

## Fire association and union *serve our town*

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

BELCHERTOWN – Kevin Girard, President of the Belchertown Firefighter’s Union, Local 5042, heads the other full-time firefighters on the department who are involved in the union.

The union is there for the firefighters, by the firefighters, and works to support all working aspects, especially in making the workplace for everyone involved, and like every other labor union, ensuring fair benefits and wages.

“I can say that everybody that works at this department does a fantastic job. There are days that we are inundated with calls, and the amount of professionalism and the ways people go about safeguarding the town, is one of the highest degrees of professionalism we could possibly have for this town,” said Girard.

The union is composed of 23 members, all firefighter/paramedics and firefighter/EMTs,



Please see **UNION**, page 9

Members of the Fire Department pose with the Springfield Thunderbirds mascot.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Belchertown to have murals project at transfer station

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

BELCHERTOWN – The town of Belchertown is home to many unique individuals, and being able to have these unique and wonderful talents represented is

indeed something the town committees and boards are dedicated to representing.

The Belchertown Transfer Station Container Mural Project is one such way that the town is looking to enhance and broaden the creativity and artistry of our very own community members.

The Belchertown Transfer

Station and Recycling Center, located on 135 Hamilton Street, is the place where you bring in your waste and recycling, where it is then sorted out and shipped off to where it needs to go.

Transfer stations are a necessary part of our town’s every day functioning and helps to ensure that items can be recy-

clad and disposed of in a safe manner.

However, it is about to become a much brighter place.

“The Belchertown Transfer Station Container Mural project began with training and support from New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA) and the Municipal Area

Planning Council’s Arts and Culture Department through their Making it Public for Municipalities program,” said Maude Haak-Frendscho, the Creative Economy Director.

“While in that process, we connected with Linda Leduc,

Please see **MURAL**, page 5

## Children’s advocacy center opens

Center helps children in need

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

BELCHERTOWN – The care of children is something adults are meant to be held accountable for; to keep them from harm, guide them, nurture them, love them, and above all, show them what safety feels like.

Unfortunately, in this dark world we live in, there remains an unfortunate reality that not all children are safe, and many experience horrible things at the hands of loved ones.

Statistically, 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys in Massachusetts before the age of eighteen experience some form of sexual or physical abuse, and 87% of these children are victimized by someone they know, trust, and love.



TURLEY PHOTO BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

Executive Director Kara McElhone (left) and Operations Manager Emma Folkins (right) at the center.

Please see **CENTER**, page 10

## PD shares fraud and scam warnings

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

BELCHERTOWN – With new scams coming out left and right, criminals are finding new ways to attack us, and technology only serves to make that slightly easier than expected.

Just like all other police departments, the Belchertown Police Department is dedicated to helping community members who have been attacked by these scams and frauds and can help you when you discover you’ve been targeted.

“Most scams occur over the telephone or through email,” said Police Chief Kevin Pacunas. “Some pretend to be law enforcement and can even make the call appear as though it is coming from the police department.”

Frauds can look real, but the email that sends the message

usually gives it away.

The most recent scam that hit phones via text messages last week was a request of payment from someone claiming to represent your EZDrive account for EZPass.

“At first glance it looks to be a legitimate text message, but the link does not go to the Mass.gov website,” warned Pacunas.

If you discover you have fallen for a scam like the EZPass one from last week, you can call the police department at (413) 323-6685. The sooner you call the better to avoid as much damage as possible.

“We can investigate the incident and prepare a report, which is often needed by financial institutions,” said Pacunas. “We will supply all the required contact details, including phone numbers and

Please see **SCAMS**, page 7

# DL&G TREE

Tree Removal



Structural Pruning



Crane Service



Storm Damage



Stump Grinding



Lot Clearing



Give us a call for your free estimate and tree evaluation

**413-478-4212**

# DL&G TREE



**INSURED AND CERTIFIED**

COMMUNITY

# First Lap for the Relay for Life

BELCHERTOWN—First Lap of the Relay season was made on Saturday, Jan. 11 at the parking lot of the Belchertown Common. Each year in January this teams does one Lap around to signify the start of our Relay season. This year a few snowflakes didn't stop them from doing this. They walk for loved ones that we have lost to this dreaded cancer and they walk for survivors.

There will be a Kick Off event on Feb. 23 at Hope Church on the Belchertown Common. Team members come together to learn more info about Relay, to hear who the top fundraisers for last year were, to learn of fundraisers that teams have for this year, to get some neat raffle prizes, have some refreshments and just to visit with others. You do not have to be on a team to join the Kick Off but they do hope you will join a team and help them rid this dreadful disease.

The Relay is on May 31 on the Common. For additional info or where to donate you can contact Eleanore Gray at ctellie@juno.com



## Belchertown to hold public engagement event

BELCHERTOWN— Residents, businesses, and surrounding community members are invited to provide input on the Town of Belchertown Hazard Mitigation Plan at a public meeting on Jan. 21, at 6:30 p.m. at the Belchertown Town Hall, 2 Jabish St. This will be held during the Select Board meeting. Remote access is available at <https://www.gotomeet.me/Belchertown-Selectboard>. Attendees will learn about what the Town is doing to prepare for natural hazards and the impacts of climate change, and have the opportunity to share ideas and concerns.

The purpose of the Hazard

Mitigation Plan is to assess Belchertown's risks from natural hazards and climate change impacts, and provide an action plan to reduce the Town's vulnerabilities. The Hazard Mitigation Plan is being completed by the Town with assistance from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Upon completion, the plan will be submitted to the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency and FEMA for review and approval. A FEMA-approved HMP makes the community eligible for federal and state mitigation grant funding.

The meeting will include a discussion of natural hazards and climate impacts in Belchertown, and the hazard mitigation planning process. Municipal officials and PVPC staff will be available to answer questions and respond to input about this project. The meeting provides an opportunity for community members to share feedback that will be incorporated into the plan. All members of the public, representatives from surrounding communities, and other interested parties are invited to attend the event. For more information about this event, please contact PVPC's Mimi Kaplan at [mkaplan@pvpc.org](mailto:mkaplan@pvpc.org) or (413) 781-6045.

## 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.



## Boy Scout can and bottle drive

BELCHERTOWN— Belchertown Boy Scout Troop 507 is holding a can and bottle drive on Saturday, Jan. 25, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Pride Gas Station at the intersection of Rt. 21 and Rt 202, 165 State St. Gather up all of those unwanted returnable bottles and cans from holiday gatherings and help support the Scouts in Belchertown. Returnable water bottles are also welcomed. The money raised goes toward Scouting right here in Belchertown. Bring them to the Pride station where the Scouts will be collecting them to raise money to help make their scouting experience more meaningful by helping to defray the cost of summer camp and other outdoor camping activities.

### THE BEST FRESH FOR GOOD HEALTH!

- Specials January 15-21
- Fresh Blueberries Pint Size ... 2 For \$7.00
  - Fresh Raspberries 6oz Size... 2 For \$7.00
  - Fresh Blackberries 6oz Size.. 2 For \$7.00
  - California Navel Oranges..... 8 For \$2.99
  - Grape Tomatoes Pint Size..... 2 For \$4.00
  - Romaine Lettuce Hearts 3 Pack..... \$2.99
  - Hot House Seedless Cucumbers ..... 2 For \$3.00
  - Green Peppers Extra Large ..... \$1.49 lb
  - Boar's Head Cracked Pepper Turkey ..... \$11.99 lb
  - Boar's Head Asiago Cheese ..... \$7.99 lb

January is **National Soup Month**  
**Fresh "Homemade" Soups**  
**2 Varieties Each Day!**

*Plus All The Ingredients To Make Your Own Favorite Soups*

**GREAT SELECTION OF SOUP MIXES**

**Randall's Chicken Pot Pies Every Wednesday!**

*Look For Our Daily Menu Selections At*

[www.randallsfarm.net](http://www.randallsfarm.net)

**BEAT THE WINTER BLUES**

**Colorful Blooming Primrose 4-inch Pots \$3.99 each**

**Mood Boosting "Vitamin F" For Flowers! Red "Motivation" Bouquets ~ \$14.99**

*Red Blooms Epitomizing Courage*

**Pink "Gratitude" Bouquets ~ \$14.99**

*Pink Blooms For Gratitude And Opening Of The Heart*

**Colorful Fresh Cut Tulip Bouquets \$9.99**

**ALWAYS FRESH AT**

**RANDALL'S FARM & GREENHOUSE**

631 CENTER ST., Route 21, Mass Tpke Exit 54 LUDLOW • 589-7071 • [www.randallsfarm.net](http://www.randallsfarm.net)

**WINTER HOURS**  
**OPEN MONDAY - FRIDAY 7AM - 8PM**  
**OPEN SATURDAY & SUNDAY 7AM - 7PM**

Find us on [facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)

# JIM POTTER

## TOP SELLING MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR REALTOR

FIND OUT WHAT YOUR HOME IS WORTH

Call, Text or email for a complimentary market analysis

No Gimmicks or Team Members

Hard work and personal attention is what you'll get

Let my expertise get you top dollar

Find out what your home is worth today

Call or Text for an exclusive appointment

413-221-5230

Jim.Potter@Raveis.com • 200 Triangle Street, Amherst, MA 01002

WILLIAM RAVEIS  
raveis.com

**GRANBY**

# Granby Free Public library hosts new board game club

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

GRANBY – When the weather gets cold, everyone is looking for ways to spend some time indoors, but not always wanting to be in front of a screen.

The Granby Free Public Library has started a new club through the mind of Xander Huff, president of the Friends of the Granby Public Library, who wanted to see something more come to the library.

For the first meeting of this new club, Huff, Louisa Davis-Freeman, and Isaac and Paul Barba got together to play the game Pandemic.

The goal of the game is to develop a cure for all four diseases in the game, while making sure the world doesn't get overrun by them.

"It's an opportunity to strategize in a safe way and get to know how people think," said Huff. "It's problem-solving, and really stretches your brain in a fun way."

"I really like that it allows for me to get to know people and sharing some time together with them," said Louisa.

"I think it's a good way to have fun without looking at a screen, and having time to be with people," said Isaac.

"It's a nice way to spend time with the children- some one-on-one or one-on-three time," said Paul, Isaac's dad.

The club will happen on the third Saturday of the month, once a month, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., with plenty of time to get through a full round of a board game.

The board games available to be played will be for ages eight and up, with different kinds of games to be played with a partner or group.

"My intent is to focus less on party games, and sticking more to quieter games," said Huff.

