

History comes to life during GRAVEYARD TOURS

By **Ryan Drago**
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown Historical Association brought back the annual Graveyard Tours at Mount Hope Cemetery.

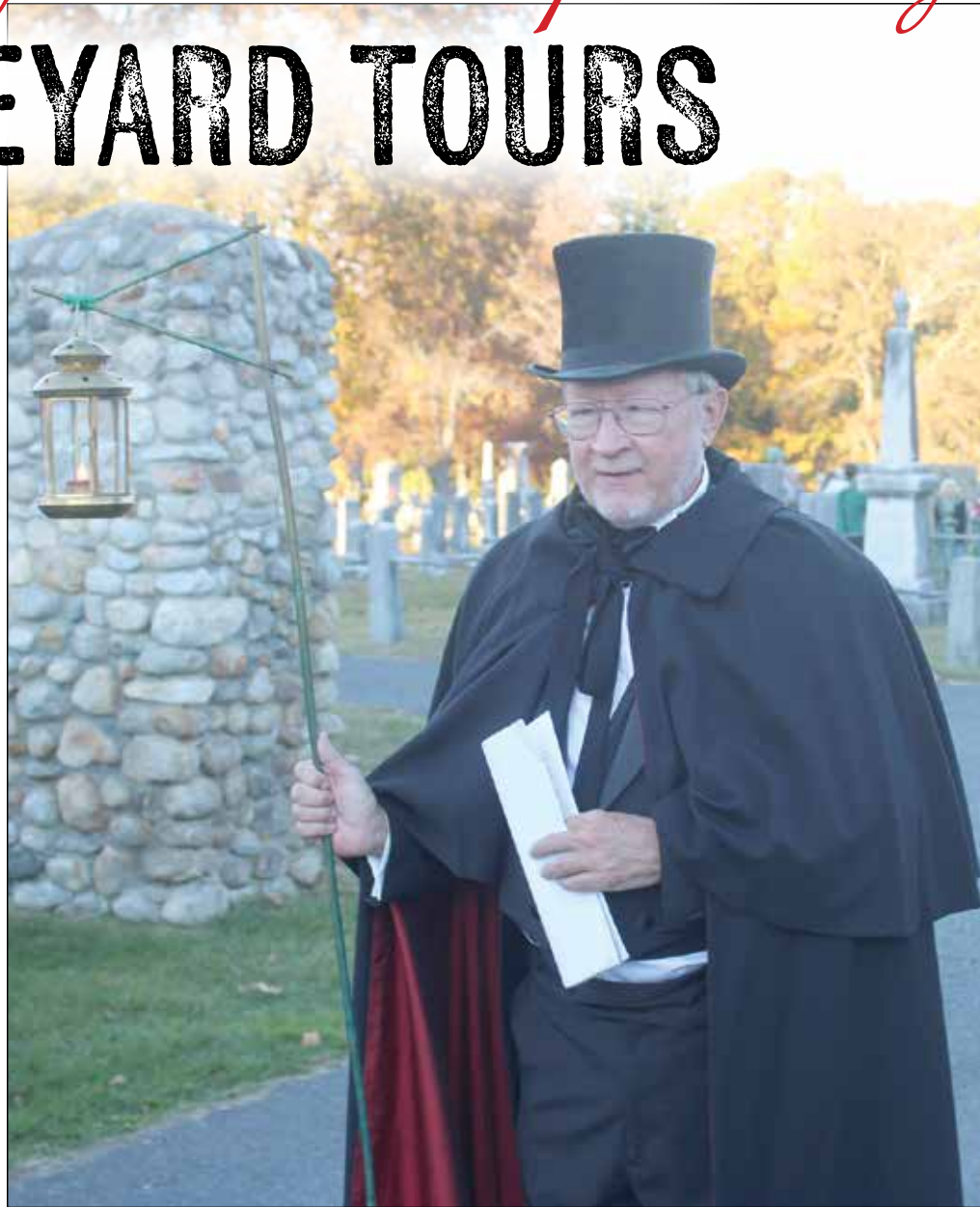
The Belchertown Historical Association has hosted the Graveyard Tours at Mount Hope Cemetery around the Halloween season for the last 15-20 years.

This Halloween event brings history to life as tourists learn about the residents of Belchertown from different time periods. The tour began at the United Church of Christ Parish House where visitors waited for their tour guide.

While waiting, guests enjoyed some refreshments and listened to a storyteller sharing stories of odd happenings in New England.

The storyteller was Dennis Picard, who had an intriguing story about the Vampire Scare in New England back in the late 1800s. The character of the story was named Snuffy.

Please see **GRAVEYARD TOURS**, page 8



TURLEY PHOTO BY RYAN DRAGO

President of the Belchertown Historical Association Tom Stockton served as a tour guide for the annual Graveyard Tours at Mount Hope Cemetery.



A Dr. Seuss-themed sketch was performed during the fifth annual Spook-Tacular at the Belchertown Pollinator Garden near Swift River Elementary School and Chestnut Hill Community School.

SPOOK-TACULAR lights up community garden

By **Ryan Drago**
Staff Writer
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BELCHERTOWN – The annual Spook-Tacular took place over the course of two days at the Belchertown Pollinator Garden by the Swift River Elementary School and Chestnut Hill Community School.

This year marked the fifth Spook-Tacular, which has become an enjoyable children and family

event made possible by the Friends of the Garden (who are all volunteers) and sponsored through the Recreation Department. The admission fees help support improvements, maintenance and programs in the garden.

The Belchertown Cultural Council also sponsored this year's Spook-Tacular, along with new plant identification signs

Please see **SPOOK-TACULAR**, page 5

Boards weigh FY28 budget, state-aid surplus and free cash

By **Melina Bourdeau**
Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN – Town officials began mapping the town's fiscal 2028 budget, weighing conservative revenue estimates, a state-aid surplus allocation and how to use \$2 million in certified free cash, while leaving key spending choices unresolved for now.

The tri-board meeting brought together the Select Board, School Committee and Finance Committee as the town began preparing its

next budget.

Members reviewed a preliminary timeline and revenue forecast, heard how the Select Board had allocated surplus state aid and examined two possible approaches to using free cash. While the state-aid allocation was already approved, the boards left broader free-cash decisions for a future discussion.

Town Accountant Jill Messier said department heads would need guidance before preparing their requests. The board discussed preliminary level-service

budgets, due around Dec. 7, ahead of the next scheduled tri-board meeting on Dec. 14.

The date was presented as a target rather than a final formal vote.

Messier emphasized that the FY 28 revenue forecast was still preliminary. Her estimates draw on recent historical figures and other known factors, aiming to avoid a budget that depends on uncertain income.

"I am and do continue to be conservative with these numbers so that we don't find ourselves in deficit," she said.

Some members questioned why the forecast for investment income was below recent actuals. Messier said the town could revise projections as more information became available but cautioned against relying too heavily on recent high returns.

Town Manager Steve Williams said the figures would continue to be reviewed, adding that officials wanted to avoid making midyear cuts.

"The one thing we do not want to have to see happen

is have to go back mid-year to town meeting and cut budgets," Williams said.

The property-tax levy estimate also remains subject to change. Messier said the preliminary calculation used the prior year's levy limit, added 2.5% and assumed \$250,000 in new growth.

The town had not yet finalized its FY 27 tax rate, she noted, so the underlying figure could change.

Members also discussed how cannabis legislation could affect future excise-tax revenue.

The group reviewed about \$2 million in certified free cash and two illustrative FY 28 budget scenarios: allocating 30% or 40% toward the operating budget.

The remaining free cash would be divided among one-time capital spending and reserves, including stabilization and OPEB. Messier described the scenarios as starting points, not final recommendations.

The policy question is whether to reduce the town's

Please see **BUDGET**, page 2

Capital Planning reviews requests made by DPW

By **Ryan Drago**
Staff Writer
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BELCHERTOWN – The Capital Improvement Planning Committee reviewed the requests by the Department of Public Works.

Linda Leduc, Director of the Department of Public Works, attended the meeting on Oct. 21 to discuss capital project items for certain fiscal years.

One of the items was for a bucket truck for fiscal year 2029.

The Capital Improvement Planning Committee asked if Leduc had any items to carry forward from FY 27. Leduc said the bucket truck request is a new request.

The DPW Director also talked about a project for maintenance buildings and for the highway garage. Leduc said both buildings need to have studies done and are put out as top priority projects.

Leduc said she'd like to start this process and it would be a high-ranking

project for FY 28.

The suggestion was to leave the projects separated and then prioritize them after possibly combining them later.

The Capital Improvement Planning Committee wanted to know if the studies have to be done first.

"Bottom line, for this year, we got to get a study started," Michael Hoffer said.

Another higher priority project is the ZTR mower. The one currently at the Department of Public Works is currently 10 years old.

Leduc said commercial mowers are go about 8-10 years.

Leduc said the Town Hall's HVAC system, "it's on its last leg." The plan is to look at the building's heating system.

Hoffer asked if this includes replacing the furnace as well. This year, Leduc wants to get a comprehensive design document done to see what the building

Please see **DPW REQUESTS**, page 13

Friends of CML celebrate 50th anniversary

By **Ryan Drago**
Staff Writer
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BELCHERTOWN – The Clapp Memorial Library celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Friends of Clapp Memorial Library with a party and special announcements.

The 50th anniversary party took place on Oct. 18 with cake, treats, trivia and a special announcement that caught one member of the Friends group by surprise.

Jane Crutchfield served with the Friends of Clapp Memorial Library for 32 years. She also served on the Board of Trustees and was once President of the Board of Trustees.

She also worked on the Capital Campaign for the Clapp Memorial



TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO

On the left stands Jane Crutchfield of the Friends of the Clapp Memorial Library alongside President of the Friends Jim Knittel. Crutchfield received a plaque for her decades of service as a member of the Friends of the Clapp Memorial Library during the 50th Anniversary Party.

In celebration of the Friends of Clapp Memorial Library 50th Anniversary, the library hosted a trivia game with true or false questions posted all over the library.

Please see **CML**, page 13

Inaugural Runnin’ for Rett benefits Rett Syndrome Angels



Jon Martins and Chris Lamoureux crossed the finish line together during the Runnin’ for Rett 5K and 1-mile walk.



Miles Montgomery-Butler crossed the finish line.

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – The inaugural Runnin’ for Rett 5K and 1-mile walk took place this month to support Rett Syndrome Angels.

Jon Martins and his wife Erica Martins of Belchertown serve on the board for the charity, which is committed to making Rett Syndrome history.

Their daughter Karolina, age 4, was diagnosed with Rett Syndrome and was the main inspiration for creating an event that will support Rett Syndrome Angels.

The idea was to create the first 5K and 1-mile run which would eventually become Runnin’ for Rett, which started and finished in the lower parking lot of Jessica’s Boundless Playground.

The event had a total of 250 participants for the walk and the run, with all proceeds going to support Rett Syndrome Angels.

Prior to the main race, a free children’s fun run, about a half-mile long, took place. A total of 42 children participated and were cheered on the entire fun run.

Boomer of the Springfield Thunderbirds handed out medals to the children after the fun run.

Runnin’ for Rett also featured ice cream from Batch

Ice Cream, a food truck from Smoke n Fire and raffle prizes. Children also enjoyed face painting which was provided during the festivities.

