

Boards adopt financial policies

Split over how to spend \$340,896 surplus

By Melina Bourdeau
Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN — Town officials adopted three new financial policies but deadlocked over how to spend a \$340,896 state aid surplus during a two-hour joint meeting of the Select Board, School Committee and Finance Committee on Sept. 14, exposing tensions over whether a long-standing 70/30 town-school funding split should apply to unexpected revenue.

Surplus fails on 2-3 vote
Town Accountant and Finance Director Jill Messier told the boards the final state budget delivered \$571,502 more than the governor's proposal Belchertown had budgeted against — \$377,452 in additional estimated receipts plus \$125,119 in reduced assessments. Of that, \$161,675 is school choice money that flows directly to the school department, leaving \$340,896 available for appropriation.

Please see **POLICIES**, page 5



Cookout

Fire Chief John Ingram shares a moment with a smiling resident.

Christopher Heights honors first responders

By Ben Hernandez
Staff Writer

BELCHERTOWN — Christopher Heights Assisted Living Center was host to an annual cookout honoring first responders on Sept. 9. The Honoring Our Heroes cookout was held in memory of September 11 and as a way to connect Belchertown police, fire and EMS departments with the local community.

"I sent a couple of our residents out to talk to the fire department and the police department," said Christopher Heights Director of Admissions and Marketing Lorna Stone.

The cookout was held on the assisted living center premises and offered a special

Please see **COOKOUT**, page 4



SUBMITTED PHOTOS
Police support dog Oliver.

Sports Haven project runs \$1.5M short

By Melina Bourdeau
Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN — The Select Board received an update that the Sports Haven Mobile Home Community is \$1.5 million short. The update was provided by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission at its meeting Sept. 8.

Erica Johnson of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission told the board during a public performance hearing that the Community Development Block Grant project at the Sports Haven Mobile Home Community remains roughly \$1.5 million short.

The town received \$1.35 million in the most recent block grant - across two CDBG awards, three state DEP grants, one EPA award and two Community Preservation Committee appropriations, the project has secured \$3.8 million. Initially estimated at about \$2 million, it is now expected to exceed \$5 million.

Town Manager Steve Williams put the gap at a \$1.2 million construction deficit plus about \$200,000 for engineering and oversight, "probably closer to \$1.5 million with inflation."

The new well has been online since 2023, Johnson said, and water piping, the water tank, an emergency generator and septic lines are installed, with the roadway paved. The septic system itself is unfinished: Williams said no residents

are connected, the final disposal system has not been built and treatment tanks are not installed, leaving households on failing private septic systems.

Two requests are pending: a USDA earmark sought through Sen. Elizabeth Warren's office and a One Stop for Growth application under the community housing program.

Either of the two requests would get the project "over the finish line," Johnson said, with decisions expected this fall. Completion is "money dependent" and at least another year out.

Williams said even prompt funding would push construction to spring.

Johnson said residents will have usable water service in the interim, no town tax dollars fund the work and long-term maintenance will be the park's responsibility.

No written public comment was received.

Opioid settlement funds: \$61,611 approved, family-support program still a concept

The board unanimously approved \$61,611.36 from opioid settlement funds to supplement the school district's federal Drug-Free Communities grant.

Gail Gramarossa, chair of the Opioid Settlement Bond Committee, said the federal award was renewed at \$125,000 a year for five years and its fiscal year

Please see **SPORTS HAVEN**, page 3

Town to mark America's 250th with fireworks, community celebration

BELCHERTOWN—The Town of Belchertown will mark the 250th anniversary of American independence with Red, White & Belchertown, a free community celebration and fireworks display Thursday,

Sept. 24, at the Chestnut Hill Recreation Area, 59 State Street.

The event is free and open to all.

Parking lots open at 4:45 p.m. Food trucks and activities begin at 5 p.m., formal

programming begins at 6 p.m., and fireworks will begin around 8 p.m.

The celebration draws on a specific chapter of local history. In the spring of 1776, Massachusetts asked towns whether they'd sup-

port independence. On June 25, Belchertown's town meeting voted yes — nine days before the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia.

"By June 1776, our town

had already been supporting the war effort for more than a year, since the Lexington Alarm. Over the course of the war, about 200 Belchertown men served, and many more played a part keeping that effort going

at home." Allegra Giovine, US 250 Task Force member and an archivist at the Stone House Museum said.

The program will feature the national anthem per-

Please see **AMERICA'S 250TH**, page 3

Friends of Granby's Elderly host Annual Fall Picnic

By Ben Hernandez
Staff Writer

GRANBY — The annual Friends of Granby's Elderly Picnic was held at Dufresne Park on Sept. 17. The event served box lunches complete with a ham or turkey sandwich, a bag of chips, potato salad and a brownie. Additional refreshments served were canned soda, bottled water, watermelon slices and an assortment of cookies for dessert.

"We work hand in hand with the Council on Aging to do events like this picnic and the concert series in the summer," said Friends of Granby's Elderly Vice-Chairman Don Lindsay. "We are dedicated to serving the senior citizens of Granby."

Don became aware of the organization, which is separate from the Granby Council on Aging, due to his affiliation with the senior center. He began as a volunteer helping once a week with lunch

Please see **ANNUAL PICNIC**, page 8



Christine Lindsay poses with her prize.

New coffee business raises funds to support animal shelters

By Ben Hernandez
Staff Writer

BELCHERTOWN — New Wilbraham coffee roasting business One Eyed Wanda's has partnered with Belchertown hair salon Looks To Kill to raise funds to help regional animal shelters. The fundraiser is set to

go throughout the month of September or until all coffee at the location is sold.

"A couple of our volunteers are part of Better Together Dog Rescue," said Looks To Kill owner Jody Turk.

Turk mentioned the hair salon already donated "periodically" to the animal shel-

ter and planned on putting up signs to help spread the word. The new coffee business was brought to her attention through a social media challenge, which prompted the hair salon owner to reach out and buy all 40 bags.

"Jodi's amazing," said One Eye Wanda Coffee Roasters' business owner Michael Branchesi. "Jodi's been following us since day one and I posted a little challenge at the end of August to sell 40 bags to raise \$200 more for the Thomas J. O' Connor animal shelter."

One Eye Wanda Coffee Roasters is a non-profit and donates its proceeds to local animal shelters. A lifelong hobbyist coffee roaster, Branchesi stated his rescue cat, Wanda, was his inspiration to start the business.

"Wanda is the face of the company. Wanda's everything. Every decision we make is always inspired by Wanda," Branchesi said. Adopted by both him and his girlfriend "about a year



A pair of fundraiser supporters pose for the camera.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Please see **ANIMAL SHELTER**, page 7

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St. Francis of Assisi Parish announces Scramble Golf Tournament to support new parish center

BELCHERTOWN—St. Francis of Assisi Parish is excited to announce its upcoming Scramble Golf Tournament to raise funds for the construction of a new Parish Center on their Jabish Street campus. The tournament will take place at Cold Spring Country Club in Belchertown on Oct. 17, with registration check-in beginning at 7:30 a.m. and a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m.

Pre-registration is required.

This event is made possible thanks to the generosity of our Platinum Sponsor:

Window World of Western Mass.

Participants will enjoy a day of golf, including a continental breakfast and lunch. The entry fee is \$150 per person or \$600 per four-some, which covers golf, cart, and lunch.

In addition to some exciting playing prizes, the tournament will feature a \$10,000 hole-in-one prize.

Local businesses are encouraged to consider sponsoring a tee or green, with sponsorship information available on the tournament entry form.

Entry forms can be found on the St. Francis of Assisi Parish website at Stfrancisbelchertown.com, as well as at Cold Spring Country Club, the Gathering Space at St. Francis Church, the parish office on Park Street, and Bell & Hudson Insurance Agency.

Join us for a day of fun, fellowship, and fundraising to support our community's new Parish Center.