These "quieter" games include dice games, strategy games like Pandemic, or other fun group games like Clue.

People can donate board games to the club to be shared and played together, and the library has allocated some money to the club to be able to purchase new games to be enjoyed.

"My inspiration was that I love board games, and I wanted to find people to play with," said Huff. "I also wanted to help create something that would make the library be a place people can go to hang out, and just be together."

As the president of the Friends of the Granby Public Library, Huff has had many unique opportunities to support the library, and has found great joy in beginning this new club to bring in more people to the library and spend an afternoon resting and enjoying a good game.

"I wanted to bring this in to encourage people to create groups of their own," Huff said. "Getting people together is



TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

Xander Huff, Louisa Davis-Freeman, Isaac and Paul Barba together playing the game Pandemic at the club's first meeting.

really important to me. People really need that one-on-one connection with others, especially after COVID."

Take some time next month to stop by the library on February 17 to enjoy some time with others playing a game, and if

you have games you'd like to donate, feel free to bring them up to the front desk and specify they are for the club. You can find more information about the club at the library, and on their Facebook page.

## Granby nomination papers now available

GRANBY—Any person interested in seeking elected office in Granby must take out nomination papers from the Town Clerk no later than March 27 to be placed on the May 19 ballot. Papers will be available for issuance starting on Jan. 27.

Candidates must collect signatures of 40 or more registered voters and return the nomination papers to the Town Clerk's office by Monday, March 31.

### Office Vacancies for Town Election, May 19, 2025

- Select Board: One for Three Years
- Board of Assessors: One for Three Years
- Board of Health: One for Three Years
- Town Clerk: One for Three Years
- Planning Board: One for Five Years
- School Committee - One for Three Years

- School Committee: Unexpired Term-One for Two Years
- School Committee: Unexpired Term-One for One Year
- Commissioner of Burial Grounds: One for Three Years
- Library Trustees: Three for Three Years

### Calendar of dates for the Annual Town Meeting and Election:

Monday, Jan. 27, Town Nomination papers available

Thursday, March 27, Last day to obtain town nomination papers

Monday, March 31- Last day to file town nomination papers with

### Board of Registrars for certification

Friday, March 28 Last day to file with Town Administrator for a Private Article for the May 12, Annual Town Meeting.

For a private warrant article to appear

on the Annual Town Meeting warrant, a petitioner must acquire ten (10) signatures of registered voters in the town.

Monday, April 14- Last day the Board of Registrars file town nomination papers with the Town Clerk

Wednesday, April 16- Last day to withdrawal or object town nomination papers

Friday, May 2- Last day to register to vote for the Annual Town Meeting & Annual Town Election

Monday, May 12 Annual Town Meeting

Monday, May 19 Annual Town Election

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

The Town Clerks office is located at 215 B West State St., If you have any questions please call Kathy Kelly-Regan at 467-7178.

## 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](http://www.sec.state.ma.us) and go under "Elections", or for more

Please see **REMINDER**, page 5



## BELCHERTOWN VETERINARY HOSPITAL

211 State Street, Belchertown, MA  
(413) 324-1138

*Proudly serving Belchertown and its surrounding communities*

**DOGS 🐾 CATS 🐾 REPTILES 🐾 EXOTICS**

**AND NOW BIRDS!**

★ **Now offering same day urgent care appointments** ★  
**Monday - Friday**

**A FULL SERVICE COMPANY**

Owner  
**Mike McKenzie**  
MA. Lic. #15648A  
Fully Insured  
OSHA 10  
Certified



Residential  
Commercial  
Industrial

**Office: 413-213-0770**  
**Email: btownelectric413@gmail.com**

## ROADHOUSE CAFE

**UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT**

*Enjoy your old favorites with some new touches*

**Open extended hours Tues.-Sun. 7am-1pm**  
Check our Facebook & Instagram pages for updates

**Bay Road & Rt. 9, Belchertown**  
**413.323.6175**  
**[www.roadhouse.cafe.net](http://www.roadhouse.cafe.net)**

## COMMUNITY

# Select Board announces board, committee vacancies

BELCHERTOWN—The Belchertown Select Board is looking for citizens interested in sharing their expertise by serving on a Town Board/Committee. If you have time and are interested in getting involved in your Town's activities, 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](mailto:selectboard@belchertown.org) (unless otherwise indicated below). You may also submit a volunteer form on our website: <https://www.belchertown.org/374/Volunteer>

All vacancies are posted until filled.

The Town wishes to fill the following vacancies:

**Agricultural Commission:** The Town wishes to fill an associate member seat on the Agricultural Commission. This commission promotes agricultural-based economic opportunities; preserves, revitalizes and sustains the Belchertown agricultural industries, and encourages the pursuit of agriculture as a career opportunity and lifestyle.

**Animal Control Advisory Board:** The Town wishes to fill one (1) vacancy 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 spe-

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

**Belchertown Family Center Committee:** The Belchertown Family Center Committee is seeking passionate, service-minded individuals to fill one (1) 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.

**Branding Belchertown Committee:** The Town of Belchertown is seeking to fill three (3) vacancies on the Branding Belchertown Committee. This committee is responsible for overseeing the Branding Belchertown Project, which includes updating the town seal, creating a new town logo, and developing comprehensive branding guidelines.

Committee appointments will be made through the completion of the project, which is anticipated to conclude in Summer 2025. We are particularly interested in individuals with diverse backgrounds or those with a strong knowledge of Belchertown's history to join the committee.

**Community Preservation Committee:** The Town wishes to fill one (1) at-large seat on the CP Committee. The CP Committee studies the community presentation needs, possibilities and resources of the Town.

**Council on Aging:** 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.

**Energy and Sustainability Committee:** The Town wishes to fill a full member vacancy on the Energy and Sustainability Committee. Its purpose is to develop and recommend sound energy and sustainability programs and policies for the Town. Energy relates to the fuel choices we make for buildings, vehicles, and industry. Sustainability means meeting our own needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Visit their webpage at [www.belchertown.org](http://www.belchertown.org).

**Historic District By-Law Commission:** The Town wishes to fill (1) full member 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.

**Pioneer Valley Transit Authority Advisory Board:** The Town is seeking an individual to represent and serve as a Liaison to the Town of Belchertown on

the PVTA Advisory Board. Interested individuals should have the time and desire to attend respective meetings in Springfield and periodically review the PVTA's services to the Town and its contiguous communities.

**Quaboag Valley Business Assistance Corporation (QVBAC) / Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation (QVDC) Board Member:** The Town is seeking an individual to represent and serve as a Liaison to the Town of Belchertown on the QVBAC to bring the concerns of Belchertown's residents and small business community forward to ensure that the services provided by the QVBAC/QVDC are in line with the town's needs. The board member also helps disseminate information from the QVBAC board to Belchertown's residents and small business community, especially when there is a particular program or initiative they'd benefit from. While no business acumen is required, an interest in and or connections with Belchertown's small business community would be advantageous. Enthusiasm for Belchertown, and the ability to determine and communicate the interests of its residents are the most important qualifications. For more information about the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation and the Quaboag Valley Business Assistance Corporation, please visit [www.qvdc.org](http://www.qvdc.org).

## MURAL from page 1

DPW Director, who was interested in brightening the experience at the Transfer Station-the trash and recycling containers are very brown-and engaging community members in learning about the lifecycle of materials after the leave the Station."

Haak-Frendscho and the library's youth librarian, Jennifer Whitehead, spent a few days at the transfer station last summer getting feedback from people coming to the station for drop-offs, and at the Swap Shop.

They received a hundred responses both in-person and from an online survey about their experiences with the transfer station and provided some ideas to "help guide the design process and thoughts about the core values that represent Belchertown's identity," said Haak-Frendscho.

Whitehead and Haak-Frendscho sent out a Call for Artists with project goals, mural design goals, and evaluation criteria for the murals at the station.

"We sought artists who were responsive to our goals, incorporated community feedback in their concepts, were experienced and interested in continued community engagement throughout the project, and who would inspire users and viewers alike to learn more about how Belchertown values sustainability," said Haak-Frendscho.

The Creative Economy Committee and the project stakeholders chose artists Caoin O'Durgy, Melissa Pandina, and Joshua Smith to develop and create the murals for the transfer station.

"Meeting our selected artists has been so inspirational! They each have a unique vision, dynamic processes for designing, painting, and collaborating with community members," said Haak-Frendscho. "It's really exciting to think that when we get to warmer weather, we'll have a brighter Transfer Station that celebrates Belchertown."

Each artist is taking different approaches to have continued community engagement throughout the process, and their creativity is already

spreading across the town.

Caoin O'Durgy held an art workshop for kids on January 4 at the Clapp Memorial Library, where kids could come and design a character, which he will incorporate in his final mural.

Joshua Smith with his "partner-in-painting" Brittany Smith, will be sharing the process of how they will together go through the process of designing, planning, and painting their mural through their social media.

Melissa Pandina is going to hold a community paint day in the spring for Belchertown residents of all ages and skills to paint on the container together as one community of friends and neighbors.

"Once the murals have been completed, we'll celebrate the community and artists, and everyone who participated throughout, to take part in the Trash Gala, another community event that will feature sustainability-themed activities," said Haak-Frendscho.

"We can't wait to see how the ideas Transfer Station users shared over the summer get translated into these murals," said Haak-Frendscho. They will embody all of the participation by community members, who we hope will be invested in the messages of the murals-reduce, reuse, recycle, regenerate-and the artworks themselves."

Haak-Frendscho and all of the other minds of this wonderful community project encourage the community to process, as this is something that was purely designed with community engagement in mind.

"Head down to the Transfer Station and get your hands dirty painting, or take part in the Trash Gala community celebration, we'd love to see folks take part," said Haak-Frendscho.

In the process of surveying Transfer Station users over the summer, people shared with us how much they value the space, and sometimes in ways that were surprising," said Haak-Frendscho. "This really underscored for us how important it is to focus our attention on community institutions like the Transfer Station."

## Reminders from the 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 avail-

able.

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](http://www.belchertown.org).

## REMINDER from page 4

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](http://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.

## OPINION



### Should Social Security money be invested in the Stock Market

**Dear Rusty:**

For most folks collecting Social Security, you get back what you put in within 3-5 years, so for those that scream - "SS is not an entitlement, it is my money" - that is not entirely accurate beyond 3-5 years. For me personally 4.4 years is the number. But had I been able to invest that money over the 43 years I worked at a modest 6% interest, I expect the amount would have been a lot more. And of course, the stock market averaged 9.5% over that time. Perhaps Social Security should invest in the stock market instead of U.S. Government treasury bonds.