During the post-race festivities, the first Runnin’ for Rett featured a live music performance from the Sypek Brothers.

After its first event, Runnin’ for Rett raised about \$25,000 for Rett Syndrome Angels. The Martinses said the charity plans to do another 5K and 1-mile walk and make Runnin’ for Rett an annual event.

Jon Martins said the Belchertown community really showed up to do the run and contributed a lot to this great cause.

“It’s special to us,” he said.

He shared a brief story about Jessica’s Boundless Playground, located off State Street at Chestnut Hill Community School.

The playground was named after Jessica Martins, who was diagnosed with Rett Syndrome. It was only fitting to make the playground the place to host the event and have both the run and walk start and finish.

For more information about Rett Syndrome Angels, visit rsangels.org.

Walkers and runners of the first Runnin’ for Rett 5K and 1-mile walk met at the finish line with Boomer from the Springfield Thunderbirds.



The Sypek Brothers played live music for the post-race festivities.



Belchertown to hold STM on Nov. 9

Transportation and childcare available

BELCHERTOWN—The Town of Belchertown will hold a Special Town Meeting on Monday, Nov. 9, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the Belchertown High School Auditorium, 142 Springfield Road. Voter check-in begins at 5:45 p.m.

All registered voters in Belchertown are welcome to attend, speak, and vote on the articles. An article is one item on the meeting’s agenda that voters decide on, such as part of the town budget or a change to a town bylaw. Residents can check their voter registration status on the Secretary of the Commonwealth’s website.

Belchertown holds an open town meeting, which means voters themselves serve as the Town’s legislative body. Under Massachusetts law, open town meetings must be

held in person. Voters check in at the door, and only those present in the room can speak on articles and cast votes. State law does not currently allow remote or hybrid participation in open town meetings. The meeting will be recorded so residents can watch it afterward, but residents cannot participate or vote through a recording.

The Town Manager’s office is preparing an Enhanced Warrant Packet that includes the text of each article, a plain-language explanation, and how the relevant committees voted. The packet will be posted on the Town’s Town Meeting page at www.belchertown.org/750/Town-Meeting as soon as it is available. The page also offers resources to help residents prepare, including the Citizen’s Guide to Town Meeting, instructions for the electronic voting devices, and a parking map for the high school.

To help as many residents as possible attend, the Town is offering two free services.

The Belchertown Senior Center will provide free transportation to the Special Town Meeting for residents 60 and older. To reserve a spot, call Kim at 413-323-0420, extension 508, by Thursday, November 5.

The Belchertown Recreation Department will host the Little Voters Lounge, free childcare for children ages four to 12, so parents and caregivers can attend the meeting. Children will enjoy crafts, games, and a movie from 6:00 PM until the meeting ends. Children must be able to use the restroom independently, and families are asked to send a snack and a water bottle (no peanuts, please). Families can register online at belchertownma.myrec.com or call the Recreation Department at 413-323-0419 for more information.

BUDGET from page 1

reliance on free cash more quickly. Williams said the Select Board had previously planned to step down the share used for operations but had increased it to 50% during the previous budget cycle amid health-insurance pressures.

“The question now is: Do we do another 10%, or do we just jump to 30% where we were planning on being this year?” he said.

No new free-cash allocation was approved at the tri-board meeting. Select Board member Nicole Miner said she wanted a closer review of what made up the unusually large balance before revisiting the policy.

Members also discussed whether unexpected receipts should go to capital, stabilization or the operating budget.

Messier’s review traced some of the free cash to revenues that exceeded estimates, including motor-ve-

hicle excise and investment income.

She also cited one-time or unexpected items, such as proceeds from the sale of Franklin School and federal fringe-benefit reimbursements. Those sources helped explain the balance, but the meeting did not settle how to use any additional free cash.

The meeting reported an allocation of \$340,896 in surplus state aid that the Select Board had previously approved.

Williams said the board decided not to use the money for operating expenses. Instead, \$50,000 was directed to the high school water-storage project, \$34,000 to police cruiser mobile radios, \$25,000 to the Jabish Brook Middle School boiler and \$42,000 to a human-resources study.

The remaining \$189,896 was allocated to stabilization.

“None of this money would be used for operating expenses,” Williams said,

describing the Select Board’s decision.

The allocations were presented as a report on that prior vote, not as a new tri-board decision.

Members also reviewed FY 27 spending and revenue results to understand the financial picture informing the next budget. Messier said some departments returned unspent funds, including money associated with vacancies and a grant extension.

She clarified that health-insurance funds returned by the schools and town had been transferred to stabilization, rather than counted as free cash.

The meeting ended without a final decision on the FY 28 free-cash percentage or the town’s departmental budget guidance. The discussion set out the trade-offs the boards will need to consider as preliminary budgets are prepared and revenue estimates are updated.

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9. Should we make our medicines here in western Massachusetts so we aren't dependent on foreign drug manufacturers and supply lines, as happened during COVID shortages ?
10. Do you believe there should be term limits in Congress ?
11. Do we need to stop our elected officials and their families from enriching themselves at taxpayer expense while in office ?
12. Has Richard Neal been in Congress too long and is he unresponsive to people in western Massachusetts ?
13. Do you believe both major political parties are broken and that we should elect more Independents who aren't under their control ?

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COMMUNITY

Belchertown Senior Center November 2026 Programs

Thanksgiving Luncheon
Please join us, Friday, Nov. 20 at 10:30 a.m. for a traditional Thanksgiving meal! Doors open at 10:15 for a special performance by Memory Lane, featuring all your favorite Doo Wop Hits! Thank you to TruNorthBank and the BSCCA for sponsoring this event, and volunteering! Call Stephanie 323-0420 ext 501 starting November 2nd at 9am to reserve a seat for this \$5 meal! Please leave a voicemail including your name, and the name of one guest.

NEW Free Drop-In EFT Meridian Tapping Group
Mondays at 10 a.m. starting Nov. 2 learn more about this simple self-help technique, which utilizes the same science as acupuncture, to improve physical and mental health! No advanced sign-up necessary Facilitated by Marianne Reif , Ph.D.

Communicating Effectively
The Empowered Caregiver Series Wednesday, Nov. 18 at 10 a.m. An education program presented by the Alzheimer’s Association. Dementia affects a person’s ability to communicate, making it hard to convey wants and needs. Learn how to use a person-centered approach to communicate more effectively at any stage of the disease. Call Stephanie 323-0420 ext. 501 to sign up!

Need extra CASH for the holidays?
Richard Stone from Family Jewels will be at the Senior Center on Tuesday, Nov. 3 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call for a 20-minute appointment to sell your unwanted gold, platinum, copper or silver items. A percentage of all sales will benefit the BSCCA. Call 323-0420 ext. 501 for an appt.

Veterans Appreciation Luncheon
Tuesday, Nov. 10 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Doors will open at 10:15 a.m. for Chicken Parmigiana, prepared and served by the culinary students at Pathfinder Regional Technical School. If you are a United States Military Veteran of Belchertown and would like to attend, please call 323-0420 ext. 501 by Monday, Nov. 3 to reserve a space for yourself and one guest. Other community members who would like to attend may reserve seats beginning on Tuesday, November 4th at 9am. Sponsored by the Belchertown Police Military Banner Program

Holiday Bread Sale
Offered by the BSCCA. Purchase a set of 4 mini loaves (Spiced Gingerbread, Cranberry Orange, Cinnamon Roll, and Chocolate Chip), baked by our Nutrition Department, to enjoy this holiday season! Breads must be pre-ordered in person, no later than Dec. 11 at the Senior Center during normal business hours. Payment of \$12 must be paid at the time of the order. Please see Stephanie or Jessica to order. Bread pick-up will be Dec. 17 and 18. Please be advised that breads may contain milk, eggs, wheat, soybean, peanuts and tree nuts.

AARP Tax Preparation at the Belchertown Senior Center
Once again the IRS-certified AARP TaxAide Counselors will be preparing tax returns at our Senior Center free of charge on Wednesdays, Feb. 3 through April 7. We will begin taking appointments on Tuesday, Jan. 5. Any messages left prior to that date, will not be

returned. Stay tuned for more information about appointment scheduling, procedures, forms, required documents, etc.

Need Food Assistance?
The Senior Center has partnerships with the Food Bank of Western Mass., as well as the Amherst Survival Center to provide food pantry items to registered participants each month. Stop in to pick up an application, or for more information call Stephanie 323-0420 ext 501.

Giving Tree
Again, this year, the Senior Center will be offering a Giving Tree program, where community members will have the opportunity to select a gift request from the holiday tree in our lobby to purchase gifts for older adults in need. To nominate yourself or a loved one to be the recipient of holiday gifts, call Stephanie at 323-0420 ext. 501, stop by the Senior Center, or email SFraleigh@belchertown.org no later than Nov. 20. We will need the name, address, and phone number of the recipient, as well as a short wish list*. Nominations should be for older adults living in Belchertown only. *Receipt of gifts is not guaranteed, and will be dependent on community support. Those looking to select an ornament can do so starting on Nov. 30. Please return unwrapped gifts w/ornament no later than Dec. 18.

Book Club
Join our Senior Center Book Club Monday, Nov. 16 at 10 a.m., and the 3rd Monday of every month! This month is “The Secret Life of Sunflowers” by Marta Malnar. All are welcome. Winter Cardinal Paint and Sip Join us at the Senior

Center on Wednesday, Nov. 4 at 1 p.m. to paint your own winter cardinals on canvas with Paint Sip Fun. We’ll enjoy snacks and non-alcoholic beverages, sponsored by Christopher Heights of Belchertown, while learning to paint step-by step with a professional artist! You will learn simple techniques, and easy to understand methods. This class is only \$5 per person, thanks to partial sponsorship by the Belchertown Senior Citizens’ Center Association Inc. (BSCCA)! Space is limited, so registration and pre-payment is required. Please see Stephanie to sign up by Nov. 2.

Mediumship Event with Stephanie
Gallery Reading Tuesday, Nov. 17 at 1 p.m. Join Psychic Medium Stephanie Jacquier, to connect with spirit for an inspiring and memorable event! Stephanie’s readings are meant to bring healing and comfort to all, but please understand that she has no control over who comes through. \$10/per participant and space is limited to 20. Registration and pre-payment is required. Please see Stephanie Fraleigh to sign up by Nov. 13.

November Menu
Congregate meals are served daily Monday-Friday at 11:30 a.m. There is a voluntary, confidential, suggested meal donation of \$3 for Age 60+, and a required charge of \$6 for those under 60 (\$8 for large parties) Anyone under 60 is required to check in and pay Katy Martin upon arrival. Call Kim 323-0420 ext. 508 to sign up or cancel.

SPOOK-TACULAR from page 1

for visitors of the garden to read.

The Spook-Tacular event featured a Dr. Seuss-themed theatrical skit performed by third, fourth and fifth grade students and was directed by Laura Bishop. Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School helpers also read stories and showed support for the garden.



The Belchertown Pollinator Garden was decorated for the Spook-Tacular, which included familiar characters created by Dr. Seuss.

den.

“They always come back to lend a helping hand at this garden, whether it is working in it or helping with the events, their dedication means so much,” said Debra Lapointe.

Lapointe is a gardener who decorated the garden for the Spook-Tacular along with her Friends of the Garden.

