



TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

Erika and Susan from the Recovery Center of Hope thankful for all the donations already received this first week.

Local organizations partner to provide cold weather items

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
epappas@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN/WARE – As the cold weather is finally upon us, the need for warm items, and we may take for granted having these accessible for enduring the cold weather.

Emily Kirby, in partner-

ship with other members of the Quaboag Hills Substance Alliance, Belchertown Overcoming Adversity Together, and the Recovery Center of Hope worked together to put together a cold weather drive for the first time.

“It kind of just came about in conversations with Julie Lutz, the director of the Recovery

Center of Hope, and we partnered together on it,” said Kirby. “We talk a lot about the community and its needs, and how the Quaboag Hills Substance Alliance can help.”

Donations accepted at the drive drop-off locations include gently used or new gloves, mittens, scarves, sweaters, blankets,

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SB interviews candidates for interim fire chiefs

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
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GRANBY – The Selectboard opened a meeting to interview several candidates for the position of interim fire chief.

Chair Crystal Dufresne led the Jan. 2 meeting, and she was accompanied by Clerk David A. Labonte, member Glen N. Sexton, and Town Administrator Christopher Martin, Assistant Town Administrator Cathy Leonard, and Selectboard Clerk Dayle Clark.

Jeffrey Haughey

The first candidate, Jeffrey Haughey, came to the board, and introduced himself, sharing he has been a Belchertown resident his whole life, serving on Belchertown Fire for twenty years, as well as working for the Department of Fire Services.

He worked at the Department of Fire Services teaching new recruits. He also shared through his experience with new and seasoned firefighters how to provide training that will benefit all of

them.

“Granby reminds me of Belchertown in a way,” Haughey said. “I’ve been on since 2004... and so it just seems that Granby’s kind of a good fit if I were to move to here.”

He shared that he is “very involved”, and operates in Belchertown as a shift captain, and has experience in doing lots of administrative work, as well as running calls.

“I feel like being involved has brought my group really close together. I’m not afraid to get dirty with them, and we train a lot... I lead from the front,” Haughey said.

Working in Belchertown, he has had a unique opportunity to work closely with the town, and saw the only challenge being learning the administrative part of the chief’s job.

“I think this is a great opportunity,” said Haughey to the question from the board of if he’d be willing to apply for the full time position after the interim position.

He also shared a problem-solving situation, where he was able to talk through

Please see **INTERVIEWS**, page 7

Selectboard tackles overtime pay, elections, and TM contract

By Melina Bourdeau
Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN - The selectboard addressed a range of municipal matters, including compensation for department heads, preparations for the 2025 town elections and the extension of the town manager’s contract.

The meeting opened with a discussion around overtime pay for department heads, particularly highlighting the dedication of Town Clerk Terry Camerlin.

“Miss Camerlin was here at 6:30 in the morning and was staying till eight, nine o’clock at night, to try to wrap things

up,” said Town Manager Steve Williams. “And she did so without complaint, with a smile on her face.” While the town will not incur any additional costs, the board expressed support for finding a way to compensate Cameron and other department heads for their efforts.

The conversation then turned to the logistics of early voting and mail-in ballots for the 2025 elections. Selectboard member Whitney Jorns-Kuhnlenz inquired about the cost and re-registration requirements for mail-in voting, while member Lesa Lessard Pearson raised con-

Please see **BOARD**, page 10

Library hosts special Noon-Year party

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
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BELCHERTOWN – For many families, New Years can be difficult because late nights can be difficult for little ones, but the Clapp Memorial Library has found an easy solution.

The library hosted a Noon Year’s Party on New Year’s Eve, and kids and their families and friends came for a fun morning of crafts, games, music, and face painting as they waited for the ball to drop at 12- 12, noon, that is.

“The library wanted to offer a fun, local celebration for children to welcome in 2025,” said Jennifer Whitehead, head of children’s services.

Seven family volunteers came

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TURLEY PHOTO BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

Jennifer Whitehead, Salem, JenaRose, QP, and Charlotte Cassidy ready for a fun Noon Years Eve Party.



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Hampshire County Clerk takes oath of office

EASTHAMPTON— Daniel R. Carey (D-Easthampton) was sworn in as Hampshire County Clerk of Courts during a New Year’s Day ceremony at Old Town Hall in Easthampton.

“I’m excited to get to work tomorrow to ensure that the Hampshire County Superior Court continues to be among the very best in the commonwealth of Massachusetts,” Carey said after thanking his family, friends, and supporters.

Carey was elected to the position in November 2024 after serving three consecutive two-year terms in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. Carey succeeds retiring Clerk Harry J. Jekanowski, Jr.

The oath of office was administered by Superior Court Judge Michael K. Callan. Carey’s father, retired Superior Court Judge Richard J. Carey, served as the emcee. The event was legally required to take place on the first Wednesday of January, which this year happened to fall on the holiday.



Daniel R. Carey is sworn in as Hampshire County Clerk of Courts with his wife, Melissa, and son, Mick, by his side by Superior Court Judge Michael K. Callan, Wednesday, Jan. 1.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Animal Control to host vaccine and microchip clinic

BELCHERTOWN—The Belchertown Animal Control will be hosting a Rabies and Microchip Clinic on Saturday, January 25, from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., at the shelter, which is located on 165 George Hannum Street.

BARC, Inc. will be sponsoring it by covering the cost for a microchip or a rabies vaccine. Doctor Molly Russo, owner of Westbrook Veterinary Hospital, will be administering the rabies vaccines and microchips.

As a reminder for Belchertown residents, rabies vaccines must be current to license by January 30, 2025 in order to avoid late fines, which makes this clinic a perfect opportunity to receive these essential services free of charge.

CAMPUS NOTES

UW-Madison fall dean’s list

The University of Wisconsin-Madison has recognized students named to the Dean’s List for the fall semester of the 2024-2025 academic year.

Jack Jin, from Amherst, College of Letters and Science, Dean’s List

Students who achieve at a high level academically are recognized by the dean at the close of each semester.

Reminders from the Belchertown Town Clerk

BELCHERTOWN—Thank you in advance for your assistance in completing the Census and Dog licensing. As always, feel free to give the Town Clerk’s Office a call with any questions at 413-323-0281

Census Information

The Annual Census for 2025 will be mailed out the beginning of January. Please be sure to check for accuracy, adding any new members to your family and advising us if someone has moved.

Please also indicate the moved to address, for anyone who moved, so we can notify the resident of the removal from the Census. This is due back

within 10 days of receipt.

The forms may be mailed back, brought in person to the Clerk’s Office or left in the drop box at Town Hall.

By completing the Annual Census, this helps to protect your voting rights as well as proof of residency.

This also provides data for veteran’s benefits, housing for the elderly and related support for the Town. Included on this year’s census form is the application for dog licensing.

All dogs over the age of 6 months are required by law, to be licensed with the Town.

Dog Licensing

The 2025 dog licenses are

now available.

Renewal notices were mailed out in the beginning of December. Note, that at the May 2024 Town Meeting, a price increase of \$2 was approved for spayed/neutered dogs. The new fee schedule is \$10 if the dog is spayed/neutered and \$15 if intact.

Licenses may be renewed online, however, note that the 3rd party vendor does charge a service fee. Licenses may also be renewed in person at the Town Clerk’s office, or by including payment and your form with the Census.

All dogs over the age of 6 months are required to be licensed by January 31st each

year. After February 1st, late fees begin. Avoid the fines, license on time.

Town Election: If you have ever thought about participating in the workings of your Town, consider running for office. Nomination papers are available in the Town Clerk’s office beginning January 2, 2025.

Town Election is May 19, 2025.

Open positions on the ballot are; Board of Assessor’s, Board of Health, Planning Board, School Committee, Select Board and Housing Authority.

More information is available on the Town Clerk’s webpage at www.belchertown.org.



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CLIENT TESTIMONIAL

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- Kayleen W.



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Murder mystery dinner

BELCHERTOWN— The Belchertown Historical Association is holding its annual murder mystery dinner on Saturday, Feb. 1 at Tony and Penny's Restaurant in Ludlow. The show will begin at 6 p.m., followed by the dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. Guests can arrive as early as 5:30 p.m.

This year's show, written by Paula Hilton, is entitled Pirates, Lies and Mail-order brides. Look forward to the hilarious antics of the BUCC Players from the Belchertown United Church of Christ, as they portray Red Leg the Dreaded and his trusty side-kick Pillage Ann Freebooty and others characters in this fun look at pirates who have left the glamorous life of pirating and joined the real world in real world jobs.

