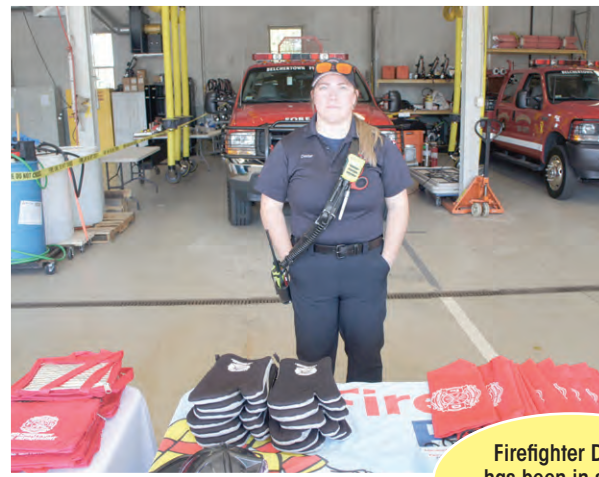


# Fire department celebrates **FIRE PREVENTION WEEK**



Firefighter Dexter has been in service for three years.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY JOHN WOODSIDE

**BY JOHN WOODSIDE**  
 Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN—Donuts and coffee, apple cider and even water, all the things a firefighter needs were offered to the public in Belchertown this past Saturday.

It's Fire Prevention Week and the men and women of the Belchertown fire department give us the information on fire prevention, safety, and the future of local firefighting. A slideshow is on in the break room telling us what it's like to be a local firefighter as well as what is needed to continue to operate and ensure a town's safety. Union president Kevin Girad leads the presentation

"We are 54.2 square miles here in Belchertown," Girad said. "We have two engines; one staffed at all times, we also have the tanker which is 25,000 gallons of water. We have 24 full time personnel.

Please see **FIRE DEPT.**, page 9



A full view of the 100 foot ladder.

# Supt. goals, staffing discussed

**BY MELINA BOURDEAU**  
 Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN – The School Committee approved Superintendent Brian Cameron's goals for the year and the staffing levels at the schools.

Cameron's goals included student learning, budget development, and creating inclusive and supportive environments.

"We're working on enhancing the quality of our instructional programs," he said. "This year, we will be once again identifying learning gaps, creating interventions and monitoring progress. This year, we're looking at math, supporting K to five math."

Cameron said another goal was focused on budget development because "we're going into another tough budget cycle."

"I will work with the town manager, the Selectboard and the Finance Committee to fully understand the structural deficit and how we can work to maintain what we have forward," said Cameron.

He added that he is going to provide a level service budget.

School Committee Chair Heidi Gutekenst added that she wanted Cameron to know that "his worth is not based on where the town ends up going with the budget."

Cameron said the last goal of this school year was to create an inclusive and supportive

Please see **STAFFING**, page 5

# School Com discusses improvement plan

**BY MELINA BOURDEAU**  
 Correspondent

GRANBY—At its recent meeting, the school committee heard about the two principals' school improvement plans.

The Superintendent created the district improvement plan last year, an extension of the strategic plan.

Interim Superintendent Mary Jane Rickson spoke about the action items in the development stage. These items were focused on four tenets of the strategic plan: high-quality instruction, a supportive and safe learning environment, communication, collaboration and community engagement.

Goals included improving the budget cycle, curriculum and career development.

Rickson said the budget cycle went well last year, but "we want to make sure that we developed it and let's make sure we follow the process that was put in place last

year."

She wants to implement a procedure to have exit interviews with staff members when they decide to leave the district.

Rickson said many of the activities in the action plans that were implemented last year were already being implemented.

Granby Jr/Sr High School Principal Allison Jordan presented the school improvement plan for the high school, which she said is in line with the district's improvement plan.

There is a big focus on data and using IXL, a personalized learning subscription-based program.

"We did our best to use our team leaders, student support team members, and grade seven and eight teams to use the data. I think there's work that can be done in that area."

The second goal is to create a continuum of support, which has been part of the school improvement plan for the last few years.

Please see **PLAN**, page 20



TURLEY PHOTO BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

Members of the decluttering group at the senior center, happy to be able to spend time together once a month.

# Decluttering group learns how to clear space in their lives

**BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS**  
 Staff Writer  
 epappas@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – When it comes to the fall season, lots of people turn towards the task of removing unwanted clutter from their homes.

However, the task of clean-

ing out this clutter, termed "decluttering" is a daunting task that causes many to feel overwhelmed, unsure of where to begin, or even how to.

In 2018, the Belchertown Senior Center began to host Becky Martin, a "professional organizer", to host a special group focused on how to declut-

ter, and the benefits of removing excess items from your space.

"I always enjoyed tidying and organizing," Martin said. "I seemed to have an eye for how to make a mess orderly. It came as a surprise to me that other people didn't."

Please see **DECLUTTER**, page 14



# INSURED AND CERTIFIED

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**





# Disc golf reaches Belchertown with brand new space

**BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS**  
Staff Writer  
epappas@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – The game of disc golf is a fun, outdoor game anyone can enjoy, and for some of the members of the community, its their favorite.

Cold Spring disc Golf had its grand opening over the weekend, and it was a great success, with over one-hundred people coming to play, or watch, right at the start of the day at 9:00 a.m.

Nick O'Connor, one of the founders of the disc golf course, runs a non-profit foundation in memory of his friend, Chris Grazioso, who recently passed away, and had a love for the game.

"It was his idea and urging, along with support from a (at the time) new rec director Kyle Thiebault that got the ball rolling back in 2017," O'Connor said.

Serving in the Selectboard at the time, O'Connor also was the liaison to the rec committee, and they took on the course "as a project, in line with leveraging town-owned open space, and expanding recreation opportunities and facilities in town," O'Connor said.

O'Connor began playing during COVID-19 in 2020, as a socially-distanced way to spend time with Chris, and thus came the Chris Grazioso Foundation.

"This foundation, in addition to providing some funding and supplies, volunteers for the course, also supplied the high school and elementary school with disc golf goals and discs that they now leverage in their PE programming," O'Connor said.

Cold Spring Disc Golf Course is completely owned and managed by the town, under the rec department and Thiebault's leadership.

"Tax payers, voters, the CPC, and many local sponsors have supported and contributed this very successful community project," O'Connor said.

The Jeff's, as the two men who



Bryan Maroney, Kyle Thiebault, Sebastian and Theo, and Whitney Kuhnlenz enjoying the beautiful weather at the new course.



One of the disc golf goals, showing the sign for the Chris Grazioso Foundation in order to Grow the Sport for all to love.

helped make this course possible are affectionately called, put in the "backbreaking physical labor" that made the course into what it is today.

"They are out there almost

every day maintaining and improving the course. We would be nowhere without their unrelenting dedication and personal investments," O'Connor said.

"They have been the key com-

ponents in this. They put in the numerous hours to make this ready for the community and expand the love for the game," Thiebault said.



Members of the Chris Grazioso Foundation, proud of the work they accomplished to make this course complete for the community.



The discs ready to be purchased for the game, the funds going to support the Chris Grazioso Foundation.

**BLACK FANG OFFICES**  
For Independent Professionals who want an artistic setting  
3333 Boston Rd., Wilbraham  
617-209-4882  
manomednet.com  
SPACE AVAILABLE  
Office Manager Wanted

**Liberty MUMS & PUMPKINS**  
OPEN TH-SU • 9-5PM  
1099 Center Street  
Ludlow, Mass.  
LibertyFamilyFarms.com  
stop by & order your holiday turkey

**NESCO SALES INC.**  
**COMPLETE AUTOBODY CENTER**  
Your Safety is Our Top Priority  
RS #1688

- All vehicles are sanitized before and after repairs
- Pick-Up & Delivery Services Available
- Collision Specialists

Call Us to Arrange a Free Estimate following Social Distancing Guidelines

We Handle ALL Insurance Claims

91 State St., Bondsville, MA **283-6403** [www.nescoautobody.com](http://www.nescoautobody.com)

Leaves may be falling but Home Sales are not.

**Maureen McGarrett Hall** REALTOR®  
MA 9585138 | Member MLS | Equal Opportunity Housing

**413-364-4994**  
realtybmaureen@gmail.com  
maureen.gogallagher.com

**GALLAGHER REAL ESTATE**



# Gramarossa honored at QHSUA's 10-year anniversary celebration

BY PAULA OUIMETTE  
pouimette@turley.com

MONSON – The Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance marked two milestones this year – the 10 year anniversary of the alliance's formation and the retirement of longtime member Gail Gramarossa.

"We have a lot to celebrate," Rebecca Edwards, Drug Free Communities Grant Director, said at a luncheon held in Memorial Hall to honor Gramarossa and celebrate the anniversary last Friday afternoon.

Gramarossa served as the Prevention and Community Health Director for the town of Ware as well as the Program Director for QHSUA, just two of the many roles she has taken on since she first became involved with substance use prevention dating back to 1996 when she became managing director of STOP (Stop Teenage Addiction to Tobacco).

Gramarossa has also been active serving her hometown community of Belchertown, serving on the Board of Health for six terms from 1998 until 2016 and the Select Board from 2019-2022. Currently, Gramarossa serves on the Belchertown Opioid Settlement Fund Advisory Committee.

Throughout the years, Gramarossa has worked with the Collaborative for Educational Services with the SPIFFY Coalition and was a founding member of the Community Health Solutions consulting group. In 2007 she brought Social Norms campaigns to Easthampton and Northampton.

In 2010 she worked for the Center of Healthy Communities and from 2015-2018 she served on the Holyoke Community College faculty teaching the Community Health Workers class.

In 2014, the Substance Use Task Force (renamed the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance in 2017) was formed by the Quaboag Hills Community Coalition. In December of 2016,

Gramarossa was hired to lead the alliance, which she has done for the better part of a decade before Emily Kirby took over earlier this year.

Gramarossa has also worked to secure hundreds of thousands of dollars in grant funding for the communities she has represented.

"Gail has just been someone tremendously impactful," state Sen. Jake Oliveira said.

Oliveira said bringing attention to substance use disorders in rural areas has been a challenge, and that Gramarossa, the alliance and its partners, have made incredible strides to do so.

"There is not a family that hasn't been impacted," he said when talking about substance use.

Oliveira said that both Sen. Ryan Fattman and Sen. Peter Durant were unable to attend, but wanted to join him in honoring Gramarossa on her retirement, and for the alliance reaching its 10 year anniversary.

"Both really wanted to be here to celebrate this milestone," he said.

State Rep. Aaron Saunders echoed Oliveira's statements about the alliance's steps to overcome the opioid epidemic, and shared his appreciation "for the work everyone does."

"The ability to get resources to the people who need it...the fact that this alliance persevered is nothing short of amazing," he said. "We will continue to support your efforts for the next 10, 20 plus years."

Saunders shared his memories from his first time meeting Gramarossa at his daughter's soccer game, and how she introduced herself to all of the parents there.

"She's someone you knew cared," he said.

Oliveira said the alliance and its partners have been key in helping state legislators address the opioid crisis and substance use. Gramarossa has been instrumental in making positive changes and connecting people to necessary resources.

"We didn't know where to turn a lot of the time, but we could



State Rep. Aaron Saunders (left) presents a citation to Gail Gramarossa along with state Sen. Jake Oliveira (right). Gramarossa recently retired from her role as the Prevention and Community Health Director for the town of Ware as well as the Program Director of the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE  
State Sen. Jake Oliveira talks about the positive impact Gail Gramarossa has had on the community.

turn to wonderful community partners, and Gail, you're certainly part of that," he said.

Gramarossa said she is "so grateful" that both Oliveira and Saunders represent her community, and she has enjoyed getting to know them.

She credited all of those involved with the alliance and

beyond for working together to continue making progress to prevent and treat substance use disorder

"There's so many hundreds of people behind all of this," she said.

Gramarossa said in all of her work in the field, she is proudest about the creation of the alliance, and all of the local work that came out of it.

"Each and every town really stepped up," she said.

Looking to the future of the alliance, Gramarossa said she hopes that new people will continue to get involved and help it grow.

"It really helps to have all this collaboration to get this moving," she said.

Another goal achieved by the alliance that Gramarossa is proud of is the creation of the Recovery Center of HOPE, which now has expanded to two locations on Main Street in Ware. She is also happy that both Ware and Belchertown have access to a mobile methadone van.

"10 years ago, would we have thought about a mobile methadone van? About needle exchange?" she said.

Gramarossa said the alliance and its partners have worked to help promote awareness about substance use, and to reduce the stigma associated with it.

"There's a lot of knowledge out

in the community now," she said.

About QHSUA

The Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance is a partnership of local hospitals, school districts, behavioral health agencies, religious organizations, police departments, town administrations, mental health professionals, fire and rescue departments, businesses, youth groups and organizations, substance use treatment service providers and community members who care about community-based substance use prevention, treatment and recovery supports.

Its mission is to work collaboratively to prevent and reduce substance misuse, especially among youth; to break down the stigma associated with substance use disorder; to reduce health problems resulting from substance use disorder; to contribute to community efforts to expand access to treatment services, and to value all pathways to recovery.

The QHSUA serves the towns of Barre, Belchertown, Brimfield, Brookfield, Hardwick, Hubbardston, Holland, Monson, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Oakham, Palmer, Spencer, Wales, Ware, Warren and West Brookfield.

For more information, visit [qhsua.org](http://qhsua.org).



## BELCHERTOWN VETERINARY HOSPITAL

211 State Street, Belchertown, MA  
(413) 324-1138

*Proudly serving Belchertown and its surrounding communities*

**DOGS 🐾 CATS 🐾 REPTILES 🐾 EXOTICS**  
**AND NOW BIRDS!**

★ **Now offering same day urgent care appointments** ★  
**Monday - Friday**

*Are you having difficulty communicating with your partner, struggling with boundaries, and healthy relationships?*

**We invite you to join us**  
**Friday afternoons from 1-2:30 pm**  
**to explore these topics and more.**

This group will be held in zoom, is educational, confidential, and free.

