

Belchertown, Granby & Amherst SENTINEL

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1915

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Fun at the Belchertown Fair

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
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BELCHERTOWN — For the 166th year, the Belchertown community has gathered for what many refer to as a “big family reunion”, where friends come together to reconnect and celebrate together.

The fair, which goes three a three-day weekend, is full of vendors, games, food, and

Please see **FAIR**,
page 8

166 year tradition continues



TURLEY PHOTO BY MURPHY FITTS

LEFT: Claire stands proudly with her chicken named Marshmallow.

TURLEY PHOTO BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

Taking a ride on Pharaoh's Fury.

Granby explores school regionalization

By Melina Bourdeau
Correspondent

GRANBY — The Selectboard and School Committee are exploring potential regionalization of schools, driven by aging infrastructure and mounting financial pressures.

At the heart of discussions is the town's high school, built in 1962, which Select Board Chair Mark Bail described as requiring significant work.

“We have to be honest with people and not promise things. There's no silver bullet.”

— Mark Bail

State education officials presented a comprehensive overview of regional school district formation, outlining potential advantages and challenges.

Michelle Griffin, a regional governance coordinator, explained that regionalization could provide “a single administration” and “combined financial resources.”

Currently, Massachusetts has 51 municipalities with 84 regional school districts, including 58 academic and 26 vocational districts. Only 54 municipalities remain outside regional arrangements.

The potential regionalization stems from multiple complex factors. Beyond infrastructure concerns, the town faces significant financial challenges. Bail noted that looking toward fiscal year 2027, the financial outlook appears “exceptionally

Please see **GRANBY**,
page 5



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Marcin Marszalek from the Clapp Memorial Library with the table set up for Constitution Week.

Constitution week is here at the libraries

By Emily-Rose Pappas
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BELCHERTOWN / GRANBY — Between September 17 and September 23, the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, or DAR, hosts events and other special moments for fellow Americans to reflect on the United States Constitution.

The DAR began these observances in 1955, after Congress was petitioned by

the DAR to dedicate these dates every year to the observance and remembering of the Constitution, in order to also celebrate the foundation of the United States.

The Clapp Memorial Library in Belchertown and the Granby Free Public Library will have tables set up throughout the week for the public to learn more about the Constitution and our rights as Americans.

Please see **CONSTITUTION**, page 4

All About Town

BELCHERTOWN



Get to Know Your Town Employee: Abby Lamborn

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
epappas@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN — Belchertown has had the opportunity to welcome in a new member to their offices, and Abby Lamborn, the new administrative assistant, took part in the interview below for the town to get to know her.

What is your favorite thing about the town?

“So far, I've really enjoyed the people I've had the opportunity to meet, both through my work and while attending community events. Belchertown clearly has an incredibly strong sense of community, and I feel grateful to be part of it as an employee.”

What do you do in your position?

“My official job description is a couple of pages long, but my title of Administrative Assistant sums it up well,

I do a lot of assisting. That might mean helping residents who call or stop by, supporting the Town Manager and his Executive Assistant, working with Town committees, assisting the Communications Manager, or serving as secretary to the Zoning Board of Appeals. It certainly keeps me busy!”



Abby Lamborn,
Administrative Assistant

Describe an average day at the office.

“It truly varies from day to day. The day after a Select Board Meeting, you can find me diligently watching the meeting and taking minutes. The Friday before, you can find me wading through paper as I help put together the meeting pack-

Please see **LAMBORN**,
page 4

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166th BELCHERTOWN FAIR

Congratulations Winners!

“SHAKE, CATTLE & ROLL”

GARY WHITLOCK

Best Presentation of Theme Decorated Booth
Youth Booth Winner: Belchertown 4 H Tent
Adult Booth Winner: Christ Communitie Church

GIANT PUMPKIN CONTEST

- **First Place Giant Pumpkin:** Michael Vinsh - 400 lbs.
- **Second Place Giant Pumpkin:** Wayne Dorman - 230 lbs.
- **Third Place Giant Pumpkin:** Hope Gardenier - 100.5 lbs.

PARADE

Judge's Award – Best Presentation of Theme:
 Clapp Memorial Library
Kevin Brown Founder's Award:
 Celebrating Agriculture, Community Spirit - Belchertown Day School

Floats

- 1st: Dwight Chapel, Inc
- 2nd: Complete Septic Service
- 3rd: Austin Brothers Valley Farm

Bands

- 1st: Belchertown High School
- 2nd: Jabish Brook Middle School

Marching Units (Amateur)

- 1st: Footloose

Marching Units (Professional)

- 1st: Chicopee High ROTC Color Guard
- 2nd: Melha
- 3rd: Hampshire County Sheriff

Antique Cars

- 1st: Model A Ford Daniel Ally
- 2nd: Model A Ford Todd Thornton
- 3rd: Chevy Tom Stockton

Antique Trucks

- 1st: Snapper Emily Gosselin
- 2nd: 1930 Model A Ford John Sasur
- 3rd: Model A Ford Chris Lenox

Antique Tractors

- 1st: 1956 Ferguson Nate Shattuck
- 2nd: Super A Farmal James Beachall
- 3rd: 2025 Mahindra Vasilii Trombly

Antique Apparatus – No entries

- 1st: Antique Ladder Truck-Belchertown
- 2nd: Mary Jane Hose Wagon

Decorated Animals

- 1st: Integrity Horse Training/Black Oak Farm "Sparkly Horse"
- 2nd: Austin Ridge Acres "Elvis Dogs"
- 3rd: Belchertown Girl Scouts – "Dog dressed as Cows"

Animals

- 1st: Harmony Personalized Dog Training
- 2nd: Belchertown Historical Assoc. Horse Drawn Carriage
- 3rd: Belchertown Democratic Committee "vote" Dog

EXHIBIT HALL

Andy Michaud Apple Pie Contest

- Helen Papp Award:** Lloyd Butler Jr.
- Preston Atwood Award:** John Alves
- Glenn Butler Award:** Lloyd Butler, Sr.
- E.C. Howard & Son Award:** Laurie Waite
- Hubert & Jennie Greene Award:** Susan Waite
- Les Campbell Award:** Mark Shea
- Bob Wilson Award:** Linda Weston
- Fair Cake:** (Adult) Carol Piesyk (Youth) Jackson Quinn

Scarecrow:

- (Adult) Tiffani Piesyk
- (Youth) Carol Piesyk

Elsie Waskiewicz Award:

- Erica Nader

Best Agricultural Display:

- PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Judy Bettencourt Award:

- Abigail Overgaard

Kevin "K.B." Brown Award:

- Carol Kasabian

Donna Butler Award:

- Carol Kasabian

Nancy Searle Award:

- Page Holmes

Andy Michaud Apple Pie:

- (Adult) Laurie Waite (Youth) Lincoln Quinn

OXEN PULLS

Overall Best Teamster Award: Colby Haskell
2400 AND UNDER

- 1st: Colby Haskell with Ray & Whately 8,500 lbs. full pull
- 2nd: Harlon Bean with Crown & Royal 8,500 lbs. full pool withdrew
- 3rd: Kyle Clark with Josh & Bell 8,500 lbs. 54"

2800 AND UNDER

- 1st: Jesse Dewkett with Charlie & Buck 10,250 lbs. 40"
- 2nd: Kyle Clark with Stihl & Chad 10,250 lbs. 19"
- 3rd: John Andrews with Spike & Silver 10,000 lbs. 66"

3200 AND UNDER

- 1st: John Andrews with Silver & Mayo 11,000 lbs. full pull
- 2nd: Dale Sherman with Fall & Spring 11,000 lbs.
- 3rd: Rob Bertholic with Pete & Moose 1 1,000 lbs. 71" and withdrew

FREE FOR ALL CLASS – OVER 3200

- 1st: Colby Haskell with Mike & Tom 15,000 lbs. full pull
- 2nd: Josh Kicza with Wind & Chill 15,000 lbs. 56"

HORSE PULLS

3300 AND UNDER

- 1st: Chris Perkins with Boomer & Playboy 13,000 lbs. full pull
- 2nd: John Keyser with Shorty & Ben 13,000 lbs. 54" then withdrew
- 3rd: Fred Koloski with Rusty & Champ 11,000 lbs. full pull then withdrew

Best Driver in Class:

- Fred Koloski & Saralee Morgan

3300 AND OVER

- 1st: Gordy Johnson with Tony & Baby Charlie 13,500 lbs. full pull
- 2nd: Alan Boisseau with May & Clauney 13,500 lbs. withdrew
- 3rd: Johnson & Bowman with Chief & Junior 13,000 lbs. 49"

Best Driver in Class NA

FROG JUMPING CONTEST

Youth

- 1st: Christain Manarite 94" (age 6)
- 2nd: Lucy Arinello 88" (age 9)
- 3rd: Marley Winship 82" (age 5)

Adult

- 1st: Logan Macphail 96 ¼"
- 2nd: Mark Wojtowicz 93 ¼"
- 3rd: Jason Lafleur 69"

POULTRY SHOW

YOUTH

- Best Standard:** Emma Massey - Orphington Buff
- Best Bantam:** Claire Austin - Silky
- Best Turkey:** James Backus - Bronze Red
- Reserve Standard:** James Cote - Ameraucana
- Reserve Bantam:** Emma Massey - Orphington Buff
- Best in Show:** Claire Austin - Silky

ADULT

- Best in Show:** Glenn Jameson
- Best Standard:** Glenn Jameson
- Reserve Standard:** Glenn Jameson
- Reserve Bantam:** Glenn Jameson
- Best Bantam:** Glenn Jameson

