

Select Board discusses town's opioid settlement funds

BY MELINA BOURDEAU
Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN – The Opioid Settlement Fund Advisory Committee presented its goals and progress on them since its formation in October of 2023

to the Select Board at Monday night's meeting.

Members of the committee include Drug-Free Communities Program Director Kris Hoag, Belchertown Overcoming Adversity Together member Kim Dewey, representatives from the

Quabbin Health District, Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance and law enforcement.

In February, Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell announced a \$350 million national settlement with Publicis Health, resolving the Commonwealth's litigation

against the marketing and communications firm for its role in the opioid crisis.

Massachusetts is set to receive \$8 million from the settlement.

"The settlement will fund the state's Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund to provide sup-

port for opioid use disorder prevention, treatment, recovery, and harm reduction efforts throughout Massachusetts," according to a press release from the AG's office. Of this, Belchertown has over \$150,000.

Please see **FUNDS**, page 4

Planning Board OK's Open Space Plan

BY NICK BOONSTRA
Staff Writer
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BELCHERTOWN – The Planning Board endorsed the proposed Open Space and Recreation Plan as it was presented by Conservation Administrator Sarah Fortune at the board's meeting on Feb. 27, recommending it for inclusion in the town's Master Plan.

The plan had already received approval from the state, but was met with hesitancy by the Select Board at their Feb. 20 meeting, with no vote being taken on approval after concerns were raised over issues such as the plan's length and its perceived tone about the direction of the town going forward.

Fortune addressed these and other concerns for the Planning Board. On the document's length, which totals over 600 pages, Fortune said that it was written in accordance with requirements from the Commonwealth's Division of Conservation Services, and that nearly half of that page count was devoted to a highly technical appendix addressing compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

She also clarified that this plan was "not necessarily meant to be a document that you read front to back," but was instead "a planning document," she said, one to be referenced when and as needed.

"Have I read the whole document? Yes – but it's not my nighttime reading," she said.

Planning Board Chair Dan Beaudette related concerns from the Select Board about the document's tone toward the town's future, but did not necessarily share them himself. He said that there had been "concerns about the tone of the conclusions about the direction of the town," particularly with regard to housing developments.

Please see **OPEN SPACE**, page 4



Belchertown photographer Elaine Darr-Morton will be featured at the Quabbin Art Association's new member exhibit at the Clapp Memorial Library this month.

Quabbin Art Association sponsors March exhibit



South Hadley artist Dianne Chagnon will display her acrylic paintings at the Clapp Memorial Library.

BELCHERTOWN – The Quabbin Art Association announces a new member exhibit for March at the Clapp Memorial Library, featuring local photographer Elaine Darr-Morton and acrylic artist Dianne Chagnon.

This is their first time showing work at the Clapp Memorial Library.

Belchertown resident Darr-Morton is a seasoned photographer with nearly 20 years of experience including memberships with the Quabbin Photo Group and Pioneer Valley Photographic Artists. Her work is widely known throughout the Pioneer Valley and has been regularly on exhibit at venues such as the Robert Floyd Gallery in Southamptn, Baystate Medical Center, Franklin Medical Center, Northampton Cooperative Bank, and the Nashawanuck Gallery in Easthampton.

Chagnon is a native of South Hadley and a new member of the Quabbin Art Association. She has always had a creative side, but began

Please see **EXHIBIT**, page 16

SB hears concerns about gravel permit

BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS
Staff Writer
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GRANBY – The Selectboard met to go over various business items, but also held a special council discussion open to the public to discuss the gravel permit for LJ Development.

The Feb. 26 meeting featured Chair Glen N. Sexton, Clerk Crystal Dufresne, and member Richard Beaulieu.

Continued gravel permit hearing

The Selectboard hosted a special council discussion inviting members of the community to come and share their concerns, questions, and opinions regarding the upcoming gravel permit requested by LJ Development.

The request is for a gravel pit to be built off of Trompke Avenue and Batchelor Street near Batchelor Brook and will include the removal of sand and gravel. The plan would cover eight years to remove 292,000 cubic yards of sand and gravel from the 19-acre lot.

The work would involve about nine trucks, operating from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., carrying this sand and gravel back and forth in residential areas.

Several members of the community came forward to express their concerns and opposition to the permit being granted, which was done in a similar way just over a decade before in 2011.

Their concerns were centered around the ecological effects of the building, but also the effects of the amount of dust and construction will affect the surrounding neighborhoods and schools.

They discussed a board hearing that occurred 12 years before about the construction of a new road, and it was denied by the people of the town. "It should be the applicant, solely, that has to pay for the road, before they take out any of the dirt," one resident said.

Please see **GRANBY**, page 5

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COMMUNITY

QAA to host local artist Steve Wilda

BELCHERTOWN – The Quabbin Art Association will host guest presenter Steve Wilda, at their regular meeting this month.

The QAA meeting will be held on Thursday, March 21, at St. Francis Parish Hall, Lower Level, 12 Park St., starting at 7 p.m. followed by Wilda's presentation.

Attendees are asked to wear a face covering if you have been exposed to COVID or other respiratory viruses. Please consider joining us at another time if you have a cough.

Wilda is a native of Hadley, a lifelong artist, and worked in the commercial art field before making the transition to fine art.

Wilda stated in a press release, "Art has always been an integral aspect of my life. I'm a self-taught artist, and life-long resident of western Massachusetts. My career as a professional artist began in the graphic arts field, freelancing and specializing in hand lettering, display work and illustration in the form of children's books and calendars. In 1999 I made the transition from commercial art to fine art. Graphite seemed like the natural direction to pursue, as I always had an admiration for black and white photography and films. I was also drawn to its fundamental quality."

Eventually, he curated an exhibition of graphite and charcoal artists called "Leaving Our Mark: In Celebration the Pencil," at the D'Amour Museum of Fine Art in Springfield. He has received top honors from the American Artist Professional League, and the National Society of Painters



"Lemon Drops" by Steve Wilda.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

in Casein & Acrylic in New York City.

His drawings and paintings have appeared in national art

books such as "Acrylic Works", "Splash", and "Strokes of Genius".

Wilda is a member of the National Society of Painters in Casein and Acrylic, Allied Artists of America, Academic Artists Association in Springfield, and the Connecticut Academy of Fine Arts in Mystic. His drawings are in permanent collections at the Farnsworth Art Museum, Rockland, Maine, and the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum, Wausau, Wisconsin.

For more information about his work, please visit: www.stevewilda.com.

Funding for this program is supported in part by a grant from the Belchertown Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. For more information visit www.quabbinartassociation.com.



"This Side of Town" by Steve Wilda.

Belchertown Community TV Schedule Highlights

- Thursday, March 7**
 - 8 a.m. – Select Board – March 4 meeting
 - 10 a.m. – Finance Committee – Feb. 27 meeting
 - Noon – Agricultural Commission – March 6 meeting
 - 7 p.m. – Select Board – March 4 meeting
 - 9 p.m. – Finance Committee – March 27 meeting
- Friday, March 8**
 - 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
 - 5 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- Saturday, March 9**
 - 8 a.m. – Are You Smarter than a Liberian
 - 5 p.m. – Are You Smarter than a Liberian
- Sunday, March 10**
 - 4:30 p.m. – St. Francis Roman Catholic Church
 - 6 p.m. – Christ Community Church
- 7 p.m. – Hope United Methodist Church
- 8:30 p.m. – BVJ – How to Run for Office in Belchertown
- Monday, March 11**
 - 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
 - 5 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman
 - 7 p.m. – Conservation Commission – Channel 192
- Tuesday, March 12**
 - 8 a.m. – JBMS – New School Cost and Design
 - 5 p.m. – JBMS – New School Cost and Design
 - 7 p.m. – Planning Board – Channel 191
- Wednesday, March 13**
 - 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
 - 5 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman
 - 6:30 p.m. – Board of Health – Channel 191

Belchertown Democrats elect delegates for convention

BELCHERTOWN – During an open caucus on Feb. 24, Belchertown Democrats elected nine delegates to attend the 2024 Democratic State Convention.

At the convention, delegates will choose a party-endorsed candidate for U.S. Senate. This candidate will run in the September primary, and the winner will be the Democratic candidate on the November ballot.

Senator Elizabeth Warren is actively seeking the nomination.

The nine delegates elected were Debbie Aickelin, Mike Caney, Marilyn Decker, Lynette Knapp, Lesa Lessard Pearson, Bjorn Markeson, Libby Overly, Mike Potishnak, and Jeff Schrenzel. The alternates elected were Ken Elstein, Fay Flanary, Shelagh Lessard Pearson, and Cindy Loiselle.

Others serving as delegates from Belchertown will be State Rep. Aaron Saunders and Hampshire County Registrar of Deeds Mary Olberding.