*Signed: Interested Observer*

**Dear Observer:**

You bring up a point we frequently hear that if, instead of paying into Social Security, I had invested the same money in the stock market I would have gotten more.

That, of course, might be the case if you had the unwavering discipline to religiously invest the equivalent amount in the market, avoiding the temptation to use that investment for any other reason. And life is full of good reasons, financial emergencies, for example or the simple temptation to buy something desperately needed, or just occasionally skipping a month to pay bills. Also, the stock market is notoriously volatile, which can create substantial angst for investors, who are faint of heart.

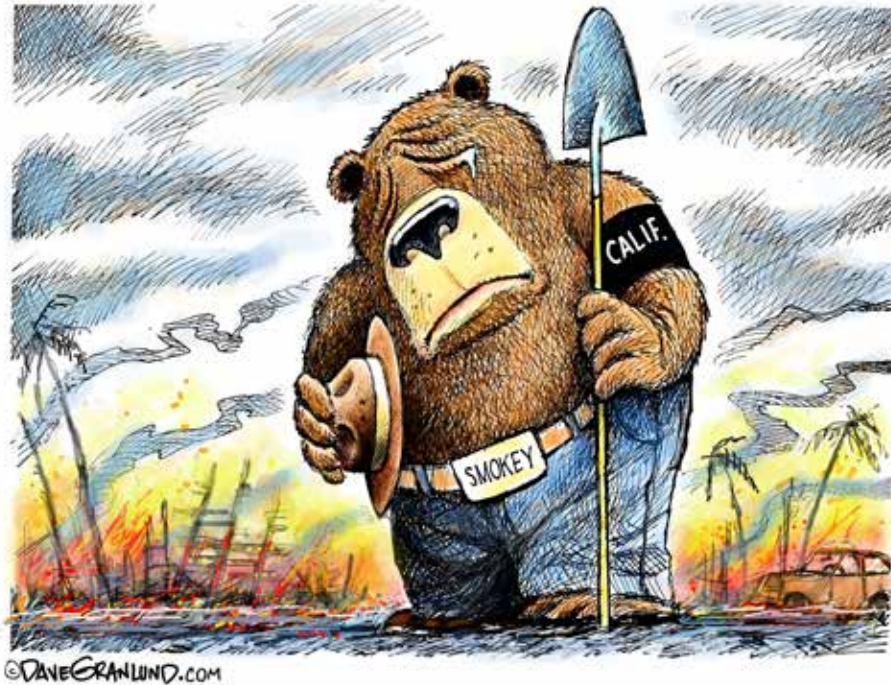
The fact is that Social Security provides guaranteed financial growth from the age of eligibility normally 62, up to age 70 when the maximum benefit is attained. Benefits claimed at one's full retirement age are about 24% - 32% more than if taken at age 62 depending on Full Retirement Age and benefits taken at age 70 are about 75% more than benefits taken at age 62. And that is guaranteed growth for those with the patience to wait longer to claim.

You may recall that the idea of investing Social Security reserves in the stock market has been floated a few times in previous years, but accompanying risks made Congress essentially unwilling to even entertain the idea. It has always been a political "hot potato" and those who suggest it are usually castigated for wanting to "give SS money to Wall Street," so I expect it is unlikely to happen.

Guess we'll need to be satisfied with the interest on those Special Issue Government Bonds, which, by the way, returned about \$67 billion to the Social Security Trust Fund in 2023. FYI, average interest rate for new deposits to the Trust Fund in 2023 was 4.1%, and the overall effective rate of return on all Trust Fund assets was 2.4%.

Social Security has some issues and will face some financial difficulty in less than a decade unless Congress enacts program reform soon. But it is a program, which most seniors rely on for a major part of their retirement income and one which keeps over 22 million Americans out of poverty. Here at the AMAC Foundation, we strongly advocate for sensible Social Security reform and we're very optimistic about the program's future. But Congress needs to act soon to avoid a cut to everyone's Social Security amount in about 2033.

*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](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*



## LETTERS

### Board of Health concerns

**Dear Editor,**

I recently attended a Belchertown Board of Health meeting in support of Samantha and Deb Kopaz who own and operate the Village Package Store. They and three other retail business owners were appealing \$1,000 fines issued by Andrea Crete and the Quabbin Valley Health District for minor, first time, paper work infractions. Nine out of the 10 tobacco retailers were issued the same fine.

I previously had conversations with Board of Health members, and business owners from both Belchertown and Ware and many I spoke to agreed with me that this is a major problem.

I feel that the Belchertown Board of Health along, with Ware and Pelham, need to decide if issuing these fines is actually an asset to the health and welfare of the public. I made my mind up fairly quickly that it is not.

**Lyle Hislop**  
Ware resident



### Supplemental heat and light aid seed starting efforts

Last week we looked at the supplies needed to start seeds indoors. This week we will dive deeper.

If you have never tried indoor seed starting, it is a worthwhile endeavor for sure. You can grow exactly what you want instead of being defendant on what lines the shelves of local nurseries each May.

Furthermore, there is great satisfaction in having a part of the "miracle." No matter how many times I have witnessed the germination process, it still amazed me that a tiny seed has what it takes within to grow into a plant. All that is needed is heat, moisture and light.

Almost all bedding plants, as well as some vegetables and herbs need warmth to germinate. We provide bottom heat through the use of heating cables or mats set at temperatures between 70-75 degrees.

This poses the question of whether or not seeds will germinate at regular household temperatures of close to seventy degrees. Probably, but not to their fullest potential since ideal temperature is measured not by air temps but by the

temperature of the growing medium.

A room set at 70 degrees is likely to have temperatures within the germinating flat five to 10 degrees cooler, due to evaporation at its surface. Invest in a heat mat - if used for a few weeks each season it will likely last a decade or two.

There are many types available to suit your own specific growing needs, even mini mats that are about the size of a standard flat. Perfect if all you are growing indoors are a pack or two of peppers and tomatoes!

Supplemental lighting comes into play at the instant your seeds have sprouted. Bottom heat is not necessary henceforth (it is even discouraged!).

Seedlings are removed from heat and placed within 3-6 inches of the light source. For short-term use, a shop light affixed with two cool fluorescent bulbs has worked fine for me, although one cool and one warm bulb was recommended "back in the day" to better simulate the full spectrum of the sun's rays.

Now, LEDs are an energy conscious replacement; one I will make when my fluorescent bulbs give out. If you are using fluorescent bulbs, be sure to keep your seedlings away from the ends of the bulb where the lights wanes.

If you plan to use lights for long-term growth a "grow-light" may be a good, albeit more costly investment. Many duplicate the sun quite well, and some are tailored to meet the needs of specific plant types.

For example, some contain more orange and red hues to promote fruiting and budding. They are priced by life expectancy, output and light spectrum.

Please see **GARDEN**, page 9

## 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](mailto:sentinel@turley.com). The deadline for submissions is Friday at 5 p.m.

Visit us on the web  
[www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)

## SENTINEL TEAM

EDITORIAL  
[sentinel@turley.com](mailto:sentinel@turley.com)



ADVERTISING SALES  
Maureen McGarrett Hall  
[mmcgarrett@turley.com](mailto:mmcgarrett@turley.com)



SPORTS EDITOR  
Greg Scibelli  
[sports@turley.com](mailto:sports@turley.com)



STAFF WRITER  
Emily-Rose Pappas  
[epappas@turley.com](mailto:epappas@turley.com)

The Sentinel is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.



@ The Sentinel

WEB  
[www.sentinel.turley.com](http://www.sentinel.turley.com)

PATRICK H. TURLEY  
CEO

KEITH TURLEY  
President

DEANNA SLOAT  
Graphics Manager

**Turley**  
Publications, Inc.

[www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)

Turley Publications, Inc. cannot assume liability for the loss of photographs or other materials submitted for publication. Materials will not be returned except upon specific request when submitted.

## 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.

## ■ 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. 25 through Jan. 6. 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 26 incidents, nine accidents, six arrests/summons and 40 citations.*

#### ARRESTS/SUMMONS Wednesday, Dec. 25

1:44 a.m. – A 20-year-old Belchertown man was issued a summons for negligent operation of a motor vehicle, a marked lanes violation and speeding more than the posted speed limit. An officer responded to South Main Street for two-car crash. It was reported one person sustained an injury. Belchertown Fire Department was dispatched to the scene. An officer met with the reporting person, and it was revealed there was a one vehicle crash. The officer drove down the road and located a vehicle with severe damage on the driver's side. The operator had injuries and Belchertown Fire and paramedics and other officers soon arrived. The operator said they hit a patch of snow which caused them to drive off the road. They were driving was 60 mph in a 30-mph zone. The person was transported to the hospital for further treatment. There were tire marks on the opposite part of the road. There were tire marks that showed the vehicle crossed the yellow lines, went onto a lawn then northbound, where vehicle struck a utility pole and mailbox. There was broken glass and vehicle debris. It appeared the vehicle then turned around and drove southbound until went off the road. National Grid arrived on scene and the owner of the mailbox will be notified.

#### Saturday, Jan. 4

12:01 p.m. – Timothy Hittle, 41 of 121 North Main Street J7, was arrested on charges of operating under the influence and operating with a revoked registration. An officer took a report of a truck that was in a pong off the roadway. The officer found the vehicle in a muddy and swampy area. There were skid marks then 20 feet of grass and swampy area. The truck was still running, and the operator was seen outside of the vehicle holding a tow strap. The operator initially said someone was borrowing the vehicle. Then others said he was the operator. A field sobriety test was given. It was determined the operator was under the influence and the vehicle was towed. They were bailed and released to a sober party later.

#### Sunday, Jan. 5

1:34 p.m. – A 28-year-old Belchertown man was issued a summons for a marked lanes violation and operating with a suspended license. An officer on patrol saw a vehicle traveling north in front of them. There were several marked lanes violations then the vehicle went from Federal Street onto George Hannum Road. The officer stopped the vehicle and identified the operator. They reported they didn't have an active license, and it was suspended. The officer advised they were going to be summons.

#### INCIDENTS/ACCIDENTS Wednesday, Dec. 25

6:04 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Route 9. A vehicle traveling eastbound on Route 9 lost control of the vehicle due to possible slippery road. The vehicle swerved off the roadway and struck a tree. The vehicle's airbags deployed. The people in the vehicle were evaluated and declined transport. The vehicle was towed from the scene.

6:50 p.m. – An officer did a wellbeing check on a child.

