

Belchertown adopts

INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

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

BELCHERTOWN – For the first time, Belchertown has adopted International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

“It’s days like today that I feel fortunate to live and work in Belchertown,” said Town Manager Steve Williams. “Not only is this our first event, which I am hoping will become an annual event, but I believe it’s one of the first events our region has hosted.”

The region has also begun to host these ceremonies for the first time, and Williams referred to it as “very special,” with the hopes for it to continue “so that we don’t forget the victims of the Holocaust.”

Please see **HOLOCAUST**, page 5



Raising the flag on the flagpole.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

“As we honor and recognize, we can’t forget what happened there, and how quickly societies can devolve into hate, fear, and systematic targeting of populations.”

– JAKE OLIVEIRA

Town supports WSB Project at STM

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
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GRANBY – The town hosted a Special Town Meeting on Tuesday evening at the East Meadow gymnasium in order to vote to transfer funds from the Municipal Buildings Stabilization Fund for the West Street Building renovation projects.

In attendance at the meet-

“We have a year to move out of our offices. We couldn’t afford to build new, and we can’t do it now; we certainly can’t do it by the end of the year when our lease with the town and the annex ends.”

– Chair Mark Bail

ing were the Selectboard, Acting Town Administrator Kevin O’Grady, Town Attorney Brian O’Toole, Town Clerk Emily Reed, Finance Committee Chair John Libera, and members of the West Street Building Committee.

Selectboard Member Glenn Sexton also put out a call for interested parties to volunteer for the new

Town Administrator Search Committee, and interested parties can contact the Town Hall.

“We’re here tonight with a decision to make,” said Selectboard Chair Mark Bail.

Originally, the project was a total of \$5.6 million, which came from a combination of appropriated funds that were unspent, as well as a federal grant. Because leftover funds cannot be spent on anything, they go into the general fund, which is essentially the town’s bank account.

The West Street Building Project is being paid for by unspent money in this general fund, as well as a federal grant. Of this \$5.6 million amount, then, the town has a total of \$3.8 million of which comes from various past projects that were unspent, the “left overs.”

“We will lose \$1.88 million if we don’t do this project,” said Bail.

Bail then explained that the ARPA funds, the

Please see **STM**, page 2

Sen. Jake Oliveira awarded Legislator of the Year

By Emily-Rose Pappas
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REGION – The Massachusetts Municipal Association hosted its annual conference, this year called Connect 351, in Boston, in order to award two State Senators and two State Representatives with the Municipal Advocate Award, recognizing them for their service to the communities they represent and serve.

The Massachusetts Municipal Association, or MMA, works to connect and support municipal leaders by creating a nonpartisan space for shared learning, ideas, and a voice to bring to Beacon Hill in order to make the 351 towns and cities of Massachusetts more connected and unified.

“The more state support that municipalities can get, the better. Making sure that we have reliable state sup-

Please see **AWARD**, page 3



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Recipients of awards at Connect 351: Representative Jim Arciero, Representative Danielle Gregoire, Senator Brendan Crighton, and Senator Jake Oliveira.

UCC brings in Kind Initiative

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
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GRANBY — Kindness is something we find sorely lacking in our world today, and a little more could always be beneficial. A kind

word, a smile, and a compliment can brighten someone’s day more than you may believe.

The Granby UCC Congregation is taking on the challenge to be more kind with their new Kind Initiative, which challenges

congregation members to ask themselves, “How can I be the ‘I’ in Kind?”

“As the Christian Education Director, I’m always looking for ways to engage our church families and community in fun and educational ways,” said Tasondra Jardine. “Our church family and especially our Youth Group have big hearts and love to help our community whenever we’re able. This initiative is a building block for asking the age-old question, ‘What can I do?’”

At Sunday’s service, people stopped to take pictures in front of the “Be the ‘I’ in Kind” sign, where they literally make the letter. There were smiles all around, and it gave a new meaning to “being” kind.

“When we hung up the banner on Sunday, I had no idea how many people would take the moment to sit and be the ‘I’ in KIND. Some were nervous about how they

Please see **KIND**, page 4



SUBMITTED PHOTO

George Randall is taking the pledge to be Kind.

Local hero recognized at Thunderbirds game

By Emily-Rose Pappas
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AMHERST – Recognizing and celebrating those who have made great strides in healing, bravery, and courage is important, and allows the world to see and congratulate this courage, as well.

The Springfield Thunderbirds hosted their Hometown Hero Program at their game on Saturday, January 31, which provides recognition to community volunteers, first responders, educators, military members, and people who have shown exemplary dedication and bravery.

Amherst resident David Howard was an innocent bystander during an accident, and as a result of his injuries, he became wheelchair-bound. During his healing journey, he developed multiple pressure wounds from being wheelchair-bound and bedridden, and persevered through more treatments and more healing.

Howard ended up seeking treatment and rehabilitation from NEWCare, New England Wound Care, once a week for a year, for his recovery and extensive treatments.

“Going out in a wheelchair at first was tough and different, but people are friendlier, and I’ve been getting used to it,” said Howard. “I feel like

I’ve been through a lot of pain. It’s easy to give up. But going to New England Wound Care, they are friendly, and I’m healing. They make it fun. As weird as it sounds, they make it fun.”

His visits to NEWCare allowed him to heal and become himself again. Dr. Sohail Waien, who worked with Howard for two years, helped him in all stages of the wounds and their healing, helping them as they went from getting better, to worse, and better, acting as a source of encouragement and help during the healing process and journey Howard was on.

“He was consistent and worked hard to follow the

recommendations. If not for his strong will and determination, he would not have recovered. His inner strength, motivation, hard work, and determination motivated our team, and his story should be an inspiration to others,” said Dr. Waien.

“It has been a humbling experience to watch David build trust and develop relationships with all members of our NEWCare team,” said wound care nurse and Ostomy Lead Jenn. “It brings joy to me as a member of the NEWCare team to honor David at the Thunderbirds game.”

Please see **HERO**, page 5



David Howard with his award, Dr. Sohail Waien (Medical Director at NEWCare), and Emily Gault (Practice Manager at NEWCare).

COMMUNITY

Happenings this week

BELCHERTOWN – What's going on at the Clapp Memorial Library? Check out these upcoming events and programs!

Love your neighbor... donate to those in need!
Teen Advisory Board's "Love Your Neighbor" Food Drive

Friday, February 6 - Friday, February 13

The Clapp Memorial Library's Teen Advisory Board will be collecting non-perishables at the library in their second-ever Food Drive, February 6 through 13. There will be a designated donation box inside the library during those dates. Donations will be sorted by Teen Advisory Board members on the 13th and distributed evenly amongst Belchertown food pantries. TAB is a group of 7th-12th-grade students who meet monthly during the school year to propose library programming for teens, provide input on teen services, volunteer, and have fun. New members are welcome!

FOR ADULTS: MassSave Pop-Up Resource Table

Thursday, February 5, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Learn about no-cost Home Energy Assessments (HEAs) and other MassSave benefits for homeowners and renters. Stop by the resource table any time between 11:00 am and 6:00 pm. Representatives of HomeWorks Energy will help explain all the benefits and answer any questions. This program is funded by HomeWorks Energy, Inc.

What "YA" Readin'?

Book Club

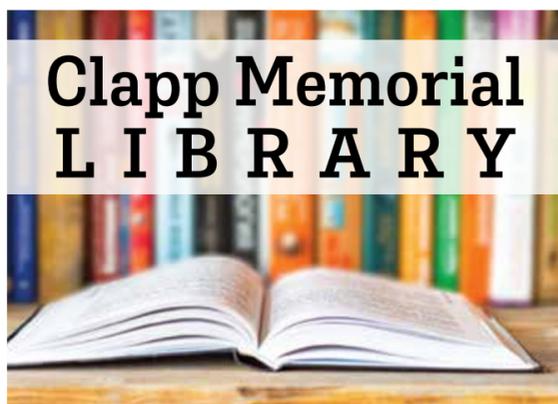
Thursday, February 5, 7 to 8 p.m.

The library's What "YA" Readin'? Book Club, a group for adults who read Young Adult books, will meet to discuss Fangirl by Rainbow Rowell. March's book will be Twenty-Four Seconds From Now by Jason Reynolds. Copies of the book are available for checkout at the circulation desk. New members are welcome!

Mending the Body with the Mind Book Talk

Wednesday, February 11, 7 to 8 p.m.

Join us for a talk from Belchertown resident and pediatrician, David Gottesgen, author of Mending the Body with the



Mind: Harnessing Kids' Superpowers To Heal and Stay Healthy. Dr. Gottesgen will discuss integrative medicine in general, then talk about how he utilized the mind-body-spirit connection in all parts of his practice.

FOR ADULTS & TEENS: A Night With Paranormal Investigators

Monday, February 9, 6 to 8 p.m.

Spend an evening with Eastern States Paranormal Investigators as they set up a mock command center in the library showcasing their cameras and equipment. They'll share evidence they've gathered during overnight stays at some of Massachusetts' most haunted mansions. Sponsored by Eastern States Paranormal Investigators.

