

Honoring MLK with a food drive

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

BELCHERTOWN - The members of our district's government leadership came together to host a special food drive in remembrance of Martin Luther King Jr. on Sunday, January 18.

Many members of the community came out to a very snowy day to join State Representatives Aaron Saunders and Mindy Domb, as well as State Senator Jake Oliveira, to fill a truck with food donations to go to the Amherst Survival Center.

"It means a lot to help our neighbors in need; it also means a lot to be part of bringing the community



The group of volunteers posing for a photo of the loaded Window World truck.

together. To be able to do both in one event means even more. It's a privilege to be able to represent a community that steps up when needed," said State Representative Aaron Saunders.

The Amherst Survival Center services residents

in Belchertown, providing them with food as food insecurity does not only appear around the holidays.

They collected canned vegetables, beans, and soups, pasta, rice, and other shelf-stable grains, peanut butter and protein-rich foods, breakfast items like

oatmeal and cereals, and personal care and hygiene items, as well as paper goods like paper towels, toilet paper, paper plates, and more to stock the pantry.

Please see **FOOD DRIVE** page 5



State Representatives Aaron Saunders and Mindy Domb, proud of their community.

Board hears from proposed subdivision

By Melina Bourdeau
 Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN — Planning board members and residents took a deep dive into the proposed Mushi Moon Path subdivision, an 18-lot residential development with nearly half the site set aside as open space, raising issues over stormwater, traffic safety and regulatory compliance.

The Planning Board's recent meeting was dominated by technical presentations, board scrutiny and public comment regarding the subdivision application submitted by Jason Lafleur. Project engineers fielded detailed questions about grading, access, drainage, tree requirements and the impact of additional traffic at local intersections.

Situated on approximately 66 acres between Aldrich Street and Ware Road, the Mushi Moon Path project is designed to create 18 new residential lots, with roughly 30 acres slated for construction and about 36 acres remaining undisturbed as open space due to wetlands and environmental constraints.

"This larger system here ... takes flow from Jason's Way, ... and it flows easterly. We also have a wet-

land system north on this map. North is facing to the southwest. We have an isolated wetland down here. And then on the southeast, we have another wetland system," explained project engineer Jeff Laveau during the board's review.

In addition to wetlands protections, stormwater management was a major focus of the hearing. The design includes three primary stormwater basins and requires a 10-foot access road for future maintenance. Questions from board and town staff centered on ensuring the system met local and state standards, allowed for maintenance vehicle access and protected nearby properties from runoff.

Addressing those concerns, Laveau said, "We did have minor revisions to the stormwater basins. We also have some clarifications where there was typo in our calculations. ... We did change and tweak and add some grading for construction vehicles for operation and maintenance to get into some of these basins. ... At the end of the day, we would, and Jason would have, would like to have the town, once it's

Please see **SUBDIVISION**, page 3

Window World generously donates roof to Fire Dept.

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

BELCHERTOWN — Supporting our first responders the way that they support us is a worthy and noble cause, and one the town of Belchertown has taken on very recently.

Window World of Western Massachusetts recently donated an entire roof project to the Belchertown Fire Department last week, and the spirit of community love and care was strong.

"Having Window World donate the entire roof project to the fire department is so wonderful. Having a community business think of us is an awesome feeling," said Fire Chief John Ingram.

"When we heard there was a need for a new roof at the Belchertown Fire Station, we reached out to Chief John Ingram to see how we could help. We knew this was our opportunity to do something truly impactful for the Town of Belchertown and to thank our community for the support they have shown us-from residents supporting our business to the various Town departments and



SUBMITTED PHOTO

An aerial view of members of the community helping the fire department.

"We are always the ones to respond to help, and now we have a community memberad businesses respond to us, it's an awesome feeling."

— Fire Chief John Ingram

officials supporting our growth," said Tim Drost, owner of Window World of Western Massachusetts.

The roof, which is 30

years old, was in desperate need of replacement, but with the rising costs and a shrinking budget, the fire department was blessed when Drost came to them with the offer to replace their roof-completely free.

"This comes at a time of hard budget times; it is a relief for us and the town, knowing we have a roof for many years to come," said Ingram.

Please see **ROOF**, page 3

School Committee tackles Cold Spring closure

By Melina Bourdeau
 Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN — The School Committee addressed major district transitions at its recent meeting, focusing on the upcoming closure of Cold Spring School.

Committee members and administrators laid out the operational and emotional obstacles to consolidating the elementary school.

Superintendent Brian Cameron briefed the committee on preparations to transition students and staff from Cold Spring School, scheduled to close in June 2026.

"We put together a time frame on Cold Springs. In August to December, we had staff listening sessions. We talked about room assignments, we talked about maintenance projects, we talked about scheduling—that is all still ongoing," Cameron said.

Currently, pre-K through second grade would be located at Swift River School, and third grade would move to Chestnut Hill School. Sixth grade would then move to Jabish Middle School.

Staff concerns ranged from facility modifications to support younger students to the logistics of relocating classrooms.

"At the listening session at Cold Springs, there was some current concerns or feedback or suggestions about ... the location of CSS within the building, because they're littler students, about the smaller toilets and the jacket hooks ... scheduling and student services, kindergarten, pre-K. How are we going to do the entrance there, access to services," Cameron said.

He stressed collaboration and open communication throughout the process. "We talked about step up days meeting, and we have this ongoing Google Doc that staff is putting feedback in, and we're answering it to make all the decisions necessary," Cameron told the board.

When School Committee Chair Heidi Gutekenst asked about compensation fairness, Cameron stated, "It's for everybody that has to move ... and that is contractual. We have to do that. We talked about that when we were closing the school as well, that we'd have to compensate them for their time".

Cameron also committed to keeping stakeholders informed. "I will be meeting with Cold Springs parents in the coming weeks. I got to set up a date and time that will be a listening session for them. I'll do the same with grade three, and then I'll do the same for grade six, and then certainly anybody else

Please see **COLD SPRING**, page 5

Our Team Turns Your Real Estate Dreams Into Reality
 We bring home buyers and home sellers together

POISSANT & NEVEU REAL ESTATE TEAM
 Info@TheTeamThatSells.com | (413) 813-4479 | www.PoissantAndNeveu.com

Re/Max Compass
 Office: (413) 588-0040
 Each Office Independently Owned & Operated

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. 9, through Jan. 15. The information was provided by a member of the police department based on the review of the detailed log summary. This feature is designed to provide context and explanation to some of the calls police respond to every day.

ARRESTS/SUMMONS

Saturday, Jan. 10
9:20 p.m. – A 37-year-old Belchertown man was arrested on behalf of Springfield Police because of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon charge because of an incident in Springfield.

Monday, Jan. 12
8:07 a.m. – A 26-year-old Chicopee woman was issued a summons for charges of use without authority. The person had a friend use their vehicle and reported the friend was supposed to bring the vehicle back and never did. They tried to reach out to the friend, and the officer tried to call the person and state police were contacted to see if they had anything to do with the vehicle. The officer requested a warrant be issued to the people for the charges. Then later noticed it was parking in lot at George Hannum Road business. The keys were in the vehicle and then arrangements made to pick it up.

Thursday, Jan. 15
10:46 a.m. – A 69-year-old Hadley woman summons for unregistered motor vehicle, uninsured motor vehicle and no inspection sticker on motor vehicle. An officer on patrol noticed an expired sticker. The officer stopped the vehicle and identified the person. It was determined the registration plate was expired then a tow company contacted to remove the vehicle. The person was issued a summons.

ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS

Friday, Jan. 9
1:48 p.m. – An officer spoke with an officer about an ongoing neighbor dispute. They were advised how to get a harassment prevention order and noted there were several items missing from their property.

5:23 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on George Hannum Road. A vehicle going west under the railroad underpass. Another vehicle slowed to allow the first to go through the underpass, but another vehicle struck the second in the rear.

One operator was transported from the scene. All the vehicles were able to be driven from the scene.

Saturday, Jan. 10
10:51 a.m. – An officer took a report of an ongoing harassment incident involving the parent of child that goes to school with their child.

1:05 p.m. – An officer received found property. A registration plate was dropped off at the station appeared to be broken off from the vehicle. The owner of the vehicle was contacted but the officer was unable to reach them. It was placed into property for safe keeping.

6:06 p.m. – An ex-acquaintance was harassing a person and they wanted it reported.

Sunday, Jan. 11
2:33 p.m. – An officer responded to a hit and run accident. An officer responded to a parking lot off George Hannum Road. They approached the entrance of the business when a black Honda struck the vehicle and then it continued onward. The person who reported the incident said they noticed scrapes and marks on their vehicle. They were looking to get video footage of the incident. There are no suspects at this time.

Monday, Jan. 12
3:59 p.m. – An officer took a report of an accident. A vehicle parked in a garage when the operator started the vehicle which rolled out of the garage and down the driveway. The operator tried to reach their leg into the vehicle and stop it, when the vehicle ran over their leg. The vehicle went out of the driveway and then struck another vehicle parked in the driveway. There was minor damage to the center rear of the first vehicle. The person was transported to the hospital.

Tuesday, Jan. 13
3:45 p.m. – An officer responded to a report of juvenile keyed someone's car. The officer took a report that a juvenile was intoxicated and fighting with their parents who arrived to pick them up. It was determined to be a disagreement with friends. Then the juvenile was transported to the hospital.

5 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident. A vehicle stopped behind a second vehicle when the passenger showed the operator something on their phone. Then the operator of the first vehicle let their foot off the brake, causing the vehicle to strike the one in front of it. No injuries were reported and no tows were needed.

COMMUNITY

Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts launch 2026 Cookie Program

Girl Scouts are proudly introducing ExploreMores™ as the latest cookie offering, available alongside classic favorites like Thin Mints® and Samoas®.



Support your local Belchertown Girl Scout Troop this season. TURLEY PHOTO BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

REGION - The wait is finally over; Girl Scout Cookie season has returned. Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts (GSCWM) are officially launching the 2026 Girl Scout Cookie Program today, marking the start of a season focused on community connection, entrepreneurial development, and leadership as thousands of Girl Scouts take part in the world's largest entrepreneurial program for girls.