Please contact **Pat James 413-726-8661.**



### CENTER STREET AUTO PARTS OF CHICOPEE, INC.

We will pay you top dollar for your car AND we will pick it up! Call us for a price!

- Top-Of-The-Line Auto Salvaging Services
- First-Rate Used Auto Parts
- Top-Grade Auto Body Parts
- Sell Your Old or Used Car to Us

"Serving all of Western Mass."

**\$\$\$ Money on the Spot for All Vehicles**

**centerstreetautoparts.com**  
651 Center St., Chicopee **413-733-2778**





Members of Team Monaghan stand united before the race.

## Hampden County Sheriff's Office hosts record-breaking Sheriff's Shuffle

HOLYOKE – The Hampden County Sheriff's Office's hosted the 2024 Sheriff's Shuffle 5K and 1.5-mile on Sunday, Sept. 29, at Ashley Reservoir in Holyoke, with a record turnout of more than 700 runners and walkers setting the largest participation in the event's 25-year history.

Sheriff Nick Cocchi spearheaded this year's initiative, aimed at addressing the epidemic of domestic violence in Western Massachusetts. The event successfully raised crucial funds to support victims, with this year's proceeds benefiting the YWCA of Western Massachusetts, an organization dedicated to empowering and assisting individuals affected by domestic violence.

"I'm beyond grateful for the more than 700 people who supported this year's Sheriff's Shuffle 5K. Together, we raised much-needed funds and awareness for the fight against domestic violence, a cause that touches far too many lives in our community," said Sheriff Nick Cocchi. "Events like this remind us that when we stand united, we can bring about real change. The strength and generosi-

ty of our community are powerful, and I'm proud to see so many people come together to say, 'Enough is enough.' Let's continue this momentum and keep working to protect survivors and break the cycle of violence."

The YWCA of Western Massachusetts, based in Springfield, has experienced a significant increase in demand for its services, particularly following the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2023 alone, the organization provided vital support to nearly 12,000 men, women, and children through its various programs.

"The Sheriff's Shuffle 5K was an incredible event that united our community in the fight against domestic violence. We are so grateful for the outpouring of support from everyone who participated. Together, we are raising funds and awareness that will help protect and empower survivors. The partnership with the Hampden County Sheriff's Office is vital in ensuring that resources and support are available for those in need. This fundraiser sends a strong message: we will not stand by in silence; we

will act and make a difference," said YWCA CEO Elizabeth Dineen.

Joseph Harris, of South Hadley, a Hampden County Sheriff's Office employee, was the 5K race winner with a time of 18 minutes, 12 seconds. Lee Belisle, of Belchertown, was second in 19:03, and Pete Syper, of Three Rivers, was third in 20:39. Jennifer Murray, of Westfield, was the first place female runner, finishing the 3.1-mile race course in 22:53. Lydia Pacheco, of Springfield, was the top Sheriff's Office female staff finisher and second female overall with a time of 23:18. Victoria Stone, of Chester, was the third female across the finish line in 23:22.

The Sheriff's Shuffle has long fostered community involvement and collaboration with local agencies, bringing together participants from all walks of life to unite for this important cause. The day included camaraderie, refreshments, food, awards, a raffle with exciting prizes, and live entertainment, creating an atmosphere of community spirit and engagement.



Over 700 runners and walkers took part in the 5K held at Ashley Reservoir in Holyoke.

### STAFFING from page 1

climate in the district.

"We plan on working with stakeholders to identify and celebrate different backgrounds within schools. We talked with the students about the first year of the in-house Dream Team," Cameron said.

He required that administrators meet with these students monthly to get feedback and student voices.

Cameron added that the district is developing a comprehensive health and physical education plan.

Cameron provided an update on the

district's staffing levels. There are no vacancies at Cold Springs School.

"At Swift River, we're looking for an intensive needs paraprofessional, two lunch recess paraprofessionals, and we have a teacher going out on maternity leave," he said. "At Chestnut Hill, we had a teacher retire recently. We have to fill that position. An English learner paraprofessional position is open, and we have a fifth-grade teacher retiring at the end of October."

A long-term substitute is pending at Jabish Brook Middle School, and a Spanish teacher has accepted a posi-

tion.

"We need an intensive needs paraprofessional for our life skills program and one-to-one intensive needs. The district is also looking for a nurse," Cameron said.

The district is going on year four of not having full-staff psychologists, but the district has two.

Gutkenst asked Cameron how this compared to previous years.

"I would say the same as last year," he said. "For the grade four teaching position, I remember getting 50 to 60 applicants, and I believe (the principal) got four."

**THE BEST FRESH FOR FALL FUN!**

## Randall's Best Ever Scarecrow Contest

**OCTOBER 19th & 20th**

**\$3,000 in Cash Prizes**

**TWO ENTRY CLASSES:**

- Youth up to Age 12
- Adults 12 and Older

**FIVE WINNING CATEGORIES -**

Best Overall, Scariest, Funniest, Most Original, and Most Traditional

**20 Different Prizes, Plus 10 Charity Matches!**

**Bring Your Entry To The Greenhouse By End Of Day Saturday, October 19th**

**• WITH JUDGING ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20TH •**

### October Fall Fun Workshops

Outside In The Garden Center

**Saturdays, Sundays and Columbus Day 11am-4pm**

### Scarecrow Making Workshop

**Make Your Own Life Size Scarecrow We Provide All The Materials**

"Make It Here" or Buy A Kit To Make At Home

### Pumpkin Decorating Workshop

**We Provide The Pumpkins & Decorations**

"Make It Here" or Buy A Kit To Make At Home

### RANDALL'S PUMPKIN DECORATING CONTEST

**October 26th & 27th**

### Beautiful Hardy Mums IN FABULOUS FALL COLORS

**Pumpkins! Pumpkins! Specialty Pumpkins!**

**Gourds, Straw Bales, Corn Stalks, Witches, Ghosts, Spiders & Scarecrows!**

### FALL FLAVORS

**Local Mac and Cortland Apples**

**5 lb Tote Bags \$5.99**

**APPLE CIDER DONUTS, FRESH SWEET CIDER**

**Fresh Baked Pumpkin Pies Pumpkin Muffins & Pumpkin Beer!**

### Elsie's Creamery

**The Best Homemade Ice Cream**

**Last Weekend!**

**October 12th, 13th & 14th**

**ALWAYS FRESH AT**



**631 CENTER ST., Route 21, Mass Tpke Exit 54 LUDLOW • 589-7071 • www.randallsfarm.net**

**OPEN COLUMBUS DAY 7AM - 8PM OPEN EVERY DAY 7AM - 8PM**

Find us on [facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)



OPINION

# in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid



## Autumn related questions for the Garden Lady

Deborah, who gardens in Hardwick, wrote in with this question for the Garden Lady.

“When would be the best time for me to divide and replant my Black Eyed Susan plants? I have a healthy clump growing near my deck, and I have a couple other spots that could benefit from their all-summer long blooming habit.”

I am fairly certain that Deborah is talking about perennial Black Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia fulgida* var. *sullivantii* “Goldsturm”). This 1999 Perennial Plant of the Year is a hardy perennial that makes a thick carpet of foliage underneath the black centered yellow daisy-like flowers.

The plant is easy to take care of and is drought tolerant. It’s also noteworthy to mention that both deer and rabbits don’t seem too interested in it, but bees and butterflies do love it, and songbirds will visit the spent flowers in search of a seedy meal.

Goldsturm tops off at about two feet tall and enjoys full sun to bloom best. But alas, I digress from Deborah’s question.

I usually don’t divide my perennials much after mid-September at the latest. I want the plants to have a chance to root well before winter, so that the impending freeze/thaw cycles won’t heave the crown out of the ground and into harm’s way.

My recommendation would be to divide as soon as the plant comes alive in the spring, watering the divisions well for a month or so until well established.

While Deborah had my attention she asked a second question. “It is my first time growing dahlias. I was lured into buying a mixed box of tubers in the spring. Boy those pictures on the front of the box caught my eye. It took them awhile to sprout, and even longer to bloom. Just within the last few weeks am I beginning to enjoy the flowers. Is it true that you have to dig them up for the winter, or are they hardy around here?”

Great timing on this question, Deborah!

I am part of a dahlia lover’s group on social media, and the consensus is that indeed, some dahlias have been slow to flower this year. Mine have, for sure!

I think it has to do with all of the rain we had soon after planting. The tubers will sometimes struggle or rot if it’s too wet. It’s interesting to hear from some members of the group – especially those closer to Boston or Cape Cod, having luck with tubers overwintering in the ground.

I guess it’s a gamble, but I am of the habit of digging them up. It’s taken me awhile to build my collection and I don’t want to lose it, and honestly, we never know what kind of winter we’ll have.

Here is how you get the job done: Dig up dahlia tubers either just prior to or soon after frost hits. Leave a small portion of stem attached to the tubers – it is a great place to adhere a label.

Plastic tape works like a dream – and leaves you ample room to write down notes in addition to the variety.

Take it from me – it is easy to forget a name over the winter months and also easy to forget height, or vigor!

Soil should be eased off the tubers with a spray of water before placing in storage. Choose a location to overwinter your tubers that maintain 40-50 degrees temps and 90% humidity.

These conditions will keep them dormant and healthy until it is time to replant. Many people have good luck using a cold basement or root cellar; small quantities of tubers can be stored in the crisper drawer of the refrigerator.

Placing tubers in damp peat moss, saw dust, shredded leaves, or even ventilated plastic bags will help to prevent shriveling. Be sure to check on your tubers every couple of weeks throughout the offseason.

Should you see shriveling, mist them with clean water and re-dampen the medium in which they were placed. If you see mold, bring down the temperature and humidity level. Good luck!

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 32 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.*



GUEST COLUMN

## Chasing every trail in the wilderness

BY JULIE MIDURA

It was a rough weekend in the Sandwich Wilderness.

Three days, three nights, 19 trails, 38.6 miles, one black bear encounter, one startled partridge encounter, 168,952 mosquitoes (give or take a few), and a handful of curse words (give or take a few dozen).

It was a weekend when being taken out by a startled partridge who swooped out of the dense brush flapping its wings wildly while making what was assuredly an unintentional beeline straight to my face seemed like a far worse fate than encountering an enormous black bear at a stream crossing. I have no animosity towards the partridge. Based on the look in its eyes as I dropped to the ground to avoid the impending collision, the bird was just as terrified as I was.

As for the black bear, Tom and I approached a 30 foot wide brook that we needed to ford when we saw the enormous beast coming towards us from downstream. We were about twenty-five feet from each other when we caught sight of each other, which gave the animal the opportunity to size us up before deciding that we didn’t look very appetizing and we weren’t worth the effort. It charged up the embankment on the other side of the stream and disappeared into the woods...in the same direction that Tom and I were going.

It was a weekend of when the steep climbs came one after another after another. To the point that we made the questionable decision of dumping out a large

portion of the contents of our backpacks and hiding them behind a truck-sized boulder so that we wouldn’t have to shoulder the heavy weight on the next uphill. We’d pick up everything on the way back down. Which inevitably made us worry for the next two hours that we’d arrive back at the boulder to find that our tent and sleeping bags would either be gone or be ripped to shreds by the aforementioned bear looking for a soft place to lay his head.

It was a weekend when eating leftover pizza on a mountaintop with beautiful views almost made up for 72 hours of being tormented by every flying, buzzing, stinging insect imaginable, all of whom were intent on sucking every ounce of blood AND sanity from my body.

It was a weekend when you don’t want

Please see **HIKING**, 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](mailto:sentinel@turley.com). The deadline for submissions is Friday at 5 p.m.

Visit us on the web [www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)

## SENTINEL TEAM

EDITORIAL [sentinel@turley.com](mailto:sentinel@turley.com)



ADVERTISING SALES  
Maureen McGarrett Hall  
[mmcgarrett@turley.com](mailto:mmcgarrett@turley.com)



SPORTS EDITOR  
Greg Scibelli  
[sports@turley.com](mailto:sports@turley.com)



STAFF WRITER  
Emily-Rose Pappas  
[epappas@turley.com](mailto:epappas@turley.com)

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



@ The Sentinel

WEB [www.sentinel.turley.com](http://www.sentinel.turley.com)

PATRICK H. TURLEY  
CEO

KEITH TURLEY  
President

DEANNA SLOAT  
Graphics Manager



[www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)

Turley Publications, Inc. cannot assume liability for the loss of photographs or other materials submitted for publication. Materials will not be returned except upon specific request when submitted.

### 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.





## Will my wife's survivor benefit less if she claimed her Social Security early?

**Dear Rusty:**

I claimed Social Security at 70. My wife claimed her own SS at 62 and her earnings were significantly lower than mine. I understand my wife will be eligible to claim my benefit if I pass before she does, but will Social Security reduce that benefit because she didn't wait until age 65 to claim hers?

*Signed: Concerned Husband*

**Dear Concerned:**

Your wife's benefit as your surviving spouse will be based on two things: her age when she claims her survivor benefit and the amount you were receiving at your death.

If she has reached her own Full Retirement Age when she claims her surviving spouse benefit, she will get 100% of the amount you were receiving when you died instead of her own smaller SS retirement amount. However, if she claims her survivor benefit at any time before her full retirement age, it will be reduced for claiming the survivor benefit early.

Thus, when your wife claimed her own Social Security retirement benefit in her case, age 62 doesn't matter and doesn't

affect her potential surviving spouse benefit what matters is her age when she claims her survivor benefit. If she claims before reaching her own FRA, her survivor benefit will be reduced according to the number of months before her FRA that the survivor benefit is claimed. That reduction would be about 4.75% for each year earlier than her FRA she claims it.

But if she claims her surviving spouse benefit at or after she reaches her full retirement age, she will get the amount you were receiving at your death, instead of her own smaller age 62 Social Security retirement benefit amount. FYI, your wife's full retirement age is somewhere between 66 and 67, depending on the year she was born born in 1960 or later, her FRA is age 67.

And, just for clarity, your wife's payment as your surviving spouse will consist of her own SS retirement benefit plus an auxiliary amount to bring her monthly payment up to what she is entitled to as your surviving spouse.