There was a scavenger hunt and goody bags throughout the gardens.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Children and families gathered by the garden for a story.

Children also got to enjoy crafts and spooky stories.

The entire pollinator garden transformed for Halloween with decorations displayed all over. Familiar characters created by Dr. Seuss visited the garden during this Halloween season.

Lapointe said she intends to bring this annual event back next year as it continues to serve as a family event enjoyed by families and children.

“As they say, it takes a village to put on events like these,” she said. “I feel so lucky to have such wonderful volunteers who work with me to make this garden what it is for the public and children. Their time, energy and enthusiasm make it all possible.”

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OPINION

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters By Russell Gloor

My brother died on Dec. 23 does he get Social Security for December?

Dear Rusty: My question concerns the passing of my brother on Dec. 23, 2025. Since he passed away before the month was over, does that mean he will not receive a Social Security payment for December 2025? Does the fact he passed before the end of December negate him receiving benefits for December 2025?

Signed: Executor of my Brother's Estate

Dear Executor Sister: Please accept our sincere condolences on your brother's passing. FYI, according to Social Security law, all SS benefits are paid in the month following the month they are earned, which means two in things in this circumstance:

1. Any SS payment your brother received during the month of December (his month of death) is legally his or his estate's because that payment was for the month before he died (November 2025).

2. Any SS benefits received thereafter (e.g., SS benefits paid in January 2026 for the month of December 2025) must be returned to Social Security. The bank, which received his SS payments, would normally handle this automatically if they were notified of your brother's death.

Social Security benefits are not paid for the month of death because the beneficiary did not live the entire month and SS benefits are not paid for

partial months. So even though your brother lived about 3/4ths of the month of December, he (his estate) will not get any SS benefits for the month of December. Indeed, even those who pass shortly before midnight on the last day of the month do not get Social Security benefits for the month they died.

For additional information, if your brother was married and his wife is still living, she would be entitled to a one-time, lump sum death benefit of \$255 (if she is also eligible for her own SS retirement benefit). And, depending on her own SS retirement amount, she might also be eligible for a surviving spouse benefit as your brother's widow.

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.

in my BACKYARD By Ellenor Downer

Recently, I watched a pair of white-breasted nuthatches climbing up and down an oak tree in the yard.

They have a gray/blue back with a white face and black cap. They are a small, compact bird with a long, sharply pointed bill and short tail.

Females look similar to the males, but have a gray cap rather than a black one. Both sexes have white bellies and a chestnut colored patch on the lower belly and near the tail. The head is large and they have almost no neck.

They are about 5.1 to 5.5 inches long. White-breasted nuthatches are agile birds that creep along trunks and large branches, probing into bark furrows with their straight, pointed bills.

Like other nuthatches, they often turn sideways and upside down on vertical surfaces as they forage. A friends mother called them "upside down birds" for that reason. Unlike woodpeckers, they don't lean against their tails.

They inhabit mature woods and woodland edges particularly deciduous stands like maple, hickory, basswoods and oak. They



White-breasted nuthatch

also are found in coniferous forests.

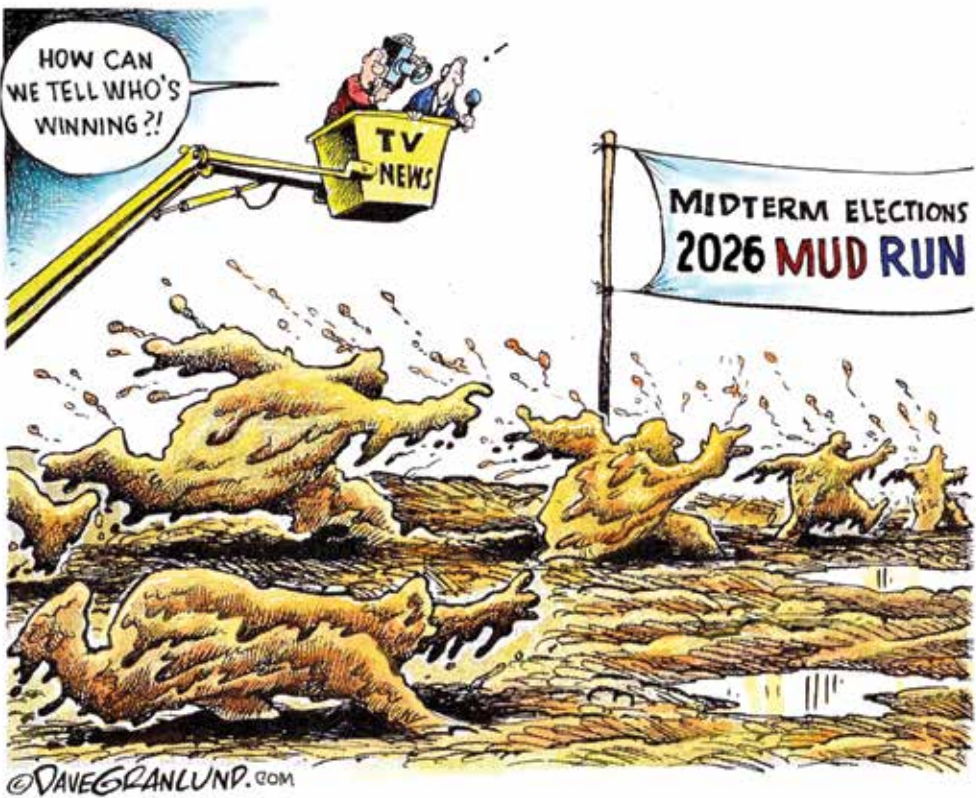
White-breasted nuthatches eat mainly insects including weevil larvae, wood boring beetle larvae, other beetles, tree hoppers, scale insects, ants, gall fly larvae, spiders, caterpillars including spongy moth (also known as Gypsy moth) and tent caterpillars.

They cache food typically hiding it under a piece of bark, lichen, moss or even snow.

They also eat seeds and nuts including acorns, hawthorn, sunflower seeds and sometimes crops such as corn. At feeders, they like sunflower seeds, peanuts, suet and peanut butter.

White-breasted nuthatch-

Please see BACKYARD, page 12



LETTERS

St. Francis of Assisi thanks golf tournament sponsors

To the editor,

Thank you to all of the businesses and families that supported our recent golf tournament, which was held at Cold Spring Country Club. This event was to raise funds for our new St. Francis of Assisi Parish Center which will be built on our Jabish Street campus.

We would especially like to thank our Major Sponsors: Window World of Western Massachusetts (Platinum Sponsor); Hulmes Transportation, LTD (Gold Sponsor); Bell & Hudson Insurance Agency, Inc., The Lebrun Family, and The Phaneuf Family (Silver Sponsors); McCarthy's Pub (Lunch Sponsor) and Don's Auto Sales & Service (Breakfast Sponsor).

Thank you to our Tee, Green, and Friend sponsors: Noonan Energy, Law Offices of Richard Maynard, Tall Tree Landscapes, Poissant & Neveu Real Estate, Christopher Heights, Five Star Landscapes, Tilton Automotive, Cardaropoli Wood Floors, Interstate Batteries, Architectural Insights, T.J. Conway Mechanical Contractors, and many anonymous contributors.

Thank you to Dave Wright, Head Golf Professional at Cold Spring Country Club, and his staff for a great job coordinating golf and food to make this a

very good experience!

Finally, thank you to all of the players who participated in the event and the wonderful volunteers from St. Francis of Assisi church who stepped forward to work on a very cool and blustery day to make this a successful event.

We are so grateful for the local and area businesses stepping up to support a cause that is important to many of their customers! We encourage you to also support those businesses that support local causes.

With gratitude,
James Phaneuf
Tournament Director
St. Francis of Assisi Parish

A fall question and a request for the Garden Lady

Karen, who reads the column, wrote in with this question for the Garden Lady: "Should you remove all the blossoms from Hydrangeas before the snow falls?"

What a great question and the perfect time to tackle it. Here are some post bloom tips for the beloved hydrangea.

To first answer Karen's question, you can snip off the flowers but you don't have to! If you like a tidy look, trim off the spent flowers right below the bloom and above the first set of healthy leaves.

You can also choose to leave the flowers in place. They add a bit of winter interest and some experts say that they insulate next year's flower buds.

While we are thinking about next year, continue to water your hydrangea bushes, especially if Mother Nature is stingy with rain. Concentrate your watering efforts at the base of the plant.

Refreshing bark mulch now will also help seal in moisture and offer a measure of winter protection. Leave the stems intact - don't cut them back to the ground even though they may look like rigid sticks all winter.

For hydrangeas that bloom on old wood, you definitely want to keep "old wood" in place.

A long time reader of The Register, Frank, asked for more recipes from the harvest. He said that he didn't try the pickle recipe that I published this summer, but



it did inspire him to make his own long-standing recipe.

That's great. I am happy to inspire.

So Frank, here is a recipe that I just happen to be making today, Butternut Squash soup, originally shared with me by my sister. You don't need to use butternut, either. Really any winter squash or pumpkin will do!

Now that my stash is in storage it's time to get creative and enjoy it, and this is one of my favorite recipes. First we have to cook it! Any squash or pumpkin can easily be cooked up by roasting.

Don't go through the trouble of peeling and cubing then boiling. Simply cut in half, scoop out the seeds and bake cut side down in an oiled glass pan or on a cookie sheet at 375 degrees for 45 minutes to an hour.

A fork should go into the non seeded part of the squash easily. Once cooled, scoop out the flesh and it's ready for all sorts of seasonal

delights.

To make the soup, first, sauté a chopped onion, one stalk of chopped celery and one clove of minced garlic, a half teaspoon of salt and a teaspoon of finely minced rosemary in a couple of tablespoons of olive oil. Let this fragrant mixture cook for about 10 minutes, until the onions are transparent.

Once it has cooked, add about two pounds of squash and 32-ounces of chicken broth. I always tend to have some broth in the freezer from my last chicken dinner.

If you purchase broth, go for the low salt option or adjust the salt in this recipe to your taste.

After it comes to a boil, simmer for a few minutes and then ladle the chunky soup into a blender. You will likely have to do this in two or three batches.

Return to the pot or serving bowl and enjoy! Some folks like to garnish with parmesan cheese or toasted pumpkin seeds, but I am more of a soup drinker, so I like it just fine in its plain state.

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

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Letters to the editor should be 350 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources. Send letters to: Sentinel, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 or via email to sentinel@turley.com. The deadline for submissions is Friday at 5 p.m.

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This newspaper will print free self-submitted statements of candidacy only four weeks or more out from the election. All candidates running in both contested and uncontested races are asked to submit their statements to the editor to include only biographical and campaign platform details. Total word count for statements is limited to between 300-500 words maximum. Please include a photo. We will not publish any statements of candidacy inside the four weeks from election threshold. To publish any other campaign publicity during the race, please contact our advertising representatives. We also do not allow personal attacks against other candidates or political parties in statements of candidacy, nor do we publish for free any information about key endorsements or political fundraisers.

Letters to the editor of no more than 250 words from supporters endorsing specific candidates or discussing campaign issues are limited to three total per author during the election season. No election letters will appear in the final edition before the election. We reserve the right to edit all statements of candidacy and letters to the editor to meet our guidelines.

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Gaston Plantiff stood alongside his burial plot.



