

Pathfinder Tech welcomes Scout to school community

BY MARCELO GUSMÃO
Staff Writer
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PALMER – Pathfinder Technical Vocational School is excited to introduce Scout, the English Golden Retriever who is promoting mental health among students and staff alike.

School was adopted by the school through support of the School Committee and a health-care grant from the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association. This grant paid for the purchase of the dog, as well as training, veterinary services and supplies like toys and a cage.

“What we’re finding is it’s a nice icebreaker for those students that have a hard time expressing their feelings and talking about what’s going on,” said Principal Brenda Turner. “If he’s in the room, it breaks down a lot of barriers.”

Turner said that in addition to improving students’ mental health, Scout will also serve to



TURLEY PHOTO BY MARCELO GUSMÃO

Jennavieve Josephson stopped to pick up Scout on her way through the halls.

Please see **SCOUT**, page 9

Hearing continued for State School development

BY NICK BOONSTRA
Staff Writer
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BELCHERTOWN – Plans for the Carriage Grove residential development on the former site of the Belchertown State School remained on hold after a tense public hearing on Tuesday, Jan. 23.

The hearing ended with Planning Board Chair Daniel Baudette offering developers Brisa Ventures, LLC an extension of three weeks for submitting a completed site plan. This extension came after Brisa had already been granted multiple continuations dating back to the fall of last year.

The site plan presented by Brisa’s representatives was an updated version of a plan that Brisa had submitted at a previous meeting. However, the presented plan was found to be incomplete by the board members, who received it minutes before the evening’s hearing began.

Among the items missing from the site plan, were a maintenance and operation plan, evidence of substantive contact with the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority regarding transit access, and a written statement

on how many units would be set aside for affordable housing purposes.

Steven D’Ambrosio, a civil engineer with GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc., who was representing Brisa Ventures at the meeting, told the board that he had understood their previous request for a maintenance and operation plan to pertain more closely to stormwater management. Beaudette made clear that he was instead requesting that Brisa specify how units would be maintained, where lawnmowers and other equipment would be stored, and the like.

Throughout the hearing, there were intermittent issues with the meeting’s remote-access component.

Despite identifying multiple shortcomings, Beaudette felt that the issues with the plan were each minor on their own. He expressed a willingness to approve the site plan with specific conditions that the identified shortcomings be rectified.

Multiple board members were also encouraged that local engineering firm Tighe & Bond, on whom the board had relied in the past, had signed off on Brisa’s plan.

Please see **HEARING**, page 2

All Town Councilers attend in-person meeting

BY JIM RUSSELL
Correspondent

AMHERST – The first Town Council meeting in the new year was the first time in nearly four years all 13 members met in person at Town Hall to conduct official business.

“It felt great, it really did,” Amherst Town Council President Lynn Griesemer said in an interview following the Jan. 2 meeting.

Then-governor Charlie Baker had declared a COVID-19 state of emergency on March 10, 2020 and Governor Maura Healey

Please see **MEETING**, page 10

Local firefighters graduate from Firefighting Academy

SPRINGFIELD – State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine and Massachusetts Firefighting Academy leadership announced the graduation of 27 firefighters from the 50-day Career Recruit Firefighting Training Program on Jan. 26.

“Massachusetts firefighters are on the frontlines protecting their communities every day, and today’s graduates are needed now more than ever,” said Davine in a press release. “The hundreds of hours of foundational training they’ve received will provide them with the physical, mental, and technical skills to perform their jobs effectively and safely.”

The graduating firefighters of Class #S35 represent the fire departments of Agawam, Belchertown, Charlton, Chicopee, Gardner, North Adams, North Andover, Palmer, Pittsfield, South Hadley Fire District 1, Southwick, Turners Falls, Ware, Westfield,



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy graduated 27 firefighters from its 50-day Career Recruit Firefighting Training Program on Jan. 26. Including in that class was Joshua LaPointe of Belchertown Fire Department.

Westminster and Wilbraham.

Representing Belchertown Fire Department was Joshua LaPointe.

“Massachusetts Firefighting Academy instructors draw on decades of experience in the fire service to train new recruits,”

said Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Director Eric

Please see **GRADUATES**, page 4



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COMMUNITY

Food policy council participates in opioid rescue training

BY PAULA OUIMETTE
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

The Quaboag Valley Food Policy Council met to discuss food security and access within the communities it serves, and offer a free "Opioids and Opioid Rescue Training" in collaboration with the Quabbin Health District.

Opioids and Opioid Rescue Training

At the Jan. 25 meeting, Quabbin Health District's Public Health Nurse, Kirsten Krieger, presented a training about opioids, addiction and how to recognize signs of an opioid overdose.

"The biggest goal is to give people some basic information," she said.

Addiction, she said, is a treatable, chronic medical disease and that only one in 10 people with substance use disorders are getting treatment.

"It's finally being seen as more of a disease than a choice," Krieger said.

"Most people who are using, they feel euphoria, they feel high, it makes them feel better," she said. "They get to a point when it's not about the high; it's about not getting sick."

Krieger explained the neurobiology of addiction and how it affects the prefrontal cortex, which is responsible for impulse control and predicting consequences of actions. This part of the brain doesn't fully develop until a person is in their early-to-mid-20s, making adolescent substance use a great concern.

Addiction also impacts the basal ganglia, the part of the brain that controls the pleasurable/rewarding effects of substance use and is responsible for formation of habitual substance use. The external amygdala is also affected by addiction, and is where the "fight or flight" response comes from.

Krieger said stigma is something substance users face, both from themselves and from the world around them.

"There are three kinds of stigma," she said, including self-stigma, public stigma and structural stigma.

Krieger said language matters when it comes to reducing stigma, including using "person with a substance use disorder" instead of derogatory terms like "addict" or "junkie," and "had a setback" or "resumed

use" rather than "relapsed."

"Use person-centered language," she said, putting the emphasis on the individual, instead of the disease.

Krieger said there are three types of opioids: natural, such as morphine or codeine; semisynthetic, including heroin, hydrocodone, oxycodone, buprenorphine and oxycodone; and synthetic, fentanyl, methadone and tramadol.

Fentanyl is 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times more powerful than morphine, binding faster than any other opioid. It is used to treat extreme pain.

"It's very addictive," Krieger said.

Fentanyl use has increased significantly since 2020 and continues to be the biggest cause of overdoses in the commonwealth, surpassing heroin. It was responsible for 93% of fatal overdose cases in 2022, with heroin accounting for 6%.

Xylazine use started being reported in 2021, and is commonly known as "tranq" and "tranq dope." Although xylazine is a large animal tranquilizer and not an opioid, it is following a similar trend being trafficked into the U.S. that heroin did.

Overdoses from xylazine are usually fatal in humans. It's also unresponsive to naloxone or Narcan, which is used to treat opioid overdose.

Some people are at a greater risk for opioid overdose, Krieger said, including people who have recently been released from prison.

"They have a 129 times greater risk of fatal overdose in the first two weeks after release from prison than the general population," she said.

Signs of an overdose include a death rattle (similar to snoring); infrequent or no breathing; heavy nod and not responding to stimulation (rubbing knuckles over sternum); slow heartbeat/pulse; and "wooden chest" syndrome (chest wall rigidity often associated with opioid use); and blue or gray skin (in dark skinned people, nailbeds will turn white).

Naloxone can reverse opioid overdose by blocking brain receptors and it takes about three-to-five minutes to take effect and more than one dose may be necessary. A dose of naloxone can last for 30-90 minutes.

Naloxone can be injected or administered through a nasal spray, and cannot cause harm to an individual, even if the person

suspected of having an opioid overdose is not. Multiple doses are also safe.

Krieger cautioned people to always call 911 and give a detailed description of the location of the victim, and if possible, send someone to meet first responders at the door.

Administering naloxone via nasal spray is simple, Krieger said, by placing the nozzle inside one nostril and discharging. A second dose can be administered after about two-to-three minute if there has been no change.

"Even if the person is not breathing, Narcan is aerosolized and will get where it needs to go," she said.

Rescue breathing and CPR are also recommended, Krieger said, adding that making sure the scene is safe is also a priority. At the least, call 911 and administer a dose of naloxone if possible.

"Every human life is worth it," Krieger said. "A person who's deceased can't get to recovery."

Krieger has naloxone kits available to anyone in the community, and she may be reached by calling 413-967-9605 extension 112 or emailing kcrieger@townofware.com

Food access

Council members shared concerns about getting access to food and other resources, and how to better connect people to food pantries in their own towns.

One member mentioned that she saw someone asking for food in a Facebook community forum. Council members agreed that they could use social media to share hours and locations of area food pantries, as well as monthly drive-through distributions and other resources.

QVFPC members discussed an increase in calls for help from senior citizens, especially near the end of the month when their income and food supply run low.

Council Coordinator Caitlin Geaghan said it's important to get input from people that live in the area and determine the support needed.

Council members also discussed the need for education around cooking, and how to make the most with the food you have available to you.

Funding and grants

Geaghan said the QVFPC has applied for a second round of funding from the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural

Resources. It was this initial funding that was used to create the council last year.

If awarded, the MDAR grant will be used to continue to sustain the council.

The QVFPC has also applied for a mini grant through Baystate Health. If awarded, the council will receive \$5,000 which would be used for an older male-targeted cooking class that will address social isolation and nutritional knowledge.

This mini grant will also benefit area food pantries.

Community Food Assessment

Geaghan said the priority goal of a Community Food Assessment is "to create a picture of a community's food system through the collection of data."

The QVFPC has subcontracted with Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission to conduct asset mapping to create a legend map of food resources in the region.

The QVFPC is also working with the Collaborate for Educational Services to provide training for council members. The training will be available to about six-10 members.

"They will train interested council members on how to effectively and respectfully interview community members in relation to food access, both individually and in small groups," Geaghan said.

Through these interviews, members will create a spreadsheet to track data.

Geaghan said a form will be distributed to council members to express interest in receiving the training.

About QVFPC

The Quaboag Valley Food Policy Council is funded through a grant received by the Town of Ware in partnership with Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation, covering the towns of Ware, Belchertown, Palmer, Monson, Wales, Holland, Brimfield, Warren, Brookfield, West Brookfield, North Brookfield and East Brookfield.

The Council is open to all, and everyone is welcome to join in the discussion.

For more information, people may email Geaghan at cgeaghan@townofware.com.

Belchertown Fire announces open burning season

BELCHERTOWN - Open air burning season for residential tree trimming began Jan. 15 and ends May 1.

Residents can register at the Fire Department, 10 North Main St., from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. and on Saturdays, starting Jan. 20 from 9 a.m.-noon. There is a one time, \$20 fee to register for this season.

Please pay with exact cash or a check payable to "Town of Belchertown."

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection will only allow activation of burning permits for one day at a time, based on weather conditions. Renewal requests left on the answering machine are invalid.

For more information, please contact the Fire Department by calling 413-323-7571 with any questions.

Please note that the Belchertown Fire Department has full authority to revoke permits that are not used in accordance with Massachusetts General Law as well as authority to refuse burning on any given day based on weather conditions.

HEARING from page 1

However, Vice Chair Michael Hofler was unhappy that Brisa submitted an incomplete plan given how much time they had already been given to draft one.

"You've canceled more meetings with us than you've attended," Hofler said, referencing the multiple continuances the board had already granted to Brisa. He went on to say, "I certainly can't approve a roll of drawings I haven't unfurled yet."

