

## Annual Halloween movie night hosted by Recreation Dept.

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

GRANBY – Halloween is here, and with it comes the costumes, candy, and late-night adventures its known for. On a chilly Saturday evening last week, the Friends of Granby's Parks and Recreation hosted a special drive-in movie night at Dufresne Park.

The Friends have been hosting this movie night for the past three years now, and the tradition continued this year, with the Friends putting out on their Facebook page three movies to vote on by the community, and they voted on Disney's "Monster's Inc."

"We want to keep the community involved and be a part of these events so they feel like more than just an attendee, and that's really the goal in what we're doing," said Chair of the Friends, Josh Fernandes.

While Granby does not officially have a Parks and Recreation Department, the Friends operates in its place,

Please see **MOVIE NIGHT**, page 4



TURLEY PHOTO BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS  
Heather Guzman and Lucy Schafer making hot chocolate and getting the meat ready for walking tacos.

## CML, BOAT partner for community wellness

By Emily-Rose Pappas  
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BELCHERTOWN – Prioritizing the health of community members is important, and Belchertown Overcoming Adversity Together, BOAT, and the Clapp Memorial Library have come together to host Community Wellness Fairs throughout the year, once a month to help the community get access to these resources.

"Building partnerships with local organizations like BOAT means we're building a stronger community that works together and helps each other. I think that's really important to the well-being of the community," said Marcin Marszalek from CML.

"Hosting this event allows BOAT and Clapp Memorial Library to provide access to resources that may not be well known in the community, such as Naloxone (Narcan) kits, Detera medication disposal packets, and educational materials that help prevent substance misuse and save lives," said Kim Prough, Program Director of BOAT.

The partnership between BOAT and the library is

rooted in the community, with an emphasis on their shared vision for wellness for all who live in town, and all who enter the doors of the library. "A vital part of our mission is to support the members of our community in their pursuit of education and leisure by providing books, movies, databases, etc. Events like the Wellness Fair mean we are also supporting public health issues, which are an important part of our patrons' lives," said Marszalek.

BOAT works hard in the community to raise awareness about substance use disorders, and the damaging and heartbreaking effects it can have on the people it affect and their loved ones. BOAT works with the primary goal of raising awareness and taking on a proactive approach through prevention, education, and reducing the stigma around the disorder.

The Clapp Memorial Library is open and welcomes all and provides space and ways for the community to come together to learn. Its large youth programs are the perfect place

Please see **WELLNESS**, page 8

## Town updates hazard mitigation plan, prepares for climate challenges

By Melina Bourdeau  
Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN — Local officials and planners reviewed the town's comprehensive Hazard Mitigation Plan, highlighting critical strategies to address increasing environmental risks and potential climate change impacts.

**"FEMA defines Hazard Mitigation as any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from natural hazards."**

— Mimi Kaplan

Mimi Kaplan, Senior Land Use and Environmental Planner at Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, led the presentation, explaining that the plan, funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, is

updated approximately every five years.

At the meeting's outset, Belchertown Fire Chief John Ingram said, "We've been working on it for quite a few months now together, and this is kind of the final review of it."

Kaplan defined the plan's core purpose, stating, "FEMA defines Hazard Mitigation as any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from natural hazards."

According to Kaplan's presentation, climate change assessments predict that by the century's end, Belchertown could experience up to 60 additional days annually with temperatures exceeding 90 degrees. Furthermore, the probability of river flooding could triple, and histori-

cal rainfall events might occur four times more frequently.

Top community hazard concerns include localized flooding in areas like Railroad Street and Warren Wright Road, power outages from high wind events, increasing wildfire risks, extreme heat impacts and invasive species damage.

During the technical discussion, one participant asked about culvert replacement capabilities, specifically whether current regulations allow for larger installations to accommodate future climate scenarios.

Kaplan confirmed that current funding programs support adaptive infrastructure.

"I believe that's what the town's already doing," she said. "You have to have stream crossing standards, still allowing wildlife through, but also making sure that they're large enough for large

Please see **MITIGATION**, page 8



TURLEY PHOTO BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS  
From the BPD, Officer Jay Krol, Sergeant Neil Lozier, and Officer Adams and Sergeant Jackson from the Hampshire County Sheriff's Office.

## Town hosts annual Drug Take Back

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

BELCHERTOWN / SOUTH HADLEY — For the past 27 years, towns across the nation have hosted Drug Takeback Day, which

is done through the Drug Enforcement Administration in coordination with over 4,400 law enforcement partners around the country.

The 28th National Prescription Drug Take Back Day was hosted by the Belchertown Police Department and BOAT,

Belchertown Overcoming Adversity Together, and the South Hadley Police and TRIAD on Saturday, Oct. 25, at the Belchertown Common and South Hadley Police Station.

Please see **TAKE BACK**, page 5

## Spirits of the past come alive in historic Mount Hope Cemetery

By Abigail McCoy  
amccoy@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN—As Halloween approaches, the Belchertown Historical Association once again brought history to life, quite literally, during its annual Mount Hope Cemetery Tour, held last Sunday. The free, family-friendly event invited guests to step back in time and meet some of Belchertown's most notable residents, portrayed by costumed interpreters who told stories of life, loss, and legacy.

Organized by longtime Historical Association member Sally Shattuck, the tours

have become a much-anticipated fall tradition. "A lot of the people who helped found Belchertown or shaped its early history are buried here," Shattuck explained. "It's not a spooky trick-or-treat event... it's more of a historical experience."

Each year, local volunteers and some high school interns of Shattuck's take on the roles of historic figures, delivering first-person accounts at gravesites around the cemetery. This year's program also featured Dennis Picard, a seasoned reanimator and storyteller, whose vivid tales blended history and folklore. Among the stories Picard told was the unsettling legend of Rev. Justice



TURLEY PHOTO BY ABIGAIL MCCOY  
Susan Shaw Bridgeshaw, played by Randi Shenkman.

Forward, an early pastor whose belief in vampires led him to exhume his own daughter during a 19th-century epidemic of consumption (tuberculosis).

Mount Hope Cemetery, one of several historic burial grounds in town, holds the stories of generations who built the community. Visitors learned about the Dwight family, who were among Belchertown's earliest settlers. Justice Dwight helped survey the land that became the town, while his descendants: Jonathan, Nathaniel, and Diana, played key roles in shaping the village center and the beloved Stone House Museum.

One of the evening's

first "encounters" was with Diana Dwight Howe, portrayed by Skylar Dupont, who recounted convincing her husband, Col. Elijah Dwight, to donate the land that became the town common and church green; spaces she insisted should forever remain open. Nearby, Susan Shaw Bridgeman, played by Randi Shenkman, shared how she became one of the first women in Belchertown to own property and how she designed Mount Hope's layout and endowed its upkeep for future generations.

The tour intertwined personal tragedy with local

Please see **SPIRITS**, page 11

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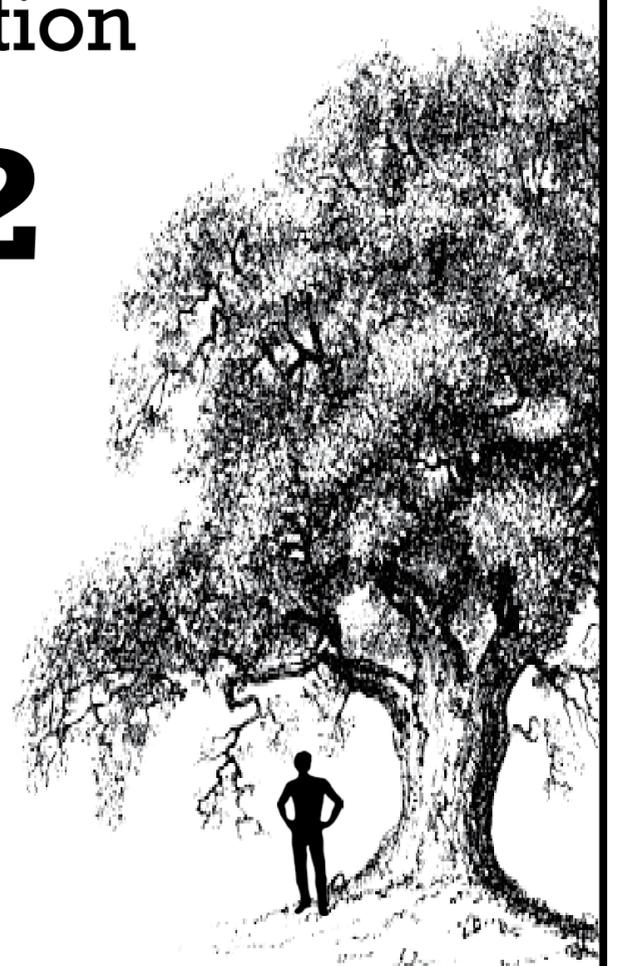
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# Belchertown Stingrays Swim Team dives into new season with fresh coaching staff

BELCHERTOWN – The Stingrays team is making a splash as they prepare for the upcoming season, announcing an exciting new coaching staff ready to lead the team to success. With a renewed focus on skill development, team culture, and fun, the team is eagerly anticipating a rewarding winter season in the water.

This season, Stingrays welcome Geoffery and Greg Gould as their new Head Coaches. The Goulds will be accompanied by assistant Coaches Ken and Megan Riley, Paul McCloskey, Sam Smolinski, Destiny Ranzie, and Alex Malejko. The Goulds brings a wealth of experience, having previously created, coached and participated in Belchertown's Adult Swim Team, The Silver Rays.

"I'm incredibly excited to rejoin the Stingray family," said Coach Geoffery Gould. "This team has a strong foundation, and our goal is to build on that by fostering a positive and challenging environment where every swimmer, from our newest beginners to our top competitors, can achieve their personal best. We'll be focusing on a lot of technique work and, most importantly, making sure the kids love being in the pool."

### Meet the New Coaches

Alongside Coach Geoff and Greg Gould, the team is also thrilled to introduce Assistant Coaches



**Pictured from left to right: Megan Riley, Ken Riley, Destiny Ranzie, Greg Gould, Geoff Gould, Sam Smolinski, Alex Malejko, and Paul McCloskey.**

Megan and Ken Riley, Paul McCloskey, Sam Smolinski, Destiny Ranzie, and Alex Malejko.

Megan Riley: Is well-known in the community as a Cold Spring School staff member and last season's temporary Stingrays Head Coach. Megan is a Belchertown native and former Stingray/Belchertown swim team competitor; we are thrilled to welcome her back to support our team!

Paul McCloskey: Also, our temporary Head Coach for the previous winter season, Paul is back to support our team. A college swimmer and Silver Rays participant, Paul brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to our program. Thank you, Paul, for

jumping in!

Ken Riley: Joins the staff with a personal background in swimming. Ken is also a Belchertown native and former Stingray/Belchertown swim team competitor. His current involvement in the pool puts him in a strategic position to teach while engaging in pool time multiple days a week. Welcome, Ken!

Sam Smolinski, Destiny Ranzie, and Alex Malejko: Swim lesson instructors, Life Guard staff, former Stingrays, and current Belchertown High School swim teammates, these 3 do it all. From developing practice plans, providing technical assistance and wrangling swimmers, we feel so fortunate to have their support. Thank you all!

sportsmanship, and goal-setting.

"Swimming is an individual sport, but the team experience is everything," adds Coach Gould. "We want to create a cohesive team where everyone supports each other, not just in the lane but outside of the pool, too. The Belchertown community has always been incredibly supportive, and we are committed to making the team a source of local pride."

Although the Stingrays have already kicked off their winter season with daily practices, it isn't too late to get your child involved. If you are interested, please send an email to coachesbst@gmail.com.

The energy at the pool is electric, and the Stingrays are ready to swim hard, swim fast and have fun! Stay tuned for Meet information and come cheer on the team!

Here's to a great season!

# 2025 Belchertown Veterans' Day Ceremony

BELCHERTOWN – Charly Roque, the Belchertown Veterans' Agent, announces the annual Veterans' Day event set for this year in the Belchertown High School Veterans' Memorial Auditorium.

Please come out and join the community in celebrating our nation's veterans. Gold Star families planning to attend Tuesday's ceremony are asked to contact Mrs. Roque at 413-323-0409.

The following Veterans' Day event is planned for Tuesday, Nov. 11: Anyone

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

We will be joined by Belchertown's Chestnut Hill Community School's band and chorus as well as local Scouts from Troops 57 and 167.

Anyone wishing to retire worn U.S. flags may drop them off at the Veterans' Agent's office in the Freedom Center or in the Flag Drop Box on the 2nd floor of the Town Hall.

# BARC Holiday Pop-Up

BELCHERTOWN – Please join us on Saturday, Nov. 1, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We will be set up outside at Belchertown Animal Control, 165 George Hannum Rd. So, head on down the hill before or after you hit all of the Holiday Bazaar's uptown.

Did you know BARC turned 10 this year! Come check out our Anniversary tees! We will also have our new BARC hoodies and winter hats for sale, along with all of our other BARC

swag, dog tails, catnip fish and many other wonderful craft items made and donated by our local supporters. Come grab a cup of hot chocolate and say hi to Oliver, our BPD comfort dog who will be visiting. It's a perfect time to start your holiday shopping for the animals and animal lovers in your life. Any donation or purchase gives you a chance to take home one of our special baskets.

Come on out and support us in our 10th year.



## CORRECTION

In the October 24 edition of the Sentinel, we received a submitted press release that incorrectly referred to Town Manager Steve Williams as "Town Administrator." We apologize for the mistake.

### A Focus on Growth and Community

The new staff emphasizes that their philosophy goes beyond just fast times. They aim to teach valuable life skills such as discipline,

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<b>J. CALNAN &amp; ASSOCIATES</b>	42
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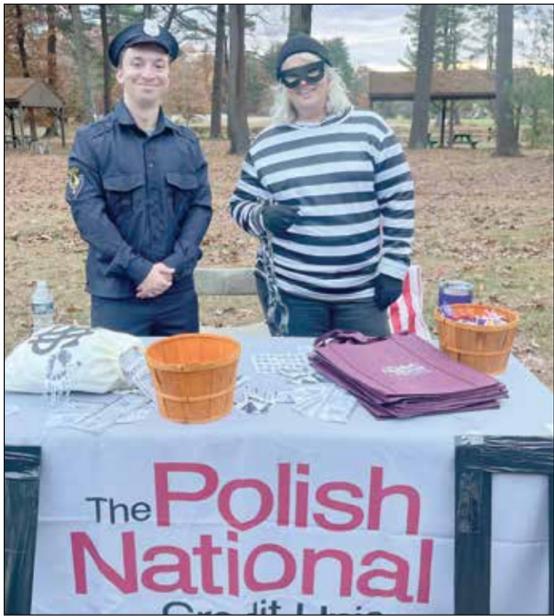
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Tryston Tolliver and Erica McClafflin from People's Bank with their witty costumes.



The White family, James, Erika, and Liv, and their interior design company White Hollow.



Caitlyn Eichhorn, Ashley Medina, and Katelyn White from Children First dressed as adorable children's book characters.

**MOVIE NIGHT** from page 1

separate from the town government, and is a 501-c3 nonprofit composed of five dedicated volunteers who get together to research, plan, and coordinate fun events for the community. "We focus on involving our local businesses in and around town to chip in or provide some sponsorships, or like this event, their time and community outreach, like they did while handing out candy," said Fernandes. "It's good for them in that they are able to be in the town and create those relationships."

The evening hosted several local and town businesses who came to the Park and the movie with candy and other treats as a way to engage with the community and share their name with the people they met.

Cindy's came with their ice cream truck, offering free Italian ice, and Pack 4034 came with their fundraising hats on to sell hot chocolate and walking tacos with a full concession stand of yummy snacks as well. Bree's Balloons was there to tie together some fun critters for the kids, and the Granby Police, Fire, and EMS were there with their trucks for a mini touch-a-truck.

"We want everyone to be involved and have fun, and not have to worry about money, and don't want it to be a limiting factor in any way, shape, or form," said Fernandes.

The night was filled with fun, and kids raced around with their balloons and were on a mission to get as many pieces of candy as possible.

"I am a new-ish father to a three-and-a-half-year-old, and I love to see my daughter participate in these events and seeing her enjoy it is translated into the joy of the other children who get to come and play, and I love that," said Fernandes. "I was looking for a way to get involved, and seeing the kids enjoy the events is what got me involved."



Ryan-Sue Patuno and Tanya Patruno handing out candy from Tanya Gets Fit.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

The biggest need for the Friends right now is community involvement. Whether its interacting with them on Facebook or through email, or attending their meetings, the group is looking to add members to help them to come up with community events for the little town of Granby.

"I think the ultimate goal is to have four or five staple events that we host every year, and we can encourage the community and local businesses to come out for. Our biggest limitation right now is volunteers to try and bring this all to fruition. We would love to have people come out to our meetings and share ideas," said Fernandes. "I am looking forward to the many ways we can help our community come together and grow in general."

You can contact the Friends at granby-parkfriends@gmail.com and on Facebook, or attend one of their quarterly or pre-event meetings, can reach out at any time with ideas, which they share on the town page.



The Granby Police, Fire, and EMS came out with a fire truck, ambulance, and police cruiser for the mini touch-a-truck.



Sisters Amelia and Julia with their balloon critters made by Bree's Balloons.



Friends with their candy ready for the movie to begin.



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TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS  
Angela Battle and Kris Hoag from BOAT.

Sergeant Doug Percy from South Hadley with two giant bags of disposed pills.

Danny Gobrial came out to support Drug Take Back Day with Officer Kro.I

**TAKE BACK** from page 1

“We do it twice a year nationally, and it’s a way to dispose of medications safely and protect the environment,” said Kris Hoag, Programs Director of BOAT. “Drug Take Back Day is an added layer of protection over our community.”

BOAT had a table of information on the common, as well as free naran and other resources for people to utilize after leaving their old medications to be safely disposed of.

Drug Take Back Day offers a safe, convenient, and anonymous way to dispose of unneeded prescription medication, which is dangerous to dispose of in the trash as it can be found and ingested or pollute the water supply.

“My favorite thing about it is interacting with the community,” said Officer Jay Krol. “It’s a great way for us to meet the community, and also to know that these medications won’t be on the streets or a danger to anyone else.”



Marion Callahan, Ann Root, Sergeant Doug Percy, and Connie Clancy at the SHPD for Drug Take Back.

The Hampshire County Sheriff’s Department takes all disposed medications, whether from drop offs at Drug Take Back Day events, or from the consistent lockboxes at the police station, to be incinerated by the DEA.

All the police stations in the community and neigh-

boring towns have drug lock boxes for drop-offs and is safe and anonymous.

The SHPD works alongside SALT, or Seniors and Law Enforcement Together, under TRIAD.

“The members of this group all have the interests of the South Hadley seniors

at heart and are willing to share their time generously to meet the safety needs of the South Hadley seniors,” said Marion Callahan, President of TRIAD.

The members of TRIAD, present with Sergeant Doug Percy, held a table at the back of the police station with information about the work TRIAD does, and filled over six boxes of discarded drugs to be picked up by the Hampshire County Sheriff’s Office.

“It’s a really great public service, too,” said SALT member Connie Clancy.

Drug Take Back Days are an important way communities can help control drugs and access to drugs that are unused or expired, that have the potential to be abused.

The Police Departments and local organizations that work alongside them are here to help, and they work hard to ensure that our communities are safer places.

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## OPINION

## SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

### Do I need to sign p for an Online Social Security Account?

#### Dear Rusty:

I recently heard the tail end of a radio program, which was discussing "signing up for my Social Security account."

I am now 76 years old and have been receiving my SSA monthly amount directly into a credit union account for years. Since the time when I applied to begin receiving Social Security, I have had no need to contact SSA again since everything is working fine. I do not like having to use the Internet. It seems the government is just giving me busy work and requiring me to remember usernames, passwords, etc. just when I am trying desperately to simplify my life. Can you shed any light on the need to sign up for an online SSA account by answering this:

1) What is the background regarding this "call" by the SSA to create an online account?

2) Why is the SSA wanting us to have "accounts"? Mysteriously, no one I have asked is able to give me a reason why we should have "accounts" on-line.

3) What happens if I do not sign-up for an "account"?

4) Is there a window of time during which we must "sign up"?

Thanking you in advance for any light you can shed on this issue.

Signed: Concerned Senior

#### Dear Concerned:

While creating an online Social Security account is recommended by the Social Security Administration, doing so is more of a convenience than a necessity.

It is mainly a way to confirm your identity to Social Security in advance, in case you need to contact them in the future to make changes to your SS account. If you don't plan to make any changes, then it is not mandatory for you to create an online "my Social Security" account. Nothing will change for you - you will continue to get your monthly benefits as you have been doing all these years.

Regarding your specific questions:

1. What is the background?

Social Security has, for many years, been encouraging people to do business with them "online." This is, essentially, a way to improve the efficiency of a) getting your needs handled more quickly, and b) improving SSA's internal efficiency so as to handle more transactions with fewer staff.

2. Why does SSA want you to have an online account?

SS fraud has become an issue, with nefarious individuals constantly trying to get at a person's Social Security (and

other) government benefits. As part of its process for online access, SSA has evolved to a quite secure online identification process, which includes modern security techniques. These include things like "Two-Factor Identification" and use of certain specific identification measures through two main programs for access to government systems (known as LOGIN.gov and ID.me). These create a single pre-verified way to access multiple government systems (such as SSA, IRS, VA, etc.). It means that only one ID and password are required to access numerous government systems and ensures that those who access the account are the correct person. It is primarily a way to protect your benefits from others and prevent fraud.

3. What happens if I do not sign-up for an "account"?

Nothing will happen, unless you have a need to change something with Social Security. For example, if you for some reason wanted to change the financial account to which your SS benefits are deposited. With a secure LOGIN.gov account you could make that change quickly using your online account. Without a secure online account, you would, instead, need to make an appointment to visit your local Social Security office to make the change and provide proof of who you are. Again, this is to reduce fraud.

4. Is there a window of time during which we must "sign up"?

As indicated above, there is no time in which you must "sign up." If you do not sign up for online access, and don't need to change anything with respect to your SS benefits, then you do not need to create an online account.

So, while creating an online SSA account is highly recommended, it is not mandatory for those who have no need to interact directly with the Social Security Administration.

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



## LETTERS

### Thanking the community for your support

#### To the Editor,

Belchertown Animal Control would like to thank all the contributors and all the shoppers who made the Fall Pet Supply & Gifts Tag Sale such a huge success.

Over \$1,500 was added to the ACO Gift Fund to help shelter and community pets in need.

Any items donated to Animal Control are used by the shelter pets first and only items that are not needed go

into the tag sale. Items left after the tag sale are donated to local shelters and rescues, so all donated items benefit the animals.

Diana Carter,  
Belchertown

## Pumpkins of lore and legend

I miss the days of carving pumpkins with the kids. Last year was the first year time got away from us and we just didn't get around to doing it.

I guess the rituals aren't quite as important as they used to be when the girls were younger. Alas, time marches on.

I still got a kick out of decorating the porch with pumpkins, big and small, orange and white. Not a Jack-o'-Lantern to be seen, just a pretty autumnal scene.

It is safe to say that we New Englanders have a fond affection for the pumpkin. And by the look of the neighborhood, we enjoy this fruit (yes, fruit) more on our doorsteps these days than we do in our kitchens.

This wasn't always the case; in fact, the pumpkin was a staple in the diets of Native Americans long before the pilgrims set foot on Plymouth Rock.

The pumpkin is thought to have originated in Mexico. Seeds found there of a distant Cucurbit relative were dated all the way back to 7000 to 5500 B.C.! In our more recent past, Native Americans taught colonists how to plant pumpkins; soon they became indispensable in their diets.

The hard outer skin of the pumpkin allowed it to be stored for a long period of time, sustaining the community throughout the winter months. It was also versatile, used in stews, bread baking, and even in desserts.

Historians speculate that the pumpkin pie may have

evolved from the century's long practice of removing the top of a pumpkin, straining out the seeds and more stringy flesh, adding milk, honey and spices and baking it for hours in hot coals.

Today, we continue to enjoy pumpkin pie, but mainly as a holiday treat. When carving pumpkins became more and more trendy, breeders concentrated their efforts on large, elongated, hard-skinned and sturdy pumpkins, in other words, those that would lend themselves best to a spooky face. These, however, may not be the most satisfying to our taste buds.

The smaller, "sugar-type" pumpkin is more appetizing in texture and taste.

Many of you already know that pumpkins are good for you too! The dark orange color of the flesh is a giveaway that, just like carrots, yams and winter squash, the pumpkin is packed with beta carotene, the precursor to vitamin A.

Researchers have long been touting the benefits of beta carotene to ward off infection and some types of cancer. It may also slow the aging process.

Besides that, pumpkins contain a healthy dose of potassium and fiber, are low

in sodium and are fat free. Incidentally, pumpkin seeds when consumed regularly have shown to keep the prostate healthy.

They also contain a healthy dose of magnesium.

Did you ever wonder where the tradition of carving Jack-o'-Lanterns originated? It is thanks in part to an the Irish folk tale of Stingy Jack, an unsavory figure who unwelcomed in Heaven, outsmarted the devil and was left to roam the earth with only a burning coal to light his way. According to the legend, Jack put the coal in a carved out turnip (which he was fond of stealing!) and has been roaming ever since.

"Jack of the Lantern" has become simply "Jack-o'-Lantern." In Scotland and Ireland people made their own Jack-o'-Lanterns out of turnips or potatoes. In England, large beets were used. The tradition came with the immigrants to America; here they found the pumpkin perfect for carving. And so it has continued! Maybe I will have to carve one myself, just for old time's sake.

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [pouimette@turley.com](mailto: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](mailto:sentinel@turley.com). The deadline for submissions is Friday at 5 p.m.

### Turley Election Policy

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

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

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## The trials of the Appalachian Trail

"BEEES! RUUUUUN!"

It was midafternoon on the fourth day of our backpacking trip through New York State on the Appalachian Trail. A 93-mile hike from the New Jersey border to the Connecticut border in early October.

The first three days had confirmed what others had warned us—the trail through New York would not be easy. Especially this year,

when most of the 'reliable' streams were bone dry due to the drought. Many days, we were forced to detour off the trail and hike into towns to procure water.

With temps in the 80's, dehydration was an ever-present worry. In addition, the added weight of up to 6.6 pounds of water on our backs made the technical scrambling up steep rock ledges even MORE precarious.

On day 4, we were hustling, intent on hiking as many miles as possible so that we could reach a reliable water source—a water spigot at a pump house-before pitching our tent for the night. We were 12 miles into our day when the unimaginable happened.

Tom was about 75 feet ahead of me, when he suddenly paused and turned back to make sure that I was still behind him. When he saw me a short distance away, he continued on.

Fifteen seconds later, I Please see **HIKING**, page 8



CHECK OUT ALL THE

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# PV Financial Group recognized as one of most charitable companies in 2025

REGION – The Boston Business Journal has named Pioneer Valley Financial Group an honoree in its annual 2025 Corporate Citizenship Awards, recognizing the region’s top corporate charitable contributors. This prestigious honor highlights companies that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to giving back through both financial sup-

port and community involvement. As one of Massachusetts’ most charitable companies in 2025, PV Financial Group earned recognition for contributing \$100,000 or more to local nonprofits and charitable causes in 2024. These contributions reflect not just corporate giving, but also the generosity of the company’s charitable foundation and the

hands-on involvement of its employees through volunteerism and in-kind support. The Boston Business Journal annually publishes its Corporate Citizenship list to spotlight organizations that prioritize community impact and exemplify corporate responsibility. PV Financial Group will be celebrated alongside other honorees at the BBJ’s 20th Annual

Corporate Citizenship Awards, to be held on Wednesday, September 10, 2025, from 5:30–8:30 p.m. at Big Night Live, 110 Causeway St., Boston. At the heart of PV Financial Group’s mission is a deep commitment to service and impact: “We believe in helping our clients and community live better. As a team, we

are driven to offer excellent client experience, thoughtful financial plans and caring advice. Our legacy is the people and the lives that we have touched.” For more information on the 2025 Corporate Citizenship Awards, visit <https://www.bizjournals.com/boston/news/2025/07/10/bbj-most-charitable-companies-in-massachusetts.html>.

2025 Top Charitable Contributors Award, created by the Boston Business Journal. Presented in July 2025 based on data gathered for 2024. The award recognizes the most charitable companies in Massachusetts. Not indicative of advisor’s future performance. Your experience may vary.

## The Belchertown Lions Club Halloween Rag Shag Parade returns this Friday

**WHEN:** Friday, October 31, 6:30 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Chestnut Hill Community School

The Belchertown Lions Club is happy to announce that its 72nd annual Rag Shag Parade will assume its traditional format once again this year!

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

At the conclusion of the parade, members of the

Belchertown Lions Club will hand out candy to all in attendance in the candy-filled halls of the CHCS for a fun and safe Halloween experience.

For those new to town, the term “Rag Shag Parade” originated as Ragamuffin Day in New York City, where children would dress in threadbare clothes and go door-to-door on Thanksgiving asking for “a little something”. This evolved into children dressing in costumes for the purpose of the parade-often competing for prizes.

Many thanks to Lion Mike Loftus, the Belchertown Board of Health, and our Police and Fire Departments, who all worked diligently in

the planning of these safety guidelines for this community activity! The Belchertown Lions Club Rag Shag parade began back in 1953---when even a few of our own current members (as very young children) actually partook in the sunset parade around the town commonly led by seven members of the high school band! Festivities were capped off with apple bobbing and candy handouts for the kids and cider donuts for the parents in the Old Town Hall!

The Belchertown Lions Club would like to thank our townspeople for their support in its many fundraisers held throughout the year that make such memorable community endeavors possible.

## Yuletide celebration coming to Belchertown

The holiday season is almost upon us. Are you ready? The Belchertown Historical Association is happy to announce that its annual Yuletide event will be held at the Stone House Museum this Saturday, Nov. 1 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

There will be a wide variety of raffle baskets, baked goods, and old bags that will help you complete your holiday gift list and support your local history museum.

The Trustees hope that many of you who have donated items to our yuletide event in years past will come forward again to support us.

Your generous donations of baked goods or raffle baskets enable us to maintain our beautiful Stone House Museum, an integral part of our town’s history. You can drop off your donations at the museum on Friday, Oct. 31 from 3 to 5 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact [sallyshattuck54@gmail.com](mailto:sallyshattuck54@gmail.com).

## Country Bank welcomes David Gentleman

REGION — Country Bank, a leading full-service financial institution serving Central and Western Massachusetts, is pleased to announce the appointment of David Gentleman as Retail Loan Officer. With nearly 20 years



**David Gentleman**  
Retail Loan Officer

of experience in the lending industry, David brings a wealth of knowledge, dedication, and customer-first values that align perfectly with Country Bank’s mission to make a difference in the communities it serves.

“We are excited to welcome David to the Country Bank team,” said Miriam Siegel, Chief Culture & Development Officer. “His deep experience in lending and his passion for providing exceptional customer service make him a tremendous addition to our retail lending team. David’s relationship-focused approach, strong community ties, and unwavering commitment

to helping people achieve their dream of homeownership align seamlessly with our core values of Integrity, Service, Teamwork, Excellence, and Prosperity.”

Throughout his 18+ years in the financial industry, David has focused on helping customers navigate the often complex process of buying a home. He takes pride in making the experience as smooth and understandable as possible, especially for first-time homebuyers. His approach to lending is built on transparency, education, and trust, qualities that have earned him long-standing relationships and even generational referrals.

David also brings a strong sense of community to his work. He serves on the Board of Directors for North Central Massachusetts Habitat for Humanity and

Please see **COUNTRY BANK**, page 13

## A television premiere for veterans

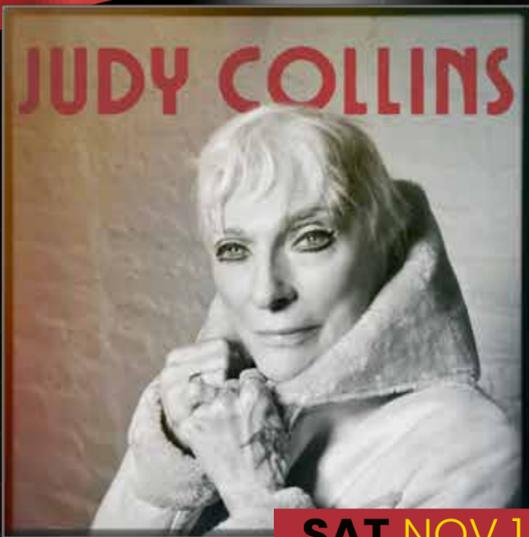
BELCHERTOWN – Belchertown resident Dr. Ed Tick, a national expert on war-trauma healing, has been leading healing journeys back to Vietnam since 2000. The award-winning film on his work, *Healing a Soldier’s Heart*, makes its national public television premiere on Veterans Day weekend,

Nov. 9 at 6 p.m. PT / 9 p.m. ET on PBS.org, the PBS App, the project website, [www.HealingSoldiers.org](http://www.HealingSoldiers.org) and PBS stations. Check local PBS schedules for broadcast times. The documentary tells the story of Ed leading four PTSD-suffering Vietnam Vets who face their moral injuries and find peace. It’s an inspiration-

al account that will resonate deeply with U.S. combat veterans from the Iraq and Afghan wars, as well as with spouses, families and friends. The broadcast will be followed by a live webcast with Dr. Ed Tick, PTSD/moral injury experts, and vets. For more information and local listings go to [www.HealingSoldiers.org](http://www.HealingSoldiers.org).

# LIVE IN SPRINGFIELD

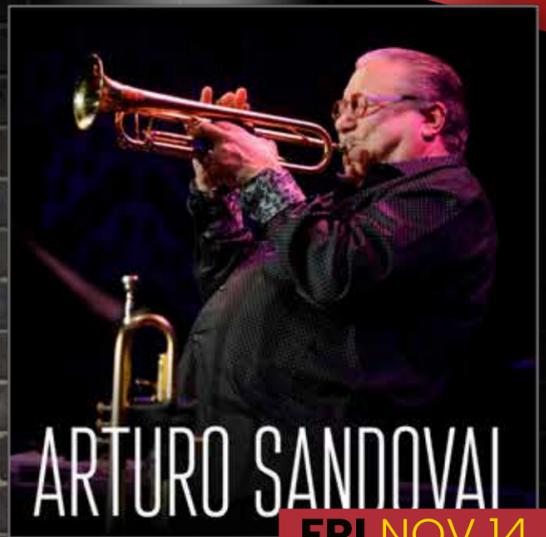
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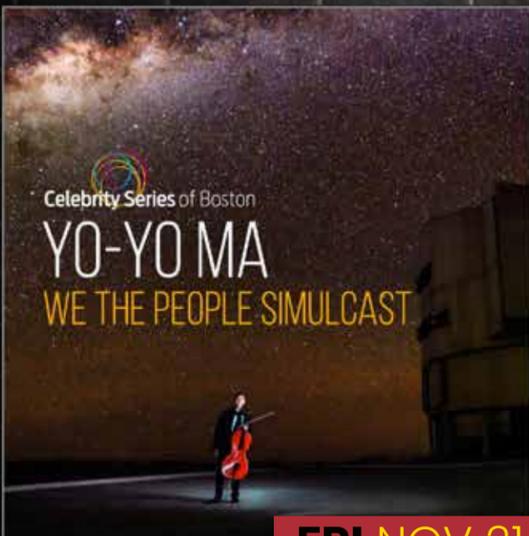
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SAT NOV 8



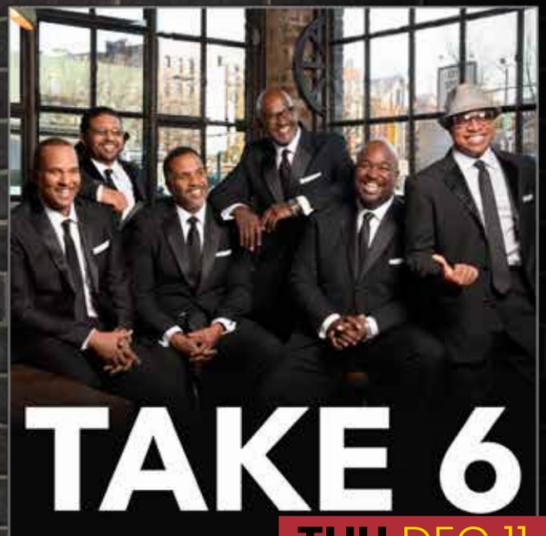
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## BELCHERTOWN

# Community invited to Belchertown drinking water listening session

**BELCHERTOWN** — The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC), in collaboration with the Belchertown Water District and the Town of Belchertown, invites residents, business owners, and community members to a Community Listening Session on Drinking Water on Tuesday, November 5, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Belchertown Town Hall, 2 Jabish Street, Belchertown.

The session will provide an opportunity for the public to learn about Belchertown's water supply, including both the public drinking water system and private wells. Attendees will be able to share concerns, ask questions, and hear updates from Kevin Williams, Superintendent of the Belchertown Water District, and Doug Albertson, Town Planner.

"This listening session is about communication and collaboration," said Patty Gambarini, Chief Environmental Planner at the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. "We want to hear from residents and business owners about their experiences and priorities around drinking water so that local and regional planning can best reflect the needs of the Belchertown community."

Topics will include Belchertown's pub-

lic water system, supply challenges, and private well permitting, as well as pending state legislation, including House Bill H.900, An Act Promoting Drinking Water Quality for All (<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/H900>) and Senate Bill S.585, An Act Protecting Drinking Water Quality in Private Wells. Residents are encouraged to submit questions in advance by emailing Becky Basch at [bbasch@pvpc.org](mailto:bbasch@pvpc.org) with "Belchertown Drinking Water" in the subject line.

Pizza and beverages will be provided. While registration is not required, it will help PVPC plan for food and materials. The first 10 people to register will receive a \$25 gift card. Registration is available online at <https://tinyurl.com/DWBelchertown>.

This work is made possible thanks to a Massachusetts Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Grant to PVPC.

The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission is the regional planning agency serving 43 cities and towns across the Pioneer Valley. PVPC works with communities to support sustainable growth, safe water systems, and informed public engagement throughout Western Massachusetts.

## HIKING from page 6

reached the spot where he had momentarily stopped, and I felt a red-hot sensation on my right arm, followed by another on my left arm. Before I even looked down, I knew that I had just been stung by Yellow Jackets... the most despicable spawn of satan that has ever inhabited this planet.

Tom must have unknowingly stepped on a ground nest, and they were coming out for vengeance as I walked past.

I screamed in agony as a swarm of them descended upon me—stinging my ankles, thighs, and arms. It felt as though someone was shooting red-hot flaming arrows directly into my skin. A sound that was unrecognizable even to my own ears came out from somewhere deep inside of me. A guttural sound. Like a deep moan intermingled with a high-pitched wail. It bordered on primal. Tom turned at the sound—later telling me that he thought the sound was coming from a wounded animal.

I screamed to Tom to "RUUUN!" at a decibel that could be heard from miles away, since Tom is deathly allergic to Yellow Jacket venom. With adrenaline coursing through my body, I raced along the rock-strewn path like an Olympic medalist, waving my arms to ward off the monsters that were attacking me.

When it seemed as though I was no longer being chased, I finally stopped and bent down to swipe off a dozen Yellow Jackets that were still clinging to my merino wool socks. The pain in my ankles was excruciating, and I began screaming and crying all at once.

I unclipped my pack and dropped it to the ground so that I could pull out my first aid kit. Within seconds, more

yellow jackets were upon me. "They smell the pheromones!" Tom yelled. With no thought of his own safety, he flailed his arms to ward them off and screamed, "RUN Julie!"

Leaving my pack behind, I ran like the speed of light until the wasps finally gave up their chase.

A few minutes later, Tom came barreling up the trail with my enormous backpack in hand. His concerned face was filled with desperation when he saw me. I had been stung over 2 dozen times. Tears were rolling down my face. My arms and thighs were already swelling from the venom, and my ankles were so swollen, they were unrecognizable.



Tom insisted I use his EpiPen, since I had a severe reaction to Yellow Jacket venom in the past. I refused. "We still have 4 more days out here. If YOU get stung, it's life or death. If my throat starts to close, you can inject me. If not, we're saving the EpiPen in case you get stung."

Fortunately, we were only a



times call for desperate measures!) Alas, they responded that it was just a fallacy. Tylenol was my only option.

Needless to say, I spent a pretty sleepless night in our tent that night due to the pain. The intense itching would begin the following morning. Oh, the joys!

Our 7-day hike through New York State was definitely the single most challenging backpacking trip we have ever taken. But each trial made us even more grateful for the blessings we encountered along the way. The sunrises and sunsets. The conversations with fellow hikers around a campfire. The enormous trees. The rare flowing stream. Even the bear encounter while we were brushing our teeth at a primitive tent-site on our second night on trail seemed like a gift.

But that's a story for another day. Let the adventures continue!

## MITIGATION from page 1

amounts of precipitation."

Water resource management also emerged as a critical discussion point. A community representative raised concerns about municipal water supply, suggesting that the state is "trying to be proactive on what's coming out of the ground for water."

"You may be aware of this, but the state is in the very, very early stages of evaluating the water source of the plot and reservoir and how surrounding communities can

so maybe, maybe it would be appropriate to have something about that in the plan," said Town Manager Steve Williams.

Another significant discussion point involved private water usage. One participant highlighted that "private wells are not regulated. You can just draw as much water as you want."

The proposed mitigation strategies include comprehensive community outreach efforts, such as providing information about cooling centers during extreme heat,

educating residents about invasive species management and developing conservation awareness programs.

Kaplan emphasized the long-term benefits of such planning, noting that FEMA estimates every dollar spent on preparedness can save \$6 in potential disaster losses.

The plan's next steps involve submitting the document to the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency for review. After potential minor revisions, FEMA will conduct a final review. Once approved, the

Selectboard will formally adopt the plan, making Belchertown eligible for specific hazard mitigation funding opportunities.

Closing the meeting, Ingram thanked participants, saying, "That's our plan, and thank you all very much for coming and everybody partaking in the committee and getting it close to completion."

The plan will remain valid for five years, with ongoing opportunities for refinement and adjustment as new data and environmental conditions emerge.

## WELLNESS from page 1

to help bring the work BOAT is doing to reach more youth, so they are aware of the dangers of this disorder and drug use.

"Being able to offer these types of programs means a great deal to me," said Hoag. "I'm very passionate about the work and initiatives BOAT brings to our community. As a Belchertown native, it's deeply important to me to give back to the community that raised me and made me who I am. Through BOAT, I'm able to help others achieve emotional, mental, and physical well-being."

The Wellness Fair invited other vendors such as WIC, MA Behavioral Health, Hampshire Hope, Tapestry, Pioneer Valley Coalition for Suicide Prevention, and many others who work to raise awareness and provide help to people struggling with mental health, abuse, drug abuse, and trauma in the region.

The event also helps the community to have access to things like Naloxone (Narcan) kits, Detera med-

ication disposal packets, and educational materials that help prevent substance misuse and save lives.

"This event is educational for us as well as for patrons. We will be better able to connect people with these resources because we are in contact with them. Also, the plan is for different organizations to be here each month, so there will be more opportunities for patrons to find the resources they need on an ongoing basis," said Marszalek.

"Together, BOAT and the Clapp Memorial Library are building a stronger, more informed, and more compassionate Belchertown — one where every resident has access to the resources they need to live healthy, connected lives," said Hoag. "The library serves as a central hub of the community so programs like this mean we are able to help community members reach the services they need," said Marszalek.

Stay tuned on the library website for the next Wellness Fairs, and access to this life-saving information will be accessible to all.



## THANKSGIVING REVIEW

"Hi Paul, she was great! Lots of plump meat and just enough fat to help prevent her from drying out. We will be having leftovers for a very long time."  
— Beth from Belchertown

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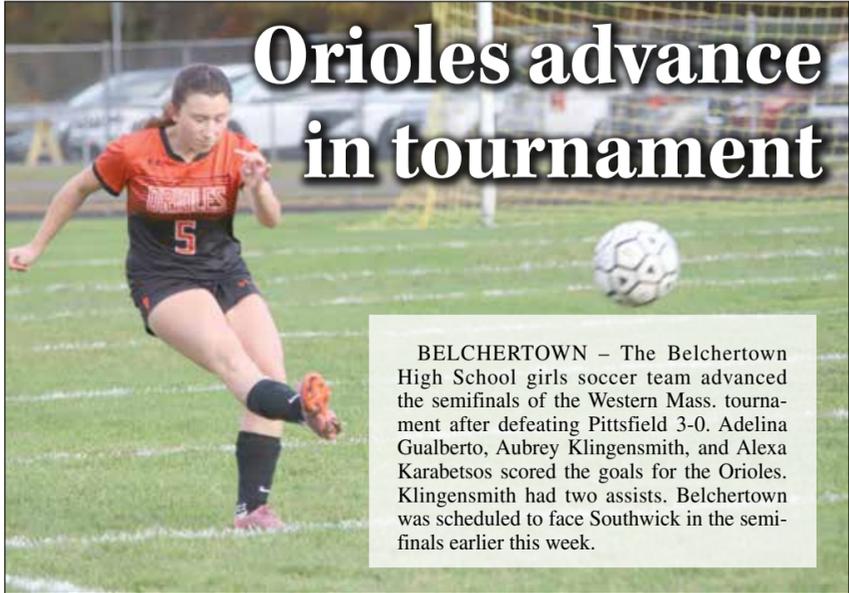
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## Orioles advance in tournament

**BELCHERTOWN** – The Belchertown High School girls soccer team advanced the semifinals of the Western Mass. tournament after defeating Pittsfield 3-0. Adelina Gualberto, Aubrey Klingensmith, and Alexa Karabetsos scored the goals for the Orioles. Klingensmith had two assists. Belchertown was scheduled to face Southwick in the semifinals earlier this week.

Emma Litz takes a free kick.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Lia Pikul is closely pressured.



Adelina Gualberto sends a quick pass away.



Alexa Karabetsos eyes the situation up the field.



Aubrey McCain is pursued by an opponent as she heads for the sideline.



Elanor Mazzaferro sends the ball deep.



Aubrey Klingensmith sends a shot on goal away.

## Weaver achieves 100th coaching win

The game also featured Kalli White's 100th career point

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

**GRANBY**— The Western Mass. quarterfinal matchup last Wednesday will always be a very memorable day for the girls' varsity soccer team at Granby High School.

On that afternoon, the top-seeded Lady Rams defeated the eighth-seeded Smith Academy Falcons, 9-0, in a Western Mass. Class D quarterfinal home match.

Not only was it their 10th win of the season, a couple of elite milestones were also achieved.

During the fifth minute of the opening half, junior Kalli White became the newest member of the 100 point club when she scored the Lady Rams second goal of the match, which was assisted by freshman Marcela Tapia.

"I've been dreaming about this moment ever since I was a little kid," said White following the game. "I always looked at the banners on the gym walls, and I wanted to have my name on them, so it's really special."

White and Tapia, who both scored a pair of goals during the first 40 minutes against the Falcons, have formed a very good combination this season.

"Marcela started the season as a midfielder, but she's now a forward," White said. "I feel like we're bonding very well. It has been amaz-

ing."

White became the third member of Granby girls' soccer team to reach 100 career points.

The other two former Lady Rams soccer players who reached the elite milestone are Summer Molin and Nora Young.

"I used to come watch their soccer games and I always wanted to be just like them," White added. "It's really excited to be following in their footsteps."

The Lady Rams, who are the defending Western Mass. Class D. champions, had a 10-3-4 overall record following their quarterfinal victory. They're also the top ranked team in the MIAA Division 5 state power rankings.

"We've never been number one in the state rankings before," White said. "It feels really good."

White joined the varsity soccer team as an eighth grader, but she didn't score her first varsity goal until the following season.

White began her freshman season by recording a hat-trick in an 8-3 win at Springfield International Charter School. She recorded another hat-trick in a 7-1 home victory against Gateway at the end of that season.

After scoring a total of 14 goals as freshman, White has scored 20 or more goals in each of the past three seasons. She has scored 21 goals in the first 17 games of this season.

White, who saw limited playing time during the second half in the quarterfinal match, has tallied 82 career



Bob Weaver is recognized for winning his 100th game as coach.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY [WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM](http://WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM)



Kalli White takes a shot on goal for her 100th point.

goals and 19 career assists.

"I'm more of a goal scorer and I'm really hoping to reach 100 career goals next year," White said. "When I do try to pass the ball, it doesn't always go where I want it to go, so I don't have very many assists."

After White reached her milestone, Granby head coach Bob Weaver called a time-out and she was congratulated by her teammates.

"The other players on the team were looking for Kalli to score her 100th point," Weaver said. "It takes more



Mylin Laliberte focuses on her dribble as she takes possession.

than one person to score a goal. We were ready to go once the whistle blew."

It was also a memorable day for Weaver, who has been coaching the girls' varsity squad since 2016. He celebrated his 100th career victory.

"It's very special, but I had no clue, none whatsoever," said Weaver following the match. "I thought the banner was for Kalli. It's nice to get my 100th career win on Kalli's day. This is a great

Please see **RAMS**, page 10

**SPORTS**



Jenna McKinney goes after the loose ball.



Megan Clark advances past midfield.

# Pioneers fall at home against Athol

PALMER – In its final game of the regular season, Pathfinder girls soccer was defeated by Athol High School. Athol took advantage of a depleted Pathfinder team that did not have a lot of depth on the bench. Athol would finish the game with a 5-0 win as Pathfinder fell to 4-9-2.



Angelina Miller wins the race to the ball.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Amber Roman chases down a ball on defense.



Evelyn Wood makes her way up the field.



Hannah Mellor winds up to clear the ball away.

COLLEGE:

# Plymouth State spoils WSU's homecoming

WESTFIELD – Plymouth State improves to 6-1 overall and 5-1 in the MASCAC. Westfield is now 2-5 and 2-4 in the conference. Westfield led 28-21 after a 10-yard TD run from Curtis Dion with 7:54 left in the third quarter. Plymouth marched 65 yards on eight plays on the ensuing drive, capping the series with an 8-yard off tackle TD run from Reece Davis to tie the game at 28-all after Seamus Ross' extra point.



who caught the ball at the Plymouth State QB Braden Lynn ran for two touchdowns and threw for one to offset a three touch-down-pass performance from Westfield's Miles Foerster, as the Panthers outlasted the Owls, 42-35 to spoil Westfield's homecoming on Saturday at Alumni Field. Currier's extra point with 6:03 left in the game.

Plymouth State improves to 6-1 overall and 5-1 in the MASCAC. Westfield is now 2-5 and 2-4 in the conference.

Westfield led 28-21 after a 10-yard TD run from Curtis Dion with 7:54 left in the third quarter.

Plymouth marched 65 yards on eight plays on the ensuing drive, capping the series with an 8-yard off tackle TD run from Reece Davis to tie the game at 28-all after Seamus Ross' extra point.

The Panthers caught a break on the next series, as the Owls fumbled and TJ Taveras recovered the ball at the Westfield 21-yard line, setting up a short field. Four plays later Lynn scrambled six yards on a bootleg to the left for the TD and a 35-28 Panthers lead.

Westfield was forced to punt after a third-down sack, and Plymouth again put together a long drive this time 82 yards in 10 plays, this one capped by a 9-yard TD scramble from Lynn for a 42-28 lead with 7:48 left in the game.

Westfield wasn't done, and after a 24-yard Brandon Paquette kickoff return set the Owls drive up at their own 40-yard line. Two plays later Foerster rolled left, then threw all the way back across the field to Aidan Patterson,

who caught the ball at the 34-yard line and scampered through traffic, all the way from the right side of the field back to the left, where Foerster, hustling on the play, threw the final block for Patterson to skip into the end-zone untouched for a 66-yard completion and trimmed the lead to 42-35 after Andrew Currier's extra point with 6:03 left in the game.

But Plymouth was able to grind out the final six minutes of the game with a methodical 11-play, 62-yard drive with 10 straight running plays before the final kneel down. Foerster finished 8-11 passing for 163 yards with three TD's. Patterson ran for 58 yards, and caught two passes for 71 yards. Westfield's Casey Tang caught four passes for 77 yards including a pair of touchdown catches.

Andrew Lovell and Josh Marino led the Owls defense with 13 tackles each, and Marino added an interception with a 10 yard return.

For Plymouth, Lynn completed 10 of 16 throws for 144 yards with one touchdown and one interception. The Panthers rushed for 238 yards as a team, led by 129 yards from Reece David and 87 from Gregory Walker. Mitchell Cripps caught two passes for 84 yards. Taveras and Hunter Burke each made nine stops for the Panthers.

Westfield will be back in action at home next Saturday, hosting Nass Maritime at noon, which will also be the Owls senior day game before they close the year with two straight games on the road.

**RAMS** from page 9

group of soccer players to be around. I love coming to practice every day. The core of the team will be returning next year."

Weaver is aided by assistant coaches Miguel Tapia and Ken Mick.

One of the Lady Rams captains is senior Ava-Elizabeth Loughman, who's recovering from an ACL injury. Even though she hasn't played this season, Loughman has helped keep stats.

"I've been a member of the varsity soccer team since I was in the eighth grader," Loughman said. "Watching Kalli reach her 100 career points and coach Weaver win his 100th career game today was very special. We're a very close team this year."



Kalli White's 100th career point is celebrated.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

K.C. Curran and Mylin Laliberte are also seniors listed on the Granby varsity roster.

The Lady Rams' other

four first half goals were scored by junior McKenna Zumbruski, eighth grader Bri-Anne Kraus, eighth grader Sophia Marsh, and

freshman Kara White, who's Kalli's younger sister.

"This is my first year that I've played on the same soccer team with my older sis-



McKenna Zumbruski clears the ball up the field.

ter," Kara White said. "It's very special to score a goal on her special day. I normally play defense, so I'm not sure if I'll get as many points as she has"

The Lady Rams only goal of the second half was scored by Sophia Wright, which was her first career varsity goal.

Granby junior goalie Meredith Bartosz only made two saves before being replaced by sophomore Sophia Labonte in the middle of the second half. It was the Lady Rams fifth shutout of the season.

The Lady Rams were scheduled to face fifth-seeded Palmer in the Class D semifinals on Sunday. The winner of that contest will be facing second-seeded Hopkins Academy in the championship match.



Bri-Anne Kraus sends a pass away.

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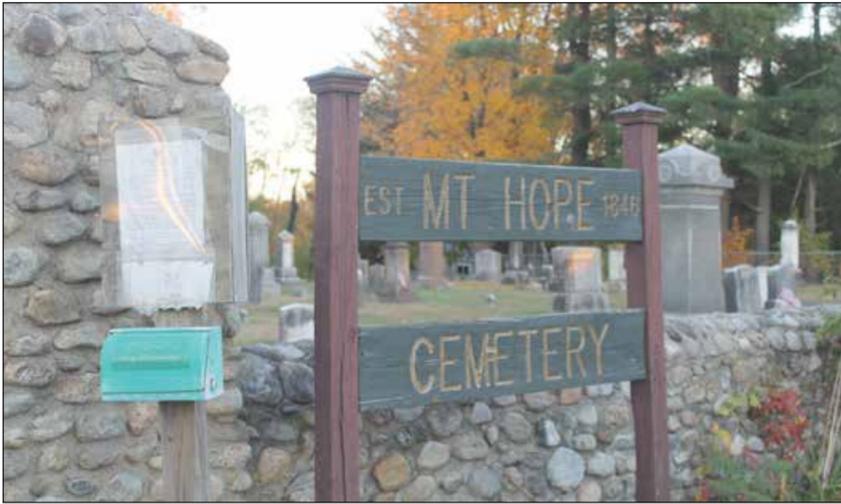
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The sign proclaiming the entrance to Mount Hope Cemetery.



Reenactor Dennis Picard shares tales of old in the waiting room where people can enjoy snacks while waiting for their tour to start.



Myron Walker, portrayed by Robert Shattuck being the 14 year-old drummer boy and his father Job Shattuck being Walker's adult state senator self.



The 'Spirit' of Eliza Bridgeman, sits at the Widow's Bench and waits for people to pass so she can plead for them to bring her and her husband's body home.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY ABIGAIL MCCOY



Harrison Dwight, portrayed by Brian Mash.



Gaston Plantiff, portrayed by Tom Shattuck.

**SPIRITS** from page 1

history. Eliza Dwight Root, portrayed by Amy Lanham, spoke movingly of losing her husband and infant son to scarlet fever in the 1840s, then later raising her sister's orphaned children alone.

Visitors also met Nathaniel Dwight (portrayed by Aaron Jensen) and his son Harrison Dwight (Brian Mash), whose industriousness as a gunsmith and lumber mill owner helped define Belchertown's early economy. Their stories highlighted the once-thriving village of Dwight, a section of town that flourished before the Industrial Revolution and the arrival of the railroad.

Another memorable account came from Susan Shaw Bridgeman, who told the harrowing tale of Angelina Palmer, a seven-year-old servant nearly sold into slavery in Georgia in the 1840s. "She was born free and she died free," Bridgeman said, emphasizing the bravery of townspeople who helped the girl escape and return safely to Amherst.

The tour also showcased Belchertown natives whose lives reached far beyond the town's borders. Eliza Bridgeman, a missionary to China, spoke about founding the first Christian school for girls in Shanghai alongside her husband Elijah, who translated the Bible into Mandarin. Both were buried overseas and, as her "spirit" lamented, "We want to come home to Belchertown and be buried with our family."

Closer to home, innovation and industry took center stage through Gaston Plantiff, brought to life by Tom Shattuck. A native son who became the first salesman hired by Henry Ford, Plantiff's friendship with the automaker led to a generous donation that funded the Ford Annex at the Stone House Museum, preserving Belchertown's historic carriages.

Other portrayals paid tribute to Myron Walker, a

14-year-old drummer-boy who served in the Civil War and later became a state senator. His part was shared by Robert Shattuck, who played his 14-year-old self and Job Shattuck, Robert's father, played Myron's adult self; they dramatized Walker's famed 10th Regiment reunion that drew thousands to the town common.

Tertius Cowles, played by Owen Shattuck, represented Belchertown's proud tradition of craftsmanship as co-founder of the T&SD Coles Carriage Company, while Mark Doolittle, portrayed by Mike Marchewka, spoke of his work as an attorney, author, and historian.

Timothy Kentfield was also featured, representing the town's strong musical heritage. At 14, he persuaded his father to buy a violin for 40 bushels of oats, with strings made from silk by his mother. Kentfield played this violin his entire life, traveling to Boston for lessons and forming a popular band known for playing at concerts and dances.

Adding a haunting elegance to the night were the apparitions played by Camryn Scoon, her sister Emma, and Elizabeth, who appeared as spectral brides; white-veiled apparitions symbolizing love and loss through the centuries.

Guided tours were led by Tom Stockton, Marnie Henneman, and Sally Shattuck, who wove historical context between performances and highlighted the enduring efforts of the Historical Association to keep Belchertown's past alive.

For attendees, the evening was more than a walk through the past, it was a vivid reminder of the people who shaped the community's spirit. Beneath the glow of lanterns and the hush of autumn leaves, actors and guests alike brought history to life among the

tombstones.

Donations from the event support the restoration of the Washington District Schoolhouse, an ongoing Historical Association project.

Looking ahead, Shattuck noted that the Association will also host Victorian Candlelight Tours at the Stone House Museum during the holiday season. "New England didn't really celebrate Christmas until Queen Victoria's time," she said. "We're excited to bring that Victorian charm to Belchertown this winter."



Eliza Dwight Root, played by Amy Lanham.



Nathaniel Dwight, played by Aaron Jensen.



Spectral apparitions, played by Sally Shattuck's interns, roamed the cemetery to give the idea of ghosts that are just out of sight.

The grave of Timothy Kenfield and his wife and children.



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**OBITUARY**

**DEATH NOTICE**

**Douglas J. Rogers**  
Died October 16  
Memorial Mass  
Jan. 12, 2026 at 11 a.m.  
St. Francis Assisi,  
Belchertown

*The Sentinel*  
**OBITUARY  
POLICY**

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

**Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

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

**Douglas J. Rogers**

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Douglas J. Rogers, 33, of South Windsor CT. Douglas passed away unexpectedly at his home on October 16, 2025.

Born on November 27, 1991, in Belchertown, Doug attended Belchertown schools and was a graduate of Belchertown High School. From an early age he loved sports and had a never-ending "need for speed". He played baseball, basketball, volleyball, and his favorite sport, soccer. Doug had a strong love for dirt bikes, quads, fast cars, and ultimately, his motorcycle.

Douglas had a deep passion and innate talent for the culinary arts and attended Johnson and Wales University in Rhode Island. He enjoyed showcasing his culinary skills at local restaurants, most notably McCarthy's Pub in Belchertown. He had an infectious laugh, a quick wit, and enjoyed sharing his sense of humor with family and friends.

He was predeceased by his grandfather Charles W. Rogers, grandparents

Richard and Catherine Myra Soares, and his uncle Richard E. Soares. Douglas is survived by his parents, David J. Rogers and his wife, Janice of Belchertown, Karen Miller and her husband, Greg, of South Windsor. He is also survived by his brothers, David C. Rogers and his wife Emily, Daniel J. Rogers and his wife Carley, Matthew McCullough and Benjamin McCullough, his grandmothers, Marion Rogers and Rita Orr, his nephew, Mason, and nieces Liliana and Eliza, along with many loving aunts and uncles.



A memorial mass will be held on January 12 at St Francis of Assisi in Belchertown at 11 am, followed by a celebration of life at McCarthy's Pub in Belchertown.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the Shriners' Children Hospital in Springfield, MA.

Douglas, you will be missed by so many who knew and loved you. Until we meet again, Doug, may God hold you in the palm of his hand and protect you.

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampshire Probate and Family Court  
15 Atwood Drive  
Northampton, MA 01060  
(413)586-8500  
Docket No. HS25P0583EA  
Estate of:  
Margaret A. Moran  
Also known as:  
Margaret Francis Austin Moran  
Date of Death: 06/03/2025  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

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

The Petitioner requests that: **Thomas C. Moran of Belchertown, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/26/2025**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affi-

davit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

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

WITNESS, Hon. Diana S. Velez Harris, First Justice of this Court.

Date: October 22, 2025  
Mark S Ames,  
Register of Probate

**Belchertown Conservation Commission LEGAL NOTICE**

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 meeting on **Monday, November 10, 2025 at 7:00 PM in the Lawrence Memorial Town Hall Auditorium, located at 2 Jabish Street in Belchertown, MA 01007** to review a Request for Determination of Applicability permit application sub-

mitted by Joseph Miller c/o R. Levesque Associates, inc. for the confirmation of wetland resource area delineations at **Lot A West Street (Map 275-19) in Belchertown**. No work is proposed in this application. Anyone interested in this matter should appear at the time and place designated.

10/30/2025

**Belchertown Conservation Commission LEGAL NOTICE**

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 **Monday, November 10, 2025 at 7:00 PM in the Lawrence Memorial Hall Auditorium, located at 2 Jabish Street in Belchertown, MA 01007** to review a Notice of Intent permit application submitted by M & G Land Development c/o J & P Engineering Services for the proposed work to construct a single family home and associated facilities at **Lot F Jensen Street (Assessor's Map 249-27) in Belchertown**. Work is proposed to occur within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands. Anyone interested in this matter should appear at the time and place designated.

10/30/2025



**COUNTRY BANK**

from page 7

the Worcester Children's Chorus, organizations that align with his passion for affordable housing and youth development through music. "Everyone deserves safe and affordable housing, and every child deserves the chance to experience the joy of music," David shared. "Both causes are deeply personal to me, and I'm proud to help make a dif-

ference through these organizations." Country Bank has a remarkable reputation for putting customers and communities first," said David. "That's how I've approached my entire career in lending, and I'm thrilled to be part of a team that shares those same values."

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

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

**Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.**

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

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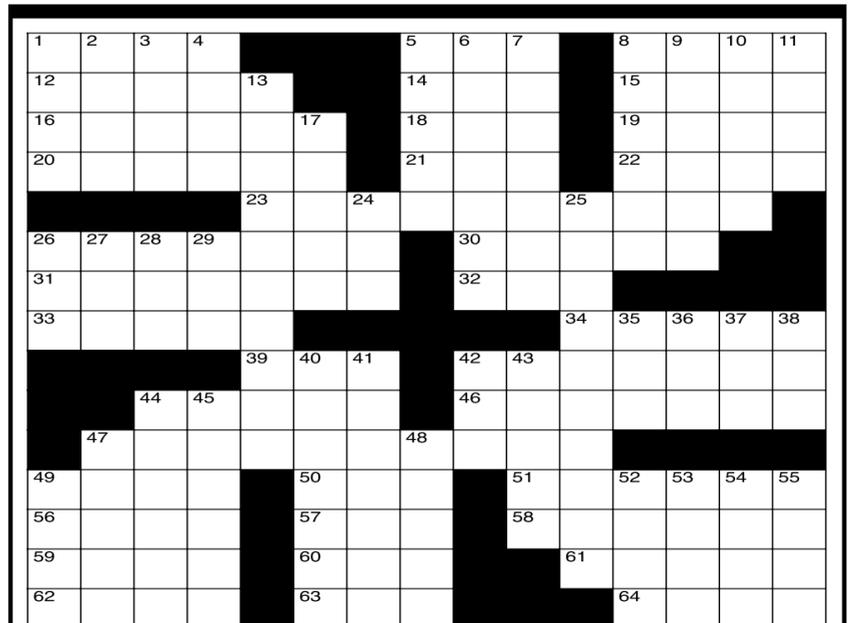


**Contact Us For More Information**

**NEW PHONE NUMBER** **413-544-6600**

**email: [dkimball@topfloorlearning.org](mailto:dkimball@topfloorlearning.org)**

**<https://topfloorlearning.org/>**



**CLUES ACROSS**

1. El \_\_, Texas town
5. Rocker's tool
8. A lot
12. Traveling by ground
14. Spelling competition
15. Two-toed sloth
16. Small perfumed bag
18. "Much \_\_ about nothing"
19. Tough-skinned mollusk
20. Removes from record
21. It warms the planet
22. Leafy green
23. Quality of arriving favorably
26. Living thing
30. "Six of Crows" author Bardugo
31. Got around a rule
32. Resin from burned substance
33. Iraq seaport
34. Religious leaders
39. Fugitives are on it
42. Samson's influencer
44. Italian city
46. A quality of lacking interest
47. Predatory tropical fishes
49. Nobel physician
50. Luck
51. Stationary part of a motor or generator
56. Orthopedic professional group (abbr.)
57. One point south of due east
58. It follows 79
59. Paper currency
60. Anger
61. Spanish seaport
62. Sleep in a rough place
63. Famous museum
64. Selfs

**CLUES DOWN**

1. Bullfighting maneuver
2. From a distance
3. Soul and calypso song
4. Expressions of delight
5. Lower in esteem
6. Inner region of an organ
7. Flowers
8. A bog
9. Remove a fastening
10. Membranes
11. Enormous
13. One who abstains from drink
17. Malayan wild ox
24. Type of student
25. Rejecting all moral principles
26. Sino-Soviet block
27. Egyptian unit of weight
28. Wrong
29. Make a mistake
35. Indicates location
36. Boxing's "GOAT"
37. Where wrestlers compete
38. Timid
40. Disney town
41. Suggesting the horror of death and decay
42. Male parent
43. Remove for good
44. Simple shoes
45. Flowers
47. Hindi courtesy title for a man
48. Not pleased
49. "Atlas Shrugged" author
52. CIA officer and writer
53. Hoodlum
54. \_\_ Von Bismarck, Iron Chancellor
55. Woolen rugs

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