

Planning Board considers battery storage

BY NICK BOONSTRA
Staff Writer
nboonstra@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – The Planning Board discussed potential new zoning regulations during their meeting on March 12, including a system that would regulate battery storage systems for both residential as well as commercial purposes, such as solar fields and electrical substations.

Amendments to accessory apartment, multi-dwelling residential and contractor's yard regulations were also discussed at the meeting. A public hearing is scheduled for March 26 at 7 p.m. at Town Hall to give residents the opportunity to learn more about and offer feedback on these proposed changes to the town's zoning bylaws.

With worldwide advancements in battery storage technology in recent years, allowing for increasingly more efficient batteries that take up less space with less weight, the Planning Board is considering recommending a new bylaw for Town Meeting that would regulate the construction and use of large-scale batteries on properties in town.

The bylaw would divide batteries into three separate tiers, ranging from primarily residential uses to large-scale commercial ones. The tiers are broken down by battery capacity as measured either in kilowatt-hours, the amount of energy provided by a one kilowatt power source in one hour, or megawatt-hours, equal to



Belchertown Town Hall

TURLEY PHOTOS BY NICK BOONSTRA

1,000 kilowatt-hours.

Tier 1 would encompass batteries up to 20 kWh in capacity, which could be used as emergency generators for a residential property, or storage for solar energy from the same. The proposed new bylaw would allow for the installation of these batteries as of right by means of a standard permitting process through the board.

Tier 2 would cover batteries with capacities between 20 kWh and 10 MWh, which would be used in contexts such as a commercial solar field or wind farm. Planning Board Vice Chair Mike Hoffer made sure during the

Please see **SOLAR**, page 7



This photo shows a solar array on Ware Road in Belchertown.

Schools face budget shortfall for FY 25

BY NICK BOONSTRA
Staff Writer
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BELCHERTOWN – Members of the School Committee, Select Board and Finance Committee met on March 14 to discuss the proposed fiscal year 2025 budget for the school district, which included reductions necessitated by a combination of increased costs and decreased government funding.

Superintendent Brian Cameron explained that he anticipated a reduction in staff of 15.1 full-time equivalent positions would be necessary to operate within the town's \$33.2 million allocation for the school district, which falls short of the \$34.4 million Cameron had projected for a budget that would maintain equivalent service from the previous school year.

Reductions in COVID-related state and federal grants contributed to the need for reductions, with awards as high as \$1.3 million in fiscal year 2023 dwindling to zero for FY 25, according to a budget presentation from the superintendent's office obtained by the

Please see **BUDGET**, page 4

Select Board to see two new faces

BY MELINA BOURDEAU
Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN – Select Board member Ron Aponte is the most recent of two of the five member Select Board to announce he is not seeking reelection this year.

Earlier this year, Select Board member Peg Louraine also announced she wasn't seeking reelection.

Aponte said after much discussion with his family and friends, he made the choice to end his two decades of public service.

"I've gotten a tremendous kick out of it, and I still love doing it," he said. "But it's time to close this chapter and move on to something else."

He said he hopes that someone else is ready to fill the seat. But he won't be leaving it until May.

Members thanked Aponte for his time on local boards and committees.



FILE PHOTO

Select Board member Ron Aponte is the most recent of two members they are not seeking reelection this year.

Select Board Chair Ed Boscher said Aponte and his family have had an incredible dedication to the town.

"I think only the people up

here can understand that part of the role. Like every good relationship, we've had our ups and

Please see **NEW FACES**, page 3

Steve Williams gains title of 'town manager'

BY MELINA BOURDEAU
Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN – The commonwealth officially signed into law that Steve Williams is now the Town Manager.

Williams was hired as the town administrator in May 2023 with the promise of becoming the town's first town manager. The change is one of mostly title because last June the Selectboard delegated most of the authority of the position to Williams.

"I don't expect much to change," Williams said.

There are three areas of responsibility – one is personnel, the second is financial management and the third is basic administrative management.

Williams cannot remove members of committee and

employees such as the School Committee, school employees, the police chief, the fire chief and the library.

"Department heads still need to come back to the board for ratification," Williams said.

He is also in charge of personnel bylaws, which Williams said he is working with council to amend them.

"Updates to the town's bylaws will probably be on the town meeting warrant," Williams said. "It still gives the Select Board the authority to formulate and implement policy directives and guidelines. It would be the town manager's role to implement them."

Financial management includes record keeping, signing warrants and controlling all bud-

Please see **WILLIAMS**, page 5

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COMMUNITY



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Belchertown Community Garden at Lampson Brook Farm has plots available for residents and gardeners. Applications are due by April 12.

Belchertown Community Garden accepting registration for 2024 season

BELCHERTOWN – Do you need more garden space, fertile soil, or more sunshine? Want to raise your own chemical-free vegetables? Joining the Belchertown Community Garden is the answer.

Individual, fully prepared, 300-square-foot garden plots are available to all Belchertown residents and gardeners from surrounding areas at beautiful Lampson Brook Farm located at 275 Jackson St.

Belchertown residents can obtain a plot for \$30 (non-residents \$35) for the season (mid-May through October). Several plots will be made available to SNAP benefit recipients for only \$15 each.

The garden fee includes compost for use in your plot, shared tools in a well-organized tool shed, convenient access to water and parking. The companionship and wisdom of your gardening neighbors are free.

The garden is a community effort where each member also contributes a few hours

of their time during the season to setting up, maintaining, and cleaning up the common areas, such as the shared flower and herb gardens, or donating time to our plot dedicated to growing for local food pantries. Join for yourself or purchase a Community Garden plot as a gift for your favorite gardener.

A limited number of plots are available—so don't delay.

The Belchertown Community Garden is a program of the New England Small Farm Institute which leases the rich farmland of the former Belchertown State School from the state. All gardeners, beginner or experienced, are welcome.

Depending on weather and soil conditions, the garden will be open from May through October. To receive a 2024 registration form, email BCGardenNews@gmail.com.

Completed applications must be received by April 12.

NEW FACES from page 1

downs, but I believe you've had the best interest of Belchertown at heart your entire career," Boscher said.

Annual Town Election

The Annual Town Election will be on May 20 in the Belchertown High School gym from 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

Nomination papers are now available, in the Town Clerk's Office for Town Election.

Open positions include:

- Board of Assessors - one position with a three-year term
- Board of Health - one position with a three-year term
- Housing Authority - two positions with three-year terms
- Planning Board - one position with a

- five-year term
 - School Committee - two positions with three-year terms
 - Select Board - two positions with three-year terms
 - Town Clerk - one position with a three-year term
- Voter registration deadline for this Town Election is May 3.

In person voter registration deadline is 5 p.m. and online deadline is 11:59 p.m. on www.registertovotema.com.

Early in-person voting will be held at Town Hall, 2 Jabish St., from May 8 through 14 with the following hours:

May 8, 9, 10, 13 and 14 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
May 15 from 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

To apply for an absentee or vote by mail ballot application, go to <https://www.belchertown.org/clerk/>.

JBMS bands and community remember Lloyd Armstrong

BELCHERTOWN – The Jabish Brook Middle School bands will be sharing some of their spring concert with memories of Lloyd Armstrong.

Lloyd was, for many years, a staple in this community's music scene. He had so much to offer, whether it be with the community band, his own jazz ensembles, the shakuhachi "scene," band director, private music lessons, or his extensive work with the music programs in our school system.

Lloyd was endless in his devotion to music. Whether it be teaching a beginner their first notes, or sharing the benefits of his extensive computer knowledge, his assistance and work habits were truly amazing.

For many, Lloyd made this town a better place to live.

Please come to this year's Jabish Brook Middle School band concert to be held at the Belchertown High School auditorium

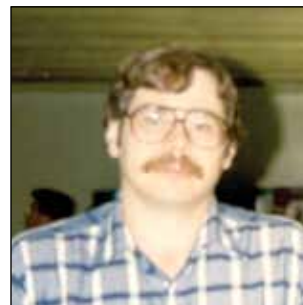
on Tuesday, March 26 beginning at 7 p.m.

The students have been working very hard on their own music, as well as on a short piece that has been commissioned for Lloyd to be included in the evening's performance.

The piece was in part due to the generosity of the Belchertown Music Association (BBB), who helped commission this piece. The composer is Belchertown High School graduate Will Schmidt who graduated in 2014 and had Lloyd Armstrong as his middle school band teacher.

Admission is free, but a voluntary donation will be sought to assist with the scholarship that has been set up in Lloyd's memory.

If you are interested in playing with the eighth grade band on this very accessible piece, please email band director Corrie Smith at csmith@belchertownps.org for seating/music purposes.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Jabish Brook Middle School bands will honor the memory of Lloyd Armstrong at their spring concert on Tuesday, March 26 at 7 p.m.

Residents center in on animals

4C-AC Meet & Greet scheduled for April 7

BELCHERTOWN – Local animal activists Denise Tetrault and Steve Baer who both formed the Belchertown based group 4 County - Animal Citizenry invite the Belchertown community and others to attend a Meet & Greet at Pulse Restaurant in Hadley on April 7 at 11 a.m.

Pulse Restaurant is a vegan restaurant that is wheelchair accessible and gender friendly.

Meals may be purchased directly from Pulse Restaurant. The purchase of a meal is not necessary for the Meet & Greet.