The majority of voting members voiced a tentative willingness to conditionally approve the plan, with the exception of Hofler. Beaudette stressed the importance of having all board members agree before approving the plan. "I put a lot of stock in having unanimity from the board," he said. It was at this point that he offered Brisa the option to either accept another, presumably final, continuance or risk being voted down that night.

D'Ambrosio accepted the offer to continue the public hearing at the Planning Board's next meeting. That meeting is scheduled to take place at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 13.

Advertisement for 90 Meat Outlet featuring various meat products like pork loin, beef tenderloin, chicken breast, and ground beef with prices and promotional text like 'INFLATION' and 'PRICE BUSTERS'.

NOTICE: 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.

Advertisement for B-Town Electric, a full service company for residential, commercial, and industrial work, with contact information and a logo.

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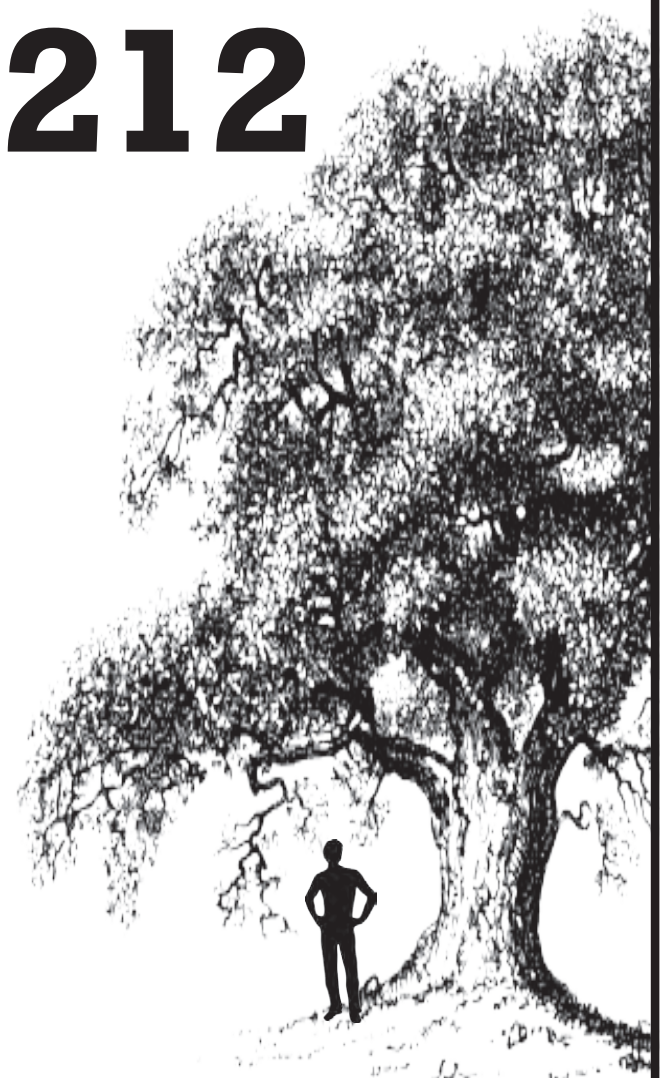
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COMMUNITY

Belchertown looking for photographs for new town website

BELCHERTOWN – As part of the new Belchertown website redesign, members of the community are being given an opportunity to submit photographs to be used on the new site through an online form at <https://bit.ly/belchertownphoto>.

“We are looking for photographs that portray the fabric of the town,” said Communications Committee Chair Chris Martin in a press release. “The Quabbin, the Fair, Stonehouse Museum, Lake Wallace, sports, schools, events, activities, we’re interested in seeing it all. For anyone interested in submitting photographs for consideration, there is more detailed information, and the specifications are on the website, and we encourage everyone to take a look.”

All of the photographs will have to be submitted digitally and they will be reviewed by a working group. “Obviously, we can’t use every photo on the website when it launches in July, but I’m sure we’ll find use for many of them over time as we change out the photos or in other places,”



Scan this QR code to access the online form to submit photographs for the town’s new website.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Belchertown Communications Committee is seeking photographs that portray the fabric of the town for the new town website.

added Martin. The town’s website is undergoing a major overhaul that will include not only a new look, but also streamlined information and content more focused on the needs of the community.

“We want to provide as much relevant information as we can for the people in our community,” said Town Manager Steve Williams. “The Select Board tasked the

Communications Committee with helping to improve how we communicate with the community, and the website is a key component. This is a great opportunity for the community to have a part.”

For more information and to access the submission form, go to the Communications Committee web page at <https://bit.ly/belchertownphoto>.

BCTV Schedule Highlights

Thursday, Feb. 1

- 8 a.m. – Select Board – Jan. 16 meeting
- 10 a.m. – Planning Board – Jan. 23 meeting
- Noon – Communications Committee – Jan. 25 meeting
- 7 p.m. – Select Board – Jan. 16 meeting
- 9 p.m. – Planning Board – Jan. 23 meeting

Friday, Feb. 2

- 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 9 a.m. – Council on Aging – Jan. 24 meeting
- 5 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 7 p.m. – Council on Aging – Jan. 24 meeting
- 8 p.m. – Communications Committee – Jan. 25 meeting

Saturday, Feb. 3

- 8 a.m. – BHS Pops Concert 2023
- 10 a.m. – BHS Fall Concert 2023
- Noon – JBMS Winter Concert 2023
- 5 p.m. – BHS Student Band July 2023
- 6 p.m. – JBMS Winter Concert 2023
- 8 p.m. – BHS Pops Concert 2023
- 10 p.m. – BHS Fall Concert 2023

Sunday, Feb. 4

- 4:30 p.m. – St. Francis Roman Catholic Church
- 6 p.m. – Christ Community Church
- 7 p.m. – Hope United Methodist Church

Monday, Feb. 5

- 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 5 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 6:30 p.m. – Select Board – Channel 191

Tuesday, Feb. 6

- 8 a.m. – Lost Towns of the Swift River Valley
- 6 p.m. – School Committee – Channel 192
- 7 p.m. – Community Preservation Committee

Wednesday, Feb. 7

- 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 5 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 7:30 p.m. – Agriculture Commission

Knights host spaghetti supper on Feb. 10

WARE – The Ware Knights of Columbus will host a Valentine’s Day spaghetti supper on Saturday, Feb. 10 from 6-8 p.m. at St. Mary’s Church Hall, South Street, dine in or take out.

Tickets are \$15 adults and \$10 children. For tickets, call/text 413-537-3422.

A free holiday rose will be given to the ladies. Beer and wine will be available for purchase.

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Friday Fish Fry returns to Swift River Sportsman’s Club

BELCHERTOWN – The Swift River Sportsman’s Club at 350 Cold Spring Road is pleased to announce that its Friday Fish Fry is returning on Fridays, starting Feb. 16 and running through April 5.

Prices range from \$14 for fish and chips to \$18 for a fish, shrimp and chip combo. Clam chowder will also be available.

For more information, please call the club at 413-323-9387.



GRADUATES from page 1 Littmann. “Through consistent classroom instruction and practical exercises, today’s graduates have developed the tools they’ll need to work seamlessly with veteran firefighters in their home departments and in neighboring communities as mutual aid.”

Basic firefighter skills

Students receive classroom training in all basic firefighter skills. They practice first under non-fire conditions and then during controlled fire conditions.

To graduate, students must demonstrate proficiency in life safety, search and rescue, ladder operations, water supply, pump operation and fire attack. Fire attack operations range from mailbox fires to multiple-floor or multiple-room structural fires.

Upon successful completion of the Career Recruit Program, all students have met the national standards of NFPA 1001, Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications, and are certified to the levels of Firefighter I/II and Hazardous Materials First Responder Operations by the Massachusetts Fire Training Council, which is accredited by the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications.

More than fighting fires

Modern firefighters train for and respond

to all types of hazards and emergencies. They are the first ones called to respond to chemical and environmental emergencies, ranging from the suspected presence of carbon monoxide to gas leaks to industrial chemical spills.

They may be called to rescue a child who has fallen through the ice, an office worker stuck in an elevator, or a motorist trapped in a crashed vehicle. They test and maintain their equipment, including self-contained breathing apparatus, hydrants, hoses, power tools and apparatus.

At the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, recruits learn all these skills and more, including the latest science of fire behavior and suppression tactics, from certified fire instructors. They also receive training in public fire education, hazardous material incident mitigation, flammable liquids, stress management, and self-rescue techniques.

The intensive, 10-week program involves classroom instruction, physical fitness training, firefighter skills training and live firefighting practice.

The MFA provides recruit and in-service training for career, call, and volunteer firefighters at every level of experience, from recruit to chief officer, at campuses in Stow, Springfield, and Bridgewater.

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NEWS & FEATURES

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

For more information on news or community features for The Sentinel, please email sentinel@turley.com

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COMMUNITY



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Photographer Ed Comeau will lead a Beginner Photography Workshop for students in grades five-12 on Sunday, Feb. 11 at 1 p.m. at the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center.

Clapp library offers photography workshops

BELCHERTOWN – The Clapp Memorial Library is offering a Beginner Photography Workshop for students in grades five-12 on Sunday, Feb. 11 at 1 p.m.

This program will take place at the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center, 100 Winsor Dam Road. Learn basic nature photography (landscape and wildlife) from local photographer Ed Comeau who will present on different topics like photography techniques, composition, lighting, etc.

There will be a short discus-

sion about nature and wildlife at the Quabbin Reservoir followed by opportunities for photography in the Quabbin. Students are asked to register by emailing claplibrarytab@gmail.com or by visiting the library at 19 South Main St.

Focus on Youth

Join Youth Services Librarian, Jennifer Whitehead, at the DCR's Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center for some fun with photography. This event is for families with preschool to fourth grade students.

Participants will meet as a group

at noon on Sunday, Feb. 11. After a brief discussion where participants will share ideas on where and how to take photographs of the Quabbin, families will venture off to explore on their own.

Wear proper clothing and footwear for hiking and the weather. Bring your cameras, binoculars, and sense of adventure.

Families are asked to register on the Clapp Memorial Library website, www.claplibrary.org or by calling the library at 413-323-0417.

4-H Community Garden Club meets Feb. 8

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown 4-H Community Garden Club will hold the first meeting on Thursday, Feb. 8 from 3:15-5:15 p.m. at Cold Spring School.

The club is open to individuals in kindergarten to 18 years of age. The club will have scheduled meetings on every other Thursday afternoon with a "club skip" when school is closed for vacations.

The 4-H Community Garden Club is entering the 11th year of gardening at Lampson Brook Farm on Jackson Street in Belchertown.

The meetings start inside and as soon as the weather cooperates, the club moves to the garden site. The members will learn how to grow vegetables that are then donated to the local food pantries.

For more information, you may contact the 4-H office by calling 413-230-4538 or emailing barrypatriciaat@gmail.com.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Belchertown 4-H Community Garden Club will meet Thursday, Feb. 8 from 3:15-5:15 p.m. at Cold Spring School.

Belchertown builds on public artmaking

Selected for 'Making it Public' grant

BELCHERTOWN – The Town of Belchertown is one of eight communities across Massachusetts selected through a competitive process for Making it Public 2024.

Making it Public for Municipalities is a training series offered by the New England Foundation for the Arts in partnership with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council's Arts & Culture Department.

These trainings equip administrators in strengthening local capacity to support, create, and promote more vibrant and just public artmaking.

