

## SB interviews candidates for senior center director

BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

Staff Writer  
epappas@turley.com

GRANBY— The Selectboard held a range of interviews and many discussions about what to do regarding several community-related ideas.

The Jan. 22 meeting focused on interviews and more, led by Chair Glen N. Sexton, along with Crystal Dufresne and Richard Beaulieu.

### Senior Center Director interviews

The Selectboard interviewed four potential contestants to take

over becoming the Director for the Senior Center. Two men and one woman came forward to take part in the interviews and the Selectboard took notes.

The candidates provided their reasoning and desires for taking on the role, and the reasons varied from having good organizational

skills, to loving to cook good food.

The Selectboard will review the answers given during the interviews and will choose the new director in the coming weeks.

### Ambulance fund

The fire chief, Michael O'Neill, requested to increase the earning

rates of the firefighters and EMTs. The increase in funds would go back into the ambulance fund, which would in turn assist the different life-saving methods the EMTs on ambulance use.

They moved to raise the ambu-

Please see **GRANBY**, page 7



Mother-daughter team, Emily and Karen Chandran won first place in the Clapp Memorial Library's Jigsaw Puzzle Competition held to celebrate National Puzzle Day.

TURLEY PHOTO BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

## Puzzlers compete for the fastest time

BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

Staff Writer  
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BELCHERTOWN – To celebrate National Puzzle Day, the Clapp Memorial Library hosted a Jigsaw Puzzle Competition to see who could put together a 500-piece puzzle the fastest.

The library, through the minds of Cyndi Harbeson and Annie Macon, wanted to do something fun for National Puzzle Day on Jan. 29, as they have in the past done something for Game Day in November. They were sure in for a surprise when they found how many people jumped at the competition to sign up.

The competition ended up having 10 teams, and there were many more people who were in a waitlist for the next puzzle competition to be announced by the library.

“We all love puzzles,” Macon said about the library and expressed her excitement at the response of the community. “One local woman who wasn’t able to get into the competition ended up hosting her own with her neighbors.”

The puzzle competition, since it was held in a library, only made sense to be book-themed. The puzzle features nine illustrations based upon well-known banned books.

“I chose the puzzle because of its clear sections and colors,” Macon said. The contestants had a three-hour timer in order to complete the puzzle, and it being set up the way it was, was definitely some help.

Taking first place was the mother-daughter team, Emily and Karen Chandran, who are speed-puzzlers and have competed before in state championships. Their winning time at the competition was 27 minutes and 44 seconds.

In second place were friends Ezekiel Baskin and Joshua Swift, with a speedy time of 49

Please see **PUZZLE**, page 20

## ARPA approved to fund STM and STE for Jabish Brook

BY MELINA BOURDEAU

Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN – The Selectboard approved using \$44,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funds to conduct the Special Town Meeting and Special Town Election to vote on the Jabish Brook Middle School project.

There is about \$50,000 in ARPA funding left following this approval.

Town Administrator Steve Williams told the board he was in contact with the school department to help funding the election and town meeting and so far, has been able to find about \$5,000 to \$7,500.

“What I’m asking tonight is that we reserve the entire amount of ARPA funding (for the election and town meeting) and allow me to continue to work with the superintendent to try to identify any other funds,” Williams said.

There was previous discussion regarding holding one meeting by combining the annual town meeting and the special town meeting, but Williams said there were many roadblocks preventing the town from doing so.

Issues included the need to rent more clickers, the cost savings would be \$2,500 rather than the anticipated \$10,000 and others.

Please see **BOS**, page 8

## Orioles swim team celebrates seniors

BY NICK BOONSTRA

Staff Writer  
nboonstra@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN — The High School’s swim team celebrated the departing seniors among them at their meet with Agawam High School on Jan. 23, which saw the boys’ team extend their unbeaten record.

Seniors Luke Giguere, Derek

Gould, Caleb Perron and Cheri Willems reflected ahead of the meet on their season and journey to this critical point in their lives, and all swam their hearts out once they got in the water. The seniors were recognized at different points both during and after the meet.

Willems said that the girls and

Please see **SENIORS**, page 10



TURLEY PHOTO BY NICK BOONSTRA

Senior (not shown in order) Luke Giguere, Derek Gould, Caleb Perron and Cheri Willems were recognized for their accomplishments.



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COMMUNITY

# Friends of Clapp present check from book sale proceeds

BELCHERTOWN – At the January monthly Board Meeting of the Friends of Clapp Memorial Library a check for \$18,000 was presented to Library Director Cyndi Harbeson by Brian Mailhot, treasurer, and Jim Knittel, president, right.

These were the proceeds from the latest book sale held by the Friends in October 2023. All proceeds from the semiannual book sales directly support programs at the library.

The Friends welcome everyone and needs new volunteers to help with efforts to support the library via the books sales and publicizing their work. Openings on its Board and Committees are listed at friendsofclapplibrary.org.

Monthly meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month in the children's activity room on the lower level of the library. For more information refer to the web site above or call the library at 413-323-0417.



The Friends of the Clapp Memorial Library presented a check for \$18,000 to Library Director Cyndi Harbeson (center). Presenting the check were Treasurer Brian Mailhot (left) and President Jim Knittel (right).

# BCTV Schedule Highlights

- Thursday, Feb. 8**
  - 8 a.m. – Select Board – Feb. 5 meeting
  - 10 a.m. – School Committee – Feb. 6 meeting
  - Noon – Community Preservation Committee – Feb. 6 meeting
  - 7 p.m. – Select Board – Feb. 5 meeting
  - 9 p.m. – School Committee – Feb. 6 meeting
- Friday, Feb. 9**
  - 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
  - 9 a.m. – Agriculture Commission – Feb. 7 meeting
  - 5 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman
  - 7 p.m. – Agriculture Commission – Feb. 7 meeting
  - 9 p.m. – Community Preservation Committee – Feb. 6 meeting
- Saturday, Feb. 10**
  - 7 p.m. – Clapp Hospice: What is it?
  - 8:30 p.m. – Clapp Hospice:
- Sunday, Feb. 11**
  - 4:30 p.m. – St. Francis Roman Catholic Church
  - 6 p.m. – Christ Community Church
  - 7 p.m. – Hope United Methodist Church
- Monday, Feb. 12**
  - 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
  - 5 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman
  - 7 p.m. – Conservation Commission – Channel 192
- Tuesday, Feb. 13**
  - 8 a.m. – Clapp Hospice: What is it?
  - 9:30 a.m. – Clapp Hospice: Grief
  - 11 a.m. – Clapp Hospice: Options for Home Health Care
  - 7 p.m. – Planning Board – Channel 191
- Wednesday, Feb. 14**
  - 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
  - 5 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman

# 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.



# Agricultural Commission hosts Farmer Meet and Greet Feb. 10

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.



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COMMUNITY

# QAA to host mixed media artist Donna Roy

BELCHERTOWN – The Quabbin Art Association will host South Hadley artist Donna Roy at their next meeting on Thursday, Feb. 15 at St. Francis Parish Hall, Lower Level at 12 Park St.

Doors will be open at 6:30 p.m. for socializing and light refreshments. A brief business meeting starts at 7 p.m. followed by Roy's presentation. With the rise in COVID and other flu viruses, attendees are asked to wear a face covering if you have been exposed or consider joining us at another time if you feel unwell.

She will give a presentation on her unique "eco prints," currently on exhibit and for sale at the Mill District Local Art Gallery in Amherst.

Roy stated in a press release,

"I take the fresh-air experiences of my outdoor painting sessions back to my studio for further exploration. Using botanical materials found in my garden, gathered on neighborhood walks, and while painting en plein air, I create a fusion between art and nature with eco printing. These natural botanical prints are then further enhanced with ink illustrations, watercolor washes or creative manipulations done in layers with mixed media techniques using collage, photographic images, acrylic paints and sprays, and sometimes hand lettering. The resulting work comes to life as an image that is inspired by nature, with an artistic twist."

What exactly is an eco print? Roy explains, "It is the process

of making direct contact botanical prints from natural pigments found in plants. Bundles of paper, layered with plant material, are steamed to release and transfer the pigment to the paper. No synthetic inks or dyes are used. These are the images that are then enhanced with my drawings, collages and watercolor washes."

Roy began her love of painting while studying privately with a local oil painter when she was 10 years old. During weekly studio sessions, she learned traditional foundations of composition, perspective, color theory and design.

This foundation cemented her love for painting and her creative journey. She has continued a lifelong painting journey working in pastel, gouache, acrylic, oil, decorative painting and glass painting.

A graduate of UMASS with a bachelor's degree, Roy continued her exploration of art through several mediums, including glass fusing and enamel painting.

During the last ten years, she developed a line of post-consumer glass and copper garden sculptures. The play of light through colored glass has greatly influenced her current paintings and given her a fearless attitude about color.

Learning to thrive in a pandemic, she pushed her passion for color full circle and found her home with soft pastels. Addicted to vibrant color and energetic marks, her paintings center on New England landscapes and local natural beauty.

Her award-winning paintings have been exhibited in local, national, and international juried shows, and in 2022 she began licensing her designs for installation in commercial facilities.

These days, you will find her visiting local farms, rivers, and trails with her trusty camera in search of inspiration, painting



South Hadley artist Donna Roy will present her "eco" prints at the Feb. 15 meeting of the Quabbin Art Association.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Artist Donna Roy uses botanical materials to create her art.

Plein Air, or in her small home studio creating pastel paintings inspired by the beautiful New England character.

Roy is a juried member of the Pastel Society of America, and other societies including the Central Massachusetts Pastel Society, Pastel Society of New Hampshire, Southeastern Pastel Society. She is also affiliated with the Amherst Plein Air Society, Agawam Community Artists, the Monson Arts Council, and the

Quabbin Art Association.

For more information about her work, please visit [www.donnaroy.com](http://www.donnaroy.com).

Funding for this program is supported in part by a grant from the Belchertown Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

For more information visit [www.quabbinartassociation.com](http://www.quabbinartassociation.com) or email: [info@quabbinartassociation.com](mailto:info@quabbinartassociation.com).

## Western Mass Runners name Hall of Fame inductees

HOLYOKE – The Western Mass Runners' Hall of Fame Board of Directors announced the inductees of the 3rd Class, set to be honored on Friday, March 8.

Since its inception, the WMRHoF has celebrated outstanding contributors to the running community, with its first class inducted in 2020 and the second in 2022.

The 3rd Class inductees are: Ric Bourie and Sue Haryasz, both of Longmeadow; Mary Cobb of Pittsfield; Howard Drew and Ed

Sandifer, both of Springfield; Rich Larsen of Shelburne; Nicole McGilpin of Westfield; Bob Neil of Holyoke; Bill Romito of Leeds; and John Stiffler of Florence.

In addition to these distinguished individuals, the charity organization Griffin's Friends, who have supported children with cancer and their families for decades in the Springfield area by running and raising funds, will be inducted. Also, Neal Lamberton, a Springfield resident and runner

who has volunteered his time to the running community for years, will receive the "Brian Goddu Volunteer of the Year" Award, founded in memory of Goddu, a founding board member of the Western Mass Runners Hall of Fame.

The induction ceremony will take place at 6 p.m. on March 8, at the Holyoke Elks Lodge, 250 Whitney Ave. Bob Hodge, the third place finisher in the 1979 Boston Marathon, multiple Mount Washington Road Race


Champion, 40-year course record holder on the DH Jones/Amherst 10 Mile Course, and author of "Tales of the Time", will be the guest speaker.

Tickets for the dinner and ceremony are priced at \$20 and are available for purchase at <https://www.runreg.com/w-mass-runners-hall-of-fame-induction-banquet>. For those unable to attend but wishing to support the WMRHoF mission, donations are welcome via the RunReg website.

### About WMRHoF

Established in 2019, the WMRHoF recognizes and honors the rich history and significant contributions of individuals and teams in road racing, cross country, and track in western Massachusetts.

For more information, email [WMRunnersHoF@gmail.com](mailto:WMRunnersHoF@gmail.com) or visit <https://www.westernmass-runnershalloffame.com>.



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# bankESB Raises \$35,000 for Local Food Pantries

EASTHAMPTON – Matthew S. Sosik, president and CEO of bankESB, announced that the bank's third annual Neighbors Helping Neighbors fundraising drive raised \$35,000 for local food pantries.

This brings the program's three-year total to nearly \$110,000.

The appeal is part of bankESB's charitable giving program, The Giving Tree, which reflects the bank's commitment to making a difference in the neighborhoods it serves. Throughout November, the bank invited customers, employees, and members of the community to donate at bankESB branches.

All donations received were matched, dollar for dollar, by bankESB and the total divided among food pantries in western Massachusetts communities the bank serves.