The spirit of Humphrey Filer stood beside his family gravestone at Mount Hope Cemetery.



Ghosts lingered throughout Mount Hope Cemetery during the Graveyard Tour.



Two reenactors portrayed Myron Walker as a teenager and as an adult.



A reenactor portrayed Elijah Coleman Bridgman, a missionary who was from Belchertown but is actually buried in Shanghai. His ghost still visits the graveyard.

GRAVEYARD TOURS
from page 1

President of the Belchertown Historical Association Tom Stockton served as one of the tour guides. The Mount Hope Cemetery was established in 1846 and is the home to many family burials.

The first known family in Belchertown was the Dwight family, including Elijah Dwight, Nathaniel Dwight, Susan Dwight, Diana Dwight and Eliza Dwight. The Dwight family was one of the first families to settle in Belchertown.

Reenactors portrayed these historical figures of Belchertown and shared stories of their family's history. Each figure stood by their burial plot, which was visited during the Graveyard Tours.

Nathaniel Dwight created a map of the town and many family artifacts from the Dwight family are displayed at the Clapp Memorial Library

Humphrey Filer was another notable figure in Belchertown's history. Filer lived in the 19th century and worked as a carriage maker based in Belchertown.

During the tour, Stockton brought his group in front of a tomb with many questions surrounding it. There were also ghosts lingering as the Graveyard Tours continued.

There was a train station at one point in Belchertown. Working at that station was Harrison Dunbar Dwight, who worked for the railroad as a freight agent.

Even those in the afterlife can enjoy music as the spirit of Timothy Kenfield (1822-1905) was seen playing his violin during the Graveyard Tours.

Kenfield first heard the violin play at a church service at the age of 14 and he was immediately hooked. His mother made the violin strings out of silk.

Kenfield studied music in Boston and played for many dances that took place throughout Belchertown and the surrounding area. He formed his own band, which can be learned about at the Stone House Museum.

The museum has part book of Kenfield's band and Stockton said someday they hope to be able to hear the arrangements of Kenfield's music that were documented.

The spirit of one resident made his way back to Belchertown. Elijah Coleman Bridgman is from Belchertown, but isn't buried at Mount Hope Cemetery.

Bridgman worked as a missionary and moved to China back in 1829. He passed away in 1861 and was buried in Shanghai.

The reenactor playing Bridgman reminded the tourists that he still visits Belchertown.

One of the unique burials at Mount Hope Cemetery belongs to Gaston Plantiff, who was acquainted with Henry Ford. Plantiff convinced Ford to donate about \$5,000 to build a new shed.

Plantiff worked as the Northeast Regional Manager for Ford Motors and passed



TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO

Nathaniel Dwight was one of many members of the notable Dwight family during the early years of Belchertown.



Susan Dwight came in spirit to share her family's story during the Graveyard Tour



The afterlife plays music too as did violinist Timothy Kenfield.

away in 1934. His burial includes a bench seating area surrounded by two long bushes.

There were two reenactors portraying two spirits of the same person. Stockton said these were the spirits of the famous Belchertown Resident, Myron Walker.

At age 14, Walker became a drummer during the Civil War. He committed four years of service with the 10th Regiment of the Massachusetts Volunteer Army.

The Stone House Museum has some of Walker's belongings.

More information and history can be found at the Stone House Museum, 20 Maple St. For future events, visit stonehousemuseum.org.



Lucy Dolittle Thompson shared her inspiring story about becoming an architect during her lifetime.

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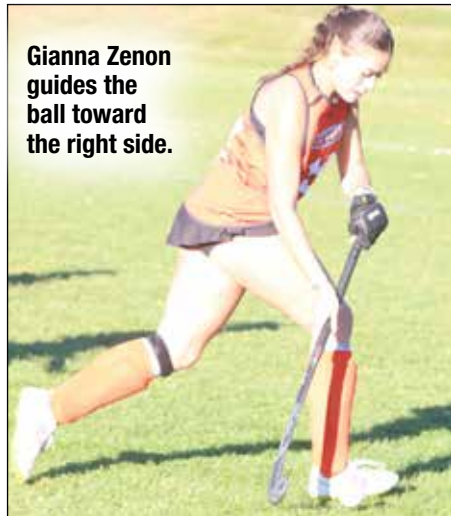
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Mary DiBona tries to guide the ball up the field.



Gianna Zenon guides the ball toward the right side.



Madeline Williams runs to meet a passed ball.



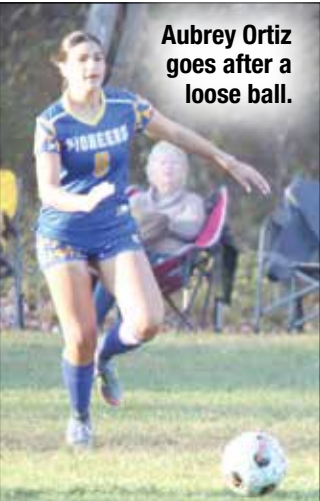
Kina Roy advances up the middle of the field.



Addi DiBona is pressured by a Tantasqua defender.



Julia Rainaud steals the ball away.



Aubrey Ortiz goes after a loose ball.



Josephine Boyko tries to make a stop on defense.



The Pioneers face Athol last Monday afternoon.

Pioneers fight to scoreless draw



Whisper Wagher fights with an opponent for the ball.



Goalie Madison Boulrice pounces on a shot.

PALMER — Last Monday afternoon, the Pathfinder Tech girls soccer team had a 0-0 tie against Smith Academy and are 7-2-2 for the regular season. Pathfinder did not qualify for the Western Mass. Tournament, but

will make the state tournament this year. The girls will have nonplay-off matchups against Hampden Charter, Cape Cod Tech, and Mt. Everett to close out month before facing an opponent in the state tournament.



Amber Roman tries to clear the ball away.



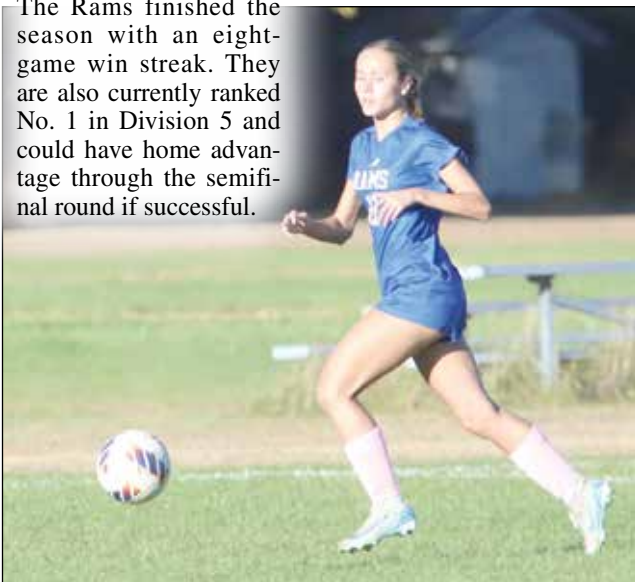
Kalli White sends a long pass deep into the other end.

Rams finish regular season undefeated

GRANBY — Last week, Granby High School girls soccer wrapped up the regular season and headed for the Class D tournament, where they drew the No. 2 seed and a Tuesday quarterfinal matchup with Hoosac Valley. The Rams defeated Southwick, Easthampton, and Chicopee Comprehensive last week and are 13-0-3. The Rams finished the season with an eight-game win streak. They are also currently ranked No. 1 in Division 5 and could have home advantage through the semifinal round if successful.



Kara White makes a throw-in.



Makayla Dennis advances up the right side of the field.



Sophia Press goes for a loose ball.



Marcela Tapia is pressured by an opponent.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

SPORTS



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Season ends on positive note

The Belchertown Volleyball team ended their regular season with 7 wins in a row with two recent upsets with Amherst and East Longmeadow.

During the Amherst game Kaiya Cavanaugh reached 2 big milestones. 100 Aces and 750 Digs.



Railers fall at home to Maine Mariners

WORCESTER – The Worcester Railers HC (1-2-0-0, 2 pts) visit the Maine Mariners (2-1-0-0, 4 pts) on Sunday afternoon at Cross Insurance Arena in Portland, Maine. Puck drop is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. ET. Worcester failed to bounce back after falling 3-0 to Maine on Saturday, October 24th, in the first road game of the regular season. Worcester is back on the Road on Friday, October 30th in Glens Falls NY against the Adirondack Thunder. Puck drop is at 7:00 p.m.



Matt DeMelis (1-0-1) opened the scoring at 10:30 in the 1st period off assists from Stevie Moses and Riley Piercey to give the Railers a 1-0 lead. The Mariners responded in the 2nd period when Max Andreev (1-1-2) scored a shorthanded goal at 11:41 to even the score at 1-1. Later in the period, Josh Bloom (1-0-1) scored on the power play at 18:43, assisted by Andreev and Antonio Venuto, to give Maine a 2-1 lead heading into the 3rd period. At 15:19 in the 3rd, Venuto (1st) found the back of the net off assists from Robert Cronin and Ryan Francis to extend the

Mariners' lead to 3-1. Maine held on for the remainder of the game to secure the 3-1 victory over Worcester.

The Railers started the 1st period slowly, with both teams dumping the puck into the opposing zone and trying to create pressure. Worcester's defense tested Max Lundgren from the blueline, but the Mariners kept the puck out of the net. With 12:05 left in the 1st, Anthony Kehrer was called for high-sticking, sending the Railers to the penalty kill. Gabe Carriere, recently sent down from the Hartford Wolf Pack, made a key save to help Worcester successfully kill the penalty. With 9:30 remaining, Ryan Piercey jumped on the puck and passed it to Moses, who helped set up Matt Demelis (2nd) for the goal to give Worcester a 1-0 lead. All three members of the Railers' first line contributed to the scoring play. Carriere later made a great save on Cronin, stretching out on his side to keep the puck out. With 6:30 left in the period, Tyson Fawcett dropped the gloves with Wyllum Deveau following a big hit by Deveau on Worcester's Donhauser. Kaplan later dropped

the gloves with Dylan MacKinnon as the physical play continued. With 1:33 remaining, Matt Hobbs was called for interference, sending the Railers back to the penalty kill. The 1st period ended with Worcester leading 1-0, while the Mariners held a 14-9 advantage in shots on goal.

The Mariners started the 2nd period on the power play following a late penalty in the 1st, but Worcester successfully killed it off to maintain a 1-0 lead. Matt Demalis made a great individual play through the opposing zone and drew a hooking penalty against Antonio Venuto while on the penalty kill to create a 4-on-4 situation. Declan McDonnell nearly extended the Railers' lead on a break-away, but his shot hit the post. Mason Primeau also created a chance with a take-away and shot, but couldn't convert the rebound. The period became increasingly physical, with Bloom called for interference at 9:57 and Linus Hemstrom called for tripping at 14:32. At 11:41, M. Andreev scored his third shorthanded goal of the weekend to tie the game 1-1 for Maine. Late in the period, more penalties followed as Gabe Blanchard was called for slashing, while Lincoln

Hatten and Wyllum Deveau received roughing minors. With 1:17 remaining in the period, Bloom (1st) scored on the power play, assisted by Andreev and Venuto, giving the Mariners a 2-1 lead heading into the 3rd period.