SHOWMANSHIP

Pre Cloverbud

- 1st: Theo Bachand

Cloverbud Showmanship

- 1st: Claire Austin

Novice Showmanship

- 1st: Emma Massey

Junior - Showmanship

- 1st: Mason Shattuck

Novice Showmanship

- 1st: Leonna Rodrigues

Intermediate Showmanship

- 1st: Olive Garro

Senior Showmanship

- 1st: Jena Rose Zawalski

Novice Showmanship

- 2nd: James Cote

BABY CONTEST

JUDGE'S CHOICE AWARD: Asher Wilhelm
Youngest

- 1st: Cameron Ciesluk
- 2nd: Rowan Fairbanks
- 3rd: Josie Martin

Prettiest

- 1st: Evelyn Koob
- 2nd: Lily Gummesson
- 3rd: Evelyn Roy

Chubbicst

- 1st: Floyd Boone
- 2nd: Peyton Ely
- 3rd: Banks Boyer

Best Dressed - Female

- 1st: Rosemary Buettner
- 2nd: Lily Gummesson
- 3rd: Charlie Bock

Best Hair

- 1st: Alina Higgins
- 2nd: Sophie Desmarais
- 3rd: Josie Martin

Best Grumpy Face

- 1st: Arthur Senecal
- 2nd: Banks Boyer
- 3rd: Riley Culver

Best Natured

- 1st: Calum Griffin
- 2nd: Hudson Bachand
- 3rd: Bryson Ingram

Most Handsome

- 1st: Asher Wilhelm
- 2nd: Walker St. Pierre
- 3rd: Finn Ricketts

Nicest Eyes

- 1st: Arthur Senecal
- 2nd: Walker St. Pierre
- 3rd: Rhodes Gamache

Best Name

- 1st: Theodore Mejia-Martinez
- 2nd: Alina Higgins
- 3rd: Banks Boyer

Best Dressed - Male

- 1st: Wesley LaPlante
- 2nd: Theodore Mejia-Martinez
- 3rd: Callum Griffin

Sleepiest

- 1st: Kayleigh Santiago
- 2nd: Floyd Boone

YOUTH PONY PULL

- 1st: Addie Porter (10 yrs old) with Buck & Blue - full pull
- 2nd: Anna Perkins (12 years old) with Rex & Tex
- 3rd: Aiden Perkins (9 years old) with Rex & Tex
- 4th: Ben Bauman(9yrs old) with Silver & Beasty

KID'S PEDAL TRACTOR PULL –

PEDAL FOR THE MEDAL

Light Class 4-5 Years Old

- 1st: Finn Healy
- 2nd: Collin Lajoie
- 3rd: Marlin Winship

Medium Class 6-7 Years Old

- 1st: Josie Ngiuyen
- 2nd: Roselynn Baecher
- 3rd: Ethan Nay

Major Class 8-9 Years Old

- 1st: Eaman Baecher
- 2nd: Nathan Nay
- 3rd: Peter Baecher

YOUTH BALE TOSS

AGE 4-8

- 1st: Sebastian KuhnLenz
- 2nd: Killian Warren
- 3rd: Nico Manarite

AGE 9-13

- 1st: Bradley Forest
- 2nd: Zachary Ritter
- 3rd: Michael Mastel

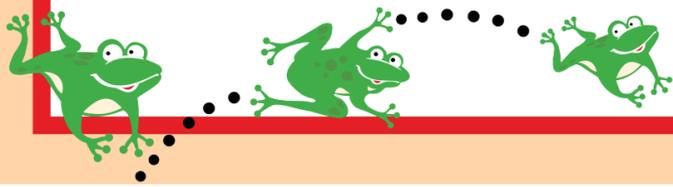
BALE TOSS

POWDER PUFF

- 1st: Lisa Charette ~ 9'6"
- 2nd: Marie Vandenberg ~9'
- 3rd: Ava Briner ~ 9'

BOY'S NIGHT OUT

- 1st: Casey Waldo ~ 14'6"
- 2nd: Josh Clark ~ 13'
- 3rd: Matt Ridenour ~ 13'





Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

Oh, my goodness. There was a whole lot of “Shake, Cattle and Rolling “going on this weekend. You all came to play and that was clear from the floats to the booths and the decorated animals. The weather could not have been any better from tents up to tents down. Smiles were everywhere. We are so lucky to live in a community that can put differences aside for a short time and come together to enjoy and support each other. It truly is what sets us apart from many other communities. None of this is possible without so many dedicated volunteers and sponsors. The DPW crew is nothing short of amazing and the UMASS baseball team has done all the heavy lifting 2 years in a row. The Sponsors make so many events possible in various ways: financial support for events, equipment like Quality Fleet Service in the pulling area and Industrial Technical Services, Inc with equipment and assisting with getting Shriners back to the Parade. **Every bit of support** no matter how small or large creates a spectacular event. Please take the time to say Thank you to the people listed in volunteers and sponsors. We are 51 weeks away from the 167th Belchertown Fair and Parade. Put your thinking caps on for theme ideas. Until then...

THE FAIR COMMITTEE

Mark Nute, Cindy Brown, Carla Chaisson, Bill Austin, Loni Austin, Shawn Lindholm, Kerri Laurenzo, Wendy Chevalier, Scott Brown and Friends of the Fair Mona Griffin and Becky Newsome

Thank You Volunteers!

Thanks to our loyal, hardworking volunteers. Without you, none of this would happen. You are truly the backbone behind the scenes. Regardless of your ability we found a place for all of you! If we have missed your name, we are sorry. We are tired as all of you are. This amazing list is just the people who work fair week from tents up to tear down. There are more who work through the year to plan this event. Thank you again and as someone reminded us... Mark your calendar... the 167th Belchertown Fair & Parade is only 51 weeks away.

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kyle Accuosti | Dave Clegg | June Mercier |
| Teresa & Dean Adam | Rachael Clemens | Adam Meritt |
| Eric Adams | Melissa Cook | Jared Munoz |
| Elizabeth Adams | Jessica Courchesne | Damion Nadeau |
| Lisa Aiken | Olivia Courchesne | Kate Nadeau |
| Lorraine Alves | Country Bank Volunteers | David Neven |
| Lisa Aikens | Jeanette Crumb | David Nauman |
| Bill & Roxanne Austin | David Crutchfield | Becky Newsome |
| Claire Austin | Zaiden D'Eila | Meredith Normandeau |
| Chris & Stephanie Austin | Christine Delude | Mark & Cheryl Nute |
| Dan, Loni, Bailey Austin & Savannah Westcott | Ed Drew | Bruce & Janet Officer |
| Mary Alice Austin | Ethan Evans | Gavin O'Brien |
| Jeff, Valerie & Jackie Austin | Tamara Falcone | Jeff O'Connor |
| BCTV | Raelynn Fine | Sharon Orr |
| Sylvia Bachand | Fay Flannery | Rita Owczarski |
| Jonathan Backus | Liliana Galesi | Brielle Parker |
| Everett Backus | Jim Gamboro | Melissa Parker |
| Jamison Backus | Drew Gatesman | Silas Patel |
| Loralei Baccus | Linda Gay | Jeremy Pietrowski |
| Wesson Baccus | Kai Giro | Josh Porter |
| Bob Beauchamp | Hope Guardenier | Callen Powers |
| Belchertown Board of Selectmen | Mona & Rob Griffin | David & Suzanne Provonost |
| Belchertown Congregational Church | Gail Gramarossa | Tiffini Piesyk |
| Belchertown EMS | John Greene | Carol Piesyk |
| Belchertown Fire Department | Aimee Henderson | Jeffrey Provonost |
| Belchertown Highway Department | Megan & Josiah Hession | Becky Quinn |
| Belchertown Maintenance | Sam Hill | Brian Quinn |
| Selectmen's Office Department | Ken Hislop | Lincoln Quinn |
| Belchertown Police Department | Amanda Hodgen | Jackson Quinn |
| Belchertown 4 H | David Hodgen | Holly Rainaud-Loss |
| Belchertown Water -District | Ike Hodgen | Taylor Richardson |
| BHS Marching Band | Jack Hodgen | Jonathan Ritter |
| BPD K 9 program | Jeff Hodgen | Bradley Ritter |
| Jabish Brook Middle School Band | Nick Hodgen | Zachary Ritter |
| Ladies of Town Hall and Sterling Bacca | Paige Holmes | Mandy Ritter |
| Theo Bachand | Melissa Hurst | Briana Reeter |
| Dan Beaudette | Alani & Evan Iannoli | Jackson Richard |
| Jack Beverly | Mike Jensen | Nicole Rondeau |
| Jason Blanchard | Ginny Jensen | Alec Rose |
| Michelle Blanchotte | Karl Jensen | Julie Salva |
| Marianne Bodzinski | Alex Koch | Mary Salva |
| Garry Bock | Grace Campbell Koch | Gavin Sitarz |
| Lauren & Devin Bock | Lisa Kaczuwka | Mary Salva |
| Damien Boucolois | Ryan Kolben | Drew Sliwkowski |
| Ava Briner | Whitney Kuhnlesz | Penny Skowrya |
| Gary & Sandy Brougham | Jackie Lafleur | Darryl Souza |
| Cindy Brown | Cody Lambert | Lauren Sosa |
| Tom & Nancy Brown | Shawn Lindholm | Natalie Stebbins |
| Scott Brown | Peg & Lew Louraine | Linda Sterling |
| Stephen Burnham | Kaleb Lane | Tom Stockton |
| Dana Burton | Zack Lane | Braeden Sullivan |
| Colleen Butler | Amanda Landry | DylanTerwilliger |
| Donna Butler | Sonia Landry | Erin Thibault |
| Karen Champagne | Kerri Laurenzo | Anthony Tirado |
| Tony Champagne | Lynda Lewis | Boy Scout Troop 64 |
| Zachary Champagne | Mark Lindhault | Linda Weston |
| Austin Campbell | Dennis Liptak | Debbie Whidden |
| Ron Carbineau | Jessie Liptak | Marc Willi |
| Carla & David Chaisson | Kylie Liptack | ML Wilson |
| Nicholas Chaisson | Dakota Lofland | Brandom Wingenroth |
| Pierre, Erin, Cole & Devin Chevalier | Alex Loss | Linda Tsoumas |
| Terry Chevalier | Hollie Rainard-Loss | UMASS Baseball Team |
| Wendy Chevalier | Brian Mailhot | Carrie & Kevin Vickers |
| Christ Community Church | Sharon Marean | Linda Weston |
| | Lynn Maynerd | Debbie Whidden |
| | Cathy MB | Graham Wojtowicz |
| | Reese McCarthy | Emily Zuhusky |
| | Bobby McDonough | Janet Zajac |
| | Cathy Mellin Burton | |



166th Belchertown Fair & Parade SPONSORS

Without the generous support of these individuals and businesses, this event would not be possible. We say it often but it is TRUE. They continually support this event and the Belchertown Community. Please THANK THEM by supporting them when you are out and about. This listing is accurate as of 9/19/2025. Please check future publications for additions.