FOR TEENS: Teen Crafternoon: DIY Chalkboard

Monday, February 9, 4 to 5 p.m.

The library will host a Teen Crafternoon for students in grades 7-12 on Monday, February 9th. Teens will make their own DIY chalkboard wall-hanging: perfect for jotting down schedules, reminders, and doodles! All materials will be provided. Space is limited. Email clapplibrarytab@gmail.com to register. This program is funded by the Friends of the Clapp Memorial Library.

Teen Advisory Board Meeting

Friday, February 13, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

The Clapp Memorial Library's Teen Advisory Board will meet Friday, February 13th. TAB is a group of 7th-12th grade students who meet monthly during the school year to propose library programming for teens, provide input on teen services, volunteer, and have fun! At this meeting, teens will sort items from

their "Love Your Neighbor" Food Drive to distribute to local food pantries. Teens can email clapplibrarytab@gmail.com to register. New members are welcome!

Coming up! D&D Afterschool Adventures: Into the Abomination Vaults

Monday, February 23 - March 30, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Grab your dice and join us for our Spring Teen D&D Campaign! Brave adventurers are needed once again to delve deep within the Abomination Vaults and defeat the dangers below! For teens in grades 7-12. Teens who played in last year's Abomination Vaults may return with their same characters as the story progresses. No experience necessary. Space is limited, and registration is required. Register online at clapplibrary.org or call 413-323-0417. Confirmations will be sent out to students confirming enrollment or waitlist status. Please email any questions to tmannino@cwmar.org

FOR CHILDREN: Children's Scavenger Hunt Every Month in 2026!

February's Theme: Dav Pilkey, Prize: Dav Pilkey Book Bundle

We're inviting children to participate in a Monthly Scavenger Hunt! Look for book characters and write down the word you find with them. When you have all of the words, figure out the saying and enter to win the month's themed prize! One raffle ticket per child each month.

Clapp Memorial Library Hours:

Monday 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Tuesday 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Wednesday 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Thursday 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Friday 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Library's spring book sale has been cancelled

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

We apologize to all of you who continually donate books, DVDs, CDs, puzzles, etc. We plan to have the grand opening of our new and improved basement ready for the fall sale in October. We implore you to hold on

to your donations, as we do not have any space to put them, as we remove everything from the basement and make all necessary repairs and changes. We expect to restart donations as soon as the space has been reconfigured. Probably late summer or early fall.

The Friends of the Library have been sponsoring book sales since the spring of 1976, with only a few interruptions due to COVID in 2020. Your understanding and patience during this renovation is appreciated. We are celebrating the Friends of the Clapp Memorial Library's 50th Anniversary in 2026, and the upgrades will allow us to continue the book sale tradition for many years to come. Thank you, Belchertown, for your continued support of our beautiful library.

A reminder to return your Town Census ASAP

BELCHERTOWN – From the Belchertown Town Clerk: "Please try to return your census as soon as possible. You can drop them in the drop box here at the Town Hall, 24/7. By maintaining an accurate count of residents, it helps the town to receive as much funding from the State/Federal funds as possible.

If we don't have an accurate count, we could be leaving money on the table."

The Town Hall is located at 2 Jabish Street. The box is located at the top of the steps/ top of the ramp at the left-hand door at the back of the building (adjacent to the parking lot).

Roger Williams University announces Fall 2025 Dean's List

BRISTOL, RI – Select students have been named to the Fall 2025 Dean's List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I. Full-time students who complete 12 or more credits per semester and earn a GPA of 3.4 or higher are placed on the Dean's List that semester.

Nathan Fernandes of Belchertown, MA (01007)

Chloe Macaluso of Belchertown, MA (01007)

About RWU: Roger Williams University offers professional studies and liberal arts programs, with campuses in Bristol and Providence, Rhode Island. We provide real-world learning that empowers students to become the changemakers and leaders our world needs next.

Open positions for town elections

BELCHERTOWN – The town election is coming up in May, and there are several positions available to run for across many boards and committees in town.

- **Board of Assessors** - 1 seat open with a 2-year term
- **Board of Assessors** - 1 seat open with a 3-year term
- **Board of Health** - 2 seats open with 3-year terms each
- **Housing Authority** - 1 seat open with a 4-year term
- **Moderator** - 1 seat open with a 3-year term
- **Planning Board** - 1 seat open with a 3-year term
- **School Committee** - 2 seats open with 3-year terms each
- **Select Board** - 1 seat open with a 3-year term

Nomination papers are now available in the Town Clerk's office and are due back by 5 p.m. on March 30, 2026.

Registration has begun for Kindergarten

BELCHERTOWN – If you are a resident of Belchertown with a child who will be 5 years of age on or before September 1, 2026, you are encouraged to contact Christina Aponte via email: caponte@belchertownps.org or by phone at 413-323-0423, Ext. 100 to receive instructions regarding registration for the upcoming 2026-2027 school year.



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American Rescue Plan Act, but the town must use the funds for the given reason in order for the sum to be given in full.

"If we don't spend that money on this project, we say goodbye to \$1.88 million," said Bail.

The two articles on the ballot are either/or, and only one can be passed.

"The first article would provide funds for a supplemental budget and enough money to renovate the space for an office for the town administrator," Bail explained. "The second article would provide funds to supplement the existing budget, but would not include office space for the town administrator. That space would be prepped for a

future renovation, but would not be usable."

The Selectboard asked Town Meeting members to vote in favor of one of the articles; if Article One passed, the Selectboard would withdraw the second article.

"We have a year to move out of our offices. We couldn't afford to build new, and we can't do it now, and we certainly can't do it by the end of the year when our lease with the town and the annex ends," said Bail. "If we vote down both of these articles tonight, we'll have to find temporary accommodations for our offices."

Many in attendance favored the idea of closing the senior center, and using that space for the new town offices, for which Bail said, "I strongly disagree with that idea, but without the

West Street School project, it's a possibility."

OPM Neil Joyce and architect Tim Whitman were present to share their plan for the West Street Building and were present to answer questions.

"We have completed a design which, as presented in your handouts, includes two different options," Joyce said. "The first option collocates both the town administrator's office and the balance of the municipal offices in the north wing of the existing West Street School."

The total project budget is \$6,694,639, compared to the previous \$5,686,639, resulting in a total \$1,800,000 shortfall.

After a time of discussion and questions, the town meeting members voted in favor of passing Article 1 by majority vote.

Christopher Heights of Belchertown Resident Services Manager

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Please call Theresa Bollea at Christopher Heights of Belchertown, (413) 323-5500 to schedule an appointment to further discuss this position.

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Welcoming the new A-2 Ambulance (left) into service for Granby.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

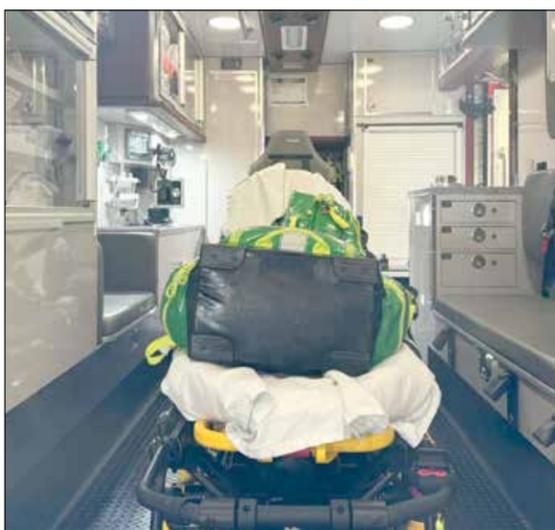
Granby FD has two ambulances for first time

GRANBY – On January 22, 2026, the Granby Fire Department placed our new A-2 into service, meaning the department will have two ambulances housed at the station for the first time in our history.

“We would like to thank the town residents and town officials for their continued support of the department. Adding a second ambulance will greatly benefit our residents as well as our mutual aid partners,” said Fire Chief Evan Briant. “With

two ambulances in service, we can now send one out for routine maintenance while still keeping a Granby ambulance in town, eliminating the need to borrow from neighboring communities.”

The second ambulance will be staffed when available by department members while remaining within budgetary guidelines. The Granby Fire Department is extremely excited to add this second ambulance, providing our community with another critical, lifesaving resource.



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Venturing inside to see the new ambulance.

Love your neighbor... donate to those in need

BELCHERTOWN – The Clapp Memorial Library’s Teen Advisory Board will be collecting nonperishables at the library in their second-ever Food Drive, February 6 through the 13. There will be a designated donation box inside the library during those dates. Donations will be sorted by Teen Advisory Board

members on the 13th and distributed evenly amongst Belchertown food pantries. TAB is a group of 7th-12th-grade students who meet monthly during the school year to propose library programming for teens, provide input on teen services, volunteer, and have fun. New members are welcome.