The Railers and Mariners went through the opening three minutes of the 3rd period without much action, with both teams dumping the puck into the opposing zone and trying to create pressure. Underwood had a wrist-shot opportunity but stopped in front of the net as players looked for a tip. Maine continued searching for an insurance goal while Worcester looked to even the score. With 11:24 remaining, Cole Donhauser was called for boarding, sending the Railers to the penalty kill. Worcester successfully killed off the penalty to keep the game within reach. At that point, Maine led 33-24 in shots on goal. Lincoln Hatten was later called for high-sticking at 16:09. At 15:19, Antonio Venuto (1st) scored off assists from Robert Cronin and Ryan Francis to extend Maine's lead to 3-1. The Mariners went on to secure the victory, taking a 2-1 lead in the season series.

Candlepin League NEWS

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Bondsville League

WARE – Roll-A-Way Lanes' Bondsville League has completed seven weeks of league candlepin bowling.

During week seven on Oct. 22, the Slow Burners bowled against Zeke's Freaks on lanes three and four.

In game one, Slow Burners defeated Zeke's Freaks by a score of 481-478. The highest individual score of 130 was bowled by Kevin Krasnecky of Zeke's Freaks. Jody Orszulak of Slow Burners was the hero of his team, scoring 111.

In game two, Slow Burners won again by a score of 462-445. Orszulak carried his team again, this time scoring 104.

In game three, Slow Burners completed the three-game sweep by winning 447-445. The final score was 1390-1368 in favor of Slow Burners, who move to a record of 27-22. Zeke's Freaks move to a record of 20-29.

P&J Meats bowled against Night Hawks during week seven. In game one, Night Hawks won by a score of 458-436.

In game two, Night Hawks won again by a score of 456-405. Night Hawks won game three by a score of 500-464 for a three-game sweep over P&J Meats.

Dave Flanagan of Night Hawks finished the match with 113, and Andy Tombor scored 111. Shaun Midura of P&J Meats finished with 119.

The final score was 1414-1305 in favor of Night Hawks, who move to a record of 27-22. P&J Meats move to a record of 19-30.

The Flaming Bowling Balls bowled against the Rollies on lanes seven and eight at Roll-A-Way Lanes. In game one, Rollies defeated FBB by a score of 463-401.

In game two, Rollies won again by a score of 495-472. Ron Gouin of Rollies scored 126 to further increase his team's lead in the match. Randy Harper of Rollies scored 109. Ryan McCarthy of FBB had a good score of 118.

In game three, Flaming Bowling won by a score of 487-469. Brandon Haley of FBB scored 117 for a series of 300, a 100 average for

the night.

Brandon Lane of Rollies finished with 110. The final score was 1427-1360 in favor of Rollies, who move to a record of 20-29. The Flaming Bowling Balls have a record of 23-26.

The Pincesses bowled against the Cannonballs during week seven. In game one, Pincesses won by a score of 480-450. Kevin Trott of Pincesses scored well over his league average with 105.

Pincesses won game two by one-pin, 454-453. Trott had another game over his league average with 96.

In game three, Pincesses won by a score of 462-446 for a three-game sweep over Cannonballs. The final score was 1396-1349 in favor of Pincesses, who move to a record of 33-16.

Spare Parts bowled against the Ironmen during week seven of the Bondsville League.

In game one, Ironmen defeated Spare Parts by a score of 474-440. Greg Carr of Ironmen had a strong game of 123 to take the lead and the game.

In game two, Spare Parts defeated Ironmen by a score of 453-441. Jared Demetri of Spare Parts scored 110.

In game three, Ironmen won the last game by a score of 468-438. Ryan Drago of Ironmen finished with 128, while his teammate Billy Brunk scored 125.

The final score was 1383-1331 in favor of Ironmen, who have a record of 24-25 after seven weeks. Spare Parts remain in first place with a record of 34-15.

Spare Tires bowled against Fire Mountain during week seven. In game one, Spare Tires defeated Fire Mountain by a score of 460-432. Tony Burke of Spare Tires started the match with 102.

In game two, Spare Tires won again by a score of 498-445. Burke followed up with 103 in game two. Tracey Giard of Spare Tires matched her teammate's score, 103. Shawn Ross of Fire Mountain scored 103.

In game three, Spare Tires won by a score of 492-417 to complete the sweep against Fire Mountain. Rick Trott of Fire Mountain finished with 109. Pat Burke of Spare Tires finished with 101.

The final score was 1450-1294 in favor of Spare Tires, who move to a record of 26-23.

T-Birds grab split with Charlotte

CHARLOTTE, N.C. - The Springfield Thunderbirds (3-3-1-1) saw another standout performance from their young netminder in a 2-1 victory over the Charlotte Checkers (5-3-0-0) on Saturday night inside Bojangles Coliseum.

Both teams exchanged minor penalties and unsuccessful, abbreviated power plays in the opening four minutes, but the Springfield man-advantage got another crack and opened the scoring at 5:51. After wrestling the puck out of a board scrum, Michael Buchinger freed it up and dropped it back to Theo Lindstein at point position. The second-year blueliner danced toward middle ice before firing a seeing-eye wrister past Kirill Gerasimyyuk's glove, giving Springfield the 1-0 edge.

That proved to be enough for Will Cranley to hold the T-Birds lead into the intermission, as the second-year backstop denied each of

Charlotte's seven shot attempts.

The game's pace grinded to a halt in the second period, as both teams paraded their ways into the sin bin. The teams would combine for 28 penalty minutes and seven separate power play opportunities, but despite all the chaos, shots were a scarcity, with Charlotte launching only six attempts at Cranley, while Springfield managed just four at Gerasimyyuk.

Oskar Sundqvist had the T-Birds' best chance to extend the 1-0 lead, but the veteran forward rattled the crossbar with a high-rising wrister.

After beginning the weekend 0-for-7 on their power play, the Checkers did finally cash in with just 27 seconds left in the period as Jack Devine funneled a wrister from point position over Cranley's glove, tying the score and sending a 1-1 game into the third for a second straight evening.

As was the case on Friday,

shots on goal heavily favored the Checkers for the game and especially in the third, as Charlotte twirled 15 pucks on Cranley. However, the T-Birds proved opportunistic, as Jack Finley found a loose puck in the left circle near the boards and whipped a perfect blind cross-ice feed to Dylan Peterson, who punched a shot through Gerasimyyuk to restore the T-Birds lead, 2-1, at 6:32 of the third.

Peterson's clutch tally would be all Cranley needed, as the Springfield penalty kill dispatched two additional Charlotte power plays to bring the game to its finish line. Cranley finished with 27 stops and has now turned away 111 of 116 shots over his first four starts.

The T-Birds now return home with a 3-1-0-0 road record to begin their season, as Springfield looks to find its home ice advantage when they open a five-game homestand on Friday, Oct. 30 at 7:05 p.m. against the Providence Bruins.

WSU Owls fall at Plymouth State

PLYMOUTH, N.H. — Plymouth State scored 21 points in the fourth quarter to erase a 10-point deficit and rally past Westfield State, 28-17, in a Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference football game Saturday at Panther Field.

Westfield State (3-3, 3-2 MASCAC) led 17-7 entering the fourth quarter, but Plymouth State (3-3, 2-3 MASCAC) scored three touchdowns in the final 15 minutes to turn the game around and secure the victory.

The Owls built a 14-0 halftime advantage behind two rushing touchdowns. Freshman quarterback Quinn Sumner opened the scoring with a 4-yard touchdown run with 4:41 remaining in the first quarter, capping a nine-play, 72-yard drive. Andrew Currier added the extra point for a 7-0 lead.

Westfield extended its advantage early in the second quarter when freshman running back Cole Ingham broke free for a 31-yard touchdown run with 13:36 remaining. Currier's second successful extra point put the Owls ahead 14-0.

Plymouth State threatened before halftime, driving to the Westfield 5-yard line, but the Owls' defense held on fourth down to preserve the shut-out. Westfield finished the first half with 184 rushing yards and 348 total yards in the game, compared with 90 rushing yards and 238 total yards for the Panthers.

Plymouth State finally broke through in the third quarter. After recovering a Westfield fumble, the Panthers drove 41 yards on nine plays, capped by

a 1-yard touchdown run by Josh Phillips with 3:42 remaining in the period.

Ryan Bryant's extra point cut the deficit to 14-7.

Currier extended Westfield's lead to 17-7 with a 26-yard field goal with 14:13 remaining in the fourth quarter, finishing an eight-play, 66-yard drive.

The Panthers then capitalized on turnovers to seize control. An interception and a 37-yard return by Ricky Phom helped set up Plymouth State's next scoring opportunity, which ended with Drake Dumont's 1-yard touchdown run with 8:17 remaining. Bryant's extra point made it 17-14.

Plymouth State took its

Please see **WSU**, page 12



GRANBY



Shown from left to right are Sue, Ed, Rob, Jack, Dave and Steve inside the kitchen of the Granby American Legion Post 266 during the monthly spaghetti supper.

TURLEY PHOTO BY RYAN DRAGO

American Legion offers spaghetti supper

By Ryan Drago

Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

GRANBY – American Legion Post 266 hosted its monthly spaghetti supper for the month of October.

Rob Chauvin of the Granby American Legion said the post offers a monthly supper on the last Thursday of the month.

The meal always features spaghetti, sauce, salad and a roll for \$8 per meal; with dine-in and take out available. Proceeds from the meals go toward supporting the Granby American Legion.

This was the eighth monthly supper offered by Granby American Legion and every month, members make about

65 meals for guests.

During the spaghetti supper, Dave Mendoza of the Granby American Legion was greeting guests at the door and collecting funds for the meals. Members Sue, Ed and Steve were preparing the meals in the kitchen.

Guests enjoyed the comfort of the dining hall with music playing in the background.

Granby American Legion Post 266 has around 300 members and works with affiliate groups throughout the year.

The post hosts a flag retirement ceremony on an annual basis and also participates in a Veterans Day ceremony and the town's Memorial Day parade.

The Granby American

Legion, located at 74 Pleasant St., is also the home of the 266 Lounge. The lounge is open to the public and was open during the monthly spaghetti supper.

Throughout the year, the post also hosts a monthly building bridges veteran's lunch. The Granby American Legion also hosts family events such as Breakfast with Santa Claus and with the Easter Bunny.

Activities enjoyed at the Granby American Legion include darts, pool, horseshoes, pitch leagues and cornhole.

Joining members of the Granby American Legion during the spaghetti supper was Jack Neves of Calvary Social Media.

Neves talked about an upcoming community fundraising event, the Calvary Media Night Out on Nov. 2 from 5-7 p.m. at Pic's Pub in Holyoke to benefit Miracle League Western Massachusetts and Holyoke Safe Neighborhood Initiatives.

The Son's of the Granby American Legion Post 266 is hosting its sixth annual Thanksgiving Day Turkey Raffle. Prizes include one turkey and one bottle of wine from the Wine Haus.

Proceeds go to benefit the Granby High School Scholarship Fund. Drawing for the raffle will be Nov. 22.

For more information, visit the Granby American Legion Post 266 Facebook page or go to granbypost266.org.

November Happenings at the Granby library

Sci-Fi and Fantasy Book Club

Thursday, Nov. 5 at 5 p.m.
Join our discussions on the first Thursday of every month! The Three-Body Problem by Cixin Liu for November.

