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Kari Kastango swam the entire 410-mile river.p. 17

Schools, police partner in 'Handle With Care' initiative



JBMS Principal Thomas Ruscio speaks to a group during an event at the school last Tuesday.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

BY AIMEE M. HENDERSON
Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN – Earlier this month, the Belchertown Public Schools launched a new initiative designed to give school staff a “heads up” when students in their district have witnessed a traumatic event that may have involved emergency responders.

The program, called “Handle With Care,” is a communication agreement between the local police department and schools. It provides a way for officers to inform school staff that a student was present at the scene of a potentially traumatizing event, such as a car crash, unattended death or suicide, domestic violence incident, or drug overdose.

“This simple communication

allows schools to be prepared and better able to respond to a child whose behavior may be impacted by what they experienced outside of school while also respecting children’s privacy,” said Children’s Advocacy Center (CAC) Hampshire County Director Kara McElhone.

The CAC has taken the lead in inviting a few schools in Hampshire County to participate in the pilot program.

“It’s exciting that Belchertown schools and police came together so enthusiastically to implement this program this school year,” McElhone said.

She and April Igneri, the CAC’s prevention and outreach coordinator, offered a training

Please see **INITIATIVE**, page 17

Lions Club to host its annual ‘Halloween Rag Shag Parade’ next week

BELCHERTOWN - The town’s Lions Club will hold its 70th annual Rag Shag Parade next week.

The event will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 31, at Chestnut Hill Community School. “Costumed children along

with their parents and friends will follow Belchertown Police Department cruisers and our high school marching band in a parade around the school property and, as customary, the Belchertown Fire Department will bring up the rear with its shiny, bright fire trucks.”

the Belchertown Lions Club released.

At the conclusion of the parade, members of the Belchertown Lions Club will hand out candy to all in attendance—indoors this year—in the candied halls of the CHCS for a fun and safe

Halloween experience, according to a press statement.

“Many thanks to Lion Mike Loftus, the Belchertown Board of Health, and our Police and Fire Departments who all worked diligently in the planning of these safety guidelines for this commu-

nity activity which will bring back our town’s Halloween tradition in 2023,” the Lions Club released.

The Belchertown Lions Club Rag Shag parade began back in 1953, when “even a few of our

Please see **PARADE**, page 4

New website platform approved by Selectboard

BY MELINA BOURDEAU
Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN – An allocation of about \$36,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funds was approved by the Selectboard for a new website platform called CivicPlus.

There is an annual reoccurring cost of \$11,747. The town is currently paying \$6,500 for its current website. The reoccurring cost won’t kick in until next financial year. The project of creating a new website for the town would take four to eight months.

A representative presented to the Selectboard on Monday evening; CivicPlus Solutions Engineer Brian Wheeler spoke to the board about the company’s features for websites.

“Our design goal is to build your new website will be to get people where they need to go in

one or two clicks,” he said. “We know if it takes more than that, they’re going to get frustrated.”

There is an ability to create an account on the website, which allows users to be able to sign up to email and/or text message communications.

There is also a predictive search feature, which has suggestions for users. There is an ability to have a news carousel, which features articles and photos. The website can also include a calendar of upcoming meetings and events. Users will also be able to set up notifications for calendar events.

“On the police page...this is what we call a department header, it’s a way you can give special treatment to a public facing department,” Wheeler said. “It’s the same URL, but...it feels like

Please see **WEBSITE**, page 14



Orlando Santos, aka iZM PriZM

Artist Orlando Santos draws a crowd

BELCHERTOWN - This past Thursday, the Quabbin Art Association hosted Holyoke artist Orlando Santos, aka “iZM PriZM,” before the largest crowd they have assembled in recent years.

“Santos dazzled members and the general public with a display of more than two dozen pieces of abstract art,” the Quabbin Art Association released. “With an incredible sense of humor, Santos shared the story of his life, the family who inspired and supported a career that began only four years ago.”

Since then, his visual art has spread quickly throughout the Pioneer Valley. He maintains a studio in Holyoke and “encourages visits from his fellow artists and the public,” the QAA added.

“You can find him at Facebook or on Instagram at ‘iZM PriZM,’” a press statement reads.

Funding for the presentation was provided in part by a grant from the Belchertown Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Mass Cultural Council.



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Clapp Memorial Library's upcoming events

BELCHERTOWN - The Clapp Memorial Library offers a wealth of resources for the community, as well as a full schedule of free public programs for all ages.

"Stop in at 19 South Main Street, or go to clapplibrary.org to see what's new," the library released in a press statement.

The library will be open:
Mondays and Fridays, 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Upcoming programs at the Clapp Memorial Library include:

Things That Go Bump in the Night: The History and Impact of the Horror Film

Thursday, Oct. 26, 7 p.m.
Join film historian Frank Mandosa at the Clapp Memorial Library as he shows the fascinating history of horror films on the big screen—just in time for Halloween.

"You will view all kinds of spooky and outrageous bits from great scary films through the ages in this fun event and learn more about them," the library released. "Even if you have never been a fan of horror movies, this funny, entertaining look at snippets of some brilliant films produced by American cinema shown on our big screen will send some thrills your way. Hopefully this program might entice you to then maybe watch a spine-chilling film all the way through. Mr. Mandosa is a very entertaining speaker and has tons of movie information to share."

Peanut's Playhouse Presents: Be a Superhero, Not a Bully

Friday, Oct. 27, 6 p.m.
"Be a superhero and help stop bullying."
Learn how to be one with this puppet show by Peanut's Playhouse. Kids can participate and will enjoy singing a special song.

Red Ribbon Week Bookmark Contest Awards

Friday, Oct. 27, 6:45 p.m.
Join the Clapp Memorial Library and Belchertown Overcoming Adversity Together (BOAT) as they announce the winners of the Red Ribbon Week Bookmark Contest. A winner will be chosen from each age category: ages 12-18, and 11 and younger. Free pizza provided by Sleigh City Pizza Co. will be provided.

Teen Halloween Interactive Movie Night

Friday, Oct. 27, 7 p.m.
"Fly on your broom to the Clapp Memorial Library...for a spooky and interactive movie night. Arrive early and dress like your favorite witch or zombie and get ready to be transported to a wild Halloween night in Salem, Massachusetts."

Please see **EVENTS**, page 4

BCTV Schedule

OCT. 26 - NOV. 1

Thursday, Oct. 26

- 8 a.m. - Select Board, Oct. 23
- 10 a.m. - Conservation Comm., Oct. 23
- 12 p.m. - Planning Board, Oct. 24
- 6:30 p.m. - Finance Committee, Channel 192
- 7 p.m. - Select Board, Oct. 23
- 9 p.m. - Conservation Comm., Oct. 23

Friday, Oct. 27

- 8 a.m. - Conversation with Pakman
- 9 a.m. - Lampson Brook Farm Board, Oct. 25
- 11 a.m. - Energy and Sustainability Committee, Oct. 19
- 5 p.m. - Conversation with Pakman
- 6 p.m. - Planning Board, Oct. 24
- 8 p.m. - Lampson Brook Farm Board, Oct. 25
- 10 p.m. - Energy and Sustainability Committee, Oct. 19

Saturday, Oct. 28

- 8 a.m. - Educational Crafting with Charlotte, Baby Binoculars
- 9 a.m. - BHS Best Buddies 2023
- 11 a.m. - Belchertown Heritage Visioning Meeting
- 4:30 p.m. - Educational Crafting with Charlotte, Baby Binoculars
- 7 p.m. - BHS Best Buddies 2023
- 9 p.m. - Belchertown Heritage Visioning Meeting

Sunday, Oct. 29

- 4:30 p.m. - St. Francis Roman Catholic Church
- 6 p.m. - Christ Community Church
- 7 p.m. - Hope United Methodist Church
- 8:30 p.m. - Belchertown Heritage Visioning Meeting

Monday, Oct. 30

- 8 a.m. - Conversation with Pakman
- 5 p.m. - Conversation with Pakman

Tuesday, Oct. 31

- 8 a.m. - BHS Student Project - Closing the Belchertown School
- 9 a.m. - JBMS New School Cost/Design
- 7 p.m. - Belchertown Heritage Visioning Meeting
- 8 p.m. - BHS Student Project - Closing the Belchertown School
- 9 p.m. - JBMS New School Cost/Design

Wednesday, Nov. 1

- 8 a.m. - Conversation with Pakman
- 5 p.m. - Conversation with Pakman

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— **Beth from Belchertown**

"Everyone loved it. Absolutely perfect. I was planning on stopping by between now and Christmas to thank you. You beat me to it. We'll definitely see you next year."
— **Greg from West Springfield**

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— **Kelly from Ludlow**

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COMMUNITY



Nancy Brown Birmingham, Clapp Memorial Library



Beverly Phaneuf at the Clapp Memorial Library

Quabbin Art Association presents dual-member exhibit at the Clapp Memorial Library

BELCHERTOWN - Two seasoned artists from the Quabbin Art Association, Beverly Phaneuf and Nancy Brown Birmingham, have an ongoing dual exhibit at the Clapp Memorial Library.

"They are the first members to exhibit their work after a new hanging system was installed and generously gifted to the library by the organization," the Quabbin Art Association (QAA) released.

Phaneuf currently serves as vice-president and plein air coordinator, organizing paint-outs throughout Western Mass. from April to November. She is a lifetime resident of Western Massachusetts and currently lives in Belchertown, according to the QAA.

"She holds a Bachelor's Degree from Westfield State University and graduate degrees from the University of

Massachusetts. Beverly worked as a classroom teacher in Belchertown and later as an elementary school principal in Southwick," the QAA released. "Her art career was launched at a pastel workshop at the Palmer Library. Intrigued by the beautiful colors, she began painting with a local artist, working first in pastel and later in oil. Preferring to paint from life, many of her landscapes are created plein air."

Phaneuf has six plein air paintings on exhibit at the library.

Brown Birmingham is a Marblehead native with a Bachelor's of Fine Art Degree from Mount Allison University in New Brunswick, Canada. She moved to Belchertown in 1977, and worked for many years as a severe special needs teacher and consultant for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

"Her work has been exhibited in local, national, and international collections, receiving numerous awards since 1975. She currently sits on the Board of the Quabbin Art Association and will serve as coordinator of the 'New Artists Initiative' starting in 2024," the QAA released in a press statement. "She paints primarily in watercolor and acrylic and is a passionate member of the QAA Plein Air Painting Group. Her preferred subjects are landscapes, seascapes, and botanicals."

"Plein air and studio work round out my daily painting practices," Brown Birmingham said. "I continue to evolve as an artist and bring various techniques and tools hoping to make my work sing."

She is exhibiting her plein air watercolor landscapes representing "the Four Seasons."

Town announces Veterans Day ceremony

BELCHERTOWN - Charly Oliva, the town's Veterans' Agent, has announced the annual Veterans Day event set for this year in the Belchertown High School Veterans' Memorial Auditorium.

"Please come out and join the community in celebrating our nation's veterans," a press statement reads.

The following Veterans Day event is planned:

Saturday, Nov. 11

Anyone wishing to join is asked to gather at the Belchertown High School Auditorium. The ceremony will begin at 11 a.m.

"This year's ceremony is dedicated to pinning Belchertown resident, Marine Corps Sergeant Kevin McMenamin, with his Purple Heart," Oliva released. "He was combat wounded in Vietnam in 1969; our town has the honor of formally pinning him for the first time. We will be joined by state and local government officials, Belchertown's Chestnut Hill Community School's band and chorus, as well as local Scouts."

Those wishing to retire worn U.S. flags may drop them off at the office of the Veterans' Agent in the Freedom Center (6 Berkshire Ave.) or in the Flag Drop Box on the second floor of the Town Hall.

Gold Star families planning to attend Saturday's ceremony are asked to contact Oliva at 413-323-0409.

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PARADE from page 1

own current members (as very young children) actually partook in the sunset parade around the town common led by seven members of the high school band," according to the Lions Club.

"Festivities were capped off with apple

bobbing and candy handouts for the kids and cider donuts for the parents in the Old Town Hall," the Lions Clubs released, adding it "would like to thank our townspeople for their support in its many fundraisers held throughout the year that make such memorable community endeavors possible."