This year brings a brand-new reason to celebrate: the debut of ExploreMores™, a rocky-road-inspired sandwich cookie filled with the flavors of chocolate, marshmallow, and almond-flavored crème. It joins beloved classics including Thin Mints®, Adventurefuls®, Samoas®, Tagalongs®, Do-si-dos®, Lemon-Ups®, Toffee-tastic®, and Trefoils®. Girl Scout Cookies cost \$6 per package and will be available through March 15.

Also launching today, the Great ExploreMore Expedition (GEE), a Flat Stanley-style adventure featuring this year's newest Girl Scout Cookie. Girl Scouts and the community are invited to take a box of ExploreMores (or our printable cookie or cookie box cut-out) on the road and snap photos in fun, unique, or meaningful places. Submit photos from January 16 to February 20 for a chance to be featured on GSCWM's social media channels and website and to compete for prizes and awards such as Most Creative Shot, Best Girl Scout Spirit, and Exploring the Outdoors.

Buying Girl Scout Cookies does more than satisfy a sweet tooth - it creates meaningful opportunities for local girls to learn, grow, and thrive. Through the Girl Scout Cookie Program, girls gain hands-on experience in goal setting, decision-making, money management, people skills, and business ethics. These valuable life and real-world business skills benefit girls long after the cookie season ends.

"The launch of ExploreMores™ adds a new layer of excitement to an already highly anticipated cookie season," said Theresa Lynn, CEO of GSCWM. "Beyond enjoying these delicious treats, every purchase supports girls as they develop leadership, entrepreneurship, and real-world skills that will serve them for a lifetime."

Girl Scout councils, like Girl Scouts of Central and Western Mass., exist to maintain camp properties and provide local Girl Scouts with skill-building programs and resources to achieve anything they can dream up. Every purchase of cookies helps to fuel and empower these dreams by supporting Girl Scout troop

activities, while also satisfying a timeless craving.

Girl Scouts shape the world they want to live in and work every day to make it better. Through the organization, girls explore their strengths, embrace new challenges, and are encouraged to be themselves, no matter their background or ability. Along the way, they rally around causes that matter to them, turning their passions into action and making a real difference in their communities.

To support the Girl Scout Cookie Program this season, folks can participate in the following ways:

If you know a Girl Scout, ask how you can purchase Girl Scout Cookies from them to support their goals.

If you don't know a Girl Scout, visit <https://go.gscwm.org/FindCookies> to find a local cookie booth location or to connect with an local troop's online cookie shop to purchase cookies for shipment.

You can also text COOKIES to 59618 to stay informed about how to purchase Girl Scout Cookies and other exciting Girl Scout news.

For more information on Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts, please visit <http://www.gscwm.org/>, or follow their social media channels, Instagram, Facebook, TikTok and LinkedIn, for the latest updates on the organization.

About Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts

Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts serves nearly 6,000 girls in grades K through 12 with the strong support of 3,000 adult members in 186 towns and cities in central and western Massachusetts. Girl Scouts' mission is to build girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place. Since 1912, girls have explored new fields of knowledge, learned valuable skills, and developed strong core values through Girl Scouts. Today, Girl Scouts is, as it always has been, the organization best positioned to help girls develop the important leadership skills they need to become successful adults.

Nathan Benson MVP and LEC Award

GRANBY – Nathan Benson of Granby, a First Year Student at Vermont State University @ Castleton, was awarded

the 2025 MVP of the Men's Cross Country Team and was named to the first-ever Little East Conference Sportsmanship

Team. Nathan is a Communications/Cinema Studies major.

Support the local businesses that support your local newspaper. Let them know you saw their ad in the The Sentinel

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

SURNER HEATING CO., INC.

60 Shumway Street Amherst, MA 01002 **413.253.5999**

CONTACT SURNER HEATING TODAY! VISIT OUR WEBSITE SURNERHEAT.COM

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

USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN PORK LOIN RIB END or LOIN END \$1.79 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF STRIPLOIN CUT FREE \$7.77 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN CHICKEN BREAST 10 LB BAG \$1.22 lb
USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS PORK LOIN CHOPS or ROAST \$2.98 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BEEF CHUCK STEAK or ROAST \$5.99 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH WHOLE CHICKEN TWIN PAK \$1.44 lb
USDA INSP. SMOKED PORK SHOULDER PICNIC..... \$2.66 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN TENDERLOIN TRAY PAK... \$1.68 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN SARA LEE CHOCOLATE CREAM PIE 19.6 OZ... \$4.99 ea
SLICED IN OUR DELI	USDA INSP. FROZEN 80% LEAN GROUND BEEF 7 LB BAG \$3.99 lb	USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN SNOW CRAB CLUSTER COOKED, \$9.99 lb
USDA INSP. TURKEY BREAST..... \$3.99 lb	USDA INSP. STORE MADE ITALIAN MARINATED 1/2 CHICKEN..... \$2.99 lb	
USDA INSP. SWISS CHEESE..... \$4.44 lb		
USDA INSP. FROZEN FULLY COOKED W/BBQ RUB ST. LOUIS PORK RIBS \$2.99 lb		

SALE DATES: 1/22/26-1/28/26

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

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

BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE

We reserve the right to limit quantities.

Devine Overhead Doors

There's nothing better than dealing with someone who truly loves his job. Gerry Devine of Devine Overhead Doors certainly does. Talk with him and you'll agree.

For over 25 years, Gerry has been working with overhead doors and he puts all this experience to work for you. Gerry sells and installs only the best in overhead doors. Artisan Custom Doorworks makes custom wood and vinyl garage doors. General Doors features standard residential, carriage house style, commercial & industrial.

Call Today for Professional Installation

413.586.3161 www.devineoverheaddoors.com

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

COMMUNITY

Become a Friend or renew your Friends Membership today

BELCHERTOWN – Friends of the Clapp Memorial Library memberships and donations are used to support library programs and purchase books, magazines, computer software, music CDs, DVDs, furnishings, and equipment. Funds are also used to purchase museum and local attraction passes for free or discounted admissions. Also, members are given early access to the book sales in April and October each year. Only members are allowed on Monday night, the first night of the book sale.

Memberships are valid January through December, so they must be renewed each calendar year. To sign up for a membership, visit the library for a form or go to our membership page on our website at <https://www.friendsofclapplib.org>

[friendsofclapplib.org/membership.html](https://www.friendsofclapplib.org/membership.html). You can download a form on this page. Individual memberships are only \$10, Family memberships are \$20, Patron memberships are \$35 and Business memberships are \$50. The Friends of the Clapp Memorial Library is a non-profit organization. Donations and memberships are tax-deductible.

If you have not been to our beautiful library yet, we encourage you to visit and use the library for free as a resident of Belchertown. It is one of the best assets this town has to offer. Not only can you borrow books, DVD's, and CD's for free, but there are many programs available for adults, toddlers, middle school children and high school teens. Go to [clapplib.org](https://www.friendsofclapplib.org) for more information.

PV Partners with Rachel's Table of WMass.

REGION – Pioneer Valley Financial Group is proud to partner with Rachel's Table of Western Massachusetts, donating \$10,000 in support of the organization's mission to alleviate hunger and reduce food waste throughout the region.

Rachel's Table works to address food insecurity by rescuing surplus food and redistributing it to those in need, while also offering programs that educate and empower the community. Through food rescue, gleaning initiatives, gardening, and cooking education, the organization helps individuals and families build skills, resilience, and access to nutritious food.

"Support like this helps ensure our neighbors can grow food, build resilience, and nourish their communities for years to come," says Jodi Falk, Executive Director of Rachel's Table.

PV Financial is excited to be part of Rachel's Table's journey through both learning and hands-on volunteer-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Members of PV Financial are presenting a check to Rachel's Table.

ism. The two organizations have already begun working closely together to identify meaningful ways to support the mission based on team members' skills and interests. Early discussions have focused on the various locations Rachel's Table serves

and how PV Financial can best contribute to their ongoing efforts.

"Their story is so compelling, and they give back to the community in a truly unique way," says Karen Nogueira, Partner and Director of Client Relations

at PV Financial Group. "Both PV Financial Group and Rachel's Table have come so far since their beginnings, and there really is no better feeling than doing good for those around us."

ROOF from page 1

"We are always the ones to respond to help, and now we have a community member and businesses respond to us, it's an awesome feeling."

"Belchertown is our home. This is where we have put down roots-not just for our business, but for our family as well. It's where our children have grown up. We're

proud of the town's growth and grateful to be part of it," said Drost.

The roof has provided the fire department with the ability to function for the next 50 years, allowing the building to be safe and up to code.

"Giving back is part of the fabric of who we are, and it's an honor to donate and install a new roof for our local fire station. It's our way to say

thank you to those who serve our community and always show up when it matters most," said Drost.

Working to serve the community, the fire department and Window World of Western Massachusetts' partnership illustrates how meaningful it is when neighbors step up to help neighbors.

SUBDIVISION from page 1

fully and officially accepted, take ownership of the maintenance functions. And that's why these [easements] are provided."

The subdivision's impact on local traffic prompted the board to commission a traffic study, delivered by consultant Faisal Husseini. The study measured current and projected traffic at the site's major access points, with Aldrich Street and Route 9 under special scrutiny for safety and congestion.

"In general, this development [is] considered [a] very small development in terms of traffic generation. ... The number of trips that will be generated by this site are small. We're talking about four or five vehicles during the peak hour," Husseini told the board.

Traffic counts were conducted in August, a period some residents argued might not reflect peak patterns linked to nearby University of Massachusetts traffic.

Planning Board member Elizabeth Pols said the study may not accurately reflect traffic during the school term.

"If you were doing a study in the last couple weeks of August, that's not quite an accurate representation of

what the traffic usually has when, when UMass is in in full bore, there is a lot of traffic heading back and forth to the pike on that road, and sometimes it would take me a long time to get out of my driveway," she said.

Husseini responded, "We typically do it, and then we get the average through it. As I said, it's counted based on 15 minutes, [intervals] ... we try to count the hours ... and then which one [is] the highest hours we consider as the peak hour." He said the volume came to about 10.5 seconds on Route 9 and nine and a half seconds on Route 181 which "exceed[s] the recommended [gap] based on studies by Federal Highway Administration, where they concluded that eight and a half seconds is adequate".

Despite those findings, several board and public members raised safety concerns related to sightlines at intersections.