Plan a night out of dinner and entertainment while supporting our historical association, the church and a local restaurant business. The tickets are \$47 and include the show, dinner and dessert. There will be a cash bar. Tickets are available at Cold Spring Discount Liquors (on the Belchertown Common) or by contacting Sally Shattuck 413-230-2022 or sallyshattuck54@gmail.com.

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COLD from page 1

base-layers, jackets, and coats, and new beanies and socks.

Kirby works closely with the Recovery Center of Hope, and oversees the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance in order to help with outreach to the community, as well as Healthy Quaboag.

You can find more information about QHSA at <https://qhsua.org>, and Healthy Quaboag at <https://healthy-quaboag.org>.

The QHSA, like BOAT in Belchertown, operates under a Drug-Free Communities grant, and works through Ware, Warren, and West Brookfield mostly, and other areas in the Quaboag Hills area in order to provide community outreach.

"There are many coat drives in the community, but we wanted to make it as accessible as possible with providing a lot of different drop-off locations," said Kirby.

Kirby got in touch with BOAT on this project by attending their meetings and worked with Kris Hoag to work alongside BOAT with the donations.

"We try to make sure that Belchertown is involved because they're so close. We want to get them involved so that we can build a better sense of community," said Kirby.

The donations collected at the drop-off days and locations will be put together, and sorted, then brought to the various community spaces volunteering to help pass the items out, like the local churches and the Recovery Center.

"I think just seeing the community come together and work toward something, it's nice to



Erika Bentley and Susan Daley from the Recovery Center of Hope holding bags of donations of handmade scarves, gloves, and other necessities.

TURLEY PHOTO BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

see that people want to come together and help each other out. I think that's really powerful," said Kirby.

The town truly came together, like during the walk in the fall, and town clean-up. "Just seeing the desire to make the commu-

nity better is really great," Kirby said.

Each of the organizations worked hard to provide support for this new drive, and their hard work is paying off as the community moves to bring in donations.

"Seeing how committed they are to their cause is really nice. I'm newer to this position, so I've been able to work a lot with Kris," said Kirby of BOAT. "Partnering with them and bouncing ideas off of them has been really nice."

"Everyone a part of QHSA was super welcoming and wants to get things done and they're really passionate about the work," said Kirby, sharing her work with the organization.

"The Recovery Center of Hope has so many different programs, and they're always talking about how to make it better for the community that utilizes it. They're really compassionate and empathetic to what people have gone through and they really want to help," said Kirby.

Hundreds of donations of these cold weather essentials have already been brought to the drop-off locations by the community, but there is still time to donate even more.

"Since this is the first year, we got a lot of donations, and I really hope to see this become an annual thing, especially in the winter because winter clothes can be expensive."

If you have donations, you can still bring in donations through the springtime, finding the drop-off spots at different locations and times through the week.

On Mondays and Tuesdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., drop-offs will be collected at the Ware Town Hall, Wednesdays at Recovery on Main at 78 Main St. from 1 to 3 p.m., on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Ware Public Library, and Fridays at Recovery Center of Hope from 2 to 4 p.m.

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Belchertown launches branding project

BELCHERTOWN — The Town of Belchertown is proud to announce the launch of the Branding Belchertown Project, a municipal initiative designed to create a cohesive visual identity that reflects the town’s rich history, vibrant community, and aspirations for the future. This project will result in the creation of an updated town seal for formal purposes, a new logo for everyday use, and comprehensive branding guidelines. These updates are part of a broader effort to strengthen community pride, support economic development, and ensure consistency across town communications.

“The Branding Belchertown Project is an opportunity for us to honor the town’s rich history while preparing for future growth,” said

Steve Williams, town manager. “This initiative will help us communicate who we are as a community, not only to residents but to visitors and businesses who see Belchertown as a destination for connection and opportunity.”

Building on Collaboration and Expertise The Branding Belchertown Project is led by the Branding Belchertown Committee, which includes representatives from the Select Board, Town Planning, Communication Committee, Creative Economy Committee, and more. The project is managed in partnership with Arts Equity Group, a consulting firm specializing in communications and change management. Chris Martin, Chair of the Communication Committee, emphasized the importance of community

involvement.

The Branding Belchertown Project is a community-driven initiative, and public input will play a key role in shaping the final designs. There will be bi-weekly open meetings will be held via Zoom, providing opportunities for residents and staff to stay updated and share feedback throughout the process. Details about these meetings can be found on the Town of Belchertown Agenda Center. Community Engagement: Additional opportunities for public participation will be held as the project progresses, ensuring transparency and engagement at every step. Please visit the Branding Belchertown webpage for the latest updates.

Markey celebrates passage of Social Security Fairness Act

WASHINGTON— Sen. Edward J. Markey, Chair of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Subcommittee on Primary Health and Retirement Security, released the following statement after the Senate voted to pass the Social Security Fairness Act, legislation which would restore full Social Security benefits for nearly three million retired public servants.

“Last night, Congress passed the Social Security Fairness Act. Once signed by the president, we will finally repeal the Draconian laws that robbed an entire generation of teachers, firefighters, postal workers, and public servants of all stripes of the benefits they earned. By passing the Social Security Fairness Act, we will right this historic wrong; restore Social Security benefits to millions of Americans, including 130,000 in Massachusetts, and finally deliver for the workers who have deliv-

ered for their communities. To the nearly 3 million public servants and their families who will finally receive the retirement benefits they deserve: thank you for your service to your communities and your unwavering advocacy. I will always fight for public servants and retirees.”

The Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset reduce the Social Security benefits of public servants and their surviving family members. Those impacted paid into Social Security but are unable to receive the full benefits they earned. The Social Security Fairness Act would repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pension Offset, which currently impact nearly 3 million public servants. Following passage in the House, the bill passed the Senate with a vote of 76-20.

Annual Winter Farmer meeting Jan. 18

BELCHERTOWN – Belchertown Agricultural Commission will hold its annual Winter Farmer meeting from 1 to 3 p.m. on Jan. 18, 2025 at the Town Hall Auditorium, 2 Jabish St, Belchertown.

Kathy Ruhf from Land For Good will provide an overview of what the organization has to offer, with a special emphasis on transitioning farms to the next generation. Zoraia DeJesus Barros from the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service will speak on 2025 conservation and climate smart programs and grants offered by the agency. Information from the USDA Farm Service Agency will also be available this will be an informative afternoon of speakers.

The meeting is open to all landowners in the area, not just Belchertown.

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OPINION



Prepping for this year's big garden

Last week I wrote about the desire to go back to my roots, so to speak, and embrace my homesteading self this New Year.

It's funny how when you are young and inexperienced you just "have at it" without much thought or planning. Sure, I had a general idea when it was best to sow my seeds indoors so that my transplants would be a good size come Memorial Day, but beyond that I sort of gardened when and how I felt like it.

These days I find it's good to have a plan of action. Here is where I will start in the coming weeks.

The first thing on the agenda is to go through my seed stash and decide what to keep and what to chuck. I usually throw out any seed that is older than three years, except for maybe tomatoes. I have had 5 or even 7-year-old tomato seeds germinate.

The three year rule does not apply to hybrid onions, carrots or parsnips. Those I get rid of at the two year mark.

If you are into growing herbs, I rarely have luck with lovage, dill or valerian after the first year. After I've whittled down my stash based on age, I will then look at what I have left in the envelopes and if I like that particular variety enough to buy more, or if I'd better start off with a new type altogether.

If it didn't work last year, why grow it again? I feel this way especially as I get older.

I used to have a friend who was a bit morbid as he aged, and he'd say, "if I'm lucky I'll get another 10 gardens." While that used to depress me to hear that, I guess it's a good point to make.

Once I've got the seed package pile figured out, the fun begins. I'll get my seed orders in early, to beat the rush, especially if I want to grow transplants that take a lot of time to size up.

Onions are best started indoors around Valentine's Day. For flower lovers among us the fun starts earlier.

Wax begonias can be sown now! Yes, now! Coleus and petunia are not long after.

While many decades of growing have approximate dates burned into my brain on some things, others I will have to look up, especially since I am trying to grow more of our food with vegetables coming in as soon as possible and without gaps.

There are some fantastic resources out there for custom tailoring your growing/sowing schedule. Seed catalogs are just one. I love Johnny's Selected Seed (www.johnnyseeds.com) for this reason. Because they cater market growers as well as home gardeners, this catalog is packed with useful tips.