Silent auction to benefit the library

BELCHERTOWN – The Clapp Memorial Library’s fiber arts group, “The Woolies” will be holding a silent auction of their beautiful, handmade woolens to benefit the library. The Woolies are a group of local fiber artists who have been meeting at the library every week for many years. Items for the

auction will include hats, scarves, washcloths, mittens, and more! Stop by the library to see them and bid on your favorite between Friday, February 6, and Saturday, February 14. Bidding closes at 2 p.m. on February 14. A huge thank you from the Library to The Woolies!

B’Town Fair Committee announces 2026 theme

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown Fair committee is pleased to announce this year’s theme, in honor of America’s 250th birthday, is Stars, Stripes and Fair Nights. Thank you to Kate Nadeau for suggesting the theme. The 167th

Belchertown Fair will take place on the Belchertown common from September 25-27, 2026. Prizes will be awarded for best theme presentation in adult and youth booths, and parade float. Follow the Belchertown Fair on Facebook for all updates.

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port for our 351 towns and cities is a lot more equitable. I believe that we are in a Commonwealth, and we should work together to benefit our towns,” said Senator Jake Oliveira.

Oliveira worked hard to file legislation for towns to have the option to make hybrid meetings permanent, offering a way for meetings to become more accessible to the public, amongst many other benefits.

“It’s worked so well, even at the state house, and it makes it easier for people to participate in their government. It definitely improves services, and it was a great help in the long run to allow for more flexibility and an easier time to share information,” said Oliveira.

Oliveira partnered with the MMA to obtain funding for essential services at the local level, including Chapter 70 funds, school transportation, and much

more. He also helped work to change the Chapter 90 funding formula in order to help Western MA communities have better roadways that are more cost-effective.

“It was a good conference, and it was very meaningful for me to receive the award,” said Oliveira. “It was great to go to the MMA conference, because you got to see town managers, city councilors, and more, some of whom I worked with while I was part of the school committee.”

To further honor Oliveira’s dedication and service to the communities, the Selectboard from the town of Longmeadow also presented him with an award.

“As someone who came from municipal government, it was very meaningful to receive this award. We really work and fight hard to get these resources for our towns and cities, and working with that is something that I take a lot of pride in.”

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Join a board/committee today

Belchertown Select Board announces vacancies

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown Select Board is looking for citizens interested in sharing their expertise by serving on a Town Board/Committee. If you have time and are interested in getting involved in your Town's activities, please submit a letter of interest to: Select Board, The Finnerty House, One South Main Street, P.O. Box 670, Belchertown, MA 01007 or by email to selectboard@belchertown.org (unless otherwise indicated below). You may also submit a volunteer form on our website: <https://www.belchertown.org/374/Volunteer>

All vacancies are posted until filled.

The Town wishes to fill the following vacancies:

Agricultural Commission: The Town wishes to fill two associate member seats on the Agricultural Commission. This commission promotes agricultural-based economic opportunities; preserves, revitalizes and sustains the Belchertown agricultural industries, and encourages the pursuit of agriculture as a career opportunity and lifestyle.

Animal Control Advisory Board: The Town wishes to fill one (1) vacancy on the Animal Control Advisory Board. This Board works with the Animal Control Officer and the public when a complaint is brought against a dog in Town. The Board may conduct hearings as allowed in the Town Bylaw [Chapter 15] and Mass. Gen. Law ch. 140, Sec. 157 and pose conditions upon the animal owner(s) as deemed appropriate. As the Board works with dog complaints (only), an ideal applicant would be someone familiar with dogs; a current or past dog owner or person who works with dogs, or an interested community member.

Belchertown Buildings & Grounds Commit-

tee: The Town wishes to fill one (1) full real estate member seat and one (1) associate member seat on the Belchertown Buildings and Grounds Committee. The committee will advise the Town and the Select Board on funding opportunities for maintaining and developing Town buildings that fit the guidelines of repurpose and/or renovation to benefit the local economy and population as well as advising on historical and cultural development opportunities. Expertise with real estate/architecture, grant writing, or historical experience to strengthen the skill set of the committee is highly preferred.

Board of Assessors: The Town of Belchertown is looking to fill a vacancy on the Board of Assessors. This position has a stipend of \$1,000 per year. This recently vacated position will be appointed in accordance with the provisions outlined in MGL Chapter 41, Section 11 by a joint appointment of the Board of Assessors and Select Board. The appointed individual will fill the seats remaining term and shall perform duties of the office until the next annual election in May 2026. The applicant must be a registered voter in the Town of Belchertown.

In accordance with MCL Chapter 59, Section 21, the Assessors shall assess all taxes duly certified to them and perform all necessary duties as defined in MGL Chapter 59. Some of the duties include the classification and valuation of all real and personal property along with setting the tax rate each fiscal year.

For further information, contact Jay Whelihan, Director of Assessments, at 323-0413, jwhelihan@belchertown.org or Steve Williams, Town Manager, at 323-0403.

Capital Improvement Planning Committee: Belchertown is seeking two (2) residents with demonstrated knowledge of construction, facility maintenance, fleet management, architecture, engineering, or

a related field to fill a full member seat.

Communications Committee: The Belchertown Communications Committee is looking for two (2) new full members and two (2) associate members to help shape how our town shares news and stays connected. This group has supported projects like the Belchertown.org upgrade, Carriagetown Chronicles, and installing a broader social media strategy. We're seeking residents with everyday skills in communications, document preparation, accessibility, social media, or technology - especially individuals with practical experience using AI in workplace or business settings, to support the careful and responsible adoption of these tools in town government.

Creative Economy Committee: The Town of Belchertown is accepting letters of interest to fill one (1) vacancy on the Creative Economy Committee. This Committee oversees the strategic planning, municipal arts program development, outreach & marketing, activity implementation, evaluation & reporting, and coordinates arts and culture outreach for the town of Belchertown and forthcoming Cultural District.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force: The Town of Belchertown is accepting letters of interest to fill one (1) vacancy on the Belchertown Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force. The focus of the Task Force is to develop a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement for the Select Board to review and to consider adopting, to seek out opportunities to acknowledge and/or celebrate the diversity within our own community and to welcome the whole community to join in, and to offer suggestions on how the town addresses specific or potential acts of violence, including hate speech, should such acts arise in

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KIND from page 1

looked; some were in a hurry but wanted to be supportive, and others took several in funny poses and nice ones, so they had options," said Jardine.

Jardine got the opportunity to be the photographer for most of the photos and got to watch the reactions of congregation members to getting their photos taken, and smile as they left the seat, the message ringing clearer to them. Genuine smiles, easier breathing, and walking away from in front of the camera with some seeming relieved.

"Being KIND isn't a new idea, but making yourself the 'I' in KIND is a pretty neat concept. We want people to look at the little ways you can spread kindness and then do it. Holding a door, donating, checking on an elder or disabled neighbor," said Jardine.

The church spreads kindness year-round, encouraging the congregation to give to the community, and one way they do this is through Blessing Bags. They have an Amazon Wishlist of items they put into the bags for people interested in donating the specific items.

Items in the Blessing Bags include travel-sized personal hygiene, hand warmers, instant coffee and oatmeal, lip balm, hand sanitizer, granola bars and beef sticks, instant individual meals like Cup Noodles and Easy Mac, and the drawstring bags themselves. You can reach out to the church for access to the link and for any questions on how to donate.

The GUCC also hosts food mobiles twice a month with Granby to Go and Neighbors Helping Neighbors, sharing kindness by helping act as a bridge and meeting point for people to get food. Their next mobiles will be this Friday, February 6, and Friday, February 27, from 4:40 to 6 p.m. in their Parish House.

"We encourage you to come and get some food, bring a friend, and see some of the volunteers in the pictures. Our Youth Group and Missions Board are always on hand to help," said Jardine.

The Youth Group and church are dedicated to reaching out to the community and want to welcome you to be a part of this work in sharing love and kindness with all they interact with.

"Being kind is universally understood across all religions, languages, communities, and cultures. At a time when many are focused on differences, we want people to remember to be kind. It doesn't matter where you land on your beliefs; kindness and respect are free," said Jardine.

The church will be keeping the banner up in their Parish House through Lent until Easter, where the congregation chooses to take something on to encourage spiritual growth, rather than giving something up.

The congregation invites the community to come by the Parish House and take their own photos with the banner and send the photo to them via their Facebook page so they can include it in their album.

The congregation also invites everyone to their Sunday services at 10:30 a.m.



Robert Mason will be 89 on the 18th, and is the oldest participant.



Liam Scully knows it's cool to be Kind!



Tasondra Jardine is ready to show kindness to all she meets.



Jay Dwinell is excited to tell others about their church.