Adult Book Group

Thursday, Nov. 12 at 6 p.m.
The book group will be discussing The Lighthouse Keeper's Daughter by Hazel Gaynor.

Sketching: Collage the City

Saturday, Nov. 14 at 11 a.m.
A hands-on urban sketching workshop with a twist! Begin by playing with watercolors, creating watercolor washes in sunset hues, moody grays, and vibrant

city pops. Once your painted papers have dried, you'll tear and cut them into rooftops, windows, trees, and street silhouettes, then collage them together to build your own unique scene-no drawing skills required. Space is limited - Sign-up!

Afternoon Book Chat

Tuesday, Nov. 17 at 2 p.m.
Join us in the afternoons for friendly, informal chat about fiction of all types of genres. The group is reading Broken Country by Clare Leslie Hall for November. Copies of the book are available at the library.

Tabletop Games Club

Thursday, Nov. 12 at 5 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 21

at 10:30 a.m.

Players of all ages 8 and up are invited to gather and enjoy a variety of board, card, dice, tile, and other in-person tabletop games with us!

Knitting Group

Every Wednesday afternoon at 2 p.m.
Bring your latest project and join us for conversation, tips and tricks.

Friends of the Granby Library Meeting

Thursday, Nov. 19 at 4:30 p.m.
The Library will be closed on Nov. 11, 26 and 27. Visit our website for more information and to sign up for our programs www.granby-library.org

Veterans' dinner to be held Nov. 14

GRANBY—The Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Granby will be celebrating Veterans on Saturday, Nov. 14, from 5 to 9 p.m. with our annual Salute to Veterans Pork Roast Dinner.

Take out and dine-in available. Cost per ticket is \$15 and includes Pork Roast, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable, Salad & Dessert.

Whether you are a Veteran, know a veteran, or just want to celebrate our heroes, all are welcome.

Tickets are available at the parish office or after all weekend masses. Immaculate Heart of Mary is located at 256 State St. in Granby, Mass. For more information call 413-467-9821.

Granby to ask voters to fund \$1.1 million West Street plan

By Melina Bourdeau
Correspondent

GRANBY – The Select Board voted Monday to send a roughly \$1.1 million renovation of the West Street building to town meeting voters, including a community gym and lower-level shell space for a future Council on Aging fit-out.

The motion puts “option three” on the warrant for a special town meeting scheduled for Nov. 16 at 7 p.m. It does not authorize construction and voters would decide whether to approve the funding.

The Finance Committee later voted to support “option three,” while the meeting left the project's final financing unresolved.

The joint meeting considered three options for the former West Street Elementary School. Option one, estimated at \$680,000, would replace windows on the West Street side and in the cafeteria, along with some exterior doors. The cost includes construction, contingency and project-team costs, said Lynne Mercier of the West Street Building Committee.

“Option two” would add a renovation of the gymnasium for community use and elections, bringing the estimated cost to \$815,000.

“Option three” includes the exterior work and gym, plus full abatement of the lower-level area planned for the Council on Aging and sprinkler coverage. It would leave that area as shell space for a future fit-out, not ready for immediate occupancy.

“It just is a shell space that has been fully abated for the next step, the next phase, which would be getting a (Council on Aging) in there,” Mercier said, referring to the Council on Aging.

Officials said acting now could preserve the current project team and avoid restarting the procurement process.

The owner's project manager, architect and engineers' contracts were expected to end in December. Mercier said the committees needed to select an option and bring it to town meeting in time to

extend those contracts.

Neil Joyce, the owner's project manager, said hiring a new team could delay substantive work by five to six months.

“You would be upwards of five to six months before you could begin substantive work again on the project that we have,” he said.

Joyce estimated the additional construction time at about two months for “option one,” three months for “option two” and four months for “option three.”

The shell-space work would not complete the Council on Aging move. Joyce estimated that a future fit-out could cost \$3 million to \$4 million at current prices, before potential increases.

He said construction costs could rise by 4% to 8% annually, depending on market conditions.

Town Administrator Ron Aponte said Council on Aging leaders had reacted positively to the shell-space concept.

He also said relocating the Council on Aging could allow the town to sell its current building. A prior appraisal cited at the meeting was about \$757,000, while informal estimates discussed were as high as \$800,000.

No sale or sale proceeds are guaranteed.

Aponte said a commercial buyer could return the property to the tax rolls and bring local economic activity.

Financing estimates presented by Treasurer Steve Nally included annual debt service of about \$222,000 for a \$1 million, five-year loan at 4.25%, or about \$126,000 annually for 10 years at 4.75%.

Officials said free cash or private contributions could reduce borrowing, but the amounts were not yet known. Aponte said a potential benefactor had expressed interest but had not specified a contribution.

Select Board members also cited the gym's potential use as an election site, avoiding the need to bring voters into schools. The motion to put “option three” on the warrant passed and the Finance Committee separately voted to support it.



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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. 16, through Oct. 22. The information was provided by a member of the police department based on the review of the detailed log summary. This feature is designed to provide context and explanation to some of the calls police respond to every day.

ARRESTS/SUMMONS
Saturday, Oct. 17
10:34 a.m. – An individual was arrested on domestic violence-related charges.
12:33 p.m. – A resident was arrested on domestic violence-related charges.
11:35 p.m. – An arrest was made related to a domestic violence incident.

ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS
Friday, Oct. 16
1:43 a.m. – An officer continued to work on an ongoing investigation.
7:56 a.m. – Officers were dispatched to a noise complaint involving a parent yelling at their children at a North Main Street residence.
9:29 a.m. – A resident spoke with an officer about an alert that appeared on her computer screen indicating her account had been hacked. She called the num-

ber provided, and the person identified themselves as a Microsoft employee. The person told her that various purchases had been made. The resident terminated the call as she believed it was a scam. She then took her computer in to be looked at by a technician and contacted her bank. No loss occurred, and the incident was documented.
1:21 p.m. – Police and fire units were responding to a medical emergency call. A Massachusetts State Trooper was also responding with his emergency lights and siren activated. A vehicle cut in front of the Massachusetts State Police unit, resulting in a collision. Both operators were transported to the hospital, and Massachusetts State Police investigated the crash.
1:45 p.m. – An officer spoke with an individual who hired a contractor to complete a project, but the contractor has not done the work. The incident was documented, and the person will proceed with civil court action.
2:02 p.m. – A resident received a letter from a credit card company that indicated that an account had been opened under their name. The person does not have an account with that company. She was advised to check with her bank and credit card company to make sure there was no fraudulent activity associated with those accounts.

3:31 p.m. – Officers and fire personnel responded to a two-vehicle crash on Ware Road near Meadow Pond Road. No injuries or hazards were present. A report was taken.
Saturday, Oct. 17
3:20 a.m. – Police and fire units responded to Boardman Street for a vehicle that left the road and struck a utility pole. National Grid was contacted to replace the damaged pole and the vehicle was towed. The operator was transported to Baystate Medical Center.
7:03 a.m. – Officers responded to Turkey Hill Road for a two-vehicle crash. The operator of one vehicle was turning left into a driveway when another vehicle passed on the left and crossed the double yellow lines. No injuries were reported.
4:23 p.m. – Officers were dispatched to the former state school campus, where the fire department was on scene because of a fire alarm activation and a door that was slightly ajar. Officers searched the building and found no one. Firefighters discovered that someone discharged fire extinguishers inside the building.
Sunday, Oct. 18
4:21 a.m. – Police and Fire personnel were dispatched to Chauncey Walker Street for a single vehicle crash. The vehicle was traveling south and observed a coyote in the

road while coming around the corner. The operator attempted to swerve but skidded and struck a fence. The operator was initially trapped in the vehicle, but the fire department, using extrication tools, was able to free her. The operator declined transport to the hospital, and the vehicle was towed.
3:23 p.m. – Officers responded to a Stebbins Street residence for a disturbance.
4:07 p.m. – An officer responded to George Hannum Road for a two-vehicle crash. One vehicle slowed and was struck from behind by the other vehicle. No injuries were reported, and the vehicles could be driven from the scene.
Monday, Oct. 19
12:04 a.m. – Officers responded to a residence for an argument between two residents. Peace was restored.
4:33 p.m. – An officer spoke with a resident who lost their credit card. The person believed the card was stolen and later used, as fraudulent charges posted to their account. The individual already reported what transpired to their credit card company but requested that the incident be documented.
5:27 p.m. – A resident came into the station to speak with an officer concerning spam messages and a message indicating that a purchase was made on her credit card. A report was completed.

Tuesday, Oct. 20
12:09 a.m. – Officers responded to a report of an individual who was experiencing a mental health issue. Belchertown Fire Department paramedics transported the party to the hospital.
12:59 a.m. – Officers and fire apparatus were dispatched to a River Street residence for a report of a vehicle fire. The occupants exited the vehicle. The fire was extinguished. Officers towed the vehicle and transported the occupants back to their residence.
10:03 a.m. – An officer was dispatched to a residence to perform a well-being check on the occupant. Officers located the occupant, who needed medical attention. The ambulance was requested and the person was subsequently transported to the hospital.
12:17 p.m. – A resident reported that sometime overnight someone went through their unlocked vehicle. A handicap placard was stolen from the vehicle, and it was already reported to the Registry of Motor Vehicles.
3:24 p.m. – A report was received about a motorcyclist who was down in the road on River Street. The operator was traveling eastbound when they hit a pile of pine needles and lost control. The operator was transported to the hospital and the scooter was towed.

4:53 p.m. – A resident came to the station to speak with an officer about an Amazon package that was delivered and subsequently stolen from the residence's doorstep.
Wednesday, Oct. 21
10:43 a.m. – Officers assisted with the service of a trespass order to a person who was present at the location and was refusing to leave. Officers served the notice, and the person left the premises.
11:14 a.m. – Officers were dispatched to a North Main Street residence for a disturbance between a parent and a child. The involved individuals were calm when officers arrived and indicated it was a verbal-only disagreement.
11:53 a.m. – An officer spoke with a resident in the lobby of the station who wanted to report a violation of a restraining order. After further investigation, officers determined that no violation occurred.
4:21 p.m. – Officers spoke with a youth and their parents about suspicious activity the youth observed. A follow-up was completed, and the school resource officer was notified.
7:30 p.m. – Police and fire paramedics were dispatched to a residence for a juvenile experiencing a mental health crisis.