"As I look to the east, which is towards Ware, I can't see the cars coming. So, I've got to pull my car out into traffic to see far enough to be able to adequately pull out," Planning Board Chair Dan Beaudette said. "I was hoping that maybe someone would go back and take a look at that again, as to whether or not

maybe the vegetation had grown, or there was any other consideration there, that maybe the sight line distance wasn't adequate."

In response, Husseini stated he could provide additional data: "We can provide the information. We did the analysis, and that's why ... we found that the line of sight was adequate."

The subdivision plan also requires the developer to apply for waivers regarding fencing of stormwater basins and street tree planting, as tree placement is constrained by sidewalk and roadway layouts.

"If you want to stick to the design that you have, you're going to need to request a waiver then, we can vote on a particular waiver for that particular item going forward," Beaudette said.

No vote was taken on final approval for the Mushi Moon Path plan. The board requested action items including submission of further peer review responses, written waiver requests, engineering drawings, formalized open space plans and additional traffic and sightline documentation. The public hearing for the subdivision will continue at the board's next scheduled meeting.

Share your best 2025 photo

Help bring our Annual Report to life

BELCHERTOWN – We're excited to announce the launch of the 2025 Annual Town Report Photo Contest! The deadline for submissions is January 31, 2026, so now is the perfect time to look back on your favorite photos taken in Belchertown during 2025.

This contest is open to all ages and all abilities - everyone is encouraged to participate!

Last year's report proudly featured a submitted photo on the cover, thanks to the entries we received. But in other recent years, when

submissions were low or none came in, the Town had to publish the report with a plain, image-free cover. Belchertown is full of beauty, energy, and community spirit, and we want this year's report to reflect that.

If you captured a memorable moment or scene in Belchertown during 2025, we invite you to submit your photo for a chance to be featured on the cover of the 2025 Annual Town Report. Your photo could be the image that represents our community to residents, visitors, and future generations.

The winning photographer will be notified by email by February 6, 2026, and additional photos may be featured throughout the

report, adding color, character, and local pride to every page. All submitted photos may also be used in future Town materials to help showcase Belchertown year-round.

Submit your photo here: [/FormCenter/General-Forms-4/Annual-Town-Report-Photo-Contest-2025-70](https://formcenter/general-forms-4/annual-town-report-photo-contest-2025-70)

Let's continue the momentum from last year and ensure the 2025 Annual Town Report reflects the true heart of Belchertown—not a blank cover, but a vibrant image captured by someone in our own community.

Share your photo today and help us celebrate the beauty of Belchertown!

sentinel.turley.com

think OUTSIDE of the BIG BOX SUPPORT COMMUNITY BUSINESSES

Oldies from The Estate
WE BUY & SELL ALL TYPES OF STUFF FROM A TO Z.
 COSTUME JEWELRY, FURNITURE, COINS, COLLECTIONS, WATCHES, TOYS, SILVER, ETC.
 Contact Bill or Beth **413-543-6065**
OVER 30 YEARS IN BUSINESS!
 email: oldiesfrom@aol.com
 45 Parker Street, Indian Orchard
 Wed.-Fri. 10-4:30, Sat. 10-2:30, Closed Sun. - Tues.

TOP DOLLAR PAID CARS, TRUCKS & SUVs
GOOD OR JUNK
"WE COME WITH THE CASH"
Nate (413) 636-2929
D AND M AUTO
1422 Park St.
Palmer, MA 01069

Top Floor LEARNING
Meet Your Professional & Educational Goals
TUTORING AVAILABLE
Tutors Needed
 For English Language Learners, HiSet Tutors: English, Writing & Math

Low cost tutoring & scholarships are available!

We're a private, non-profit organization at the Palmer Public Library, here to help you meet your educational and professional goals.

1455 N. Main St
 3rd Floor
 Palmer, MA 01069

We're on Facebook!

Call to ask about our next Computer Security class

Computer Security Class

- Basic Computer Use —
- Resumé Building & Updating
- English Language Learning
- GED/HiSET Preparation
- Reading, Writing, Math
- Citizenship Exam
- SAT, TOEFL, etc. Test Prep

Contact Us For More Information
NEW PHONE NUMBER **413-544-6600**
 email: dkimball@topfloorlearning.org
<https://topfloorlearning.org/>

COMMUNITY

Community invited to Belchertown drinking water listening session

BELCHERTOWN – The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC), in collaboration with the Belchertown Water District and the Town of Belchertown, invites residents, business owners, and community members to a Community Listening & Information Session on Drinking Water on Thursday, January 29, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Belchertown Senior Center, 60 State Street, Belchertown.

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

Williams, Superintendent of the Belchertown Water District, and Andrea Crete, Director of Public Health for the Quabbin Health District.

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

Topics will include Belchertown's public water system, where drinking water comes from, and factors to consider for maintaining a safe drinking water supply.

Residents are encouraged to submit questions in advance by emailing Becky Basch at bbasch@pvpc.org with "Belchertown Drinking Water" in the subject line.

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

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

Clapp Memorial Library spring book sale has been cancelled

BELCHERTOWN – The Friends of the Clapp Memorial Library have announced that there will NOT be a spring book sale this year. Due to safety and fire code issues, the basement of the library will be closed for total renovation. We will be making the area easier to access with a better flow. Also, in order to meet fire code requirements, most or all of our wooden bookcases will be removed and replaced with metal bookcases. As you can imagine, it will take a substantial amount of time and expense to make these changes.

We apologize to all of you who continually donate books, DVDs, CDs, puzzles, etc. We plan to have the grand opening of our new and improved basement ready for the fall sale in October. We implore you to hold on to your donations, as we do not have any space to put them, as we remove everything from the basement and make all necessary repairs and changes. We expect to restart donations as soon as the space has been reconfigured.



Probably late summer or early fall.

The Friends of the Library have been sponsoring book sales since the spring of 1976, with only a few interruptions due to COVID in 2020. Your understanding and patience during this renovation is appreciated. We

are celebrating the Friends of the Clapp Memorial Library's 50th Anniversary in 2026, and the upgrades will allow us to continue the book sale tradition for many years to come. Thank you, Belchertown, for your continued support of our beautiful library.

New electric vehicle chargers at 1 South Main Street, Belchertown

BELCHERTOWN – Four new electric vehicle (EV) chargers have been installed between the Finnerty House and the Clapp Memorial Library in the center of Belchertown. They are Level 2 chargers made by EVSE LLC. Users of the chargers can pay for their charging via the AMPUP phone app or by using a credit card with the credit card reader on the charger unit. The energy price is competitive with other nearby Level 2 charging stations and the charging rate is significantly faster (9.6 KW vs. 6.6 KW) than most other Level 2 chargers in the area.



The parking space reserved for Charger #1 is American Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant, offering easy access to that charger. These chargers were activated on 1/1/2026,

are always open to the public, and are convenient for anyone who lives/works near the center of Belchertown. They are in a convenient location for attending events nearby (e.g., Town Commons activities) and are within walking distance of

four eateries near the Town Commons.

The chargers use a J1772 connector. Vehicles with North American Charging Standard (NACS) ports (Tesla-style connectors) will need to bring an adapter to charge.

Ham radio club meeting to be held Jan. 27

WEST BROOKFIELD – The Quaboag Valley Amateur Radio Club will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 27 at 6:30 p.m. at the West Brookfield Senior Center, 73 Central St.

This month's presentation features Bill Simpson

of Smokestack Lightning, who will explain the basics of lightning protection and share a short demonstration with his "lightning machine." All licensed amateurs and anyone curious about Amateur Radio are invited to attend, and the public is

welcome to stop in – especially homeowners interested in practical lightning safety.

For more information about the club, upcoming events, or licensing opportunities, visit www.QVARC.com.

District Attorney's office awarded \$60,000 for violence prevention

NORTHAMPTON – The Northwestern District Attorney's Office has been awarded a \$60,000 grant through the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program.

Administered by the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security's Office of Grants and Research, the grant assists with a wide range of public safety efforts, from officer training and community-based violence prevention programs to technology upgrades and forensic improvements. The \$60,000 awarded to the NWDAO will support several critical public safety initiatives, including:

Proactive Investigations: The Massachusetts State Police Hampshire/Franklin Detective Unit and the Northwestern District Anti-Crime Task Force in partnership with NWDAO prosecutors, will continue

proactive efforts to identify and disrupt online criminal activity involving exploitation of minors and vulnerable adults.

Technology & Evidence Management: NDATF will acquire secure storage equipment to preserve seized mobile devices during long-term digital investigations.

Domestic Violence & Coercive Control Training: NWDAO will train law enforcement on recognizing and responding to reports of coercive control and other non-physical abuse in intimate partner relationships.

Emergency Medical Professional Training: Funding will support training for emergency medical personnel on intimate partner violence and non-fatal strangulation.

Public Awareness Campaign: NWDAO will

develop and distribute intimate partner violence awareness posters on local bus routes ensuring that victims and survivors have access to resources and support information in the community.

District Attorney David E. Sullivan stated, "Online exploitation and domestic violence occur at an alarming rate, often out of public view and behind closed doors. This funding is critical to our efforts to address these serious issues and strengthen the community safety net for our most vulnerable residents."

The NWDAO serves Hampshire and Franklin counties and the Town of Athol, working to ensure public safety through prosecution, prevention, and community partnership.

A FULL SERVICE COMPANY

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

B-Town Electric

Residential
Commercial
Industrial

Office: 413-213-0770
Email: btownelectric413@gmail.com

Neighborhood Marketplace

Locally owned businesses here to serve you!

SUPPORT THESE HOMETOWN BUSINESSES

TILTON AUTOMOTIVE

GENERAL REPAIRS

AutoCare Center
We Install Only NAPA Parts

FREDERICK TILTON
Owner
323-5051

ROUTE 9
3 AMHERST ROAD
BELCHERTOWN, MA 01007

Quabbin Analytical Laboratory

Have you tested your well water recently?

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

Adventure tours of Warren
Share the Adventure with us!