In Kind Service

- Amherst Copy & Designworks
- Atkins Farms
- Austin Brothers Valley Farm
- Austin Ridge Acres
- BCTV Parade
- Belchertown 4 H
- Belchertown Police K9 Program
- Belchertown United Church of Christ, BUCC
- BHS Band
- Chicopee High School Color Guard
- Garry Bock
- Gary & Sandy Brougham
- Lloyd Butler Jr. Trucking, Inc
- Boy Scout Troop 64
- Grace Campbell
- Terry Chevalier
- Christ Community Church
- Cold Spring Orchard
- Devon Lane
- Scott Dubey
- Fanelli Amusements
- Fantastic Farmers 4H Club
- Faraci Woodworking
- Fire Fighting Equipment
- First Student Bussing
- Drew Gatesmen
- Green Acres Equestrian Center
- GTB Design
- Ken Hislop
- Hodgen Landscaping
- Amanda Hodgen & Steve Soussa
- Hope United Methodist Church
- Jared Lauziere & Shoshin Ryu Martial Arts
- Shawn Lindholm
- Brian Mailhot
- Mill Valley Snowmobile Club
- Meredith Normandeau
- Mark & Cheryl Nute
- Pathfinder Regional Voc Tech School
- Quabbin Valley Rabbit Breeders
- Quality Fleet Service
- Servpro
- Shedworks
- SNOW Storage Unit
- UMASS EMTs
- Wilbur Quirk

Judges Choice Award

- Bell & Hudson Insurance Agency
- Friends of the Fair
- Industrial Technical Services, Inc
- Window World

Best of Show



- Don's Auto Service
- Bank ESB
- Ed Drew
- Drew Gatesman
- Stadler Ace Hardware

Blue Ribbon

- Cindy Brown
- Hulmes Associates
- McCarthy's Pub
- Mill Valley Vet Clinic
- Quality Fleet Service
- Turley Publications, The Sentinel

Red Ribbon

- Tom & Nancy Brown
- Beers & Story Funeral Homes
- DF Plumbing
- Maple Leaf Pub-
- Mill Valley Splicing
- Randal' Greenhouse

White Ribbon

- Teresa & Dean Adam-
- Jim & Donna Boyko
- Betty Boyko & Family
- Boyko Landscaping
- Linda Gay
- Interstate Battery
- Roseann Martoccia
- North Brookfield Savings Bank
- Station 5 Salon
- Tilton Automotive

COMMUNITY

Cultural Council seeks applicants for grant opportunities

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown Cultural Council (BCC) is seeking applications for our annual grant cycle.

We welcome applications from local artists, educators, performers, and community organizations who are working to bring enriching cultural experiences to Belchertown. Grants support projects in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences that benefit our community.

Belchertown is part of a network of 351 Local Cultural Councils (LCCs) in the Commonwealth. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to

the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each LCC. Based on community input, the BCC determines local priorities to fund. 2026 funding priorities are for public events, nature, science, and environmental education, and programs celebrating local history and cultural diversity.

We are now halfway to the deadline. Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, October 16, 2025.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to explore the program guidelines at <https://belchertown.org/bcc>.

CONSTITUTION

from page 1

“The celebration’s goals are threefold: to encourage the study of the historical events that led to the framing of the Constitution in September 1787; to remind the public that the Constitution is the basis of America’s great heritage and the foundation for its way of life; and to emphasize U.S. citizens’ responsibility to protect, defend, and preserve the U.S. Constitution,” said a member of the DAR in a press release.

Just 11 years after the Declaration of Independence was written in 1776 on July 4, the first reading of the Constitution was held on September 17.

“I think that libraries are at the center of American civil life and they stand for values that are expressed in the Constitution - our freedoms, liberties, and inalienable rights,” said Marcin Marszalek from the Clapp Memorial Library.

DAR works hard to “advocate for the awareness, promotion, and celebration of Constitution Week,” and the annual observance week helps to create space for communities to come together and remember the hard-fought rights we have today.

“We are glad to collabo-



What book would you choose from this table?

SUBMITTED PHOTO

South Hadley student named Athlete of the Year

SOUTH HADLEY –Delaney Ochs of South Hadley, MA is the Bay State Games Athlete of the Year in the Youth Ages 18 7 under age division. This is a huge honor being selected out of over 36 sports and thousands of athletes. Delaney is a member of the Belchertown Twirlers and is the Feature Twirler with the South Hadley High School Marching Band.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Delaney Ochs at the Bay State Games.

rate with the Daughters of the American Revolution to bring a display highlighting Constitution Week to the library,” said Marszalek. “I think it’s really important to remind ourselves of our

responsibilities to protect and fight for these freedoms, especially freedom of speech, expression, or the right to read, just as the framers of the Constitution fought with tyrants of their own age to

ensure they bequeath these freedoms to us.”

Stop by the libraries this week to select a book and learn more about the Constitution and the rights we have as Americans.



Director Jenn Crosby at the Granby Free Public Library with their table of books and resources.



Children's librarian Janice McArdle with some books for the kids to check out, too.

Boy Scout Troop 507 Can & Bottle Drive set for October 4

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown Boy Scout Troop 507 is holding a Can & Bottle Drive on Saturday, October 4, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Pride Gas Station at the intersection of Rt. 21 and Rt 202, 165 State

Street, Belchertown. Gather up all of those unwanted returnable bottles and cans from your summer gatherings and help support the Scouts. Returnable water bottles are also accepted. Bring them to the Pride

station, where the Scouts will be collecting them to raise money to help make their scouting experience more meaningful. If you have questions, please email Belchertown Troop507@gmail.com.

LAMBORN from page 1

ets. Other days, you might find me distributing Transfer Station Stickers, updating the website, sending out notices to abutters, getting paperwork ready for appointments to committees, scheduling meeting rooms and the Town Common, or handling any number of tasks that come my way.”

Tell me a bit about you. Are you a resident? What’s your education?

“I am not a resident of Belchertown; I recently moved here from Utah with my wife. I hold a bachelor’s degree in Biological and Environmental Studies with a minor in Chemistry, and I am currently completing my master’s thesis in Ecology.”

What other departments or committees/boards do you work closely with?

“Our office works closely with nearly every department, as we are part of a very well-oiled machine. Since I oversee committee appointments and resignations, I also work closely with each committee in some capacity.”

What is the most fulfilling part of your job?

“For me, the most rewarding part of my job is being able to connect with people and play a small role in supporting the strong sense of community in Belchertown. Helping residents and colleagues alike gives me a real sense of purpose in my work.”

What inspired you to take on the position?

“My wife recently started working in a municipal position and absolutely fell in love with it. Seeing her fulfillment made me realize that I wanted the same experience, and I feel fortunate that this job has given me that opportunity.”

Where is your office located? What are your office hours?

“Our office is in the Finnerty House, which is directly south of Town Hall. Our office hours are typically 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.”

What is the history of your department? What makes it unique from others?

“This position has existed since Belchertown operated under the Town Administrative form of government, and it has continued under the current Town Manager form. What makes our office unique is the broad range of responsibilities it holds, we serve as a central point of connection for residents, boards, committees, and departments. Because of that, the work is always varied, and the office plays an important role in helping all parts of local government function smoothly together.”

What do you want the community to know about your position?

“I’d like people to know that I’m here as a resource. If you’re not sure where to go with a question or request, I’ll do my best to help you directly or connect you with the right person. Supporting the community in that way is one of the most rewarding parts of this job.”

If you or someone else who works for the town would like to participate in these special interviews, please contact Emily-Rose Pappas at epappas@turley.com.



Michael J. Dias Foundation

Event Sponsor



Media Sponsor



12th Annual 2025 Golf Tournament

Monday, October 6th - Ludlow Country Club
1 Tony Lema Drive, Ludlow, MA

Be a player ~ Be a sponsor

11:00 am shotgun start - includes lunch & dinner
\$150/each - \$600/team

imartins@mdiasfoundation.org
mjd@mdiasfoundation.org
www.mdiasfoundation.org

Deadline: 9/22/25

OPINION

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

Should I claim Social Security early because it is going bankrupt?

Dear Rusty:

My best friend is going to be 62 and wants to begin taking her Social Security immediately.

Her reasoning not to wait is the thought that it is going to run out in 10 years, so she wants as much of her money before that happens. I have paid into Social Security my entire working life (44 years and counting). What are your thoughts on taking it as soon as you are eligible?

