



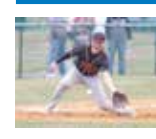
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Paws to Read

Dogs and young readers enjoy time together

BY RYAN DRAGO
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – Paws to Read brings kids and dogs together during a laidback reading session.

Paws to Read is a program dedicated to pairing dogs with young readers who gain reading confidence in a relaxed, stress-free environment. These certified therapy animals are also family pets who visit the library with their owners who volunteer their time to help young readers.

Recently joining the Clapp Memorial Library for Paws to Read is Tibby Chase and her two



TURLEY PHOTO BY RYAN DRAGO

Please see **PAWS**, page 9 Second grader Willow was reading to Gigi, Arlo's little sister at Clapp Memorial Library.

School Committee discusses FY 25 budget

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

GRANBY – The School Committee met to discuss the fiscal year 2025 budget, hear from the community, and welcome new members to the committee.

The March 26 meeting was held by Chair Jennifer Bartosz, and she was joined by members Michael Durham, Jill Pelletier, and George Bahlke. Student Representative Cole Fuller was also present.

Members of administration were also present, including Superintendent Stephen Sullivan, Director of Finance and Operations Todd Dorman and members of the Senior Leadership Team. Cheryl Denette, president of the Granby Education Association was also present.

FY 2025 budget discussion

Dorman gave a presentation outlining the budget for FY 25, which was followed by a public hearing.

Dorman first went over goals that the committee has regarding the budget. "Everyone – staff, students, and adults can grow and shift with the right supports," he said.

He shared that the biggest expense in the budget is in special education, which the costs have only risen with inflation, as the

Please see **BUDGET**, page 13



State Rep. Aaron Saunders spoke at a meeting of the Friends of Quabbin held at the Belchertown United Church of Christ Fellowship Hall this past Sunday.

Rep. Saunders speaks about need for Quabbin bill

BY NICK BOONSTRA
Staff Writer
nboonstra@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – State Rep. Aaron Saunders (D-Belchertown) spoke at a meeting of the Friends of Quabbin on April 7, to promote a bill that aims to improve regional equity for the communities that host the Quabbin Reservoir.

House Bill 897, also known as An Act Relative to the Quabbin Watershed and

Regional Equity, would create a trust fund to benefit Quabbin Reservoir Watershed Communities, which would be funded by a fee based on the amount of water used by supplied municipalities.

The fee proposed by the bill would be set at five cents per 1,000 gallons drawn, and would be expected to raise \$3.5 million for the fund, according to a summary document for the bill provided by Saunders.

Please see **QUABBIN**, page 9

BOAT hosts third annual Umbrella of Wellness Fair

BELCHERTOWN – The third annual Umbrella of Wellness Fair will be held this spring at Chestnut Hill Community School.

This event, hosted by Belchertown Overcoming Adversity Together, will be free and open to the community on Saturday, May 4 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The mission of

the Umbrella of Wellness Fair is the augmentation of holistic well-being within the community through education, engagement, and empowerment.

A schedule for the Umbrella of Wellness Fair activities and mini workshops will be released by the second week of

Please see **FAIR**, page 11

Military banner program 2024 launches soon

BELCHERTOWN – Belchertown Police Department is now accepting orders for Military Tribute Banners that are displayed annually around the Town Common.

The banners will be displayed from Memorial Day through Veterans Day, then taken down and given to the sponsors to keep. The cost to sponsor a new banner is \$150 or \$50 to proudly display a banner that was purchased in a previous year.

All proceeds go towards supporting the program and to supporting local veterans.

Visit militarytributebanners.org/.../belchertown-ma.html to get

Please see **BANNER**, page 4



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Belchertown Police Department is accepting orders for Military Tribute Banner.



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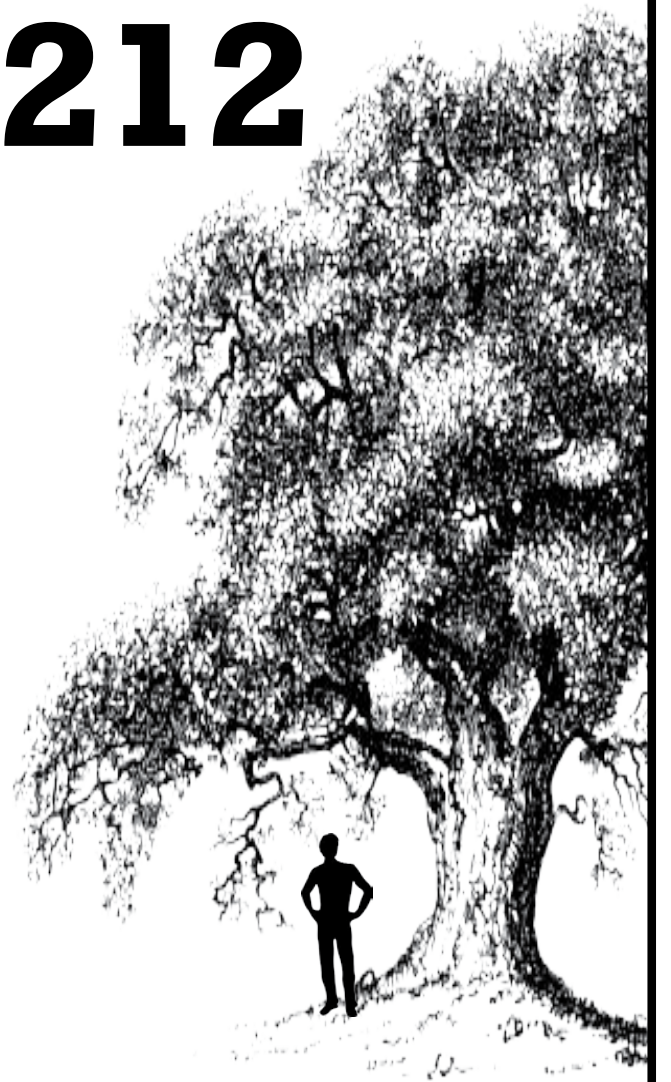
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DL&G TREE



Students enjoy Easter egg hunt



TURLEY PHOTOS BY NICK BOONSTRA

Children from the Belchertown Day School had fun collecting Easter eggs at the Christopher Heights community on April 1.



One of the young students shares a high five with the Easter Bunny on his way out.



The Easter Bunny stuck around an extra day to make an appearance, and shared a moment with one of the young egg hunters.

Belchertown Community TV Schedule Highlights

Thursday, April 11

- 8 a.m. – Planning Board – April 8 meeting
- 10 a.m. – Communications Committee – April 5 meeting
- 12 p.m. – School Budget Meeting – April 10 meeting
- 6:30 p.m. – Finance Committee/Select Board/School Committee Budget – Channel 192
- 7 p.m. – Planning Board – April 8 meeting
- 9 p.m. – Communications Committee – April 5 meeting

Friday, April 12

- 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 9 a.m. – Community Preservation Committee – March 12 meeting
- 10 a.m. – Energy and Sustainability Committee – March 24 meeting
- 5 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 7 p.m. – Community Preservation Committee – March 12 meeting
- 9 p.m. – Energy and Sustainability Committee – March 24 meeting

Saturday, April 13

- 5 p.m. – School Budget Meeting – April 10 meeting
- 8 p.m. – Finance Committee/Select Board/School Committee Budget

Sunday, April 14

- 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. – JBMS New School Presentation – April 9 meeting

Monday, April 15

- 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 9 a.m. – JBMS New School Presentation – April 9 meeting
- 11 a.m. – BHS Spring Concert – March 28
- 5 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 7 p.m. – BHS Spring Concert – March 28
- 8:30 p.m. – JBMS New School Presentation – April 9 meeting

Tuesday, April 16

- 8 a.m. – BHS Spring Concert – March 28
- 6:30 p.m. – Select Board – Channel 191
- 7 p.m. – Community Preservation Committee – Channel 192

Wednesday, April 17

- 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 9 a.m. – Finance Committee/Select Board/School Committee Budget
- 5 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 6 p.m. – ZBA – Channel 191
- 7 p.m. – EDIC – Channel 192

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.



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Quabbin Art Association **EVENTS**

Artisan Donna Beck to be presenter

BELCHERTOWN – The Quabbin Art Association will host guest presenter Donna Beck, at their April meeting.

Beck is a hand papermaker and surface-design artisan who creates from all natural materials.

The artist states: “My work evolves from handmade and surface-designed papers and pulp. Much of my inspiration comes from a ‘sense of the spiritual’ found in nature, in both sacred places and in nature’s artwork: an intricate, meandering grapevine tendril; a perfectly round, smooth, wave-tumbled stone from the coast; birch bark; manzanita burls; a carefully woven bird’s nest; a bone; a poppy seed pod; an antler. These elements come together to form my sculptural nests, which whisper of emotions, the life cycle, and the significance of home. Nests are homes--vessels for birth and life, memories and ‘becomings.’

She explains further, “Our

homes, as vessels, are meant to protect, shelter, nurture, and guide. These nests are hand cast with handmade paper or pulp. I then incorporate fibers, beads, found objects, stitching, basketry and packaging techniques to transform the seemingly ordinary into works I hope evoke wonder, peacefulness, and beauty. I also create one-of-a-kind handmade books, collages, cards, paste papers, and handmade paper.”

Beck has been actively involved in the arts in western Massachusetts, and taught in the art program at Western New England University for over 13 years. She directed and taught in the Monson Summer Art Camp, designed and directed a “Young at Art” program, and maintained a studio while holding classes at Indian Orchard Mills for 14 years.

Beck was a member of Artisans of Western Mass, and served on the Monson Arts Council Board of Directors. Besides exhibiting her work and designing commissions, she has participated in numerous area festivals and fairs.

Six years ago, she moved to



“Renewal” by Donna Beck.

Erving and renovated an 1836 carriage house where she now creates her papers and pieces, works on commissions, and teaches classes. To learn more about her work and current schedule, please visit her website at <http://www.230amstudio.com>

The QAA meeting will be held on Thursday, April 18, at St. Francis Parish Hall, Lower Level, 12 Park St. in Belchertown, starting at 7 p.m. followed by Beck’s



“Waves” by Donna Beck.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

presentation.

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

supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. For more information visit www.quabbina-ttassociation.com.

Lions Club lists 120 Club raffle results

GRANBY – The Granby Lions Club held the drawings for its 120 Club fundraiser at its March 19 meeting.

The first prize winner of \$250 was Dennis Lafleur, the second prize winner of \$100 was Marilyn Ishler and the third prize

winner of \$50 was Don Roberts.

In addition, there were 10 preliminary prize drawings of \$10 each and those winners were Zach Curtain, Carole Cote, Zach Curtin, Sharon Smith, Judy Snyder, Maggie O’Shea, Lisa Petraglia, Don Roberts, Sharon

Smith and Kim Sarnacki.

The Lions Club appreciates the support of all who purchased tickets for this fundraiser and the proceeds will be used for support of our vision and scholarship programs.

BANNER from page 1


to the online form for submitting your Military Tribute Banner Sponsorship Order.

Sponsorship payment may be made by check payable to: Town of Belchertown. Write “Banner Program” in the memo line.

These can be mailed or dropped off to the Belchertown


Police Department, 70 State St., Belchertown, MA 01007.

For any questions, assistance in ordering a banner, or displaying a previously purchased banner contact Chief Kevin Pacunas by email at Kpacunas@belchertown.org, Sergeant Robert Mann at Rmann@belchertown.org, or by calling at 413-323-6685.



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Relay for Life lists fundraising events

BELCHERTOWN – The Quaboag Valley Relay for Life has several ongoing fundraisers including Rada Knife and Kitchen Supplies by Team Lynn – Peach Pedestrians (catalogs available through Eleanore), a scratch ticket drawing by Team Lynn offering \$420 worth of scratch tickets for \$5 a chance or five for \$20 (drawing is June 1), as well as a possible Pampered Chef fundraiser by Team Lynn.

For more information about Team Lynn's fundraisers contact Eleanore Gray by calling 413-374-7323 or emailing ctelie@juno.com.

Joe Berthiaume's Pit Crew is raffling a foursome for nine holes of golf at Hardwick Crossing Country Club. Tickets are \$5 each or five for \$20 with the drawing on June 24.

They will also raffle a wine tasting for 10 people plus cheese and crackers at Hardwick Vineyard & Winery. The cost is \$5 per ticket or five for \$20.

April fundraisers

Now through April 27, Team Lynn will have a Scentsy fundraiser, with 25% of sales going to the team.

Message Vicki M. McAndrew on Facebook for more information.

On April 16 from 3-8 p.m., support the BUCC Angels with Texas Roadhouse Dine to Donate. You will need a flyer in order for the team to get the percentage.