4-Day Boothbay Harbor Vacation
June 9-12
\$899

May 248-Day Bermuda & Halifax Cruise.....from \$1699
June 27Lake George Cruise & Lunch\$185
July 11Provincetown by Fast Ferry.....\$220
July 198-Day Bermuda & Halifax Cruise.....from \$1699
Aug 308-Day Nova Scotia Cruisefrom \$1699

Share the Adventure with us soon!
For further information call Randall at (413) 436-5357
or email adventuretours@att.net
or go to www.adventuretoursowarren.com

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Has This Happened to You?
We do what your body shop won't!
Body Rust • Body Rot • Frame Rust • Chassy Work

Turn to the experts at
Amherst Welding
Welding • Fabrication • Hydraulic
Hoses & Hydraulic Repairs • Snow Plows • Sanders • Hand Railings
330 Harkness Road, Amherst • (413) 253-4867



A large tub of pasta to help many families enjoy a warm dinner.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

FOOD DRIVE from page 1

“Dr. King’s legacy, which is more important now than ever, is a call to service. A community food drive is something that I hope answers that call, and it is fitting that we held it on the holiday weekend we celebrate Martin Luther King,” said Saunders.

This is the first year the members of the House and Senate representing Belchertown came together to host the Light and Love Community Food Drive, and it will not be the only one, as they look forward to making the Martin Luther King Day Drive happen again to continue honoring King’s legacy.

“I’m incredibly appreciative of all the folks who donated to the food drive. A special thank you to Select Board Member Jon Ritter and everyone from Belchertown Little League who volunteered in the cold and snow to load the truck, as well as Window World of Western Massachusetts for their incredible generosity in providing the truck to hold all the donations,” said Saunders.

The weekend of giving was one of hope and thankfulness as the community came together to honor a man who fought for rights, and to create a way for all to have food.



Working out a plan to organize and load up all of the donations for the survival center.



Unloading a trunk of donations from a generous neighbor.



State Representative Aaron Saunders and Senator Jake Oliveira are here to help.



The truck filling up as more and more donations come as the snow falls.

New license plate honors fallen law enforcement

BOSTON – State Sen. Peter J. Durant, R-Spencer, voted in favor of legislation to create a new special license plate to honor fallen law enforcement officers by offering a symbol of respect to their surviving spouses, parents, and children.

The bill—S.2903, An Act honoring Blue Star Families directs the Registry of Motor Vehicles to create a new Blue Star (Law Enforcement) Families’ plate to help the family members remember their loved one in a visible way on their car. It would also create a Blue Star Family emblem for motorcycle plates.

“When we see these license plates on vehicles, we will be reminded that our law enforcement officers do not always return

home from work each day and it will offer the chance to personally thank family members of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in order to keep us safe,” Durant said.

Durant said he is hopeful the bill will be passed in the House and signed by the Governor.

“I believe that it would be comforting for family members to have these specialty license plates and to receive words of gratitude from people who notice them in public,” Durant said.

Under the legislation, the RMV would be required to make the plates available to Blue Star Law Enforcement spouses, parents, and children without charge. The RMV would also be able to offer vanity plate registrations for Blue Star plates up

to six characters in length.

The Blue Star Family license plates would join other special recognition plates currently offered by the RMV, including Gold Star Family plates for drivers with close family members who died in or as a result of their service in the Armed Forces.

The Senate Committee on Ways and Means advanced the legislation to the floor on a 17-0 vote Jan. 8, as a partial report on a bill that was advanced in December by the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security. All committee votes are publicly posted on the Legislature’s website.

The Senate passed the bill on a 38-0 roll call vote, sending it to the House for further consideration.

COLD SPRING from page 1

that wanted to attend could attend. And then we will roll out a plan on how things are going to be based on all the feedback, based on what we can and cannot do,” he said.

He said he would like to have a finalized plan for moving grades and closing the school by March.

THE BEST FRESH FOR GOOD HEALTH!

SPECIALS JANUARY 21-27

- Fresh Blueberries Pint Size.....\$3.99
- Fresh Blackberries 6oz Size 2 For \$5.00
- Jumbo California Seedless Navel Oranges.....5 For \$4.00
- Locally Grown Potatoes ~ Red & White All Purpose 5 lb Bags\$2.99
- Sweet Red, Yellow & Orange Peppers \$2.99 lb
- Seedless Cucumbers Hot House.....2 For \$3.00
- Grade A Large White Eggs... 2 Dozen For \$5.00
- Boar’s Head Black Forest Ham \$11.99 lb
- Boar’s Head Wisconsin Cheddar Cheese.... \$8.99 lb

COLORFUL BLOOMING PRIMROSE
4 for \$12.00!
\$3.99 each 4 inch pots

Mood Boosting
“Vitamin F” For Flowers!
Red “Motivation” BOUQUETS
\$14.99

Colorful Fresh Cut TULIPS
10 Stem Bunches
\$9.99

Big Game Sunday, Feb. 8th
BIG GAME MENU
Sat. & Sun., Feb. 7th & 8th
ALL YOUR FAVORITES TO TACKLE THE MUNCHIES
Wings, Gumbo, Chili, Ribs & More!

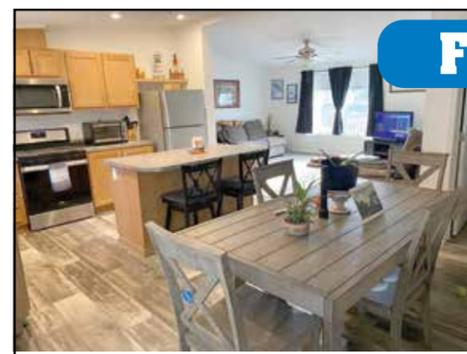
Valentine’s Day
Saturday, Feb. 14th
“Fall In Love With Roses All Over Again”
Beautiful Long Stem Roses
BY THE STEM OR BY THE DOZEN

ALWAYS FRESH AT



631 CENTER ST., Route 21, Mass Tpke Exit 54
LUDLOW • 589-7071 • www.randallsfarm.net
WINTER HOURS: OPEN MON - FRI. 7AM – 8PM
OPEN SAT. & SUN. 7AM – 7PM

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



FIVE ISLANDS

Georgetown, Maine
2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathroom
Washer/Dryer, Fully Equipped
• Walk to Five Islands Wharf and Ledgewood Preserve Beach
• Close to Reid State Park



\$1200/week
207-607-9333

OPINION

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

I'm divorced; can I get benefits from my ex-husband?

Dear Rusty:

After 16 years of marriage, we were divorced. I have never remarried, but he has. When he starts collecting Social Security (he is 64 now and still working), is it true that I can claim ex-spousal benefits or does that go to the current wife? How would I find this info?

Signed: A Divorced Spouse

Dear Divorced Spouse:

The fact that your ex-husband has remarried has no influence on your ability to collect benefits based on his record. If you are eligible for ex-spouse benefits (because you did not remarry), you can get those benefits regardless of whether his current wife collects benefits on his record. In other words, both you and his current wife can both collect spousal benefits from your ex-husband's earnings record.

Your eligibility for an ex-spouse benefit is determined by comparing your own SS retirement benefit amount at full retirement age (FRA) to his – if your own SS benefit at your FRA is less than 50% of your ex's FRA benefit entitlement, and you were married to your ex for more than 10 years, are not currently married and are at least 62 years old, then you can get a "spousal boost" (an amount added to your own Social Security retirement amount). In fact, if you have been divorced for over two years, you can get an ex-spouse benefit even though he is not yet receiving his own SS retirement benefit.

Be aware, howev-

er, if you claim any Social Security benefit (both your own SS retirement amount and your ex-spouse "spousal boost") before you reach your full retirement age, the monthly amount you get will be reduced according to how much before your full retirement age you claim. Spouse and ex-spouse benefits reach maximum at your full retirement age but are reduced if claimed earlier than your full retirement age. Claiming your benefits as an ex-spouse will also result in you receiving your own SS retirement benefit (reduced if you haven't yet reached FRA).

I suggest you contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 to make a telephone appointment to evaluate whether you are entitled benefits as an ex-spouse. If your own SS retirement benefit at your FRA is less than half of your ex's FRA entitlement, you will be. To apply for those benefits you will need a copy of your divorce decree (and perhaps your marriage certificate), and your ex-husband's Social Security number (if you do not have his SSN, you can provide his date and place of birth and his parents' names, and SSA will likely be able to locate your ex's SS record).

SSA will be able to tell you what your total monthly benefit as an ex-spouse will be when you meet with them, at which point you can decide whether to claim your benefits early or wait until your FRA to achieve your maximum amount as an ex-spouse.



Winter sowing is a fun experiment

“Winter sowing” always comes up as a hot topic on social media this time of year.

The basic premise of winter sowing is to plant your seeds in mini greenhouses (gallon jugs), place the jugs outside and simply let nature take over. The advantage being that no heat mats or lights are needed. No window sills full of seedlings, either.

While I don't think it is as simple as it sounds, I do think trying it would be a fun experiment.

Read on this week and next to consider some of the pros and possible cons of this seed starting technique.

Years ago I read a blog where a master gardener was encouraging folks to start native perennials in milk jugs outside. The seeds of many of these plants require a period of cold and moist stratification to break seed dormancy.

In simple terms, they need to go through winter in order to sprout. Think of it as nature's safety mechanism; seeds germinate at the right time to survive and thrive!

You may ask, then, why not just sow the seeds outdoors in the garden? In theory it sounds good, but in reality “the wild” is not

You should be able to bend the top back and forth. Make a number of drainage holes in the bottom; three or four per quadrant.

There is a lot of advice out there on how to do that, from drilling holes, to twisting an exacto knife around and around and even using a hot tool to melt a hole in the plastic (really!). I generally like to make holes in reused plastic containers by banging a large nail through the bottom into a piece of scrap lumber placed underneath.

Once the drainage holes are made, fill the bottom of the jug with moist seed starting mix. With the soil in place, sow your seeds.

If the seeds are tiny or even relatively tiny, don't cover them with soil, simply space them out evenly on top and press into the surface.

You may wonder how to deal with tiny seed. I place it in a folded index card and gently tap the card so that the seeds fly out. If you can han-

the best seed bed.

From hungry birds and rodents, to wind and drenching rains, success is hit or miss. Safely inside the milk jug, but at the same time outside in the elements to freeze and thaw, freeze and thaw, tricky seeds are coaxed into germinating. Success at your fingertips!

Here are the nuts and bolts! Start with clean gallon containers, the see-through kind that water or milk come in. About four inches up, just below the handle, safely cut around the jug, leaving an inch or so on either side of the handle as a “hinge.”