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CLUES ACROSS

1. Native American group of N. California
5. Geological times (Brit. sp.)
10. Tool to remove
12. Rods
14. One who renews
16. They precede C
18. Chatter incessantly
19. ___ King Cole, musician
20. Insect parts
22. One from Utah
23. The world of the dead
25. Singer Redding
26. NBA legend Nelson
27. Indicates wrongly
28. Unhappy
30. Anger
31. Dark brown
33. Some are in kitchens
35. Made a mistake

37. Damp
38. Type of fuel
40. Actor Damon
41. What thespians do
42. One's mother
44. Disallow
45. Swiss river
48. A banana has one
50. Philippines lake and volcano are two
52. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
53. Agave
55. Journalist Tarbell
56. One-time tech giant
57. Indicates upon
58. Intestinal bacteria
63. Loose sheaths around the spinal cord
65. It goes with nook
66. A fashion
67. Very eager to hear or see

CLUES DOWN

1. Witch
2. Utilize
3. Writing utensil
4. Where rockers go to work
5. Subsidies
6. Consume
7. Greek mythological figures
8. California mountain town
9. Tin
10. Muse of lyric and love poetry
11. Animates anew
13. Humorous criticisms
15. Cool!
17. Worst
18. Wet dirt
21. Designed to be useful
23. Hebrew unit of liquid capacity
24. High schoolers' test

27. Computer device
29. Indian territory ___ and Diu
32. A place to sleep
34. AI tool
35. Pass or go by
36. Indicates a purgery
39. A digital tape recording of sound
40. More (Spanish)
43. Disfigured
44. White (Spanish)
46. Church building
47. Georgia rockers
49. Type of surgery
51. Much ___ about nothing
54. Make by braiding
59. Local area network
60. Unit of work or energy
61. Member of indigenous people of Thailand
62. Liquefied natural gas
64. Distance to top

HERO from page 1

Many members of the NEWCare team went to cheer on David, and congratulate him for his dedication, bravery, and persistence in his healing journey.

"This story truly embodies what Hometown Heroes Night is all about," said Thunderbirds President Nathan Costa. "First responders serve our community with courage and selflessness every day, and New England Wound Care's actions in healing David Howard's wounds are a powerful example of that commitment. We're also inspired by David's strength and resilience on his road to recovery. This night allows us to recognize the everyday heroes who bravely show up for our community 365 days a year."

"It makes me feel great to be honored at the game. Even though I'm shy, I don't want any regrets," said Howard. "It's a nice thing the Thunderbirds are offering. It makes me feel great to be honored. I'm honored, and



The NEWCare team is by the First Aid sign at the MassMutual Center. We are now the official first aid sponsors of the Thunderbirds.

I'm going to be honoring all those who are in wheelchairs. After being treated at New England Wound Care, I feel great."

About NEWCare
NEWCare treats a variety of wounds such as diabetic foot ulcers, pressure ulcers, skin tears, and burns. NEWCare provides

both wound and ostomy care to patients in Greater Springfield and Western Massachusetts. NEWCare is celebrating 10 years of business this year.



Members of the community gathered to witness the special ceremony.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

HOLOCAUST from page 1

The DEI Committee worked hard to put the event together and organize advocacy for the town to adopt the National Remembrance Day and hold the ceremony. Members of the Select Board, police department and Oliver the Comfort Dog, and Senator Jake Oliveira and State Representative Aaron Saunders were also present for the ceremony.

"There aren't a lot of events recognizing Holocaust Remembrance Day in Western Massachusetts," said Oliveira, who also represents one of the largest Jewish communities in Western Massachusetts, in Longmeadow, but there isn't a ceremony or event there, either.

"I'm thankful for the Belchertown community and the DEI Committee for coming together and recognizing this important day. And I think as we become more distant from the events of the Holocaust, generations that were directly impacted are becoming fewer and fewer."

Oliveira and Saunders travelled to Poland along the Ukrainian border to visit a concentration camp that is well-preserved there, standing as a reminder and against attempts to erase the atrocities of the Holocaust against gypsies, Jews, LGBTQ, disabled, and other minority groups.

"As we honor and recognize, we can't forget what happened there, and how



The flags are waving proudly on the flagpole outside Town Hall.

quickly societies can devolve into hate, fear, and systematic targeting of populations," said Oliveira.

The history of targeting populations is horrendous, and on Jan. 27, on the 81st anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, the town of Belchertown has made a

point to continue to recognize this day, and never "go down the road of systematically targeting a population... free people should live freely, and that's what this remembrance has taught us all," said Oliveira.

Select Board member Jenn Turner also came forward to



Senator Jake Oliveira sharing some words.

share a few words regarding Remembrance Day to honor the over 6 million lost during this horrific event.

"These victims represent a tapestry of lives and experiences that were shattered, lives that contributed vibrantly to their communities, and whose absence is still felt today," said Turner. "We remember not just the individuals lost, but their rich cultures, the creativity, and the potential contributions that were forever silenced."

Through a rise of antisemitism, having these ceremonies is a reminder that we should "Never Again" allow these evils to come up again, and for hate to win. The ceremony calls for the community to stand up and speak up for our neighbors and end cycles of hate.

"By sharing the stories of Holocaust survivors alongside those of other persecuted groups, we foster understanding and resilience against the hate that seeks to divide us," said Turner.

The ceremony ended with Williams reading the proclamation put out by the Select Board, and those in attendance went outside to stand at the flag pole and watch as the special white and blue striped flag with a gold star was raised.

The ceremony is a reminder, and now an annual tradition, for people to remember that hate has no home here, and the residents of Belchertown are prepared to fight against it.

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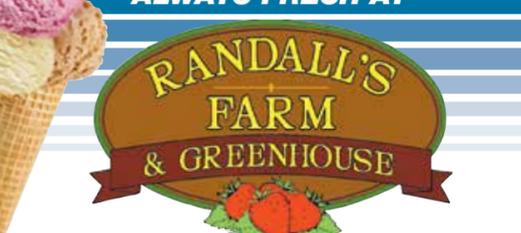
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OPINION

SOCIAL SECURITY
Matters

By Russell Gloor

Am I entitled to more Social Security as a Veteran?

Dear Rusty:

I served in the U.S. Army from July 1964 to July 1967. Am I eligible for a higher Social Security payment?

Thank you. Signed:
Vietnam Era Army Vet

Dear Army Vet:

Please accept my sincere thanks for your military service. I believe you are referring to the "Special Extra Credit for Military Service," which has been the subject of many published articles. That refers to a special Social Security accommodation available only to those who served in the military during specific periods of time, but it does not add to your monthly Social Security payment. Rather, it adds to your military earnings record for the years you served, which may or may not result in a higher Social Security benefit when you later claim Social Security.

Here's how it works in your case:

Serving between 1964 and 1967, if you told Social Security of your military service when you applied for Social Security benefits or gave them a copy of your DD-214, they would have added up to \$1,200 per year to your military pay record. FYI, those who served after 1966 were automatically given earnings credit for their military service years. However, whether those special extra credits would affect your monthly Social Security benefit depends on your lifetime earnings record when you later claimed Social Security.

When you applied for benefits, Social Security reviewed your lifetime earnings and used the highest earning 35 years of earnings over your lifetime (adjusted for inflation) to calculate your "Primary Insurance Amount" or "PIA," which is what you get if you claim benefits to start at your Social Security full retirement age. If, after your military service, you had 35 or more years of earnings which were higher than your earnings while serving in the military, Social Security would have used your later higher earning years to calculate your benefit, and your military earnings would not have had an effect on your

Social Security benefit. However, if any of your military earnings including the "special extra credits" were among the highest over your lifetime, then those higher military earnings would be included when calculating your Social Security benefit.

So, whether you would benefit from these "special extra credits for military service" depends largely on your earnings history after you were discharged from active duty. If your military earnings were among the highest earning years over your lifetime, and you provided SSA with a copy of your DD-214 when you applied for Social Security, then your current SS benefit already includes consideration of your military service. FYI, Social Security should have asked about your military service when you applied. If you didn't tell SS about your military service when you applied for Social Security, or if you aren't sure, you should contact the SSA at 1.800-772-1213 and ask if you were given those "special extra credits for military service" for your 1960s military service years when you applied for Social Security. But if you had at least 35 years of higher earnings after you left military service, your current SS benefit is already based on those later higher earning years, and you will not get any additional Social Security benefit because of the "special extra credits" for your military service years.

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



Onion culture, continued

This morning, after reading last week's column, my mom commented, "Boy, I didn't realize onions are so challenging to grow."

Oh no, I truly hope that the column did not convey that message. I've been growing onions for years, and find them no more challenging than any other vegetable that you start indoors.

I hope I didn't discourage anyone. In fact, I hope just the opposite happened, whereby everyone purchased some seed to give growing onions a whirl.

Read on to learn more from where we left off last week.

Growing on

How does one achieve lots of top growth so that by seasons' end a big bulb will result? Provide sufficient moisture and nitrogen, and lots of it, but only early in the gardening season.

Amend a 100 square foot area with a bushel of aged manure or finished compost prior to planting, then top dress when plants are six-eight inches high and again for the last time three weeks later. Fish emulsion is a great foliar fertilizer for this purpose.

Because onions have limited top growth and are relatively shallow rooted, it makes it hard for them to compete with more aggressive plants for moisture and nutrients. For that reason, be sure to address enemy #1: weeds!

I have found that a hand held circle hoe is great for getting into the narrow space between plants as well as within the rows. Perform this task once or twice a week and you will be weed-free all summer.