Online you will find a treasure trove of topics that will get you excited and well-equipped.

Speaking of equipped, it's also a great time to take inventory of your supplies. Do I have enough seed starting mix on hand, and did I like it enough to use again?

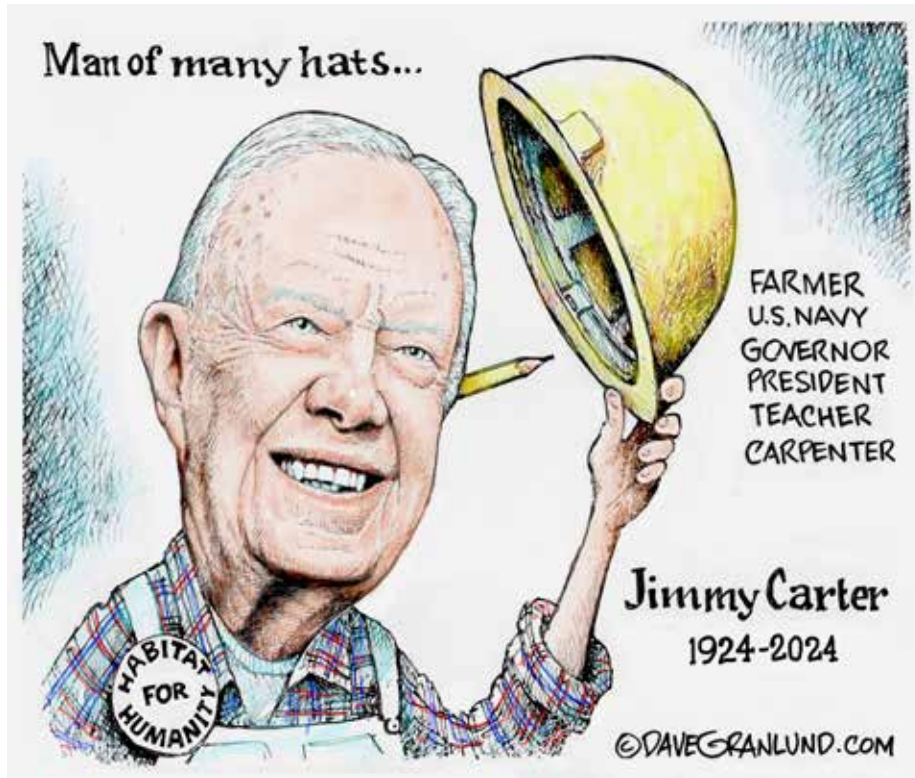
One year I bought germinating medium that had such little fertility. My plants were on the yellow side and stunted.

I try to grow organically as much as possible, and this soil nearly made me run for the blue water. I ended up mixing that lousy soil with some good soil, and added some fertilizer to the whole batch before using it in bigger container plantings.

Many soil bags will actually state that supplemental fertilizer is necessary after three-four weeks. And I should say that I do find it worth the investment to buy potting soil that is geared specifically to seed sowing, ie the germinating medium or seed-starting mix I speak of. It is milled finer for tiny seeds and will not stay too damp, or too dry, leading to a higher success rate.

In addition to assessing your soil, take a look at your stash of containers and labels. If you are re-using, make sure to wash both well, so that any diseases or pathogens won't infect this year's efforts.

Please see **GARDEN**, page 7



SOCIAL SECURITY Matters By Russell Gloor

I use only VA healthcare; can I get back Medicare taxes paid?

Dear Rusty:
I'm 72 years old with 20 years of military service. I am retired collecting Social Security, my military pension and State retirement benefits. According to my SSA statement, over my working lifetime I paid \$14,302 into Medicare, but I never used that medical plan. I only bring in \$33,000 in annual income. Can I get those Medicare taxes back somehow? I've run into dead ends at SSA, Medicare and IRS websites.

Signed: *Veteran Seeking Answers*

Dear Veteran Seeking Answers:
First, I want to thank you for your military service to our country. You may find the "For Veterans" section of our www.amacfoundation.org website of interest.

Regarding the contributions you have made over the years to federal Medicare, I'm afraid you cannot get any of those taxes back even though you have never used Medicare healthcare services. That's because Medicare, like Social Security, is a "pay as you go" program where all contributions received from workers are used to pay for benefits for current beneficiaries; contributions aren't put into a separate account to pay for your coverage.

It's also important to know that your Medicare taxes were used only to fund Medicare Part A, which is coverage for inpatient hospitalization services. Those contributions via payroll taxes did not entitle you to outpatient healthcare ser-

vices, as provided by Medicare Part B, for which there is a monthly premium.

FYI, you must be enrolled in Medicare Part A to collect Social Security benefits after age 65. Medicare Part B isn't mandatory to collect Social Security, but assuming that, as a retired military veteran, you now receive healthcare benefits under the military's TriCare-for-Life program for retired veterans, you must be enrolled in Medicare Part A and Part B to maintain your TriCare-for-Life coverage.

Your military TriCare coverage coordinates with Medicare to pay for your healthcare costs. Thus, even though it may not be transparent to you, you may be benefiting from your current enrollment in Medicare.

Note that some non-career veterans can use VA healthcare services based on their service years instead of TriCare-for-Life for retired military veterans. Non-career recipients of standard VA healthcare services are not required to be enrolled in Medicare but, in any case, cannot receive their past Medicare Part A contributions back if they choose to decline Medicare. You may have interest in this article I previously published on the topic of VA benefits versus Medicare: www.socialsecurityreport.org/ask-rusty-i-have-va-coverage-should-i-get-medicare-part-b/

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 ssadvisior@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

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@ The Sentinel

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Turley Election Policy

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

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

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

GRANBY

Granby Clerk Reminders

GRANBY—Annual Census Information: The 2025 Annual Census will be mailed out at the beginning of January, to avoid any voting problems please mail back your census.

Compliance with this state requirement provides proof of residence, it protects voting rights, veteran's bonuses, housing for the elderly and related benefits.

The Annual Town Census does not register you as a voter or change your party enrollment. You must fill out a voter registration form or a change of enrollment card. This

can be done by going on-line at www.sec.state.ma.us and go under "Elections", or for more information on voter registration call the Town Clerk's office.

Also included with the Census is a flyer pertaining to voting, office hours, dog licensing, and a schedule for the landfill pickup.

Please continue to check our website at www.granby-ma.gov for any further information on any of our town affairs.

Dog Licenses: The Annual Census contains a Pre-Registration form, and this is the First Notice for

the 2025 dog licenses. Dog licenses are valid from April – April of each year however, if you wish to pre-register your dogs for 2025, follow the instructions on the form and return it with the census, or you may wait until March or April and stop by the office to license your dog. Please note that after May 1, 2025, a \$25.00 late charge may be applied along with the annual dog fee.

Thanking you all in advance for your cooperation with this mailing.

For any questions or concerns please call the Town Clerk's office-467-7178.

Boy Scout spaghetti dinner

BELCHERTOWN—A spaghetti dinner, sponsored by Belchertown Boy Scout Troop 507, will be held on Saturday, Jan. 11, from 4 to 7 p.m., at the Swift River Sportsman's Club. To help with food planning, please buy tickets ahead of time, from a Boy Scout or by contacting Jenn at 802-735-4938. Tickets will be available at the door. Simultaneously, there will be a gift basket raffle, sponsored by the Belchertown Lion's Club, to support Boy Scout Troop 507.

All proceeds from this event will support our Boy Scouts attending Florida National High Adventure Sea Base, in Islamorada, FL. The Sea Base program offers the Scouts the opportunity to live on a sailboat for 5 days, where they will swim, sail, snorkel, kayak and fish, making memories that will last a lifetime while practicing and honing their survival skills learned throughout scouting. Please plan to attend.

INTERVIEW from page 1

with someone on the crew, sharing where he was coming from as "the boss" vs on the team, and saw that it "helped our relationship a little bit".

For new policies, he shared that he would see if they would fit the department and its needs and seek advice from people who have been in it longer.

He also shared that when dealing with financial needs, would look first into writing grants, which area "great way to offset costs", and shares that he is familiar with grant writing himself, as he is in charge of the SAFE program in Belchertown and writes grants for that.

"I don't want to change Granby into Belchertown," he clarified. "Granby has a functioning fire department right now, and they don't need me to come in and change everything if things are working."

He shared he would take a leave of absence from the Fire Academy to devote that time to serving as interim fire chief, and shared he'd be willing to work out the schedules between working his shifts at the Belchertown department.