On Jan. 23, Belchertown staff including Cyndi Harbeson, Clapp Memorial Library Director; E. Maude Haak-Frendscho, Creative Economy Coordinator in the Planning

Department; and Jennifer Whitehead, Youth Librarian, joined the cohort of eight municipalities who have received support through this program, including Chelmsford, Clinton, Everett, Montague, Peabody, Somerville and Southbridge.

At the conclusion of the training series, Belchertown will have a completed call for temporary public art – as well as a clear management process within municipal financial structures—and a \$15,000 grant from NEFA to fund artists selected through this call to produce public artwork in Belchertown.

Steve Williams, Belchertown Town Administrator, applauded this development: "The investment from NEFA and MAPC in Belchertown—both in expanding our staff capacities and funding the creation of public art—gives us the tools we need to engage residents in the process of creating public works of art that reflect local

communities."

Jen Turner, Belchertown Select Board member, added that "public art is a unique opportunity to bolster a sense of place and community belonging through art and experience. With this training series and grant, we've been given the opportunity to strengthen community bonds in a process of expressing our shared sense of what it is to live in Belchertown together."

"Municipalities are really buying into the Making it Public process, and we're proud to see the level of engagement and excitement build from our cities and towns over these past few years," said Annis Sengupta, director of arts and culture at MAPC. "The trainings will help municipalities strengthen their relationships with local artists and result in a tangible piece of art in the community."

Please see **GRANT**, page 8

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OPINION

in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid



Re-blooming paper whites

I purchased some paper white bulbs early in December, figuring I'd need some flower power come January.

Four bulbs were planted in potting soil in an old tureen bowl that I found at the local recycling center swap shed. I covered the soil in moss I saved from my yard and honest to goodness when those bulbs burst into bloom about a month after planting, I felt pretty proud of myself for creating such a chic display.

Now what to do with it? Usually, when paper whites are forced in pebbles, or just plain water, they are a once and done kind of experiment. But because I planted them in decent potting soil, there may be hope for re-bloom.

Read on to see how it's done.

First, it's important to think about how bulbs work. They are a self-contained unit that has everything in that unit to bloom the first time no matter what, as long as basic environmental needs are met.

Pretty impressive.

For bulbs to bloom again, we have to make sure that unit gets re-charged. I read once to think of the bulb as a solar battery – that's not far off!

For typical daffodil bulbs that are planted in the ground that means removing spent flowers, keeping the foliage intact until it yellows, and giving the plant a little fertilizer or a compost top dressing if the soil isn't fertile. Now that we understand, we can use this information to re charge our hyacinth bulbs.

The flowers are still on my chic display, but they are definitely gone by. I will snip off the spent blooms.

Next, I will put the tureen in a sunny window. To be honest, I had placed it in my pantry when it was in bloom.

My husband found the fragrance a little too overpowering and not to his liking. Over the years I have found that people either love it or hate it and sadly he leans toward the latter of the two.

But, because it was placed in the window of a cool room, it grew upright without falling over, and the flowers lasted close to three weeks! Now that I have the pot of foliage in a sunny window, I will sprinkle a little bulb fertilizer on the soil surface and water it in.

Choose one that has both nitrogen for the leaves and phosphorus for the bulb. The numbers on the fertilizer indicate NPK: Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium.

We want to encourage those leaves to photosynthesize and make energy to build up the reserves in the bulb. Fertilization will happen monthly as long as the leaves are green.

The leaves will grow for longer than you might think, maybe even into late spring and summer. I'll put the pot outside in the sunshine once the weather warms up enough.

Eventually, though, the leaves will yellow and brown. Once they do it's time to cut them back and let the soil dry out completely, after which the bulbs can be removed.

Give them a couple of days in the sun to dry out further. The outer skin of the bulbs will get papery.

Now it is time to store them in a brown paper bag until planting. Old panty hose or onion bags would also work.

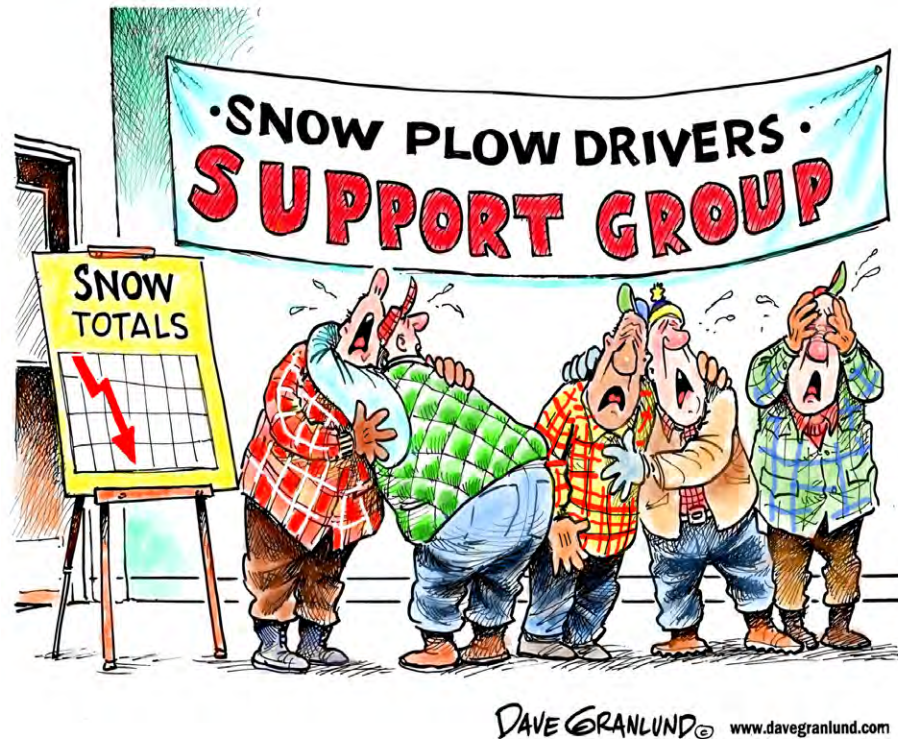
I will replant my paper white bulbs during Advent, and with any luck, all of my work will pay off with blooms when I need it the most – this time next year! And maybe every year thereafter!

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

Spectrum announces changes to channel lineup

Spectrum Northeast, LLC is noticing its customers that on or around Feb. 28, Hallmark Drama located on channel 127 or 177 will be rebranded to Hallmark Family on channel 127 on all channel lineups.

On or around March 6, Hallmark Movies & Mysteries located on channel 75, 76, 78, 82, 157 or 629 or 707 will be rebranded to Hallmark Mystery on channels 75, 76, 78, 82, 157, and/or 629 or 707 on all channel lineups.



LETTERS

New equipment allows BCTV to be fully operational again

Dear Editor,

Belchertown Community TV is pleased to let the residents of Belchertown know that we are once again fully operational.

Last October, the equipment that ran BCTV failed. The management of BCTV had been actively looking for a replacement system but had not purchased it yet.

Fortunately, we were able to get a "loaner" system that let us go live in a limited way. We have been using that "loaner" since October.

Last week, the new Castus Quickroll system was installed, and we are now again fully operational. The new system lets us go live from six locations in town.

Belchertown High School events, Chestnut Hill Community School events can now be broadcast in real time. We have go live capability from three locations at

Town Hall, at our TV station, and we still have our two GoToMeeting computers that allow us to broadcast any town meeting.

BCTV continues to stream 24/7 on the internet and is archiving all shows produced. The archived shows can be viewed from a link on the town web page.

If you have any problems connecting to our streaming channels or need help finding the archived shows on the town web page, you can email us at channel5@belchertown.org and we will be happy to help you.

Our thanks to the Select Board, the Town Administrator, Key Code Media, and the volunteers of BCTV who made this new equipment purchase, installation, and training on this new system possible.

Lew Louraine
Station Manager BCTV

Provisions' Pantry thanks community for support

Dear Editor,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the people of Belchertown and the following organizations for their support and generosity during 2023 for the Provisions' Pantry at Dwight Chapel: Belchertown Lions Club, Hulmes Transportation, Belchertown Stop and Shop, Belchertown Community Aid Network, Belchertown RE/MAX and all those who gave through these organizations on their own.

Their generosity has allowed us to purchase non-perishable food items and other

necessities to keep the pantry well stocked through the coming months. Also due to the generosity of our congregants and local businesses in town we have expanded from handing out non-perishables monthly to be able to serve the community weekly, on Saturdays from 9-10 a.m.

It is a privilege to be partners with so many in meeting the needs of our families and friends here in Belchertown.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Annis
on behalf of the Provisions'
Pantry at Dwight Chapel
Belchertown



Will withdrawing from 401(k) affect my Social Security?

Dear Rusty:

My full retirement age is 66 and 8 months, which I'll reach in September 2024. I'm still working three days a week.

I want to cash in my 401(k) and want to know if I have to wait until my FRA for IRS purposes or can cash it in anytime in 2024. I don't want to affect my Social Security or end up paying taxes on my benefits.

Signed: Seeking to Avoid Taxes

Dear Seeking:

We're not experts on IRS matters here at the AMAC Foundation so I can't address 401(k) questions, but we can provide information on your Social Security circumstances and how 401(k) withdrawals may

affect your SS. I assume from your question that you are now receiving early Social Security and wish to avoid any tax consequences thereto by cashing in your 401(k), as well as from working.

Here's what you need to know:

Since you will reach your Full Retirement Age in 2024, your 2024 work earnings limit will be \$59,520 up to the month you reach FRA. If you were born in January 1958, you'll attain FRA in September 2024.

After you have reached your FRA there is no longer a Social Security limit to how much you can earn from working, so your work earnings thereafter will not affect your monthly Social Security benefit regardless of how much you earn. If your part time work between January and August 2024 won't put you over the \$59,520 limit, your work earnings will not negatively affect your gross monthly Social Security benefit.

Assuming you are on Medicare, the premium for which is deducted from your Social Security payment, withdrawals from your 401(k) might affect your net monthly Social Security payment in two years hence. Medicare premiums are based upon

Please see **SSI**, page 7

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Comments on CONGRESS

By Lee Hamilton

Hamilton on Foreign Policy

Bashing China is easy but not always helpful

Here's one thing we can count on in the upcoming election year: American politicians will find ways to criticize China, even if they're running for jobs that have little to do with U.S. foreign policy.

China-bashing is a tried-and-true way to appeal for votes.

It's politically safe: China has few defenders anywhere in the United States. Politicians can take shots at China without worrying that they will offend anyone or lose support and, certainly, China often deserves criticism.

But there is a downside to reflexive anti-China rhetoric. With the world's second-largest population and its second-largest economy, China is a force in world affairs.

We need to push back when it threatens our interests, but we also need to engage with China when appropriate.

It's understandable that China would be a target for attacks. We live in a bipolar world, with the U.S. and China competing for global influence.

Under President Xi Jinping, China has positioned itself as our chief rival and China's actions often call for push-back. It engages in unfair trade practices, disregards intellectual property rules and tramples on human rights.



COURTESY OF THE WELLS LIBRARY LEE HAMILTON PHOTO COLLECTION
Rep. Lee H. Hamilton and others are shown with Vice-Premier Deng Xiaoping in June 1979 during the first official visit to the U.S. by top Communist Chinese leadership. Among the others are Paul Findley in the far left back and Michael Barnes to Hamilton's left.

It has been accused of genocide against the Uyghur population in its Xinjiang province. It threatens Taiwan and antagonizes its neighbors over the South China Sea.