BUSINESS

MSB supports Cancer Connection's new location

SPRINGFIELD—Cancer Connection is delighted to announce that Monson Savings Bank has committed \$1,000 to our new Springfield location at 1510 and 1502 Allen St. in Bicentennial Plaza in Springfield.
This grant will support Cancer Connection's recent Springfield expansion, serving the greater Springfield community with Bilingual services and programming, integrative therapies, and a branch of our signature Thrift Shop (which donates all proceeds to Cancer Connection programs).
Michelle Cayo, Vice

President and Credit Risk Officer at Monson, is a longtime member of the Cancer Connection Board of Directors, and she shared her personal commitment to Cancer Connection's mission with her team at Monson.
“We are so grateful for Monson's support of this expansion, reflecting the bank's focus on community and investment in Springfield,” said Chelsea Kline, Cancer Connection Executive Director. “This grant will help set us up for success in our new location, where we are so excited to introduce Bilingual services and serve the Springfield

community.”
Cancer Connection's new location allows convenient access to our (free) services in this area who often face barriers to care. Ashley Colon offers Bilingual (Spanish and English), in person Befriending by appointment or walk-in, as well as by phone (please check our website for specific days and hours).
This month the Springfield center, part of the Integrative Health Group at 1502 Allen St., has launched integrative therapy appointments (massage, reiki, acupuncture), all free of charge. Bilingual

support groups and additional programming are coming soon.
Cancer Connection will continue to offer our full range of free services and programs at our location at 41 Locust St. in Northampton and at our original Thrift Shop in Northampton. We also offer many of our programs in hybrid format, so they may be accessed from anywhere.
For the most up-to-date information on all of Cancer Connection's services, programs and hours, please visit www.cancer-connection.org

Fire Department pancake breakfast returns Nov. 7

BELCHERTOWN—The Belchertown Fire Department's Pancake Breakfast is back for the first time since 2019.
This year's breakfast moves to a new location and will be held on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 8 to 11 a.m. at Pathfinder Tech at South Main Street.
Residents of all ages are invited to come out for a hot breakfast and a chance to meet the firefighters who serve the community. Raffle prizes will also be available.

Suggested donations are \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids under 12. Children ages three and under eat free.
“We're grateful to Pathfinder Tech for opening their doors and working together with us to support the Fire Department,” said Fire Chief John Ingram. “Every donation collected at the breakfast will help fund our fire prevention activities in the community, along with the equipment our firefighters rely on to keep residents safe.”



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BACKYARD from page 6

es are cavity nesters and sometimes use nest boxes. The female builds the nest and lines the nest cavity with fur, bark and lumps of dirt.
She builds a cup nest of fine grass, shredded bark, feathers and other soft material. They reuse their nest holes in subsequent years. The female lays five to nine eggs and raise one brood per year.
Eastern phoebe
An Oakham couple saw an eastern phoebe on Tuesday, Oct. 13. They were surprised the bird was still around and had not headed south by now.

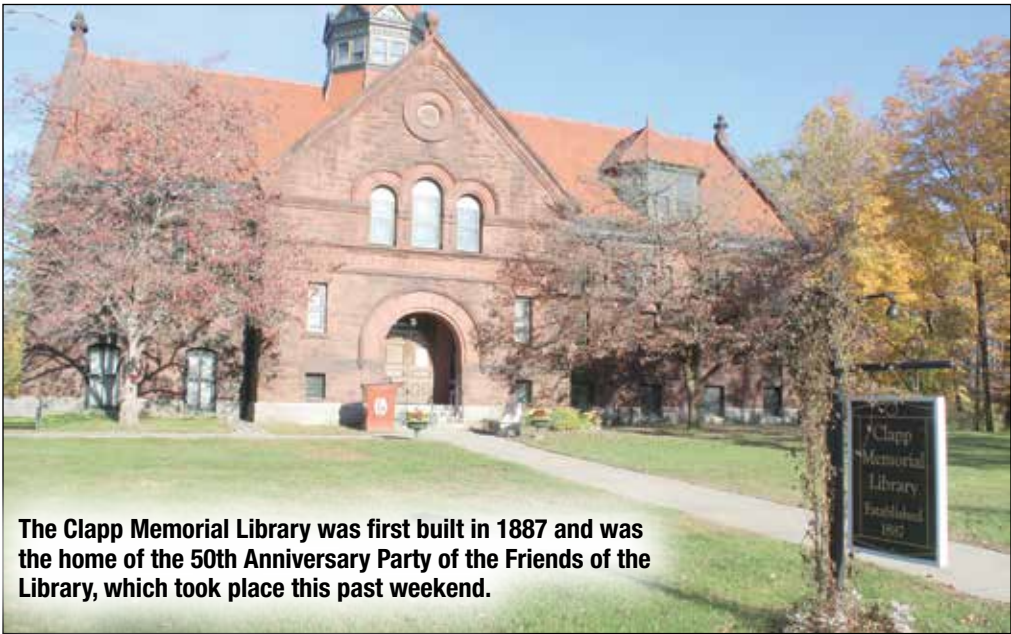
WSU from page 10

first lead of the afternoon with 3:37 left when freshman quarterback Colton Lefebvre connected with Hunter Trueman for a 39-yard touchdown pass. Bryant's kick put the Panthers ahead 21-17.
After Westfield lost another fumble, Plymouth State needed just six plays to cover 58 yards. Jayden Graham broke loose for a 22-yard touchdown run with 1:28 remaining, completing the fourth-quarter surge and setting the final margin at 28-17.
Westfield's offense was led by Sumner, who completed 10 of 17 passes for 164 yards and rushed for a touchdown.

The phoebes, which nest every year near me, left last month.
eBird sightings
eBird sighting on Sunday, Oct. 18 included a Carolina wren and a common raven in Hardwick and a yellow-billed cuckoo at Longmeadow flats. Pontoosuc Lake in Pittsfield had a spotted sandpiper.
Common raven
Monday, Oct. 19 I heard and then saw a common raven. It frequents the woods behind the house. Sometimes I spot it flying, but mostly I hear its low, gurgling croak.

Ingham rushed for 50 yards on four carries, including his 31-yard scoring run, while Kevin Moreira also gained 50 yards on four carries. Malachi Hymes led the Owls with four receptions for 98 yards, including a long catch of 53 yards.
Plymouth State's rushing attack was paced by Graham, who gained 52 yards on 13 carries and scored a touchdown. Lefebvre completed six of 16 passes for 126 yards and a touchdown, while Trueman's 39-yard scoring reception was the Panthers' longest touchdown play. Phillips and Dumont added rushing touchdowns.
Defensively, Westfield recorded two sacks and

Dark-eyed juncos
I spotted my first juncos on Oct. 10. I saw a small flock take flight as I drove on a country road in Barre. I noticed their white tail feathers.
They are one of my favorite winter birds. I enjoy watching them pick up seeds dropped by other birds at the feeder. They also come for suet.
A few days later, I saw two or three in the yard. They flew up when I drove into the driveway.
People may report a bird sighting by emailing edowne@turley.com or calling or texting 774-262-5882.



The Clapp Memorial Library was first built in 1887 and was the home of the 50th Anniversary Party of the Friends of the Library, which took place this past weekend.

CML from page 1

Library back in 2008. This campaign was done in an effort to raise funds to build an addition to the library, which was originally built back in 1887.

During her time with the group, Crutchfield worked on the book sales for the Clapp Memorial Library that took place twice a year and always had a growing turnout.

Crutchfield said the book sales had customers from all over New England and New Jersey.

The Friends of Clapp Memorial Library presented a medal and plaque to Crutchfield for her decades-long service and dedication.

Crutchfield appreciated the recognition and said, “it’s nice to be recognized by your peers.” She also said it was nice to get to know her peers and remember all their volunteer work.

“Keep up the good work,” she said.

According to Crutchfield, there are about 150 members of the Friends of the Clapp Memorial Library. She took a moment to thank Pat Fuller, Helen Towne and Sharon Marean for starting it all with the Friends.

While serving on the Capital Campaign, which was known as Clapp for Community Campaign, the effort inspired a book called “The Incredible Tail of Nathaniel J. Mouse”.

The book was written by Jennifer Whitehead, Ralph Carson, Sylvia Conkey and JoAnne Newman. Carson was the illustrator of the book, which tells the story of



Library Director Cyndi Harbeson announced the answers to the trivia questions guests tried to answer during the Friends of Clapp Memorial Library 50th Anniversary Party.

a mouse whose tail was too big to go into the library.

The main library floor had copies of the book as well as a stuffed animal mouse, supposedly Nathaniel, placed by the front entrance of the main library floor.

Crutchfield was also involved with the scarecrow make and take program and also talked about the junior volunteer program.

The Friends of Clapp Memorial Library started a junior volunteer program to allow students in grades seven or higher to work at the library over the summer.

This program is still going strong, and the library gets about 50-70 students who apply.

Crutchfield said she is going to miss her fellow Friends of the library as well as the staff, volunteers and the camaraderie.

“It’s all a group effort,” Crutchfield said. “50 years and counting.”

It was announced by a fellow Friend of Clapp Memorial Library that some quilting books are going into circulation and include book plates in honor of Crutchfield, who enjoys quilting and has done it for nearly 50 years.

Library Director Cyndi Harbeson thanked the Friends of Clapp Memorial Library during announcements. In the last 20 years, the Friends have raised over \$250,000 to support the library.

Harbeson also announced the answers to the 12 trivia questions related to the history of the library. Members of the Friends enjoyed cake, treats and reflected on all that has been accomplished during the 50th Anniversary Party.

The Clapp Memorial Library is located at 19 South Main St. Learn more at clapplibrary.org.

Belchertown awarded \$472,600 in state grants

BELCHERTOWN—The Town of Belchertown has been awarded \$472,600 in two state grants from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. A \$425,000 Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) grant will help the Town permanently protect 48 acres of forest as the new Metacomet Hills Conservation Area. A \$47,600 Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) grant will add a multipurpose surface at Chestnut Hill Recreation Area. The Healey-Driscoll Administration announced the awards October 7 as part of more than \$13 million in parks and conservation grants across Massachusetts.

“Protecting open space and giving families more places to play are two things that make Belchertown such a special place to live, and these grants help us do both,” said Town Manager Steve Williams. “I want to thank Grants Coordinator Dawn Cote and Recreation Director Kyle Thibeault for their work on these applications, our partners at Kestrel Land Trust, and the Healey-Driscoll Administration for investing in our community. These are places our residents will enjoy for generations.”

Metacomet Hills Conservation Area

The LAND grant will help the Town buy the Boyce property and protect it as the Metacomet Hills

Conservation Area. The 48 acres of forest sit between the Holyoke Range and Pelham Hills and connect to the Quabbin Watershed Reservation, a high priority for land conservation. The property includes part of the New England Scenic Trail and borders other protected land, including town conservation land and Kestrel Land Trust’s Topping Farm.

The Town is buying the land to protect wildlife habitat, preserve open space, offer passive recreation such as hiking, and help address climate change. The forest is an important link for wildlife moving along the ridgetops and through the wider forest. The state’s Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program maps almost the entire property as Priority Habitat for Rare Species. State mapping also shows one potential vernal pool, and field visits suggest there may be a second. Vernal pools are seasonal wetlands that frogs, salamanders, and other wildlife depend on for breeding.

The Town will own the property, and Kestrel Land Trust will hold a conservation restriction on it, so the land will stay undeveloped. The project will also add public parking and a trailhead so residents and visitors can explore the forest.

The total project cost is \$637,500. LAND grants reimburse communities for 68% of project costs, up to \$425,000, which is the most the program awards to any single applicant. Belchertown received that

maximum award. The rest of the cost will be covered by Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds and Mass Audubon’s 30x30 Catalyst Fund. The project is scheduled to be completed by June 2027.

Chestnut Hill Recreation Area

The PARC grant will turn the open, lit area next to the existing basketball courts into a new 120-by-120-foot multipurpose asphalt surface. Benches and new trees will complete the space. The flexible surface will give the Recreation Department room for a variety of programs and activities.

The total project cost is \$70,000. The grant will reimburse the Town for 68% of that cost, or \$47,600. The rest is expected to come from the Recreation Department’s budget and CPA funds. Construction is expected to begin in July 2027 and finish by spring 2028.