Nathaniel Masse

The Selectboard welcomed the next interviewee, Nathaniel Masse, who has served on the Granby Fire Department for eleven years and has been lieutenant for three. He has also worked as a police officer for five years and is on his fourth year as an EMT at the department.

He also does HVAC and a family company as well, saying he has been a "Granbanian" his whole life, joking that his many jobs "keeps me out of trouble".

"I very much think that leading by example and being honest and upfront with those under you is extremely important," Masse said.

"I don't believe its right to expect something of your subordinates that you yourself wouldn't be willing to do, and teaching by example is extremely important, and it shows them that they're being led by someone who themselves is competent and is willing to get down and dirty with them."

He shared, from his perspective working the calls, he shared that the most challenging part would be that he recognizes his youth, and short time within the department, would be a challenge as he navigates learning new things about the administrative work of the department.

He shared that in his time as a police officer he had experience in writing grants, and has had supervisory experience on-scene, being in charge of the scene and giving commands to crew members.

"I would have to sit down with the deputy and assistant... to get to know administratively how it works,"

said Masse on his first two weeks as interim chief, knowing he has experience on the field.

He shared that he viewed one of the most challenging parts would be getting the department ready and completely running for a full-time chief to come in and stay at until they are ready to retire.

Masse also shared that he would be willing to put in the work for a full-time position as chief, and because he works part-time in all of these jobs he has, he can make anything work by moving hours around to suit the needs of interim chief.

Russ Anderson

The next interviewee was a former fire chief of Granby from 2006 to 2016, who left to go back to his first community, to take on the opportunity to take on the ambulance service until retiring from that two years ago.

Now, he has been working for grant writers and is in charge of the Mass Fire Chiefs in Worcester every year and is keeping bust with Western Mass Chiefs training.

He shared that his hours are open, and shared he realizes his position means he will be bringing something different but brings 17 years as working as a chief to the table.

"Granby is still in my heart, I still have them on the scanner, I listen to how they operate," said Anderson. "I would have all the confidence in the world of them handling any fire that comes to them or emergency. Red Fire Farm is a good example."

He shared his experiences in making budgets, and how to separate them, and keep them competitive and current with other towns.

Anderson wrote about \$350,000 for Granby in grants while in service of the town of Granby and shared the process of how much work goes into getting the grants during the time it opens up.

"I would get a handle on what's hanging out there," Anderson said, describing what he'd do in the first two weeks. He shared he'd want to spend time getting caught up on the department and how its running, as well as auditing the budget and getting the hang of the schedules.

"We've done a lot here, and we've had some challenging times," Anderson added. He also shared that even if not chosen, he'd be willing to help the committee set up assessment center.

Brian Kraus

The next interviewee, Brian Kraus, moved to Granby in 2015, and moved with his wife and three children

when East Meadow first opened to take advantage of the new school.

He also shared that he is currently on the fire department in Holyoke, and shared how happy he is in Granby now, sharing how he has seen how Granby operates and has wanted to join and be involved in the fire department.

He started in Holyoke in 2007, and has been a lieutenant since 2017, and has found that all of the hard work he has put in in Holyoke has helped to make him a better Lieutenant and better leader.

"I would be excited to start to work again in the town that I live in," Kraus said. "I could bring my excitement, my love for firefighting, my love for teaching, learning, team-building to Granby."

"Every department has challenges, and you've gotta look at the big picture and make decisions for the citizens of Granby, to make the best choices for them."

He shared also that he is a part of the critical incident stress management team, and it was created to be up and running at the Fire Academy in March.

"The challenges will be me being an outsider, and coming in and being accepted," Kraus said. He also shared the idea of getting to know each person and coming in to see who has something to offer when you don't have all the answers.

He also shared that he was Sparky the Dog at the Holyoke station and has experience in writing grants for the SAFE program that provide coloring books for kids and more.

Before working for the fire department, he was a legislative aid for the state representative out of Holyoke and spent time finding grants and budgeting.

He shared the value of understanding the firefighters and learning where they're coming from, especially from his time teaching in the academy.

He also shared his values for team-building, and how they do crew meals "for that comradery just for that informal chat, and it's a healthy way to check in on somebody and make sure you're staying in tune with everybody," said Kraus.

He also shared that he applied for both the interim and full time chief positions, hoping to be given the chance to do a good job by the town of Granby, and shared a similar schedule to the first candidate, Haughey.

He also said he'd look over previous budgets to see what is and isn't working, and to see where and what is costing the department the most in order to request or adjust funding where needed.

GARDEN from page 6

You really don't need fancy, purchased containers.

The plastic boxes that mushrooms come in work great as sowing packs; just drill holes in the bottom. Cut up yogurt tubs make wonderful labels, and clear lidded salad boxes are perfect to place the seed packs in until germination occurs.

Low budget and earth friendly!

Next week we'll look at the role heat and light play in indoor seed starting.

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

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Library hosts author-illustrator for fun workshop

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
epappas@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – Being able to create something is one of the best ways to show off your creativity and express yourself in an artistic way.

The Belchertown Transfer Station Mural Project is one such town-wide initiative looking for ways to display and present the creative works of the members of our community.

One of the three muralists chosen for the project, Caoin Springer, a local illustrator and teacher, came to the library for a creative workshop where kids go to design and create their own characters Caoin will use for his mural.

At the workshop, the kids used cut paper, glue, crayons, oil pastels, markers, and more to select the different parts to make their character their own.

“I want your characters to represent you,” Caoin said, sharing with the kids on how to make them, using the cut out paper arms, legs, bodies, heads, and clothes that he cut out with his Cricut machine.

“This is the first of many events to come,” said children’s director Jennifer Whitehead. “This project is all about the community working together.”

Caoin Springer met Josh, and took an interest in his story, and wanted to see it come to life. “His story was unique, and it really captured my attention. We were able to bounce off of each other and really create something special.

Caoin has been doing art ever since he could hold a pencil, drawing anything and everything that came to mind. He got his degree in illustration from Mass Art and graduated in 2021.

“I think it’s a really playful and fun story,” said Springer. “I had a lot of fun imagining the art, and we collaborated really well, which is the most fun part.”

Josh Burlingham, the author of “The Moon Fox” partnered with Caoin to illustrate the book and worked together to make the dream and vision of the story come to life.

“I created this story to make him feel better about his nightmare,” said Burlingham, talking about his son who shared a vivid dream that

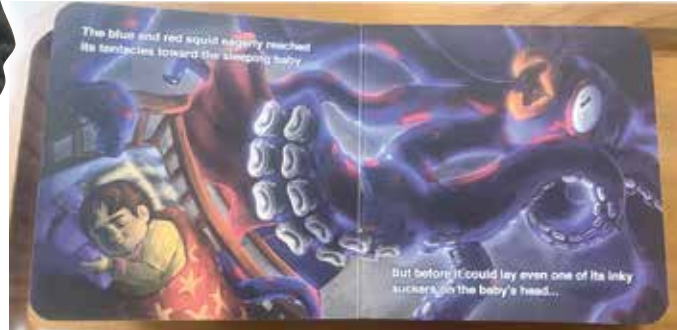


Caoin Springer (left) and Josh Burlingham (right) holding their book with the display of the amazing characters the kids made.



El with their rainbow character.

Please see **WORKSHOP**, page 9



One of the exciting pages inside the book, showing off the textured and glowing pages.



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Josh Burlingham signing a book.



The display of new friends to be put on the mural.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS



Caoin helping Willow hang up her finished character.

WORKSHOP from page 8

scared him. “We crafted this story as a way to teach kids they don’t need to be afraid.”

Burlingham got his degree in performing arts at Cornell University and is a member of the Screen Actors Guild. He switched paths and is now an attorney where a lot of writing happens, but he still had a “creative itch” he wanted to scratch.

They book was published through a company called Print Ninja, and it was published as a board book, and the pages are detailed with gold foil and other textures to make the magical fox shine, and the pages even glow in the dark.

“I come from theater and film, so if the book can do something more, I like to capture that experience for kids’ books,” Burlingham said. “This is more of a labor of love.”

With just a little bit of creativity, the dreams and inspirations of these kids will be able to come to life when the mural is finished and put up at the transfer station.



Siblings El and Adeline showing off their characters excitedly.

The book, “The Moon Fox”, that teaches kids that they don’t need to be scared of bad dreams.



Adeline showing how she planned to design her character's dress.