EVENTS from page 2

A gift card will be awarded to the teen with the best costume, and free pizza will be provided by Sleigh City Pizza Co. This program is for teens in grades 7-12 and is co-sponsored by BOAT-Belchertown Overcoming Adversity Together. Register by emailing clapplibrarytab@gmail.com or by visiting the Clapp Memorial Library.

Additionally, story times for ages three months to six years old began the week of Sept. 18. Story times feature age-appropriate stories, songs, finger plays, and art activities; registration and confirmation are required. For more information and to register, visit clapplibrary.org/story-hour.

Babytime Storytime (3-12 months)

9 - 9:45 a.m., Mondays (Oct. 30, and Nov. 6)

Babytime is for ages three - 12 months.
First Steps Storytime (12-24 months)
10 - 10:45 a.m., Mondays (Oct. 30, and Nov. 6)

First Steps is for ages 12 - 24 months.
Toddler Time (Two-year-olds)
9:30-10:30 a.m., Tuesdays (Oct. 24 and 31, and Nov. 7)

Toddler Time is for two-year-old children.
Preschool Storytime (Three- through six-year-olds)
9:30-10:30 a.m., Thursdays (Oct. 26, and Nov. 2 & 9)

Preschool Story Time is for children ages three to six.

Home Delivered Meals Drivers

The Belchertown Senior Center is looking for drivers to deliver meals to homebound elders generally on weekdays between 10:30 am and 12:30 pm depending on the route. No weekends or holidays required. This position starts at \$7.25/hour plus mileage reimbursement. This is more than a job, it is an opportunity to be of service to people in need. In addition to delivering meals, you are an important daily contact for the elders.

A valid driver's license, reliable vehicle, a good driving record and reliability are required. If you would like to join our team, please complete an application online at www.belchertown.org/human_resources or email jobs@belchertown.org for more information.

Applications will be accepted until positions are filled. EEO employer.

COMMUNITY

'Blue Jeans & Fair Dreams' coloring contest

Announcement of winners:

BELCHERTOWN - The winners of the "Blue Jeans & Fair Dreams" coloring contest that were submitted from the annual coloring contest that appears in the Belchertown Fair Guide with the deadline date of Oct. 18 are as follows:

- 1st Place - Grant Lussier
- 2nd Place- Vince George
- 3rd Place- Paisley Axton

Thank you to everyone who participated; congratulations to the winners! You will be contacted to receive your prizes.



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OPINION



By Kimberly Palmucci



Mayra and Rosie, two black cats who found their fur-ever homes.

Black cats? A purr-fect addition to the family

Reports indicate that black cats are less likely to be adopted than other fur colors, and if you've ever purr-sonally known a black cat, you may be just as bewildered as I was when I learned this fact.

As I'm writing this, my two black cats are curled up on a nearby blanket, basking in a sunlit autumn glow. Yet, the stats of the matter remain—according to several studies, including one regarding a cat's fur color and how this impacts their adoptability, the results were certain.

"Black cats in [shelters] should receive extra consideration for rehoming," the study revealed.

Further, entirely black cats did not enjoy "improved outcomes" during the month prior to Halloween, the one time of year when their outcomes might be expected to improve, the study reported.

So, when considering a new pet for the family, why not consider a black cat or two?

Here's my adoption story for Mayra and Rosie, my "foster kittens turned fur-ever cats."

I met them at a book signing event during which I'd teamed up with a local animal rescue to raise donations. The event started out great, but very soon after I arrived, a dog that I lovingly refer to as "the stinky dog" arrived, too. The event was in a pet store that offered a doggie bathing area, and the stinky dog chanced in after an ill-fated experience—getting sprayed by a skunk.

The dog's owner was noticeably stressed out, and I tried my hardest to ignore the scent, but tears were quite literally forming in my eyes. Approaching the volunteer leading the event—Kathy—I intended to tell her that I, as a very sensitive soul who can't handle the atrocity of foul odors, would be packing up my books and heading out.

When Kathy turned around, I saw that she was wrangling and wrestling with an incredibly tiny black kitten—and this cat was upset. Meowing, crying, and wiggling, the kitten was passed around to several volunteers, and as a person who'd recently drifted into the center of this chaotic scene, the cat was eventually passed to me.

The kitten, Rosie, was around eight-weeks-old. She was so small, but she was zesty. I hadn't expected to be holding a distressed cat, but I understood the assignment; I also related to the kitten's concerns, and holding her close against my chest, I rocked her like an infant and walked down an aisle into a quiet corner.

In my arms, little Rosie calmed down instantly. The volunteers exchanged glances and sighs of relief; at the time, I didn't know why this kitten chose me as the one human who could calm her. But looking back, I know now what I hadn't known then—it was fate!

For the remainder of the event, no more books were signed. After the kitten had fallen asleep in my arms, I spent the next two hours cradling her, swaying her, and walking around the store. Over the years, in my career as a writer and as a volunteer with several animal groups, I've held countless adoptable pets. But this little kitten? There was something inexplicable about the way she made me feel. As the event neared its end, I knew it would soon be time to hand over the kitten, who would be transported back to her current foster home and, eventually, adopted. And thinking about that, I felt an overwhelming sense of sadness.

"What are the chances of me taking this cat home?" I joked to Kathy, who responded by telling me that I could.

"You said what now?" I retorted, still swaying the cat. "I can take her home with me?"

Please see **FUREVER**, page 7



LETTERS

Belchertown Community TV

Dear Editor,

Belchertown Community TV has been undergoing a major system overhaul. Since its inception, BCTV has used one manufacturer who has now gone out of the Community TV business. After months of searching, BCTV purchased a new broadcast system from Castus, one of three manufacturers still supporting Community TV operations. We are still in the process of installing this equipment and will be so for

several more months.

One of the biggest changes for you is that BCTV is now using a new streaming service. To access this new internet streaming service, you will need to input the following code into your browser:

cloud.castus.tv/vod/belchertown?page=HOME

I suggest you bookmark it for your future viewing.

Lew Louraine
Station Manager, BCTV

Trick-or-treating in Dana Woods

Dear Editor,

Dana Woods is a neighborhood that knows how to make Halloween fun, and many trick-or-treaters visit us. But large numbers of cars going through the neighborhood present a safety hazard, both to residents and visitors. If you plan on visiting Dana Woods for Halloween, please remember the following:

1. Per order of the police, there will be absolutely no parking allowed on George Hannum Road.
2. Driving in the development will be extremely limited. Parents in cars following trick-or-treaters will be asked to park and walk.
3. Please follow signs and use common sense by parking on only one side of the

street to allow for passage of emergency vehicles.

4. Please don't allow kids to zigzag across the streets. In addition to the obvious safety concern, many of the streets are cul-de-sacs and this tends to result in homes being visited twice.

5. Please do not litter—keep candy wrappers in treat bags.

6. Please do not block driveways.

7. If a house's lights are off, they are either not participating or have run out of candy.

Keeping these points in mind will help assure a safe, fun night.

Thank you,

Dana Woods Homeowners Association

Appalled at decision to demolish 51 State St.

Dear Editor,

I am writing this regarding the Selectboard's decision to demolish 51 State St. This building was constructed in the 1980's through the Governor's Day Care Partnership Initiative - Community Development Block Grant with the express purpose of providing much-needed early childhood care to the town of Belchertown. The Belchertown Day School (BDS) leased this space from its initial opening in 1985 until March 2017.

BDS was evicted from this property in 2017 shortly after the 30-year commitment of the original grant was met. Prior to their eviction, BDS was leasing the facility from the town and paying its own utilities. The building was in good shape but was in need of some repairs. Since the BDS eviction in 2017, the building was occupied by the Family Center (with maintenance costs falling to the town). With this arrangement, in six short years under town management, the building has fallen into such a state of disrepair that the only course of action is, apparently, to tear it down.

How did the town budget for the loss

of revenue from BDS? What was the plan to recoup that to maintain the building? It seems, perhaps, there was none.

We have already dismantled the teen center years ago, and now we no longer have a home for the family center, and no space in any existing buildings to house them. The building is in a prime location to serve families of all ages, has three light-filled rooms, an accessible restroom, a fenced-in playground, ample storage, two office spaces, and a kitchenette. The possibilities are endless with what that building could be used for.

I am asking that the Town Administrator and Selectboard take a step back and rethink this decision. There surely is a way to keep this building. Do all of those repairs need to be completed to make the building safe? Is this even something ARPA funds should be used for? Could the building be fixed and leased to someone else? I feel like the decision was short-sighted and too quick without any community input.

Audrey Anderson

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Can my wife claim her benefit now and switch to a spouse benefit from me later?

Dear Rusty

Can my wife claim her benefits now (at 63, and we know about the reduction for claiming early) and then, when I retire at 66 years and 10 months of age almost 3 years from now, can she switch over to spousal benefits based on my benefit amount? She worked at a higher paying job for much of her career, but is now at a much lower income and would be under the amount that would reduce her benefits further. I currently earn about nine times her annual salary so the spousal benefit for her would be an increase when I retire.

Signed: Seeking Information

Dear Seeking

Yes, your wife can claim her own (reduced) Social Security retirement benefit now and she will be automatically awarded a spousal boost when you later claim your SS retirement benefit. However, your wife's benefit when you claim will not be 50% of your Full Retirement Age amount because she claimed her own SS benefit early and also because her spousal boost will be awarded prior to her FRA.

Any benefit taken before FRA is reduced, including the spousal benefit.

Here's what will happen if your wife claims her own Social Security at age 63. Your wife's personal SS retirement benefit, when she claims, will be reduced by about 25%. When you claim at your full retirement age, your wife will get a "spousal boost" to her own reduced benefit.

The amount of your wife's spousal boost will be the difference between her FRA entitlement and 50% of your FRA entitlement, reduced because the spousal boost will be awarded automatically before she has reached her own full retirement age. FRA amounts are used to compute the spousal boost, regardless of the age at which benefits are claimed.

When you claim, your wife will not yet be her FRA, so the amount of her spousal boost, the difference between her FRA entitlement and half of your FRA entitlement, will be reduced. The reduced spousal boost will be added to your wife's reduced SS retirement benefit, resulting in her total benefit payment being less than half of yours.

The only way your wife can get the full 50% of your

FRA entitlement is to wait until her own FRA at 67 to claim Social Security, but by doing so she also forfeits the money she would otherwise receive if she claimed her own benefit now. As long as she won't significantly exceed the earnings limit while working before her FRA, claiming now is an acceptable strategy because it will take many years to recover the money forfeited by waiting until her FRA to claim.

It's also reasonable because women statistically outlive men and your wife's benefit as your surviving spouse will be 100% of the amount you are receiving at your death, instead of the smaller spousal amount she was receiving while you were both living.

When to claim is always a personal choice and life expectancy should always be thoughtfully considered, but the answer to your specific question is - yes, if your wife claims her own benefit at 63, she will automatically receive her spousal boost when you claim, but her payment as your spouse will be less than 50% of your FRA benefit amount.

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



The questions keep coming

I continue to receive a number of questions each week.

It's encouraging that there is so much interest in gardening even as this season is coming to an end. Here are the quandaries we have for this week:

Myrtle still has an abundance of green tomatoes left on the plants in her small gardening plot. "Are my tomatoes still OK to be outside? When I've picked them green in the past I remember putting them in a paper bag to ripen. Is that better than just leaving them on the counter? Mine are mostly cherries and I have quite a few! I looked online and it says to put them in a bag with an apple, but I don't recall using an apple the last time I did this. I sometimes find that advice from the internet gets confusing - too many options! Also, I was wondering what you thought of trying to root

the tomato branches that have flowers. Maybe I could grow them inside for the winter."

Lucky you to still have tomato branches with flowers, let alone those with tomatoes on them! I am impressed.

With frost imminent, I typically allow green tomatoes to ripen single layer in trays or cardboard boxes - something that can "breathe," unlike plastic bags or containers. A paper bag sounds like a fine option too.

The reason for the apple is so that it will emit ethylene gas and hasten the ripening process. Bananas can be used in place of the apple.

There is some controversy about what temperature tomatoes should be kept at to ripen, but it would make sense that ripening would occur at warmer temperatures versus cooler - tomatoes are tropical plants. Typical household temps around 70 degrees are just right.