#### Thursday, Dec. 26

5:14 p.m. – An officer was dispatched to a residence for a firearm recovery. The gun belonged to deceased relative and the person didn't have a license and didn't want it. The gun was retrieved and entered into property.

#### Saturday, Dec. 27

6:04 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Chauncey Walker Road. A vehicle traveling west on Chauncey Walker Road struck a deer. There was damage to the front passenger side bumper. No injuries were reported, and no tow was needed.

#### Sunday, Dec. 29

1:44 p.m. – An officer and Belchertown Fire and paramedics responded to an accident on Bay Road with injuries. A vehicle ran off the road, struck a utility pole and possible several cars parked at a used car dealership. When the officer arrived on scene, two occupants were sitting outside of the vehicle. The operator was identified said the accident could have been medically related. A witness said the vehicle crossed over the center line into the other lane and then ran off the roadway and struck a pole. An immediate threat was filed with the RMV.

6:01 p.m. – An officer responded to a residence concerning a relative's wellbeing. They hadn't been seen in a day. The person's location was being tracked, and they were in Holyoke. Late on the reporting person got a text that the person was on their way home. A be on the lookout order was put out for stop and check welfare for the person. All involved parties were told to contact the station. Then later in the evening, the tracker reported the vehicle was in Holyoke and Holyoke Police were able to find the person in a house near where the car was located. The relatives were notified.

#### Monday, Dec. 30

10:24 a.m. – An officer spoke with DPW about littering on George Hannum Road. DPW workers observed someone pushing shopping carts across the street. They were left partially blocking the sidewalk. The person was spoken to and told they couldn't leave the carts there. The officer went to the area and saw the carts were partially blocking sidewalk on town property. An officer spoke with the person who was pushing carts, and they agreed to move them.

11:37 a.m. – An officer responded to assist Belchertown Fire and paramedics for a report of a structure fire. There was heavy smoke at residence it was the space behind the gas fireplace and the was contained to the area of origin. There was smoke damage, and the fire appeared to be accidental in nature.

2:22 p.m. – An officer took a report of a missing person. An elderly person

with dementia left a residence, officers searched the area and then short time later the person was located. They had a minor injury and transported to the hospital for evaluation.

2:35 p.m. – An officer responded to a call reporting a piece of apparatus went off the driveway causing ruts in the grassy area adjacent area. Photos were taken of the damage.

2:46 p.m. – A caller reported backed into a stop sign near the Old Town Hall and bent it. The party was no longer on scene.

6:50 p.m. – An officer responded to an Amherst Road. A vehicle traveling west on Amherst Road and a tree fell in front of the tree driving over the debris. There was no damage to the vehicle. It was able to be driven from the scene.

7:18 p.m. – An officer took a report of fraudulent. A resident reported activity to their credit report, it was a possible incident of identity theft. They wanted the matter documented and had taken measures to make sure their accounts were frozen.

#### Tuesday, Dec. 31

2:18 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Federal Street. A vehicle waiting to turn into a business driveway, when another vehicle failed to stop for them and struck the side of the vehicle. Both vehicles were able to drive from the scene.

#### Wednesday, Jan. 1

12:34 a.m. – An officer responded to a North Main Street residence for a report of a disturbance between neighbors. A verbal argument occurred, and no threats were made. Upon the officer's arrival, the people were spoken to and advised of the process of obtaining a harassment order.

10:13 p.m. – An officer responded to an activated fire alarm to assist Belchertown Fire and paramedics. There were multiple attempts to open the door, but the firefighters cut the padlock to the door. The faulty alarm was later found.

#### Thursday, Jan. 2

7:12 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Federal Street. A vehicle going east on Federal Street and another was traveling west. One vehicle didn't yield to the other as it turned towards Bay Road. The vehicles collided and had heavy front end damage. An operator and a passenger reported injuries but declined transportation. The operator of the first vehicle as issued a warning for failing to yield. Both vehicles were towed from the scene.

7:29 a.m. – An officer took a report of a speak with concerning a neighborhood issue. The officer advised the person of how to get a harassment prevention order.

7:47 a.m. – A vehicle parked in a designated parking spot noticed a dead tree fell and caused severe damage to the rear of the vehicle.

10:18 p.m. – An officer responded to a residence to speak with a person reporting stolen medication. The person alleged someone took the medication. The officer went to the apartment of the suspect the person provided to the officer, but there was no answer. The person was familiar with the accusation that the other party made. There were ongoing issues between the two parties and the officer advised them how to get a restraining order.

#### Friday, Jan. 3

8:40 a.m. – An officer responded to a business to speak with staff about an ongoing trespassing order. They located the person and served them with the trespass notice. The officer returned to the business to advise them that the notice was served.

12:59 p.m. – An officer responded to assist Belchertown Fire and paramedics with a person located outside of their residence after falling.

4:40 p.m. – An officer took a report of fraud. A person began getting notifications that accounts were attempting to be opened in their name. None of their accounts were compromised. The ere advised to make their banks and institutions aware. The matter was documented.

#### Saturday, Jan. 4

5:40 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Barton Ave. A deer ran out in the front of the vehicle and struck a deer. No injuries were reported, and no tow was needed.

#### Sunday, Jan. 5

12:01 p.m. – An officer responded to assist Belchertown Fire and paramedics.

#### Monday, Jan. 6

2:46 a.m. – A person reported a person knocked on their door.

7:29 a.m. – An officer responded to an ongoing neighbor dispute.

5:34 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on George Hannum Road. A vehicle traveling east on George Hannum Road, slowed to turn into a lot of a business when the operator sneezed. They said their brakes didn't work. The vehicle swerved and struck the back of another vehicle. One vehicle was towed from the scene. No injuries were reported.

### Granby Police Log

*Editor's Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 133 calls from Jan. 3 through Jan. 9. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The Granby Police Department provides all the information.*

#### Friday, Jan. 3

1:31 p.m. – A motorist reported a two-car accident. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries.

#### Sunday, Jan. 5

6:23 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 55MPH in 35MPH zone. The vehicle was stopped, and the operator was issued a civil citation for speeding and failure to inspect a motor vehicle.

#### Tuesday, Jan. 7

8:01 a.m. – Several motorists reported a 3-car accident involving a school bus. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries.

12:39 p.m. – A sign was stolen from in front of the high school. An incident report was completed.

### SCAMS from page 1

email addresses, to assist with the reporting process."

"Our investigative officer will assist the victim in contacting one of the three main credit bureaus to set up a fraud alert, and also help connect with banks, the Social Security Administration, and the FTC if needed."

Scam callers, texts, or emails all portray a sense of urgency, and demand immediate action from you, saying

things like "act now to avoid being arrested", or in regards to fees or account closures if fees are not paid immediately.

For example, with IRS messages, some may try and scare you into giving financial information by saying that there is an officer or sheriff coming to arrest you. However, there will never be a phone call warning of an arrest in real-world situations.

"Scam callers will also ask for sensitive information like Social Security numbers, bank account details, credit

card numbers, or online passwords," said Pacunas.

"We're here to help. If you aren't sure or suspect a scam attempt, please call us. We can help you and work to prevent others from falling victim to the same scam," said Pacunas.

You can stay informed on new scam attempts and methods by staying up-to-date with the police department's Facebook page.

*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.**

## GRANBY

# Town Administrator candidates interviewed

By Melina Bourdeau  
Correspondent

GRANBY — The Selectboard interviewed four candidates for the town administrator position on Monday but delayed deciding until Monday, Jan. 13 to allow more time for review.

The Selectboard heard from Shelley Poreda, Michael Durham, Scott Butcher and Michael Szlosek over the course of the four-hour meeting, each outlining their backgrounds and vision for the role.

"This is a good fit for me, personally and professionally, and I think that I have the leadership skills and the budgetary background that Granby is looking for," said Poreda, the current director of business administration for the Frontier Regional School District. Poreda, who has experience in municipal government through her work with various school committees, emphasized her ability to build collaborative relationships and manage complex budgets.

"Communication is the most important part," Poreda said. "I think that you have to be able to communicate clearly and as transparency as possible, while also maintaining confidentiality where needed."

Durham, a Granby resident and current school committee member, touted his diverse professional background, which includes time in the military, the financial sector and local government.

"I'm resolved to do everything that I can to be successful in this position, because not only does it affect me professionally, but it affects me personally, my friends, my neighbors, my family, everyone is depending on the person who's in this position doing this well," Durham said. Durham outlined several ideas to generate revenue and offset the town's residential tax burden, including the installation of wind turbines and the pursuit of state and federal grants.

Butcher, who has served as a town administrator in New Hampshire, empha-

sized his experience managing personnel issues and navigating the challenges of working with evolving Selectboards. "Boards change, so when the board changes, sometimes the board that hired you has a different philosophy than the one that might get elected the following spring," Butcher said.

Butcher also discussed the importance of clear communication and building relationships with department heads and elected officials.

The final candidate, Szlosek, currently the town administrator in North Brookfield, touted his collaborative management style and track record of successful grant writing and economic development initiatives.

"I like to be a very collaborative and supportive manager. I feel I'm there to help the department heads achieve their goals and serve the people," Szlosek said.

Szlosek emphasized his experience in small towns like Granby and his desire to finish his career in the community.

"I would probably be interested in a second contract, but probably not a third," Szlosek said. "I'd like to finish my career here."

After the interviews, Selectboard members expressed the need for more time to review the candidates and their qualifications.

"I am not prepared to make my decision tonight. I don't know how you guys are feeling, but I think I need to go home and just take this all in this a lot of information from all the candidates," said Selectboard member Crystal Dufresne.

The Selectboard scheduled a follow-up meeting for Monday, Jan. 13 with an executive session at 4:45 p.m. and the town administrator discussion set for 5:45 p.m.

"I made a lot of notes and will go back through and reread the refreshment memory again. Then make a decision further," Selectboard member David Labonte said.

## EDUCATION

### Holyoke Community College announces Fall 2024 Dean's List

HOLYOKE — Holyoke Community College is proud to recognize the students who earned Dean's List honors for the Fall 2024 semester. Each term, HCC recognizes superior scholarship through the Dean's List. A student is placed on the Dean's List if their G.P.A. is 3.2 or higher. The students listed below have earned Dean's List honors for the Fall 2024 term.

#### Amherst:

Iris Allen, Joshua David Bishop, Joshua Quinn Busekrus, Sara Button, Myles Hart Chinappa, Carlos Stiven Jovel Cruz, West Paul Davis, Zachary Nichols Dixon, Akiva Frenkel, Jack Maxwell Morgan Green, Benjamin Haupt, Yuxin Lei, Ashante Rose Love, Norma Alexandra Mejia Ayala, Shaili Suresh Patel, Julia Leigh Rodrigue, Brianna M. Thompson-Blake, Aelan Toro-Rodriguez, Grace Vo.