To assist people who are not familiar with 4C-AC people, a placard with the name "4 County Animal Citizenry" will be on the table.

The purpose of the Meet & Greet is to hear from the people of the four county community who are concerned about animals. 4C-AC hope you share your stories, talk about addressing animal issues, and allow 4C-AC to help provide insight into how animal issues affect daily perspectives between people of all gender orientations, skin pigmentation, levels of privilege.

According to a press release, 4C-AC sprouted up when Belchertown native Denise Tetrault realized that she and Steve Baer, a fairly recent Belchertown resident, both wanted to bring people together to address matters of local, national and global importance – that being protecting animals, people, and the environment.

"People have most often been making choices that are the product of trivialized forms of physical violence, coercive advertising, and reaction to some pressing emotional injuries. People are animals, inseparable from the Earth, just like other forms of life on this planet. The violence we cause and allow to happen to animals, including our own species, becomes ingrained and acted out. Then it is passed down and re-enacted for generations," 4C-AC stated in a press release. "The destructive choices people make, no matter how they are attempted to be ignored, affect our relationship with other humans, with animals, and with the environment - either directly or indirectly...the toll it takes is global. But each person doesn't have to perpetuate the abuses caused by generations of destructive choices."

Tetrault and Baer want to encourage people to become aware and take action to help themselves, people, animals, and the planet. As moderators of the Meet & Greet, they will bring with them years of experience in animal advocacy, social justice, and environmental awareness.

"Progress is slow when it comes to causes of justice, but it does eventually happen," said Baer.

"In Belchertown," said Tetrault. "What we do here helps shape what happens worldwide" – a spin-off from the phrase 'Think globally - Act locally' originally coined by 1915 Scottish conservationist Patrick Geddes.

People who are interested in attending this Meet & Greet of 4C-AC, but who cannot make it on April 7 at 11 a.m., are welcome to contact Tetrault by email at dmtetrault101@yahoo.com or Baer by email at baerwolf@hotmail.com.



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COMMUNITY

Cold Plunge 'Try-Ath-Alon' starts April 9

BELCHERTOWN – Come join the Cold Plunge Try-Ath-Alon for a uniquely fun and fulfilling truly local fitness adventure.

Starting April 9 and held twice weekly for seven weeks through May 23, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, participants will sample the bits and pieces that comprise the triathlon.

Participants will start with the waters - and swimming. Then they will head to the air - and biking and lastly, they will finish with the ground - run/walk.

In between, they will practice cardio, flexibility, strength and technique in self-competition and shared community. This experience is for beginners, those new to the sport - or those who enjoy getting into better shape/condition for the spring/summer season ahead.

Creator and cheerleader of this special Belchertown course is Mike Hoffman.

Hoffman and his family are relatively new residents to Belchertown, and he is an experienced "elder athlete" at 66. He was a college athlete (volleyball), amateur athlete (tennis, aikido) and practitioner of yoga, tai-chi and interval training.

Hoffman has competed in over 12 triathlons in the East and West. He has already introduced a parent/child aikido course to Belchertown and is currently a participant in the 5-Colleges Learning in Retirement and BrainFogKeto Program.

Cold Plunge Try-Ath-Alon's organizers believe the triathlon is new to town. At the same time, very few towns are ideally suited.

Belchertown has lakes and pools, infinitely long bike paths and stunning running trails, along with the safety and support of the town's recreation leadership.

Cold Plunge Try-Ath-Alon stresses safety, preparedness, awareness and personal challenge. Participants will only compete with themselves.



Mike Hoffman will lead the Cold Plunge Try-Ath-Alon program starting April 9 and running through May 23.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS
Belchertown resident Mike Hoffman has competed in 12 triathlons.

In this small community, participants support each other in harmony - new and old friends together.

"My vision - may we one day host our own Triathlon," Hoffman said in a press release. "We begin with conditioning -cardio and flexibility-and technique. You set your goals, or I assist with the process."

Details of times and venues, along with how to sign up are on the Town of Belchertown Programs website, Belchertown.org. Or contact Linda Racicot by email at Lracicot@belchertown.org.

Backyard chicken keeping and seed swap event

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown Agricultural Commission is pleased to present its annual Backyard Chicken-keeping and Gardening event on April 6 from 1-3 p.m. at the Town Hall Auditorium at 2 Jabish St.

The commission will have Lindsay Baird of Oak and Ash Farm tabling at this event for informal conversations and questions about keeping chickens. It will also have Edna Colcord from Western Mass Master Gardener's Association presenting on the topic of seed saving.

The commission will also have a seed swap table, so bring some extra seeds to trade. Come join them and benefit from the expertise of your community.

Vendors wanted for Relay for Life craft/vendor fair

BELCHERTOWN – Crafters and vendors are sought for the American Cancer Society, Quaboag Relay for Life's 3rd Annual Spring Craft/Vendor Fair to be held on Saturday, June 8 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on the Common, Routes 9 and 202.

All proceeds from the fair will benefit the American Cancer Society, Relay for Life.

For crafter/vendor selling information, please contact Vicki McAndrew by email at sv_jewelry@charter.net.

Women's Club Fashion Show Luncheon is April 25

WILBRAHAM – A Fashion Show Luncheon featuring CHICO'S is being sponsored by the Wilbraham Women's Club, Thursday, April 25, at the St. Cecilia Parish Center, 42 Main St.

The event begins with a social hour at 11:30 a.m. followed by lunch served at noon. The meal choices are chicken franchise or salmon with dill sauce.

The \$35 donation for the luncheon helps to pay for the club's scholarships and community service projects. In addition, there will be raffle for many prizes.

For reservations please contact Norma Bandarra by calling 413-596-8173 by April 17.

BUDGET from page 1

Sentinel. Increased costs for health insurance as well as increases in tuition for students enrolling in school choice and other out-of-district programs also increased the burden for the schools.

Cameron's proposed budget primarily accounted for these increases by calling for a reduction in district staff. This would include the elimination of 10 teaching positions and 7.5 FTE support staff positions; presentation materials indicate that three of the 10 teaching positions eliminated would be accounted for by a retirement and two reassignments.

An additional teaching position was proposed to be reduced from 1.0 to 0.4 FTE.

Cameron said that the likely impacts of these reductions would include larger class sizes, the elimination of the least popu-

lar elective offerings and the increased probability of students facing scheduling conflicts for desired courses. Minimum student-teacher ratios could be expected to increase to around 17 students per teacher at Jabish Brook Middle School and the High School, up from around 14, he said.

Despite the elimination of these positions, Cameron highlighted that the district would be still responsible for the cost of unemployment benefits for eliminated staff that did not obtain new positions elsewhere. The proposed budget allocates \$105,351 for unemployment, though given the uncertainties around the job market, Cameron expressed his concern that "we're still not sure if that's going to be enough."

A potential increase in athletic fees for district students was also raised as a potential means of offsetting budget shortfalls.

Cameron did point out that a green light for the new Jabish Brook school building project could help to alleviate some of these budget concerns moving forward. "If we get it, it will take some of these issues off the table," he said.

He added that one of the major effects of

the project would be the reduction in costs associated with the corresponding closure of Cold Spring School, though board members also voiced uncertainty about the future of that building as a separate issue to be resolved by the town.

In connection with the school district's budget, Town Administrator Steve Williams said during the meeting that the town's budget, which is slated to be presented later this month with an expected increase of about 1.3%, was one that "we're prepared to work with," but added that "there's still a few unknowns" with regards to the state's budget on Beacon Hill.

Williams emphasized the importance of the Select Board's April 1 meeting, in which state Rep. Aaron Saunders and state Sen. Jake Oliveira are expected to be present to hear from the town about the state's budget.

A public hearing is set for April 10 in the Chestnut Hill Community School auditorium to further discuss and hear from the community about the school district's budget.

Remembering

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♥ **Love Mom, Dad and family**

"You can shed tears that he is gone or you can smile because he has lived"
- David Harkins



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www.macduffie.org to register



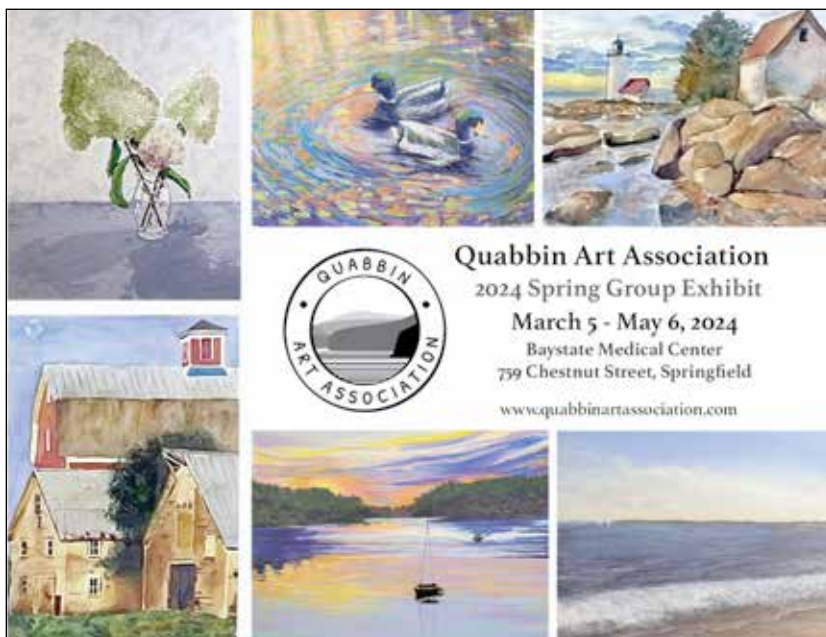
COMMUNITY

QAA's 2024 Spring Group Exhibit open through May 6

SPRINGFIELD – The Quabbin Art Association of Belchertown opened their 2024 Spring Group Exhibit at the Baystate Medical Center – Daly Building, 759 Chestnut St.