Church hosts annual Easter Egg Hunt on March 23

BELCHERTOWN – Hop over to Christ Community Church, 1255 Federal St., on March 23 from 10-11:30 a.m. for the annual Easter Egg Hunt.

This is a free event for the community and registration opens at 10 a.m. There will be several egg hunts based on age group (up to the age of 10).

In addition to the egg hunt,

there will also be arts and crafts, face painting, snacks and more. Complimentary Easter egg bags will be provided at registration (while supplies last).



The Easter Egg Hunt is for ages 10 and under.

For more information, visit www.graceforthehunt.org or contact the church by emailing office@graceforthehunt.org or calling 413-253-0292.

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Belchertown photographer exhibiting at Cooley Dickinson



"Spillway in Painterly Mode" by Jim Gambaro is displayed at Cooley Dickinson Hospital's North Gallery.



"Vintage Heron" by Jim Gambaro is featured in All Things Animal at ArtWorks Gallery.

BELCHERTOWN – An eclectic display of work by local fine art photographer Jim Gambaro is currently on display in the North Gallery at Cooley Dickinson Hospital, 30 Locust St., in Northampton.

Images are as diverse as a sunset at Quabbin Reservoir to a street scene in the Galapagos. New work includes a variety of images from Southwest canyons.

The exhibition will be on view through the end of April.

"I have always looked for subjects and lighting that stimulate the child's 'wow' factor in my mind's eye, zeroing in on details small and large, on landscapes both natural and constructed, and on places distant and close to home," Gambaro said in a press release. "If the images in this exhibit manage to convey some of the pleasure I experienced in their creation, I consider them successful."

He defines his goal as an artist to pass along "the simple pleasures of seeing." Many of his photographs can be seen in his online gallery, <https://jimgambarophotography.zenfolio.com>.

Gambaro also has three photographs in the current All Things Animal exhibition at the ArtWorks Gallery, 69 Main St. in Ware,



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Belchertown fine art photographer Jim Gambaro is featured at the North Gallery at Cooley Dickinson Hospital in Northampton.



"Arches Desert Pool" by Jim Gambaro, is currently in the Cooley Dickinson exhibition.

which is open Saturdays and Sundays, from 1-4 p.m.

His varied background includes a bachelor's degree in art education from Montclair University, followed by work as a junior high art instructor, journalist, commer-

cial photographer, news photographer and human service worker.

The art galleries at Cooley Dickinson are a project of the Friends of Cooley Dickinson Hospital and a portion of sales benefits the hospital.

Library hosts fraud prevention seminar March 9

AMHERST – Learn to protect yourself from the newest fraud schemes at this fraud prevention seminar on Saturday, March 9 from 3-4 p.m. in the Woodbury Room at the Jones Library.

From identify theft to fraud schemes and cybercrime; the ways criminals tar-

get you, your information, and your money are growing. Join library staff as Madison Kinney, from the local branch of BankESB, shares the latest news on the most prevalent scams and what you can do to prevent being taken.

Free and open to the public.

OPEN SPACE from page 1

He went on to explain that there was a worry that the document was using scare tactics to argue that, "as the town slowly approached its build-out maximum, it would be turned into a wall-to-wall suburban area." However, Beaudette did not find the plan to be nearly so aggressive, saying at one point, "I don't know how you would give any data to support that conclusion."

Fortune also responded to that concern by explaining that the plan was meant to be "more of a conversation starter" that would get the town to consider the direction in which it is headed, rather than a document written in stone that would firmly dictate the town's future.

Planning Board member Elizabeth Pols echoed Beaudette's sentiment, emphasizing that a survey conducted in conjunction with the formation of this plan came back

with strong sentiment for the town's rural character, but saying that "it sure doesn't sound like we're going to develop every square inch of the place" in the proposed plan.

Planning Board Vice Chair Mike Hoffer also underscored that this Open Space and Recreation Plan was to be "only one facet of the Master Plan." He added, "Nothing here is written for the very last time in its very last version."

The Select Board did not revisit consideration of the Open Space and Recreation Plan during their meeting on March 4. However, the state's approval of the plan at the start of February has already made the town eligible to apply for grants from the Division of Conservation Services, according to a letter from the state's Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, the considerations of the Select and Planning Boards notwithstanding.

FUNDS from page 1

Advisory committee member Gail Gramarossa spoke to the Select Board regarding uses for the funds.

She began by reminding the board where the money came from.

"These are funds out of settlement with our attorney general joining onto national lawsuits against producers, distributors and manufacturers of opioids," she said. "The idea is that these dollars are supposed to be used to mitigate the impact of the opioid epidemic. They can be used for prevention, treatment or recovery."

She said the idea is that services aren't suplicated but enhanced or more widely available.

She asked the board for guidance on the committee's next steps.

Thus far, the committee has met three times since its formation and has finalized its goals and its charges.

The committee is also consulting with local regional agencies such as Hampshire Hope.

"Several communities have already put together surveys to get more community input," she said.

When asked if there is a deadline of when the money has to be spent by, Gramarossa said there isn't a deadline so to speak.

"There is a reporting process that every municipality has to once a year, will have a dashboard for the public to see what cities and towns have spent," she said. "It's deliverable and every community has to think about it."

Select Board

member Lesa Lessard-Pearson asked if the committee considered a regional approach.

Gramarossa said yes.

"Everybody is getting differing amounts of money and remember that from year to year, not every community is getting the same amount of money. So, thinking about regional projects where multiple communities contribute in order to be able to do sustainable things," she said.

Select Board member Ron Aponte said one of his thoughts included transportation.

"So there probably will be a tendency towards a regional approach, I would also look at transportation," he said.

Select Board member Peg Louraine agreed as well, adding that there is a mental illness element as well.

Gramarossa agreed.

"These funds can be used for that kind of support even for someone who is in recovery, who had another chronic health condition," she said.

Select Board member Jen Turner brought up the idea of having office hours in the town for members to be able to hear from the public.

One possible idea is listening sessions for people to be able to share their ideas for using the funds.

Gramarossa said the committee members would come back to report to the board in "whatever frequency makes sense."

She said that having the sessions recorded for later use would also be an option.

At its next meeting, the committee will be reorganizing after the chair stepped down.

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Town announces board, committee vacancies

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

Those who have time and are interested in getting involved in the town’s activities are asked to submit a letter of interest to: Select Board, The Finnerty House, One South Main Street, P.O. Box 670, Belchertown, MA 01007, or by email to select-board@belchertown.org (unless otherwise indicated below).

The town has announced that it wishes to fill the following vacancies:

Trail Stewardship Council *One vacancy*

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

Deadline: Friday, March 29

Animal Control Advisory Board *Three vacancies*

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

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

Deadline: Friday, March 29

Communications Committee *Three vacancies*

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

Deadline: Friday, March 29

Zoning Board of Appeals *One Associate Member seat*

The Town wishes to fill one Associate Member seat on the Zoning Board of Appeals. The ZBA is responsible for hearing and deciding on applications for Special Permits, Variances and Appeals from decisions of the Zoning Enforcement Officer/ Building Inspector.

Deadline: Friday, March 29

Historic District By-Law Commission *One Real Estate seat*

The Town wishes to fill a full member seat (Real Estate Seat) on the Historic District By-Law Commission. The Commission has regulatory control over new construction, reconstruction, alterations, movements, and demolition of all exterior architectural

features of buildings and structures within the Historic District which are visible from any public street, public way, or public park.

Deadline: Friday, March 29

Belchertown Family Center Committee *Three Active Voting Member positions*

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

Deadline: Friday, March 29

Council on Aging *One vacancy*

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

Deadline: Friday, March 29

Belchertown Age and Dementia Friendly Implementation Group *One vacancy*

The Belchertown Age and Dementia Friendly Implementation Group is looking to fill a vacancy for a community member. The main goal of the team is to implement the recom-

Please see **VACANCIES**, page 13

Logos sought for 165th Belchertown Fair

BELCHERTOWN – The Friends of the Belchertown Fair are 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.

GRANBY from page 1

“I have a concern that if this is approved, who will control the number of loads delivered per day,” another resident said. “I think that needs to be looked at very closely.”

He explained his experience in the trucking industry, and the dangers associated with many loads of asphalt and dirt deliveries, as well as his concern for the amount of traffic the construction project can create.

A local clinical audiologist came forward to express her concerns about the amount of noise the trucks and construction will cause, and the damage it can cause after long periods of time.

“I’m really concerned about the overall health of all the residents that will be exposed to this. Not just to the noise and vibrations of the project, but also to the exposure of diesel fuel, all of which have many dire health effects,” she said.

New business and information

The board accepted various departmental reports, and then moved on to approve and sign maintenance warrants including payroll, salaries, and bills for the schools including oil.

The board then moved on to the 2024 Common Victualer’s Licenses, and approved of a wine license, and a waiver fee request for Granby’s Elderly Incorporated.