Each of these participating food pantries received \$2,500: including The Best Life Food Ministry, Agawam; BUCC Helping Hands Cupboard Food Pantry, Belchertown; The Chicopee Cupboard; Easthampton Community Center Food Pantry; Easthampton Congregational Church Food Cupboard & Oasis Kitchen; The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, Hatfield; The Hadley Food Pantry; Hilltown Food Pantry, Goshen; Margaret's Pantry, Holyoke; Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Inc., South Hadley; Northampton Survival Center; Not Bread Alone, Amherst; Southampton Community Cupboard; and Westfield Food Pantry.

"On behalf of bankESB, I'd like to thank all those who generously donated to our Neighbors Helping Neighbors fundraiser to help fight food insecurity in our communities," said Sosik in a press release. "We're pleased to host this annual appeal and that so much was raised to help fam-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

bankESB's Sargeant St., Holyoke office Assistant Branch Manager Tenaya Reade presents a \$2,500 check to Pantry Manager Brenda Lamagdeleine of Margaret's Pantry, Holyoke, one of 14 participating food pantries receiving donations from the bank's Neighbors Helping Neighbors fundraising campaign to help fight food insecurity.

ilies in need this past holiday season and into this new year."

### About bankESB

Founded in 1869 as Easthampton Savings Bank, bankESB is headquartered in Easthampton. The bank

has \$1.7 billion in assets and offers a complete line of consumer and business deposit and lending products and services through 11 branches located throughout western Massachusetts. For more information, visit bankESB.com.

# Town announces board, committee vacancies

BELCHERTOWN – The town's Select Board is seeking citizens to share their expertise by serving on a town board or committee.

Those who have time and are interested in getting involved in the town's activities are asked to 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).

The town has announced that it

wishes to fill the following vacancies:

### Trail Stewardship Council One vacancy

The Town wishes to fill a vacancy to represent landowners of the Town on the Trail Stewardship Council. Interested individuals should be knowledgeable about local land use and related issues. Additional information specific to this council can be found at [www.newenglandtrail.org](http://www.newenglandtrail.org).

Deadline: Friday, March 1

### Animal Control Advisory Board Three vacancies

The Town wishes to fill three vacancies on the Animal Control Advisory Board. This board has the authority to conduct hearings as allowed in the Town's bylaws and pose reasonable conditions as deemed appropriate. The ideal applicants may be a dog breeder, a dog trainer, a veterinarian, non-pet owner from the community, a medical professional

Please see **VACANCIES**, page 17

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**LEGAL NOTICE**

The Annual Meeting of Corporators of Country Bank for Savings will be held on Monday, March 11, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at 420 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA for the election of Corporators, Trustees and any other business as required by law or the Bylaws of Country Bank for Savings.

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# in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid



## Spare the vase this Valentine's Day

My husband gave me a bouquet of roses on the first Valentine's Day we spent together.

They were beautiful in the vase, but I felt bad that he had spent the money he did for the gift. Being in the business, I told him how much roses are marked up because of the holiday.

It's a supply and demand thing mostly, and tradition to give them of course, but wouldn't it be nice if we received a gift that kept on giving? One solution would be to pre-order your sweetheart a rose bush through a mail-order nursery.

What excitement it will bring when it arrives in spring-time, and then imagine the delight when it blooms year after year. If your interest is piqued, then read on to learn about proper planting techniques and basic rose culture, so that you (or your sweetheart!) will be a successful rose grower.

Rose bushes will be shipped once it is deemed safe from freezing temperatures. In my experience, mail-order roses can arrive anywhere from the end of April through the end of May.

First off, unpack the rose and soak its roots in room temperature water for at least one hour (and up to twelve). This is necessary to rehydrate roots that may have dried out in the shipping process.

Once rehydrated, the rose is ready for a quick pruning. Carefully snip back any broken or crossing canes.

A rose bush 8-12" tall at planting will start out nice and bushy. If you need to trim back canes that are longer than that, prune back to an out-facing bud, that way growth will be directed out and not towards the plant's center.

Consider placement carefully. To bloom their best, roses need, at the very least, six hours of sunshine.

Morning sun is preferred, so that dewy foliage will dry quickly, diminishing the chances of foliar disease such as black spot or powdery mildew. Soil should drain well and be rich in nutrients or amended to that end.

The planting hole should be prepared while the rose bush is soaking. Dig a hole about twice the diameter of the plant's roots, roughly one and a half feet by one and a half feet.

As long as the soil removed from the hole is decent, in other words, not all sand or clay, 50% of it can be mixed with well-rotted manure (fresh will burn!) or cured compost, and used as back fill. First, take a small amount of the mixture and make a mound in the hole for the plant to sit on and the roots to spread down.

In our locale, and anywhere that temperatures dip below 0°F, the graft union (the bump at the plants base), if there is one, should be planted two inches below the soil surface. With that in mind, position the rose on the mound at the proper depth and begin to refill the hole with soil, a third of the hole at a time, firming as you go.

Once the rose bush has been planted, water it well at the base of the plant (a couple gallons at least). If you find that the water isn't sinking in, but running away, dam up a couple inches of soil about a foot away from the base of the plant to act like a basin.

Water is crucial at this stage; never let a newly planted rose dry out. A three inch layer of bark mulch or cocoa bean hulls can be applied around the rose to reduce moisture loss and discourage weed competition.

Avoid fertilizing until the rose has broken dormancy and is growing vigorously. Use half strength fertilizer and only do so until mid-July so that succulent growth will have a chance to harden before cold weather hits.

This way your rose will be less prone to winter kill. I do not provide any winter cover for my roses.

There will likely be a few branch tips that suffer winter kill regardless. Those I prune back in springtime when the roses start to leaf out.

I prune just past the damage, at a leaf bud. Besides that, and general shaping, the only other pruning I do is dead-heading.

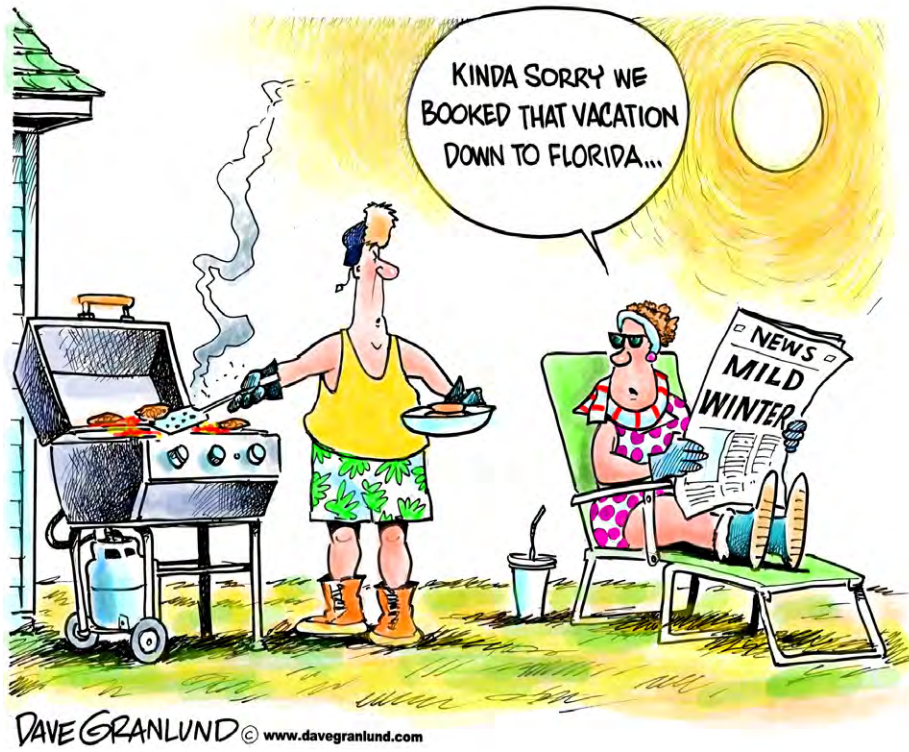
Spent blooms should be removed from rose bushes to direct energy away from seed production and back to flower production. Where the cut is made depends on the type of rose that you have.

Over the last decade, tremendous gains have been made in rose breeding, resulting rose bushes that blend well into landscape plantings and require less maintenance for the homeowner. I still enjoy my heirlooms, and grow the Rugosa to remind me of the beach.

Still others prefer climbers or hybrid teas. Whatever your sweetheart may fancy, indulge this Valentine's Day in a gift that will keep on giving!

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.

## OPINION



## LETTERS

### Maintenance plan needed for proposed development

To the Editor,

I've been attending meetings regarding Brisa's housing project on the Belchertown State School grounds.

Brisa was looking for an approval by the Planning Board at the last meeting, but they had not presented a Maintenance/Operations Plan.

The first phase of the project will include approximately 108 units, all sizes. A property of this size will require an on-site Maintenance Department and storage facilities to house maintenance materials and equipment.

As a community, we need to stress to the Planning Board the importance of an on-site Maintenance Department. The implications of not having personnel onsite to respond to

calls will present serious ramifications.

Will Brisa be responsible for providing the personnel? Will they be paying for the cost of repairs? If so, for how long?

What happens after 10 years when the solar panels need to be replaced? Will the cost of replacement become a burden on the tax payer?

A majority of Belchertown residents cannot afford increased taxes. We have one more meeting to bring our concerns to the table.

Brisa will be providing their final presentation, including the Maintenance Plan, at the next Planning Board Meeting at the Town Hall on Tuesday, Feb. 13. Please join us and share your thoughts and concerns.

**Bruce Adams**  
Belchertown

### State School project leaves a lot of questions

To the Editor,

The original intent of the property of the former State School by the EDIC was light industry along with an assisted living facility for the elderly.

Somehow, that has now transformed into a multiphase, multi-use development, consisting of apartments, condos and low income housing. As of this time, the New York developer, Brisa, has given us no answers as to what percentage of low income housing will be in the first phase of the 108 units to be constructed.

According to the Planning Board, that percentage is allowed to be determined by Brisa. We as tax paying residents should not be comfortable with that kind of power, as the character of the town would change if a higher percentage of low income housing is chosen by Brisa.

As stated in an opinion letter in the Jan. 4 Sentinel, a project such as this would lead to higher taxes, caused by the demand for more services, such as police, fire, EMS, water, sewer and schools. Keep in mind that the 108 units is only phase one.

Phase two and three also have another element of housing. Another thing to keep in

mind is that MassDevelopment is somehow involved in this project.

What is their interest or ultimate goal in this project? As viewed on the local news, MassHousing is planning to repurpose a factory in lower Holyoke for low and median income housing, as well as 55 plus seniors.

Also reported in that story was the use of the former Belchertown State School as another location.

The EDIC claims that light industry will not locate there unless there is an element of housing involved. I find that hard to believe as other towns do not have housing in their industrial areas.

The purpose of acquiring the former State School was to get some light industry in there, to bolster the tax base and grant the home owner some relief from ever increasing taxes. Let's get back to the original plan that encourages more business, as we only have one chance to get this right.

The next meeting is Feb. 13 at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall. This could be our last chance to render an opinion as a vote for approval of the project might occur that evening.

**Robert P. Roy**  
Belchertown

### State School prime for industry

To the Editor,

With Christopher Heights now firmly established on the grounds of the former State School, it would seem that phase one of the EDIC's original plan has been established.

Phase two of the plan was the advent of industry. I think you would be hard pressed to find a more suitable piece of land for this endeavor.

The property is framed well, with a rail road to the east, athletic fields to the south, woods to the west and a farm to the north. This leaves the area largely isolated from disturbing any residential area.

I am well aware that the EDIC has been trying for a long time to attract industry to

this area with some success. Maybe some more incentives should be offered to any perspective business, such as a tax abatement for the first few years until they are established.

I firmly believe that once a few companies establish themselves here, more will follow. Utilizing this piece of land for housing would be a mistake, as it is difficult to find a piece of land in this town, that is this isolated from residential areas.

I believe that if this area was to be fully occupied with light industry, we would finally see the tax relief that the homeowners in this town desperately deserve.

**Roger Phaneuf**  
Belchertown

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## Will my WEP reduction go away if I continue working?

**Dear Rusty:**

I'm 63 years old and have not yet started my Social Security.

I now work for the State of Illinois and will draw a pension from that state's university system. I don't pay into Social Security from this position and, as a result, my Social Security payment will be reduced. But I have also worked elsewhere and contributed to Social Security for 26 years.

If I retire from the state university and begin drawing my reduced Social Security payment and then work in a different job, which does contribute to SS, will the reduction to my Social Security payment ever be eliminated? Or will I be permanently stuck with the smaller Social Security payment?

*Signed: Curious Educator*

**Dear Curious:**

A rule called the Windfall Elimination Provision will apply to your Social Security benefit because your Illinois state pension was earned without paying into the Social Security program. The basic rule is that anyone with a pension earned without contributing to Social Security and who is also entitled to Social Security benefits, is subject to WEP, which reduces that person's Social Security retirement benefit. It's a law enacted many years ago to equalize how SS benefits are paid to all Social Security beneficiaries.