You can also apply grass clippings or chopped up leaves as mulch. It will reduce weeds and conserve moisture, and, as it breaks down add valuable organic matter to the soil.

As the summer solstice draws near, the need for nitrogen drops as the bulb switches from top growth to bulbing up. From this point on, no additional fertilizer is necessary and watering can be cut back some.

Harvesting

In early fall your onion tops will begin to yellow and bend at the necks. As mentioned earlier, reduced day-

light has signaled the plant to go into dormancy.

When half have bent, bend the rest and allow them to remain in the garden just a few more days. If no rain is in the forecast, pull them up and lay them on edge in place, turning on occasion.

in mesh bags or old hosiery in a household location that remains close to freezing and relatively dry. My unheated mudroom works great.

Here simply cut the tops to one inch prior to bagging up. When you are going through them to cut, or braid, be sure to separate out those with double bulbs, as well as those whose necks remain thick; neither will be good keepers and should be used first.

This is also a great time to think about good traits and the prospect of saving some of your best onions for seed production.



This will begin the curing process.

Should rain threaten, they can easily be protected with a tarp or moved under cover.

After three days to a week of sunshine it is time to move them to an airy, dry location such as a shed to cure for an additional two-three weeks. Should this time frame include lots of rain or humidity, sometimes a household fan can help the drying process along.

Dry onions will definitely be the best for long term storage.

Storage

You have a good idea that your onions are ready for storage when the necks have withered away and the outer skin is dry and starts to slip. Nineteenth century gardeners would have braided and hung them in the root cellar, where cool and dry conditions would, fingers crossed, keep them fit for use as needed into the spring months.

Onion braids have modern day appeal- they look pretty and it is easy to simply tug the perfect size onion from the braid as you need it. The key to success is to attach twine or string to at least one of the braiding strands - this will give your braid strength, not to mention a way of hanging it up.

We can also store onions

Save the seeds

Saving the seeds of your open-pollinated, non-hybrid onions is the next frontier for allium aficionados. In the north, we employ what is called the "bulb to seed" method.

Our bulbs are harvested normally and stored over the winter, and when the ground is ready for planting, three or four of your best onions are replanted three inches apart. Soon a flower stalk will form. It can get quite tall (three-five feet!) so place a stake for support early on and tie it off as you need to.

After the flower head has formed be on watch for the black seeds to ripen and loosen up- you want to catch them before they shatter. This can be accomplished by clipping a few sections of the head at a time.

Dry in an airy spot for a few days before storing in paper envelopes in a cool, dry location for use the following spring. Be advised that to avoid cross pollination, only one variety of onion can be in flower at a time; it is fine, however, to have first year onions in the garden.

Onion seeds are viable for one-two years.

Now that you know the ins and outs of onion culture, embrace the challenge and try growing onions from seed this year.

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

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

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

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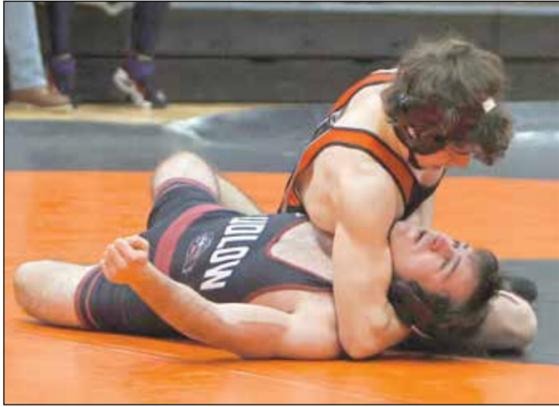
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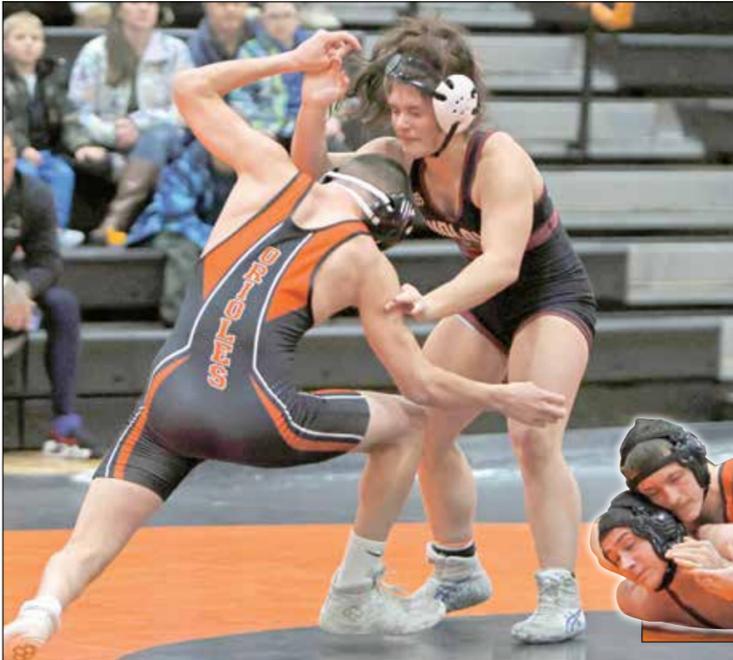
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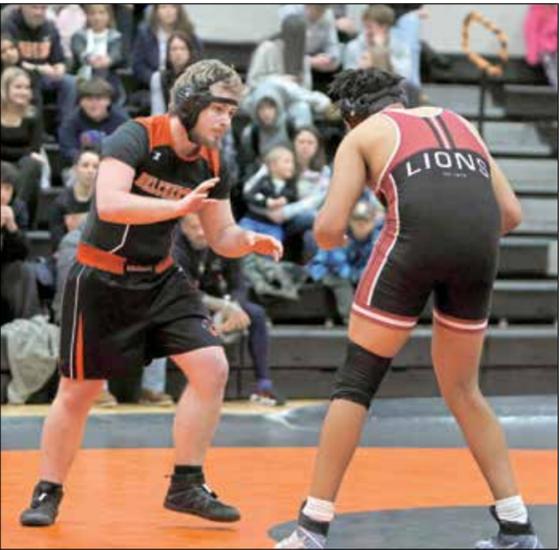
Andre Jarry gets the pinfall.



Alex Maroney locks up at 113 pounds.



Ronan Mosher holds the leverage after getting a takedown.



Eli Grillo gets ready to start things at 215 pounds.



Evan Perkins tries to secure a pinfall.



Edan Chaverri gets the takedown.

Orioles grab dual meet win over Ludlow

BELCHERTOWN – Last Wednesday night, in one of the final dual meets of the season for both teams, neighboring rivals Belchertown and Ludlow wrestled each other in league action. The Orioles were able to pick up the win over Ludlow. The final score of the meet was not reported. Both teams are gearing up for the sectional and state meets.

Lions gets big win over Spartans

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WEST SPRINGFIELD—The members of the Ludlow hockey team are probably very glad that the first month of 2026 has ended.

The Lions closed out January with a 3-1 defeat to the East Longmeadow Spartans in a Berry Division match-up held at the Olympia Ice Center in West Springfield, last Saturday afternoon.

“This was another tough loss for us, but I thought we competed very well,” said Ludlow head coach Paul Rivest. “January was a very difficult month for us. We’ve been having a lot of trouble scoring goals this season.”

Ludlow, who had a 4-2 record following a 4-1 win against West Springfield on New Year’s Day, entered February with a 6-8 overall record.

The Lions, who co-op with Belchertown High School,

only other victories in January came against Central Mass. foes. They posted a 4-1 victory over Hopedale, which took place at Olympia on January 10.

A week later, the Lions pulled out a 3-2 overtime win versus Lunenburg at the Wallace Civic Center in Fitchburg.

The Lions lost their third game in a row against the Spartans (9-5), who are one of the teams trying to capture the Berry Division title.

Despite having a 3-6 league record, the Lions should be one of the six teams competing in this year’s Western Mass. Class A tournament, which is scheduled to take place during the February school vacation.

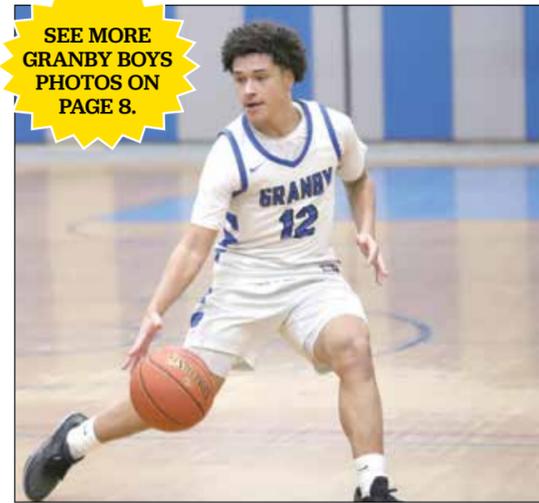
“I’m pretty sure that we’ll qualify for the Western Mass. tournament this year,” Rivest said. “Six of the seven Berry Division teams will be playing in that tournament.”

Please see **LIONS**, page 8



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Evan Dias gets ready to send a wrist-shot toward the goal.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Raymond Colon runs into traffic.