They also approved of an entertainment license for the Friends of the Granby Elderly to provide entertainment in the gazebo in the form of live music.

They also reviewed and signed the sewer letters to go out to the town. “I think the only thing we changed was the intermunicipal agreement,” Dufresne said. “We added that language to it.”

The sewer letters will be sent out to inform people that there will be an increase in the billing.

The board discussed the special council meeting coming up, which will detail the upcoming public hearing about the final decision on the gravel permit from LJ Development.

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OPINION



Blueberry pruning 101

My blueberry bushes came to me as full grown plants uprooted from an acquaintance's yard. He needed the space for something else, so I happily agreed to take the eight bushes off of his hands. They struggled a lot the first few years of being in their new home, I think because the move was a stressful one.



Over the last couple of seasons we've seen more fruit production, thankfully, but I know there should be more. I think I may need to improve my pruning practices.

We are nearing the end of the dormant season, but if I get right to it, the job can still be accomplished this year.

There are many good reasons to prune in the dormant season. Because there are no leaves on the bushes, you can really take a good look at what you have to work with. You can notice off-colors, bent branches and the like when there is no leaf cover.

Late February into early March is perfect timing because theoretically the coldest part of the winter has passed. Sometimes pruning reduces cold hardiness, but like I mentioned, we should be OK since we are nearing winter's end.

Some rules transfer from pruning one type of plant to another; in other words, you'd make these same type of considerations for pruning roses or other woody plants. Let's call these the obvious cuts.

First concentrate on dead wood. Prune away any entirely dead branches all the way to the ground.

If parts of branches are dead, make a cut to the next living part of the branch. If you see anything that looks diseased or a little "off," cut that section or branch away too.

Sometimes branches get damaged from animals or ice storms. Likewise, cut damaged branches back to a section that shows no signs of damage.

Now it gets a little more tricky, but it still should be straightforward and it applies to mature blueberry plants, not new plantings or super old neglected bushes.

Look at the base of your plant. Is it wider than 18 inches in any direction from the center? If so, cut away these stems at ground level or try to dig them up, roots and all in the coming weeks, then move them to a new spot, preferably a nursery bed where they can grow up a bit. I'm into a whole new topic, so let's get back to the task at hand.

Once the plant has been cut back to within its limits, look for growth coming from the base that is on an angle or crossing over other branches. Cut that away too, so that we encourage upright growth instead.

Okay, with that behind us, let's dive into more difficult territory. Here is when you begin to rejuvenate the plant (listen carefully, self).

Old canes will be gray in appearance and thick. You probably don't want to cut away every one, but perhaps removing one-third of these stems would be a good plan.

Cut them back to ground level. Your next cuts will be what I can "fine tuning," or making cuts that thin out older twiggy growth in the upper part of the plant by cutting back stems to a younger, upright branch.

Go by color here. Younger growth is reddish in appearance. Hand pruners are your desired tool of choice, while bypass loppers or a hand saw is essential for the bigger cuts I mentioned first.

You'll be surprised by how great your blueberry bushes will look and just how productive they will be with this type of maintenance pruning accomplished annually. I think there is just enough daylight for me to get to my own pruning.

I can almost taste the blueberry pie come July. Yum.

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.

Local fishing holes...



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

LETTERS

Resident calls for action to stop genocide

To the editor,

I appreciate the recent letters about the ongoing genocide in Gaza.

While the whole situation in the Middle East is complicated and solutions have proved elusive for years, the current madness is completely untenable.

The hostages have not been saved but more than 30,000 civilians, many of them children, have been killed and injured. The total destruction of homes and the infrastructure of roads, cultural buildings, archives, civic buildings, museums, markets, farms, schools, communications, hospitals, electricity, water supply - the list of ruin goes on and on.

There has not been enough coverage in our newspapers, but citizens and journalists in Gaza speak every day on Instagram. The truth is there for everyone who cares to look.

I encourage you to take some kind of action. Write to your representatives and senators, write to the president, write letters to the editor, look for local demonstrations, send money if you can.

It's far past time for this to stop, for the United States to stop funding it, and for arms dealers to stop making millions from it.

Karen Chrisman
Belchertown

Resident shares thoughts on conflict in Gaza

In regard to the letter Feb. 29, 2024, "Freedom to Speak out Against genocide" by Cara Lapenas:

When Israel unilaterally withdrew from Gaza, Palestinians had an opportunity to show the world a Palestinian state would be a good neighbor and peaceful friend to Israel and really put the onus on Israel. Instead, they chose to create a failed terror state that is full of poverty and uses its resources to build rockets and shoot them at Israel.

Palestine has refused every peace offering made by Israel, including the 2008 Olmert offering giving them East Jerusalem and the Old City. 1937; 1939 ;1947; 1979; 2000.

The majority of Israelis want a two state solution. It is impossible to negotiate a settlement with an adversary that absolutely refuses to accept your right to exist. "From the River to the Sea, Palestine Will Be Free."

In Justine Dymond's letter Sentinel Feb. 22, 2024: "Israel's intentional targeting of hospitals and doctors is an outrageous vio-

lation of international law". I guess Israel should have done nothing after the attack on Oct. 7 because the people that attacked hid in the hospitals and with their families.

Netanyahu is an awful person. The sooner Israel gets rid of him the better. They should abandon the illegal settlements (in the same vein Palestine should get rid of Hamas).

Israel has shown they can live in peace. The Egypt Israel peace agreement: The agreement notably made Egypt the first Arab state to officially recognize Israel. If peace is to be achieved it is a must that both sides agree to recognize each other's right to exist.

Jordan with the Israel-Jordan Peace Treaty (1994). In 2020, four more Arab states (the UAE, Bahrain, Morocco and Sudan) normalized relations so it can be done.

It breaks my heart to see all the innocent children and people die. I wish I had an answer

Andy Halperin
Belchertown



Why must I pay into Social Security when I'm collecting benefits?

Dear Rusty:

I am collecting full Social Security benefits at age 72 and also working full time.

Why is the Federal Government still taking money from my paycheck? I have written to Social Security experts on this issue and they tell me "It's the law." That is not a good answer for me. Approximately \$4,400 was taken from my pay in 2023 for Social Security and, yes, I get a pittance of a Cost Of Living Allowance increase, but not

equal to what I pay. No one has been able to fully explain the Federal Government's thought process on taxing me for Social Security when I am getting full Social Security benefits. Can you?

Signed: Working Senior

Dear Working Senior:

Far be it from me to try to explain the federal government's thought process on anything, but I can explain why those already collecting Social Security benefits must continue to pay Social Security payroll taxes while working.

It actually goes back to 1935 and the panel commissioned by President Roosevelt to create America's Social Security program. Said panel determined how the program would be financed, Congress approved it and FDR signed it.

That methodology was essentially this:

Please see **SSI**, page 7

Turley Publications Letters to the Editor Policy

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

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Brown creeper

A brown creeper regularly visits an oak tree in my yard.

The other day I watched the creeper fly to the bottom of the tree and make his way up the tree. A few minutes later a white-breasted nuthatch made its way down the same tree.

I think the creeper also grabs some mealworms, which I have out for the bluebirds and any other birds that wants them.

The brown creeper is a small brown bird about 5 1/2 inches long. It has brown streaking above and white underneath and a long, downward, curved bill.

Noticeable behavior is creeping up a tree trunk, then dropping down to the base of the same tree or another tree to start the process all over again. It probes bark for insects and larvae.

Sometimes it visits feeders for chopped nuts or suet.

The brown creeper blends in with the tree bark. When alarmed it will flatten itself against the tree and remain motionless. Its song is a series of high pitched whistles, "see wee see to wee" and the call is a high "tsee."

The female lays five to six white eggs with dark spots in a hammock style crescent shaped nest of bark, twigs, mosses and lined with feathers. It constructs the nest behind a loose piece of bark on a dead tree or in a

natural cavity about five to 15 feet above the ground.

Brimfield resident

I received an email from a Brimfield resident, who keeps me up to date on his bird sightings.

He said in a recent email, "I did a walk yesterday at Quabbin gate 43. A small group walked to the area where people can rent or launch boats. Not much about."

He said some folks heard pine siskins and saw a few white-throated sparrows. On the water, there were a few hooded mergansers and black ducks and in the distance some gulls flying about. On the way home he stopped by the ponds in Warren and the water was not open, so no birds.

He also took part in the Great Backyard Bird Count on Feb. 16 and 17. Here are his results: one red-tailed hawk, four mourning doves, two red-bellied woodpeckers, two downy woodpeckers, one hairy woodpecker, three blue jays, two black-capped chickadees, three tufted titmice, two European starlings, two American robins, three house finches, 97 dark-eyed juncos, four white-throated sparrows, one common grackle and three northern cardinals.

He reported his first sighting on Feb. 16 at 1:40 p.m. and watched for 25 minutes and his second sighting on Feb. 16 at 3:30 p.m. was for one hour. On Feb. 17 his sightings were 8:30 a.m. and 10:15 a.m., both for 45 minutes at a time.