As far as rooting flowering branches, it would be a fun experiment and tomato stems do root readily. Usually when we take cuttings, we prefer them not to be in flower, though, as it hinders rooting to some degree.

Try it; I'd love to hear how it works out. If they root, keep in mind that winter light is not as bright as summer light. It might be hard to keep the plants growing well inside.

Sylvia, who gardens in Ware, wrote in with this question:

"My beautiful lush morning glory vine doesn't have any buds, let alone blossoms! I fear we will have frost soon. Do you have any idea why this failed? I started four little

plants in June, lots of rain, no fertilizer, soil so-so with some compost added during growth and that's it for care."

My first thought is that your soil is too rich. You said no fertilizer, but maybe the compost was enough to increase fertility, and nitrogen especially, in such a way that you ended up with all that lush foliage but no flowers.

Morning glories are related to bind weed - that pesky weed that tangles around my garden fence and just about anything else it can get its tendrils on. Try to pull it up and the thick white roots break and new plants pop up.

How does this relate? Well, it sort of proves that morning glories prefer soil that isn't so rich.

Another thought is that you have a late flowering variety! Honest!

Some varieties take a long time to flower. One variety that I know grows well and flowers on the early side is an heirloom by the name of Grandpa Ott's.

Give it a try and you'll be pleasantly surprised by the dark purple flowers with reddish centers.

One thing you didn't mention in your note was exposure; morning glories do need to be planted in full sun in order to flower. I do hope this helps!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

FOREVER from page 6

"Well, you could foster her if you wanted to. It would actually be really helpful," she said. "We've got lots of kittens right now and are looking for foster homes."

I knew that fostering kittens didn't require a lot of space; any extra room, or even a small bathroom, could be used to house the kitten until she found her fur-ever home. My mind ignited into a blaze of calculations, and I came to the conclusion—this could actually work.

"Let me ask my husband," I said, not wanting to make a unilateral decision for the family without him. "He will be the deciding factor."

When my husband, Dom, answered the FaceTime call, I knew the possibility of him saying yes was slim—very slim—but it wasn't zero.

"That's a cute cat," he said when he answered; the camera was focused on the little kitten I was holding. "Now put it back and come home."

I truly did try to put her back; she woke, squirming and letting out a shrill meow as she was placed into a small cat carrier. From inside the carrier, I heard another muffled meow—apparently, Rosie had a twin sister named Mayra who'd been inside the carrier the entire event because she was shy.

As I packed up my books, watching as all the adoptable pets were brought out of the store, I turned to Kathy.

"Am I going to regret not bringing that kitten home with me?" I asked, hoping Kathy could somehow supply an answer that would make it feel better. "Is it a mistake to let her go?"

"I don't know," she replied, having witnessed the bond

Rosie and I had shared. "How do you feel right now?"

My lip started quivering. Quivering. Tears welled in my eyes, and I stood there in the middle of this pet store like a lost child. In that moment, I realized, having Rosie in my arms had been a peace and connection I'd only known twice before, with my other two cats, so, my husband was surely not surprised at all when I rolled up to our house that afternoon with two new foster kittens who we adopted the following day.

These two black cats have now wrapped their paws around my heart—and purr-haps a black cat awaits the love of your family, too!

Or any adoptable pet, for that matter, as all pets are worthy of love.

think OUTSIDE of the BIG BOX

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■ PUBLIC SAFETY

Belchertown Police Log

Editor's note: The following are brief explanations of select entries in the Belchertown Police log and arrests for the weeks of Oct. 11 through Oct. 17. The information was provided by a member of the police department based on the review of the detailed log summary. This feature is designed to provide context and explanation to some of the calls police responded to, there were 17 incidents, nine accidents, four arrest/summons and 31 citations.

ARRESTS/SUMMONS

ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS

Wednesday, Oct. 11

7:30 a.m. – An officer responded to the Franklin St. for an accident. A vehicle traveling north on Franklin St. was struck by a deer on the left side of the vehicle. There was damage, but the vehicle didn't need to be towed. No injuries were reported.

11:51 a.m. – An officer responded to a report of a dog attack. A person said they were walking their puppy when their neighbor's dog attacked them. The dog jumped on the person and knocked them over. The Animal Control Officer responded to the scene. The dog was ordered to be on a leash at all times by the ACO. The person was transported to the hospital.

4:22 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Washington St. A vehicle traveling north on Washington struck the trailer attached to a second motor vehicle. Both operators said the other vehicle was drifting into the opposite lane. The first vehicle was towed from the scene since it had a flat tire and a possibly bent axle. No injuries were reported.

8:46 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on North Main St. A vehicle traveling north on North Main St. was struck by another vehicle attempting to move right into the flow of traffic from the left turn lane. No injuries were reported, and no tows were necessary.

Thursday, Oct. 12

7:56 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Chauncey Walker Road. A bus struck a deer that entered the roadway. The deer was euthanized. The bus didn't have any occupants at the time of the accident.

1:39 p.m. – An officer traveling on State St. was flagged down by a business owner that located a person in one of the vehicles out for sale. They didn't want to press any charges they just wanted the person to be on their way. The person was transported to Amherst.

2:05 p.m. – An officer responded to a Turkey Hill Road business for a report of a hit and run involving a vehicle parked in the parking lot. The person said they came out of the business and noticed their vehicle was side swiped on the left side.

7:04 p.m. – An officer responded to a North Main St. business involving a disturbance involving customers. The officer spoke to the involved people, one person said they were pushed by the other. Peace was restored and they didn't want to press charges. The manager of the business would look into providing footage of the incident.

7:24 p.m. – An officer responded to a report of a runaway juvenile. They didn't come home after school, found at someone's house and made it home.

Friday, Oct. 13

10 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Turkey Hill Road. There was a vehicle parked crooked in the parking lot of a business next to another vehicle. When the owner of the second vehicle came out into the parking lot, the vehicle that was parked crooked was gone. There was a scratch on the rear passenger's side. The person was able to contact the owner of the second vehicle and was able to exchange information.

Saturday, Oct. 14

9:27 a.m. – An officer responded to a report of damage to their vehicle. A person parked attending the football game and noticed upon their return, they noticed damage to the side of their vehicle. Photos were taken.

7:28 p.m. – An off-duty school detail officer was told by attendees leaving the function that there were allegations of a fight, and a juvenile was punched. The youths were located and didn't need medical attention, the School Resource Officer and school department were notified, and the matter will be handled internally.

Sunday, Oct. 15

7:28 p.m. – An officer responded to North Main St. business for a report of a suspicious man in a business. The person was driving a vehicle with New York plates, they declined medical attention. They were from Utah. The person was taken into custody. When they arrived at the station, the person requested to go to the hospital; relatives were located in the area.

8:17 p.m. – An officer responded to a residence for a report of a person causing a disturbance. The officer spoke with all the people involved in the incident. One person was transported by Belchertown Fire to the hospital.

Monday, Oct. 16

5:05 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident. A vehicle traveling east on Ware Road came in contact with a deer. There was damage to the left side of the vehicle and windshield. No tow was needed, and no injuries were reported.

2:13 p.m. – An officer spoke with a resident that their partner was being spoken to by a former partner. The person received several calls and texts from the former partner. The officer spoke with the resident and provided information to get a 209A order since court was still in session.

6:48 p.m. – An officer responded to North Main St. drive through for an accident. The vehicle struck the building while turning. The driver was a 20-year-old Belchertown resident who was unlicensed while driving. There was damage to the business and to the vehicle. The operator will be receiving a summons.

Tuesday, Oct. 17

2:31 p.m. – An officer responded to Stebbins St. for a report of a person walking in the middle of the street. Passing motorists stayed to help the person. The officers were able to take custody of the person.

1:55 p.m. – An officer took a report of fraud. The person thought they got an email from their college to survey and got their personal information. They got a check in the mail and went to try to cash the check. Their bank account was terminated and being investigated. The matter was document.

3:09 p.m. – An officer responded to a neighbor who threw an unknown liquid on the vehicle. Ongoing issue of neighbor harassment. They were made aware of ability to get harassment.

6:12 p.m. – An officer spoke to people about custody issues. It was documented for them to follow up in family and probate court.

8:42 p.m. – An officer responded to a wellbeing check for a person possibly having a mental health crisis.

Friday, Oct. 13

6:41 p.m. – A motorist reported a minor two-car accident. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries and an accident report was completed.

9:15 p.m. – While on patrol, an officer observed a motor vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed that the vehicle was traveling at 62 mph in 35 mph zone. The vehicle was stopped and the operator was issued a civil citation for speeding.

Saturday, Oct. 14

12:07 p.m. – The store manager reported a shoplifting that occurred earlier in the day. An officer responded and completed an incident report.

Sunday, Oct. 15

4:27 p.m. – While on patrol, an officer performed a random registration query. It was discovered that the registration was revoked due to lack of insurance. The vehicle was stopped and the operator was issued a criminal citation for operating with a revoked registration and without insurance.

Monday, Oct. 16

3:37 a.m. – While on patrol, an officer observed a motor vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed that the vehicle was traveling at 56 mph in 35 mph zone. The vehicle was stopped and the operator was issued a civil citation for speeding.

4:15 a.m. – While on patrol, an officer observed a motor vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed that the vehicle was traveling at 60 mph in 30 mph zone. The vehicle was stopped and the operator was issued a civil citation for speeding.

8:04 a.m. – A resident reported that someone opened a charge account at Kohls in their name. An incident report was completed.

8:07 a.m. – A motorist reported a minor two-car accident. There were no injuries and an accident report was completed.

Thursday, Oct. 19

6:17 a.m. – A motorist reported a two-car accident. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries. An accident report was completed.

Granby Police Log

Editor's Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 136 calls for the week of Oct. 13 through Oct. 19. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The Granby Police Department provides all information.



Deadlines for board, committee vacancies upcoming

BELCHERTOWN – The town's Select Board is seeking citizens to share their expertise by serving on a town board or committee.

Those who have time and are interested in getting involved in the town's activities are asked to 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.

The town has announced that it wishes to fill the following vacancies:

Agricultural Commission

Three associate non-voting member seats
This commission promotes agricultural-based economic opportunities; preserves, revitalizes and sustains the Belchertown agricultural industries, and encourages the pursuit of agriculture as a career opportunity and lifestyle.

Deadline: Oct. 27, 2023

Trail Stewardship Council

One vacancy
The town wishes to fill a vacancy to represent landowners of the town on the Trail Stewardship Council. Interested

individuals should be knowledgeable about local land use and related issues. Additional information specific to this council can be found at newenglandtrail.org.

Deadline: Oct. 27, 2023

Animal Control Advisory Board

One vacancy
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, a non-pet owner from the community, a medical professional specializing in emergency medicine, an animal enthusiast or caregiver, a pet owner, and/or interested residents.

Deadline: Oct. 27, 2023

Communications Committee

Two full-member seats
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,

Please see **VACANCIES**, page 15



Birth & Adoption Announcements

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COMMUNITY



CLASS OF 2024

at Belchertown Fair

The Belchertown High School Class of 2024 has extended gratitude to Dave Kibbe and Jay LaFleur and all the employees of Complete Septic for the generosity of their time and materials in building a Basketball Booth for fundraising at the Belchertown Fair. Funds were raised to help the Junior Class, and "a wonderful time was had by all."

Clapp Library's November events

BELCHERTOWN – The Clapp Memorial Library has announced a list of November events.

The library will be closed Friday, Nov. 10, and Saturday, Nov. 11, in honor of Veterans Day.

Upcoming programs at the Clapp Memorial Library include:

Weekly Teen Write Nights

Wednesdays, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 29, at 5:30-7 p.m.

Teens in grades 7-12 are invited to weekly Teen Write Nights throughout November as part of the Clapp Memorial Library's annual program for young writers during National Novel Writing Month. Teen writers will get feedback, build community, participate in writing exercises, and grow their word count. Teens can attend as many Teen Write Nights as desired; frequent attendance means more chances to win prizes at the final party in December. There will be no Teen Write Night on Nov. 22 due to the holiday. The first Teen Write Night of November will take place in the library's Activity Room; young writers can email clapplibrarytab@gmail.com for more information about the program and to register.

What YA Reading Group

Thursday, Nov. 2, at 7 p.m.

A book discussion group for adults who read young adult books that meets the first Thursday of the month. Visit the library's circulation desk to pick up a copy of "Warrior Girl Unearthed" by Angeline Boulley.

