

Planning Board approves Carriage Grove site plan

BY NICK BOONSTRA

Staff Writer
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BELCHERTOWN – The Planning Board voted unanimously to approve the site plan presented by Brisa Ventures, LLC for the first phase of the Carriage Grove development on the former site of the Belchertown State School.

At the Feb. 13 meeting, the site plan was found to fulfill all of the requirements set by the board, ending a lengthy and at times tumultuous review process, with members of the board and the community expressing various concerns about the project at different points.

Among the final items on the board's punch list were a proof of contact with the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority regarding potential service to future residents, as well as a plan outlining the operation and maintenance of the property. Both of these were furnished by Brisa Ventures to the board in advance of Tuesday's meeting.

Additionally, Brisa Ventures provided the board with a written commitment that at least 10% of the development's dwelling units would be set aside for the town's affordable housing inventory. This commitment was made to bring the development in compliance with the requirements of the town's Business Neighborhood Center District zoning bylaw, which was passed at town meeting in 2000 and has been amended multiple times since.

Multiple members of the community used the public hearing portion of the meeting to voice their discontent over the affordable housing commitment. Concerns over water capacity and the impact of the development on property values and taxes in town were also raised.

Some community members who spoke also had basic questions about the nature of the development itself, including whether it was a residential development.



TURLEY PHOTO BY NICK BOONSTRA

This photo shows one of the abandoned buildings that are located on the former site of the Belchertown State School.

Please see **SITE**, page 4

QHSUA looks at ties between SDV and substance use

BY PAULA OUIMETTE

Editor
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The Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance welcomed guest speaker JAC Patrissi, founder and principal of Growing a New Heart, a consortium of leaders in

the healing arts helping to move people toward respectful and healthy relationships.

At the alliance's Feb. 12 meeting, Patrissi spoke about her work with the Department of Public Health to explore the intersection of sexual and domestic violence and substance use disorder.

"Public health allows us to look interpersonally and systemically," Patrissi said. "We explore the connection among sexual and domestic violence, a culture of dominance and white supremacy, compassionate accountable use of power in a workspace and recovery from substance use disorder."

The SDV + SUD Collaborative Project is an initiative that began in 2018 under the DPH's awarded Centers for Disease Control grant, Cooperative Agreement for Emergency Response: Opioid Public Health Crisis Response. Resources have been built by a team of professionals, including

Patrissi.

Patrissi said those involved in the initiative help to sort the difference among sex work, trafficking and survival or transactional sex when working with survivors in recovery.

Please see **QHSUA**, page 8

Twirlers earn awards at competition

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown Twirlers recently competed at the Miss Majorette of Massachusetts competition in Whitman.

The Belchertown Twirlers took first place in the Team Competition. Members of the Belchertown Twirlers teams are Alexandria Giuffre, Everly LaVallee, Quinn LaVallee, Emelia Maldanis, Evelyn Maldanis, Harper Oberly, Delaney Ochs and Mya Weise.

All of these twirlers also competed in solo events including the prestigious Miss Majorette of Massachusetts Pageant and Novice and Beginner Pageant.

Emelia Maldanis was awarded second place with teammate, Delaney Ochs awarded third place and both twirlers are Pre-Teen Miss Majorette Royalty of Massachusetts. They have qualified to represent Massachusetts at the National Championships held at Notre Dame University in July.

Twirlers competed in a strut-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Belchertown Twirlers competed at the Miss Majorette of Massachusetts competition, earning numerous awards.

Please see **TWIRLERS**, page 5

Zonta to celebrate 'Women Making a Difference'

LUDLOW – On March 11 at the Ludlow Country Club, Zonta Club of the Quaboag Valley will celebrate Women Making a Difference in honor of International Women's Day.

Each year in March, the global community recognizes women for their achievements regardless of national, ethnic, linguistic, economic or political divisions. The Zonta International community also celebrates Zonta Rose Day, a time to reflect and give tribute to the women who have empowered us.

In this spirit, the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley proudly announces its Women Making a Difference Award dinner on March 11 at the Ludlow Country Club. A reception will begin at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6

p.m., with the program to follow. Pay at the door for the buffet (\$28) or pay online. Details at www.zontaqv.org/women



Dr. Christina Royal

As the theme of this year's International Women's celebration is Inspire Inclusion, the club has chosen a keynote speaker who has spearheaded numerous initiatives to address the inequities experienced by many populations in western Massachusetts, and four women leaders in the community deserving of recognition for exemplifying the ideals of Zonta and inspiring inclusion in their day-to-day work and volunteer efforts.

Keynote speaker is Dr. Christina Royal - Zonta's 2023 Women of the Year for her commitment to equity and equality.

Please see **ZONTA**, page 5



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Council on Aging lists upcoming events

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

Corned beef and cabbage

Please join us for a special corned beef and cabbage luncheon on Friday, March 15 at 10:30 a.m. Doors will open at 10:15am for an Irish music performance by The Rolling Scones.

Call Stephanie at 413-323-0420 extension 501 starting March 1 at 9 a.m. to make a reservation for this \$5 meal. Please leave a voicemail, including your name and the name of one guest.

Happy Pi Day

Pi is the ratio of a circle’s circumference to its diameter, and no matter the size of the circle, it always approximates to 3.14. Join the Senior Center for lunch on March 14, Pi Day, and celebrate with a slice of pie.

Call Kim at 413-323 0420 extension 508 to sign up.

Brunch and Irish music

On Friday, March 22 at 10:30 a.m. there will be a delicious blueberry French toast brunch, and a special musical performance, “Ireland to America!” by Roger Tincknell. Call Kim at 413-323-0420 extension 508 to sign up.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Belchertown Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency

Men’s billiard group

The men’s billiard group meets every Tuesday morning from 9-11 a.m., and they are looking for new players. If interested, stop in March 5 from 9-11 a.m. for some coffee and donuts, and meet the group.

Beginners are welcome, and cue sticks are available for use.

Women, or men that are unable to make this group time, can contact Stephanie by calling 413-323-0420 extension 501 to discuss setting up additional groups.

Heart Health & Nutrition (Snack & Learn)

On Wednesday, March 13 from 10-11a.m., join Katie Defoe-Raymond, Registered Dietitian from WestMass ElderCare, Inc., to learn healthy habits to protect your heart, key dietary factors that contribute to heart health, heart-healthy lifestyle tips, ways to reduce inflammation, and ways to improve heart health for those already living with heart disease.

This class is free to attend. Call Stephanie at 413-323-0420 extension 501 to sign up.

Community bags

For the month of March, the Meals on Wheels Program was lucky to be selected for the Big Y Community Bag program. Throughout the month, visit Big Y in Palmer, 1180 Thorndike St., Route 32, and purchase a reusable Community Bag.

The Meals on Wheels Program will receive a \$1 donation for every \$2.50 bag purchased.

Take Care of Yourself

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hearing aid clinic

On March 19 from 9-10 a.m., stop in to see Christine Kelley, Au.D. of Florence Hearing Health Care. Have your hearing aids checked and cleaned, and get all your hearing related questions answered.

Hearing aid batteries available

The Senior Center has a limited supply of free hearing aid batteries. See Laurene, or call 413-323-0420 extension 505 for more information.

Donations needed

The Senior Center is requesting donations of incontinence briefs and pads. Any size, gender, or brand, but nothing with tapes.

Public Health Nurse

On March 11 and 25 from 10-11 a.m., Kristen Krieger, RN, BSN, Public Health Nurse, will visit the Senior Center. Stop in to have your blood pressure or glucose checked, and get answers to many of your health questions.

Whole Food workshop

Join Becky Martin on Thursday, March 21 at 10 a.m. (and the third Thursday of every month) to discover how a Whole Food Plant-Based diet can transform your health. Walk-ins welcome.

Walmart shopping trip

Have the COA van pick you up from home to shop at Walmart in Ware on March 1 and 15 for only \$3 round trip. Call Kim at 413-323-0420 extension 508 to sign up.

Senior Center Book Club

Senior Center Book Club meets on Monday, March 18 at 10 a.m. (and third Monday of every month). This month will be celebrating Black History Month and Women’s History month, by reading and discussing “The Violin Conspiracy” by Brendan Slocumb, and “Black Cake” by Charmaine Wilkerson.

Grief/loss support group

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

April trips

There are several April trips presented by local community volunteers including on April 4, Luncheon & Mystery Theatre at Storowton \$99/per person (payment due by March 8); and April 17, Classic Country at Log Cabin Holyoke \$119/per person (payment due by March 18).

Additional 2024 trip information is available at the Senior Center. Contact Roseann by calling 413-364-8161 or Tony 413-283-3966.

Veterans’ Agent office relocated

Veterans’ Agent Charly Oliva’s office is now located in the Freedom Center at the end of the Senior Center library corridor.

The Veterans’ Social Hour will be held in her new office on the second Wednesday of every month at 10 a.m. In addition, Homefront Strong will be sponsoring a free Veterans’ Coffee Hour on March 7 at 9 a.m. in the front room of the Recreation Department at 66 State St.

Volunteers needed

The Belchertown Senior Citizens Center Association, also known as the Senior Center Friends Group, is in need of volunteers.

Currently the BSCCA has a critical need to fill some officer and volunteer positions. Aside from operating Second Best Thrift Shop, and staffing the annual Holiday Bazaar, volunteers often create homemade crafts to sell, run raffles, and work together to support the Senior Center any way they can.

They welcome new ideas, and appreciate any and all help you might be able to provide. No experience is required, just your enthusiasm and willingness to put in a little time helping the community.

If you’d like to hear more about how you might be able to help, please join the BSCCA at their next monthly meeting in the Senior Center craft room on Tuesday, March 5 at 12:30 p.m.

If you can’t make the meeting, you can also contact David Small, BSCCA president, for more information by calling 413-530-9763 or emailing DHSsmall@Yahoo.com.

Wednesday movies

Wednesday movies will be held at 12:30 p.m. On March 13 the movie is “Maestro” (2023 rated R); March 20, “The Holdovers” (2023 rated R); March 27, “Barbie” (2023 rated PG-13).