Please see **GARDEN**, page 9

A final hike of 2025

By Julie Midura

“You know, honey, we always talk about how we'll REALLY start living ‘some day.’ Once the kids are grown. Once we have more time and more money. Once we retire. But how do we know that we'll both be physically capable of doing something so demanding if we wait for ‘some day’ to arrive? How do we know that we will even reach that elusive ‘some day’?”

It was a beautiful August day in 2016, and Tom and I were standing on the summit of Mt. Lafayette in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. We were completing Tom's lifelong dream of hiking the Franconia Ridge Loop—a majestic 9-mile hike featured on a National Geographic List of the 20 Best Hikes in the World.

On that summer afternoon almost ten years ago, I was trying to convince my husband that we should attempt to hike all of New Hampshire's 48 tallest peaks. I was 51, and he was 59 at the time. There were numerous reasons not to pursue such a time-consuming and physically challenging

endeavor. One of which, as Tom stated, was because “We're far too old and there's no way we can hike up all those mountains in our lifetime.”



It took a bit of persuasion on my part, but he finally agreed to chase after those 48 mountain peaks.

Since that day, Tom and I have not only completed the entire White Mountain 4,000 Footer List once, but twice including climbing every peak during the winter season. And we've repeated several of our favorites over a half dozen times. In addition, we've backpacked 800 miles on the Appalachian Trail, completing 8 of the 14 states. We have also climbed the second highest peak in the continental United States—14,440' Mt. Elbert in Colorado—when I was fifty-eight and Tom was sixty-six years old.

The thousands of miles we have walked over the past ten years have not just proven what our bodies and minds are capable of. Every mile has been a journey of adventure, self-discovery, courage, humility, resilience, contentment and gratitude. And every footprint we have left on every woodland trail and every slab of granite has pro-



pelled us forward to the next.

Our final hike of 2025 in New Hampshire, just two weeks ago, continued to do the same.

It's minus 2 degrees when we start up the trail toward the summit of Mt. Jackson

at 4:15 a.m. The sky is black and the beams of our headlamps pierce the darkened forest. When we lift our heads upward, our lights illuminate the trees, and they appear like figures standing guard over the landscape.

The snow-laden evergreens groan under the weight, pressing closer to the ground, seeming to bow to us as we pass. The silence is full, broken only by the crunch of our boots on the hard-packed snow.

When we break treeline, everything changes. We brace ourselves against the onslaught of howling wind. The sheer force pushes our bodies backward. We slam our trekking poles into the hard-packed snow to steady ourselves, while hoping that our spike-clad boots anchor us to the icy granite. The final steep pitch makes my heart tremble. Adrenaline is coursing through my body. I grab onto rocks and pull myself upward, eyes water-

Please see **HIKING**, page 8

Turley Publications Letters to the Editor Policy

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

Turley Election Policy

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

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

SENTINEL TEAM

EDITORIAL
sentinel@turley.com



STAFF WRITER
Emily-Rose Pappas
epappas@turley.com



SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

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

@ The Sentinel

WEB
www.sentinel.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

Turley Publications, Inc.

www.turley.com

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

SPORTS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

www.sports.turley.com

Orioles take part in duals

SOUTHWICK – The Belchertown High School wrestling team was recently in action at Southwick Regional in their multi-team dual meets. The Orioles also defeated Pathfinder last Wednesday evening 66-18 at home. The Orioles will next face Ludlow at home on Jan. 28 at 7 p.m.



ABOVE: Chase Fraga goes for a pin.

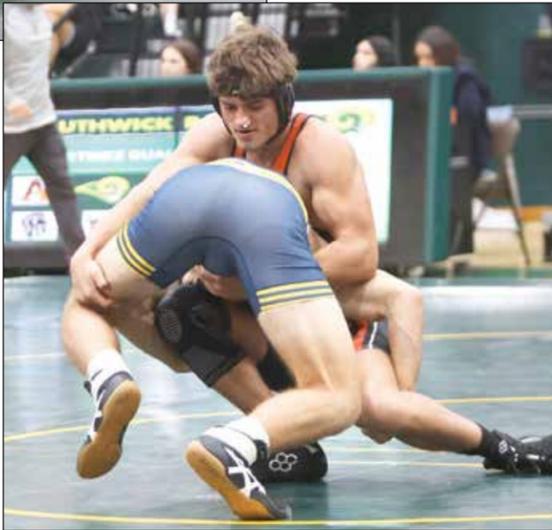
TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY
WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



LEFT: Edan Chaverri goes gets the leverage in a match.



Oliver Hellyar gets ready to lock up.



Rulon Anderson tries to avoid a leg takedown.

Early defense keys win for Pathfinder

PALMER – Last Thursday night, Pathfinder Tech defeated Smith Vocational 47-37 thanks to some good early defense and a great night from Megan Clark. Pathfinder limited the visitors to just eight points in the first half and Clark scored 23 points to lead all scorers. Taylor Allen added 13 points. The Pioneers are now 4-3 and next play on Thursday, Jan. 22 against Bay State Academy Charter at 6 p.m.



The Pathfinder defense tries to prevent a basket by the opposition.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Addison Doktor tries to overcome pressure to shoot under the basket



Megan Clark changes sides of the court.

White shines as Granby overwhelms Sci-Tech

SPRINGFIELD – Last Monday night, Granby girls basketball defeated host Sci-Tech 73-48. Kalli White had a really impressive night with 35 points, including 10 made free throws. Ellie Szlosek, Rowan Cook, and Meredith Bartosz had eight points each. Granby was also phenomenal on defense. Granby is now 8-3 with a 5-2 Franklin West record. Granby hosts Ludlow on Thursday, Jan. 22 at 7 p.m.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

LEFT Brenna Moreno comes up with an offensive rebound.



Kaitlyn Curran sends a long inbound pass away.



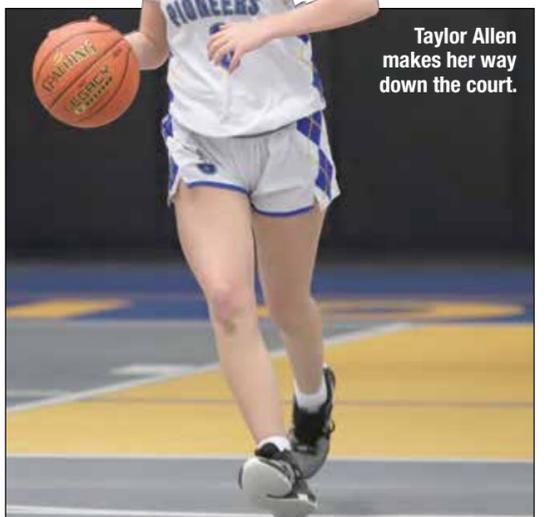
Meredith Bartosz tries to pass it away from the sideline.



Kaelyn Slapski goes after a loose ball.



Ellie Szlosek starts down the court.

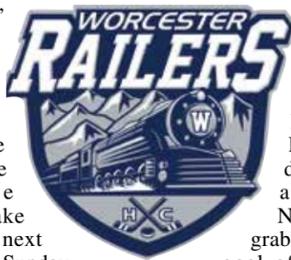


Taylor Allen makes her way down the court.

SPORTS

Railers pick up overtime win over Portland Pirates

PORTLAND, ME — The Worcester Railers HC (16-15-2-1) fell to the Portland Pirates (15-10-5-2) in overtime on Saturday, January 17th, in front of a crowd of 6,076 with a final score of 3-2 at the Cross Insurance Arena. The Railers will take on the Pirates next on home ice on Sunday, January 18th at 3:05 p.m.



Portland on its first power play of the game, which forced Worcester to fight the first two minutes of play for the night down a man. With just eight seconds remaining on Hatten's call, Portland defenseman Andrew Nielsen (5th) grabbed the only goal of the period for either team, which gave the Pirates a 1-0 lead to close the first twenty. Shots for the period with 11-4 in favor of Portland.

Worcester didn't wait long to tie the game in the second. Jesse Pulkkinen (3rd) picked up his 5th point of the season with a goal at 0:33. Portland went back on the power play soon after the score on a hooking call on Anthony Callin. Worcester had their first chance at the man-advantage about five minutes into the period, as Anthony Callin was tripped up by Max Andreev. Portland re-gained their one-goal lead once more around the halfway mark of the period, scored by Mitch Deelstra (2nd) at 9:35. Neither the Railers nor the Pirates could break past the blue line for the remainder of the second,

which left the Railers down by one for a second time in the evening. Portland out-shot Worcester nine to seven. Penalties for the period were one for Worcester and two for Portland.

The Railers came out fighting in the third and tallied their highest shot total for any period of the night. A roughing call on Loke Johansson put Worcester on their third power play just over seven and a half minutes into play for the third. Unable to capitalize on their previous two power play chances, Drew Callin (10th) drove the puck home at 8:28 to even the score once more for the Railers. A late-game goal from Anthony Callin had Worcester celebrating an early win; however, the goal was waved off for goaltender interference as Callin fell into the net of Brad Arvanitis. The game once again was 2-2 and went into overtime for the second consecutive night. In the end, the Pirates would take the win in overtime with a final score of 3-2, the last lamp lit by Max Andreev (7th) on a shot from atop the circles to beat Gahagen in net for Worcester. Final shots were 27-25 in favor of Portland. Final penalties were five for Portland and four for Worcester.

Portland nabbed the first goal of the night just 2:08 into the first off a goal from defenseman Andrew Nielsen (1-0-1). Nielsen's goal was the only one in the first period. Worcester answered the 1-0 lead from Portland with a goal from Jesse Pulkkinen (1-0-1) at 0:33 into the second to tie the game. Portland took back the one-goal lead halfway through the second, this time from Mitch Deelstra (1-0-1), Worcester once again evened the score with a goal from Drew Callin (1-0-1). A final goal from Max Andreev (1-0-1), at 3:27 in overtime secured the Pirates' 3-2 victory. Worcester kicked off the night shorthanded just 16 seconds after puck drop. An early penalty against Lincoln Hatten for high-sticking put

Thunderbirds offense dries up in loss to Bridgeport

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. - The Springfield Thunderbirds (13-18-4-2) continued to have a tough time location offense, falling 4-1 to the Bridgeport Islanders (16-17-2-1) on Saturday night inside Total Mortgage Arena.

A bad break for T-Birds netminder Vadim Zherenko resulted in Bridgeport's game-opening tally at 6:37 of the opening period, as Zherenko lost his balance and fell in his blue paint, allowing Daylan Kuefler to carry the puck around the net and wrap it past the fallen goaltender to make it 1-0 Bridgeport.