#### Belchertown:

Ayda Mae Albrecht, Joseph Baltazar, Samuel Bertsch, Tyler James Bozoglos, Riley Jared Breen, Chloe Breton, Cameron Daryl Buley, Shane Burnell, Isabella Joydell Cebula, Rebekah Clough, Dylan Fredryk Coffey-Moore, Laura Elizabeth Cote,

Natalie Layne Daigle, Hailey Marie Garrow, Joel Daniel Gonzalez, Sophia Elizabeth Grazioso, Briana Lee Haley, Brianna Jaiden Hauschild, Chloe Marie Jenks, Morgan Brier Kite, Anna M. Kouzmenok, Sophie Elisabeth Laramee, Elias Jeter Marques, Callan Jeremy Martin, Brandon Thomas Morra, Claire Nan, Anne K. Novosel-Mileski, Caleb O'Brien, Emily Darya O'Donnell, Anna Michelle Orouke, Kaitlyn Louise Park, Vivienne Pelletier, Justin Allen Pendrick, Caroline Lisa Primavera, Sarah Elizabeth Schrijn, Marie Christine Siri, Hailey Marie Smith, Elijah Cameron Smith, Adison Mae St. Germaine, Aura Suarez Oviedo, Alex Silas Sussman, AJ Horgan Terry, Sydney Jade Tonelli, Eugemius N. Vanderpuije, Isabel Rose Vigneault, Dmitri Matthew Weise, Max Porter Wojcik.

#### Granby:

Lauren Williams, Aiden Robert Beach, Alexis Marie Lapite, Tyler Laramee, Paige Lynn Maziarz, Nicholas Tyler Menard, Tristan Gordon Moe, Thomas Nathan, Natalya Rosenberg, Jessica Annette Roy, Diana Swanigan, Amelia Jean Tocchio.

### Bates College Fall 2024 Dean's List

LEWISTON, ME—More than 585 students were named to the Dean's List at Bates College for Fall 2024. This honor is earned by students with a 3.92

grade point average or higher. Two local students have received this honor.

Aidan Bergeron of Pelham  
Natalia Jacobs of Shutesbury

## CAMPUS Notes

### Smith completes college semester as a High School senior

GRANBY—Austin Smith, a Senior at Granby Junior Senior High School and a dual enrollment student at both Holyoke Community College and Elms College, has completed his full-time Fall 2024 college semester with a 4.0 C.G.P.A. Smith chose to spend his senior year at the college level as it will serve a dual purpose of more college level preparation and completed college credits to transfer to his college of choice after his high school graduation. Once he finishes his Spring semester, Smith will have a total of 51 credits to transfer by the time he graduates high school.

### Marquette University's fall 2024 dean's list

MILWAUKEE, WI—Alex Cain of Amherst, has been named to the dean's list for the fall 2024 semester at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Cain is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences.

### Lasell University fall 2024 dean's list

NEWTON — The following local students were named to Lasell University's fall 2024 dean's list:

Antonio Centracchio of Granby, Tyler McDonald of Belchertown and Michelle Zaluga of Belchertown.

### SUNY Oneonta students named to Fall 2024 Dean's List

More than 1275 SUNY Oneonta students earned Dean's List honors for the fall 2024 semester. To qualify for the Dean's List, a student must earn a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher while carrying a course load of 12 hours or more.

Emmett Bird of Shutesbury  
Aidan Messier of Belchertown  
SUNY Oneonta is a public, four-year university in Central New York, enrolling about 5,500 students in a wide variety of bachelor's degree programs and more than a dozen graduate certificate and degree programs. Learn more at <https://suny.oneonta.edu>

### WNE fall dean's list

SPRINGFIELD—Western New England University takes immense pride in recognizing the outstanding academic achievements of over 750 students who have been named to the dean's list for the fall 2024 semester. The following local students were named to the dean's list:

Danielle Deangelis of Amherst, Robert Wargulewski of Amherst, Allison Kotowski of Belchertown, Calahan Orzech of Belchertown, Cameron Burnham of Belchertown, Heather Herrick of Belchertown,

Kiley Queiros of Belchertown, Lauren Burby of Belchertown, Mason Rodrigues of Belchertown, Ryan Priestly of Belchertown, Shay O'Neill of Belchertown, Alexander Galusha of Granby, Andrew Feldman of Granby, Briyanna Coelho of Granby, Natalie Furman of Granby, Nolan Raymond of Granby, Sophia Gagnon of Granby and Jack Hartling of Granby.

### WNE fall 2024 semester president's list

SPRINGFIELD—Western New England University takes immense pride in recognizing the outstanding academic achievements of over 640 students who have been named to the president's list for the fall 2024 semester. The following local students were named to the president's list:

Alyssa Keeler of Belchertown, Brandie Dumais of Granby, Brody Dugger of Belchertown, Caitlin Bradshaw of Belchertown, Connor Asselin of Granby, Corey Rondeau of Granby, Cylie Kirejczyk of Granby, Dylan Laramee of Granby, Ivan Stewart of Amherst, John Gelinis of Belchertown, Jordan Croteau of Granby, Joshua Grillo of Belchertown, Laura Hastings of Belchertown, Lindsey Chrabaszcz of Belchertown, Natalie Loudon of Belchertown, Nicholas Parker of Granby, Nicholas Adzima of Belchertown, Nicole Hubbard of Belchertown, Olivia Applegate of Belchertown, Sara Morley of Belchertown, Tara Richards of Belchertown and Tyler Borrell of Amherst.

### Buckowski named to Curry College Fall Dean's List

Curry College congratulates Ellery Buckowski of Belchertown, who was named to the Fall 2024 Dean's List.

## 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](mailto:sentinel@turley.com).



**UNION** from page 1

and Girard was voted in last here, and is on his second term.

“The members here, and the high standards they hold themselves to, it’s an honor to be elected into that kind of position.”

Nate Marean, Vice President of the Belchertown Firefighter’s Association, has held the position since he was elected last year, but has been a member of the association for 9 years.

All of the firefighters are involved in the association, and it deals with fundraising for the needs of the department.

“The association is comprised of not only members who are active, but past, and I think it is a good sort of family to keep everyone together and in contact with past members, keeping the family alive,” said Marean.

“The main goal of the association is to support both the fire department and, and the members of the fire department. We have the ability to help the members with what they need, like helping them get through a challenging thing in their lives.”

The Firefighter’s Association is a non-profit 501c3 organization, and it works to raise money for the department. Its main fundraiser is the Belchertown Fair, and they are looking to host a golf tournament in the falls.

The community can help the association by participating in the raffle at the fair every year and can also send in monetary donations to the Belchertown Fire Association’s PO Box 1043 at the post office.

The association also runs the museum, and members take people through the museum to give them a tour of the old firefighting gear. You can reach out about the museum on the association’s Facebook page.

“The members here are always willing to give a tour of the station and museum,” said Will Ingram, a member of the union and association.

The association also holds a Stop Drop and Roll Program through SAFE, which is a federally-funded grant that allows them to go into the schools every year for grades 2-5 to teach them about fire safety.

The department also has a junior vol-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The members of the department at the tree lighting with a cocoa stand, celebrating a successful No Shave November.

unteers program, and it is where kids aged 13 to 18 can come in and take part in basic-level training to get an idea of the job before committing. Although the department is not currently accepting new JV’s, it is still a wonderful opportunity.

While the union and association each have their own differences, they work towards the common goal of ensuring the firefighters have what they need to function well as a team.

However, this is a very important season for the department as the budget comes out in just five short months.

Two years ago, the department received the Safer Grant, a federal grant that provides fire departments with funding for staffing, and Belchertown was granted enough for six additional personnel, one for each shift to respond to fire and medical emergencies, 24/7.

However, once the three-year grant is used up, which will happen at the end of February 2026, the town will have to find these positions, but it has to go up to vote in order to fund these six personnel.

If the funding of these six doesn’t pass, it will greatly affect the ability of

the department to provide for the community, and it won’t be able to provide as much ambulance and fire coverage.

“We would have to rely on our call staff, and the way it is now, it is very difficult to have people come in. If we lost those people, it would be very detrimental to the town and the services we provide,” said Ingram.

The Selectboard Approval Meeting coming up in May, just two weeks before Town Meeting, will be when this vote is held, and it is a very important moment for the department.

“One of the biggest concerns on our minds is staffing, and while maintaining the staffing is important, I think it’s also important to talk about how there’s 6 people who are here for the past three years. There’s a cost to the town if we lose them,” said Marean.

“A lot of the people who have come on the department, they have become community members, and if we send them away, we’ll lose those members,” said Marean.

“If we lose those 6 members, it will really affect the services we are able to provide for the town,” said Girard.

“My favorite part about working with the people here is that we have a good sense of family, and we can make some pretty cool things happen for the community. We have a very special and talented group here for this town,” said Ingram.

“If I were telling someone new coming in, I’d tell them they need a lot of compassion for what you do, and for the people that you serve,” said Ingram. “We serve a lot of people during their worst days, so a lot of compassion goes a long way.”

“Flexibility, too. It’s very difficult, or impossible to plan for what’s going to happen or fall in, so being prepared and ready for and adapting to anything at any time is really important,” said Marean.

“If anybody wants to see what we do behind the scenes, just contact our fire chief, and we would be more than happy to show people what we do,” said Girard.

The fire department is here for us, helping us on some of our darkest of days, and these invaluable services are what make this team so essential to our community.

**GARDEN** from page 6

Installing the lights of your choice with reflectors or “mirrors” will maximize intensity, and suspending the whole system with chains from the ceiling will make for easy raising as your seedlings grow.

If you plan to grow just a few seedlings and don’t want to invest in lights, try positioning them in front of an unshaded south window. Turn

the seedling flats numerous times during the day to promote straight, stocky growth. Plants that are tall and spindly indicate light intensity is too low.

Please give heat mats and supplemental lights a try, especially if you haven’t been successful with indoor seed sowing in the past. This could turn the page of a new chapter of growing for you!

*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.*



**Oldies from The Estate**

**WE BUY & SELL ALL TYPES OF STUFF FROM A TO Z. COSTUME JEWELRY, FURNITURE, COINS, COLLECTIONS, WATCHES, TOYS, SILVER, ETC.**

Contact Bill or Beth **413-543-6065**  
 email: [oldiesfrom@aol.com](mailto:oldiesfrom@aol.com)  
 45 Parker Street, Indian Orchard  
 Wed.-Fri. 10-4:30, Sat. 10-2:30, Closed Sun. - Tues.