For more information contact James Phaneuf, Tournament Director, Tel. 413-219-3874, Jrphaneuf55@gmail.com

AMERICA'S 250TH

from page 1

formed by Laura Hicks, a welcome from Select Board Chair Whitney Jorns-Kuhnlenz, songs from Swift River Elementary School first and second graders led by Geoff Gould, recognition of the Red, White and Belchertown Essay Contest winners, and remarks from Massachusetts state officials. The Belchertown Community Band will perform throughout the evening.

Bob Lewis of the Belchertown Historical Commission will read from the Declaration of Independence as the town crier, with booklets provided by the Betty Allen Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, so attendees can follow along. The Pomeroy Chapter, Massachusetts Society of Sons of the American Revolution, will honor Belchertown's Revolutionary War veterans in a tribute closing with a musket fire salute. Tom Stockton, president of the Belchertown Historical Association, will close the program with "Good Old Belchertown."

Throughout the evening, attendees may sign the Community Scroll, a declaration written by and for the people of Belchertown that will be sealed into the town's US250 time capsule later this year. Games including kickball, cornhole, whiffleball and soccer will be available on the field, with equipment provided and no sign-up required. Five food trucks will serve beginning at 5 p.m.: Amy's Lemonade Stand, Batch Ice Cream, MVP Eats, Say Cheese and Egg Roll Revolution.

Children are invited to help create a community banner for the US250

wall, an activity organized with the Clapp Memorial Library and Youth Services Director Jennifer Whitehead. Cupcakes for ages 18 and younger, donated by the culinary arts program at Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School, will be available while supplies last.

"We wanted a night where people could show up whenever they're able, find something to do and stay as long as they like. Bring a chair, grab dinner from a truck, get in a pick-up game. That's the whole idea." Recreation Director Kyle Thibeault

Parking and site information

Parking is free at four locations: Chestnut Hill Community School and Recreation Area, 59 State Street; Belchertown Senior Center, 60 State Street; Swift River Elementary School, 57 State Street; and Belchertown High School, 142 Springfield Road. The high school lots may be entered only through the parking lots at 57 and 59 State Street.

All vehicles must be parked in a marked lot. Parking is not permitted along Route 202, State Street. Accessible parking is available in the main lot at 59 State Street. Parking will be managed by the Belchertown High School girls soccer team, and donations will be accepted to defray the cost of future fireworks events.

Attendees are asked to leave pets, alcohol, tents and drones at home. Service animals are welcome. Smoking and vaping are not permitted anywhere on the grounds. Blankets, folding chairs and coolers are welcome. The fireworks launch site and the area surrounding it are fenced and closed to the public at all times, before, during and after the display.

The musket fire salute honoring Belchertown's Revolutionary War veterans is loud and sudden. Attendees with young children or service animals are asked to plan accordingly.

Sponsors

The celebration is funded entirely through local business sponsorship and community donations. Platinum sponsors are Window World of Western Massachusetts and Hulmes Transportation. Silver sponsors are TruNorth Bank and Tall Tree Landscape. Bronze sponsors are Country Bank and TJ's Taylor Rental.

In-kind support was provided by Stadler Ace Hardware, Theatrix, Relentless Towing and Recovery, and Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School.

The event was organized by Belchertown's US250 Task Force with the Recreation Department and Recreation Committee, and with the Belchertown Historical Association, stewards of the Stone House Museum.

Also that week

The 167th Belchertown Fair, Stars, Stripes and Fair Nights, opens the following afternoon, Friday, Sept. 25, at 3 p.m. on the Belchertown Town Common, 25 Park Street.

Belchertown's US250 observance continues through the year, including the burial of the time capsule. Additional details will be announced at belchertown.org.



Lucy Cincotta
named 2026
Grand Marshal

BELCHERTOWN—The Belchertown Fair and Parade Committee is pleased to announce Lucy Cincotta as the 2026 Grand Marshal. Lucy is the current holder of Belchertown's Boston Post Golden Cane, an honor given to the community's eldest citizen (having lived in town more than 10 years), as a symbol of respect, honor and gratitude.

The Committee hopes you'll celebrate and cheer her on as she rides by.

The parade will step off at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 26, from the intersection of Main and State Streets, then travel north to the intersection of Routes 9 and 202.

The Belchertown Fair website has detour information and a map.

Deadline to register to vote Oct. 24

BELCHERTOWN—From the Town Clerk, the deadline to register to vote in the upcoming November 3, 2026 State Election is Saturday, Oct. 24, 2026.

Be sure to check your voter registration status ahead of time at www.mass.gov and put "check voter registration status" in the search bar. If it shows that you are inactive, please contact the Town Clerk's Office to update your status prior to the election.

The reason voters show as inactive is because the Town did not receive a signed census for 2026. If you return your signed census each year, your voter status will remain active, and you will avoid having to complete additional forms at the time of voting. You can register to vote online at www.registertovotema.com.

The State has mailed out the red "Information for Voters" booklets to all voters in the State. This booklet explains all 9 questions that will appear on the Nov. 3rd ballot. The last page of this booklet has a tear out sheet where you can mark your responses ahead of time. You are welcome to bring this voter checklist with you to vote, to help complete the ballot quicker.

For the first time,

Belchertown will have a 2-page ballot. Not just a 2-sided ballot, but 2 separate pages. We do anticipate it taking voters longer to mark their ballots in the voting booths and are hoping to shorten the time if everyone comes prepared to vote, instead of seeing the questions for the first time on election day.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Town Clerk's Office at 413-323-0281 or email clerk@belchertown.org. Be sure to follow us on Facebook for up-to-the-minute information."

SPORTS HAVEN

from page 1

shifted to July 1 to June 30.

The local money covers additional staffing hours and travel to a national conference in February 2027. The district is returning a small amount of unspent prior-year funding.

Gramarossa reported the settlement balance at \$239,882.91, none encumbered, likely not yet reflecting the returned school funds. Large settlements including Purdue Pharma remain in litigation and disbursements continue into the 2030s.

The committee also brought a concept for a contract with Halo, a Boston-based program, to administer support for Belchertown residents who have lost a family member to overdose, covering funeral and burial costs and related needs such as counseling.

Selectboard member Nicole Miner supported moving forward and noted eligibility would be limited to Belchertown residents regardless of where the death occurred.

Selectboard member Lesa Lessard Pearson questioned whether a contracted administrator alone suffices, floating a part-time social worker embedded with police and fire: "What I hate are silos."

Miner said the fire chief has already produced a cost-benefit analysis for a paramedicine program with a social worker and triage nurse.

Gramarossa agreed to verify allowable public-safety uses with the attorney general's office and the state's municipal support program, consult police and fire and return with details. She agreed to consider adding performance indicators to the committee's grant application form at Lessard Pearson's request.

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A cookout honoring first responders was held at the Christopher Heights Assisted Living Center in Belchertown.



The cookout was well attended.

COOKOUT from page 1

cial menu for the occasion. Attendees were served a banquet of grilled and spicy chicken, watermelon feta salad and homemade strawberry lemonade, with a slice of banana pecan sheet cake as a dessert. Fire Chief John Ingram and Chief of Police Kevin Pacunas were numbered among the first responders who attended the cookout.

“We actually have a commercial kitchen down in our basement,” Stone said when asked who catered the event. “And we have an executive chef and her team prepares all the meals here at Christopher Heights.”

The menu was a hit, with the director herself calling it “delicious,” with the chicken described as “moist and tender.” Stone stated they never served traditional fare during their cookouts, as they always opted to cook something special instead. Though the event commemorates the 9/11 tragedy, it’s rarely held on the day itself due to the first responder’s busy schedules.

“Every day they’re putting their lives on the line,” Stone said. “We just wanted to recognize that and to say thank you for all they do for the community and for Christopher Heights in Belchertown.”



Residents enjoy time with Belchertown Police comfort dog Oliver.



Police officers smile for the camera.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Police officers Jablonski and Fortin.