*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](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*

## HIKING from page 6

to use insect repellent because you know that there will be no shower at the end of each day and you hate how sticky the bug juice feels on your skin, but you spray yourself anyway, and so liberally that any self-respecting mosquito wouldn't be caught dead within a mile of you. But the bug juice ends up being more of an aphrodisiac than a deterrent, and at the end of the day, not only is your skin sticky from the bug spray, but you're covered in mosquito bites as well.

It was a weekend when you crawl into your tent at the end of the day after hiking for nine long hours in the scorching heat and oppressive humidity, and your long hair is plastered to your head and neck like a second skin and it takes Herculean effort to peel the clothes from your sticky body,

and the baby wipes are no match for the stench from days of sweating profusely, no matter how many you use.

It was a weekend when hiking in the pouring rain is actually a welcome relief, even though the added weight from soaking wet gear makes your already heavy backpack feel like there's a baby elephant strapped to your back.

It was one of those weekends that made us ask ourselves if we really want to complete our goal of hiking EVERY trail in every Federally Designated wilderness area of the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

Frankly, after all of the misery we endured on this backpacking trip, I have just one thing to say...

*"When are we going back?"*

Follow more of our hiking adventures on Instagram @morethanthemountain

## Belchertown committee openings

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

The Town wishes to fill the following vacancies:

**Animal Control Advisory Board:** The Town wishes to fill two (2) vacancies on the Animal Control Advisory Board. This board has the authority to conduct hearings as allowed in the Town's by-laws and pose reasonable conditions as deemed appropriate. The ideal applicants may be a dog breeder, a dog trainer, a veterinarian, non-pet owner from the community, a medical professional specializing in emergency medicine, animal enthusiast or caregiver, pet owner and/or interested residents. Deadline: Friday, Oct. 25.

**Belchertown Family Center Committee:** The Belchertown Family Center Committee is seeking passionate, service-minded individuals to fill two (2) active voting member positions. This committee is charged with oversight of the Belchertown Family Center and its support programming for families and is actively working to create a breadth of resources for our community. Deadline: Friday, Oct. 25.

**Capital Improvement Planning Committee:** The Town wishes to fill seats on the newly developed Capital Improvement Planning Committee. Those interested must be Belchertown residents with demonstrated knowledge of construction, facility maintenance, fleet management, architecture, engineering, or a related field. Please submit your letter of interest with qualifications by Friday, Oct. 25.

**Communications Committee:** The Town wishes to fill two (2) full member seats on the Communications Committee. The purpose of this committee is to develop a communication plan for the Town of Belchertown to improve information flow from the Town to the public. Experience with marketing, communications, and/or social media is highly preferred. Deadline, Friday, Oct. 25.

**Council on Aging:** The Town wishes to fill one vacancy on the Council on Aging. Members of the Council on Aging coordinate programs and services for the elderly population and oversee the

Belchertown Senior Center. Deadline: Friday, Oct. 25.

**Energy and Sustainability Committee:** The Town wishes to fill a full member vacancy on the Energy and Sustainability Committee. Its purpose is to develop and recommend sound energy and sustainability programs and policies for the Town. Energy relates to the fuel choices we make for buildings, vehicles, and industry. Sustainability means meeting our own needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Visit their webpage at [www.belchertown.org](http://www.belchertown.org). Deadline: Friday, Oct. 25.

**Historical Commission:** The Town wishes to fill two (2) associate member seats on the Historical Commission. The Commission's basic goal is the preservation of historic places and is completing an inventory of Belchertown's historic assets and structures that are more than 50 years old. Deadline: Friday, Oct. 25.

**Historic District By-Law Commission:** The Town wishes to fill (1) full member Real Estate seat on the Historic District By-Law Commission. The Commission has regulatory control over new construction, reconstruction, alterations, movements, and demolition of all exterior architectural features of buildings and structures within the Historic District which are visible from any public street, public way, or public park. Deadline: Friday, Oct. 25.

**Parks, Beach & Recreation Committee:** The Town wishes to fill a full member seat to serve on the Parks, Beach & Recreation Committee. The Committee recommends policy, conducts and promotes sports and recreation, physical education, and recreation programs to meet the leisure time needs of the community. Deadline: Friday, Oct. 25.

**Veterans' Services Advisory Board (VSAB):** The Town is seeking letters of interest to one (1) full member vacancy and one (1) at-large member on the VSAB. The Board works closely with the Town's Veterans' Agent on issues pertaining to veterans to include but not limited to Veterans Day and Memorial Day ceremonies, war memorials, veterans graves or any other related areas of concern. Deadline: Friday, Oct. 25.

**Pioneer Valley Transit Authority Advisory Board:** The Town is seeking an individual to represent and serve as a Liaison to the Town of Belchertown on the PVTA Advisory Board. Interested individuals should have the time and desire to attend respective meetings in Springfield and periodically review the PVTA's services to the Town and its contiguous communities. Deadline: Friday, Oct. 25.



# Your Local BUSINESS CONNECTION

**TILTON AUTOMOTIVE**  
GENERAL REPAIRS  
3 AMHERST ROAD (RT. 9)  
BELCHERTOWN  
323-5051

**GET HITCHED AT AMHERST WELDING**  
TRAILER HITCHES SALES & REPAIRS  
Welding • Fabrication • Hydraulic Hoses & Hydraulic Repairs • Snow Plow • Sanders  
**DID YOUR MAILBOX POST GET CRUNCHED THIS WINTER?**  
Stop in and see our exclusive "Steel" retractable mailbox posts!  
**Amherst Welding, Inc.**  
(413) 253-4867  
330 Harkness Road, Amherst, MA

**WE HAVE MOVED!**  
115 North Main, Belchertown  
**SWIFT RIVER**  
HEATING & OIL COMPANY  
Sheet Metal Fabrication  
**Is Our Specialty**  
• Automatic Fuel Delivery  
• 24 hr. Burner Service  
• Replacement of Furnaces & Boilers  
• New Construction & Renovations  
• New Customer Discounts  
**413-323-4123**

Complete A/C Service  
Glass Installations  
Used Cars • Windshields  
Expert Body & Fender Repair • Painting  
**REECE AUTO BODY**  
323-6664  
FREE ESTIMATES  
Old Springfield Road  
Belchertown  
Visa-Mastercard Accepted

**SEPTIC PUMPING**  
• pumping  
• new installation  
• repairs  
• Title 5 inspection  
*Complete*  
**Septic Service LLC**  
Jason Laffeur • David Kibbe  
**413-323-4327**

**Sta-Bil® Fuel Stabilizer**  
8 oz.  
NCB 22208  
**SAVE 22%**  
**\$6.99** /each  
**Belchertown Auto Parts** NAPA AUTO PARTS  
116 FEDERAL STREET (RT.9) BELCHERTOWN, MA  
(413) 323-7661 OR 323-9296  
Get the Good Stuff

**ROBERTS ROOFS**  
SPECIALIZING IN  
Slate • Copper • Architectural Shingles • Gutters  
Historical Restoration • Flat Roofing • Snow Removal  
Tel. 413-283-4395 • Cell 413-237-9434  
[www.RobertsRoofsInc.com](http://www.RobertsRoofsInc.com)  
Trusted Name Since 1982

**Turley Publications, Inc.**  
[www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)  
Proud publishers of 12 community newspapers  
Call Maureen at 413-283-8393 to advertise your business here



OBITUARIES

**DEATH NOTICES**

**Donald "Don" R. Como, 91**  
Died Oct. 3, 2024  
Services Oct. 12, 2024  
Beers & Story Funeral Home

**Richard N. Kimball**  
Services Oct. 13, 2024  
Beers & Story Funeral Home

**Eileen Noel Praisner**  
Died Sept. 5, 2024  
Services Oct. 17, 2024  
Beers & Story Funeral Home

**NOTICE**

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

Eileen Noel Praisner

It is with profound sorrow that we announce the passing of Eileen Noel Praisner, who passed away on Sept. 5, 2024, at her home with her loving sister Chrissy by her side. Eileen was born on Dec. 14, 1973, in Holyoke, Mass., she was the beloved daughter of Peter M. Praisner of Belchertown and the late Maria (Lopes) Praisner.



She was a lifelong resident of Belchertown and graduate of Belchertown High School, class of 1991. Eileen had worked at Baystate Medical Center as a patient tech.

Eileen had a deep love for animals, particularly her horses and dogs. She found immense joy in horseback riding and cherished the moments spent in their company.

Eileen's departure leaves a void in the hearts of those who knew and loved her. Her memory will be forever treasured by her father, Peter, her sister, Christine, and all her extended family and friends.

Calling hours will be held at the Beers & Story Belchertown Funeral Home on Thursday, Oct. 17, 2024, from 5 -7 p.m., followed by a Memorial Service at 7 p.m. Burial will be held on Friday, Oct. 18th at 10 a.m. at Calvary Cemetery in Chicopee. Donations may be made in her memory to the American Cancer Society. For more information, please visit [www.beersandstory.com](http://www.beersandstory.com)

Donald "Don" R. Como, 91



Donald "Don" R. Como, 91, passed away on Oct. 3, 2024. He was born on Feb. 15, 1933, in Chicopee to the late George R. and Helen Marie (Plouffe) Como. Don proudly served his country in the US Air Force during the Korean War. During this time, he married the love of his life, Jacqueline "Jackie" (Degon) Como, and together, they raised their children, Raymond and Laurie, instilling in them values of kindness, love, and dedication.



Raymond Como and wife Denise of New Hampshire, and Laurie O'Shea and husband Patrick of Belchertown; grandchildren Andy, Dan, Jackleen, Randy, and Justine; and great-grandchildren Ethan, Laura, Josh, Quinn, Eloise, and Trenton. He also leaves his brothers George, Richard, and Perry Como.

A visitation will be held at St. Francis of Assisi on Saturday, Oct. 12, 2024, from 9 to 10 a.m., followed by a Funeral Mass at 10 a.m. His burial will be scheduled at the family's convenience.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly suggests that donations be made to the Knights of Columbus in Belchertown or to the Central Western Massachusetts VA Center by visiting [www.cdceportal.va.gov](http://www.cdceportal.va.gov). Don's legacy of humor and kindness will forever remain in the hearts of those who knew him. Please visit [www.beersandstory.com](http://www.beersandstory.com) to extend online condolences.

Don was a third-degree member of the Knights of Columbus in Belchertown. He had a remarkable sense of humor, often lighting up a room with his jokes, and he carried a deep love for his family, enjoying every moment spent with them. Don was an airplane enthusiast who profoundly enjoyed making and flying his model planes, and he delighted in sharing these interests with those he loved.

Don is survived by his devoted wife of 71 years, Jackie Como; his children,

Richard N. Kimball

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Richard N. Kimball, a beloved husband, brother, uncle, and esteemed member of the Belchertown community. Born on March 13, 1946, in Ware, Mass., Richard dedicated his life to his family, his community, and his lifelong passions.



Raised in Belchertown, Richard's roots ran deep in the town. He proudly owned and operated the R & R Sport Shop for 41 years, a business that became a cornerstone of the community and a gathering place for fellow enthusiasts of outdoor sports. His dedication extended beyond the shop as he was a committed member of various hunting organizations.

Richard's love for the great outdoors was evident in his role as an official master scorer for both Pope & Young and the Safari Club International (SCI). He found great joy in hunting and fishing, often seen with his hounds, working tire-

lessly to collar black bears in partnership with the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. His friends and family remember him as a man who was either at work or immersed in nature, embodying the spirit of hard work and passion in every endeavor.

Richard is survived by his devoted wife, Kathleen (Loftus) Kimball, who stood by his side throughout their life together. His sister, Bonnie Barthelette, and his nieces and nephews—Lisa, Aaron, Stacy, Ian, Jennifer, and Shawn—carry forward his legacy. Richard was predeceased by his parents, Richard and Anna (Shaffer) Kimball, and his brother, Craig Kimball. His memory will also live on in the hearts of many friends and his business partner, Jim Collins.

The community is invited to pay their respects at a visitation on Sunday, Oct. 13, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the 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 \$225, 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](mailto:obits@turley.com).

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

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11		
12				13		14				15				
16					17		18				19			
20						21				22				
				23		24			25					
26	27	28	29				30							
31							32							
33									34	35	36	37	38	
				39	40	41		42	43					
			44	45				46						
	47						48							
49					50				51		52	53	54	55
56					57				58					
59					60					61				
62					63						64			

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Unsheared sheep
- 5. Rock TV channel
- 8. Streetcar
- 12. Concerning
- 14. Exclamation
- 15. Greek goddess of youth
- 16. Popular type of device
- 18. Alcoholic beverage
- 19. Ancient Olympic Site
- 20. Sharpshoots
- 21. Tyrion Lannister was characterized as one
- 22. Pointed ends of pens
- 23. Measuring instruments
- 26. Midsection body part
- 30. Made a mistake
- 31. Adjusted
- 32. "Partridge" actress Susan
- 33. Yell
- 34. Civil rights city in Alabama

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Works of body art
- 2. Israeli politician Abba
- 3. Young boy
- 4. Type of sea bass
- 44. To call (archaic)
- 46. Unfortunate
- 47. Separate oneself from others
- 49. Hero sandwiches
- 50. Spy group
- 51. Florida is famous for them
- 56. Irritating individuals
- 57. Luck
- 58. Hunting expedition
- 59. WWII diarist Frank
- 60. Peyton's younger brother
- 61. Type of wrap
- 62. Type of overseas tax or levy
- 63. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 64. Wake up

- 3. Renowned desert
- 4. Eat greedily
- 5. She didn't make it through the Fr. Revolution
- 6. Beat
- 7. Bloodsucker
- 8. From a place already noted
- 9. Counted on
- 10. Alberta Assn. of Baccalaureate World Schools
- 11. Something one can make
- 13. One who abstains
- 17. Wild ox
- 24. Type of student
- 25. Bacterial infection of the skin
- 26. Expresses surprise
- 27. What engaged couples ultimately say
- 28. Crony
- 29. Where one begins

- (abbr.)
- 35. Architectural designation
- 36. "Matt Houston" actor Horsley
- 37. More (Spanish)
- 38. Autonomic nervous system
- 40. Indigenous peoples
- 41. Deflections
- 42. Circulating life force
- 43. Executes with a rope
- 44. Natives of an island nation
- 45. Girls
- 47. Logician and philosopher
- 48. Nocturnal hoofed animal
- 49. Relaxing spaces
- 52. From a distance
- 53. Form of Persian language
- 54. Amounts of time
- 55. Mathematical designation

Big Y starts annual Partners of Hope campaign

SPRINGFIELD— Big Y has kicked off their annual Partners of Hope campaign. Each October the initiative helps raise awareness and funds for breast cancer research and treatment. The Partners of Hope campaign enables Big Y to give much-needed assistance to local breast cancer organizations, hospitals and medical centers. In 2023, the campaign raised over \$40,000. In addition, Big Y matches the donations made each year. To participate, customers can purchase a Partners of Hope ribbon for \$1 dollar when checking out at any Big Y location or donate directly at <https://www.bigy.com/community/breast-cancer-awareness>, now through Oct. 23. All proceeds from Big Y's Partners of Hope Campaign are donated to 33 local breast cancer support groups throughout Massachusetts and Connecticut. "The support from Big Y and their customers is incredibly helpful to the Karl J. Krapek, Sr. Comprehensive Women's Health Center at Saint Francis Hospital and our patients. The funds raised go directly to our free mammo-

gram program and patient assistance fund, which helps support women in our community who may not otherwise have access to these lifesaving procedures. Thank you for supporting our mission to provide high-quality, equitable care to all," said Christina Metcalf, Division Director, Breast Surgery, Saint Francis Hospital.