Caoin preparing some tape for Ailsa's character.



Hudson, the first one to finish his character for the poster.



The busy work of letting creative energies flow.

DEATH NOTICE

Christa Mary Garrow
Died Dec. 26, 2024
Services Feb. 8, 2025
Beers & Story
Belchertown
Funeral Home

OBITUARY

Christa Mary Garrow

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Christa Mary Garrow, cherished daughter, devoted mother, beloved sister and friend, who passed away unexpectedly on Dec. 26, 2024 surrounded by her family.

Born on April 24, 1985, in Holyoke, Massachusetts, Christa brought warmth and joy to all who knew her. A graduate of Belchertown High School in 2003, she embraced life with an adventurous spirit and a compassionate heart. Christa's love for animals, especially her adored dogs Lucy Mae and Nova Star, her three cats, and two frogs, was well known to all who knew her. She found joy in simple pleasures, like taking day trips to the serene beaches, embarking on long drives, and cherishing moments gazing at the stars with her beloved daughter, Rhaelyn, at Mount Pollux.

Photography was one of Christa's passions, capturing the beauty of sunsets and the world around her through her lens. Her artistic soul shone brightly in everything she pursued. Yet, above all, her greatest pride and joy was in being a mother. She often said that becoming a mother was the best thing that ever happened to her, finding immense fulfillment and happiness in nurturing her daughter.

Christa is survived by her loving daughter Rhaelyn Foote; her devoted mother Ernamary Dunne and stepfather Carl; her father Nelson Garrow,

affectionately known as "Honey Daddy" and "Santa," and his wife Michelle; her sisters, Heidi Garrow and fiancée Nathan Scruton, and Hailey Garrow; her stepbrother Michael Perry; her cherished paternal grandparents, Nelson and Joanne "Masy" Garrow; her maternal grandmother, Ernamary Day; uncles, Francis Garrow, Charles Lippman Jr. and his wife Denise, and many other uncles, aunts, and cousins. She touched the lives of many and leaves behind a legacy of love and laughter.



The family would like to thank the staff of UMASS Memorial Hospital 6th floor ICU for the compassionate care provided to Christa in her final days.

A visitation will be held at Beers & Story Belchertown Funeral Home on Saturday, Feb. 8, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., with a closing ceremony to begin at 1:30 p.m., to honor Christa's memory and celebrate her life.

Those wishing to express condolences and support for Rhaelyn's future are invited to contribute to the family's Go Fund Me page at https://gofund.me/6c13e760.

Christa's gentle spirit, warm smile, and loving heart will be missed by all who knew her. May she rest in eternal peace, reunited with her late beloved dog Ecko and cat Spaz, surrounded by the stars she so dearly loved.

Winter Visual Arts showcase at PVPA

SOUTH HADLEY— PVPA welcomed the public to a Winter Visual Arts Showcase, featuring first semester works of the Visual Arts and Technical Theater department, before their winter break.

PVPA's Mainstage Theatre was transformed into a Pop-up Art Gallery where hundreds of visitors viewed the work of the budding artists, as well as works by PVPA Visual Arts instructors. Featured works included puppetry, painting, drawing, ceramics, fiber arts, and digital media, with students on hand to discuss their work.

The Visual Arts Showcase was one of more than a dozen Main Stage productions that occur annually at the school, spanning the four Arts Departments: Visual Arts/Technical Theater, Music, Dance and Theater. The next production will be the Music Department Showcase, Winter Grooves, on Jan. 10 and Jan. 11, followed by a Middle School Theater Cabaret on Jan. 17. For more information about upcoming shows www.pvpa.org/shows.

Pioneer Valley Performing Arts is a free, regional public charter school serving 400 students in grades 7-12, from over 50 towns throughout Western Massachusetts. The school seeks to connect the creative process with critical thinking to inspire a love of learning. Currently accepting applications for the 2025/2026 school year at www.pvpa.org/admissions.

Free COVID/flu vaccine clinic is Jan. 21

WARE – A free COVID and flu vaccine clinic will be held at Ware Housing Authority, 20 Valley View, on Monday, Jan. 21 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Patients aged 12 and older will receive a \$75 gift card after vaccination. Only 100 gift cards are available per clinic.

Vaccines are available for people ages 6 months and up. People are asked to bring their ID and insurance card, but it is not required to receive the free vaccines.

The clinic will be held indoors. There are accessible doors and drop off/pick up location for persons with disabilities.

The Sentinel
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

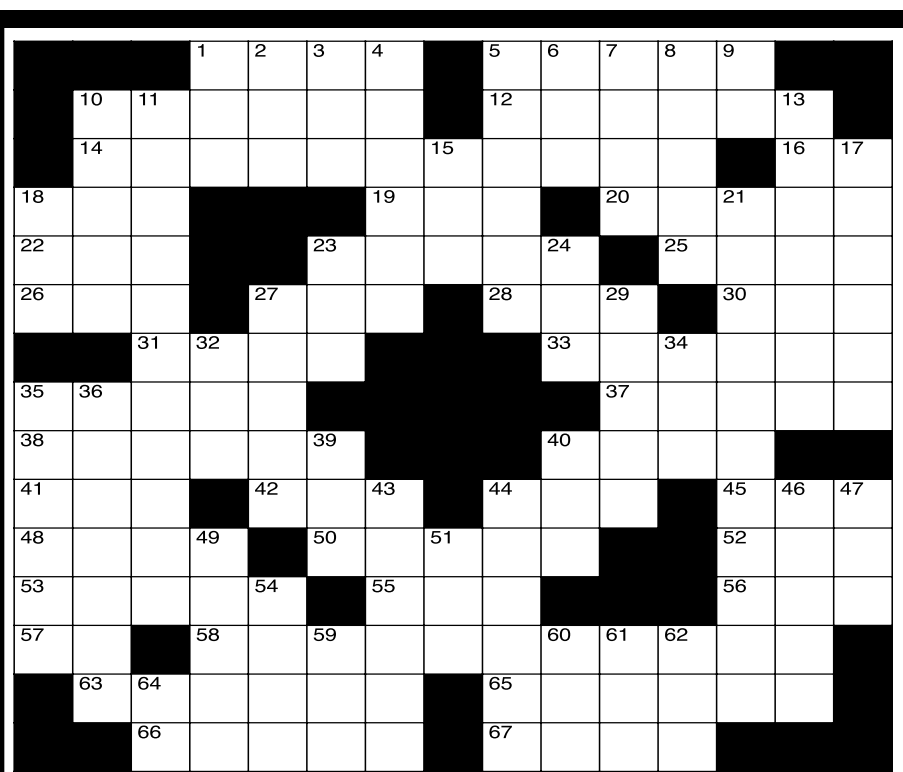
One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, 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.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Hand (Spanish)
- 5. Siskel and __, critics
- 10. Seaman
- 12. Chemical weapon
- 14. One who eliminates
- 16. They precede C
- 18. Baseball stat
- 19. Americans' "uncle"
- 20. Cassia tree
- 22. Surround
- 23. Crisp and Pebbles are two
- 25. A sudden very loud sound
- 26. Affirmative
- 27. Disadvantage
- 28. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
- 30. OJ trial judge
- 31. New York art district
- 33. Become more bleak
- 35. Upstate NY city
- 37. Clarified butters
- 38. One who witnesses

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Variety of Chinese
- 2. Boxing's GOAT
- 3. Japanese classical theater
- 4. Prayer
- 5. Inspire with love
- 6. Ballplayers' accessory
- 7. Retailer payment system
- 8. More raw
- 9. Atomic #81
- 10. Fencing sword
- 11. Hostilities
- 13. Sea dweller
- 15. Resinlike substance secreted by certain insects
- 17. Businessmen
- 18. Rest here please (abbr.)
- 21. Loud devices
- 23. Make a soft murmuring sound
- 24. One point west of due south
- 27. Trout
- 29. Type of grass

- 3. Japanese classical theater
- 4. Prayer
- 5. Inspire with love
- 6. Ballplayers' accessory
- 7. Retailer payment system
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- 21. Loud devices
- 23. Make a soft murmuring sound
- 24. One point west of due south
- 27. Trout
- 29. Type of grass

- 32. South American plant
- 34. Letter of the Greek alphabet
- 35. Not secure
- 36. Traveler
- 39. Sweet potato
- 40. Period after sunrise and before sunset
- 43. Some are choppy
- 44. Asian country
- 46. Genus of mosquitoes
- 47. Cool!
- 49. Shri!l, wailing sound
- 51. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- 54. Within
- 59. Unhappy
- 60. Decorate a cake with frosting
- 61. Videocassette recorder
- 62. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
- 64. It cools a home

BOARD from page 1

cerns about ensuring the voting hours accommodate residents with varying work schedules.

