



COMMUNITY
Students invited to after-school program...p. 2



OPINION
Friends in the garden...p. 6



GRANBY
Upcoming nature story times at the library...p. 9



SPORTS
Orioles bust Colts win streak...p. 11

Belchertown seeks community input

Feedback sought on Wayfinding & Cultural District

BY KIMBERLY PALMUCCI
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BELCHERTOWN – Online and in-person opportunities are available for community members to share feedback on two projects highlighting local character.

The town of Belchertown is seeking community input on Branding & Wayfinding and a Cultural District, projects that “each highlight the local experience,” according to a press release.

“The Branding & Wayfinding signage program will result in consistently-designed signs that will identify key locations, direct drivers and pedestrians, and provide information,” a press statement reads. “The brand established through this process will highlight the historic, rural, and natural characteristics that make Belchertown unique.”

The subsequent wayfinding designed with this brand will “reinforce the downtown expe-



Belchertown Farmers and Artisans Market

SUBMITTED PHOTO, KATIE B. @COOKIE.JOY.BOBBIN

rience for residents and visitors alike,” the press statement reads.

“Residents, visitors, and business owners are invited to share their thoughts by taking an online survey,” the press statement reads, adding that the survey is available

at the following link:
belchertown.org/residents/cultural_district.

Residents can also submit input by visiting the community table at these upcoming community events:

Belchertown Fair: Town Common, 2-6 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 23

Belchertown Heritage Visioning Meeting: Co-presented

Please see **FEEDBACK**, page 2

Boil order issued

E. coli discovered in regional water

BY KIMBERLY PALMUCCI
sentinel@turley.com

REGION – A recent boil order issued by the Bondsville Fire and Water District may impact residents in the south end of Belchertown.

According to the Belchertown Police Department, the recent boil order includes the areas around River Street, lower Franklin Street, Depot Street, and Keys Street.

“This order does not include customers on the Belchertown Water District,” police said.

According to the boil order, the Bondsville Fire and Water District’s water is contaminated with E. coli.

“E. coli bacteria were found in the water supply from a sample collected on Sept. 15 with another sample collected the same day test-

Please see **BOIL**, page 2

Annual ‘Putt-A-Thon’ for The Jimmy Fund this month

BY KIMBERLY PALMUCCI
sentinel@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – The 19th annual Putt-A-Thon and virtual silent auction to benefit The Jimmy Fund will be held later this month on the Town Common.

Event organizers said this is the final Putt-A-Thon event, according to a press statement; the event will be held on Friday, Sept. 29.

The annual event will follow its usual “hybrid style,” offering in-person mini-golf on the Common at 2:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. or a virtual “fantasy” round of golf using scratch cards.

“Both events will be tournaments, with prizes given for various achievements,” event organizers released.

Returning for this final year will be the Putt-A-Thon silent auction.

“The auction is open to all—it’s a great way to help raise money for The Jimmy Fund. All items in the silent auction are donated (there’s still time to donate an item), so 100 percent

of auction proceeds will be donated to The Jimmy Fund,” a press statement reads.

Items are available to view at the following link:
32auctions.com/PuttathonAuction2023

The Putt-A-Thon auction, open now, runs through Sept. 29. The auction will close at 7 p.m. on September 29. All bidding will be online only.

“Visit often as new items will be added as they come in right up until September 29,” event organizers shared.

The Jimmy Fund supports Boston’s Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, helping to raise funds for adult and pediatric cancer care and research and improve the chances of survival for cancer patients around the world.

To learn more about the Putt-A-Thon for The Jimmy Fund, visit jimmyfundputtathon.org.

Information is also available at Bell & Hudson Insurance Agency, the event’s organizer, at 413-323-9611, or email at puttathon@bellandhudson.com.

Efficiency study to include all departments

BY MELINA BOURDEAU
Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN – A proposal for an efficiency, compensation, and HR study will look at all departments.

The town is seeking help from the Collins Center based out of the University of Massachusetts,

Boston, to complete the study which could take a year and half to complete.

Town Administrator Steve Williams said the working group, composed of Selectboard member Lesa Lessard Pearson, HR Manager Joanne Misiaszek, and himself discussed the scope of the project to submit to the Collins

Center. Williams said the process is moving fast and would be including the study on the agenda again soon when proposed numbers are received.

The proposal to the Collins Center, at that point, includ-

Please see **STUDY**, page 4



SOAAR 5K event held

(COURTESY PHOTO, BELCHERTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT)

Members of the Belchertown Police Department pictured at the recent SOAAR 5k event. Police said the weather turned out great; “thank you to everyone who stopped by our tent to say hello or to get a hamburger and hotdog.”

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BELCHERTOWN

Free cash use rules agreed upon

BY MELINA BOURDEAU
Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN – New rules for free cash were agreed upon at a joint meeting of the School Committee, Finance Committee, and Selectboard last week.

To reduce the structural budget deficit Belchertown has been in for about the last decade, the group determined to reduce the use of one-time free cash expenditures for operating budget items.

For the upcoming fiscal year, emergencies and snow and ice item requests would have \$125,000 used out of free cash, regardless of the amount of total free cash.

Of the remaining available free cash, 80 percent would go to operating expenses and of the remaining 20 percent, 65 percent would go into one-time capital, 30 percent into stabilization, and five percent into other post-employee benefits (OPEB.)

Selectboard Chair Ed Boscher presented on the free cash before the discussion began, informing the groups of the Department of Labor Services report, which looked at financial management. Historically the town has used free cash to balance operational expenses, according to the report.

“We’ve been doing 100 percent of the free cash number for operating expenses for the past five years,” Boscher said. “How are we going to reduce our dependence on free cash?”

Town Administrator Steve Williams said the first iteration of the proposal created with Town Accountant Jill Rossi is a 20 percent annual reduction in free cash use.

“For FY25, we would use 80 percent of our free cash,” Williams said. “For FY26, 60 percent...we wanted to start with something. I think there was a fear to cut the entire amount of

Please see **FREE CASH**, page 7

Students invited to after-school D & D program

BELCHERTOWN – An after-school D & D (Dungeons and Dragons) program has been announced by the Clapp Memorial Library for students in town.

The program will be held from 2:30-4 p.m. on the following dates: Oct. 16, 23, and 30; Nov. 6, 13, and 20.

“When a cosmic enemy threatens to destroy their world, brave heroes must do everything in their power to save it,” the library released. “This quest will take them across the teeming oceans of Wildspace to the silvery void of the Astral Sea and beyond. Along the way, they’ll make friends, encounter terrifying foes, and face one cliffhanger after another. Can they save their world before time runs out?”

Players of all experience welcome, the library released.

This program will run weekly starting in October. Students may bring their own nut-free snacks.

“Game will cover the first half of the Spelljammer Light of Xaryxis Campaign. Students will have the option of continuing play when we restart Afterschool D&D in the Spring.”

Space is limited; register here: forms. g l e / 8 o D E y T M W V W k k k i t J 8 Confirmations will be sent out to students confirming enrollment or waitlist status; email any questions to tmannino@cwmar.org, and participants are asked to inform Librarian & Game Master Tegan Mannino if there is a day they will not attend.



SUBMITTED PHOTO
After-school D & D events have been announced at the Clapp library.

BOIL from page 1

ing positive for Total Coliform,” the Bondsville Water District released. “These sample were collected due repairs being done to the system.”

Bondsville is now interconnected with Three Rivers Water, but until the system is flushed and stabilized, MassDEP has required all users to boil the water before drinking, cooking, or using for oral hygiene, according to reports.

“This notice applies to Bondsville users only. Thorndike and Three Rivers users are not affected.”

These bacteria can make residents sick and are a particular concern for people with weakened immune systems, according to reports.

“Bacterial contamination can occur when increased run-off enters the drinking water source

for example following heavy rains. It can also happen due to a break in the distribution system (pipes) or a failure in the water treatment process,” the boil order reads.

Do not drink the water without boiling it first, or use bottled water, health officials warn.

“Bring all water to a rolling boil and let it boil for at least one minute or use bottled water. You may cool the boiled water before using. Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, making ice, food preparation, brushing teeth, and washing dishes until further notice,” the boil order reads, adding that boiling kills bacteria and other organisms in the water.

Discard all ice, beverages, uncooked foods, and formula made with tap water collected on or after Sept. 14.

Food establishments must fol-

low Massachusetts DPH procedures and the direction of their local board of health, which may be more stringent than the DPH guides, according to reports.

“We will be flushing the system and monitoring chlorine residuals. We will collect more samples to make sure the system is free of any bacteria,” the Bondsville Water District released. “We will inform you when tests show no bacteria, and you no longer need to boil your water. We anticipate resolving the problem as soon as possible.”

As of press time, no additional updates were available.

For more information, contact Robert Flagg at 413-283-9922 or eastnationalwater@comcast.net. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

FEEDBACK from page 1

with the Historical Commission, Town Hall Auditorium, 6-8 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 19

Hungrytown Concert: Clapp Memorial Library, 3-4 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 4

More details and event dates, including at the Belchertown Farmers and Artisans Winter Market and Belchertown Senior Center, will be added on the website as confirmed, a press statement reads.

The formation of a Mass. Cultural Council-designated Cultural District will further reinforce the brand of Belchertown by “celebrating the cultural heritage, annual festivals, popular food and music events, and many local artists and artisans through recognition and funding for these activities.”

“Support for these vibrant cultural activities will increase tourism, initiate business growth, and enhance visibility for district activities. Together, the Branding & Wayfinding and Cultural District programs will promote economic development, solidify a sense of place, and strengthen quality of life.”

“The town is investing in tools for improving the built environment visually, providing key informational and directional signs to visitors, and ultimately, sparking economic activity that will benefit us all,” said Town Administrator Steve Williams. “We hope residents and business leaders will join us by sharing their input.”

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COMMUNITY

Health officials warn of mosquito-related illnesses

BY KIMBERLY PALMUCCI
sentinel@turley.com

REGION – Mosquitos across the region have tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV) and Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE), prompting public health officials to issue a reminder to residents on ways to stay safe.

“Being prepared and doing what you can to decrease your risk of mosquito bites is important to avoid potential exposure and illness,” the Quabbin Health District released in a press statement. “There are currently no vaccines or treatments for either WNV or EEE.”

The following are symptoms of WNV, according to reports.

“Eight out of 10 people exposed to WNV do not develop symptoms. About one in five of the people do experience fever, headache, body aches, joint pains, vomiting, diarrhea, or rash and will recover slowly,” health officials released. “About one in 150 will develop severe illness, including high fever, headache, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, vision loss, numbness, and paralysis.”

People over age 60 are at higher risk for severe illness, along with those with cancer, diabetes, kidney disease, hypertension, and those who are immunocompromised, according to reports.

“Recovery from severe illness may take several weeks or months. Some effects to the central nervous system may be permanent,” reports indicate. “About one in 10 of those who develop severe illness will die.”

The following are symptoms of EEE, according to health officials. “Some people exposed to EEE will not develop symptoms. Severe cases of EEE infection begin with the sudden onset of headache, high fever, chills, and vomiting that may progress into disorientation, seizures, encephalitis (inflammation of the brain), and coma. Approximately a third of patients who develop EEE die, and many of those who survive have mild to severe brain damage.”

There are several ways to protect oneself and family members from mosquito bites: apply insect repellent when outdoors (use a repellent with an EPA-registered ingredient); be aware of peak mosquito hours (dusk to dawn); clothing can help reduce mosquito bites (long sleeves, pants, etc.); mosquito proof the home by draining standing water, checking gutters and drains, and installing or repairing screens.

Additionally, residents are encouraged to protect their animals by flushing water troughs at least once a week and more.

“Horse owners should keep horses in indoor stalls at night to reduce risk of exposure to mosquitoes. Owners should speak

with their veterinarian about mosquito repellents approved for use in animals and vaccinations to prevent WNV and EEE.”

If an animal is suspected of having WNV or EEE, owners are required to report to the Department of Agricultural Resources, Division of Animal Health by calling 617-626-1795, and the Department of Public Health by calling 617-983-6800.

More information, including WNV and EEE positive results, can be found online at mass.gov or by calling the DPH Division of Epidemiology at 617-983-6800.

The Quabbin Health District serves the communities of Belchertown, Ware, and Pelham.

Roses for Rescue

Otto Florist & Gifts’ annual fundraiser helps BARC, animal rescues

BY PAULA OUIMETTE
pouimette@turley.com

REGION – Since 2001, Michele Lariviere, owner of Otto Florist & Gifts, and her staff have hosted a rose fundraiser to benefit those in the community.

Up until 2015, Otto Florist & Gifts held the Shirley Batsie Memorial Rose Sale, selling roses by the dozen to benefit Mary Lane Hospital’s cancer services. But after a fire that occurred two days after Valentine’s Day caused Otto Florist & Gifts to move to their current location at 7 North St., and the closure of Mary Lane Hospital, the rose sale took a pause.

“We raised over a quarter of a million dollars,” Lariviere said of the Shirley Batsie Memorial Rose Sale.

These challenges did not end the rose sale, however, and Lariviere and her staff looked for a new way to give back.

“I needed another outlet to help where I could,” Lariviere said. “For all of us here, our pets are our family.”

Since 2017, Otto Florist & Gifts has held Roses for Rescue, offering a dozen high-quality roses for \$15. All proceeds from the rose sale will benefit the Belchertown Animal Relief Committee (BARC) and/or Second Chance Animal Services in East Brookfield.

Those purchasing roses will be able to select which rescue they would like their donation to benefit directly, or split the donation between the two.

Helping animals in shelters “gives warmth to our hearts,” Lariviere said, adding that many shelters are facing a significant increase in costs as the number of animals being rescued climbs.

“There are so many that have been displaced from the floods down south,” she said, with the local shelters working to find homes for them.

Lariviere said she has adopted two pets from animal shelters, as have many of her staff. Jacky Perrot said she enjoys caring for

Please see ROSES, page 5

STUDY from page 1

ed each department except for educators in the school district, emergency services, and veterans’ services.

“Everything that we do, we’re going to do with the lens of, ‘how do we fix the structural deficit?’” Williams said. “If we can find things that help our employees that are here every day to do their jobs more efficiently, we may be able to defer and expand our work.”

He said he hopes to have recommendations about different types of software or procedures.

“They’re not going to be looking into classification and compensation plans,” he said. “It’s looking at an organization and how it functions.”

Selectboard member Ed Boscher said there was a request to increase the scope of the project.

The project’s objective, according to the proposal in the Sept. 11 Selectboard meeting packet, is to “evaluate the current organizational structure and make recommendation based upon finds and best practices to help ensure the town is organized efficiently and effectively to meet current and future demands and to include a review and refresh of job descriptions.”

Superintendent Brian Cameron and School Committee Chair Heidi Gutekenst were in the meeting as well.

Gutekenst said she was surprised that the entire department wasn’t included in the study in the first place.

Boscher asked if the board wanted to enlarge the scope.

Selectboard member Peg Louraine said she was concerned about the perception of the public about excluding any department.

Selectboard member Ron Aponte said he agreed with Louraine and Gutekenst.

“We may actually be doing a disservice to the fire and police and veterans’ agent if we exclude them because it’s going to create some hard feelings,” he said. “Additionally, if you look at it, police and fire are two of our largest budget departments. It’s something that truly should be considered.”

Selectboard member Jen Turner proposed a phased approach.

“We should just keep chipping at it. There are natural groupings of staff or organizational components that can be looked at as groups,” she said.

Boscher said expanding the scope and potentially using ARPA funds for the project

would be his preference. He said he would rather start with a larger scope then dial back from there.

He added that the schools should be included in the working group as well.

Williams said he would prefer to do a phased approach because the police and fire departments, for example, would be secondary to other departments.

“The fire department works under the policies of the NFPA for training and the way they attack fires. It’s very regimented,” Williams said. “It doesn’t mean we shouldn’t do it in the future, but they might not be our first priority.”

Williams said there would be two grants that could be applied for to fund the study in part.

Lessard Pearson said the project isn’t going to be done overnight.

“This took 10 years in the making, this deficit. We are finally saying, ‘okay, we’re going to stop, and we’re going to take a look and see how we can do better,’” she said. “This is about how to focus the work on a way that we’re going to see hopefully some results early on. So that as we go through the years and reduce the deficit, we have a plan to go by.”

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COMMUNITY

Nature photographer to hold program next week

BY KIMBERLY PALMUCCI
sentinel@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – During the Quabbin Photo Group’s upcoming monthly meeting next week, Nature Photographer Dale Monette will host a program entitled “I See You: Stories of my favorite nature images from around the Quabbin, and how I made them.”

“Throughout my travels doing programs, meeting people, and selling prints and books over the last 10 years, people always comment on how they enjoy the stories that go with the images I show during my presentations,” Monette released in a press statement. “I decided to take some of my favorite unpublished images that have some interesting stories behind them and put them together as my yet untitled fourth book, to be released in the Autumn of 2023.”

This program is a preview of the book and delves into what camera equipment and lenses Monette used for the images, the habitat he was in, the time of the season and the circumstances that made getting the photograph possible.

The event will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 25, at the Hope United Methodist Church, 31 Main Street, Belchertown, in the lower level and via Zoom.

According to a biography, Monette is a nature photographer specializing in wildlife and landscapes mainly of the Quabbin Reservoir in central Massachusetts. Born and raised



A bear photographed by Dale Monette

SUBMITTED PHOTO

in Athol, he now resides within two miles of the Quabbin Reservoir in New Salem.

“An avid birder, since his youth, Dale grew up birding, fishing, and hiking many of the trails, ponds and swamps of the northern Quabbin region. Through his photographs he shares his unique familiarity with the land and the animals living throughout Massachusetts and the Quabbin watershed.”

In the early 1980s, Monette received a Bachelor’s degree from the UMass Department of Environmental Conservation in Natural Resources Conservation. He spent his career

working at Quabbin as a Program Coordinator for the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation retiring in 2014. During the 1980s, he was involved in the “successful efforts to bring back the common loons and bald eagles as nesting species to the Quabbin watershed,” according to reports.

All Quabbin Photo Group meetings are free and open to the public, but voluntary donations are encouraged to help defray expenses, according to a press statement. Those who would like to join a meeting may contact Gail Platz at gspqpg@gmail.com.



Fall Book Sale in October

BELCHERTOWN - The Friends of Clapp Memorial Library has announced that it will again sponsor a Fall Book Sale of about 40,000 items Oct. 9 - 14. The sale has a “members only night” from 4-8 p.m. on Oct. 9, but is open to the general public from 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Saturday.

Seniors will receive a 25 percent discount on Friday, and Saturday will be

50 percent off for most items. In addition to both soft and hard cover books, the sale includes Audio Books, DVDs, CDs, and records. Space restrictions only permit 30 shoppers at a time, but previous sales show that wait times are generally short. There is no shopping time limit once shoppers are in the sale, according to a press statement. All proceeds support the library and its programs.

ROSES from page 4

her two “Pittie grandkids” alongside her human grandchildren.

“We’re pretty excited and happy people support this wonderful event,” Lariviere said.

Pre-order for the Roses for Rescue fundraiser is required, and open until Oct. 1. Forms are available at Otto Florist & Gifts’ location on North Street, or on the website.

Checks should be made payable to Otto Florist & Gifts with “Roses

for Rescue” in the memo. Credit card orders can be accepted by phone by calling 413-967-5381.

Payment and completed order form can be sent to Otto Florist & Gifts, 7 North St., Ware, MA 01082.

There will be three pickup locations for the roses, including Otto Florist & Gifts on Oct. 13 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Oct. 14 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; BARC, Belchertown Animal Control, 165 George Hannum Road, Belchertown on Oct. 14 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; and Second Chance Animal

Services, 372 North Main St., North Brookfield on Oct. 13 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and Oct. 14 from 9 a.m.-noon.

Large orders of 10 dozen roses or more will receive free, local delivery.

Many rose colors will be arriving, and due to the volume of orders, Roses for Rescue cannot guarantee specific colors. Large orders will contain multiple rose colors.

For more information about Roses for Rescue, call Otto Florist & Gifts at 413-967-5381 or visit www.ottoflorist.com.

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OPINION

in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid



Friends in the garden

For the last couple of weeks, I have been eagerly observing a garden spider in one of my flower beds.

It is so beautiful. Spider foes might balk at that particular choice of words. But if the shoe fits, wear it!

This spider is indeed a beauty. Over an inch long, yellow and black in color and attached to an intricately woven web, the spider on guard, waiting for unsuspecting prey.

Many years ago, when I grew flowers that were members of the Celosia genus in a big cut flower garden, it seemed this particular spider was a frequent visitor. I haven't seen one like it in a few years.

Lo and behold, she's attached to some plumed celosia, doing her thing. Read on to learn more about a real hero, garden style!

This particular garden spider goes by the name of Argiope (rhymes with calliope). Besides its brilliant color, other distinguishing characteristics include a large, egg-shaped abdomen, three claws on each foot, and a foot wide (or larger) web that has a zig zag band of silk called "stabilimenta" running through its center.

The argiope makes its home in most of the lower 48 states, Mexico and Central America as far south as Costa Rica. It prefers sunny areas among flowers, shrubs and other tall plants to construct its web.

If weather permits, the female spider will construct and repair her web both day and night and will remain there unless food is scarce, or disturbances are frequent. Males generally roam in search of a mate, and when they find one will sometimes build a small web nearby to begin courtship.

Although their vision is rather poor, males get their intentions across by plucking and vibrating the females' web.

Once mating is complete, it is presumed that males die. Females produce up to three brown egg sacks, each one containing 300-1,400 eggs.

The sacks are positioned close to mom, nearby her resting position in the center of the web.

Unfortunately, she will die prior to or as a result of the first hard frost, and although her eggs will hatch within the sack they do not emerge until spring. In warmer climates the female argiope may live for several years.

As with all spiders, the black and yellow garden spider is carnivorous. Its orb-shaped web will capture all sorts of flying insects, including aphids, flies, grasshoppers, and even wasps and bees.

Amazingly, she can bring down prey nearly twice her size thanks to a venomous bite that immobilizes its victims. We need not worry about this spider.

Although it is large, it bites only when harassed, and reportedly, its venom poses no threat to humans. In fact, the argiope is a valued predator of grasshoppers in American rangelands.

The spider will be fun to watch as the season progresses.

I have to admit I am a little sad that she won't survive the winter. I will have to be on the look out for her egg sacks.

Nature is just amazing. Be sure to stop and admire the spiders every now and then and smell the roses, too!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 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.



SUBMITTED PHOTO
This garden spider, an Argiope, is a helpful friend to gardeners.



LETTER

Pet Supply Tag Sale: 'thank you'

Dear Editor,

Belchertown Animal Control would like to thank everyone who came to the Pet Supply Tag Sale on Sept. 9. A big thank you also to the many people who donated items for the sale. Animal Control always uses donations first for the animals in its care, but because of the overwhelming generosity of the community, there are always items that just can't be used. Those items go into the sale and all money goes to the Gift Fund which is used for the animals

in our care and for outreach to the community. The sale was very successful with almost \$900 raised for the Gift Fund.

Several people asked if another tag sale could be held before Christmas, so one is being planned for Dec. 2 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the shelter. Donations will be gratefully accepted between now and Dec. 1. All pet items must be clean and in good condition. There is an outside donation bin at the shelter.

Belchertown Animal Control



Will opening a joint account affect my disabled father's "SSI"?

Dear Rusty,

I live in Michigan and my senior disabled father lives in rural Kentucky. His income is part Social Security and part disability. I talked to a local credit union near his home and explained I would like to open a joint account. They said as long as he comes in with his ID it's possible.

My question is will adding money to our joint account affect his SSI and disability?
Signed: Caring Daughter

Dear Caring Daughter

First, I need to clarify that there are two types of disability programs administered by the Social Security Administration – Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income. The acronym "SSI" normally refers to "Supplemental Security Income," which is a benefit for disabled senior adults and children, who have very little income and very few assets.

"SSI" is not Social Security income; rather it is a general benefit program jointly administered by the Social Security Administration and the State in which your father lives. In contrast, Social Security Disability benefits are earned from working and are not affected by the recipient's assets, as are "SSI" benefits.

From what you've written, I assume that your father may have a small Social Security retirement benefit (because he has reached his full retirement age and SSDI isn't available after full retirement age) and he is also receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability benefits.

If this is the case, although your father's

Social Security retirement benefit would not be affected by opening a joint account at the credit union, his Supplemental Security Income disability benefit likely will be.

As co-owner of the joint account, your assets would count towards your father's "SSI" asset limit and your assets, as well as any "in kind" assistance you otherwise provide, would likely put your father over the SSI income/asset eligibility limit and result in his SSI benefits being terminated.

So, although the credit union may be willing to open a joint account for you and your father, I'm afraid that would result in your father losing his SSI benefits, leaving him with only his small Social Security retirement benefit.

You may wish to review the SSI eligibility information at this link: www.ssa.gov/ssi/eligibility or you could contact the Social Security Administration and ask to speak with someone experienced with Supplemental Security Income matters.

For clarity, "SSI" assistance is jointly administered by the Social Security Administration and each State's Human Services department, and assistance available varies somewhat depending on the recipient's state of residence. Thus, since your father lives in Kentucky, you might also contact that state's human services agency to discuss your options for providing remote assistance to your father without jeopardizing his Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefit: www.chfs.ky.gov/Pages/contact.aspx.

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

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

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in my BACKYARD
By Ellenor Downer



American white pelican

The Massachusetts Audubon Society reported a rare sighting of an American white pelican at Big Pond in Otis. The white pelican winters along the Florida and Gulf Coast. It breeds in the western part of Canada and the United States. It is 62 inches long, white with a large orange-yellow bill and throat pouch. In flight, the trailing

half of the wings are black. The immature is similar to the adult, but the bill and throat pouch are gray and the wing markings are brown not black. The immature plumage is kept for three to four years.

These pelicans feed while swimming, dipping the bill into the water to catch fish in its pouch. They often feed in small groups where they herd fish toward shallow water to make facilitate catching the fish.

The female lays one to three white eggs in a nest that is a slight depression on bare ground or on a mound of earth, brush stems and debris. They often nest colonially on large inland lakes.

The American white pelican is one of the largest birds in North America. It can soar for long distance and often flies in line or V formation. During breeding season, they may do flights involving soaring and diving. They are generally quiet away from their breeding grounds. The young in the nest can give loud whines or grunts.

Bald eagle

An Oakham couple camped with family members at Lake Dennison over the Labor Day weekend. They spotted a bald eagle while kayaking. Upon returning to shore, their son was looking at a bird perched in a tree and said it was a bald eagle. They took turns watching the eagle through the binoculars.

Lots of wild turkeys

Seeing wild turkeys along the side of the road or even having to stop while they cross the road is a common occurrence in my travels around the area. This Monday, I stopped and watched a flock of six or so Tom turkeys. The three largest ones displayed their tail feathers in what looked like a competition between them.

Although wild turkeys are a common sighting now, I enjoy watching them. I also see flocks of several hens with their poults in various stages of growth.

Hummingbirds

The ruby throated hummingbirds are now migrating. Many people keep their nectar feeders out until later this month for a food source for the stragglers. Soon, it will be time to take in the nectar feeders, clean them and put them away until next May when the ruby throated hummingbirds return.

Audubon society sightings

In addition to the American white pelican in Otis, the Massachusetts Audubon Society reported another rare sighting a masked booby at the edge of the continental shelf near Hydrographer Canyon. The booby was one of only three or four sightings ever recorded in Massachusetts.

Other sightings included red crossbills at Montague Plains Wildlife Management area, eight red crossbills at the Birch Hill Wildlife Management Area in Winchendon, four sandhill cranes Meadows Conservation Area near Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary in Northampton, and upland sandpiper, a whimbrel, a Baird's sandpiper, a short-billed dowitcher, a dickcissel and two lark sparrows in Northampton. Also reported were a Bonaparte's gull and a common tern at the Quabbin Reservoir Visitor Center in Belchertown and three black vultures over Mount Wachusett in Princeton.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

FREE CASH from page 2

one-time revenues. We're trying to do a three- to five-year plan."

Finance Committee Chair Laurie Shea said she believed trying to cut the free cash use in one year would "cripple the town."

"I think it's important to say we go through all of this, and we come up with percentages and we all agree, that when the final budget numbers are in, we have to force ourselves...to stick with what we have agreed upon," Shea said.

She said the town would need a year to see how it would play out to cut the free cash use by 20 percent.

Williams said that would be "with the understanding, that is, we don't spend it. It goes back into the 80 percent rule. If we spend more than that it goes back into the 80 percent."

School Committee member Heidi Gutekenst said she agreed with the percentage but couldn't commit to the other annual decreases.

Superintendent Brian Cameron said the school district is going to participate, but they have nothing to cut "besides staffing and programming."

Finance Committee member Cindy Kroll said she wanted to make sure that the free cash would be in the greatest

amount possible, proposing not to put the funding for snow and ice and emergency repairs into a different fund.

"I'm trying to make sure what is usable is the highest amount possible, especially for this first year," she said. "This year is going to be the hardest for everybody."

Rossi said it would make sense to put the funding into reserve.

Williams proposed putting the funding in the FY25 reserve fund—which would have to go to Town Meeting for a vote to increase the amount allowed in the reserve to \$155,000. Aponte made a motion for the Selectboard to that effect, which was approved. The Finance Committee made a vote to the same effect.

Selectboard member Ron Aponte provided an example using \$1 million in free cash.

"If we use the \$1 million, \$125,000 would be for contingency funds. The 80 percent of the remaining \$875,000 would be \$700,000 towards the operational budget," Aponte said. "Of the remaining \$175,000, \$113,750 would go to one-time capital expenses. Stabilization would get \$53,500 and OPED would get \$8,750."

Williams said the board and committees needed to determine how they would integrate the capital spending into the operational budget but requested that discussion occur later.

NYC bus trip upcoming

REGION – A New York City bus trip is planned for Dec. 9. The 36-seat King Gray motor coach is scheduled to depart Ludlow High School, 500 Chapin St., in Ludlow at 7 a.m.; passengers arrive for 6:45 a.m., according to a press statement.

Drop-off is Times Square around 11 a.m., depending on traffic.

"You can spend the day shopping, sightseeing, visiting museums, or seeing a Broadway show," a press statement reads.

The bus will depart New York City at 6 p.m. (arrive 15 minutes early) at New York Palace Hotel, 455 Madison Ave and 50th Street.

"One rest stop going to NYC and coming home," a press statement reads.

Arrival at Ludlow High School is expected to be 10:30 p.m., depending on traffic.

The cost is \$77 roundtrip and includes driver's gratuity; send checks payable to G. Fortunato, 52 Deer Run, Belchertown, MA. 01007; additionally, event organizers ask that a cell phone number be written on the notation line, and the check secures the bus seat. The deadline is Nov. 1, and a waitlist will be kept.

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Cultural Council seeks funding proposals

BY KIMBERLY PALMUCCI
sentinel@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – The town's Cultural Council is seeking funding proposals for community-oriented arts, humanities, and science programs.

The Belchertown Cultural Council (BCC) has announced it will be accepting applications for the 2024 grants cycle through Tuesday, Oct. 17.

"Organizations and individuals are invited to apply for grants that support cultural activities in the community," the BCC released in a press statement. "Grants from the BCC can be used to support a variety of artistic projects and activities in Belchertown—including exhibits, festivals, field trips, short-term artist residencies, performances, workshops, or lectures."

The BCC is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils (LCC) serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth.

"The LCC Program is the largest grass-

roots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, sciences, and humanities every year," Belchertown's Cultural Council released. "The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Mass. Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community."

According to reports, past projects funded by the BCC include a pastel painting workshop at the Clapp Memorial Library, Sarah the Fiddler at the Senior Center, The Belchertown Skatepark Graffiti Jam and Skate Deck Paint Party, the sculpture installation Anillo at the Lake Wallace Sensory trail, and much more.

"All proposals and ideas are welcome," the BCC added.

For local guidelines and information on the BCC, visit the website at: belchertownculturalcouncil.com or email grants@belchertownculturalcouncil.com.

Application forms and more information about the Local Cultural Council Program are available online at mass-culture.org.

Belchertown Senior Center announces October events, services

BELCHERTOWN - The town's Council on Aging is a community-based resource for citizens of Belchertown aged 60 and over.

The Senior Center is located at 60 State Street, just off Route 202 at the William Gerald Whitlock Municipal Complex (next to the police station), and is home to a variety of programs and services.

Upcoming events at the Senior Center include:

Pumpkin Painting: *Wednesday, Oct. 4, at 10 a.m.*

Get in the fall spirit, and bring creativity for a morning of pumpkin painting. Whether it's decorative, funny, or scary, the design is up to participants. This workshop is free of charge, and all materials will be provided (including pumpkins). Space and supplies are limited; register by Oct. 2 with Stephanie at 413-323-0420 ext. 501.

National Chili Month: *October*

Join for lunch on Friday, Oct. 6, to warm up with the ultimate chilly weather meal.

Call Kim at 413-323-0420 ext. 508 by Oct. 5 to register.

Eat Smart Live Strong: Nutrition Education Series

Set and reach health goals with this fun and interactive class, by learning new eating behaviors and exercises to build strength, improve balance, and increase flexibility. Classes will include a hands-on recipe demonstration and sampling. Eat Smart Live Strong is a six-week series to take place at the Senior Center on Mondays, 2-3:30 p.m. starting on Oct. 16. Space is limited; register with Stephanie at 413-323-0420 ext. 501 by Oct. 12.

Social Services and Outreach

Medicare Open Enrollment - Open enrollment for Medicare will take place Oct. 15 – Dec. 7. "This is a great time to review your plan," the COA released.

Complete pre-enrollment forms, located in the blue folder outside Laurene's office; return the forms to the COA's staff, and

Please see **BCOA**, page 10

PUBLIC SAFETY

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 Sept. 6 through Sept. 12. 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. Of the 451 calls police responded to, there were 16 incidents, six accidents, one arrest/summons and 31 citations.

ARRESTS/SUMMONS

ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS

Wednesday, Sept. 6

7:15 a.m. – The school resource officer completed an investigation on an incident.

1:41 p.m. – An officer responded to a motorcycle accident on George Hannum Road. The motorcycle was traveling south on George Hannum Road when the operator lost control while taking a curve. The motorcycle went off the roadway. The motorcycle had a lot of damage and was towed from the scene. The operator was transported to the hospital from the scene.

4:23 p.m. – An officer responded to a motorcycle accident on Federal Street and George Hannum Road. A motorcycle was traveling east on Federal Street approaching the intersection, at George Hannum Road. The operator lost control while trying to stop for another vehicle. The motorcycle fell over. The motorcycle was towed, and the person was transported to the hospital.

Thursday, Sept. 7

12:47 p.m. – An officer took a report from a person that believed their identity was being used to open credit cards. They were traveling earlier this year and believed their personal information may have been compromised. There were no fraudulent charges made to their accounts. They were told to monitor their accounts.

1:44 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident at a Chauncey Walker Road business. The person was renting a vehicle when they noticed new damage on the vehicle. It appeared a vehicle struck the rental and dragged across the rear bumper. The vehicle was able to be driven from the

scene. The matter was documented, and no injuries were reported.

10:10 p.m. – An officer clearing from a call saw a vehicle pull up next to them. The person said they needed help. The person was having a mental health emergency. Belchertown Fire and paramedics responded, and the person was transported to the hospital.

Sunday, Sept. 10

6:12 p.m. – A person spoke with an officer about a juvenile child that was having behavioral issues.

Monday, Sept. 11

6:06 a.m. – Belchertown police received numerous calls of breaking and entering and larceny into vehicles overnight. Vehicles were broken into and in once case a window was smashed out. The vehicles appeared to have been rummaged through. The matter is currently under investigation.

9:52 a.m. – A caller said their relative was missing for a few days. There was money taken out of the relative's account. The caller said the person came home and then left for the night. The person was entered into the system as missing.

12:31 p.m. – An officer took a call about teenagers on a resident's property around 2 a.m. for about 45 minutes. There was ash debris found consistent with smoking a cigarette. There are no leads or suspects. There was a similar report made in August.

3:19 p.m. – An officer responded to a North Liberty Street residence who reported their vehicle was gone though. Items were taken from the vehicle. The matter is part of earlier incidents of breaking and entering.

6:31 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on George Hannum Road. A vehicle traveling on George Hannum Road and another vehicle was going eastbound. The second vehicle was supposed to yield to the first as it entered the one-lane road under the underpass and failed to do so. The operator of the first vehicle attempted to stop and struck the embankment of the overpass as the second went under the underpass. It was raining at the time of the accident.

8:24 p.m. – Officers took a report of stolen items. The incident occurred in the last couple of days and the caller had a trail camera and solar panels taken from the property as well as a package. The person was concerned that

it might be due to disagreements with their neighbors. The person was told there was a person who signed for a package and there was no such person who lived at the residence. The officer contacted the person and was unable to make contact. There was no evidence the neighbor was involved.

Tuesday, Sept. 12

1:37 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Hamilton Street. A vehicle traveling north on Hamilton had the right of way when it collided with a vehicle leaving the transfer station. Both vehicles were driven from the scene, no injuries were reported.

3:56 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Maple Street. A vehicle traveling north on Maple Street was rear ended by another vehicle. Both vehicles were towed from the scene. No injuries were reported.

9:04 p.m. – An officer took a report of dispatched to a residence to serve a 209A order. It was served and read to the person. They were allowed to gather their belongings. The key for the property was taken and was left for the other person to pick up.

Granby Police Log

Editor's Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 178 calls for the week of Sept. 8 through Sept. 14. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The Granby Police Department provides all information.

Friday, Sept. 8

12:32 p.m. – A motorist reported a minor two-car accident. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries. An accident report was completed.

Sunday, Sept. 10

10:28 a.m. – While on patrol, an officer performed a random plate query and discovered that the registration had been revoked due to lack of insurance. The vehicle was stopped and the operator was issued a criminal citation for operating with a revoked registration and no insurance.

11:45 a.m. – A motorist reported a minor two-car accident in the Dollar General parking lot. An officer responded and completed an accident report.

4:38 p.m. – Several residents reported that a large tree fell, blocking both lanes on Cold Hill Road. Power was out in the area. National Grid and the Granby Highway Department were notified.

8:05 p.m. – A resident reported that her tailgate was damaged by a party to known to them. An incident report was completed.

Monday, Sept. 11

6:16 a.m. – While on patrol, an officer observed a motor vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed that the vehicle was traveling at 58MPH in 35MPH zone. The vehicle was stopped and the operator was issued a civil citation for speeding.

5:48 p.m. – Several motorists and residents reported a tree fell, taking power wires down and landed on two cars. Granby Police, Fire and Highway Departments responded. The vehicles occupants were advised to stay in their car until National Grid arrived. There were no injuries and the vehicles appeared not to be damaged.

HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR II – FULL TIME

The Town of Belchertown is accepting applications for a Heavy Equipment Operator II to operate the more complex heavy motor equipment and perform manual work assisting in construction, maintenance and repair projects of the public works department. Assists with street maintenance and repair projects; operates front-end loaders, graders, backhoes, heavy dump trucks, sweepers, light tractors, jack hammers, small rollers, and roadside mowers; operates vehicles providing roadway snow removal and sanding. Inspects equipment for safety; lubricates and makes minor adjustments to the equipment as necessary; Assists the Mechanic/Truck Driver in servicing automotive equipment as necessary.

Minimum qualifications: High school graduation; three years of experience in highway construction including heavy automotive equipment operation; or any equivalent combination.

Special Requirements: Possession of a valid Class B Commercial Driver's License. Possession of a valid Hoisting Engineer License.

This is a Grade 6 IUOE Local 98 union position with a salary range of \$24.62-\$32.41/hour.

Applications are available online at www.belchertown.org/human_resources and can be emailed to jobs@belchertown.org. Applications will be accepted until filled. EEO Employer

GRANBY



Children at the Granby Library enjoyed nature story times, crafts, and hands-on activities with Ranger Tasha.

Nature story times upcoming with Ranger Tasha at the Granby Library

GRANBY - Tasha Daniels, park ranger/visitor services specialist at the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, will hold several upcoming nature story time events at the town's library.

Ages three-five are welcome, as well as siblings and homeschoolers.

The events are held on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m., according to a press release. Here are the upcoming dates:

Oct. 3: Bats

Learn about these nocturnal, bug-eating mammals. Make a bat puppet and more.

Oct. 17: Owls, whoo, whoo —it's you!

Children will surely become wiser about owls after hearing a story and exploring some hands-on feathers and puppets.

Nov. 7: Wild Turkeys

Learn some facts about these big birds that strut around the forest's edge, as well as how they were special to Native Americans.

Nov. 21: Happy Earth, Sad Earth

Hands-on watershed model, pour water and see how pollution spreads from Granby to the ocean.

Dec. 5: What Animal Is It?

Learn how to identify what animal you hear outside by the sound



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

A recent story time event was presented by Tasha Daniels, park ranger/visitor services specialist at the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

it makes. Check out feathers from local birds, fur from a gray fox, and more.

track you see in the snow? Make a track mold, and identify some skulls and pelts.

Dec. 12: Animal Tracking

How do you know what animal

Granby to offer Bulky Waste Day, Sept. 30

GRANBY - The town is offering a Bulky Waste Day from 8 a.m. - noon on Saturday, Sept. 30, at the Highway Garage at 15 Crescent St.

"Please approach the collection facility from West Street," a press statement reads.

Bulky waste includes non-recyclable items such as mattresses, appliances, furniture, carpeting, and electronics that are too big to be collected with a normal trash pickup.

There are fees for disposal; money orders or checks only, the town released. Checks are to be made payable to "Town of Granby."

"Illegal dumping will result in a loss of privileges," the town added. "Anyone using the facility must be able to produce proof of residency upon request."

According to a fees slip, here are the fees per item:

- Bulky Items
- Doors, rugs - \$10
- Bulky furniture (couches, recliners, armchair) - \$50
- Mattresses or box springs (a piece) - \$100
- Appliances without freon -

- \$25
- Hot water tanks - \$30
- Dehumidifiers - \$25
- Refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners - \$50
- Electronics
- TVs (up to 14-inch screen) - \$20
- TVs (up to 25-inch screen) - \$25
- TVs (over 25-inch screen) - \$35
- VCR, printers, microwaves - \$5
- Miscellaneous electronics - \$5
- Computers (including monitor, CPU) - \$10
- Copy machines (desktop) - \$15
- Copy machines (large standing units) - \$25
- Miscellaneous
- Lawn mowers and snow blowers - \$15
- Propane tanks - \$30
- Wood stoves - \$15
- Car batteries - \$15
- Auto tires/auto tires with rim (each) - \$15/\$20
- Large truck tires/with rim (each) - \$30/\$40
- Tractor tires (each) - \$100

Granby library offers monthlong book sale

GRANBY - Throughout the month of September, a fall book sale is ongoing at the Granby Free Public Library.

Through Sept. 30, book lovers can choose from a large assortment of used and like-new books in fiction and non-fiction, according to a press statement. Used DVDs, video games, audiobooks, and CDs will also be on sale. Stop

in during the library's regular operating hours, which are: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The Granby Free Public Library is located at 297 E State Street, Granby. All proceeds benefit the Friends of the Granby Library.

High schoolers announced as semifinalists for National Merit Scholarship Program

REGION - Two local high school seniors have been announced as semifinalists for a national scholarship opportunity.

Belchertown High School's Rainer Kristensen and Amherst Regional High School's Phoebe Young are semifinalists.

Officials of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation have announced the names of more than 16,000 semifinalists in the 69th annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

These "academically talented high school seniors" have an opportunity to continue in the

competition for some 7,140 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$28 million that will be offered next spring, according to a press statement. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the finalist level of the competition.

About 95 percent of the semifinalists are expected to attain finalist standing, and approximately

half of the finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar title.

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EDUCATION

Education Foundation awards five 'Student Success' grants of nearly \$16,000

BY KIMBERLY PALMUCCI
sentinel@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – The town's Education Foundation has recently awarded five "Student Success" grants for the 2023-24 school year totaling nearly \$16,000.

According to reports, this completes 36 grants of nearly \$86,000 awarded by the independent, nonprofit organization in the last six years.

Grants solely support students in Belchertown Schools, according to a press statement.

"We couldn't do it without our amazing community of donors, the innovative teachers and other grant applicants, and the support of superintendents, administrators and staff over the years," said founding Board Member Jennifer Faulkner.

Faulkner added that it is "fairly unique" for a town of Belchertown's size to have an education foundation run by volunteers that "provides grants such as these, supporting innovative projects that would not otherwise be funded through the current school budget."

The 2023-24 Student Success grants include:

Belchertown High School: Helping More Students Become Proficient in Multiple Languages, awarded to Christine Holesovsky.

The World Language Department has been awarded a grant to help more students in the district achieve the Massachusetts Seal of Biliteracy for being proficient in both English and another language, according to a press statement.

"Grant funding supports assessment costs for state exams which are not paid for by the school district," a press statement reads. "Exams can be taken as diagnostic tools in junior year to help teachers focus learning to help students achieve proficiency as seniors. Biliteracy can aid in college admissions and future careers."

Swift River Elementary School: Social, Emotional, and Self-regulation Learning Resources for Pathways Program, awarded to Kelly Fulmer.

The grant for the Pathways Program will fund wobble stools, bean bag chairs, floor pillows, noise canceling headphones, and other materials to "improve upon the physical space and resources

supporting students' social, emotional, and learning needs."

The Pathways Program is a self-contained or partial-inclusion special education classroom for students in grades 1-3, according to a press statement.

Belchertown High School: Therapeutic Tools to Maximize Learning in the ORIOLES Classroom, awarded to Maia Lustbader and Daniel McCarthy.

This grant continues to improve upon the physical space of the ORIOLES Program classroom through flexible seating options, alternative lighting, and sensory/therapeutic tools to maximize learning potential and meet social-emotional needs.

"Students will be actively involved in the process of creating the enhanced environment," a press statement reads, adding that the ORIOLES program includes a special education classroom for students in grades 9-12.

Chestnut Hill Community School: Enriching STEM Curriculum Through Creative Collaboration Workshop, awarded to Patricia Lavigne, Giseal Leven, and Heather Benedetti

Over a two-day workshop, an estimated 200 fourth graders at

Chestnut Hill will experience a hands-on building program that enriches the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) curriculum.

"Creating objects with numerous kinds of building materials, students work collaboratively in small groups, explore, innovate and create solutions together."

Jabish Brook Middle School: Marching Band Drum Harness Replacement, awarded to Corrina Smith and Sarah Hartmann.

This grant funds the purchase of 25 ergonomically-correct marching drum harnesses for the Jabish Brook Middle School marching band. The previous harnesses are more 20 years old, according to reports, and passed down from the high school, "well-worn and in disrepair."

"The new carriers are lightweight, adjustable and more suited to the size and abilities of a middle school percussionist and will be in use at parades and other events for many years to come."

Donations can be made to support the continuation of the Student Success Grants Program at: BelchertownEducationFoundation.org.

Resident completes research project at WPI

BELCHERTOWN - Resident Maxwell Clift, a member of the class of 2025 majoring in Biology and Biotechnology at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), was a member of a student team that recently completed an intensive research project titled "Developing Methods for SINGA Lyon to Determine Social Impact."

At WPI, all undergraduates are required to complete a research-driven, professional-level project that applies science and technology that addresses an important societal need or issue, according to a press release. About two-thirds of students complete a project at one of the university's 50-plus off-campus project centers, which are located around the world.

"A signature element of the innovative undergraduate experience at WPI, the project-based curriculum offers students the opportunity to apply their scientific and technical knowledge to develop thoughtful solutions to

Please see **WPI**, page 12

BCOA from page 8

Laurene "will call you to schedule an appointment after Oct. 1."

Fuel Assistance Program - The Fuel Assistance Program officially opens on Nov. 1.

"If you have received your renewal application in the mail, please call Heather to set up an appointment for assistance," the COA released. "For new applicants, please call after Nov. 1 for an appointment. We cannot process new applications until after

that date."

For all other inquiries, call for an appointment:

Laurene Kendall, Social Services Coordinator 413-323-0420 x 505

Heather Woodworth, Social Services Assistant 413-323-0420 x 509

AARP Tax-Aide Program Volunteer Opportunity

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is the nation's largest volunteer-run tax preparation and assistance service, the COA released.

"We want you to join us. Please

volunteer as a Tax Counselor and work with area residents in preparing their tax returns on the computer. Basic computer skills and some experience in filing your own tax returns are helpful, along with a willingness to make a one day per week time commitment during our 10-week tax season."

Hands-on training is provided in the classroom, and there are counselors to assist at all sites. "Please consider whether you, or someone you know, might be willing to help this year. Please fill out an application to become a part of this invaluable team at: mataxaide.org/Interest."

Training will be done this fall.

For questions or additional information, contact D5Taxaide@com-cast.net.

Nurse Clinic:

Oct. 16 & 30, 10-11 a.m.

Stop in to have your blood pressure or glucose checked.

UMass Amherst Sleep Lab Presents: Nova-Mysteries of Sleep: Tuesday, Oct. 3, at 10 a.m.

Interested in learning more about sleep? Join Matthew Cucinotta from the UMass Sleep Lab to learn more about sleep

research being conducted on how sleep affects the lives older adults. Call Stephanie to register at 413-323-0420 ext. 501.

Flu Vaccine Clinic:

Friday, Oct. 6, from 9-11 a.m.

John Ochs from Belchertown Stop and Shop will be offering a flu vaccine clinic at the Senior Center. Call Stephanie at 413-323-0420 ext. 501 to make an appointment, for instructions, and required paperwork. Walk-ins are welcome with the understanding that there may be extended wait times.



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TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI
Tanner Lockwood goes after a loose ball.



Joshua Miaszek goes after a ball in the air.



Joseph Yoon tries to deke his opponent.



A pair of Orioles try to beat the Comp midfielder to the ball.

Orioles bust Colts win streak

BY TIM PETERSON
Sports Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN—With 10 minutes remaining in the second half, the members of the Belchertown boys' varsity soccer team were getting ready to celebrate their first victory of the regular season.

While Belchertown did post a 3-0 shutout victory over Chicopee Comp in last Thursday's home opener, the Orioles players didn't

do very much celebrating following the match.

Belchertown junior Joey Borelli, who netted the first two goals of the non-league match, suffered a left knee injury during the 71st minute. He was transported by ambulance to a local hospital to be checked out.

"We were playing very well before Joey was injured," said Belchertown senior captain Trevor Weiss, who assisted on Borelli's first goal. "Joey has been

a member of the varsity soccer team since he was a freshman and he's a very important player to us. We're hoping that it's not a very serious injury."

Tanner Lockwood, who's also a senior captain, along with C.J. Rivers, has known Borelli for the past ten years.

"I first met Joey at a soccer camp in Belchertown when I was eight years old," Lockwood said. "He's probably one of my best friends. It was very emotional

when I saw him go down. He suffered the same injury a couple of months ago. We'll be praying that he gets back on the field again real soon."

Borelli, who was wearing a brace, injured his left knee for the first time while playing a match for his club team.

"It's always difficult to lose any player to an injury, but losing a quality soccer player like

Please see **ORIOLES**, page 12

Rams fall to Palmer

BY TIM PETERSON
Sports Correspondent

PALMER—Palmer girls' varsity soccer coach Celso Sandoval and Granby girls' varsity soccer coach Bob Weaver have been co-workers at the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission for the past nine years.

The head coaches were really looking forward to facing each other for the first time at the varsity level last Tuesday afternoon.

Charlotte Theriault scored five goals and added an assist, as the Lady Panthers improved their early season record to 2-0-1 with a 7-3 victory over the Lady Rams.

"Bob and I talk about soccer all of the time and it's a big part of our lives," Sandoval said. "I had this game circled on my schedule ever since it came out. It would've been a lot of fun facing him for the first time in a varsity game. It's a little bit disappointing that he had to leave. We'll be playing them again down the road."

It was the first meeting on the soccer pitch between the two squads since September 21, 2019. Granby won that game by the final score of 5-2.

Palmer, who hadn't defeated



TURLEY PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY
WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Cassandra Flaherty clears the ball away.

Granby in more than 15 years, finished the 2022 regular season in second place in the Grieve Division standings behind Mount Greylock. The Lady Panthers moved into the Central Division, along with Amherst Regional, prior to the start of this season.

"We haven't played most of the teams in our league before,"

Please see **GRANBY**, page 16



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI
Emily Hoad tries to work the ball out of the defensive end.



Victoria Stevens tries to get to the ball before her opponent.



Samantha Lowe passes the ball away with a quick touch.

Pioneers edged by Renaissance

SPRINGFIELD – Last Friday afternoon, Pathfinder girls soccer went to halftime in a 1-1 deadlock, but Renaissance tacked on two goals in the second half for a 3-2 win. Pathfinder is 0-2 to start the fall. The Pioneers lost to Athol 7-0 last Wednesday afternoon. The Pioneers look for their first win on Sept. 21 against Sizer School of Central Mass.



Reilly Ireland stops the ball.

SPORTS

WSU girls get big win

WESTFIELD - Westfield State junior forward Delaney Parker (Orange, Mass./Mahar HS) notched her 52nd career goal to set the Owls' career goals record in a 5-0 win over Massachusetts Maritime Academy in a Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference women's soccer match at Alumni Field on Saturday afternoon.

Westfield, the defending conference champs and picked first in the league's pre-season poll, looked the part as they outshot Buccaneers 28-0 in the first half, and 37-1 in the match. The Owls improve to 3-3, 1-0 MASCAC. Mass Maritime is now 0-4, and 0-1 in the league.

Parker's record-setter was the Owls fifth goal of the first half, as she scored on PK after the Owls Ryan Moran was taken down from behind while attacking the goal in the 42nd minute.

Parker's shot was just off the left side of Buccaneers starting goalkeeper Brady Deschamps (Brewster, Mass./Nauset).

"It feels great," said Parker. "I could tell the shots I was taking earlier were just me in my head. I was thinking 'I need to get it' but I was just off."

The crowd surged with excitement for each Owls scoring chance for Parker, but she delivered a couple of shots high over the cross bar in the early going.

"Even the PK wasn't great," she said, throwing up her hands. "But it went in, and now it's over with."

Westfield made sure the game was over by the half.

Tia Tollis (East Longmeadow, Mass.) put the Owls on the board in the eighth minute with a nice header off of a corner kick from Jaida Cochran (Middleboro,

Mass). Kiana Maratsuka (Mililani, Hawaii) delivered a pair of goals, both on feeds from Parker, and Kiana Patel (Nairobi, Kenya) tallied her first collegiate goal with an assist from Maratsuka as the Owls got out to the big early lead.

The Owls peppered Deschamps with 28 total shots as she made 11 saves in the first half. Reagan Kerecz (Tolland, Conn./Ethel Walker School) played between the pipes for the Bucs in the second half and came up with six saves to keep the Owls off the board in the second frame.

Westfield used 26 players including two goalkeepers. Kayla Santucci (Agawam, Mass.) didn't face a single shot in the first half in getting the win, and Michaella Monchecchi (Winsdor, Mass./Wahconah) came out of the net to play a wide shot from Deschamps, who played in the field in the second half, late in the game on the only serious incursion into Owls territory for the Buccaneers.

Parker now has 52 goals, one more than Owls hall of famer Sandy (Pinto) Graham '97. Parker shares the team lead with Maratsuka with five goals each this season. Parker led NCAA D3 in goals with 31 as a freshman and added 16 in her sophomore season.

Westfield State was playing its first home game of the season after starting with four straight on the road. The Owls travels took them from Gorham, Maine to Cortland, N.Y. while playing schools from Maine, Massachusetts, New York and Pennsylvania. Westfield traversed 1,114 miles in facing those four foes.

T-Birds start season Oct. 14

SPRINGFIELD - The Springfield Thunderbirds, the proud AHL affiliate of the St. Louis Blues, today announced their slate of promotions and theme nights for the 2023-24 season, presented by MGM Springfield. The T-Birds will host 36 home games from October to April inside the MassMutual Center.

The Calder Cup quest begins on Saturday, Oct. 14 for Opening Night presented by MGM Springfield. In the team's annual tradition, fans will be treated to a pregame Block Party on the property of MGM Springfield from 4:00 - 6:00 PM presented by Community Bank N.A. with the support of the Springfield Business Improvement District (BID). The outdoor bash will feature live music, food, and drink.

Thunderbirds fans will have the opportunity to get their hands on a plethora of giveaway souvenir items this season, beginning on Opening Night with jersey-shaped rally towels on each and every seat at the MassMutual Center.

"On the heels of a record 15 sellouts last season, we are continuing to aim higher to ensure the Thunderdome remains a definitive home-ice advantage for our team," said Thunderbirds President Nathan Costa. "Our fans will always remain our number one priority, and this year's promotions and theme nights reflect that, as there truly is something in it for everybody. We cannot wait to get another unforgettable season

underway."

Fans interested in attending Opening Night can take advantage of a value offer with the purchase of a Dunkin' Opening Night Pack, which starts at \$100 in the Defense Zone, \$115 in the Attack Zone sections and \$130 in the Center Value Zone sections. Fans who purchase a pack will receive: two (2) tickets to Opening Night on Oct. 14; four (4) vouchers redeemable at any regular season game in 2023-24 (subject to availability); one (1) T-Birds hat; a Dunkin' gift card; and one (1) Single Day Big E admission*.



Bonsignore adds 11th Riverhead Raceway win

RIVERHEAD, N.Y. - Saturday night's NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour race at Riverhead Raceway came down to the final five laps, with the two championship contenders battling it out to the finish.

At the checkered flag, Justin Bonsignore scored his 11th career Riverhead Raceway victory, tying Mike Ewanitko for the most all-time at the New York bullring. The win was also his 40th career in NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour competition and fifth of the 2023 season.

Bonsignore is one of just four drivers in the history of the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour to win 40 events. He is cur-

rently just two wins behind tying Ted Christopher for third on the all-time list.

With the win, Bonsignore took over the points lead over Ron Silk with just three races remaining in the season. Silk finished third on Saturday after the two battled down the stretch.

"Tying Mike Ewanitko has been a goal of mine since I was fortunate enough to start winning races here on the Whelen Modified Tour," Bonsignore said. "I wish he was here tonight, but I'm sure I will get something funny in texts later tonight. It was a heavyweight fight for sure tonight. This is an awesome event that everyone here puts

together to keep racing going on Long Island and honor Ed Partridge. The momentum has been on our side lately - onto North Wilkesboro in two weeks."

The next event on the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour schedule is set for Saturday, Sept. 30, as the series heads to North Wilkesboro Speedway, one of the most historic tracks in NASCAR history. For more information on three-time NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour champion Justin Bonsignore, visit JustinBonsignore.com and follow his Athlete page on Facebook for the latest news and updates from the track.

ORIOLES from page 11

Joe Borelli is going to hurt us a lot," said Belchertown head coach Zach Siano. "There is no other player on this team who loves playing soccer as much as he does. I know he's going to push himself to get back on the field again. He's a great kid."

It was the first meeting between the two boys' soccer teams in the past seven years.

Belchertown defeated Comp five times between 2011-2016.

The Orioles (1-1), who were shutout in their season opener at West Springfield, had nine days off between matches due to a couple of postponements.

"This was actually the first time that we've been on this field," Siano said. "We normally practice over at the Jabish Brook Middle School. We played a couple of friendlies against our j.v. team during the layoff."

Belchertown, who finished the 2022 campaign with a 17-2-4 overall record, defeated South Hadley in the Western Mass. Class B finals. The Orioles only home loss a year ago was to Smith

Division rival Ludlow. Their other setback was to Dedham High School in the Division 3 state semifinals.

Chicopee Comp, who finished last season with a 15-3-2 record, lost to South Hadley in the Class B semifinals. They also lost to Melrose in the first round of the Division 2 state tournament.

The Colts arrived at Belchertown High School with a perfect 3-0 record. They began the regular season with victories against Northampton (2-1), Holyoke (9-2), and S.C.I.S. (6-1).

Comp head coach Jij Mercer didn't attend last Thursday's match. He was dealing with a personal matter and assistant coach Edson Souza took over the head coaching duties.

The junior duo of Jack Mandeville and Kamden Houle combined to post the Orioles' first shutout of the season.

"Jack and Kam are both very good goalies. It was nice to see them get a clean sheet," Siano said. "I normally like to let the goalie play the whole game. But because of our postponements, I thought this would be a good way



TREVOR WEISS ATTEMPTS TO KEEP HIS FOCUS ON THE BALL UNDER PRESSURE. TURLEY PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

to give them some reps." Mandeville, who was the Orioles starting goalie against Comp, didn't have to make any saves during the first 40 minutes. Houle, who took over in goal at the start of the second half, was

credited with three saves. The home team took a 1-0 lead following a free kick during the sixth minute of the opening half. Weiss took the kick from just outside the box and Borelli deflected the ball into the net

past Comp senior goalie Frankie Cabrera-Cavette (9 saves).

"It was nice to see us capitalize on a spot kick," Siano said. "We had a few more scoring chances, but Comp is a very good team."

Comp's first shot on goal was by junior Derek Lonczak in the middle of the first half, but his shot attempt sailed wide.

Belchertown held a slim 1-0 lead at halftime.

Borelli scored the Orioles second goal during the 53rd minute following a throw-in from Lockwood.

Comp also had a scoring chance ten minutes later.

A free kick taken by senior Ethan Sousa was punched away by Houle. Sousa's rebound shot was deflected wide resulting in a corner kick.

In the middle of the second half, Belchertown sophomore Austin Raymer netted his first varsity goal, which was assisted by junior Ian McDonald.

The Orioles played a scoreless tie at Longmeadow the following afternoon.



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WPI from page 10

real problems that affect the quality of people's lives-and make a difference before they graduate," the press statement reads.

"The WPI project-based curriculum's focus on global studies brings students out of the classroom and their comfort zones

and into the global community to apply their knowledge and to solve problems," said Professor Kent Rissmiller, professor of Integrative & Global Studies and associate dean of The Global School. "Students are immersed in all aspects of a different culture, from the way people live and work to the values they hold to

the foods they eat—all valuable perspectives for surviving and thriving in today's global marketplace. They also learn the meaning and magic of teamwork; make a real and meaningful difference in their host community; and gain a competitive edge for any resume, or graduate or professional school application."

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FOR RENT



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FOR RENT



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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

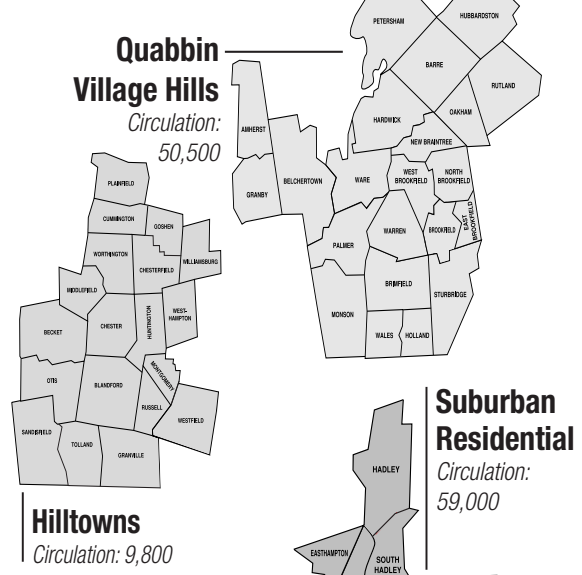
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MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
or call: 413-283-8393

DEADLINES:

QUABBIN & SUBURBAN - FRIDAY AT NOON
HILLTOWNS - MONDAY AT NOON

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
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17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
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David Barrows – SEA13
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Snow's Self-Storage reserves the right to refuse any and all bids, or to cancel the auction at any time for any reason.
09/21, 9/28/2023

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- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
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\$28/HR PART TIME- UNBENEFITTED SUPPORT STAFF

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Occasionally required to attend local board of health meetings, work evenings and weekends.

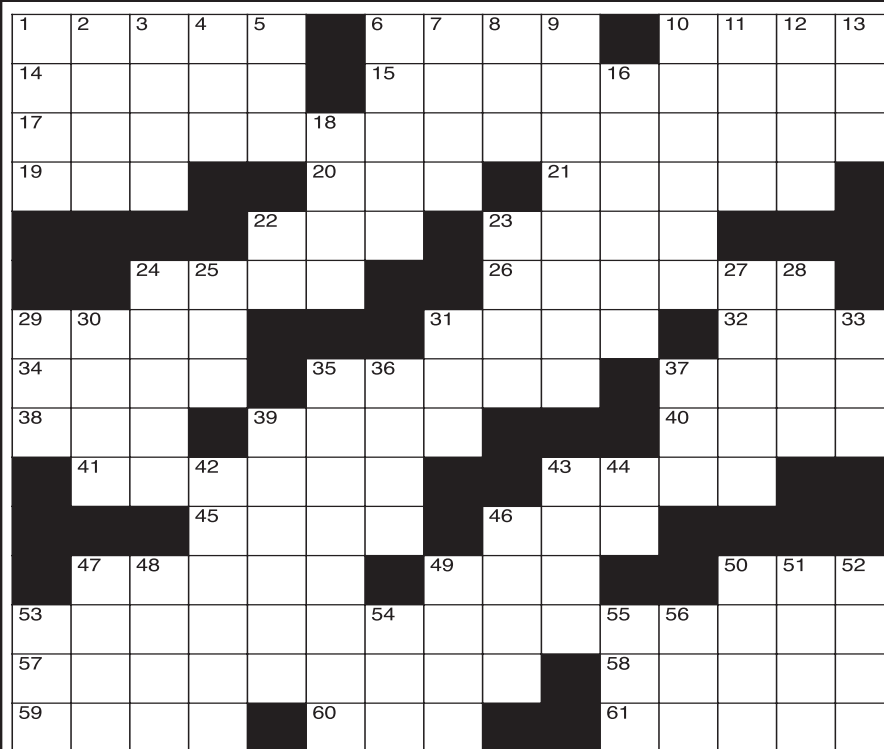
Minimum qualifications include a high School Education. Associate degree; or Bachelor's degree in science, public health or related field preferred. Must possess and maintain a valid driver's license. We train on the job for all inspectional related work!

For a full job description please visit <http://quabbinhealthdistrict.com> for more information, or to apply for the position please send request or resume with cover letter to Administrative Assistant, Betty Barlow.

Email to bbarlow@townofware.com or mail to

Quabbin Health District ATTN: Betty Barlow; 126 Main Street, Ware MA, 01082.

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1. Type of cat
6. Weaponry
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22. Mountain pass
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37. Philippine Island
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39. Type of amine
40. Small freshwater duck
41. Filled with love
43. Without (French)
45. Vetch
46. Swiss river
47. Describes a sound
49. Sign language
50. Hair product
53. Have surgery
57. Quality of being imaginary
58. Far-right German party
59. Drove
60. Former French coin of low value
61. Hard, durable timbers
3. Actor Pitt
4. Container
5. Speak incessantly
6. Relating to algae
7. Jacob ____, journalist
8. Rock TV channel
9. Boat's cargo
10. Most wise
11. Within
12. Chinese industrial city
13. Scotland's longest river
16. Not capable
18. Footwear
22. Savings account
23. Capable
24. Vaccine developer
25. Tax collector
27. Fencing swords
28. Native religion in China
29. Promotional materials
30. A shot in a film production
31. Afflict in mind or body
33. A passage with access only at one end
35. Breathing devices
36. Employ for wages
37. Kids' TV channel (abbr.)
39. Popular Boston song
42. Made amends
43. Selling at specially reduced prices
44. Atomic #18
46. With fireplace residue
47. Unleavened cornbread
48. Draw out
49. Southwestern Alaska island
50. Where the Pyramids are
51. People of Nigeria
52. Smaller quantity
53. Destroy the inside of
54. City
55. Chivalrous figure (abbr.)
56. No (Scottish)



Mabel Carillon looks to make a pass.



Kalli White stops the ball.



Elaenor Szlosek hustles after the ball.



GRANBY from page 11

Sandoval said. “We’re still trying to figure it out.”
 The Lady Rams (0-3), who are a very young squad, were looking to get into the win column for the first time against the Lady Panthers.
 “We’re a very young soccer team and Palmer is a very good soccer team,” said Mick, who has been coaching soccer at different levels with Weaver for many years. “I thought we played much better during the second half.”
 It was the first time that Mick coached a varsity soccer game.
 “I’ve always enjoyed coaching with Bob. I never thought about becoming a varsity coach,” he said. “This is the first time that he had to leave a game in the eight years that we’ve been coaching the Granby girls’ varsity team.”
 Theriault, who also scored five goals in a 5-5 home tie versus Amherst six days earlier, scored four of her goals against Granby in the first 30 minutes of the contest.
 During the third minute of the opening half, Theriault, who’s approaching 100 career points, fired a shot into the right corner past Granby freshman goalie Meredith Bartosz (10 saves).
 Junior Gianna Perry was credited with the assist on Theriault’s first goal.
 Perry also assisted on Theriault’s second goal a minute later.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHTOS.COM
 Sophia Gagnon possesses the ball.

“Charlotte is an outstanding soccer player, and she’s a lot more focused this year. She’s a very hard worker,” Sandoval said. “Her teammates always support her.”
 The contest was evenly played for the next 22 minutes.
 During the 26th minute, Theriault received a pass from junior Jayda Pardo before firing a shot into the upper left corner of the net.
 A couple of minutes later, Theriault scored an unassisted goal giving her team a 4-0 lead.
 The Lady Rams broke the ice during the 36th minute when senior Emily Tremblay lifted a shot over the head of junior goalie Aubrey Boucher (3 saves) into the back of the net for an unassisted goal.
 Then a breakaway goal by freshman Kalli White sliced the Lady Rams deficit in half at halftime.
 Granby couldn’t get any closer than two goals, as a long shot by Perry sailed into the net pushing Palmer’s lead to 5-2.
 The Lady Panthers first goal of the second half was assisted by Theriault.
 Theriault scored her final goal of the match, which was assisted by junior Nevaeh Solis during the 56th minute.
 Another breakaway goal by White cut the Lady Rams deficit to 6-3 in the middle of the second half.
 Junior Kelly Lynne Kennedy was credited with the assist.
 Palmer’s final goal of the match was scored by junior Loretta Petraszewicz and it was assisted by Pardo.
 The second meeting of the regular season between the two squads is scheduled to take place at Granby High School on October 4.


Wilbraham & Monson Academy

OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, October 1, 10 a.m.

COEDUCATIONAL • BOARDING & DAY
 COLLEGE PREPARATORY • GRADES 6 - 12, PG

Tour the campus and learn more about our programs and community. Meet faculty, coaches, parents and students.



RSVP: www.wma.us/openhouse

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