A close up of the served grilled and spicy chicken.



A finished plate and a happy stomach.



A Christopher Heights staffer embraces a resident.

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OPINION

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters By Russell Gloor

I'm evaluating my retirement plan; what are my options?

Dear Rusty:

I am 69 1/2 years old now and applied for Social Security at the end of June.

I am still working and was planning to begin my retirement in September. A couple of factors arose for me to question if I made a hasty decision by applying for SS.

The employer I have been working for the last 29 years has asked if I would stay on a little longer, which would be good because we have some debt I want to lose before I retire.

I was reading about suspending Social Security and continuing to work. If I understand it right, if I suspend my SS, no payback will be required, and I can continue to work until I'm ready to retire. No spousal benefits taken yet.

Signed: Reevaluating my Retirement

Dear Reevaluating Retirement:

I'm assuming you asked for your Social Security benefits to start in September (when you originally planned to retire), but that you won't be 70 years old until March 2027.

If that is correct, be aware that you will not immediately get all of your earned Delayed Retirement Credits when your benefits start in September – you will only initially get the DRCs you have earned through the end of 2025.

That's because Social Security usually applies DRCs in January of each year. So, what will happen is that your September benefit amount will lack the 5.3% DRCs you earned in 2026, until January 2027 when they will apply the DRCs earned in 2026 to your monthly payment amount.

Said simply, your initial September benefit will not include your full age 69.5 entitlement because it won't include the 5.3% extra you earned in 2026. That extra monthly amount will be awarded in January 2027.

FYI, if you were to, instead, claim for your SS benefits to start in the month you turn 70 (March 2027), you would get your full age 70 amount immediately (SS awards all earned DRCs if benefits are claimed to start in the month you turn 70).

Now, on to your question: Yes, if you take your benefits effective with September 2026 you can suspend your benefits, but you can only suspend them until the month you turn 70. And if you are suspending your benefits, you will not need to repay Social Security for any benefits you happen to receive before you sus-

pend.

As is obvious, you will not receive any SS payments while your benefits are suspended, and you will earn DRCs for the months your benefits are suspended, resulting in a higher monthly amount at age 70. Also, since you have already passed your SS Full Retirement Age, you can work and earn as much as you like, without your Social Security benefits being negatively affected.

Regarding your comment "No Spousal benefits taken yet." FYI, you cannot get spousal benefits while your benefits are suspended, nor can your wife get spousal benefits from you while you SS retirement benefits are suspended.

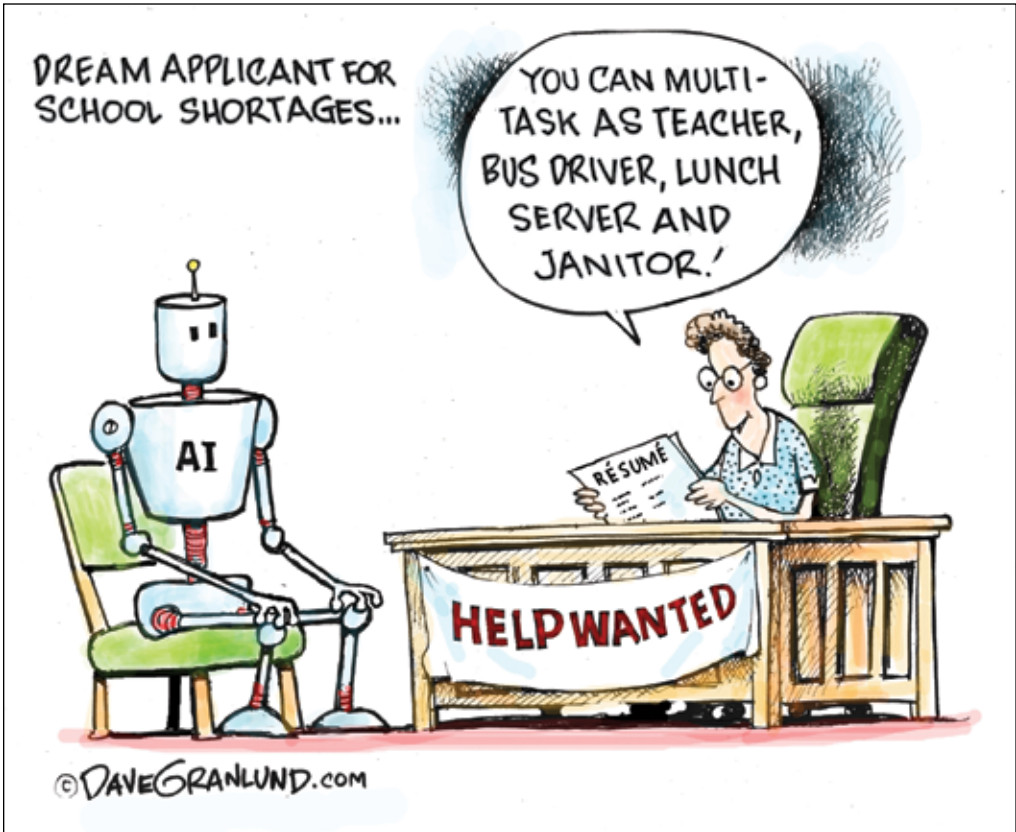
To be clear, spouse benefits are only paid when one spouse's benefit at their FRA is less than 50% of the other spouse's FRA benefit. Spouse benefits are always based upon FRA entitlements, not on the larger amounts which will result from waiting longer to claim.

In other words, your wife would only be eligible for a spousal benefit from you if her FRA entitlement was less than 50% of your FRA entitlement (not your age 70 SS entitlement). And she cannot get a spousal benefit while your benefits are suspended.

To recap: Yes, you can suspend receipt of your SS retirement benefits until the month you turn 70 and get credit for that delay (resulting in a higher benefit). And, yes, you can continue working as long as you wish and your benefits will not be negatively affected.

And just for added information, you can also ask Social Security to withdraw your current application for SS benefits and then reapply in January 2027 for your benefits to start in March 2027, the month you turn 70. You have both options.

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



Raised beds? Why not!

I have to say that today I am having a hard time thinking of something to write about.

As I scan my mind of all the seasonal gardening topics, I come up blank. Winter squash? Done it. Mums? Ditto. Seed saving. Yup.

So, on this rainy Sunday, I give you all the luck of the draw. I will grab a gardening book off of my shelf, twirl the pages, and where my finger lands, I will expound on the subject. It may not be autumnal, but it will be interesting, I guarantee that.

Here we go...

The book I grabbed from the shelf was "The Dirt Cheap Green Thumb," by Rhonda Massingham Hart. My finger landed on page 189, with the heading "Raise Your Beds, Not Your Expenses."

I have some experience with raised beds. In my home garden I have four rock-edged beds. Prior to that I had beds edged in pine slabs.

My friend uses hemlock edged beds and is happy with them. I envy how neat and orderly they are. Another friend is using galvanized metal beds this year. They seem to be all the rage.

Her tomatoes and peppers continue to produce like gangbusters even late in the season. She has just gotten back into gardening after a two year hiatus and I am proud of her and happy she has been so successful.

Let's begin our chat with some of the advantages of raised bed gardening.

The first one that comes to

mind is that you can be selective about the soil you fill it with. I've enjoyed using the Coast of Maine Raised Bed Mix.

is limiting weeds from germinating, so that hopefully next year, the onions, who hate weeds, will see less weed pressure.

Raised beds warm up quicker in the spring, and stay warmer later into the fall. Sometimes the edging material helps with that.

My rock beds, for example, hold heat. So does the metal to some degree.

In mid spring, prior to the frost-free date, raised beds can be easily fitted with hoops on which plastic or polyester row covers can be draped to offer even more frost protection. They can also be covered with the black plastic I mentioned to grow crops like melons or peppers, who appreciate the heat.