"I just wanted to bring it to [the board's] attention," Lessard Pearson said, emphasizing the need for weekend hours to cater to working parents. The board agreed to follow up with the town clerk for more details on the early voting process.

The board authorized the police chief to assign details for the 2025 town elections. The board unanimously voted to empower the police chief to provide coverage, with Selectboard member Nicole Miner clarifying the motion to specify the 2025 calendar year.

The meeting also addressed the town's approach to the annual town report. Williams proposed a shift away from the traditional printed format, instead opting for a QR code-based system that would allow residents to access the report electronically. While Selectboard member Jen Turner expressed support for

the idea, she emphasized the importance of involving the new communications manager in developing a comprehensive strategy for communicating the report's availability.

The board also voted to extend Williams' contract for an additional three years, from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2028.

"I would like to thank the board for their confidence, and I do look forward to working with you for a few more years," Williams said, expressing his enthusiasm for the continued partnership.

In his report, Williams touched on a range of other topics, including the progress of the new BCTV General Manager and Communications Manager, the capital improvement committee's priorities and the town's efforts to address health code violations related to tobacco sales. He also discussed the potential impact of Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement on the fire department's budget, pledging to bring the issue to the attention of state representatives.

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NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for The Sentinel, please email sentinel@turley.com.

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Lady Orioles cannot hold halftime lead



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI
Logan Moses approaches the arc.

AGAWAM – Last Monday night, Agawam High School found itself behind as the game reached halftime, but was able to come back and took a win from league rival Belchertown. Agawam would take an early double-digit lead, but the Orioles erased it before halftime. But in the second half, Agawam would stage a comeback, taking the lead and the important game. Marlee Montagna had a big game with 16 points for the Brownies. But Belchertown’s Aubrey Klingensmith would lead all scorers with 22 points, including six treys. Agawam improved to an impressive 6-1 this season. Belchertown is 4-2.



Chloe LaRoche makes her way down the court.



Avery Cooper goes low with a fake, then passes the ball away.



Morghan Litz turns play around after getting possession.



Kina Roy goes for free throw.



Gabriella Slovack is pressured near the hoop.

Rams even record



Kalli White tries to shoot in traffic.

GRANBY – Prior to the New Year, Granby girls basketball traveled to Ware and despite a slow start, were able to leave with a 42-26 win over the Indians. Brenna Moreno led all scorers with 17 points. Autumn Sicard had 10 points for the Rams. Ware was led by Reese McKeever with 12 points. Both teams start 2025 with even 3-3 records.



Kaitlyn Curran makes her way down the court.



Brenna Moreno jumps to make a catch on a pass.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY
WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Autumn Sicard goes for a layup.

SPORTS

Pioneers suffer first loss



Greenly Lagimoniere heads for the hoop.

PALMER — Last Friday night, Pathfinder got behind early against Bay State Academy Charter, and went on to suffer its first loss of the season 47-43 at home. Megan Clark was Pathfinder's top scorer with 15 points. Greenly Lagimoniere and Addison Doktor had nine points each in the defeat. Pathfinder is 4-1.

TURLEY PHOTOS
BY DAVID HENRY
WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Addison Doktor looks for a shot under pressure.



Desiree Croteau charges toward the paint.



Ciara Green passes into the arc.



Megan Clark goes for a close-range shot.

T-Birds suffer loss against Rochester

SPRINGFIELD — The Springfield Thunderbirds (13-15-2-1) felt the brunt of the top team in the North Division as the Rochester Americans (20-9-3-0) skated away 5-2 winners on Friday night inside the MassMutual Center.

The opening minutes would not go auspiciously for the T-Birds, as the North Division's top team flexed their offensive muscle early. Just 3:02 into the action, rookie Riley Fiddler-Schultz used a defender as a screen and ripped a wristed through Vadim Zherenko's blocker arm to give Rochester a 1-0 advantage.

Things got no better for Springfield at 6:13 as Graham Slaggert threw a shot on goal from the right circle, generating a Zherenko rebound and a second-chance finish from Brendan Warren to extend the lead to 2-0.

Unlike Tuesday night, though, the T-Birds offense had a rebuttal, and just 2:45 after Warren's tally, Drew Callin took a feed at the offensive line from Simon Robertsson and bull-rushed the net from the right wing before deking to the backhand and beating Devon Levi to cut the lead in half, 2-1.

Both teams were liberal with their shooting opportunities in the opening 20 minutes, as each club launched 16 attempts at the opposition net.

Rochester's potent offense did not let off the throttle in the middle stanza. On their second power play in the frame, Brett Murray deflected home his league-leading ninth man-advantage tally to make it a 3-1 score at 6:28. Fiddler-Schultz piggybacked that goal with his second of the game at 7:36, which spelled the end of the night for Zherenko. Colten Ellis came on in relief and stopped the next seven Amerks' shots to close the period.

The 4-1 score held into the dying minutes of the third before a Tanner Dickinson power play marker got Springfield back within two, 4-2, with 5:01 remaining. That's as close as the T-Birds would get, though, as Lukas Rousek ended the goal-scoring with an empty-netter just over a minute later.

The T-Birds conclude their five-game homestand next Saturday when they host the Providence Bruins at 7:05 p.m. on Jan. 11 for the annual Throwback Night contest.

Worcester Railers prevail over Reading Royals

WORCESTER — The Railers played, and won, a biblical hockey game Saturday night.

They went fourth and multiplied.

In front of the sixth largest crowd in team history, on IceCats Night, Worcester built a 2-0 lead thanks to goals by fourth line forwards Kolby Johnson and Ryan Mahshie and prevailed for a 3-1 victory over the Reading Royals.

Attendance was 8,056. It was the sixth time ever the team has broken the 8,000 mark and the Railers are a perfect 6-0-0 in those games. The triumph extended Worcester's points streak to three games. That includes two wins and a shootout loss. It is just the second time this season the Railers have picked up points in three straight games, the first time since the last week of November.

The night marked the impressive Worcester debut of rookie goaltender Hugo Ollas. He stopped 31 shots. The saves were not just quantity, they were

quality. Ollas never gave up the lead during several Reading surges after the Royals had reduced their deficit to 2-1 in the second period.

"When we got loose (defensively) in the second period," coach Nick Tuzzolino said, "I thought he bailed us out well. Then we got a little hesitant on the penalty kill and allowed that soft tip, but other than that he was big and reliable.

"We're not a perfect team. We'll have breakdowns, and when we did he was there."

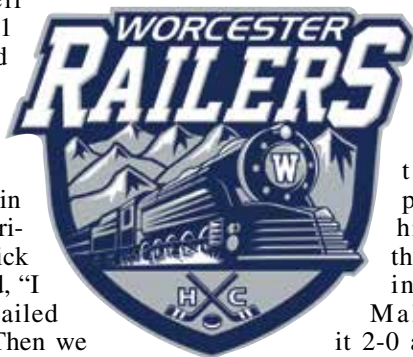
John Muse's retirement left Worcester scrambling for a replacement. The Railers got Ollas on loan from Hartford, an AHL team they have worked well with on occasion through the years. Ollas had been in Bloomington. Plans are to keep him here, close to Hartford, and

work closely on his development.

The game was scoreless after one, but Johnson gave Worcester the lead 21 seconds into the second period. He got his second of the season from in very close. Mahshie made it 2-0 at 6:29 with a power play goal, his first for the Railers.

"To be honest," Tuzzolino confessed, "I was pretty mad at myself last night. The (bench) penalty I took, and my use of the fourth line. Because of the game, because of the penalty, I really gripped it tight and wound up not playing them at all in the third and late in the second.

"So at the pre-game skate this morning I told (Johnson) that it was my fault and you're gonna get a regular shift tonight."



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PUBLIC SAFETY

Belchertown Police Log

Editor's note: The following are brief explanations of select entries in the Belchertown Police log and arrests for the weeks of Dec. 11 through Dec. 31. 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 explain some calls police respond to daily. Of the calls police responded to, there were 44 incidents, 13 accidents, 11 arrests/summons and 90 citations.

