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in exhibit...p. 20

Nick's Waves of Change, Inc.

3rd annual
Spaghetti Dinner
Fundraiser benefits
scholarship

BY PAULA OUIMETTE
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

LUDLOW – For the third year, Nick's Waves of Change, Inc. is holding its annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser to provide scholarships to local students and give out caregiver awards.

Nick's Waves of Change, Inc. was formed following the passing of Belchertown resident Nicholas R. Boileau from acute myeloid leukemia on June 19, 2021, at the age of 28.

"Nick's Waves of Change was started in memory of my son," Jennifer Boileau said. "We started a scholarship fund and offered our first scholarship in 2022."

Nick grew up loving sports and hanging out with his close-knit group of friends. He shared a strong bond with his sister Erica, who he loved immensely, and enjoyed time with his cherished dog, Loki.

"I couldn't have handpicked two kids to be more respectful of one another than the two of them," Boileau said.

Boileau said her son was very shy growing up, but really came into his own in adulthood.

"He flew under the radar when he was here, but he made an impact when he moved on. He had to do a lot on his own and stand up for himself," she said.

In its first year, Nick's Waves of Change, Inc. awarded two scholarships to seniors at Belchertown High School, where Nick graduated from. Since then, Nick's Waves of Change, Inc. has continued to award scholarships to Belchertown students, in addition to giving out five caregiver awards last year and again



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Nick Boileau is shown with his dog, Loki.

this year.

Following high school, Nick went on to earn a bachelor's degree in psychology from Western New England

University and a master's degree in public health with a concentration in epidemiology from the

Please see **NICK**, page 4

The Farmers' Market returns

Saturdays are
back to normal

BY RICHARD MURPHY
Correspondent

AMHERST – Saturday, April 20 dawned with drizzle that eventually just became cloudy, but cool.

Not the day one might want for the season opener of an outdoor event. Nevertheless, vendors set up early for the first day of the Amherst Farmers' Market on the town common, that as advertised, will run through November.

The leadership of Dave, Amie, Junie, and Danielle were there to direct the farmers and craftspeople to their assigned locations. This was complicated by the fact that there are several more sellers this year and everyone had to squeeze into the same area.

Please see **MARKET**, page 10



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Sunday School teachers Tracy Hamelin and Meg Lanphear help student Madison Martin count donated change for their class Clean Water mission project.

Hope UMC children bring hope to Africa

BELCHERTOWN – The Sunday School class at Hope United Methodist Church has been involved in a rewarding mission project over the past month or so.

The class has been learning about water, how it is a life-giv-

ing need and how scarce clean water is in some parts of the world. They learned that access to clean water is an ongoing problem in the rural communities of Sub-Saharan Africa.

Please see **HOPE**, page 16

Community steps up to support the teams

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

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown High School junior varsity and varsity baseball teams hosted a car wash fundraiser outside the town hall this weekend for their teams.

The teams, with the help of their supportive parents, raised over \$1,000 for their team to fun equipment, hats, apparel, snacks, meals, and trips.

"The support from the com-

munity today was amazing, and the boys were so appreciative," Karen Misiaszek, one of the parents, said.

The Belchertown baseball leagues – both the high school leagues and the Little League will be hosting a Homerun Derby on Sunday, May 5, at the Mini Fenway for the whole day.

The funds raised will go towards the teams to help support them. There will be fun games, snacks, raffles, and more for the whole family to enjoy.

Three members of the team,

Derek, Josh, and Kamden, wanted to show their thanks to the community and show how much they truly appreciated the support from their community.

The car wash ended with success, bringing in funds from both people donating at the intersection and through getting their car washed.

The team is very thankful towards the community and local small businesses that have helped them, but also to their parents, and the strong sense of team unity amongst them all.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Belchertown High School baseball team poses with a car they washed at a fundraiser held this past weekend.



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COMMUNITY

Herb garden tips offered at library

BY RYAN DRAGO
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – Clapp Memorial Library welcomed David Wheeler of Therapy Gardens to talk about herb gardens.

The program helped gardeners learn about the properties of popular flowers and herbs and then go plant their own. Wheeler had a lot of information to share about growing small flowers and herbs that can be grown indoors and outdoors.

Therapy Gardens collaborates with libraries, senior community centers, private clubs, and living facilities to bring education and wellness closer to the public. The organization offers workshops on cooking, gardening, and healthy living.

“We go far beyond planting,” Wheeler said sharing some of the fun activities Therapy Gardens has to offer.

Wheeler began by sharing some helpful, general herb tips. Herbs need at least six hours of sunlight, well-drained soil and minimal fertilizer.

Most common herbs that can be planted consist of parsley, rosemary, thyme, basil and cilantro. There are seeds and seedlings to make these herbs and in the proper environment they will sprout nicely.

According to Wheeler, seedlings are easier to grow. Wheeler hangs on to a lot of seeds and seedlings and plants them in his own garden.

For growing indoors, Wheeler suggested using a pot or bamboo plates.

Wheeler shared with the group that many plants need to be pruned. Pruning is a horticultural, arboricultural, and silvicultural practice involving the selective removal of certain parts of a plant, such as branches, buds, or roots.

For example, basil is better pruned from the main stem. Basil is an herb that originates in India.

There are over 50 varieties of basil. The most common versions of basil are sweet, Thai, purple and lemon.

Another easy to grow herb is mint. The best host for mint are pots and containers.

Oregano is an herb that needs full sunlight and is to be pruned regularly to promote growth. Oregano is easy to start from seeds.

One unique herb that Wheeler shared with the group at Clapp Memorial Library is lemon balm. It is a member of the mint



David Wheeler, right, offered a presentation on an herb garden starter kit at Clapp Memorial Library.



Guests got to take some herbs home with them to take care of. Some herbs included oregano, dill, lavender, and many more offered by David Wheeler.

family and is considered a healing herb.

Herbs can also be preserved through drying and freezing. Wheeler suggests using ice cube trays. Herbs are used to make tea, medicine and other foods.

Wheeler shared that he is currently working on an edible meadow project. This

project includes a mixture of wildflowers, sunflowers and edible plants. Wheeler hopes it turns out well as this meadow project is a work in progress.

One of the biggest gardening trends going on today's world is smart gardens. These small indoor gardens are monitored by computers that take care of watering and nutrient levels and alert people when they need attention. Many smart gardens include an automatic light and timer.

After the presentation, it was time to do some gardening. Wheeler provided some herbs and trays for guests to start growing their own herbs and take them home. Wheeler brought many seeds and seedlings of herbs such as dill, lemon balm and several kinds of basil.

Wheeler has been offering different workshops for about three years. His workshops through Therapy Gardens include topics such as cooking, wellness, gardening and nutrition. Wheeler is always looking for enthusiasts to do workshops with.

Visit therapygardens.com to learn more about options to enhance healthy living, gardening styles and nutrition.

Election to be uncontested, seats unfilled

BELCHERTOWN – The annual town election will feature no contested races and open seats on the Board of Assessors and Housing Authority.

The annual town election is set for May 20 in the Belchertown High School Gymnasium, from 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

Voters will be deciding on the following positions:

Incumbent Colleen Duroshea is running for the Board of Health, a position with a three-year term.

Leonard Bilodeau is running for the Planning Board, a position with a five-year term

Incumbents Ruby Bansal and Amy Lamothe are running for two open seats on the School Committee, both with three-year terms

Whitney Kuhnlenz and Nicole Miner are running for two seats on the Select Board, both seats have a three-year term

Incumbent Theresa Camerlin is running for Town Clerk, a position with a three-year term

There are currently two unfilled seats for the following:

Housing Authority - two positions with three-year terms

Board of Assessors - one position with a three-year term

No one needs to file anything with the Town Clerk's office to launch a write-in campaign. But Town Clerk Terry Camerlin said she would like to know if anyone plans to launch a campaign so she can prepare for that night.

Relay for Life craft/vendor fair is June 8

BELCHERTOWN – There will be over 80 crafters and vendors at the 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.

There will be face painting all day, balloon sculpting by Ed Popielarczyk from 12:30-2:30 p.m. and raffles.

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



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BCTV Schedule Highlights

Thursday, April 25

- 8 a.m. – Conservation Commission – April 22 meeting
- 10 a.m. – Planning Board – April 23 meeting
- 12 p.m. – Energy and Sustainability Committee – April 18 meeting
- 7 p.m. – BHS Jazz Concert – Channel 192
- 7 p.m. – Conservation Committee – April 22 meeting
- 9 p.m. – Planning Board – April 23 meeting

Friday, April 26

- 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 9 a.m. – School Committee – April 23 meeting
- 5 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 7 p.m. – School Committee – April 23 meeting
- 9 p.m. – Energy and Sustainability Committee – April 18 meeting

Saturday, April 27

- 9 a.m. – Blue Ribbon Cooks – Snacks
- 7 p.m. – Belchertown Community Energy Choice
- 9 p.m. – Opioid Community Input Forum

Sunday, April 28

- 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. – Belchertown Voices for Justices – Stories Told and Untold

Monday, April 29

- 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 9 a.m. – Tour Proposed New JBMS
- 5 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 6 p.m. – Tour Proposed New JBMS
- 6:30 p.m. – Select Board – Channel 191
- 8:30 p.m. – JBMS New School Presentation – April 9 meeting

Tuesday, April 30

- 8 a.m. – Belchertown Voices for Justice – Stories Told and Untold
- 11 a.m. – Belchertown Community Energy Choices
- 2 p.m. – Opioid Community Input Forum
- 5 p.m. – Belchertown Community Energy Choices
- 8 p.m. – Opioid Community Input Forum

Wednesday, May 1

- 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 5 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 7 p.m. – Belchertown Voices for Justice – Stories Told and Untold

NICK from page 1

University of Michigan.

“My son was very much into education and research,” Boileau said, adding that Nick was enrolled in a doctorate program at the University of Alabama, Birmingham at the time his cancer returned.

Nick even published over 30 research papers, with many focusing on caregivers and the stress they go through to care for their loved ones. While at the University of Alabama, Nick was working with children with sickle cell anemia and trying to come up with ways to help them cope with the pain.

Boileau said her son was fascinated with neurological conditions such as Huntington’s disease and traumatic brain injuries, especially the impact these conditions have on caregivers.

“He was hoping to do his own research in regard to neurological conditions,” Boileau said. “He was interested more in the caregiving side of it...how he could help the people who help the people who have the disease. It’s a 24/7 job for some people...He did a lot while he was here.”