Since 2007, the initiative has raised more than \$2.7 Million dollars. In addition, many of your favorite products have special pink packaging, that indicates the product manufacturers will be donating a portion of their proceeds to breast cancer research and education throughout Breast Cancer Awareness Month. According to Michael P. D'Amour, President and CEO of Big Y, "Breast cancer affects thousands of people in our community each year. The purpose of our Partners of Hope campaign is to raise awareness about education, early detection and help provide vital resources to empower individuals in their journey. We invite everyone to join us in this important fight."

~ **DORSEY MEMORIALS** ~

- Monuments & Cemetery Lettering •
- Civic Memorials & Custom Designs •

707 Main St., Amherst, MA • 413-253-5212  
[www.DorseyMemorials.com](http://www.DorseyMemorials.com)

You can count on Dorsey Memorials to guide you through the Memorial Stone Process.





The ladder and its bucket sit high above the Belchertown Fire House.



Another view of the ladder truck.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY JOHN WOODSIDE

**FIRE DEPT.** from page 1

Members are responsible for fire, medical, and all other hazard related emergencies. These are federal grant funded positions” and that is the key to his slideshow, ensuring proper funding is crucial to a town’s safety.

Girad also said in 2022 and Belchertown was awarded a SAFER grant standing for Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response this grant was able to bring staffing to an appropriate level for the town’s needs

In 2023 the fire department did 2,443 emergency responses. So far in 2024, Belchertown Fire Department averages 230 calls a month.

Outside flies a drone, in use since 2019. It is operated by firefighter Adam Burdick, controller in hand, an infrared sensor on, and the building’s solar panels blaze red in heat, the shadier parts of the roof shining green.

“It is used for brush fires for better views of the perimeter and if command wants to see what is happening on a roof,” Burdick said. “Things that are not obvious from the ground. Town hall and schools those big flat roofs a drone above it can give us situational knowledge of the structure and its fire.

“It is even used to locate the elderly if they wander off from home and get lost” Burdick adds as the drone lands right in the center of the gathering and John Ingram, the Chief of Fire, raises the new ladder, set on one of their engines. Built in Appleton, Wisconsin, it is a 100 foot tower ladder, the only ladder of its kind able to reach the correct angles and heights, safely, for almost any fire. Its need is so crucial that it will be used not only locally, but throughout the county and in select towns further out.

“A lot of houses today with solar panels it makes it hard to get to the roof with a normal ladder,” Chief John Ingram said. “It will be a good mutual aid tool to work with those around us.”

They hope it will be in service by the first week of November.

A firefighter sits on a fire truck, the new ladder setting shade above, “this engine holds a thousand gallons of water enough to get you on scene” he says holding the spigot open no water in it “we either have to find a stream or a pool to pump out of or we bring the water with us” the firefighter



A Belchertown Fire Department truck.

says showing a photo of the tanker “you see the truck and the “n” in Belchertown on that end is a place there for a hose connection and is where we put the water from the tanker into the engine to fill it up” he says fires in his eyes. And the truck turns on.

One way to help the local firefighter and their association is to write to the government, our local council or a senator, and ask for more funding, this ensures they are properly equipped and have enough men and women to tackle any challenge. Another way to help: just become a firefighter. “Join the union” is what the firefighter says.



The drone controller held by firefighter Adam Burdick.



Chief John Ingram and Union President Kevin Girad pose side by side.



Firefighter gear.

**Liberty MUMS & PUMPKINS**

**Cinderellas!** **Tricolors!** **Pumpkins!**

OPEN TH-SU • 9-5PM  
1099 Center Street  
Ludlow, MA  
LibertyFamilyFarms.com

Call 413-426-6636  
to reserve turkeys  
LibertyTurkeys.com  
for prices, sizes & pickup

**SNOWPLOW CONTRACTORS WANTED!**

The Town of Belchertown is seeking private contractors to plow for Winter Season 2024-2025. Insurance, W-9 and Vehicle Registration is required. Interested parties should call (413) 323-0415.

**Belchertown Dept. of Public Works**  
290 Jackson Street  
Belchertown, MA 01007

The Town of Belchertown is an Equal Opportunity/ Affirmative Action Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, religion or disability in employment.



**BELCHERTOWN**

# Belchertown Lions Club honored at Breakthrough T1D ‘Teddy Bear Clinic’

**BELCHERTOWN** — Breakthrough T1D (formerly Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation) works tirelessly to find better treatments, preventions, and ultimately, a cure for type 1 diabetes (T1D) and its complications through critical research.

The Breakthrough T1D organization conducted its Teddy Bear Clinic at Six Flags on Oct. 6. Young kids received a teddy bear which they took to various stations and learned how to take care of their bear with diabetes. This was followed by a 1.4 mile walk through the amusement park for the attendees.

The Belchertown Lions Club was honored at this event as the major sponsor from the Western Mass. contingent for its generous donation to the cause resulting from its “Cruisin’ the Common” Car Show held in mid-August.

This is the largest donation ever made by the club to a single charity and was made possible by the strong support of our townspeople for our club’s first-ever car show and by the generous sponsorship of our local businesses listed below.

**\$500 donation**

Desorcy Electric

**\$100 Sponsor Signs**

Alix & Sons Computer Center, Arcpoint Brewing Co., Belchertown Eye Care & Sunglass Shop, Belchertown Memorial Post 8428 Vfw, Bell & Hudson Insurance Agency, C.b. White Law, PC, Corvette Club of Western Mass, Deluxe Limousine Service (2 Signs), Derek Garipey & Co., Devon Lane Power Equipment, Df Plumbing & Mechanical, Don’s Auto Service, Greene Acres Equestrian, Hampshire Towing, Hodgen Landscape Co., Homestead Bookkeeping, Hulmes Transportation, Interstate Batteries, J.P. Maggi Paint & Wallpaper, John H. Conkey and Sons Logging, Inc, Kamins Realty of Amherst Property Management. Ken Kozlik Building, Kim Allen Realty, Lloyd Butler Jr. Trucking, Maggi Group Lpt Realty, Mccarthy’s Pub, Michael R. Lacroix Electrical, Mill Valley Splicing, Napa Auto Parts, Parker’s Portables, Quabbin Analytical, Quabbin Service Center, Quabbin Well & Pump, Roy’s Auto Service, S.T. Hulmes Excavating, Station 5 Salon, Swift River Heating, Tables at The Farm, Tall Tree Landscaping, Tilton Automotive, Valley Welding & Equipt., Villa Rose Restaurant,



“Cruisin’ the Common” Car Show committee members Mike Mathras, Josh Dufresne, Larry Vanasse, and Rich Greene proudly present Breakthrough T1D Community Engagement Manager Emily LeGeyt a check for over \$10,400.

Westover Auto Salvage, Window World of Western Mass

**Raffle Gift Donations**

Ace Stadler St. Hardware, Belchertown Eyecare & Sunglass

Shop, Cuts and Styles, Greene Acres Equestrian Center (2 Gifts), Homestead Bookkeeping, Inc, La Trattoria Restaurant, Looks To Kill Hair Salon, Mike Beaudry Home Inspections, Sapowsky

Farms, Stop & Shop Belchertown (2 Gifts), Surner Heating Co. (2 Gifts), Swift River Crafts DJ Booth: Ron Larrivee/Cape & Islands Entertainment

## Artists sought for container murals

**BELCHERTOWN** — The Department of Public Works, Creative Economy Initiative, and Clapp Memorial Library are collaborating to brighten Belchertown Transfer Station and Recycling Center experience with murals focused on the theme of reduce, recycle, reuse, and regenerate.

The Town of Belchertown is currently seeking applications from artists interested in painting a design on one of three recycling and waste collection containers located at the Town’s Transfer Station and Recycling Center. The goal is to create a more cheerful, pleasant atmosphere by making the containers more visually appealing. We also want the murals to engage residents with the idea that they are part of something bigger and, collectively with their neighbors, their contributions are part of a beginning process, not an end.

In preparation for the release of this call for art, project stakeholders engaged Belchertown residents through a survey to better understand their current experiences at the hub, what aspects of the theme most res-

onate with them, and what local values are a priority to share through this work as the containers travel. Through an online and in-person survey process, we received 99 responses from community members, the majority from folks in-person at the Transfer Station, about their experiences of the Transfer Station, imagery ideas around sustainability specific to Belchertown, and thoughts on our core identity to share with other communities as the containers travel between Belchertown and its next stop in the trash and recycling process. Overwhelmingly, residents value the Station for its convenience, friendliness, organizational efficiency, and as a community gathering space. We can’t wait to animate these community-sourced ideas in partnership with selected muralists, who will create designs in response to this feedback and developed in collaboration with project partners and the Belchertown Creative Economy Committee, a municipal body representing many local placemaking, cultural, and marketing groups for the town.

Linda LeDuc, Belchertown

Department of Public Works Director, shared how happy she was by the amount of participation from community members. She said “it really shows just how invested Belchertown residents are, both in the Transfer Station as a community hub, and in the effort towards sustainability. Together, we are taking action to reduce, reuse, recycle, and regenerate, and we’ll continue to work towards sustainability in partnership with users.”

Applications for muralist concepts are open through Oct 11, 2024, and can be submitted online. Interested artists are encouraged to review the full project description, timeline, process, community feedback, and evaluation criteria found on the Belchertown Creative Economy page: <https://www.belchertown.org/513/Municipal-Arts-Program>.

The murals are expected to be painted in Spring 2025, followed by a community celebration of the new murals, a Trash Gala, that continues to engage residents in sustainability ideas and practices through fun activities.

## Town Hall announcement

**BELCHERTOWN**— The Town Hall and Finnerty House will open at 10 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 11, due to staff training.

## BCTV Schedule

**Thursday, Oct. 10**

- 8 a.m. Select Board-Oct. 7
- 10 a.m. School Committee- Oct. 1
- 12 p.m. Planning Board-Oct. 8
- 5p.m. Select Board-Oct. 7
- 7 p.m. School Committee- Oct. 1
- 9 p.m. Planning Board- Oct. 8

**Friday, Oct. 11**

- 8 a.m. Fire Department open house
- 8:30 a.m. Cold Spring Disc Golf Grand opening
- 7 p.m. Fire Department open house
- 7:30 p.m. Cold Spring Disc Golf Grand opening

**Saturday, Oct. 12**

- 8 a.m. Fire Department open house
- 8:30 a.m. Cold Spring Disc Golf Grand opening
- 4:30 p.m. Fire Department open house
- 5 p.m. Cold Spring Disc Golf Grand opening

**Sunday, Oct. 13**

- 4:30 p.m.- St. Francis Roman Catholic Church
- 6 p.m.- Christ Community Church
- 7 p.m.- Hope United Methodist Church

**Monday, Oct. 14**

- 8 a.m. Fire Department open house
- 8:30 a.m. Cold Spring Disc Golf Grand opening
- 6 p.m. Fire Department open house
- 6:30 p.m. Cold Spring Disc Golf Grand opening
- 7 p.m. Conservation Committee- Channel 192

**Tuesday, Oct. 15**

- 6 p.m.- School Committee- Channel 192
- 7 p.m.- Community Preservation Committee Channel 191

**Wednesday, Oct. 16**

- 6 p.m. Zoning Board Appeals- Channel 191
- 7 p.m. BEDIC- Channel 192

**LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET!** INFLATION PRICE BUSTERS PRICES IN RED ARE AT OR BELOW LAST YEAR'S PRICES!

<p>USDA INSP. FRESH COUNTRY STYLE PORK RIBS..... <b>\$2.59</b> lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN BONELESS CENTER CUT PORK LOIN..... <b>\$1.99</b> lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. STORE MADE HAM SALAD..... <b>\$3.99</b> lb</p> <p>SLICED IN OUR DELI SWISS CHEESE..... <b>\$4.89</b> lb</p>	<p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF STRIPLOIN STEAKS..... <b>\$7.77</b> lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP SIRLOIN SPOON ROAST or STEAKS..... <b>\$6.69</b> lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY 80% LEAN GROUND BEEF..... <b>\$3.79</b> 7 LB BAG</p>	<p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP ROUND ROAST or STEAKS..... <b>\$4.99</b> lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS &amp; SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST 10 LB BAG..... <b>\$1.97</b> lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS 10 LB BAG..... <b>77¢</b> lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. MINNISMET SLOW ROASTED BACON 2 LB..... <b>\$4.99</b> ea</p> <p>USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN AT SEA TILAPIA FILLETS..... <b>\$3.99</b> lb</p>
--	---	--

**90 Meat Outlet**

**HOURS:** Mon. - Wed. 8-4  
Thurs. 8-6 • Fri. 8-6 • Sat. 8-3

**90 Avocado St. Springfield**  
**413-737-1288**  
**www.90meat.com**

We reserve the right to limit quantities.