BCTV Schedule Highlights

Thursday, Feb. 22

- 8 a.m. – Select Board – Feb. 20 meeting
- 10 a.m. – BEDIC – Feb. 21 meeting
- Noon – Energy and Sustainability Committee – Feb. 15 meeting
- 7 p.m. – Energy and Sustainability – Channel 192
- 7 p.m. – Select Board – Feb. 20 meeting
- 9 p.m. – BEDIC – Feb. 21 meeting

Friday, Feb. 23

- 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 5 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 7 p.m. – Energy and Sustainability Committee – Feb. 15 meeting

Sunday, Feb. 25

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

Monday, Feb. 26

- 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 5 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 7 p.m. – Conservation Commission – Channel 192

Wednesday, Feb. 28

- 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 5 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman

Friends group seeks donations of used books

BELCHERTOWN – The Friends of Clapp Memorial Library are holding their semi-annual book sale this coming April 22-27 and they need your help to reach their goal of having 50,000 new and used books available.

Now is the time to start spring cleaning by bringing your used books, movies, and music to the Clapp Memorial Library at 19 South Main St. during normal library hours. The Friends need fiction or non-fiction books, hardback or paperback, DVDs, vinyl LPs, and CDs.


They cannot take magazines, Readers Digest Condensed Books, encyclopedias, VHS tapes, or older cassettes and 8-track tapes. The sooner you bring the donations in the sooner they can sort, appraise, and value these items before they go on the shelves.

All proceeds from the book sale directly support the Clapp Memorial Library. For more information go to www.friendsof-clapplibrary.org or call the library at 413-323-0417.

Early In-Person voting hours listed for Belchertown

BELCHERTOWN – Early In-Person voting for the March 5 Presidential Primary Election, will be held in the auditorium at Town Hall, 2 Jabish St.

The dates and hours are Feb. 24 from 9a.m.-5 p.m., Feb. 26 through March 1 from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.



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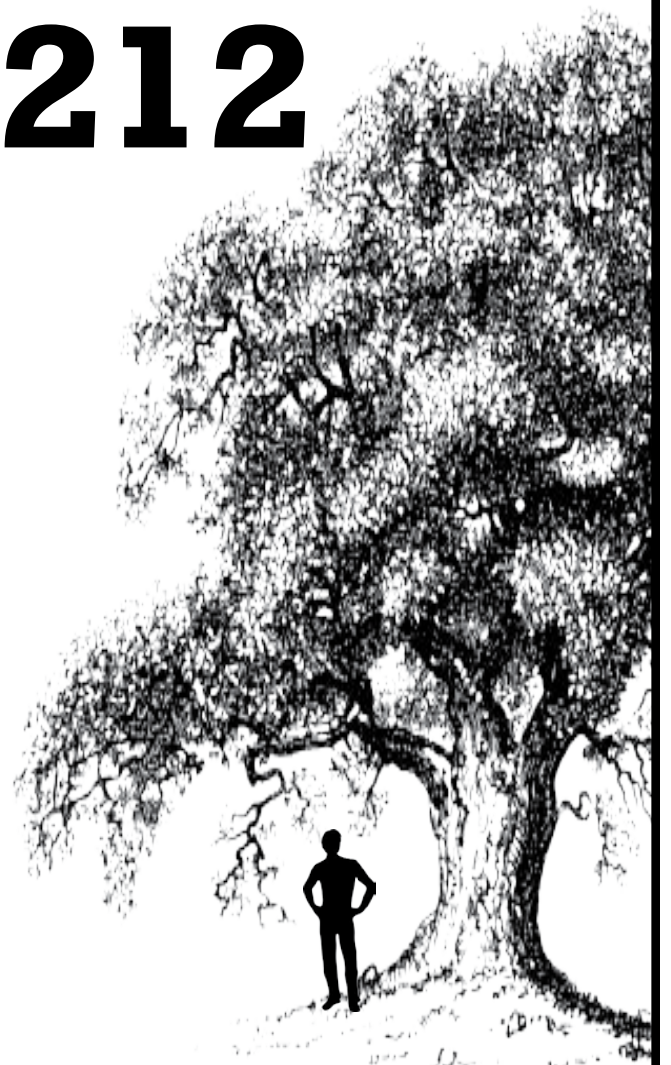
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Friends of the Belchertown Fair announce poster/logo contests

BELCHERTOWN – The Friends of the Belchertown Fair are kicking off the annual poster contest.

The theme of the 165th Fair is “Barn in the USA” Selected artwork will be used on posters advertising this year’s fair.

Anyone 18 years and younger is welcome to enter.

Entries should be submitted on an 8 1/2 by 11 inch sheet of paper and artwork must include the following information: “165th Belchertown Fair”, “Barn in the USA” and “September 20-22, 2024.” On the back of the poster, please include: name, address, phone number, age, grade level, and if applicable your school or organization.

Deadline for submission is April 28. Entries can be mailed to: Friends of the Belchertown Fair, Inc., 18 Wilson Road, Belchertown MA 01007 and become the property of Friends of the Belchertown Fair.

Winners will receive a cash prize, a wristband for Friday night, and a copy of

their poster. For questions, please email friendsofbtownfair@gmail.com.

In addition to the annual poster contest for youth, the Friends of the Belchertown Fair is also looking for potential logos to represent the theme of this year’s Fair, “Barn in the USA.” Selected logos may appear on the cover of the Exhibit Hall booklet, the volunteer reusable bags, and T-shirt designs.

Artwork should be created digitally, in color, with a minimum of 300 dpi. Additionally, but not required, the following text can be included in the design: “165th Belchertown Fair,” “September 20-22, 2024,” and “Barn in the USA.”

All submissions will become the property of the Friends of the Belchertown Fair. The winning artist will receive recognition and a token of appreciation in the amount of \$50.

There are no age limits.

Please submit artwork for consideration to belchertownfair@gmail.com by Saturday, March 30.

Wildlife & Landscape Photography program open to residents

BELCHERTOWN – Residents of Belchertown are encouraged to explore their natural surroundings, from backyards to local conservation areas, and share the unique and beautiful wildlife and landscapes they encounter through their lenses.

The Belchertown Wildlife & Landscape Photography program is an intergenerational opportunity to participate in learning, exploration, and expression. It’s a partnership between the Clapp Memorial Library, Town of Belchertown Planning Department, and Town of Belchertown Conservation Commission.

The Belchertown Wildlife & Landscape Photography program consists of a series of educational experiences and workshops for aspiring nature photographers of all ages, a concurrent photo contest, and a finale exhibition for selected contest applicants in each age and content category.

Cyndi Harbeson, Clapp Memorial Library Director, described her intentions for the photography workshops that she organized with Mark Lindhult in a press release: “Nature photography has the power to harness a sense of wonder in a single image, capturing a place and moment in time that is unique. Participants will gain another means to tell stories of their experiences.”

Sarah Fortune, Conservation Administrator, added: “This photography program is a great prompt to invite Belchertown residents to explore our conservation areas, open their senses, and share what they see, inspiring the rest of us who view them to get out and do the same. Belchertown has so many natural wonders, and I can’t wait to see where their adventures lead them.”

Whether you take part in a workshop or submit to the contest, read on for more resources to explore nature in Belchertown and hone your photography skills. These details can also be downloaded from the Town of Belchertown Planning Department’s page: www.belchertown.org/planning/

Photography Workshops

Participants in the workshops will learn more about wildlife and landscape photography from photographer Mark Lindhult, who leads the Quabbin Photo Group. Meet other local photographers while learning

new skills, build a portfolio of work, and then submit your top photos to the photo contest.

Upcoming workshops include:

Photography Technique (teens to adult), at Clapp Memorial Library on Saturday, Feb. 24 from 2-3 p.m. led by Mark Lindhult.

Photography in the Field (teens to adult), meet at Clapp Memorial Library and shoot at Town Common on Saturday, March 2 from 2-3 p.m. led by Mark Lindhult

Photography Contest

The photo contest is open to all Belchertown residents, including youth, teens, and adults, who may submit up to three images in either or both categories of Wildlife and Landscapes. Submissions are open between Feb. 5 and March 31. These photos must have been taken in Belchertown, and indicate in the application where they were taken and other details about the images.

Participation in the workshops is not required for the photo contest.

Visit the Conservation Department’s website for conservation land to explore and photograph at https://www.belchertown.org/departments/conservation/town_conservation_lands.php.

More details on the rules, terms, and conditions of the contest can be found by visiting https://drive.google.com/file/d/15SaDZI9W9tf9J4k1ZLc_bsBWpVKUvLLj/view?usp=sharing.

You will have to download, sign, and then upload your signed copy to your application.

Submission portal for photo contest is <https://form.jotform.com/240284182706152>.

Photography Exhibition

Judges, including artists and conservation leaders, will select the top three winners in each age group of Youth, Teen, and Adult, and for each category of Wildlife or Landscape, will be displayed at an in-person exhibition in May 2024 at the Clapp Memorial Library. An opening event and celebration will take place on Friday, May 3 from 5-6 p.m.

The exhibition will remain on display at the library through May 31.

SITE from page 1

One community member concerned with the devaluation of property in town said that he “didn’t know anything” about the project, and was advised by the board that he could seek further information from the town’s Planning Office.

Another individual spoke strongly against the proposed affordable housing component of the development, and stated that the future of Carriage Grove should be put to a vote at town meeting. This statement was met with applause from a number of community members present at the meeting.

Planning Board Chair Daniel Beaudette responded to many of these concerns by stating that they were outside of the domain of the board, with decisions already having been made by bodies such as the town’s Water District and the Economic Development Industrial Corporation, the latter of which worked with MassDevelopment to select Brisa Ventures to develop the land in 2021, to bring the project to the point of site plan review.

At one point, in response to a question about water capacity, Beaudette said, “We

don’t ask other businesses that question.” He went on to reiterate that the proposed development had already received approval from the Water District in a process that was separate from site plan review, an approval that he said was sufficient for his purposes as a member of the Planning Board.