To many Americans, China can seem foreign and far away. Its people look different and speak different languages. Its autocratic system of government is very different from our democratic system.

A recent Pew Research Center survey found half of Americans consider China to be the biggest threat we face; that's three times as many as view Russia as our biggest threat. In another survey, more than 80% of Americans had negative views of China.

Some of China's actions do call for strong responses. We should expect candidates for relevant government offices to adopt clear positions toward China.

But China-bashing can go too far.

In Indiana, where I live, one candidate for governor has made "combating China" a centerpiece of his campaign. He and his rivals say they will confront China overentanyl imports, online theft of personal information, and other matters.

The next governor of Indiana will have a lot of important issues to address, but getting tough with China won't be high on the list.

Demonizing China also has a long and sometimes ugly history in the United States. Chinese immigrants in the 1800s did hard and dangerous jobs, working in mines and building railroads, but faced discrimination in housing, employment and education.

Anti-Chinese bias led Congress to pass the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, barring further Chinese immigration. Sensationalistic newspapers fanned fears of a "Yellow Peril" that threatened native-born Americans.

A 1924 law further restricted Asian immigration.

Some of those old prejudices can resurface today. One recent poll found that voters linked politicians' anti-Chinese rhetoric to a spike in violence against Asian Americans.

With election campaigns getting underway, some experts predict a rise in hate incidents.

At the end of the day, U.S. officials will have to lay aside the rhetoric and engage with China. That means standing firm when China threatens our interests and those of our allies, but it also means finding ways to work together.

We can, and should, cooperate on addressing climate change, combating terrorism, deterring drug smuggling, promoting free and fair trade, and other issues.

Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

GUEST COLUMN

Life Together

James Baldwin wrote: "I imagine the reason so many people cling to their hate, is because, if they had to let it go, they would have to deal with their pain."

February is Black History Month. For some when reminded they say, "been there done that, they had their chance." Some states erase Black History lest it offend others.

Hateful rhetoric and acts of violence are born in pain, a pain ignored, buried, not allowed to be processed or healed. This pain, this trauma, is not an excuse for bad behavior; we are held accountable.

But, if we could find a way to meet "the other" whom we fear or fail to understand, we might break through the violence which creates fear and division. If we could break through the pain, we might find we have a lot in common.

When such pain dominates the thinking and feeling of a person, they will look for a scapegoat to blame and eliminate.

People of color, Jews, people of various sexual orientation, mentally ill people, and

many developmentally delayed youth, are victims of this abuse born in pain.

What pain have you had which may have moved you to fear, judgment of others, and hate? How are you dealing with your pain?

Some self-medicate and live with addiction, which fosters anger and abuse. Some refuse to acknowledge their pain so are unavailable for a relationship. Some just say it is what it is and do not control their anger.

Many damaged individuals will find others with whom they can bond in their common pain and hate; remember the neo-Nazis in Charlottesville, Virginia, "Jews will not replace us".

Many young male school shooters are identified as disturbed, traumatized, and clearly dangerous, after-the-fact of the massacre. Again, he needs to be held accountable, and or his parents who aided him in preparation for such a violent act.

Yet, what if we could get to him before he acted out? One young man pleaded with his parents to get him a doctor and

asked for help, and they laughed him off and said, "deal with it".

What pain are the parents failing to deal with that they would reject help for their son?

We cannot erase our common history; black or white, or whatever ethnic context. The beginning of change, renewal, and transformation, begins with me, with you, dealing with our pain, so we do not project it on others and hate or hurt them.

Black History Month is an opportunity to face history and ourselves.

I too imagine the reason many cling to our, their, hate, is because, if they let it go, they would have to deal with our, their, pain.

**Rev. Dr. Randy Wilburn
Minister, Therapist, Consultant**

Life Together is written by Rev. Dr. Randall K. Wilburn. With over 54 years as a parish minister, Wilburn is also an experienced marriage and family counselor. Life Together will deal with topics such as stress, grief, anxiety, healing and hope.

Country Bank supports QVCDC with \$10,000 donation

WARE – Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serving central and western Massachusetts, announced a \$10,000 donation to the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation to support various programs to help local communities in the region.

"The Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation is grateful for this generous donation from Country Bank. We appreciate Country Bank's support for our initiatives and its investment in the economic growth and stability of the Quaboag Region," said Melissa Fales, QVCDC executive director in a press release.

To learn more about the various support programs the QVCDC offers, visit www.QVCDC.org.

SSI from page 6

your combined income from all sources, including 50% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year.

If your 401(k) withdrawal(s) put you over an income threshold for your tax filing status, you may be required to pay an Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount on top of the standard Medicare premium. That IRMAA supplement would be deducted from your Social Security, which would affect the net amount of your Social Security payment.

Your Medicare premium for each coming year is determined by your combined income from two years prior, so if you "cash in" your 401(K) in 2024, it would affect your net Social Security payments in 2026.

Whether you will pay income tax on your Social Security benefits is determined by your combined income from everywhere, which the IRS calls your "Modified Adjusted Gross Income." MAGI is your income from all sources except ROTH IRA withdrawals and includes half of the SS benefits you received during the tax year.

If you file your taxes as a single, and your MAGI is over \$25,000 or if you file your taxes as "married-jointly" and your MAGI is over \$32,000 then 50% of the Social Security benefits received during the tax year becomes part of your overall income taxed by the IRS (at your normal IRS tax rate). But if your MAGI as a single filer is more than \$34,000 – or as a married/jointly filer over \$44,000 – then up to 85% of

the SS benefits received during the tax year becomes part of your overall income taxed by the IRS.

So, to recap:

Your part time work earnings in 2024 won't affect your monthly Social Security benefit, unless your 2024 work earnings prior to September 2024 exceed \$59,520.

Depending on the amount of your 401(k) withdrawals, your 2026 net Social Security payments may be impacted by Medicare's IRMAA provision. But your 401(k) withdrawals will not affect your gross Social Security payments.

Depending on the amount of your 401(k) withdrawals, some of the Social Security benefits received during the 2024 tax year will likely be subject to income tax. That is, if your annual total income, including your 401(k) withdrawals, exceeds the MAGI thresholds described above.

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■ PUBLIC SAFETY

Amherst man sentenced to prison for sexual assaults

NORTHAMPTON – A judge sentenced an Amherst man to serve six-to-seven years in state prison in connection with multiple sexual assaults he committed on a teenage girl in Amherst.

Kemal Banatte, 44, pleaded guilty before Hampshire Superior Court Judge Edward McDonough to one count of statutory rape of a child, one count of indecent assault and battery on a child under 14, three counts of indecent assault and battery on a child over 14, and one count of witness intimidation.

At his change of plea Jan. 18, Banatte admitted to sexually assaulting the victim, a child known to him, multiple times between 2015 and 2019 in an Amherst residence when she was between the ages of 12 and 15. The victim reported the abuse to the police in March of 2022.

McDonough adopted the sentence jointly proposed by Northwestern Assistant District Attorney Andrew Covington and Banatte's defense attorney, Aliki Recklitis of the Committee for Public Counsel

Services in sentencing Banatte to serve six-to-seven years in state prison, followed by five years of supervised probation.

As conditions of probation, Banatte must also register as a sex offender with the Massachusetts Sex Offender Registry Board, pay restitution to the victim, and provide a DNA sample as a convicted felon. As part of the plea agreement, the Commonwealth dismissed three counts of indecent assault and battery and three counts of larceny.

"The survivor showed tremendous strength coming forward and reporting the sexual assaults to the police," said Covington in a press release. "Victims of sexual assault are encouraged to report these crimes to their local police departments or the Northwestern District Attorney's office."

Covington commended the Amherst Police Department for its thorough work on the case. Covington noted that the survivor was in favor of the sentence, and relieved the case resolved without a trial.

Granby Police Log

Editor's Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 143 calls for the week of Jan. 19 through Jan. 25. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The Granby Police Department provides all information.

Sunday, Jan. 21

1:18 a.m. – A motorist reported that a vehicle struck a guardrail in this area. Police arrived and discovered that the vehicle left the scene, but officers found the front license plate in the snow along with pieces of the front bumper. The owner was contacted and issued a criminal citation for leaving the scene of a property damage accident.

6:15 a.m. – A motorist reported that a vehicle struck a tree. Granby Police and Fire responded. The operator was transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

Monday, Jan. 22

4:42 p.m. – While on patrol, an officer observed a motor vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed that the vehicle was traveling at 59 mph in 40

mph zone. The vehicle was stopped, and the operator was issued a civil citation for speeding.

9:59 p.m. – While on patrol, an officer observed a motor vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed that the vehicle was traveling at 55 mph in 40 mph zone. The vehicle was stopped, and it was discovered that the operator had a revoked license.

10:02 p.m. – Keith Harris, 64, of Granby, was placed under arrest for operating a motor vehicle with a revoked Massachusetts driver's license.

Wednesday, Jan. 24

7:43 p.m. – A motorist reported that a vehicle struck a utility pole. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries.

Thursday, Jan. 25

10:54 a.m. – A motorist reported that a garbage truck struck a utility pole causing minor damage. Granby Police responded. There were no injuries.

5:37 p.m. – A motorist reported that a vehicle struck a deer. Granby Police responded. There were no injuries.

Agricultural Commission lists upcoming events

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown Agricultural Commission is pleased to announce that it will be holding its annual Farmer Meet and Greet on Saturday, Feb. 10, from 1-3 p.m. at the Town Hall auditorium, 2 Jabish St.

This event is open to any member of our community that wants to engage with our local farmers.

There will be presentations and opportunities to connect with the farmers in town. Light refreshments will be served.

Backyard Chicken Keeping and Seed Saving

The annual Backyard Chicken-keeping and Gardening event will be held on Saturday, April 6 from 1-3 p.m. at the Town Hall auditorium, 2 Jabish St. Lindsay Baird of Oak and Ash Farm, as well as homesteader Sandy Brougham will be discussing all practical aspects of keeping chickens.

There will also be a seed swap table, so bring some extra seeds to trade. Come join the Belchertown Agricultural Commission and benefit from the expertise of your community.

GRANT from page 5

The Making it Public program and funding is instrumental to developing a sustainable municipal arts program that engages community members. It also builds off of the partnership momentum already built by the Clapp Memorial Library and the Planning Department's Creative Economy Initiative, which are planning the Belchertown Wildlife & Landscape Photography Workshops, Contest, and Exhibition for this Spring with partnership from the Conservation Department. More details on this series will be announced soon.

More details about Making it Public for Municipalities, as well as the parallel track for Massachusetts artists, a free series that is open for registration right now, can be

found on the NEFA website: <https://www.nefa.org/news/nefa-announces-third-community-cohort-selected-making-it-public-art-training-program>. Local Belchertown artists who are interested in expanding their portfolios of public art are encouraged to take part in this free training series.

About MAPC

The Metropolitan Area Planning Council is the regional planning agency serving the people who live and work in the 101 cities and towns of Metropolitan Boston. Its mission is to promote smart growth and regional collaboration. Through its Arts & Culture Department, MAPRC advances the policy and planning conditions that allow arts and culture to thrive. MetroCommon 2050, Greater Boston's regional land

use and policy plan, guides its work as it engages the public in responsible stewardship of the region's future.

About NEFA

The New England Foundation for the Arts invests in artists and communities and fosters equitable access to the arts, enriching the cultural landscape in New England and the nation. NEFA accomplishes this by granting funds to artists and cultural organizations; connecting them to each other and their audiences; and analyzing their economic contributions.