# CLIENT TESTIMONIAL

“After the loss of my wife, selling our home was an emotional experience. Maureen made the process not only manageable but comforting. Her kindness, attention to detail, and professionalism were extraordinary. Thanks to her dedication, the house sold quickly and smoothly. I will always be grateful for the care and compassion she and her broker, Paul Gallagher, showed during such a difficult time.”

— Jim D.

**Maureen McGarrett Hall**

REALTOR®

MA 9585138 | Member MLS | Equal Opportunity Housing



[maureen.gogallagher.com](http://maureen.gogallagher.com)  
**413-364-4994**  
[realtybymaureen@gmail.com](mailto:realtybymaureen@gmail.com)



# QHMA seeks nominations for 2025 Choice Awards

**PALMER** – The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce, the non-profit organization that promotes business, development and tourism within surrounding communities of Hampden, Hampshire, and Worcester counties, is seeking nominations for its 2025 Choice Awards.

Award categories include: Community Hero and Educator of the Year, as well as Food/Drink and Retail Establishment of the Year. The Chamber will also be recognizing a member Business and Volunteer of the Year at a special event on May 1 at Teresa's Restaurant in Ware honoring this year's recipients.

"We are thrilled for the return of the Chamber's annual Choice Awards event. And to specifically shine a spotlight on the difference making individuals and businesses that help make our communities so special," said James Przypek, Chief Executive Officer of the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce.

Nominations can be submitted on the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce official website, qhma.com from now and until Jan. 31. While online voting for this year's winners will be conducted from Feb. 1 through March 16.

The criteria for specific categories are:

**Community Hero of the Year** – An individual (citizen, resident, veteran, first responder) who has gone above and beyond via a single outstanding act within the last 12 months, or a series of contributions over an extended period for the betterment of their community. The indi-

vidual must reside or have performed their act or work within the Quaboag Hills 15 member communities.

**Educator of the Year** – An individual who has positively impacted the school (public, regional, private or independent) and the students for which they work. The individual must reside, or the school for which they work must be located within the Quaboag Hills 15 member communities.

**Food/Drink Establishment of the Year** – An outstanding local food and drink establishment such as a restaurant, winery, brewery, cidery or any other food and/or drink venue where product(s) can be consumed on-site.

**Retail Establishment of the Year** – An outstanding store or business physically located within, or whose online operations is based within the Quaboag Hills 15 member communities, that provides customers with goods or services.

## About the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce

Established in 1978 and headquartered in Palmer, the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce's purpose is to advance economic growth, interests and tourism for our members through policies, programs and development in the Quaboag Hills region, including the 15 towns of Belchertown, Brimfield, Brookfield, East Brookfield, Hardwick, Holland, Monson, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Palmer, Spencer, Wales, Ware, Warren and West Brookfield.

## Belchertown AG Comm winter meeting

**BELCHERTOWN**— The Belchertown Agricultural commission annual winter farmer meeting will be held on Jan. 18 at 1 p.m., at the Town Hall, 2 Jabish St. Please join for an informative afternoon of speakers 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 meeting is open to all landowners in the area, not just Belchertown.

## CENTER from page 1

However, there are people in this world who care deeply, and representing these children and acting as a voice and support is the Children's Advocacy Center.

Executive Director Kara McElhone and Operations Manager Emma Folkins are two members of the center that work hard to ensure that everyone who enters the center is given love, care, and whatever they need.

"These kinds of things happen in communities everywhere, and we can be there to provide help for them," said McElhone.

CAC's main office is in Northampton, and it provides services all across Hampshire County, and now has a new office located in Belchertown.

CAC is available and ready to help any child who has experienced abuse or assault, where they can find a team of two licensed therapists, two advocates, a pediatric sexual assault nurse, and others to help make this possible.

The advocates at the Center are responsible for helping kids feel safe and comfortable and work with the child and caregiver to find the resources they need.

"Their goal is to help this family disclose the abuse, and make sure their voices are heard in the process," said McElhone.

At the Northampton location, the first step after a report is made is the child sits with a trained interviewer to share their story of what happened.

In order to avoid more emotional duress, the child tells the story once, with law enforcement, DCF, and other people needed listening in another room to the conversation.

Next, depending on the child's story, the CAC advocates help direct the child and caregiver to resources like medical care if needed, as well as resources for moving, and the teams determine together with DCF and



The therapy room with bright colors, toys to play with, and comfy couches to sit on.

law enforcement the steps for criminal prosecution.

"Our primary goal is to help the child grow up to be happy and healthy," said McElhone.

McElhone has been director of the CAC for five years now and works hard to ensure that children's voices are heard in all capacities.

The CAC also provides free therapy in the form of trauma counselling through TFCBT, Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy.

"The therapy we are providing is aimed at the trauma experiences, and helping kids move past that trauma," McElhone explained.

The CAC also provides prevention and training for schools and community centers. Although not related to Title IX, these trainings are beneficial in helping to see and help victims of abuse. They also provide training for online safety for kids, parents, and educators.

"It's a real honor to be a part of the process that helps kids

A reminder that the CAC is a safe place where emotions are ok to be felt.

get the help they need," said McElhone. "Working alongside the kids is a great privilege, and being able to see them be brave and share what happened to them is a huge thing."

The CAC is a nonprofit organization that relies on the grants it receives from the state and federal governments, as well as the United Way grant and donations from the community.

You can donate money or gift cards to the CAC that will allow them to help the families in a timely way without having to store items, which they are unable to do.

April, which is recognized as National Child Abuse Prevention Month as well as Sexual Assault Awareness Month, is when the CAC hosts a This Little Light of Mine luminaries event at Look Park in Northampton, as well as a flag raising in Belchertown, dates to be announced.

"We try really hard to make sure we can provide what the kids need, but most importantly, to help them know that they will get better," said McElhone.

You can find the Child Advocacy Center's website for more information on resources and events at [www.cachampshire.org](http://www.cachampshire.org). You can contact them through email at [info@cachampshire.org](mailto:info@cachampshire.org), or phone call at 413-570-5989.



Sometimes a book, a squishy pillow, or a weighted lizard is what you need on a hard day.

**LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET!**

**INFLATION**

**PRICE BUSTERS**

**PRICES IN RED ARE AT OR BELOW LAST YEAR'S PRICES!**

<p>USDA INSP. FRESH COUNTRY STYLE POR RIBS..... <b>\$2.55</b> lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN BONE-IN CENTER CUT PORK LOIN CHOPS..... <b>\$2.49</b> lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH PORK SIRLOIN CUTLETS.. <b>\$2.17</b> lb</p> <p>SLICED IN OUR DELI TURKEY BREAST ..... <b>\$3.99</b> lb</p> <p>SLICED IN OUR DELI MUEENSTER CHEESE..... <b>\$5.99</b> lb</p> <p><b>TAILGATE TIME!</b></p> <p>USDA INSP. STORE MADE BONELESS KOREAN BBQ MARINATED PORK BUTT STRIPS ..... <b>\$3.35</b> lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. STORE MADE FRESH BONELESS SHAVED STEAK..... <b>\$7.99</b> lb</p>	<p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF RIB EYE WHOLE OR HALF CUT FREE <b>\$9.77</b> lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF STRIP LOIN STEAKS <b>\$7.77</b> lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY 80% LEAN GROUND BEEF <b>\$3.99</b> 7 LB BAG</p>	<p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP ROUND ROAST or STEAKS..... <b>\$4.99</b> lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS &amp; SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST 10 LB BAG..... <b>\$1.91</b> lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS 10 LB BAG <b>77c</b> lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN HOWELLS JAMMY JOEYS CAKES 6.7 OZ..... <b>99c</b> ea</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN SALMON FILLETS..... <b>\$6.99</b> lb</p>
---	--	--

**90 Meat Outlet**

**HOURS:** Mon. - Wed. 8-4  
Thurs. 8-6 • Fri. 8-6 • Sat. 8-3

90 Avocado St. Springfield  
**413-737-1288**  
[www.90meat.com](http://www.90meat.com)

We reserve the right to limit quantities.

BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE

SALE DATES: 1/16/25-1/22/25

Whether you're buying or selling,...

it's a **WIN! WIN!**

**in the CLASSIFIEDS!**

**413.283.8393 • [classifieds@turley.com](mailto:classifieds@turley.com)**

**24 Water St., Palmer • 80 Main St., Ware**

# SPORTS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

www.sports.turley.com

## Early goals hold up as Lions win two straight

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

WEST SPRINGFIELD—The Ludlow hockey team was able to post back-to-back shutout victories in a span of 48 hours last week.

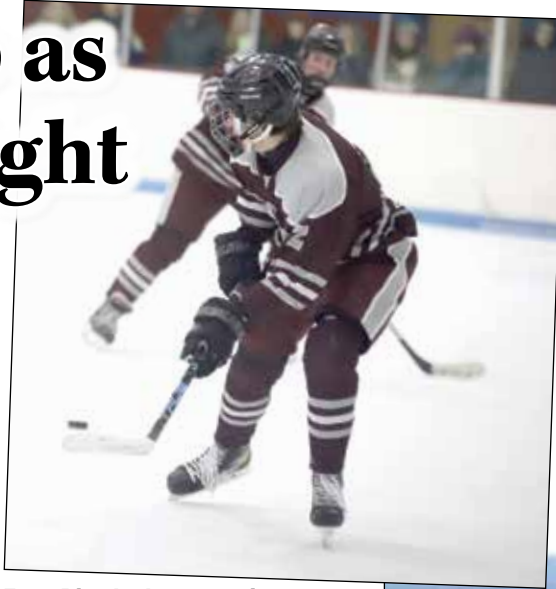
Sophomore goalie Peter LeBorgne only had to make five saves in Ludlow's 1-0 non-conference victory against the Amherst Hurricanes at Orr Rink located on the Amherst College campus on January 7.

Junior goalie Donald Rogers was the starting goalie in the Lions first meeting of the regular season against Berry Division rival Longmeadow last

Thursday night. He was credited with a total of 24 saves as the Lions defeated the Lancers, 3-0, at the Olympia Ice Center in West Springfield.

"Peter is a very good goalie and we've been sharing the starting duties so far this season," said Rogers, who recorded the second shutout of his varsity hockey career against the Lancers. "The defensemen really helped me out a lot in tonight's game by pushing everything off to the side so I could see the puck better."