With raised beds you will likely never need your rototiller. Beds can effortlessly be turned over by hand from either side. Typically, unless you walk all over them, the soil in the raised beds stays nice and friable, as well.

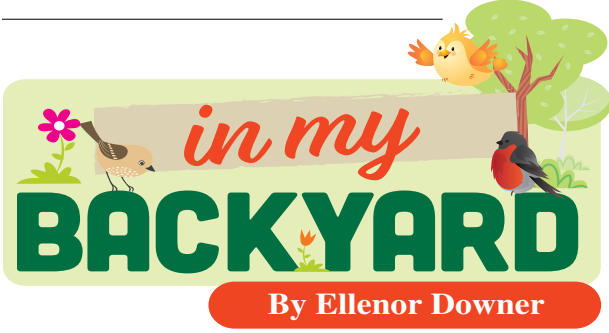
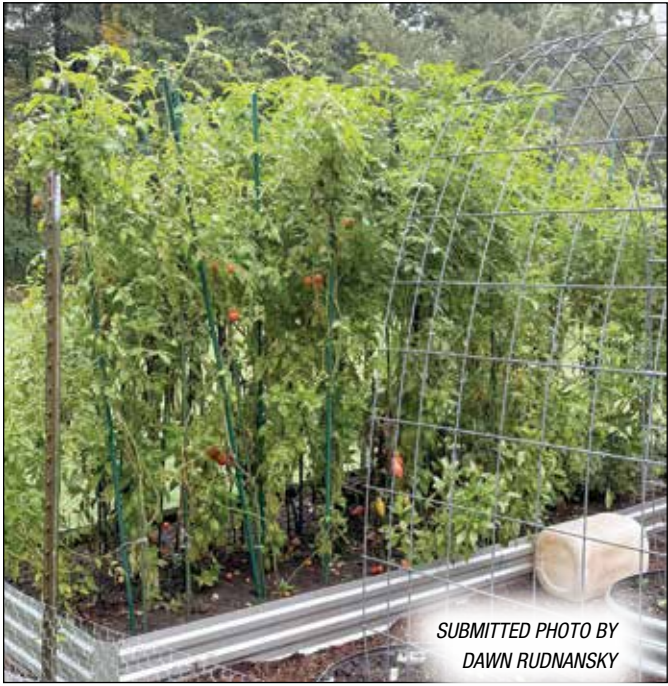
If I need to get into my beds, say to separate crops, sometimes I will position a plank across the width of the bed, and step on that to disperse my weight, therefore avoiding compaction. Plants always grow better in loose soil.

I almost forgot the obvious! Raised beds are easier to work with. Beds are typically a foot or so tall, sometimes a bit taller.

Bring out a short stool to the garden and you can comfortably sit and work in the beds. No more long periods of stooping or crouching.

Well, I hope you enjoyed reading this luck of the draw column as much as I did writing it! And if you haven't gardened in a couple of years, give raised beds a try and maybe you will be as fortunate as my friend, with six foot tomato plants still going strong at the end of September!

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



Someone reported hearing as sandhill crane calling in New

Braintree, but did not see it. Recently, someone saw a pair of



sandhill cranes in a field on Pleasant Street in Barre. The cranes stayed about a week and then left.

Sandhill Cranes are large birds that live in open habitats, so they're fairly easy to spot. They are gray overall, have red foreheads, white cheeks, a long dark bill and dark legs.

Immature birds have reddish-brown upper parts and gray underparts and lack the

red foreheads. This makes it easy to pick out the parents from the youngsters even when they are the same height.

Sandhill cranes make a loud trumpeting call that can be heard for long distances. They are mainly herbivores, but feed on other foods depending on availability.

Please see **BACKYARD**, page 7

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



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Three very excited fundraiser supporters.



Fundraiser supporter Holly with a rubber duck.

ANIMAL SHELTER

from page 1
ago,” Wanda was rescued by Thomas J. O’ Connor after being hit by a car.

“We heard about her story and saw that she was sitting in the Thomas J. O’ Connor animal shelter,” Branchesi said. “A couple months went by and we bought a condo. We were looking for a new animal to bring into the house and, after a couple of months, we saw that she was still sitting in the shelter.”

Branchesi reported his girlfriend called him in the afternoon and told him to swing by the shelter. After determining the cat was still there, he decided to take her home the same day. However, he soon realized how much surgery would be required to save her life. Despite the daunting fees in front of him, he was nonetheless provided with help from an unlikely source.

“They did a Facebook fundraiser so she could have the surgery,” Branchesi said. “Once I learned about that, it inspired me to try to give back.”

Combining his dual passions for his pet and coffee roasting, One Eye Wanda Coffee Roasters endeavors to give less fortunate animals a second chance at life. The partnership with Looks To Kill offers both an opportunity to increase brand awareness and extend his mission to new regions. All



A photo of coffee brand namesake, Wanda.



Michael Branchesi holding Wanda.

of the money raised from sold coffee will go to local animal shelters, with half donated to Thomas J. O’ Connor and the other sent to local dog rescue mission, Better Together.



Fundraiser supporter Dawn shows a one-eyed Wanda coffee.



Fundraiser supporter Heather is ready to help.

“Jody is one of the most positive upbeat individuals I’ve ever met in my life,” said Better Together Dog Rescue representative Chrystal Greenleaf. “She’s always got something good

to say, or something good that she would like to do for somebody. And Michael, he’s doing wonderful things with his coffee.

Granby Free Public Library’s new afternoon book club

GRANBY—Join us for a friendly, relaxed, afternoon book club at the Granby Free Public Library. The group will meet monthly, every third Tuesday of the month at 2 p.m. to discuss various genres of fiction.

Group members will vote on titles they would like to read in advance.

Upcoming books are made available at the library in multiple formats - regular print, large print and audiobook. For the Oct. 20 meet-

ing, the book choice is “The Briar Club” by Kate Quinn, stop by the library for a copy.

Afternoon book groups combine the joy of reading with the benefits of conversation, community, and personal enrichment, making them a rewarding way to spend time and connect with others.

The Granby Free Public Library is located at 297 E State St., Granby, MA 01033.

Visit www.granbylibrary.org for more information.

Craft fair set for Oct. 12

GRANBY—Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Granby, Mass. is having a Craft Fair on Monday, Oct. 12 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

In addition to over 50 vendors, there will be basket raffles, a Lottery Tree Raffle,

as well as breakfast & lunch available.

Stop in, say hello & support small local businesses, and get some Christmas shopping done. Immaculate Heart of Mary is located at 256 State St. in Granby, Mass.

Corvette Club hosts annual All Makes & Models Car Show

CHICOPEE – The annual All Makes & Models Car Show will be presented by the Corvette Club of Western MA on Saturday, Oct. 3 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Chicopee Moose Club, 244

Fuller Road. There will be food, beverages, raffles, trophies and live music provided by The Blue Groove Band. There is a \$20 car entry fee and spectators are free.

College Notes

SNHU announces Summer 2026 Dean’s List

MANCHESTER, NH—Tanner Spees of Belchertown has been named to Southern New Hampshire University’s (SNHU) Summer 2026 Dean’s List. The summer terms run from May to August.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean’s List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

SNHU announces Summer 2026 President’s List

MANCHESTER, NH—It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Summer 2026 President’s List. The summer terms run from May to August.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President’s List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Madison Houle, Hailey Garrow and Madison Tourigny of Belchertown
Victor Wellman of Amherst

BACKYARD

They will feed on berries, small mammals, insects, snails, reptiles and amphibians.

These cranes raise one brood per year. The female lays one to three brownish eggs. Both sexes build the nest using plant material and both incubate and feed the young.

In summer cranes are often seen in small bogs, marshes and prairies across northern North America and the southeastern United States. In winter they form immense flocks in places like Bosque del Apache, New Mexico and Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge, Texas.

Sandhill crane’s call is a loud, rolling, trumpeting sound whose unique tone is a product of anatomy. They have long tracheas that coil into the sternum and help the sound develop a lower pitch and harmonics that add richness.