**SALE DATES: 10/10/24-10/16/24** BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE

## READING NEWSPAPERS

### IS A QUEST LIKE NO OTHER



**GRANBY**

# School Com looks to fill vacancy

**BY MELINA BOURDEAU**  
Correspondent

GRANBY—About six months after Stephanie Parent's resignation, the School Committee heard from a resident who was interested in joining the committee at its recent meeting.

Former Hatfield resident Liz Lafond expressed interest in the position. In the early 2000s, she filled a vacancy in Hatfield.

"I currently work for the Massachusetts Association of School Committees as a field director, where I've been in various capacities," she said. "School committee work is really something I know very well, and I have a great passion for

it because of the impact it can have, not only on the students who attend the schools but also on the community as a whole."

School Committee Chair Jen Bartosz said she's spoken to the Town Clerk, Katherine Kelly-Reagan, who said once the committee presents a person, the position would be filled for about five months.

"If you're happy with it and you'd like to pull papers for the next three-year term, it would be in about February," she told Lafond.

Lafond said she's known the past three superintendents through her work and has an idea of the district's needs, but she will still "have an awful lot to learn."

# Town of Granby reminders

GRANBY – There will be a Special Town Meeting on Monday, Oct. 21 at the East Meadow School in the gymnasium at 7 p.m.

**Town Meeting instructions: Monday, Oct. 21, 2024**

All residents participating must be registered voters.

Eligible voters will receive a card you may check in at any station. The doors will open at 6:15 p.m. for check-in. Please park in between the two schools near the softball fields.

You may view the warrant for this meeting at the following public buildings: Town Hall Annex, at 215 B West State St, Select Board's office at the COA Building at 10 West State St, Granby Post Office, Public Library, Public Safety Complex, Florence Bank, and Polish National Credit Union. You may also view this warrant on our website at [www.granby-ma.gov](http://www.granby-ma.gov)

Do you know what precinct you are? Not sure call the town clerk's office or look on the web site [www.granby-ma.gov](http://www.granby-ma.gov) under department of town clerk.

**IMPORTANT**

If you did not answer your 2024 town census, or confirmation mailing you may be listed as an Inactive Voter. To avoid any

problems at the Town Meeting or the Presidential Election please call the town clerk's office to verify your voting status.

**Other News:**

**Yard Waste Days:** Granby Highway Department, 15 Crescent Street on Saturday, Oct. 26, 2024 and Saturday, Nov. 23, 2024 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Please approach the collection facility from West Street. Lawn clippings and leaves are to be placed in biodegradable bags or loaded directly into dumpsters. Small branches and brush will also be collected but must be separated from lawn waste. NO STUMPS are allowed.

Please have proof of residency. Any questions or concerns can be directed to Kathy Kelly-Regan at the Granby Town Hall Annex, 467-7178.

**Craft fair**

GRANBY— Please join in at Immaculate Heart of Mary on Sunday, Nov. 2, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for the annual Craft Fair/Holiday Bazaar. Many vendors, basket raffles, lottery raffles, food and more.

# Important election announcements

GRANBY— The State election will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 5, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Granby Jr. Sr. High school in the gymnasium.

If citizens are not registered to vote, the last day to register to vote and change Party enrollment for the State Election is Saturday Oct. 26.

Last day for In-Person Voter Registration is Saturday, Oct. 26, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Carnegie Building AKA "Old Public Library" located at 1 Library Lane (Route 202), and from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Town Clerk's office, 215 B West State St.

Citizens may also register anytime during regular office hours in the Town Clerk's office, and can pick up mail in voter registration forms at the Granby Post Office, or the Granby Public Library.

With a valid Massachusetts Drivers' License, or Massachusetts ID you can register on-line at [www.sec.state.ma.us](http://www.sec.state.ma.us) under elections, or on our town website [www.granby-ma.gov](http://www.granby-ma.gov) under the Town Clerk Department, you can register on-line until 11:59 p.m. on Oct. 26.

Mail in forms must be post-marked by the Oct. 26 to be eligible to participate in this

**Presidential election information**

If you did not mail back your 2024 Annual Town Census or voted in the past year you may be listed as an Inactive Voter. If you have any doubts about your voter registration, please call the Town Clerk's office 413-467-7178.

**Early Voting by Mail Election Advisory #22-01, State Election, Nov. 05.**

Early voting by mail requires no excuse this is "voting by will" the last day to file a "Vote By Mail" and an Absentee by Mail application for the Nov. 05. Presidential Election is 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 29.

If you did not receive an application from the Secretary of the Commonwealth, Elections Division, you may download an application by going on-line to our Town Website under the Town Clerk Department, or at [www.sec.state.ma.us](http://www.sec.state.ma.us), or call the town clerk office at 413-467-7178.

Emailing the completed application with your signature on it to: [townclerk@granby-ma.gov](mailto:townclerk@granby-ma.gov) would be the quickest way for your application to be received.

If you wish to track your ballot, go to [sec.state.ma.us](http://sec.state.ma.us) voting status and click on Track My Ballot, or you can call the town clerk's office, 413-467-7178.

Early Voting In Person Ch 54 Elections, Sec 25B - State Election, Nov. 05.

Early Voting In Person will be held in the Carnegie Building" AKA "Old Public Library" located at One Library Lane. You can vote Early In-Person on the following days:

**Carnegie Building Hours for Early Voting In-Person**

Saturday, Oct. 19 – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 21 through Thursday, Oct. 24 – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 25 9 a.m. to noon

Saturday, Oct. 26 - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 28 through Thursday, Oct. 31 -9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 1st 9 a.m. to noon

**ABSENTEE VOTING** You must have one of the following reasons to apply for an Absentee Ballot:

A registered voter who is absent from the voter's city or town during normal polling hours; A registered voter with a physical disability; COVID-19 reasons; Religious belief; OR A non-registered voter who is absent from the state; or An active member of the armed forces or merchant marines, their spouse or dependent, or A person confined in a correctional facility, or a jail, except if by reason of felon conviction.

Mail-In Absentee Applications must be received no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 29, and the last day to vote Absentee In-Person in the Town Clerk's office is noon on Monday, Nov. 4.

Please consider using the Election drop box instead of the regular mail, the election drop box is located at the Town Hall Annex, 215 B West State St., the Election Ballot Box is only for Ballots, and Elections Applications.

The drop box is blue, red, and white and clearly state "Elections Ballot Box." any other town business please use the black box label Town Drop Box. Questions or concerns can be directed to Kathy Kelly-Regan, Town Clerk at 413-467-7178.

# Community vaccine clinic

GRANBY—The vaccine clinic will be for flu and COVID vaccines for any interested individuals ages 6 months and older at East Meadow School gym, 393 E State St., on Saturday, Oct. 5 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Individuals should bring their insurance card, but no one will be turned away due to lack of insurance. Preregistration is highly encouraged and recommended. If individuals need help registering, please call 413-587-4903 or email [nurses@northhampton.gov](mailto:nurses@northhampton.gov).

# Nature is Fun Times at the GPL

GRANBY— Twice Monthly, on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. in the Granby public library's Community Room, come join Ranger Tasha for hands on science. Enjoy a nature theme story, learn hands on and make a craft about the world around us in New England. Ranger Tasha teaches interesting, lesser known facts about each topic, always keeps it interesting.

**Upcoming dates and topics**

Oct. 22 Bats  
Nov. 19 Frogs and Turtles in Winter

Nov. 26 Turkeys  
Dec. 3 Birds Adapt to Winter  
Dec.10 Snowflake Science  
Jan. 7 Living under the Snow  
Jan. 14 Fur, what is it good for?  
Feb. 4 Woodpeckers - Nature's Drumming Rockstars  
Feb. 11 The Stink of Love - Skunks are looking for mates  
Presented by Tasha Daniels, Park Ranger/Visitor Services Specialist at the Silvio O.Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Ages 3 and up.



**Easy Propane Tank Swap Out!**  
**\$99**  
**Call For Details!**



**60 Shumway Street  
Amherst, MA 01002**

**413.253.5999**

**CONTACT SURNER HEATING TODAY! VISIT OUR WEBSITE [SURNERHEAT.COM](http://SURNERHEAT.COM)**



## Dickinson Farms & Greenhouse

**Mums • Pumpkins • Gourds • Cornstalks  
Indian Corn • Fall Cabbages**

---

OUR OWN Apples, Corn, Radishes, Leaf Lettuce, Pickles, Scallions, Squashes, Beans, Beets, Cucumbers, Carrots, Winter Squashes, Canning Tomatoes and 1/2 Bushels of Winter Squashes - Honey Nut, Butter Nut, Acorn

---

**LOCAL HONEY & MAPLE SYRUP**

---

**NEW! LONGHORN BEEF FROM COTE CATTLE COMPANY, GRANBY**

---

**Route 202, 309 East State St., Granby**  
**413-467-3794 • [www.dickinsonsfarm.com](http://www.dickinsonsfarm.com)**

---

Family Owned & Operated

Open:  
**Mon.-Sat. 8am-7pm**  
**Sun. 8am-6pm**



Most Major Credit Cards Accepted  
Sorry No Checks  
Gift Certificates Available

**PYO**  
**Apple Barn**  
8am-5pm Sat., Sun. & Monday, Columbus Day  
Last wagon out 4:30pm  
**CASH ONLY!**  
134 South St., Granby  
Call store for more up-to-date picking details.





(Left to right) Jaylah Taylor, Julie Comeau, Sue Hevey, Heather Taylor, Ronnie Taylor, and Makenna Taylor painting together and showing off beautiful face paint.



Jen Matos (center) with Touch-Needed Massage Therapy, with her animal friends from Stealie Jam Farm, along with Lukin McIntosh, Jayce White, Julie White, Sophia Pashko, and Derek Pashko.

# Beloved local business reaches 30 years in the community



Mya Welch and Dorothy Welch, ready to make balloon animal friends.

**BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS**  
Staff Writer  
epappas@turley.com

**BELCHERTOWN** – When you think of a place in town that everyone knows about and loves, for many people, that answer is Clay Mates.

A place where families can come together and create a beautiful art piece to take home, and a place where creativity can be expressed in numerous ways.

From birthday parties to walk-ins to days off and scout meetings and school field trips, Clay Mates has been a destination since it opened on October 1, 1994.

At Clay Mates, you can let your creativity bloom into something bigger, and owner Sue Hevey has made those creative dreams possible for the past 30 years.

“It’s unbelievable, it’s very rewarding,” Hevey said about reaching three decades. “I found out I made a difference in people’s lives, and the kids love it here.”

The weekend featured a day of fun for all to enjoy, with opportunities to paint a clay figurine, get your face painted or a glitter tattoo, and have a balloon animal friend.

There was a DJ playing fun music, and animals come to visit you could pet- a mini pig named Buttercup, a hedgehog named



Daisy the dog, tucked out from greeting all the guests to Clay Mates for the thirtieth anniversary.



A family having a fun time painting silly faces and making them, too.

Luna, a bearded dragon named Queen Lola, and a miniature horse called CC.

And, of course, no birthday celebration is complete without some cake.

“This is fun for me because it doesn’t feel like a job because I get to wake up every day and do this, something I love and cherish,” Hevey said.

State Representative Aaron Saunders and Senator Jacob Oliveira came to award Hevey a special recognition and certificate from both the House of Representatives and the Senate, thanking her for her contributions and dedication to the community.

“There’s no one here that doesn’t know about Clay Mates,” Oliveira said.

Clay Mates has been a staple in the community since its opening day and Hevey has made it her mission that everyone can find something at Clay Mates, and even make a friend to last a lifetime.

“There’s no strangers here, just friends you haven’t met yet. I know some people who met here, and they’ve been inseparable ever since,” Hevey said.

This is all testament to the fact that she knows her community and makes it a point to get to know every person who comes in to make something at Clay Mates.

Whether its your first time or your hundredth, you’ll always have a place to have fun in town with Hevey and make something to treasure forever.

She does work with people with special needs and opens up the store for people with wheelchairs to come in and enjoy time



TURLEY PHOTO BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS  
Skilled magician Fran Ferry, who has been performing magic tricks since he was ten years old.

painting.

People come for team meetings and paint together, and people even hold their bachelorette parties here. Kids who came for birthday parties now have their kids’ parties here.

“It’s all about the kids,” Hevey said. “I love watching the looks on their faces at seeing their finished pieces. They peek over the window with these big smiles to see their creations.”

Please see **CLAY WORKS**, page 19



Karen Cunningham (left) and Cameron Schmitt and his mom Geneva Schmitt with their friend, Annika.



# Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

### FOR SALE

**3-PIECE TWIN BEDROOM SET,** solid maple, frame and headboard, 5 drawer dresser and nightstand. \$125. Call **413-267-5894**.

**CANOE CHIEF RED,** 14 ft. Good cond. Two paddles, two back rest. \$150. **413-596-6496**.

**MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY. EXTRAORDINARY** performance. Central Boiler certified Classic Edge Titanium HDX OUTDOOR WOOD FURNACE. Call today **413-296-4320**.

### FIREWOOD

#### FIREWOOD

Fresh cut & split \$200.00  
Seasoned cut & split \$300.00  
All hardwood.  
Tree length available  
\*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap). Quality & volumes **guaranteed!!** New England Forest Products **(413)477-0083**

**MORE HEAT LESS WOOD.** Central Boiler Classic Edge HDX Outdoor Wood Furnace. EPA Certified. Titanium Stainless Steel. 26% Tax Credit. Call **(508)882-0178**

**SEASONED FIREWOOD, (1.5-2 YRS) Stored inside off the ground.** Cut, split, free delivery within 10 miles. \$250 per cord. Call **413-218-3918**.