However, the WEP rules also provide relief for those who have only a small non-covered pension and for those who have separately contributed to Social Security for a lot of years. For example:

The WEP reduction to your SS benefit cannot be more than 50% of your non-covered (IL) pension

The WEP reduction is smaller for each year over 20 years contributing to Social Security from substantial earnings

WEP does not apply to those who have at least 30 years contributing to SS from substantial earnings

Although you could retire at 63 and collect your pension from the university and also collect your WEP-reduced Social Security, you have something else to consider if you take another job, which pays into Social Security.

Social Security has an annual "earnings

test" for those who collect benefits before their Full Retirement Age. The earnings test limits how much you can earn while collecting early SS before they take away some of your benefits. The earnings limit for 2024 is \$22,320 and, if that is exceeded, you will lose \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit.

If your work earnings substantially exceed the earnings limit, you would likely be temporarily ineligible to receive Social Security benefits. FYI, the earnings test no longer applies once you reach your full retirement age, which for you is 67.

Without knowing your expected income from a new job, I can't say how much of your SS you would be able to receive, but you can use this as a guide: Social Security will take away benefits equal to half of what you exceed the annual earnings limit by and they typically recover by withholding future benefits.

If 12 months or more of benefits are withheld, you will be temporarily ineligible to receive benefits until your earnings are less or you reach your full retirement age, the earnings test no longer applies once you reach your FRA. So, depending on your expected annual work earnings, you may wish to defer claiming your Social Security until you either earn less or reach 67 years of age.

If you already have 26 years contributing to Social Security from "substantial earnings," your WEP reduction will already be mitigated and any additional years of substantial earnings from which SS payroll taxes are deducted will result in an even smaller WEP reduction.

If you can achieve 30 years of SS contributions from substantial work earnings, WEP will no longer apply. So, you may not be "stuck with" the WEP reduction permanently, but you will need to contact Social Security to request that your WEP reduction amount be reviewed in light of any additional years of SS-covered earnings. This should be done after you submit your income taxes each year you have additional SS-covered earnings.

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

## LETTERS

### Residents share views on State School redevelopment

**To the Editor,**

In November 2023, I learned of the plan to build a new mixed use affordable housing/business development (Carriage Grove) on the State School property in Belchertown.

To learn more, I have been attending meetings with the EDIC, Select and Planning Boards. It would benefit the town to have this property developed for many reasons, and over the years there have been several creative ideas in that regard.

The current plan (phase 1 of 5 phases) with Brisa Developers, LLC, (NY) has numerous positive elements including mixed income, multifamily, sustainable/solar/energy efficient housing (108 units, owner, renter), walking/biking paths, playground, common spaces, natural meadows, landscaping to maintain views and trees and shops/small businesses. Given the magnitude, importance, and potential benefits of this project, it is not surprising that many questions and concerns have been raised by the boards and residents; better to ask now, than after the fact when it is too late.

Unfortunately, these questions/concerns have not been satisfactorily answered, despite repeated inquiries. Most pressing and important is a transparent cost to the

taxpayers of Belchertown, lack of information addressing the realistic impact on schools, police, fire, ambulance services, water capacity/availability for all five phases, absence of a maintenance and operational plan to address long term upkeep and management of the property, exact number of affordable housing units to be built and traffic congestion, particularly around the new rotary to serve a planned light industrial park.

Why are Belchertown residents just learning about this specific proposed project now, though it's been in the planning stages for several years? Why weren't residents given the opportunity to vote on this project at its inception?

Why does it need to be so large in scope? Brisa Developers are expecting full approval of this project at the next Planning Board meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 13.

If you are interested in learning more about the development and its potential impact (positive and negative) for our community, I urge residents to gather information, ask questions and attend the next Planning Board Meeting on Feb. 13 (in person or virtual).

**Carolyn Lambert**  
Belchertown

## LETTERS

### State School project close to passing

**To the Editor,**

Let me start off by applauding the members of the EDIC and Planning Board, both past and present, as a lot of us know how time consuming and unappreciated their efforts are.

I personally have attended every Planning Board and EDIC meeting since October. The biggest thing I can take away from my involvement, without being critical, is that the original plan for the State School property has greatly deviated from its objective.

Surprisingly, according to the board, these changes were approved at town meeting. While I am in favor of affordable housing for people who are struggling, there might be other areas in Belchertown that would be more appropriate for such a project.

Secondly, there is no guarantee that these units will be available to Belchertown residents. I firmly believe that the former State School property is

not the ideal location for this, and would do a disservice to a desirable piece of land that is more appropriate for light industry.

What makes this property desirable for light industry is that the rail road tracks run adjacent to the property, which could easily be used to accommodate material and merchandise both in and out of such a location. I believe the target group should be small to midsize companies.

The EDIC has expressed that they have been trying to attract companies for over 30 years. My advice is to keep trying, as one or two companies could be the watershed moment which will entice more companies to invest in the area.

This endeavor might take some time, but it will get us back to the original intent of the property, a steady stream of business taxes, and give the homeowner some relief from ever increasing taxes.

**Stacia Roy**  
Belchertown

### State School project leaves resident with many questions

**To the Editor,**

Each meeting that the group of residents attend, ends with more questions than answers. Here are some of them.

The water department gave approval to Brisa Development, but as I understand, we are close to being maxed on water supply in that area. So now what for further development? If a business should be interested in the light industrial area what then? Who pays for drilling new wells?

Brisa Development was asked to provide a maintenance and storage plan for equipment, supplies, etc. for Phase 1 (108 housing development). After being already told they needed to address that issue, the last meeting there was no plan. Has Brisa ever done a project this massive before?

And why is it that this and similar projects (and in other communities), bring in out-of-state development companies and not local contractors?

If Brisa gets approval from the Planning Board to move forward, who becomes the governing body should issues arise during the development

phases?

With affordable housing so close to the designated light industrial area, business may not find it an appealing/inviting location due to traffic/safety/other concerns.

Why does Brisa get to determine how much affordable housing goes into this project and only after getting Planning Board Approval for the development first?

Why can't we just fulfill our 10% state requirement for affordable housing at this time and let it be for 55 and older as the original plan was to be: an Independent/Assisted Living/Full and Memory Care transitional campus with also business/light industry being a big piece? That would eliminate the extra burden on our schools/therefore our taxes.

It's at the eleventh hour for approval or not...if you care about how our town could change, how our roads/water/police/fire schools and taxes will be impacted, please attend Planning Board meeting at Town Hall Tuesday, Feb 13.

**Donna Buxton**  
Belchertown

### Brisa's project is not a benefit to Belchertown

**Dear Belchertown residents,**

I offer some clarity regarding votes at Town Meetings on the impending development by Barisa Development Corporation of Brooklyn, NY.

First let me state after hours of meetings with the Planning Board, EDIC, and the Select Board of Belchertown there has been little knowledge given to the Belchertown taxpaying residents.

Here are the facts: I met with Terry Camerlin, Town Clerk, on Dec. 5. I obtained the notes at Special Town Meetings on Sept. 24, 2001, Dec. 1, 2014, and June 27, 2020.

Sept. 24, 2001: Vote was approved to update the EDIC plan for the Belchertown State School. There was no mention of the Developer Barisa. There was no mention of multi-use of the Belchertown State School. Approved by EDIC was Business Development, Assisted Living Facility, and Education and Research. This was approved for 20 years. We are passed the 20 year agreement.

Dec. 1, 2014: Town meeting article 6 "Although details of further development to be defined. BEDIC supports the concept of mix uses and industrial businesses either under the guidance of a mas-

ter developer or as a series of industry appropriate residential such as assisted living, related continuum of care units, health expansion of municipal facilities, live/work units, recreation, tourism, technology and education projects." The parcel is zoned Business B and a smaller area zoned as Agricultural A. It is to be stated "Business Neighborhood Center" zone. Sale of lots for "Business".

June 27, 2020: At the Annual Town Meeting the Town of Belchertown voted to accept a public way known as Carriage Grove. There is no mention of a housing development option at this meeting. It is stated Front Street, Jackson Street and Carriage Drive as a "Bike Easement". The vote was in the affirmative.

Feb. 21, 2018: The Carriage Drive plans were submitted to the Conservation Commission on Feb. 12, 2018. None have been approved for a multi-type housing development.

Please be aware; This is not a benefit to the Community. It will have an environmental impact to the quality of life in our picturesque Community called Belchertown.

**Janet DaSilva**  
Belchertown

**GRANBY** from page 1

lance rates to accommodate the different life saving practices and needs.

#### Green Communities

The petitions of Granby have been approved by the Green Communities in order to begin receiving grants. The Green Communities is a designation and grant program that works to support and protect

the environment and promote sustainable development.

They discussed ways of implementing ideas to work with the Green Communities and how to use the grant money for the best reasons and in the best ways.

Dufresne brought up the idea of creating a "Green Committee" or a "Climate Change Committee" and discussed the number of people and how to go about finding and recruiting people to join the new committee.

## COMMUNITY

## Chamber breakfast embraces entrepreneurial spirit

BY PAULA OUIMETTE  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce featured Holyoke-based entrepreneur Mychal “Myke” Connolly of Stand Out Truck as its speaker during the Jan. 24 breakfast meeting held at Cedarbrook Village at Ware.

Starting his first business selling his grandmother’s candies to his classmates at age 9, Connolly quickly discovered the key to success in any market, something he calls the “LBW,” or long, boring work.

“Dreams come true with LBW,” Connolly said.

As a child growing up in the Bahamas, Connolly would accompany his father to customer’s homes for his father’s pest control business, and it was there he started picking up and reading business magazines, which were often found in the homes of more affluent customers.

Connolly said when his mother moved to the U.S. to Florida, she was scared of flying, but had to find a job that would allow her to be in both countries. That job ended up being as a flight attendant.

She faced two fears in this job, one being flying and the other being swimming, as being able to swim was part of her training.

“She was terrified of swimming and had to pass a swim test to get the job,” he said. Seeing her determination and drive to support her family, even if it scared her, inspired him.

Connolly moved to the U.S. with “just \$20 and a dream,” knowing that he wanted to attend college. He asked his father and

grandfather for \$400 each, in order to start school.

Now, Connolly has created a scholarship in that same amount of \$800, that is available to students at Holyoke Community College.

Connolly was unsuccessful getting hired by marketing firms after college, so he decided to venture into making diaper cakes for baby showers, with the launch of “Stinky Cakes.” He would deliver the elaborate “cakes” formed using diapers and various other baby-related items in his pink van, wearing an apron and chef’s hat.

After getting sick, Connolly took a job with Job Corps as a residential advisor, finding his love for teaching and mentoring.

“Every night they had ‘accountability,’” Connolly said, where the students would check in about their day and talk about the highs and lows. Students were inspired by Connolly’s positive outlook, and always came to him for advice.

Connolly then decided to write a book, and soon after started his digital marketing agency.

“I absolutely fell in love with billboards,” he said. “I said to myself, ‘when I get healthy, I’ll buy a billboard.’”

As he searched for billboards to buy, Connolly also began researching digital mobile billboards. Ultimately, he decided this was the way to go.

He bought his truck to launch Stand Out Truck on March 9, 2020, just days prior to the devastating COVID-19 shutdown.

Connolly said like most people, he was “not worried about COVID at first,” but soon realized that its impact would spread beyond public health, and could



Mychal “Myke” Connolly of Stand Out Truck shares his journey through creating his first business at age 9, to now, at the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce breakfast held on Jan. 24 at Cedarbrook Village at Ware.

TURLEY PHOTO BY PAULA OUIMETTE

put the brakes on his new venture.

Always one to think outside the box, Connolly sold truck space for families of high school graduates, at an affordable rate.

“Just focus on five-star experiences,” he said, emphasizing the importance of giving each customer a high-quality experience. “If you give enough five-star experiences, you’re good.”

Connolly then published a story book called “Lemonade”, geared toward children; started a podcast and published a magazine called “Marketing and Cupcakes”.

Connolly credits his success to the talent of his team and having a “dope” mindset, while avoiding the “suckas.”

He explains that “dope” means “deliver others positive energy experiences,” stressing the importance of making people feel good. “Suckas” are those that are crit-

ical without being constructive, and drain you of your energy.

“Stay sucka free...avoid the energy drains,” Connolly said. “Surround yourself with people way better than you, build teams.”

Connolly said teamwork brings diversity of thoughts, mutual respect and helps to form creative solutions. He said to put in the LBW and “stay unbothered,” in your journey toward continued growth.

For more information about Connolly and his businesses, visit [standouttruck.com](http://standouttruck.com) and [marketingandcupcakes.com](http://marketingandcupcakes.com), or find both on social media.