Sandhill cranes are also known for their dancing skills. Courting cranes stretch their wings, pump their heads, bow, and leap into the air in a graceful and energetic dance.

Many years ago, a Barre resident saw a pair dancing in a field. He said it was a “sight to behold.”

Although some start breeding at two years of age, Sandhill cranes may reach

the age of seven before breeding. They mate for life, which can mean two decades or more and stay with their mates year-round. Juveniles stick close by their parents for nine or ten months after hatching.

Sandhill crane chicks can leave the nest within 8 hours of hatching and are even capable of swimming.

The oldest sandhill crane on record was at least 37 years, 3 months old. Originally banded in Florida in 1982, it was found in Wisconsin in 2019.

Scarcity of birds

I received an email from a woman who lives on Lake Lashaway.

She said, “Since Sunday, Aug. 30, they had most days without birds...any type, large or small at our feeders or just in the shrubs or anywhere. All my neighbors have noticed their feeders are full too.” One neighbor said he has seen a falcon. She wonders if the falcon has anything to do with the lack of birds.

Several people at the Oakham Senior Center reported, they see only a few birds and the feeders remain full of seeds.

Massachusetts Audubon sighting

This report to the Massachusetts Audubon Society supports the lack of

birds. Someone stated, “On Sept. 11 we birded around Hardwick and on Sept. 12 we birded around Warren. Both days were very poor for passerine migration.” They also stated, “On both days we only saw 1 species of warbler: common yellowthroat. In general, song birds were in very low numbers and poor variety. And we went to spots that had proven good for migrants in years past. We really worked hard to turn up migrant warblers, and it just was not happening, at least where we were.”

Migrating hawks

The Massachusetts Audubon Society listed migrating hawks spotted

on Friday, Sept. 11 at Mt. Watatic in Ashburnham. They included 3 osprey, seven bald eagles, ten sharp-shinned hawks, 131 broad-winged hawks and one merlin.

Canada geese

On Friday, Sept. 4, I saw a large flock of over fifty Canada geese in a field in Spencer. On the same day, I also saw a small flock of wild turkeys and about six Canada geese in field in Barre.

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

Public Auction

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8TH AT 11:00 A.M.

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★ TWO CAR ATTACHED GARAGE ★

Sale Per Order of Mortgagee

Attorney Joseph J. Lange

of the Firm of Lyon & Fitzpatrick, LLP

14 Bobala Road, Holyoke, MA

Attorney for Mortgagee

Terms Of Sale: \$10,000.⁹⁰ Deposit Cash, Bank or Certified Funds.

Deposit to be increased to 10% of Purchase Price within 5 Business Days.

5% Buyer's Premium Applies.

Other Terms to be Announced at Time of Sale.

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USDA INSP. PROVOLONE CHEESE..... \$4⁴⁴ lb

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USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY DIET LEAN GROUND BEEF 5 LB BAG \$5²⁹ lb

USDA INSP. FROZEN BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN TENDERLOIN TRAY PAK... \$1⁶⁹ lb

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USDA INSP. FROZEN YANKEE TRADE CRAB BURGERS 16 OZ..... \$3⁹⁹ ea

USDA INSP. FROZEN SWORDFISH STEAKS 1 LB BAG..... \$4⁹⁹ ea

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Friends of Granby’s Elderly host *Annual Fall Picnic*

ANNUAL PICNIC

from page 1
service and calling bingo twice a month. To him, being a part of FOG means to be a part of something greater.

“It means community, outreach,” Don said. “It means taking care of people my same age. Having a place to socialize, having meetings, having things like this.”

The picnic marks one of the last events hosted by his organization for the year. The last event involves sending Christmas cards to every senior citizen in town, an initiative which remains another proud tradition within the organization’s over 40 year history.

“We had our 40th anniversary three to four years ago,” Don said. “So I’d like to get another 40 in.”

“We get a nice turnout,” said FOG Chairman Ron Richard. “It’s nice to do something for the people of Granby, for the seniors.”

The recent president took the reins from former president Gloria Vivier, who stepped down voluntarily, citing age as her reason for resignation. The organization, according to Ron, was founded back around 1982 as a nonprofit. The organization funds yearly events such as summer concerts and the annual picnic in Dufrense Park. Recently, the organization donated to help veterans secure funding for a pavilion

at the local veteran’s park. “It’s fun to help people,” Ron said when asked what got him involved. “It’s just nice.”

The picnic included two raffles; a more traditional ticket raffle and a Chinese raffle with prizes donated by the community. Prizes included beaded artwork, gift cards to the Pizza Palace of Granby, a “after hours basket” filled with various alcohol bottles and a giant commemorative poster for a Barnum and Bailey’s circus performance celebrating the country’s bicentennial.

“I’m at the point in my life where I just want to do good, you know,” Ron said. “It’s not a paying job, so I have no ulterior motives. We just want people to get along and help each other.”

Christine Lindsay stated the picnic always gets an impressive turnout. She expressed gratitude for the tight-knit community and stated she knew most of the people in attendance from bingo games at the senior center. “I love them all,” Christine



Flowers from the Chinese Raffle.



Cookies offered during the picnic.

said. “They’re good people. We have a good time.”

The picnic concluded with a live performance from the band the O-Tones, a Motown and swing cover band based

out of Northampton. The group played inside the pavilion due to the inclement weather forecast as attendees enjoyed dessert under the wooden roof. The day’s festivities were best summarized by FOG Director Robbin LaMorder.

“Old people do not go to the senior center, drool and just play bingo,” Robbin said. “It’s a social place.”



Christine Lindsay presents the Barnum and Bailey Circus poster given away during the Chinese raffle.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY BEN HERNANDEZ
FOGE Chairman Ron Richard.



Friends of Granby’s Elderly Vice-Chairman Don Lindsay provides announcements for the raffle.



The O-Tones band played during the picnic.



Watermelon slices are ready for the picnic.



An example of beaded art raffled.



VETERANS DAY SALUTE

Sentinel ~ November 5, 2026

Sentinel will be saluting our local veterans (from all wars and branches, including honoring deceased veterans), reservists, active duty U.S. Military members.

Please submit a photo of your veteran with his or her name, rank, branch of military and hometown by email to **jamie@turley.com** or drop off a photo to **Sentinel, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069**
All photos will be returned.

Please submit your photo no later than Monday, October 27, 2026.

There is no cost to submit a photo.
No photos will be accepted after deadline.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. A place for worship

7. Referee declaration

10. Torsos

12. Used to introduce something

13. Healing method

14. Takes to the sea

15. Make law

16. French coastal city

17. Hawaiian dish

18. Young of domestic cattle

19. Women’s undergarments

21. 60-minute intervals (abbr.)

22. One after another

27. It’s a hot topic these days

28. Folk band frontman

33. They precede C

34. Heavenly

36. Fiddler crabs

37. Major Hindu deity

38. Hebrew given name

39. Cost per mile

40. ___ Romeo, car

41. Rural municipality in Manitoba

44. Narratives

45. “A tragedy had ___ him”

48. Iranian city

49. Praises publicly

50. Founding Father Franklin

51. Herbal tea

CLUES DOWN

1. Indian unit of mass

2. “Tears in Heaven” singer Clapton

3. Part of a sailing vessel

4. Part of (abbr.)

5. Polynesian garland of flowers

6. Keyboard key

7. One who steals

8. Large oven

9. Former CIA

10. Idea

11. Solomon Islands capital

12. Afrikaans

14. Remove thatch

17. Television network

18. Jalen Brunson is one

20. Title of respect

23. Flowering trees

24. Occurring in a tube

25. Exists

26. Woman (French)

29. Expression of doubt

30. NHL legend Bobby

31. Accomplished

32. Makes slightly wet

35. National Assn. of Manufacturers

36. Not sated

38. Poe’s middle name

40. Swiss river

41. Rhythmic pattern in Indian music

42. “Shane” actor Ladd

43. Popular whodunit board game

44. Bar bill

45. Ballplayer’s tool

46. Indicates near

47. Feet per second

SPORTS

A TURLEY PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

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Julia Rainaud socks a free hit past midfield.