Members of the board spoke positively about the impact they hoped this development would have on the town.

“This could very well be the tipping point the town has needed,” Elizabeth Pols said ahead of the final vote on the site plan.

The residential development at Carriage Grove would be the first of a multi-phase plan that is slated to include the conversion of an old State School building into a local museum and the construction of a brewery or distillery. Statements from the Planning Board during the meeting suggested that each subsequent phase would require its own site plan approval prior to development beginning.

The Carriage Grove development would come in addition to the Belchertown Day School early-learning center and the Christopher Heights assisted living facility that have been constructed on the State School site in recent years.



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Advanced Processing of ballots held Feb. 27-March 2

BELCHERTOWN – Belchertown will be doing Advanced Processing of ballots received by mail for the March 5 Presidential Primary Election.

The dates reserved for this process are Feb. 27 through March 2. Each day the process will begin at 9 a.m. and will finish when all ballots have been processed for the day.

Advanced processing is being held in the Select Board Meeting room at Town Hall, 2 Jabish St. This process is open to the public and the public is invited to observe.

Before the start of each day, a decision will be made on if the Advanced Processing will commence, based on the number of ballots received the day before.

Baystate Health offers free virtual program on avoiding falls

SPRINGFIELD – Baystate Health’s Loyalty Programs will offer a free virtual event for the general public on Feb. 29 from 2-3 p.m.

During “Do This, Not That, To Avoid Falls” the team from Baystate Rehabilitation Care including Courtney Brown, PT; Michelle Lantaigne, OT; Erin Jarosz, OT; and Diana Edwards-Chung, MSN, RN, who is Injury Prevention Coordinator, will discuss the do’s and don’ts as well as practical home safety guidelines for preventing falls in the home.

Registration is required at BaystateHealth.org/events.

Belchertown Democrats to elect delegates to State Convention

BELCHERTOWN – On Saturday, Feb. 24, at 10 a.m., the Belchertown Democratic Town Committee will hold a caucus at Town Hall to elect delegates to the 2024 State Democratic Convention, where Democrats from across Massachusetts will gather to endorse candidates for statewide office.

This year’s convention will take place on June 1 at the DCU Center in Worcester.

Registered and preregistered Democrats in Belchertown may vote

and be elected as delegates or alternates during the caucus. Young people (ages 16 to 35), people with disabilities, people of color, and members of the LGBTQ+ community not elected as delegates or alternates are encouraged to apply to be add-on delegates at the caucus or by visiting massdemocrats.org.

Those interested in attending the caucus can sign up on the BDTC’s website at www.belchertowndemocrats.org or via email at belchertowndemocrats@gmail.com.

Chess Club begins for Tweens and Teens

GRANBY – Join the Granby Free Public Library, 297 East State St., to play the game of Kings and Queens at Chess Club with local chess enthusiast, Andrew Freidman on Thursdays from 3:30-5 p.m., Feb. 22, 29 March 7, 14 and 21.

For ages 10-18. The club will start from square one.

Everyone can join and sign up at the door. Each class is limited to 14 players.

The Chess Club is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Granby Library. All library programs are free of charge and open to the public.

For more information, call the library at 413-467-3320 during open hours. The hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Thursday from 10:30 a.m.- 7 p.m. and Saturday from 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Lions Club offers fuel assistance fund

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

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

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

Residents who would like to apply for needed assistance are asked to

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

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



Lisa Bakowski



Andrea Bordenca



Charlotte Chartier Cote



Roxanna Harper

ZONTA from page 1

She will be awarded the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley’s first Honorary Member status.

Honorees include Lisa Bakowski-Raising the bar for self-advocacy, self-awareness and self-empowerment of women and children; Andrea Bordenca, working with organizations committed to equity, engagement and positive mental health; Charlotte Chartier Cote, creating pos-

itive change in dental practices and owner of Cote Cattle Company; and Roxanna Harper RN, MSN, empowering staff and families to provide exceptional home health, hospice and palliative care.

A donation of \$500 will be made by Zonta in each honoree’s name to a cause of their choice.

The public is invited to join Zonta in celebrating these women. Please RSVP by March 7 by emailing info@ZontaQV.org.

About Zonta Club

Since 1919, Zonta has been working to create a more equitable future for women and girls. Members believe that fostering a diverse and inclusive global community is a powerful platform to bring about the social change needed to make our vision for gender equality a reality.

For more information visit Zonta.org or email info@zontaqv.org. Join them in building a better world for women and girls.

TWIRLERS from page 1

ting routine and a solo twirling routine along with an interview. Scores for the three events are combined to select the winners.

Quinn LaVallee and Evelyn Maldanis competed in the Beginner Juvenile Pageant and placed third and fourth, respectively. Mya Weise and Alexandria Giuffre competed in the Novice Pre-Teen Pageant with seventh and 10th place finish.

Harper Oberly competed in the Novice Juvenile division and placed top 10 in her division.

Delaney Ochs was awarded the

Major Marjorie Gilbert Award for Sportsmanship, Friendship, Goodwill and Twirling Achievement.

This award is given to one twirler each year at the competition who exemplifies these qualities. Delaney is 10 years old and is the youngest winner of the award and was awarded a traveling plaque.

The Belchertown Twirlers also competed at the Coach of the Year Competition this past weekend at Belchertown High School. Belchertown Twirlers Teams won first and second place at the Competition.

Many of the Belchertown Twirlers competed in individual events and

were awarded with Top 6 finishes. Members winning in teams and solos are Stella Conkey, Adelynn Gallant, Alexandria Giuffre, Everly LaVallee, Quinn LaVallee, Emelia Maldanis, Evelyn Maldanis, Evangeline McLarey, Seraphina McLarey, Stellmarie McLarey, Harper Oberly, Delaney Ochs and Mya Weise.

The Belchertown Twirlers are a program through the Belchertown Recreation Department and can be seen competing throughout New England during the year. The proud coaches of these twirlers are Barbara Kupras, Kristi Ochs and Brittani Ladd.

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OPINION



More questions for the Garden Lady

Eleanor wrote in with this question for the Garden Lady regarding amaryllis bulbs: "I have three bulbs from last year that have been hibernating and now they are in the sun and have produced long green leaves but no buds. I read it somewhere that if you let them dry out, no more water, but keep them in the sun they will send out buds, but I cannot find where I read that. I hope it is true...so I can still get flowers this year before I have to repeat the whole process (by putting them back in dormant condition in August for a few weeks). I do have one more bulb from last year that did give me a flower...but these other three ones are not showing me any prospects. Can you help?"

Without seeing your bulbs and the foliage, my best guess would be that they will likely not flower this year. What leads me to that conclusion is that one other bulb you have already flowered.

If they were on the same timeline, then probably the other bulbs did not have enough strength to send up a flower stalk. I would not let them dry out, but continue to water and fertilize monthly so that the foliage will grow strong, and be able to make enough energy for blooms next year, after a period of dormancy in the fall.

I know this is upsetting after all of your hard work. Re-bloom is often an experiment.

Sadly, sometimes it happens and sometimes it doesn't. It may not be anything you did wrong – it could be that the one bulb that did flower was a bigger bulb to begin with or was from healthier stock initially.

Meredith, who gardens in Wilbraham, posed this question to the Garden Lady: "As I look at all of the seed packets strewn before me, what your best advice would be for starting seeds indoors?"

Ah-hah! I have been itching to talk about this, so your timing is perfect.

Although we are excited to get the season started, the biggest mistake people make is starting seeds too early. Always research the varieties you want to grow in a good seed catalog.

Johnny's Selected Seed and Fedco come to mind as having great advice on how many weeks prior to the last frost seeds should be sown. For example, tomato seeds should be planted indoors the last week of March or first week of April.

Although that seems late (we want to do it now), we don't want root bound transplants come May.

While average household temps will still result in seeds sprouting, bottom heat by use of heat mats will aid in germination because it will keep the seed bed a constant temperature.

Plants usually suffer without enough light – placing seedlings in the window usually results in seedlings that stretch to the sun. A simple shop light with fluorescent bulbs set a couple of inches above growing plants works out great.

Think about the soil you are using, too.

A soilless mix is far superior to regular potting soil or garden soil. It's milled a little finer, and is made to be well-drained weed and pathogen free.

Moistening it to the consistency of a wrung out sponge before use is perfect. Don't bury small seeds too deep. Tiny seed should simply be pushed into the soil surface and not covered.

Hardening off the seedlings you grew before planting them in the ground is very important. Start acclimatizing them to the great outdoors slowly, first by putting them in the shade for a few hours, working up to full sun over the course of a week's time.

By taking my advice into account, you will be well on your way to growing healthy seedlings indoors.

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



LETTERS

Resident calls for ceasefire in Gaza

Dear Editor,

We are watching a genocide occur in real time as Palestinians record and document their own slaughter by the Israeli military, funded in large part by the United States, i.e., our tax dollars.

In a little more than four months, over 28,000 people have been killed in Gaza, more than 12,000 of them children. Israel's intentional targeting of hospitals and doctors is an outrageous violation of international law.

Over 100 Palestinian journalists have been killed in Gaza, many deliberately targeted against international law. Those who have survived now face mass starvation.

Even if the bombardment of Gaza stopped today, too many will still die from starvation, injury, or disease.

We must raise our voices together to

demand that President Biden and Congress call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza now! No more genocide in our names!

Call or email your representatives in Congress to demand they act immediately. Attend the Jewish Voices for Peace stand-out for a ceasefire every Sunday at 11 a.m. at the roundabout by the Coolidge Bridge.

If you would like to join the weekly Ceasefire in Gaza group sponsored by Belchertown Voices for Justice, email belchertownvoices4justice@gmail.com for more info and the Zoom link.

Through our collective action, we can help stop the wholesale murder of more people in Gaza.

Sincerely,

Justine Dymond
Belchertown

Zonta Club looks at foster care system needs

Letter to the Editor:

The Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley held a Panel Discussion on Feb. 12 at the Ludlow Country Club on the Foster Care System in western Massachusetts and youth who experience significant barriers as it relates to their physical, mental and emotional well-being - all of which dramatically impact their ability to achieve adult self-sufficiency.