Rogers, who's a student at Belchertown High School, joined the Ludlow hockey team this winter as part of a first year



Evan Dias looks to receive a pass from behind.



Tannar Severyn heads up the ice.

co-op between the two neighboring high schools.

Please see **HOCKEY**, page 12



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI  
Jack Mandeville plays tight defense.



Nicholas Deroin breaks away from a defender with the puck.



Owen Kumiega eyes an open teammate as he crosses into the offensive zone.

## Orioles struggle against Tigers



Kyle Dunigan drives toward the hoop.



Brice Letendre makes his way down the court.



SOUTH HADLEY – The Belchertown High School boys basketball team lost to South Hadley to start the season. More recently, the Orioles have had a four-game winning streak. It was broken up by South Hadley last Wednesday with a 71-48

Kaden Czaporoski looks for another route to the hoop.

decision. Belchertown was led by Shea MacLean and Jacob Pacunas with 11 points each. South Hadley, which had a great offensive game en route to its seventh win of the season, got 25 points from Noah Hambley, 13 points from Jack Loughrey, and 12 points from Jackson Driver. Belchertown is 4-4 this season.

## Granby falls at home to Monson

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent



TURLEY PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY  
WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM  
Brenna Moreno takes the short jump shot.

GRANBY—After losing the first four games of the regular season by more than 10 points, the members of the Monson girls basketball team finally celebrated a victory.

The young Lady Mustangs, who only have one senior listed on their roster, overcame an eight-point deficit to defeat Granby, 44-40, in a non-league game held at Sullivan Gymnasium, last Tuesday night.

"The kids have been very working hard, and it feels great to finally get a win. They really deserve it," said first-year Monson head coach Alyssa Darling. "We did trail for most of the game, but we never gave up."

Darling was a 1,000-point scorer during her outstanding high school basketball career

Please see **GRANBY**, page 23

SEE MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 11

TURLEY PHOTOS BY SOFIA DIGRANDE

SPORTS

# Pioneers cruising toward state tournament slot

PALMER – Last week, Pathfinder girls basketball tacked on two more victories, scoring wins over St. Mary’s and Hampden Charter School of Science. The Pioneers defeated St. Mary’s at home 49-37 last Tuesday, then went on the road to Chicopee and beat Hampden Charter soundly 50-24. With the wins, Pathfinder is now 6-1 on the season and look to continue the momentum on Jan. 16 when they play at Westfield Technical Academy at 6 p.m.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY  
WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM  
Addison Doktor goes for a shot.



Ciara Green keeps her dribble away from the opponent.



Megan Clark goes for the free throw.



Taylor Allen starts her way down the court.



Greenly Lagimoniere attempts a three-pointer.

# Thunderbirds reach .500 with road win

HARTFORD — The Springfield Thunderbirds (15-15-2-1) rode spectacular performances by Simon Robertsson and Colten Ellis to a 3-1 win over the Hartford Wolf Pack (16-16-2-1) on Sunday inside the XL Center.

The opening period yielded a scarce amount of chances for the two squads, as Ellis and Dylan Garand were each a perfect 8-for-8 in save opportunities. Dalibor Dvorsky came the closest of the two teams to breaking the scoreless tie when he wristed a forehand off the post on the stick side.

The Wolf Pack, which scored only once in their last three games on home ice, broke the ice at 3:37 of the second as Ryder Korczak cashed a 3-on-2 rush with his third of the season to give the visitors a 1-0 advantage. That Hartford lead lasted less than three minutes as Robertsson evened the slate at 6:20 with a backhand rebound after Garand denied an initial shot from Corey Schueneman.

With the 1-1 score carrying into the period’s final minute, Springfield got a tie-breaking goal from a rookie for the second straight evening. Robertsson was nearing the end of a shift but gutted it out with an incredible individual effort to split between two Wolf Pack defenseman before drubbing a forehand shot through Garand’s legs at 19:08. The rookie’s first career multi-goal game in the AHL gave the T-Birds the 2-1 lead heading into the third.

Ellis was the star of the show in a final period that saw the Wolf Pack relentlessly attack the Springfield goal. Time after time, the young backstop had an answer, racking up 19 third period saves, with a little help from his post along the way on a near-tying goal from Jaroslav Chmelar.

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

HOCKEY from page 11

“It has been a lot of fun playing hockey for this team,” Rodgers added. “The Belchertown guys always talk with the Ludlow players about the games that we played against them in the past.”

When Rogers was a freshman, he posted a 2-0 shutout against Amherst in the Western Mass. Class B semifinals. The Orioles then lost to the Lions in the Western Mass. finals.

The other Belchertown students listed on this year’s Ludlow hockey roster are freshman Andrew Lambert, senior Charlie Fijal, sophomore William Mitus, senior Owen Hess, sophomore Gavin Harrington, and senior Jack Mandeville.

Lambert, and Mandeville are defensemen, along with senior Ryan Goodwin, senior Nick Staeb, and junior Sean Kefalas.

“The Belchertown hockey team struggled a little bit defensively last year and I would get peppered with a lot of shots in every game,” said Rogers, who has always been a goalie. “It does feel very nice to have a strong defense playing in front of you this season.”

Rogers shared the starting

duties with Curtis Wojnas a year ago at Belchertown. Wojnas is currently a member of the hockey team at Wilbraham & Monson Academy.

The Ludlow hockey team celebrated a victory against Longmeadow for the first time in several years.

“I think we haven’t beaten Longmeadow in about five years,” said Ludlow head coach Paul Rivest. “This is a huge win for us because it was against a Berry Division opponent. It’ll also help us in the power rankings. These kids have worked very hard, and I think we’re capable of competing against any team in our Division.”

The back-to-back shutout victories pushed the Lions overall season record to 4-3-1. They also had a 2-3-1 record against Berry Division opponents. Only the top four teams in the Berry Division standings will qualify for this year’s Western Mass. Class A tournament.

The Lions took a 1-0 lead against the Lancers (2-5-2, 1-5-1) three minutes into the opening period.

The scoring play began with junior Tannar Severyn delivering a pass to classmate AJ Stupak, who fired a shot past Longmeadow sophomore goalie



TURLEY PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI  
Sean Kefalas plays the puck on the defensive end.

Jackson Blais (21 saves) for his second goal of the season.

Stupak scored his first goal of the 2024-25 campaign during the third period of the Amherst game two days earlier.

The Lions managed to hold onto the 1-0 lead against Longmeadow until late in the third period.

Rogers didn’t have to make very many outstanding saves, but there was still a lot of pressure on him.

“We’ve been falling behind early in most of our games this season, so it did feel nice to take an early lead for a change,” Rogers said. “There was a lot of pressure on me because my teammates and the fans are expecting me to keep the 1-0 lead.”

Ludlow managed to kill a penalty in each period.

The Lions defense didn’t allow any shot attempts during the Lancers first power-play late

in the opening period.

The Lancers had another 5-on-4 opportunity in the middle of the second period and only had one shot on goal.

With 1:40 left in the second period, Fijal fired a shot from inside the left circle that deflected off the post, which kept the score 1-0 a little bit longer.

Ludlow, who didn’t have any power-plays during the match, managed to take a 2-0 lead when sophomore Evan Dias scored a goal with 4:49 remaining in regulation.

“Evan’s goal late in the third period definitely took a lot of the pressure off of me,” Rogers said. “It was a very nice goal by him. Then we scored an open net goal which made it a lot easier for me.”

The duo of Severyn and Stupak assisted on the Lions second goal.

After another Ludlow player was sent to the penalty box, Severyn scored an open net shorthanded goal following a shot from his own blue line, which sealed the Lions second consecutive shutout victory.

The Lions and Lancers are scheduled to face each other again at Olympia at 4:30pm on February 8.

**SPORTS**



Jacob Pacunas heads into the paint.

# Orioles struggle against Tigers

TURLEY PHOTOS  
BY SOFIA DIGRANDE

Shea MacLean shoots under pressure.



**T-BIRDS** from page 12

With Garand at the bench with just under two minutes remaining, Hugh McGing darted up the ice to cancel an icing and pound a loose puck into an empty net to end a 29-game

goal-scoring drought.

With four points in their pockets out of the weekend, the T-Birds look to build on their momentum on Wednesday night as they make their first visit to Bridgeport to take on the Islanders at 7 p.m. at Total Mortgage Arena.

# Bonsignore will participate in Xfinity Series races in 2025

Joe Gibbs Racing announced today that four-time NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour Champion Justin Bonsignore will drive the team's No. 19 Toyota GR Supra in five NASCAR Xfinity Series races in 2025.

Bonsignore made his Xfinity Series debut for JGR last June at New Hampshire Motor Speedway. Despite having no practice or qualifying laps, the Holtville, New York, native found his way into the top five before contact on a late-race restart relegated him to a 22nd-place finish.

The 36-year-old driver is no stranger to success on the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour. He has racked up 45 victories, 130 top-five finishes, 169 top-10s, 33 pole awards, and 5,442 laps led in 226 career starts. In 2024, Bonsignore posted five victories on the way to his fourth

career championship. He has not finished lower than fourth in the final rankings in the past nine seasons.

"When we had the opportunity to work with the Joe Gibbs Racing team at New Hampshire last year, it was a perfect pairing," Bonsignore said. "As soon as that weekend was over, we started looking at options to run a larger schedule in 2025 and it all came together. When you work with a team like JGR, you know you're going to have a car in contention to win every race you run. We're looking forward to having some fun and chasing trophies."

Bonsignore is looking to add his name to an impressive list of drivers who have won for the JGR Xfinity Series program. In the team's history, JGR owns 214 wins, including 10 in 2024. Since the team's inception, 23 different drivers

have taken JGR to victory lane in the Xfinity Series, including 14 drivers who claimed their first career victory in the series driving for JGR. The organization has won four Xfinity Series driver championships and six owner's championships.

"We're excited to have Justin back in our car in 2025," said Steve de Souza, Executive Vice President of Xfinity Series and Development for JGR. "He has proven himself over and over again in the modifieds and he did a great job for us at New Hampshire with no track time before the race started. We're looking forward to seeing what he can do with more opportunities to adapt to the Xfinity cars and working with the same team multiple times this season."

The No. 19 team's full driver schedule will be announced at a later date.

# Railers scored win over Wheeling Nailers

**WORCESTER** – The Worcester Railers HC (14-17-1-4 33pts) took down the Wheeling Nailers (25-7-2-0, 52pts), on Sunday afternoon by the final score of 2-1 in front of a crowd of 1,875 at WesBanco Arena. The Railers are back on the ice next at the DCU Center taking on the Adirondack Thunder on Friday, January 17th at 7:05 p.m. EST.