“This new surface gives us flexible space to grow our programs and gives families one more reason to spend time at Chestnut Hill,” said Recreation Director Kyle Thibeault. “We’re grateful to the state for supporting this project.”

Protected for Public Use

Because both projects use state funds, both sites are protected under Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution. That means they must remain open to

Please see **GRANT**, page 15

DPW REQUESTS

from page 1

needs to get a full scope on the project.

Leduc will get a number for construction and then bid the project out if capital is awarded.

For the roof replacement project for the Recreation and Freedom Center, quotes were received last fall.

Leduc brought up the Old Town Hall architectural designs. When asked by the committee what kind of designs, Leduc said there are some Americans with Disabilities Act and code requirements for the Old Town Hall.

The woodchipper is another project that keeps getting repaired and is something that is needed on

a daily basis.

When discussing prioritization, Leduc kept buildings and machines separate. The Capital Improvement Planning Committee wanted each project listed to know what is high on the list.

The committee is planning on meeting Leduc again to go over and prioritize every project.

Kelsie Smith
January 11, 2026
Parents: John & Carolyn Smith, Palmer
Grandparents: Theodore & Susan Smith, Ware
Joseph & Audrey Jones, South Hadley

Baby’s Name: _____
Birthdate: _____
Parents’ Names: _____

Parents’ Town of Residence: _____
Grandparents’ Names & Town of Residence: _____

Telephone #: (not to be printed - for office use only) _____

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Deadline for photos and forms is Thursday, December 4, 2026

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WEST HIGHLAND WHITE TERRIER PUPPIES. AKC Reg. Males and females, Great family pets, good with children. First vaccination, ready 11/20. Taking deposits, **413-596-8190**

HELP WANTED

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For church and parsonage.
Cleaning around entry ways, sidewalk and handicap ramp required.
Submit interests to **firstchurchblandford@gmail.com**
This is for the First Congregational Church of Blandford, 91 Main St., Blandford

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

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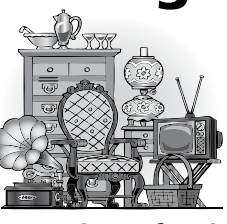
FOR RENT

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

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

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15th Annual BUCC Quilt Show & Sale

BELCHERTOWN—Quilts will be decorating the Belchertown United Church of Christ (Congregational) located at 18 Park St. in Belchertown. Featured this year will be Red & Cheddar quilts. Many antique and new quilts to view and to buy.

The Sewing Tag Sale, featuring fabric, yarn, any kind of needlework & tools, runs through the days of the show and on into the following week.

\$5 entry fee for Show hours Oct. 30, 31 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Nov. 1 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sewing Tag Sale Nov. from 2 - 7 p.m. hours are noon – 6 p.m. with no entry fee.

A handicapped lift is available in the parking lot side door of the church.

Questions? Email Jane at ahc60@hotmail.com.

St. Nicholas Craft Fair to take place Nov. 14

LUDLOW—Christ the King Rosary Sodality’s St. Nicholas Craft Fair will be held Saturday, Nov. 14 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Christ the King Parish Center located at 41 Warsaw Avenue in Ludlow.

They will be hosting talented vendors along with a 50-50 Raffle and various gift raffles.

A light luncheon, drinks and desserts available for sale. All are welcome to join the festivities.

Belchertown veterans collections Nov. 14

BELCHERTOWN—The St. Francis Church Respect Life Committee is sponsoring their second annual collection of items to support our Belchertown Veterans on Saturday Nov. 14 in front of the St. Francis Parish Center at 10 Park Street, between the hours of 9 a.m. and noon.

All items collected will be available to our Belchertown Veterans at our local Veterans Agency Office located at the Belchertown Senior Center.

The following items, as well as monetary donations would be greatly appreciated:

Food - tuna, peanut butter, spices, vegetable oil, sauces, canned soup, canned fruit (anything non-perishable for food shelves)

Hygiene Items - shampoo, razors, shaving cream, individually wrapped toilet paper, Kleenex, feminine products, deodorant, bath soap, hand soap, toothpaste

Cleaning Items - dish detergent, laundry detergent (smaller sizes)

Clothing - socks, gloves, hats, slipper socks

Pet Food - small cans of cat and dog food

Thank you for your generous support of our veterans.

Annual holiday craft fair to be held Nov. 7

BELCHERTOWN—The Belchertown United Church of Christ (BUCC) will be holding their annual Holiday Craft Fair in the Church Parish House located at 18 Park Street on Saturday, Nov. 7 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Numerous Crafters from throughout the area will be selling various handmade items including painted slates, knitted, crochet and quilted items, handmade soaps, photography, paintings, cat toys, jams, jellies, jewelry, personalized ornaments and more.

Lunch will be served. Spaces still available.

For more information or an application please email Lucy at luse26@charter.net

GRANT from page 13

the public for outdoor recreation permanently.

More information is available at www.belchertown.org/m/NewsFlash/home/detail/205.

About Belchertown

Belchertown is a welcoming community of about 15,000 residents that blends small-town character with room to grow. Located at the crossroads of Hampshire, Hampden, Franklin, and Worcester counties, Belchertown is part of both the Pioneer Valley and the Quabbin Region. Residents enjoy working farms, forests, and trails alongside access to the area’s colleges and cultural life, just 90 minutes from Boston and an hour from Hartford, Connecticut.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Belchertown Conservation Commission Notice of Public Hearing

Pursuant to the authority of the Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Ch. 131, Sec. 40, its Regulations (310 CMR 10.00) and the Belchertown Wetlands Protection Bylaw (Chapter 139), the Belchertown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, November 10, 2026 at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall Auditorium, located at 2 Jabish Street in Belchertown, MA 01007** to review a **Request for Determination of Applicability** permit application submitted by Catherine Burt **for the proposed tree removals at 23 Metacomet Street (Assessor’s Map 103-40) in Belchertown.** Work is proposed to occur within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands and Lake Metacomet. Anyone interested in this matter should appear at the time and place designated.

10/29/2026

Belchertown Conservation Commission Notice of Public Hearing

Pursuant to the authority of the Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Ch. 131, Sec. 40, its Regulations (310 CMR 10.00) and the Belchertown Wetlands Protection Bylaw (Chapter 139), the Belchertown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, November 10, 2026 at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall Auditorium, located at 2 Jabish Street in Belchertown, MA 01007** to review an **Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation** permit application submitted by Linda Chelfant **for the confirmation of wetland resource area boundaries at the property located at 454 Gulf Road (Assessor’s Map 202-4) in Belchertown.** No work is proposed in this application. Anyone interested in this matter should appear at the time and

place designated.

10/29/2026

Town of Belchertown Department of Public Works 290 Jackson Street PO Box 306 Belchertown, MA 01007 NOTICE TO BIDDERS HVAC UPGRADES BELCHERTOWN FIRE STATION

The Town of Belchertown, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids for the HVAC Upgrades at Belchertown Fire Station 10 North Main Street Belchertown, MA 01007.

The work includes the replacement of main air handling unit serving majority of building, limited ductwork modification, and adding new energy recovery unit. Estimated construction cost is two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$ 250,000).

DCAMM certification and update are required in the category of HVAC, prime.

Bidder selection, procedures and contract awards shall be in conformity with M.G.L. Chapter 149 Section 44A-H. State mandated prevailing wage rates must be paid according to M.G.L. Chapter 149 sections 26-27H.

Digital copies of the drawings and specifications may be obtained by emailing requests to the office of Roy S. Brown Architects at 85rsba@gmail.com after Wednesday, October 28, 2026 at 2 pm.

Sealed General Bids will be accepted from eligible bidders at the office of the Town Manager, Finnerty House, One South Main Street, Belchertown, Massachusetts 01007 until **2:00 pm, Friday, November 13, 2026** at which time they shall be publicly opened. A bid security in the form of a bid bond, cash or certified check in the amount of five percent (5%) of the bid price must accompany the bid.

A contractor briefing is scheduled

uled Friday November 4, 2026 at 10 am, at the Belchertown Fire Station,10 North Main Street, Belchertown, MA 01007

The Awarding Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, should it be deemed in the public interest to do so.

Steven J. Williams, Town Manager

10/29/2026

Public Hearing Legal Notice Belchertown Zoning Board of Appeals

n accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40A, Section 11 the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **November 18, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.** This hearing will be held in the Planning Board’s meeting room of Lawrence Memorial Hall, 2 Jabish Street, Belchertown, MA on the application from Kelly Loud dba Rooty Tooty Day-care, Inc. appealing the Zoning Enforcement Officer’s decision §145-68 A (1), stating applicant is in violation of the Town of Belchertown by-law § 145-24 A (5) Breeding, raising or keeping of animals on less than 40,000 square feet minimum, applicants lot is approximately 33,106 square feet. The applicant is also seeking a Variance of the Town of Belchertown by-law § 145-24 A (1). The property is located at 31 South Main Street, Lane Map 244 Parcel 122 Zoning District VR. A copy of the application may be inspected at the Town Clerk’s office (Room 201) 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday, Lawrence Memorial Hall, 2 Jabish Street, Belchertown, MA.

Any Person interested and wishing to be heard should appear at the time and place designated.

Jennifer Sharrow, Chair Person Zoning Board of Appeals

10/29, 11/05/2026

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Event Name _____

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Location _____

Description _____

Cost _____

Contact name & phone number for more information _____

Deadline for Calendar submissions is October 29.

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Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn,

24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069

or email* them to: jamie@turley.com

***Be sure to indicate “Dazzler” in the subject line of your email.**

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CLUES ACROSS

1. El Dorado High School

5. A sculpture representing a human or animal

11. A type of return

14. Tie the knot again

15. Washington city

18. Hairlike structures

19. Mark used over a vowel

21. Explosive

23. Popular 500 car race

24. Pile up

28. Currency

29. Commercial

30. A minute amount (Scottish)

32. Mass of fish eggs

33. Baseball stat

35. Licensed accountant

36. Japanese classical

theater

39. Gasteyer and de Armas are two

41. Blood group

42. Assist in wrongdoing

44. Language of Cameroon

46. Grayish-white

47. A woolen cap of Scottish origin

49. Microorganism

52. Strong social customs

56. Calm and dependable

58. Congressman

60. Force

62. As a result of this document

63. A main branch of Islam

CLUES DOWN

1. Make a mistake

2. American DJ Rick

3. Fictional Asimov planet

4. Coughed out

5. Singing to one’s lover

6. Scotland’s longest river

7. One of the six noble gases

8. Body art

9. Two-toed sloth

10. Electronic counter-countermasures

12. A foolish person

13. Of the wind

16. Mansion

17. Sound

20. English river

22. Business symbol

25. Exclamation of surprise

26. Pouch

27. Individually

29. Satisfaction

31. The bill in a restaurant

34. Japanese delicacy

36. Port in southern Japan

37. Double-reed instruments

38. Center

40. “The Mount Rushmore State”

43. Soldier

45. Indicates position

48. Beauty treatment: ___-pedi

50. Nonsense (slang)

51. Republic of Ireland

53. Ballplayers’ tools

54. American state

55. Clusters of a fern frond

57. Patriotic women’s group

58. A person’s brother or sister

59. Breed of sheep

61. Of I



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