Sincere thanks to Moderator Andrea Bordenca, panelists Daisy Acosta, Lashanda Stone and Ginger Elliot (in for Stefany Schaefer), as well as several other attendees who work with foster youth in some capacity. Their dedication and passion showed through.

Key takeaways included:

Due to a lack of volunteers, more than

half of youth in foster care do not get all the support they need during a traumatic time in their lives.

Opportunities range from sharing the needs and advocating for change, working behind the scenes to donate money and collect items needed by foster youth, volunteering time and talent to be a resource in the system, getting trained to be a foster care provider and mentoring youth who age out of the foster care system.

We invite all caring individuals in western Massachusetts to check out the continuum of opportunities at www.zontqv.org/ foster and decide how you might be able to support youth in need.

Mary F. Knight
Communication Chair
Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley



Should I claim Social Security at 68 or wait until I'm 70?

Dear Rusty:

I have a question regarding my SS benefits. I turned 68 this month and work part time.

I earned \$28,000 last year, but will probably gross \$36,000 to \$38,000 this year. My husband collects his SS and he earned \$25,000 last year.

I was told by a financial planner that I should apply for my benefits now, instead of waiting until I'm 70. I would collect \$1,700 per month at 68 and \$1,944 per month if I wait. Which is the smarter move?

Signed: Seeking Answers

Dear Seeking: I'm sure your financial advisor would agree that your decision on when to claim your Social Security comes down to just a few basic things: 1) how badly you need the money, 2) your life expectancy and 3) whether you will receive a spousal boost from your husband when you claim.

Because you have already passed your Full Retirement Age of 66 years and 4 months, your work earnings won't negatively affect your monthly SS benefit amount. If you claim now, however, your work earnings will affect how much of your SS benefits will be subject to income tax.

Assuming you file your income tax as "married/filing jointly," up to 85% of the Social Security benefits you receive during the tax year will become part of your income taxable by the IRS. If you do not

Please see **SSI**, page 7

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



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**in my
BACKYARD**
By Ellenor Downer



American Goldfinch winter plumage

I received an email from a Brimfield resident who counted 36 plus American goldfinch in his yard during a snow storm; and the next day he saw about a dozen.

I also had about 20 plus goldfinch eating on the ground under my feeder. I had seen two or three mixed in with juncos and sparrows from time to time, but not this many.

In winter, they are found in flocks that wander in search of food.

The American goldfinch is five inches long and the male during breeding season has a bright yellow body and black cap, wings and tail. The wings also have white bars.

The female is yellowish, green overall with black wings and tail.

In winter, the male looks more like the female with a yellowish brown, yellowish wash on the face and chin and black wings with white wing bars. The female in winter is grayish brown with a little yellow and dark brown wings with white wing bars.

Goldfinch feed on the ground, on weed stalks, thistles and foliage. At feeders, they prefer hulled sunflowers and thistle (Niger) seeds.

The female lays three to seven light, blue eggs in a nest of strands from weeds and vines, downy elements from wind-dispersed seeds such as thistles bound with caterpillar webbing placed in a shrub or tree.

Bluebirds

A flock of about eight male and female bluebirds continue to come to my raisin suet cake and the feeder with mealworms. I fill it once or twice during the day as I enjoy watching them as I work at my desk.

During the snow on Tuesday, they visited the mealworm feeder and suet feeder frequently. The blue against the white snow was almost as striking as the red of the cardinal against fresh snow.

Bald eagles

I received a photo of a pair of bald eagles taken by a Palmer resident at Forest Lake in Palmer. They were in the top of a pine tree by the lake.

Brimfield birds

A Brimfield resident sends emails of the birds in his yard on a regular basis. He said, "One day last week a Carolina wren showed up for a day. The warm brown coloration of the bird caught my eye when I glanced out at the feeders. It was feeding on the suet cakes and the 'log' made of suet, berries and mealworms."

He shared an email from a friend in Belchertown, "We had a female redwing at the seed trays today. It's unusual to get one here this early. We also had four bluebirds show up and munch on the suet. They seem to make a visit when the weather is crappy."

The Belchertown resident also said, "We're inundated with goldfinch. The thistle seed bag is covered with them. I had to fill the hearts feeder three times today due to the numbers of goldfinch around."

The Brimfield resident reported a large number of juncos, four white-throated sparrows and come house finch. He said, "A pileated woodpecker did a fly by the other day. That is how we most often see then although a few years ago a male was coming to our suet feeders. The female came close to the feeders but never feed that I saw." His wife drove past Wheeler Pond in town and was surprised to see the pond was not completely frozen and that there were two pair of hooded mergansers on the pond.

Birds on Feb. 13

The Brimfield resident observed 10 species of birds in his yard during the snow on Tuesday, Feb. 13. He counted five mourning doves, one downy woodpecker, one hairy woodpecker, two black-capped chickadees, three tufted titmice, two house finches, one American goldfish and 80 dark-eyed juncos.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

SSI from page 6

urgently need the extra money that your SS will provide, then waiting longer to claim will also postpone paying income tax on your received benefits and that may be a consideration.

Your life expectancy is key in making your decision on when to claim. You already know that your benefit will be \$244 per month more if you wait until you are 70 to claim.

If you claim at 68 (e.g., this month), you will collect about \$40,800 by the time you reach 70. If you, instead, wait until age 70 to get that extra \$244 per month benefit, it will take you about 14 years collecting at the higher rate to offset the \$40,800 you would have received had you claimed now (in other words, you would break even money wise at about age 84).

If your life expectancy is longer, then waiting to claim may be the better choice. Of course, no one knows how long they will live but, for general guidance, average life expectancy for a woman your current age is about 87. Family history and your current health are obviously influencing factors as well.

If you wish to get a more personal estimate of your life expectancy, I suggest using this tool: www.socialsecurityreport.org/tools/life-expectancy-calculator/.

In the end, if you believe you will attain at least average life expectancy and you don't urgently need the money now, waiting longer will not only give you a higher monthly benefit in your later years, but also the most in cumulative lifetime benefits. If, however, you have

reason to suspect you won't achieve at least average life expectancy or you need the SS money sooner, claiming before age 70 is likely the better move.

One other thing to consider: If your benefit as your husband's spouse will be more than your own earned maximum SS retirement benefit, then you should claim your SS benefit now. Your maximum benefit as a spouse would be 50% of your husband's full retirement age entitlement and, if that is more than your own benefit will be at age 70, then claiming now to get your maximum spousal benefit would be your best choice.

To get a spousal benefit from your husband, your personal FRA entitlement (not your age 68 amount) would need to be less than half of his FRA entitlement. If that isn't the case, then you should make your decision based only on your own Social Security entitlement, as described above.

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

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/10C094AACAD2FAAFFC07-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 or by calling 413-323-0423 extension 100 for additional information.

Westfield State University offering CPR classes

WESTFIELD – Westfield State University will be offering three CPR classes this spring semester through the American Heart Association.

Classes will be held in the evenings from 6-9 p.m. on Thursdays, March 7, April 11 and May 9. Space is limited for each class so early registration is recommended.

Certification will be at the Healthcare

Provider level and will be valid for two years. The cost to register for a class is \$75.

For more information or to register online, visit www.westfield.ma.edu/emt and click the link for CPR certification at the top of the page. If you have any questions, please email bfredette@westfield.ma.edu or call 413-572-8033.



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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 Feb. 7 through Feb. 13. 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 381 calls police responded to, there were five incidents, four accidents, three arrests/summons and 27 citations.

ARRESTS/SUMMONS Friday, Feb. 9

7:25 p.m. – Jovan L. Diaz, of 25 Hood St., Springfield, was arrested on charges of receiving a stolen motor vehicle and possession of a class B drug. An officer on patrol traveling north on Main Street saw a vehicle parked in the roadway with its headlights on. It wasn't parked near any businesses. The officer conducted a check on the vehicle which came back that the vehicle was stolen out of Springfield about a week prior. The officer attempted to stop the operator, who went into the passenger's side of the vehicle and took something out of it. The officer activated their lights and attempted to stop the person. The person kept walking away from the officer with their hands in their pockets. The person finally stopped after 20 to 30 feet of walking. The person had a large bulb-like object in their pocket. The person was patted down and frisked. The person said they were brought to town by an Uber. The officer found small amount of a white substance on the person. When the vehicle was towed from the scene an inventory was conducted and a machete was located. The person was transported from the station to the Hampshire County Regional House of Corrections.

Saturday, Feb. 10

9:30 p.m. – A 52 year old Belchertown woman was issued a summons for operating with a suspended license and an improper turn. An officer was on patrol when a vehicle traveling in front of them attempted to turn in front of the officer's vehicle. The officer stopped the vehicle on

Maple Street and identified the driver. A check was run on the suspect and vehicle which came back that they had a suspended license for paying fines associated to a citation. A relative came to retrieve the vehicle and the person was issued a summons.

Sunday, Feb. 11

11:19 a.m. – Gary Spillane, 54, of 7 Craigwood Terrace, Wilbraham, was arrested on charges of operating with a suspended license, an uninsured motor vehicle and an unregistered motor vehicle. An officer on patrol on State Street ran a query on a vehicle with a loud exhaust pipe. The query reported the person had a suspended license and an unregistered motor vehicle. The operator threw something out of the vehicle. It was a glass tube with tape on the end of it. The person denied it. The person was transported to the station for booking.

ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS Wednesday, Feb. 7

3:15 p.m. – An officer spoke with a resident about fraudulent charges on their bank account. The person's bank intervened on the matter and was able to ward off the attempted charges. The bank wanted the matter reported.

Sunday, Feb. 11

3:11 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Franklin Street. A vehicle entering traffic to go on Franklin Street, was struck by a second vehicle going south on Franklin Street. One person was transported to the hospital by Belchertown Fire and paramedics. Both vehicle were towed from the scene.