Hungrytown Concert

Saturday, Nov. 4, at 3 p.m.

Clapp Memorial Library continues its 2023 monthly concert series with the folk duo Hungrytown. After more than 15 years of world-wide touring and three album releases, Rebecca Hall and Ken Anderson of Hungrytown have earned a reputation for "the quality and authenticity of their songwriting," the library released.

"Inspired by the grit and true-to-life experiences she heard in

these traditional ballads, Hall was inspired to write the lyrics that later became her first songs, aided by Anderson's flair for musical arrangement."

In the winter of 2003, the duo quit their desk jobs, moved to the green hills of Vermont, and decided to pursue a full-time career as touring musicians. They released their first CD, Hungrytown, in 2008; Any Forgotten Thing in 2011; and Further West in 2015. The couple continue to spend more than half of each year on the road, especially roads in North America, Europe, and New Zealand.

Ukulele Play Along (virtual event)

Monday, Nov. 6, at 7 p.m.

Strum along with the Ukulele Play Along on the first Monday every month. Grab your ukulele and play along—"because playing your ukulele is more fun when you do it with others."

"Don't have a Ukulele? Don't worry, you can borrow one from the library. We'll be focusing on three- and four-chord songs, with lyrics and chords provided on screen. Participants will be muted, so don't worry about how you sound," the library released.

To join, email Julie Stepanek at julie@musicjulie.com for the Zoom link and to receive the songs for the program.

Stone Medicine with Leslie Franks

Thursday, Nov. 9, at 7 p.m.

Join local author Leslie Franks for a talk about her newly-released book, "Stone Medicine: a Chinese medical guide to healing with gems and minerals." She'll be taking a look at how crystals and stones are used in healing body, mind, and spirit, from both a Chinese medical and a western mineralogical perspective.

Leslie Franks is retired from more than 30 years practice in a Chinese Medicine clinic, where her modalities of treatment were bodywork, Chinese herbs, essential oils, and stones.



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COMMUNITY

Red Ribbon Campaign Oct. 23-31

COURTESY PHOTOS, BELCHERTOWN OVERCOMING ADVERSITY TOGETHER

Students in town, Belchertown Overcoming Adversity Together (BOAT), and the Belchertown Police Department have prepared for the Red Ribbon Campaign from Oct. 23-31.

"Look for red ribbons in town," BOAT released.



'Graveyard Tours' event upcoming

BELCHERTOWN - The Belchertown Historical Association is once again holding its Halloween Graveyard Tours in the Mount Hope Cemetery.

"Have you ever spent a night in the graveyard when Halloween is approaching?" a press statement reads.

Inhabitants of the cemetery that impacted Belchertown's history

will "come to life," represented by members of the community in period costumes, according to reports. Tours will start from the Old Town Hall and be led by a tour guide.

"Visitors will meet Belchertown residents from the 19th century, along with some occasional spirits and lost souls wandering among the tomb-

stones," a press statement reads.

The event is free, donations being collected toward continued reconstruction of the Washington District Schoolhouse. Tours will be from 6-8 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 29, in the cemetery behind the United Church of Christ on Park Street. This is not a trick or treat event.

Senior Center announces upcoming events, services

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

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

Upcoming events at the Senior Center include:

Social Services and Outreach

Medicare Open Enrollment - Open enrollment for Medicare will take place through Dec. 7.

"This is a great time to review your plan," the COA released.

Complete pre-enrollment forms, located in the blue folder outside Laurene's office; return the forms to the COA's staff, and Laurene "will call you to schedule an appointment."

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

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

For all other inquiries, call for an appointment:

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

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

AARP Tax-Aide Program Volunteer Opportunity

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

"We want you to join us.

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

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

Training will be done this fall. For questions or additional information, contact D5Taxaide@comcast.net.

BSCCA Calendar Raffle

The fundraising group is offering a calendar raffle. Stop in to the Senior Center to purchase a ticket; winners will be drawn throughout the month of November. Purchase one ticket for \$20 or two for \$30.

BSCCA's Holiday Bazaar:

Saturday, Nov. 4, from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Hosted by the Belchertown Senior Citizens' Center Association.

"Don't miss this opportunity to stock up on holiday gifts, or a little something for yourself," the COA released. "Our crafters will have items for purchase in our main dining room, and the Thrift Shop will be open all day as well! In addition to shopping, try your luck at winning one of over 50 fabulous raffle baskets donated by our community members."

For even more events and offerings, contact the Belchertown Senior Center.

Quabbin Art Association receives Massachusetts Cultural Council Grant

REGION - The Quabbin Art Association, a non-profit organization based in Belchertown that serves more than 75 artists throughout the Pioneer Valley, has received a 2024 Massachusetts Cultural Council grant in the amount of \$2,500 for its "New

Artists Initiative," a new program to support up-and-coming artists throughout the Pioneer Valley.

The Initiative, in partnership with the Northampton Center for the Arts, will support ten new artists from area colleges and universities who intend to pursue a career in the visual arts, according to a press statement.

"It will begin with an artists' exhibit at the newly renovated Northampton Center for the Arts in December 2024 and will include a \$250 stipend provided by the MCC grant, as well as

a free two-year membership in the Quabbin Art Association," said Quabbin Art Association President Richard Guimond. "The artists will be selected by art department representatives from participating educational institutions and will represent ten of the best up-and-coming artists in our area. The New Artists Initiative, along with ongoing QAA exhibits, workshops, meetings and community events, supports the goal of QAA to promote the arts throughout the Pioneer Valley."

BARC's 'holiday pop-up' in November

BELCHERTOWN - Belchertown Animal Control will host a holiday shopping event from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 4, at 165 George Hannum Rd. in Belchertown.

"We've got your cat toys, dog tails, hats, jackets, T-shirts, plus much, much more," a press statement reads. "BARC merchandise makes great holiday

gifts for your animal loving friends and family and at the same time, you help to support a great organization. It's a win-win."

Additionally, with any donation or purchase, attendees will have a chance to take home one of the special baskets. This will be an outside event.

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Orioles take big league game from Ludlow

BY TIM PETERSON
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW — Back in September, the Belchertown girls varsity soccer team celebrated a 3-1 home win versus Coombs Division rival Ludlow.

When the two neighboring high schools faced each other for a second time this fall at historic Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow last Tuesday afternoon, the contest ended in a 1-1 draw.

It was the seventh tie of the regular season for the Lady Lions.

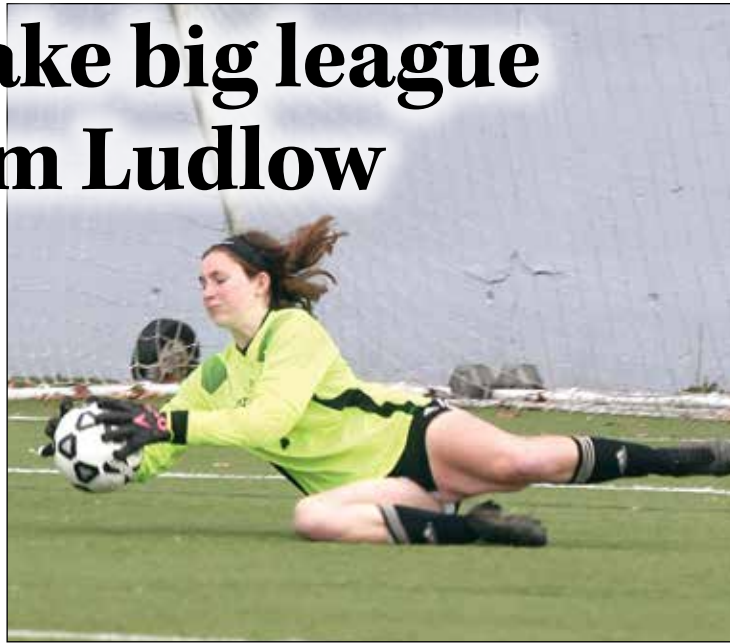
"I've never had a season either as a player or as a coach where we've had so many ties," said first-year Ludlow head coach Amanda Nacsin. "We do play a very difficult schedule and I'm very proud of my players."

Before becoming the varsity soccer coach, Nacsin, who graduated from Ludlow High School, had coached the Lady Lions j.v. team for several years.

The Lady Lions, who entered the Western Mass. Class A tournament with a 3-6-7 overall record, finished in fourth place in the league standings with a 2-4-6 mark. They finished the regular season with 13-1 non-league home win over Chicopee two days later.

The Lady Orioles (7-4-3, 6-3-3), who finished in third place in the league standings, were scheduled to play a couple of non-league games before taking part in the Western Mass. Class B. tournament.

"All of our league games are hard fought battles. Most of the scores are 1-0 or 2-1. There aren't very many 8-0 final scores in our



Jillian DeBarge dives for a save. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Allison Morris goes after the ball.



Briana Haley chases down the ball.

league," said Belchertown head coach Kyle Thibeault. "These types of games help you prepare for the postseason tournament."

Both teams will also be playing in the state tournament, which

starts next week. Ludlow, who was ranked 17th in the MIAA Division 2 power rankings, had several scoring

Please see **GIRLS**, page 12



Trevor Weiss socks a pass away ahead of pressure. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Joshua Misiasek heads up the field.



Ian McDonald starts a move up the field.

Belchertown boys right ship with pair of wins

BELCHERTOWN — After a short losing streak, Belchertown boys soccer got back in the win column with three straight wins. The Orioles defeated Minnechaug 2-0 last Wednesday afternoon

thanks to goals from Tanner Lockwood and Ian McDonald. The Orioles also defeated Northampton and Amherst and are now 8-5-3 heading into the Western Mass. playoffs.

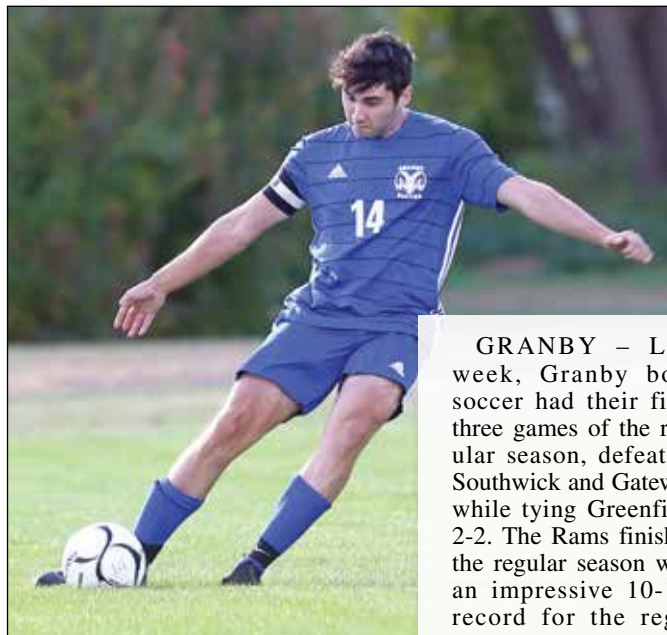
Rams conclude regular season with pair of wins



Riley Goodhind clears the ball up the field.



LEFT: Brandon Carillon reaches out to steal the ball.



Benjamin Berger sends the free kick away.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

GRANBY — Last week, Granby boys soccer had their final three games of the regular season, defeating Southwick and Gateway while tying Greenfield 2-2. The Rams finished the regular season with an impressive 10-1-5 record for the regular season. The Rams should be included in the Western Mass. tournament. Seeds were released after press time.



Cole Fuller plays the ball off his head.

Monadnock releases 2024 schedule

WINCHESTER, N.H. — Monadnock Speedway and JDV Productions announced this evening the full 2024 event schedule for the Winchester, New Hampshire oval.

The schedule begins with the JDV Open on Saturday, April 20, 2024 and ends with the return of the Winchester Fair event on Saturday, Sept. 21. The schedule includes 20 events spanning from April through September, including house divisions, touring series dates, special events and more.

The NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour will return to Monadnock Speedway for three dates in 2024: the third annual Granite State Derby on May 4, the third annual Duel at the Dog on July 20 and the

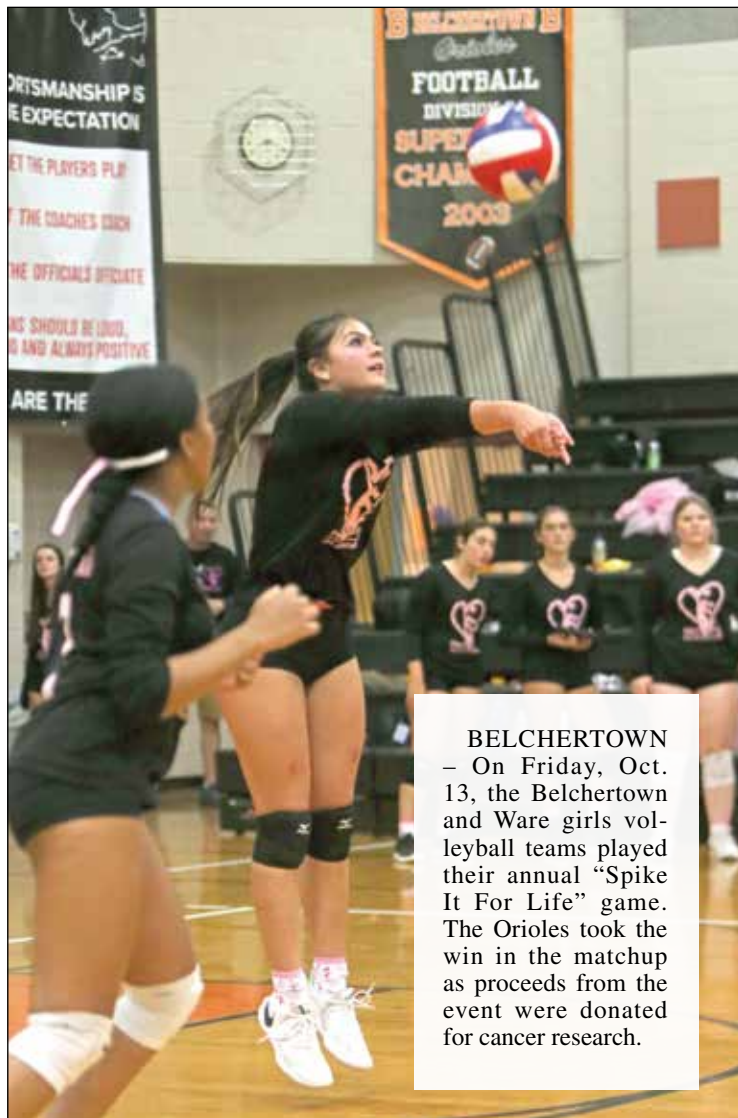
Please see **RACE**, page 12

SPORTS

Orioles girls volleyball raise money for cancer



Bethany Lavoie squares up a bump.



BELCHERTOWN – On Friday, Oct. 13, the Belchertown and Ware girls volleyball teams played their annual “Spike It For Life” game. The Orioles took the win in the matchup as proceeds from the event were donated for cancer research.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Christina Santiago sends a spike down.

RACE from page 12

second annual Winchester Fair on Sept. 21.

The first competition laps on the brand new track pavement will be on April 20 with Monadnock’s house divisions in action. The Mad Dog Modifieds, Super Streets, Mini Stocks, Pure Stocks, Six Shooters and Mad Pups will be racing. The Mad Dog Modifieds were previously named NHSTRA Modifieds, while the Super Streets were previously NHSTRA Late Models and the Young Guns have been renamed to the Mad Pups.

The house divisions will each have special events throughout the year - headlined by a Triple Crown Series, a Monadnock Salutes Pure Stock special (May 18), 15th annual Firecracker 100 (June 29), the inaugural Six Shooters Showdown (July 13), Mini Stock Meet (August 3), Mad Dog Masters Challenge (August 10) and Super Street Summer Shootout (August 17).

A full 2024 Monadnock event schedule can be found by visiting MonadnockSpeedway.com and JDVProductions.com.

“We’re excited to work with the great teams that make up the Monadnock Speedway house divisions, multiple touring series divisions and others to be sure the 2024 season at Monadnock is one to remember,” Josh Vanada, owner of JDV Productions, said. “Our team will look forward to releasing more and more information as the season draws closer. The new pavement at Monadnock Speedway is going to make the racing better than it has ever been and we look forward to showcasing it to dedicated, loyal race fans in 2024.”

Additional special events during the season will include the 53rd annual weekly racing opener on May 11, the second annual Winchester Open Modified 100 for the JDV Open Modifieds on June 8, the inaugural 350 Super Thunder in the Mountains on June 15 and the 53rd annual championship Saturday on September 14, where all house division champions will be crowned.

The only two-day show of the season will be the finale weekend on September 20 and 21. On Friday night, Sept. 20, a new winners night for house divisions will require drivers who enter the races to have never won a Monadnock event before in that division. The season officially concludes on Sept. 21, with the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour’s Winchester Fair and more.

For touring series classes, on top of the Whelen Modified Tour in town three times, the NEMA Midgets will visit once, the NEMA Lites three times, the Evolve Pro Truck Challenge twice and the Pro 4 Modifieds five times. Additional touring series divisions include the R&R Street Stock Open, Little Webb’s Super Series and the Senior Tour Auto Racers.

Open Late Models, Open Mini Stock, Big Wheel events and more are also on the calendar. JDV Productions and Monadnock Speedway will release additional information throughout the winter months about the 2024 racing season.

GIRLS from page 11

chances during the first 25 minutes of the contest.

Belchertown junior starting goalie Jillian DeBarge made a diving save on a shot attempt by freshman Valentina Molinari during the 15th minute. Another shot by Molinari deflected off the post.

DeBarge also made saves on shots by senior’s Emma Ellis and Elizabeth Braz.

The Lady Orioles, who are ranked eighth in the Division 3 power rankings, also had a couple of scoring chances before taking a 1-0 lead with four minutes remaining in the opening half.

The unassisted goal was scored by sophomore Morghan Litz, whose shot attempt deflected off the left post before crossing over the goal line. It was Litz’s fourth goal of the regular season.

Despite holding a 1-0 halftime lead, Thibeault wasn’t very happy with how his team performed during the first 40 minutes of the contest.

“We held a 1-0 lead at halftime, but we didn’t play very well in the first half,” Thibeault said. “We did have several other scoring chances in the first half.”

DeBarge was replaced by senior Michaela Dubey at halftime.

During the second half, Ludlow junior’s Calleigh Foley, and Mia Carvalho, who are starting defenders, managed to break up two scoring chances by the Lady Orioles.

“Our defense plays well in every game,” Nacsin said. “Calleigh and Mia are very reliable players back there. They communicate very well, and they always do everything that I ask them to do. They just keep getting better and better in every game.”

The other two Lady Lions starting defenders are senior Emma Ellis and freshman Payton Dersarkisian.

Ludlow also used two goal-

keepers.

Sophomore Kacie Klimek, who was the Lady Lions starting goalie, was replaced in goal by freshman Madelyn Riley at the start of the second half.

“Both of them are excellent young goalkeepers,” Nacsin said. “They work very hard, and they deserve playing time. They support each other very well.”

Eight minutes into the second half, Ludlow junior Ryleigh Remillard dribbled the ball down the right sideline. After weaving around a defender, Remillard poked a shot into the net tying the score at 1-1.

It was Remillard’s first goal of the season and the second of her varsity career.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Mattingly Marques plays the ball off her knee.

“We’ve been down 1-0 a couple of times in the past and we always battle back,” Nacsin said. “It was awesome to see Ryleigh score her first goal of the season.”

Riley made a couple of outstanding saves which prevented Belchertown from retaking the lead.

With less than two minutes remaining in regulation, Belchertown senior captain Madysen LePage blasted a shot off that crossbar. The ball went straight down and landed on the line.

The Lady Orioles supporters sitting in the bleachers thought it should’ve been ruled a goal, but the referee didn’t see it that way.

“I really didn’t see it very well from my angle,” Thibeault said. “The referee said it wasn’t a goal, but we did have several other scoring opportunities.”

It was the final meeting of the season between the two girls’ soccer teams and they won’t be playing anymore ties during the postseason tournament.



Brooke Burrows gets a header ahead of an opponent.

SPORTS

Cambridge half-marathon registration open

CAMBRIDGE – Registration is open for the Cambridge Half Marathon and 5K at CambridgeSide. The races are scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 5 (race begins 7 a.m. EST) on a gorgeous new course with views of the Charles River along Memorial Drive.

The Cambridge Half Marathon is a 13.1 mile fast and flat course featuring views of the MIT, John W. Weeks Footbridge, Harvard University Stadium, Charles River and more. The new 5K race also offers scenic views alongside the Charles River. Both courses are USATF certified and start and finish at CambridgeSide.

Race registration includes quarter zip pull over (half marathon participants) or long sleeve shirt (5K participants), five complimentary CambridgeSide parking passes, training plan, race bib with timing chip, and finishing medal. Register for both races at CambridgeSide.com.

Cambridge Half Marathon and 5K at CambridgeSide race proceeds benefit Cambridge Camping (CambridgeCamping.org), City of Cambridge Scholarship Fund (Cambridgema.gov/Services/CityScholarship) as well as other local charities. Cambridge Half Marathon and 5K is sponsored by Canam Group Inc. and training sponsor MYSTRYDE.

Thunderbirds drop decision to Penguins

WILKES-BARRE, PA – The Springfield Thunderbirds (1-3-0-0) put forth a strong effort, but could not come away victorious, falling to the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins (2-2-0-0) by a score of 3-1 at Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza.

Vadim Zherenko got the start between the pipes for Springfield and had a terrific game, stopping 33 shots on 35 Penguin attempts. On the other end, Joel Blomqvist got the start for the Penguins and picked up his first AHL win with 31 stops.

It was a special night even before the onset of the game for the Bitten family, as Sam Bitten

took the ice for his AHL debut alongside his older brother Will, marking the first time in T-Birds history that a pair of brothers skated as Springfield teammates.

Unlike the other games the Thunderbirds have had this season, the first period did not bring any goals and the two teams remained scoreless heading to their dressing rooms. Zherenko was the much busier goaltender during the first period, as he denied all 14 Penguins shots sent his way.



At the 1:35 mark of the second frame, Wilkes-Barre got on the board first. Forward Vinnie Hinostroza broke behind the T-Birds defense, took a stretch feed from Rem Pitlick, and scored on a backhand deke that snuck past Zherenko.

The score did not remain 1-0 for long, as Adam Gaudette continued his red-hot start to the season with a stroke of luck. An innocent clearing attempt around the boards instead saw the puck skitter to the edge of the crease.

After linemate Nathan Walker spotted the loose puck, he was stopped by Blomqvist on the initial chance, but the hulking Gaudette slammed the rebound home to tie the game up at 1-1 at the 3:18 mark of the period.

As the game hit its midpoint, Wilkes-Barre forward Jansen Harkins broke away from the pack and went in on a breakaway with a chance to restore the Penguin lead, but Zherenko was up to the challenge and made the stop with the left leg. Later on in the period, T-Birds had a great chance to go up a goal with

Please see **T-BIRDS**, page 19

BELCHERTOWN BOYS RIGHT SHIP WITH PAIR OF WINS



Jack Sullivan gets a big header.



Esat Cayan corrals the ball.



Nathan Marino sends a touch up the field.



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Death Notices & Paid Obituaries

should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

OBITUARIES

Theresa L. (Cyr) Gelineau

BELCHERTOWN - Theresa L. (Cyr) Gelineau, 85, passed away on Oct. 15, 2023, at Baystate Medical Center. She was born September 30, 1938, in Concord, Vt., to William E. and Juliette F. (Moran) Cyr. Theresa was raised in Holyoke and as a child spent many summers with her beloved grandmother at the family farm in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. She has lived in Belchertown since 1960.



As a youngster, Theresa was a talented tap dancer. As an adult she loved crafting, traveling, and spending summers camping. She was a fabulous cook. She will be deeply missed by her husband of 64 years, David Gelineau of Belchertown, daughter Ann Marie Pittsley (Tom) of Hadley, and son David Gelineau, II (Tobie) of Nevada. She also leaves a sister, Carol Russell of Granby, the mother of David's children, Maria Gutierrez, and three grandchildren, Bettina, Aaron (Brittany) and Rebecca, and her fur-baby, Mr. Fluff the cat.