The show features the works of more than a dozen members including watercolor, oil, acrylic, pencil, and photography. The exhibit is available for viewing during regular business hours.

Many pieces are for sale directly from the artists.



The Quabbin Art Association will display the 2024 Spring Group Exhibit at Baystate Medical Center – Daly Building, 759 Chestnut St., Springfield through May 6. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Belchertown Community TV Schedule Highlights

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>Thursday, March 21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 a.m. – Select Board – March 18 meeting 10 a.m. – Community Preservation Committee – March 19 meeting 7 p.m. – Energy and Sustainability Committee – Channel 192 7 p.m. – Select Board – March 18 9 p.m. – Community Preservation Committee – March 19 meeting <p>Friday, March 22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman 5 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman | <p>Saturday, March 23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 a.m. – Lost Towns of the Swift River 7 p.m. – Lost Towns of the Swift River <p>Sunday, March 24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Public Office | <p>Monday, March 25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman 5 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman 7 p.m. – Conservation Commission – Channel 192 <p>Tuesday, March 26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 a.m. – CHCS School Garden 5 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman 7 p.m. – Conservation Commission – Channel 192 <p>Wednesday, March 27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman 5 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman |
|--|---|---|

WILLIAMS from page 1
get expenditures.

He is also in charge of the capital improvement and operational budget.

Select Board member Ed Boscher said he wanted to highlight the capital improvement budget.

“We’ve been talking about that for years,” Boscher said. “As part of the free cash policy we adopted last summer as we have \$187,000, which is not even a dent of what’s needed, but it’s a start. It’s encouraging.”

Williams said the Finance Committee has been supportive of the capital plan.

“I refer to it as an inventory because I feel a plan should include a funding source to move things forward,” he said. “That’s the part that is missing, is identifying the funding source.”

Boscher said one distinct difference in the budget process is “all boards officers and committees of the town, including the school committee shall furnish all relevant information and possessions submit to the town

manager...a detailed assessment of appropriations required and available funds.”

Williams talked about his role is to keep the Select Board’s communication “flying in both directions,” authority over the jurisdiction on use of all town facilities and property and serve as chief procurement officer.

Williams will also need to appoint a temporary manager should he be away.

“I need to make sure all general laws and bylaws are adhered to,” he said.

Select Board member Jen Turner asked about the Department of Labor Services recommendation to look at the personnel bylaws.

“Are we looking to do anything more besides what we’re looking to change?” Turner said.

Williams said the Human Resources Department and labor council are looking at the documents and he

doesn’t have a full list of changes yet.

Select Board member Ron Aponte said the Personnel Board may slow the process of getting the changes down.

Select Board member Peg Louraine said she believed the process to be redundant.

“If we can improve the capabilities, we could try to push this onto this year’s meeting,” Turner said.

Williams said they’re a little behind because they thought the state would pass the legislation for the town manager position sooner.





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Golden Lemons Extra Large	4 for \$3
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OPINION



Thank goodness for the 'happy plant'

It was a bad night and the next day didn't start out much better.

I had heard that the days prior to delivery can be a bit uneasy for a soon-to-be-mother (and therefore for her spouse!), now I know it to be true. Luckily, even before my husband came home from work, the smile he is accustomed to had returned to my face.

My grin grew even bigger, however, when I greeted him at the door and found he had a pot of gerber daisies in his hand. Years ago, I deemed this particular potted plant "the happy plant."

For me it is next to impossible to look at its brightly colored flowers and remain in a bad mood. If you feel the same way but have never had any luck growing the gerber daisy, read on to learn just what cultural requirements are necessary to keep it happy.

The gerber daisy was discovered by Robert Jameson in the early 1880s near the gold fields of Barberton, in the Transvaal region of South Africa. The most popular species, the one which we will concentrate on today, bears his name, *Gerbera jamesonii*.

The Barberton daisy, the Transvaal daisy, and the African daisy are all common names for the plant that relate back to its place of origin.

Not long after its discovery, breeding began on the gerber daisy in England, eventually resulting in improved quality and enhanced color variations. Today, the Netherlands and Columbia are the primary producers of gerbers in cut flower form.

In the floral trade, it ranks an impressive fifth in popularity, behind the rose, carnation, chrysanthemum and tulip.

Please see **GARDEN**, page 10



How do survivor benefits work for a married couple?

Dear Rusty:

How does Social Security handle the death of one spouse? Say, for example, the husband receives \$2,000 per month in Social Security and his wife receives \$1,000 per month. How is the death of either spouse handled?

Signed: Concerned spouse

Dear Concerned:

Benefits to a deceased beneficiary stop as soon as Social Security is notified of the death (notification usually done by the funeral director who handles arrangements). Benefits are not paid for the month of death, only for the preceding month when the beneficiary was alive for the entire month.

A surviving spouse is entitled to the higher of two benefits, their own personally earned SS retirement benefit or an amount based on the deceased spouse's benefit at death. In the example you cite, and assuming the surviving spouse has reached Full Retirement Age: if the husband dies first the wife will receive the husband's \$2,000 monthly benefit instead of her previous \$1,000 amount.

But if the wife died first, the husband would continue receiving only his \$2,000 monthly amount because that is more than his deceased wife was receiving. Note in either case, the surviving spouse would be entitled to a one-time lump sum "death benefit" of \$255.

The surviving spouse would need to contact Social Security to claim the "death benefit" and unless the surviving spouse was previously receiving only a spousal benefit also to claim the higher monthly amount, if eligible. If the surviving spouse was previously receiving only a spousal benefit from the deceased and not entitled to SS retirement benefits on their own, then Social Security would automatically award their higher survivor amount when notified of the death.

If a surviving spouse has reached full retirement age somewhere between 66 and 67 depending on year of birth and is eligible for a survivor benefit, the amount of the survivor benefit will be 100% of the deceased

Please see **SSI**, page 10



LETTERS

Resident wants town to make statement of peace

Letter to the Editor,

We have followed the news in Israel and Gaza for six painful months.

It is horrific to see the harm and devastation, the cruelty that has been happening as we watch safely from here. More and more local towns – Northampton, then Amherst, now Greenfield, and Easthampton appears to be next, are turning their broken hearts

into statements for peace and healing in that region.

For a permanent ceasefire. For no more weapons from the United States. Enough pain.

Can Belchertown be next? Let's do it!

Dorothy Cresswell
Belchertown

Choose to live – get vaccinated

To the Editor:

The good news is that you are still alive! You did not die in the COVID-19 pandemic. So far.

The bad news is that the pandemic is not over. In 2024 alone, over 15,000 Americans have died from COVID.

You do not want to be included in next

month's statistics.

Get your COVID vaccine or booster; it could save your life. Even if you do survive, it reduces your chances for debilitating Long COVID.

You have a choice. Choose to live!

Ken Elstein, Member
Belchertown Board of Health



PHOTO BY KEITH RAMOS/USFWS

American woodcock

A Fiskdale couple reported seeing an American woodcock in their large field.

They said, "On Saturday, March 9 we heard the first woodcocks of the season. So happy to have them back."

The woodcock has an extremely long bill, a short neck, a dark back and buff

breast. Its feathers blend into the leaf litter. The long bill allows the bird to probe into the earth and it can open its beak below the surface to grab prey.

It can eat its weight in earthworms within 24 hours. It also eats insects and seeds. Woodcocks inhabit woods and thickets bordered by open areas.

Both sexes make a "peent" call. In spring, woodcocks display in open fields. The male rises in the air in wide circles. When he reaches about 50 feet about the ground his wings start to make a twittering sound. At about 200 to 300 feet the twittering stops.

He give a canary-like flight song and begins a zig zag descent.

Several males may display in the same field. Woodcocks are polygamous. Females are attracted to the area and mate with the males. Males continue to display after mating and may mate with other females.

After mating, the females raise their brood alone. The nest is a scraped depression in the ground lined with twigs or grass and placed within 100 to 200 yards of the male's display ground. The female lays four

Please see **BACKYARD**, page 10

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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Turley Election Policy

This newspaper will print free self-submitted statements of candidacy only four weeks or more out from the election. All candidates running in both contested and uncontested races are asked to submit their statements to the editor to include only biographical and campaign platform details. Total word count for statements is limited to between 300-500 words maximum. Please include a photo. We will not publish any statements of candidacy inside the four weeks from election threshold. To publish any other campaign publicity during the race, please contact our advertising representatives.

We also do not allow personal attacks against other candidates or political parties in statements of candidacy, nor do we publish for free any information about key endorsements or political fundraisers.

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

COMMUNITY

'The Old Bag Sale' is back to benefit the Stone House Museum

BELCHERTOWN – The Stone House Museum's opening day is Saturday, May 11, and "The Old Bag Sale" will be there.

The museum needs your help to make this event a big success. They are collecting gently used bags, pocketbooks, wallets, computer bags, backpacks, etc. (please no suitcases).

Now is the time to clean out your closets and donate – and tell your friends and family to donate as well.

Donation bins have been placed in several locations around town includ-

ing Easthampton Savings Bank, the Senior Center, Clapp Memorial Library, Town Hall lobby, Ransaka Gift Shop, Swift River Gift Shop, Making Waves Salon, Looks To Kill Salon, Station Five Salon, Tina Marie's Hair and Boutique, Dynamic Do's Salon and Bell and Hudson Insurance Agency. Donation bins have also been placed in Granby at the Free Public Library and at the Senior Center.

Bags will be collected through March and April, and the last day to donate will be May 1.

Belchertown Fair poster contest announced

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 friendsoftownfair@gmail.com.

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.gracefortheway.org or contact the church by emailing office@gracefortheway.org or calling 413-253-0292.

Paws to Read

Therapy pets boost literacy at Clapp library

BY RYAN DRAGO

Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Paws to Read is a fun activity where children can read to pets such as dogs and bunnies, and their owners. These pets and their owners visit the library and volunteer their time to help young readers.

The Clapp Memorial Library provides a relaxed and stress-free environment for children to enjoy the company of pets and the joy of reading. Research indicates that under these reading conditions, children's heart rates slow down, resulting in a state of calmness that leads to greater reading success.

According to Substitute Library Technician Judy Schmidt, the biggest benefit children get out of reading with dogs is an increased confidence in their reading, which can help them in school. The dogs also enjoy being able to socialize.

"Kids begin to enjoy reading instead of thinking it's a chore," Schmidt said.

The children who participate in Paws to Read are in grades from first through sixth.

In 2023, Schmidt first experienced Paws to Read and knows how impactful it is on children who have early literacy experience.

"Reading can be fun for everyone," Schmidt said.

Paws to Read is offered nationwide, and not only aims to improve reading skills and enjoy reading, but helps children gain a sense of pride, get more involved with positive activities and find more use in their local libraries.

Alongside Schmidt, Children's Librarian

Jennifer Whitehead had witnessed an amazing difference in reading advancement for children who experience the Paws to Read program. Clapp Memorial Library has hosted this program for 25 years and is made possible by volunteers and certified therapy dogs.

One organization known for assisting in providing services such as Paws to Read is Bright Spot therapy Dogs, Inc. Bright Spot's mission is to encourage volunteer teams to share the benefits of the human-canine bond with those who need it most.

"We are thankful for the volunteers and their pets," Whitehead said. She said they are "always looking for more people to bring their pets."

Bright Spot Therapy Dogs has trained over 700 therapy dog teams, and has more than 300 healthcare, educational, and business facilities throughout New England and beyond requesting the volunteer services of well-trained therapy dog teams.

Whitehead recalls the very first dog who attended the first Paws to Read at Clapp Memorial Library, a German shepherd. Throughout the years, breeds such as golden retrievers, poodles and mutts have served as therapy dogs and participate in Paws to Read.

In the past, certified therapy rabbits would attend Paws to Read. In recent years, the most common dog breed to visit young readers at the event are corgis. Around 20 children attend every week to read with the volunteers and their pets.

According to Schmidt and Whitehead parents appreciate the service Paws to Read provides and the kids enjoy the program as well.

To learn more about Paws to Read, reach out to the Clapp Memorial Library at 413-323-0417.

SOLAR from page 1

board's discussions that Tier 2 batteries would have a requirement to be connected to an on-site generator, rather than allowing standalone batteries of that size to be installed.

Tier 3 batteries would be any that had capacities in excess of 10 MWh. Board member Elizabeth Pols said during the meeting that a battery of this size would typically be located directly adjacent to a

substation.

Town Planner Doug Albertson said that the proposals around battery storage were modeled after language from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, with adjustments made to conform to the town's own bylaw format.

Throughout the meeting, concerns were discussed around the safety and emergency response aspects of battery storage, particularly with regard to any potential Tier 3 batteries that would be installed in town.

Hofler raised the question of whether or not Tier 3 should include a maximum capacity, while Pols said she worried that "Belchertown is not properly set up to be a Tier 3 place."

Board Clerk Justin Rosienski said he would want to hear from the town's Fire Chief on what would be the largest battery-related emergency the Fire Department would be able to handle. This sentiment was echoed by multiple members of the board throughout the meet-

ing, and Albertson confirmed that the Fire Department had already expressed an interest in reviewing the proposed bylaw.

Any existing batteries that would fall under Tier 1 regulations would be grandfathered in should the new bylaw pass Town Meeting, the board said. Currently, no Tier 2 or 3 batteries have been constructed in town, nor has any express interest in one been raised to the board, with solar fields in town feeding directly into the power grid without on-site battery storage.

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The 2023 Belchertown Water District Consumer Confidence Report is available by mail by calling (413) 323-6987.

It is available online on the District website www.belchertownwaterdistrict.org under "Reports"

Direct URL:
<https://www.belchertownwaterdistrict.org/Forms/ccrreport2023.bwd.pdf>

This water quality report is also available at the Belchertown Selectman's office, the Belchertown Public Library, as well as Belchertown Water District office located at 206 Jabish Street.

■ 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 March 6 through March 12. 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 396 calls police responded to, there were 18 incidents, six accidents, seven arrests/summons and 38 citations.

ARRESTS/SUMMONS

Friday, March 8

2:14 p.m. – Allison Olbrych, 24, of 114 School St., Granby was arrested on charges of disturbing the peace. An officer responded to a North Main Street residence for a report of a past resident trying to gain entry to an apartment. It was reported a person was walking their dog in the area and saw a person knocking on the door of a residence. The person was contacted by the officer. They told the officer they stopped to see if any of their old belongings were there and was advised not to return. Then another resident person came up to the door then the person started yelling at another person in an open window.

3:57 p.m. – A Belchertown resident was charged with domestic assault and battery and a summons was issued to a Belchertown resident for charges of domestic assault and battery.

Sunday, March 10

6:33 p.m. – A 33-year-old Springfield man was issued a summons for unlicensed operator of a motor vehicle and speeding. An officer doing traffic enforcement on Stebbins Street with a radar unit observed a vehicle southbound at 52 in a 35-mph zone. The officer stopped the vehicle and ran the driver's license. It was determined it was suspended and confirmed with dispatch. A citation was given to the driver.

Tuesday, March 12

9:24 a.m. – A 55-year-old Belchertown man was charged with possession firearm with no FID and obstruction of justice. An officer responded to a residence to deliver 209A then surrender their gun, ammo and firearms license. They told the officer they didn't have any no more guns. The officer advised the person if they got knowledge the person was lying, they would be in violation of their 209A and then the officer gave the person time to get their personal belongings. The officer was then told about a gun that was registered in their name that they gave to a friend. The story changed multiple times, including that the friend didn't know they had a gun at their residence. It was found the friend had no knowledge of this and the gun was in fact inside of a vehicle. The person was charged accordingly.

ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS

Thursday, March 7

3:19 a.m. – An officer did a wellbeing check at a residence.

7:41 a.m. – An officer received a found credit card from someone who came to the station. The officer attempted to get information from the card but was unable to find any information. The card was destroyed.

8:59 a.m. – An officer took a report of a harassment. A person was receiving emails and a person then reached out to a town entity to find more information on them. The matter is under investigation.

10:09 a.m. – An officer responded with Belchertown Fire and paramedics for a report of a person having a mental health crisis.

3:14 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident at the intersection of Keyes and River Street. A vehicle was merging from Keyes Street onto River Street was side swiped by a second vehicle traveling on River Street. The operator of the first vehicle said they came to complete stop and didn't see another vehicle on River Street. When they proceeded forward, a vehicle stopped and honked at them. The operator of the second vehicle continued honking. The operator of the second vehicle didn't stop. They have yet to be identified. There were no tows and no injuries reported.

5:16 p.m. – Police and Belchertown Fire and paramedics responded for a report of a juvenile having a mental health crisis.

5:40 p.m. – An officer took a memory card from a resident who brought it into the station. It was found in the parking lot of a business. The card was placed into evidence.

8:48 p.m. – An officer took a report of suspicious online activity about a resident's business. The person was getting emails from company that they deleted and then got calls on the phone about the same subject, regarding a service they didn't provide. The person then discovered their business listing on Google was modified to a different name and the address was the same. They were advised to contact Google to reclaim the Google listing and then advised to do check on their credit. They were told to contact the state to talk to them about fraud involving businesses.

Thursday, March 7

10:30 p.m. – Belchertown Police working with the Northwestern District Attorney's Anti-Crime Task Force made an arrest of a person charged with unlicensed operator of a motor vehicle and three counts of a subsequent offense of possessions of class B drugs.

Friday, March 8

6:11 p.m. – An officer responded to a George Hannum Road business for a report of an erratic operator. The reporting caller said they saw them swerving, throw a nip out of the car and pull out of a business. There were two people in the vehicle. The officer dispatched to the area and saw the vehicle at the intersection of Turkey Hill Road and State Street stopped with its hazards on. The officer stopped and identified

the operator who reported they ran out of gas and pushed the vehicle to the side of the road. Field sobriety tests were done, and they said they took medication and alcohol which caused them to drive poorly. The other person said they were going to get an Uber to go home. Based on actions an immediate threat form was filed, and the vehicle was towed from the scene.

Saturday, March 9

11:07 a.m. – An officer took a report of identity fraud. Since December, the person had nine total fraud uses. They cancelled their cards but wanted the incident documented.

Sunday, March 10

12:05 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident. A black sedan went off the roadway into the opposite lane and crashed into a tree. The operator was identified by police in the back of an ambulance being attended to. The vehicle crossed over the fog line then over a small creek down an embankment. The vehicle traveled about 45 feet before coming to a stop. There was front right-side damage to the vehicle. The operator said they didn't remember what was happened. The officer determined the person was an immediate and filed a form accordingly. The person was transported to the hospital.

1:20 p.m. – An officer responded to a call reporting an intoxicated person causing a disturbance then ran into the woods. The calling person indicated there was an argument, the intoxicated person became agitated and ran into the woods. An officer was able to locate the person in a small pond. The person made an attempt to walk back from the pond but fell face-first into the water instead. The officer assisted the person out of the water and up the hill. It was determined the person was highly intoxicated and very cold. They were transported to the hospital.

Monday, March 11

7:52 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on North Main Street. A vehicle was rear ended at the traffic light on North Main Street. There was a scratch to the second vehicle, but both vehicles were able to be driven from the scene. No injuries were reported.

1:23 p.m. – An officer took a report of a stolen identity. A scammer was using a person's identity and Social Security number, causing the person to be ineligible for benefits they were getting.

2:41 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on South Liberty Street. A vehicle traveling south on South Liberty Street when a trash can blew into the roadway in front of a vehicle into the lane of travel. The operator didn't have time to see trash can and struck. There was front end damage to the front and passenger quarter panel. There were no injuries and no tows needed.

6:55 p.m. – An officer responded got a call from a Brandywine resident reporting damage to their lawn from the night before. An unknown vehicle drove onto the lawn left of the driveway leaving tire marks.

There was significant damage to the lawn due to recent rain. The resident reported they got a notification that a vehicle pulled into the driveway to make a delivery. Following the delivery, the operator pulled the vehicle onto the lawn. The resident reported they saw a bottle get tossed from the driver's side window. Photos were taken and the matter is under investigation.

8:51 p.m. – Belchertown Police assisted Belchertown Fire and paramedics respond to a residence for a report of a juvenile having a mental health crisis.

Tuesday, March 12

6:52 a.m. – Officers responded to assist Belchertown Fire and paramedics.

8:44 a.m. – An officer served a person with a restraining order.

2:55 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on South Main Street. A vehicle was waiting to turn left into parking lot my didn't stop and rear ended the first vehicle the operator of the first vehicle was transported. The vehicle was towed from the scene.

9:42 p.m. – An officer got a call about an accident. A white SUV struck a rock wall on South Washington Street. The vehicle pulled out of a driveway then struck a mailbox and rock wall, backed up and continued south on North Liberty Street. The homeowner left in search of the vehicle and hadn't returned home when the officer arrived. The person was able to get video from their Ring doorbell footage. The vehicle has yet to be identified.

Granby PoliceLog

Editor's Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 175 calls for the week of March 8 through March 14. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The Granby Police Department provides all information.

Friday, March 8

1:27 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 58 mph in 35 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.

6:59 a.m. – A motorist reported a single vehicle rollover accident. Granby Police and Fire responded. One person was transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

10:13 a.m. – While on patrol, an officer performed a random license plate query and discovered that the vehicles registration had been revoked due to no insurance. The vehicle was stopped and the operator was issued a criminal citation for operating with a revoked registration and no insurance.

Please see **POLICE**, page 10

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Seasonal Laborer(s)

Looking for summer employment? Like working outdoors and with your hands?

The Belchertown Department of Public Works is looking to fill 2-3 temporary seasonal laborer positions working approximately 40 hours per week. Duties include using commercial grounds maintenance equipment (i.e. mowers, leaf blowers and vacs, string trimmers, brush and chainsaws, and basic hand tools). Must be able to engage in heavy physical labor on a regular and continuous basis, and capable of driving a pickup truck/landscape trailer combination. If you are an enthusiastic individual looking to learn, we can help train you. Positions are temporary and non-benefited.

Applicants must be at least 18 years of age, possess a valid Massachusetts Driver's License and have a clean driving record. Job description and applications are available online at www.belchertown.org/human_resources. Applications will be accepted until the positions are filled.

*The Town of Belchertown is an EEO employer:
we encourage women, minorities and veterans to apply.*

HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL CHOICE OPENINGS 2024-2025

Hadley Public Schools – serving grades PK-12 is currently accepting School Choice Applications.

Applications can be found on our website at www.hadleyschools.org or call (413) 586-0822. The cut-off date for applications is April 17th.

Hadley Public Schools provides a safe and supportive environment that fosters cooperation, critical thinking, creativity, integrity, and a love of learning.

GRANBY

Town Clerk gives reminders for upcoming events

GRANBY – Any person interested in seeking elected office in Granby must take out nomination papers from the town clerk no later than Thursday, March 28 to be placed on the Monday, May 20 ballot.

Candidates must collect signatures of 30 or more registered voters and return the nomination papers to the Town Clerk's office by Monday, April 1.

Office vacancies for the May 20 Annual Town Election include:

- *Select Board – one for three years*
- *Board of Assessors – one for three years*
- *Board of Health – one for three years*
- *Moderator – one for three years*
- *Town Collector – one for three years*
- *Treasurer – one for three years*
- *Housing Authority – one for five years*
- *Housing Authority (unexpired term) – one for four years*
- *Planning Board – one for five years*
- *School Committee – two for three years*
- *Commission of Burial Grounds – one for three years*
- *Library Trustees – three for three year*

Tuesday, April 16 is the last day the Board of Registrars file town nomination papers with the Town Clerk. Tuesday, April 18 is the last day to withdraw or object town nomination papers.

The last day to register to vote in the Annual Town Election is May 3.

Annual Town meeting

Friday, March 29 is the last day to file with the Town Administrator for a private article for the May 13 Annual Town Meeting. For a private warrant article to appear on the Annual Town Meeting warrant, a petitioner must acquire 10 signatures of registered voters in the town.

Friday, May 3 is the last day to register to vote for the Annual Town Meeting on May 13 and Annual Town Election on May 20.

Town Hall public hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and Fridays from 9 a.m.-noon.

Dog licenses

All residents who licensed their dogs through the Town Census should have received their dog tags. If you did not receive your dog tag, call the Town Clerk's office.

For residents who have not licensed their dogs: March and April are the months to license (bylaws of the Town of Granby CH XIV). The cost is \$6 for spayed/neutered, puppies and senior dogs over the age of 10 years, all others the cost is \$15.

To avoid a \$25 late charge fee dogs should be licensed by May 1.

If you choose to mail or use the drop box, please include a copy of the rabies vaccination, or call the Town Clerk's office

for verification, include a self-addressed envelope with two stamps, a check made payable to the Town of Granby, and mail to Town Clerk, 215 B West State St., Granby, MA 01033.

Important voting information

Third and final notices on the 2024 Annual Town Census: Confirmation notices will be mailed out in April to all those voters who did not answer their Town Census as required by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 51, Section 4.

Therefore, all voters who do not answer this mailing will be designated as "Inactive" on the Granby Voting List.

To avoid any voting problems please mail back this postcard. If you did not receive an Annual Town Census or would like to check on your voting status, call the town clerk's office for verification.

Upcoming waste day

There will be a Household Hazardous Waste Day on Saturday, May 4 at the South Hadley DPW, 10 Industrial Drive, from 9 a.m.-noon and pre-registration is required. Granby residents may call the Board of Health at 413-467-7174 or email boh@granby-ma.gov for registration.

Any questions or concerns can be directed to Kathy Kelly-Regan at the Granby Town Clerk's office 467-7178.

Granby Charter Days canceled for 2024

BY MELINA BOURDEAU
Correspondent

GRANBY – The annual Granby Charter Days have been "postponed" until June 2025, according to the committee's Facebook page.

The group announced the postponement last week, stating the committee is in desperate need for volunteers and members.

"Remember, this is a volunteer committee, no one gets paid, and the committee spends long hours the weekend of... Friday, Saturday and Sunday," the post read. "Not to mention the many meetings to plan and prepare for the fair."

The committee suggested that people who would like play a part in planning the 2025 Charter Days should contact the Granby Selectboard at 413-467-7177.

Belchertown Council on Aging lists upcoming events

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

Quabbinaires Walking/Hiking Group

Since it was created in 2022, the Quabbinaires Walking/Hiking Group had an average of 12 people per walk, and walked over 200 miles in at least 39 unique locations.

The group plans to walk every Tuesday in April in May. Walks begin at 9 a.m. and last approximately 90 minutes, and they range from flat pavement to moderate trail hikes.

Email SFraleigh@Belchertown.org to be added to the contact list, or call 413-323-0420 extension 501 for more information.

The Senior Center will email information at the beginning of every month with details and locations for the walks.

Food storage and safety

Food Storage and Safety presented by the UMass Amherst Dietetic Interns will be held on Monday, April 22 at 10 a.m.

They will discuss grocery shopping tips, and how to properly cook food, and store leftovers. Learn how these processes ensure food safety, and reduce the risk of food-borne illness.

Free to attend and walk-ins welcome.

Animal Adventures

On Thursday, April 4 at 12:30 p.m. the Council on Aging will welcome Animal Adventures, the Northeast's leader in exotic animal education. Zoologists will bring an assortment of animals and reptiles for people to meet, and present valuable information about wildlife conservation.

If you are an animal lover, you do not want to miss this. Free to attend and walk-

ins welcome.

This program is supported by a grant from the Belchertown Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Sand for Seniors Buckets
On Wednesday, April 3, members of TRIAD will be making their way through town to pick up all Sand for Seniors Buckets. Please place your buckets in a visible and easy to access area on April 3.

Sit 'N Stitch

Do you enjoy knitting, crochet, quilting, embroidery or needlepoint? Join the Senior Center Friends "Sit 'N Stitch" fundraising group on Tuesday and Friday mornings from 9-11 a.m.

Items crafted will be sold throughout the year to raise funds for the Senior Center

Donations

The Nutrition Program received donations from Anthony D'Amore, Gail McCreanor and an anonymous donor. The Transportation Program received donations from clients.

The Council on Aging thanks everyone kindly for their thoughtfulness, generosity, and continued support.

Yarn Sale

BSCCA's Sit 'N Stitch group will be selling \$5 bags of yarn throughout the month of April in the library corridor.

Public Health Nurse

Kristen Krieger, RN, BSN, Public Health Nurse, visits the Senior Center twice a month. Stop in to have your blood pressure or glucose checked, and get answers to many of your health questions.

Dates including April 8 and April 22 from 10-11 a.m.

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USDA INSP. FROZEN HAM PORTION BUTT or SHANK 1 LB..... **99¢ lb**

USDA INSP. FROZEN 1/2 SPIRAL HAM..... **\$1.29 lb**

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USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS AMERICAN LEG OF LAMB **\$4.99 lb**

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP SIRLOIN SPOON ROAST **\$5.55 lb**

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BACKYARD from page 6

buff eggs with brown splotches.

Canada geese

On Friday, March 1 I saw a large flock of Canada geese in a field in Spencer. On Monday, March 4 I heard the honking of geese. I looked up and saw two large flocks of Canada geese fly overhead.

The first flock flew lower and landed in my hayfield and the pond next to it. The second flock flew much higher and headed northward.

Belted kingfisher

On Feb. 29, a spotted pair of belted kingfishers at a small pond in Ware on my way back from the Ware River News/Barre Gazette office. I was surprised to see them this early.

Black bears and more

I received an email from a Wilbraham resident. He said, "It was March 1, when I woke to see the damage a bear did to our poles and feeders. This was the second time our poles and feeders were damaged by a bear, in the last few years. Shame on me, for not bringing the feeders in at dusk."

He said, "We have been casual bird watchers and feeders for over thirty years. It is relaxing and fun to see the local and migratory birds visit our feeders. Unfortunately, we have to consider the risks associated with placing food sources in our back yards. It means we have to be aware and maybe take the feeders in at dusk, putting them back out in the morning."

He also said, "However, that will not eliminate the chance for a bear/human encounter. Last year, a black bear was in our neighbors back yard, at 10:30 a.m. in the morning. The bear was attracted by the

chickens in the coup. Fortunately, they have an electrified fence, surrounding the coup. After getting shocked, it ran across the street and into Cedar Swamp woods. It will be back, since a bear does remember where the food sources are located." He said he recently saw a male, pileated woodpecker.

Loon fact

The Loon Preservation Committee in Moultonborough, New Hampshire included these interesting loon facts in their newsletter.

Loons are physiologically adapted for life in the water, so much so that they struggle to walk on land as a result. Their dense, thick walled bones help to weigh them down in the water. The extreme rear-placement of their legs and feet allows them to maximize the propulsive force that they can exert with each kick.

Many studies documented the duration of

observed loon dives. Most of these studies have reported that average loon dives last somewhere between 33 and 52 seconds, regardless of season or location.

Loons diving to deeper depths tend to spend more time underwater than those diving in more shallow areas.

In a study of loons using Lake Michigan as a stopover site during fall migration, Kenow et al. (2018) found that loons diving to depths of 40 m (131 feet) were spending, on average, 139 seconds (over 2 minutes) underwater per dive. In contrast, loons diving to depths of just 20 meters (65 feet) in that study were spending less time underwater per dive (87 seconds, on average).

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.

POLICE from page 8

Tuesday, March 12

1:24 p.m. – A resident came to the station to report that someone opened a Verizon account in their name. An incident report was completed.

Wednesday, March 13

4:37 a.m. – A motorist reported that they swerved to miss a deer and struck a mailbox on Barton Street. There were no injuries.

12:09 p.m. – Detail officers radioed that a motor vehicle passed by their location with a right front flat tire. The tire was missing, and the vehicle was being operated on its rim. On duty officers responded and spoke to the operator.

12:29 p.m. – Arrest from previous call. Kenneth Peet, 33, of Belchertown, was placed under arrest for operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol and possessing an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle.

Thursday, March 14

12:14 p.m. – A resident came to station to report that they received a call from someone that reported to be their grandson. The caller stated that they had been involved in an accident, arrested, and needed bail money. They were advised it is a scam and to disregard it.

3:18 p.m. – The Fire Department reported a minor two-car accident in front of the station. There were no injuries.

GARDEN from page 6

According to floral lore, the meaning behind the gerber flower is one I would wholeheartedly agree with: cheerfulness, probably due to the wide palette of colors it is available in – nearly every one except blue. Look for vivid orange, cool coral, hot pink, crimson red and sunshine yellow, not to mention bubblegum pink and creamy white!

Unfortunately, the gerber daisy is not hardy in our area; it prefers a much warmer location in which to grow. On the eastern seaboard, the only place it will overwinter is the southernmost tip of Florida, in hardiness zones 9 and 10.

Here in New England, it is best enjoyed

on the windowsill during the winter months. As long as the plant is provided with normal room temperatures, bright light and sufficient but not excess moisture it should bloom prolifically.

Remember to remove spent flowers to keep up the gerber's good looks as well as to encourage future blooms.

Once the danger of frost has passed, it is also safe to plant the gerber daisy outdoors, just as you would any other summer annual. More and more consumers are doing this each year and with success!

The best type of soil for it is one that is organically rich and well-drained. Full sun is a must for flower production.

If you wish to dig up the plant after the season wanes and attempt to overwinter it

indoors, be extra careful not to disturb its deep root system or death may incur. Some gardeners who plan on overwintering their gerbers sink the pot and all at planting time to avoid any potential risk later on.

Right now, the "happy plant" sits on the bureau in the nursery, awaiting the arrival of our little girl, just as we are. There is indeed so much to be happy about!

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

SSI from page 6

spouse's benefit. But if the survivor claims the benefit before reaching FRA, the amount of the survivor benefit will be reduced by 4.75% for each full year earlier.

The survivor's benefit reaches maximum at the survivor's full retirement age.

If a surviving spouse has not yet reached their FRA and if they are entitled to not necessarily collecting their own Social Security retirement benefit, the surviving spouse has the option to delay claiming the survivor benefit until it reaches maximum at their full retirement age. If the survivor's personal SS retirement benefit will ever be more than their maximum survivor benefit, the surviving spouse also has the

option to claim only the smaller survivor benefit first and allow their personal SS retirement benefit to grow to maximum at age 70 if desired.

With Social Security there is hardly ever a simple answer to a question but, in the example you use, if both are over their SS full retirement age:

If the husband dies first, the wife will get 100% of the amount (\$2,000) the husband was receiving, instead of the small amount (\$1,000) she was previously receiving.

If the wife dies first, the husband's monthly benefit will remain at \$2,000 and he will get no increase in his monthly amount. In either case, the surviving spouse will be entitled to a one-time lump sum death benefit of \$255.

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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More than 6,000 brighten great day at road race

BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – After some dreary, cold, or rainy weather during the past few years, the people attending the Holyoke St. Patrick’s Day Road Race drew a winner yesterday.

On a sun-splashed afternoon with comfortable temperatures, the 47th running of the popular 10K Road Race took place.

With more than 6,000 harriers competing, and many more taking part in the Fun Run or walking events, the first part of St. Patrick’s weekend was definitely a success.

Louis Serafini was the big winner of the main event. He com-



The runners are off in the 2024 Holyoke St. Patrick’s Day Road Race.

Please see **ROAD RACE**, page 12



The wave of runners head down the first stretch of the 6.2-mile course.



Matthew Talbot, of Belchertown, crosses the finish line at 42:06.



Jacob Robinson, of Belchertown heads for the finish at the 2024 race.



Benjamin Chartier, a veteran of the race, heads for the finish.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY
WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Orelio Manduley goes for the tipoff.



B-Town concludes regular season

Kris Kelly drives into the paint.

LUDLOW – Last week, Belchertown finished up the regular season in the Suburban

Basketball League. The Belchertown 5-6 team headed for the playoffs last week.



Donovan McMahon shoots from the free throw line.



Conner Bianchmono takes a three-point shot.

SPORTS

Players needed to fill Quabbin Valley League rosters

With April looming, the Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League is looking for more players to fill its open roster spots.

There are more than 15 open roster spots as the league heads for its open practice and tryout date and teams are looking to fill their 14-player rosters for a 2024 season that will see the league get back to its normal schedule.

The league is very enthusiastic to welcome new members to the league to fill these roster spots so all teams have the full depth they need. To register, go to: www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org and click on the Registration tab.

Following heavy turnover between 2022 and 2023, the league had to downsize to five teams and ran a modified schedule that included scheduled doubleheaders and bye weeks for teams in order to complete a

15-game schedule. Rain also hampered the league's schedule as well last year.

On March 3, the league's board voted to bring in a new team, bringing the league back up to six teams and creating an even schedule with every team playing on 15 Sunday morning starting on Sunday, April 21 through late August with playoffs to follow.

The league is also voted to play a segment of its schedule using wood bats only. The middle five games of the schedule will be played that way while the rest of schedule is played with either metal or wood bats.

The league will be holding an open practice for all league players and especially players who are new to the league on Sunday, April 7 at 10 a.m. at Beachgrounds Park in South Hadley.

Prior to that, the next meeting is scheduled for Sunday March 24 at 12 noon at the

Hangar Pub & Grill in South Hadley. All are welcome to attend the meeting, ask questions and express interest in joining. The league's board will be discussing final preparations for the 2024 season.

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.

Games are typically held in the Easthampton and South Hadley area with some expansion to Chicopee, West Springfield, Agawam, and Granby being considered.

Locals named to Senior All-Star Game

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced the team rosters for the 2024 Western Massachusetts Senior High School All-Star Games. On Thursday, March 21, the Hall of Fame hosted the 2024 All-Star event on the Jerry Colangelo Court of Dreams at the Hall of Fame. A total of 60 players were selected from different divisions within the region to participate in three games that will showcase the top seniors in their final high school contest.

“The Basketball Hall of Fame is honored to host the top high school basketball players from Western Massachusetts at our 13th annual All-Star celebration,” said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. “We encourage the residents of Western Mass. to join us as we celebrate these outstanding seniors in the final game of their high school careers.”

A committee of local coaches and media members who represent each division on the boys' and girls' sides selected the teams. Using the designated classes for the PVIAC Tournament, the players will be divided into six teams: two girls' teams, two boys' teams of Class A and B players, and two boys' teams of Class C and D players. Only graduating seniors are eligible

Please see **ALL-STAR**, page 13

Worcester Railers fall to Adirondack Thunder

WORCESTER – Worcester was beaten, 5-1, by the Adirondack Thunder even though it outshot the visitors by 40-26.

The Railers have scored exactly one goal in four straight games on a total of 148 shots on goal. This is the third time in franchise history a Worcester team has scored one or fewer goals four straight times, the first time since Feb. 27 through March 3, 2022.

The Railers had two goals in that stretch.

“I’m sure that’s part of it,” coach Jordan Smotherman said of the confidence factor. “Any time you put together (148) shots over four games and score four goals, guys start gripping the sticks and there’s definitely a letdown every time you have that

big chance and it doesn’t go in.”

Jake Pivonka had the Railers goal. Grant Jozefek, Andre Ghantous, Ryan Smith, Shane Harper and Mike Gillespie scored for the Thunder. Gillespie hit an empty net.

For the first time this season Smotherman changed goalies not because of injury. John Muse allowed four goals on 16 shots and was replaced by Cole Ceci at 17:09 of the second period.

“We’ve asked a lot of him,” Smotherman said of Muse. “Especially seeing that he’s 35 years old. I couldn’t imagine doing that. He wanted to play tonight. He wanted to fight to give us a chance to win. We know that the next time he’s in there he’s gonna be the giant we’ve come to know.”

With the defeat, the Railers have dropped into sixth place in the North Division, at least in terms of winning percentage. In terms of points, though, Worcester is remarkably tied with three other teams for the final playoff spot.

The Railers, Reading, Maine and Trois-Rivieres all have 57. Maine and Trois-Rivieres have winning percentages of .491. Reading is at .475.

Newfoundland is in third place with a .517 winning percentage, so the Growlers are in the playoff scrum, too.

“I told our guys — we’re in a 13-game push. There are four teams with 57 points,

Please see **RAILERS**, page 13



Male top finisher and first overall Louis Serafini, of Cambridge, finishes the race at 30:12.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI
Braeden Gallagher rushes for the finish.



Anna Steinmen, of Springfield, was the top female finisher at 37:00.

ROAD RACE from page 11

pleted the very hilly, 6.2-mile course in 30:12. Serafini is from Cambridge.

The top female was a local runner from Western Massachusetts. Anna Steinmen, of Springfield, came across the finish line at 37:00.

Ryan Davis, of South Hadley, was one of the top local finishers at 34:36. He was 20th overall.

This year’s race would feature runners from all over the region, the state, and surrounding states as many are preparing for the Boston Marathon, set to take place in just under a month on Monday, April 15. Many runners over the years have enjoyed using the St. Patrick’s Day Road Race as practice for the marathon because of the challenging hills throughout the streets of Holyoke that runners must navigate through.

Of the more than 6,000 runners who were registered, 4,442 finished the 10K course this year. Race officials have said the participation level in the event is still rebounding from the pandemic. Prior to the pandemic in 2019, race participants totaled

about 7,000. The race was not held in 2020 and 2021 before it returned in 2022 with around 5,000 participants. More made their way out to the race last year, but that number was surpassed this year.

Because of that, the start of the race featured multiple waves, though 4RUN3 ran the bibs and electronic results kept accurate results for all those involved.

A number of this year’s participants were featured in the usual celebratory costumes and outfits for St. Patrick’s Day, while many others opted for cartoon and other fictional characters, such as Spider-Man. Several local running clubs also made their way to the race, as did the youth of the region. Youth participants in the race were as young as seven-years-old.

Security was in full force at the event with plenty of presence from the Massachusetts State Police, Holyoke Police, and Hampden County Sheriff’s Department, and the event went off without any incidents.

RIGHT: William Os, of Granby, competes with others for the finish line.



T-Birds get much-needed win over Charlotte

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Springfield Thunderbirds (27-27-3-2) answered a Charlotte comeback the day before with one of their own en route to a 6-4 win over the Checkers (31-23-6-0) on Sunday afternoon at Bojangles’ Coliseum.

It did not take long for the Checkers to score their fourth consecutive goal of the weekend, as captain Zac Dalpe worked a 2-on-1, give-and-go rush to perfection with Cam Morrison, snapping a shot over Colten Ellis to make it 1-0 Charlotte just 2:56 into the first.

Springfield answered in kind on its first power play chance of the day, as Will Bitten hit a crashing Ryan Suzuki in the crease for a redirection past Magnus Hellberg at 5:22, making it a 1-1 game.

Charlotte continued having penalty troubles, giving the T-Birds two additional man-up situations in the period. However, the Checkers’ PK answered the bell, and on their third kill of the afternoon, Rasmus Asplund added offense with a shorthanded shot past Ellis on the blocker at 14:32, finishing off another 2-on-1 and giving the home side the 2-1 lead at intermission.

It took Adam Gaudette just 19 seconds to restore a tie score when he stole a breakout pass and slapped a blistering shot over Hellberg’s shoulder to even the game, 2-2. It brought him back into a tie for the AHL goal-scoring lead with Ontario’s Samuel Fagemo.

The 2-2 tie only lasted 50 seconds, though, as Wilmer Skoog answered back on a jam shot from the right circle to give Charlotte the 3-2 advantage during a delayed Springfield penalty.

Charlotte’s third power play proved to be a charm when Gerry Mayhew gave the Checkers a two-goal lead when he poked a loose puck under Ellis at 8:32 to make it a 4-2 game.

With much of the momentum seemingly on Charlotte’s side, the T-Birds got a wonderful stroke of luck at the 10:25 mark when a Skyler Brind’Amour pass caromed off Uvis Balinskis’ skate

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

**Public Hearing
Special Permit
Legal Notice
Belchertown
Planning Board**

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 Lucienne Hyson for #11 Cottage Street., Map 243, Lot 47, Belchertown, MA.

A public hearing will be held as follows:

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

Date: April 9, 2024

Time: 7:30 PM

Remote access information:

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

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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
03/21, 03/28/2024

**Belchertown
Conservation Commission
LEGAL NOTICE**

Pursuant to the authority of the Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Ch. 131, Sec. 40, its Regulations (310 CMR 10.00) and the Belchertown Wetlands Protection Bylaw (Chapter 139), the Belchertown

Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on **Monday, April 8, 2024 at 7:00 PM in the Lawrence Memorial Hall Auditorium, located at 2 Jabish Street in Belchertown, MA 01007** to review a **Request for Determination of Applicability** permit application submitted by Gerald Bolduc for the proposed removal of two (2) hazardous trees at **16 and 36 Grela Terrace (Assessor's Map 101-58 & 56) in Belchertown**. Work is proposed to occur within the 100-foot Buffer Zone and the locally-protected 50-No Disturb Zone to Bank of Lake Holland. Anyone interested in this matter should appear at the time and place designated. 03/21/2024

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampshire Division
Docket No. HS24P0076EA**

**Estate of:
LINDA M. DESROCHES
Also Known As:
LINDA M. CLARK
Date of Death: 11/27/2023
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **RICHARD DESROCHES of BELCHERTOWN, MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate. **RICHARD DESROCHES of BELCHERTOWN, MA** has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without** surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regard-

ing the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 03/21/2024

**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 Common Drive Special Permit submitted by Chocurua Realty Investments,

LLC, 5 Bayberry Lane, Hadley, MA 01035, No. Liberty Street, Map 268, Lot 34 & 34.01, Belchertown, MA.

A public hearing will be held as follows:

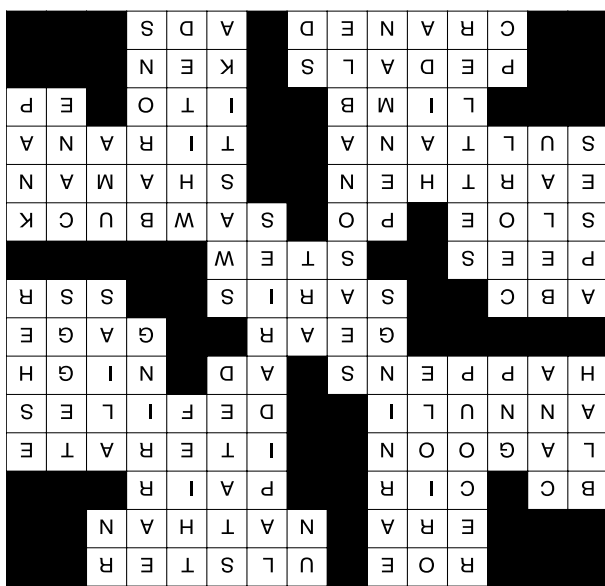
Place: Belchertown Town Hall, 2 Jabish St., Belchertown, MA

Date: April 9, 2024

Time: 7:00 PM

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
03/21, 03/28/2024



The Sentinel
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

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- 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

T-BIRDS from page 12

and squeaked under Hellberg's legs. Suzuki was given credit for his second of the game, and the Charlotte lead suddenly slipped to 4-3.

With their power play beaming with confidence, the T-Birds tied the game when Will Bitten deflected a Calle Rosen shot in behind Hellberg, tying the score, 4-4, with just 3:01 remaining in the middle period.

Early in the third, the Springfield power play again made a huge impact following a double-minor on Mayhew. With just two seconds remaining on the first minor, Jakub Vrana played the role of the deflector, as he guided a Dylan Coghlan snapshot

through Hellberg, giving the T-Birds their first lead at the 2:30 mark of the third, 5-4.

After both teams committed minors just 51 seconds apart to set up 4-on-4 play, Coghlan added to the T-Birds lead on a 2-on-1, picking a spot over Hellberg's stick-side arm to make it a 6-4 lead for the visitors at 9:26 of the final period. Coghlan finished the two-game set with three goals and five points, and his goal put him atop the AHL leaderboard for goals by defensemen with 16.

From that point onward, Ellis and the T-Birds' defense stiffened, blocking countless Charlotte attempts en route to the win. Ellis, in picking up his third straight win over Charlotte, made 42 stops.

ALL-STAR from page 12

for the All-Star Games. Rosters can be found on the next page.

For the 13th year, the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame will recognize one boy and one girl as the Western Massachusetts Players of the Year. A special presentation will be made for the recipients during halftime of one of the participating games. A panel of local media members selects the award winners, who are recognized for their achievements on the court, in addition to their sportsman-

ship and character off the court.

The three All-Star Games were held on Thursday, March 21. There were two boys games and a girls game on the slate.

Among the all-stars named were Granby's Colin Murdock, Monson's Colin Beaupre, Ware's Jack McKeever and Emily McGrail, Palmer's Andrew Menard, Minnechaug's Lylah Jeannotte, South Hadley's Drew Alley, Holyoke's Amilyan Treadwell-Mercedes and Shawn Rivera, Chicopee Comprehensive's Alyssa Caney and Tineus McCluster, and Agawam's Colin Smith.

RAILERS from page 12

one with 62 that's played a couple more games. We play all of them, so it's up to us. The ball's in our court."

The winning goaltender was Vinnie Purpura. He was the last man the Railers wanted to see as they battle an offensive slump. The triumph improved his record against Worcester this season to 5-0-1 with a 1.91 goals against average and .935 saves percentage.

Worcester outshot the Thunder, 9-1, through the game's first seven minutes and dominated play, but had nothing to show for it. Thus, Adirondack scored the first goal and took a 1-0 lead at 16:09.

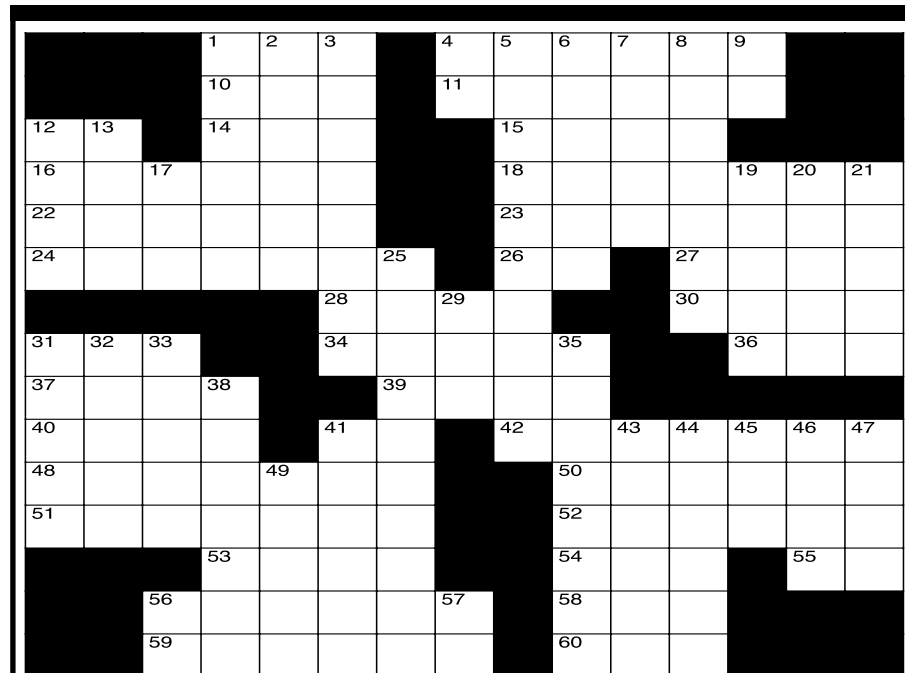
Jozefek, a former Railer, snapped one

home from the right circle.

Pivonka tied it late in the period as he converted a pass from Ashton Calder at 18:21. That could have translated into some momentum for Worcester heading into the second period, but did not.

Ghantous, newly signed out of Northern Michigan, got his first pro goal at 3:15. He put one under the crossbar from 20 feet. Smith scored similarly at 4:33 on a power play, then Harper beat Muse from the top of the left circle at 17:09 to end the veteran's night.

The Railers' next four games are on the road. They play at Adirondack Wednesday night, then do a three-in-three weekend in Reading. The next game at the DCU Center is March 27 versus Newfoundland.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Small Eurasian deer
4. Irish county
10. A major division of geological time
11. Broadway actor Lane
12. Canadian province (abbr.)
14. Human gene
15. Two
16. A famous one is blue
18. Utter repeatedly
22. Ring-shaped objects
23. Spoils
24. Occurs
26. Commercial
27. Near
28. Products you may need
30. Pledge thrown down as a challenge

CLUES DOWN

31. TV network
34. Silk or cotton garments
36. Soviet Socialist Republics
37. Retired American football coach Dean
39. Hot dish
40. A type of gin
41. Atomic #84
42. Sawhorse
48. About ground
50. Medicine man
51. Seedless raisin
52. Capital of Albania
53. Appendage
54. OJ trial judge
55. By the way (abbr.)
56. Bicycle parts
58. Barbie's friend
59. Moved one's neck to see
60. Commercials

CLUES DOWN

1. Make up for
2. Baltimore ballplayer
3. Salary
4. Influential world body
5. Engravers
6. Declared as fact
7. One who steals
8. Jewelry
9. Hospital employee (abbr.)
12. Nonsense (slang)
13. Town in Galilee
17. Value
19. A fake name
20. Sheep in their second year
21. Town in Surrey, England
25. Appropriate for a particular time of year

CLUES DOWN

29. Creative works
31. Recesses
32. W. Pacific island group
33. Tolkien character
35. Ancient symbol co-opted by the Nazi party
38. Pioneer
41. Scribe
43. Painted a bright color
44. Lowest members of British nobility
45. Actress Thurman
46. Type of sugar
47. Crest of a hill
49. N. American people of British Columbia
56. Device
57. The Mount Rushmore State

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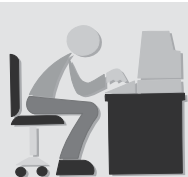


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tion now, and much more.

The surveys will close on Friday, March 29 and all three are available on the Communications Committee page, and you can access them by scanning the QR code.



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