NEFA serves as a regional partner for the National Endowment for the Arts, New England's state arts agencies, and private foundations. Learn more at www.nefa.org.



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GRANBY

Lions Club offers ‘Groundhog Fuel Assistance Fund’

GRANBY – Once again this winter heating season, the Granby Lions Club has established an Emergency Fuel Assistance Fund for Granby residents.

This fund, titled the “Groundhog Fund,” will enable residents of Granby to obtain needed assistance for fuel to help them through the next six weeks of winter.

The Lions Club Groundhog Fund will begin helping residents on Feb. 2 and will continue until March 16.

Residents who would like to apply for needed assistance are asked to complete an application and these applications are available in the Senior Center/Council of Aging Office at 10 West State St. from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday through Friday; and at the Office of the Town Clerk at 215B West State St. from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 9 a.m.-noon on Friday.

The Granby Lions Club appreciates the continuing support that the community of Granby gives to its projects and activities.

EDUCATION

Zonta Club is accepting scholarship applications

The Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley is now accepting applications for Zonta International’s Young Women in Public Affairs Award.

This scholarship is open to a young woman (ages 16-19) who has demonstrated leadership skills and commitment to public service and civic causes.

Deadline is March 8.

The Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley is also accepting applications for Zonta International’s Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship.

Women of any age, pursuing a business program with major field of specialization in accounting, economics, finance, business management, business technology, information technology, marketing, operations management, human resources management, international business or entrepreneurship at an accredited university/college/institute, who demonstrate outstanding potential in the field and are living or studying in a Zonta district/region, are eligible.

Deadline is June 15.

For details about either of these scholarships, visit the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley’s website at www.zontaqv.org/scholarships.

CAMPUS NOTES

Local students earn Dean’s List honors at Nichols College

DUDLEY – More than 220 students at Nichols College have achieved Dean’s List honors during the fall 2023 semester.

The following local students earned Dean’s List: Christopher Cowles of Belchertown and Nolan Sullivan of Granby.

Dean’s List recognizes those students who achieve high grades during a single semester. In order to be included on the Dean’s List, a student must have a minimum average of 3.5 for at least 12 undergraduate credit-hours and must have received no grades below B- during the semester.

Benjamin Anderson makes Dean’s List at Univ. of Delaware

NEWARK, DE – Benjamin Anderson of Belchertown has been named to the University of Delaware Dean’s List for the fall 2023 semester.

To meet eligibility requirements for the Dean’s List, a student must be enrolled full-time and earn a GPA of 3.5 or above (on a 4.0 scale) for the semester.

University of Rhode Island announces Dean’s List

KINGSTON, RI – The University of Rhode Island is pleased to announce the fall 2023 Dean’s List.

Students named to the Dean’s List represent nearly all of Rhode Island’s cities and towns, all six New England states, New York and New Jersey, and many other states and countries. They include Connor Young of Amherst; Aida Name, Kamryn Tellier, Kenzie Thomas and Tommy Vinagre, all of Belchertown; and Gabe Arabik, Chris Misiaszek and Alexa Wiesel, all of Granby.

To be included on the Dean’s List, full-time students must have completed 12 or more credits for letter grades which are GPA applicable during a semester and achieved at least a 3.30 quality point average. Part-time students qualify with the accumulation of 12 or more credits for letter grades which are GPA applicable earning at least a 3.30 quality point average.

AIC students named to fall 2023 Dean’s List

SPRINGFIELD – American International College is pleased to announce that 451 students have been named to the Dean’s List for the fall 2023 semester.

Dean’s List students attend full-time and have achieved a 3.3 to 4.0 GPA.

AIC commends the efforts and accomplishments of these diligent and hard-working students including: Michael Flaherty, majoring in health science; Ryan Gaughan, majoring in general business; and Sabrina O’Grady, majoring in health science; Gabrielle Walz, majoring in health science; and Nora Young, majoring in criminal justice, all of Granby.

Samuel Weatherbee named to Dean’s List

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield College has named Samuel Weatherbee from Granby to the Dean’s List for academic excellence for the 2023 fall semester.

Weatherbee has a primary major of sport management.

The criteria for selection to the Dean’s List are as follows: The student must have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded coursework for the term, exclusive of “P” grades, not have any incompletes or missing grades in the designated term and have a minimum semester grade average of 3.500 for the term.

Elms College announces Dean’s List for fall semester

CHICOPEE – The College of Our Lady of the Elms has named the following students to the Dean’s List for the fall 2023 semester.

Congratulations to all the students who are named to the list including Sushmita Limbu of Amherst; Meredith Dulak, Lily Guerin, Julia Hubbard, Madisson Hussey, Sophia Mancuso, Angelys Martinez, Catherine Mastalerz, Kelly Murray, Andrew Pope and Emilia Swiech, all of Belchertown; and Simon Abbott, Derek Fortin, Dylan Holubowich, Megan Lawson, Melissa Pierce and Briana Sosa, all of Granby.



Georgia Bousquet, Mackenzie Peterson, Addison Doktor and Julianna Lovejoy stopped to pose for a picture with Scout.

SCOUT from page 1

address the absenteeism that has increased at many schools and workplaces since the pandemic.

Director of Student Services, Marina Latourelle, has been charged with taking care of Scout after the school is closed, a responsibility that the rest of the staff has lined up to share, should Latourelle be unavailable.

“The recommendation was that he comes to work right away,” Latourelle said. “So he puts his little harness on and he comes to work, and he loves it.”

A poll was held to name the puppy, with Scout beating out the suggestions of Petey (for PT) or Techie.

Superintendent Eric Duda named the adoption of Scout as one of his proudest accomplishments of the year, along with introducing the Yonder pouches to help cut down on phone use.

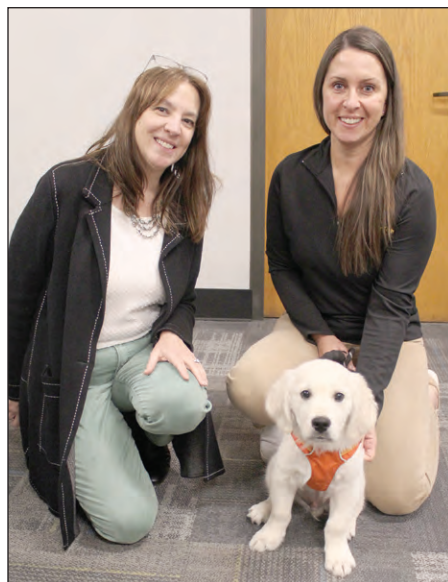
“This was done through a unanimous vote from our School Committee to adopt a new school policy,” said Duda. “It allowed us to move forward with the dog.”

Duda said that in the first week, Scout had already been called on to help students with various mental health challenges.

“You can have the best school psychologists and three guidance counselors and two adjustment counselors, a powerful admin team and a wonderful teaching staff, and we can all work to do something to help this student,” Duda said. “I saw this firsthand: you may or may not get there quickly, but with a puppy, you get there immediately.”

Walking through the halls with Scout, students immediately lit up as soon as they saw him. Turner said that the staff coordinates a schedule for Scout to visit different classrooms at different times of day, in between his training and daily care.

“The positive impact that he’s already



Scout is shown with Principal Brenda Turner and Marina Latourelle.

had blown everyone’s mind,” Duda said. “By the end of the first day, you can’t walk throughout this building without having smiles and interactions.”

“We brought the puppy to our School Committee meeting last week,” Duda said. “We introduced the dog in public session, and everybody smiled, and people pet the dog, and everything else. The whole tone changes from there, you can feel the positive energy.”

Duda said he believes that Pathfinder is the first school out of the nine towns it services to have a dog on-campus and said that he hopes other towns will follow their example.

“Myself and the team are happy to work with anyone who’s interested in doing what we’re doing,” Duda said, mentioning that police and fire departments could also benefit from a dog onsite.

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OBITUARIES

Death Notices

Adair, Diana L.
Died Jan. 22, 2024

Fredenburgh, Martha E.
Died Jan. 18, 2024
Services Feb. 3, 2024

The Sentinel
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

Diana L. Adair, 70

AMHERST – Diana L. Adair, passed away Jan. 22, 2024, at the age of 70.

Born in Northampton on July 26, 1953, she was the daughter of Howard I. Mann Sr. and Marietta Tataro. Diana grew up in Belchertown, the eldest of eight children.

Living most of her life in Amherst she was well known in the real estate profession, as well as the horse community while owning, and operating Heartland Farm for over 20 years. Diana lovingly cared for the horses, students, families, and professionals that were a part of Heartland Farm.

Diana worked as a supervisor at McMannas's restaurant in Hadley, before attaining a broker's license with D. H. Jones Real Estate, and later Sawicki Real Estate, before finishing her career with Coldwell Banker.

Diana was an avid gardener, and decorator, she worked with dogged determination, and passion at everything she was engaged in, or associated with.

Diana will be missed by her son, Robert H. Adair of Hadley, and her younger siblings Catherine Minkley, Howard I. Mann Jr., Patricia Mazer, Jeffrey Mann, James Mann, Anthony Mann, and David Mann along with 10 nieces and nephews, and many friends.

A time of remembrance is being planned for the future. Beers & Story Belchertown Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, cards, or gifts, please make donations to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Please visit www.beersandstory.com.



Martha E. Fredenburgh, 81

BELCHERTOWN – Martha E. Fredenburgh passed away peacefully surrounded by the love of her family at Baystate Medical Center on Jan. 18, 2024, at the age of 81.

Daughter of the late Edgar and Ceva (Kennie) Robbins, she was born Oct. 26, 1942. In addition to her parents, Martha is predeceased by her husband of 60 years, David S. Fredenburgh. She is also predeceased by her sister Rebecca Pennucci and brother Edgar Robbins.

A graduate of Concord High School in 1960, Martha furthered her education at Burdett College in Boston. Martha worked as a medical secretary at Monson Medical Center for several years.

Both lovers of animals, Martha and David opened and operated the Belchertown Boarding Kennel from 1973-1983. In 1986, Martha and David opened Quabbin Analytical Laboratory, a business that still serves the community.

While Martha loved her work, she was most proud of her family. Martha met David in high school, and married on Dec. 29, 1962. They had a love and friendship that was evident to all that knew them.

While raising her children and nurturing her grandchildren, Martha adored cooking family dinners where they would gather at their house. There were many heartfelt memories made around the dinner table.

Later in life, Martha and David enjoyed dining out each night, which included going to many small-town restaurants

where they grew very close to the staff, who were known for their compassion, and recognition of them.

In her spare time, Martha took pleasure in dancing, tending to her flower garden, camping, and boating at Pine Acres Campground in Oakham. In her spry years she was very enthusiastic about dancing, and always wanted to be on her feet. As she adapted to a leisurely lifestyle, she would find delight and relaxation in the outdoors by taking pride in her flower garden, camping, and appreciating life by the water with her family.

Martha will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her, including her son David Fredenburgh and partner, Tamara Langone of Belchertown and her daughter Heidi Bonafini and her partner, Brian Woodward of Belchertown. Martha will also be greatly missed by her beloved grandchildren, John "Jack" Bonafini Jr. and his fiancé Samantha Allard, Alison Bonafini and her fiancé Ryan Spencer, and David F. Fredenburgh.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024, at St. Francis of Assisi Church, Belchertown at 10 a.m. Burial will be at the convenience of the family.