**SEASONED OAK FIREWOOD** Cut, split, delivered, 11"-18", \$275 a cord, \$250 for 2 or more. Edwin Wroblewski Logging, **413-824-0731**. Buying standing timber, paying good money.

### TAG SALE

**3-FAMILY TAG SALE. OCT. 12-13-14, 8 am-4 pm.** Aldenville section of Chicopee. **159 Stebbins St.**

### FOR SALE

**TAG SALE: OCTOBER 12 & 13,** Sat. 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.; Sun. 9 a.m.-1 p.m.  
**15 Homestead Lane off Hunter, Ludlow.**

### WANTED

**Buy, Sell & Trade Video Games**

**Retro World**

**413-301-5020 M-S 11-7**  
187 Main St.  
Indian Orchard, MA

**OLD CARPENTER TOOLS** wanted. Planes, chisels, axes, etc. Vintage hunting, camping, cast iron cookware, advertising, motorcycles, clothing. Call Ken **(413)433-2195**.

### WANTED TO BUY

**ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.**

**BUYING** Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, kitchenware, cookware, knives, military, automotive, fire department, masonic, license plates, beer cans, barware, books, oil cans, advertising tins, hunting, fishing, signs, and more Donald Roy **(860) 874-8396**

**FIELDSTONE WALLS WANTED** to buy. Looking to purchase large quantities of old stone walls. Please call R.E. Barnes Fieldstone **(978)807-0746**

### JUNK REMOVAL

**A Call We Haul FAST REMOVAL**

Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts. We load it & take it.  
**413-531-1936**  
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

**ARA JUNK FURNITURE REMOVAL**

Full house cleanouts, attics, basements, garages, pools, hot tubs, sheds, decks. Same day service. 8am-9pm. Credit cards accepted. Free estimates on phone.  
Fully insured.  
Call Pete **413-433-0356**.

### SERVICES

**A B Hauling and Removal Service**

**2\*\*\*\*\*A & B HOUSEHOLD REMOVAL SERVICE\*\*\*\*\***  
Cellars, attics, garages cleaned, yard debris. Barns & sheds demolished. Swimming pools removed. Cheaper than dumpster fees and we do all the work. Lowest rates. Fully insured. **(413)283-6512, cell (413)222-8868**.

**DRYWALL AND CEILINGS,** plaster repair. Drywall hanging. Taping & complete finishing. All ceiling textures. Fully insured. Jason at Great Walls. **(413)563-0487**

Advertise your **HOME IMPROVEMENT SERVICES** in our classifieds.  
**WE GET RESULTS!**  
Call **413-283-8393**

### SERVICES

#### ELECTRICIAN

**NEED AN ELECTRICIAN?**

Look no further!  
**PJ's Electrical** offers fast and reliable electrical services for your home or business. Call now for a **FREE** estimate!  
**(413) 366-1703**  
LICENSED & INSURED

#### HOME IMPROVEMENT

**HANDYMAN RESIDENTIAL REPAIRS.** Powerwashing, home repairs, interior/exterior painting, ceiling/wall repairs and chimney repairs. Fully licensed/insured. Lic. #105950CSL. Call **413-566-5596/413-433-5073**.

#### HOME IMPROVEMENT SPECIALIST

Decks, porches, repair service, roofing and siding contractor. Tim **413-563-2229**. Licensed/insured. 35 year construction supervisor.

**HOME IMPROVEMENTS. REMODELING** Kitchens, baths. Ceramic tile, windows, painting, wallpapering, siding, decks. Insurance work. Fully insured. Free estimates. **(413)246-2783 Ron**.

#### LANDSCAPING

**\*\*ALL SEASON\*\*** Specializing in shrub trimming, pruning, design, deliveries, loader, backhoe, insured. Professional. Please call Bob **(413)537-5789 (413)538-7954**.

### SERVICES

**A+ ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BOBCAT SERVICE**

Excavator Services  
Overgrown property?  
Extreme Brush Cutting!  
Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal  
Lawn/Arborvite Installed  
Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand  
Storm Clean-up  
Small Demolition/ Junk Removal  
Insured  
**Josh Rozell 413-636-5957**

#### MASONRY

**STOP WET BASEMENTS**  
**ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT WATERPROOFING**

All brick, block, stone, concrete. Hatchway doors, basement windows, chimneys rebuilt & repaired, foundations repaired, basement waterproofing systems, sump pumps. BBB+ rating. Free estimates. Lic #14790. Call **(413)569-1611, (413)374-5377**

**STOP WET BASEMENTS NOW! MASONRY FOUNDATION RESTORATION,** stairs, walkways, ext. Also roofing, new and repairs welcome. Licensed/Insured. Call **413-978-894-5412 or 978-894-6331**.

#### PAINTING

**DUTCH TOUCH PAINTING**

Interior only \$199.00 for average 12x16 room. Very neat, references, prompt service call **(508)867-2550**

### SERVICES

#### PLUMBING

**GREG LAFONTAIN PLUMBING & HEATING** Lic #19196 Repairs & Replacement of fixtures, water heater installations, steam/HW boiler replacement. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30 years experience. Fully insured. \$10 Gift Card With Work Performed. Call Greg **(413)592-1505**

#### ROOFING

**JENKINS ROOFING** specializing in residential roofs & repairs, chimney repairs. Hampden, MA - **413-566-5596/413-433-5073**. Lic. #105950CSL. Fully insured.

#### RUBBISH REMOVAL

**BOB ROBILLARD'S RUBBISH REMOVAL** Attics, Cellars, Garages cleaned, Pools/Hot Tubs Removed. Family owned/operated since 1950 **(413)537-5090**

#### TREE WORK

**AAA-TROM'S TREE SERVICE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE.** Residential removal of trees, Free estimates, Fully insured W/Workman's Comp. Remove them before the wind takes them down. Cordwood, stump grinding. Call **413-283-6374**.

**AFFORDABLE STUMP GRINDING** Fast, dependable service. Free estimates. Fully insured. Call Joe Sablack **413-436-9821, Cell 413-537-7994**

**DL & G TREE SERVICE-** Everything from tree pruning, tree removal, stump grinding, storm damage and brush chipping. Honest and Dependable. Fully insured. Now offering a Senior Citizen and Veteran discount. Call today for free estimate **(413)478-4212**

#### STUMP GRINDING

**DL & G STUMP GRINDING** Grinding stumps of all sizes, insured & certified. Senior discounts. Call Dave **413-478-4212**

#### PETS

**WEST HIGHLAND WHITE TERRIER,** neutered male, current on vaccinations, 10 yrs. Best in a home with no other pets. Well behaved, housebroken. Owner is in a nursing home. \$100. **413-782-2305**

#### AUTO

**CASH FOR JUNK AND REPAIRABLE CARS**  
**FREE TOWING FAST SERVICE CASH PAID AS IS CALL OR TEXT 413-219-6839**



Post your job openings in our classifieds.  
**WE GET RESULTS!**  
Call **1-413-283-8393**

## FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

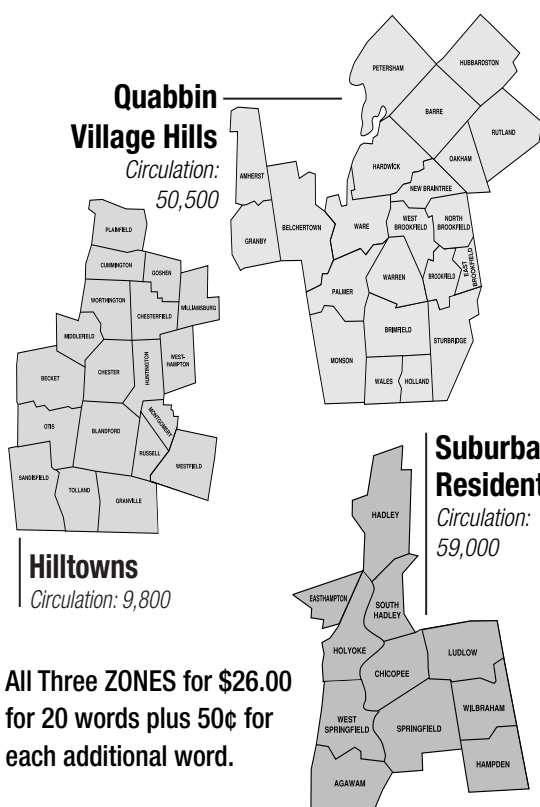
MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069  
or call: 413-283-8393

DEADLINES: **MONDAY AT NOON**

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

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: \_\_\_\_\_

**OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!**



**GREAT VALUE!**  
ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!



# Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS  
SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

Call us at 413.283.8393

## HELP WANTED

### FULL TIME ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

The Town of West Brookfield is looking for a full time Administrative Assistant for the Highway Department. Candidates must have a high school diploma and at least two years' experience in a similar work environment.

The Administrative Assistant performs a wide variety of general administrative work. Basic responsibilities are accounts payable, payroll, account reconciliation and assisting the Highway Superintendent with Chapter 90 and grant projects.

A full job description and application are available on the West Brookfield website. Applications should be submitted to [jdaley@wbrookfield.com](mailto:jdaley@wbrookfield.com). Applications will be accepted until position is filled. Salary is \$19.47 - 24.64 per hour (40 hrs), grade 7.

The Town of Huntington is seeking a part-time **HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** for 16 hours per week. Applicants must be proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, and Outlook. Hours are flexible, but must be worked during the regular highway department hours of Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to assist the Highway Superintendent. Application and complete job description are available online at [www.huntingtonma.us](http://www.huntingtonma.us) or by emailing [admin@huntingtonma.us](mailto:admin@huntingtonma.us). Position is open until filled. Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

## REAL ESTATE

### FOR RENT



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.

**Classified Advertising DEADLINE MONDAY AT NOON**

## REAL ESTATE



www.newspapers.turley.com

### AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS

BARRE GAZETTE

COUNTRY JOURNAL

CHICOPEE REGISTER

THE JOURNAL REGISTER

THE LUDLOW REGISTER

QUABOAG CURRENT

THE SENTINEL

THE SUN

WILBRAHAM-HAMPDEN TIMES

TOWN REMINDER

WARE RIVER NEWS



turleynews



TurleyPublications

## GPL October and November events

GRANBY— The Granby Public Library, 297 E. State St., will be holding events throughout October and November. For more information, please visit <http://granbylibrary.com>.

### Majesty and Mystery of Crop Circles Saturday, Oct. 19 at 10:30 a.m.

Join us for a power point presentation featuring designs that have been appearing with increasing sophistication during the past three decades in farmers' fields and other locations all over the world. Layered weaving of plants in the fields as well as anatomical changes observed in these plants are presented as evidence of powerful and mysterious energies at work. Effects on electronic equipment,

soils, animals, and human visitors are also described. Interpretations of these intricate and exquisite formations, many of which occur near sacred sites and refer to mystical traditions, are discussed as well. This project is supported in part from a grant from the Granby Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

### Burial Grounds of Granby and South Hadley throughout their History

Thursday, Oct. 24, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Join us in the Community Room for a presentation of Burial Grounds of Granby and South Hadley Throughout History presented by Robert Comeau of Holyokecan-

### DECLUTTER from page 1

She at one point went to peoples' homes to help them with organizing and decluttering, but soon discovered they had a difficult time decluttering and organizing for themselves, at a loss for where to begin, and feeling overwhelmed by the amount of clutter.

"That's how I came to doing the group meetings. I wanted to help people overcome their obstacles to decluttering. It's a psychological problem rather than a physical one," Martin said.

There are many reasons why someone may find it more difficult to declutter, and that can come from a variety of reasons, from guilt for donating something that was gifted to them, or the idea that they could use something in the future.

The group spends time discussing the fact that our society as a whole really values stuff, and every source of media around us broadcasts the need for more.

The newest car, gizmo, or gadget are hyped up by sellers and businesses and social media. After all, why not treat yourself to that new book, jacket, or kitchen utensil?

And sometimes, clutter can come in the form of gifts, or a trinket from a family or friend you don't have the heart to say no to.

This group deals with how to rationalize our clutter and separate the emotions that come with the items we have in our homes, and how to let go of guilt in the process of letting go of clutter.

"I always tell people to take baby steps and start small - one corner of the kitchen

counter or their bedside table," Martin said. "Getting started is the hardest part. Once started, people often gain momentum."

Martin provides a three-step process: "Set a timer for 10 minutes. Take out one drawer to sort through. Remove donations right away to avoid those second thoughts and retrieving discards."

The group helps you pause, reflect, and move on from unwanted clutter, and in the process of removing it, helps to clear your mind, and help with focus and anxiety.

"I always say give the gift of experiences," one group member said. "The kids don't need another toy, and another one. Instead of a Walmart card, take them to Walmart."

"Since I retired, I have become impressed with what I just don't need," another member said.

"Think of ways you can make that item bless someone else, like it blessed you," a third said.

The group has a steady group of ten that come to the meetings, and some have been coming since the beginning, sharing stories, and celebrating the ability to move forward into a new, clutter-free life.

"My favorite part of the Belchertown Senior Center group is their enthusiasm and participation. We have no judgment of anyone's clutter, and everyone chimes in to solve a problem. I just love all the members," Martin said.

You can find the group meeting together, once a month, on the first Friday of the month, chatting together and learning about the freedoms of decluttering.

# 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 20, 2024.

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](mailto:jamie@turley.com)  
\*Be sure to indicate "Dazzler"  
in the subject line of your email.