Orioles secure fourth win

BELCHERTOWN – On a beautiful, sunny day at Belchertown High School last Friday, the Orioles field hockey team got goals from Kian Roy, Kina Roy, and Madeline Williams along with two assists from Gianna Zenon to get a 3-1 win over visiting South Hadley. Lila Roy had a busy day in goal, with 17 saves while allowing just one goal. The Orioles are now 4-1 on the season. They are back in action on Sept. 28 at Frontier Regional at 4 p.m.



Kian Roy charges up the field.



Addi DiBona battles for possession of the ball.



Lila Roy gets ready to block a shot.



Kina Roy makes her way up the field.



Shannon Fuller protects the ball from an oncoming opponent.

Owls football gets first win

WESTFIELD — Westfield State University football rolled up 463 yards of offense and got a pair of long TD receptions from electric first-year receiver Malachi Hymes (E. Hartford, Conn./East Hartford) as the Owls downed Dean College, 26-8 at Alumni Field on Westfield State's Family and Champions Weekend. Westfield improves its record to 1-2 overall and 1-1 in the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference, while Dean is now 0-3 and 0-2 MASCAC.

Hymes finished with four catches for 166 yards and touchdowns of 61 and 46 yards. His day could have been bigger as a reverse that looked like a 89- yard score was called back by a penalty, and later he stepped out of bounds while avoiding a tackle on 53-yard reception that initially looked like a 73-yard score. Westfield opened the scoring with a 1-yard TD plunge from QB Quinn Sumner (Dayville, Conn./Killingly), who finished 6-11 passing for 180 yards and the two TD tosses to Hymes.

Please see **OWLS**, page 10

Early offense leads Belchertown football to win

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WARE—Two years ago, the Belchertown football team made the 20-minute trip down Rte. 9 to Veterans Field in Ware for a preseason scrimmage.

The Orioles made another visit to Veterans Field for a regular season game last Friday night and they celebrated a 44-12 non-league victory over the Indians.

“We played a scrimmage game on this field a couple of years ago,” said Belchertown senior captain Avery Cote. “It feels great to win tonight’s game. All of us worked very hard.”

Cote led the way offensively with three rushing touchdowns. He also scored three rushing touchdowns in the Orioles 38-0 season opening home win versus Quaboag Regional.

“Avery is our leader,” said Belchertown head coach Keith Lebeau. “We do have several pieces around him, which has made things a lot easier so far this season.”

Cote rushed for a total of 151 yards on 18 carries during last Friday night’s contest, which was played in front of a large crowd. Cote gave a lot of credit to the offensive line, which is led by junior Ajuluchukwu Nebedum, junior Killian Olszewski, junior Miles Sheldon, and senior captain Rulon Anderson.

“I wouldn’t be very successful without the help of

my linemen,” Cote said. “We just want to keep winning games.”

Another Belchertown senior captain is Coleman Longley, who’s the starting quarterback.

Longley finished the Ware game with 118 rushing yards on seven carries. He also completed two passes for 16 yards.

The junior duo Brogan Bottari and Ronan Mosher contributed with 92 and 88 rushing yards. Overall, the Orioles nearly rushed for 500 yards.

The Orioles began the regular season with a 2-0 record for the third consecutive year.

“We were 4-0 last season, but then we went 4-3,” Lebeau said. “We’re just going to focus on one game



Ronan Mosher takes the handoff.



Quarterback Coleman Longley takes the snap.



Killian Olszewski attempts a point-after kick.

at a time this year.” The Indians (0-2) played their home opener after beginning the regular season with a 36-18 loss at Easthampton High School. “The players know that they can perform better on the field,” said first-year Ware head coach Kyle Whitney. “It’s another disappointing loss.” Two of the Indians leaders

are senior quarterback Troy Jurczyk and senior running back Dalton Marquis. Jurczyk completed six of his 12 passes for 63 yards. He also threw a TD pass in the second quarter. He rushed for 35 yards. When the two teams battled each other at Belchertown High School a year ago, the Orioles squeaked out a 21-20.

The Orioles marched 70 yards down the field on the opening series and Cote capped off the five play drive with a 22-yard scramble up the middle into the end zone with 8:47 left in the first quarter. Olszewski made the first of his five extra points.

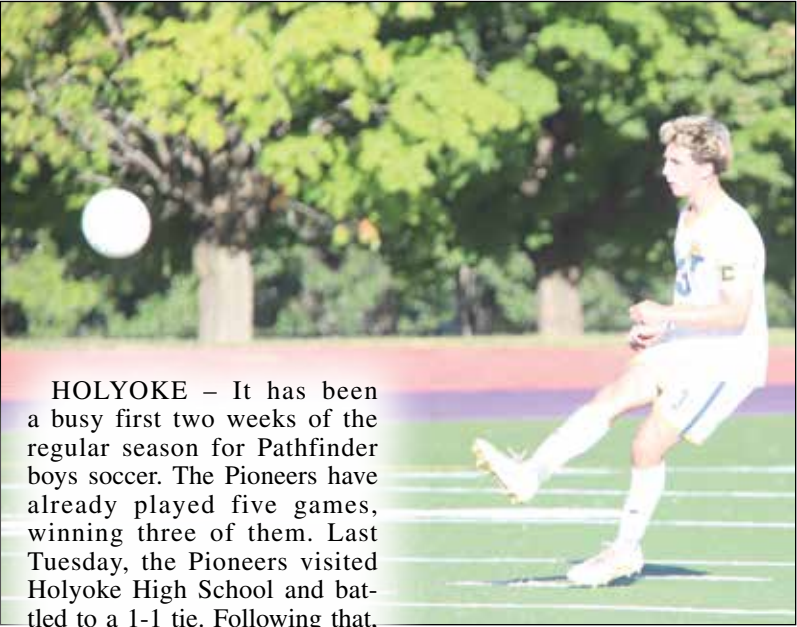
Please see **FOOTBALL**, page 10

SPORTS

Busy start to season for Pathfinder boys



Brody Wetnicka sends a quick pass away.



Owen Pear attempts to clear the ball up the middle of the field.



Ian LaPete tries to stop a Holyoke attacker.



Ian Sauri-Neves tries to get by a Holyoke defender.



Weston Letendre and Abees Castillo-Clotter go after the ball.



Christian Ribeiro looks to get around an opponent.



Mason Ostrout lifts a long kick to the other end of the field.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Amber Roman clashes with an opponent.



Evelyn Wood makes her way up the field.



Callie Hawk overcomes an opponent and steals the ball.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Josephine Boyko heads off the ball on defense.

Pioneers get split of first two games



Abigail Carmody brings in a pass.

SPRINGFIELD – After a postponement delayed the start of the season for Pathfinder Tech girls soccer, the Pioneers got things going with two games last week. To open the regular season, Pathfinder defeated Commerce on the road in Springfield 4-2. The next day, the Pioneers made a long trip north and suffered a 6-1 loss at Athol and are 1-1 to start the year. Coming up on Tuesday, Sept. 29, the Pioneers will host Duggan Academy at 4 p.m.



Makaela Tourville starts to dribble after taking possession.

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. 11, through Sept. 17. 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, Sept. 11

8:20 p.m. – A male was arrested on charges of threatening to commit a crime, unlicensed possession of an assault weapon, possession of a firearm without license and defacing serial number of a firearm. An officer responded to a report of a domestic violence incident. During a pat-down frisk the officer found a magazine on the person, as well as a handgun in a backpack without a serial number. The person was charged accordingly.