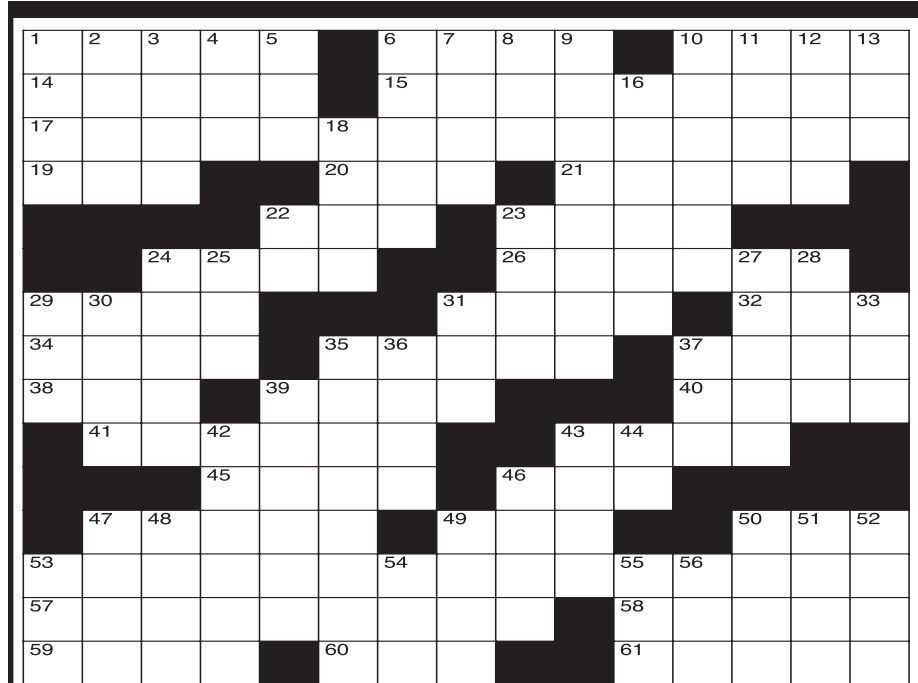
In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Dakin Humane Society, www.dakinhumane.org, or Mary's Meadow Rehab, 12 Gamelin St., Holyoke, MA 01040. Please visit www.beersandstory.com.



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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Become less intense
- 6. Variety of pear
- 10. Religion native to China
- 14. Type of tooth
- 15. Fitted out
- 17. Make every effort
- 19. Autonomic nervous system
- 20. Complete
- 21. Alternate name
- 22. River in France and Belgium
- 23. Miami's mascot is one
- 24. Turfs
- 26. Most cognizant of reality
- 29. Broad volcanic crater
- 31. Canadian surname
- 32. Satisfaction
- 34. Traitorous Greek mythological prince
- 35. Collide
- 37. Immune response
- 38. Feline
- 39. High opinion of one's

own appearance

- 40. Thin strip to align parts
- 41. Containers
- 43. Convicted American spy
- 45. Breathe noisily
- 46. Taxi
- 47. Pancakes made from buckwheat flour
- 49. Swiss river
- 50. I.M. __, architect
- 53. Have surgery
- 57. Formal withdrawal
- 58. Dutch and German surname
- 59. Square measures
- 60. 2,000 lbs.
- 61. Degrade someone

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Siberian river
- 2. Blessing
- 3. Substitutes (abbr.)
- 4. Principle underlying the universe
- 5. Work unit
- 6. Yellow edible fruits

7. Gemstone

- 8. A place ships dock (abbr.)
- 9. Evergreen tropical tree
- 10. Reality TV star Richards
- 11. Nonflowering aquatic plant
- 12. Stakes
- 13. Antidiuretic hormone
- 16. Make warm again
- 18. Light beams
- 22. Lethal dose
- 23. Terrorist group
- 24. Kids love him
- 25. Naturally occurring solid
- 27. German surname meaning "man from Saxony"
- 28. Popular cuisine
- 29. Partner to cheese
- 30. Type of horse
- 31. __ Diego
- 33. Defensive nuclear weapon
- 35. Most shrewd

36. It may be for shopping

- 37. Midway between south and southeast
- 39. A stock of foods
- 42. The bindings of books
- 43. Swiss river
- 44. Megabyte
- 46. Sammy __, songwriter
- 47. Dutch colonist
- 48. Clare Booth __, American writer
- 49. Sun or solar disk
- 50. Popular type of bread
- 51. Transfers of money (abbr.)
- 52. Association of engineering professionals
- 53. Young women's association
- 54. City
- 55. Niger-Congo branch of languages
- 56. Pointed end of a pen

Amherst residents eligible for Rotary scholarships

Rotary District 7890 (northern Connecticut and western Massachusetts) is inviting applications from qualified candidates for a \$30,000 scholarship to study at the master's level outside the U.S. in a Rotary country in one of Rotary's Areas of Focus.

Candidates must have permanent residency in one of the towns covered by Rotary District 7890. Eligibility criteria and the application are available at RotaryDistrict7890.Org under DUNN Endowed Scholarship.

Rotary District 7890 is also inviting applications for a two year fully paid grad-

uate level Peace Scholarship program by the Rotary Foundation for candidates who are working preferably in the humanitarian service-related areas for at least three years. The Rotary Foundation will place the selected candidates in one of the seven designated universities in different parts of the world including the U.S.

Details are available at www.rotary.org/en/peace-fellowships.

Family members of current and former Rotarians are not eligible to apply. Questions may be emailed to heather-goetz@me.com or menon7890@gmail.com.

MEETING from page 1

ended the state's public health emergency, and vaccine mandate for state employees on May 11. However, emergency-era exemptions to state's open meeting law remain in effect until March 2025, which permits public bodies to meet remotely at their prerogative.

Griesemer was re-elected council president, and has served in that role since registered voters amended the municipal charter in 2018, which eliminated representative town meeting. She represents District 2.

During discussion leading to her re-election, District 3 Councilor George Ryan quipped it may be more apropos to say Amherst Town Council consists of "13 mayors."

Ryan had previously served from 2018, but was defeated in his re-election bid, when Amherst voters chose 12 women and one man to serve on Amherst's legislative body in 2021. However, he regained a seat in the November election. In 2024 "there is going to be a Charter Review Committee," which will meet and perhaps make recommendations to the council, over a one-year period, Griesemer, 77, said in an interview.

The panel will be appointed by the council, which may act on any potential recommendations emanating from the to-be-named review committee, she said.

Neither the committee nor the council would have the authority to change the current town council/town manager form of government, but amendments to the charter outside of that could be in order, she said.

An item that could be reviewed, for instance, is the charter's "voter veto" petition process, which grants voters the right to call a town-wide election should petitioners gather signatures of at least 5% of registered voters. The signatures must first be certified by the town clerk for this sort of petition to

appear on the ballot for residents to decide a matter.

In this process, a council decision could be overturned or affirmed by Amherst residents.

In 2021, when all public meetings in town were being held via remote-access only, the council approved borrowing the \$36.3 million needed, at that time, to renovate and expands Jones Library, with the municipality's share of this pegged at \$15.8 million.

Although petitioners, that spring, gathered in excess of the 5% threshold, the town clerk's office ruled that not enough of them were valid signatures, which resulted in several months of litigation at Hampshire Superior Court, as the petitioner had filed a lawsuit against the town.

That litigation ended when the council, on its own, voted that summer to place the measure on the November 2021 ballot, when residents approved the borrowing with 65% in favor out of 4,870 votes cast.

With town council in Amherst beginning its sixth year, Griesemer said accomplishments, in coordination with Town Manager Paul Bockelman and his staff, include a "serious investment to meet the affordable housing challenge" in the community.

She said keys to successfully leading the council center on her ability to "work with every councilor to bring forward their priorities" on behalf of town residents. "I spend a lot of time doing that," she said.

At the January meeting District 5 Councilor Ana Devlin Gauthier was re-elected vice president of the 13-person body.

In November, the following were also elected to two-year terms: At-Large, Councilors Mandi Jo Hanneke, Andrew J. Steinberg and Elisha Walker. District 1, Ndifreke (Freke) Ette and Cathy A. Schoen. District 2, Patricia C. De Angelis. District 3, Heather Hala Lord. District 4, Jennifer Taub and Pamela Rooney. District 5, Robert E. Hegner.

SPORTS

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Orioles exact revenge on Tigers

BELCHERTOWN – Last Tuesday evening, Belchertown handed South Hadley a 71-59 loss after the Tigers beat the Orioles earlier this season. The Orioles had a big second quarter to build a commanding lead, and a big comeback from South Hadley fell short in the second half. Shea MacLean led Belchertown with 25 points while Cal Orzech had 11 points. Jack Loughrey had 23 points for the Tigers while Noah Hambley added 10 points.



Cal Orzech takes a free throw.



Shea McLean reaches out for the shot.



Jackson Couchon dribbles near the hoop.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY
WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Western Mass. Baseball Hall announces new class

HOLYOKE – The Western Massachusetts Baseball Hall of Fame has announced the 11th annual class to be inducted on March 7, 2024 at Twin Hills Country Club:

Jeff Reardon: Reardon is a 16-year MLB relief pitcher, four-time All-Star, and 1987 World Series champion (Twins). He notched 367 saves over the course of his career, ranking 12th on the MLB all-time saves list. He pitched for five different teams during his big league career (Mets, Expos, Twins, Red Sox, and Yankees). Reardon grew up in Western Massachusetts, graduating from Wahconah High School in Dalton.

Mark Simeone: Entering his 28th season as Head Coach of Springfield College's baseball team, Simeone has compiled 484 victories during his tenure. He grew up in Northampton, graduating from Northampton High School in 1982. In addition to coaching at Springfield College, Simeone played outfield from 1982-87 under Charles Roys (Class of 2022 Western

Please see **BASEBALL**, page 13

Youthful watchers see Orioles snap losing streak

BY TIM PETERSON
Sports Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN—With about 100 girls youth basketball players from the Belchertown Parks & Recreation and CYO teams watching from the bleachers, the Lady Orioles varsity team performed very well on the court.

Belchertown snapped their three game losing streak with a 53-35 victory over Central

Division rival Monument Mountain before a large crowd inside the Belchertown gymnasium, last Thursday night.

“We’ve been struggling during our past couple of games, and we played very well as a team in tonight’s game,” said Belchertown junior forward Chloe LaRoche, who scored a season-high 24 points. “It was also nice to play well in front of the youth players. I’m hoping that it got them excit-

ed about playing basketball here in the future. This team is like one big family, and we always have a lot of fun together.”

The home victory improved Belchertown’s overall season record to 5-7. The Lady Orioles are on the borderline of qualifying for the Western Mass. Class B tournament. They’ll also most likely need to finish the regular season with a .500 or better record to clinch a berth in the

Division 3 state tournament.

“We’re going to try our best to qualify for both tournaments this year,” LaRoche said. “I believe that we can do it.”

LaRoche and senior guard Laura Cote, who scored eight points against the Spartans, are the Lady Orioles co-captains.

“The youth players look up to us as role models,” said Cote, who’s the only senior listed on this year’s varsity roster. “My

older sister, Allison, played for the junior varsity basketball and I would always stay for the varsity games. My younger sister, Jackie, currently plays basketball for the youth team and she was sitting in the bleachers tonight. We’ve had some tough losses lately, so we really needed this win.”

LaRoche remembers sitting in the bleachers and watching out-

Please see **ORIOLES**, page 12



Colin Murdock gets ready to make a long pass up the court.



Riley Goodhind stops short of the arc and attempt a three-pointer.