**ARRESTS/SUMMONS
Tuesday, Dec. 17**

12:01 p.m. – A 27-year-old Leominster person was issued a summons on charges of larceny under \$1,200 and shoplifting. An officer was dispatched to a State Street business for a report of a larceny. A person stole from a tip jar and stole merch. Footage of the incident was obtained. The person tried to make another transaction, and they were able to get a photo. The officer spoke with someone who came from courthouse and were able to identify the person in the photo. Based on that the person was issued a summons.

Friday, Dec. 20

5:59 p.m. – A 41-year-old homeless man was placed into protective custody. At a Main Street business, a male party was locked into the bathroom for an extended period. They were making staff uncomfortable and harassing them.

Saturday, Dec. 21

5:13 p.m. – Miroslav Hytych, 54, of 2001 Park Ave in Three Rivers, was arrested and charged with operating under the influence of alcohol, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, marked lanes violation and leaving the scene person injury/accident.

An officer with the Belchertown Fire Department and paramedics responded to north Washington for a report of a two-vehicle crash with injuries and airbag deployment. It was reported a person was going into a wooded area. The person was located at an underpass on Washington Street. Belchertown Fire and paramedics transported a person involved in the crash. They followed footprints but contacted K-9 Apache to assist with tracking and could not find the person. Another person could locate the person a short distance from the scene. They were

transported to the station, field sobriety was done, determined to be impaired, and they were bailed.

**INCIDENTS/ACCIDENTS
Wednesday, Dec. 11**

3:46 a.m. – Officer was on patrol and while going east on Amherst Road saw large debris leaning into the guardrail. The officer also found a mangled car door. It was close to the end of the guard rail, where more debris was found. The officer was able to determine what type of vehicle the door belonged to. The officer couldn't find a vehicle in the area though. Late on Dec. 12, the officer was contacted by Hadley Police Department found a vehicle missing a door. The officer dispatched to check on the vehicle and the heavy front-end damage. The operator was identified and said they crashed in Belchertown. They weren't sure when or where, and an immediate threat was processed to suspend the license.

2:24 p.m. – An officer took a report of larceny from a mailbox during the week. One item of value was missing, and it was a package consisting of makeup. The officer was contacted by another person who said they also had a mailbox gone through. There were footsteps leading away and mail found. Nothing of value was taken, and neither had security cameras.

3:50 p.m. – An officer took a report of a stolen laptop from a vehicle. The vehicle was unlocked and nothing else was missing. A report was taken.

Thursday, Dec. 12

3:42 p.m. – An officer was dispatched for a report of a person walking in the middle of the road screaming. There was also a report of a person leaning into the guardrail. A person in the area reported hearing the screaming. They needed a mental health evaluation and were transported.

Friday, Dec. 13

4:22 p.m. – An officer investigated an allegation of a possible assault.

5:16 p.m. – An officer was dispatched to George Hannum Road business for a report of shoplifting a few days prior. The officer spoke with loss prevention staff, who were made aware of the shoplifting. The footage of the incident was obtained. Images were attached, and the matter is under investigation.

Saturday, Dec. 14

10:04 a.m. – An officer and Belchertown Fire were dispatched to Federal Street regarding a child who had left the home and hadn't returned. K-9 units were contacted, an airwing was deployed and drones were called in. The incident began at 10 a.m. and closed at 12:15 p.m., when the child returned home.

Monday, Dec. 16

9:18 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Main Street, Maple Street and Jabish Street. A vehicle going straight on Maple Street when a second vehicle attempted to turn left from Maple onto Main Street. The operator of the second vehicle tried to take a wide turn and was forced to go straight in the lane. The vehicles crashed, but there was minor damage. No injuries were reported, and no tows were needed.

10:42 a.m. – An officer took a report of a person getting suspicious texts. They spoke with the person who had a confrontation with the person texting them. The matter was documented, and the person was advised about obtaining a harassment prevention order.

1:40 p.m. – An officer was at a business for a report of a break in the vehicle over the weekend. The officer spoke with the owner and noticed the chain link fence was broken and bent, and the person entered the fence. The line plate of a vehicle was removed, and a locked vehicle was found unlocked. A note was attached to the windshield. The officer later returned they found who the registered owner and camera footage was, and the matter is still under investigation.

5:40 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident. A vehicle going east on State Street saw a brown object striking the side of the car. The front passenger's side door was dented, and the mirrors were broken. There were no tows and no injuries.

6:26 p.m. – An officer took a report a person juvenile went to someone's home. Officers responded and met with the folks the juvenile showed up at the apartment used to live in town. It was determined the juvenile was reported missing. The juvenile was transported to the station and Northampton Police Department was contacted to make aware the person was located, and they were later picked up and 51A was filed.

Tuesday, Dec. 17

2 a.m. – An officer took a report of a

person knocking on the door of a residence and met with the person, alleging that someone she knew knocked on the door, which woke them up. The matter was documented.

8:58 a.m. – An officer responded to Chauncey Walker Road for an accident. A vehicle going north on Chauncey Walker Road approached intersection of Turkey Hill Road. While waiting to take left to Turkey Hill Road, a vehicle T-boned the first. There was damage to both vehicles. Both were towed from the scene. No injuries were reported.

10:43 a.m. – A person spoke with an officer about a harassment prevention order and questioned whether the order was terminated.

12:50 p.m. – An officer took a report of past breaking and entering incident. A person heard a voice inside their apartment and barricaded into the bedroom. The person was found hiding in the bedroom, and then a call was made with PD, and the location was in disarray. There were items on the floor, cabinet doors were left open. It looked like someone was looking for something and didn't think anything was taken. Photos were taken and under investigation.

Wednesday, Dec. 18

12:07 p.m. – The person spoke with an officer about custody issues and an upcoming visit to the area for Christmas per court order.

3:25 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Main Street. A vehicle traveling south on Main Street turned into the Post Office parking lot, striking the side of another vehicle. One vehicle was towed and no injuries were reported.

4:24 p.m. – An officer took a report of a person missing. An officer conducted a search of the area and it was believed the person left on foot in an unknown direction at an unknown time. They were entered into missing and a be on the lookout order was put out to surrounding towns. The K-9 officer was contacted and a drone were used in the search. The officer contacted area residents. The area was searched and it became night and temperatures dropped, the search concluded with no leads.

10:08 p.m. – An officer responded to a Turkey Hill Road business for a report of vandalism. There was vehicle keyed on the passenger side. The operator believed the operator of the vehicle next to them keyed their cause. The officer followed

Please see **POLICE LOG**, page 15



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Wistariahurst kid art classes offered

HOLYOKE— Every first Sunday of the month from 2 to 4 p.m. Wistariahurst will be hosting kid art classes, starting Feb. 2.

This series of art classes is geared towards children in grades K-12 to spark creativity and inspire a love for art history. Joycelin Raho, the talented instructor guiding these classes, will help children explore different mediums and artistic techniques to unlock their imaginations. These engaging activities will help kids create their own masterpieces through a hands-on approach to learning.

To make these classes accessible and available for all kids in the community, Wistariahurst offers a sliding scale for admission. Parents and/or guardians can choose admission pricing from \$10, \$15, or \$20, which will help cover the cost of materials and ensure a rewarding experience for everyone who participates.

To learn more, visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wistariahurst-kids-art-classes-tickets-1104573572289?aff=oddtcreator>

PUBLIC NOTICES

Town of Belchertown Request for Proposals: Branding Belchertown Project

The Town of Belchertown is seeking proposals from qualified design professionals to create a cohesive and authentic visual identity that reflects the town's rich history, vibrancy, and aspirations for the future. This initiative includes updating the Town Seal for formal purposes, designing a new logo for everyday use, and creating a comprehensive brand guidelines document. The visual identity will be implemented across all areas of the municipality and serve as a cornerstone for the town's broader economic development and marketing strategies.

Successful proposals will demonstrate expertise in the intricacies of municipal design usage, community-

cused design processes, and branding as a tool to connect diverse audiences and bolster economies.

Interested designers can find the full RFP and submission details on the Town of Belchertown website.

The expected budget for this project is **\$10,000**.

Submission Deadline is January 24, 2025 at 5 p.m. EST. Proposals should be submitted as one PDF via email to team@artsequitygroup.com with **"Branding Belchertown / Graphic Design Proposal"** in the subject line.

Please submit questions to Danielle Amodeo at danielle@artsequitygroup.com by Monday, Friday, January 17, 2024 at 5pm EST 01/09/2025

OFFICE OF THE SELECT BOARD BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN

Notice is hereby given under Chapter 138 of the General Laws that Dragonfly 0530, LLC, has applied for a Section 12 Restaurant All Alcoholic Beverages License at 330 Chauncey Walker Street, Belchertown, MA 01007.