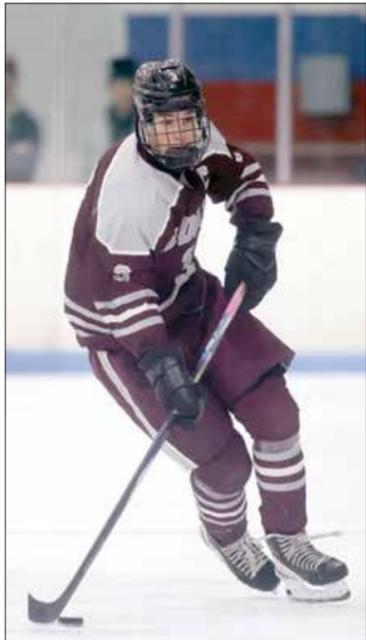
Rams stay in game, but lose to Palmer

GRANBY – Last Wednesday evening, Palmer and Granby boys basketball matched up with the score staying close until Palmer pulled away in the third quarter and eventually won 68-50. Dylan Doherty would lead all scorers in the game with

21 points. Taydem Haley added 17 for Palmer and Stephen Fredette scored 10. For Granby, Zavien Fernandez led the Rams with 12 points, with Raymond Colon scoring 11 points. Granby fell to just 1-13 this year while Palmer is now even at 7-7.



Anthony Santiago tries to get around a Palmer guard.



Tannar Severyn circles around and takes possession.



Rhett Ribeiro focuses as he brings in a pass.



Joseph Toomey shuffles to his left with the puck.

SPORTS

Pioneers unable to come back against Duggan

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

SPRINGFIELD—After defeating John J. Duggan Academy by 19 points in a home game at the beginning of January, the Pathfinder Tech Lady Pioneers made the trip to Springfield last Thursday night looking to sweep the season series.

Things didn't go according to plan for the Lady Pioneers, who were hoping to move above the .500 mark. The Jayhawks built a 15-point lead in the middle of the second quarter and held off the Lady Pioneers during the second half for a 47-37 home victory in a Tri-County North League contest.

"I'm very disappointed because we defeated them pretty easily in our first meeting," said Kevin Aldrich, who's been coaching the Pathfinder Tech girls' basketball team for the past twenty years. "If we don't qualify for the post-season tournament or contend for the league title, this will be one of the games that we'll look back on. The players probably thought it would be another easy game. Give Duggan a lot of credit because they played very hard against us. They just wanted it a little more than we did."

The Lady Pioneers (5-6) will need to win at least four of their remaining regular season games to clinch a berth in the Division 5 state tournament for the third consecutive year.

A year ago, Pathfinder Tech defeated Boston United, 57-36, in a preliminary round home game before losing at the Renaissance School in the round of 32. It marked the first time that the Lady Pioneers had won a state tournament game since the MIAA changed the post-season format prior to the start of the 2021-22 regular season.

The Lady Pioneers probably won't be one of the eight teams who'll be competing in the Western Mass. Class C tournament, which starts next week.

Junior Megan Clark and senior Addison Doktor each finished with 14 points in the road contest against the Jayhawks (4-8).

Doktor, who fouled out late in the fourth quarter, scored 34 points in the first meeting with Duggan, which was a 50-31 victory on January 2. She made 16 field goals and two foul shots in that contest.

In the second meeting, Doktor scored eight first half points on four inside hoops. She only made two field goals and two free throws in the second half.

Clark doubled her point



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI
Cassandra Nykiel tries to get her hands on the ball.



Taylor Allen hustles down the court.

total from the home win against the Jayhawks. She scored nine second half points in last Thursday's contest.

The Lady Pioneers only other scorers were junior's Ciara Green (4 points) and Taylor Allen, who scored all five of her points in the fourth quarter. The only time that Pathfinder Tech held the lead was at 2-0 less than a minute into the opening quarter following a Doktor inside hoop.

Doktor also made a put-back basket, which sliced the Lady Pioneers deficit to 11-8 with 2:10 left in the opening quarter.

When Pathfinder scored again with two minutes remaining in the first half, they were trailing, 23-8.

"We struggled offensively in the first half," Aldrich

said. "We should've scored 50 or 55 points in this game. We just kept allowing them to get into their defensive sets. They played a man-to-man defense against us, which we didn't handle very well."

The Jayhawks reeled off twelve unanswered points during that ten minute stretch.

Senior Rosemary Santos scored 15 of her game-high 28 points for the home team during the first 16 minutes. She scored 10 points in the first meeting.

No other Duggan player scored more than six points in the home win.

Clark finally ended the Lady Pioneers scoring drought with a 3-pointer from the left side.

Doktor also added an inside basket and a put-back, which sliced Pathfinder Tech's deficit to 25-15 at halftime.

Pathfinder Tech battled back as they outscored Duggan, 10-5, during the third quarter.

With 2:25 left in the third, Green hit a jumper in the lane, which closed the gap to 28-25 before Santos made a lay-up.

The Lady Pioneers were trailing 30-27 less than two minutes into the final quarter following a Green lay-up. They couldn't get any closer than that, as Duggan built a 41-32 lead with the help of an 11-5 run.

"We've been playing very well lately," Aldrich said. "I really didn't expect this outcome. We just need to bounce back from this loss."

It was Duggan's first win against Pathfinder Tech since 2023.



Ciara Green heads down the court.



Megan Clark attempts a bank shot.

RAMS TAKE A LOSS



Brodie Funk brings in a pass.



Zavier Fernandez runs into traffic near the edge of the arc.



Brandon Carillon is pressured by an opponent.



Samuel Moure circles the arc.



William Mitus runs into pressure.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

LIONS from page 7

The Lions were in sixth place in the league standings ahead of West Springfield, who defeated Ludlow 2-1 on January 19.

"The Berry Division is very close this year," Rivest added. "We're two or three goals away from being in second or third place in the league standings. We're also the only District in the state that still has a sectional tournament."

Two years ago, the Lions lost to Taconic 3-2 in the Western Mass. Class B finals. They only qualified for the state tournament a year ago.

The Lions were the 32nd team in the MIAA Division 3 power rankings at the end of last week.

The top 32 teams in each Division automatically qualify for the state tournament. A team can also qualify for the states with a .500 or better record.

The Lions, who'll need four more win to finish the regular season with a .500 record, were looking to defeat the Spartans for the first time since celebrating a 3-1 victory on December 23, 2023.

In last Saturday's match, East Longmeadow took a 1-0

lead at the 3:18 mark of the opening period following a goal from junior Kevin Baker. The senior duo Joe Mazza and Cody Shaw were credited with assists on the game's first goal.

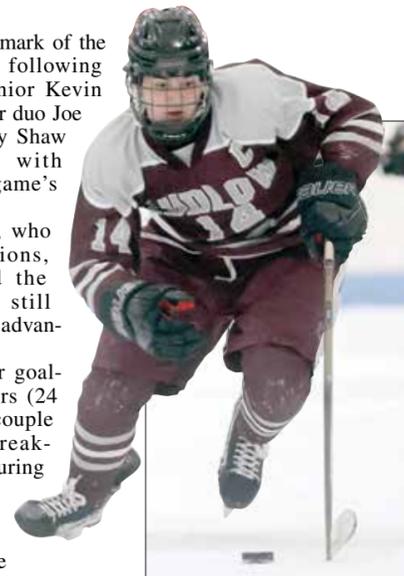
The Spartans, who outshot the Lions, 26-13, entered the second period still holding the 1-0 advantage.

Ludlow senior goalie Donald Rogers (24 saves) made a couple of saves on breakaway chances during the first seven minutes of the middle period, which kept the score 1-0.

Rogers, who attends Belchertown High School, has been sharing the starting duties with junior Peter LeBorgne this season.

A goal from senior captain Tannar Severin, which was assisted by junior Gavin Harrington, knotted the score at 1-1 with 5:44 left in the second period.

The Spartans then had the first power-play opportunity of the match, which the Lions were able to kill.



Nick Deroin hustles up the ice.

The score remained tied until East Longmeadow junior Jack Rustico scored a breakaway goal with 3:24 left in regulation.

With 32 seconds left, an empty net goal by Mazza sealed the deal for the Spartans.

Ludlow is scheduled to have a week off before facing East Longmeadow for the second time at 4:50 p.m. on Saturday back at Olympia.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Belchertown Police Log

Editor's note: The following are brief explanations of select entries in the Belchertown Police log and arrests for the weeks of Jan. 22 through Jan. 23. The information was provided by a member of the police department based on the review of the detailed log summary. This feature is designed to provide context and explanation to some of the calls police respond to every day.

**ARRESTS/SUMMONS
Friday Jan. 23**

6:05 p.m. – A 46-year-old homeless person was issued a summons on charges of larceny of a motor vehicle. An officer was dispatched to a residence about a vehicle being stolen. The person took the vehicle and did not return it. The vehicle owner decided to report it stolen after several days. A “be on the lookout” order was put out for the vehicle.

**ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS
Friday Jan. 23**

12:35 p.m. – An officer took a report of diesel exhaust fluid from a business. It was reported that 200 gallons were taken. The matter is under investigation.

6:35 p.m. – An officer took a report of fraud. A person received three calls from the same phone number. The scammer portrayed themselves as a correspondent of the external affairs. They also told the people that

their Sim card was used to bankrupt people. The officer went to the website that the person was provided, and there was a message warning that spammers were spoofing their account.

Saturday, Jan. 24

11:07 a.m. – An officer responded to a report of past property damage. A person reported a vehicle going north on Sabin Street struck several mailboxes during the previous day. An officer also took a report that another vehicle struck a Ware Road while turning into a driveway.

2:02 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Ware Road. Two vehicles were traveling on Ware Road when one was following too closely, and the first slowed, and the second struck the first. No injuries were reported, and no tows.

Sunday, Jan. 25

11:42 a.m. – Op of mvl vehicle slid after breaks applied and was unable to stop due to slippery conditions and struck a fire hydrant on Federal Street. No injuries, no tows.

12:11 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Federal Street. A vehicle stopped at a traffic light on Federal Street. A second vehicle wasn't able to stop in time and struck the first vehicle in the rear. No injuries were reported, and no tows were needed.

5:35 p.m. – An officer took a report of vehicles leaving the scene of property damage on Amherst Road. There was video footage provided to the

officer. It showed a vehicle running over three vehicles. The owners were contacted.

7:17 p.m. – An officer spoke with a person about how to get a harassment prevention order.

Monday, Jan 26

5:29 a.m. – An officer responded to a Sarah Lane residence for a report of a vehicle on fire. Upon their arrival, officers saw a pick-up truck engulfed in flames and another vehicle was close to it. No damage to the other vehicle. No injuries were reported. The vehicle was towed.

12:44 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on North Main Street. A vehicle leaving a parking space was struck by another vehicle turning into the lot. There was minor damage to vehicles, but no tow was needed. No injuries were reported.

7:13 p.m. – An officer responded to Pine Valley Plantation for a report of a leak of a water heater. Water was coming into the kitchen of the residence. Belchertown Fire assisted with the call.

Tuesday, Jan. 27

10:17 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Bay Road. A vehicle going east on Bay Road lost control due to slippery road conditions. The vehicle went into the opposite lane, the vehicle ended up in the snow, went into the opposite lane, and into a fence. There was minor damage. The vehicle was able to be driven from the scene, and no injuries were reported.

12:14 p.m. – An officer responded to Federal Street for an accident. A vehicle turning into a Federal Street business was struck in the rear. Both vehicles could be driven from the scene. No injuries were reported.

Wednesday Jan. 28

2:56 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Amherst Road. A vehicle sitting at the edge of a driveway on Amherst Road, and a second vehicle going eastbound with a trailer. As the vehicle passed, a portion of the trailer struck the front of the car. No injuries were reported, and no tows were needed.

5:41 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Federal Street and Allen Road. Two vehicles were going west on Federal Street, and the front vehicle slowed and stopped. The second vehicle struck the first from behind. Both vehicles were driven from the scene, and no injuries were reported.

Thursday, Jan. 29

2:47 p.m. – An officer took a report of fraud. A resident reported they were a victim of a phone scam and sustained a loss of money. They got a phone call from a scammer pretending to be the person's cable provider. Then tried to get additional funds from the person. The matter was reported.

3:33 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on North Washington for a report of property damage/accident.

6:17 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Federal Street. A vehicle

traveling on Federal Street when the vehicle went off the shoulder of the road, hit a pile of snow, then went off the roadway and struck an embankment. The vehicle came to a rest in a field on Federal Street and Amherst Road.

Granby Police Log

Editor's Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 133 calls for the week of Jan. 23 through Jan. 29. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The Granby Police Department provides all information.

Friday, Jan. 23

6:17 p.m. – A motorist reported a two-car accident. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries.

Saturday, Jan. 24

8:29 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 61MPH in a posted 40MPH zone. The vehicle was stopped, and the operator was issued a civil citation for speeding.

Sunday, Jan. 25

4:36 p.m. – Officers responded to multiple reports of stuck vehicles throughout town during a snowstorm.

Monday, Jan. 26

7:55 a.m. – A Granby Highway plow driver report-

ed that a vehicle slid into the back of their plow truck. There were no injuries.

2:09 p.m. – A motorist reported a minor two-car accident. There were no injuries.

3:04 p.m. – A resident reported that a town plow struck and took off the side view mirrors of their vehicle.

Tuesday, Jan. 27

5:49 a.m. – A motorist reported that there was a minor two-car accident in the Dunkin' Donuts parking lot. There were no injuries.

1:14 p.m. – A motorist reported a two-car accident. Granby Police and Fire responded. Belchertown Fire sent an ambulance as mutual aid. Both operators were transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

3:45 p.m. – A motorist reported a two-car accident. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries.

Wednesday, Jan. 28

2 p.m. – A resident reported receiving a letter in the mail from Polish National Credit Union. The letter had a fake check attached. They contacted the bank, and they were told that the bank did not send it.

Thursday, Jan. 29

2:52 p.m. – A patron of a restaurant reported that they left their pocketbook at the listed location after having lunch. When they returned, the pocketbook was gone.

BOARDS from page 4

our community, region, or state. Efforts should be made to include voices from the community or communities that are directly affected. Partnership opportunities with surrounding towns to strengthen regional or state efforts might also be explored. This is a seven (7) member committee to include: A representative from law enforcement, a representative from Town Hall, and five (5) community members representing diversity in one or more of the following areas: Racial and ethnic backgrounds, Social positions with respect to gender identity and sexual orientation, social positions with respect to disability, and Age groups and prior vocational experiences. All are encouraged to apply. Please submit a letter of interest to: Select Board, The Finnerty House, One South Main Street, P.O. Box 670, Belchertown, MA 01007 or by email to selectboard@belchertown.org.

Historic District By-Law Commission: The Town wishes to fill a member Real Estate seat on the Historic District By-Law Commission. The Commission has regulatory control over new construction, reconstruction, alterations, movements, and demolition of all exterior architectural features of buildings and structures within the Historic District which are visible from any public street, public way, or public park.

Pioneer Valley Transit Authority Advisory Board: The Town is seeking an individual to represent and serve as a Liaison to the Town of Belchertown on the PVTA Advisory Board. Interested individuals should have the time and desire to attend respective meetings in Springfield and periodically review the PVTA's services to the Town and its contiguous communities.

Quaboag Valley Business Assistance Corporation

(QVBAC) / Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation (QVDC) Board Member: The Town is seeking an individual to represent and serve as a Liaison to the Town of Belchertown on the QVBAC to bring the concerns of Belchertown's residents and small business community forward to ensure that the services provided by the QVBAC/QVDC are in line with the town's needs. The board member also helps disseminate information from the QVBAC board to Belchertown's residents and small business community, especially when there is a particular program or initiative they'd benefit from. While no business acumen is required, an interest in and or connections with Belchertown's small business community would be advantageous. Enthusiasm for Belchertown, and the ability to determine and communicate the interests of its residents are the most important qualifica-

tions. For more information about the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation and the Quaboag Valley Business Assistance Corporation, please visit www.qvdc.org.

Veterans' Services Advisory Board (VSAB): The Town is looking to fill one (1) vacancy on the VSAB. The Board works closely with the Town's Veterans' Agent on issues pertaining to veterans to include but not limited to Veterans Day and Memorial Day ceremonies, war memorials, veterans' graves or any other related areas of concern.

Zoning Board of Appeals: The Town wishes to fill two (2) openings for associate member seats on the Zoning Board of Appeals. The ZBA is responsible for hearing and deciding on applications for Special Permits, Variances and Appeals from decisions of the Zoning Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector.

Come and join the Granby COA for a Magic Show

GRANBY – The Granby Council on Aging will be hosting The Magic of Rich Gilbert for a special lunch and Magic Show. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. for \$3,

and the Magic Show will begin at noon on Wednesday, February 11.



Granby Lions Club 'Groundhog Fuel Assistance Fund' 2026

Feb. 2 – March 16

February 2 and will continue until March 16.

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

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. in Granby from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm Monday through Friday.

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



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

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
RIGHT OF WAY MAINTENANCE**

As required by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 132B, National Grid (New England Power and/or Massachusetts Electric Company) hereby gives notice that it intends to selectively apply herbicides along specific transmission line rights-of-way in 2026.