Fast start for Mustangs hurts Rams

MONSON – Despite a lot of success this season, Granby boys basketball ran into a fast-moving Monson team, which jumped out to a big lead and lost on the road 60-37. Granby defeated Monson earlier this season. Monson got great performances from their starters, with Austin Meacham scoring 21 points, Colin Beaupre getting 17 points and Trey Dillahunt turning in 14 points. Granby was led by Cody White with 10 points. Granby is 9-3 this season while Monson is at a solid 9-4 this year.



Cody White makes his way up the right side.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI
Raymond Colon goes for a hook shot.

SPORTS

Pioneers suffer tough loss at Monson

BY TIM PETERSON
Sports Correspondent

MONSON—Colin Beaupre, who's a three-sport athlete, is writing the final chapter of his brilliant athletic career at Monson High School. He has been a member of the Mustangs boys varsity basketball team since the eighth grade.

Beaupre, who's one of the three seniors listed on the Mustangs varsity hoop roster, will have an opportunity to play in the Division 5 state tournament and most likely the Western Mass. Class D tournament in February.

The Mustangs (10-4) clinched a berth in the state tournament following an 84-57 non-league victory over the Pathfinder Tech Pioneers before a large crowd at Michael J. Kane Gymnasium, last Friday night.

"I was in the eighth grade the last time that we qualified for the postseason tournament. We've had a couple of rough seasons since then," said Beaupre, who scored 10 of his 13 points against the Pioneers during the first half. "I wouldn't want to be a member of another basketball team. We're hoping to finish the regular season strong and we're looking forward to playing in the postseason tournament."

Monson, who won their fourth consecutive game, were ranked 12th in the MIAA Division 5 state power rankings. They were also ranked fourth in the Western Mass. Class D. power rankings. The top eight teams in each of the four classes will qualify for the Western Mass. tournament.

The Mustangs just missed qualifying for the state tournament a year ago, as they finished with an 8-12 overall record.

"We put ourselves in a good position to make the postseason tournament last year, but we lost our last two games," said Monson head coach Zac Dreher. "It does feel very good to clinch a berth in the state tournament, especially this early in the regular season. We'll probably be playing in the Western Mass. tournament as well."

Monson eighth grade guard Trey Dillahunt scored a game-



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Hunter Griswold reaches out for the layup.



Seth Mitchell drives to the hoop.



Richie Gula looks for a shot.

high 24 points against Pathfinder Tech. Sophomore guard Jake Beaupre, who's Colin's young-

er brother, contributed with 21 points.

"Jake and I have been teammates on the varsity basketball



Cayden Bousquet makes his way down the court.



Adam Slonka tries to get a shot off.

team for the past three seasons," said Colin Beaupre, who also plays soccer and baseball. "It's always nice playing one on one against him at practice. I've taught him a lot and it has been a lot of fun being teammates with him."

Please see **GRANBY**, page 13

T-Birds offense scores big over Checkers

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (20-17-3-2) dominated for much of the night in a 6-1 win over the Charlotte Checkers (20-17-4-0) on Saturday night before a sellout crowd of 6,793 at the MassMutual Center.

The T-Birds jumped to a first-period lead for a second straight evening, this time just 3:37 into game action. Mathias Laferriere spun away from a defender to gain entry on the right-wing side. Mikhail Abramov raced up the middle of the ice, catching a perfect pass from Laferriere and lifting a shot into the top shelf behind Charlotte netminder Ludovic Waeber, making it 1-0 on his eighth goal of the season.

After not facing much action in the opening half of the period, Springfield goaltender Malcolm Subban got infinitely busier in the closing minutes, as the T-Birds killed off two Charlotte power plays, including 28 seconds' worth of 5-on-3 time. Subban shined, with point-blank saves off Gerry Mayhew and Rasmus Asplund sticking out in a 10-save opening frame.

After the goal by Abramov, Waeber also settled in, and the Checkers' third-ranked penalty kill also denied Springfield on two power plays as the two clubs' man-advantage units continued to scuffle.

For a second consecutive evening, Charlotte got an equalizer in the early stages of period two. Patrick Khodorenko approached the net and bashed home a rebound through Subban's legs after Patrick Giles had his initial try denied by the goaltender. The goal came just 44 seconds into the period to tie the score, 1-1.

However, like Friday night, the tie score would be short-lived. A Matt Kiersted penalty sent Springfield's power play back to work, and just 32 seconds after the Khodorenko tally, Hugh McGing got his first goal since Nov. 24, ramming home a wide shot from Laferriere that skipped off the end boards right in front of the goal on the left side.

With the lead back in their possession, the T-Birds would not relinquish it. Subban made a crucial 2-on-1 save on Checkers captain Zac Dalpe, and moments after another Springfield penalty kill, at 10:22 of the period, Hunter Skinner stepped into a one-time drop pass from Zach Bolduc and saw it ricochet off a Charlotte stick and behind Waeber to make it 3-1. It was Skinner's first goal as a Thunderbird.

Laferriere's night was far from over, as he stepped over the left-wing side and roofed a heavy snap shot through Waeber at 14:00, and in less than four minutes, the lead grew to 4-1.

Things would not get any better for the Checkers in the

Please see **T-BIRDS**, page 13

ORIOLES from page 11

standing basketball players like Tea Spellacy, Kayla Henry, and Cara McKenzie play for the Lady Orioles.

"When I was younger, I always came and watched the girls' basketball team play. I thought those players were superheroes," LaRoche said. "A lot of talented basketball players have played here in the past and it feels awesome to be one of them now."

Spellacy, who played basketball at Babson College, and Henry, who played soccer at Stonehill College, are the last two Lady Orioles 1,000 point scorers.

McKenzie was also an outstanding volleyball player in high school. She was a member of the women's volleyball team at both Adelphi University and Gonzaga.

The trio helped the Lady Orioles capture the Western Mass. Division 2 championship title in 2015 with a 54-43 victo-

ry over Pittsfield at the historic Curry Hicks Cage located on the UMass-Amherst campus.

Longtime Belchertown head coach Jason Woodcock gave his thoughts about the annual youth night game.

"This might've been the best turnout of players that we've ever had for our youth night game, which is awesome," Woodcock said. "On the night that Kayla Henry scored her 1,000 career point, I have a picture on my phone with both Laura and Chole, who were in elementary school at the time, standing on the court during the pregame inductions. I also have pictures of our five freshmen when they were younger. The youth players are the future of this basketball program and its great tradition."

The organizer of the youth night game was Belchertown Athletic Director Jennifer Gouvin. "Mrs. Gouvin deserves all of the credit for tonight," Woodcock

added. "The youth coaches contact her, and she organizes all of it. It was a very special night."

LaRoche, who has scored more than 500 career points, also made a season-high five 3-pointers in the game against the Spartans (0-13).

Freshman point guard Morghan Litz (5 points) made the Lady Orioles first 3-pointer of the contest from the left side which gave the Lady Orioles a 5-4 lead with five minutes left in the opening.

"Morghan is a very smart basketball player," Woodcock said. "She has improved a lot as our point guard this year, but there are things that she needs to improve on."

Four minutes later, Chloe capped off the 10-2 run by hitting another long bomb from the left side of the key.

Belchertown held a slim 12-8 lead at the start of the second half before freshman guard Aubrey McCain (8 points) knocked down

another 3-pointer from the left corner.

The Lady Orioles co-captains combined to score 11 points during the second stanza giving the home team a 28-21 halftime lead.

In the middle of the third quarter, Cote hit a runner in the lane which began an 11-0 run. Chloe scored seven of those points and Litz added a fastbreak lay-up following a steal, which increased the Lady Orioles lead to 41-25 with two minutes left in the third quarter.

Belchertown held a 48-29 lead entering the final eight minutes of the contest, which was low scoring.

The other scorers in the youth night game for the Lady Orioles were junior guard Logan Moses (4 points), sophomore forward Alexa Karabetos (2 points), and freshman forward Avery Cooper (2 points).

GRANBY from page 12

Dillahunt and the Beaupre brothers combined to score 58 points against the Pioneers.

"We're not a very big team, but our guards are very fast," Dreher said. "Colin, Jake, and Trey are outstanding athletes."

Senior forward Sebastian Nava and sophomore forward Austin Meacham just missed reaching double digits in the home victory, as they both scored eight points.

Rounding out the scoring column for the Mustangs were sophomore forward Shane Szado (6 points), freshman guard Kyle Beaudry (3 points), and senior guard Osvaldo Nieves (1 point).

It was the first meeting on the hardwood between the two squads since Pathfinder squeaked out a 43-39 home win in a non-playoff game two years ago. That victory gave Pathfinder Tech a berth in the inaugural Division 5 state tournament. They lost at Minuteman Regional in a preliminary round game.

The Pioneers, who lost at Paulo Freire in the same round a year ago, had a 6-5 overall record following last Friday's game. They were ranked 35th in the Division 5 state power rankings and eighth in the Western Mass. Class C rankings.

The top 32 teams automatically qualify for the state tournament, along with the other teams who finish the regular season with a .500 or better record.

Pathfinder Tech senior guard Hunter Griswold, who's planning on playing football at Mass Maritime Academy next fall, moved from Palmer to Monson in the sixth grade. He scored a team-high 21 points in his first varsity basketball game at Michael J. Kane gymnasium.

"This is the first time that I've played a basketball game in this gym," Griswold said. "I do know all the Monson players and it was a lot of fun playing against them tonight. I just wish that we could've won the game. They started red hot offensively and we could never catch up. I'm hoping that we can play them again in the state tournament."

Senior forward Richie Gula, who's from Palmer, scored 14 of his 17 points during the second half.

The other Pathfinder Tech players who live in Monson are junior guard Seth Mitchell (6 points), senior forward Adam Slonka (4 points), and senior forward Luke Magnus (2 points).

Monson, who raced out to an 8-0 lead in the first three minutes of the contest, held a 27-10 lead at the end of the opening quarter.

"Monson is a very fast team, and they shot the ball very well tonight," said Pathfinder head coach Zac Button, who's father, Al, was an assistant girls' basketball coach at Quaboag Regional under legendary head coach Dick Gowen during their glory years. "I wish that it was a closer game, but we should be playing teams like Palmer and Monson more often. Every time that we lose a game, it's an opportunity for us to get better. Our main goal is to qualify for both the Western Mass. and state tournaments."

The Mustangs also held a 17-point (43-26) halftime lead, and they outscored the Pioneers, 41-31, during the second half.

If the two boys' basketball teams don't face each other again in the Division 5 state tournament, Monson is scheduled to make the short trip to Pathfinder Tech during the 2024-25 regular season.

AMHERST

Jones Library hosts 12th annual 'On the Same Page'

AMHERST – The Jones Library is holding its 12th "On the Same Page" community reading program, this year featuring the novel "This Other Eden" by author Paul Harding.

A variety of programs are being offered to enrich the reading experience of this title and to encourage dialog about the themes the book presents. According to NPR, it is "[An] intense wonder of a historical novel."

The following series of programs will be held during February at the Jones Library, and are inspired by topics and themes from the book. The author event will be held at Johnson Chapel at Amherst College, Feb. 23 at 5 p.m.

For complete program descriptions and to register for the Zoom events, visit the program's webpage at <http://www.joneslibrary.org/onthesamepage>.

"On the Same Page – Amherst" and its programs are made possible with support from the Friends of the Jones Libraries.

For further information about "On the Same Page - Amherst," please contact Janet Ryan by calling 413-259-3223.