Saturday, Sept. 12

4:46 p.m. – Cameron Tyler Santarelli, 22, of 3 Ivy Way, Hingham was arrested on charges of operating under the influence and failing to drive in the right lane. Police and Belchertown Fire responded to Federal Street for a report of a crash. The

operator was passed out and had open cans in the vehicle. The operator spoke with the officer and said they pulled over and slept overnight. They thought it was 9 a.m. the following morning. There was a 30-pack of beer in the backseat. They declined a field sobriety test. They refused care from the Belchertown Fire Department. They were transported, booked and later released.

ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS Friday, Sept. 11

8:13 a.m. – An officer took a report of fraud. A person worked at a company for a short period of time and used the company card for purchases outside of intended use. When asked about it, the person said the card was hacked. The officer was waiting for records of the credit card to continue the investigation.

9:15 a.m. – A person got a fraud alert from their bank about a fraudulent debit card transaction. It was not authorized by either of the cardholders. There were purchases made in New York, and it wasn't made by them. One was blocked and the other went through. The matter was documented.

2:35 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on West Street. A vehicle entering the left turn lane traveling from West Street onto Stadler Street was struck by a bicyclist. The bicyclist was going into the turn lane to turn left

when they struck the vehicle. The cyclist had scrapes and declined treatment.

3:41 p.m. – An officer spoke with a juvenile and parents about issues in the school parking lot with another juvenile.

4:43 p.m. – An officer responded to a residence about an argument between a juvenile and a guardian. The juvenile was transported to the hospital.

11:27 p.m. – An officer responded to a report of a woman screaming and a domestic in a motor vehicle. A 911 text was received. The person texting met with the officers. No charges were made.

Sunday, Sept. 13

7:13 p.m. – An officer responded to a North Main Street residence for a report of a juvenile who was out of control throwing and smashing items. The juvenile calmed out.

Monday, Sept. 14

7:47 a.m. – An officer responded to a crash on Bay Road and Federal Street. A vehicle stopped at Bay and Federal Road was rear ended by a second vehicle. There was minor damage to the first vehicle and no damage to the second. No injuries were reported and no tows were needed.

8:47 a.m. – An officer responded to a residence to help a person who wanted to discard a firearm. It was placed into property to be

destroyed.

2:27 p.m. – An officer responded to assist Belchertown Fire paramedics.

4:54 p.m. – A person called to ask questions about previous harassment incidents related to harassment order.. The officer requested to report an incident when it was happening. It was documented.

7:34 p.m. – An officer responded to a residence for a report of a threat made by a juvenile. The School Resource Officer was made aware of the incident.

8:26 p.m. – An officer was requested for a report of an overdue motorist. Their person's partner went shopping and was overdue back home. A "be on the lookout" alert was put out in surrounding communities. The person also did a ping on the phone which came back in Shutesbury. Later Shelburne based State Police reported the vehicle was disabled on Daniel Shay's Highway. Officers located the person.

Tuesday, Sept. 15

10:06 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident and a report of an erratic operator that went into a ditch then signed a refusal. No tow.

1:50 p.m. – An officer responded to a report of a domestic incident. It was verbal in manner and advised on how to get a restraining order.

5:24 p.m. – An officer responded to a crash between

a bicyclist and a car on State Street. A vehicle traveling south on State Street was struck by a bicyclist as they traveled from the north lane into the southbound lane. There as some damage to the windshield of the car. The crash is under investigation.

7:15 p.m. – An officer took a report from a resident about concerns their partner could not safety drive. An officer located the vehicle, and the person showed no signs of impairment. The person drove away.

Wednesday, Sept. 16

9:25 a.m. – An officer responded to a call about a landlord that tore down a shed. The renter built the shed on the property a year ago. Photos were taken and added to the report.

10:06 a.m. – An officer took a report of larceny. People at a local business reported that one person dropped a debit card on the ground then later found out money was withdrawn from the account. The matter is still under investigation.

8:41 p.m. – An officer responded to Bay Road for a report of a deer that was struck by a car and was still alive. The deer was euthanized.

Thursday, Sept 17

9:29 a.m. – An officer responded to a report of a possibly suicidal person who locked themselves into a bathroom at a residence. A clinician responded to the scene.

CPC Grant applications now being accepted for upcoming year

BELCHERTOWN—Grant application submission forms will only be accepted from Thursday, Oct. 1 to Friday, Nov. 13 at 5 p.m.

Proposals for Community Preservation funding must be submitted by downloading the application from the Belchertown Community Preservation website.

All relevant information requested on the application form must be included with the proposal. Please refer to the Community Preservation Criteria Guidelines that are posted on the CPC website: www.BelchertownCPC.org.

Applications must be typewritten or provided as a word processing document.

Please send one copy of the application electronically to Jnate7007@aol.com.

Twelve (12) hard copies of the application and all supporting documentation must be submitted to: Community Preservation Committee Town of Belchertown at 2 Jabish St., Belchertown, MA 01007-0670.

FOOTBALL from page 9

The score remained 7-0 until the first play of the second quarter when Cote walked into the end zone behind the center.

The Indians responded with a ten play scoring drive. The drive ended after Jurczyk tossed an 11-yard TD pass to junior Ian Hogan. Another pass on the two point conversion play was incomplete making the score 14-6 with 5:17 remaining in the second quarter.

With eight seconds left in the first half, Olszewski made a 24 yard field goal giving the visiting team a 17-6 halftime advantage.

The only touchdown during the third quarter was scored on a 13 yard run by Bottari with 5:28 showing on the scoreboard clock. He was helped with a block from Longley.

Two minutes later Ware junior Logan Millet intercepted a pass, but the Indians were forced to punt.

Cote capped off his outstanding performance with a one yard touchdown run less than two minutes into the



Avery Cote heads off on a carry.



Rulon Anderson goes for a takedown.

final quarter.

Then Marquis returned the ensuing kickoff 76 yards for a touchdown, which was one of the few memorable plays for the home team.

The Orioles final two touchdowns were a 9-yard

touchdown reception by senior Kyngsten Agyei and a 61-yard TD run by Mosher with 5:24 left in the contest.

Both teams will be playing on Thursday night.

While the Indians will be looking to get into the win

column for the first time at the Springfield International Charter School, the Orioles will be looking to remain undefeated in another road game against Ludlow.

OWLS from page 9

Hymes caught a go route down the left side for the 61 yarder, out sprinting the full defense, then out-leaped his defender around the five-yard line to with the ball on the 46-yard grab before waltzing into the endzone.

Westfield set up the big passing plays with the run as sophomore full-back Manny Mengata (Tewksbury, Mass.) battered the Bulldogs for 136 yards on 18 carries, and Cole Ingham (Agawam, Mass.) added 69 yards on five carries.

Westfield senior PK Andrew Currier (Attleboro, Mass./Foxboro HS) booted a pair of 33-yard field goals and a pair of extra points to account for the final score.

Dean's lone TD of the game came midway through the second quarter on a 12-yard touchdown pass from Chris Donahue to Yasir Moses. The Bulldogs tried to feature a short passing attack with Donahue connecting on 32 of 45 attempts for 186 yards with

one TD and one INT. His longest completion of the day went for 12 yards.

The Bulldogs totaled just 33 yards rushing. Tay Scholtz finished with nine catches for 75 yards and seven catches for 62 yards.

Westfield's defense bent but rarely broke, allowing 219 total yards on the day. The Owls sacked Donohue eight times for a loss of 61 yards.

LB Aydan Verba (Albany, NY/Colonie Central) led the Owls with eight tackles and 2.5 sacks. Tedi Hunt (Littleton, Mass.) made eight stops and had 2.5 TFLs. Eight different players had a hand in the sack column. First-year Caedan Burns (N. Grafton, Mass.) picked off the Bulldogs late to help seal the win. Colin Brady and Herman Esquivel Menzdez led the Bulldogs with eight stops each.

Westfield State will travel to Worcester State for a conference matchup next Saturday, Sept. 26 with a 1 p.m. kickoff at Alumni Field.