Shortly before his death, Nick wrote two blog posts chronicling his experience with cancer.

In the post entitled “The Battle”, Nick talked about change, and how even small changes can make an impact:

“At the time of our passing, we may not fully see the extent of how the changes we make will impact the course of the universe, but we can look at the embers and envision how our choices will impact those around us...I look at my life and see that I made many changes to the world that, despite their seemingly small size, may ripple into something amazing.”

Nick’s Waves of Change, Inc. continues to make ripples across the community and reach more people. Its growing number of supporters

“I look at my life and see that I made many changes to the world that, despite their seemingly small size, may ripple into something amazing.”

NICHOLAS R. BOILEAU,
1993-2021

have allowed the organization to offer an additional scholarship to any western Massachusetts high school senior.

“We thought the best way to give back to the community as a whole would be to give back to a student outside of Belchertown,” Boileau said.

Also new this year is the opportunity for people ages 18-40 to enroll in the National Marrow Donor Program.

Boileau said when Nick had leukemia, they couldn’t find a match, but that his sister was able to provide a haploidentical stem cell transplant as his sibling.

“And he got three more years of life with her,” she said. “We’ve been big proponents about getting people registered now.”

When Nick’s cancer returned, he was still unable to find a match, and his mother was the next to donate a partial match. Boileau said people can donate more than once, but in some cases, like her son’s, the recipient can only receive it from the same person one time.

“If it’s the same blood, it’s not going to fight to change over and it needs to change to some other form for the white cells to attack,” she said. “On his particular kind, you have to have a different donor.”

Boileau said the process to donate stem cells takes about four hours, with blood being drawn and the cells being spun out, before the blood is

returned to the donor. In about 10% of situations, the bone marrow is drawn from the base of the donor’s spine.

“They can do it very successfully just by drawing the stem cells from the blood,” she said.

This year, the dinner will be held on Thursday, May 9 at the Ludlow Elks Lodge, 69 Chapin St., with doors opening at 4:30 p.m. Dinner will be served from 5:30-7 p.m.

“Ludlow Elks Lodge has been gracious enough to gift us their hall, so we are having it there,” Boileau said.

The meal includes spaghetti with meat sauce, salad, rolls and dessert. A cash bar will be available (no outside beverages allowed).

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$12 for children ages 10 and under. Anyone who purchases their tickets before April 28 will be entered into a special drawing to win a lottery ticket basket with \$110 worth of tickets.

Raffle tickets will also be available to those attending the dinner, with nine big ticket items and over 40 items in the regular raffle. There will also be a “Tastes of Belchertown,” drawing featuring gift cards from local restaurants.

Some of the raffle prizes include \$200 in cash, a firepit, a Ring doorbell and camera, a 12 foot by 12 foot pop-up gazebo canopy, a children’s bicycle, board games and Legos, a homemade quilt and much more.

“We’ve had a lot of positive response from people...asking to donate a gift basket or raffle item,” Boileau said. “We’ve been very fortunate in that.”

For more information about Nick’s Waves of Change, Inc., find them on Facebook or visit nickswavesofchange.org.

To buy tickets to the dinner, call Boileau at 413-323-7821 or email info@nickswavesofchange.org. Tickets will also be available at the door.

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A railroad, and its important history

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

BELCHERTOWN – Between the years of 1871-1938, the Rabbit Run Railroad was a hub for travelers, school children, and workers to travel through the area that we now know as the Quabbin Reservoir.

The rail ran from Athol to Springfield, and up until it's last ticket was sold in 1938, served as an important part of the area.

"The Rabbit Railroad was the life-blood of the Swift River Valley," Ken Levine of the Petersham Historical Society said at a recent program at the Clapp Memorial Library.

The valley was important to many people, and because of that, the Swift River Historical Society in New Salem wanted to preserve the history for all to see and learn about.

"I felt there was a lot of history that deserved attention in the area," Levine said. "The valley was important to many people, and it was heartbreaking when people had to leave."

After the valley filled with water to become what is now the Quabbin Reservoir, most of the tracks became submerged in water, however, there are still areas where parts of the tracks are still visible.

Levine created a diorama of the Rabbit Run Railroad, that can now be seen at the Society today. Two years in the making, it is a wonderful and beautiful creation.

"As a kid, I always found making shoebox dioramas exciting," Levine said. "It was like having your own little world."

The diorama itself is huge, using the map of the area to create the parts of the towns to be as realistic as possible.

The Rabbit Run is an important part of our history, and Levine has captured it in his diorama, as if it was frozen in time.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS
Ken Levine is shown holding his banjo with a map of the Rabbit Run Railroad.



A model engine of the Rabbit Run Train, stationed and ready for passengers in Ken Levine's diorama.

Belchertown Post 239 Baseball registration opens

BELCHERTOWN – Belchertown Post 239 Baseball for ages 14-19 will hold registration at Belchertown High School, 142 Old Springfield Road, on Saturday, April 27 from 10 a.m.-noon or Sunday, April 28 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Required form to register/tryout is available by visiting www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/Baseball_

Form_2.pdf. Please provide jersey/hat sizes.

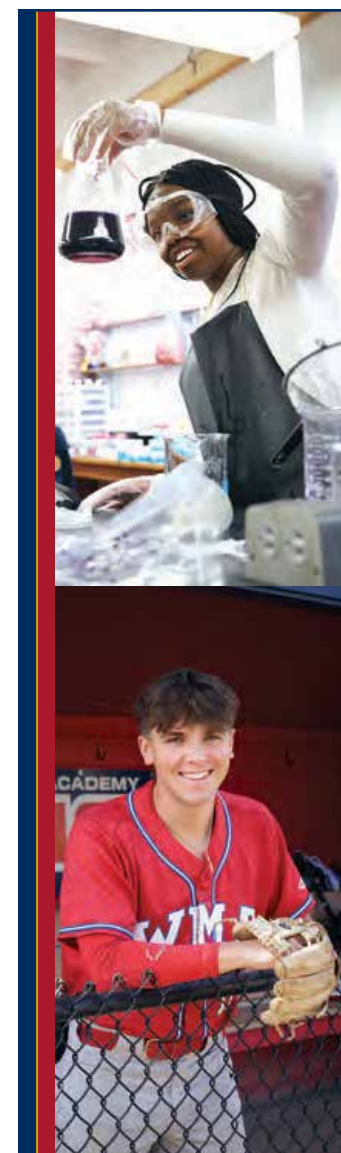
Residents of Amherst, Belchertown, Granby, Hadley, Leverett, Pelham, Shutesbury, South Hadley, Sunderland are eligible


The estimated cost for new players is \$200, which includes jersey and hat; payable after tryouts. The cost for

returning players is \$140 with same jersey/hat.

Based on registration, tryouts likely be held on Saturday, May 4 at Belchertown High School.

For more information about Legion Baseball, contact: Mark Zawistowski by emailing markzski@hotmail.com or texting or calling 617-999-3999.





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OPINION



Do it now, while the forsythia is blooming

It's funny how nature is sometimes used as a cue to do this or do that.

The term is phenology. When I was first learning about perennials all those years ago at UMass, I remember my instructor saying it was safe to remove winter protection "when the forsythia is blooming."

It is also safe to prune roses and butterfly bush "when the forsythia is blooming." And it's time to sow your peas and plant grass seed, too.

Kinda cool, isn't it, that nature can dictate when it is safe or indeed the best time to accomplish things in the garden?

The forsythia is blooming nicely in my front yard, and I did head out over the weekend to tackle some of the above. My pink "Fairy" rose bush was in dire need of clean up.

There was a wee bit of winter kill that I trimmed back to the next nice node. Shockingly there were still some spent flower clusters left from last year; those were removed as well.

Long arching branches were reigned in – it's not good for roses to be all over the ground where they are more susceptible to fungal issues. Likewise, canes that were crossing each other or branching out at weird angles were remedied too.

I applied a sprinkling of granular organic fertilizer at the base of the plant to support all of the beautiful blooms I'm expecting to have.

My 2-year-old Butterfly Bush (Buddleia) barely suffered any winter kill at all in contrast to last year when it died back all the way to the ground! I'm excited because that means it has a couple of feet head start and earlier blooms to boot!

I had to remove only a couple of inches of dead tips. I applied a balanced fertilizer here too in hopes of many beautiful purple flowers.

Other sections of my perennial beds met with different jobs to be done. Gayfeather (Liatris spicata) always looks unkept until new growth ensues.

I try to cut the old stems down a bit further and rake my hands through the dead, grass-like foliage, clipping away what doesn't come free easily. If you look within the plant you'll notice whitish tips of new growth. It won't be long!

I find a lot of satisfaction from cultivating the perennial garden, but it's almost too early to do that. Butterfly Weed (Asclepias tuberosa) is still weeks away from popping up.

If I haphazardly scratch around in the garden it could be at the plant's expense or at the expense of any self-sown seedlings that germinated. Purple Coneflower (Echinacea purpurea) is always a good self-sower, but it's up to you to decide if these tiny plants are worthy of keeping or weeding out.

Same goes for Ballon Flower (Platycodon).

Lavender (Lavandula) is sometimes slow to wake up too, but this year the plants already look "alive." Many times, you have to search within the plant for signs of fresh silver-green growth, then cut back to that point.

This year, like we saw with the Butterfly Bush, there seems to be very little winter kill. I'm going to leave be for now and not prune anything yet.

I planted Hollyhocks (Alcea rosea) near my lamp post last spring and they grew great all summer. I thought it would be neat to have 6-7-foot spires of papery pastel blooms reaching for the sky, reminiscent of the Polish hollyhocks my mom had by the porch when I was a teenager.

Admittedly they don't look all that fabulous right at the moment. Hollyhocks like it rich, so I fertilized and will also provide some compost to further enhance their growth, and maybe just maybe I will re-live the Hollyhocks of my youth come July.

All in all, I feel pretty good at how the perennial gardens fared through the winter. Next week I have to get those peas in – at least before the forsythia stops blooming!

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.



LETTERS

Town Planning Board and batteries

To the Editor:

I had an opportunity to meet with Town Planner, Doug Albertson. Doug and I discussed a concern I had about the Tier 1 limit for residential batteries.

I gave as an example that we have 15kw of solar on our roof and a single Tesla Powerwall. The Powerwall is 13.5kw and we were looking at expanding our battery capacity as prices declined.