Schedule of events

Saturday, Feb. 3 at 3 p.m. – via Zoom

"The Evolving New England Orchard" – Learn about the history of apples in New England, as well as how apples contin-

ue to nourish our stomachs and souls, in this Zoom presentation by Russell Powell, executive director of the New England Apple Association.

Thursday, Feb. 8 at 7 p.m. – via Zoom

"The Place & People of Malaga Island" – Andrew Deci, Regional Land Steward for Maine Coast Heritage Trust and caretaker of the 40-acre island in Phippsburg, Maine, will present an overview of Malaga Island and its storied past of racist eviction by the State of Maine. Through a combination of primary source materials, archaeological evidence, maps, and videos, attendees will become familiar with the island and its significance as a place of racial violence in northern New England.

Tuesday, Feb. 13 at 7 p.m. – Woodbury Room

Book discussion of "This Other Eden" – Join an in-depth discussion of the selected title, led by Jennifer Acker from Amherst College and Jones Library staff member Linda Wentworth.

Friday, Feb. 23 at 5 p.m. – Johnson Chapel/Amherst College

"On the Same Page ...with Paul Harding" - Join a conversation with National Book Award winner Justin Torres and finalist Paul Harding, moderated by

Please see LIBRARY, page 15

T-BIRDS from page 12

third. Ryan Suzuki pounced on a loose puck in the slot after a Jakub Vrana pass to Bolduc caromed off Waeber's pad right into the slot area. Suzuki also found the top corner, advancing the lead to 5-1 on his third goal of the season.

Will Bitten would round out the scoring with his second point of the night, cashing in on a 2-on-1 after an initial shot

from Bolduc bounced off Waeber's left pad and right onto Bitten's tape. Subban got himself back into the win column, making 29 saves in securing his ninth win of the year.

Including the postseason, Springfield is now 10-1-0-0 in its last 11 games against Charlotte inside the Thunderdome, and with the two-game sweep, the T-Birds leaped ahead of Charlotte in the Atlantic Division standings.

BASEBALL from page 11

Massachusetts Baseball Hall of Fame inductee).

Bob Taylor: A current and longtime resident of Springfield, Taylor played 16 professional baseball seasons. He reached the major leagues in 1970, where he appeared in 63 games for the San Francisco Giants alongside Willie Mays and Willie McCovey. Taylor played for San Francisco's Double-A affiliate, the Springfield Giants, in 1965.

Don Strange: Strange, a Springfield native, played college baseball at UMass Amherst from 1987-89. He then enjoyed an eight-year professional baseball career, reaching Triple-A while with the Atlanta Braves system. Don joins his brother, Pat (Class of 2021) in the Western Massachusetts Baseball Hall of Fame.

Earl Lorden: Lorden served as Head Coach at Turners Falls before taking the helm as Head Coach at UMass Amherst from 1948-1966. He won 189 games during this span, ranking third on

UMass's all-time wins list. Lorden was a continuous supporter of UMass baseball until his passing in 1984 at the age of 87.

1942 Turners Falls State Championship Team: A true underdog team of 15 players that won the 1942 Massachusetts State Championship well before population-based divisions were instituted. Their undefeated regular season was shortened by gas rationing during World War II before defeating Arlington in the championship game at Fenway Park by a score of 5-4. The team induction coincides with the individual induction of their head coach, Earl Lorden.

Ron Chimelis (Garry Brown Sports Media Award): A long time columnist and sports reporter for the Springfield Republican, Chimelis served as Red Sox beat reporter during their 2004, 2007, and 2013 World Series championship seasons. He will be the second recipient of the Garry Brown Award, the first of which was posthumously awarded to Garry Brown in 2023.

Professor Fadia Nordtveit speaks Woman's Club

AMHERST – The Amherst Woman's Club presents Dr. Fadia Nordtveit speaking on "Building a Community of Difference and Belonging" from 6-8 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 8 at 35 Triangle St.

The event is free and open to the public. A wine and cheese reception takes place from 6-6:30 p.m., and the talk follows at 6:30 p.m. This is part of the club's Thursday Evening Speakers Series, which features remarkable and accomplished local women and their personal journeys of challenges and achievements.

Nordtveit combines academic, entrepreneurial, and creative expertise to advance Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging, and Sustainability in a variety of sectors and contexts. She is an Assistant Professor of Communications at Springfield College

and a part-time Faculty, Researcher, and Consultant at New York University

Nordtveit received her bachelor's degree from Hampshire College, and her master's and doctorate from UMass Amherst, all in the field of communications. She is founder of The BGreen Project, and her work in climate justice, global youth movements, and new media technologies is explored in her book "Participatory Networks and the Environment: The BGreen Project in the US and Bangladesh".

Her company collaboratively provides research, talks, workshops, and training to businesses, nonprofits, and educational and government organizations.

For more information, visit www.amherstwomansclub.org/event-5402665.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Belchertown Conservation Commission LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to the authority of the Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Ch. 131, Sec. 40, its Regulations (310 CMR 10.00) and the Belchertown Wetlands Protection Bylaw (Chapter 139), the Belchertown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Monday, February 12, 2024 at 7:00 PM in the Lawrence Memorial Hall Auditorium, located at 2 Jabish Street in Belchertown, MA 01007 to review a Request

for Determination of Applicability permit application submitted by Susan Bishop for the proposed removal of five (5) hazardous trees at 53 Metacomet Street (Assessor's Map 103-46) in Belchertown. Work is proposed to occur within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bank of Metacomet Lake. Anyone interested in this matter should appear at the time and place designated. 02/01/2024

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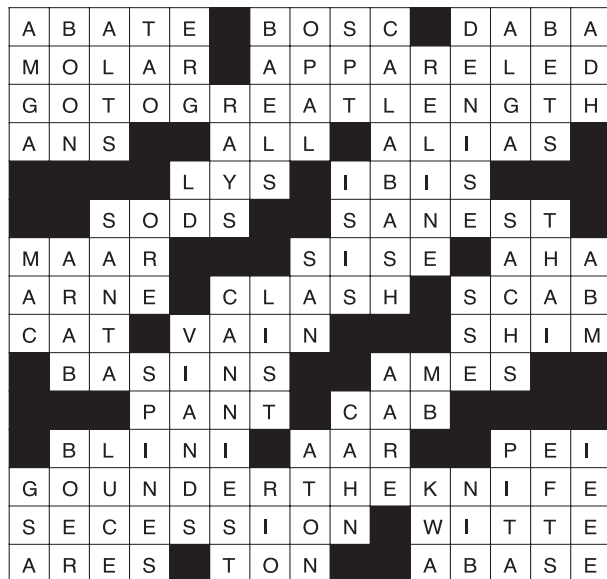
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Grant funding to advance racial justice in health and mental health

BOSTON – The Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation, a nonprofit grantmaking and research organization, recently announced nearly \$1.8 million in grants as it expands investments in two key grant programs focused on racial justice in health and community-based mental health.

Since it was established in 2001, the Foundation has granted more than \$84 million.

"The Foundation is making these vital funding commitments to improve the health care experience for communities of color and increase access to community-based mental health services, two areas of great concern," said Audrey Shelto, President and CEO of the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation in a press release. "Our grant partners have made significant strides since initial funding support, and we look forward to successful outcomes in 2024 and beyond."

Advancing Community-Driven Mental Health grants

The Foundation also awarded a second round of grants through its Advancing Community-Driven Mental Health program to five nonprofit organizations that are training non-clinical staff to offer support to clients experiencing mild to moderate mental health distress and problems of everyday living.

The following organization received \$150,000 to continue its project to improve access to community-based mental health services and expand the behavioral health workforce.

Stavros Center for Independent Living, which is implementing the Project

Management Plus (PM+) model with a program called Take Charge to support people living with disabilities in western Massachusetts who have difficulty getting mental health services due to limited access to the internet and transportation.

Special Initiatives grants

The Foundation also continued to provide one-time grants through its Special Initiatives program, which is for organizations to pilot or launch a new project that empowers communities to advance health equity. The Foundation is providing a total of \$300,000 to six nonprofit organizations that are working to improve health care access across Massachusetts.

UMass Amherst, for a community collaboration between the university's Elaine Marieb College of Nursing and the Bay Area Neighborhood Council, that will address racial disparities in maternal health by bringing health education and resources to the majority Black and Hispanic Bay neighborhood in Springfield.

About BCBS of Massachusetts Foundation

The mission of the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation is to ensure equitable access to health care for all those in the Commonwealth who are economically, racially, culturally or socially marginalized.

The Foundation was established in 2001 with an initial endowment from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts. It operates separately from the company and is governed by its own Board of Directors.

For more information, visit www.bluecrossmafoundation.org.

LIBRARY from page 13

Amherst College Assistant Professor of English Amelia Worsley, with introductions and remarks from Amherst College President Michael Elliott and National Book Foundation Director of Programs and Partnerships, Natalie Green. This event is also part of Litfest at Amherst College, and is offered in partnership by Amherst College, the National Book Foundation, and the Jones Library.

Copies of "This Other Eden" can be borrowed from the Jones Library and branches, requested and checked out from

the C/W MARS library catalog, or purchased at Amherst Books in Amherst.

Paul Harding is the author of three novels: "Tinkers", which won the 2010 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction; "Enon"; and "This Other Eden". He has received fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts and PEN America.

He has taught at the Iowa Writers' Workshop, the Michener Center for Writers and Harvard University. He currently teaches creative writing and literature at Stony Brook University.

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Augusta Savage Gallery announces spring exhibition

AMHERST – UMass Amherst’s Augusta Savage Gallery will open its spring art exhibition, “As We Move Forward,” on Wednesday, Feb. 7 with a reception on Feb. 27 from 5-7 p.m. and a curators’ talk on April 4 at 6 p.m.

The exhibition will be on view through Friday, May 10.

The reception and the April curators’ talk are free and open to the public. Admission to the gallery is always free.

“As We Move Forward” honors the work and legacy of American sculptor and educator Augusta Savage (1892-1962) by gathering the artwork of BIPOC women

from Savage’s home state of Florida. Co-curators Juana Valdes and Nhadya Lawes have curated a space of celebration and growth for young artists from Miami and across the Global South.

In her life, Savage was a catalyst in the arts whose perseverance, advocacy and mentorship paved the way for future generations of black artists. Her legacy is a testament to the significance of critical arts education and visibility for black artists early in their careers.

Born in Florida in 1892, Savage rose to recognition during the Harlem Renaissance as a sculptor, art teacher, and community art pro-

gram director.

This exhibition seeks to build upon the energy and conversations that took place at the Still Here symposium at the University of Miami Center for Global Black Studies in September 2023 and to further canonize these women artists from Miami and their relationships to the intersectionality of race, place, labor, and gender in the arts. In addition, “As We Move Forward” highlights a broader conversation on representation and material practice unfolding in contemporary art and introduces these new talented artistic voices to the Pioneer Valley.



“Untitled”, 2021 by Yanira Collado, a textile, oil pastel, book cover, paint, paper, cardboard. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Participating artists include G Lopez, Symone Titania Lauren Baccus, Adrienne Major, Sydney Rose Maubert, Chadwick, Yanira Collado, Diana Arsimmer McCoy, Najja Moon, Eusebio, Chris Friday, GeoVanna Michelle Lisa Polissaint, Chire Gonzalez, Faren Humes, Loni “VantaBlack” Regans and Monica Johnson, Rhea Leonard, Kandy Sorelle.

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