Missed species, ones he has seen before, included pileated woodpecker, white-breasted nuthatch, brown creeper, American crow and American goldfinch.

Bluebirds

The bluebirds continue to come to my feeder for the mealworms. I am purchasing more mealworms for the bluebirds than when I had chickens.

I used to purchase the mealworms as a daily treat to my small flock. One hen would jump up and eat them out of my hand before I could put them in their feeder.

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.

Giving Day and call for grants

Belchertown Education Foundation seeks donations

BELCHERTOWN – Wednesday, March 13 is Giving Day for the Belchertown Education Foundation.

This day of celebration invites individuals and businesses to make a donation to the nonprofit Belchertown Education Foundation.

"By making a splash on March 13 we remind the community of what we do and ask for your continued financial support. We also celebrate the extraordinary \$86,000 in grants that are already enriching the student experience. We can't do this without donors and therefore ask community members to make a tax-deductible donation or to get involved to ensure our future success," said Jennifer Faulkner, Belchertown Education Foundation Board Member, in a press release.

She added, "It's quite unique for a town our size to have a vibrant, charitable organization that provides annual grants to enrich education. We support innovative projects that would otherwise go unfunded by the school budget due to financial constraints. We are thrilled to help great ideas that distinguish our schools, take flight."

Recent projects funded include outdoor classrooms, musical equipment, student scientific research and symposiums, creation of calming spaces and purchasing furniture and supports for social-emotional learning. Donations can be made on Giving Day or right now through BelchertownEducationFoundation.org.

A call for grant submissions is open from now until May 1 for teachers, administrators and other school staff of Belchertown Schools who wish to apply. Find more information on the grants page at BelchertownEducationFoundation.org.

Women Making a Difference Award

Registration deadline for Zonta Club dinner is March 7

LUDLOW – 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 Quabog Valley proudly announces its Women Making a Difference Award dinner on March 11 at the Ludlow Country Club. A reception will be held at 5:30 p.m. with dinner/program starting at 6 p.m.

Pay at the door for the buffet (\$28) or pay online. More info at www.zontaqv.org/women. RSVP by March 7 at info@ZontaQV.org.

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. She will be awarded the Zonta Club of Quabog 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 positive 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.

SSI from page 6

Workers who earn and their employers must contribute to Social Security via payroll taxes to fund the program (we now know this as FICA for employees and SECA for the self-employed). When the program first started, certain employees and their employers were required to each contribute 1% of the employee's first \$3,000 of earnings.

Obviously, those amounts have risen over the decades. For clarity, only certain workers originally participated in Social Security, which has also changed over the decades so that now nearly everyone, who works must pay Social Security payroll taxes.

Starting in 1937 and still today, SS payroll taxes paid by those now working are

used by the federal government to pay benefits to those who are currently receiving. Said another way, Social Security is a "pay as you go" program where income from those working and their employer is used to pay benefits to those receiving.

Payroll taxes collected aren't put into a personal account for the worker; rather they are used to meet current SS payment obligations. Any excess money collected is invested in special issue government bonds as reserves for future use, although current annual SS income is less than annual program costs – an entirely different topic.

So, the financing method enacted in 1935 and started in 1937 still applies – those who work and earn and their employers must pay into the system to fund benefit payments to those, who are now receiving and that includes those workers who are

already collecting their Social Security. FYI, there was a time when, if someone worked after starting their SS benefits, they lost all of their benefits. Fortunately, that rule no longer exists, so those, who are collecting SS benefits can now continue to get benefits if they work, but they must also still pay into the program from their work earnings to help pay benefits to SS recipients.

I hope this provides some insight for why you must continue to contribute to Social Security even after you have started collecting your benefits. It is a result of how the program is financed predominantly by workers through payroll taxes on their earnings and to a lesser extent from interest on Trust Fund reserves and income tax on Social Security benefits. With very few exceptions, everyone who works helps pay

benefits to those now receiving.

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.

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ANNUAL CEMETERY CLEANING NOTIFICATION

The Department of Public Works, Maintenance Division will be conducting the annual removal of ALL seasonal decorations within the Towns' Cemeteries.

For anyone wishing to retrieve personal graveside items, please do so before March 20, 2024.

All items will be removed beginning March 20, 2024.

EDUCATION

MacDuffie School announces first semester Honor Roll

GRANBY – The MacDuffie School would like to extend congratulations to all of the students who achieved Honor Roll for the first semester of the 2023-2024 school year.

The following is a list of the local students:

Amherst

Maximum Honors, Ruoxing Roy Peng, 11th Grade

Belchertown

Maximum Honors, Gabrielle Gabby Benoit, 12th Grade; Maximum Honors, Ganxi Kathy Guo, 12th Grade; Maximum Honors, Jiarui Alex Hu, 12th Grade; Maximum Honors, Ava LaChance, 12th Grade; Maximum Honors, Katelyn Piercey, 11th Grade; Maximum Honors, Andrew Gojgini, 10th Grade; Maximum Honors, Tiancheng Eddie Wu, 10th Grade; Maximum Honors, Noah LaChance, Ninth Grade; Maximum Honors, Ryan Mavlouganes, Eighth Grade; Maximum Honors, Jacob LaChance, Seventh Grade; and Regular Honors, Yichen Eason Gu, 11th Grade.

Chicopee

Maximum Honors, Emily Parnicky, 12th Grade; Maximum Honors, Nikhil Injeti, 10th Grade; Maximum Honors, Kylie Li, 10th Grade; Maximum Honors, Alex Li, Eighth Grade; and Honors, Brielle Burkett, Ninth Grade.

East Longmeadow

High Honors, Brooklynn Moore, 11th Grade

Granby

Maximum Honors, Samantha Sam Keser, 12th Grade; Maximum Honors, Mateo Lopez, 11th Grade; Maximum Honors, Andrew Tishchenko, 11th Grade; Maximum Honors, Arwen Silva, 10th Grade; Maximum Honors, Icaro Neves, Eighth Grade; Maximum Honors, William Flood, Seventh Grade; Maximum Honors, Ryan Roulier, Seventh Grade; Maximum Honors, Lilyana Maddux, Sixth Grade; Maximum Honors, Luiza, Neves, Sixth Grade; and High Honors, Thaddeus Mulder, 12th Grade.

Holyoke

Maximum Honors, Yang Alan Gao, Ninth Grade; Maximum Honors, Jefferson Wood, Ninth Grade; Honors, Grace Marquez, 12th Grade; and Honors, Lingqian, Jack Meng, Ninth Grade.

South Hadley

Maximum Honors, Ayden Legowski, 12th Grade; Maximum Honors, Seth Tramazzo, 11th Grade; and Honors, Landon DeLuca, 10th Grade.

Springfield

Maximum Honors, Adrienne Ogar, Ninth Grade; and High Honors, Mariel Reyes, 10th Grade.

Wilbraham

Maximum Honors, Charlotte O'Grady, Sixth Grade; and Effort Honors, Violet O'Grady, Eighth Grade.

Granby Jr. Sr. High School lists second quarter honor roll

GRANBY – Granby Jr. Sr. High School would like to extend congratulations to those students who achieved Honor Roll for the second quarter of the 2023-2024 school year.

Seventh Grade, Maximum Honors

Allisandra Crowley, Jocelyn Curran, Addison Hill, Natalie Parent, Macie Pelletier, Stella Siudak, Mia Smith and Marcela Tapia.

Seventh Grade, High Honors

Rowan Cook, Arianna Mislak, Teagan Spear, Zachary Vega, Kaylee Vincelette and Kara White.

Seventh Grade, Honors

William Ariza, Matthew Carney, Ella Clark, Honor DeCarlo, Jack Krupski, Sophia Silchuk and Marley Skipton.

Eighth Grade, Maximum Honors

Gianna Capone, Noah Chambers, Emily Durham, Ralph El Aouji, Analise Huertas, Wyatt Kennedy, Sophia Labonte, Emma Murphy, Kaileena Smith, Richard Sweet, Isabella Tetreault and Jacob Weglarz.

Eighth Grade, High Honors

Abigail Esquivel, Adrien Harrington, Sophia Press, Colin Sicard and Kaelynn Slapski.

Eighth Grade, Honors

Aiden Gardner, Vitaly Gavel, Chase Hauschild, Gabriel Helbok, Abigail LaDuke, Preston-Brady Sexton, James Vulpe and Carli Zobka.

Ninth Grade, Maximum Honors

Meredith Bartosz, Sydney Chateaufeuf, Tessa Healey, Brenna Moreno, Lauren Piercey, Lydia Pike, Jaidyn Roberge and Eleanor Szlosek.

Ninth Grade, High Honors

Madelyn LaPointe and Audrey Pleisch.

Ninth Grade, Honors

Daniel Brown, Parker Dufresne, Morgan Justin and Kalli White.

10th Grade, Maximum Honors

Emma Beaulieu, Kaitlyn Curran and Benjamin French.

10th Grade, High Honors

Lea Charest, Allison Charron, Quinn Fuller, Braeden Gallagher, Daniel Hackett, Maxwell Kennedy, Braydon LaDuke, Mylin Laliberte, Scarlett LaRose, Keith Patterson, Faith Ramos, Addison Scott and Isabella Woods.

10th Grade, Honors

Ethan Bergeron, Brodie Funk, Addison Gardnerm, Ava-Elizabeth Loughman, Allison Maslak, Savannah Rushlow and Stephen Szlosek.

11th Grade, Maximum

Jena Abbott, Nathan Benson, Raymond D Colon, Cole Fuller, Gavin Kennedy, Alexis Lapite, Cheyenne Laramee, Cameron LeBlanc, Ava McFarland, Tristan Moe, Emma Parsons and Austin Smith.

11th Grade, High Honors

Aiden Beach, Margaret Crawford, Cassandra Flaherty, Bear Lacharite, Justin Merced, Olah Roller and Autumn Sicard.

11th Grade, Honors

Xavier Arroyo, Cody Breault, Mabel Carillon, Sawyer Clarke, John Crawford, Brennan Dwyer, Gavier Fernandez, Jr, Brianna Houghton, Lydia Kicza, Gavin Moreno, Jaedyn Pike, Ava Saunders, Maxwell Seymour and Stewart Szlosek.

12th Grade, Maximum

Zachary Auclair, Chloe Castro, Brandie Dumais, Andrew Feldman, Jessica Holubowich, Cindy Kusumo, Tia Looney, Maya Nott, Corey Rondeau and Phillip Silchuk.

12th Grade, High Honors

Ciara Charest, Rhea Gagnon, Neil Lindberg, Thomas Merced and Noel Summerlin.

12th Grade, Honors

Benjamin Berger, Annabella Brown, Sophia Gagnon, Nicolas Grandmont, Peyton Justin, Madeline Mallette, Colin Murdock, David Silchuk and Emily Tremblay.

Donations of used books sought

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.friendsofclapplibrary.org or call the library at 413-323-0417.

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413.283.9701 ext. 200
skowyra@pathfindertech.org

WWW.PATHFINDERTECH.ORG

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Please contact eoneal@bement.org with questions.



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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. 14 through Feb. 20. 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 383 calls police responded to, there were 15 incidents, five accidents, four arrests/summons and 35 citations.

ARRESTS/SUMMONS
Thursday, Feb. 22

2:50 p.m. – A 51-year-old Bondsville woman was issued a summons for negligent operation of the motor vehicle. The suspect allegedly struck a business with their vehicle. There was damage to the internal and external walls, the operator said they had to go to an appointment, and they left. They then called to report the accident the next day. The officers spoke with the business owners who got the drivers insurance information. The operator said they were attempting to go around a delivery truck and they had a coffee drop on the floor it became lodged under the break and then they couldn't break fully, striking the building. The town's building inspector came out to the scene and said the building was able to be occupied. The officer went to the business to get video footage of the incident. The incident is still under investigation.

Sunday, Feb. 25

4:50 p.m. – A 46-year-old Turners Falls woman was issued a summons for having no inspection sticker, an unregistered motor vehicle and an uninsured motor vehicle. An officer traveling north on Mill

Valley Road saw a vehicle traveling north, the operator ran the vehicle's registration plate. It came back as revoked due to insurance and had no inspection sticker. The operator said they were unaware of it. A citation was issued.

Monday, Feb. 26

2:30 p.m. – A 17-year-old juvenile was charged with operating under the influence of alcohol and using an electronic device while operating a motor vehicle. An officer responded to the area of George Hannum Road for a crash. A vehicle struck a utility pole, upon the officer's arrival, an SUV with a utility pole on it. The airbags were deployed, and the vehicle was blocking both lanes of travel. The person was located and declined transportation. The officer's observed they had red glossy eyes and smelled like alcohol. The officer believed the person was under the influence of alcohol. A citation was issued and the person was released to their guardians.

Tuesday, Feb. 27

2:49 p.m. – A 31-year-old Palmer male was issued a summons for operating with a suspended registration, and an uninsured and unregistered vehicle. An officer on North Washington Street observed a vehicle and ran an inquiry it. The inquiry came back to a different vehicle than the vehicle it was attached to. It was also reported the insurance was also revoked. The officer stopped the vehicle and spoke with the officer. A towing company was contacted and the vehicle was towed. The officer issued a citation to the operator.

ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS
Wednesday, Feb. 21

8:16 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on State Street. A vehicle traveling on State Street when two deer ran into

the roadway. The vehicle struck one of the two deer. There was minor front-end damage to the vehicle. No injuries were reported and the vehicle was able to be driven from the scene.

Thursday, Feb. 22

11:20 a.m. – An officer took a report of fraud. A resident was scammed. The resident applied for Social Security benefits and got an email. The email had contact information and instructed the resident to call the provided number. They did and provided the caller with their Social Security number. The person was told to monitor their accounts.

11:41 a.m. – An officer took a report of a missing youth. The youth was later found and needed assistance with their mental health.

11:54 a.m. – A person called to report fraud. They said they were doing taxes after having a baby. They were told to pay for a document and were told to pay much more than originally requested. They believed the matter was a scam and wanted the incident on file.

Friday, Feb. 23

6:29 a.m. – An officer responded to assist Belchertown Fire and paramedics.

11:08 a.m. – An officer spoke with a resident about a past acquaintance and child custody issues.

1:35 p.m. – An officer responded to a report of property damage. A resident reported their camper was parked in a storage facility in town and when they picked it up for maintenance, there was damage on top of it. They found a piece of metal the fell on top of camper. The last time they checked on the camper was three weeks ago. Photos were taken.

Saturday, Feb. 24

1:19 p.m. – An officer spoke with a resident in regard to having a child doing taxes and needed document and on website and told to pay fee for the document and paid it and saw charges for much greater than the fee.

7:09 p.m. – An officer responded to assist Belchertown Fire and paramedics with a person having a mental health crisis.

7:42 p.m. – An officer responded to a residence on Main Street for a report of a verbal altercation. There was a dispute over clothing in a dryer. One person left before the officer's arrival. The person was advised of how to get a harassment prevention order.

10:25 p.m. – An officer responded to the area of Chauncey Walker Road for a report for a moped failing to stop for Ludlow Police. Ludlow Police discontinued their pursuit around Bardwell Street. The officer searched the area and saw two people in the area acting suspiciously. The people ran from the residence. The officer exited the cruiser and chased the individuals. After a search including assistance from Ludlow Police, the search was suspended.

Monday, Feb. 26

7:43 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on State Street. A vehicle traveling east on State Street was struck by a second vehicle as it was attempting to pass the first vehicle. The operators declined transportation. Both vehicles were towed from the scene.

Tuesday, Feb. 27

11:19 a.m. – A resident came to the station with found property around Carol Ann Drive and the ring was entered into property.

Granby Police Log

Editor's Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 144 calls for the week of Feb. 23 through Feb. 29. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The Granby Police Department provides all information.

Friday, Feb. 23

5:37 a.m. – A motorist reported that a vehicle struck a utility pole. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries.

Saturday, Feb. 24

8:25 p.m. – While on patrol, an officer observed a motor vehicle travel through an intersection without stopping for a stop sign at speed of approximately 15 mph. The vehicle was stopped and the operator was issued a civil citation for failing to stop at a stop sign.

Sunday, Feb. 25

1:30 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 62 mph in a 35 mph zone. The vehicle was stopped, and the operator was issued a civil citation for speeding.

2:35 a.m. – While on patrol, an officer observed a motor vehicle travel through an intersection without stopping for a stop sign. The vehicle was stopped, and the operator was issued a civil citation for failing to stop at a stop sign.

1:19 p.m. – While on patrol, an officer observed a motor vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed that the vehicle was traveling at 48 mph in a 35 mph zone. The vehicle was stopped, and the operator was issued a civil citation for speeding.

9:20 p.m. – While on patrol, an officer observed two motor vehicles travel through an intersection without stopping for a stop sign. The vehicles were stopped and both operators were issued civil citations for failing to stop at a stop sign.

Monday, Feb. 26

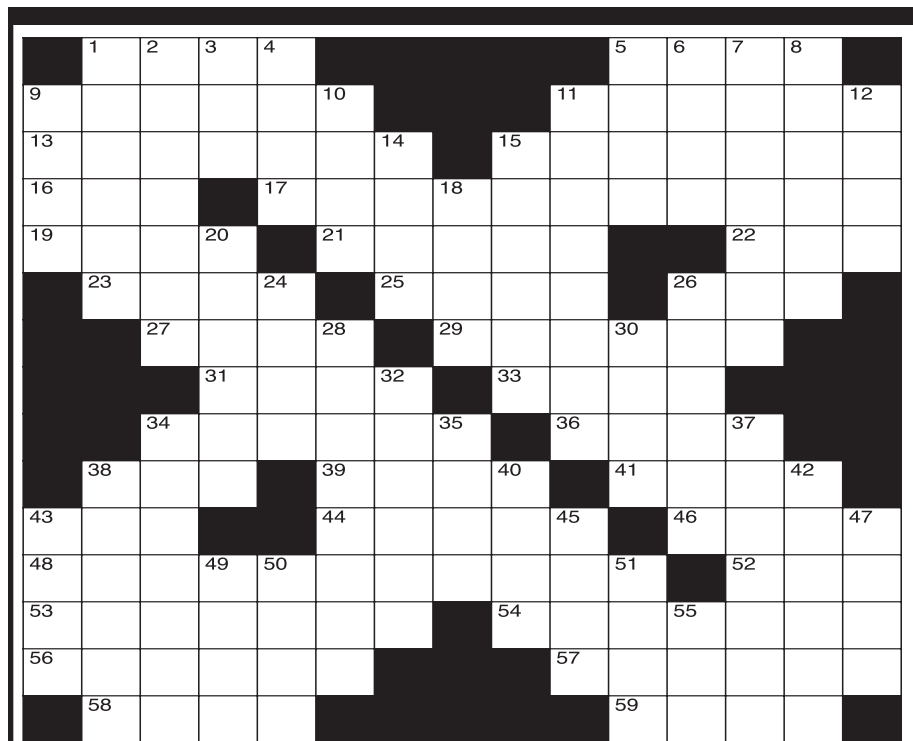
10:18 a.m. – A resident came to the station to report that their credit card was skimmed at a store in South Hadley. An incident report was completed.

5:36 p.m. – While on patrol, an officer observed a motor vehicle travel through an intersection without stopping for a stop sign at speed of approximately 30 mph. The vehicle was stopped, and the operator was issued a civil citation for failing to stop at a stop sign.

Thursday, Feb. 29

1:34 a.m. – An officer received numerous reports of trees that fell across the roadway and onto power lines. There were scattered power outages throughout town due to a windstorm.

7:45 p.m. – While on patrol, an officer observed a motor vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed the vehicle was traveling at 60 mph in 40 mph zone. The vehicle was stopped, and it was discovered that the operator had a suspended Massachusetts driver's license. The operator was issued a criminal citation for operating with a suspended driver's license and speeding.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Chaps
- 5. Currently fashionable
- 9. Collision
- 11. More slim
- 13. European city
- 15. Implicitly
- 16. The side of something that is sheltered from the wind
- 17. The Mount Rushmore State
- 19. Gold or silver wire cord
- 21. Muscles along insects' diaphragm
- 22. Trent Reznor's band
- 23. Sweet juicy gritty-textured fruit
- 25. Broken branch
- 26. Indicates ten
- 27. Expression of annoyance
- 29. Brings together
- 31. Ancient city in Thrace
- 33. Sailors' spirit
- 34. Looked into
- 36. Muckraking woman
- journalist Rheta
- 38. A type of cast
- 39. One's responsibility
- 41. Where golfers begin
- 43. Make a mistake
- 44. Semitic Sun god
- 46. Ancient Italian-Greek colony
- 48. Beheaded
- 52. A place to stay
- 53. Unwise
- 54. Most supernatural
- 56. "Dennis" is a famous one

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Baseball managers assemble it
- 2. Revised
- 3. Mountain is a popular kind
- 4. Takes to civil court
- 5. Pouches
- 6. A type of veil
- 7. Chants
- 8. Boston hoopster
- 9. Elongated appendage
- 10. Sailboat
- 11. 2017 Oscar-winning film
- 12. Actor Gosling
- 14. Monetary units
- 15. Assembly
- 18. Russian pop duo
- 20. Embellished with expressions
- 24. Infrequent
- 26. Temperature unit
- 28. Hydrophilic amino acid
- 30. Honk
- 32. Legislative body
- 34. Swinish
- 35. Russian assembly
- 37. Take over for
- 38. Put in advance
- 40. Satisfy
- 42. Felt
- 43. Dutch cheese
- 45. Witnesses
- 47. Strong insects
- 49. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
- 50. Ancient people of Scotland
- 51. Cheerless
- 55. Sick

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SPORTS

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Granby boys roll over Avon in state tourney



GRANBY – Gavier Fernandez scored 28 points and led Granby to an opening round win over Avon 61-50. The Rams moved into the Round of 16 of the Division 5 State Tournament. Granby would lead big early in the game and never looked back. Sawyer Clarke scored 11 points and Cody White and Colin Murdock added eight points each.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Raymond Colon drives to the hoop.



Colin Murdock goes for a three-pointer.



Gavier Fernandez gets the short-range shot.



Sawyer Clarke heads up for easy lay-in.



Riley Goodhind scores just ahead of a block.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Mabel Carillon tries to get around an opponent.

Rams suffer loss in sectional quarterfinals

GRANBY – Granby High School girls basketball opened up their playoff campaign with a quarterfinal matchup in the Western Mass. Class D Tournament on Feb. 19. Granby faced off with Pioneer Valley Christian School on the road. Granby would lose to PVCA 54-46 after suffering an early

deficit of nine points and not being able to recover. Kalli White had a good game for the Rams with 17 points. Aubrey Parent finished with 10 points. Granby would enter the state tournament last week. Highlights from those matchups will be in next week's edition.



Eleanor Szlosek holds the ball back from the opposition.



Brenna Moreno makes her way down the court.

Lawsuit changes brackets in basketball tournament

BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI
gscibelli@turley.com

FRANKLIN – Over the years, there have been issues with ineligible player use or other rule-breaking that has led to high school teams being left out of sectional or state tournaments.

This year, however, a school took action and it ended up halting the state tournament and changed opponents for several teams involved.

Oliver Ames High School, which competes in Division 2 in many sports, appealed it being

left out of the State Division 2 Boys Basketball tournament due to a paperwork.

According to a representative from the MIAA, schools are required to submit certain paperwork for entrance into the tournament, and Oliver Ames failed to meet the requirement. They were thusly removed from the tournament and did not have a spot when seeds were released on Saturday, Feb. 24.

Some preliminary games in the tournament, of which Oliver Ames would have been a part of due to their projected lower

Please see **LAWSUIT**, page 13

SPORTS

Pathfinder ousted from tournament by Ware



Taylor Allen fires up a bank shot.



The rebounders, Addison Doktor, Megan Clark, and Greenly Lagimoniere gang up under the net.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY JACK CASCIO NEAP.SMUGMUG.COM



Desiree Croteau drives to mid court.



Victoria Stephens splits the Lady Indians' defense.

WARE – Last Tuesday night, Ware girls basketball scored a win in the opener of the Division 5 state tournament over neighbor Pathfinder 41-22. The Pioneers would struggle on offense, falling behind 13-0 before finally scoring in the second quarter. Ware had no trouble keeping its lead from that point. Amelia Orszulak and Reese McKeever had eight points each to lead Ware. Megan Clark and Greenly Lagimoniere led Pathfinder with seven points each. Pathfinder's season finished at 11-8 while Ware moved on to play Palmer in the Round of 32.



Clara Green brings the ball down court.

Pioneers 2024 schedule released

LUDLOW – Earlier this week, the Western Mass. Pioneers have released their 2024 schedule. It includes potential participation in the U.S. Open Cup, which begins on March 19. The Pioneers have won an Open Cup match in the past. Later, the Pioneers have their “friendly” exhibition game scheduled for May 10. They will face 3rd Eye FC prior to the start of their USL-2 League schedule. Their opener for the regular season is against the Boston Bolts on the road May 14. Their home opener is scheduled for May 18 against Pathfinder FC of New York. The schedule continues through July 13 and includes a total of 14 games.

Registration now open for Quabbin Valley baseball

The Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League is looking to infuse new talent into its league for the 2024 season. Registration for the 2024 season is now open and any interested players can go to www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org to get registered, or to seek more information or make inquiries about the league. The league website will also be updated over the next month with information about the upcoming season.

There are many open roster spots available in the league for the 2024 season, which is tentatively scheduled to begin on Sunday, April 21. The league plays most Sunday from late April through late August with playoffs following that. The league plays a 15-game schedule and typically fields six teams each year. Games are usually played at 10 a.m. with fields in Easthampton and South Hadley normally used.

The Quabbin Valley league is an all-abilities league and all are welcome to join. Eligibility is players who are age 28 and over. You must be 30 to be eligible to pitch in the league. Your age for eligibility is whatever age you will turn in 2024. The league is also able to entertaining taking in an entire group as a team to add to the league. Please email the league board for to inquire about entering a team.