Signed: Uncertain what to do

Dear Uncertain:

Deciding when to claim Social Security is a sometimes-confusing task, but no one should ever claim SS early because they believe Social Security will go bankrupt in the near future. Social Security cannot and will not go bankrupt. What your friend may be referring to is the fact that Social Security will be facing some financial issues in 2033 unless Congress acts soon to reform the program. And they will act, but likely not until they must.

The fact is, Social Security still has about \$2.7 trillion in reserved funds which are now being used to pay full benefits. If that Reserves balance were to be fully depleted, then Social Security would need to go to a "cash basis" (essentially, paying out in benefits only what is received in SS taxes), which would result in about a 21% cut in everyone's benefit. In other words, even if Congress neglected to reform the program, beneficiaries would still get about 79% of their monthly benefit starting in about 2033/2034. Hardly anyone believes that Congress will fail to eventually reform Social Security and, in fact, they already know how to do that reform (they just currently lack the bipartisanship to accomplish it). But neglecting reform would amount to political suicide for all members of Congress, which is extremely unlikely to happen.

Here at the AMAC Foundation, we are confident that Congress

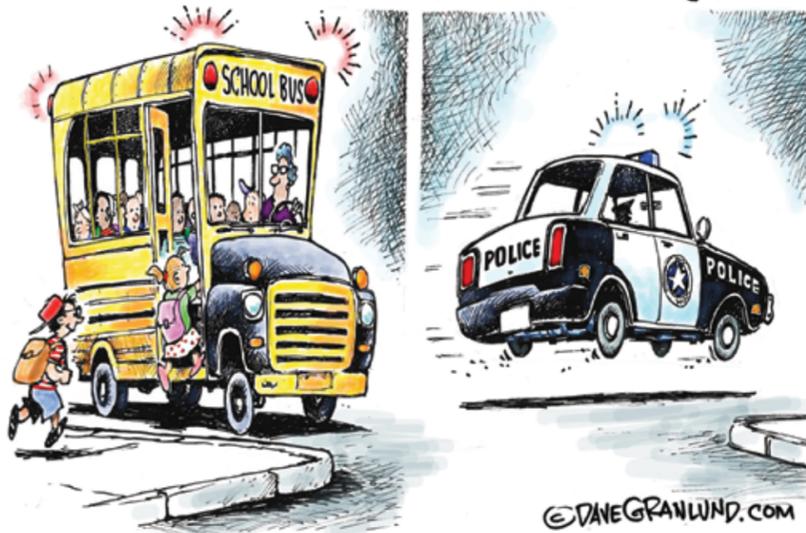
will soon address Social Security's future financial dilemma, and we have been working on potential solutions. We have, for several years, been providing these suggestions to various members of Congress, and those members are now considering our proposals. Thus, we do not suggest making a Social Security claiming decision based on fear of the program going bankrupt.

That fear is unfounded. Instead, we suggest that everyone decide when to claim based upon their individual personal situation, considering their need for the SS money, their life expectancy, and their marital status. And remember, claiming early (before one's SS full retirement age (FRA)) also means Social Security's Annual Earnings Test will apply (the AET limits how much can be earned from working before FRA is attained).

So, our thought on the wisdom of taking Social Security as soon as you are eligible is that it is often not a wise decision and certainly not if that decision is made based on fear of Social Security "not being there" soon. Instead, we suggest making your Social Security claiming decision based upon your unique personal circumstances, including, especially, your life expectancy, financial need and marital status.

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

If you aren't stopping for these flashing lights... Then you'll be stopping for these flashing lights!



A picture is worth a thousand memories

This column was prompted by a picture. You see, a coworker got out her phone and showed me a vase on her table that was filled with the most interesting velvet red flowers.

"What are these?" she asked. "Coxcomb or Celosia," I replied, and I went on to explain how the flower looks like a rooster's comb, hence the plant's name.

Seeing the image brought me right back to the late 1980s and early 1990s where I had a business growing dried flowers and crafting them into wreaths and arrangements that I later sold at area craft shows. It was a fun experience that I shared with my parents.

Read on to revisit some of my favorite flowers for drying.

Celosias make excellent dried flowers. They are available in three distinct types, crested or "Coxcomb," plumed and wheat. Crested types such as "Fireglow," "Prestige Scarlet," or "Big Chief" make quite a statement with their velvety-feeling, brainy-looking heads in rich shades of red, pink, and gold.

Plumed types come in similar colors, but are feathered in appearance. The "Sparkler" series are multi-branching when given ample growing space; just a few plants will provide you with many long lasting stems.

Newer to the catalogs, but really an heirloom, wheat celosia is the most delicate of the three. "Flamingo Feather" has rose tips with a silvery base. Pick often for an abundance of side shoots.

Globe Amaranth is another flower that is popular once dried. Clover-like heads on sturdy stems make great bouquet fillers. Nearly all varieties bloom well in the heat of the summer, producing even

more flowers after they are harvested.

Cut when head reach the size of your thumbnail for best performance.

Lemon Bee Balm or Lemon Bergamot is the most underused of all the flowers mentioned here, but it shouldn't be! Whorls of mauve-pink bracts are best cut when three inches long. Stems are weak, so mix in with other flowers to keep heads upright or attach stems to a wooden pick for added strength. Most of us are familiar with the Strawflower, a stiff petaled flower that feels dry even in the garden! To dry, simply insert a 23-gauge wire up through a tiny bit of the stem and into the flower's calyx, just barely into the head itself. This will give the strawflower a strong "stem" for use in floral arranging.

After the flowers have been wired, be sure to let them dry fully, upright and in the dark to preserve their rich hues. You can also simply pluck the heads and dry them on a cookie sheet in the dark for hot-gluing later on. Love in a Mist or Nigella is an old-fashioned beauty that has light blue, white or rosy pink short-lived flowers followed by really neat brown striped seed pods. When fully dry these look like pepper shakers, dropping their seeds to an fro. The pods are desirable for dried wreaths and arrangements.

Keep picking as soon as the heads are fully developed to keep the plant producing. Prince's Feather is a member of the Amaranth family

and grows lush plumes worth of a prominent place in your arrangements. Smaller side shoots are great for more delicate work.

Colors are typically shades of burgundy. Plants can grow anywhere from eighteen inches to several feet tall so site accordingly.

Winged Ammobium is a two foot tall, floppy annual that has an abundance of tiny white flowers. It is best picked when the center of the flowers just starts to show its yellow color.

If you wait too long, the centers will turn brown and unattractive. Gather small bunches of ten to twelve stems and secure them with rubber bands. Here too attach a wooden florist pick to tiny bunches for ease in floral arranging- besides giving the stem some strength, it will give it additional length.

An attic or barn loft are the best options in which to hang your harvest to dry. Flowers dried in the dark will retain their vivid colors very well and the heat will dry them out quickly.

Make small bunches of fresh cut flowers, securing them with a rubber band, not string. The rubber band will shrink along with the stems as they are drying. Hang them upside down and you will be rewarded with straight stems and upright heads.

Have fun experimenting with floral arranging or wreath making with these everlasting flowers.

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

in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid



The Massachusetts Audubon Society reported the sighting of a red-eyed vireo on Sept. 15 at their Broad Meadow Brook Sanctuary, located on Massasoit Road in Worcester.

The red-eyed vireo has an olive green back and wings, white underparts, gray crown and a white eyebrow and a black line through its eyes. It has a yellow wash on the flanks. Adults have red eyes hence this six inch tall songbird's name. Immature birds have brown eyes.

It builds a cup shaped nest of grasses, bark and spider webs suspended in the fork of a tree. It sings almost continuously from dawn to dusk with a series of short note phrases, "Here I am, where are you?" It is frequently parasitized

by the brown-headed cowbird, which lays its eggs in other bird's nests.

It feeds on insects, mainly caterpillars and migrates to the Amazon basin for the winter. Vireos are found in the forest canopy, particularly in woodlands and forests.

Other birds at Broad Meadow

Other birds at Broad Meadow Brook Sanctuary included a Nashville warbler on Sept. 16, a great blue heron, a sharp shinned hawk



Red-eyed vireo

and a broad winged hawk, all on Sept. 15.

Helping birds

Bird friendly windows can prevent collisions, which annually kill millions of birds. Birds can't see glass. Instead, they see whatever happens to be reflected in its mirror-like

surface. Often, this is open sky or trees, which, for a bird, are appealing and perfectly safe things to fly towards. It's estimated that between one hundred million and one billion birds die every year in collisions with manmade structures, one of the biggest killers of migratory birds.

Bird-safe glass is specially designed to make glass a visible obstacle to birds. Bird safe glass is visible to birds while transparent enough for humans to look out. People may visit the Audubon Society at <https://www.audubon.org/news/what-does-bird-safe-glass-even-mean> for ways to keep birds safe from window strikes.