There are several alternatives to Tesla now (Generac, Enphase, EQ4...) that make adding more attractive. Under the proposed Tier 1 residential limit of 20kw we wouldn't be able to add any more capacity without hitting tier 2.

When we met, I asked, "is the 20kw limit per house or per unit?" Doug indicated that there was no clear definition.

I understand the desire to regulate commercial use but going over 20kw doesn't mean it is commercial. Our Powerwall is also used by National Grid in the summer to feed back into the grid for peak demand.

This type of capability aids the state's goals for a zero emission system by 2050.

I also asked about if this applies to someone who purchases a newer EV. Many new EVs have the capability to provide household electricity from their massive 80-120kwh batteries. If these get plugged in, will they be under the same restriction?

In the Sentinel article there was a question about the chemistry of batteries and again there is uncertainty. The current wave of residential batteries use lithium-iron-phosphate chemistry.

LiFePo4 batteries are extremely stable, they do not share the fire risk that LiIon batteries do. LiFePo4 batteries are incombustible, meaning they will not burn when exposed to fire.

This is an important feature in the event of mishandling during charging or discharging.

I know this is pretty new territory and it is also rapidly changing. I'm just suggesting that the Planning Board needs to step back and look again at the residential restrictions.

Richard Rabe
Belchertown

due to taxes. We pretty much live on my Social Security and pension.

Signed: Seeking Suggestions

Dear Seeking:

Your wife's Full Retirement Age for Social Security purposes is age 67. Because she will not yet have reached her FRA in January 2025, when she is 65, if she claims SS to start at that time, not only will her monthly amount be reduced, but she will be subject to Social Security's annual earnings test.

The earnings test sets a limit for how much can be earned by beneficiaries, who claim SS before FRA.

The earnings limit for 2024 is \$22,320. The limit for next year is not yet published (it's based on changes to the national wage index), but will be a bit higher likely about \$23,500.

Thus, I can't provide the exact impact, but if your wife's 2025 earnings exceed next year's limit, Social Security will take back \$1 in benefits for every \$2 over the

Please see **SSI**, page 7



Older husband and working wife seek guidance

Dear Rusty:

I am 74 years old, retired and receiving Social Security.

My wife will be 65 in January of 2025. Our hope was to start paying off some credit card expense by her receiving SS when she turns 65, however it appears there would be a substantial reduction to her benefits.

Her work income is \$37,500 a year and she wasn't planning on retiring from work at age 65. Because I am 11 years older, we felt it makes sense to use her Social Security as a means to lower our debt.

We have \$27,000 in credit card debt and I don't really want to use my 401(k) funds

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.

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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COMMUNITY

Belchertown Community Energy Choice launches program

BELCHERTOWN – The Town of Belchertown is pleased to announce that it will launch its electricity supply program, Belchertown Community Energy Choice, in June 2024.

The program is a municipal aggregation, which is already offered by nearly 170 cities and towns in the commonwealth, including nearby Hadley and Charlton.

Belchertown Community Energy Choice will offer three new electricity supply options to all Belchertown residents and businesses. The Town’s primary offering, Belchertown Standard, will cost less than the current National Grid Residential Basic Service rate, while also providing an additional 10% renewable energy (though future savings cannot be guaranteed).

Belchertown residents and businesses may also choose from two other options: Belchertown 100, which has 100% renewable energy, and Belchertown Basic which just meets the State minimum standards for renewable energy.

Belchertown Community Energy Choice will provide long-term price stability, with prices fixed for 42 months, until December 2027.

The program will also support the growth of renewable energy here in New England, because all additional renewable energy will come from “Class I” sources. Those are primarily wind and solar, all located within New England.

The program was initially authorized at the Annual Town Meeting in 2021, and was recently approved by the State’s Department of Public Utilities in January 2024. The program launches in June 2024.

Belchertown residential and business electricity customers using National Grid Basic Service supply are eligible for automatic enrollment in the Belchertown Standard as of their June meter read.

	National Grid Basic Service (Residential)	Belchertown Basic	Belchertown Standard (automatic for eligible customers)	Belchertown 100
Price	18.213 ¢/kWh	12.960 ¢/kWh	13.373 ¢/kWh	14.311 ¢/kWh
Voluntary Renewable Energy*	None	None	Adds 10% voluntary renewable energy (MA Class I RECs)	Adds voluntary renewable energy (MA Class I RECs) to total 100%
Duration	November 1, 2023 through July 31, 2024	June 2024 through December 2027	June 2024 through December 2027	June 2024 through December 2027

The program cannot guarantee savings beyond the current term of Basic Service, as stated in the table above, because future Basic Service rates are unknown.
 *Voluntary Renewable Energy is in addition to the State’s required renewable energy content for all electricity supplies. The State’s required renewable energy content is 62% in 2024. For more detail, see resources on Energy.Belchertown.org

This table shows the prices for Belchertown Community Energy Choice, compared to National Grid Basic Service. Belchertown Community Energy Choice prices apply to all Residential, Commercial and Industrial customers.

In the beginning of April, all such eligible customers will receive a Notification Letter on behalf of the Town from the chosen electricity supplier for the program, Dynegy. The letter will notify them of the upcoming enrollment and provide instructions on how to choose a different program option other than Belchertown Standard or how to opt out of the program (i.e., not participate) before the program starts.

Participation in Belchertown Community Energy Choice is voluntary. Anyone that does not want to participate may opt out without penalty, either before the program begins or at any time during the program.

Electricity customers who are currently enrolled with a third-party supplier will not receive the Notification Letter and will not be automatically enrolled. These customers can voluntarily join the program, but are advised to check with their current suppli-

er in case it may charge penalties or early termination fees if they leave that supplier during the term of their contract.

Participation in Belchertown Community Energy Choice will only change the “Supply” portion of your National Grid electricity bill. National Grid will still continue to manage electricity billing, maintain poles and wires and respond to storm outages.

Customers using budget billing or receiving low-income rate discounts will continue to receive those discounts without interruption. Similarly, customers receiving net metering or other solar benefits will continue to receive those benefits.

For more information about the Belchertown Community Energy Choice, go to Energy.Belchertown.org or call 413-213-2101.

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

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

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

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

Donation bins have been placed in several locations around town 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.



Got plants?

Historical Association seeks donations for plant sale

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown Historical Association is holding its Opening Day activities at the Stone House Museum on Saturday, May 11.

There will be free tours of the museum, the famous “Old Bag” sale, a plant sale featuring locally grown perennials and some local crafters.

The association is asking for help from the community to make this fundraiser successful. Many have already contributed old bags for the sale.

Every year, the plant sale receives many donations of perennials dug from gardens in the community and generously donated to the plant sale. Please check your gardens for new plants that can be potted now and have time to recover and look their best in time for the sale.

They are looking for flowering plants, shade plants, vegetable plants, trees, shrubs, bulbs, fruit bearing plants and house plants. Plants can be brought to the Stone House during the week before the sale and left near the schoolhouse.

Please email sallyshattuck54@gmail.com if you have any questions.

SSI from page 6

limit (half of the amount over the limit). So, if your wife earns \$37,500 per year, that will likely be about \$14,000 over the limit and Social Security will take back half of that \$7,000.

They “take back” by withholding future benefits or you can repay them in a lump sum. So, you will have a choice repay Social Security from your other assets, or they will withhold your wife’s SS benefits for the number of months needed to offset her penalty for exceeding the earnings limit.

The number of months they will withhold depends on how much is owed and what your wife’s monthly SS benefit is. For example, if your wife’s age-65 SS benefit is about average (\$1,900) and her penalty for exceeding the limit is \$7,000, Social Security would withhold your wife’s benefit for four months to recover the penalty, but she would receive her full benefit for the remaining eight months of the year.

Unless your wife tells them in advance that she will exceed the limit, Social Security will find out the following year after you file your income taxes. But, in any case, your wife cannot avoid the annual earnings test for working before reaching her Full Retirement Age.

The earnings test goes away when your wife reaches her FRA of 67. Until that time, if she continues working she will have a choice to have her benefits withheld for a portion of the year or simply repay

Social Security in a lump sum in which case her benefits would continue uninterrupted.

FYI, there is a silver lining in this, because if your wife has benefits withheld because she exceeds the earnings limit before her FRA, after she reaches her full retirement age Social Security will give her time credit for the months when benefits were withheld, which will result in her monthly Social Security payment amount increasing somewhat at her full retirement age. Thus, over time, your wife may recover the benefits which were withheld for exceeding the annual earnings limit.

But to get 100% of the benefit she’s earned from a lifetime of working and be exempt from Social Security’s earnings limit, she would need to wait until she reaches her FRA to claim.

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

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AMHERST

ClayWorks donates bowls to Amherst Survival Center

BY RYAN DRAGO
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – ClayWorks Community Ceramics Studio in Ware had made bowls to donate to the Amherst Survival Center.

These bowls are made to support local food and nutrition programs for families in need. Dale Rice of Amherst Survival Center had reached out to ClayWorks last year and members of studio rallied to make 50 bowls last year.

This year, ClayWorks members produced 82 bowls to donate and Mary Remington was proud of the outcome her and her associates had accomplished.

“This activity contributes to the growth of ClayWorks’ membership and bringing members together,” Remington said.

Joining Remington is David Walulak who handmade some of the bowls and helped with firing and glazing the bowls as well. Walulak is one of 20 studio artists who made the bowls.

ClayWorks already has a goal to make 100 bowls next year for the Amherst Survival Center.

ClayWorks was established in Ware back in 2019 and has expanded over time. For

the last 10-15 years, the Amherst Survival Center is thankful to have the contributions from these potters who support their biggest fundraiser of the year.

“We’re so grateful for the potters,” Rice said. Adding that they’ve made “a huge impact.”

Rice has been a volunteer for The Amherst Survival Center for last 10 years and knows how important this fundraiser is every year for the communities in the Pioneer Valley. The bowls donated are spread out on a big table and they are the first items people see when they visit the center.

These bowls are collectable bowls but are also used for the soups that are donated. The event is called Empty Bowls 2024 and will take place on Saturday, April 6 from noon-4 p.m. at the Amherst Survival Center at 138 Sunderland Road, North Amherst.

ClayWorks Community Ceramics Studio is located at 71 Main St. and is looking to further expand.

ClayWorks offers pottery classes on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-9 p.m. Every third Saturday of the month, a quick spin class is offered for beginners.



TURLEY PHOTO BY RYAN DRAGO
Mary Remington, right, of ClayWorks alongside Amherst Survival Center’s Dale Rice and studio artists David Walulak. Rice was amazed by the great craftsmanship and the number of bowls being donated.