#### About the Chamber

The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce was established in 1978 to assist businesses in the Quaboag Hills region, serving the towns of Belchertown, Brimfield,

Brookfield, East Brookfield, Hardwick, Holland, Monson, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Palmer, Spencer, Wales, Ware, Warren and West Brookfield.

Its mission is to advance economic growth and tourism in the region, to be an advocate for policies that achieve the development goals of the communities, and to advance the interests of its members.

The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce offers more than just networking opportunities. It helps the business community from the smallest entrepreneurs to the largest corporations; through trainings, seminars and more.

The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce is located at 4 Springfield St., Suite 525, Three Rivers. For more information, visit [qhma.com](http://qhma.com), call 413-283-2418 or email [info@qhma.com](mailto:info@qhma.com).

## FEMA awards \$1.7 for COVID public outreach costs

BOSTON – The Federal Emergency Management Agency will be sending nearly \$1.7 million to the Commonwealth to reimburse the Massachusetts Department of Public Health for the cost of contracting to operate a public information clearinghouse during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The \$1,663,104 Public Assistance grant will reimburse the DPH for the cost of contracting to run a contact center for Massachusetts residents to get accurate, up-to-date information relevant to a wide-range of COVID-19 related topics between July 2022 and May 2023.

These topics included pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical interventions such as distancing, hygiene, masking, vaccination, pre-exposure prophylaxis, isolation and quarantine requirements, and support.

“FEMA is pleased to be able to assist the Massachusetts Department of Public Health with these costs,” said FEMA

Region 1 Regional Administrator Lori Ehrlich in a press release. “Reimbursing state, county, and municipal governments - as well as eligible non-profits and tribal entities - for the costs incurred during the COVID-19 pandemic is an important part of our nation’s ongoing recovery.”

FEMA’s Public Assistance program is an essential source of funding for states and communities recovering from a federally declared disaster or emergency. So far, FEMA has provided more than \$2.6 billion in Public Assistance grants to Massachusetts to reimburse the commonwealth for pandemic-related expenses.

Additional information about FEMA’s Public Assistance program is available at <https://www.fema.gov/public-assistance-local-state-tribal-and-non-profit>. To learn more about the COVID-19 response in Massachusetts, please visit <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4496>.

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Williams said he recommended that the special town meeting be inside rather than out.

“I really need to start setting up contracts with vendors,” he said.

Selectboard member Ron Aponte said he supposed the vote to use ARPA funds to allow for planning to move forward.

“I’m comfortable doing that and trusting (Superintendent Brian) Cameron and the school committee to come up with additional funding,” Aponte said. “At least this way Steve has the \$44,000 he can start to line up contracts without having wait another week, two weeks, whatever for the superintendent and school committee to wring out every penny.”

Selectboard chair Ed Boscher asked how the town would pay for the election and town meeting if the ARPA funding were not available.

Williams said the number of elections this year, including a potential election due to a petition, are costly and the town would look for the school to cover the entirety of the Special Town Meeting and Special

Town Election were it not for the ARPA funds being available for use.

Another option for the town would be using free cash, but the town enacted a policy this year that it would only use a certain percentage of free cash and the election would be over that amount.

Selectboard member Jen Turner said she couldn’t support using the funds.

“We spent \$700,000 between the FY24 and FY24 budgets to go back into the budget to cover our own deficit,” said Turner. “There’s no justification I can come up with to use this money for this purpose.”

Selectboard member Peg Louraine said the meeting and election need to occur and if it doesn’t come out of ARPA funding, it would need to come from somewhere else.

“The expense is going to hit us one way or the other, it’s coming out of something,” she said. “Where will it cause the most pain?”

Selectboard member Lesa Lessard Pearson agreed with Turner.

The Selectboard unanimously approved using ARPA funds to

be able to hold the Special Town Meeting and the Special Town Election.

To determine whether the project will move forward, there will be a special town election and a special town meeting. Voters will determine whether to support the Jabish Brook Middle School project at the proposed cost.

Both votes, the article at the special town meeting and in the special town election, must pass for the project to continue.

The special town election will be held on June 17 from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. in the Belchertown High School gym. The voter registration deadline for the Special Town Election is June 7.

There will be early in-person voting available at the Belchertown Town Hall on June 5, 6, 7, 10, 11 and 12.

The Special Town Meeting to appropriate funds for the projects will be held on June 24 at 7 p.m. in the Belchertown High School Auditorium. Voter registration for the Special Town Meeting is June 14.

Early in-person or by-mail voting is not allowed for town meetings, voters must be present in person to vote.

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**GRANBY**

# School committee discusses the budget

BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS  
Staff Writer  
epappas@turley.com

GRANBY – The School Committee met to discuss the budget for the new school year, as well as donations and more for the school and community.

The Jan. 23 meeting included Chair Jennifer Bartosz, Michael Durham, Jill Pelletier, Todd Dorman and George Bahlke.

**School budget**

With inflation affecting stores and businesses, it also impacts the school district's budgets and costs that the School Committee has to go over. Most of it includes the building-based budgets, which include utilities like electricity and water.

The committee also spoke about their desire to put investments into the English Language Arts and math curriculum department budgets so that students can benefit from these programs and show growth in these subjects.

Because of the rise in costs, there have been noticeable reductions in services from last year.

"We are trying to recreate what we had last year, with less," Dorman said.

Last year, the school had a library media specialist, a band teacher, and two physical education teachers as well as a world

language teacher in junior high school. The committee wants to see these teachers return to the schools so that students can continue to benefit from their contributions.

The committee discussed the budget, and what was actually spent on electricity campus-wide, and what was actually spent on these utilities and what was budgeted.

"It's not just school families, its community families," Bartosz said. "The budget impacts the whole town."

**Student reports**

Student reports were provided by Bahlke. The Jr./Sr. High School had their Cotillion at the Knights of Columbus on Jan. 27, and it was a great success and loved by the students in attendance.

**Updates**

The board accepted a donation of 50 pound dumbbells for the fitness center, a donation worth over \$1,000, and the committee expressed their desire to thank the person giving the donation.

The committee discussed school choice, and what neighboring districts and towns are doing. They will continue to discuss the topic and see how it could benefit the town as a whole.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Granby Free Public Library will celebrate the Chinese Lunar New Year with a dragon craft on Saturday, Feb. 10 at 10:30 a.m.

# Granby Free Public Library celebrates Chinese Lunar New Year

GRANBY – Celebrate the Chinese Lunar New Year with a dragon craft at the Granby Free Public Library, 297 East State St. on Saturday, Feb.10 at 10:30 a.m.

Lunar New Year honors the hope for good fortune, endless prosperity and happiness for all. As we begin the "Year of the Dragon" join library staff to make a

Lunar New Year dragon craft with retired art teacher, Carol Pineo.

This program is for ages 3 and up. No pre-registration is required.

## 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 avail-

Please see **ASSISTANCE**, page 12

# Planning Board and ZBA approve special permit

BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS  
Staff Writer  
epappas@turley.com

GRANBY— The Planning Board worked with members of the community to address questions of construction and opening of spaces for future businesses, and current ones.

The Jan. 22 meeting featured members of both the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Planning Board.

**Joint review with ZBA**

The members of the ZBA as

well as members of the Planning Board, were present to discuss and preside over the Public Hearing of applicants Paul and Teresa Mason.

"Our plan is to try and open up an antique shop in our barn," Teresa explained. "Our hope is to open up once or twice a week."

The Masons were seeking a special permit in order to have the antique shop.

They discussed the amount of open grass space that could be used for parking, and how it would work for those who came

to the shop. Because the Masons are teachers, the shop would only be open on weekends, or over the summer.

The boards talked about the logistics of accepting a permit for a business open for the weekends and holidays. They came to the conclusion that the shop could open with the following conditions: open 10 a.m.-4 p.m., no on-street parking and by-appointment during the week.

The Planning Board and ZBA both motioned to approve the special permit with condi-

tions for the Masons to open the antique shop in their barn.

**Public hearing**

The driving range and restaurant on West Street, The Happy Days Family Fun Driving Range and Cruisin' Café, requested a site plan approval, which the Planning Board approved.

The public was present and shared their love of the family-centered driving range and restaurant, and only shared concerns for the volume of music, and to ensure it remains family-friendly.



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SENIORS from page 1

boys really saw themselves as one team, in terms of coaching as well as social connection with teammates. "The only separation is the scores," she said.

Willems demonstrated herself as a natural leader within the group in the lead up to the meet.

It came to her attention as she went about her preparations that the six starting blocks had not been fully set up for the meet yet. Willems then recruited her teammates with a simple but straightforward, "I need people, let's go!" and a number of Orioles obliged without needing another word.

Like a number of her teammates, Willems had been swimming for a long time, having participated with the town's Stingrays program through the Recreation Department.

Perron said he had also participated with the Stingrays prior to joining the varsity team. Perron was lifted up by coach Jo Manduley as "one of my hardest workers."

Gould reflected on the boys' success to that point in the season, saying he knew the team had a good shot if they worked hard. "And that's what we're doing," he added.

Some of the younger members of the team also expressed excitement to be a part of such a successful team.

Ryan Shea, a sophomore who nevertheless stood taller than most if not all of his teammates, said that the team had come a long way, and that he was heeding the call to step up and fill the gaps being left by the departing seniors.

He also said the team wanted to maintain the "same intensity as Minnechaug," referring to an important win over a local rival earlier in the season. Freshman Drake Dragon agreed that the win over Minnechaug had been "amazing." Coach Manduley said that a number of



Posters recognized the senior members of the swim team.

her swimmers were already eligible for Western Massachusetts and State tournaments, a testament to the team's ability and success over the season.

One of the more exciting moments of the meet came on the girls' side, and unfortunately fell in Agawam's favor, with one of their swimmers making a late break in the 500-yard event to take and hold first after trailing for most of the race.

In the end, the Belchertown boys dominated their side of the meet with a final score of 120-36, while the girls were edged out by a score of 59-97.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY NICK BOONSTRA

The High School swim team faced off against Agawam at their meet on Jan. 23.



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# Swan song for Hampshire alum

**BY NICK BOONSTRA**  
Staff Writer  
nboonstra@turley.com

MINNEAPOLIS, MN – After over 25 years at the helm of the nation’s preeminent youth theatre, Hampshire College alumnus Peter C. Brosius has decided to bow out as Artistic Director of Children’s Theatre Company at the end of this season.

Before stepping back, however, Brosius is directing a production of “Alice in Wonderland”, with the curtain going up on Feb. 13. In

an interview by telephone on Feb. 2, Brosius expressed his excitement for the show, reflected on what has already been an adventurous life both in theatre and beyond, and shared his thoughts on what might be coming in his next act.

Brosius grew up in California in a theatrical family with a strong influence from his amateur actor mother, and said he could not remember a time before he was performing in a show. However, his love for the craft seemed to fade during high school, and he

began to consider a career as a social justice lawyer.

He came to feel that his undergraduate program at UC Berkeley “wasn’t quite making sense,” though, and decided to take a step away from school, opting instead to travel across Europe for a few years. It was while he was abroad that he met “all these great folks from the East Coast,” he said, prompting him to look into schools in the region when he got back stateside.

One of the schools that caught his eye was Hampshire College

in Amherst, which had only just opened a few years before he got there.

In fact, while the campus had been built up by the time he arrived, Brosius recalled taking classes with students who had agreed to attend the school before there had been any buildings erected. “I like being around those folks,” he said of these risk-taking types.

Another pull for Brosius was the closer connection with profes-

Please see **ALUM**, page 14



*SUBMITTED PHOTO BY DAN NORMAN*  
Peter C. Brosius, a Hampshire College graduate, is stepping down after 25 years leading a youth theatre company.

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**EDUCATION**

# Kindergarten registration scheduled for March 5-7

GRANBY – Kindergarten registration will be held in the East Meadow School foyer, 393 East State St., on Tuesday, March 5, Wednesday, March 6 and Thursday, March 7, in person by appointment from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Evening hours are available on Wednesday, March 6 from 5-6:30 p.m. with no appointment necessary.

Students must be 5 years old by Aug. 31, 2024.

To schedule an appointment, visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094AACAD-2FAAFC07-kindergarten>.

Please be sure to bring in the following items to your registration appointment (copies can be made while at appointment if needed):

Proof of residency (one of the following is required): deed, current mortgage bill, current signed lease agreement or notarized letter from Town Hall.

Child's birth certificate.

Parent/guardian driver's license or other picture identification.

Custody, guardianship, foster, transfer of rights, restraining orders, or certification of student residency is necessary.

Medical records: copy of up to date (within the past year) physical, lead screening and updated immunization.

Under 603 CMR 8.00: M.G.L. c.69, 1B, all eligible students are to receive a screening prior to beginning kindergarten. This screening is not used to determine if a child is ready for kindergarten; it is used only as a tool to provide our schools with information concerning any special learning needs a child may have before entering school

Kindergarten screenings will be held in May by appointment only. All students need to be registered for kindergarten, including current East Meadow Preschool students.