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

National Grid may utilize any of the herbicides noted the MA Sensitive Materials list. Rodeo, and possibly one of the following herbicides, Arsenal or Arsenal Powerline, will be applied directly to the surface of stumps immediately after target vegetation is cut (Cut Stump Treatment). Garlon 4 or Garlon 4 Ultra will be applied selectively to the stems of target vegetation using hand-held equipment (Basal Treatment and Dormant stem treatment). Krenite S or Rodeo, mixed with Escort XP, and one of the following herbicides, Arsenal or Arsenal Powerline, or Milestone will be applied selectively to the foliage of target vegetation using hand-held equipment (Foliar Treat-

ment). Cambistat as a tree growth regulator. Applications shall not commence more than ten days before nor conclude more than ten days after the following treatment periods. The herbicide mixes and additional information about rights of way management in Massachusetts can be found here:

<https://www.mass.gov/rights-of-way-vegetation-management>

Municipalities that have rights-of-way scheduled for herbicide treatments in 2026:

Belchertown

TREATMENT PERIODS

Feb 1–May 30, 2026	May 30–Oct 15, 2026	Oct 15–Dec 31, 2026
CST	Foliar	CST
Basal	CST	Basal
Dormant stem	Basal	Dormant stem
	Cut stubble	

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

Further information may be requested by contacting (during business hours, Mon–Fri from 8:00 am–4:00 pm):

Mariclaire Rigby, National Grid,
939 Southbridge Street, Worcester, MA 01610.
Telephone: (781) 290-8310 or email:
mariclaire.rigby@nationalgrid.com

02/05/2026

**OFFICE OF
THE SELECT BOARD
TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN
PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given under Chapter 140 of the General Laws that Goe Tani Greige of West Boylston, MA, has applied for a Used Car Dealer's License - Class II for 122 Federal Street, Inc. for the purpose of buying and selling second-hand motor vehicles at 122 Federal Street, Belchertown, MA.

A public hearing relative to this application will be held on **Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 6:50 p.m.** in the Select Boards Meeting Room on the first floor of Lawrence Memorial Hall, 2 Jabish Street, Belchertown, Massachusetts

SELECT BOARD

Lesa Lessard Pearson, Chair
Jennifer D. Turner
Nicole Miner
Whitney Jorns Kuhnlenz
Jonathan Ritter

02/05, 02/12/2026

**Belchertown Zoning
Board of Appeals**

Notice of Public Hearing

In accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40A, Section 11 the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **February 18, 2026 at 6:00 PM.**

This hearing will be held in the Planning Board's meeting room of Lawrence Memorial Hall, 2 Jabish Street, Belchertown, MA

on the application from Robert Mileski seeking a special permit §145-69; to revert the building at 720 Franklin Street (Map 109 Parcel 51, Zoned AGA/AGB) into a two-unit dwelling; §145-11 Residential Use (2). A copy of the application may be inspected at the Town Clerk's office (Room 201) 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday, Lawrence Memorial Hall, 2 Jabish Street, Belchertown, MA. or at website https://www.belchertown.org/committees/zoning_board_of_appeals/index.php

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

Jennifer Sharrow, Chair
Zoning Board of Appeals
02/05, 02/12/2026

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampshire Probate and
Family Court
15 Atwood Drive
Northampton, MA 01060
(413)586-8500
Docket No.
HS25P0776EA
Estate of:
Thomas W. McRae
Also known as:
Thomas William McRae
Date of Death: 11/13/2025
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR FORMAL
ADJUDICATION**

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

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 02/27/2026.** This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION
UNDER THE
MASSACHUSETTS
UNIFORM PROBATE
A Personal Representative**

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

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

Date: January 30, 2026
Mark S Ames,
Register of Probate
02/05/2026

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

OBITUARY

Debra L. Slate

It is with heavy hearts and much sadness that we announce the passing of Debra L. Slate. Beloved Mom, cherished sister-cousin-friend. Deb left this earthly life with family by her side on January 24, 2026, after a hard-fought battle.



Brought up in Chicopee, she was the daughter of Roland (Buddy) and Lillian (LaPine) Slate. Deb built a life in Belchertown for herself and The Light of Her Life and Best Friend, her son J.C. Deb earned an associate's degree in business from STCC and fulfilling a lifelong passion of service to others, worked for over 50 years with special needs mentally challenged clients in a variety of settings.

Deb will be remembered as a loving mother and cherished friend to many, whose heartfelt presence and kindness enriched the lives of those around her. Deb will be greatly missed by her loving son, J.C.-James Snodgrass, Gunner, her faithful dog and Lily, her cat, all with whom she lived along with her sister, Cynthia Ulmer of Port St. Lucie, FL, many cherished cousins and friends, two of whom she called her "daughter",

Casey Gamache and her "second son", Greg Ely.

Deb had a very special crafting talent admired by all, creating many beautiful hand-made items even doing so from her hospital bed. Deb's happy place and solace

when away from home was spending time at Queen Lake with the "Gal Pals", Robin, Barb and Paula or taking in the sights and sounds at the ocean. Those who knew Deb recognized what an amazing woman she was. A quiet presence yet a staunch advocate for all the special people that brought so much joy to her life including a huge love of animals.

Rest in peace now our dear friend. We love you! A celebration of life service will be held at a later date in the spring. In lieu of flowers and fulfilling Deb's love for animals, donations can be made to the Belchertown Police Department K-9 Unit.

DEATH NOTICE

Debra L. Slate
Died January 24
Celebration of Life to be held in the spring

National Cribbage Day to be celebrated Tuesday, Feb. 10

REGION – Cribbage is one of the oldest regularly played card games. Created by Sir John Suckling in the early 17th century, the game evolved from the old English game "noddy". Although the exact date cribbage was invented is unknown, National Cribbage Day is celebrated yearly on Suckling's birthday, February 10.

Millions of Americans of all ages enjoy cribbage at home with family, at bars, senior centers and social clubs. The most common version is played with two players using a cribbage board with pegs and 121 holes. The American Cribbage Congress (ACC) is the governing body of cribbage in the United States, hosting tournaments and maintaining a national

ranking system. The ACC includes more than 5,000 players of all ages and over 500 grassroots cribbage clubs. In addition the ACC has an internet cribbage program giving members an opportunity to play in online tournaments.

Locally, the "Pegging Fools" (Club #72) Cribbage Club meets every Tuesday evening at 6:30 p.m. at St. Gregory Armenian Church, 135 Goodwin St., Indian Orchard. For more information about local cribbage activities or National Cribbage Day events, contact Peter Setian, 413-552-6336.

The ACC continues to promote and grow the game of cribbage nationwide and on the internet. More information is available at www.cribbage.org.

**PUBLIC NOTICES
ARE NOW ONLINE**

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

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

Are you having difficulty communicating with your partner, struggling with boundaries, and healthy relationships?

We invite you to join us Friday afternoons from 1-2:30 pm to explore these topics and more.

This group will be held in zoom, is educational, confidential, and free.

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

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The Sentinel
**OBITUARY
POLICY**

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) 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.

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GUNSMITH

SWIFT RIVER GUNWORKS
Full service full time gunsmith. 40 Years experience. Located at 450 State St., Belchertown. 413-658-5690

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INSURANCE

BELL & HUDSON INSURANCE AGENCY INC., 19 North Main St., Belchertown, MA 01007. Tel. 413-323-9611, 800-894-9591. Fax 413-323-6117. Home, auto, life, commercial, group health.

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BOYDEN & PERRON INC. Sales and service, Toro, Wheel Horse, Scag, Jonsered, Residential and Commercial. 41 South Whitney St., Amherst, since 1956. Call today. 253-7358.

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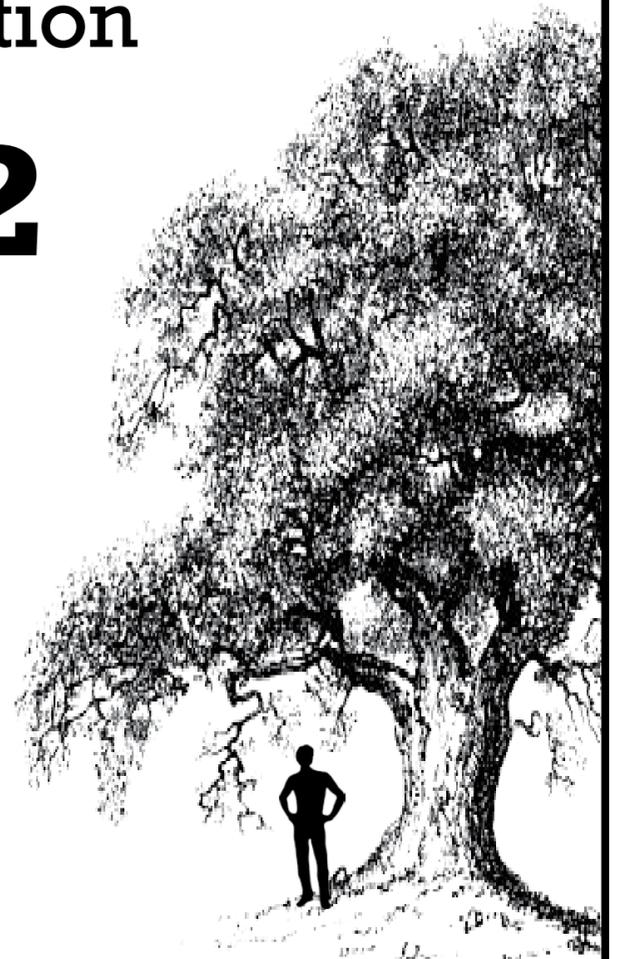
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