**Deadline for Calendar submissions is October 14.**

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLE

This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of October 25, 2024 the following motor vehicle will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien:

Vehicle: 2009 Saturn Vue  
Vin #: 3GSCL93Z59S571996  
Color: Gray  
LKO: Mellissa Rondeau  
Address: P.O. Box 208  
Gilbertville, MA 01031

Relentless Towing  
Belchertown, MA  
413-530-3804

10/10, 10/17, 10/24/2024

## PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to [notices@turley.com](mailto: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 Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.*

**visit [www.publicnotices.turley.com](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)**

**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.**

T	E	G	G			M	T	V		T	R	A	M					
A	B	O	U	T		A	H	A		H	E	B	E					
T	A	B	L	E	T		R	U	M		E	L	I	S				
S	N	I	P	E	S		I	M	P		N	I	B	S				
						T	I	M	E	P	I	E	C	E	S			
H	I	P	B	O	N	E				E	R	R	E	D				
A	D	A	P	T	E	D				D	E	Y						
H	O	L	L	A						S	E	L	M	A				
						L	A	D		C	H	I	L	E	A	N		
						C	L	E	P	E		H	A	P	L	E	S	S
						Q	U	A	R	A	N	T	I	N	E			
S	U	B	S			C	I	A		G	L	A	D	E	S			
P	I	A	S			H	A	P		S	A	F	A	R	I			
A	N	N	E			E	L	I		S	A	R	A	N				
S	E	S	S			S	S	R					R	I	S	E		



sports@turley.com

@turleysports

facebook.com/turleysports

# SPORTS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

SEND US YOUR SUBMISSIONS

www.sports.turley.com

## Football off to tough start

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Max Bessette heads off on a carry.



Coleman Longley takes off toward the end zone.



Adam O'Rourke heads into traffic while running the ball.



Brogan Bottari attempts to avoid a tackle.

**BELCHERTOWN** – It was four straight losses for Belchertown football as the Orioles traveled to their third straight road game last Friday night at Hoosac Valley. It was the start of Belchertown's Intercounty South schedule. The Orioles fell 43-8 to go to 0-4 on the season. The Orioles also have losses in independent action to Pittsfield, Northampton, and Ludlow. The Orioles face Easthampton on Thursday, Oct. 10, and eventually return home to face Frontier on Oct. 25.



Jack Beals hands off to Max Bessette.



SEE MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 17

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM  
Lea Charest goes for a spike.

## Girls volleyball suffers pair of losses

**GRANBY** – Last week, Granby High School girls volleyball suffered another pair of sweeps. The Rams lost to Southwick and Commerce, both by 3-0 scores. The Rams are now 0-12 this season.



SEE MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 17

Audrey Pleisch sets up a possible scoring play.



Katie Grabherr gets the bump away.

## Pathfinder handles Putnam

BY TIM PETERSON  
Sports Correspondent

**SPRINGFIELD**—Despite playing only two home matches during the first month of the regular season, the Pathfinder Tech boys' soccer team entered October with a 6-2 overall record.

The Pioneers road journey continued as they defeated the Putnam Voc./Tech Beavers, 5-1 at Forest Park in Springfield last Tuesday afternoon.

"We haven't played Putnam in a few years, so we really didn't know what to expect coming here," said Pathfinder Tech head coach Dave Wilson. "This is a very good win for us. We didn't suffer any more injuries or get any yellow cards."

The Pioneers only two



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI  
Cadren Bousquet crosses to the right side of the field with the ball.



Zander Auffrey makes a throw-in.

losses have come on the road against the Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School, and Springfield International Charter School. The final score in both of

their matches were 3-1.

Senior Ethan DeBettencourt, who's normally a starting defender, didn't play in the Pioneers first meeting on the soccer pitch against the Beavers since the start of the 2019 regular season because of an injury.

"Ethan is our starting right full-back, but he missed today's game because of an injury," Wilson added. "We also had several other players who are nursing injuries. We just need to keep an eye on them."



Adonis Dupre clashes with an opposing player.

Another senior listed on the Pioneers soccer roster is Evan Costa, who recorded a hat-trick against the Beavers (1-5-2).

"Evan just loves playing the game of soccer, and he works very hard," Wilson said. "I returned as the varsity soccer coach when he was a sophomore. He was already a talented soccer player at that time. He's also approaching 100 career points (Goals + Assists) which will be a

Please see **SOCCER**, page 16



SPORTS

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY  
WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Anthony Arventos scrambles around looking to pass.



Dustyn Cook makes the reception.

# Pathfinder falls to SICS

Cassian Kowalik goes for the tackle.



Nicholas Pfister looks for the end zone.

PALMER – Last Saturday morning, the Pathfinder Tech suffered a 40-30 loss against Springfield International Charter School. The Pioneers put up their best offensive performance of the year. Unfortunately, the Pioneers fell behind 12-0 in the first quarter. The Pioneers would outscore the Cybercats in the final three quarters, but could not make up the early deficit. Pathfinder drops to 0-4 on the season. The Pioneers face Monument Mountain on the road this Friday night at 7 p.m.



Stephen Curtis makes a block for the Pioneers.

# Castleton defeats Westfield St. football

CASTLETON, VT – Turnovers proved costly as Vermont State - Castleton downed Westfield, 24-10 in a MASCAC football game at Dave Wolk Field on Saturday afternoon.

Westfield is 2-3 overall and 2-2 in the MASCAC. Castleton is 3-2 overall and 2-2 in the MASCAC.

Castleton bookended the win with a pair of defensive touchdowns, the first on a fumble recovery and a 30-yard scoop and score with 6:55 left in the first half.

The Spartans' CJ Childs capped the scoring with a 50-yard interception return with 1:31 left in the game.

Westfield's offense couldn't get momentum all afternoon.

Westfield was limited to 82 yards of total offense (on 55 plays) on the afternoon and just 12 yards in the second half.

TJ Kiley made his first start at quarterback for the Owls. (His father Todd was a starting QB for the Owls in the early 1990's). Kiley handled the first couple series for the Owls before being replaced by Gabe Fernandez, with Kiley coming back in late in the game.

Castleton got on the scoreboard first when the Owls mishandled the center snap, and Ian

DeTulleo picked up the fumble at the 30 and rambled to the end zone to give the Spartans a 7-0 lead with 6:55 left in the first quarter.

Westfield got a 35-yard kick return from Curtis Dion on the ensuing kickoff, but another bad snap gave the ball right back to the Spartans, and another fumble return set the Spartan up 1-and 10 at the Westfield 12-yard line.

The Westfield defense held on three plays, and the Spartans led 10-0 after a 27-yard field goal from Walter Luendstrom.

On the next series, Fernandez found Dylan Disbella for a big gainer (38 yards) down the middle to the Spartan 18-yard line.

Westfield's Sean Willis plunged in from 3 yards out to trim the lead to 10-7 with 14:13 left in the second quarter to cap a 10-play, 67-yard drive.

Andrew Lovell picked off a pass at the four yard line to thwart a Spartans drive.

A short punt set the Owls up 1st and 10 at the Castleton 32. The Spartans had been pinned back on their own two-yard line after a third-down sack from Justyn Gardener. Cooper Harvey added a 25-yard field goal for the Owls with six seconds left in the half to send the

Please see OWLS, page 17

### SOCCER from page 15

great accomplishment for him."

Costa finished the road game against Putnam with 98 career points. He was hoping to achieve the elite milestone in a home match against the Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School, but that match ended in a scoreless draw.

"I realized at the beginning of the season that I was very close to reaching 100 career points," Costa said. "It will be awesome when I do reach the milestone. I also have several hat-tricks this season, which feels great."

The only other Pathfinder boys' soccer player to reach 100 career points was Byron Peabody, who broke the school record for goals in a season in 2021.

The Pioneers scored their first goal in the road game against Putnam on a free kick five minutes into the opening half. The kick was taken by junior Adonis Dupre and the ball was redirected into the right corner of the net off the foot of junior Jaleel Roman.

Dupre and Roman both attend Palmer High School. They're able to play soccer at Pathfinder Tech as part of a co-op between the neighboring schools.

During the 13th minute of the opening half, Costa fired a shot into the net that deflected off the right post giving his team a 2-0 advantage. Sophomore Cayden Bousquet was credited with the assist.

About 20 minutes later, Costa scored his second goal, which



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Jaleel Nevue-Roman and Evan Costa go after the ball.

was unassisted, on a low shot into the net.

The Pioneers held a commanding 3-0 lead at halftime.

Costa completed his hat-trick with another goal two minutes into the second half, which was assisted by senior Justin Davis.

The Pioneers final goal of the road match was scored by Bousquet during the 55th minute.

The only goal allowed by Pathfinder senior goalie Aiden Santiago came on a breakaway shot from senior Elian Cepeda with about 15 minutes remaining in regulation.

The two boys' soccer teams are scheduled to meet again at Pathfinder Tech on Thursday afternoon.



Brody Wetnicka goes after the loose ball.



**SPORTS**



**Girls volleyball suffers pair of losses**

Grace Pula keeps the ball in play.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM  
Lyla Bergeron sends the ball back over the net.

# Thunderbirds fall in preseason action

PROVIDENCE, R.I. - The Springfield Thunderbirds dropped a 5-1 decision to the Providence Bruins in the preseason finale on Saturday at Amica Mutual Pavilion.

The Bruins' penalty-killing unit had to go to work in the game's opening minute, and the unit responded successfully against the Springfield power play. Just seconds after the penalty expired, Providence defenseman Mason Millman sneaked a wrist shot through the glove hand of Will Cranley to make it 1-0 for the home side at 2:38 of the first.

Cranley and Bruins goaltender Michael DiPietro each worked up a sweat in the opening frame as each netminder turned away a dozen opposition shots.

Trevor Kuntar emerged as the star of the night in the second, tallying a power-play marker at

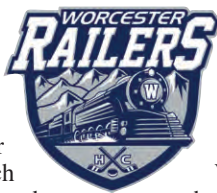
3:15 to give Providence a 2-0 lead. Greg Meireles answered back for Springfield at 8:29, only to have Kuntar add his second of the period just 12 seconds later.

Jimmy Lambert logged the Bruins' second power-play goal of the evening at 11:10 before Kuntar completed a second period hat trick at 16:45 to make it 5-1 after 40 minutes. The two teams failed to add to their goal totals in the third.

The T-Birds now have a week to prepare for the start of the 2024-25 regular season, which opens on Saturday, Oct. 12, against the Laval Rocket at 7:05 p.m. for Opening Night presented by MGM Springfield. The festivities begin with the Community Bank N.A. pregame Block Party from 4 to 6 p.m. at the MGM Plaza.

# Railers expand preseason roster

WORCESTER - The Worcester Railers Hockey Club, proud affiliate of the New York Islanders, and General Manager and Associate Head Coach Nick Tuzzolino, announced today forwards Dilan Savenkov, Nick Pennucci, and Anthony Callin have been released from their tryouts and returned to Worcester Railers training camp.



Savenkov, Pennucci, and Callin each played in the Springfield Thunderbirds game against the Providence Bruins on Saturday, Oct. 5 in Providence, RI. Callin had been with the Thunderbirds since the start of camp on Sept. 30. The Railers training camp roster is now up to 32 players.

Savenkov, 23, comes to camp after he split the 2023-24 season between four ECHL teams (Trois-Rivieres, Cincinnati, Orlando, Reading). He played in two seasons for the University of Alberta from 2021-23. Savenkov had seven points (3G, 4A) in 30 games played.

Pennucci, 25, comes to Worcester after attending the team's 2023 training camp and playing in two games for the team during the 2023-24 campaign. Pennucci grew up in Worcester and played hockey locally growing up, spending time

at St. Peter-Marian before committing to play at Worcester State University for the 2018-19 season. In five seasons with the Worcester State Lancers, the 5-10, 190lb forward scored 20 goals and 25 assists in 102 games played. He was a part of the Worcester State team in 2022-23 which went to the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference championship game for the first time in program history under current Railers Head Coach and former MASCAC Coach of the Year, Bob Deraney.

Callin, 25, joins the Railers for his second professional season. In his rookie year with the Railers, the 6'0", 205 lb. forward was third on the team in points (49), tied for first on the team in assists (35), and tied for second on the team in games played (67). Callin was 18th amongst all ECHL rookies in scoring, and second amongst all ECHL rookies in shots taken at 214. In his five seasons at Clarkson University playing collegiate hockey, the Middleton, WI native scored 70 points (34G, 36A) in 147 games played. Prior to collegiate hockey, Callin played three seasons for the Madison Capitols of the United States Hockey League, where he scored 39 points (19G, 20A) in 99 games.

# BHS Indoor Track Community Schedule

The Belchertown High School's Community Indoor Track Program will reopen for use by adult Belchertown citizens in grade 9 or above and for their children if accompanied and closely supervised by the parent or guardian on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursday evenings, between Nov. 12, 2024 and April 10, 2025, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The track will not be open on holidays, on school vacation days, when school is not in session and when there are evening interscho-

lastic event scheduled in the high school gymnasium.

Please check the following website frequently to see the updated interscholastic events schedule: <http://www.belchertownps.org/belchertown-high-school/athletics>

All participants must initially register with the Adult Evenings Program Supervisor and show proof of residency (i.e. driver's license, utility bill), and must sign in each time when using the indoor track. Only the track and lobby rest rooms will be available for use.

# New inductees for HoopHall's SuperFan gallery on Oct. 13

SPRINGFIELD - The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced the addition of four new SuperFans to its James F. Goldstein SuperFan Gallery. Billy Crystal, Alan Horwitz, Spike Lee, and Jack Nicholson will be recognized during the Hall of Fame's SuperFan Celebration on Sunday, Oct. 13 at 1 p.m. on the Jerry Colangelo Court of Dreams.

The event will be held as part of the Hall's Enshrinement Weekend festivities, at which a new class of Hall of Famers will be inducted during a cere-

mony beginning at 6:00 PM at Springfield's Symphony Hall.

"We are excited to welcome Billy Crystal, Alan Horwitz, Spike Lee, and Jack Nicholson into our SuperFan family," said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. "These individuals have not only been passionate fans but have also significantly contributed to the rich culture of basketball. Their unwavering dedication to the game and their ability to connect with fans make them truly deserving of this recognition."

These four celebrated SuperFans will join a group of basketball enthusiasts who have made a profound impact on the game through their loyalty, passion, and dedication. The Hall of Fame has previously honored Jim Goldstein, the gallery's namesake, along with SuperFans Penny Marshall and Nav Bhatia. Both Goldstein and Bhatia, along with Crystal, Horwitz and Lee, will be in attendance during the SuperFan Celebration and the Hall's prestigious Enshrinement Ceremony.