On April 17 from noon-8 p.m., Dine to Donate at Villa Rose.

On April 22 from 3-8 p.m. Grapevine Grille will have Dine to Donate. You will need a flyer in order for the team to get the percentage.

The flyer will be posted on Facebook and there will also be some on the table near the door as you enter.

On April 26 from 2-9 p.m. Leena's Place at Belchertown Country Club will host Dine to Donate.

On April 29 from 4-8 p.m. BUCC Angels will have Dine to Donate at Antonio's. You will need a flyer in for the team to get the percentage.

May fundraisers

A bake sale will be hosted by The Bean Team on May 11 at the Post Office.

On May 13 from 3-8 p.m., Dine to Donate at Antonio's. You will need a flyer which will be available outside

the door.

On May 16 from 11 a.m.-noon, McCarthy's Pub will host a Dine to Donate fundraiser for both dine in or take out. No flyer is necessary.

On May 18 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., a professional photo session will be held at Hope Church, Main Street. Call 413-478-8981 to schedule a time and for more information.

On May 22, Joe Berthiaume's Pit Crew will have a fundraiser at Villa Rose from noon-8 p.m.

June fundraisers and events

The Quaboag Valley Relay for Life walk will be held on the Common on June 1 from 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Come and join the fun.

If you are a survivor or you know one, please call Eleanore at 413-374-7323 to get registered.

On June 8, a big craft fair will be held on the Common from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Spaces are still available.

On June 24, Joe Berthiaume's Pit Crew will have a Dine to Donate at Antonio's from 3-8 p.m. You will need a flyer which will be available outside the door.

Pet supply and gifts tag sale is April 20

BELCHERTOWN – Belchertown Animal Control will hold a fundraising Pet Supply and Gifts Tag Sale on Saturday, April 20 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the shelter, 165 George Hannum St.

There will be leashes, collars, harnesses, beds, sweaters, food, treats, carriers, litter boxes, toys, etc. and many one of a kind items. Some items are new, and some are gently used, but all will be priced to sell.

Tag sale items are items donated by community members and friends and not currently needed at the shelter. All money raised from these items benefits the BAC Gift Fund which helps shelter and community pets with extra needs such as surgery or prescriptions.



JOIN THE MOVEMENT:

The Friends of the Belchertown Greenway

BELCHERTOWN – Do you know that an initiative is blooming in our midst, and you can be a part of it?

The Friends of the Belchertown Greenway is a group made up of local residents who are willing to help develop and maintain the town-owned former railroad corridor – creating a safe and clean resource that will be attractive and popular.

The Town of Belchertown currently has approximately 7.5 miles of former railroad corridor. The town. The group was formed to work in conjunction with the Conservation Commission, the Planning Board, the Select Board, and other town boards with the goal of making a Greenway

a reality.

And while the town is working on this, the group is currently focusing on the 1.5 miles running from Franklin Street (Route 181) to Springfield Road.

They are excited to have held successful fundraising activities to pay for a safety study of the Jabish River Trestle Bridge and they are planning to do more.

How can you help? Come to the group's next meeting – they need your help with everything from sharing ideas, walking the trail, baking brownies to advertising and helping write grants.

There is something for everyone.

If you're ready to join the group in its efforts, let them know. Visit their website www.belchertowngreenway.org or Facebook page (Friends of the Btown Greenway.)

Together, people can develop a safe and beautiful linear park and ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy the wonders of this Greenway for years to come.

Their next meeting will be held on May 7 at 6 p.m. in the Community Room at the Belchertown Police Station. Come help them plan their next event – a trail walk from the Route 181 parking area to the Trestle Bridge on June 8.

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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.

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- Grape Tomatoes Pint Size** 2 for \$4
- Seedless Hot House Cucumbers** 2 for \$3
- Yellow and Zucchini Squash** \$1.49 lb.
- Honeycrisp Apples** \$1.99 lb.
- Cantaloupes Extra Large Size** \$2.99 ea.
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OPINION



Transplanting your homegrown seedlings

I bet there are a few garden enthusiasts out there with seedlings up and growing indoors.

My tomatoes are just poking through, but my peppers are ready for transplanting. Why transplant you ask? It's important that we give our young plants room to spread out!

If seeds were sown in rows, chances are that several seedlings have sprouted and are now growing within a close proximity to one another. They are competing for nutrients and moisture.

Even if two seeds were sown in a single cell of a six-pack and both germinated, they too are competing with one another in that tiny of a space. So, if we want garden center quality seedlings, we must transplant them to their own cell or small pot.

You know a seedling is ready for transplant when it has its "true leaves," not the cotyledon leaves that were first to sprout from the seed, but those that come right after. At this point in growth plant roots aren't tangled up and therefore transplant shock can be kept to a minimum.

Although the seedlings may be tiny and appear fragile, transplanting them is quite simple.

First, take a wooden plant label or dull butter knife and "cut" into the row of seedlings. Then, use your implement "spatula-style" to remove a small cluster of plants from the bottom up.

I always tell folks to "think brownies!" Be careful to get as many roots as you can.

Once you've done this it is time to separate them from one another. Gently pull on a leaf, not the stem, to pry them apart.

Think of it this way: the plant has two leaves but only one stem. If it should snap, that's it! Leaves on the other hand, can and will be replaced if accidentally torn off.

Individual seedlings can be planted in small containers or cell packs filled with soilless growing medium. We steer clear of garden soil because of the pathogens and weed seeds it may contain as well as its tendency not to drain very well.

Soilless mix is sterile, and has the ability to retain moisture yet drain freely- just what the young seedling needs as it grows additional roots and top growth.

Make a hole in the moistened growing medium with your finger, a pencil or wooden dibble. Insert the seedling to the correct depth then firm around it with your fingers.

Most are transplanted to the same depth they were growing in the pack.

One exception is tomatoes; they can be buried deeper than they started out. This is because tomatoes have the ability to make roots along the length of their stem.

Another exception are marigolds. More roots mean healthier shoots!

Water the transplants well with a gentle spray. They can now be put back under the artificial lights you've rigged up.

Continue to keep the lights within inches of the plants for the stockiest growth. Or, if you're lucky enough to have a sunroom or hobby greenhouse, the seedlings will thrive there!

Shade them from direct sun for a few days after transplant to prevent wilting. Soon the roots will recover from the shock of transplant and will again be able to sustain the plant.

Night time temperatures can dip as low as 50 degrees for most plants. In fact, lower night temps will help to ensure the stocky specimen we desire.

Fertilize with half-strength liquid plant food every 10 days to two weeks. Begin to "harden-off" your transplants a couple of weeks prior to putting in the ground.

Thus far they have been kept in a carefully controlled environment. Planting them without a period of acclimatization may mean disaster!

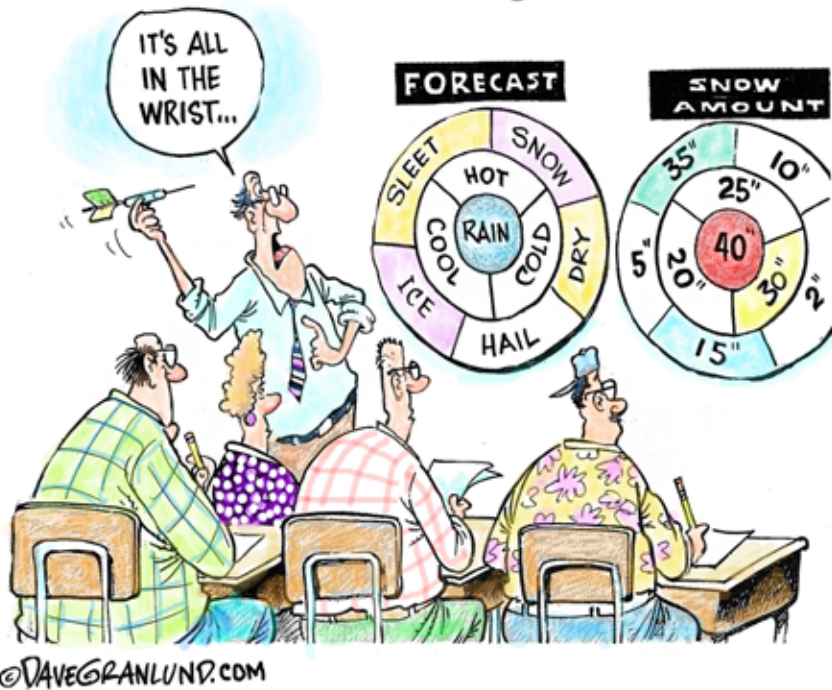
Place them outdoors in a shady spot protected from the wind for only a few hours each day. As the days progress keep them out longer and increase their exposure to bright sun and wind.

Don't forget to water during this process, but forgo all fertilizer.

With less than two months to go until the danger of frost is officially passed, our home grown seedlings won't have long to wait, and neither will we!

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.

Refresher course for meteorologists...



LETTER

Committee thanks all for responding to survey

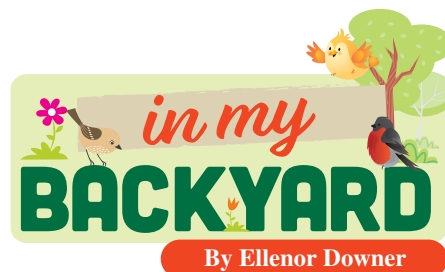
To the Editor,

Thank you to all of the residents, businesses and town employees who filled out our website survey and to everyone that helped spread the word about the survey.

Your responses will help us significantly as we move forward on building a new and

better town website providing everyone with the information that they need. The new website will be launching this summer and our goal is to have it serve as a central portal for information and resources for the town.

Belchertown Communications Committee



Fox sparrow

I had fox sparrows under my feeder for several days now.

Most recently I counted five of them usually it is two or three. The fox sparrow is a large sparrow about seven inches long. It has a gray head and back with bold, rufous or brown streaking.

It has an irregular shaped central dot on its breast and reddish, brown rump and tail. The reddish coloring resembles the color of a fox, hence its name.

It often jumps forward and back, pulling aside ground cover to find food underneath. It may come to feeders when seed is scattered on the ground. I not only put seed in the tray feeders, but I sprinkle some on the ground for the juncos, sparrows and mourning doves.

The female lays four to six light blue green eggs with darker marks in a cup like

nest of grasses, lichens and leaves lined with hair, fur and rootlets. When we had horses, I would often find nests with their hair in them.

My daughters and I would leave hairs groomed from their manes and tails on the ground for the birds.

The fox sparrow's song is a short series of clear melodious whistles and it is more melodic than most sparrows. Males may have one to three versions their songs, which are distinct to each male.

Interesting sightings

I have received emails of several interesting sightings. A Granby resident wrote, "I recently saw a bald eagle in my neighbors tree right next to my property. It was on Feb. 28. To make sure what I was seeing, I grabbed my binoculars and sure enough it was a bald eagle. He stayed there for around five minutes then he flew away." She said, "It was my first time spotting an eagle in Granby. I did spot one in the 90s at the Quabbin flying around. I usually see hawks in my neighborhood on a regular basis. But this was a nice site to see for sure."

A Barre resident saw a snow bunting on March 15. An Oakham resident saw two sandhill cranes on the morning of March 15. He said, "While driving down Rutland Road in Oakham, I did a double-take and hit the brakes. There, near the road at Eva Grimes' old place, stood two Sandhill Cranes. They almost could have been mistaken for lawn ornaments, but they were real. One stood erect while the other pecked at the lawn grass. Last year I observed three cranes fly over my house. Perhaps they plan to nest in one of our large beaver-impacted marshes?"

Please see **BACKYARD**, page 7

Turley Publications Letters to the Editor Policy

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

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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.



When should my wife claim her Social Security benefit?

Dear Rusty:

I just saw an article which said that certain spousal options were going away, but there are still good options for when a spouse can claim.

I am filing for my Social Security to start in October when I turn 70. My wife's Full Retirement Age is in December, and she now plans to file then for half of what my FRA benefit would have been (our original plan was for both to file in August).

My wife's main reason for delaying until her FRA is to lock her into my maximum

benefit if she has to someday change to Survivor's Benefit. Will this be gone for us? Neither of us was born before Jan. 1, 1954. Please advise.

Signed: Planning for Both

Dear Planning:

I expect that the article you refer to was speaking of the option to claim only a spousal benefit first and allow one's personal SS retirement benefit to grow. That option was available only to those who were born before 1954 and had reached full retirement age.

As you now know that option is not available to you.

Assuming your wife's highest benefit entitlement will be as your spouse, your current strategy – you claim your maximum benefit to start in October at age 70 and your wife starts her benefit in December at her FRA – is a good one which will yield the maximum possible monthly benefit for both of you. But for clarity, your wife's survivor benefit as your widow has nothing to do with when she claims her

spouse benefits now.

The only thing which will affect your wife's benefit as your surviving spouse is her age when she claims the survivor benefit. If she has already reached her FRA of 66 years and 8 months when you pass, she will get 100% of the amount you were receiving when you died, instead of the smaller spousal amount she was receiving while you were living.

Her survivor benefit would only be less than 100% of yours if she claimed it before reaching her full retirement age (which, of course, we hope would not be the case).

Just so you have the complete picture, your wife could, if desired, claim her Social Security to start at the same time as you in October but, since that would be earlier than her FRA, the amount she would get would be less than 50% of your FRA entitlement. Her spouse benefit would be reduced by 0.694% for each month earlier than her FRA it starts.

For example, if your wife starts her spousal benefit in October when your benefit starts, she will get about 98.6% of the

amount she would get if she waited until December to start her benefits. That's a permanent reduction, so if your wife's life expectancy is at least average about 87, it's likely still wisest for her to wait until her FRA to start benefits.

But in any case, when your wife claims her spousal benefit now will have no effect on the survivor benefit she will get as your future widow.

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 informational 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.

Dale's Corner

Chocolate ... Luscious indulgence or food for the gods?

BY DALE GONYEA

There were only two mornings each year that I was allowed to eat chocolate for breakfast: Easter and Christmas.

The Easter basket and Christmas stocking were the place to find my holiday treats for each of those days. There was always one treat in particular that stood out from the rest: chocolate.

Just the name brings images, memories and even the delicate aromas alive! But

what is in a name? Where does chocolate come from and how do you make it? Why is it so irresistible and indulgent? What mysterious properties does it have?

The history of this delectable chocolate is very old – 4,000 years old.

Etymologists trace the origin of the word "chocolate" to the Aztec word "xocoatl," which referred to a bitter drink brewed from cacao beans. The Latin name for the cacao tree, *Theobroma cacao*, means "food of the gods."

I find that title absolutely appropriate!

About 70% of the world's cocoa beans come from four West African countries: Ivory Coast, Ghana, Nigeria and Cameroon. The Ivory Coast and Ghana are by far the two largest producers of cocoa, accounting for more than 50% of the world's cocoa.

The process to grow, refine and make

chocolate is lengthy so I shall summarize.

Cacao beans are harvested from the trees in pods. The pods are disassembled, and the beans are roasted and cleaned leaving the cacao nib.

Nibs are then ground and then separated from the cocoa butter. The heat generated by grinding causes the cocoa butter or fat to melt and form a fine paste or liquid known as chocolate "liquor".

After conching, tempering and adding flavors to the liquor, you are left with chocolate which can be molded. Depending on the sugar added in relation to cocoa solids, you are left with distinctive different forms of chocolate.

For dark chocolate lovers, bars with 70% cacao or higher are ideal. Dark chocolate is a rich source of antioxidants and minerals, and it generally contains less sugar than milk chocolate.

Some research suggests that dark chocolate may help lower the risk of heart disease, reduce inflammation and insulin resistance, and improve brain function. Happy Day!

This chocolate can also be called bitter-sweet. If we reduce the solids to around 60% we would call it semi-sweet.

For me, milk chocolate is where it's at! Milk chocolate contains not less than 10% by weight of chocolate liquor, not less than 3.39% by weight of milk fat, not less than 12% by weight of total milk solids and the remaining percent by weight of sugar and/or spices.

It is a creamy and luscious confection, that excites and animates the senses and mind. Whichever your chocolate favorite, this creation melts invitingly on the tongue,

Please see **DALES CORNER**, page 13

BACKYARD from page 6

Brimfield resident

A Brimfield resident reported on March 18, he saw 22 ring-necked ducks and an immature bald eagle at a pond in Warren. He also said, "On South Street where last year there were three great blue heron nests and an osprey nest. There were two great blue herons standing in one of the nests used last year and an osprey sitting on the nest used previously. The osprey have been present there for three years, producing at least one chick each year. He also said his wife saw a dozen chipping sparrows in their yard, a first of the year at this location.

He report the only spring arrival in our yard had been one male robin a few days ago. No phoebes yet and he still has some juncos and at least one white-throated spar-

row.

The Brimfield resident said he did a tour of some local ponds on Wednesday. At the heron rookery at

Conant Brook in Monson he saw one great blue heron and one tree swallow. In Brimfield, there were 54 male and 18 female common mergansers.

Turkey vultures

On Tuesday, I spotted about four turkey vultures perched in a dead tree in Oakham. Several more were circling overhead. I have seen then at this location in past years.

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.



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Medical Transportation Drivers Needed

The Belchertown Senior Center is looking for drivers for their Medical Transportation Program. This program transports older adult residents to their medical appointments within the town as well as surrounding communities. Drivers use their own vehicle and are paid \$13.50/hour plus mileage.

A valid driver's license, reliable vehicle, a good driving record and reliability are required. If you would like to join our team, please complete an application online at www.belchertown.org/human_resources or email jobs@belchertown.org for more information. Applications will be accepted until positions are filled. An EEO employer.



BELCHERTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAM 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

The Belchertown Public School District is now accepting applications for the following School Choice openings for the 2024-2025 school year:

Grade K	7	Grade 6	2
Grade 1	10	Grade 7	10
Grade 2	6	Grade 8	10
Grade 4	3	Grade 9	5
Grade 5	5	Grade 10	5

The Belchertown Public Schools combine innovation and tradition to provide positive educational experiences for all of our students through quality programs, dynamic teaching and healthy relationships.

The deadline for submitting a **complete** application is 4:00 p.m. on **Friday, May 10, 2024.**

The selection of non-resident students for admission will be in the form of a random drawing when the number of requests exceeds the number of available spaces. There will be two drawings for this purpose. The first will take place on May 10, 2024, and in the event of unexpected additional openings, a second drawing will be conducted on August 9, 2024.

The application and guidelines can be downloaded at
www.belchertownps.org
or picked up at 14 Maple St., Belchertown, MA 01007.

The Belchertown School District does not discriminate in the admission of any child on the basis of age, sex, gender identity, race, religion, color, national origin, sexual orientation or ancestry, athletic performance, physical handicap, special need, academic performance, disability or proficiency in the English language in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

■ 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 27 through April 2. 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 384 calls police responded to, there were 13 incidents, four accidents, five arrests/summons and 43 citations.

ARRESTS/SUMMONS Wednesday, March 27

10:24 a.m. – A 68-year-old Ware man was issued a summons for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and speeding. An officer conducting radar on River Street observed a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. The vehicle was going 49 in a 30 mph zone, and the officer stopped the vehicle. The person's information was ran and it came back that their license was cancelled.

Saturday, March 30

1:01 p.m. – A 19-year-old West Brookfield man was charged with speeding and unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle. An officer conducting traffic enforcement on River Street due to recent traffic complaints, hears a loud exhaust and the sound of accelerating vehicles. The officer saw a motorcycle and a vehicle going over 60 mph. The officer stopped both vehicles, the person operating the motorcycle had an out of state license, but only to operate a car. They had a motorcycle permit from the previous year and didn't have an active license or permit. The motorcycle was towed and a criminal application was issued. The operator of the second vehicle got a citation for speeding.

Sunday, March 31

6:44 p.m. – A 20-year-old Hampden man was arrested on charges of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, threat to commit crime, assault and battery on 60 plus/disabled person with injury and witness intimidation. An officer responded to Chauncey Walker Road residence for a report of assault and suspect was in a neighbor's house. The officer located the person. The were people who said they had an argument. One person was transported to the hospital and declined a restraining order. The other involved person was also transported to the hospital.

Monday, April 1

10:53 a.m. – A 67-year-old Belchertown man was issued a summons for operating with a suspended license. A person drove to station to speak with an officer and was observed driving by another officer doing extra duty detail. This person was known to the officer due to recent interactions. The person parked their vehicle in the lot at the station and came into the station to ask why their license was suspended. The officer advised the person they couldn't drive with a suspended license and the person reported they thought they could drive in town. They were charged accordingly.

ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS Wednesday, March 27

2:50 p.m. – Vehicle attempted to U-turn on North Main Street after missing turn, and was struck by an oncoming vehicle. Both vehicles were traveling southbound. Motor vehicle two was traveling in the flow of traffic but struck motor vehicle one in the driver's side door. Motor vehicle one was towed from the scene and motor vehicle two was able to drive from the scene. No injuries reported.

Thursday, March 28

184 – An officer responded to a North Main Street residence for a kitten found in the woods in a bag. The reporting party was able to show where the kitten was located because they had heard it meowing. It appeared to have been there through the night. Belchertown Animal Control took custody of the kitten and took it to a veterinarian and

cared for it. Several hours later, the owner was identified and contacted about the kitten. The owner stated they thought someone else took the kitten and put it outside. An investigation is open and pending information.

12:05 p.m. – An officer assisted DCF with a teenager who was having a mental health crisis.

2:35 p.m. – A red jacket was found and put into property.

5:5 p.m. – An officer took a report of identity fraud. The resident said they gave their Social Security number to a caller who they believe is part of a scam. The caller wanted to verify their address and the person provided them with that information as well. Then the scammer hung up. The resident reported they were in contact with their bank and wanted the matter documented.

Friday, March 29

4:07 p.m. – Officers responded to an incident that is still under investigation.

6:06 p.m. – Officers responded to an accident on Franklin Street. Three vehicles were traveling south on Franklin Street when the vehicle in front slowed due to traffic congestion. A second vehicle behind the first rear ended the first vehicle. The last vehicle also struck the second vehicle. The third vehicle left the area before exchanging information with the operators of the other two vehicles. No injuries were reported and no tows were needed.

Saturday, March 30

3:35 a.m. – An officer responded to Johnson Road for a report of a lost juvenile. The officer located the child who was trying to walk back home after attending a sleepover. They were returned home.

5:59 p.m. – An officer got call from a George Hannum Road business reporting threats that were made. The officer met with the reporting person. The next day when the suspect came into the business, the officer spoke with them and trespassed the person from the property.

Monday, April 1

9:16 a.m. – An officer responded to a Daniel Shay's Highway business for report of an accident over the weekend involving a damaged tractor. The reporting person said a red Mazda was seen driving away after striking the tractor. The manager of the business noticed that it was moved, and photos were taken. It was a new tractor that was on display. It is unknown who did it. Area departments were contacted to see if they had any account of the vehicle.

11:10 a.m. – A Chestnut Drive resident called to report a wallet was stolen out of their vehicle the Saturday before. They had a person over the house who locked the doors one day but failed to do so on another day. There are no suspects at this time.

11:43 a.m. – An officer went to a local establishment after a report a juvenile tried to purchase alcohol. They used a fake ID, which passed the scanner, but the employee recognized the juvenile from past interactions. The employee stopped the purchase and seized the fake ID. The officer requested a copy of the security footage.

Tuesday, April 2

12 a.m. – Officers responded to assist Belchertown Fire and paramedics regarding a person made threats to harm themselves.

10:11 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Federal Street. A vehicle was directed into the flow of

traffic in an active construction zone when a tree company vehicle began to reverse. The tree company vehicle reversed into the first motor vehicle. The operator of the tree vehicle said the first vehicle was in its blind spot and they didn't see them. Both vehicles were driven from the scene. No injuries were reported.

12:05 p.m. – Officers responded to assist Belchertown Fire and paramedics for a person who made threats to harm themselves.

3:56 p.m. – Officers responded to an accident on West Street and North Liberty Street. A vehicle traveling west on West Street traveled through an intersection and struck a second vehicle, which then struck a utility pole. The operator of the first vehicle said they didn't see the second vehicle due to a tree. Both vehicles were towed from the scene and the operator of the second vehicle was transported to the hospital.

Granby Police Log

Editor's Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 147 calls for the week of March 29 through April 4. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The Granby Police Department provides all information.

03/29/2024 – Friday, March 29

10:58 a.m. – Several reports of a three-car motor vehicle accident. Granby Police and Fire responded. One person was transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

12:03 p.m. – A two-car rollover motor vehicle accident was reported by detail officers. Granby Police and Fire responded. Belchertown Fire was requested for mutual aid. Both operators were transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

Saturday, March 30

1:53 p.m. – A resident reported that someone accessed their bank account and withdrew money.

8:14 p.m. – Lawrence Dufort, 52, of Granby was placed under arrest due to an active arrest warrant.

Sunday, March 31

1:34 a.m. – While on patrol, an officer performed a random registration query. It was discovered that the registration was 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.

Monday, April 1

10:15 a.m. – A motorist reported a two-car accident. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries.