Here are some of the tips they offer. Try placing your bird feeder about 1.5 feet from the window; it will slow them down. Apply a thin film to the outside of the windows. The glass will become visible to birds, but remain transparent to people. As an added bonus for being so eco-savvy, the film will cut down on incoming infrared radiation, so it will also lower summer cooling costs. Keep curtains

Please see **BIRDS**, page 15

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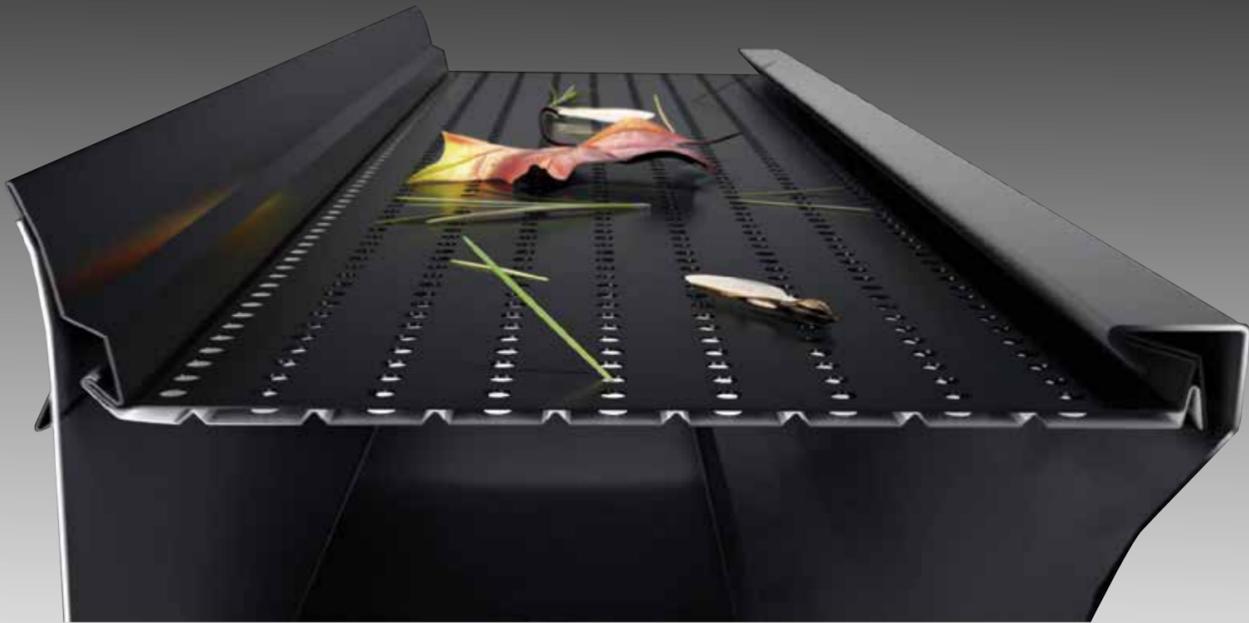
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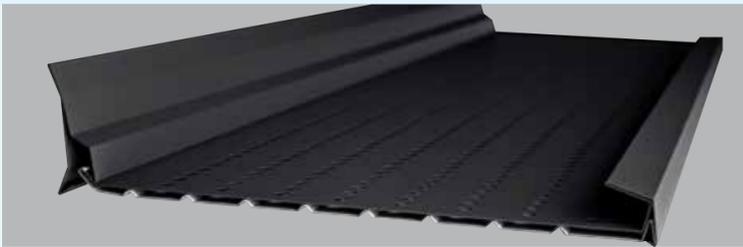
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Magician Jonas Cain amazes a young participant with his tricks.



Many colors and breeds of chickens wait to be presented to judges



Juggler and Stilt Walker Henry Lappen is having some fun together.

FAIR from page 1

fun rides, and memories are sure to be made that will last a lifetime.

Hundreds of volunteers come together to make the events of the fair possible, and thousands come together to enjoy their time with the community.

From the delicious deep friend Oreos and dough to kettle corn, and the crowd-favorite brownie sundaes from Hope United Methodist Church.

“People come to see what’s new in town,” said Cindy Brown, a member of the Belchertown Fair Committee.

The theme this year, Shake, Cattle, and Roll celebrated the fun and boot-stomping that can be had at the Fair, with music and more to enjoy.

The days are filled with neighbors reuniting, kids coming to play, and people who moved from Belchertown returning to their hometown for a time of fun and community.

“The people are my favorite, because everyone knows everyone,” Brown said. “It’s a family thing, and everyone comes to enjoy one another’s company.”

The school sports teams come to hold fundraisers, including the high school marching band, and the classes of 2027 and 2028, and the Belchertown High School and Jabish Brook Middle School Marching bands joined the parade.

People could come to get their face painted, see and pet animals of all kinds, and people lined Main Street to watch the parade on Saturday morning with their lawn chairs, blankets, and snacks.

Hundreds of people sent in pieces of art, vegetables, honey, eggs, or anything else bult, grown, glued, or crafted with their hands to enter into the exhibit hall to highlight the town’s agricultural and creative roots that trace back for centuries.

The Belchertown Fair is truly a time for celebration of the community and those who make up this fun and close-knit town.



3-month-old Daisy rests, waiting for guests to say hello.



Pathfinder students Zachary Restucci, Connor Szczepanek, and Luke Longacre with Moofy 3D Services.



Rainy the miniature pony munches on some hay.



Tom and Jerry, the oxen, participate in one of the ox draws.



Nibbles the goat and Joy and Crouton the alpacas enjoy a walk around the fairground.



Sarah Crafts Things and Barton Beeswax share their local handmade products.

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The Class of 2027 is selling meatball sliders and more.



The Belchertown High School Marching Orioles are making their way down Main Street.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY MURPHY FITTS & EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

SEE MORE BELCHERTOWN FAIR PHOTOS ON PAGE 10.



Officers Jason Robinson and Draine Colon-Rivera with the Belchertown Police Association.



Belchertown High's own band of students, Ultraviolet, performs an energy filled number.



Sue Hevey, owner of Clay Mates, with take-home pottery kits.



Ernie and Kati Samson with one of their beautifully crafted fireplaces from Big Bear Woodworking and Plasma Art.



Heidi, Chloe, and Abby are selling cookies, candy, and baked goods at their booth.



Members of the Belchertown High School Band are selling tater tots and potatoes.



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Here come the Girl Scouts- don't forget to get your cookies.



The Belchertown Fire Department waving hello.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY MURPHY FITTS & EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS



A stunning tractor on its way down the street.



The Chicopee ROTC marching in the parade.



The high school band stopping to perform for those gathered on the street.



The Shriners on their motorcycles.



Here come the Friends of the Clapp Memorial Library.



Eggs, flowers, and more are featured in the Exhibit Hall.



ABOVE: The Jabish Brook Middle School Band marching forward to give their performance.



The St. Francis Cub Scout Pack 507.



Here come the Pathfinder Regional Cheerleaders.

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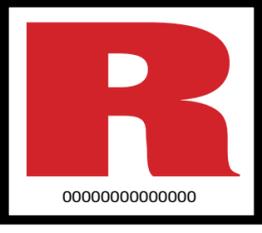
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SPORTS

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Orioles score major upset over Ware

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN—What a difference a year makes for the Belchertown football team.

After going winless a year ago, the Orioles have a perfect 2-0 record this season.

The Orioles, who posted a 40-0 shutout at Quaboag Regional in their season opener, remained undefeated by squeaking out a 21-20 non-league victory over the Ware Indians in the home opener, last Friday night.

“We didn’t win a game last year and we struggled to score points,” said Belchertown head coach Keith Lebeau. “We have a young crew, but our senior captains have stepped up this year. Everyone is on the same page and have been working very hard.”

The Orioles captains are Logan Duke and Eli Grillo, who are both linemen.

The Indians, who defeated Easthampton, 12-8, at home in week one, have a 1-1 overall record.

“We just made too many mistakes in tonight’s game,” said Ware head coach Mike Fazio. “We had a bunch of penalties and a couple of turnovers. We just have some things to clean up.”

It was the first time that the Ware football team made the trek down Route 9 to Belchertown High School since 2017. The Indians defeated the Orioles, 45-0, in the season opening game that year.

The previous four meetings between the two squads took place at Veterans’ Field in Ware.

In this year’s contest, Ware won the pregame coin toss and deferred until the second half kickoff.

It took the Orioles nine



Ethan Longley goes on a run.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

plays to reach the end zone for the first time.

Following runs by sophomore Ethan Longley, junior Avery Cote, and senior game captain Adam O’Rourke, junior quarterback Coleman Longley called his own number in the huddle. He capped off the scoring drive, which covered 65 yards, by dashing three yards into the end zone around the right end with 8:15 left in the first quarter.

The extra point was made by junior Leandro Martins, who’s a first-year member of the Orioles football team. Martins made all three of his extra point attempts, which turned out to be the difference maker.

“Leandro is a soccer kid, and we asked him if he’d be interested in doing some kicking,” Lebeau said. “His extra points were huge.”

The Indians responded with a six play scoring drive covering 60 yards.

Senior captain Jaden

Berthiaume carried the ball for 25 and 10 yards on the first two plays of the series.

Following two more runs by junior quarterback Troy Jurczyk and senior captain Alex Orszulak.

The Indians other two senior captains are Sean Bernier and Marek Luongo.

Berthiaume picked up another first down. He then plowed into the end zone on a four yard run up the middle with 4:49 remaining in the quarter.

The snap from center on the PAT attempt was fumbled. Jurczyk, who’s also the Indians kicker picked up the ball and completed a pass to Orszulak, who was tackled short of the end zone.

With 2:30 left in the first quarter, Coleman Longley completed a 40-yard TD pass to Martins, which gave the home team a 14-6 advantage.

The Orioles, who rushed

Please see **ORIOLES**, page 12

Pioneers, Indians battle to draw

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WARE— After beginning the regular season with a 4-1 home win over Hopkins Academy, the Ware boys’ varsity soccer team were outscored, 22-1, in their next four matches.

Ware was trailing Bi-County East rival Pathfinder Tech, 2-0, in the middle of the first half before storming back.

The Indians, who scored a goal before halftime, netted the tying goal with ten minutes left in regulation. Last Thursday night’s contest, which was held at Veterans’ Field in Ware, ended in a 2-2 draw.

“Our past few games haven’t been very much fun, but tonight’s game was a lot of fun,” said Ware head coach Charlene Valle. “All of the players worked very hard, and we played well as a team. Everyone stepped up.”

The Indians had a 1-4-1 overall record and a 0-3-1 league mark following the home tie, while the Pioneers made short trip back to Palmer with a 2-2-1 overall record and a 1-2-1 league record.

Pathfinder Tech head coach David Wilson wasn’t as excited as the Ware head coach was following the match.

“I’m not very happy with this result,” Wilson said. “We dominated the first half and had plenty of scoring chances. It’s very frustrating, but

Please see **PIONEERS**, page 12



Avery Cote holds tight as he goes down with a tackle.

Granby beats Ware for fourth win



Brodie Funk sucks a clearing pass.

GRANBY – The Granby High School boys soccer shut out Ware last Friday afternoon 3-0. Brandon Carillon, Stephen Szlosek, and Conor Callery scored the goals for Granby as they improved to 4-2-2. Daniel Santiago made two saves for the shutout. Granby faces Belchertown on Sept. 30 at 4 p.m.



Gabriel Helbok looks to make a move with the ball.



Conor Callery winds up to clear the ball away.



Brandon Carillon focuses on the ball as he starts his way up the field.



Christopher Gregorio dekes with the ball and then heads past midfield.



Maxwell Kennedy makes a stop.



Anthony Santiago is pursued by a pair of defenders.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

SPORTS

Owls get conference win over Dean

WESTFIELD – Sophomore RB Aidan Patterson (East Lyme, Conn.) scored three touchdowns to lead Westfield State University to a 48-6 win over conference newcomer Dean College in a Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference football game on Saturday in Franklin, Mass.

Westfield snared its first win of the season to go to 1-2 overall and 1-1 in the MASCAC, while Dean is now 0-3 and 0-2 in the league.

Patterson scored on runs of 18 and 10 yards in the first half, and caught a short pass and ran it into the end zone for a 11-yard touchdown in the third quarter.

Westfield jumped out to a 20-0 lead in the game, and led 20-6 at the half, the lone blemish on the scoreboard coming on a 71-yard scoop and score fumble recovery by Dean's K-Vorn

Pemberton with 20 seconds left in the first half.

Westfield held huge edges in nearly every statistical category, outgaining the Bulldogs 405 yards to 60, posting 24 first downs to Dean's 8, and had a 40:02 to 19:58 advantage in time of possession. Westfield held Dean to -53 yards rushing.

Westfield was 11-12 (92 percent) on third down conversions.

Owls QB Miles Foerster (Amherst, Mass.) was a perfect 10-10 passing for 137 yards and three TD's, connecting with Patterson, Casey Tang (Cambridge, Mass.) and Will Brewster (Westfield, Mass.) for the three scores. Foerster's perfect passing day sets a school record for completion percentage in a game with the perfect 1.000 mark. Colby Pires was 16-17 for a .941 mark against Worcester State in 2022.

Manny Mengata (Tewksbury, Mass.) carried 23 times for 126 yards, and Patterson added six carries for 46 yards. Nick Boucher (Dartmouth, Mass.) and JC Pena (Worcester, Mass.) each had TD runs late for the Owls.

Justyn Gardener (East Hartford, Conn.), Landon Andre (Belchertown, Mass.) and Tommy Bean (Stafford Springs, Conn.) each had five tackles to lead the Owls, with Gardener adding a pair of sacks and Andre and Bean recording one apiece.

Da'Qwon Foster caught four passes for 43 yards for the Bulldogs. Sincere Wright led Dean with 13 tackles.

It was the first-ever meeting in football between the two schools.

Westfield will be back in action at home next Saturday, Sept. 27, hosting Worcester State at 2 p.m. as part of Family Weekend.

T-Birds make more personnel changes ahead of season

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds have announced a hire and multiple promotions to their business staff heading into the new season. Sophia Mackin has been hired as Coordinator of Digital and Social Media, Frank Grimaldi has been promoted to Director of Ticket Operations and Retention, and Steve Brousseau has been promoted to Senior Account Executive.

Mackin joins the Thunderbirds after serving as a social and digital media intern with the team for the previous two seasons. A native of East Longmeadow, Mass., Mackin graduated from UMass-Amherst in May of 2025.

Grimaldi, a Springfield native, is an original staff member of the Thunderbirds front office,

having been with the club since the team's inception in 2016. He served as an Account Executive from 2016 to 2018 before transitioning to his ticket operations & retention role before the 2018-19 season. He is an alumnus of Western New England University.

Brousseau joined the Thunderbirds front office full-time during the 2021-22 season after spending two seasons as a game-day intern with the team. A native of Freeport, Maine, Brousseau has been recognized for his excellence, having been named a finalist for the Howdy Award this past April for outstanding customer service in the hospitality industry. He is an alumnus of Springfield College.

In addition, the Thunderbirds have also

brought in Andrew "Guam" McCormic as Retail Office Coordinator and Ethan Vattaso as Gameday Operations Assistant.

McCormic served as the Gameday Operations Assistant last season before transitioning into this role, where he will assist in gameday merchandise and retail sales. He is a 2025 graduate of Springfield College and will be entering his fourth season with the T-Birds organization.

Vattaso, a current undergraduate at Springfield College, is entering his third season as part of the Thunderbirds' gameday staff. He will manage the staff and oversee live entertainment elements throughout home game nights at the MassMutual Center this season.

PIONEERS from page 11

you have to give a lot of credit to Ware. They fought very hard and played with a lot of heart."

It was the first meeting on the soccer pitch between the two squads since the 2022 regular season. The two meetings that season also ended in ties.

One of the Indians key players in last Thursday's match was senior goalkeeper Jack Gaudreau, who made a total of 22 saves.

"I think Jack has a chance to finish his varsity career with more than 700 saves, which will be a new school record," Vallee said. "He always keeps us in every game even when we're losing. He's a fantastic goalie."

Gaudreau was aided by a strong defense led by senior Kyle Kaczuwka, sophomore Jaedon Warren, and sophomore Levi Ramirez.

The Pioneers did take a 1-0 lead during the 13th minute of the opening half when senior Adonis Dupre put a shot into the right corner of the net for an unassisted goal.

A couple of minutes later, junior Cayden Bousquet fired another shot on goal for the visiting team, but Gaudreau made an outstanding diving save.

Bousquet assisted on the Pioneers second goal, which was scored on a tap in by senior Jaleel Roman in the 24th minute.

The Indians got on the scoreboard two minutes later following a free kick goal from about 30 yards out by sophomore Matt Skutnik. The ball sailed into the back of the net past freshman goalie Elijah Hodge.

"Whenever Matt takes free kicks closer to the goal, they usually go over the crossbar," Vallee said. "I knew that he could score a goal from that distance. It also set the tone for the rest of the game."

The Pioneers had eight more shots on goal during the final 15 minutes of the first half, but the score was still 2 to 1 at the break.

Hodge, who made three saves in the first half, was replaced by junior Gavin Peters (5 saves) at the start of



TURLEY PHOTOS BY JACK CASCIO NEAR.SMUGMUG.COM
James Vulpe leads the charge as he brings the ball down field.



Jaleel Roman knocks the ball down to gain control.

the second half.

Ware senior Ryder Cahalan had several scoring chances in the first twenty minutes of the second half.

Another shot by Cahalan struck off the right post with the visiting team, but Gaudreau made an outstanding diving save. Bousquet assisted on the Pioneers second goal, which was scored on a tap in by senior Jaleel Roman in the 24th minute. The Indians got on the scoreboard two minutes later following a free kick goal from about 30 yards out by sophomore Matt Skutnik. The ball sailed into the back of the net past freshman goalie Elijah Hodge. "Whenever Matt takes free kicks closer to the goal, they usually go over the crossbar," Vallee said. "I knew that he could score a goal from that distance. It also set the tone for the rest of the game." The Pioneers had eight more shots on goal during the final 15 minutes of the first half, but the score was still 2 to 1 at the break. Hodge, who made three saves in the first half, was replaced by junior Gavin Peters (5 saves) at the start of

ber of the boys' soccer team," Valle said. "His tying goal pumped up the rest of the team. Everyone was very excited for him."

Ware had a corner kick and a free kick during the final five minutes, but the match ended in a tie.

The second meeting of the regular season between the rivals is scheduled to take place at Pathfinder Tech on October 10.



Adam O'Rourke goes after the fumble.

ORIOLES from page 11

for more than 350 yards in their season opener, kept the eight point lead until the end of the first half.

Following an interception by Bernier at midfield, Jurczyk, who's the Indians first-year starting QB, threw a 35-yard bomb down the right sideline to junior Dalton Marquis. On the next play, Jurczyk scrambled 15-yards into the end zone with 1:07 showing on the scoreboard clock. A pass attempt on the two-point conversion play was incomplete.

It gave the Orioles a slim 14-12 halftime lead.

Both teams traded fumbles in the third quarter.

The Orioles built a 21-12 lead with 53.5 seconds left in the third quarter when Ethan Longley scored a 16

yard rushing touchdown on a fourth down play.

Just like they did in the first quarter, the Indians answered right back at the start of the final quarter.

Orszulak finished the scoring drive with a 14-yard TD run with 10:51 left in regulation. He also caught a TD pass from Jurczyk on the conversion try.

The Orioles did have one final chance to take the lead.

With two minutes left, Jurczyk completed a pass over the middle to Marquis, who made an outstanding catch between a couple of defenders at the Orioles 39-yard line. The visitors couldn't get any closer than that, as they turned the ball over on downs.

Coleman Longley took a knee on the final three plays



Edan Chaverri picks up the kickoff.

of the game, which enabled the Orioles to celebrate their second victory.

The Indians will be looking to get back into the win column when they host the Springfield International Charter School (0-2) on

Friday night.

Belchertown will be looking to improve to 3-0 when they battle Ludlow (0-2) in another non-league home game on Friday night.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI
Coleman Longley takes the snap.