**OWLS** from page 16

game to halftime tied at 10-10.

Castleton marched down the field sharply to open the second half, completing five straight passes to march 80 yards, QB Wes Cournoyer found Wyatt Jackson on a 33-yard bomb down the left side to fuel the drive, which was capped by an 8-yard scoring strike to Caezar Williams to give Castleton a 17-10 lead.

From there, both teams largely stalled.

Westfield dodged several bullets, getting pinned back inside the five-yard line after a mis-communication on the kick return, then the Owls turned the ball back over to the Spartans on an interception, then the Owls defense forced a field goal miss to keep the lead at seven points. Despite the miscues, Westfield still had several possessions with a chance to tie in the fourth quarter.

A Castleton punt from their own end zone gave Westfield 1st and 10 on the Castleton 38 with just over 8 minutes left in regulation time. A sack and forced fumble by the Spartans' Mike

Morrissey gave the ball back to Castleton as Ian DeTulleo recovered at midfield. Off the sudden change, Cournoyer hit the big hitter with a 37-yard completion to Leonard Brice at the Owls' 13 yard line.

But Westfield's D came up with another big play as Budder Ferreira and Eric Lovell combined to force a fumble from Christian Keeling at the goal line, Andrew Lovell recovered the ball in the end zone for a touchback, giving Westfield a 1st down at their own 20 with six minutes left in the fourth quarter.

Owls went 3-and-out on that series, and with one last chance with less than two minutes left in the fourth

Castleton capped the game with the 50-yard interception return for a touchdown from CJ Childs for a 24-10 final.

Westfield's defense was led by six tackles and 2.5 sacks from Budder Ferreira, with Justyn Gardener adding six tackles and a sack. Andrew Lovell came up with three turnovers on the interception and a pair of fumble recoveries.

Willis carried 18 times for 56 yards. Owls qb's completed just one of 11 passes on the day.

Castleton was led by Cournoyer, who completed 20 of 29 passes for 206 yards. Brice finished with five catches for 84 yards. Westfield limited the Spartans to just 17 yards rushing on 27 carries.

Kevin McDonough led the Castleton defense with 16 tackles.

The two teams combined for eight turnovers on the day, five by the Owls and three by Castleton.

This was the first ever meeting between the two schools and the Owls first-ever game in Vermont. Castleton joined the MASCAC for the 2024 season. Through a quirk of conference re-alignment, the Spartans are slated to only be in the conference for this season, as the MASCAC and other Division III league's re-align for 2025. Anna Maria and Dean will join the MASCAC football slate next season.

The game started 15 minutes late due to a transportation issue for the Owls.

Westfield will be back in action on October 19, hosting Framingham State in Westfield's homecoming game.

## Digital Photos

TURLEY PUBLICATIONS, INC.

Purchase a photo that recently ran in one of our publications.

Go to [newspapers.turley.com/photo-request](http://newspapers.turley.com/photo-request)

\$12.50  
Each



# Sentinel Farm ready for the fall season

BY JOHN WOODSIDE  
Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN — Not too far from the historic Johnny Appleseed themed rest area on Route 2 sits Sentinel Farm nestled just off Main St. in Belchertown. Witches from the Skeleton Crew Theatre twirl around the kids and visitors as they roam the orchard, ride the burlap slide, or sling shot apples into a fall themed wooden house.

A visitor says, “you know it’s fall when you hear the apples thudding against those wooden boards” and another apple rockets out of the slingshot. A historic fruit orchard and a 200-tree sugar bush, they sell apples, peaches, maple syrup and honey, all grown on farm. Goats stroll a stone hedge staring into the distance.

Across from the farm sits a building, an aging barn, the original house of the Belchertown Sentinel circa 1850. Visitors sit in the shade and take in the space. Owners Steve Lanphear and his wife Meg offer fresh cider from the farm house.

A resident talks of his family dating back as far as the early 1900s mentioning his relative’s name “Orin Bracey” having graduated from Belchertown High School valedictorian in 1921.

“I didn’t come for the apples” he said, eyeing the two witches. “I think Harold Peck planted these trees”

“Harold Peck was a guy who used to live here he was the one who probably started it back in the 40s” Meg Lanphear said. “We bought this place in 1985.”

Behind the farm store is a barren plot recently tilled for the buckwheat.

“January, February, March is time for pruning same time as syrup” Steve Lanphear said. “This year we had too much fruit which weighed down the trees. Might have to thin the apples next year. They received a Natural Resource Conservation Grant for pollinator habitat design and implementation. The buckwheat is a part of that. That grant will help out with expenses.”

The witches continue their jaunt around the farm as they tell the history of their theater company. The founder started in his garage and as the years passed, sticks, hay, bailing twine, and papier mâché were replaced by PVC, epoxy, resin, latex, and silicone. Skeleton Crew Theater blossomed from a seasonal hobby to a full-fledged theater group known for immersive outdoor performances with larger-than-life creatures, puzzles, and mazes. Venues include events for colleges, fundraisers for high schools, libraries, public/private events, festivals, local organizations, and films.



An open plot waiting to be seeded with buckwheat, part of the farm’s integrated pest management.



A sign notifies the public of the apple varieties sold at Sentinel Farm.



Half a plastic bottle once used for fertilizing sits on an old wooden post.



The Bracey family.



One of the farm’s goats poses for a photo.

SEE MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 19.



The burlap slide ride shines in the sun.



Sentinel Farm’s famous apple sling shot.



Owner Meg offers free popcorn.





A peach tree, the leaves different from that of an apple tree.



Owner Steve Lanphear stands amongst the Witches and their magic.



One of the Skeleton Crew Witches walks next to a visitor.



The sugar shack sits free in the fall waiting for the trees to freeze.

# Sentinel Farm

TURLEY PHOTOS BY JOHN WOODSIDE



Friends Annie Mischia and Heather Fish enjoying their time painting together.



Beautiful pieces, some glazed and done, some yet to be finished, and others awaiting a splash of color.



Sue Hevey and her best friend, Donna Dube, here to support her accomplishment.

**CLAYWORKS** from page 12

Hevey found her love for creating clay pieces when she won an award in 1987 for Best in Show at the Pioneer Valley Ceramic Association, and since then, never stopped creating.

You can find ceramic pieces to paint from animals to mushrooms to gnomes to dragons to plates, mugs, and more. There are themed ceramic pieces for the holidays, too.

The price for each child is \$15 for two hours of painting, making it one of the most affordable and accessible ceramic painting studios in the area.

“I want to keep it affordable so families can enjoy their time at Clay Mates, without worrying about the cost affecting them too badly,” Hevey said. “I want them to find some peace and relax here. Just paint and have fun.”

While having no official or set hours of operation, Clay Mates’ website has a 24/7/365 calendar up showing all events and parties happening, and it’s known in the community that if there’s no school, Clay Mates is open.



State Representative Aaron Saunders and Senator Jacob Oliveira presenting Sue Hevey with special awards commemorating her thirty-year marker.

The Town of Belchertown is hiring for the following positions:

- **Department Assistant II – Treasurer/Collector’s Office**
- **General Manager, Belchertown Community TV**
- **Grants Coordinator/ Purchasing Agent**
- **Communications Manager**

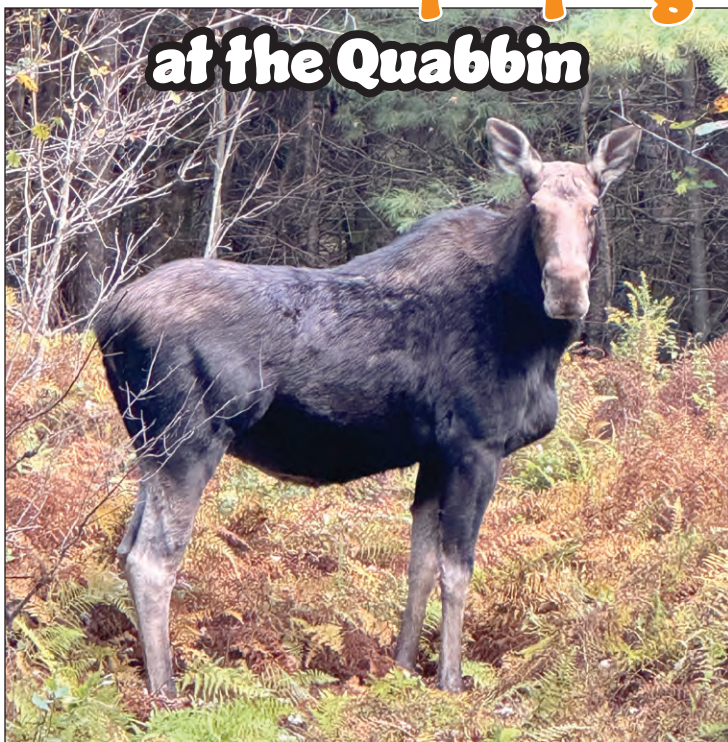
For more details and to apply, visit: [www.belchertown.org/jobs](http://www.belchertown.org/jobs)

The Town of Belchertown is an EEO employer; we encourage women, minorities and veterans to apply.



# Moose leaf peeping

## at the Quabbin



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Emily Zuhusky and her husband were blessed to see this beauty walking about 20 feet away from the road at gate 8 at the Quabbin on Oct. 2.

# CAMPUS NOTES

## Zawistowski named to UMass Dean's list

Ryan Zawistowski from Belchertown has been named to the Dean's List in the UMass Isenberg School of Management for Spring 2024. His academic achievement represented a semester in which he completed a minimum of 12 graded credits with a grade point average of 3.5 or better.

### EVENTS from page 14

altour.org. This project is supported in part from a grant from the Granby Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

#### Pastel Workshop with Greg Maichack Saturday, Nov. 16 at 11 a.m.

Join us and pastel paint your own Seascapes in Pastel Inspired by Winslow Homer. All lev-

els of experience are welcome. Space is limited, so please call the library to reserve your space to join us for pastel painting!

On Saturday, Nov. 16 at 11 a.m., award-winning artist Gregory Maichack will present "Seascapes: How to Pastel Paint" at the Granby Free Public Library.

This workshop offers both beginner and advanced participants an opportunity to creatively explore pastel painting inspired

by the work of Winslow Homer. Participants will receive instruction on expressive pastel strokes, blending, slurring, layering and creating the wave effect of spray by embedding pigment particles into the painting. Please call (413) 467-3320.

This project is supported in part from a grant from the Granby Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

### PLAN from page 1

This includes partnerships with the Anti-Defamation League and the Collaborative for Educational Services. It also includes receiving the programs of study, the student handbook, and other procedures and processes.

Jordan said one of the goals the school hasn't been able to address is the portrait of a graduate.

"I see other districts, I look at it, we study it, and I'm familiar with a district. Where do we even start? I feel like having some of these foundations and a good base would be appropriate before we move forward," Jordan said.

The third goal is around curriculum.

"Part of our profession-

al development plan is a lot of work this year targeted towards making the classroom an equitable and safe environment for students," Jordan said.

East Meadow School Principal Lisa Desjarlais said the school's goals have remained somewhat similar.

"We made our targets and made growth, but now we're taking it to the next level in many situations," she said.

The first goal is to enhance high-quality instruction and student-centered learning.

"We're really looking to move away from a classroom where it's a stand and deliver the type of instruction, where the teacher is teaching, they're teaching one specific way teaching all students, and there is not that type of equity built into the classroom," she said.

Next, the staff continues to grow and examines student achievement scores.

"We have the benchmarking three times a year. Many teachers are also using progress monitoring to see if their students are making progress," said Desjarlais. "We had our data team meetings last week, and we'll have action plans to implement for students we feel need."

The third goal is to create an environment that is safe, supportive and meets emotional needs.

"We made some changes in our systems this year, continuing to celebrate student academic success. We are continuing now with our second year of the bullying prevention program," she said.

A buddy bench was also installed.

# support community journalism



# Neighborhood Marketplace

Locally owned businesses here to serve you!

## DF PLUMBING & MECHANICAL

Contractors

Residential & Commercial PLUMBING SERVICES

- New Construction
- Remodeling • Repairs
- High Efficiency Gas Boilers
- All Types of Hot Water Heaters

Including On Demand High Efficiency Tankless

(413) 323-6116

SCHEDULING SERVICE: Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

MA Lic. #11406

www.dfplumbinginc.com

### A FULL SERVICE COMPANY

Owner Mike McKenzie MA Lic. #15648A Fully Insured OSHA 10 Certified



Residential Commercial Industrial

Office: 413-213-0770

Email: btownelectric413@gmail.com

## Quabbin Analytical Laboratory

Have you tested your well water recently?

P.O. Box 1192 9 Stadler Steet Belchertown, MA 01007 413-323-7134 quabbinanalytical@yahoo.com



## TILTON AUTOMOTIVE



GENERAL REPAIRS



AutoCare Center We Install Only NAPA Parts

FREDERICK TILTON Owner 323-5051

ROUTE 9 3 AMHERST ROAD BELCHERTOWN, MA 01007

## Adventure tours of Warren

Share the Adventure with us!



### NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE 2025

Call now for Best Cabins! Deadlines apply...



MARCH 15

8-Night Bahamas Cruise from \$1499

MAY 23

7-Night Bermuda Cruise from \$1699

Share the Adventure with us soon!

For further information call Randall at (413) 436-5357 or email [adventuretours@att.net](mailto:adventuretours@att.net) or go to [www.adventuretoursofwarren.com](http://www.adventuretoursofwarren.com)

### COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS



EXPIRES 2024

00000000000000

## Has This Happened to You?

We do what your body shop won't!

Body Rust • Body Rot • Frame Rust • Chassy Work

Turn to the experts at

## Amherst Welding

Welding • Fabrication • Hydraulic

Hoses & Hydraulic Repairs • Snow Plows • Sanders • Hand Railings

330 Harkness Road, Amherst • (413) 253-4867