Wednesday, April 3

8:32 p.m. – A motorist reported driving off the road on Porter Street due to icy conditions. There were no injuries, and the vehicle was pulled back onto the road by a tow truck.

Thursday, April 4

8:14 a.m. – The Granby Highway Department reported that a vehicle drove off the road. Granby Police responded and the vehicle was pulled back onto the road by a tow truck.

Authorities investigating bullets hitting homes

BELCHERTOWN – Authorities are seeking the public's help with information related to bullets that struck two homes on Mountain View Drive within the past year.

According to a press release, the most recent incident under investigation by Belchertown Police, Massachusetts State Police, and the Northwestern District Attorney's Office occurred last month, when an errant bullet struck a residence on Mountain View Drive, shattering a sliding glass door.

Nobody was injured in the incident. The shooting occurred in the afternoon hours of Friday, March 29. The homeowners were home at the time, but not in the room where the bullet struck.

They contacted police after discovering a sliding glass door had been completely shattered. Police recovered a projectile at the scene and submitted it to the Massachusetts State Police Firearms Identification Section for analysis.

Previously, a wayward bullet struck a different residence on Mountain View Drive on June 27, 2023, when a glass door on the front of a nearby house was struck and shattered by a bullet. In that incident, nobody was struck or injured.

The Belchertown Police investigated that incident in tandem with the Granby Police Department and the Northwestern District Attorney's Office, but the origin of the bullet could not be determined.

Mountain View Drive is located along the Belchertown/Granby town line, and is approximately one mile east of the Granby Bow and Gun Club.

"These incidents have understandably caused the residents of this neighborhood a tremendous amount of fear and concern for their safety," said Belchertown Police Chief Kevin Pacunas. "We are doing everything we can to determine where these errant bullets are coming from, and to prevent it from happening again."

Anyone with information pertaining to either of these incidents is encouraged to contact Sergeant Robert Mann of the Belchertown Police Department by calling 413-323-6685 extension 279.

The Annual Meeting of the Belchertown Water District will be held on **Tuesday April 30, 2024 at 6:00p.m.** at the Belchertown Water District, 206 Jabish Street, Belchertown, Massachusetts. Polls are open from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. One Commissioner will be elected for a term of three years. The Annual Meeting will begin at 6:05 p.m. The Warrant containing the articles to be acted upon has been posted on the official bulletin board of the Town of Belchertown, in Lawrence Memorial Hall and at the Belchertown Water District. All registered voters of Belchertown residing in the Water District are eligible to vote in District affairs.

Jane Wolfe
Treasurer, Belchertown Water District
jane@belchertownwaterdistrict.org

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

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

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

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



PAWS from page 1

dogs, Arlo and Gigi. Both dogs are Pembroke Welsh corgis with Arlo being the eldest at 12. Arlo has been a certified therapy dog since the age of 4.

Chase has been involved with therapy dogs for about 20 years and has volunteered for Paws to Read and similar programs all over New England. Chase truly believes the dogs make a big impact on the kids and their confidence in their own reading.

“It is a chance to encourage kids to read,” Chase said. “They feel comfortable reading to them.” Therapy dogs like Arlo and

Gigi enjoy the company of the kids and are always by their side as they read fun books. One of the readers during the recent Paws to Read was Bradlee reading to Arlo.

Bradlee is in first grade and was reading “Pigs Make Me Sneeze” by Mo Willems to Arlo and Chase. Arlo was very excited to meet Bradlee and listened to the story.

Chase shared a fun fact about Arlo’s tenure as a therapy dog. In 2019, Arlo was nominated as the Volunteer of the Year for the Springfield Schools.

Chase has been training dogs for 40 years and is also a dog judge for American Kennel Club. This organization is registry of purebred dog pedigrees in the United States. The club also promotes and sanctions events for purebred dogs.

Dogs such as Arlo and Gigi

go through a lot of training to become therapy dogs and experience the bond they make with not only their handlers but with other dogs and people. The pets who volunteer at Paws to Read really bond with the kids and help them get more involved in their reading and their connections with others.

“The dogs are a bridge to communicate and connect,” Chase said.

Next to read was second grader, Willow reading to Gigi, Arlo’s sister. Willow was reading the Mo Willems book “A Big Guy Took my Ball” and “I really like Slop”. Like her older brother, Gigi enjoys the company of the children and being read to.

Paws to Read is for young readers in grades one through five. To learn more, visit claplibrary.org/paws-to-read or call 413-323-0417.

TURLEY PHOTO BY RYAN DRAGO
Volunteer Tibby Chase alongside Arlo heard a story read by first grader Bradlee.

QUABBIN from page 1

The bill also proposes to adjust how communities would be paid from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, basing payments on total state land acreage as opposed to acreage above the high water mark as is currently mandated.

Additionally, the bill would ensure that three members on the MWRA Board of Directors were residents of Connecticut River Basin communities. Currently, Monson Town Administrator Jennifer Wolowicz is the only one of the board’s 11 members representing a community outside of the I-495 corridor.

Saunders explained that this bill, the first of its kind to be introduced in the House, was one that he proposed with a focus on the future of the region, rather than its past. However, he made clear that it was the history of the region and its stewardship of the reservoir that made a bill like this necessary.

“When the Quabbin was built, when the four towns were taken from us, there were a number of communities that were also impacted forever,” he said.

Saunders went on to detail how many of the towns that contain the reservoir are left to rely pri-

marily on property taxes over commercial development for raising municipal revenues, leading to both buildings and services that were beginning to degrade as a result of those lower figures. He said that this state of affairs was directly a result of the fact that these communities host the reservoir for other parts of the state.

“The lands that we protect for the Quabbin have foreclosed the ability for these communities to do anything else that may generate the type of revenue that funds public safety, that funds basic services that we expect from our communities,” he said.

Providing one example of suffering public facilities, Saunders said, “There is one usable room in the New Salem Town Hall; it’s in the basement. The rest of the building is not fit for human consumption.”

He said that this bill was not concerned with seeking repayment for these impacts historically, but rather was merely an attempt to recognize the worth of the region’s protection of the reservoir, as well as to assure that the region will continue to be able to protect it going forward.

“The water provides such innumerable value to the people and the businesses and the communities of eastern Mass that there



A view of the Quabbin Reservoir from atop Winsor Dam.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY NICK BOONSTRA

ought to be some consideration given to the communities that steward this resource,” he said. He added that this consideration would come at a minimal cost to MWRA ratepayers, providing an estimated figure of an additional six cents per month for the average Boston water and sewer customer.

Saunders also said this proposed bill was coming at a time when the burden placed on the Quabbin Reservoir may soon be increasing.

“There are a great number of communities in the eastern part



A bald eagle is shown flying over the Quabbin Reservoir.

of the state who are dealing with very serious water quality issues,” he said. “These are communities that need a reliable source of water, and they are looking to us to provide that.”

He later added that he also wanted to make sure there would still be water left should communities in western Massachusetts also show an interest in joining the MWRA system.

Saunders admitted that he had encountered difficulty in trying to help those from different parts of the state understand why a bill like this would be so important.

“Oftentimes, the initial response I get back is, ‘Yes, it’s sad that four towns were drowned, but it was a necessary step in the Commonwealth’s future’ – so on and so forth,” Saunders said. However, he stated that it was possible to push back against this line of thinking. “The way this is combatted is through the voice of the folks who live here in the region,” he said. “Not only recounting the past, but talking about what life is like in western Mass now.”

For this reason, Saunders emphasized the importance of individuals to speak out about the matter of regional equity as well as related topics such as water quality and public access to natural resources.

“The more that we can have these voices heard outside of just rooms like this, the more effective it is,” he said.



WestMass ElderCare
50th ANNIVERSARY

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



“Volunteers don’t get paid, not because they’re worthless, but because they’re priceless.”
– Sherry Anderson


WestMass ElderCare is seeking Ombudsman Volunteers to serve as impartial advocates who visit local nursing home residents weekly, making sure their concerns are heard & addressed.

Just a few hours a week can make a huge difference!

Contact us today to learn more about our Nursing Home Ombudsman Program.

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Join us for the
Wilbraham & Monson Academy

MIDDLE AND UPPER SCHOOL
PREVIEW NIGHT



Tuesday, April 30
6-7 p.m.

Learn more about our programs and community. Meet faculty and students.
For families interested in Grades 6-12, PG.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PREVIEW
Middle School building

UPPER SCHOOL PREVIEW
Mattern Science Center

RSVP: wma.us/preview

Community Liaisons sought for Climate Resilience Initiative

BELCHERTOWN – The Town of Belchertown announces exciting opportunities for passionate community members to join the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness 2.0 Core Team as part-time Community Liaisons.

With five openings available, the selected candidates will play a pivotal role in connecting the town with underrepresented community groups, ensuring their voices are heard in building climate resilience.

Core Team Member Sarah Fortune explained, “Specifically, we are looking for community members who have strong ties to those who work with persons with disabilities, seniors, renters, the agricultural community, substance abuse disorder organizations, and youth.”

Other Core Team Members include: Doug Albertson, Cyndi Harbeson, Jessica Langlois, Lesa Lessard Pearson, Angela Panaccione and Charly Oliva.

The MVP 2.0 program, funded by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, aims to address climate vulnerabilities and invest in community resilience. Community Liaisons will work alongside the Core Team to identify and prioritize resilience initiatives with a focus on

equity, engaging diverse stakeholders to develop and implement impactful projects.

Successful candidates will have experience in community organizing and advocacy, as well as demonstrated relationships within the Belchertown community. Responsibilities include organizing engagement activities, updating community priorities, and collaborating with the Core Team to develop resilience projects.

This dynamic role offers opportunities for personal and professional growth while making a tangible impact on the community’s well-being. Community liaisons will also be compensated for their time.

Interested individuals are encouraged to apply and join the effort in shaping a stronger, more resilient Belchertown. Applications are open until April 30, 2024, and can be submitted via a letter of interest to the Belchertown Conservation Department.

For more information, visit www.belchertown.org/conservation/municipal_vulnerability_preparedness.php or contact Sarah Fortune, Belchertown Conservation Administrator by calling 413-323-0405 or emailing sfortune@belchertown.org.



Lions Club makes donation to Little League

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown Lions Club recently donates \$1,000 to the Belchertown Little League, to help kick off the 2024 season.

Each year this league plays host to over 100 of our town’s youth with 11 teams ranging in skills from the Minors, Majors, Intermediates, and Seniors...with a season that runs from early April through October.

In addition to routine annual maintenance, the Belchertown Little League will be attempting to upgrade its Mini-Fenway’s field lighting to LEDs in addition to renovating the outfield wall and building an announcer’s booth behind

home plate. The bid for the lighting alone is over \$30,000, so any sponsorships or donations will be greatly appreciated by the league.

Stay tuned in the coming months as the Belchertown Lions Club is currently ramping up its plans for its first “Cruisin’ the Common” Car Show to be held on Aug. 10. Expect to enjoy viewing many, many immaculate classic vehicles along with raffles and freshly prepared burgers, dogs, meatball grinders, and fries.

More specifics regarding the car show can be found on the club’s Facebook page as well as on its website: belchertownlionsclub.com.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Belchertown Lions Club Treasurer Frank Cowdrey (center-rear), flanked by Coach Johnny Grossman (left) and Coach Jeff Staples as the Belchertown Lions Club, presents a check for \$1,000 to kick off the Belchertown Little League 2024 season. Staples is also on the BLL’s Board of Directors and is in charge of sponsorships and donations.

Friends group seeks donations of used books

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

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

vinyl LPs, and CDs.

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

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

Community Garden still accepting registrations

BELCHERTOWN – Individual, fully prepared, 300 square foot garden plots are still available to all Belchertown and surrounding area residents at Lampson Brook Farm, located at 275 Jackson St.

Residents can obtain a plot for \$30 (non-residents \$35) for the season, mid-May through

October. Those receiving SNAP benefits are welcome to garden at half price.

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

Members of the Community Garden also contribute several hours of their time during the season to maintaining the common areas. A limited number of plots are available – so don’t delay.

To receive a 2024 registration form, email BCGardenNews@gmail.com. Applications must be received by April 12.

WestMass ElderCare
50th Anniversary

VOLUNTEER NEEDED!

WestMass ElderCare is seeking a volunteer from Belchertown to serve on our Board of Directors.

Our Board of Directors is the group who guides the governance of WMEC and represents the diversity of our local communities.

This is a great opportunity to provide support to WMEC in this leadership position.

Meetings are held on the second Monday of the month from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. at our office in Holyoke.

Contact us today to learn more about this exciting volunteer opportunity.

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FAIR from page 1

April and posted on the BOAT Facebook page, local social media forums, and in the Belchertown Sentinel.