The second Friday of the month, ClayWorks hosts a date night. Youth classes will be offered in the summer. ClayWorks also offers private parties and

studio space for established potters. To learn more about ClayWorks, visit workshop13.org/education/pottery-classes.

Calendar raffle benefits Amherst Senior Center

AMHERST – The Friends of the Amherst Senior Center is selling tickets for its first calendar raffle.

The raffle tickets cost \$5 each and the action will begin May 1 at the offices of the Senior Center at the Bangs Community

Center, Boltwood Walk. There will be a raffle for every day of May.

Winners will also have their tickets returned to the spinning drum for even more chances to win.

The raffle is being held to benefit the

programs at the Amherst Senior Center.

Tickets may be purchased at the Senior Center office and also at the Amherst Farmers Market on Saturday, April 21 and April 27 where Friends members will have a table to also distribute literature about the

many senior services available.

People can also contact Dennis Vandal for tickets by emailing dennisvandal@gmail.com.

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Be sure to include a high resolution, clear photograph for printing.

Belchertown announces board, committee vacancies

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

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

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

Trail Stewardship Council
One vacancy

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

Deadline: Friday, April 26

Animal Control Advisory Board
Three vacancies

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

Deadline: Friday, April 26

Communications Committee
Three vacancies

The Town wishes to fill three full member seats on the Communications Committee. The purpose of this committee is to develop a communication plan

for the Town of Belchertown to improve information flow from the Town to the public. Experience with marketing, communications, and/or social media is highly preferred.

Deadline: Friday, April 26

Historic District By-Law Commission
One Real Estate seat

The Town wishes to fill a full member seat (Real Estate Seat) on the Historic District By-Law Commission. The Commission has regulatory control over new construction, reconstruction, alterations, movements, and demolition of all exterior architectural features of buildings and structures within the Historic District which are visible from any public street, public way, or public park.

Deadline: Friday, April 26

Belchertown Family Center Committee
Three Active Voting Member positions

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

Deadline: Friday, April 26

Council on Aging
One vacancy

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

Deadline: Friday, April 26

Belchertown Age and Dementia Friendly Implementation Group
One Community Member vacancy

COMMUNITY



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Escape room at the library

Teens from Left to Right: Teens (from left), Joshua, Wesley, Wyatt, Mackensie, Alyssa, JenaRose and Violette enjoyed the Clapp Memorial Library's Clue-themed Escape Room program in March. This group of teens won the Escape Room in exactly 35 minutes. The fastest group of teens "escaped" the room in 27 minutes and 53 seconds.

Zonta announces local service grant award recipients

LUDLOW – The Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley is proud to announce that \$6,000 in service grants will be awarded to three local organizations at its May dinner meeting at the Ludlow Country Club on May 13.

The evening will begin with a gathering at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 6 p.m., then the program.

Pay at the door for the buffet (\$28), but RSVP is required by May 9 to info@zontaqv.org. Questions can be directed to Mary Knight, secretary, by calling 413-219-8260.

The public is invited to join us to support these community partners and learn about Zonta's role in building a better world for women and girls, locally and globally.

Safe Passage - \$2,000 for their Anthology Project. The project allows survivors to tell their own unique stories through visual art pieces and enables community members to experience a better understanding of what it means to be a survivor. Zontians are invited to help launch this project.

Girls Inc. of the Valley - \$2,000 to fund building supplies needed to support expanded programs to flourish and meet

the needs of girls and young women. Zontian involvement is also encouraged through the Go Getters Volunteer Program.

CASA of Hampden County - \$2,000 for its CASA Literacy Project. The grant money will be used to purchase materials to enhance learning opportunities for Court Appointed Special Advocates and foster work and create training sessions to teach caregivers, grandparents and other concerned partners how to help children develop listening and comprehension skills, as well as how to organize their thoughts to re-tell their story. Zontians and supporters will be invited to attend the training sessions and supervise new book collection drives at local libraries to increase CASA's literature collection.

About Zonta

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

For more information, visit Zonta.org or email info@zontaqv.org.

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MARKET from page 1

No matter, the mission was accomplished by the efficient management team.

Getting up early is not a task many covet. Fortunately for the sellers and early shoppers, Alicia at Stout Pigeon Coffee Company was brewing for the market, waking folks up, and putting smiles on faces in the process.

Next to the roastery, at the northeast corner is This Took Forever, so named, because, well, This Took Forever. Katie makes place mats, table runners, money belts, and other items that are handmade and not at the speed of light.

Cold Spring Soapery has been a perennial favorite at the market with their brightly colored soaps that are gentle on the skin while cleansing.

Granola on your mind? Sweet Babu's is back with Liz greeting customers, this year, with the new Banana Bread, with real bananas.

Moving west one finds a first-time vendor adding flavors that are new to the market. Paulette from Cameroon brings spices and dishes unique to West Africa at her HAPI African Gourmet.

After Paulette is Kelly Certified Organic Farm specializing in Asian Vegetables and bringing the early harvest to the market.

Continuing on, we come to Leyden Glen where Kristin sells brightly colored towels and pottery as well as farm raised lamb. Incongruous maybe, but it works.

Justamere Tree Farm keeps the market supplied with every kind of maple product you could imagine.

After Justamere is Chase Hill Farm, a vendor of decades tenure, with excellent cheeses and meats.

Bread Euphoria is next with a wide variety of breads and pastries baked in their stone hearth oven.

Donna at From Fiber to Fashion provides shoppers with woolens from her flock of Alpacas. Okay, it's spring, but it is never too early to stock up on warm creations for next winter.

Then comes the headquarters tent where the leadership can be found unless attending to market emergencies elsewhere.

Robert, a native of the Mother Country was manning the Crème Brûlée table. He may not have emigrated just for that rich French dessert, Crème Brûlée, but it had to have been a plus.

After that, we come to what has become a mainstay at the market. Kathryn offers Lifebooch Kombucha for sale and business is good.

Boulder Top Farm specializes in, but is not limited to mushrooms. They have been at the market for several years, formerly as New England Wild Edibles.

No grapes? No problem! Home Fruit Wines are hand crafted with fresh local produce.

Berkshire Mountain Bakery is back and thus, so are the artisanal sourdough breads they have been bringing for years.

If you were hankering for breakfast, Amherst Farmers' Market has you covered. Egg & Company was there with, yup, you guessed it.

Aaron Andrews developed Beyond Happiness skin care products for men of

color and it has been a success at the market and beyond.

New to the market this year is Heather Gagne's Cherished Cookie Creations. Whether it is edible cookie dough or gourmet cookie creations you want, Cherished has them.

Jessica's JP & Co. Sweet-n-treats is a unique departure for candy, it's freeze dried. According to Jessica, "We take your favorite candies like Airheads, HI-CHEWS, and Big Hunks and give them a magical makeover."

Buzz Off Bee Company is back with, of course, honey and other bee products.

Next, Asian vegetables are more popular every year and Jiang Farm has them.

One might call Bill and Connie Gillen's Sunset Farm "venerable" as they have been coming to the market longer than any of the other vendors with a variety of flowers, herbs and veggies.

Little Pond Flower Farm has returned for the 2024 season with Marie and Keith bringing color with their cut flowers.

Carol of White Buffalo Herbs makes more than 120 quality herbals. If you have it, she can cure it. Newest creation? A treatment for sore throat and Laryngitis and other related maladies. Who would not want to be soothed by Throat Silk?

Quabbin Hill Farm, from next door in Pelham brought a variety of offerings, such as their own tomato sauce and other products.

So much for the farms and crafters on the outer rim of the market, on to the inner band of vendors around the trees.

Back again with a little bit of Italy is Baker's Lane handmade, traditional, small batch, biscotti and pizzelles.

New is Pit Beast BBQ Rubs and Spice Blends. They are gluten free, sugar free and contain no fillers.

Also, a rookie at the market is Olga and her Twisted Bakery with its fluffy, decadent cinnamon buns.

Red Fire Farm is a well-known organic farming operation in the Valley. They add a lot to the market.

Jennie Moss brought her artwork of note cards and stickers.

MASSMAMMALS WATCH is a program to track mammal populations across the Commonwealth. James and Alex of Amherst College represented the organization.

Dogs are welcome at the market and if the puppy gets hungry, Sir Barks-A-Lot's popular treats are there for the inner pooch. This year, Sue gave in a bit, and is even making cat treats.

Whatever could be a food product called P'Frogi? A pierogi of course, and P'Frogi by Irida is back at the market.

Alyssa Atkinson's Magnolia Bake Shoppe is new to the market with a wide selection of cakes, pastries, and other baked goods.

What is notable about the market this year is that despite the fact that there has always been variety, the new vendors have increased the choices available to the shoppers.

The market returns every Saturday into late Autumn. We live in hope that those elusive sunny Saturdays return.



Paulette's HAPI African gourmet brings the flavor of West Africa to Amherst.



Liz of Sweet Babu's is back.



The college students of Supreme Microgreens.



Cold Spring Soapery is back and cleaner than ever.



Kristin of Leyden Glen Farm attended the Amherst Farmers' Market.



Irida and P'Frogi offered homemade pierogi.



Sue and Sir Barks-A-Lot offered treats for dogs.



The Stone Pigeon Coffee team had fresh brewed coffee on hand.



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Graham Guardenfield goes up to get a hit in the air.

Orioles defeat Lions boys tennis

LUDLOW – The Belchertown High School boys tennis team picked up a win 4-1 last Monday afternoon at Ludlow High School. The victory improved the Orioles to a 4-2 mark on the season. Also last week, the Orioles would lose to Longmeadow, but narrow defeat Minnechaug 3-2 last Friday. The Orioles face Agawam at home Thursday, April 25 at 4 p.m.



Camryn Kaczowka sends a return hit away.

Orioles take down Warriors

BY TIM PETERSON
Sports Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN — Winning a game on your birthday is always extra special.

Jarrod Lemke, who's the second-year varsity coach of the Belchertown girls' lacrosse team, had never celebrated a win on his birthday, which is April 15, before this year.

The Lady Orioles, who scored nine goals during the first period, coasted to a 14-9 non-league victory over the Tantasqua Lady Warriors in the home opener on Patriots Day.

"It feels great winning a game on my birthday for the first time," said Lemke, who graduated from Agawam High School. "I didn't play a spring sport when I was in high school. We also didn't play a game last year on my birthday."