Calling hours will be held at Beers & Story Belchertown Funeral Home, on Oct. 30, 2023, from 10-11 a.m. followed by a service at 11 a.m. The burial will be at South Cemetery. Theresa loved animals and there was always a family pet in the home. Please consider making a donation in her memory to BARC, P.O. Box 161, Belchertown, MA 01007 or by visiting barc-friends.com.

For more information visit beersandstory.com.

Robert "Bob" L. Methot

BELCHERTOWN - Robert "Bob" L. Methot passed away on his 82nd birthday, Oct. 17, 2023, succumbing to several debilitating diseases. He was born Oct. 17, 1941, in Ludlow and lived in Indian Orchard, Springfield, and Belchertown for the last 50 years. He graduated from Springfield Trade High. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Kathleen "Kathy" (LeDuc) Methot and his sons, Tony Methot (Michelle) and Mike "Whitey" (Michele) Methot. He was predeceased by his son, Gary, in 2010 along with his parents and stepparents; mother, Anna (Scyocurka) Gray, stepfather, Lewis Gray, and his father Louis Adrian Methot. He leaves grandchildren, Alyssa (Zach), Ashely, Hunter, and Lexi, and great grandchildren Hudson and Savannah as well as sister, Sue Angelini, several nieces and nephews and his brother-in-law, Dom Angelini.



He was an avid sportsman belonging to several sportsmen's clubs. It started at an early age hunting with his stepfather in Maine and locally. Later, he and friends Ernie and John were sports buddies for a long time. In fact, Bob holds the state record for walleye pike in Quabbin in 1973 and the record still stands. As his sons became of age, they hunted and fished together, especially in Vermont and Rhode Island where he kept his boat. Fished a lot off of Watch Hill light, where his son Tony was the keeper for some years. His recent hobbies included feeding all kinds of birds, especially hummingbirds, and watching wildlife passing through the yard.

He was employed for 10 years at Monsanto. When they moved to Belchertown, he became a part-time police officer in the early 70's and worked at the Belchertown State School until it closed. He then worked at Monson State School until he retired in 2005. He worked some part time jobs for a while and then did some traveling. They took cruises to Bermuda and Alaska and visited Oregon, Washington, British Columbia, and Canada.

Visitation was Tuesday, Oct. 24 from 5-7 p.m. at the Beers & Story Belchertown Funeral Home with a funeral service that was on Wednesday, Oct. 25 at 10 a.m. in the funeral home. Burial will follow in Lake Vale Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his memory to either Shriners' Hospital or St. Jude Children's Hospital.

Please visit beersandstory.com.

DEATH NOTICES

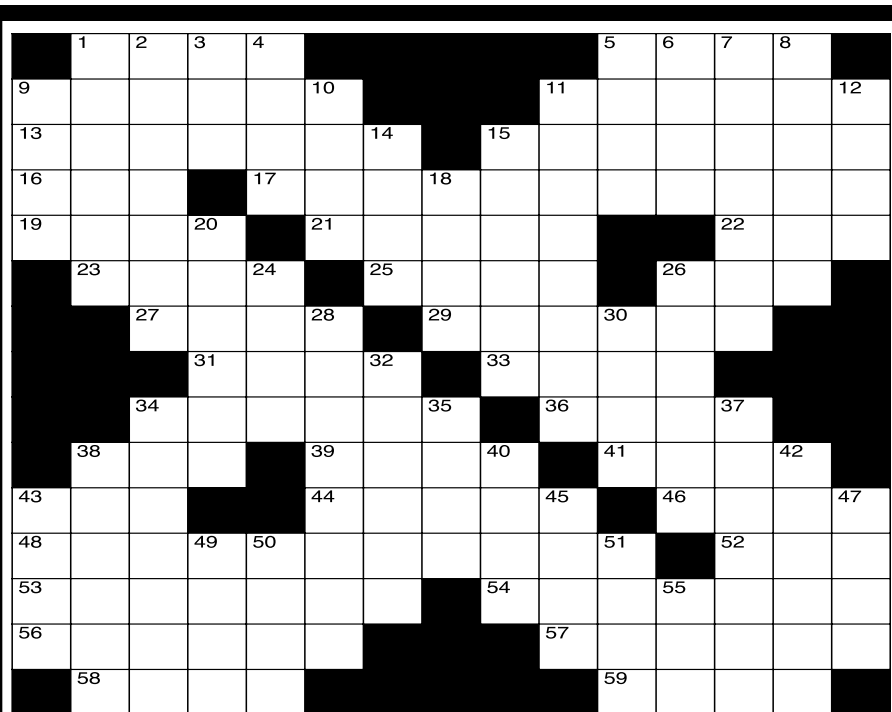
Theresa L. (Cyr) Gelineau
Died October 15, 2023
Funeral October 30, 2023

Robert "Bob" L. Methot
Died October 17, 2023

Anne R. O'Seep
Died October 13, 2023

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Male children
- 5. Robert Wagner series "Hart to ..."
- 9. Unfolded
- 11. Digestive disease
- 13. Wednesday
- 15. Malignant tumor
- 16. Conscientious investment strategy (abbr.)
- 17. Slowed
- 19. Letter of the Semitic abjads
- 21. Weights of cars without fuel
- 22. Former CIA
- 23. Asian country
- 25. Instead
- 26. Ancient Egyptian King
- 27. Privies
- 29. Shopping trips
- 31. Paradoxical anecdote

- 33. It's on the table
- 34. Ancient Persia ruler
- 36. Small American rail
- 38. File extension
- 39. Days (Spanish)
- 41. Everyone has one
- 43. South American plant
- 44. About ilium
- 46. Vanished American hoopster
- 48. A type of breakfast
- 52. Uncooked
- 53. Examined
- 54. Christian recluse
- 56. Strong posts
- 57. Some are for pasta
- 58. Skinny
- 59. School-based organizations

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Ringlet
- 2. Type of complex
- 3. Midway between north and northwest
- 4. It becomes something bigger
- 5. German courtesy title
- 6. Genus of birds
- 7. Marked by public disorder
- 8. Least aggressive
- 9. Russian city
- 10. Insect repellent
- 11. Interruptions
- 12. Scoundrels
- 14. 1,000 calories
- 15. What one does overnight
- 18. Dwarf planet
- 20. Pipe
- 24. Black powdery

- substance
- 26. Set of four
- 28. Canned fishes
- 30. North Carolina college
- 32. Secured
- 34. A disgraceful event
- 35. Physical suffering
- 37. The home of the free
- 38. Some are boys
- 40. Satisfy
- 42. Makes very happy
- 43. South American plants
- 45. Modes of transportation
- 47. Female sheep
- 49. Type of torch
- 50. Piece of merchandise
- 51. Jump over
- 55. Wife of Amun

Anne R. O'Seep

BELCHERTOWN - Anne R. O'Seep, 99, of Belchertown, passed away Oct. 13, 2023. Born August 7, 1924, to the late Methody and Vera O'Seep, Anne spent her retirement years at the family home in Belchertown.

After her graduation, she worked as an Administrative Assistant at Pratt-Whitney in Hartford, Conn., and for Rathbone Precision Metals in Palmer.

Anne loved cats and cared for many of the barn cats, as well as her own house cats. She was a car lover and always wanted to know what kind of car you were driving, the color, and all the bells and whistles it had. She enjoyed looking at the latest models even after she was no longer driving. Anne was very proud of her first car, a 1953 Chevy, as well as her black 1967

Chrysler 300 with red leather interior.

Anne was predeceased by her parents and five brothers. She is survived by her sister, Helen O'Seep McConnell, as well as many nieces and nephews and dear close friends and neighbors.

The family would like to thank the staff at Quaboag Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center of West Brookfield and Compassus Hospice for their compassionate and good care while Anne was at their facility.

Services are being held privately by the family. For those wishing, contributions in Anne's memory can be made to Clapp Memorial Library in Belchertown or a local animal shelter of your choice.

Please visit beersandstory.com to extend online condolences.

WEBSITE from page 1

they've got their own website."

There is also an accessibility function on the page which allows users to be able to change the contrast of the images, the text size and font.

"With AudioEye and our website platform, you will be at the current level of accessibility requirements," he said. "It's going to be constantly remediating and validating your site content to ensure it's at that level."

He added that the platform can align with the town's personality and design goals.

Following the presentation, Selectboard member Lesa Lessard Pearson asked if there was a way the pages could be vetted before being published.

Wheeler said there were two methods to do that.

She also asked if there was an ability to track changes. Wheeler said no, but there is an ability to create versions of a page.

Selectboard member Ron Aponte asked if the website would be mobile-ready.

"We went over this, that was one of the priorities [of the Communications Committee]," he said.

The platform has responsive design that would reorder the page, allowing it to be used on a mobile device or a tablet.

Lessard Pearson asked if the town would need to create an entirely new website or would information from the old one be transferred to the new.

Wheeler said the work would be included in the scope for the project of creating a new website.

"We migrate your content over to the new platform and we do it by hand," he said. "Our staff touch every document, image, and page and rebuild it from scratch. That's going to help ensure that it meets the highest standard and that it's ADA compliant."

Training is also included in the scope of the project.

They will also be working with boards and committees to assign responsibilities for pages on the website.

Selectboard Chair Ed Boscher said he wanted to remind the board that in its major goals and objectives, there was an item to improve transparency and communication within the town.

"We just have one final approval with this board to actually knock that objective out of the ballpark," he said.



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ORLANDO SANTOS, AKA "IZM PRIZM"
Artwork by Santos



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VACANCIES from page 8

communications, and/or social media is highly preferred.
Deadline: Oct. 27, 2023

Veterans' Services Advisory Board (VSAB)

One anticipated At-Large vacancy
VSAB works closely with the town's Veterans' Agent on issues pertaining to veterans, including Veterans Day and Memorial Day ceremonies, war memorials, veterans' graves, or any other related areas of concern.
Deadline: Oct. 27, 2023

Belchertown State School Buildings and Grounds Committee

One full-member seat
The committee will advise the town and the Select Board on funding opportunities for maintaining and developing the remaining State School buildings, as well as advising on historical and cultural development opportunities. Expertise with real estate/architecture, grant writing, or historical experience to strengthen the skill set of the committee is highly preferred.
Deadline: Oct. 27, 2023

Belchertown Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force

Two community member vacancies
The focus of the Task Force is to develop a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement for the Select Board to review and to consider adopting, to seek out opportunities to acknowledge and/or celebrate the diversity within the community, and to welcome the whole community to join in, offering suggestions on how the town addresses specific or potential acts of violence, including hate speech, should such acts arise in the community, region, or state.
"Efforts should be made to include voices from the community or communities that are directly affected," the town released.
Partnership opportunities with surrounding towns to strengthen regional or state efforts might also be explored. This is a seven-member committee to include a representative from law enforcement, a representative from Town Hall, and five community members representing diversity in one or more of the following areas: racial and ethnic backgrounds, social positions with respect to gender identity and sexual orientation, social positions with respect to disability, and age groups and prior vocational experiences.
All are encouraged to apply.
Deadline: Oct. 27, 2023

Zoning Board of Appeals

Associate Member seat
The ZBA is responsible for hearing and deciding on applications for special permits, variances and appeals from decisions of the Zoning Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector.
Deadline: Oct. 27, 2023

Community Preservation Committee

One at-large seat
The CP Committee studies the community presentation needs, possibilities, and resources of the town.
Deadline: Oct. 27, 2023

Council on Aging

One vacancy
Members of the Council on Aging coordinate programs and services for the elderly population and oversee the Belchertown Senior Center.
Deadline: Oct. 27, 2023

Historic District By-Law Commission

One full-member real estate seat
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: Oct. 27, 2023

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BUSINESS

Sumner celebrates 60 years of business

BY AIMEE M. HENDERSON
Correspondent

AMHERST - Reflecting back on the past 60 years of serving the community's home heating needs, Ben Sumner says he's grateful that people believed in him at such a young age. At just 22 years old, Ben Sumner started what is now known as Sumner Heating Company, owned today by his daughter, Susan Sumner.

"We live and work in these communities. Our customers are important to us. We care about our customers, and that's why people trust us."