A public hearing relative to the above referenced application will be held on **Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at 6:48 p.m.** in the Select Board's Meeting Room on the first floor of Lawrence Memorial Hall, 2 Jabish Street, Belchertown, Massachusetts.

BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS Edward G. Boscher, Chair

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01/09/2025

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

POLICE LOG from page 13

up with the registered owner of the vehicle. They advised that they could not get into the driver's side of the truck. The truck next to them climbed the passenger side into it and scratched the truck next to it by using their key. They were advised that they could provide info to cover the cost and were willing to work with them.

Thursday, Dec. 19

5:51 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident. Two vehicles going eastbound, one vehicle was trying to break for a light. It struck a small patch of ice and slid into the back of a second vehicle. No tow was needed, and no injuries were reported.

Friday, Dec. 20

12:29 p.m. – An officer responded to a North Main Street residence for a possible breaking and entering incident. The person believed someone broke into the residence and heard someone walking. They reported they heard a dog barking upon arrival. The officer requested animal control. While speaking with the animal control officer, the homeowner arrived on the scene. They said they searched the apartment, and no one was inside. The slider was tampered with, but it could have been them. Then, another neighbor could have caused dog barking, and the situation was documented.

10:44 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident Ware Road. A vehicle traveling west on Ware Road lost control, went into the eastbound lane then into the westbound lane. There was heavy damage to the left front side flat tire and damage to the rim and left rear door and wheel well. There were wet and snowy conditions at the time of the crash.

Saturday, Dec. 21

9:40 a.m. – An officer took a report of a lost cell phone. It was found in a Main Street parking lot and appeared to

have been run over by a car. The office checked with the business to see if anyone reported it was missing. It was put into property for safekeeping.

4:33 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident George Hannum Road. A vehicle going west on George Hannum Road failed to stay in their lane, went off to the left side, and struck an embankment. The vehicle was towed from the scene.

Sunday, Dec. 22

7:38 a.m. – Officers responded to assist Belchertown Fire and paramedics.

Monday, Dec. 23

3:24 p.m. – An officer responded to a report of a person banging on a person's door. The matter was investigated, and it was unfounded.

11:27 a.m. – An officer took a report of fraud. There was a message left in the department dropbox by the reporting party. The person was contacted by an unknown person who purchased a gift card and was told how to use it. They realized it was a scam, contacted their banks and wanted the report to be on file.

Tuesday, Dec. 24

9:55 a.m. – An officer responded to North Main Street with the Department of Public Works with a snow removal complaint. The snow was blocking the sidewalk from being cleared post-snow. The DPW employee said they would clean it and remove the vehicle, but a resident disagreed with the equipment used to do it and that they would do it. They were dispatched back to speak with the person. While shoveling, another person came out and told them not to. They had a verbal exchange. Later, the suspect went to the courthouse to talk with the person who wanted a report done by the department.

2:18 p.m. – An office responded to an accident on North Main Street. A vehicle parked in a lot on North Main Street backed out of a space and into the rear of another vehicle. No injuries were report-

ed, and no tow was needed.

5:13 p.m. – An officer took a report of fraud. A person got an email demanding money, and they gained access to different accounts. The person noticed that someone was logged into their accounts and called to report the matter. There is no further information at this time.

10:12 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Turkey Hill Road. A vehicle traveling south on Turkey Hill Road struck a deer that ran into the roadway. No injuries were reported, and no tow was needed.

Granby Police Log

Editor's Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 237 calls from Dec. 20 through Jan. 2, 2025. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The Granby Police Department provides all the information.

Friday, Dec. 20

7:07 p.m. – A motorist reported sliding off the road and into a field. There were no injuries.

7:26 p.m. – A motorist reported spinning out and striking a guardrail. There were no injuries.

Saturday, Dec. 21

9:26 p.m. – While on patrol, an officer observed a motor vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed that the vehicle was traveling at 52MPH in 35MPH zone. The vehicle was stopped and the operator was issued a written warning for speeding.

Sunday, Dec. 22

4:44 p.m. – An employee at Dollar General reported that someone stole some items about an hour and a half ago. An incident report was completed.

Monday, Dec. 23

9 a.m. – A vehicle backed out of a

driveway and struck a Granby Highway Department employee that was working in the roadway. There were no injuries.

10:36 a.m. – Several motorists reported a three-car accident. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries.

Wednesday, Dec. 25

12:43 a.m. – An officer on patrol observed a suspicious vehicle parked near the entrance to Phins Hill Manor. The vehicle was running and the operator was asleep in the driver's seat. The operator was arrested for operating under the influence of alcohol.

1 a.m. – Nicholas Strange, 26, of Ludlow, was placed under arrest for operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol.

Friday, Dec. 27

8:07 a.m. – A motorist reported that a vehicle struck a pole. The pole and wires are blocking the road. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries.

1:28 p.m. – A resident reported that someone fraudulently opened an account in their name. An incident report was completed.

Saturday, Dec. 28

8:22 a.m. – A motorist reported sliding off an icy road and striking a large rock. There were no injuries.

10:29 p.m. – A resident reported that a vehicle struck a guardrail. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries.

Monday, Dec. 30

1:06 p.m. – A motorist reported a minor two-car accident in the parking lot of the Post Office. There were no injuries.

6:35 p.m. – A motorist reported that a vehicle drove off the road, struck a utility pole, and is now in a ditch. The utility pole and power lines are blocking the road. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries. The operator was issued a citation for crossing marked lanes.

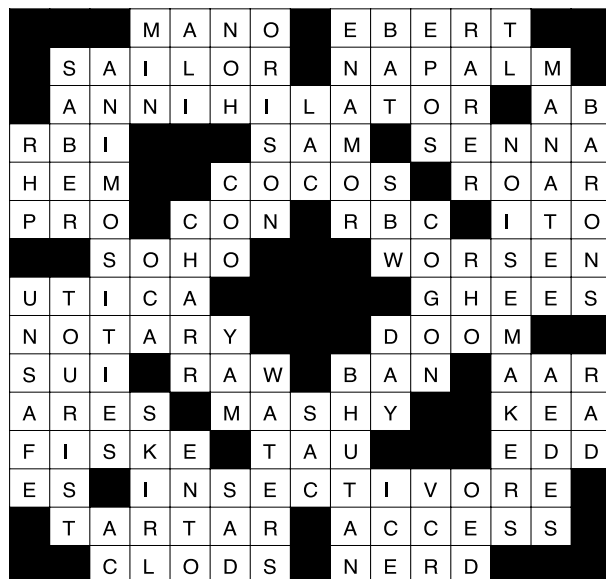
The Sentinel OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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



PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

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

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com



Kids getting ready to dance to the fun music playing in the background.

NOON-YEAR PARTY for Kids



Two friends playing a mega-game of Connect-4.

PARTY from page 1

to help run the different stations, as well as five teen volunteers, and two face painters. Brian Sterling also came at the end to play Auld Lang Syne on the bagpipes as a perfect ending to the party.

There were many craft stations, and kids could make noise makers with beans in cups on popsicle sticks, unicorn frame easels, and a New Years paper crown and ribbon streamers.

There was also a photo booth with back drops and props, and kids could get their photos taken with a polaroid camera, and there was a station for Pokémon Bingo.

“The party showed just what our community is about. It was wonderful to see children playing, creating and dancing with each other while the teens and adults all pitched in to help everyone with the activities,” said Whitehead.

About 78 people were in attendance, and they filled up the auditorium space in the Town Hall and are looking forward to the new parties and events the library will hold for this 2025 year.

“We are all looking forward to celebrating the 10th year of artist Scott Fischer designing our summer reading logo,” Whitehead said. “We have many community events coming up this spring that we are excited about.”

In the spring, there will be work on the murals at the transfer station and View Finder, Belchertown’s Nature Photo Program.



Getting crafty and making unique crowns for the celebration.



Maisie and Emma dancing with their mom.



Connor, Elliot, and Kate Rivest having some fun with props at the photo booth.



Face painting time!



Friends Josie and Scarlet having fun with Cori, Josie’s mom, with their matching unicorn face paint.



Fritz and Sebastian Kuhnlenz having fun together, rocking out at the Noon Year party.



Using recycled materials to create the most perfect New Years streamers with ribbons.



Pokémon Bingo time! Can you catch them all?

TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS