

## Local poet and photographer band together at Clapp library

BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS  
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BELCHERTOWN – The Clapp Memorial Library hosted a poetry reading and photography display featuring rainy puddles and their reflections- perfect on an equally rainy day.

Jim Armenti, a local poet and singer/songwriter joined forces with a dear friend who specialized in photography, Dave Madeloni. “Sun on the Muddy”, the title of their event and show, is meant to represent both artists’ work.

The title of a song and a poem, “Sun on the Muddy” is brilliantly captured by Madeloni’s photography, which specializes in taking photos of objects through the reflection of a body of water and then flipping it around. The photographs are, quite perfectly, an example of sun on the muddy, too!

“Jim was writing poetry like nobody’s business,” Madeloni said of his friend. Armenti wrote upwards of 800 poems during COVID, and would design each

Please see **CLAPP**, page 5



TURLEY PHOTO BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS  
Jim Armenti (left) and Dave Madeloni (right) stand proudly with their book.

## Voices of Resilience

Photo exhibit shines light on opioid crisis

BY NICK BOONSTRA  
Staff Writer  
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BOSTON – State officials and community members gathered in the State House on Tuesday to debut a photography exhibit focused on amplifying the lived experiences of those who have been affected by the ongoing statewide and nationwide opioid crisis.

The exhibit, entitled “Voices of Resilience,” remained on display on the fourth floor of the capitol building through Jan. 12, where it was visible to legislators and visitors alike, and included Ware as one of the Massachusetts communities on which the project focused.

The exhibit marked the culmination of work done through the National Institutes of Health HEALing Communities Study, part of the larger NIH HEAL Initiative, commissioned in 2019. According to the HEALing Communities website, Massachusetts ranked among the top 10 states with the highest rates of opioid over-



TURLEY PHOTO BY NICK BOONSTRA  
Ware resident Randy Gratton spoke at the State House during the “Voices of Resilience” exhibition.

dose deaths in a 2017 National Institute on Drug Abuse report.

Researchers with the study went into communities in four states to connect individuals with helpful resources and with each other, and to learn from participants what additional resources were still needed locally to aid those seeking recovery.

Alyssa Curran, a clinician with the Hampshire County Sheriff’s Office and the study’s Community Coordinator for Ware and Belchertown, explained that the images used for the exhibit were chosen and presented through a method known as photovoice, in which

Please see **VOICES**, page 7

## Railroad enthusiasm celebrated in ‘Rare Mileage’

BY RICHARD MURPHY  
Correspondent

PALMER – The Amherst Railway Society does not meet in Amherst but in Palmer. For that matter, neither does it meet in a railway station.

The clubhouse started out as a church in the Quabbin, but was moved before the reservoir flooding.

No matter what the venue looks like from the outside, or the location of the meetings at 1130 South Main St., it is all about the lore and history of trains. It is fitting that it should be in Palmer, as Palmer is referred to as the “Town of Seven Railroads.”

What was the railroad station still exists, but like stations in many towns, has been repurposed. Its current existence is as the Steaming Tender Restaurant. The building is wonderfully restored, and the railroad theme is pervasive, but alas, it is not a clubhouse.

No matter, the South Main building serves the purpose as the club members are putting more and more model trains inside. Still, there is more than enough room for presentations and that was the purpose of the meeting held on Jan. 10.

Dave Brown, President of the Massachusetts Bay Railroad

Please see **RAILROAD**, page 9



TURLEY PHOTO BY RICHARD MURPHY  
Model Train Village at the Amherst Railway Society Clubhouse.



## Seussical/ the Musical

TURLEY PHOTO BY RYAN DRAGO  
The entire cast of Seussical gets a standing ovation for their performance of a musical based off the works of Dr. Seuss.

Experience the world of Seuss in stage performance

BY RYAN DRAGO  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

AMHERST – Amherst Community Theater’s performance of “Seussical the Musical” brings you back to familiar worlds of wonder and imagination.

Performing at the Bowker Auditorium at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst,

“Seussical” featured 60 talented cast members and dozens of helpers behind the scenes. In addition, an orchestra provided the musical numbers for both acts of the play, led by Conductor, Richard Sargent.

“Seussical” brings audiences into the imaginary world of Dr. Seuss as some of those familiar characters make an appearance throughout the story. Narrating the story was the infamous Cat in the Hat, portrayed by Bob Gustafson. Other characters featured were Horton the Elephant, Sour Kangaroo, Gertrude McFuzz, the Wickershams, Mr. Mayor of Whoville, Jojo, The Grinch and

many more.

Director of the Production, Kimberly Overtree Karlin truly believes the cast and crew poured their hearts into the production of “Seussical”.

“We invite you to take a moment to consider the magic that happens when we dare to see things from a different point of view,” said Karlin. “Watch as Dr. Seuss’ timeless characters remind us that, just like the colors of a Truffula tree, our individual perspectives paint a vibrant tapestry that makes our community truly unique.”

Please see **SEUSS**, page 5



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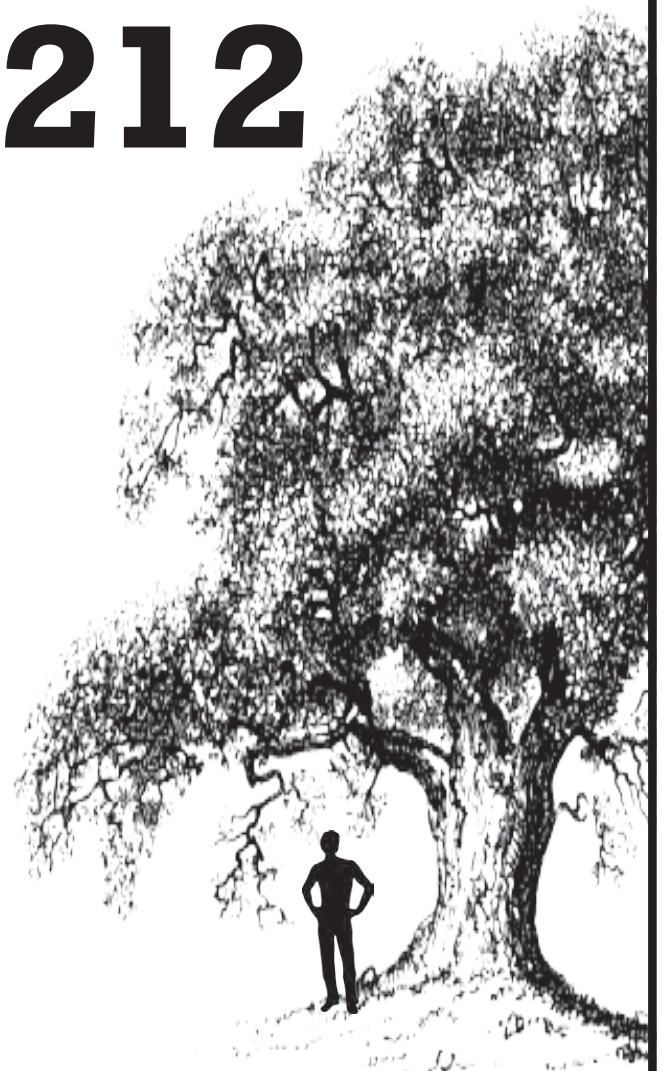
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**COMMUNITY**

**Belchertown Community TV Schedule Highlight**

- Thursday, Jan. 16**
- 8 a.m. – Select Board – Jan. 16 meeting
- 10 a.m. – School Committee – Jan. 16 meeting
- Noon – Communications Committee – Jan. 11 meeting
- 7 p.m. – Select Board – Jan. 16 meeting
- 9 p.m. – School Committee – Jan. 16 meeting
- Friday, Jan. 19**
- 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 5 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 6 p.m. – Communications Committee – Jan. 11 meeting
- 8 p.m. – BEDIC – Jan. 17 meeting
- 10 p.m. – ZBA – Jan. 17 meeting
- Saturday, Jan. 20**
- 8 a.m. – Clapp Hospice – What is it?
- 9 a.m. – Clapp Hospice – Dealing with Grief
- 7 p.m. – Clapp Hospice – What is it?
- 8 p.m. – Clapp Hospice – Dealing with Grief
- Sunday, Jan. 21**
- 4:30 p.m. – St. Francis Roman Catholic Church
- 6 p.m. – Christ Community Church
- 7 p.m. – Hope United Methodist Church
- Monday, Jan. 22**
- 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 5 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- Tuesday, Jan. 23**
- 8 a.m. Clapp Hospice – What is it?
- 9 a.m. Clapp Hospice – Dealing with Grief
- 5 p.m. Clapp Hospice – What is it?
- 6 p.m. Clapp Hospice – Dealing with Grief
- Wednesday, Jan. 24**
- 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 5 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman

**Belchertown Fire announces open burning season**

BELCHERTOWN – Open air burning season for residential tree trimming begins Jan. 15 and ends May 1. Residents can register at the Fire Department, 10 North Main St., from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. and on Saturdays, starting Jan. 20 from 9 a.m.-noon. There is a one time, \$20 fee to register for this season. Please pay with exact cash or a check payable to “Town of Belchertown.” The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection will only allow activation of burning permits for one day at a time, based on weather conditions. Renewal requests left on the answering machine are invalid. For more information, please contact the Fire Department by calling 413-323-7571 with any questions. Please note that the Belchertown Fire Department has full authority to revoke permits that are not used in accordance with Massachusetts General Law as well as authority to refuse burning on any given day based on weather conditions.

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

**Select Board seeks artwork and/or photos for town report**

BELCHERTOWN – The Select Board is seeking artwork and/or photographs by town residents to be considered for the cover of the 2023 Annual Town Report. Artwork or photographs relating to Belchertown must be vertical, and preferably no smaller than 5 inches x 7 inches, and suitable for reproduction. Please include your name, address and telephone number on the back of the photo or submit them online at [www.belchertown.org](http://www.belchertown.org). Once submitted, the artwork or photograph becomes the property of the Town of Belchertown. Submissions for consideration should be forwarded to the Select Board’s Office, The Finnerty House, One South Main Street, P.O. Box 670, Belchertown, MA 01007 or uploaded at [www.belchertown.org](http://www.belchertown.org) no later than noon on Friday, Feb. 9.

**Program on construction of Winsor Dam is Jan. 21**

BELCHERTOWN – The Department of Conservation and Recreation’s Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center will offer a free indoor/virtual program about the construction of the Winsor Dam on Sunday, Jan. 21 from 2-3 p.m. Join staff from the DCR Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center to learn more about how the Winsor Dam and the Goodnough Dike were constructed and how they formed the Reservoir. Quabbin Reservoir is so noted for its natural beauty and pure water that we often forget that it is a constructed landscape created by the Winsor Dam and Goodnough Dike. Space is limited and registration is required. In-person seating will be limited to 45 people. All ages are welcome. To register for any of these events, visit [www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events](http://www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events). The presentation will be offered in-person and via Zoom. To register, follow the link in each program description and choose to attend in-person or to receive the Zoom link.

**Rabies and microchip clinic offered Jan. 20**

BELCHERTOWN – A rabies and microchip clinic, hosted by Belchertown Animal Control and Westbrook Veterinary Hospital, will be held on Saturday, Jan. 20 from 1-3 p.m. at the shelter, 165 George Hannum St. No pre-registration is required. Dogs must be on leash and cats in carriers. Rabies vaccines are required per Massachusetts General Laws; all dogs, cats and ferrets must be current with rabies vaccine. Rabies vaccines are \$15 and registered microchips are \$25. Please bring proof of prior years’ rabies vaccine.

**Explore ‘Secrets Beneath the Trees’ on Jan. 28**

BELCHERTOWN – The Department of Conservation and Recreation’s Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center will offer a free indoor/virtual program on the “Secrets Beneath the Trees” on Sunday, Jan. 28 from 2-3 p.m. Join Dr. Becky Seifried, Geospatial Information Librarian at UMass Amherst to learn how we can use Lidar (Light Detection and Ranging) to map the traces of historical settlements, like stone walls and road cuts - and you’ll discover just how much built heritage is hidden beneath the forests of Quabbin. Lidar is a technology that lets researchers peek beneath the tree

**Incredible Clovers 4-H Club meetings begin Jan. 25**

BELCHERTOWN – The Incredible Clovers 4-H Club is presently reorganizing to begin Club meetings for 2024 with the first meeting scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 25 from 3:15-5:15 p.m. at Cold Spring School. The 4-H club has been a long standing club, which was halted in its tracks (as many other activities were) by COVID. If you are presently a registered 4-H member the club would love to have you stop by and say “hi” or if you are thinking of joining, and you would like to check out the focus then also please stop by. The club has focused on a variety of activities from Seasonal Arts and Crafts (first meeting will have a Valentine focus) to Community Focus Activities, to 4-H Planned Activities as well as other events planned with attention paid to State and Federal Guidelines. The club will have scheduled meetings on every other Thursday afternoon (with an obvious “club skip” when school is closed for vacations. The club is open to individuals in kindergarten (5 years old) to those 18 years of age. For more information, people may contact the 4-H Office, UMass Extension Youth Development Program by calling 413-230-4538 or email [ireland-weeze3@yahoo.com](mailto:ireland-weeze3@yahoo.com).

Please see **SECRETS**, page 8

**TRANSFER STATION PERMIT STICKERS**

**Annual Transfer Station Permit Stickers**  
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**\*Purchase of a sticker must be accompanied by a valid vehicle registration, current driver’s license or proof of residency.**

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**DUE TO A DPW CLERICAL ERROR, THE MAIL IN “BOTTOM PORTION” OF THE FLYER INSERTED IN THE TREASURER/COLLECTORS QUARTERLY PROPERTY TAX BILL IS INCORRECT AS IT REFLECTS LAST YEARS STICKER FEES.**

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# Public overwhelms YWCA with donations for DV survivors

SPRINGFIELD – In a typical year, Greater Springfield residents bring toys, books, puzzles, games, and new clothing for children as well as clothes and personal care items for adults who are residents of one of the YWCA’s four residential and twenty community-based programs prior to and up to the Christmas holiday.

This past year the YWCA of Western Massachusetts experienced an unprecedented wave of donations up to and beyond Christmas and New Year’s Day. The third floor of the YWCA’s administrative building on Clough Street is filled to the rafters with donations.

The YWCA campus on Clough Street hosts an emergency domestic violence shelter, transitional housing apartments, a teen residential program, as well as programming to support adult and child survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking and stalking.

The YWCA made no formal request for donations during the holiday season, yet thousands of donations were dropped off and continue to stream into the organization. The overwhelming amount of generous donations will be given to survivors throughout the next year.

The vast array of donated items will be put to use in support of survivors, many of whom escape violence with only the clothes on their back, according to Elizabeth Dineen, CEO of the YWCA of Western Massachusetts.

“There’s really no rhyme or reason for this outpouring of donations other than the incredible generosity and goodwill of people who live in our region. Area churches, colleges, clubs, sports teams, women’s organizations, businesses, hospitals, fraternities, sororities, high schools, day care organizations, libraries, book clubs, and extended families are responsible for this remarkable uptick of donations.”

“There are likely many factors influencing the public to support survivors—an awareness of the increase in domestic vio-



Donations also included stuffed animals and blankets.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Executive Director of the YWCA Elizabeth Dineen is shown with some of the unprecedented volume of donations for domestic violence survivors in the care of the organization.

lence and displacement of survivors that spiked during and since the pandemic. Additionally, there is an increased awareness that human trafficking exists in our region and survivors of human trafficking deal with its traumatic aftermath for years after they escape their trafficker. The more information that the public has about these types of abuse, the more people want to help.”

“I am so grateful for the outpouring of support from our community and want to thank every individual, organization and group who made donations. Those who we serve deeply appreciate the community’s generosity, kindness, and support more than words can adequately express. The YWCA is so grateful for the ongoing support from this amazing community



in which we do this vital work every day,” she said. Headquartered in Springfield, the YWCA also provides services and offers programming to children and women in crisis in Northampton, Westfield, Belchertown and Holyoke.

LEFT: Books, board games and more were donated to the YWCA.

**and Beyond!**

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Ware Business & Civic Association

Aerial pictures provided by Above the Law Imagery

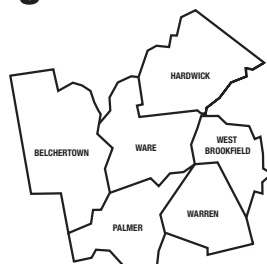
**Ware Business & Civic Association now includes the communities of Palmer, Belchertown, West Brookfield, Warren and Hardwick. Businesses and organizations from those towns are welcome to join!**



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## Join Our Small-Town Business Development Adventure!

Are you a small business owner looking to boost your community presence and connect with fellow entrepreneurs? Look no further! Welcome to the heart of our towns' growth and success - the Ware Business & Civic Association...and Beyond!

### ► Our Mission

We're not just any organization – we're a community catalyst! Our mission is clear: foster camaraderie among local businesses, creating a vibrant hub that transforms our town into a must-visit destination for all. We're here to ignite connections, inspire growth, and spark innovation.

### ► Why Join Us?

Referrals are just the beginning! As a member, you'll enjoy the spotlight on your business within our close-knit community. Think of us as your business's ultimate cheerleaders, making sure your unique offerings shine bright.

### ► A Legacy of Achievement

Since 2011, our organization has been making waves. We're not just about meetings – we're about momentum. From securing endorsements for local businesses to orchestrating events that turn visitors into regulars, we've been shaping our towns' destiny, one success story at a time.

### ► Events that Sparkle

Who says business can't be fun? Picture this: quarterly membership nights that blend networking with laughter. We're all about community, after all – and a little friendly competition in the bowling alley or at the axe throwing yard never hurt anyone.

### ► Network that Expands

With a sprawling member base, joining us means getting in on the action. Your business won't just get noticed; it'll become a star in our constellation of local talent.

### ► An Investment in Success

For just \$120 per year, you're securing your spot in our thriving business ecosystem. That's less than your monthly coffee run – and the rewards are far more energizing.

### ► Seamless Entry

No hoops to jump through here! Say goodbye to complicated application processes. Joining us is as simple as a few clicks – just hop online and start transforming your business journey.

### ► Embrace Uniqueness

We're not your typical chamber. We're a creative canvas, welcoming fresh ideas and perspectives. No rigid rules, just endless opportunities to make a mark.







TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO

Familiar characters from Dr. Seuss books made an appearance during the musical, including Horton the elephant from "Horton Hears A Who."

**SEUSS** from page 1

During the show, Amherst Community Theater added a whole new experience to "Seussical the Musical", by including audience participation to make the jubilant journey of Seussical even more special. The audience got to be a part of the play and look at the world of Dr. Seuss in a myriad of ways.

A special thanks was given to the faithful volunteers who have helped with every aspect of the production of "Seussical". For set construction and painting, the scenic artist was Hugh Hall and master carpenter was David Mullins.

The stage featured those familiar, colorful illustrations you would always catch inside a Dr. Seuss book.



"Seussical the Musical" highlighted the works of Dr. Seuss as the familiar illustrations were put on stage during the performance at the Bowker Auditorium at UMass Amherst.

It truly was the world of Seuss coming to life on stage.

"Seussical" was written by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty, based on the many children's stories of Dr. Seuss, with most of its plot being based on "Horton Hears a Who!",

"Gertrude McFuzz", and "Horton Hatches the Egg" while incorporating many other stories.

Flaherty wrote the music; Ahrens wrote the lyrics. The musical was co-conceived by Flaherty, Ahrens and Eric Idle.

Alongside Director Karlin, Cindy Naughton served as Musical Director, Sue Dresser was the choreographer, Richard Sargent as Conductor and Samuel Karlin as producer.

"Seussical" will be performed at the Bowker Auditorium in Stockbridge Hall on the UMass campus until Sunday, Jan. 21. Tickets are available at amherstacts.org.

Experience the world of Dr. Seuss by seeing "Seussical: The Musical".

**CLAPP** from page 1

one off of a piece of art.

"I've been writing songs and making records for years," Armenti said. "All you need is an idea, and then you need words."

Armenti has been a part of bands and making music for most of his life, and he discovered a love of poetry through that.

Madeloni has always loved photography and finding special things in the world around him- even in puddles. "I would describe my photos as journalistic," Madeloni said. "Any time I saw puddles or water, I would take pictures."

The presentation featured many poems being read by Armenti, accompanied by "musical montage" videos featuring Madeloni's photographs and Armenti's music.

Armenti read several poems from his book including "Car Trip", "Small Teddy", "Raisins and Rice", "Record", "Bugs", "Olives", "Purple Heart", and "Hearing Aids".



TURLEY PHOTO BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

Jim Armenti sings about libraries as Dave Madeloni's photos scroll along for a musical montage.

The location of the event was very fitting, as the pair are on a library tour, and want to read their poetry and share photographs together in every public library across the country. To celebrate this, Armenti sang four songs at the end, each inspired by libraries and the joy they can bring.



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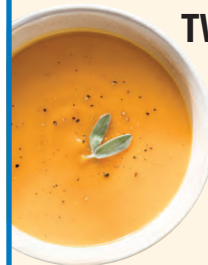
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**OPINION**



**Dreaming of roses, blueberries bushes and more? Get those orders in!**

For me at least, a much needed break from the garden has given way to the return of other hobbies this winter.

Quilting for one. I've enjoyed working on a Christmas tree quilt and have plans to start a pumpkin quilt.

I guess when I can't garden, I take horticulture any way I can get it – even in cloth! Quilting is fun in that you can exercise your love of color by playing with different combinations.

I like to see what looks good together and stand back and admire. It seems very similar to the admiration of a thoughtfully planned out flower garden. Well, you didn't start reading to learn about my sewing fancy, so let's get to some garden talk.

Do you dream of expanding your mini orchard or berry patch? Maybe you have a particular rose you are interested in.

If you desire to shop by mail, place your orders early (yes, now) for home delivery in April and early May.

I will start my dreaming with the Nourse Farms catalog ([www.noursefarms.com](http://www.noursefarms.com) or 413-665-2658). Located not far away in South Deerfield, this company specializes in producing high quality berry plants (and asparagus roots plus).

It would be great to extend my blueberry picking season over a month or more, just like my parents did with their patch. I will plan to order early, mid at late season varieties to accomplish this.

Last year, Nourse switched from selling bareroot blueberry plants to selling them in one liter pots. According to the listing, plants are cut back to just over a foot. They will increase in top growth the first year.

They have found that selling potted plants eases transplant shock and reduces the chance of the roots drying out in shipment. Sounds great to me!

Take care to amend the soil to the proper pH and site the plants accordingly and you could enjoy blueberries for decades. My parents' bushes are still bearing some 70 years later.

Maybe you are in the market for apple trees this year. For well-rooted, hardy Maine grown plants, shop the Fedco Trees Catalog ([www.fedcoseeds.com](http://www.fedcoseeds.com)). Fedco Trees offers a great selection of heirloom apple trees, scionwood and rootstocks for home grafting, pears, plums and grapes among other types of nursery stock and ornamentals.

For heirloom apple enthusiasts or those interested in planting a cider orchard, this is an amazing resource. The final order deadline for trees is March 1.

The catalog changes a bit every year, so be sure to check back or reach out to them if you are looking for a specific variety and you don't see it listed in print.

It's been a few years since I've found a reputable mail-order nursery for heirloom roses. Recently, I stumbled upon High Country Roses ([www.highcountryroses.com](http://www.highcountryroses.com)), and I'm impressed with the variety of roses they carry, many of which I am familiar with from working at Old Sturbridge Village: Rosa gallica officialis and versicolor, Harison's Yellow, Rosa eglanteria and more.

If heirlooms aren't your thing, check out the number of ARS (American Rose Selections) winners for proven success. All of the roses they sell are grown on their own roots by vegetative propagation and are not grafted.

Some arguments in favor of own root roses include better hardiness, increased blooms, vigor and longevity. With over 600 varieties to choose from there is something for new and seasoned rose enthusiasts alike, and a lot of useful information for growers on their website.

Yes, it is the middle of winter and all should be quiet on the gardening front, but it is also a great time to get your orders in to your favorite mail order catalogs. Shop early for the best selection!

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

**How the Iowa caucus works...**



**LETTERS**

**Doctor encourages people to get vaccinated**

**To the Editor:**

This winter has seen a double whammy of COVID and influenza across the United States, with some of the highest rates here in Massachusetts.

About 1,500 Americans are still dying every week from COVID, yet only 19% of adults in the U.S., and 8% of children are vaccinated with the new COVID booster that protects against the XBB variant.

The Centers for Disease Control estimates that at least 14 million Americans have caught the flu this season, and at least 9,400 of them have died from the disease - including 40 children.

Yet many people are not getting their flu

shots. The COVID and flu vaccines may not prevent a person from getting the disease, but dramatically decrease the risk of dying, hospitalization or of suffering from long COVID.

As a community pediatrician, I am seeing children who are getting fevers as high as 105, and lasting over a week from COVID, and kids who are getting very sick from the flu.

Please don't take the chance of being a grim statistic: get your flu shot and the COVID booster, and have your children do the same.

**David Gottsegen, MD**

*Member, Belchertown Board of Health*

**Residents need information on State School project**

**Letter to the Editor,**

Residents have been attending Planning Board, Economic Development and Industrial Corporation meetings and a Select Board meeting regarding the housing development on the State School Property.

Originally, elderly housing/needs and business/light industrial was the plan. A town survey also reinforced the desire for more business.

Things changed somewhere along the way. Some believe these changes should have gone before town meeting?

Most only learned about all of this recently. In a matter of a few hours over 70 signatures were gathered/presented to the Select Board asking for information about this project.

Our elected officials have often said that they would like to see more townspeople get involved. When people such as this do get involved, attend meetings, ask questions/express concerns, we have been told it is up to us to get the information at the town offices and/or join town committees.

To some degree I agree with that. However, one needs to know what's going on first, to then be able to go get information.

Most people on the town boards have been receptive/have thanked us for showing up. But, others seem to be somewhat annoyed.

As a gentle reminder, the people who get elected/appointed, are there to represent the people. I have respect for those who serve and who understand that. I appreciate the time and effort given by those who serve.

I know that there is a lot of work that goes on which we cannot see, and that it might seem like a thankless job/effort at times.

But like many others, we would like to know exactly how this project is going to impact our town relating to police, fire, schools, roads and taxes. These are legitimate/justifiable questions.

We understand that for some boards, it is not their charge/scope to be able to do that. I don't know who can/will satisfactorily answer those questions/concerns, but hoping whoever it is, they will do it.

I doubt that a development company from New York is really going to care very much about how the people of Belchertown feel as much as our own town officials would/should.

**Donna Buxton**

*Belchertown*



**Can someone work while collecting Social Security Disability?**

**Dear Rusty:**

If a person is collecting Social Security disability benefits, can they, at any point, work at all? If they can, what is the maximum they can earn and still keep the disability benefit?

I am asking because my husband is still young, but his injuries will not allow him to go back to the job he had prior to his injuries and surgeries. He does not just want to sit at home doing nothing.

*Signed: Concerned Wife*

**Dear Concerned:**

Actually, the Social Security Administration encourages those collecting Social Security Disability Insurance benefits to attempt to go back to work and they provide considerable leeway for them to do so. The monthly earnings limit for those collecting SSDI benefits in 2024 is \$1,550 and as long as your husband earns less than the limit while working, his SSDI benefits

Please see **SSI**, page 7

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**VOICES** from page 1

study participants share reflections about meaningful photographs. Some of these reflections were printed anonymously on the displayed photographs, adding context and poignancy to them.

One evidence-based practice encouraged at the event was that of carrying Narcan, also known by its generic name naloxone. Narcan is a life-saving medication that can reverse an opioid overdose and can be purchased at many pharmacies without a prescription.

Representative William “Smitty” Pignatelli, of the 3rd Berkshire District, emphasized the importance of carrying Narcan in remarks he gave at the event.

He related the tragic story of a young man who passed away as a result of an opioid overdose while his family and a police officer were present as they waited for an ambulance to arrive with Narcan.

Because of this and similar stories, Pignatelli said that he was supporting a bill that would require all first responders in Massachusetts to carry Narcan. The bill, H. 2008, most recently had a joint hearing in October, according to the Massachusetts General Court’s website.

“You never know who’s going to show up at your front door,” Pignatelli said, emphasizing that this was especially true in rural communities, and demonstrating that EMTs should not be expected to be the only ones with Narcan available.

Department of Public Health Commissioner Robert Goldstein also spoke at the event, sharing the startling news that the 2,359 overdose deaths recorded in 2022 were a record for the Commonwealth.

In addition to further stressing the importance of carrying Narcan, Goldstein laid out the evolution of the opioid crisis in Massachusetts, starting with prescription drugs around 2005, and escalating with the influx of fentanyl, a synthetic opiate, over the last decade.

“The drug supply is poisoned,” he said, referring to the fact that illicit street drugs are now frequently contaminated with substances like fentanyl and xylazine, an animal tranquilizer, unbeknownst to the user.

Dr. Jeffrey Samet, Boston Medical Center physician and



These photos were taken from the community of Ware during the photovoice project.



Community Coordinator Alyssa Curran spoke about the photovoice project held in Massachusetts’ communities.



From left are Department of Public Health Commissioner Robert Goldstein, state Rep. Smitty Pignatelli, Dr. Jeffrey Samet, Randy Gratton and Alyssa Curran.

Principal Investigator for the HEALING Communities Study in Massachusetts, said that the Commonwealth had taken on a leadership role in addressing the national opioid crisis, but that there was still a long way to go.

“The essence of the HEALING Communities Study was to see if we can engage community members to come together in coalition within their communities,” Samet said. Specifically, Samet highlighted how the study empowered participants to make decisions

about the most helpful ways to allocate resources within their own communities.

Randy Gratton, a fourth generation Ware resident, shared how the HEALING Communities Study had helped him in his own recovery, expressing his gratitude to the Study for “giving the little town of Ware the big help it needed.”

Gratton said that community members in recovery had been having similar ideas about what was needed, but that they “didn’t know how to put them together.” As a result of individuals com-

ing together, Gratton said, the Recovery Center of HOPE was opened on Main Street in Ware, and a van was also commissioned that would be able to connect community members without access to transportation to recovery resources.

Gratton closed by sharing the personal story of how one of his mentors in recovery encourages him every year on the anniversary of his sobriety with the words, “Good start.” In the same way, he said that the efforts undertaken as a result of the HEALING



Photos in the “Voices of Resilience” exhibit shared messages from the photographer.



State Representative Smitty Pignatelli spoke in support of a bill that would require all first responders in Massachusetts to carry Narcan.

Communities Study were good, but that they were just a start.

“I would encourage you all to continue to work, and more than anything to continue to care,” he said.

**SSI** from page 6

will not be in jeopardy.

Your husband should contact Social Security’s Ticket to Work program directly to protect his disability status and discuss returning to work while collecting SSDI benefits.

The Ticket to Work program assists those now receiving SSDI benefits who wish to test their ability to return to work without putting their SSDI benefits at risk. The program provides considerable assistance, including new career training opportunities and connection to potential employers and it is voluntary and costs nothing.

Here is a link to Social Security’s information on the Ticket to Work program: <https://choosework.ssa.gov/>

It’s not mandatory for your husband to enroll in the Ticket to Work program but, in addition to other available assistance, he can request a Trial Work Period, which would allow for nine months, over a rolling five year period, during which he can earn any amount even over the normal monthly limit mentioned above without risking his SSDI benefits.

Within the Trial Work Period, only those months he earns over the normal monthly SSDI limit would count as a Trial Work Month. So, for example, your husband could work part time regularly earning under the normal monthly limit and if, in some months (up to nine), he earned more it wouldn’t affect his SSDI benefits.

So, your younger disabled husband can, indeed, work while on Social Security disability, for as long as he wishes while earning under the monthly SSDI limit, the SSDI earnings limit changes yearly. He may also wish to enroll in Social Security’s Ticket to Work program for assistance with developing a new career.

Plus, he can take advantage of using trial work months in the event his work earnings will, at times, exceed the monthly SSDI limit.

If your husband earns over the SSDI limit for more than the nine trial work months and his benefits are consequently stopped, he can within the five-year Trial Work Period

have his benefits reinstated (without again going through the full application process) if his disability, once more, renders him unable to work full time.

For starters, I suggest your husband contact Social Security’s Ticket to Work program directly at 1.833-889-0108 to discuss returning to work part time. Social Security will guide him through the entire process.

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 [ssadviser@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadviser@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

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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 Jan. 3 through Jan. 9. 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. Of the 419 calls police responded to, there were 10 incidents, five accidents, two arrests/summons and 41 citations.*

#### ARRESTS/SUMMONS

##### Friday, Jan. 5

6:27 p.m. – Rachel Marie Robinson, 131 Fairman Road, Orange, was arrested and charged with operating under the influence of alcohol, open container in a motor vehicle, child endangerment while driving under the influence and a marked lanes violation. An officer responded to George Hannum Road for a report of a crash. A vehicle struck a guardrail. The vehicle sustained such heavy damage, the firefighters used the jaws of life to gain entry into the vehicle. Based on the officer's observation, the vehicle was traveling east when it left the roadway, striking a utility pole, going down the shoulder of the road and crashing into the guardrail before coming to its final rest. The officer detected a strong odor of alcohol from the operator, and they had slurred speech. There was an open bottle of alcohol in the vehicle. There was also a child in a booster seat in the vehicle. The person was transported to the police officer. The vehicle was towed from the scene.

7:01 p.m. – David Paul Fellion, 59, 8 Fox Run Drive, Belchertown was arrested on charges of operating under the influence for a third offense and leaving the scene of property damage/accident. The department received multiple calls for a report of single vehicle crash on Bardwell Street. While responding, the officer saw the vehicle crashed into a tree with airbag deployment. The officer was told that the person was seen on the ground and then got up and left. The person stumbled as they walked and was found a couple streets over. The person had glossy eyes and slurred speech. They were placed under arrest. The vehicle was towed from the scene.

##### Saturday, Jan. 6

9:55 a.m. – A 26-year-old Granby male was issued a summons for an uninsured motor vehicle and an unregistered motor vehicle. An officer on Bay Road ran a random motor vehicle query on a vehicle and the results reported the person's insurance was revoked. The person was pulled over. They were issued a summons, and the vehicle was towed.

12:03 p.m. – A 20-year-old North Falmouth male was issued a summons for an uninsured motor vehicle and an unregistered motor vehicle. An officer performed a random plate query on a vehicle. The registration came back as revoked for lack of insurance. The officer stopped the vehicle and identified the operator. The person said they were going to registry on Monday. They were told they needed to always have insurance. The person was issued a summons, and the vehicle was towed from the scene.

4:49 p.m. – A 57-year-old Palmer male was placed into protective custody and subsequently charged with possession of a class A substance. An officer was dispatched to a North Main Street business for a report of an intoxicated person not capable of caring for themselves. They had slurred speech. Upon bringing person to station and doing an inventory, they dumped a piece of trash on floor. It was baggies containing a white powdery substance. They were then booked and processed for possession of a class A substance.

##### Tuesday, Jan. 9

7:59 p.m. – A 42-year-old Manchester, Connecticut female was charged with shoplifting. A male and female were reported stealing produce, frozen meals and meat. The people took several items and fled the scene before the arrival.

#### ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS

##### Wednesday, Jan. 3

9:58 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on South Main Street. A vehicle stopped waiting for an ambulance to pass at an intersection was rear ended by a second vehicle. No injuries were reported and no tow was necessary.

3:46 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Federal Street. A person reported there was damage to their vehicle. Their vehicle was keyed while the person was inside of a business. Photos of the damage were taken. The officer spoke with owners from the surrounding businesses to get camera footage. The matter is under investigation.

9:47 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Ware Road. A vehicle traveling west on Ware Road struck a deer. It was unknown what happened to the deer. There were no injuries to the driver and no tow was necessary.

##### Thursday, Jan. 4

1:39 p.m. – An officer responded to assist Belchertown fire and paramedics.

10:44 p.m. – An officer spoke with person about a mental health emergency.

##### Friday, Jan. 5

2:19 p.m. – An officer was informed of a threatening social media post that was flagged. It was investigated by the FBI and came back to someone from Belchertown. The person said they posted something stupid on a private Snapchat message. No imminent threat was found.

##### Saturday, Jan. 6

9:37 a.m. – An officer responded with the fire department medical for a call directly to fire station. The person was locked in their home and was lying on the floor. The fire department needed to force the doors open to gain entry.

##### Sunday, Jan. 7

1:50 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Ware Road. A vehicle traveling west on Ware Road and was allegedly swerving. A second vehicle traveling eastbound attempted to move out of the way of the first to prevent an accident. The first vehicle struck the second on rear driver's side, causing damage. The first vehicle continued from the scene and didn't stop. No injuries were reported, and no tow was necessary for the second.

11:54 p.m. – An officer responded to a report of a dog that struck by a vehicle. An officer responded to locate the dog which was deceased. The person who struck the vehicle left the scene prior to the officer's arrival. The owner was located and identified the dog.

##### Monday, Jan. 8

7:30 a.m. – Officers responded to assist Belchertown fire and paramedics.

11:31 a.m. – An officer spoke with a person about a relative that was missing. The resident hadn't seen them. A missing person's report was filed.

##### Tuesday, Jan. 9

2:36 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on State Street. A vehicle traveling north on State Street. The operator said the light was green and the vehicle was halfway through the intersection when the light changed. The operator continued through the intersection. A second vehicle turning at the same time, turning left through the intersection. The vehicles collided in the intersection. There was damage to the right front of both of the vehicles, but no tows were necessary and no injuries were reported.

### Granby Police Log

*Editor's Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 138 calls for the week of Jan. 5 through Jan. 11. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The Granby Police Department provides all information.*

##### Saturday, Jan. 6

12:49 a.m. – A motorist reported that a single vehicle struck a utility pole. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries. The operator was issued a criminal citation for crossing marked lanes and operating a vehicle without a driver's license.

5:20 a.m. – A motorist reported that a single vehicle struck a utility pole. Granby Police and Fire responded. The operator was transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. The operator was issued a criminal citation for crossing marked lanes and operating a vehicle with a suspended driver's license.

##### Sunday, Jan. 7

12:16 a.m. – A motorist reported driving off snow covered roads and striking a mailbox. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries.

12:16 a.m. – A motorist reported driving off snow covered roads and striking a utility pole. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries.

8:07 a.m. – A motorist reported losing control of their vehicle on snow covered roads and striking a guard rail. Granby Police responded. There were no injuries.

1:24 p.m. – Several reports of trees and tree branches blocking roads throughout town.

1:58 p.m. – A motorist reported that a single vehicle lost control on snow covered roads, drove off the road and rolled over. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries.

##### Monday, Jan. 8

24-193 8:55 p.m. – A resident reported that a vehicle was on fire on their property and near the garage. Granby Police and Fire responded. The fire was extinguished. There were no injuries.

##### Tuesday, Jan. 9

9:46 a.m. – A resident reported that they received a phone call and the caller stated that their granddaughter had been arrested. The caller stated that they needed \$9,000 for bail money. The resident contacted family members and determined that the caller was not truthful, and it was a scam.

3:47 p.m. – A motorist reported a two-car accident. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries.

5:27 p.m. – A motorist reported that their vehicle was on fire in the parking lot of Union Mart. Granby Police and Fire responded. The fire was extinguished and there were no injuries.

##### Wednesday, Jan. 10

5:16 p.m. – A motorist reported hitting a deer. There were no injuries.

##### Thursday, Jan. 11

8:53 a.m. – A resident reported that someone shot a BB gun through his window last night. The matter is under investigation.

9:20 a.m. – A motorist reported a two-car accident without airbag deployment or injuries. Granby Police responded.



## ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT ASSISTANT – FULL TIME

The Town of Belchertown is accepting applications for an full time Accounting Department Assistant. Major duties include: Processes and readies purchase orders; Maintains up to date information for both existing and new vendor's files, including W9 forms; Processes and readies expense warrant for authorization by the Selectboard and payment by the Treasurer weekly. Scrutinizes all accounts payable invoices for tax charges; verifies charges against bids or quotes; makes inquiries on questionable invoices, charges, or past due notices; compiles and enters all accounts payable invoices; verifies account balances. Calculates and prepares weekly invoices including blanket billings for multiple departments; notifies departments of their respective charges. Provides detailed payment information to vendors on overdue balances or payments applied incorrectly. Reviews travel expenses and maintains and creates fiscal year reports on union uniform allowance and tracks equipment purchases of over \$500 for reporting purposes. Responsible for compiling and processing various state and federal reports.

Minimum qualifications: High school education with courses in office procedures and business practices; plus two (2) years of progressively responsible office experience; or any equivalent combination of education and experience. This is a grade 5 position, 40 hours/week, with a pay range of: \$24.54 - \$31.32/hour. Applications are available online at [www.belchertown.org/human\\_resources](http://www.belchertown.org/human_resources) and can be sent to [jobs@belchertown.org](mailto:jobs@belchertown.org). Applications will be accepted until filled. The Town of Belchertown is an EEO employer; we encourage women, minorities, and veterans to apply.

#### SECRETS from page 3

canopy to model the surface of the earth.

Space is limited and registration is required. In-person seating will be limited to 45 people.

All ages are welcome.

To register for any of these events, visit [www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events](http://www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events).

Presentations will be offered in-person and via Zoom. To register, follow the link in each program description and choose to attend in-person or to receive the Zoom link.



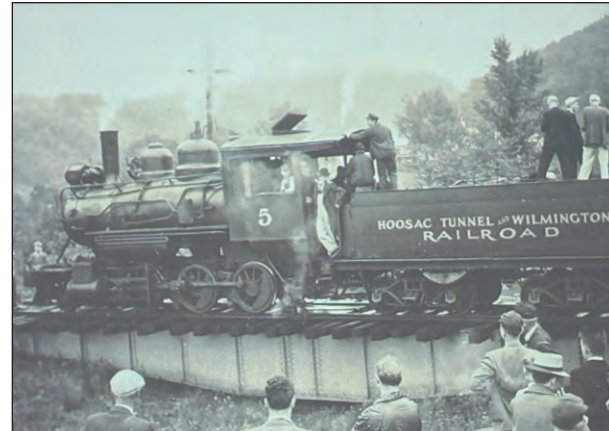




TURLEY PHOTOS BY RICHARD MURPHY  
This photo shows a Boston & Maine Budd Liner RDC.



Au revoir to steam – this photo shows the last RRE excursion with B&M steam power in 1956.



Hoosac Tunnel and Wilmington No. 5 is shown being turned around on the turntable.

**RAILROAD** from page 1

Enthusiasts was there to give a talk with the title, “A Legacy of Rare Mileage: Riding the Rails with the Railroad Enthusiasts.”

The Amherst Railway Society and the Mass Bay Railroad Enthusiasts might be called sister organizations as they share the same passion. MBREE affords ARS members the same rate on excursions as MBREE members and Brown was warmly welcomed by ARS attendees.

So, what is this “Legacy of Rare Mileage?” As Brown noted, the MBREE has been running excursions for 90 years. They ran the first one on Aug. 26, 1934. A train was chartered for a ride on Hoosac Tunnel & Wilmington Railroad in a train pulled by a steam engine.

Except in the tunnel, where an electric engine would pull the train because of the exhaust.

Your correspondent admits to being a bit surprised by the date of 1934. Railroads, in the first half of the 20th Century, were a vital part of national transportation. One thinks of Arlo Guthrie’s City of New Orleans in 1972 as lamenting the decline, but here were people in Massachusetts during the depression taking a trip for the adventure.

They haven’t stopped even as the environment has changed with diesel mainly replacing steam and many lines not as they were back in the day.

It was obvious that Brown was way too young, as in non-existent, to have been on the 1934 excursion, but he showed many slides from back then up through the



Passengers ride up to the White Mountains on the T.

years to the present.

There was much history in the excursions, as in 1937 with riders sitting down in gondola cars open to the elements. Said trip was in October in Suncook Valley New Hampshire when it could get chilly.

Brown showed another picture of an open car and a soaking rain. You’ve got to be tough to be a railfan.

Those of us not overly young would see pictures and comments that evoked memories of childhood.

There was a train known as the Budd Liner or Budd Rail Diesel Car remembered from the 1950s. They were silver, and to someone used to seeing large diesel locomotives, wonderfully modern looking and sleek for the day. Budds were self-propelled railcars.

Inquiring of Brown, he responded, “When you were a little boy, those cars were quite

modern!”

There are so many pictures and stories that go with them. The lowering of the balls are red globes that, depending on position, signal that the crossing has been switched and it safe to proceed. Get it wrong, and disaster could ensue.

Brown spoke well and with no little wit about a subject that means a lot to him. He had copies of The CALLBOY which is the official publication of the MBREE and it is a treasure trove of information for railfans, as is the organizations website: [www.massbayrre.org](http://www.massbayrre.org). There you can find out about future excursions.

The evening’s host, the Amherst Railway Society is also an active association with an engaging website, <https://amherstrail.org/>. The society will hold its annual Railroad Hobby Show on Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 27 and 28.



Open gondolas and chairs are shown behind Suncook Valley 2-6-0 No. 1.



The lowering of the ball signal at Whitefield.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY RICHARD MURPHY

The Railroad Hobby Show is the largest railroad-themed trade show in America and is held every year at the Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds in West Springfield.

Organizations such as the Massachusetts Bay Railroad

Enthusiasts and the Amherst Rail Society attest to the American romance with railroading. If you think you share that, the ARS meets every month except February on the second Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at 1130 South Main St.



Dave Brown, Massachusetts Bay Railroad Enthusiasts.

## WILBRAHAM & MONSON ACADEMY

# TITAN TALKS

Join us for coffee and conversation to learn more about WMA’s programs and community.



**MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
(families interested in grades 6-8)  
**Tue., Jan. 23, 9 -10 a.m.**

**UPPER SCHOOL**  
(families interested in grades 9-12, PG)  
**Thu., Jan. 25, 8 - 9 a.m.**

**RSVP: [www.wma.us/TitanTalks](http://www.wma.us/TitanTalks)**



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# Belchertown Council on Aging lists upcoming events

BELCHERTOWN – The town’s Council on Aging has announced the following upcoming events.

When Belchertown schools are closed, all programs at the Senior Center are cancelled. This includes classes, activities, transportation, Meals on Wheels, and congregate dining.

When there is a school delay, transportation will be delayed based on weather conditions, and all classes and activities will be cancelled before noon. Second Best Thrift Shop will be closed in the event of a school delay or cancellation.

The building will remain open unless the Town of Belchertown also closes.

## How Full is Your Bucket? Ongoing

Everyone has an invisible bucket, and an invisible dipper. Our buckets get emptied or filled based on our positive or negative interactions with others.

Inspired by the best-selling book, “How Full is your Bucket” by Tom Rath. Let’s show our friends some love this month, and fill each other’s buckets to the brim!

Stop by the Senior Center to fill out a “Drop for your Bucket” for someone that deserves some love and gratitude. If someone brightened your day, helped you in some way, or simply made a difference in your life, make sure to tell them!

“Drops” can be signed or made anonymously. They can be displayed on the bulletin board outside the community room, or handed directly to the person you’d like to acknowledge.

Fill someone’s bucket, and see how yours is filled in return!

## Painting Social Group

Thursdays at 1 p.m.

Join the COA’s new Painting Social Group every Thursday at 1 p.m. in the craft room. All styles of painting, and all skill levels welcome.

Bring your own supplies, and have fun painting with friends.

## Ukulele!

Mondays at 12:30 p.m.

Bring your ukulele and play for fun with friends, every Monday at 12:30 p.m.

## February is National Chocolate Month

Every Friday in February

Did you know that chocolate has been around for thousands of years? Cocoa beans were once used as currency by the Mayans and Aztecs. Back then, money really did grow on trees!

Since then, chocolate has become one of the world’s most loved treats, and 50% of Americans prefer it to any other flavor.

Dine with the COA every Friday, and enjoy a fabulous chocolate dessert each time. On Feb. 2, chocolate cake; Feb. 9, chocolate chip cookie; Feb. 16, chocolate pudding; and Feb. 23, chocolate cupcakes.

Call Kim at 413-323-0420 extension 508 to sign up by the day before each meal.

## Walmart Shopping Trip

Feb. 2 and 16

Have the COA van pick you up from home to shop at Walmart in Ware for only \$3 round trip. Call Kim at 413-323-0420 extension 508 to sign up.

## Tax return preparation

Feb. 7-April 10

IRS-certified AARP TaxAide Counselors will be preparing tax returns at our Senior Center free of charge on Wednesdays, Feb. 7 through April 10. Participants must have transportation to and from the Senior Center on the day of their scheduled appointment.

To request an appointment, please call 413-323-0420 extension 504 and leave a voicemail message with your name and phone number. Senior Center staff will return your call within one week to confirm.

If your return involves virtual currencies, rental housing, or master limited partnerships, you will need to seek advice else-

where.

## Public Health Nurse

Feb. 12 and 26 from 10-11 a.m.

Kristen Krieger, RN, BSN, Public Health Nurse, visits our Senior Center twice a month. Stop in to have your blood pressure or glucose checked, and get answers to many of your health questions!

## Food Bank Create Better Health Series

Feb. 12, 26, March 11, 25, April 8, 22 and May 6 from 2-3:30 p.m.

The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, in partnership with SNAP-Ed, will be offering a free nutrition education program at our Senior Center.

Sign up to explore MyPlate healthy eating guidelines, decipher the nutrition facts label, get tips to add more exercise into your day, learn to make budget-friendly meals, and sample food options as well.

This will be a seven-session series, on Mondays from 2-3:30 p.m.

Advanced sign-up requested, but not required. Call Stephanie at 413-323-0420 extension 501 for more information.

## Veterans’ Social Hour

Feb. 14 at 10 a.m.

Stop by Feb. 14 at 10 a.m., and the second Wednesday of every month to meet with Veterans’ Agent Charly Oliva.

## Rainbow Social Group

Feb. 14 at 10 a.m.

Join Elaine, and the LGBTQIA+ Community and Allies on Feb. 14 at 10 a.m., and the second Wednesday of every month.

## Wednesday Movies

Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m.

Movies will be shown on Wednesdays at the Senior Center at 12:30 p.m. Assorted snacks will be available for a suggested donation of \$.50. Movies include: Feb. 14, “Priscilla”; Feb. 21, “Sleepless in Seattle”; and Feb. 28, “Oppenheimer”

## Whole Food Workshop

Feb. 15 at 10 a.m.

Join Becky Martin on Thursday, Feb. 15 at 10 a.m. (and the third Thursday of every month) to discover how a Whole Food Plant-Based diet can transform your health. Walk-ins welcome.

## Senior Center Book Club

Feb. 26 at 10 a.m.

Senior Center Book Club meets on Feb. 26 at 10 a.m. (and third Monday of every month, but moved this month due to the holiday). This month seniors will be discussing “Her Hidden Genius” by Marie Benedict.

## Senior Outreach Program

The Quabog Valley Community Development Corporation in Ware is now offering its Senior Outreach Program to seniors living in Belchertown. So that seniors can remain safely at home, The Senior Outreach Program has a team of chore providers available to do errands

such as grocery shopping and prescription pick-up.

These services are provided at no cost to residents of Belchertown over the age of 60 who meet certain income eligibility requirements.

Chore providers have all passed a background check and are available on week-days on a first-come, first-served basis. At least one day’s notice is required.

There is no personal care aspect to this program and chore providers are not allowed to enter seniors’ homes. Please call Mary at the QV CDC at 413-497-4407 for more information and to see if you qualify.

## Take Care of Yourself

**Footcare:** Piper Sagan, RN and Certified Foot Care Specialist, provides services on the second Monday of every month. Sagan will assess overall foot health, clip/file nails, file callouses, and recommend shoe wear and cushioning as needed. She will finish with a massage using healing essential oils to promote foot health. \$50 per visit.

**Skincare:** Diane Neill, licensed esthetician, offers facials and waxing services on the third Wednesday of every month. Clients can choose between a Signature Facial, a Microdermabrasion Facial, LED Light Therapy, or waxing services. Prices vary.

**Massage:** Jodi Kaufman, licensed massage therapist and certified in geriatric massage, offers one-hour massages on the first Tuesday of every month for \$70 per visit.

Call Stephanie at 413-323-0420 extension 501 or Kim extension 508 for appointments. Please give 24 hours’ notice of cancellations whenever possible.

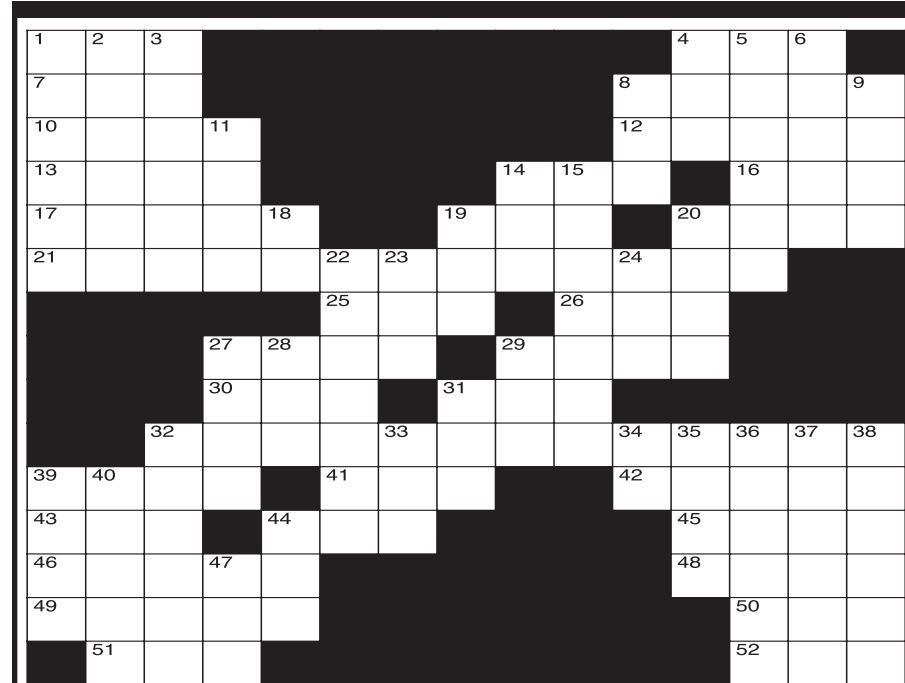
**Dental:** Manda Day, RDH of Mobile Dental Hygiene Services of Western Mass, LLC, will be taking appointments on the third Friday of every month. She will offer dental cleaning, exams, fluoride treatments, oral cancer screening, assessment of dentures, and denture cleaning. She accepts private pay patients as well as Mass Health.

Call Manda Day directly for dental appointments and pricing at 508-341-1599.

## Groups and More

**Quabbinaires:** Bundle up, and get ready for some fun and beautiful winter walks; the group walks on most Tuesday mornings at 9 a.m., weather-dependent. The Senior Center will send information at the beginning of the month to all those who have registered with details and locations for walks planned. Walks last about an hour and a half, and range from flat pavement, to moderate trail hikes.

**Grief/Loss Support Group:** If you’ve suffered a loss, and feel that you need some help working through difficult emotions, join Liane Smola for help. This group meets on the first Wednesday of every month at 12:30 p.m. and is sponsored by Beers and Story Funeral Homes and Cremation Services.



### CLUES ACROSS

1. Microgram
4. Where golfers begin
7. Each
8. Warm weather metropolis
10. Coat with sticky substance
12. Girl’s given name
13. Myth (Spanish)
14. Ultrahigh frequency
16. Former NBAer Jeremy
17. Where rockers work
19. Your consciousness of your own identity
20. Soft-finned fishes
21. Localities
25. Paddle
26. Union
27. Member of religious

- community
29. Small shrill flute
30. Small constellation in the Milky Way
31. They \_\_\_
32. College kid on vacation
39. de Armas and Gasteyer are two
41. Part of the human body
42. A progressive grading
43. Sound unit
44. Noise some birds make
45. Abba \_\_\_, Israeli politician
46. Portuguese city
48. Be extremely, uncritically fond of
49. Resembling old Norse poems
50. Ask for out of extreme need
51. Sino-Soviet

### CLUES DOWN

1. An insane person
2. \_\_\_ Boothe Luce, American author
3. Buttock muscles
4. Men’s fashion accessory
5. “Hotel California” rockers
6. Electronic communication
8. Magnetomotive force (abbr.)
9. Hostelry
11. A way to resound
14. Exclamation: yuck!
15. A resident of Indiana
18. Exclamation of surprise
19. Make a mistake
20. Boundary between south and southeast
22. Antilles island
23. It’s used to make furniture
24. Clod
27. They indicate where places are
28. Bobby \_\_\_, NHL champ
29. Prints money
31. Honorable title (Turkish)
32. Appetizers
33. Midway between north and northwest
34. Spanish be
35. Breezed through
36. Grilled dishes
37. In a way, excites
38. Change mind
39. A French abbot
40. Popular candy
44. Partner to cheese
47. Wood or metal bolt

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## NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue’s relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for The Sentinel, please email [sentinel@turley.com](mailto:sentinel@turley.com).

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# SPORTS

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## LaRoche leads B-Town past Greylock

BELCHERTOWN – Last Friday night, Chloe LaRoche led all scorers with 18 points in a 46-39 win over visiting Mt. Greylock. Belchertown doubled up on the Mounties in the first quarter 16-8 and took advantage of a lot of turnovers early on to build their lead. The win for Belchertown brought the Orioles to 4-4 on the season.



Morghan Litz charges down the court.



Laura Cote smothers a loose ball.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI  
Autumn Sicard gets ready to send a long pass.



Chloe LaRoche camps under the hoop for a short-range shot.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI  
Alexa Karabestos attempts a long-range shot.



Logan Moses picks up a loose ball just ahead of an opponent.



Mylin Laliberte prepares to pass on the run.

## Ludlow girls suffer loss to Granby

LUDLOW – Last Monday night, Granby got the momentum early and kept going with it as the handily defeated Ludlow girls basketball 59-33. In the victory for Granby, Kalli White had 23 points while Aubrey Parent and Autumn Sicard had 13 points each. Ludlow did have two scorers in double-digits as Aneysha Donais and Kayliana Moret had 10 points each. Ludlow fell to 1-8 while Granby is holding steady at 5-3 on the season.



Sophia Gagnon makes her way toward the arc.



Kaitlyn Curran holds back before making a pass.



Cassie Flaherty fights for possession.



Andrew Lambert wrists a pass up the ice.



Charlie Fijal makes his way up the ice.



Curt Wojnas watches the puck after makes a save.



Will Mitus angles toward the goal.

## Orioles struggles continue

WESTFIELD – It has been a tough season for Belchertown hockey, which dropped its eighth game in a row as the Orioles fell to Westfield High School 7-0. Belchertown is now 1-10 on the season with only a few games remaining in the regular season.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM  
Jack Mandeville tries to outskate his opponent.



SPORTS

# Pioneers win again, defeat Cybercats

SPRINGFIELD – The Pathfinder girls basketball team improved to 5-3 on the season as they defeated Sci-Tech on the road last Thursday night. The Pioneers got 14 points each from Victoria Stevens and

Desiree Croteau. Pathfinder led throughout the matchup and went up 33-17 at halftime. Sci-Tech did make a run in the fourth quarter, but Pathfinder's big lead was too much to overcome.



Megan Clark dribbles toward the hoop.



Victoria Stevens makes her way down the court.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Hannah Mellor passes to her left.



Althea Jewell fakes before heading for the basket.



Taylor Allen goes for the open layup.

## Justin Bonsignore to do pre-season 'test' at Daytona International

WADING RIVER, N.Y. – Three-time NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour champion Justin Bonsignore will compete in the ARCA Menards Series pre-season test at Daytona International Speedway this weekend.

Bonsignore will drive a car prepared by Andy Hilenburg, the 1995 ARCA champion, who also has two Daytona ARCA wins to his credit. The cars are prepared by Fast Track High Performance Racing.

The pre-race test is in preparation for the upcoming ARCA Menards Series opener at Daytona during Speedweeks on Saturday, February 17. The weekend will also include the opener for the NASCAR Xfinity Series and the NASCAR Cup Series Daytona 500.

Seven different drivers have earned the right to take laps around Daytona via the "Road to Daytona" program. Invites include the two regional series that are part of the ARCA Menards Series platform - the three ASA-branded touring super late model series, the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour champion and the

NASCAR Advance Auto Parts Weekly Series frontrunners. Although current 2023 champion for the Whelen Modified Tour Ron Silk isn't making the trip, Bonsignore is filling the seat to take laps around one of the fastest and iconic tracks in the world.

The trip will be his first laps on the Daytona high-banks of his career.

"Taking laps at Daytona is definitely something every race car driver dreams of when you start racing," Bonsignore said. "Appreciate the opportunity given by NASCAR, ARCA, Andy and his entire team to be able to get behind the wheel. Looking forward to soaking in the experience and showcasing the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour on this stage."

For more information on the ARCA Menards Series, visit [ARCARacing.com](http://ARCARacing.com). For the latest updates surrounding Justin Bonsignore, fans are encouraged to visit [JustinBonsignore.com](http://JustinBonsignore.com) and also follow Bonsignore's Athlete page on Facebook for updates, including from the track on race day.

## Railers falls at home to Admirals

WORCESTER – It wasn't that the Railers ran out gas Sunday afternoon so much as they never had any in their 3-0 loss to the Norfolk Admirals.

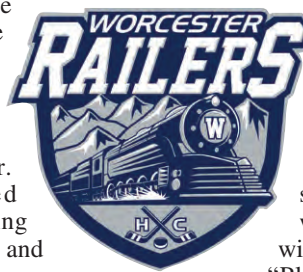
Both teams were on the last leg of one of those dreaded 3 in 3 weekends, but the Admirals played it smarter than Worcester. Norfolk followed the script by jumping out to an early lead and keeping things under control the rest of the way.

It helped that the Admirals got admirable goaltending from Kristian Stead. He made 25 saves to record his first career ECHL shutout in his 11th ECHL game. It was Norfolk's second shutout of the season over Worcester. Thomas Milic beat the Railers, 4-0, on October 29. The game marked the third time this season Worcester has been whitewashed.

Brandon Osmundson, Denis Smirnov and Andrew McLean scored the game's goals. McLean's went into an empty net

at 19:15 of the third period.

It was a very good goaltending game overall as Josh Boyko was excellent in the Railers net. He stopped 32 of 34 shots and kept it winnable.



"I thought he played really well," coach Jordan Smotherman said. "He made some great saves...I was really happy with his game."

"Playing from behind three nights in a row; you just can't do that to yourself," Smotherman said.

Although Norfolk had 34-25 edge in shots, the teams had about the same number of great chances. Worcester had two breakaways in the first period. Railers players hit iron twice later on. John Copeland hit a post, Anthony Callin a crossbar.

The breakaways were by Worcester's two top scorers, Ashton Calder and Anthony Repaci. Both players made good moves. Stead made two good

saves. In contrast, when Norfolk scored at 4:57 of the first period to go ahead, 1-0, Osmundson's shot went post to post and in, hitting the right one first.

"Over the course of a three-game weekend," Smotherman said, "you're not always gonna get the bounces and you can't rely on them."

The Admirals finished that period with a 14-4 edge in shots on goal. For the weekend, Worcester was outshot by 38-17 in the three first periods.

Smirnov doubled his team's lead early in the second period, scoring at 2:29. Danny Katic set up his teammate with a great pass from the right boards. Smirnov was just outside left post and had an easy re-direct from there.

The Railers lineup included familiar face Blake Jenkins, back from his brief time on the Hartford roster, and unfamiliar face Ryan Dickinson. The rookie defenseman made his professional debut as Zsombar Garat got a break. He had played in 32 of the season's first 34 games.



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**SPORTS**

# Divisional win streak ends in Utica

UTICA, N.Y. -- The Springfield Thunderbirds (18-13-3-2) saw their five-game win streak against North Division opponents come to an end on Saturday in a 6-3 loss to the Utica Comets (12-13-3-3) at Adirondack Bank Center.

The T-Birds quieted the notoriously noisy "Aud" just 49 seconds into the first period. In his first shift back with the T-Birds since being returned from St. Louis, Jakub Vrana gathered in a puck near the top of the right circle and whipped a pass toward the crease. Nikita Alexandrov deflected the first attempt off the pads of Utica goalie Isaac Poulter, but Alexandrov jammed his own rebound into the twine, giving Springfield a 1-0 lead for a second straight night.

After shutting out the Comets on Nov. 24, Vadim Zherenko had tougher sledding in the first period on this night, as the Comets evened the score, 1-1, at 9:50 on a well-placed wrister from Filip Engaras under the crossbar.

With time winding down, Comet defenseman Michael Vukojevic crept up into the high slot and was given room to slap one along the ice past Zherenko at 17:51 to give Utica a 2-1 advantage.

With less than a minute to play in the period, the Comets added insurance after a lengthy stretch of zone pressure. It culminated in a funky goal at the 19:29 mark. Ryan Schmelzer arrived for a one-timer from the high slot. The Comets captain muffed the shot, as it badly missed wide of the goal, but glanced off a defender and careened behind Zherenko to

give Utica a 3-1 lead into the intermission.

Things took another turn in Utica's favor when Chase Stillman drew a penalty shot when he was hooked on a breakaway chance just 1:21 into the second period. The rookie winger made no mistake from there, as he bested Zherenko with a backhand-to-forehand deke, giving the Comets a 4-1 advantage.

Springfield stopped the four-goal run at 9:25 shortly after the first of three power-play chances that eluded the visitors. After winning puck control in the left corner, Alexandrov sauced a pass into the middle of the ice for Will Bitten. Bitten's backhander caromed off Poulter's chest and, in turn, found Zach Bolduc, who one-timed the rebound through the Comets goalie to cut the Utica lead down to 4-2, a score that stood to the end of the period.

Dylan Coghlan made things even more interesting when he one-timed his league-leading 11th goal from the blue line at 7:13 of the final period to cut the deficit down to 4-3. However, this time around, the T-Birds ran out of comeback magic. Graeme Clarke scored a momentum-killing goal at 10:02, using a screen to beat Zherenko over the glove from the left-wing circle.

Springfield's power play scuffled on the evening against the AHL's top PK unit, going 0-for-4 and leaving another chance on the table in the final period while trailing 5-3. In the end, the T-Birds ran out of time in this comeback try, and Justin Dowling rounded out the scoring with a tally into an empty net in the final minute.

**BUSINESS**

# bankESB announces recent promotions

EASTHAMPTON – bankESB announced the following promotions in a recent press release.

**Stephanie Vincelette**

Stephanie Vincelette, of Granby, was recently promoted to assistant vice president of human resources operations

She has 11 years of banking experience. She was previously human resources operations officer, and before that, payroll manager, and began her career in banking as payroll specialist.

Before joining bankESB in 2012, she had five years of previous payroll and human resources experience. With this promotion, she will continue to oversee payroll operations; will now oversee benefits operations; and will expand her responsibilities in salary administration, compensation planning, and policy management.

Vincelette has a bachelor's degree in business administration from Western New England University. She holds a Senior Professional Human Resources certification.

**Erica Gomes**

Erica Gomes of Chicopee was recently promoted to assistant vice president, customer care, based



*SUBMITTED PHOTOS*

Stephanie Vincelette was named assistant vice president of human resources operations at bankESB.

Gomes has 24 years of banking experience. She joined the Hometown Financial Group family of banks at bankHometown in 2013 as branch manager of the Killingly office, after spending more than 14 years in retail banking with Citizens Bank.

Gomes was promoted to customer care officer at Hometown Financial's bankESB in 2016. In her new role, she will manage the customer care call center.

Gomes completed coursework in accounting at the Community College of Rhode Island. She has been a volunteer for Meals on Wheels, Junior Achievement, the



Erica Gomes recently promoted to assistant vice president, customer care, based at the bank's Northampton Street office.

Western Massachusetts Food Bank, and local homeless shelters, and previously served as treasurer of the Killingly Business Association.

**About bankESB**

Founded in 1869 as Easthampton Savings Bank, bankESB operates 11 branches throughout Western Massachusetts. Through its sponsorship and charitable giving program, The Giving Tree, bankESB and the Easthampton Savings Bank Charitable Foundation support non-profit organizations and causes throughout Hampden and Hampshire counties.

For more information, visit bankESB.com.

## Jones Library offers 'A Day of Mindfulness Practice'

AMHERST – Get the New Year off to a good start by spending a day learning a range of mindfulness practices on Saturday, Jan. 20 in the Woodbury Room of the Jones Library from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

The day will consist of teaching and practicing various techniques towards a goal of being a more mindful, calm, grounded, and happy person.

Practices will include: Cognitive Restructuring; Guided Meditation; the Power of Silence; Walking

Meditation; Healthy Humor; Deep Listening; Effects of Judgement and Comparison; and Exploring the Mind/Body Connection. This is an opportunity for us to connect, smile, and practice together in the New Year. A

ll are welcome - whether new or seasoned to meditative practices.

This workshop will be led by Melanie Rose, who has been a meditator for 50 years.; a grateful practitioner for the past 25 years of the teachings of Vietnamese

Buddhist Monk/Zen Master, Thich Nhat Hanh; and has designed and led various meditation/relaxation groups in work settings and community gatherings. Rose is a retired psychotherapist, and is presenting this Day of Mindfulness as a free offering.

Registration is required for this workshop. Please visit or call the Jones Library reference desk at 413-259-3096 or send an email to programs@joneslibrary.org



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## HELP WANTED

The Town of Huntington is seeking an **INTERIM TOWN CLERK**. This is a salaried position for approximately 18 hours per week. Application and complete job description are available online at [www.huntingtonma.us](http://www.huntingtonma.us) or by emailing **admin@huntingtonma.us**. Applications are due by January 26, 2024. Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer

## REAL ESTATE

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228 West St., Ware, MA 01082  
**413-967-8364**  
Call For An Appointment  
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MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 DEADLINES: **MONDAY AT NOON**  
or call: 413-283-8393

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5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40

**Quabbin Village Hills**  
Circulation: 50,500

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

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

**GREAT VALUE!**  
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**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
RIGHT OF WAY MAINTENANCE**

As required by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 132B, National Grid (New England Power and/or Massachusetts Electric Company) hereby gives notice that it intends to selectively apply herbicides along specific transmission line rights-of-way in 2024.

The selective use of herbicides to manage vegetation along rights-of-way is done within the context of an Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) program consisting of mechanical, chemical, natural, and cultural components. In right-of-way vegetation management the pest or target is vegetation (primarily tall growing) that will cause outages and safety issues. National Grid's IVM program encourages natural controls by promoting low growing plant communities that resist invasion by target vegetation. The selective use of herbicides and mechanical controls are the direct techniques used to control target vegetation and help establish and maintain natural controls.

National Grid may utilize any of the herbicides noted the MA Sensitive Materials list. Rodeo, and possibly one of the following herbicides, Arsenal or Arsenal Powerline, will be applied directly to the surface of stumps immediately after target vegetation is cut (Cut Stump Treatment). Garlon 4 or Garlon 4 Ultra will be applied selectively to the stems of target vegetation using hand-held equipment (Basal Treatment and Dormant stem treatment). Krenite S or Rodeo, mixed with Escort XP, and one of the following herbicides, Arsenal or Arsenal Powerline, or Milestone will be applied selectively to the foliage of target vegetation using hand-held equipment (Foliar Treatment). Cambistat as a tree growth regulator. Applications shall not commence more than ten days before nor conclude more than ten days after the following treatment periods. The herbicide mixes and additional information about rights of way management in Massachusetts can be found here: <https://www.mass.gov/rights-of-way-vegetation-management>

Municipalities that have rights-of-way that were treated in 2023 but may require some touch-up work in 2024:

Belchertown

**Treatment Periods**

**February 1, 2024 – May 30, 2024:**

- CST
- Basal
- Dormant Stem

**May 30, 2024 – Oct 15, 2024:**

- Foliar
- CST
- Basal
- Cut stubble

**Oct 15, 2024 – Dec 31, 2024:**

- CST
- Basal
- Dormant Stem

*\*The exact treatment dates are dependent upon weather conditions and field crew progress.*

Further information may be requested by contacting (during business hours, Mon-Fri from 8:00 am-4:00 pm):  
Mariclaire Rigby, National Grid, 939 Southbridge Street, Worcester, MA 01610.

Telephone: (781) 290-8310 or email: [mariclaire.rigby@nationalgrid.com](mailto:mariclaire.rigby@nationalgrid.com)

1/18/2024

**Notice**

The Massachusetts State Lottery Commission (MSLC) has received a KENO License application from:

**Country Crossroads  
83 Federal St  
Belchertown, MA**

Estimated weekly traffic: (number of people):500.

Current No. of Cashier positions selling Lottery products: 0

Percentage of floor space currently devoted to Lottery sales: 0%

Percentage of floor space for KENO sales: 5%

Estimated annual gross revenues of current Lottery products: \$0.

Estimated percentage of gross revenues from sales of Lottery products: 7%

Estimated net income to be derived from sales of KENO products at this location: \$6,000.

If you object to these agent(s) receiving a monitor, you must do so, in writing, within twenty-one (21) days of receipt of this letter. If applicable, please address your written objection to the Massachusetts State Lottery Commission, Legal Department, 150 Mount Vernon Street, Dorchester, MA 02125 and send via email to Leslie Zella at [lzella@masslottery.com](mailto:lzella@masslottery.com) by mail. Should you have any questions regarding this program or any other issues relative to the Lottery, please call the Lottery's General Counsel, Greg Polin, at 781-917-6057 or via email at [gpolin@masslottery.com](mailto:gpolin@masslottery.com). We look forward to working with you as the Lottery continues its efforts to support the 351 cities and towns of the Commonwealth.  
01/18/2024



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampshire Probate and Family Court  
15 Atwood Drive  
Northampton, MA 01060  
(413)586-8500  
Docket No. HS23C0170CA  
In the matter of:  
D'Vaja Larenee Monk  
CITATION ON PETITION  
TO CHANGE NAME  
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by D'Vaja Larenee Monk of Belchertown, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:**

**Empress Lorenee  
IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampshire Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/30/2024.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

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

Date: January 02, 2024  
**Michael J. Carey**  
Register of Probate  
01/18/2024

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

**PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE**

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

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

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

*The Sentinel*  
**OBITUARY POLICY**

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

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



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**PLUMBING SERVICES**

**D. F. PLUMBING & MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS** are now offering plumbing services to Belchertown and surrounding town. Scheduling appointments Monday-Friday, 8 am to 4pm. Call 413-323-9966.

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GRANBY

# Superintendent gives positive progress report

BY NICK BOONSTRA  
Staff Writer  
nboonstra@turley.com

GRANBY – Superintendent Stephen Sullivan shared positive updates with the School Committee as part of the district’s mid-cycle review.

At the Jan. 9 meeting, Sullivan emphasized that “priorities haven’t changed” with regards to goals for the district, and told committee members that, after focusing on more sweeping changes over the last few years, the 2023-24 year would be one of making smaller tweaks to boost what had already been working.

“Little by little, a little becomes a lot,” Sullivan said, echoing the sentiment he had shared with teachers during their convocation ceremony this past August.

Sullivan said that diversity, equity and inclusion was an area in which the district had seen growth, but one in which he wanted to make sure efforts toward progress continued.

He went on to say that the district had applied for and received a grant of a little less than \$49,000 from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education that would go toward training and adding personnel, with the aim of preventing and

responding to both hate crimes and bias in the school district. He said that Granby was one of 10 communities in the state to receive this DESE grant.

Another area of success that Sullivan highlighted was the implementation of 60-day “improvement cycles,” in which teachers regularly track growth along year-long goals. He said that breaking the year up into four 60-day quarters had helped faculty members to keep goals from the start of the year front of mind throughout the year, when they otherwise might have been easy to lose track of by the time year-end reviews came up.

Sullivan also shared that, in the same way that these check-ins had been helping the faculty in Granby, this mid-cycle review with the School Committee had helped him to keep his own goals for growth as Superintendent clearly in his sights throughout the school year so far.

Areas in which Sullivan said there was still room for improvement included in the use of data in district decision-making and in the establishment of industry partnerships with local businesses and organizations. These partnerships would exist within the DESE framework of Innovation Career Pathways, which exposes

students to certain high-demand career options while they are still in high school.

Along with these industry partnerships for Innovation Career Pathways, Sullivan said he wanted to increase internship opportunities for students, and to explore a potential change to the Junior Senior High School’s schedule that would allow for more flexibility with these programs as well as with dual enrollment.

The School Committee responded positively to the Superintendent’s remarks, and Sullivan expressed his gratitude to the committee for their collaboration throughout the year so far.

EDUCATION

## Becket White named to fall semester 2023 President’s List at Plymouth State University

PLYMOUTH, NH – Becket White of Amherst has been named to the Plymouth State University President’s List for the fall 2023 semester.

White is a biology major at Plymouth State.

To be named to the President’s List, a student must achieve a grade point average of 3.70 or better

for the fall 2023 semester and must have completed at least 12 credit hours during the semester,

at least nine of which must confer grade points, at the time the lists are finalized.

## Craig Orr named to Clarkson University’s Dean’s List

POTSDAM, NY – Craig F. Orr of Belchertown, a freshman majoring in chemical engineering, was named to the Dean’s List for the fall 2023 semester at

Clarkson University.

Dean’s List students must achieve a minimum 3.25 grade-point average and also carry at least 14 credit hours.

## SNHU posts fall 2023 President’s List

MANCHESTER, NH – Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulated the following students on being named to the fall 2023 President’s List: Dylan Moore and Michael Collins, both of Granby.

The fall terms run from September to December. Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President’s List.

Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

**COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic**

Flu shot available!

**Monday January 22, 2024**

**3 pm - 6 pm**

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**Ware, MA 01082**

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 All vaccinations are no cost to you, walk-ins and families welcome!

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Please use QR Code or the link to pre-register:  
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 Please direct any questions to Arianna Palano at  
[apalano@townofware.com](mailto:apalano@townofware.com), 413-478-2526.