The victory improved Belchertown's overall record to 2-1, while the Lady Warriors (4-1) lost their first game of the regular season.

It was the first meeting between the two girls' lacrosse teams in more than ten years.

"We really didn't know very much about them, but we were able to score some early goals, which was very important," said Belchertown

Follow Turley Sports on Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching "turleysports." We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.



Trevor Weiss keeps from losing a point by keeping the ball in play near the sideline.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Tyler Burrows returns the ball over the net.

Please see **ORIOLES**, page 12

Roster spots still open in Quabbin Valley league

Rosters spots are dwindling, but there are still some spots available as the Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League prepares for its season opener on Sunday, April 28 featuring three games.

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.

The league plays most Sunday from late April through late August with

Please see **ROSTER**, page 12



Abigail Landry makes her way around the offensive end of the field.



Brenna Moreno fires a pass forward.



Mylin Laliberte picks up a ground ball during action last week.

Girls lacrosse scores big in win

GRANBY – Last Wednesday, Granby girls lacrosse scored a huge win 20-2 over McCann Tech. In the victory, Brenna Moreno had four goals while Ava-Elizabeth Loughman, Mylin Laliberte and Abigail Landry had two goals each. The Rams' Faith Ramos made five saves. Granby is now 3-1 on the young season. The Rams also played Chicopee Comprehensive last Monday evening, losing 18-12.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Morgan Justin tries to break away from the opposing defense.

SPORTS

Gaudette wins Willie Marshall Award

SPRINGFIELD – The American Hockey League announced today that Springfield Thunderbirds forward Adam Gaudette is the 2023-24 recipient of the Willie Marshall Award, given to the league's leading goal scorer.

Gaudette scored a league-best 44 goals in 67 games for the Thunderbirds, surpassing his previous career high of 27 goals set last season and tied for the fourth-most by a Springfield skater in 80 seasons of AHL hockey in the city. He becomes the first Thunderbirds skater ever to claim the award and the first Springfield AHL skater to lead



the league in goal-scoring since Michel Picard of the 1990-91 Springfield Indians.

Gaudette added 27 assists to finish third in the AHL scoring race with 71 points and was voted to the AHL's First All-Star Team this season, marking the first time a Thunderbirds player earned such recognition. The sixth-year pro from Braintree, Mass., has 77 goals and 57 assists in 138 AHL games, along with 27 goals and 43 assists in 220 career games in the NHL. Gaudette was originally a fifth-round pick by Vancouver in the 2015 NHL Draft and joined the St. Louis

Blues organization via trade from Toronto on Feb. 17, 2023.

The AHL's goal-scoring award was established in 2004 to honor Willie Marshall, the AHL's all-time leader in goals, assists, points, and games played; past winners include Mike Cammalleri (2005), Alexandre Giroux (2009, '10), Tyler Johnson (2013), Frank Vatrano (2016), Carter Verhaeghe (2019) and Stefan Noesen (2022). Other previous yearly goal-scoring leaders include Bryan Hextall (1937), Lou Trudel (1942, '45), Fred Glover (1951), Dunc Fisher (1958), Jimmy Anderson (1961, '64), Yvon Lambert (1973), Gordie Clark (1980), Paul Gardner (1985, '86), Jody Gage (1988) and Brad Smyth (1996, 2001).

HoopHall announces new exhibit for this summer

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced another brand new exhibit coming to the museum this summer titled The Vault: Boston Celtics Unlocked. This innovative and immersive experience will be unlike anything the Basketball Hall of Fame has previously produced. The Hall of Fame has collaborated with the NBA's most storied franchise to present this inaugural installation of The Vault.

"We are excited to launch another state-of-the-art space in the world's finest sports museum," said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Basketball Hall of Fame. "The Vault: Boston Celtics Unlocked is a limited engagement that will feature a finely crafted experience

that will capture the imagination of sports fans and speak to the heart of what makes basketball the world's most popular game."

Matt Zeysing, Vice President of Curatorial for the museum, began working on The Vault concept more than a year ago. "We knew we wanted to create something spectacular, something that basketball fans had never seen before. The Boston Celtics represent a winning tradition that is second to none and that tradition still continues today. To that end, our team has carefully curated and brought together the most sought-after Celtic memorabilia in the world."

Set in an immersive bank vault, Celtics legends from the past and present will take visitors on an epic journey to discover the true

meaning of Celtic Pride. The Vault will feature authentic game-worn jerseys, championship rings, the original '81 NBA championship trophy, long-lost footage, and much more.

"The Boston Celtics are honored to bring their history and tradition to life with the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in The Vault: Boston Celtics Unlocked," said Boston Celtics Team President Rich Gotham. "We hope fans enjoy this immersive experience, which will showcase unique memorabilia and celebrate the Celtics' storied legacy."

Visitors will enjoy an exclusive display of Celtics memorabilia for a limited period. Tickets for the museum can be purchased online at etix.com or at the door.

ORIOLES from page 11

senior captain Madysen LePage. "We're playing a difficult schedule this year, so this is a big win for us. We're hoping to make the postseason tournament again."

LePage, who joined the varsity squad as a freshman, provided the spark offensively for the Lady Orioles.

She finished with a game-high six goals and four assists.

Paige Magner, who's also a senior captain chipped in with four goals.

"It's a luxury to have both of them," Lemke said. "They're different lacrosse players, but they complement each other well."

The other two Lady Orioles captains are sophomore McKenzie LePage and senior Olivia Corbin.

After falling behind 9-1 at the end of the first period, the visitors from Fiskdale did outscore Belchertown, 8-5, during the final three periods.

"We were missing a couple of key players because it's vacation week, so we decided to use a different type of defense at the start of the game," said Tantasqua head

coach Heather Egan. "Obviously, it didn't work out very well for us. We did play much better during the final three periods. This is a good learning experience. We're hoping to play them again next year on our turf field."

Tantasqua senior captain Taylor Sexton recorded a hat-trick against Belchertown, while freshman Bryn Carey and sophomore Tess Alexander scored two goals apiece.

"Taylor Sexton is one of our leading scorers and she controls our offense. If things are going her way, she's unstoppable," Egan said. "We also had a couple other players score two goals."

On the Lady Orioles second possession, freshman Lia Pikul delivered a pass to classmate Morghan Litz, who fired a shot into the net past sophomore goalie Fiona Knott for her first varsity goal.

Then Madysen LePage scored the Lady Orioles next two goals before Magner added her name to the scoring column for the first time with 7:55 left in the opening period.

A little more than two minutes later, Magner stole a pass attempt before scoring her second goal, which increased the Lady Orioles lead to 5-0.

With 4:32 remaining in the period, the Lady Warriors finally broke the ice with a goal by Alexander.

The Lady Orioles

responded with a pair of man-up goals from Madysen LePage, who recorded her third hat-trick of the season.

Belchertown's final two goals of the first period were scored by Pikul and McKenzie LePage.

Litz, who's a talented three-sport athlete, netted her second goal during the first minute of the second period, which extended the Lady Orioles lead to 10-1.

After two Tantasqua free position shots sailed wide past Belchertown sophomore goalie Emma Almeida, Sexton fired a bounce shot into the net with 11:08 left in the first half.

After neither team scored a goal during the next nine minutes, the Lady Warriors closed out the opening half with a pair of goals from junior Kaydie O'Neil and Alexander.

Trailing, 11-4, at the break, Tantasqua inched a little bit closer following goals from Sexton and junior Anna Hendrikse.

At that point, Lemke decided to call a time-out to regroup his players.

With 1:31 remaining in the third period, Magner scored a free position goal.

It gave the home team a 12-6 advantage entering the final twelve minutes of the match.

Sexton scored her third goal of the match a minute into the fourth period making the score 12-7.

In the middle of the final period, Madysen LePage scored two more goals, which pretty much sealed the Lady Orioles win on Lemke's birthday.

The Lady Warriors final two goals were scored by Carey.

It was the only meeting of the regular season between the two squads.

USA Basketball holding 3v3 competitions

SPRINGFIELD – USA Basketball announced today that it will host two FIBA 3x3 pro circuit competitions in Springfield, beginning with a Quest (April 22-23), which is a FIBA 3x3 Men's World Tour Qualifier, and followed by the FIBA 3x3 Springfield Women's Series (April 23-24). Both events will be held at the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame and admission is free with the purchase of a Hall of Fame museum ticket.

The Quest will feature up to 12 teams with, at minimum, one team bid on the line into the FIBA 3x3 World Tour Edmonton Masters (July 6-7). The event will be the first FIBA 3x3 competition hosted by USA Basketball since the 2023 FIBA 3x3 Colorado Challenger.

The Springfield Women's Series, the opening event on the 2024 FIBA 3x3 Women's Series, will include eight teams in the field with the top finishers improving their allocation opportunities for future stops along the way to the Women's Series

Final. The Springfield Women's Series marks the first FIBA 3x3 Women's Series event hosted in the United States since the Series' inception in 2019.

The Springfield Women's Series will be streamed live at YouTube.com/FIBA3x3.

Participating teams had several pathways into the FIBA 3x3 Men's World Tour Quest and FIBA 3x3 Springfield Women's Series, including automatic allocation, wildcard berth from the host or qualification from a previous FIBA 3x3 event. The field for both competitions will include professional 3x3 teams from the United States and around the world.

Different than 5-on-5, 3x3 is played on a half-court with a 10-minute game clock and 12-second shot clock. Play is continuous, as teams "clear" the ball behind the 2-point line following a made basket, defensive rebound or steal. The first team to score 21 points via 1-point field goals or 2-pointers behind the arc is victorious; or if time expires then the team leading wins.

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@bay-stategames.org or call 781-932-6555.

ROSTER from page 11

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 used as well some expansion to the surrounding area this season. The league does not play on Mother's Day or Memorial Day weekends.

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.

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.**

WE ♥ OUR READERS

SENIORS

Council on Aging lists upcoming events

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

Mexican Bingo

The COA is excited to welcome back the Spanish students from Belchertown High School to play Mexican Bingo on Monday, May 6 at 10 a.m. There are lots of prizes to be won.

Space is limited, so please call to register at 413-323-0420 extension 501. If you’d like to stay for a Mexican-inspired lunch (\$3) after bingo, please call Kim at extension 508.

BBQ meals

May is National BBQ Month and the Senior Center will offer two fantastic BBQ meals next month on Friday, May 10, BBQ Pulled Pork and Friday, May 24, BBQ Chicken.