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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. 13 through Sept. 18. 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

Saturday, Sept. 13
10:33 a.m. – Rolando Reyes, 40, of 21 Summerset Street Springfield, was arrested on charges of operating with a suspended license, leaving the scene of an accident, negligent operation of a motor vehicle and a marked lanes violation.

An officer responded to Franklin Street following a report of a hit and run. A witness saw a vehicle pass another vehicle illegally and then struck another vehicle. The vehicle stopped further up the road. There was an officer in the area who made contact with the operator. Their statement was obtained. The suspect's vehicle was towed from the scene. The second vehicle was able to drive.

Tuesday, Sept. 16
10:24 a.m. – A 36-year-old South Hadley male was issued a summons for illegal use of a commercial dumpster. An apartment complex got a report of a person dumping things into a dumpster and there were photos of the incident. The person was charged accordingly.

10:26 a.m. – Christopher Krueger, 74, of 475 Gulf Road was arrested on charges of operating under the influence of alcohol, reckless operation of a motor vehicle and possession of open container. An officer responded to a Federal Street business where a vehicle had heavy front-end damage was parked. The operator had minor injuries. The person struck a parked car and the parked car hit a second parked car. The operator was identified. Paramedics responded to do an evaluation of the operator. The person was transported to the hospital, officers remained with the person until they were released. The vehicle was towed and inventoried.

Wednesday, Sept. 17
5:11 p.m. – Edward J. Habib, 35, of 129 Brittany

Manor Drive in Amherst, was arrested on charges of operating under the influence of liquor, an open container of liquor, an open container of marijuana in the vehicle. Someone called 911 while traveling on Mill Valley Road behind a vehicle driving erratically. The plate was provided by the caller. An officer approached Bay Road and Federal Street saw the vehicle pass by going west. The officer stopped the vehicle and the operator was identified. An officer noticed on the passenger floor there was an open container. The vehicle was towed from the scene.

A Massachusetts State Trooper arrived to assist. Based on a field sobriety test, the person was arrested and charged accordingly.

Thursday, Sept. 18
8:29 p.m. – A 28-year-old Westfield woman was charged with no inspection sticker and operating with a suspended license. An officer on patrol performed a routine query on a registration plate and saw the sticker wasn't valid and stopped the vehicle. They never got a suspension letter. They were charged accordingly. A licensed operator took control of the vehicle.

ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS

Friday, Sept. 12
3:20 p.m. – An officer spoke with a resident about an acquaintance knocking on their window, but no one was there. The resident said their purse was missing from their car. They didn't see the person knocking on the window and couldn't provide a description.

5:59 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident in a parking lot. A vehicle parked in a parking space was struck on the driver's side as another vehicle attempted to enter the space next to it. No injuries were reported, and no tows were needed.

6:18 p.m. – An officer responded to a Turkey Hill Road business for a report of a disturbance. An employee and customer were causing a disturbance in the store. The officer helped to restore peace.

Saturday, Sept. 13
7:51 p.m. – An officer responded to Front Street and State Street for an accident. A vehicle traveling north was exiting the parking lot of a State Street business entered into the eastbound lane and was struck by a second vehicle. One vehicle was towed from the scene. No injuries were reported.

Tuesday, Sept. 16
4:38 a.m. – An officer responded to a residence for a report of a person knocking on the door and believed it was an ex-acquaintance. There was no evidence of such an event.

5:53 a.m. – An officer responded to Warren Wright Road and Orchard Street for an accident. An officer on patrol saw a stop sign was knocked over and appeared to be struck. The Warren Wright and Goodell Street and the Amherst and Gulf Road stop signs were also knocked down. The matter seemed intentional and the DPW was called to fix the signs.

6:07 a.m. – An officer responded to a group home for a report of disturbance. There was a disagreement between staff and a client.

5:34 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident. A vehicle traveling eastbound went on a cut through street between State Street and Turkey Hill Road was supposed to yield to oncoming traffic. A second vehicle had the right of way and struck the first vehicle. The first vehicle didn't fully stop, and the operator said they looked and didn't see the vehicle. Both vehicles were towed from the scene and no injuries were reported.

Wednesday, Sept. 17
10:10 a.m. – A vehicle parked in a driveway. While the operator of a vehicle struck the driver's side rear of a vehicle in front of it. Both vehicles were driven from the scene. No injuries were reported.

9:34 p.m. – An officer responded to assist Belchertown Fire paramedics.

Thursday, Sept. 18
12:10 p.m. – A resident brought a ring found on Federal Street. It was entered into evidence.



The Jazz Bones ready to put on a good concert.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Concert by The Jazz Bones coming to Oct. 26

BELCHERTOWN – Local band, The Jazz Bones, will be holding a concert at Hope United Methodist Church on Sunday, October 26. The 3 p.m. concert is free and open to the public. The Jazz Bones specialize in trombone music accompanied by a first-class rhythm section. They feature a five-part harmony that can be heard in their swing, jazz, and ballad performanc-

es. They also perform some blues, rock, and Latin music.

The concert will be preceded by a luncheon. Concert goers are invited to come early for a delicious meal featuring Stuffed Shells with meat sauce (a vegetarian option will be available). Serving for lunch will begin at 1:30 and continue until the food runs out! There will be no charge for the meal, but

attendees may give as they wish to a free-will offering.

Hope United Methodist Church is located at 31 Main St. in Belchertown. Some handicapped parking is available, and the church is fully accessible with ADA restrooms and a lift to the sanctuary.

Come and enjoy a fall afternoon of good music and food!

Mount Holyoke College announces tuition-free for U.S. families

SOUTH HADLEY – Mount Holyoke College has announced the Mount Holyoke Commitment: U.S. students with total family income up to \$150,000 pay no tuition.

The commitment underscores Mount Holyoke's long-standing investment in access and affordability; the College joins the ranks of top tier private colleges and universities outside of the Ivy League to have a tuition-free promise. The announcement comes at a time when many families are increasingly worried about affording college; a 2025 survey by the Lumina Foundation, in partnership with Gallup, found that nearly two-thirds of Americans don't think a college education is accessible to most people.

"The Mount Holyoke Commitment expands the reach of a transformative liberal arts education," said Mount Holyoke College President Danielle R. Holley. "We welcome bold leaders, ambitious learners and all those who want to expand

their knowledge, skills and worldview. The Mount Holyoke Commitment is making it possible for more students and families to call Mount Holyoke home."

"Mount Holyoke is pushing forward with what we know works: investing in bold future leaders and expanding opportunity at a time when federal support for higher education is being rolled back," President Holley continued. "Part of the founding vision for the College was that a Mount Holyoke education would be affordable for students from all income levels. The Mount Holyoke Commitment is emphasizing our mission for today's needs."

The Mount Holyoke Commitment is part of MHC's longstanding pledge to meet 100% of demonstrated financial need for undergraduate students. It stems from the College's mission to break down barriers to an excellent liberal arts education, particularly for those who have historically been excluded from opportunity.

MHC continues to meet the full demonstrated need for all U.S. families above this income threshold and offers competitive merit scholarships in addition to need-based financial aid.

"Approximately 75% of American families would qualify for free tuition with the Mount Holyoke Commitment," said Robin Randall, vice president of enrollment management at Mount Holyoke. "With this initiative, Mount Holyoke offers a clear, transparent message to families concerned about college costs: this won't stand in the way of a boundless future at Mount Holyoke."

MHC's generous alums and donors helped make the Mount Holyoke Commitment possible and turned a bold vision for access into a reality for future generations.

For more information on the Mount Holyoke Commitment, visit www.mtholyoke.edu/mount-holyoke-commitment.

Square Dance workshops to begin

LUDLOW – It is that time of year again. Our 33rd annual square dance workshops are starting up on September 28 at the First Church of Ludlow, 859 Center St. in Ludlow. This is NOT your grand-

father's square dance. Dancing is good for your health and brain power, and even good for YOU. Get off the couch and make new friends that you don't know yet.

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Twirlers have been dancing for 35 years, and we are a friendly, welcoming group of dancers. The first 2 lessons are free. Contact Gloria for more information at ladcaller@gogtt.net or call 413-467-3352.

Friends of Granby's Elderly to host annual meeting

GRANBY – Friends of Granby's Elderly Inc. will be holding their annual meeting on Tuesday, October 14. This will be held at 2:30 in the Safety Complex on RT

202 State St. in Granby, MA. We will be holding the election of officers for the coming year. This is an open meeting and everyone is invited to attend.



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AKC CHOCOLATE LABRADOR puppies ready for loving homes. Must see! Contact/text Pam 413-388-1866 for details.

HELP WANTED

HOLE SPECIALIST. Ludlow MA is looking to hire machine shop assistant. Good mechanical abilities and basic blueprint reading required. Full and part time positions available.
Email Bob@HoleSpecialists.com

PART TIME SNOWPLOW DRIVERS NEEDED

Part time snowplow drivers are needed for the Town of New Braintree for the 2025-2026 season. Positions available for both CDL and non-CDL License.
If you are interested, please contact Highway Superintendent Richard Ayer at (508) 867-2451 or email hwysecretary@newbraintree.org.

REAL ESTATE

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE

SHOP, WAREHOUSE, GARAGE, light industrial, yard space, contractor space/yard for rent. 2k to 4k sq. ft. indoor space available. Large yard/outdoor parking available. Location: 1317 Federal St., Belchertown, MA. Contact Ben 413-372-2216.

FOR RENT

4 ROOMS, 2 BEDROOMS, 1.5/baths, appliances included. \$1500/mo. No utilities. 1st/last/security. References and proof of income required. Call 413-589-0401.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY



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

GREEN STREET, PALMER
Newly renovated 1 bedroom apt. porch, off-street parking, coin-op laundry, \$1,500/ mo includes heat. No Pets.
Call Tom 413-896-1555

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

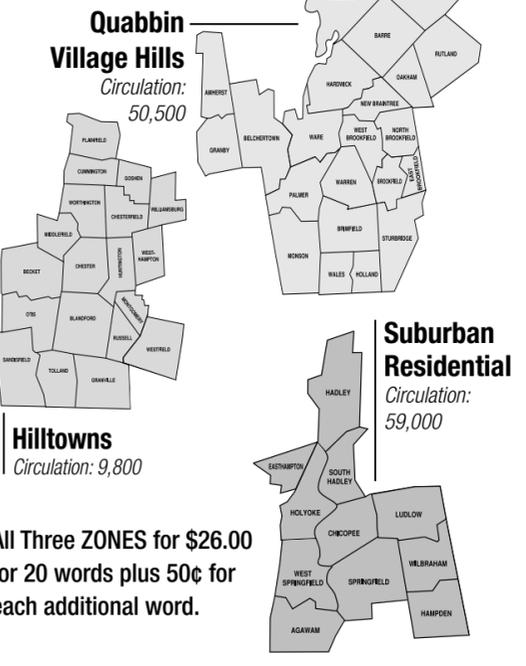
MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 DEADLINES: FRIDAY AT NOON
or call: 413-283-8393

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

Quabbin Village Hills
Circulation: 50,500

Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800

Suburban Residential
Circulation: 59,000



All Three ZONES for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word.

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Number of Weeks: _____ X per week rate = \$ _____
Credit Card: MasterCard VISA Discover Cash Check# _____
Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____
Amount of charge: _____ Date: _____

GREAT VALUE!
ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!
Make checks payable to Turley Publications

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

PUBLIC NOTICE

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLE Under MGL Ch.255, Sec. 39A
 This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of October 03, 2025 the following motor vehicle will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien:
 Vehicle: 1997 Honda Accord

Vin #: 1HGCD5639VA043853
 Color: Blue
 LKO: Aaron Morrissey
 111 Montague City Road
 Greenfield, MA 01301
 Relentless Towing
 Belchertown, MA
 413-530-3804
 09/18, 09/25, 10/02/2025

BIRDS from page 6
 or shades drawn during the day to reduce reflection. Place window decals, sun catchers, tape strips, ribbons or anything else in a dense pattern in the "2x4" format, a single decal will not work. Install a screen or net a few inches outside of your windows, to lessen the impact.

Brimfield bird watcher
 A Brimfield resident continued watching for migrating common nighthawks in August, but did not have any luck. He has seen them in the past. He had three ruby-throated hummingbirds feeding on jewelweed, cardinal flower and nicotiana last month. He saw a pair of American Goldfinch drinking

from the drip he has in his yard. He also saw a female pileated woodpecker on the top of a mountain ash where it ate berries for while.

Bird calls
 A reader sent an email about a free bird call app called Merlin.. She thought other readers might be interested. She said, "Just enter your location and press record. I never knew hummingbirds chirp. Now I do."

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.

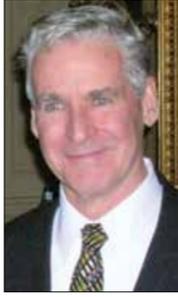
www.sentinel.turley.com

OBITUARY

John J. Sullivan III



John J. Sullivan III, a proud resident of Belchertown, Massachusetts for 58 years, passed away peacefully on September 7, 2025, at the age of 86. Born in Springfield and raised in Hungry Hill, John lived a life defined by service, ingenuity, strength and generosity.



A veteran of over 30 years, John served first in the U.S. Navy and later in the Air Force Reserves, traveling the world and embracing adventure at every turn. In the 1990s, he founded the Very Important Veterans (VIP) program, providing local benefits to families of those serving in Operation Desert Storm. After retiring, he continued his commitment to fellow servicemembers as a founding member of the Western Massachusetts Veterans Court program, helping guide veterans toward healing and justice.

John was a renaissance man in every sense-resourceful, hard-working, and endlessly generous. A graduate of Springfield Technical High School and American International College, he held many professions including history teacher, electrician, and real estate specialist for the U.S. Postal Service. He could fix anything, build anything, and always found a way to make life better for those around him. His home was a reflection of his care and craftsmanship, and his family was the heart of everything he did.

He was married to his beloved wife, Barbara, for 58 years. Together they raised two children, Brigitte and John Sullivan, and shared countless adventures-including cruises around the world after retirement. John was a devoted grandfather to Maia and James Reeb, and Olivia and Maeve Sullivan,

and nothing brought him more joy than spending time with his family. Family and friends looked to him as a role model, drawing inspiration from his hard work, determination and optimism - always facing challenges with the phrase "onward and upward!"

John had a passion for cool cars, coin collecting, and history. He delighted in parties, serving his specially crafted cocktails and at dinner was known to surprise guests by secretly paying the check. He loved giving gifts-always arriving with presents in hand for friends and family. His generosity was boundless, his spirit infectious, and his presence unforgettable.

A visitation was held on Sunday, September 14, 2025, at Beers & Story Funeral Home in Belchertown, with a service of remembrance and reflection at 5pm. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Clapp Memorial Library, honoring John's lifelong love of reading and support of the community.

DEATH NOTICE

John J. Sullivan III
 Died September 7, 2025
 Beers and Story Funeral Home, Belchertown

The Sentinel
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.
 visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

FIVE ISLANDS
 Georgetown, Maine
 2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathroom
 Washer/Dryer, Fully Equipped

- Walk to Five Islands Wharf and Ledgewood Preserve Beach
- Close to Reid State Park

\$1200/week
207-607-9333

Send Us Your Community Dazzler Events

Turley Publications will print your holiday calendar events **FREE OF CHARGE** in our **Dazzler Supplement** which will be published November 19, 2025. Total circulation of 85,000 which reaches over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley. **Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public**

FREE Calendar Listings Reaching over 200,000 Readers in the Pioneer Valley

Event Name _____
 Date/Time _____
 Location _____
 Description _____
 Cost _____
 Contact name & phone number for more information _____

MAIL YOUR LISTING INFORMATION TO:
 Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn,
 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069
 or email* them to: jamie@turley.com
 *Be sure to indicate "Dazzler" in the subject line of your email.

Deadline for Calendar submissions is October 20.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Gas usage measurement	24. Buddhist festival	42. Rock icon	17. 17th letter of Greek alphabet
4. Muslim mystic	25. Cost, insurance and freight (abbr.)	Turner	19. Descriptions
8. Towards the mouth or oral region	26. Indigenous person of Thailand	43. Midway between south and southeast	20. Men's fashion accessory
10. Monday (Spanish)	27. "The Blonde Bombshell"		23. Thieves of the sea
11. Frame for a coffin	34. Series-ending episodes		24. Prohibit
12. Rub out	35. Bluish greens		25. Card game
13. John ____, English educator 1467-1519	36. Aquatic mammal		26. French and Belgian river
15. Small round particle	37. Unit of measurement		27. Underling
16. Chilean seaport	38. Eye membranes		28. Downwind
17. News service	39. Indian god of dissolution		29. Type of medication
18. Pay for dinner	40. People of Scotland		30. German city
21. Glamorous city	41. Leak slowly		31. Animal disease
22. Subway rodent			32. Martini ingredients
23. "The Raven"			33. Get away from

CLUES DOWN

1. Large hat covering	10. A citizen of Laos	34. Stuffed (French)
2. "From what is earlier" (Latin)	12. A place to dance	36. Type of precipitation
3. Celtic	14. 19th letter of Greek alphabet	
4. Retirement region	15. Mild expression of	
5. A way to change posture		
6. Touches		
7. A small island		
9. Rubbish		

DL&G TREE

Tree
Removal



Structural
Pruning



Crane
Service



Storm
Damage



Stump
Grinding



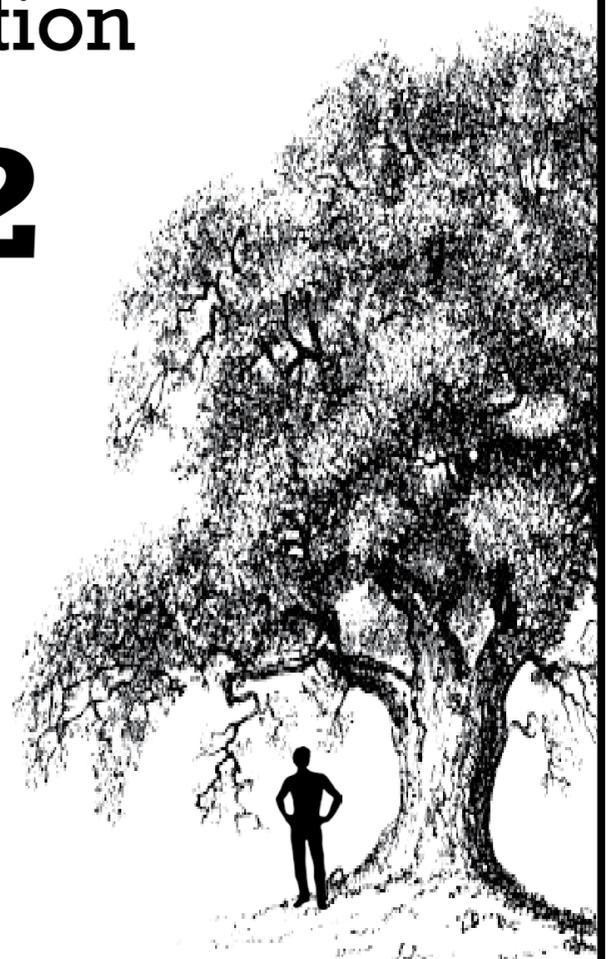
Lot
Clearing



Give us a call for your free estimate
and tree evaluation

413-478-4212

DL&G TREE



INSURED AND CERTIFIED