SUSAN SUMNER,
Sumner Heating



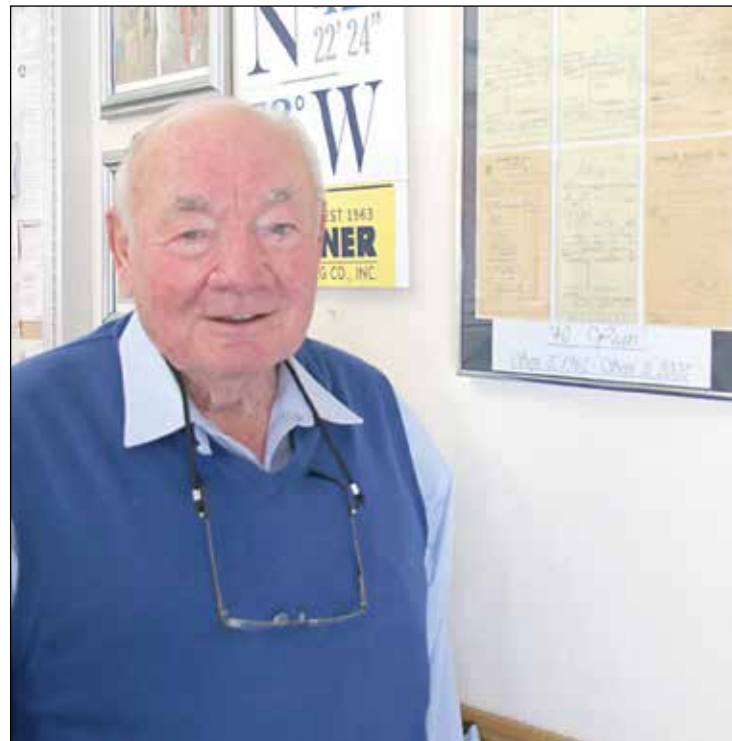
Susan Sumner, owner of Sumner Heating Co., Inc., stands with her father, Ben, who started the business in 1963.

It all started on Sept. 3, 1963, when Mr. Sumner made his first delivery of oil to a customer on South Pleasant St. in Amherst at the rate of \$0.11 per gallon. The business at the time was called College Oil Company.

Growing up in Framingham and attending a vocational high school, Mr. Sumner said he took up auto mechanics. He started driving an oil truck at 19 years old for another company, and in 1963, came to Amherst where he met his business partner Steve Fellers. Their friendship and partnership formed in just a 20-minute meeting and is still going strong today. The two went into business together, owning a gas station called College Sunoco Station. It was shortly after that when Mr. Sumner started the oil business.

For \$250, he bought a 1946 GMC truck, had it towed to Amherst, and spent the summer getting it road ready. He gave up the gas station in 1964, but continued to build the oil company.

In July 1964, Sumner bought property in Belchertown where



Ben Sumner stands next to the framed tickets from his first delivery from 1963.

the storage facility and Dwight Station is located. The business was then called National Heating Company, Inc. The following year, in 1965, the two businessmen bought property where the business now calls home at 60 Shumway St. in Amherst, and in 1968, the current building was constructed. In 1985, Sumner sold National Heating Company, but the family didn't stay out of the home-heating business for too long.

In 1991, Mr. Sumner's daughter, Susan Sumner, and Bruce Montague restarted the business, naming it Sumner Heating Company and expanding the services that were offered. In 2009, the business expanded its service to Franklin County with the addition of its second office in Greenfield. Then in 2013, the company began offering propane delivery and service. A couple years later, a bulk propane facility with two 30,000 underground propane storage tanks was built

to ensure there was a plentiful supply of propane, according to the business.

Susan took full ownership of the business in 2021, and the company was officially designated a State of Massachusetts Women-Owned Business. Today, a third generation is working at Sumner, with Mr. Sumner's grandson now on the payroll.

Three generations later, Sumner has become a trusted name in the community, and Susan said family is the foundation of their business, adding that she is happy to support the community in multiple ways through donations in Hampshire and Franklin counties, as well as supporting the Cancer Connection marathon.

"We live and work in these communities," she said. "Our customers are important to us. We care about our customers, and that's why people trust us."

To learn more about Sumner Heating Company, visit sumnerheat.com.

PHOTOS BY AIMEE M. HENDERSON

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Resident becomes first to swim length of the Connecticut River

Kari Kastango swam the entire 410-mile river

SOUTH HADLEY – Resident Kari Kastango has recently become the first person to swim the entire length of the Connecticut River.

The Connecticut River Conservancy (CRC) has announced that Board of Trustees member and South Hadley resident Kastango recently completed a swim of the 410-mile river, with the final stretch of the swim having taken place on Oct. 15 at the mouth of the Connecticut River in Old Lyme, Conn.

Spectators gathered to watch and cheer on Kastango; a riverside celebration followed shortly after with speakers including Kastango, CRC's new Executive Director Rebecca Todd, and the Director of the Friends of the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, Markelle Smith.

Kastango's motivation is to "raise awareness for the immense significance of the Connecticut River, all the efforts taken to reverse the river's historic water pollution problems, and the ongoing collective action to keep the river clean, healthy, and swimmable for future generations."

"While Kari had swum in the river for a few years prior to starting this ambitious endeavor, it was in early 2019 that she firmly set the goal of swimming the entire Connecticut River," a press statement reads. "She swam a new section of the river each year between Memorial Day and Labor Day, with the help of her wife, Alison Garvey, a good friend, Julie Paradis, fellow Connecticut River Conservancy Board of Trustees member Tim Lewis, and many others who would follow her in a kayak, canoe, or motor boat for safety during each swim."

Through challenges related to climate, planning logistics, water quality, accessibility, and much more, Kastango has "accomplished this ambitious goal with resilience and dedication."



Kari Kastango has become the first person to swim the entire length of the Connecticut River.

"Kari is what I consider a true adventurer. She was self-funded, took time off work to travel up and down the watershed, providing her own transportation, housing, and equipment," said Tim Lewis, CRC Board of Trustees member and supporter of Kastango's swim. "She even purchased a used Boston Whaler for safety in the larger sections of the river. It was all on Kari, and she deserves a tremendous amount of credit for completing this monumental task, and for being the first to do so for the Connecticut River."

"The river provided me opportunities to practice letting go of misconceptions of myself, others, and of the river, and being in the present moment more fully. I am extremely grateful to everyone who has been involved with Connecticut River Conservancy since its inception. Their persistent efforts and commitment

through the years made this swim possible," Kastango said.

As a unique symbol of connection with her family ancestry, Kastango wore seven Norwegian coins around her neck as she traversed the entirety of the Connecticut River swim journey, according to reports. Kastango, a resident of South Hadley, began her career as a research exercise physiologist (UMass, Amherst '89, '92) which then led her to pursue a Ph.D. in Biostatistics (Pitt '06).

"With 19 years in the pharmaceutical industry, Kari currently works as a director of statistical operations at a clinical research organization in addition to serving on CRC's Board. Kari balances these professional and personal commitments through physical pursuits that are meditative in nature," a press statement reads.

In addition to a significant personal achievement, this unique



COURTESY PHOTOS, KARI KASTANGO/CONNECTICUT RIVER CONSERVANCY

Kastango swimming.

swim journey highlights "the importance of ongoing commitment to conservation, restoration, and advocacy of the Connecticut River and tributaries."

"At the start of Kari's swim, she was not aware of the history of pollution in the river, and had immense gratitude for the commitment of many organizations including state and federal agencies, nonprofits, and volunteers who have spent decades working on watershed-wide strategies for cleaner and healthier rivers," the press statement adds. "We have come a long way since the state of polluted local rivers in the 1950's, which can now be enjoyed for swimming, fishing, and recreation, and yet there is much more still to do in supporting the clean water, healthy habitats, and thriving communities that Connecticut River Conservancy and partners strive for every day."

The swim took 84 outings to complete, according to reports. The longest distance of any one swim was 11 miles from the Turner Falls Dam to Sunderland.

"That swim only took two hours and eight minutes due to a river assist resulting from water released from the dam a few hours prior to the swim start," a press statement reads.

Meanwhile, the longest duration of any one swim was three hours and 50 minutes, a 10.9-mile swim from Bloomfield Access to Maidstone Bridge Access, swimming in a drysuit.

The longest duration total of two swims back-to-back was six hours and 10 minutes.

"The Bloomfield Access to Maidstone Bridge Access swim (swam in a drysuit) on Saturday, followed by Sunday's swim: Johns River Ramp to Gilman Boat Launch (including a portage, also swam in the drysuit)."

The coldest swim was around 47.5 degrees Fahrenheit from the Rt. 2 Bridge in Lancaster, N.H., to Mount Orne Covered Bridge, Lunenburg, Vt. on April 29, 2023.

Since 1952, CRC has been "a voice for the Connecticut River watershed, from source to sea."

"We collaborate with partners across four states to protect and advocate for rivers and educate and engage communities. We bring people together to prevent pollution, improve habitat, and promote enjoyment of your rivers and streams. Healthy rivers support healthy economies," the CRC released.

To learn more about CRC, or to make a contribution to help protect rivers, visit ctriver.org.

INITIATIVE from page 1

session earlier this month about the initiative to staff within the schools, explaining how the program works and what schools can expect going forward.

Belchertown Superintendent Brian Cameron notified parents in a district-wide communication.

"We know that students sometimes experience adverse events outside of school that follow them to school, impacting how they learn in school as well as how they interact with their teachers and other students," he said. "While educators know this can be the case at any time for any student, the Handle With Care program gives educators a better chance at helping a child navigate school after a traumatic experience."

Designed to be confidential, the communication from police is sent to the superintendent and only includes the child's name, age, school, and the message "Handle With Care." No other personal

information is shared, nor are any details about the emergency the child witnessed.

Belchertown Police Chief Kevin Pacunas said when he learned the CAC was leading the effort to start a Handle With Care program in the region, he immediately knew he wanted Belchertown to participate.

"Officers responding to emergency scenes where children are present want to do something to make a traumatic event a little easier for those children," Chief Pacunas said. "Giving schools this heads up is one way to make that happen."

Northwestern District Attorney David E. Sullivan said he first learned of the Handle With Care programs growing around the country at presentations at the annual National Prescription Drug and Heroin Summit, where it was featured as an example of an effective trauma-responsive initiative in the opioid overdose epidemic.

"I know the Plymouth County DA's office has taken the lead in this initiative for many years, which is why we brought Ed Jacoubs, a former staff member, to our office this summer to meet with local schools," said DA Sullivan. "I'm thrilled that the CAC is working so hard to spread this idea to schools in our county."

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PUBLIC NOTICES

TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) SALE OR LEASE OF 6 BERKSHIRE AVENUE AND 8 BERKSHIRE AVENUE, BELCHERTOWN MASSACHUSETTS

The Town of Belchertown (the "Town") is seeking proposals to sale or lease (for a term of up to ninety-nine (99) years) the following two (2) parcels of Town-owned property (individually or together, the "Property"): (a) the 1.022-acre parcel of land with the building and other improvements thereon located at 6 Berkshire Avenue, Belchertown, Massachusetts, and identified on Assessor's 243 as 243A (the "6 Berkshire Property"), and (2) the 1.028-acre parcel of land with the building and other improvements thereon located at 8 Berkshire Avenue, Belchertown, Massachusetts, and identified on Assessor's 243 as 244 (the "8 Berkshire Property"). Proposers may submit proposals for the purchase or lease of the 6 Berkshire Property, the 8 Berkshire Property, or both, provided that a separate proposal is submitted for each Property. The property record cards are attached as **Exhibit A** and the Assessor's map is attached and incorporated into the RFP as **Exhibit B**, which exhibits are incorporated herein. The Town will also consider a lease with an option to purchase.

Copies of the full Request for Proposals may be obtained from the Town Administrator's Office located at Finnerty House, 2 Jabish Street, Belchertown MA 01007. Copies may also be obtained by contacting Steve Williams, the Town Administrator, by email at swilliams@belchertown.org.