The league is currently in the process of preparing for the 2024 season and held a meeting on Feb. 18 to discuss plans for the upcoming season. The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday March 24 at 11:40 a.m. at the Hangar Pub & Grill in South Hadley. All are welcome to attend the meeting, ask questions and express interest in joining.

T-Birds suffer loss to Isles

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (25-24-3-2) could not overcome a 3-0 hole in the opening period as the Bridgeport Islanders (18-29-6-1) skated off as 4-1 winners at the MassMutual Center on Sunday before a seventh straight sellout crowd of 6,793.

Not even a minute into the festivities, both Sam Bitten & Will Bitten got the Thunderdome engaged in the game with a pair of fighting majors in bouts against Seth Helgeson and Eetu Liukas respectively. However, the Islanders held a sizable edge in offensive zone time, and that translated into an early lead for the visitors.

At the 9:10 mark, Ruslan Iskhakov artfully slipped the puck to Matt Maggio in the left-wing circle, where the rookie swiftly moved the puck from backhand to forehand and uncorked a perfect wrist shot under the crossbar past Colten Ellis to make it 1-0 for Bridgeport.

The penalty parade continued as two separate Springfield play-

Baldwin gets modified win as he prepares for New England return

FLORENCE, S.C. – Tommy Baldwin Racing drivers Jack Baldwin and Luke Baldwin both had success Saturday night at Florence Motor Speedway.

Jack sealed the night by capturing the victory in the opener of the Carolina Crate Modified Series, driving the No. 7NY in a final lap dash battle to the finish. Luke made his Tour-Type Modified debut in the SMART Modified Tour Peanut Patch 99 with Sadler-Stanley Racing and scored a top-five finish.

Jack qualified on the pole earlier in the day, inverting to fourth and running inside the top-five for the whole 62-lap Crate Modified race, before making the move for the win in the final corner.

Luke posted the fastest lap time in his first official Tour Modified practice in the PSR No. 7VA for the Sadler-Stanley Racing group. The team, owned by former NASCAR driver Hermie Sadler and Attorney and Virginia State Senator Bill

Stanley, is Luke's official home for the full SMART Modified Tour season in 2024. He also qualified the car in third spot in time trials and started second after the redraw.

“Excited to win another Crate Modified race, especially being able to get to Victory Lane at Florence,” Jack Baldwin said. “Slate (Myers) had a fast car tonight. I hate that it came down to him spinning, but I was as low as I could possibly go without hitting the inside wall. Florence is a fun track. We were able to ride a bit early then close a large gap over the final 30 laps to be in position to win. I can't thank everyone on the TBR team and PSR enough.”

Both Baldwin brothers attended Florence events with the help of their respective team members and PSR Chassis members, with Tommy Baldwin Jr. at Las Vegas Motor Speedway with Rick Ware Racing.

“Super proud of everybody involved with this team for what we accomplished at Florence,”

Luke Baldwin said. “We showed race winning speed all the way through the day, and if a few things went my way, we may have had a shot at winning it. We had a solid second-place run going until a late race restart where I made some mistakes and fell to fifth. Nothing to hang our heads about. Huge thanks to all the guys at Sadler-Stanley Racing, Bill Stanley, Hermie Sadler and PSR Products. The car was a rocket ship and they made my job easy. Also, thanks to Pace-O-Matic, The Stanley Law Group, and Mohawk Northeast for making it happen. Congrats to Carson Loftin on his first career win.”

Next up for the Tommy Baldwin Racing team will be for Luke driving the No. 7VA for Sadler-Stanley Racing in the second SMART Modified Tour race of the season next Sunday, March 10 at Caraway Speedway. Jack Baldwin is currently slated to return to the seat during the summer in the SK Modifieds at Stafford Motor Speedway.

SPORTS

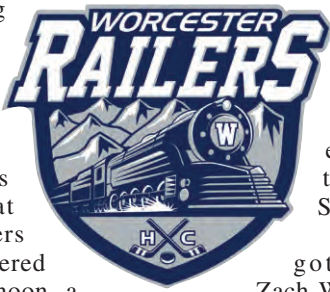
Railers lead early, but fall to Lions

WORCESTER – With 21st Century technology being what it is there are letters, numbers and abbreviations for almost everything that happens in hockey.

Almost everything, anyway. There is nothing on the stat sheets for an M.O. That is what the Railers would have registered here Sunday afternoon, a Missed Opportunity.

Worcester led the Trois-Rivieres Lions, 2-0, after the first period then gave up five straight goals over the final 40 minutes and was beaten, 5-2.

The Railers remain in fourth place in the North Division, both in terms of points and winning percentage. They have no



cushion, though, and will play at Maine Tuesday morning with a one-point lead on Reading and a two-point edge on the Mariners.

Trois-Rivieres is four points out, not eight, thanks to its victory Sunday.

Worcester got goals from Zach White and Reece Newkirk. It also got 41 saves from John Muse, third most for a Railers goaltender this season.

Nolan Yaremko led the Lions with a hat trick, the second of the season against Worcester. He scored two goals 1:24 apart in the second period then converted a 5 on 3 power play chance at 19:01 of the third period. Jakov

Novak and Nicolas Lariviere had the other goals for the visitors.

Joe Vrbetic made 25 saves for Trois-Rivieres in posting his first win in four starts against the Railers this season.

The four Trois-Rivieres goals in the second were scored by, in order:

Novak at 3:18, Lariviere at 4:17, and Yaremko at 11:26 and 12:50. Yaremko's first goal was on a power play.

The Lions had the better of play in the game's early going as the Railers were careless in their own zone. With the first period nine minutes old, Trois-Rivieres had an 11-3 edge in shots on goal.

Muse kept it scoreless.

Worcester finally broke through at 17:35 with White scoring his seventh goal of the season. He had been flying

throughout the period and out-battled a Lions defenseman in the left corner, then skated into the circle and beat Vrbetic along the ice.

It was White's first point after an eight-game scoreless drought.

With 1:47 to go in the period, the Lions' Anthony Beauregard was called for interference by referee Hunter Mottinger. Teammate Brycen Martin was apparently uncivil in his remarks to Mottinger and wound up with an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty.

Newkirk made it 2-0 with 21 seconds left in the period, 34 seconds left on the 5-on-3. It was just the Railers' second 5-on-3 goal of the season.

Worcester was held to nine shots the rest of the way and wound up with a game, and opportunity, lost.

VACANCIES from page 5

recommendations listed in the Age and Dementia Friendly Belchertown Community Assessment and Action Plan. The group meets quarterly at the Senior Center to prioritize, monitor progress and track outcomes.

Deadline: Friday, March 29

Belchertown Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force

One Community Member Vacancy

The Town of Belchertown is accepting letters of interest to fill a community member vacancy on the newly developed Belchertown Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force. The focus of the Task Force is to develop a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement for the Select Board to review and to consider adopting, to seek out opportunities to acknowledge and/or celebrate the diversity within our own community and to welcome the whole community to join in, and to offer suggestions on how the town addresses specific or potential acts of violence, including hate speech, should such acts arise in our community, region, or state. Efforts should be made to include voices from the community or communities that are directly affected. Partnership opportunities with surrounding towns to strengthen regional or state efforts might also be explored. This is a seven member committee to include: A representative from law enforcement, a representative from Town Hall, and five community members representing diversity in one or more of the following areas: Racial and ethnic backgrounds, Social positions with respect to gender identity and sexual orientation, social positions with respect to disability, and Age groups and prior vocational experiences. All are encouraged to apply. Please submit a letter of interest to: Select Board, The Finnerty House, One South Main Street, P.O. Box 670, Belchertown, MA 01007 or by email to selectboard@belchertown.org.

Deadline: Friday, March 29

T-BIRDS from page 11

ers were whistled for penalties just 45 seconds apart, opening the door for Bridgeport's power play. On the ensuing two-man advantage, Ellis made a save on an initial try by William Dufour, but Carsen Twarynski was positioned perfectly to slide the rebound home to make it a 2-0 score at 11:18.

In the final minute of the period, Brian Pinho further bolstered the Islander lead when he side-stepped a hit attempt before beating Ellis between the legs with a snapper at 19:23.

After being outshot 18-5 in the first, the T-Birds responded with some pushback in the second, but rookie Bridgeport goalie Henrik Tikkanen was steady in the crease. Mikhail Abramov finally dented the young goaltender at 12:11 when he deposited a loose puck in the blue paint after

a Jakub Vrana slapper squeaked through Tikkanen's equipment. Abramov's second goal in as many days cut the margin to 3-1.

The T-Birds' best chance to get closer came in the middle portions of the third period, when back-to-back Bridgeport penalties handed Springfield a 5-on-3 advantage. However, Tikkanen and the gutsy Isles' PK unit stood up to the challenge, and a Springfield penalty would then nullify the advantage.

Karson Kuhlman put the game away at 16:48 with an empty-net goal to seal the visitors' seventh win in 11 tries this season against the T-Birds.

The T-Birds and Islanders complete their season series on Friday night for one final installment between the rivals inside the MassMutual Center. Puck drop is set for 7:05 p.m. at the Thunderdome.

LAWSUIT from page 11

seed, were scheduled to start on Monday, Feb. 26, but the tournament had to be halted due to an injunction being filed by Oliver Ames in a court. The injunction went through and the MIAA was ordered by a judge to include the ousted school in this year's tournament.

"One team from Eastern Mass. was headed for Amherst and had to be turned around because of this," Eric Castonguay, athletic director at South Hadley High School said. "It stopped the whole thing."

While it only affected a handful of teams in Western Mass. Division 2, Amherst and Agawam were among the teams that were locally affected.

Karen Gomez, athletic director at Agawam High School, had to wait until a new oppo-

nent was announced in order to schedule her game.

She was originally scheduled to play Tuesday, Feb. 27 and host Bay Path Vocational Technical. That opponent changed when Oliver Ames was inserted into the tournament. Masaconomet ended up visiting Agawam, and luckily, at short notice, agreed to come to Agawam and played at the same time the Bay Path-Agawam game was scheduled for.

Amherst was forced to postpone its game from Monday. One team unaffected was Chicopee Comprehensive, which did not see an opponent change and traveled to Scituate in the Round of 32.

The rest of the tournament went on as scheduled and was in the quarterfinals as of press time.



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Circulation: 59,000

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4 YEAR OLD MYERS PLOW, 3 sets of tires with rims 15", '94 Jeep Wrangler for parts only. Call 413-967-7118 or 413-658-8513.

Find archives of this local newspaper at www.newspapers.turley.com

PETS

WEST HIGHLAND TERRIER MIX PUPPY, 3 months, current on shots, well socialized. 3 yr old Beagle female, \$200. 413-596-8190, 413-782-2305

HELP WANTED

CLASS A DRIVER. Triaxle dump trailer work. Local deliveries, minimum 40 hours, rate based on experience. **RB Enterprises, Ludlow, MA. 413-583-8393.**

HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANIC. Construction equipment and trucks. Experience required, full time. **RB Enterprises, Ludlow, MA. 413-583-8393.**

SQUIER & CO. is looking to hire an oil truck driver. \$40,000-\$60,000 full time. Squire will provide CDL school for the right candidate! Email: squiereoil@verizon.net. Call 413-267-3184 or visit us at 5 Squier Ave., Monson, MA. Monday-Friday.

TOWN OF WILBRAHAM HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR 1

The Town of Wilbraham is looking to fill two Heavy Equipment Operator 1 positions. For application and more information please visit www.wilbraham-ma.gov. Open until filled. EOE

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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3,000 ft. 2 plus garage for rent in Gilbertville. Two lifts, compressor, office, bathroom/washroom. Large 10 ft. overhead electric garage door. Oil heat, 3 phase electric. Room for 5 vehicles plus inside and outside parking. Located right on Rt 32. Perfect for a business or? \$2,000/month. Call Don @ (413) 758-3039.

REAL ESTATE

ROOMMATES

BRIMFIELD: Own kitchen, bath, bedroom, living room, basement apartment. No pets or smoking. Heat, elect. included. \$800 per month. Call 413-355-0209.

LOOKING FOR ROOMMATE TO SHARE HOUSE in Palmer. \$300 per month. 413-342-3049.

FOR RENT



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



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PUBLIC NOTICES

ALDEN CREDIT UNION ANNUAL MEETING

Alden Credit Union will hold its annual meeting on **Monday, March 25, 2024 at Food 101 Bar & Bistro, 19 College Street, South Hadley, MA from 5 p.m to 6 p.m.**

For further details or to RSVP please contact, Jennifer Faustino at 413-536-0475 ext. 107
03/07, 03/14/2024

Notice of Planning Board Hearing Relative to Proposed Zoning By-law Amendment/Addition Pursuant to MGL c.40A, §5.

The Planning Board of the Town of Belchertown will hold a public hearing to discuss proposed amendments to the town's zoning by-laws, both remotely and in person as follows:

Place: Select Board Meeting Room, Lawrence Memorial Hall
2 Jabish Street, Belchertown
Date: March 26, 2024
Time: 7:00 pm
Remote access information:

<https://meet.gotoc.com/173538941>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: +1 (408) 650-3123
Access Code: 173-538-941

The subject matter of the proposed amendment is as indicated below.

To amend the Schedule of Uses for Contractor's Yard; to amend the dimensional regulations for Multiple Dwelling Residential zone; to amend the Accessory Apt. requirements; to add Battery Energy Storage Systems.

The complete text relative to the proposed amendment are available for inspection during regular business hours at the Town Clerk's office and the Planning Board office and at masspublicnotices.org 03/07, 03/14/2024

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the Planning Board office and at masspublicnotices.org 03/07, 03/14/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampshire Probate and Family Court 15 Atwood Drive Northampton MA, 01060 Docket No. HS1036-18 In the Interests of: Patricia Krakowski Of: Belchertown, MA RESPONDENT Incapacitated Person/Protected Person CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION TO EXPAND THE POWERS OF A GUARDIAN

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Dept. of Developmental Services of Springfield, MA in the above captioned matter requesting that the court:

Expand the powers of a Guardian of the Respondent.

The petition asks the court to make a determination that the powers of the Guardian and/or Conservator

should be expanded, modified, or limited since the time of the appointment. The original petition is on file with the court,

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 03/20/2024. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on

behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

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

Date: February 16, 2024
Mark S. Ames
Temporary Register
03/07/2024

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLE

This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of March 15, 2024 the following motor vehicle will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien:

Vehicle: 2009 Audi A4
Vin #: WAULF78KX9N014494
Color: Black
LKO: Benjamin Grillo
Address: 13 Jackson Street Belchertown, MA 01007
Relentless Towing
Belchertown, MA
413-530-3804
2/29/24, 3/7/24, 3/14/24



The Sentinel OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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



PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

GRANBY



Children think about their next move during Chess Club at the Granby Free Public Library.

Kid's Chess Club held on Thursday afternoons

GRANBY – Kid's Chess Club with Andrew Freidman will be held on Thursdays 3:30-5pm, March 7, 14 and 21 from 3:30-5 p.m. at the Granby Free Public Library, 297 East State St.

Join after school to learn the game of chess or improve your skills. The club will start from square one at each meeting.

Drop in and sign up at the door, class sizes have been small, and everything will be provided. Take this rare opportunity to learn from a professional.

For ages 10 and up. This club is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Granby Library.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

This player moves their piece across the board. Chess Club is held on Thursdays, March 7, 14 and 21 from 3:30-5 p.m. at the library.

Read to a dog at the GFPL

GRANBY – Read to a dog at the Granby Free Public Library, 297 East State St., on Thursdays after school on March 7, 21, April 4 and 18.

Children can enjoy reading aloud to a gentle, comforting Reading Buddy, Gwen, a trained Bright Spot Therapy Dog, as they practice their fluency and strengthen their confidence in reading.

Children in kindergarten and up can sign up to reserve a 20 minute spot to read to Gwen. Time slots are available between 3:30-5 p.m.

Call 413-467-3320 or stop in the library during open hours to sign up. The library is open 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.

All library programs are free of charge and open to the public. For more information, visit granbylibrary.com.



Library hosts nature story times with Ranger Tasha

GRANBY – Tasha Daniels, Park Ranger/Visitor Services Specialist at the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, provides hands-on exploration items, question and answer times, crafts and always wonderful stories at the Granby Free Public Library, 297 East State St.

Drop in for these nature story times on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. For ages 3-5; siblings and homeschoolers welcome.

Upcoming themes include: March 12, Salamanders; April 9, April Showers Bring May Flowers; and April 23, Turtles Emerge in Spring.

All library programs are free of charge and open to the public.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Ranger Tasha Daniels, Park Ranger/Visitor Services Specialist at the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, reads to children at the Granby Free Public Library.

EXHIBIT from page 1

her art journey in earnest during COVID while caring for a family member.

Since then, she has taken several painting classes and has found her passion through her work. She describes her unique style as a combination of contemporary and impressionistic using mostly palette knives with the occasional brush. Most of her inspiration comes from the garden, flowers, trees and the natural world.

Her first solo exhibit was at the South Hadley Library in 2023.

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The Sentinel

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COUNTRY STYLIST, 171 Federal St., Belchertown. 413-323-6012. Great cuts for men and women. A full service hair salon. Open Tue-Sat., evening hours available.

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

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PLUMBING SERVICES

D. F. PLUMBING & MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS are now offering plumbing services to Belchertown and surrounding town. Scheduling appointments Monday-Friday, 8 am to 4pm. Call 413-323-9966.

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