Main Stage speakers include Zara Phillips, performance and storytelling from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and Laura Stack, founder and CEO of Johnny's Ambassadors 2-3 p.m., in the CHCS Auditorium.

Phillips is a singer and songwriter, actor, author, and activist.

As an adoptee herself, much of her work is centered around the adoption world and is focused on improving understanding of the lifelong impact of adoption. She is a mother of three and is married to musician Richard Thompson, whom she tours with as harmony singer.

Phillips was raised in Totteridge, North London, and was adopted as a baby. She found her birth mother at 24 and after a lifelong search, her birth father at 51.

She was always singing and writing as a child, which led to her becoming a harmony singer in the 1980s, with acts like Bob Geldof, Matt Bianco, David Essex and Nick Kamen.

After a spell of addiction, she became sober at age 22, and devoted more of her time to her own music, writing and activism. Her 2006 CD "When The Rain Stops" and "You me and us" 2011 were produced by Ted Perlman.

Her new album "Mediation KitKats" is available on CD and all streaming platforms. Her 2008 Film "Roots Unknown" won Best Homegrown Documentary at the NJ Garden State Film Festival.

Her 2008 book, "Mother Me" describes the unfolding as an adoptee raises a family of her own. Her song "I'm Legit", co-written with Darryl McDaniel's of DMC, has been a huge hit in the adoption world and beyond.

"Beneath My Father's Sky", a one woman show that Phillips wrote and performed, was the winner of Best Direction at NYC United Solo festival in 2014, and was also performed in LA, San Francisco, Connecticut, and in London in 2016. Additionally, she has been presented



Zara Phillips is one of the main stage speakers for the third annual Umbrella of Wellness fair to be held on Saturday, May 4 at Chestnut Hill Community School.

with an "Angel in Adoption" award 2015.

She has facilitated workshops with adopted families and mental health professionals.

Her book "Somebody's daughter" published by John Blake/Bonnier Publishers, was released February 2018 in the UK and August 2018 in the USA. She has written and performed a play with the same title in England and the US in 2022 and a production of a film version of the play will be released in early 2024

For 30 years, Stack was best known in the business world as "The Productivity Pro." Her career as a keynote speaker, best-selling author of eight books, and corporate spokesperson came to a screeching halt on Nov. 20, 2019, when her 19-year-old son, Johnny, died by suicide after becoming psychotic from dabbling high-THC marijuana concentrates.

Stack responded by forming the non-profit, Johnny's Ambassadors, to educate parents, teens, and communities about the dangers of today's high-THC marijuana on adolescent brain development, psychosis, and suicide. Her platform now brings prevention education to drug prevention conferences, community groups, and schools to stop youth marijuana use.

Johnny's story has been told in People Magazine, the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, the Epoch Times, the Ingraham Angle, the Untold Story with Martha MacCallum, PBS, and Dr. Phil. Stack is the recipient of the Drug-Free America Foundation's Moxie Award for



Laura Stack, founder and CEO of Johnny's Ambassadors, holds a photo of her late son, Johnny.

protecting youth from substances, the Leadership in Advocacy Award from the National Speakers Association, and the American Association of Suicidology's Loss Survivor of the Year Award. L

Stack is a powerful speaker who brings Johnny's personal warning and solid research together in her book, "The Dangerous Truth About Today's Marijuana: Johnny Stack's Life and Death Story". Described as a force of nature with unstoppable drive and unwavering purpose, Laura is determined to get teens to #StopDabbing.

Please come out to see all the great activities, workshops, and presenters and visit the Welcome Table. As a free community program, you will receive a Umbrella of Wellness tote bag, free raffle tickets for BOAT giveaways (last year there were over 50), and a token worth \$10 at one of the five food trucks.

For more information, please contact Kris Hoag, DFC Program Director by emailing khoag@belchertownps.org.

BELCHERTOWN WATER DISTRICT
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NOTICE:

The Belchertown Water District will be conducting the **ANNUAL HYDRANT FLUSHING PROGRAM** April 22nd to May 3rd 2024 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Flushing will begin in the northern end of the District and proceed south. Rusty colored water and low pressure may occur during this program.



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CAMPUS NOTES

Ryan Sullivan-Daley named to leadership role at MMA

BUZZARDS BAY – Massachusetts Maritime Academy, a top-ranked public university with undergraduate degree programs focusing on science, engineering, technology, math, and business that blend academics and experiential learning today announced the Regimental Leadership and the Cadet Academic Leadership Team selections for the 2024-2025 academic year.

The Class of 2025 Regimental Leadership roster includes 38 cadets who hail mainly from Massachusetts in addition to other locales. The following list includes 28 Bay State representatives, with the balance from the states of California, Colorado, Connecticut, Louisiana, Maine, New Jersey, South Carolina, and Virginia.

The 2024-2025 Regimental Leadership includes 1st Battalion (1st, 3rd, 5th & 7th Companies); Ryan Sullivan-Daley of Belchertown, Battalion Executive

Officer.

The highly competitive selection process for the regimental and academic leadership roles consisted of an application, position specific assignments, a physical fitness assessment, a public speaking assessment, and an interview with the selection committee comprised of members from numerous departments on campus.

“We are delighted to announce the Class of 2025 leadership cadets,” said Rear Admiral Francis X. McDonald, USMS, president of the Massachusetts Maritime Academy in a press release. “The entire MMA community applauds these fine young women and men who have achieved leadership roles while at the Academy and who are certain to be future leaders in the maritime industries.”

Students named to Champlain College Trustees’ List

BURLINGTON, VT – The following students have been named to the Champlain College

Trustees’ List for the fall 2023 semester: Cole Davis-Brand and Ina Fricke, both of Amherst.

Students on the Trustees’ List have achieved a 4.0 grade point average for two or more consecutive semesters.

Making the Trustees’ List is a tremendous achievement. Many of the high achievers balance their career-focused classes with jobs, internships, clubs, and volunteering.

Champlain College announces President’s List

BURLINGTON, VT – The following local students have been named to the Champlain College President’s List for achieving a grade point average of 4.0 or higher in the fall 2023 semester.

From Amherst, Cole Davis-Brand, majoring in computer networking and cybersecurity; and Ina Fricke, majoring in computer networking and cybersecurity.

From Granby, Jesse Stears, majoring in computer forensics and digital investigations.

Author Amy Bass hosts reading and Q&A

AMHERST – All are invited to an evening with writer and scholar Amy Bass as she talks about and reads from her book “One Goal: A Coach, a Team, and the Game that Brought a Divided Town Together” on Tuesday, April 9 from 7-8 p.m. in the Woodbury Room at the Jones Library.

When thousands of Somali refugees resettled in Lewiston, Maine, a struggling, overwhelmingly white town, longtime residents grew uneasy. Then the mayor wrote a letter asking Somalis to stop coming, which became a national story.

While scandal threatened to subsume the town, its high school’s soccer coach integrated Somali kids onto his team, and their passion began to heal old wounds. Taking readers behind the tumult of this controversial team - and onto the pitch where the teammates vied to become state champions and achieved a vital sense of understanding - One Goal is a timely story about overcoming the prejudices that divide us.

Emmy award winning writer Amy Bass, Ph.D., is Professor of Sport Studies and Chair of the Division of Social Science and Communication at Manhattanville College. As a writer and scholar, she engages audiences inside and outside of academia with a focus on sport, culture, and politics.

Her first book, “Not the Triumph, but the Struggle: the

1968 Olympic Games and the Making of the Black Athlete”, is considered a standard-bearer for the study of sport from a cultural perspective. Her most recent work, “One Goal: A Coach, a Team, and the Game That Brought a Divided Town Together”, was named a best book of 2018 by the Boston Globe and Library Journal.

A native of the Berkshires, she resides in the New York metropolitan area with her husband, daughter, and a dog named Cuffy. Bass received a Ph.D. in History with distinction from Stony Brook University.

Bass will also be speaking at UMass on Monday, April 8 from 4-5:30 p.m. in 601 Herter Hall in a presentation entitled “Listen to Athletes for a Change: Why Sports Matter.” Learn more at <https://www.umass.edu/history/events/listen-athletes-change-why-sports-matter>.

Copies of the book are available to borrow at the reference desk of the Jones Library and through the CW MARS catalog.

This event is free and open to the public, and is hosted by the Jones Library in collaboration with the UMass Amherst History Department’s 2024 Writer-In-Residence Program. Supported by Five Colleges, Inc., this program hosts renowned writers whose historical work engages broad public audiences in residence in the UMass Amherst Department of History.

Get to know local mammals on April 11

AMHERST – Join Mass Mammals for a conversation about their Citizen Science Project on Thursday, April 11 from 7-8 pm in the Woodbury Room at the Jones Library.

Two undergraduate research-

ers from Amherst College will share a bit about black bears in Massachusetts, have a conversation about their project, and invite you to learn how you can be a more engaged and involved community scientist. The

Massachusetts Mammals Citizen Science Team is a research group focused on tracking mammal populations across the state through community data submissions.

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BUDGET from page 1

school has received very little outside funding for the programs.

“The budget hasn’t changed from the fiscal year 2023 budget to now...but we are striving to provide the best for our teachers and students,” Dorman said.

Taking into consideration the budget development, the committee reached out to the staff and teachers in order to determine “what is needed to grow”.

Public hearing and comments

The School Committee opened up a time for the public to share their thoughts and opinions with regarding the upcoming school year.

One parent came forward and said, “If we as a district have been able to prepare our students socially, emotionally, and academically to do well enough to be successful in college classes, we should be shouting it from the rooftops...that our students have met their goals.”

She pushed for the ability for the committee to move for students to be able to choose their own classes, classes that would benefit them within a chosen field, and not just for college credit.

Another member of the community came forward to ask a few clarifying questions regarding the matter of the new superintendent, and to share her thoughts of how transparent the board should be

with the community about it.

Field trips

The committee reviewed a request for a fieldtrip to Brownstone Park in Connecticut, an adventure park with rock climbing, water sports, and more, brought forward by the class of 2027’s advisor, Crystal Dufresne.

The trip would include the students bringing a packed lunch, and the park offers group rates with a discount for school groups, which will allow them to enjoy a full day of adventures.

Because the park is out of state, the committee needs to grant approval for the field trip, which was granted.

Another field trip request, made by Principal Alison Jordan for the junior high students to take a trip to Sonny’s Place in Somers, Connecticut.

“As a prior PE and health teacher... it supports physical activity and fitness, mental and emotional health, and healthy relationships, and personal safety,” Jordan said about the benefits for the students going on the trip.

The committee moved to approve of the junior high students’ trip to Sonny’s Place.

Student Representative’s report

Fuller, the board’s new student representative, came forward to provide his report. He shared about the sophomore’s talent show

held in the gymnasium.

Massachusetts Cumulative Assessment System pep rallies were held to help keep up spirits during testing, and the younger students made posters to celebrate the older students doing the tests.

Extracurriculars have been going well, and “we are working towards a lot more field trips for the future,” Fuller said.

Students received their course schedules, and teachers have been preparing for the end of year and next year. The school also hosted a career fair for all kinds of jobs from blue collar to the science fields.

Students and teachers also began training how to use a safety app to be used in the event of a lockdown, and an anti-bullying program will begin soon.

New business and information

After the resignation of Stephanie Parent, the committee is looking to appoint a new vice-chair to join. Pelletier volunteered for the position, and the committee approved of the reorganization.

The committee then moved forward to vote on a Statement of Interest to submit to the Selectboard for a building permit to improve the school buildings.

The committee then moved to discuss the Student Opportunity Act, which states that, by law, the committee must create a plan, and have it be approved in order to

receive state funding.

“Our focus areas are supporting curriculum implementation to engage teachers in professional development...and set up a process to regularly monitor the effectiveness of the curriculum,” Dorman explained.

Dual enrollment and early college

The committee moved onto the topic of dual enrollment and early college, and looked over guidelines to discuss the specifics of what this would entail.

Advanced placement, Honor Society bylaws, and more were taken into consideration, as well as the current policy. “Based on input...we’ve made adjustments to the current guidelines,” Dorman said.

They moved to discuss this in more detail, and address concerns with Advanced Placement courses, at the next meeting with a vote for the policy.

Superintendent search

The committee is continuing to conduct a search for a new superintendent for the school system. They discussed ways to get the word out, and how to conduct an interview process.

The committee moved to find an interim superintendent while looking for a new one in the meantime.

Belchertown Fire announces open burning season ends May 1

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

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

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

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

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

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

DALES CORNER from page 7

longingly on the mind and deliciously from start to finish.

The “other” chocolate we haven’t discussed yet has a locally fascinating history.

Is white chocolate real chocolate? This is a frequently asked question and a hot debate.

The FDA said to be called white chocolate, the candy must have at least 20% cocoa butter, 14% milk solids, and 3.5% milk fat – and no more than 55% sugar or other sweeteners. Vanilla is added for flavor, and a fatty substance called lecithin is in there as an emulsifier. White chocolate is first record-

ed to be used in Europe around 1930 by the Nestle Corporation in Switzerland. A fascinating fact is that local candy maker, Hebert Candies in Shrewsbury, is credited with bringing this new chocolate to our country!

I had the privilege of having a conversation with Tamara Beland, Retail and Community Engagement for Hebert Candies. Tamara was so gracious and accommodating as we discussed Hebert’s history, products and status.

Hebert’s has been a New England staple since 1917, as one of the first roadside confectioners. The original chocolatier, Frederick

Hebert, was the first to introduce white chocolate to this country after bringing the recipe back from Europe around 1955.

Tamara confirmed that this recipe has been and still is in very strong demand with customers. Hebert’s has indeed survived the COVID threat so far. Tamara reports strong holiday sales and shoppers still frequent the mansion, despite COVID restrictions.

We are indeed fortunate here in central Massachusetts to have Hebert’s as a chocolate staple. Many of us can recall visiting the mansions and watching the candy being made.

I am reminded of the film

“Chocolat”. Juliette Binoche plays the mysterious woman that comes to the French village and sets up a chocolate shop.

Soon, the residents have pushed a sort of reset button with their lives, the dreamy and intoxicating chocolate creations have unlocked secret yearnings and desires. Does chocolate have this power?

Chocolate is perhaps the world’s best escape. The French believe that food is an experience, not just a necessity.

When enjoyed, one should not be in a hurry. One should slow down and allow the experience of the food to take them wherever it wishes.

When you experience your chocolate, does it take you away? What does it make you long for? As long as the delicate flavors and smells take over your senses, the escape and pleasure are a wonder.

Chocolate is many things. It is mysterious, elegant, majestic and complex.

When you bite the head off that Easter bunny, pop in a Lindt truffle or sit down with a Godiva sampler, allow yourself the luxury and moment to savor and escape. You never know, you may have just shared a piece of food that gods enjoy.



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Death Notices

Hamilton, Gordon P. Died March 28, 2024
Locke, Eileen Died April 5, 2024
Myers-Dawley, Kimberly Ann Died March 29, 2024
Proulx, Ronald Gerard Died April 6, 2024

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.

OBITUARIES

Gordon "Skip" P. Hamilton, 85

BELCHERTOWN - Gordon "Skip" P. Hamilton passed away March 28, 2024, after a long illness, at the age of 85.

Born in Marlborough on Oct. 8, 1938, he was the son of Gordon and Astrid (Nordgren) Hamilton. Skip graduated from Marlborough High School in 1957, and went on to receive a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Massachusetts Amherst in 1961.

He served his country in the U.S. Army from 1961-1963.

In 1964, Skip began his teaching career on Martha's Vineyard, and in 1966 took a new position in his hometown of Marlborough. He taught junior high math, history, and social studies in the Marlborough School system for over thirty years.

When not teaching, Skip worked as a stone mason, and had his own business for a while.

He was also a carpenter and wood worker. Not only did he build his own house in Templeton, but filled it with numerous pieces of furniture that he had also built.

Skip had other interests as well, including gardening, fishing and listening to music. One of his greatest loves was reading, especially works on philosophy, history, and religion.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Barbara (DiNardo) of Belchertown, daughter and son-in-law, Erika Hamilton and Robert Thrasher of Belchertown, and granddaughter Stephanie Thrasher of Amherst, as well as several cousins.

Services will be private. For those wishing, and to honor Skip's love of books, donations may be made to the Clapp Memorial Library in Belchertown by visiting https://clapplibrary.org/donate/. Please visit www.beersandstory.com to extend online condolences.

Ronald Gerard Proulx, 77

BELCHERTOWN - It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Ronald Gerard Proulx on April 6, 2024, with his loving family by his side.

Ron was born on Aug. 13, 1946, in Springfield, to the late Armand J. Proulx and Annette (Lussier) Proulx. He married the love of his life Pat (Doyon) in June of 1967.

After proudly serving his country in the U.S. Army for three years he then obtained his bachelor's degree in engineering. Ron built a career as the Vice President of Strategic Development at ABB Combustion Engineering after working his way from Draftsman to International Sales, traveling primarily to Asia.

After retirement he then went on to work in public relations at South Bay Hospital in Apollo Beach, Florida while also serving on various boards with the local Chamber of Commerce. When he wasn't working, he enjoyed playing the guitar and singing, sharing his passion for wine, watching and playing golf, spending time with family, and always maintaining strong family values.

For the past two years, Ron and Pat have lived in Belchertown, previously residing in Ludlow, Enfield and Florida. His memory

will forever remain with his wife, Patricia J. (Doyon) Proulx along with their children, Ronald G. Proulx (Tracey) of Randolph,

Vermont, Tammy Ann Martin (Luke) of South Berwick, Maine and Jennifer Lynn Bridges (Scott) of Quincy. Ron will be deeply missed as Peperé by Ryan and Jared Proulx, Isabel and Harrison Martin as well as David and Aidan Bridges. He will also be missed by his sisters, Diane Cecchetelli and Marie Proulx along with many family members and friends. He was preceded in death by his sisters, Jacqueline Brouillard and Camille Murphy.

Visitation will be held Thursday, April 11 from 4-7 p.m. at the Beers & Story Belchertown Funeral Home. A Funeral Mass will be Friday, April 12 at 9 a.m. at St. Francis of Assisi with military honors to follow at the MA Veterans' Memorial Cemetery in Agawam, 11 a.m. Kindly meet directly at the church.

Donations may be made in his memory to either the Veterans Association (www.cdceportal.va.gov) and select Massachusetts, VA Central Western MA or the American Cancer Society (donate.cancer.org). Please visit www.beersandstory.com.



Kimberly Myers-Dawley, 62

BELCHERTOWN - It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Kimberly Ann Myers on March 29, 2024, born on July 22, 1961, in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania.

Kim was the daughter of the late Kenneth Myers and is survived by her mother, Helen (Myers) Brown. She was a 1979 graduate of North Penn High School in Lansdale, Pennsylvania and she attended Lock Haven University from 1979-1981; followed by Gwynedd Mercy College from 1987-1990, where she earned her bachelor's degree in nursing.

She finished her education at UMASS Amherst from 1990-1993 obtaining her Nurse Practitioner degree (NSM). Kim worked at Chestnut Hill Hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Holyoke Hospital in Holyoke; and retired from the Hampshire Sheriff's Department in Northampton, as an Assistant Deputy Superintendent and head of the medical unit.

Kim was a gifted athlete. She loved to spend time with friends and family, whether at home on the lake or camping in Provincetown.

She had an infectious smile, a caring heart, and made friends anywhere she went. She was always there if someone was in need and touched many people's lives.

You knew she loved you when she gave you her signature "one-finger salute". Most

of all, she had an unconditional love for animals.

Besides her mother, Kim is survived by her loving wife Susan (Suzy) Myers-Dawley, a son Skyler Britto, and a son-in-law Kyle Britto. She is also survived by her brother Kenneth Myers, niece Carlee Myers, her husband Brian, and their children Josh and Abby, as well as her niece Chelsea Myers, and her daughter Sola.

Kim's family would like to thank the Oncology Unit of Cooley Dickinson Hospital, the medical team at Brigham & Women's Hospital, along with the Cooley Dickinson Hospice team under the special care of Nurse Charlene Vinton and one of her closest friends, Dr. Mark Bigda.

In lieu of flowers, please make memorial contributions to Kim's favorite charity, TLC Pet Rescue; checks can be made payable to TLC Pet Rescue at 422 Lakeshore Drive, Stockbridge GA 30281.

The family invites you to join us in paying tribute to an amazing woman at Beers and Story Funeral Home 10 Maple St., Belchertown, MA 01007 on Saturday, April 13, 2024, from 1:30-4:30 p.m. In Kim's memory the family encourages you to wear something purple; her favorite color.

Suzy, Skyler, and Kyle would like to thank everyone for their outpouring of love and support.

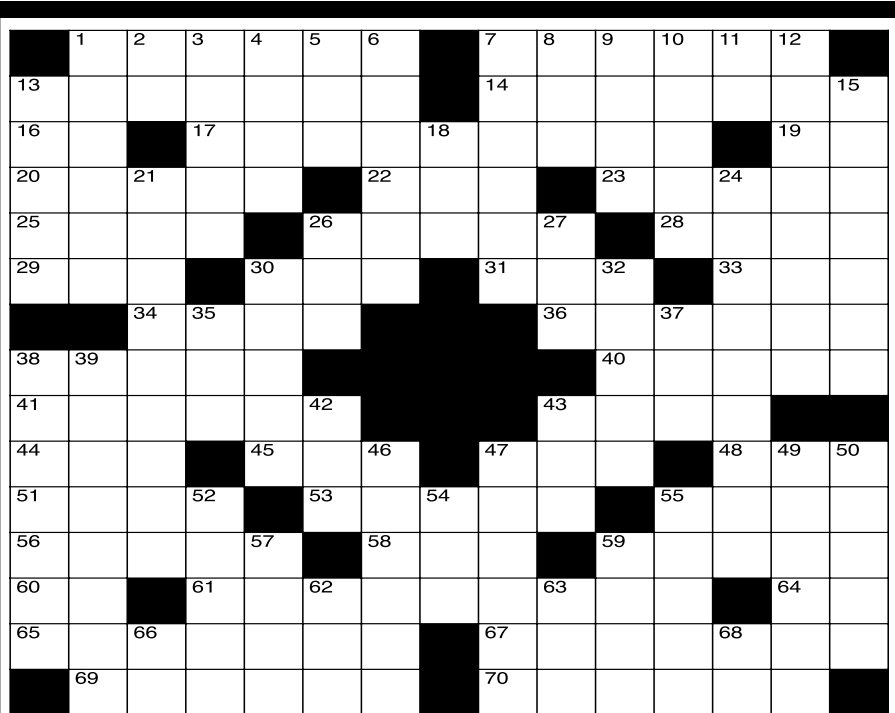
To extend online condolences, please visit www.beersandstory.com.



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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Island nation
7. Platforms
13. Project plan
14. French fishing port
16. South Dakota
17. Oakland's baseball team
19. Military policeman
20. Ornamental stone
22. Garland
23. Process that produces ammonia
25. Mousses
26. Music notation "dal"
28. Fail to win
29. Peyton's little brother
30. Not near
31. Some cars still need it
33. Lizard genus
34. An idiot (Brit.)
36. Postponed
38. African country
40. Gazes unpleasantly

- 41. In a way, traveled
43. Ukraine's capital
44. Appropriate
45. Dash
47. Twitch
48. Swiss river
51. Data file with computer animations
53. City in S. Korea
55. Particular region
56. They have eyes and noses
58. Tear
59. Large Madagascan lemur
60. Not out
61. Ornamental saddle covering
64. A driver's license is one
65. Latin term for charity
67. Rechristens
69. Objects from an earlier time
70. Hindu male religious teachers

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Used as a weapon
2. Yukon Territory
3. Makes a map of
4. An established ceremony prescribed by a religion
5. Unnilhexium
6. Merchant
7. Playing the field
8. Folk singer DiFranco
9. Something to scratch
10. Mexican agave
11. Equal to one quintillion bytes
12. Session
13. North American people
15. Ranches
18. Electroencephalograph
21. A type of compound
24. Avenue
26. High schoolers' test
27. A type of meal
30. Gradually disappeared
32. Ancient Frankish law code

- 35. Popular pickup truck
37. Buzzing insect
38. Deal illegally
39. Lying in the same plane
42. Obstruct
43. Related
46. Challenge aggressively
47. Nocturnal hoofed animals
49. Bird's nests
50. Forays
52. B. de Mille, filmmaker
54. Title of respect
55. One-time name of Vietnam
57. Self-immolation by fire ritual
59. Private school in New York
62. Political action committee
63. A way to fashion
66. Email reply
68. "The Great Lake State"

YWCA Golf Tournament supports youth programs

SPRINGFIELD - YWCA Board Chair Kim Casineau has announced the hosting of the YWCA Golf Tournament to be held at the Springfield Country Club in West Springfield on Monday, May 6 with registration now open online at ywworks.org.

Proceeds of the charity golf tournament will go towards support of the Children Who Witness Violence program that offers therapy for children who have witnessed or experienced abuse and violence. The Healthy and Empowering Relationship Education program of the YWCA, that supports Springfield middle and high schoolers to learn about healthy relationships and friendships, will also benefit from proceeds raised at the tournament.

According to Casineau, organizer of the event, "the leadership work the YWCA is doing in addressing domestic and sexual violence is critically important. These two youth-oriented programs are providing much needed support and resources in our

community. I encourage all who are interested in supporting our event to contact me at kcasineau@thecoatinghouse.com or register on the website. We need golfers, cash donations and donations for our raffle. My goal is to raise awareness to all the great work the YW does for our community in a fun way. Please join us on May 6 in support of these very worthy programs."

The cost per golfer to participate in the tournament is \$155, and includes golf, cart, lunch, dinner, and a quarter zip jacket. There will be a raffle and cash bar at the country club.

Individuals or organizations interested in registering or sponsoring the event can go online to ywworks.org.

Headquartered in Springfield, the YWCA also provides services and offers programming to children and women in crisis in Northampton, Westfield, Belchertown and Holyoke.

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Six-run first hurts

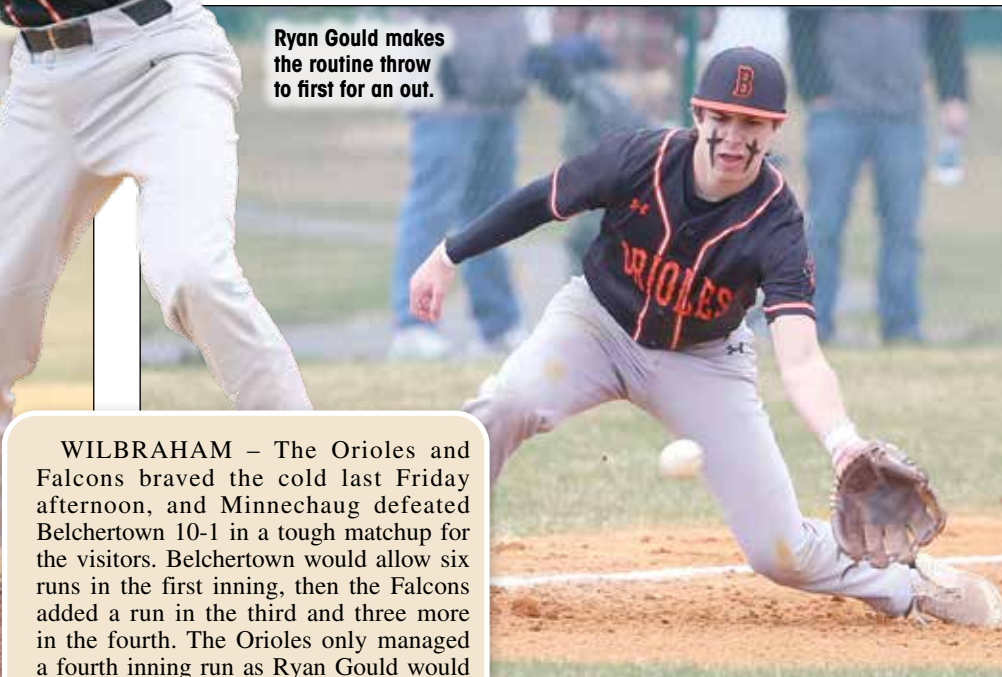
Orioles' chances



Ian McDonald makes a throw to first on the run.



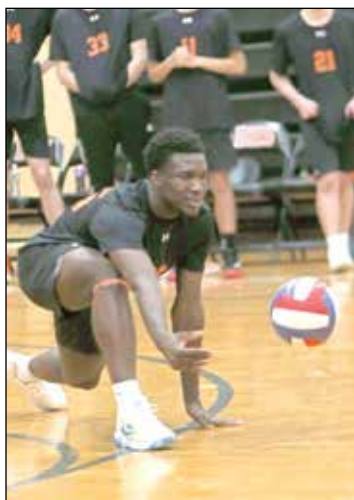
Evan Ferguson, a left-hander, pitches for the Orioles against Minnechaug last Friday.



Ryan Gould makes the routine throw to first for an out.

WILBRAHAM – The Orioles and Falcons braved the cold last Friday afternoon, and Minnechaug defeated Belchertown 10-1 in a tough matchup for the visitors. Belchertown would allow six runs in the first inning, then the Falcons added a run in the third and three more in the fourth. The Orioles only managed a fourth inning run as Ryan Gould would cross the plate. Josh Misiaszek and Derek Gould had two hits each in the game. Belchertown is 1-1 to start the season.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Josh Misiaszek makes a pick in the dirt on a ground ball.



Noah Yankson goes very low for a bump.

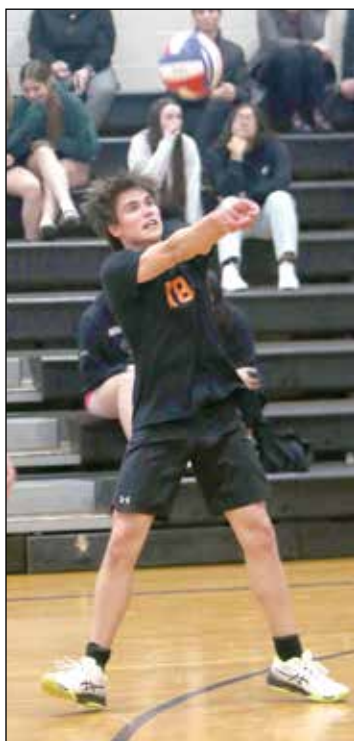


Colin Mullin sends a hit in the air.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Shea MacLean goes for the spike.

Belchertown volleyball falls to Ludlow Lions



TOP: Rainer Kristensen sets the ball up for spike.



RIGHT: Adam Cooper starts a volley with a bump.



Gavin Couchon squares up a bump.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Connor McDonnell advances up the field.

Granby boys lacrosse edged by Colts

CHICOPEE – Last Monday night, Chicopee Comprehensive boys lacrosse, which co-ops with Chicopee High, defeated Granby 11-10. Granby was on the comeback trail, but came up just short as time expired in the game. Granby is 0-1 this season while Comp has jumped out to a 2-0 record.



Braydon LaDuke heads up the field.



Stewart Szlosek meanders around an opponent.

SEE MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 16.

SPORTS

Eclipse leads to schedule reshuffling

BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI
gscibelli@turley.com

Several games and contests being held outdoors on Monday, April 8 had their start times delayed or have had the games moved off the date completely due to the upcoming solar eclipse set for the late afternoon hours that day.

Agawam High School Athletic Director Karen Gomez said she moved a softball game to later in the afternoon after she and other athletic directors received guidance from the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association urging them to move events away from the time the eclipse is scheduled for.

According to the email from the MIAA: "On Monday, April 8, Massachusetts will be experiencing a solar eclipse from 2 to 4:30 p.m. You may already be aware of the danger of looking at the sun during the eclipse. Outdoor activity, practices, and games should be approached with extreme caution as unavoidable exposure to the harmful intensity could happen accidentally with extreme harm to athletes."

The email did not specifically bar events from happening during that time period, but most of the

rescheduled games outdoors were moved to the 5 p.m. hour to avoid the eclipse, which is supposed to result in more than 80% coverage of the sun in Massachusetts.

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education also issued guidance to all schools, directing education officials not to allow students to look directly into the eclipse while it is happening.

"A solar eclipse occurs when the moon passes directly between the Earth and the sun," the DESE guidance states. "The moon is much smaller than the sun, but because it is so close to the Earth, it can appear to partially or completely block the image of the sun."

South Hadley High School Athletic Director Eric Castonguay confirmed he had to move some events scheduled Monday, including a track meet due to the eclipse's timeline. "I didn't really have an issue with it," Castonguay said. "I don't really know a lot about it, but I certainly would not want to expose the kids to anything that could be harmful to them."

The forecasted weather for Monday, April 8 was actually supposed to be ideal for the eclipse.

T-Birds suffer loss against Laval

LAVAL, QC – The Springfield Thunderbirds (29-33-3-2) witnessed history from their leading scorer, but an offensive surge from the Laval Rocket (32-28-6-2) was too much, as the home team emerged with a 7-4 win on Saturday afternoon inside Place Bell.

The matinee affair doubled as a day at the fights in the first 2:45 of the game, as two separate scraps elevated the temperature on the two benches and throughout the Place Bell crowd. First, Sam Bitten came to the aid of his brother Will after the elder Bitten took a sturdy check from Tobie Bisson. Six seconds after Sam and Bisson scrapped, Brayden Guy made an impression in his second Thunderbirds game as he scored a winning decision in a tussle with Laval penalty minute leader Riley McKay.

Things did not get off on the right foot for the T-Birds, as a net-mouth scramble just 4:04 into the contest saw Mitchell Stephens open the scoring, jamming a forehand through Vadim Zherenko and giving Laval the 1-0 edge. That goal came moments after Zherenko made a marvelous sliding block-

er save on a Stephens one-timer in the opening minute.

The Rocket and their raucous crowd were hoping to run Springfield out of the rink just 3:17 later when

2023 fifth-overall pick David Reinbacher stepped up in the offensive zone to the right circle and uncorked a post-ringer under the bar to make it a 2-0 game on the rookie's second AHL goal.

Despite the early stumbles, the T-Birds stayed with the program. At 11:06, with an abbreviated power play, Mikhail Abramov connected from the low slot off a centering feed from Hugh McGing, cutting the Laval lead in half. Ryan Suzuki nearly equalized the game just seconds later when he slipped behind the defense, but Rocket netminder Jakub Dobes stood up to Suzuki with a sturdy blocker save.

Despite the Suzuki chance at Dobes' end of the rink, Zherenko continued to have a far busier period than the Laval goalie. To his credit, the T-Birds' second-year backstop stabilized and helped Springfield kill off a pair of abbreviated Rocket man-advantages to keep the 2-1 score intact after 20 minutes.

The T-Birds began the second period on another power play, and after a brief 5-on-3 ended, Adam Gaudette got the game evened up with a wrister from the right side just 1:03 into the middle period. The goal, his 39th of the season, brought him back into a tie with Samuel Fagemo of Ontario for the AHL goal-scoring lead.

Springfield, however, could not vault to the lead, and before long, the Rocket had scored two more to take a 4-2 advantage on goals 1:06 apart from Arnaud Durandeu and Philippe Maillet.

Down but unfettered, the T-Birds again showed resolve. Gaudette drew a penalty shot after being held on his way in on goal on a breakaway. With a chance to become the first man in the AHL to reach 40 goals this season, Gaudette made no mistake, deking to the backhand and roofing a shot over Dobes to make it 4-3 at 11:40. The sharpshooter's 40th goal also marked the first time since 1990-91 that a Springfield AHL player recorded 40 goals in a single season.

Gaudette's marker also lit a fire under his team. Just 45 seconds later, Abramov whistled a cross-seam pass to a crashing Joey Duszak, who beat Dobes to

Please see **THUNDERBIRDS**, page 17



GRANBY BOYS LACROSSE EDGED BY COLTS



Triston Moe makes a run up the field from the defensive end.



Riley Goodhind heads down the sideline.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Jordan View Reed winds up for a pass.

Registration now open to take part in Bay State Games

WOBURN – Registration for the 42nd annual Bay State Summer Games is now open. The 2024 Summer Games will include thirty sports with competitions from May 11 – July 27 at venues throughout eastern and central Massachusetts including Game On in Fitchburg, Boston Sports Institute in Wellesley, Union Point Sports Complex in Weymouth, and North Star Ice Sports in Westborough. Bay State Games participants range in age from 5 to over age 75 and represent more than 300 Massachusetts communities as well as surrounding New England States in some sports. From grassroots participants to accomplished amateur athletes, the Bay State Games provide opportunities for the athlete in all of us.

Seven high school showcase

sports will take place for a variety of sports, including baseball, basketball, field hockey, ice hockey, soccer, softball, and volleyball. Athletes currently in grade 8-11 who live or go to school in Massachusetts are eligible to attend regional tryouts during the month of June. These tryouts will determine teams representing the various regions of the Commonwealth that will compete against each other in July. Check each sport page for specific eligibility requirements.

The Summer Games include a wide variety of individual sports including swimming, track & field, figure skating, pickleball, wrestling, weightlifting, badminton, and more. These sports are open to a wide range of ages and skill levels from youth participants to masters-aged athletes. Adaptive sport divisions in

archery, swimming, and track & field are offered, as well. Bay State Games also organizes tournaments for pre-existing teams in rugby, and 6v6 field hockey.

Returning in 2024, Table Tennis will take place on June 1 at PingPod in Boston after a 5-year hiatus from the Summer Games sport lineup. New venues include Babson College, which will host the Girls Basketball Showcase, and NorthStar Ice Sports, which will host Figure Skating and the Girls Ice Hockey Showcase. Game On in Fitchburg will serve as a hub venue for eight sports. Bay State Games expects 1,500 athletes and their families to attend competitions at Game On during the second week of July.

For questions, email info@baystategames.org or call 781-932-6555.

Registration now open for Quabbin Valley baseball

The Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League is looking to infuse new talent into its league for the 2024 season.

Registration for the 2024 season is now open and any interested players can go to www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org to get registered, or to seek more information or make inquiries about the league. The league website will also be updated over the next month with information about the upcoming season.

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

Hadley normally used.

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

The league is currently in the process of preparing for the 2024 season and held a meeting on March 24 to discussion plans for the upcoming season. The next meeting will be held after the league's open practice for all players, including players interested in joining the league. The open practice will be at Beachgrounds Park in South Hadley at 10 a.m. on April 14.

SPORTS

Calder's five goals score huge win for Railers

WORCESTER – It is hard to separate the various histories that were made in the Railers' 9-5 victory over Maine at the DCU Center Sunday afternoon but let's give it a try.

The triumph came after Worcester had fallen behind, 4-1, early in the second period. No Railers team in a history that dates back to 2017-18 had ever even earned a point, let alone won a game, after trailing by three goals.

Five Worcester goals were scored by Ashton Calder. That set a Railers record, established an individual league high for the season and was the first five-goal performance by a Worcester player of any uniform since the IceCats' John Carter scored five versus Cape Breton here on Jan. 4, 1995.

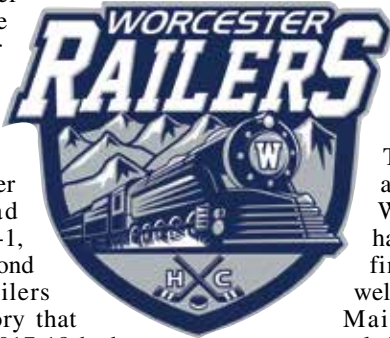
Do the math. It last happened 29 years ago.

Calder also had two assists for a seven-point day. That set a team record and tied the Worcester pro mark set by Jim Campbell of the IceCats on Dec. 28, 1999 in a 9-4 victory over Saint John. He had three goals and four assists.

Finally, the nine goals were the most ever in Railers history. They had scored eight four times before including Saturday night.

After taking two of three

from the Mariners this weekend, Worcester is in position to win itself into the playoffs.



The Railers play three games at Trois-Rivieres next weekend. Two victories and they are in. Worcester still has a chance to finish third, as well.

Maine has four games left, all versus first-place Adirondack.

Calder was plus-5, tying a Railers record. He has a four-game points streak during which he is 6-5-11. He has six goals in the last two games after enduring a stretch where he had six goals in 33 games.

"Basically," Calder said, "I just play the game the right way whether that means I score or make plays. Lately my linemate (Jake Pivonka) has been hot shooting the puck so I try to find him a lot, and when I have a pass I'm a passer, when I have a shot I'm a shooter."

"I don't try to think about it too much. I just play my game and go from there."

As has happened throughout the season the Railers started slowly. That translated into a big early deficit and with the talented Brad Arvanitis in goal foe Maine, that deficit looked like Mt. Katahdin.

"I wasn't thinking good

thoughts," coach Jordan Smotherman said of that bad beginning, "but we have a resilient group and they did not let down."

The Railers argued that the Mariners' fourth goal by Sebastian Vidmar was directed in off his skate. That was at 3:24. They lost the debate but Calder scored his second of the game at 5:10 and the mood changed.

"As soon as we scored the second goal everything on the bench shifted," Smotherman said. "It got everybody's attention. The shoulders all came back from a slouch."

Calder made it 4-3 at 6:50 on what might have been the pass of the year from Joey Cipollone. Reece Newkirk tied it at 10:42 and Christian Krygier put Worcester ahead for good at 11:11. It was Krygier's second goal of the season, first since opening night.

Calder got his fourth at 18:14 with the Railers on a power play.

Tyler Drevitch got Maine back on the board at 1:43 of the third period making it a one-goal with lots of time left. Calder got his fifth at 4:48, though, to restore some scoreboard space.

Brendan Robbins hit an empty net at 18:17 and Ryan Verrier got his fourth of the season at 18:37 to set the franchise record.

Henrik Tikkanen got the win with 22 saves on 27 shots. Arvanitis was replaced by Shane Starrett for the third period and he made two saves.

Run for Hope 5K and Color Run is April 13

GRANBY – The 13th Annual MacDuffie Run for Hope is a flat cross-country 5k trail that winds in and around the MacDuffie School property, 66 School St., and will be held on Saturday, April 13.

This event is run by students, and is a great community event. Proceeds from the event will go to a charity called Food for the Hungry, an organization whose mission is to try to end all forms of human poverty.

The Run for Hope also has a separate route marked for runners who wish to engage in the fun of a Color Run.

The race entry is \$20 which will include a T-shirt. Check in starts at 9 a.m. outside the gymnasium, and the race will begin at 10 a.m. behind the gymnasium.

To sign up for either race, visit <https://www.active.com/granby-ma/running/distance-running-races/the-13th-annual-mac-duffie-run-for-hope-2024>.



THUNDERBIRDS from page 16

tie the game, 4-4, at 12:25.

The 4-4 tie carried into the third, but an unfortunate break wound up putting Laval back in front for good. After Leo Loof fearless blocked a shot up near his face, the loose puck landed flat at the feet of Durandea, who snapped it into an open net before Zherenko could locate it, and the Rocket lead was restored, 5-4, at 6:37 of the third.

This time, a third comeback was not in the cards for Springfield, as Stephens added his second and third goals of the night with a power-play redirect at 10:25 and an empty-netter with 1:11 remaining to finish the scoring. Stephens finished the night with three goals and two assists.

The T-Birds are next in action on Friday, April 12, when they begin a three-game weekend in Hartford against the Wolf Pack. Puck drop is set for 7 p.m. at the XL Center.

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MONDAY AT NOON

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CLASS A DRIVER. Triaxle dump trailer work. Local deliveries, minimum 40 hours, rate based on experience.

HELP WANTED

GRANT WRITER/FACILITATOR

The Town of Brookfield is seeking qualified applicants for a part-time (15 hours per week) Grant Writer/Facilitator. See job description at brookfieldma.us.

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

PART-TIME, 15 to 20 hours per week. Must be dependable and have flexible schedule. Podiatry office. Portuguese or Spanish speaking helpful.

TOWN TREASURER:

The Town of Brookfield is seeking qualified applicants for the full-time (40-hour week) position of Town Treasurer. Full job description at brookfieldma.us.

HELP WANTED

FOR RENT



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ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination."

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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 hearing on Monday, April 22, 2024 at 7:00 PM in the Lawrence Memorial Hall Auditorium, located at 2 Jabish Street in Belchertown, MA 01007 to review a Notice of Intent for an Ecological Restoration Project permit application submitted by Fuss & O'Neill for the proposed replacement of an undersized, failing culverts with a culvert that will meet the MA Stream Crossing Standards and a culvert for terrestrial wildlife passage on Warren Wright Road (Assessor's Map ROW) in Belchertown.

04/11/2024

Town of Belchertown Town Administrator 1 South Main Street Belchertown, MA 01007 NOTICE TO BIDDERS REPLACEMENT EXHAUST SYSTEM TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN FIRE STATION 10 NORTH MAIN STREET BELCHERTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS 01007

The Town of Belchertown, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids for the Replacement Exhaust System, Belchertown Fire Station, 10 North Main

Street, Belchertown, Massachusetts 01007.

The work involves the removal of the existing apparatus room exhaust system and replacement with a new revised system. Wiring will be by others. Estimated construction cost is \$99,900.

DCAMM certification is not required.

Bidder selection, procedures and contract awards shall be in conformity with M.G.L. Chapter 149 Section 44A-H. State mandated prevailing wage rates must be paid according to M.G.L. Chapter 149 sections 26-27H.

Digital copies of the drawings and specifications may be obtained by emailing requests to the office of Roy S. Brown Architects at 85rsba@gmail.com after Wednesday, April 10, 2024 at 2 pm.

A contractor briefing is planned for Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 10:00 am.

Sealed General Bids will be accepted from eligible bidders at the office of the Town Administrator, Finnerty House, 1 South Main Street, Belchertown, Massachusetts 01007 until 2:00 pm, Friday, April 26, 2024 at which time they shall be publicly opened. A bid security in the form of a bid bond, cash or certified check in the amount of five percent (5%) of the bid price must accompany the bid.

The Awarding Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, should it be deemed in the public interest to do so.

Steven J. Williams, Director, Town Administrator 04/11/2024



Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampshire Probate and Family Court 15 Atwood Drive Northampton MA, 01060 Docket No. HS20P0452GD In the interests of Ian D Skaggs Of Belchertown, MA RESPONDENT Incapacitated Person/ Protected Person CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR RESIGNATION OF A GUARDIAN OF AN INCAPACITATED PERSON

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Bruce C Skaggs of Belchertown, MA in the above captioned matter requesting that the court:

Accept the Resignation of the Guardian of the Respondent.

The petition asks the court to make a determination that the Guardian and/or Conservator should be allowed to resign; or should be removed for good cause; or that the Guardianship and/or Conservatorship is no longer necessary and therefore

should be terminated. The original petition is on file with the court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 05/08/2024. This date is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed

at State expenses. WITNESS, Hon. Diana S. Velez Harris, First Justice of this Court Date: April 03, 2024

Mark S. Ames Temporary Register 04/11/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampshire Probate and Family Court 15 Atwood Drive Northampton, MA 01060 (413)586-8500 Docket No. HS24C0058CA

In the matter of: Stephanie Rose Hoag CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Stephanie Rose Hoag of Belchertown, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Connor Anthony Councilman IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Hampshire Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/26/2024.

This is NOT a hearing

date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. Diana S. Velez Harris, First Justice of this Court Date: April 02, 2024

Mark S. Ames Register of Probate 04/11/2024

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLE

This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of April 19, 2024 the following motor vehicle will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien:

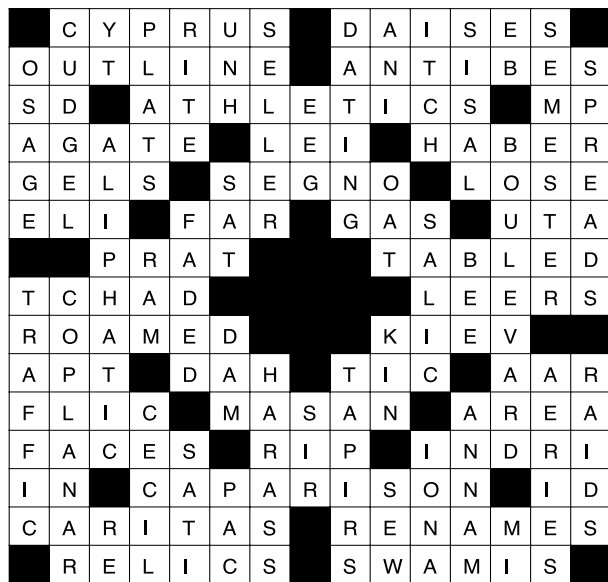
2002 BMW 3 Series VIN: WBAET37492NG78677 Color: Green LKO: Joseph Wood Address: 226 West Street Ware, MA 01082

2007 Nissan Maxima VIN: 1N4BA41E87C817139 Color: Blue LKO: Thaysha Colon Address: 121 N Main Street, M7 Belchertown, MA 01007

Relentless Towing Belchertown, MA 413-530-3804 04/04, 04/11, 04/18/2024

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NEFMI hosts invasive plant walkabout April 15

BELCHERTOWN – New England Small Farm Institute continues its education series with a workshop, “Invasive Plant Walkabout,” on Monday, April 15 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Lampson Brook Farm, 275 Jackson St.

This is the first part of a three-part unit on this topic. David Stanley, Integrated Pest Management Consultant, will lead a hands-on session on management and control of invasive plant species.

Participants will join a guided stroll around the NESFI site, practicing identification and

marking of invasive plant species, while discussing topics including identification tools, prioritization for control, plant ecology, control strategies – conventional, mechanical, biological (organic friendly), and prevention and maintenance steps.

All are welcome, but space is limited so it is best to register early. The registration fee is \$20.

Registration via email at: info@smallfarm.org. Or, by phone, at 413-323-4531. Visit smallfarm.org for more information.



SUBMITTED PHOTO
David Stanley, Integrated Pest Management Consultant, will lead a hands-on session on management and control of invasive plant species at Lampson Brook Farm on April 15.

‘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 loca-

tions around town including 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.



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