Everyone who attends lunch on either day will get a complimentary gift, and a free entry to win a BBQ-themed gift basket.

Sign up with Kim by calling 413-323-0420 extension 508. These are both regular \$3 meals.

Future planning presentation

Join Kate Davignon, Funeral Director and Pre-Need Specialist from Beers & Story Funeral Homes, on Wednesday, May 15 at 10 a.m. to discuss estate and financial planning, preplanning and funding funeral services, and social security benefits such

as Medicare and MassHealth. This fun and informative program is free to attend, and will include refreshments provided by Beers & Story.

Call Stephanie to sign up 413-323-0420

Monthly Lunch Raffle

Get a free raffle entry every time you join the COA for lunch. They will be giving away a \$20 Big Y Gift Card each month through the end of the year.

Call Kim at extension 508 to sign up.

Concert by Swift River students

Swift River Elementary School first grade students will sing at the Senior Center on Wednesday, May 22 at 10 a.m.

Come and be entertained by seven classes, nearly 150 first grade students, as they share some of the songs they’ve learned this year.

In the event that it rains, please contact the Senior Center for a reschedule date.

Helping Aging Adults Stay in their Homes

Join Zoraida Fontanez from Fallon Health on Wednesday, May 8 at 10 a.m.

Learn about PACE (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly), as well as the Summit ElderCare program, and how these services can help you remain in your home independently.

Call Stephanie at 413-323-0420 extension 501 to sign up.

Attracting Birds, Butterflies, Bees and other Beneficials

Join John Root, Naturalist/Educator, Wednesday, May 22 at 10:30 a.m. to learn how pollinators and other beneficial organisms play an essential role in our ecosystem. He’ll provide guidance on meeting their needs for food, cover, and water, and discuss methods for establishing pollinator gardens.

Call 413-323-0420 extension 501 to register.

WestMassElderCare Info Day

WestMassElderCare, your local Area Agency on Aging, will be at the Senior Center Wednesday, May 29 from 10-11:30 a.m. to share program and support options. Stop in for a sweet treat, and learn about all of their fabulous programs, including nutrition services, in-home support, housing, caregiver support, and more.

Sand for Seniors

Sand bucket pickup is rescheduled to Wednesday, May 1. All buckets will be picked up, regardless of how much sand is inside.

BSCCA Travel Club Upcoming Bus Trips

June 25, Rhode Island Lighthouse Cruise \$149/per person (payment due by May 27); July 9, Neil Diamond and Johnny Cash meet King Elvis Presley with Lobster/Prime Rib Luncheon at Log Cabin \$125/per person (payment due by June 7).

There is additional 2024 Trip information available at the Senior Center. Contact Roseann at 413-364-8161 or Ton at 413-283-3966 for information.

Senior Center Book Club

Our Senior Center Book Club meets on Monday, May 20 at 10 a.m. (and the third Monday of every month). This month they will be discussing “Vera Wong’s Unsolicited Advice for Murderers” by Jesse Sutanto.

Animal Adventures

Animal Adventures has been rescheduled to Thursday, May 2 at 12:30 p.m. Join the Northeast’s leader in exotic animal education, as their zoologists showcase an assortment of animals and reptiles.

Free to attend and walk-ins are welcome. This program is supported by a grant from the Belchertown Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Holiday Bazaar donations accepted

SCCA Holiday Bazaar is scheduled for November 2, 2024. The Belchertown Senior Citizens’ Center Association is graciously accepting donations of new items for their basket raffle.

This month’s donation theme is gift cards.

Donations can be dropped off at the Belchertown Senior Center Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. No item is too big or too small.

VACANCIES from page 8

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

Deadline: Friday, April 26

Belchertown Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force

One Community Member vacancy

The Town of Belchertown is accepting letters of interest to fill a community member vacancy on the newly developed Belchertown Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force. The focus of the Task Force is to develop a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement for the Select Board to review and to consider adopting, to seek out opportunities to acknowledge and/or celebrate the

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

Deadline: Friday, April 26

CORRESPONDENT OPPORTUNITIES

Turley Publications seeks **Experienced Writers/Journalists** to produce news and/or feature stories of local interest for various towns and cities.

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■ PUBLIC SAFETY

Granby man pleads guilty to charges in fatal crash

BELCHERTOWN – A Granby man pleaded guilty today in Eastern Hampshire District Court to two felony charges in connection with a motor vehicle crash that left a passenger in his vehicle dead on July 1, 2023.

Cory Menard, 30, admitted that on July 1, he and his longtime partner, Katelyn Gress, 28, of Granby, had both been at a bar in South Hadley and that after leaving the bar together shortly after 1 a.m., Menard lost control of his jeep on Pleasant Street in Granby. The jeep struck a mailbox and two telephone poles before rolling over several times, hitting another vehicle and injuring the driver.

Gress died as a result of injuries sustained in the crash.

According to a press release from the office of Northwestern District Attorney David E. Sullivan, Menard pleaded guilty before Eastern Hampshire District Court Presiding Judge Bruce Melikian to motor vehicle homicide while operating negligently and under the influence of alcohol; and reckless assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

Melikian sentenced Menard to serve two and a half years in the House of Correction followed by two years of pro-

bation with conditions that he refrain from alcohol use; comply with a remote alcohol monitoring device; and provide a DNA sample. Menard's conviction also carries a mandatory 15-year loss of his driver's license.

The Commonwealth dismissed a manslaughter charge as part of the plea agreement.

The sentence was jointly recommended by Northwestern Assistant District Attorney Andrew Covington and defense attorney Joseph Bernard of Springfield.

"This was a tragic and preventable crash," said Covington. Covington noted that the family of Katelyn Gress showed tremendous compassion in requesting leniency, mainly because Menard and Gress shared a young child together.

Covington also thanked the Granby Police Department, the State Police Detective Unit attached to the Northwestern District Attorney's Office, and the State Police Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Section for their efforts in the investigation.

Criminal charges are based on probable cause to believe a person has committed a crime. All defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in court.

East Street resurfacing begins May 20

GRANBY – Road resurfacing on East Street between New Ludlow Road and Pleasant Street. Work will commence on the week of May 20.

Please seek alternate routes if possible. Roadway detours and/or closures are anticipated, and residents may experience short term inconvenience/delays due to construction operations.



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 April 10 through April 16. 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 442 calls police responded to, there were 20 incidents, four accidents, three arrests/summons and 80 citations.

ARRESTS/SUMMONS Thursday, April 11

3:52 p.m. – A 44-year-old Belchertown female was arrested for assault and battery with dangerous weapon and assault and battery domestic.

Tuesday, April 16

11:24 a.m. – A 26-year-old Belchertown male arrested on section 35 warrant.

1:06 p.m. – A 52-year-old Belchertown male summons for violation of a harassment prevention order.

ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS Wednesday, April 10

2:26 p.m. – An officer was part of an investigation of an indecent of assault and battery on a person over 60.

Thursday, April 11

10:49 a.m. – An officer responded to a State Street business for an ongoing issue with damage to a restroom.

11:14 a.m. – Officers assisting Belchertown Fire and paramedics with an evaluation of a person. The matter was referred to Elder Affairs.

3:22 p.m. – An officer responded to a residence for a report of a person walking around a driveway at a residence. Massachusetts State Police also responded to assist. The person had difficulty speaking and staying focused. They were in a confused state and was transported to the hospital by Belchertown Fire and paramedics.

Friday, April 12

9:54 a.m. – A person came to the station to drop off a Ford key fob they found on George Hannum Road. The item was placed into property.

10:35 a.m. – An officer responded to a State Street business regarding a report of stolen property. They were missing a blower and suspected an employee but weren't sure. The matter is under investigation.

11:49 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Franklin Street. A vehicle traveling north on Franklin Street went off the roadway, striking a "for sale sign" and a mailbox. When the officer spoke with the operator, they said there was something in the road that caused the accident. There were two rocks in the road but were originally around a mail post that was struck. There was front end damage to the vehicle, and it was towed from the scene. No injuries were reported.

12:17 p.m. – An officer spoke with a resident about credit card fraud. They reported their bank sent them a text about a possible transaction. The person didn't make the transaction and they were told by the bank six transactions were attempted. The bank declined all of them and advised the person to contact their credit bureau.

Officer speaking to a person about telephone and various social media application issues.

Saturday, April 11

10:29 a.m. – An officer spoke with a person and advised them how to obtain a harassment order.

6:16 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Mill Valley Road. A vehicle traveling on Mill Valley Road swerved out of the way of a rabbit in the roadway, going up over the curb and striking several mailboxes. The operator said they looked down at their radio at one point and looked up to see the rabbit. No injuries were reported and no tows were needed.

8:59 p.m. – An officer took a report of a recent ex who kept calling the person.

Sunday, April 12

12:19 a.m. – An officer took a call from Palmer Police requesting a wellbeing check on a person. The person threatened to harm themselves. The person was transported to

the hospital by Belchertown Fire and paramedics for an evaluation.

Monday, April 15

8:17 a.m. – An person called to report they struck a resident's trash can. They said they tried to contact the resident, but was unable to do so. The next day the resident called to report their trash can was struck. The matter was documented.

12:17 p.m. – Officer responded to a report of a possible breaking and entering in progress. The person was carrying a metal pipe in their hand while walking down the street. The person thought someone was in their house and around their parked vehicle. They reported experiencing panic attack and were transported to the hospital by Belchertown Fire and paramedics.

3:17 p.m. – An officer took a report of a disturbance. The person reported a child was touching their garden decorations. They yelled to the child. Then a parent of the child and then arguing with the person. The parent then went into the window and knocked items onto the floor. The person tried to close the window, and the parent allegedly grabbed their hand. The person declined medical attention.

4:30 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Bay Road. A vehicle traveling west on Bay Road went around a bend road, saw a train crossing and attempted to beak. The breaks failed on the vehicle and the driven then went into the direction of an embankment where the vehicle struck it and rolled onto its side. The vehicle was towed from the scene and the person was provided a courtesy transport to the station.

5:17 p.m. – An officer responded to a report of a disturbance. Someone got out of a vehicle and got into a physical altercation and the caller didn't know where they went. The officer was unable to locate the vehicle. The officer located someone who fit the description provided and the person said they got into an argument so they decided to leave the residence to go for a walk.