Monday, Feb. 12

10:08 a.m. – A resident called the department wishing to speak with the chief about getting their neighbors arrested. They made allegations of a previous theft. The previous theft was also reported to the department. The person was advised they could follow up with the investigating officer.

11:42 a.m. – Officers responded to the Eastern Hampshire District Courthouse to help a person making suicidal statements.

Tuesday, Feb. 13

12:26 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Federal Street. A vehicle traveling east on Federal Street when four deer crossed the road. The vehicle was able to

dodge the first three but struck the fourth. The deer was deceased upon the officer's arrival. No injuries were reported and no tows were needed.

3:23 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Federal Street. A vehicle traveling south on Federal Street was turning onto Allen Road when it was struck from behind by another vehicle. No injuries were reported and both vehicle were able to be driven from the scene.

6:15 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Federal Street. A vehicle traveling east on Federal Street said a deer ran into the roadway in front of the vehicle. The deer ran into the woods. The vehicle was able to drive a short distance home. No injuries were reported.

Granby Police Log

Editor's Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 130 calls for the week of Feb. 9 through Feb. 15. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The Granby Police Department provides all information.

Saturday, Feb. 10

1:44 a.m. – A motorist reported a single vehicle rollover accident. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries.

12:38 p.m. – A resident reported that it appears someone tried to break into their vehicle sometime last night. Officers responded and discovered that nothing was missing from the vehicle. An incident report was completed.

8:17 p.m. – An on-duty officer witnessed a minor two-car accident. There were no injuries.

Monday, Feb. 12

12:18 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 70 mph in 45 mph zone. The vehicle was stopped and the operator was issued a civil citation for speeding.

1:33 p.m. – A motorist reported a single vehicle rollover accident. Granby Police and Fire responded. The operator was transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

QHSUA from page 1

Starting in the winter of 2021, a small team of sexual and domestic violence providers and substance use disorder providers held three focus groups to learn what is needed to better serve people with SUD who are survivors of sexual or domestic violence.

"The key finding is there is an overwhelming overlap in SUD and SDV," Patrissi said. The majority of people (99%) in Bureau of Substance Addiction Services residential services have been impacted by sexual and domestic violence.

Another key finding during the focus groups was that while BSAS residential services used a trauma-informed approach, it did not address sexual or domestic violence directly out of concern that doing so could destabilize a person in early recovery.

Patrissi said the trauma-informed approach "is sensitive, but not addressing" sexual and domestic violence, and that providers shared that they don't have any tools to do so.

Patrissi said it is important to use the insights from the SDV field to look at relationships as a whole.

"Usually, we think of sexual domestic violence work as what happens with a couple. But this also applies to all relationships," she said.

Patrissi said there are eight fundamentally, deeply held beliefs that people have when they inflict dominance over others.

Believing that I can hurt or intimidate you or misuse my power or show contempt if I feel uncomfortable.

Believing that I am inherently superior, i.e., that males or White people are superior, or that traits culturally associated with "the feminine" are inferior (no matter your gender expression) or that identities "unlike my own" are inferior, such as nonbinary gender expression, age, race, (dis)ability, LGBTQ, etc.

Believing that it is your job to accept me as I am, no matter what I do.

Believing that I have the right to tear you down if you point out something about me that threatens my self-concept.

Believing that you must celebrate me, my self-perceived strengths, my growth and change, and not mention how little I have actually changed.

Believing that I can act disgusted and insulted and insulting if you point out significant things that I forget or do not know.

Believing that I can establish reality (fact patterns) to my liking.

Believing that I can be contemptuous or violent if you complain, because I should never be answerable to you.

"Any form of dominance uses this pattern, any at all," she said. "Abusive values impact us all. We're all in relationship to these."

Patrissi said no one is exempt from using these eight values and what makes you abusive is if someone shows you, "and you double down and do it more."

"The trauma is the impact," she said. "Hurt people don't hurt people. Millions of people are hurt and don't inflict hurt on others. It's hurt people with untransformed abusive values that hurt people."

Recognizing this is what helps

service providers be more responsive to the needs of survivors.

"We can validate all of the experiences and do them all. They're not separate," Patrissi said.

Patrissi said there are several trainings available, including Women's Residential Services that offers effective supports for survivors of sexual and domestic violence in recovery. This free, three-part, 12-hour training is skills based and will be held March 18-20 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

The training will look at non-dominant ways to work with resident survivors in their process of navigating their relationship and experiences of sexual violence in ways that align with recovery work; how to approach safety; and people and programs who serve as your community resources.

Patrissi said there is also a one-hour training called "Can They Really Change? Can We?" that will be held during the months of April, May and June and on demand.

This training allows peer workers and practitioners to strengthen their ability to assess the impact of intimate partner violence on the people in recovery they work with.

For advocates working with sexual violence survivors, the training, "Closing the Gap: Working with Survivors in Recovery," will demonstrate a noncoercive dialogue approach for advocates talking with survivors who may be thinking about recovery.

Learning Collaboratives meets monthly for two-hour sessions and Technical Assistance, helping

supervisors and others in BSAS contracted services to learn about and adapt best practices, screening tools or supervisory approaches to addressing the challenges of the SDV and SUD intersection in their work.

Technical Assistance (60-90 minute sessions) is available to service providers when complex challenges arise related to the SDV and SUD intersection.

The Cabinet, which advised the SDV + SUD Collaborative Project as a whole, works toward referrals and skills, an integrated service model, systems uses of power and cultivating a shared lens.

"Why we need to cultivate a shared lens," Patrissi said, when looking at SUD and SDV. "The substance use field grew up separately from the sexual and domestic violence field...progress has been made in substance use disorder but there is still a lot of work for sexual violence and domestic violence."

For more information about this initiative, available trainings, or other resources, visit www.growinganewheart.org.

Retirement

QHSUA's Prevention Director Gail Gramarossa announced that she will be retiring from her position at the end of March. Resumes are being accepted to fill the vacancy.

"I have no doubt we'll be able to find someone to pick up the projects and go from there," Gramarossa said.

A celebration will be scheduled later this year to celebrate Gramarossa's retirement, and QHSUA's 10-year anniversary.

Belchertown Fire announces open burning season

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

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

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

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

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

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

QVARC offers amateur radio exam on Feb. 27

WEST BROOKFIELD – Would you like to get on the air? Now could be your chance.

On Saturday, Feb. 27 at 5:30 p.m. at the West Brookfield Senior Center, Volunteer Examiners will administer an exam that will get you started to be licensed as a radio amateur by the FCC.

For more info, check out the Quaboag Valley Amateur Radio Club website at <https://qvarc.com/>.

Upcoming events

An "Opioids and Opioid Rescue Training" will be offered by Kirsten Krieger, Public Health Nurse on Monday, Feb. 26 at 4:30 p.m. at Education to Employment, 79 Main St., Ware. RSVP to Krieger by Feb. 23 by emailing kkrieger@townofware.com.

The next Palmer-focused substance use meeting will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 27 from 2:30-4 p.m. in the Palmer High School library.

Drug Endangered Children Awareness Training will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 27 from 2-4 p.m. and Wednesday, Feb. 28 from 10 a.m.-noon. For more information, contact Ellen Miller at District Attorney Joseph D. Early's Office by emailing ellen.miller@mass.gov.

Q-DRUG, an organization that is also celebrating 10 years this year, will host inspirational speaker Chris Herren on Thursday, March 7 at 6 p.m. at Quabbin Regional High School, 800 South St., Barre.

"The Evolving Dynamics of the Polysubstance Use Crisis" will be presented by District Attorney Joseph D. Early's Office on Thursday, Marcy 7 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at Worcester Technical High School, 1 Officer Manny Familia Way, Worcester. For more information, email luke.piers@mass.gov or caroline.root@mass.gov.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the QHSUA will be Monday, March 11.

Spring exhibitions open at Hampden Gallery

AMHERST – Cynthia Guild’s “FABRICATIONS and DREAMS” is open in the Main Gallery at UMass Amherst Fine Arts Center’s Hampden Gallery, along with Gonzalo Silva’s Obsessive Compulsive Drawings in the Incubator Project Space.

Fans of detailed pen illustrations and vivid oil paintings will love the skill and imagery found in both of these shows.

Both exhibitions will be open through May 3 and on view during Hampden Gallery’s regular hours. All are welcome to attend a public reception and artists’ talks

on Friday, April 5 from 5-7 p.m. Connecticut-based painter Guild will present two series of oil paintings and drawings: industrial, mechanical imagery juxtaposed with dreamy, snowy, alpine scenes of nature.

She is a two-time alumna of UMass Amherst, earning her bachelor’s degree in 1979 and her master’s degree in printmaking, with a focus on lithography and monotype, in 1989. She is now primarily an oil painter and has exhibited widely across Cuba and the U.S., most recently at the New Bedford Art Museum.

Guild will be giving an artist talk from 6-6:30 p.m. during the April 5 reception in which visitors can learn more about her background and process.

In Hampden Gallery’s Incubator Project Space, Chilean busking musician and artist Silva will be presenting his first-ever solo visual art exhibition.

“Obsessive Compulsive Drawings” is an exploration of the practical and creative uses of a black household ballpoint pen, which Silva has used to fill 8.5 by

Please see **GALLERY**, page 10



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Cynthia Guild’s oil on canvas “Sentinel 1” (2020), will be featured in her exhibition “FABRICATIONS and DREAMS” at Hampden Gallery at UMass Amherst Fine Arts Center.

Opioids and Opioid Rescue Training



- Understand what opioids are and why people become addicted.
- Address the stigma of addiction.
- How to recognize and respond to an overdose
- How to use Narcan (naloxone) safely and effectively
- Resources for help
- Narcan kit (free!)
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- Can be individual or small groups by appointment.

Join us for this in-person training at:

E2E (Education to Employment)

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On: February 26, 2024, at 4:30 pm

Presented By:

Kirsten L. Krieger RN, BSN

Public Health Nurse

(413) 967-9615

Email: kkrieger@townofware.com

Website: www.quabbinhealthdistrict.com

Please RSVP by 2/23/2024 to:

kkrieger@townofware.com

New Date and Time!

Training provided courtesy of the following organizations:



OBITUARY

Death Notice
Curto Jr., Thomas Anthony
Died Feb. 19, 2024
Services Feb. 26, 2024

The Sentinel
OBITUARY
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Thomas Anthony Curto Jr., 75



BELCHERTOWN – Thomas Anthony Curto Jr. of Belchertown passed away Feb. 19, 2024, at home surrounded by his family, at the age of 75.

He was born on June 23, 1948, in Springfield to Thomas and Rosemary (Durant) Curto. Tom was raised in Ludlow and graduated from Ludlow High School.

He proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy from 1967-1971. He moved to Belchertown in 1983 and has lived there ever since.

He was a communicant of St. Francis Church and worked as the maintenance supervisor. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus and a Past Grand Knight.

Tom coached softball, baseball, basketball and soccer for the Belchertown Recreation department since 1984. He umpired softball and baseball all throughout western Massachusetts and served as the Umpire in Chief for the Belchertown Little League for the past 13 years.

He loved watching his sons and grandchildren play sports as well as watching his daughters and granddaughters dance.

He was an avid Red Sox fan and loved to watch Western movies. He will be remembered for playing Santa at the Hampshire Mall, Randalls Farm and many private parties for years.



He is survived by his wife, Kathleen (Root) Curto of Belchertown and six children, Angela Curto of Belchertown, Thomas A. Curto III (Cassi) of Belchertown, Gina Perry of Belchertown, Mary Elizabeth O'Rourke (Brendan) of Dahlgren, Virginia, Frank Curto of Worcester and Louis Curto (Colleen) of Denver, Colorado. He also leaves four siblings, Lou Curto of Oldsmar, Florida, Mary Jo Cristina (Dennis) of Federal Way, Washington, Anthony Curto of Ludlow and Joseph Curto (Ellyn) of Chicopee. He will be deeply missed by his 10 grandchildren, Laura, Molly, Bella, Madelynn, Charlotte, Jeffrey, Oliver, Gus, Thomas, Finn and two on the way.

Calling hours will be held on Monday, Feb. 26, 2024, from 4-7 p.m. at the Beers & Story Belchertown Funeral Home. A Funeral Mass will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 27 at 11 a.m., please meet directly at the church. Burial with military honors will follow at 1 p.m. at the Massachusetts Veterans' Memorial Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his memory to the Belchertown Little League, P.O. Box 307, Belchertown, MA 01007. For more information visit www.beersandstory.com.

ASSE seeks host families for exchanges students

ASSE International Student Exchange Programs, a nonprofit, public benefit organization, is inviting local families to discover the many rewards of hosting a foreign exchange student.

ASSE students come from more than 50 countries worldwide: France, Denmark, Spain, Italy, Ukraine, Japan and Australia, to name a few. They are between the ages of 15 and 18 years, and they are enthusiastic and excited to experience American culture, family life, school, sports, etc.

Students also love to share their own culture and language with their host families, who welcome the students into their home, not as a guest, but as a family member, giving everyone involved a rich cultural experience. Host families may be single parents, couples and single persons.

The exchange students have pocket money for personal expenses and full health, accident and liability insurance. ASSE students are carefully selected based upon academics and personality,

and host families choose their student from a wide variety of backgrounds, countries and personal interests.

ASSE also offers qualified American students the opportunity to learn another language and culture by spending a school year, semester or a summer with a host family in another country.

Those interested in hosting an exchange student or becoming an exchange student abroad should call Alina at 1-800-677-2773, visit www.asse.com or send an email to asseusouth@asse.com to request more information or start the application process.

HCC celebrates Black History Month with series of events

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College is celebrating Black History Month in February with a series of events highlighting this year's national theme: "African Americans and the Arts."

"Black History is made every day," HCC President George Timmons said recently in a message to HCC students, faculty, and staff. "Let's explore, teach, and celebrate Black history in February and beyond. As part of my own celebrations, I pay tribute to the members of the Black community on our campus, and in particular to my colleagues and members of the student body. I am proud to work and learn alongside you."

On Thursday, Feb. 22 at 11 a.m., in Room 224 of the Campus Center, performance poet, playwright, and pop culture critic Nicole Young-Martin, Ed.D., will lead a program titled "Write the Way," during which she will read from her own work and engage in a discussion with students about the importance of including marginalized voices in the literary canon.

Black History Month at HCC concludes on Feb. 28 at 11 a.m. with a "Phenomenal Black Women's Panel" in Room 224 of the Campus Center. Julissa Colón, director of HCC's El Centro program, will moderate a panel that includes Jada J. Waters, Ed.D., director of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion at Middletown, Conn., public schools; Erika Slocumb, a Black history scholar and director of interpretation and visitor experience at the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center in Hartford, Conn.; Kandice E. Jones, a counselor from the Center for Human Development; and Qua'Nae Golston-Thomas, a student activist at Holyoke High School and podcast host of "Let's Talk With Qua'Nae" on Holyoke Media.

"With this panel, we are creating an opportunity for our students to see their reflections mirrored, learning from the participants' insights about what it means to aspire to our dreams and what it takes to live them," Colón said.

To learn more about Black History Month months at HCC or to participate over Zoom, please go to: hcc.edu/bhm.

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GALLERY from page 9

11 inch stationery, often his own mail, with beautifully intricate drawings.

Born in Santiago, Chile, Silva immigrated to Massachusetts as a child and later studied electric guitar and songwriting at Berklee College of Music. He went on to develop his music career as a busker in the subway tunnels of Boston and New York City.

Silva's artist talk will take place after Guild's, from 6:30-7 p.m. during the April 5 reception. He will also be giving a performance of original songs on bass guitar in the Hampden Gallery Sculpture Garden during the Fine Art Center's Spring Art Walk on Friday, April 19 from 3-6 p.m.

About Hampden Gallery
Hampden Gallery is located at Hampden Dining Commons, 131 Southwest Circle, and is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Gonzalo Silva's ballpoint black ink on paper "Untitled" (2022), will be featured in his exhibition "Obsessive Compulsive Drawings."

and Friday from 1-5 p.m. and Wednesday from 1-7 p.m. The gallery follows UMass' holiday schedule and is closed on snow days.

For more information, call 413-545-3394 or email hampdengallery@umass.edu.

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Logan Moses lunges to keep the ball in play.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Panthers stop Orioles

BELCHERTOWN – In their regular season finale, Orioles girls basketball was defeated by host Quabbin 41-21 last Wednesday. A lot of pressure by Quabbin was key in the defeat as Belchertown’s offense struggled at times during the matchup. Chloe LaRoche led the team with nine points while Morghan Litz scored seven points. The Orioles are unlikely to make the state tournament at 6-12 and a No. 44 ranking in Division 3.



Alexa Karabetsos sends a pass around the perimeter.

Miracle League to receive Doyle Award

SPRINGFIELD – The Miracle League of Western Massachusetts, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing inclusive baseball opportunities for individuals with disabilities, have been selected as the recipient of the Ryan Doyle Courage Award by the Western Mass Baseball Hall of Fame.

The Ryan Doyle Courage Award, named in honor of the late Ryan Doyle, a courageous young athlete who battled cancer, recognizes individuals or organizations that demonstrate exceptional courage, resilience, and dedication to the sport of baseball in Western Massachusetts. The Miracle League of Western Massachusetts was chosen for their unwavering commitment to creating an inclusive environment where all individuals, regardless of ability, can experience the joy of playing baseball.

Founded in 2015, the Miracle League of Western Massachusetts has been providing accessible baseball programs for children and adults with disabilities. Through their adaptive facilities and volunteer support, they ensure that every player has the opportunity to participate in America’s

Please see **AWARD**, page 12



Chloe LaRoche fakes and passes.



Gianna Picardi picks up a loose ball.



Morghan Litz looks for an opening to drive to the hoop.

Rams make Western Mass.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

GRANBY – Last Wednesday night, Granby girls basketball fell to Hampshire Regional 49-36 in its regular season finale. The Rams finished at 10-8 with Kalli

White leading the team with 20 points. The Rams will make the state tournament, but also qualified for Western Mass. this year. They participated in the Class D

tournament quarterfinals against the Pioneer Valley Christian Academy earlier this week. The state tournament begins next week.



Kalli White goes for the layup.



Breanna Moreno shoots in traffic.

Autumn Sicard makes her way down the court.



Aubrey Parent heads up to shoot.



Sophia Gagnon starts her way up the court.

SPORTS



Victoria Stephens heads up for a shot.



Greenly Lagimoniere looks to go for a layup.



Addison Doktor takes the free throw.

Pioneers win finale

PALMER – Last week, Pathfinder girls basketball defeated Sci-Tech for the second time this season, winning 59-41 at home in a game that was also their regular season finale. The Pioneers have made the state tournament at 10-6, but did not make Western Mass. and were scheduled for nonplay-off games earlier this week. In the win over Sci-Tech, Greenly Lagimoniere had 16 points while Victoria Stephens had 11 points. Addison Doktor added 10 points to the win. The state tournament begins next week.



Desiree Croteau sends a pass away.



Brianna Beynor goes after the tipoff.

Railers fall in shutout to Bears

ORLANDO, FL – The Worcester Railers HC (21-20-4-2, 48pts) got shutout by the Orlando Solar Bears (24-16-6-2, 56pts), on Thursday night by the final score of 4-0 in front of 5,684 fans at the Kia Center.

Orlando struck first with two quick goals late in the first period from Mitchell Hoelscher (1-1-2) and Alex Frye (1-0-1). Tanner Schachle (1-0-1) added one more in the second to push Orlando ahead 3-0 going into the third. Jimmy Mazza (1-0-1) ripped a shot down-ice off of the draw in the third period into an empty net to give Orlando the final goal of the game and a 4-0 victory over Worcester.

The Railers started off the first period strong. During the first ten minutes, the Railers utilized a two-man forecheck which led to some great chances down low and keeping both the puck in their offensive zone and the tired Solar Bear players on the ice. Despite their efforts early, the Solar Bears would light the lamp first. A shot from the point by

defenseman Zachary Massicotte was initially blocked out in front but found its way to an open Mitchell Hoelscher (22nd) who was sitting on the doorstep. The Solar Bears piled on the goal scoring just two minutes later with a 2-on-1 rush. Hoelscher would drag Railers Defenseman Ryan Dickinson to the far side boards to allow Forward Alex Frye (10th) to capitalize on the doorstep with a backhand shot to beat the outstretched John Muse. The Solar Bears outshot the Railers, 12-6.

The second period was a quiet one for the Railers. They would lead the period with shots on goal but none would result in a goal. The Railers had some great opportunities on their first power play of the game late in the period and built some strong momentum for them to carry into the third. However, the Solar Bears would continue to deal damage to the Railers with another late-period goal. Solar Bear forward Tyler Bird would enter the Railers defensive zone from the

far side and send a quick pass to the high slot. The puck bounced to forward Tanner Schachle (2nd) who picked up the loose puck and backhanded a shot through Muse. The Railers led the period and game with shots on goal 14-5 and 20-17.

The third period provided a mix of chances and physicality from both sides. John Muse did a great job shutting down an odd-man rush and breakaway opportunity just a few minutes into the period. Shortly after, the Railers would get their chances on net during their power-play chance. Tension throughout the game built up to the point where Railers Forward Jack Quinlivan dropped the gloves against Solar Bear Defenseman Jérémie Biakabutuka. The game was capped off with an empty net goal scored by Solar Bear Defenseman Jimmy Mazza with a final score of 4-0 in favor of Orlando. The Railers outshot the Solar Bears in the third and in the game, 16-8 and 36-25.

AWARD from page 11

favorite pastime. The organization has positively impacted the lives of countless individuals, fostering camaraderie, self-confidence, and a sense of belonging within the community.

The Miracle League of Western Massachusetts will be formally presented with the Ryan Doyle Courage Award at the Western Mass Baseball Hall of Fame induction ceremony on March 7th 6pm at Twin Hills Country Club in Longmeadow. This event brings together Western Mass baseball legends, enthusiasts, community leaders, and former MLB players to celebrate the accomplishments of the inductees.

For more information about the Miracle League of Western Massachusetts, their inclusive baseball programs and to volunteer, please visit <https://miracleleaguewestma.com/> or contact Brian Feeley at brian@miracleleaguewestma.com.

To Learn more about Ryan's story: Please visit the Ryan Doyle Foundation at <https://rd26.org/>.

For tickets to attend the induction dinner on March 7th please go to www.valleybluesox.com or email WMassHOF@valleybluesox.com

Checkers get best of T-Birds

CHARLOTTE, N.C. -- The Springfield Thunderbirds (23-20-3-2) were unable to complete a third-period comeback attempt, as they fell by a final score of 5-3 against the Charlotte Checkers (24-20-5-0) on Sunday inside Bojangles' Coliseum.

The Checkers carried much of the offensive play in the opening 10 minutes, making Malcolm Subban work a lot in the first period. Moments after a Springfield delay-of-game penalty ended, Charlotte maintained offensive pressure and got on the board as Gerry Mayhew found open ice in the low slot and one-touched a pass from Casey Fitzgerald through Subban at 9:22. The Checkers hit two other posts in the period on their way to outshooting Springfield 17-7 in the first frame.

Springfield had its own chance clip iron in the early stages, as Jakub Vrana narrowly missed giving the T-Birds a 1-0 edge when he one-timed a Ryan Suzuki saucer pass off the pipe behind Spencer Knight. Despite the disparity in shot attempts, the T-Birds still found a way to get the game evened up when Zach Dean deflected a Leo Loof shot from the left circle all the way to the crease and through Knight's legs with just 1:09 left in the first, tying the game, 1-1.

The tying marker, however, proved to do little to quell Charlotte's offensive mojo in the second period. Another lengthy defensive zone sequence for the T-Birds ended in a Ryan McAllister one-time goal at 2:13 of the middle frame. Springfield's penalty kill then got dented for the first time in the season series at 10:49 when Zac Dalpe found a loose puck deep in the blue paint before Subban and the defense could clear it away. The Checker captain's 12th goal of the season upped the lead to 3-1, which would stand through the end of the second. Charlotte outshot Springfield 33-12 through 40 minutes.

Springfield threatened another third period comeback just 41 seconds into the third as Joey Duszak wristed a shot over Knight's blocker to make it a 3-2 game off assists from Matthew Peca and Adam Gaudette. Despite a heavy presence in the Charlotte zone in the opening half of the final frame, the score stayed 3-2 until Justin Sourdif guided a Mayhew centering pass through Subban to restore the two-goal cushion for the Checkers at 12:04.

Still undeterred, Peca and the T-Birds responded in kind just 48 seconds later, as the captain circled the offensive zone before elevating a wrist shot through traffic and over Knight's glove to cut it down to a 4-3 score.

With 2:51 remaining, the Springfield power play was given a grand opportunity following a tripping penalty on Sourdif, but the Charlotte penalty killers answered the call, and another Springfield minor penalty nullified the power play and spoiled any chances

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

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY
WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

EDUCATION

Jabish Brook Middle School announces honor roll

BELCHERTOWN – Jabish Brook Middle School announces the second quarter Honor Roll for the 2023-2024 school year.

Grade Eight, High Honors

Myra Ablicki, Camilla Adamczyk, Harper Bean, Kaidin Brodeur, Jason Carlson, Thomas Chien, Brenna Courchesne, Jacob Desroches, Charlie Goldman, Brennan Griffin, Lucas Haluch, Matthew Harrington, Sakura Hartsfield, Salem Hubbard, Aubrey Klingensmith, Ryan Lacroix, Andrew Lambert, Samantha Letzeisen, Lian, Cassidy MacLean, Sokoldara Mao, Brody Pope, Alexa Raymer, Kylie Rose, Kayla Roy, Kina Roy, Amara Servant, Gabriella Slovack, Margaret Wheeler and Madeline Williams.

Grade Eight, Honors

Ameyo Eku Ampiah-Bonney, Kylie Annear, Amelie Avgoustakis, James Bentley, Bridget Breton, Haylee Catyb, Cayan, Leilani Charles, Derek DeLorenzo, Rachel Dorman, Lacey Douillard, Jonas Fasser, Kylie Fitzgerald, Tyler Goulet, Adelina Gualberto, Carter Hampson, Scott Holmes, Serena Jones, Rebecca Keeler, Casey Lafayette, Nathan Leblond, Liam Longacre, Braedan Longe, Nick McArdle, Jocelyn McMahon, Quinn McNamara, Kendra Mercado, Henry Mueller, Addyson Patruno, Grace Perron, Addison Piedade, Adryan Roy, Aiden Roy, Kian Roy, Lucas Roy,

Miles Sheldon, Olivia Skora, Ava Swiatlowski, Angela Vanderpuije, Owen Wallace and John Yoon.

Grade Seven, High Honors

Cecilia Bermudez, Nolan Chianciola, Charles Cozine, Jeremiah Dahlke-Wheeler, Maeve Donah, Xavier Fjeld, Jackson Goodsell, Greta Marie Kristensen, Madison Lacroix, Harper Laurenzo, Piper Laurenzo, Amalie Martins, Eleanor Mazzaferro, Kyla Riley, Ava Stelmokas and Juliette Wojnas.

Grade Seven, Honors

Madison Almeida, Matthew Almeida, Linnea Anderson, Bridget Benoit, Gianna Boisjolie, Lillian Boyko, Calvin Breyare, Ashlynn Brunell, Kylee Burnham, Quinten Chen, Connor Cormier, Jillian Currier, Mary DiBona, Devin Duquette, Hannah Fillion, Michael Fontaine, Jake Foss, Shannon Fuller, Patrick Gibson, Celia Goodrich, Grace Gouvin, Vivienza Haggerty, Zoey Hale, Noah LaSante, Nathaniel Lewis, Lian, Ryan Longe, Nathan Loranger, Landon MacDonald, Lily Mann, Max Matthews, Charles Maurer, Jeremy Metzger, Annabelle Morra, Hunter Neiford, Gina O'Connell, Jacob O'Connor, Jada Okyere Baffour, Janice Okyere Baffour, Joshua Page, Annalie Roggie, Kierstyn Shaink, Ashley Kanmisse Siri, Ryan Smolinski, Tyler Stahl, Ella Stelmokas, Shay Teixeira, Lucy Toner, Lydia Wentworth, Kaelyn Williams and Jordan Winfield.

T-BIRDS from page 12

of a tying goal. Mayhew finished his three-point night, finding the empty net with just over 30 seconds to play.

It marked Charlotte's first win in four tries this season against

the Thunderbirds. Springfield returns home to begin a three-game weekend on Friday as the I-91 rival Hartford Wolf Pack comes to town. Puck drop is set for 7:05 p.m. at the MassMutual Center this Friday night.

CAMPUS NOTES

Zachary Poulin earns Dean's List for fall semester

BOSTON – Emerson College student Zachary Poulin from Amherst was named to the Dean's List for the fall 2023 semester.

Poulin is majoring in Journalism and is a member of the Class of 2025.

The requirement to make Dean's List is a grade point average of 3.7 or higher for that semester.

Joey Deprey makes Dean's List at Curry College

MILTON – Curry College congratulates Joey Deprey of Granby who was named to the fall 2023 Dean's List.

Muhlenberg College announces Dean's List students

ALLENTOWN, PA – The following local students were named to the Muhlenberg College Dean's List for the fall 2023 semester: Jack Kent and Jonathan Toth, both of Granby.

Muhlenberg College students and Muhlenberg College School of Continuing Studies students with a term GPA of 3.50 or higher were recognized for this academic achievement.

Local students named to Hamilton College Dean's List

CLINTON, NY – The following local residents were named to the Dean's List at Hamilton College for the 2023 fall semester:

Carter Hampson of Amherst, a senior majoring in economics, is a graduate of Deerfield Academy; Stuart May of Amherst, a first-year student, is a graduate of Livermore High School; and Anna Richardson of Granby, a junior majoring in government and Hispanic studies, is a graduate of Williston Northampton School.

To be named to the Dean's List, a student must have carried a course load of four or more graded credits throughout the semester and earned an average of 3.5 or above on a 4.0 scale.

Local residents named to Clark University's Dean's List

WORCESTER – The following local residents were named to Clark University's fall 2023 Dean's List including from Amherst, Philly E. Brainin, first honors and Courtneigal L. Rose, first honors; Belchertown, Nicholas C. Brunelle, first honors and Jonah R. Scudere-Weiss, first honors; and Granby, Luz M. Suarez Canton Trueba, first honors.

Elms College lists Belchertown graduates

CHICOPEE – College of Our Lady of the Elms congratulates 75 students who graduated in December 2023 following the conclusion of the fall 2023 semester including Belchertown residents Lily Guerin, who earned a bachelor's degree in education studies and Jillian Harrington who earned a certificate of advanced graduate study in education studies.

Workshop13 Players announce audition dates

WARE –The Workshop13 Players will hold cold auditions on Feb. 26 and 27 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.



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PUBLIC NOTICES

Belchertown Planning Board Public Hearing Special Permit Legal Notice

In accordance with the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40A, Sections 9 and 11, the Planning Board will hold a public hearing to discuss a special permit application for an accessory apartment by Shelly Galloway for 148 Metacomet St., Map 104, Lot 1, Belchertown, MA.

A public hearing will be held as follows:

Place: Belchertown Town Hall, 2 Jabish St., Belchertown, MA

Date: March 12, 2024

Time: 7:00 PM

Remote access information:

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The application is available for inspection during regular business hours at the Town Clerk and Planning Board office, 2 Jabish Street.

Daniel Beaudette
 Chair, Planning Board
 02/22, 02/29/2024

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Docket No. HS24P0032EA

Estate of:

Stephanie M. Moriarty

Date of Death: 10/04/2019

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:

A Petition for S/A - Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment has been filed by Patricia Moriarty of Granby, 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: **Patricia Moriarty of Granby, 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 03/20/2024.

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)

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

Date: February 15, 2024
 Mark S. Ames
 Temporary Register
 02/22/2024

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

Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP

Direct Support Professional

Looking for someone who is dependable and energetic with excellent social skills who likes working with people. You will be working with an adult female with developmental disabilities in a home setting in the hill-town area, providing 1:1 support in a self-directed day program. Responsibilities include working on achieving goals set through her program, assist with appointments, basic meal prep, basic hygiene and documentation on Microsoft Word.

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If interested mail or email your resume to: Multicultural Community Services 1000 Wilbraham Road, Springfield, MA 01109 or Lisapodworsi@mcsnet.org.

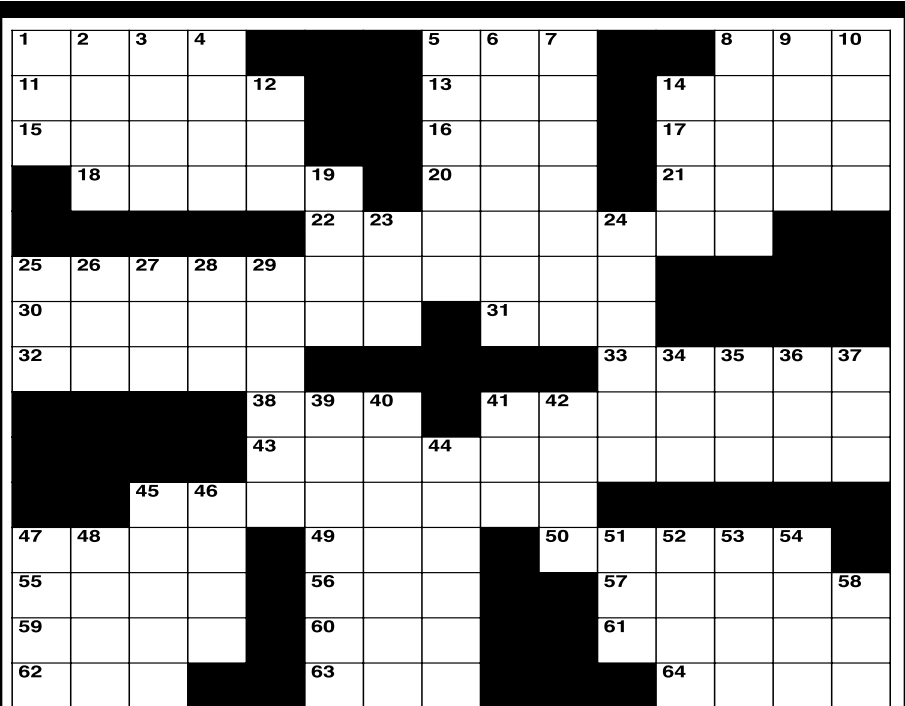
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Golf scores
5. Shock therapy
8. Ballplayer's tool
11. Quench one's thirst
13. Female relatives of American war vets (abbr.)
14. Every one of two or more things
15. Member of Muslim people
16. Play
17. Type of cheese
18. Type of lounge chair
20. ___ King Cole, musician
21. Fellows
22. North, Central and South
25. In an early way
30. Foes
31. Georgia rockers
32. Cryptocurrency
33. Narrow path
38. Disallow
41. Joyousness
43. Inaccessible
45. Evoke emotions
47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
49. Boston Celtic punk rockers (abbr.)
50. Sword
55. Actor Idris
56. Affirmative (slang)
57. Afflicted
59. One point north of northeast
60. Born of
61. Arabic name
62. Traumatic brain injury (abbr.)
63. Extremity
64. Post
3. Indian king
4. Type of milk
5. One who brings home the bacon
6. More comprehensible
7. Connected with sense of touch
8. Red mineral
9. Breezed through
10. Therefore
12. Supplement with difficulty
14. Early kingdom of Syria
19. Satisfy
23. They confuse doctors (abbr.)
24. Brass instrument
25. Domesticated animal
26. Ribonucleic acid
27. Snake-like fish
28. Woman (French)
29. Economically-minded aircraft
34. When you hope to get somewhere
35. Tease
36. Actress Gretchen
37. Midway between northeast and east
39. Inoffensive
40. Yellowish cotton cloth
41. Consume
42. Does not tell the truth
44. Improved something
45. Spiritual leader
46. Abba __, Israeli politician
47. Fix
48. Evergreen tree genus
51. Swiss river
52. Prejudice
53. Major C. European river
54. Long, narrow strap
58. Male parent

CLUES DOWN

1. Pacific Standard Time
2. Protruding ridge on

Carey announces candidacy for Clerk of Courts



TURLEY PHOTO BY NICK BOONSTRA

State Rep. Dan Carey announced his candidacy for Clerk of Courts.

BY NICK BOONSTRA
Staff Writer
nboonstra@turley.com

NORTHAMPTON – State Rep. Dan Carey (D-2nd Hampshire) formally announced his candidacy for Hampshire County Clerk of Courts in an event at the Hotel Northampton on Feb. 17.

Carey, who has served in the state legislature since 2018, said in brief remarks at the event that his decision to run came in the wake of the news that incumbent Clerk of Courts Harry Jekanowski, Jr., would be retiring after nearly three decades in the role.

“Harry’s 40-year professional career has been marked by competence, integrity and kindness,” Carey said.

Carey told attendees that he had “the lucky experience of watching many people very close to me engage in careers of pub-

lic service.” He shared that this motivated him to pursue his own career in politics, first as a member of the Easthampton School Committee, then the City Council and most recently the state’s House of Representatives.

At one point, Carey drew from across the political aisle for inspiration, saying, “The late Senator John McCain once said, ‘Nothing in life is more liberating than to fight for a cause larger than yourself.’” He said that the statement resonated with him in his own experience as a public servant.

He also shared that the law had been a longtime passion of his, another interest that he had gleaned from family members.

“By watching and listening to my lawyer relatives, I came to appreciate the critical role of the law in our society, and the importance of respect for the rule of law in our democracy,” he said.

Carey felt that running for

Hampshire County Clerk of Courts would allow him to “join my love of public service with my profound respect for the rule of law, and to ensure that the Hampshire County Superior Court remains among the very best in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.”

He added that his decision to run for Clerk of Courts was not a decision he took lightly.

“Tragically, in some parts of our country, our core institutions of democracy are under attack through threats against election officials, intimidation on court clerks and the attempted subversion of the rule of law by violence,” Carey said. “We cannot and will not allow that here.”

Carey’s next step will be to gather signatures to get his name on the Democratic primary ballot. Primaries for Massachusetts elections are scheduled for Sept. 3 of this year.

Virtual cancer support groups offered for patients and families

During a cancer journey patients and their families often benefit from the support of others. Virtual support groups will be held in 2024 by Camille St. Onge, LICSW, and oncology social worker.

For many years, people had to travel to a predetermined location in order to attend addiction support group meetings. As a result of restrictions during the COVID-

19 pandemic and because of the increasing availability of digital services, these groups now meet online.

“Offering support groups virtually brings people together regardless of their location,” said St. Onge in a press release. “Sharing concerns with a support group can be a beneficial way for people facing cancer to get the help they need to cope with the physical

and emotional concerns that arise during and after a cancer diagnosis. While support and self-help groups can vary greatly, groups share one thing in common, they are a place where people can share personal stories, express emotions, and be heard in an atmosphere of acceptance, understanding, and encouragement.”

The support groups are designed to help patients, their

families, and caregivers cope with the challenges of a cancer diagnosis.

Virtual Support Group offered include General Cancer Support Group on the first Wednesday of each month from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Partners in Caregiving on the second Wednesday of each month from 5-6:30 p.m.; Expressive Writing through Cancer on the third Wednesday of

each month from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; Breast Cancer Support Group on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

All meetings are currently held virtually and made possible by funds raised by the Walk of Champions. For more information contact Camille St. Onge, LICSW, Oncology Social Worker by calling 413-239-7239 or by emailing cstomagin@gmail.com.



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