Aside from that unfortunate break, the T-Birds and Islanders played a mostly defensive-minded first period, as Zherenko's

nine saves and Henrik Tikkanen's eight stops in the Bridgeport crease accounted for much of the action on the scoresheet.

Matthew Peca quickly got his troops back on track, as the T-Birds captain slipped a wrist through Tikkanen just 49 seconds into period two, tying the score, 1-1, and extending his point streak to five consecutive games. Matt Luff also extended his season-long point streak with the primary assist on Springfield's first marker of the evening.

However, that potential momentum-changer was quickly washed out when Cam Berg connected on a

writer from the left circle just 2:08 later, restoring a one-goal Bridgeport lead, 2-1.



Shots and chances continued to come at a premium for both teams, as the clubs combined for only 43 shots all evening, including just 25 in the final 40 minutes of play.

The T-Birds never did receive a power play in this one, and the club's last-minute efforts with Zherenko on the bench proved fruitless, as Adam Beckman and Eetu Liukas each connected on empty-netters to give Bridgeport the final goals of the night.

Registration set to open Feb. 1 for Quabbin Valley Baseball League

SOUTH HADLEY - On Sunday, Jan. 11, the Quabbin Valley Baseball League, an over-28 recreational league, held its first meeting of 2026 to prepare for the upcoming season.

At the meeting it was determined registration for players will open up on Sunday, Feb. 1.

For the 2026 season, the cost will be \$215 and will include a 16th game added to the regular season schedule.

During the 2025 season, the league experimented with playing on Mother's Day Saturday as well as a weeknight game to allow players an opportunity to play under the lights. While the night games were very successful, the Mother's Day Saturday games were rained out.

Those elements will return along with a 16th game with an opponent to be determine as the league's board explores possibilities for interleague matchups with another league in the region.

For returning players to the league, the deadline is Mar. 22 at 12 noon to be registered for the 2026 season in order to be guaranteed a roster spot. There will be open practices for all players but specifically targeted at new players scheduled for March 29 and April 4 at times and locations to be announced. The draft is currently scheduled to take place on April 4 following that practice.

The season is currently slated to start on Sunday, April 19 and following the success of the six-team fall

league last year, the league will also have a fall league in September and October this season.

The registration link will be live on Feb. 1 at www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org. Players must register and then pay the league dues via Venmo or contact the league leadership if an alternate form of payment is needed.

Aside from the weeknight and Mother's Day games, other games take place Sundays at 10 a.m. outside of Mother's Day, Memorial Day and July 4 weekends. Playoffs will be in August.

This is the 30th season for the league and league officials are looking to celebrate the anniversary with a couple of events.

Irish Night 2026 set for Feb. 28

HOLYOKE - The Hibernians of Hampden/Hampshire Counties and Ladies Order invite the public to attend Irish Night in Holyoke 2026 on Feb. 28 at the Log Cabin 500 Easthampton Rd. Holyoke, Mass. Doors open at 5 p.m. and dinner is at 6:30 p.m.



The night will feature the Keohane and Kenneally Irish-American band and a corned beef and cabbage dinner with ribs. The price is \$50 per person and valet parking services will be available. For reservations by Feb. 24 call Joe O'Connor at 413-627-7148, or Fran Hennessey at 413-785-5687

or online at eventbrite.com. Additional entertainment by the Cassin School of Irish Dance and Piper Matt O'Connor. The night is in memory of Hibernian Daniel P. Curran and will benefit the Maurice A. Donahue Memorial Scholarship. The Hibernians wish a Happy St. Patrick's Day to all.

Crossword Puzzle

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

- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Paddles
 - 5. Sunscreen rating
 - 8. Very fast airplane
 - 11. Immune responses
 - 13. "Partner" to feather
 - 14. New England river
 - 15. Longest river in New Guinea
 - 16. Midway between east and southeast
 - 17. Israeli politician
 - 18. Back bones
 - 20. Consumed
 - 21. One you can rely on
 - 22. Dressed up gaudily
 - 25. Representatives
 - 30. Dog breed
 - 31. Pitching statistic
 - 32. Manpower
 - 33. S. Korean entertainer
 - 38. Outsourcing firm
 - 41. Viceroy of Egypt
 - 43. One who removes antlers from a flower
 - 45. Potluck dish
 - 48. Discount
 - 49. Airborne (abbr.)
 - 50. Cavalry sword
 - 55. Basics
 - 56. Hollywood director Howard
 - 57. Afflicted in mind or body
 - 59. Horsley and Majors are two
 - 60. Midway between northeast and east
 - 61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
 - 62. Malaysian isthmus
 - 63. Fall back
 - 64. Cheek
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Former CIA
 - 2. Baseball's best pitchers
 - 3. ___ Nui, Easter Island
 - 4. Invests in little enterprises
 - 5. Constant
 - 6. Hobby
 - 7. A place to store food
 - 8. Short-tail marten
 - 9. Burn with a hot liquid
 - 10. Left his heart in San Francisco
 - 12. Swedish krona
 - 14. Legendary actor Connery
 - 19. French cleric
 - 23. Former measure of length for textiles
 - 24. Opaque glassy substance
 - 25. Residue of burned item
 - 26. A place to unwind
 - 27. Japanese honorific
 - 28. Terminus
 - 29. Fails to make a shot
 - 34. Journalist Tarbell
 - 35. College hoops tournament
 - 36. Monetary unit of Macao
 - 37. Of she
 - 39. Spoke ill of
 - 40. Elements
 - 41. Kilocalorie (abbr.)
 - 42. Shades
 - 44. Poem of fourteen lines
 - 45. Pole used in Scottish sport
 - 46. Hollyhocks genus
 - 47. Street name for marijuana
 - 48. Polio vaccine developer
 - 51. Swiss river
 - 52. Prejudice
 - 53. Actor Idris
 - 54. Confederate soldiers
 - 58. Criticize

Free HCC line-cook training program begins Jan. 26

HOLYOKE - Holyoke Community College will be running both daytime and evening editions of its free, line-cook training program at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute beginning Jan. 26. The six-week daytime program starts Monday, Jan. 26, and runs until March 6. Classes meet

Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The 11-week evening program runs from Jan. 26 until April 8 on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 5 to 9 p.m.

Additional spring semester line-cook training pro-

grams will start on March 30 (daytime), April 27 (evening) and May 11 (daytime).

"HCC tries to meet the needs of its students by offering multiple options for start days and times," said Paul Sheehan, assistant project coordinator for culi-

Please see **HCC**, page 11

HIKING

rom page 6
ing, skin pierced with the sting of icy needles. I breathe a sigh of relief when we reach the plateau, and we rush to the leeward side to escape the wind's torment.

We find a partially sheltered ledge and quickly spread our bright green sleeping bag over our sleep pads atop several feet of snow. We crawl inside of the double-wide down bag and snuggle close together. Based on the weather, we know we can't remain immobile for long. Movement keeps the body warm. Stillness allows the cold to penetrate the numerous layers of clothing we are wearing. Today, even the trees are shivering.

We sip hot apple cider in an attempt to warm our insides while waiting for the sun to crest the distant horizon. The cold kisses our cheeks and the wind fills our ears. We inhale the frigid mountain air and watch plumes of vapor rise as we exhale. We remain snuggled in our lofty sleeping bag on this snowy perch for over

an hour, unwilling to leave in spite of the cold settling into our bones. For we don't want to miss ONE. SINGLE. MINUTE. of this unforgettable moment that is unfolding before us.

The earth itself seems to be holding its breath, waiting for the show to begin. With eyes focused eastward, we watch the black of night turn into the blazing red of dawn. The stars above are being replaced with an inferno of fiery reds and blazing oranges-like molten lava spreading as the horizon slowly burns.

And there it is. The shimmering golden sphere we have been waiting for, spreading its golden light down the mountainside and awakening the earth from its slumber. The brilliant rays stretch from the heavens and dance upon the earth, giving life to everything they touch.

This experience is just one of the many that will burn in our hearts and memories for as long as there is breath in our lungs. An experience that we may never have witnessed had we not decided to chase a

dream ten years ago. Had we waited until we retired. Had we waited for 'some day' to arrive.

I implore you to not allow your age, fitness level, current circumstances, past failures or ANYTHING ELSE dictate what you are capable of! I encourage you to chase the dream, seize the opportunity and never live regretting what could have been if only you had taken the chance. We have but one wild and crazy life. TODAY is the day to go out and LIVE it.

Tom and I have lived life to the absolute fullest over the past 10 years. Adventuring on weekends and vacations from work. But for one of us, at least, life is opening up to even more possibilities and opportunities. I'm thrilled to announce that after dedicating fifty years of his life to his career, Tom completed his final day as a working man on the last day of 2025!

See you in the wild places, my friends!

VFW presents 8th annual first responders appreciation dinner

By Amanda Munson
Staff Writer
amunson@turley.com

LUDLOW – In the evening of Jan. 8, the Gremio-Lusitano Club opened their doors for the Eighth annual First Responders Appreciation Dinner, hosted by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Pioneer Valley Financial Group. From a photobooth and a dance area, a friendly competition of battle of the badges, and numerous raffle prizes for adults and toys for kids, the dinner was only a part of the fun!

The night was open and free to first responders who work and live in Ludlow, Wilbraham, Hampden and included police, fire, state police, EMTs, dispatchers, department retirees, and all families. The event by Sgt. Joshua D. Desforges VFW Post 3236, which recently merged with VFW Post 625 in Chicopee and Holyoke last year, had a goal to recognize first responders and their ongoing efforts within the communities.

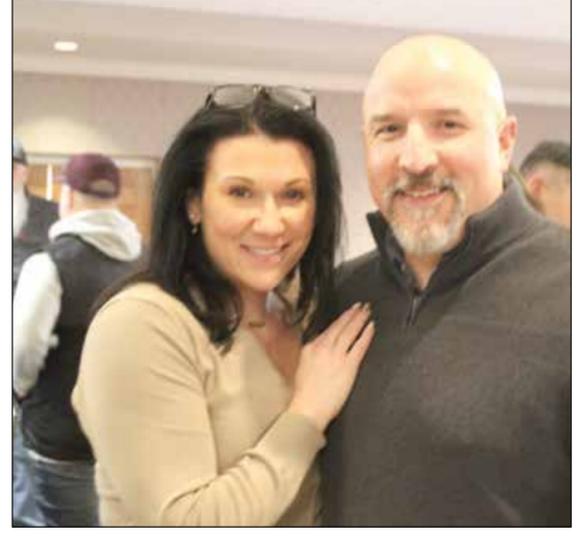
Speaking with Director of Veterans Services Eric Segundo, he explained how he defines the title first responders and the partnerships within the community to make this event happen.

“First responders represent courage under pressure, compassion in crisis, and professionalism in uncertainty. They are the calm voice on the phone, the steady hands in the chaos, and the reassuring presence when everything feels out of control. At their core, first responders are people who choose—again and again—to place the safety and well-being of others ahead of their own comfort, and sometimes ahead of their own lives. That commitment deserves not only our gratitude, but our respect, support, and care. For the last eight years we have partnered with PV Financial to honor our first responders. Other businesses have provided support to complete the event,” said Segundo.

Speaking with Auxiliary President Kara Smith of VFW Post 3236, Smith explained how she got



VFW Post Members with Auxiliary President Kara Smith, Paul Chrzan, and Linda Collette greeted people and provided raffle tickets for kids and adults.



Provisional Police Chief Mike Brennan with his wife at the appreciation dinner.



Ludlow VFW Auxiliary Post 3236 Carol Askew, Barbara Hebert, with Maria DeBlois greeted guests at the door while selling calendars for the new year.



Fire Chief Ryan Pease with his son and first responders excited for the night ahead!

involved within the group and how it soon became a family affair. “The auxiliary are the family members of the VFW, so we also come and support the event. We are selling calendars and that’s for the auxiliary to help raise money and do all this, we come and help out. Auxiliary is mostly the family members, the daughters, sons, grandchildren, wives, spouses of the people that are in the VFW. We are here to support them and all the events they do, but we also do our own. I’m part of the auxiliary because my mother and my father are both part of the VFW. We try to be the family support and these types of events, you have people commending the military and the veterans and also the family



The First Responders Appreciation Dinner was proudly hosted by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Pioneer Valley Financial Group of Ludlow.

behind them,” said Smith.

Smith continued, “The event was 100% free and a way to give back and thank them for everything they do. I grew up in the military and the first responders are doing the same thing military, they’re just protecting closer to home. We want to show them that we support them, just like they support us. We

always want to be there for them,” ended Smith.

Segundo ended by thanking our first responders. “Thank you to our first responders for your courage, sacrifice, and unwavering service. We are grateful for all you do to keep our community safe—today and always.”



TURLEY PHOTOS BY AMANDA MUNSON

From East St. Elementary School in Town, students were asked to draw thank you notes for the table settings.

GARDEN rom page 6

dle the seed easily, do cover with only a small amount soil, say an eighth of an inch or so and firm down.

How many seeds to sow is a tricky question. If you want to keep the plants in the jug until they go in the garden, then hope for four plants, maybe six per jug at the most, figuring how big they will be at transplant stage.

For tricky germinators, perhaps double or triple the amount of seed you sow versus how many you desire. If germination is great, you can always transplant some out.

Close the container and seal it with duct tape. Be sure to label the jug with the plant name via a paint pen, really the only writing utensil that won’t smear, fade or wash away when exposed to the elements.

Place the jugs in full exposure outdoors and with the cap off, so that heat can escape and small amounts of moisture can penetrate. When the temperature outdoors heats up past 60 degrees, be sure to take the duct tape off and vent your seedlings. Check often and water as needed.

The pros recommend to cover with a blanket if frost threatens or even move heat

lovers inside on cold nights so that the seedlings won’t freeze. To prevent tip-over by four-legged friends or playful kids, pros also suggest putting the jugs in trays or bins.

As you can see, this method is not maintenance-free, but certainly worthy of a try especially for gardeners who are short on indoor space or in the mood to get their hands dirty earlier in the season than normal! January and

February is the perfect time to start seeds that need a cold treatment.

Look for key terms on the seed packet, such as “stratification needed,” “sow in the fall,” etc. You can also use this technique to sow cold hardy annuals in March—think chard, spinach, kale, snapdragons, bachelor button and the like.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.



Your Local BUSINESS CONNECTION

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

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

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

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

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

\$1899 /5 qt. **\$399** /1 qt. **SAVE UP TO 39%**
NAPA® Premium Performance Conventional Motor Oil
5 qt. - 10W30, 10W40, 5W20, 5W30
1 qt. - 10W30, 10W40, 20W50, 5W20, 5W30
Belchertown Auto Parts
116 FEDERAL STREET (RT.9) BELCHERTOWN, MA
(413) 323-7661 OR 323-9296
NAPA AUTO PARTS®

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

Turley Publications, Inc.
www.turley.com
Proud publishers of 12 community newspapers
Call 413-283-8393 to advertise your business here

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

FOR SALE

FIREWOOD

FIREWOOD
Fresh cut & split \$225.00
Seasoned cut & split \$325.00
All hardwood.
Tree length available
*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap). Quality & volumes **guaranteed!!** New England Forest Products (413)477-0083

MORE HEAT LESS WOOD. Central Boiler Classic Edge HDX Outdoor Wood Furnace. EPA Certified. Titanium Stainless Steel. \$2K Tax Credit. Call (508)882-0178

MISCELLANEOUS

WHEELCHAIR INVACARE \$175. Reclining wheelchair Invacare \$275. Unisex poncho for wheelchair person, one size, \$35. 2003 Lincoln Town Car Signature, \$4995. 413-538-4484.

WANTED

WANTED TO BUY

ALL ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.

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

Donald Roy (860) 874-8396

WANTED

ALWAYS BUYING ALL ANTIQUES:

Musical instruments, guitars, horns, keyboards, vintage electronics, jewelry, coins, watches, military cameras, sports memorabilia, art, sterling, signs, automotive, hunting, advertising, radios, ham radio equipment, audio equipment, toys, one item or entire estate.

Call Paul 413-206-8688.

JUNK REMOVAL

A Call We Haul FAST REMOVAL
Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts.
We load it & take it.
413-531-1936
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

SERVICES

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

ELECTRICIAN

PJ's Electrical MASTER ELECTRICIAN
• Licensed & Insured •
Providing safe, reliable electrical services for residential and commercial projects.
NOW OFFERING FREE CONSULTATIONS.
Call today to schedule your appointment.
(413) 366-1703
(Lic. #24046-A)

SERVICES

LICENSED ELECTRICIAN

I offer good quality electrical work, no project too small. Service upgrades, pools, trustworthy, dependable & insured. Master Elec. #20773A.
Text/call Luis 413-218-3301.

ZEN ELECTRIC COMPANY LLC
Fully licensed and insured; Master Electrician on staff. Call for all your electrical needs. No job too small. Senior citizen and Veteran Discount. A veteran owned company. MA License #8101A1.
Call John at (413)206-6509
Every customer gets a free gem stone.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

CHAMELEON PAINTING & REMODELING
INTERIOR/EXTERIOR
Remodeling & Deck Specialists
Residential/Commercial
Fully Insured • Free Estimates
413-351-1147

Handyman Services

Walker Home Improvement

Finish Carpentry • Framing • Drywall • Painting • & more!

(413) 687-5552

SERVICES

INSTRUCTION

NRA Certified Basic Pistol Course with Live Fire for License to Carry permit \$140. Matt Marcinkiewicz muscione@hotmail.com 413-537-0620

LANDSCAPING

A+ ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BOBCAT SERVICE

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

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES
FRIDAY AT NOON

SERVICES

MASONRY

STOP WET BASEMENTS
ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT WATERPROOFING

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

PAINTING

PRO PAINTING
Low, low prices. All phases interior, exterior painting and wallpapering. Also minor carpentry. 413-310-5099.

PLUMBING

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

RUBBISH REMOVAL

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

TREE WORK

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

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

TUNE-UPS

LAWN TRACTOR & MOWER TUNE UP & REPAIR

A&M TUNE-UPS
Push Lawnmowers, Riding Mowers and Small Engine Repair.
Work done at your home.
STUMP GRINDING
FREE PICKUP OF UNWANTED LAWN EQUIPMENT
Call Mike (413) 348-7967

SERVICES

STUMP GRINDING

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

AUTO

CASH FOR JUNK AND REPAIRABLE CARS

FREE TOWING FAST SERVICE CASH PAID AS IS CALL OR TEXT 413-219-6839

HELP WANTED

The Resident Care Facility at Saint Joseph's Abbey, 167 North Spencer Road, Spencer, MA., has an opening for a **PART TIME FACILITY COOK**. Hourly wage negotiable depending on experience and related skills
Requirements: High School Diploma or GED. Ability to speak and read English required. Must be able to understand written policies and procedures. Must be able to work unsupervised while following food safety protocols.
For more information and to apply, contact **Wally Connor, Facility/HR Manager at (508) 885-8700** Ext. 550 or by email: wally@spencerabbey.org

Wilbraham United Church is hiring a part-time, experienced **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/BOOKKEEPER**. Apply to **Wilbraham United Church, Attention: Alesia; 500 Main Street; Wilbraham, MA 01095**. More information at www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org/about-us-2/

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT

PALMER: 1 BR Apt. No Pets/No Smoking. **BRETON ESTATES** 413-283-6940

FOR RENT

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.
This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

2026 TAX TIME

CHANTEL BLEAU ACCOUNTING SERVICES
For Full Accounting & Tax Service
Registered Tax Return Preparer
228 West St., Ware, MA 01082
413-967-8364
Call For An Appointment
The IRS does not endorse any particular individual tax return preparer. For more information on tax preparers go to irs.gov.

Personal & Small Business Federal & All States

FAST TAX USA TAX PREPARATION SERVICE
413-348-2279

IRS Certified Tax Preparers
Independently owned and operated. Over 25 years experience.
1622 B North Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069
www.FastTax-MA.com
Free E-File & Direct Deposit

Call Your Local Turley Publications Sales Representative For Information And Rates On Advertising Your Tax Service Here
CALL 413-283-8393 TO PLACE YOUR AD TODAY!

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

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

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

Quabbin Village Hills
Circulation: 50,500

Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800

Suburban Residential
Circulation: 59,000

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

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

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

GREAT VALUE!
ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!
Make checks payable to Turley Publications

STAY ON TOP OF IT ALL!
Subscribe Today!