Proposers are advised that the deed by which the Commonwealth conveyed the Property to the Town, recorded with the Hampshire Registry of Deeds in Book 5341, Page 34 (the "Deed"), states that the Property is to be used for those uses set forth in the Belchertown Economic Development

Industrial Corporation Economic Development Plan of 1993 (as such plan may be changed from time to time, the "Plans"). Attached to and incorporated into the RFP as **Exhibit C** are the 1993 Plan, the 2001 Plan, the 2009 Plan, and the 2014 Plan. The following is a list of some, but not all, of the uses set forth in the Plans: offices, commercial, business, light industrial, and retail; research, and/or development, assisted living facilities and/or services in support thereof; education; hospital and/or geriatric center; recreation; tourism; and other uses that support the economic development of the Town. **Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Town will consider all proposed uses of the Property, even if not listed on the Plans, and may seek all approvals required to allow such use.**

All questions must be submitted in writing to Steve Williams, Town Administrator, email: swilliams@belchertown.org and facsimile: (413) 3233-0403, and received by the Town on or before 3:00 p.m. on October 31, 2023. Questions that the Town, in its sole discretion, deems appropriate for a response will be answered in writing and sent to all proposers on record as having requested the RFP. It is the Town's preference to use email to respond to questions and to send future addendums to potential proposers who have provided their contact information to the Town.

Proposals must be sent or delivered to the Town Administrator's Office, Finnerty House, 2 Jabish Street, Belchertown MA 01007 on or before 11:00 a.m. on November 7, 2023, at which time and place the proposals will be publicly opened. Proposals become public information when opened. Late proposals will not be considered.

The successful proposer must enter into a purchase and sale agreement, substantially similar to the Purchase and Sale Agreement attached and incorporated into the RFP as **Exhibit D** (the "P&S"), within thirty (30) days from the date the sale of the

Property is awarded to the proposer. Alternatively, if the successful proposer intends to lease the Property, the successful proposer shall enter into an Option to Lease on the terms set forth in **Exhibit E**, attached and incorporated into the RFP and agree on the terms of the Lease Agreement (on the terms set forth herein), which shall be attached as an exhibit to the Option to Lease, within forty-five (45) days from the date the lease of the Property is awarded to the proposer. The terms and conditions applicable to the sale or lease of the Property are more fully set forth in Section K and **Exhibits D and E** of the RFP.

No proposer may withdraw his or her proposal for a period of one hundred twenty (120) days after the date set for the opening thereof. The awarding authority is the Belchertown Select Board.

The Town of Belchertown, acting through its Select Board, reserves the right to waive any informality, to negotiate sale terms with the successful proposer, to award the sale or lease of the Property to the proposal deemed in the best interest of the Town, and/or to reject any or all proposals if it is in the public interest to do so. 10/19, 10/26/2023

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampshire Probate and Family Court
15 Atwood Drive
Northampton, MA 01060
(413)586-8500
Docket No. HS23P0662EA
Estate of:
Catherine Rose Ferenz
Date of Death: 08/21/2023
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Erik P. Ferenz of Langley, WA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Erik P. Ferenz of Langley, WA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/15/2023.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Diana S. Velez Harris**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 19, 2023
Michael J. Carey
Register of Probate
10/26/2023

**Legal Notice
Public Hearing Notice**
Pursuant to MGL C. 111, sec. 31 the Board of Health will hold a Public Hearing on November 8, 2023 at 6:45 PM in the Select Board meeting room Lawrence Memorial

Hall 2 Jabish Street **and remote at Board of Health November 8, 2023, 6:30-8:00 PM** (America/New_York)

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone. <https://meet.goto.com/664080173>

You can also dial in using your phone. Access Code: 664-080-173 United States: +1 (224) 501-3412

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To enact regulations prohibiting the manufacturing, sale and distribution of Synthetically Derived Cannabinoids and Kratom in the Town of Belchertown. Copies of the proposed regulations can be obtained at the Board of Health office, Room 105 Lawrence Memorial Hall 2 Jabish Street Belchertown, MA and on-line at <https://www.belchertown.org/health>

All interested parties are encouraged to participate. If you are unable to attend but wish to express your views to the Board of Health in writing, please feel free to do so.

Board of Health P.O. Box 670 Belchertown, MA 01007 10/26/2023

NOTICE OF AUCTION

S N O W ' S S E L F STORAGE LLC, will sell the contents of the following sheds online at www.aarbids.com. The online sale will end on Thursday, November 16, 2023 at 10 a.m.

Bryan Hornedo – CC3-36
Larry Foote – M29
Jeremiah Dahlke – SP25
Alilcia Griffin – M6

Snow's Self-Storage reserves the right to refuse any and all bids, or to cancel the auction at any time for any reason. 10/26, 11/02/2023

Town of Belchertown BID #2023-01 SALE OF TOWN OWNED SURPLUS VEHICLES/EQUIPMENT

The Town of Belchertown will receive sealed bids labeled "**SALE OF TOWN OWNED SURPLUS VEHICLE/EQUIPMENT**" at the Office of the Select

Board, Finnerty House, One South Main Street, P.O. Box 670, Belchertown, Massachusetts 01007, **until 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 2, 2023**. At that time all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Bid forms and additional information on the listed vehicles/equipment can be obtained at the Office of the Select Board (413-323-0403) or Department of Public Works (413-323-0415). All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope.

1 – 1998 Chevrolet GMT 400 Pickup Truck, Blue (w/ approx. 132,536 miles)

1 – 1998 Chevrolet GMT 400, Red, w/Dump Body/ Fischer Polycaster Material Spreader

(approx. 83,730 miles)
1 – 2004 Ford Ranger Pickup Truck, Gray (approx. 165,678 miles)

1 – 2010 Ford Explorer Utility, Black (approx. 145,165 miles)

1 – 1986 Eager Construction Trailer

1 – 1991 Wolf Propane Gas Range

1 – Woods Mower (60 +/- hours)

1 – Kohler Generator Controller, Model # A-283671,

Hercules Engine Model # G2300 (60 +/- hours)

1 – DR 3pt Hitch Mounted Trimmer/Mower

1 – Concord Road Equipment Manufacturing, CRE960 Truck Mounted Material Spreader

1 – Shark STP#352007 Hot Water Pressure Washer

1 – Wacker, VPG160A Vibratory Plate Compactor

The successful bidder(s) must pay in full within ten (10) days by cashier's check,

at which time the vehicles/equipment will become the possession of the successful bidder. The Select Board reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids and to award the contract in the best interest of the Town of Belchertown. Vehicles are offered in "Salvage" or "Parts Only" Condition.

Steven J. Williams,
Town Administrator

10/19, 10/26/2023

T-BIRDS from page 13

Zachary Bolduc stripping a Penguins defenseman before making it a 2-on-1 with Will Bitten. Unfortunately for the rookie winger, Blomqvist made the stop, knocking away the shot with his blocker, and keeping the score at 1-1. The second period would not bring any scoring for both teams, as the score remained the same at 1-1 going into the third and final period.

The two teams traded chances to start the third period, but neither team could convert. It was not until the

9:03 mark that one of the teams would take the lead. The Penguins power play finally cracked its dry spell, as Pitlick jabbed a power play goal home after a scramble in front of Zherenko's crease, giving his team the 2-1 lead.

With 3:01 to go in the game, the T-Birds were given a power play thanks to a Wilkes-Barre bench minor for too many men on the ice. Walker nearly deadlocked the score, but his deflection on a point shot deflected off the crossbar and stayed out. Shortly after the power play ended, Harkins put the game out of reach with an empty-netter, his first goal as a Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguin.

Springfield's three-game weekend continues as the team travels to play Lehigh Valley on Sunday afternoon for a 3:05 p.m. matchup against the Phantoms. The T-Birds will look to avenge their home loss on Friday night against the Phantoms and pick up their second win of the season.

The T-Birds return home to the MassMutual Center next Saturday, Oct. 28 for our Ok-T-Bird-Fest game to face off against the Providence Bruins for the second time this season. The puck will drop at 7:05 p.m. at the Thunderdome.

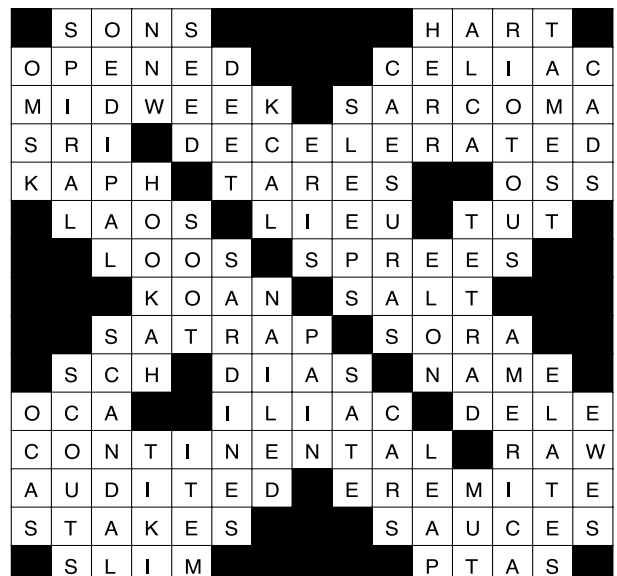
The Sentinel
OBITUARY POLICY

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.

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



PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

GRANBY

Halloween fun at Granby library

GRANBY – October will see plenty of Halloween fun at the town’s library.

All library programs are free and open to the public; the library is located at 297 East State St., Granby.

The Granby Public Library has announced the following events:

Halloween Eye Spy

“Take an Eye Spy sheet, then find and count the Halloween theme items in our aquarium as you go,” the library released. “When you’ve spied and counted everything on this sheet, then you receive a little Halloween prize.” Eye Spy will run through Oct. 31.

Creepy Carrot Design Fun Challenge

“Read the hilarious book ‘Creepy Carrots’ by Aaron Reynolds about a rabbit named Jasper who ate carrots every chance he could, breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks. The carrots, who are portrayed with human characteristics, were fed up with it, so they came up with a diabolical plan to make him hate them.”

Grab a sheet as part of this activity and see “how creepy you can make a carrot look.”

“Just for fun (not a contest) design a creepy carrot based on the book and we will put it on display.” Through Oct. 29.

Not So Spooky Crafts

Saturday, Oct. 28

Give a pumpkin shape a face, make a bat or owl magnet, put together a Q-Tip skeleton, and more.

Library hours include: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, 10:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., Thursday, 10:30 a.m. – 7 p.m., and Saturday, 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Call the library at 413-467-3320 for more information.

AMHERST



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Approximately 125 people registered for Ride to Provide 2023, which featured multiple bike route options, a 5K walk/run, and a new option to participate as a Virtual Rider. Ride to Provide raised more than \$80,000 in registrations, donations to teams, and generous sponsors.

‘Ride to Provide’ event raises more than \$80,000

AMHERST – Twenty-five bike teams from Jewish organizations in Western Massachusetts recently participated in the Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts’ “Ride to Provide 2023” to raise funds.

The event took place at UMass Hillel in Amherst, according to a press statement. In total, Ride to Provide 2023 had approximately 125 participants and raised more than \$80,000 in registrations, donations to teams, and generous sponsors.

“In addition to the fundraising, Ride to Provide 2023 celebrated Jewish culture and gave the Jewish communi-

ty the opportunity to be together and be in community and solidarity with friends and family in Israel,” a press statement reads. “At Ride to Provide 2023, Federation also launched the Blue Ribbons for Israel campaign and had blue ribbons available for anyone wishing to send a powerful message of solidarity by wearing the ribbon.”

The following is a list of all participating bike teams: American Friends of Magen David Adom, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, B’Yachad Springfield, Congregation Beit Ahavah, Congregation Ahavas Achim, Congregation B’nai

Israel, Congregation B’nai Torah, Congregation Sons of Zion, Hebrew Free Loan Association of Greater Springfield, Jewish Agency for Israel, Jewish Community of Amherst, Jewish Family Service of Western Massachusetts, Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts, Jewish Federations of North America, Lander-Grinspoon Academy, Lubavitcher Yeshiva Academy, New England Jewish Academy, Ohel Minyan, Rachel’s Table of Western Massachusetts, Sinai Temple, Springfield Jewish Community Center, Temple Beth El, UMass Hillel, and World ORT.



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Nov. 18	Vermont Country Store	\$79
Dec. 30	Moulin Rouge!	\$125
Jan. 12-14	NYC Weekend	\$469
Jan. 27	Ain't Too Proud – Temptations	\$99

Share the Adventure with us soon!
For further information call Randall at (413) 436-5357
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