# Kindergarten registration for 2024-2025 now open

BELCHERTOWN – If you are a resident of Belchertown with a child who will be 5 years of age on or before Sept. 1, you are encouraged to complete a kindergarten registration packet for the upcoming 2024-2025

school year.

Please contact Christina Aponte by emailing [caponte@belchertownps.org](mailto:caponte@belchertownps.org) or by calling 413-323-0423 extension 100 for additional information.



Ashley Messier (fourth from left) stands with other American Astronomical Society Chambliss winners at the 243rd AAS meeting held in New Orleans, Louisiana last month.

*SUBMITTED PHOTOS*



Ashley Messier won the American Astronomical Society Chambliss undergraduate award for her research work.

# Messier earns AAS Chambliss award

BELCHERTOWN – Ashley Messier, a graduate and salutatorian of Belchertown High School, class of 2021, won the American Astronomical Society Chambliss undergraduate student award at the 243rd AAS meeting held in New Orleans, Louisiana in January.

Messier won the award for her research work done over the summer at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Her research project was titled "Formation Implications from Nightside Emission of a Transiting Brown Dwarf".

Her work was chosen out of 400 applicants for this award. Twenty students were awarded this honor at the conference this year.

Messier currently attends Smith College and is studying astrophysics. She is a junior this year and has maintained a 4.0 GPA.

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## Important Information about Your Drinking Water

### Availability of Monitoring Data for Unregulated Contaminants for Belchertown Water District

PWS ID#: 1024000

As required by US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), our water system has sampled for a series of unregulated contaminants. Unregulated contaminants are those that don't yet have a drinking water standard set by EPA. The purpose of monitoring for these contaminants is to help EPA decide whether the contaminants should have a public health protection standard. All **Belchertown Water District UCMR 5 test results for these unregulated contaminants were below the minimum reporting levels. (<MRL)**

#### What should I do?

You do not have to do anything but as our customers you have a right to know that these data are available. You may share this information with other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, food establishments, medical facilities and businesses).

#### For more information

For additional information on your water and the unregulated contaminants we sampled for, see the Water District's Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), or called a water quality report, delivered by July 1 of each year. If you have any questions about your CCR, see the contact information below. The Confidence Report is Available on the District's website <https://www.belchertownwaterdistrict.org> under "Reports".

For information on the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Program, visit the MassDEP website (<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/water-systems-ops.html>) and navigate to Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Program.

If you want to speak with someone at the Belchertown Water District about the results, please contact Kevin Williams at 413-323-6987 or all information is available at the District office at 206 Jabish Street, Belchertown. Email [Admin@belchertownwaterdistrict.org](mailto:Admin@belchertownwaterdistrict.org).

#### ASSISTANCE from page 9

able 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.



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## ■ PUBLIC SAFETY

### Belchertown Police Log

*Editor's note: The following are brief explanations of select entries in the Belchertown Police log and arrests for the weeks of Jan. 17 through Jan. 30. The information was provided by a member of the police department based on the review of the detailed log summary. This feature is designed to provide context and explanation to some of the calls police respond to every day. Of the 721 calls police responded to, there were 38 incidents, 25 accidents, nine arrests/summons and 45 citations.*

#### ARRESTS/SUMMONS

##### Sunday, Jan. 21

6:31 p.m. – A 33-year-old Belchertown woman was issued a summons for assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and domestic assault and battery.

##### Monday, Jan. 22

8 a.m. – A 48-year-old Belchertown man was issued a summons for assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, disorderly conduct and assault and battery on a public employee. An officer was dispatched to a town facility concerning an argument that was taking place. The citizen was asked to leave and was refusing to do so. The person pushed an employee and another employee came in to see what was going on. The person was also yelling, screaming and throwing items.

##### Friday, Jan. 26

8:19 p.m. – A 20-year-old Belchertown man was issued a summons for possession of liquor under 21. An officer got a call about a person posting on social media about drinking underage at a local establishment. The officer responded to the location and there were alcoholic drinks present with the person.

8:53 p.m. – A 39-year-old Belchertown man was issued a summons for leaving the scene of property damage at an accident. An officer responded to an accident on Federal Street after a vehicle struck a utility pole. The vehicle struck the pole then drove off on Federal Street towards Amherst. It was foggy and wet at the time of the accident. There was a pick-up truck on the side of the road that fit the provided description. Airbags had deployed and the person was identified by the officer. An ambulance was requested, and the person was evaluated. A field sobriety test was given, and a citation was issued.

##### Sunday, Jan. 28

2:25 a.m. – A Belchertown woman was charged with domestic assault and battery.

##### Sunday, Jan. 28

9:59 p.m. – Heather Nunley, 41, of Bondsville, was arrested on charges of operating under the influence of liquor and negligent operation of a motor vehicle.

##### Tuesday, Jan. 30

9:51 a.m. – A Belchertown man arrested on domestic violence related charges

#### ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS

##### Wednesday, Jan. 17

7:28 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on State Street. A vehicle traveling east on State Street stopped for traffic when a second vehicle pulled out of a parking lot. The second vehicle struck the first. No injuries were reported, and no tows were needed. 10:12 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Jabish Street. A vehicle parked in a driveway was struck from behind by another vehicle. The second vehicle left the scene. The first vehicle was unoccupied at the time of the accident.

11:29 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Boardman Road. A vehicle was traveling on Boardman Road when the driver attempted to avoid a squirrel in the road. The vehicle went off the road and became stuck in a swamp. The vehicle was pulled out and was able to be driven away.

5:49 p.m. – An officer took a report of a scam. The person got a call from someone claiming to be a marshal stating that the person's name came up in a drug smuggling case. The person was provided a website and phone number. They were also told to go to their bank, withdrawal money and was told to go to bitcoin machine. They were told they would be subject to arrest by Belchertown police if they didn't

comply. They got calls throughout the day and believed the matter was urgent. They were told to make a report about the matter.

##### Thursday, Jan. 18

6:54 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Bay Road. Two vehicles were driving toward a stop sign on a bus. The bus was stopped with all its safety devices activated. The second vehicle struck the rear of the first. No injuries were reported and no tows were needed.

10:53 a.m. – An officer responded to assist Belchertown fire and paramedics with someone going through a mental health crisis.

5:22 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Amherst Road. A vehicle traveling west on Amherst Road struck a dog that ran into the roadway in front of the vehicle. The driver was unable to stop in time.

##### Friday, Jan. 19

9:01 a.m. – An officer spoke with a person about getting a harassment prevention order against someone who worked for them who damaged equipment. The person refused to pay because of the damaged equipment. The worker continued to contact them. The person was advised of what they needed to do to obtain an order.

10:02 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Mill Valley Road. A vehicle traveling south on Mill Valley Road when a deer ran into the roadway and struck the vehicle on the front right driver's side. There were no injuries reported and no tow needed.

##### Saturday, Jan. 20

5:44 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on West Street. A vehicle traveling east on West Street was unable to turn or stop as it approached a curve in the road. Due to snow and ice, the vehicle continued forward, struck a small group of trees and eventually hit one tree before coming to its final rest. There were no injuries reported and no tow was needed.

10:52 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Mill Valley Road. A vehicle struck a residence and left the scene. There were fresh tire marks were there and appeared to strike a corner. Two people approached the officer telling them that a white SUV struck the side of the residence. The vehicle then left the scene. The person was invited to obtain camera footage. The damage was documented, and camera footage was provided.

##### Sunday, Jan. 21

2:14 p.m. – An officer spoke with person about a relative victim of identity fraud. A person reported they stopped getting mail and contacted their local post office. They were told their mail was being forwarded to an address in New York. The person said they didn't know anyone there.

4:47 p.m. – An officer spoke with a person about a possible case of Social Security fraud. They said they got a phone call from an assisted living facility stating that there was an address change and they stopped getting their check. The matter was documented.

##### Monday, Jan. 22

8 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on State Street. A vehicle rear ended another while traveling on State Street. There was front end damage to the second vehicle. No injuries were reported and both vehicles were driven from the scene.

10:19 a.m. – An officer spoke with a person about identity fraud. The person got a phone call from a person claiming to be with border and custom protections in Colorado. The person called their bank. They were encouraged to track and report there is on file.

3:35 p.m. – A person came in turn in ammunition. It was placed into property for safe keeping.

7:03 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Daniel Shays Highway. A vehicle with a trailer were traveling north on Daniel Shays Highway when a deer crossed the street. The vehicle struck the deer. No injuries were reported. The vehicle was towed from the scene.

9:18 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Daniel Shays Highway. A vehicle struck a deer that ran into the roadway. The vehicle was towed from the scene. No injuries were reported.

## Belchertown Fire announces open burning season

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

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

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

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection will only

allow activation of burning permits for one day at a time, based on weather conditions. Renewal requests left on the answering machine are invalid.

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

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

##### Tuesday, Jan. 23

9:48 a.m. – An officer responded to a residence for report of a juvenile in crisis.

1:29 p.m. – An officer spoke to person about a past threat call from an unknown number. The person requested the matter be documented.

10:01 p.m. – An officer was traveling north on George Hannum Road when they saw a white SUV slow speed with its hazards on. There were poor road conditions and the officer turned around and stopped the vehicle. The operator had little ability to speak English. The person was advised they couldn't drive with a flat tire. The vehicle was towed from the scene.

11:31 p.m. – Dispatch received multiple 911 calls reporting a crash on the bridge on George Hannum Road. About a quarter of a mile away from the vehicle, the person was located by the police. The vehicle was overturned and on its side.

##### Wednesday, Jan. 24

4:46 a.m. – An officer responded to assist Belchertown fire and paramedics with person having a mental health crisis.

5:31 a.m. – An officer took a report of fraud. A person who was recently laid off from their job attempted to file for unemployment when they were told they already had a profile. They couldn't get approved for unemployment because someone was using their information already. The unemployment office froze the account.

7:52 p.m. – An officer responded to the area of the underpass on George Washington Street. A person's car ran out of gas. The person told the officer they would return in the morning. The officer went there to check the following morning. It was determined, based on the location, the vehicle presented a hazard. The vehicle was towed from the area.

11:26 p.m. – An officer spoke with a person about harassing texts. There was a large number of harassing texts. The person sending the messages said they were going to go to the person's residence. The officer tried to reach out to the threatening person. The reporting person was told how to get a harassment order.

##### Thursday, Jan. 23

1:02 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on George Hannum Road. Both vehicles were backing out of parking spots. No injuries were reported and no tows were needed.

2:59 p.m. – An officer took a report of fraud. A person recently laid off and was going to apply for unemployment noticed there was a file already opened. They were advised to file a police report.

3:05 p.m. – An officer spoke with a person about a missing juvenile. The person said they wanted to stay late at school. The officer contacted the school and said the person wasn't there. The person was later located at a local business in the lobby. The person later ran away again and was entered into the system as missing. The School Resource Officer was contacted and informed. The Holyoke Police requested a copy of the report. Palmer Police was also contacted. The person was later found.

5:13 p.m. – An officer took a report of inappropriate texts received by the caller's child.

##### Friday, Jan. 26

8:13 a.m. – An officer took a call from a DCF work regarding a restraining order

being filed against a client. The incident was documented.

##### Saturday, Jan. 27

8:26 a.m. – An officer took a report of a person who got a bill for an ambulance for a ride they never took. The relative lived at the address on the mail and they were recently transported to the hospital. The person already contacted their financial institutions to report identity fraud. They were told to report to financial institutions.

10:46 a.m. – An officer took a report of an incident involving money going to person in a parking lot. The matter is open and under investigation.

1:25 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Bay Road. A vehicle stopped at a stop sign was waiting to turn onto a street when it was rear ended. No injuries were reported and no tow was necessary.

9:13 p.m. – An officer took a report of smoke in a residence. A second call came in reporting a fire in the attic. Responding units confirmed there was a working fire. Pelham Fire and Ludlow Fire responded for mutual aid and station coverage.

##### Sunday, Jan. 28

10:59 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Ware Road. A vehicle traveling on Ware Road slid on a layer of snow on the roadway and went into a ditch. The vehicle was towed out of the ditch and was able to be driven from the scene. No injuries were reported.

11 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Bay Road. A vehicle traveling east on Bay Road was coming up over a large sweeping hill when the vehicle lost control and struck a tree. The roadway was slippery and wet at the time of the incident.

11:40 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on North Liberty Street. A vehicle traveling north on North Liberty Street during a snowstorm, lost control of the vehicle and sideswiped a pole, went into a culvert and spun 180 degrees before coming to a rest on a rock wall. No injuries were reported, and the vehicle was towed from the scene.

5:33 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Federal Street. A vehicle parked and unoccupied was struck by another vehicle backing out of a space. The involved vehicle left the scene.

##### Monday, Jan. 29

6:53 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Chauncey Walker Road when a vehicle slid in the snow and ice while trying to drive up a hill. The vehicle slid down the road twice and stuck a guardrail.