Turley Publications, Inc.
12 HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS
413.283.8393
www.turley.com
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069

OBITUARY

Katherine Anne (Boisjolie) Picard

BELCHERTOWN – Katherine Anne (Boisjolie) Picard of Belchertown, passed away unexpectedly with loved ones by her side on December 19, 2025. Kathy was born to Eugene and Rita Boisjolie in Holyoke, Massachusetts, on May 9, 1954. They welcomed a brother, Robert Boisjolie, and moved to Chicopee. She attended Chicopee Comp, where she proudly stood as the president of the home ec club. It was during those years, in 1969, that she met the love of her life, Kippy Picard. She would tell you, “From the moment I met him, I knew I would marry him”. On November 25, 1972, they were married with their best friends by their side. The army would bring them to Germany, and while Kip was in training, Kathy was living on a farm, helping with animals, making new friends, and collecting vinyl. Moving back to the States, they bought their first home in Granby. It was there that they started their family of five, Alissa, Jarod, and Kara. In 1985, the family moved to Shea Ave in Belchertown, where Kathy would “paint her masterpiece”. It was a masterpiece,



a legacy of love, devotion, empathy, compassion, and kindness. Kathy (Kath, Auntie Kath, Kat, Ma, Rammy, Darlin) made her home a place where everyone was welcome. She was the original Cool-Aid mom. Kathy loved immensely and wanted nothing more than to share that with others. She loved music, the feelings it evoked, and the connections it brought to her. She loved gardening and her houseplants. She loved feeding the birds, the squirrels, and any wildlife that crossed her path. She was proud to be a “cat lady” and taught her kids not kill bugs. She loved Christmas, ladies’ Christmas outings, the lights, the tree, and caroling with the Picard family. She loved Yahtzee and puzzles, trips to the casino and an OOB with her bestie. She loved movies, soaps, and a good series. She loved Stephen King, Mary J, and scratch tickets. She loved giving big tips. She loved contributing when she could. She was creative. She sewed, quilted, knitted, and loved crocheting, especially for others. She was an incredible cook, but her

specialty was baking. Pizza, potato salad, wedding cakes, Christmas cookies, gingerbread houses, whoopie pies, Yorkshire pudding, and lemon meringue pie were just a few of her specialties. Most of all, Kathy loved her family. She was incredibly proud of her children and the families they created. Her grandchildren were the light of her life. They brought her the joy she had lost after the passing of Kip. Kathy knew the simplicity of just spending time together was truly the most valuable gift. Her children, Alissa and Nate Breyare of Belchertown, Jarod and Kristen Picard of Easthampton, Kara and Justin Clark of Palmer, and grandchildren Calvin, Theo, Edie, Nolan, Willa, Jaxon, Kyler, and Vivian will carry on their mother/grandmother’s spirit. “Our love will not fade away.” Kathy leaves behind several nieces and nephews, brother and sisters-in-laws, and extended family members she loved dearly. Family and friends will be invited to gather in celebration of the life of Kathy at a later date. If you feel inclined to do something kind, commit a random act of kindness in her name.

HCC from page 8

nary arts programs. “Over the last few years, we have offered our free line cook training as separate day and evening programs to help students find the schedule that works best for them.” The program is designed for those already in the restaurant industry who want to upgrade their skills as well as unemployed or underemployed individuals interested in starting new careers. “We usually have a mix of young people entering

the job market for the first time and people who are re-entering the job market, looking for a second career,” Sheehan said. “The course is perfect for anybody who’s looking for a job and has a passion for food and the dining industry.” All classes meet in person at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute at 164 Race St. Participants will learn all the essential competencies they need to become successful line cooks: knife skills; how to prepare

stocks, soups, sauces, desserts, poultry, fish and meat; culinary math and measurements; moist and dry heat cooking methods; as well as workplace soft skills, such as building a resume and searching for jobs. Offered as part of HCC’s Business & Workforce Development division, the line cook course is free to qualifying applicants. For more information, or to fill out an inquiry form, please go to hcc.edu/line-cook.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice of Public Sale
Notice is hereby given that LocalStorage Granby will sell the contents of the storage units listed below at a public auction to satisfy a lien placed on the contents (pursuant to the Massachusetts Lien Law. General Laws Part I, Administration of the Government. Title XV Regulation of Trade Chapter 105A. Self-Service Storage Facility. The sale will take place at the website <http://www.StorageTreasures.com>. The sale will be conducted on <http://www.StorageTreasures.com>, under the guidance of Christopher Rosa (AU005857) on behalf of the facility’s management. Units will be available for viewing prior to the sale on <http://www.StorageTreasures.com>. All sales are final. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale or to refuse any bids. The property to be sold is described as general household items unless otherwise noted.
LocalStorage Granby, 138 W State St, Granby, MA 01033, will list storage units on the website <http://www.StorageTreasures.com> until sold or disposed of on **January 29, 2026, at 10:00 AM**.
Unit: #014 Roberta Dubovik, #039 Jexavier Santiago, #054 Lisa Foley, #059 Sheila Dietz,

#095 Michael Broadhurst, #139 Catherine Everett, #215 Luis Carrillo Lozada, #712 Heather Alicea, #728 Jessilee Baldwin 01/15, 01/22/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampshire Division Docket No. HS25P0824EA Estate of: Geraldine D Stebbins Date of Death: April 9, 2025 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Lionel R Stebbins of Belchertown, MA** has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration

from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 01/22/2026

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.

NOTICE

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

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

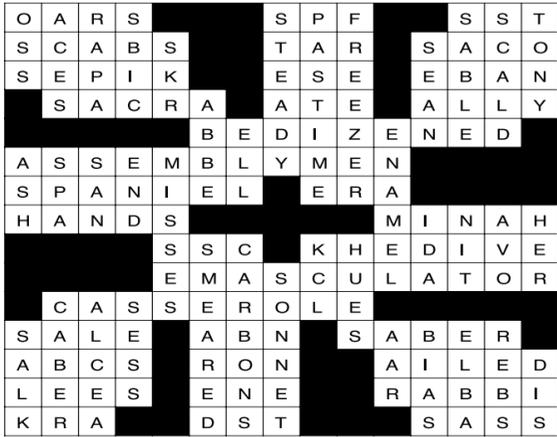
- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts’ public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

~ DORSEY MEMORIALS ~

• Monuments & Cemetery Lettering • 707 Main St., Amherst, MA • 413-253-5212
• Civic Memorials & Custom Designs • www.DorseyMemorials.com
You can count on Dorsey Memorials to guide you through the Memorial Stone Process.



health & wellness NETWORK

AN ANNUAL SOURCE OF Local Health Professionals

TO BE DISTRIBUTED IN 12 TURLEY NEWSPAPERS

AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS • BARRE GAZETTE • THE CHICOPEE REGISTER
COUNTRY JOURNAL • THE HOLYOKE SUN • THE JOURNAL REGISTER
THE REGISTER • QUABOAG CURRENT • SENTINEL • TOWN REMINDER
WARE RIVER NEWS • THE WILBRAHAM-HAMPDEN TIMES

CONTACT: DAN FLYNN
413-297-5886
DFLYNN@TURLEY.COM

DEADLINE
January 28, 2026
PUBLICATION DATE
February 18, 2026



A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO
Turley Publications, Inc.
WWW.TURLEY.COM

ADVERTISING SALES HELP WANTED

- Do you want to work in your community helping local businesses connect with their customers?
- Do you want a career supporting local journalism, which tells the unique stories of our communities?
- If so, then join our team! Turley Publications is looking for an outgoing, energetic person interested in selling advertising for our community newspapers. The right candidate will assume an established territory with a portfolio of customers.

You must be a self-starter with excellent communication and organizational skills. Basic computer skills are required. Previous print sales experience is preferred but we will train the right candidate.

Turley Publications, a locally owned family business, offers a competitive commission structure, 401k, and health plan.

Send resume & cover letter to:



Jamie Joslyn
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069
Email: jamie@turley.com

DL&G TREE

Tree
Removal



Structural
Pruning



Crane
Service



Storm
Damage



Stump
Grinding



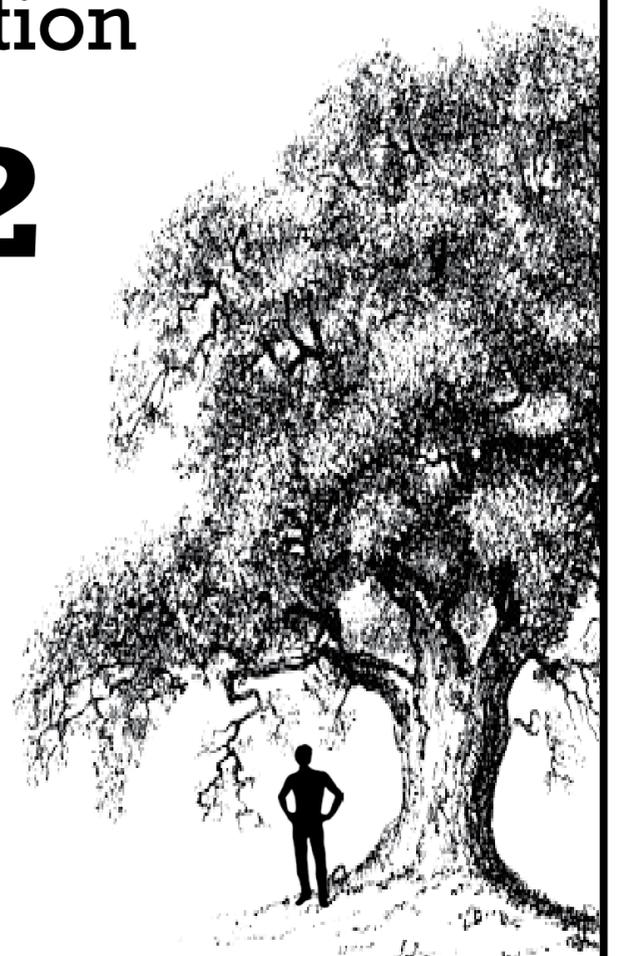
Lot
Clearing



Give us a call for your free estimate
and tree evaluation

413-478-4212

DL&G TREE



INSURED AND CERTIFIED