Tuesday, April 16

2:30 a.m. – An officer on patrol on Bay Road saw a vehicle on the side of the road. The officer noted the person appeared to be asleep and identified the operator. The person said they were meeting with a friend in the area. Their speech was slurred and they reported they didn't have anything to drink. They were asked to do a field sobriety test and were determined not to be under the influence. They admitted to taking some drugs. A friend of the person came to pick up the vehicle and drive the person home.

2:43 p.m. – An officer spoke with a person about a group of children. They saw the juveniles huddled around a fire outside. The juveniles then put the fire out and ran back to where they lived. DCF was advised and the School Resource Officer was notified.

Granby Police Log

Editor's Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 162 calls for the week of April 12 through April 18. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The Granby Police Department provides all information.

Friday, April 12

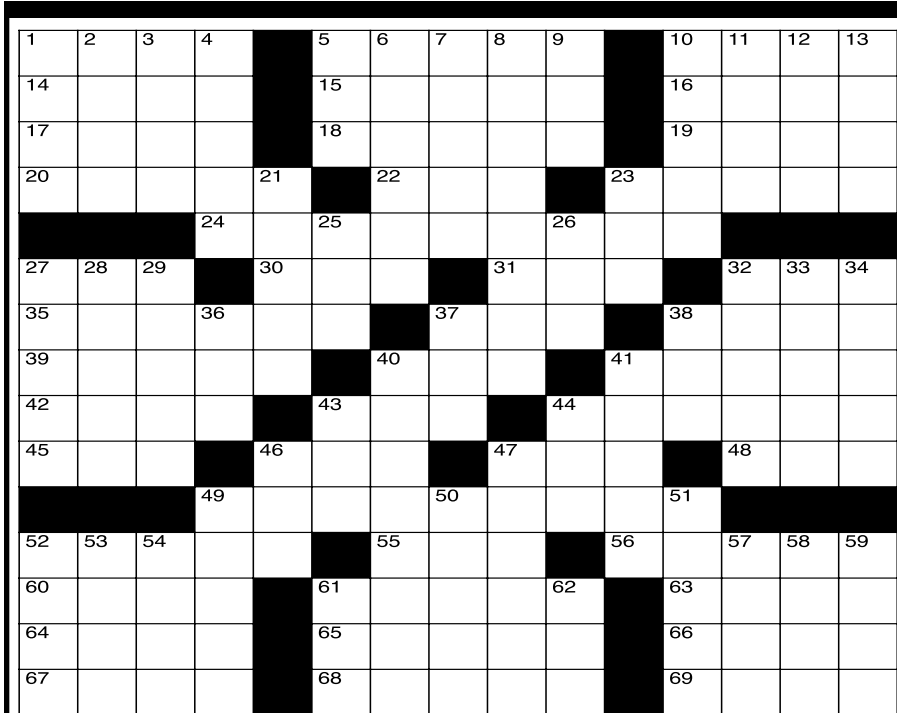
10:40 a.m. – A resident called the station to report that they discovered someone had stolen some building materials from a building lot. An incident report was completed and the matter is under investigation.

11:37 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.

Saturday, April 13

10:15 a.m. – A resident came to the station and reported that they were the victim of identity theft after discovering someone had made two withdrawals from their bank account. An incident report was completed.

5:10 p.m. – A motorist reported a two-car accident. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no reported injuries.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Excessively theatrical actors
- 5. Footwear
- 10. A way to disfigure
- 14. Exchange rate
- 15. Hawaiian wreaths
- 16. North-central Indian city
- 17. Bungle
- 18. Extremely angry
- 19. A short note of what's owed
- 20. Criminal organization
- 22. Mimic
- 23. Try to grab
- 24. U.S.-born individuals
- 27. Some are covert
- 30. Order of the British Empire
- 31. Don't know when yet
- 32. Payment (abbr.)
- 35. Winged angelic being
- 37. Variety of Chinese
- 38. A way to be anxious
- 39. Famed wrestler Hulk
- 40. Partner to cheese
- 41. Slang for sergeant
- 42. Canadian flyers
- 43. Actress Ryan
- 44. Highly unpleasant vapor
- 45. Body part
- 46. Halfway
- 47. Cool!
- 48. Consume
- 49. Salts
- 52. Upper bract of a floret of grass
- 55. Housepet
- 56. Cavalry-sword
- 60. Symbol of a nation
- 61. Frocks
- 63. Used to carry food
- 64. Portuguese folk song
- 65. Sharp mountain ridge
- 66. Ireland
- 67. Where golfers begin
- 68. Greek mythological sorceress
- 69. Fluid suspensions

CLUES DOWN

- 1. "Mad Men" leading man
- 2. Water (Spanish)
- 3. Annoy
- 4. Bulgarian capital
- 5. Japanese title
- 6. Capital of Zimbabwe
- 7. Giraffe
- 8. A mixture of substances
- 9. Midway between south and southeast
- 10. Staffs
- 11. Turkish title
- 12. Type of acid
- 13. Thin, flat strip of wood
- 21. Russian river
- 23. Ribonucleic acid
- 25. Partner to flow
- 26. Airborne (abbr.)
- 27. Earthy pigment
- 28. Genus of earless seals
- 29. "Key to the Highway" bluesman
- 32. By or in itself
- 33. Hot fluid below the earth's surface
- 34. Partner to trick
- 36. British Air Aces
- 37. Ammunition
- 38. Supervises flying
- 40. Health care for the aged
- 41. Flanks
- 43. Millimeters
- 44. Where wrestlers perform
- 46. Not around
- 47. Flightless bird
- 49. Bell-shaped flowers of the lily family
- 50. Expressed concern for
- 51. Satisfies
- 52. Flew off!
- 53. Wings
- 54. Load a ship
- 57. Vigor
- 58. British title
- 59. Whiskeys
- 61. ___ Adams: founding father
- 62. Body of water

Mass Humanities announces new grant for climate change projects

NORTHAMPTON – Mass Humanities, the Commonwealth’s leading funder of humanities programs, announced upcoming opportunities for its 2024 grant season.

Application materials for Expand Massachusetts Stories grants are available now on the website, with the application window opening on Feb. 5.

EMS grants support projects that collect, interpret, and share stories about the Commonwealth. Special consideration is given to humanities programming, events, and creative works that emphasize the voices and experiences of residents that too often go unrecognized, or have been excluded from public conversation and public history.

This year, Mass Humanities is offering a new grant track for projects that explore different aspects of climate change.

Applicants are eligible to receive up to \$20,000 for projects that illuminate community knowledge, experiences, and values in response to the climate crisis.

Organizations interested in applying for a grant can now choose between the Climate Change Track, Advancing Equity Track, and Open Track.

“We believe that the humanities are crucial to confronting the complex challenges facing every human and every community,” said Brian Boyles, executive director of Mass Humanities in a press release. “At this pivotal time in our nation, Mass Humanities supports storytellers and changemakers who bring people together to listen, share and imagine a better future. As we celebrate our 50th anniversary in 2024, we look forward to hearing their ideas and celebrating their work.”

Mass Humanities launched the EMS initiative in 2021 with the support of Mass Cultural Council and the Barr Foundation. Since then, Mass Humanities has distributed more than \$1.8 million to projects across the state that included audio tours, documentary films, oral histories, public events, and archival research.

“Every creative community has a compelling story to tell,” said Michael J. Bobbitt, executive director of the Mass Cultural Council. “Today’s EMS grant recipients are about to inspire us all through these conversations. I cannot wait to experience, learn and engage with them. Mass Cultural Council is proud to partner with and support Mass Humanities in this effort, which ensures these types of important dialogue happen in Massachusetts.”

In 2023, Mass Humanities awarded

\$751,357 in EMS grants to 42 cultural non-profit organizations from Cape Cod to the Berkshires. The majority of funds went to organizations receiving their first Mass Humanities grant, while people of color lead 67% of the supported projects, and 65% of the organizations had annual operating budgets of less than \$300,000.

Eligibility requirements and grant guidelines can be viewed on the Mass Humanities grants website. Resources are available in both English and Spanish.

For more information regarding Expanding Massachusetts Stories grants, contact Katherine Stevens, Director of Grants and Programs, by emailing grants@masshumanities.org.

Please see **GRANT**, page 16



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OBITUARIES

Death Notices

Brown, George W.
Died April 19, 2024

Morton Jr., Wilford J.
Died April 14, 2024

Spaulding, Doris S. (Pete)
Died April 17, 2024
Services April 29, 2024

Strycharz, Lawrence "Archie"
Died April 9, 2024
Services April 29, 2024

George W. Brown, 87

BELCHERTOWN – It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of George W. Brown, beloved husband, father and papa, on April 19, 2024, with his loving wife by his side, at the age of 87.



George was born in the comfort of his family home on Sept. 12, 1936, to the late Thomas Brown and Minnie (Dunlap) Brown. He spent all his life residing in Belchertown and helping his community.

George worked for Diamond National, a box manufacturer for 47 years, made the time to be a school bus driver in town as well as various tree and work projects with the DPW. George loved to keep busy and when he wasn't working, he loved to spend time on his tractors on the farm.

His memory will forever live on with his wife of 67 years, Donna L. (Leavitt) Brown as well as his three children Rhonda Marchelletta of St. Augustine, Florida, Vanessa Gosselin (Martin) of Belchertown, and Heather Hubbard (Brian) of Belchertown. He also leaves his five dear grandchildren; Crystal Rappoccio, Brandon Gosselin, Amber Betsold (Andrew), Tyler Hubbard (Callie) and Hunter Gosselin as well as his five great grandchildren; Kelsey, Briana, Riley, Vivian and Hayden. George is predeceased by son, George Jr. along with his 10 siblings; Hazel Zitka, Edith Owen, Betty LaBrecque, Thomas Brown, Kenneth Brown, Albert Brown, Glenrose Rollett, Madeline Lyon, June Blomberg and Shirley Desroches.

Services will be private for the family. Please consider making a donation to Baystate Hospice Care in George's memory to Baystate Health Foundation, 280 Chestnut St., Springfield, MA 01199-1000.

Please visit www.beersandstory.com.

Doris S. (Pete) Spaulding, 66

BELCHERTOWN – Doris S. (Pete) Spaulding, a lifelong resident of Belchertown passed away April 17, 2024, at Baystate Wing Hospital in Palmer, at the age of 66.

She was born on Dec. 27, 1957, in Chicopee to Leonard and Leah (Ducharme) Pete. Doris enjoyed going to the ocean and had a love for baking, but most of all enjoyed spending time with her four precious grandchildren.

She will be missed by her immediate family members, Jeremy Spaulding, Tammy and Michael Allen, Denis Pete, Sr., Sean Miller, Kayla Smith, Gabriel Allen and Parker Allen. She also leaves her dear aunt, Beverly Ducharme and many nieces and nephews.

Calling hours will be held on Monday, April 29, 2024, from 5-7 p.m. at the Beers & Story Belchertown Funeral Home. Burial will be at the convenience of the family.

Please visit www.beersandstory.com to extend online condolences.

Wilford J. Morton Jr., 85

Wilford J. Morton, Jr., beloved husband, father, and friend, passed away peacefully on April 14, 2024, at the age of 85.



He leaves behind a legacy of love, laughter, and kindness that will forever be cherished by those who knew him.

Wilford was born on Sept. 17, 1938, in Waltham, to his parents Wilford and Cora Morton. From a young age, Wilford showed a keen interest in radio, a passion that would guide him throughout his life.

After graduating from Boston University, School of Broadcasting, Wilford pursued his dreams by immersing himself in the world of audio engineering. He found his calling at WGBH Boston, where he became an integral part of the team, contributing his skills and expertise to countless productions that captivated audiences far and wide including Nova, Julia Child, Crockett's Victory Garden, Zoom and This Old House.

Wilford was a gifted pianist who went on to promote other musicians whom he admired, especially Dave McKenna. He was very proud of his compositions "Sweet Elaine" and "Kellie Jo".

He produced public television's first syndicated music series "Jazz Meets the Classics" featuring pianist/composer George Shearing. Supervised and mixed "Just Call Me Maestro" the life of Arthur Fiedler.

He won an Oscar for "Lover's Quarrel with the World" a documentary on Robert Frost and an Emmy nomination for "Evening at Pops" with the Boston Pops Orchestra featuring numerous artists from every area of the performing arts for the Public Broadcasting Service. In 1982-1984

he was media producer for Fairbanks Arts Festival, Alaska.

Wilford shared 34 years of marriage with his devoted wife Elaine Darr-Morton. Their love was a source of strength and inspiration to all who knew them, and together they created a loving home filled with warmth, laughter, and hospitality.

Wilford had a love for Maine and he and his wife spent many months enjoying the tide going in and out on their Cottage by the sea in Lamoine and taking many trips to Bar Harbor. They took many trips together including Cancun, Florida, Las Vegas, California, Virginia, Grand Manan, and London, England.

Wilford is survived by his three sons, Wilford (Ladonna) of Waltham, Craig (Cheryl) of Otis and Dana (Kristie) of Quincy, daughter Kellie Jo of Easton; stepson Joseph A. Darr (Tammy) of Charlottesville, Virginia; stepdaughter Karen Elaine Mason (Hugh) of Marshville, North Carolina; brother-in-law Mike Karkut (Anne) of Polk City, Florida, sister-in-law Linda Ball (Roger) of Southampton and several grandchildren.

He was a loving and gentle man whose presence enriched the lives of all who knew him.

Wilford had a remarkable sense of humor, which he lovingly passed on to his children. His quick wit and playful spirit brought joy and laughter to countless moments, creating cherished memories that will endure for generations to come.

Memorial services to celebrate Wilford's life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to New England Public Media or Tanglewood, organizations that were dear to Wilford's heart.

Wilford J. Morton, Jr. will be dearly missed but never forgotten. May he rest in eternal peace.

Lawrence "Archie" Strycharz, 66

BELCHERTOWN – Lawrence "Archie" Strycharz peacefully fell asleep in his home and died suddenly on April 9, 2024, at the age of 66.



Larry was born on May 12, 1957, in Springfield and grew up in Chicopee with his sister, Diane Kraich of Uxbridge and his brother Dan Strycharz of Kennebunk, Maine.

He worked in construction his entire adult life working for T&M Equipment and ending his career with Thunderbird Construction.

If you had the pleasure of working with him then you either gave him a free T-shirt or he made sure you got one from one of the unsuspecting trades companies on the site. He was shameless in asking for them and would hound you until you gave in.

He truly loved the men he worked with on his many, many jobs throughout the area. He was a union man through and through.

Larry moved to Belchertown in 1988 after marrying the love of his life Mary Roberts Strycharz in 1986. They would have been celebrating their 38-year wedding anniversary on April 26.

He was very close with each of his kids; Clair of Miami, Florida, Ellen of Quincy and John of Chicopee. He loved them tremendously and was so very proud of them.

If you knew Larry, then you knew he loved sports with Hockey being his favorite. (Go Bruins). He had so many interests all revolving around the outdoors. Hunting, Fishing, Boating, and taking pictures of nature and sunsets.

There are way too many people he called friends to have them listed. Whether you knew him in High School, on the job, or in town, Larry/"Archie" would always have a smile and a story.

We hope you can come and share some of these stories or pictures during a Celebration of Life on Monday, April 29, 2024 at The Boathouse in South Hadley starting at 5 p.m. Funeral services will be private.

in Massachusetts had been suspended. The operator was issued a criminal citation for operating with a suspended driver's license and failure to display license plate.

Tuesday, April 16

1:45 p.m. – A resident reported a single vehicle minor accident. There were no injuries.

POLICE from page 14

Sunday, April 14

7:46 p.m. – While on patrol, an officer observed a motor vehicle pass by with no visible rear license plate. The vehicle was stopped and it was discovered that the license plate had been covered with a heavily tinted plate cover. It was further discovered that the operators right to drive

GRANT from page 15

About Mass Humanities

Mass Humanities, a non-profit foundation based in Northampton, creates opportunities for the people of Massachusetts to transform their lives and build a more equitable commonwealth through the humanities.

Since its founding in 1974, the organization has provided millions of dollars to support thousands of humanities projects

across the Commonwealth. Established as the state-based affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, Mass Humanities is an independent programming and grant-making organization that receives support from the NEH and the Massachusetts Cultural Council and private sources.

For more information, visit www.masshumanities.org or connect on social media at [Facebook.com/masshumanities](https://www.facebook.com/masshumanities), [Twitter.com/masshumanities](https://www.twitter.com/masshumanities), or [Instagram.com/masshumanities](https://www.instagram.com/masshumanities).

Town Reminder 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.

Open burning season ends May 1

BELCHERTOWN – Open air burning season for residential tree trimming ends May 1.

Residents can register at the Fire Department, 10 North Main St., from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. and on Saturdays 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.

Marion Medical Mission is a Christian organization that seeks to share God's love through the gift of clean water.

The children at Hope have had a large water jug at the back of the sanctuary each Sunday for the past few weeks for members of the congregation to deposit loose change and dollar bills. They made colorful posters telling about the project and showing how much they hoped to raise.

A goal was set to raise \$475 before Earth Day. The kids are so excited that they have far exceeded that goal and enough money was raised to pay for two wells.

The class is happy to be able to make a difference in the lives of other children who will have improved health through clean, safe drinking water.

HOPE from page 1

Long time church member and retired minister and missionary, Rev. John Moss, told the class teachers about an organization that is helping to install wells for clean water in these communities.

Marion Medical Mission, founded in Illinois, works with the members of African villages to install wells that will provide clean water for their families. The wells are designed to be easily maintained by the community at low cost.

It costs \$475 for the supplies and skilled labor needed to build the well. The community provides readily available supplies such as gravel and stone and their unskilled labor.

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GRANBY

'Baby Shower' donation drive benefits Bethlehem House

GRANBY – The Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Granby will be collecting baby items to be donated to the Bethlehem House in Easthampton.

Baby item donations will be collected on Saturday, May 4 and Saturday, May 11 from noon-3 p.m. at the IHM Rectory Carport, 256 State St.

Items needed are: diapers (sizes 1, 4 and 5), boy and girl onesies (0-3 months), any girl clothing (0-3 and 3-6 months), sleepers (up to 18 months), Dove soap (unscented), baby washcloths, baby wipes (unscented) and gift cards (Costco, Dollar Tree and Dollar General).

Meet the Candidates Night will be held May 1

GRANBY – The Granby Lions Club will be sponsoring a Meet the Candidates Night on Wednesday evening, May 1 at 7 p.m. in the East Meadow School Cafeteria.

Come meet and hear from the candidates running for office in the Town of Granby. Light refreshments will be served.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

This photo of an American Bald Eagle was taken by Granby photographer Tim Souza. Souza will be featured in a exhibit titled "Big Shots" at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service art gallery, 300 Westgate Center Drive, Hadley starting May 6.

Tim Souza featured at U.S. Fish & Wildlife photo show

HADLEY – Granby photographer, Tim Souza, will have a selection of his works displayed at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service art gallery, 300 Westgate Center Drive from Monday, May 6 through Friday, June 28.

His images will be part of an exhibit titled, "Big Shots," a visual display which invites the public to view big moments from nature captured on camera.

Souza is an avid birder and wildlife photographer who dedicates time monitoring Peregrine Falcon nesting sites for MA Fish & Wildlife. In addition to his passion for photography, he enjoys volunteering at Tom Ricardi's Birds of Prey Raptor Rehabilitator Program in Conway.

Big Shots also features the works of

western Massachusetts photographers Bill Platenik of Brimfield and James Wang of Southwick.

Platenik is a photographer and naturalist who likes to slow down, be curious and open minded, and be ready to photograph the natural world. Wang is a practicing physician whose love of nature and photography challenges him to capture images of birds and animals as a blend of scientific documentation and artistic style.

The Big Shots photo display will be open to the public, free of charge, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Please be prepared to show photo ID upon entry.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service building is closed on all federal holidays.

Ranger Tasha offers Spring Nature Discovery for Kids

GRANBY – Spring Nature Discovery for Kids In New England with Nature Expert, Ranger Tasha on Tuesdays at the Granby Free Public Library, 297 East State St. at 10:30 a.m.

Enjoy a seasonal nature theme story, learning, hands on and craft about the world around us in New England, and even go outside on nice days. This program is presented by Tasha Daniels, Park Ranger/Visitor Services Specialist at the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

On May 7, the theme will be Birds & Nesting; May 21, Moose on the Loose; June 4, Bullfrogs; and June 11, Fireflies.

This drop in program is for ages 3-5, with siblings and homeschoolers welcome.

St. Aloysius Catholic School lists honor roll

HARDWICK – St. Aloysius Catholic School in Gilbertville lists students named to the second trimester honor roll.

High Honors: Jason Aller
Honors: Dianne Aller, Sophia Adams, Aria Carfagna, Hannah LaRochelle and Christopher Rice.



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