8:48 a.m. – An officer spoke with a resident about a damaged mailbox. The damage occurred overnight. It appeared the mailbox knocked off the post. There are no suspects at this time.

5:10 p.m. – An officer took a call regarding possible violation of harassment prevention order. The officer spoke with the involved people. It was determined no violation occurred.

##### Tuesday, Jan. 30

9:40 a.m. – Belchertown emergency communication got 911 calls reporting a vehicle crashed into a pole in the area of the wastewater treatment plant. The pole was snapped in half and there were wires in the roadway. There were tire marks. The

## AMHERST

# 'Reading the Classics with Ilan Stavans' starts Feb. 13

AMHERST – Started in 2017, "Reading the Classics with Ilan Stavans" is a book discussion series open to readers of world classics (fiction, poetry, memoir, theater) in translation or in their original English.

This discussion series is sponsored by Restless Books, the New York Public Library, and the Jones Library, and will take place via Zoom on the second Tuesday of the month (February through May) from 7-8:30 p.m.

All are welcome to join this series of online discussions planned for the rest of this year, as they continue exploring classic literature. The scheduled discussions are as follows: Feb. 13, "Alice in Wonderland" by Lewis Carroll; March 12, "Leaves of Grass" by Walt Whitman; April 9, "Pedro Páramo" by Juan Rulfo; and May 14, "Ramayana" by Arishia Sattar.

Registration is managed by the New York Public Library, and attendees must register

for each discussion session separately. To learn more about the series or to register, please visit [www.joneslibrary.org](http://www.joneslibrary.org) or [bit.ly/readingwithilan](http://bit.ly/readingwithilan).

### About the moderator

Award-winning, internationally renowned teacher, essayist, translator, and cultural critic Ilan Stavans is the publisher of Restless Books, the Lewis-Sebring Professor of Humanities, Latin American and Latino Culture at Amherst College, and a consultant to the Oxford English Dictionary.

Born in Mexico, he has translated Jorge Luis Borges, Pablo Neruda, and Juan Rulfo into English, Emily Dickinson and Elizabeth Bishop into Spanish, Isaac Bashevis Singer from Yiddish, Yehuda Amichai from Hebrew, and "Don Quixote of La Mancha" and "Alice in Wonderland" into Spanglish.

## ALUM from page 11

sors and the culture of self-driven learning he saw at Hampshire. "It also felt like perhaps the most intimidating of the schools," he said, an observation that only drew him in further.

It was while at Hampshire that Brosius was connected to Jack Zipes, an expert in German literature and culture, through Professor Andy Rabinbach, now a professor emeritus at Princeton University. Zipes in turn introduced Brosius to the work of the GRIPS Theater in Berlin, which was "at that time probably the leading theatre for young people in the world," he said.

This connection would prove to shape the direction of Brosius' career, as well as his attitude toward theatre for young people. The GRIPS Theater "did not judge them, did not preach to them, took their side every step of the way," he said, and throughout his own career Brosius has similarly made a point of creating theatre that does not talk down to its audience, regardless of age.

After graduating from Hampshire College, Brosius earned his master's degree at New York University. He said he then stayed in New York for a while, directing various productions including off-Broadway performances and European works intended for young audiences.

Eventually, a call came from the renowned Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles to lead a workshop, which gave Brosius the opportunity to develop a new play that the Taper then asked him to direct

himself. This was soon followed with another director role, and ultimately a full-time position with the Taper.

Brosius stayed in L.A. for 12 years, working on developing new plays as well as running a youth theatre program for the Taper, before being recruited by the Honolulu Theatre for Youth to become their Artistic Director. Brosius accepted, and was fascinated in the time he spent there by the "untold stories, the cultural complexity, and the history" of Hawaiian culture and theatre, he said.

However, only a couple years into his tenure Brosius was recruited by Children's Theatre Company to relocate to Minneapolis and become their Artistic Director. He was torn, feeling he still had so much left to do in Hawaii, but ultimately decided that the opportunity was too good to pass up.

That was in 1997, and just about everything has come up roses for Brosius and CTC since then: a Regional Tony Award in 2003, a number of new plays developed, and countless theatregoers entertained and enchanted.

The CTC's upcoming production of "Alice in Wonderland" will be a return engagement for the company, with the stage adaptation written by the late Sharon Holland. Brosius said that he hoped it would be "a piece that celebrates curiosity," and one that would be enjoyed by all ages.

It is a production that first premiered at CTC, a detail common to all the shows being produced by the company during

## Naturalist John Root presents 'Welcoming Pollinators' Feb. 20

AMHERST – An opportunity to learn about the habitat needs of pollinators will be offered in this presentation by local naturalist John Root in the Woodbury Room of the Jones Library at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 20.

This presentation is a visual one that describes the habitat needs of our region's bees, butterflies, moths, wasps, flies, beetles and hummingbirds throughout their life cycles. Native trees, shrubs, wildflowers, and grasses that meet these needs are illustrated, and tips on how to establish these plants, as well as pollinator-friendly landscaping practices, are also presented.

Comments and questions will be welcome throughout the program, and participants will be offered handouts with additional information about protecting and promoting pollinators.

This program is sponsored in part by the Friends of the Jones Libraries. This program is also sponsored in part by a



grant from the Amherst Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

This presentation is free and open to the public. For more information, please contact Janet Ryan by calling 413-259-3223.

## POLICE LOGS from page 13

vehicle was found in the retention pond. There was significant damage to the passenger's side of the vehicle. The driver's side door was open didn't have any luck finding the person. The vehicle was towed from the scene. The officer attempted to contact the owner of the vehicle.

10:46 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident. A vehicle side swiped a vehicle in a parking lot. There were no occupants in the other vehicle at the time of the accident. No injuries were reported, and the vehicles were able to be driven from the scene.

3:02 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Stebbins Street. A vehicle traveling west on Stebbins Street noticed a second vehicle slow down. The two vehicles struck each other when one vehicle attempted to turn around to make a U-turn. No injuries were reported and no tow was necessary.

5:16 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Main Street. Three vehicles were stopped at a red light when a fourth struck the third. The third vehicle struck the second vehicle which struck the first. There were no injuries reported and the vehicles were able to be driven from the scene.

7:57 p.m. – An officer took a report of a possible residence breaking and entering. There were documents missing from the residence. The person through a relative was responsible and told officers the matter would be handled between family members.

## Granby Police Logs

*Editor's Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 183 calls for the week of Jan. 26 through Feb. 2. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The Granby Police Department provides all information.*

### Friday, Jan. 16

10:57 a.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 56 mph in 40 mph zone. The vehicle was stopped and the operator was issued a civil citation for speeding.

11:16 a.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 65 mph in 35 mph zone. The vehicle was stopped and the operator was issued a civil citation for speeding.

5:31 p.m. – A motorist reported a minor two-car accident. Granby Police responded. There were no injuries.

### Saturday, Jan. 27

10:56 p.m. – A resident reported hearing screeching tires and a loud bang near their residence. Granby Police and Fire responded. The vehicle involved fled the scene prior to police arrival and was not able to be located. The vehicle and operator were

Brosius' final year season. This includes the company's upcoming return of "A Year With Frog and Toad", which enjoyed a run on Broadway after premiering at CTC in 2002.

The cast of "Alice in Wonderland" is comprised of both Equity and non-Equity professionals as well as a number of student actors. In keeping with his respect for young people's agency and intelligence, Brosius explained that the student actors are expected to be able to work at a high level just like the professionals they are alongside.

Of course, he and CTC make sure students are only cast in age-appropriate roles, and strict protocols are adhered to for adult-student engagement, he said.

But, operating within that framework, the goal is still to work hard toward creating something fantastic. "Everyone knows that, yes, while this room is going to be a safe space, we also want it to be a brave space," Brosius said.

To that end, expectations on student actors are healthy, but high. "We will ask them to improvise, we will ask them to explore ideas, throw out their ideas, try things this way, try things that way," he said.

He highlighted the "Tea Party" scene as a prime example of this dynamic.

In the scene, Dean Holt and Nathan Keepers, actors that Brosius lauded as "two of the comic geniuses of the Twin Cities," play Humpty Dumpty and the Caterpillar, respectively, and perform alongside two student actors who double the role of Alice.

located the next day. The involved party was issued a criminal citation for leaving the scene of a property damage accident.

### Sunday, Jan. 28

11:52 a.m. – A motorist reported that a vehicle struck a utility pole. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries.

### Monday, Jan. 29

12:56 p.m. – A motorist reported a two-car accident. Granby Police and Fire responded. One operator was transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

1 p.m. – A resident came to the station to report being a victim of bank fraud. An incident report was completed.

### Wednesday, Jan. 31

9:55 a.m. – A motorist reported a minor two-car accident in the parking lot. Granby Police responded. There were no injuries.

9:51 p.m. – A motorist reported hitting a deer. Granby Police responded. There were no injuries.

### Thursday, Feb. 1

4:33 a.m. – A motorist reported that they were involved in a minor two-car accident. Granby Police responded. There were no injuries.

6:30 p.m. – Granby officers were dispatched to Lyman Street for a report of a suspicious vehicle. After contacting the operator, it was discovered that they had an

Brosius said he encourages these student actors to all play off of the energy of the others as he would do with any actor of any age. "And when they do, it's electric," he said.

He also made clear that, as often as those on stage take risks, he strives to do the same in his role.

"I'm a director, I will try things, and they just don't work – It's a bad idea!" he said. "And it's a bad idea in front of everybody. So, okay, we tried that, thank you very much, let's try this."

Brosius said that he was not yet exactly sure what was next for him.

Geographically, he said he felt connected to the city of New York, especially given that it was where he met his wife, and said he could possibly end up back there. He was fairly certain that he did not want to run another theatre, but also felt that he had creative projects that he still wanted to pursue.

Above all, Brosius expressed a desire to remain of service to others.

"What we do here is transformational in terms of young people's lives and in terms of building community," he said. "That work is important to me, and how that work can continue I'm very interested in."

Children's Theatre Company can be found online at [www.childrenstheatre.org](http://www.childrenstheatre.org). Tickets and information for Alice in Wonderland can be found at [www.childrenstheatre.org/whats-on/alice-in-wonderland](http://www.childrenstheatre.org/whats-on/alice-in-wonderland).

active warrant for their arrest. The operator also had a suspended driver's license, and the vehicles registration was revoked due to no insurance. Kenni Shakari Malone-Womak, 21, of Springfield was placed under arrest for an active warrant and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, operating a motor vehicle with a revoked registration, and no insurance.

10:45 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 51 mph in 35 mph zone. The vehicle was stopped and it was discovered that the operator had a suspended driver's license. The operator was issued a criminal citation for speeding and operating a motor vehicle with a suspended driver's license.

### Friday, Feb. 2

5:49 a.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 51 mph in 35 mph zone. The vehicle was stopped and it was discovered that the registration was revoked due to no insurance. The operator was issued a criminal citation for speeding, operating a motor vehicle with a revoked registration, and no insurance.

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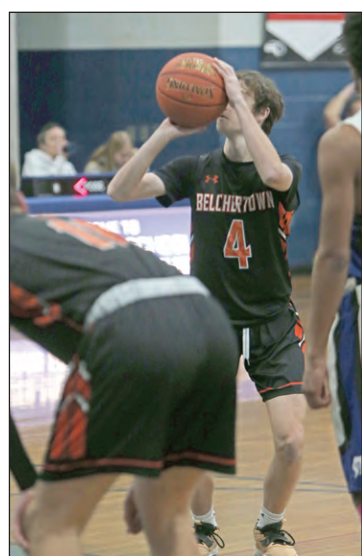
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## Orioles stay in hunt with win

**BELCHERTOWN** – With just a few games remaining, Belchertown boys basketball is still searching for a tournament-clinching win. The Orioles defeated Palmer 71-65 last Tuesday evening. The Orioles did lose to Tantasqua later in the week and are 7-8 with three games remaining in the regular season. In the win over Palmer, Shea MacLean led the team with 16 points. Cal Orzech had 13 points, Jackson Couchon had 11 points and Tyler Marino scored 10 points.



Ian McDonald shoots the free throw.



Cal Orzech gets ready to go for the open layup.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Shea MacLean gets a shot.



Jacob Pacunas follows through on a shot. off ahead of a block.



Jackson Couchon fires a pass across the court.

## Pathfinder girls close in on tourney spot

**BY TIM PETERSON**  
Sports Correspondent

**PALMER**—Only three of the twelve players listed on the Pathfinder Tech girls' varsity basketball roster have ever experienced playing in a postseason tournament game.

The Lady Pioneers moved a step closer to clinching a berth in the 2024 Division 5 state tournament with a 49-22 home victory over Tri-County North League rival Gateway, last Tuesday night.

"One of our goals every year is to make the postseason tournament. We just need two more wins to qualify for the state tournament," said Pathfinder Tech head coach Kevin Aldrich. "We're also currently sitting in fourth place in the small school vocational tournament standings. This game counted towards that record. We haven't made the vocational tournament since 2019. It would be great if we could qualify for that tournament as well. Anytime that you can play extra games, especially with a younger team, it's invaluable."



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Taylor Allen heads down the court to start a play.

Pathfinder Tech, who had an 8-5 overall record following the home victory, were ranked 33rd

Please see **GIRLS**, page 16



Victoria Stephens rushes to the hoop.



Greenly Lagimoniere looks to drive to the hoop.



Autumn Sicard goes for the three-pointer.



Mabel Carillon drives to the hoop around a Ludlow defender.

## Rams clinch tourney spot in win

**GRANBY** – In the second matchup of the season between Ludlow and Granby girls basketball, Granby picked up the win once again 68-34. The win was Granby's ninth and clinches a state tournament spot for the Rams. Granby got 22 points from Kalli White while Aubrey Parent scored 11 points and Brenna Moreno scored 10 points. Ludlow, which fell to 3-11 on the season, would get eight points each from Kayliana Moret and Ava Friese.



Sophia Gagnon fights to take the shot.



Kalli White shoots ahead of a block.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

## SPORTS

# Modifieds champion plans lengthy 2024 schedule

CHELMSFORD – Modified champion Jon McKennedy announced today that he will drive in over 15 Tour-Type Modified races across the New England region in 2024.

Competing for his own team, McKennedy will mix between Outlaw Open Modified Series races at Thompson Speedway, Open Modified races at Stafford Motor Speedway, select NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour events and a few Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series races to make out a robust calendar for 2024.

“We’re excited to get the ball rolling in our FURY race cars and go chase some trophies,” McKennedy said. “I feel this is a great opportunity for me to go out there and continue to show we can win races. We did have some other opportunities for rides, but felt this was the best route for this season. We have picked some of the higher profile events at my favorite tracks for the 2024 season and feel the competition is going to be stout at all of them.”

A full sponsor lineup for the

car and paint scheme will be released in the near future.

McKennedy’s season will begin at Thompson Speedway with the Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series during Icebreaker weekend on Saturday, April 7, followed by the Open Modified event at New Hampshire Motor Speedway’s Northeast Classic on April 13.

He will follow that up with seven more Thompson events during the 2024 season (May 27 - Outlaw Mods, June 13 - Outlaw Mods, June 27 - Outlaw Mods, July 25 - Outlaw Mods, August 7 - Outlaw Mods, August 14 - NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour and October 12 - Outlaw Mods). Thompson Speedway will continue to be operated by the American-Canadian Tour and Pro All Star Series for 2024, keeping short track racing alive at the Connecticut oval.

McKennedy will compete at Stafford Motor Speedway for the NAPA Spring Sizzler (April 27-28), Open Modified Mountain Masters (July 17) and the Fall Final with the Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series on Sept. 28.

His NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour starts will take place at Monadnock Speedway (May 4 and July 20), Seekonk Speedway (June 1) and New Hampshire Motor Speedway (June 22). McKennedy will compete in the Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series at Thompson (April 7), White Mountain Motorsports Park (July 27) and Star Speedway (Sept. 15).

The 2022 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour champion, McKennedy is no stranger to winning races and championships. On top of the 2022 title, McKennedy finished second in the 2020 Tour standings driving for Tommy Baldwin Racing. He also picked up his first career NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour win at Myrtle Beach Speedway in 2018, and has another victory at Claremont Motorsports Park in 2022, which helped lead to his title.

McKennedy is a former ISMA Supermodified champion, 4-time ISMA Star Classic winner, 4-time ISMA Ollie Silva Memorial winner and 4-time Modified Racing

Series champion. He has multiple Star Speedway championships to his resume, a North-South Shootout with Tommy Baldwin Racing (2018) and a championship in the Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series (2014), along with many karting titles in his early years and additional race wins in multiple divisions. McKennedy was also named the 2016 North East Touring Series driver of the year.

For a full tentative schedule for Jon McKennedy’s 2024 season, see below.

## 2024 Schedule

\*Subject To Change\*

**April 7** - Thompson Speedway - Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series

**April 13** - New Hampshire Motor Speedway - Open Modifieds

**April 27-28** - Stafford Speedway - NAPA Spring Sizzler

**May 4** - Monadnock Speedway - NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour

**May 27** - Thompson Speedway - Outlaw Open Modified Series

**June 1** - Seekonk Speedway - NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour

**June 13** - Thompson Speedway - Outlaw Open Modified Series

**June 22** - New Hampshire Motor Speedway - NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour

**June 27** - Thompson Speedway - Outlaw Open Modified Series

**July 17** - Stafford Speedway - Open Modified Mountain Masters

**July 20** - Monadnock Speedway - NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour

**July 25** - Thompson Speedway - Outlaw Open Modified Series

**July 27** - White Mountain Motorsports Park - Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series

**Aug. 7** - Thompson Speedway - Outlaw Open Modified Series

**Aug. 14** - Thompson Speedway - NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour

**Sept. 15** - Star Speedway - Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series

**Sept. 28** - Stafford Speedway - Monaco Modified Tri-Track NAPA Fall Final

**Oct. 12** - Thompson Speedway - Outlaw Open Modified Series

## Railers score win over Lions

TROIS-RIVIÈRES, QC – The Worcester Railers HC (20-18-3-2, 45pts) took down the Trois-Rivières Lions (19-22-2-2, 42pts) on Saturday night by the final score of 6-4 in front of a crowd of 1,819 at the Colisée Vidéotron. The Railers are back at the DCU Center against the Maine Mariners on Friday, February 9th at 7:05pm.

Blade Jenkins (3-2-5) struck first tonight for Worcester, as he put the Railers ahead immediately following the power play. The Railers followed up with three more in the second from Anthony Callin (1-1-2), Trevor Cosgrove (1-2-3), and Jenkins’ second of the night. Trois-Rivières were good for two in the second as Justin Ducharme (1-1-2) and Cedric Montminy (1-0-1) each scored goals to make it a 4-2 game heading into the third. There were four goals in the third, including two straight to open the period for Trois-Rivières from Nicolas Guay (1-1-2) and Alex-Olivier Voyer (1-1-2) to tie the game 4-4. Jack Quinlivan (1-0-1) scored the game-winner after coming out of the penalty box before Blade Jenkins secured the win with his third goal of the

night and second straight hat trick in as many nights.

Like Friday’s game, it was another dominant first period from Worcester. The Railers outshot the Lions 16-7 through the first 20 minutes, highlighted by Blade Jenkins’ (18th) fourth goal of the weekend. Neither team scored the rest of the frame as the Railers went into the second period with a 1-0 lead.

Scoring opened wide in the second period with five goals combined between the two teams. First it was Anthony Callin (8th) with a loose puck in front supplied by Blade Jenkins to grow Worcester’s lead to 2-0. The Lions cut back into their deficit with Justin Ducharme’s (12th) tally as he swept up a rebound from in front of Muse and tucked it along the far post. The Railers responded midway through the period with a pair of goals back-to-back. Trevor Cosgrove let one go from the blueline that Vrbetic never saw to make it 3-1 Worcester. Jenkins followed up with his second of the afternoon on a break down the left wing to give Worcester their largest advantage of the night at 4-1. The Lions got one back just before the

end of the period when Cedric Montminy scored to make it 4-2 heading into the third.

The Railers killed off a Jack Quinlivan high-sticking penalty to start the third before Ryan Verrier was sent to the penalty box for a delay-of-game call. From there, Trois-Rivières kept their foot on the pedal. Nicolas Guay (2nd) scored on the power-play followed by Alex-Olivier Voyer (12th) to complete the Lions comeback and tie the game 4-4. With the game tied heading into the final five minutes of the third, Quinlivan (2nd) was sprung out of the penalty box and muscled his way around a Lions defender to beat Vrbetic and put Worcester ahead for good, 5-4. With the net empty and the Lions looking to tie the game, Blade Jenkins (18th) was given the puck in the neutral zone by Anthony Repaci, where he strode into the attacking end and scored his third goal of the game. Jenkins is the first player in Worcester Professional Hockey history to score hat tricks in back-to-back games, scoring one on Friday night, Worcester’s first of the season.

## Disciplined game nets win for Thunderbirds

HARTFORD, CT – The Springfield Thunderbirds (21-19-3-2) went on two separate runs of three straight goals to defeat the Hartford Wolf Pack (23-13-5-0) by a final score of 6-3 on Saturday night inside the XL Center.

While the scuffling Springfield power play would not get the credit for the game’s opening goal, they were responsible for the offensive possession that led to it. Jakub Vrana found his way to a soft space at the top of the right circle, where Hugh McGing located him for a one-time blast past Dylan Garand’s glove at 9:05. Vrana’s seventh goal of the season made it 1-0, and the T-Birds offense was far from finished.

Just 1:54 after Vrana’s tally, a misplay of the puck in neutral ice sprung Ryan Suzuki on a clean breakaway. Suzuki perfectly picked the lower corner over Garand’s blocker, making it 2-0 at 10:59.

Then it was Vrana’s turn to join the breakaway game, as he, too, beat Garand on the stick side off a stretch pass from Mikhail

Abramov, making it 3-0 at 13:59.

Brennan Othmann took it upon himself to give his team a spark, as the Wolf Pack rookie dropped the mitts with ex-Hartford blueliner Wyatt Kalynuk at 16:40 of the first. Kalynuk, unfortunately, received a game misconduct for removing his elbow pads prior to the fight. Just 24 seconds later, the scrap paid dividends for the Pack as Alex Belzile crashed the paint and cashed in with a backhand poke through Malcolm Subban to make it a 3-1 score after 20 minutes. Subban was flawless in turning aside 14 of 15 Wolf Pack shots in the first.

As the second began, it became evident that Othmann’s fight lit a spark in the Hartford bench. Just 55 seconds into period two, Ryder Korczak found a loose puck in a four-man scrum outside the blue paint and found Brandon Scanlin for a one-time shot through Subban to make it a 3-2 game.

Then at 2:46, Korczak was in the middle of things again, driving

Please see **T-BIRDS**, page 17

## GIRLS from page 15

MIAA Division 5 power rankings. They can automatically earn a berth in the Division 5 state tournament for the first time in two years by winning two of their remaining six regular season games. They’ll also qualify by finishing in the top 32.

Two years ago, the Lady Pioneers entered the inaugural Division 5 state tournament as the 48th seeded and lost to 17th-seeded Georgetown in a preliminary round road game.

During the past twenty years, they’ve only played one postseason home game, which took place in 2019. The Lady Pioneers squeaked out a 28-27 home win over St. Mary’s of Westfield in a Western Mass. Division 4 tournament game before losing at top-seeded Monson on the road two days later.

The Lady Pioneers probably won’t be one of the eight teams competing in the Western Mass. Class C tournament.

Two of the current Lady Pioneers players, who were members of the

2021-22 varsity squad are seniors Victoria Stephens, who scored a game-high 10 points in the game against the Gateway Gators (4-7), and Brianna Beynor, who contributed eight points.

“Our two seniors normally play a lot of minutes, but our younger players are learning from them,” Aldrich said. “They’ve been our team leaders this season.”

Beynor has been a member of the varsity basketball team since she was a freshman.

Junior Greenly Lagimoniere (9 points) was also a member of the team two years ago.

One of the Lady Pioneers younger players is junior Addison Doktor, who scored all six of her points before halftime. She also pulled down a team-leading 11 rebounds.

Another underclassman is sophomore Desiree Croteau, who hit a jumper from the right corner making the score 9-0 with five minutes left in the first quarter. It was her only points of the contest, but she was credited with five steals.

“Desiree has a very high basketball IQ,” Aldrich said. “She played very well defensively in tonight’s game.”

The Lady Pioneers were leading 16-2 at the end of the first quarter and they never looked back after that.

Freshman Ciara Green (4 points) and Doktor combined to score eight points during the second quarter, as the Lady Pioneers built a commanding 30-7 halftime lead.

Pathfinder Tech scored the first ten points of the third quarter and led by as many as 35 points during the second half.

The other Pathfinder girls’ basketball players are freshman Megan Clark (8 points), freshman Taylor Allen (2 points), sophomore Cassandra Nykiel, junior Althea Jewell, and sophomore Jinx Ripley.

Freshman Hannah Mellor is also a member of the girls’ basketball team, but she’s sidelined with an injury.

TURLEY PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY  
WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Addison Doktor makes the free throw.





**VACANCIES** from page 5

specializing in emergency medicine, animal enthusiast or caregiver, pet owner and/or interested residents.

Deadline: Friday, March 1

**Communications Committee**

Three full member seats

The Town wishes to fill three full member seats on the Communications Committee. The purpose of this committee is to develop a communication plan for the Town of Belchertown to improve information flow from the Town to the public. Experience with marketing, communications, and/or social media is highly preferred.

Deadline: Friday, March 1

**Zoning Board of Appeals**

One associate member seat

The Town wishes to fill one Associate Member seat 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.

Deadline: Friday, March 1

**Historic District By-Law Commission**

One full member seat

The Town wishes to fill a full member seat (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.

Deadline: Friday, March 1

**Belchertown Family Center Committee**

Three active voting member positions

The Belchertown Family Center Committee is seeking passionate, service-minded individuals to fill three active voting member positions. This committee is charged with oversight of the Belchertown Family Center and its support programming for families, and is actively working to create a breadth of resources for our community.

Deadline: Friday, March 1

**Council on Aging**

One vacancy

The Town wishes to fill one vacancy on the Council on Aging. Members of the Council on Aging coordinate programs and services for the elderly population and oversee the Belchertown Senior Center.

Deadline: Friday, March 1

**Belchertown Age and Dementia Friendly Implementation Group**

One vacancy

The Belchertown Age and Dementia Friendly Implementation Group is looking to fill a vacancy for a community member. The main goal of the team is to implement the recommendations listed in the Age and Dementia Friendly Belchertown Community Assessment and Action Plan. The group meets quarterly at the Senior Center to prioritize, monitor progress and track outcomes.

Deadline: Friday, March 1

**Belchertown Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force**

Vacancies

The Town of Belchertown is accepting letters of interest to fill community member vacancies on the newly developed 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 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 member committee to include: A representative from law enforcement, a representative from Town Hall, and five 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.

Deadline: Friday, March 1

**Workshop13 Players seeks to audition actors for new theatre program**

WARE –The Workshop13 Players will hold cold auditions on Feb. 15 and 16 from 7-9 p.m. for the production of three newly written short plays entitled “Robin Robin”, “It’s Not Delivery” and “Waiting for a Change”.

Show dates will be April 12, 13 and 14. The Workshop13 Players will be looking for four-six actors aged 20 to mid-40s, who will be double cast in the three productions. For further information please call the Director Dave Blessinger at 401-465-9686 or email dbless9766@aol.com.

**About Workshop13**

Workshop13 Cultural Arts and Learning Center is a rural non-profit arts innovator located in Ware and devoted to increasing the appreciation and accessibility of the arts, strengthening the creative life of the community through instruction, collaborations and arts-based initiatives.

**T-BIRDS** from page 16

a puck to the net, where towering Matt Rempe rammed home the rebound, getting Hartford back to even in not even six minutes of game action.

Springfield utilized its timeout and was able to stabilize defensively. With just under seven minutes left in the period, rookie Zach Dean came up with his signature play of the season. The rookie centerman beautifully toe-dragged the puck from the left circle to walk around a defender before elevating a backhand shot over Garand’s glove at 13:47, giving Springfield the lead back at 4-3 on his first goal in 13 games.

Springfield’s well-disciplined night carried through all 60 minutes, as the T-Birds

did not allow Hartford’s fourth-ranked power play any chances all evening. At 7:54 of the third period, captain Matthew Peca added to the lead again with a wrist shot that ricocheted off Garand high into the air and bounced over the goal line to make it 5-3.

The insurance goal proved to be more than enough, as the Wolf Pack could not find a way to get one through Subban and the defensive front of the T-Birds. Will Bitten added his 10th of the season into an empty net at 18:08 with McGing tallying a third assist on the game’s final goal.

The T-Birds get the All-Star break to get rest before their next contest on Saturday, Feb. 10 for Ice-O-Topes Night at the MassMutual Center against the Hershey Bears. Puck drop is set for 7:05 p.m.

**NEWS & FEATURES**

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

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

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## HELP WANTED

### ASSISTANT TOWN ACCOUNTANT

The Town of Palmer is seeking applicants for the full-time position of Assistant Town Accountant. The applicant should have a working knowledge of accounting theory and accrual concepts along with strong organizational, interpersonal, and analytical skills as well as experience with Microsoft Office. Previous experience using MUNIS accounting software is a plus. Complete job description can be found at <https://townofpalmer.com/jobs>. Please e-mail a cover letter and resume to [gpotter@townofpalmer.com](mailto:gpotter@townofpalmer.com) or via mail to the Town Accountant's Office at 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069. This position will remain open until filled. *The Town of Palmer is an EOE/AA employer.*

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The Norcross Wildlife Foundation in Wales is looking for a part-time (16 hours/week) **Administrative Assistant** to assist with operations and office management duties. For a full job description, please visit [www.norcrosswildlife.org](http://www.norcrosswildlife.org) or email [dgugliotti@norcrosswildlife.org](mailto:dgugliotti@norcrosswildlife.org).

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

**Select Board**  
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 Post Office Box 670  
 Belchertown, Massachusetts  
 01007-0670  
 Telephone: (413) 323-0403 ·  
 Facsimile: (413) 323-0494  
**BID #2024-01**

**FAIR VENDOR BID**  
 The Town of Belchertown will receive sealed bids labeled "FAIR VENDOR BID" at the Office of the Select Board, Finnerty House, One South Main Street, P.O. Box 670, Belchertown, Massachusetts 01007, **until 3:00 p.m. on Friday, February 23, 2024.** At that time the Town Administrator will publicly open all bids. The Bid will be awarded in accordance with the Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 30B.

Specifications and bid forms may be obtained at the Office of the Select Board, weekdays between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., or by calling (413) 323-0403. The Town of Belchertown reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids and to award the contract in the best interest of the Town of Belchertown.

Steven J. Williams  
 Town Administrator  
 02/08, 02/15/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampshire Probate and Family Court**  
 15 Atwood Drive  
 Northampton, MA 01060  
 (413)586-8500  
 Docket No. HS24P0048EA  
 Estate of:  
**Peter R. Klank**

**Date of Death: 11/09/2023 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:  
 A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Rhonda Gayle Young 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: **Rhonda Gayle Young 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 03/06/2024.**

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 CODE (MUPC)**

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not

required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

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

Date: January 26, 2024  
**Mark s. Ames**  
 Temporary Register  
 02/08/2024

**NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS**

February 8, 2024  
 Town of Belchertown  
 2 Jabish Street  
 Belchertown, MA 01007  
 413-323-0403

**These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the Town of Belchertown. REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS**

On or about February 26, 2024, the Town of Belchertown will submit a request to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC) for the release of Community Development Block Grant funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 as amended, for the purpose of the following project(s):

**FY 2018 & FY 2022/23 Belchertown Community Assistance Programs:**

**1. Sports Haven Mobile Home Park Improvements:** FY 22/23 CDBG Project Cost: \$1,200,000. FY 18 CDBG Project Cost: \$718,500. The proposed project will replace the individual unit septic systems throughout the mobile home park with one park-wide septic system. The proposed project will also replace the water delivery system for the whole park. Upon project completion, the town will have constructed a new septic and water system for the mobile home park that provides clean, safe water delivery and wastewater removal, while also performing surface restoration throughout the construction period.

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

The Town of Belchertown has determined that the projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the Belchertown Town Hall, 2 Jabish Street, Belchertown, MA where it can be viewed Monday through Thursday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, and at the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 60 Congress Street, Springfield, Massachusetts 01104, where the record is available for review and may be examined or copied weekdays 9:00 am to 4:30 pm.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**  
 Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Community

Development Office. All comments received by February 23, 2024 will be considered by Steven Williams, Environmental Certifying Officer, prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

**RELEASE OF FUNDS**

The Town of Belchertown certifies to the EOHLC that Steven Williams, in his official capacity as Environmental Certifying Officer, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The EOHLC's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the Town of Belchertown to use Program funds.

**OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS**

The EOHLC will accept objections to its release of funds and the Town of Belchertown's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases:

(a) The certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Town of Belchertown;

(b) The Town of Belchertown has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58;

(c) The grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by the EOHLC; or

(d) Another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality.

Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 55.76) and shall be addressed to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities at 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 300, Boston, MA 02114. Potential objectors should contact the EOHLC to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Steven Williams, Belchertown Town Administrator  
 Environmental Certifying Officer  
 Town of Belchertown  
 2 Jabish Street  
 Belchertown, MA 01007  
 02/08/2024

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### CLUES ACROSS

- One point south of due east
- Coagulated blood
- Fortifying ditch
- Devotee of Hinduism
- Trunk of a tree
- Bank note
- Capital of Guam
- Study again
- Covered with hoarfrost
- Opening
- Legendary Rolling Stone
- Stray
- Computer storing system
- Signal
- Pitching

### CLUES DOWN

- Human being
- Malaysian isthmus
- The "Blonde Bombshell"
- A gland
- Bluish greens
- Endangered
- Three-dimensional
- In a way, precipitated
- God associated with dissolution
- Blemished
- Flow or leak slowly
- Disco legends
- The Bee \_\_\_
- Midway between south and southeast

### CLUES DOWN

- A way to board
- Get down
- Highly seasoned sausage
- First day of month
- Eurasian shrubs
- The organ that bears the ovules of a flower
- Small lake
- Belief
- Sunrooms
- Metric weight unit
- Vasopressin
- Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- One-time family room staple
- Got back

### CLUES DOWN

- Anger
- Sang merrily
- Sea eagle
- Military men
- Kilo yard (abbr.)
- Found in the sea
- Protects from weather
- Type of medicine
- City along the Rhine
- Animal disease
- Martini ingredients
- Get away
- Lack of disunity
- One-time European Commission officer

**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.**



Friends Ezekiel Baskin and Joshua Swift finished the puzzle for the second place slot.

**PUZZLE** from page 1

minutes and 35 seconds. In third place came Valerie Therrien and Becky Torres with a time of 57 minutes and 22 seconds.

All contestants who won finished the 500-piece puzzle in under an hour and began making plans for the fun they would have with the next puzzles they built – and what they could check out next.

The members of the library are looking forward to hosting more puzzle competitions in the future.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS  
 ABOVE: Taking third place in the contest were Valerie Therrien and Becky Torres.

LEFT: All participants completed this bookish puzzle featuring nine popular banned books.

# CAMPUS NOTES

## 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.

Local students include from Amherst, Cenai Collins majoring in communication and Lucas Morales-Fernandez, majoring in general business; from Belchertown, Sara Avery, majoring in criminal justice and Rebekah Higgins Molina, majoring in psychology; from Granby, Michael Flaherty, majoring in health science, Ryan Gaughan, majoring in general business, Sabrina O'Grady, majoring in health science, Gabrielle Walz, majoring in health science and Nora Young, majoring in criminal justice.

## James Madison University announces fall 2023 Dean's List

HARRISONBURG, VA – James Madison University is pleased to announce that the following students made the dean's list for the fall 2023 semester: Charles Vachet of Belchertown who is majoring in elementary education and Lauren Majerowski of Belchertown who is majoring in nursing.

## Kristen Trembley named to Dean's List

WEST HARTFORD, CT – The University of Hartford is pleased to announce the students who have been named to the Dean's List for fall 2023, including Kristen Trembley of Granby.

## Kayla Pogoda named to the College of Charleston's Dean's List

CHARLESTON, SC – Kayla Pogoda of Belchertown was named to the College of Charleston fall 2023 Dean's List (Distinguished).

To qualify for Dean's List (Distinguished), students must earn a GPA of 3.500 or higher and complete a minimum of 12 semester hours.

# CAMPUS NOTES

## Belchertown students named to President's List

WEST HARTFORD, CT – The University of Hartford congratulates the students who have been named to the President's List for Fall 2023, including Belchertown residents Jenna Kruse and Zach

Stowe-Alekman.

The President's List is made up of an extremely select group of students who earned a grade point average of 3.75 or higher in the semester.

## McKenna Talbot named to President's List at Dean College

FRANKLIN – McKenna Talbot of Belchertown has earned a place on the President's List at Dean College for the fall 2023 semester.

Students named to the President's List have demonstrated a serious commitment to their studies while at Dean College.

Welcome

KELLY N. POULIOT, O.D.

Dr. Pouliot is a board-certified Optometrist who joined Kelly & Velazquez Eye Center in January 2024. She graduated from the Ramapo College of New Jersey with a Bachelor's degree in Biology. She received her Doctorate degree from the Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University.

Dr. Pouliot has had over two thousand patient encounters upon completion of her clinical externships in the following specialties:

- Contact Lenses (Jacksonville, NC)
- Ocular Diseases (Johnson City, TN)
- VA Hospital (St. Cloud, MN)
- Low Vision Rotation (Philadelphia, PA)

Dr. Pouliot has a special interest in ocular/systemic diseases and other ocular emergencies. She is a member of the American Optometric Association and the Massachusetts Society of Optometrists. She is a native of the Pioneer Valley. She enjoys traveling and spending time with friends and family.



KELLY & VELAZQUEZ EYE CENTER

DENNIS M. DORANS, O.D.