12:31 p.m. – An officer took a report of fraud. They researched company and worked with one to get a loan and was emailing them. they asked him to make deposit and told to write checks. The person did so. The accounts are all locked at this time.

Granby Police Log

Editor's Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 150 calls for the week of Aug. 2 through Aug. 28. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The Granby Police Department provides all information.

Friday, Aug. 22

2:15 p.m. – A resident came to the station to see if a text they received from Norton Anti-virus was legit. They were advised it appeared to be a scam and to delete the message.

2:37 p.m. – A resident called and stated that they have been receiving texts and emails from the FBI. They were advised it was a scam.

Saturday, Aug. 23

4:18 p.m. – A motorist reported a two-car accident. Granby Fire and Police responded. There were no injuries.

10:45 p.m. – An officer observed a motor vehicle with a headlight out. The vehicle was stopped, and it was discovered that the inspection sticker was expired. The operator was issued a written warning.

Sunday, Aug. 24

12:21 a.m. – A resident came to the station to report someone stole cryptocurrency from him and the company he trades with recommended they contact the FBI and local law enforcement.

4:45 p.m. – A resident reported that someone destroyed their mailbox.

Wednesday, Aug. 27

12:50 p.m. – A resident reported that a vehicle struck a stop sign. Granby Fire and Police responded. There were no injuries. The operator was issued a civil citation for failing to stop at a stop sign and crossing marked lanes.

7:59 p.m. – A resident contacted the station to report that they received a letter in the mail stating they won a contest and a check for \$4,500. They believed it was a scam, but she felt it was mail fraud and something should be done to stop these things. They were advised to notify the Post Office.

NOTICE

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

■ OBITUARY

Phyllis A. White, 78

Phyllis A. White, beloved wife, mother, and grandmother, died at home in Ludlow, Massachusetts, on August 30, 2025, at the age of 78. Born in Paterson, New Jersey she was the daughter of Herman and Dorothy (Streebman) Hoffman, both of whom predeceased her.



She is survived by her husband, Attorney Joseph R. White, with whom she shared 40 wonderful years of marriage and her daughter, Susan Murphy and her husband Daniel of Belchertown, her two stepchildren Elizabeth L. Chouinard and her husband Robert of South Hadley, MA, and Peter White of New Hampshire. She was predeceased by her brother Glenn Hoffman but is survived by his wife Donna Maurice-Hoffman of Ludlow. She embraced her role as Mimi, a loving grandmother to eight cherished grandchildren, who brought her immense joy and pride.

She was raised in New Jersey and then lived in Belchertown for 47 years until recently moving to Ludlow in 2004. Phyllis's educational journey culminated in a Master's degree in Higher Education Administration from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Her career was marked by significant achievements, including her role

as Programs Director at the Franklin/Hampshire Career Center in Northampton, from which she retired in 2016 after 16 fulfilling years. Her earlier work as the Assistant Ombudsman at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst was notable as well. Phyllis

was an active participant in her community, serving on the Town of Belchertown Finance Committee from 1976 to 1982 and as Vice Chair and Chairman of the School Committee from 1987 to 1993. She was also a proud member of the Order of Eastern Star Belchertown/Amherst Chapter.

Beyond her professional and civic engagements, Phyllis found joy in gardening, baking, and exploring tag sales, hobbies that reflected her nurturing spirit and creativity.

Family and friends are invited to pay their respects during calling hours on Sunday, September 7, 2025, from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Beers & Story Belchertown Funeral Home. A funeral service will be held on Monday at 12:15 p.m., followed by burial at 2 p.m. at the Massachusetts Veterans' Memorial Cemetery in Agawam.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Phyllis's memory to the Belchertown Senior Center for the Grief Support Program.

DEATH NOTICE

Phyllis A. White
Died August 30, 2025
Calling hours:
Sept. 7, 2 to 5 p.m.
Service:
Sept. 8, 12:15 p.m.
Beers & Story
Belchertown

The Sentinel
**OBITUARY
POLICY**

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

9/11 Memorial Service to be held at Granby safety complex

GRANBY – The Granby Public Safety Complex was able to acquire a piece of a fire engine from the 9/11

scene, and it is now displayed outside the station.

There will be a 24th Anniversary Memorial

Service at 6 p.m. on September 11.

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Fairly large
- 6. Barrels per day (abbr.)
- 9. Cover the entirety of
- 13. Leafy appetizer
- 14. Showy ornament
- 15. Norse personification of old age
- 16. Athletes
- 17. Closes tightly
- 18. Attack via hurling items
- 19. Where the reserves stand
- 21. Sword
- 22. Begat
- 23. Damage another's reputation
- 24. Northeast
- 25. Turf
- 28. For each
- 29. Hours (Spanish)
- 31. Western state
- 33. One who offers help
- 36. Flanks

- 38. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
- 39. Free from drink or drugs
- 41. Tunnels
- 44. Mature
- 45. More dried-up
- 46. News organization
- 48. Steal something
- 49. Forms one's public persona (abbr.)
- 51. Female fish eggs
- 52. Small petrel of southern seas
- 54. Edible starches
- 56. Historical
- 60. In a place to sleep
- 61. Horse grooms
- 62. Off-Broadway theater award
- 63. Chinese dynasty
- 64. Resembling a wing
- 65. Small projection on a bird's wing
- 66. Of the Isle of Man
- 67. Derived unit of force (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Vipers
- 2. Ancient city in Syria
- 3. Slog
- 4. Emits coherent radiation
- 5. "Pollock" actor Harris
- 6. Bleated
- 7. Monetary units of Afghanistan
- 8. Tooth doctor
- 9. One who takes apart
- 10. Commoner
- 11. Beat poet Ginsberg
- 12. Cave deposit material
- 14. Home energy backup
- 17. Begets
- 20. Face part
- 21. Frocks
- 23. Hill or rocky peak
- 25. Giving the impression of dishonesty
- 26. About ear
- 27. Male parents
- 29. Popular grilled food

- 30. Vaccine developer
- 32. Not conforming
- 34. Polite address for women
- 35. 1970 U.S. environmental law
- 37. Astronomical period of 18 years
- 40. One who fights the government
- 42. Center for Excellence in Education
- 43. Watches discreetly
- 47. An electrically charged atom
- 49. Hymn
- 50. Arabic given name
- 52. Popular pie nut
- 53. City in Zambia
- 55. Species of cherry
- 56. John ____, British writer
- 57. Be next to
- 58. Make angry
- 59. Give birth to a lamb or kid
- 61. Unhappy

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Wilbraham Housing Authority
88 Stony Hill Rd.,
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Deadline for resumes 12 PM, September 19, 2025. Equal Opportunity Employer

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Inquire at **Girly's Grill**,
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SQUIER & CO. is looking to hire an oil truck driver \$35-\$40/hr. full time or part-time. Squier will provide help with endorsements and CDL training for the right candidate! **Email: squieroil@verizon.net. Call 413-267-3184** or visit us at 5 Squier Ave., Monson, MA. Monday-Friday.

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

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HOOPS from page 1

friends wanted to remember her, so they started the soccer jamboree to raise money for the scholarship fund.”

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

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



From Left to Right on Belchertown-Amherst: Shea Maclean, Owen Earle, Sam Fleming, Will Vachet, Quentin Chen, Brice Letendre, Max Kellogg, Jacob Pacunas. **From Left to Right on Pope Francis:** #13 Noah Hambley, #2 Jackson Maurer, #3 Sam Brigham, #5 Jordan Dalessio, #4 Sam Mayfield, #22 Jaxson Edwards (back row), #0 Nehemiahs Sanders.



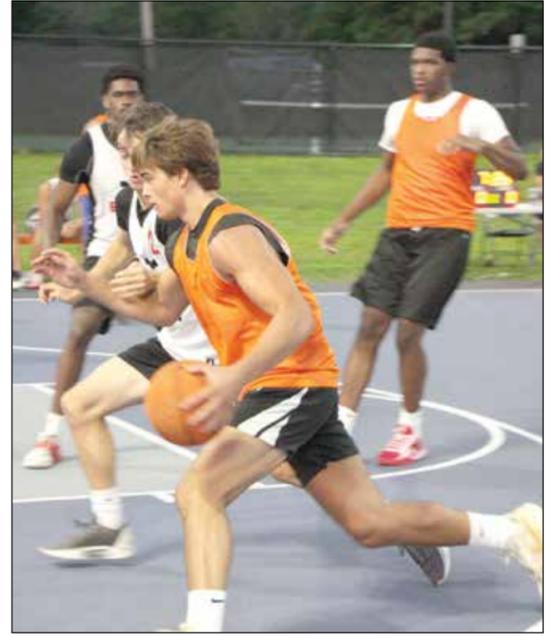
Jordan Dalessio pushes the ball up the court.



Max Kellogg goes for the uncontested layup.



Jaxson Edwards (left) and Sam Mayfield (right) wait for their names to be announced.



Brice Letendre dribbles to the hoop.

PHOTOS BY GABI FOX, GABI FOX PHOTOGRAPHY

PUBLIC NOTICES

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

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampshire Division
Docket No.
HS25P0511EA
Estate of:
Marie Claire Bronner
Date of Death: April 22, 2025
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Wayne C. Bronner of Azle, TX**
Petitioner **Lynn A. Gregoire of Belchertown, MA**
a Will has been admitted to informal probate.
Wayne C. Bronner of Azle, TX
Lynn A. Gregoire of Belchertown, MA
has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.
The estate is being administered under informal procedure

by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
09/04/2025

Notice of Public Sale
Notice is hereby given that LocalStorage Granby will sell the contents of the storage units listed below at a public auction

to satisfy a lien placed on the contents (pursuant to the Massachusetts Lien Law. General Laws Part I, Administration of the Government. Title XV Regulation of Trade Chapter 105A. Self-Service Storage Facility. The sale will take place at the website <http://www.StorageTreasures.com>. The sale will be conducted on <http://www.StorageTreasures.com>. All sales are final. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale or to refuse any bids. The property to be sold is described as general household items unless otherwise noted.

LocalStorage Granby, 138 W State St, Granby, MA 01033, will list storage units on the website <http://www.StorageTreasures.com> until sold or disposed of on **September 11,**

2025, 10:00 AM.
#081 Montanez, Jeffrey: oversized toolbox
#124 Del Rio, Cesar: Nissan Maxima body, drive train, tires, car parts
#164 Sutherland, Admiral: dirt bike, speakers, bags, tools

#182 Sourdiffe, Brian: mini bike, tools, clothing
#730 Carter, Wayne: mattress, baby toys, fishing poles, furniture
08/28, 09/04/2025

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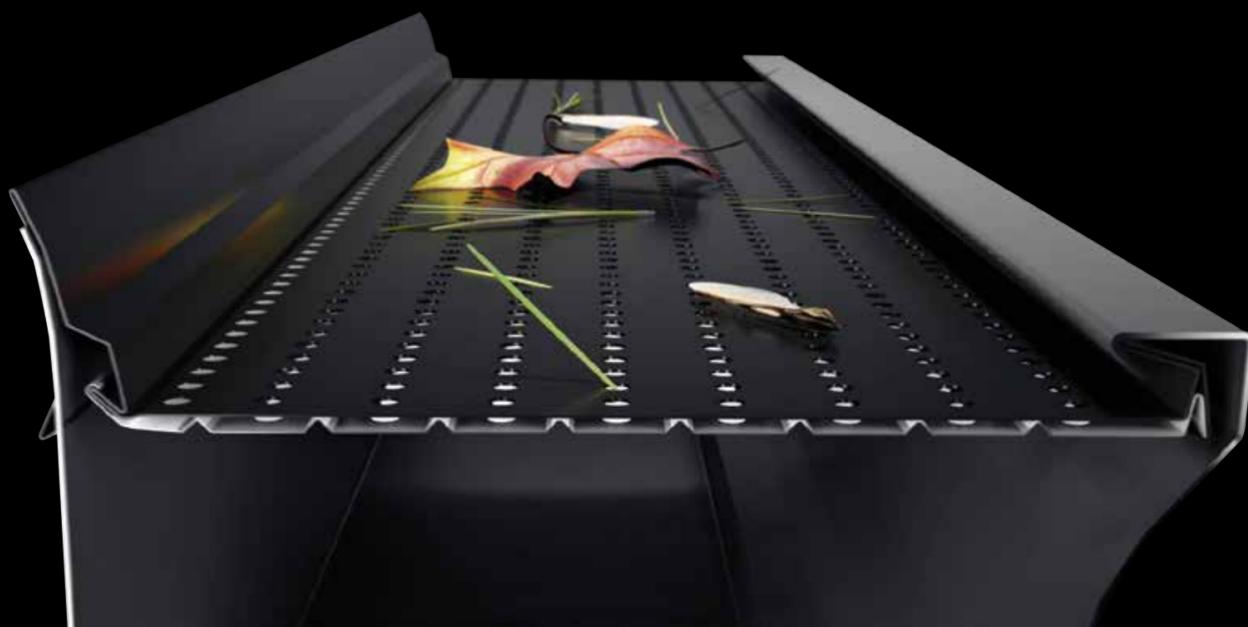


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