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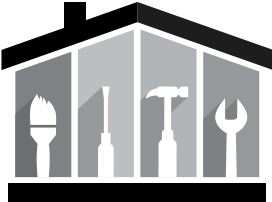
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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about 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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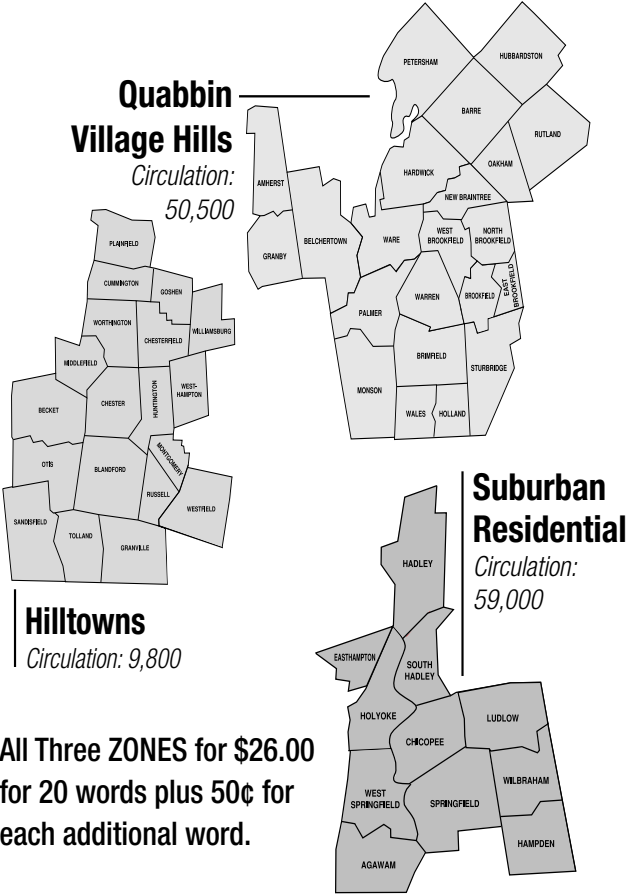
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OBITUARIES

William A. Theroux, 70



William A. Theroux, 70, passed away peacefully on December 25, 2025.

He was born on February 20, 1955, in Holyoke, Massachusetts, and grew up in Belchertown.

Bill, or Billy to some, is survived by his soul-mate and wife of four years, Heidi Theroux; his daughter, Marianne Bayly; and his son, William Theroux. His four grandchildren, Laney, Kylie, Lucas, and Harley Bayly, were the center of his world and brought him tremendous joy.

He is also survived by his brother, Carl Cierpial and his wife, Diane; his sisters, Patricia Bock, Lisa Greene and her husband, Shawn, and his youngest sister, Janet Zajac; his first wife, Liz Theroux; and several nieces,

nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews.

Bill was predeceased by his parents, Armand and Doris Theroux; his brothers, Ronald “Ron” and Phillip “Pete” Theroux; his sister, Irene Theroux; and his second wife, Laura Theroux.

After graduating from high school, Bill proudly joined the United States Air Force and later served in the Air Force Reserves. He followed in his father’s footsteps and worked as a machinist. Later in life, one of his greatest joys was spending time raising and caring for his grandchildren.

Bill was deeply involved with Alcoholics Anonymous for many years, both as a member and as a sponsor. He truly believed in what the program had to offer and

was always willing to support and help anyone who reached out to him.

Bill was kind, caring, and generous with his time. He was the kind of person who would lend a hand whenever he was able. His church family meant a great deal to him, and his faith was a strong and important part of his life.

Bill will be remembered for his generous heart, his devotion to his family, his willingness to help others, and the love he shared with those around him. He will be deeply missed by his family, friends, church community, and all who had the privilege of knowing him.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, October 3, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at Second Baptist Church, 589 Granby Road, South Hadley, MA 01075.

Burial will be at the convenience of the family.

Janet E. Faulkins, 76

Janet E. Faulkins, 76, of Belchertown, Massachusetts, passed away on Sept. 12, 2026 with her family by her side. She was born on April 12, 1950, daughter of the late Evelyn A. Bates.

A lifelong resident of Belchertown, Janet was a graduate of Belchertown High School, Class of 1968. She worked for many years at the former Belchertown State School and retired after working at the Greenwich Plains Group Home in Granby, MA.

Janet enjoyed reading, working on puzzles, going to the Casino, and cheering on her beloved Boston Bruins. She also took great pride in her garden and found happiness in giving to others. Generous by nature, Janet supported many charities throughout her life and was always willing to help those

in need. Janet leaves behind her husband of 54 years, Gary Faulkins; her daughter, Monica Kane, and her husband, Patrick, of Wilbraham; and her three beloved granddaughters, Kylie Kane of Orlando, Florida, Hayley Kane of Wilbraham, and Brianna Cormier of Acton. She also leaves her brothers, Edward Issac of Acushnet and Robert “Bobby” Issac of Springfield, as well as many extended family members and friends who will miss her dearly.

Besides her mother, she was predeceased by her brother, Kenneth Issac.

Beers & Story Belchertown Funeral Home was entrusted with the arrangements.

Services will be private and at the convenience of the family.



DEATH NOTICES

William A. Theroux
Died Dec. 25, 2025
Memorial Service
Oct. 3 at 11 a.m.
Second Baptist Church,
589 Grand Rd.,
South Hadley

Janet E. Faulkins
Died Sept. 12, 2026
Services are private
Beers & Story
Belchertown Funeral
Home

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 (with a word limit of up to 500 words) 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.

Like new book sale at Clapp Memorial Library

BELCHERTOWN—The Friends of Clapp Memorial Library are having a book sale of “Like New” books on Saturday Oct. 10. This will take place from 9:30 a.m.

until 1:30 p.m. in the main room of the library.

Hundreds of adult fiction and nonfiction works will be up for sale as well as selected young adult books and some

nonreader children’s books. These gift quality books will have copyright dates less than 4 years old and will all be priced from \$1 to \$5.

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significantly low prices for yourself or your family. Remember the holidays are coming and books are the best gift you can give to everyone on your list.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampshire Probate and Family Court
15 Atwood Drive
Northampton, MA 01060
(413) 586-8500
Docket No.
HS15P0203EA
Estate of:
Dennis James Morin
Also known as:
Dennis J. Morin
Date of Death: 02/04/2015
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for S/A - Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment has been filed by MaryAlice Morin of Belchertown, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that MaryAlice Morin of Belchertown, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/14/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED

ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Diana S. Velez Harris, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 18, 2026

Mark S Ames,
Register of Probate

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampshire Probate and Family Court
15 Atwood Drive
Northampton, MA 01060
(413) 586-8500
Docket No.
HS26P0619EA
Estate of:
Diane L. Opper
Also known as:
Diane Lynn Opper
Date of Death: 03/27/2026
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Sarah A. Miller of East Longmeadow, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that Sarah A. Miller of East Longmeadow, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/21/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Diana S. Velez Harris, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 18, 2026

Mark S Ames,
Register of Probate

09/24/2026

OFFICE OF THE SELECT BOARD BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN
Notice is hereby given under Chapter 148, Section 13 of the General Laws that Principle Property Management has applied for a license to install one (1) 5,500-gallon gasoline tank and one (1) 1,500 gallon diesel tank for the storage of inflammable fluids/gases at 401 Mill

Valley Road, Belchertown, MA 01007.

A public hearing relative to the above referenced application will be held on **Monday, October 5, 2026 at 6:35 p.m.** in the Select Board’s Meeting Room on the first floor of Lawrence Memorial Hall, 2 Jabish Street, Belchertown, Massachusetts.

BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
Whitney Jorns Kuhnlenz, Chair
Nicole Miner

Jonathan Ritter
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09/17, 09/24/2026



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