It was the Railers who struck first tonight as Justin Gill (1-1-2) scored 10:18 into the first period giving Worcester the 1-0 lead. The Railers extended their lead to 2-0 in the second period with a goal from Anthony Callin (1-0-1). Wheeling notched their first goal of the night 40 sec-

onds into the third period as Logan Pietila (1-0-1) cut the Wheeling deficit to one. The Railers held off Wheeling for the remainder of the third period, leading to a 2-1 final score.

Worcester logged the first goal of the night as Justin Gill (3rd) scored on a wrap-around goal 10:18 into the first period giving Worcester the 1-0 lead. Gill would be the only goal scorer through the first 20 minutes. Shots favored Wichita 13-9 in the first period.

Worcester extended their lead in the second period when Anthony Callin (9th) tapped Justin Gill's pass into the back of the net extended the Worcester lead to 2-0. Wheeling got the first power play opportunity of the game

following a slashing call on Worcester's Anthony Repaci, but the Railers penalty kill successfully killed the penalty off and kept the score at 2-0 heading into the third period. Shots favored Worcester in the second 17-10.

It didn't take long in the third period for Wheeling to cut into the Worcester lead, as Logan Pietila (4th) scored just 40 seconds into the third period. The Railers held Wheeling off the scoreboard for the remainder of the third period, including a late barrage of shots in which Michael Bullion made a flurry of saves to give Worcester the 2-1 win in regulation. Shots favored Wheeling in the third 11-3 and 34-29 in the game.



# Your Local BUSINESS CONNECTION

**TILTON AUTOMOTIVE**  
GENERAL REPAIRS  
3 AMHERST ROAD (RT. 9)  
BELCHERTOWN  
323-5051

**GET HITCHED AT AMHERST WELDING**  
TRAILER HITCHES SALES & REPAIRS  
Welding • Fabrication • Hydraulic Hoses & Hydraulic Repairs • Snow Plow • Sanders  
DID YOUR MAILBOX POST GET CRUNCHED THIS WINTER?  
Stop in and see our exclusive "Steel" retractable mailbox posts!  
**Amherst Welding, Inc.**  
(413) 253-4867  
330 BARKNESS ROAD, AMHERST, MA

**WE HAVE MOVED!**  
115 North Main, Belchertown  
**SWIFT RIVER HEATING & OIL COMPANY**  
Sheet Metal Fabrication Is Our Specialty  
• Automatic Fuel Delivery  
• 24 hr. Burner Service  
• Replacement of Furnaces & Boilers  
• New Construction & Renovations  
• New Customer Discounts  
**413-323-4123**

Complete A/C Service  
Glass Installations  
Used Cars • Windshields  
Expert Body & Fender Repair • Painting  
**REECE AUTO BODY**  
323-6664  
FREE ESTIMATES  
Old Springfield Road  
Belchertown  
Visa-Mastercard Accepted

**SEPTIC PUMPING**  
• pumping  
• new installation  
• repairs  
• Title 5 inspection  
Complete Septic Service LLC  
Jason Lafleur • David Kibbe  
**413-323-4327**

**\$1279** /each **SAVE 25%**  
**NAPA Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF)**  
2.5 gal.  
NAFNP002  
**Belchertown Auto Parts NAPA AUTO PARTS**  
116 FEDERAL STREET (RT.9) BELCHERTOWN, MA  
(413) 323-7661 OR 323-9296  
Get the Good Stuff

**ROBERTS ROOFS**  
SPECIALIZING IN  
Slate • Copper • Architectural Shingles • Gutters  
Historical Restoration • Flat Roofing • Snow Removal  
Tel. 413-283-4395 • Cell 413-237-9434  
**www.RobertsRoofsInc.com**  
Trusted Name Since 1982

Proud publishers of 12 community newspapers  
**Turley Publications, Inc.**  
www.turley.com  
Call Maureen at **413-283-8393** to advertise your business here

**OBITUARY**

**DEATH NOTICE**

**Hazel E. Ritter**  
Died Jan. 10, 2025  
Remembrance Jan. 18, 2025  
Beers & Story Belchertown  
Funeral Home

*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](mailto:obits@turley.com).

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

**Hazel E. Ritter (Squires)**

It is with a profound sense of loss that we announce the passing of Hazel E. Ritter (Squires), who departed this life on Jan. 10, 2025, at the age of 87 years, at her home in Belchertown, surrounded by her family.

Born on Jan. 22, 1937, in Belchertown, Hazel was a generous and kind soul, who was devoted to her family and loved by all who knew her. She was the beloved daughter of the late Louaine "Tob" and Almira "Myra" (Dodge) Squires and is predeceased by her siblings, Harold, Richard, Christine Bosworth, Winnie Bisinnet, Buddy, Emma Johnston, Mildred Stark, Lewis, and Roland. Hazel's early years were spent on the family farm, where she developed a lifelong love of animals, nature, and the great outdoors. Hazel devoted her life to helping others. She worked for many years as a residential supervisor at the Belchertown State School and was a passionate advocate of equity for the disabled. She is predeceased by her spouse, Donald "Tony" Ritter, with whom she spent 36 happy years in both Belchertown and Maine.

She is survived by her daughter, Mary & her husband James Gates, her

son Ronald Ritter & his wife Michelle, her grandchildren, Paul Ritter & his wife Carolyn, Jonathan Ritter & his wife Mandy, Joshua Gates & his wife Rose, Nicole Ritter & her husband Mike Gravity, Karen Gates, and Jacob Ritter & his wife Ellissa, as well as her great-grandchildren Tandin, Zachary, Bradley, Henry, George, Elizabeth "Beth", Zeke, and Jameson who brought immense joy to her life.



The family extends their heartfelt gratitude to all of the Baystate Hospice caregivers, who took phenomenal care Hazel and supported the family during her time of need.

All are welcome to come share your favorite memories, and stories about Hazel with her family on Saturday, Jan. 18 from 2 to 5 p.m. at 44 Johnson Road in Belchertown.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in her name to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or a charity of your choice. Beers & Story Belchertown Funeral Home was entrusted with the arrangements. For more information or to sign an online guest register please visit [www.beersandstory.com](http://www.beersandstory.com)

**REGION**

**NAMI to host annual meeting**

**HOLYOKE**— The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Western Massachusetts annual meeting will be held on Sunday, Jan. 19, beginning at 1 p.m. The special guest speaker will be Cristianna Borelli. Recently, she was invited to and competed at the National US/Woman of Achievement Pageant in Irvine, California this past November. She returned home with the national title of Ms US 2025, the first woman from New England to do so in the 10-year history of the pageant. She will present her dual platform of mental health advocacy, and suicide prevention to help, support, and empower people from all walks of life who have struggled with a mental health issue. Now, she is using her crown as a symbol and a tool to help others who struggle in silence regarding their mental health. Hear her inspiring words of hope.

This event is open to the public. Absentee ballots will be mailed only to NAMI-WM members who are eligible to vote. If the ballot has not been received by Jan. 13 please call the office. The ballots must be received in the office by Friday, Jan. 17. To register please go to [namiwm.org/events](http://namiwm.org/events) and click on the registration link or go directly to [Eventbrite.com](http://Eventbrite.com) and search for NAMI Western Mass. A Zoom link will be provided to those who are registered. For more information contact the office.

**NOTICE**

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

*in my*  
**BACKYARD**

By Ellenor Downer



Carolina wren

tle." They inhabit forest understorey, vines and woodlands in rural or suburban areas.

**Other Brimfield birds**

Other birds seen by the Brimfield resident beside the Carolina wren were four mourning doves, 20 American robins, 12 dark eyed juncos, one white-throated sparrow and two Northern cardinals. He said of the robins, "I first noticed one bird on the ground in the yard and 3 in a crab apple tree eating fruit. More flew into the tree then four on the ground foraging. More perched in a nearby tree." He also said, "We have ten crab apple trees in the yard and several of them have small fruit that is held on the tree into the winter."

**Flocks of robins**

In my travels last week, I saw flocks of robins on three occasions, twice in Barre and once in Oakham. The Oakham flock flew across the road and landed on the ground and in trees on the opposite side. The Brimfield resident reported his wife saw a flock of robins in the center of Brimfield eating crab apples near the post office twice in recent days. Christmas Bird Count

The Brimfield couple participated in the annual Christmas Bird Count in Ludlow. He said, "We had 31 species in Ludlow, lots fewer birds at the reservoir because there was about 90% ice coverage [Saturday] compared to 10% Friday."

**Suet cakes**

I put out my suet feeder last month. I waited long enough because I did not have a bear either break or run off with

Please see **BACKYARD**, page 15

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11		
12				13		14			15					
16				17		18			19					
20						21			22					
				23		24			25					
26	27	28	29					30						
31								32						
33									34	35	36	37	38	
				39	40	41		42	43					
			44	45				46						
			47					48						
49					50				51		52	53	54	55
56					57				58					
59					60					61				
62					63						64			

**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. This regulates cortisol production (abbr.)
- 5. People of northern Vietnam
- 8. Employee stock ownership plan
- 12. Regions
- 14. The center of a city
- 15. Hindu serpentine deity
- 16. Roared
- 18. Sun up in New York
- 19. "Sir" in Malaysian
- 20. Shrimp dish
- 21. Muckraker Tarbell
- 22. Apex
- 23. Harmonic effects
- 26. One of Babe Ruth's nicknames
- 30. Groups in organic chemistry
- 31. More pleasant-tasting
- 32. Spring forward

**CLUES DOWN**

- 33. Noted writer
- 34. Building occupied by monks
- 39. "The world's most famous arena"
- 42. Colorless liquid hydrocarbon
- 44. Long or fast speech
- 46. Things you can eat
- 47. Substance in which magnetic moments are not aligned
- 49. Actor Idris
- 50. I (German)
- 51. Taxes
- 56. Indonesian island
- 57. Nuisance (slang)
- 58. Shawl
- 59. Digits
- 60. Moved on foot quickly
- 61. "For goodness \_\_\_"
- 62. Facial body part
- 63. Russian river
- 64. Urinates

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Partner to "oohs"
- 2. Scaly water dweller
- 3. Pueblo people of New Mexico
- 4. Music producer Teo
- 5. Greek mythological goddess
- 6. Got together to discuss
- 7. Acquires
- 8. Involve
- 9. Some are tomato-based
- 10. Old Irish alphabets
- 11. A sheet of glass in a window or door
- 13. Blood poisoning
- 17. A moon of Saturn
- 24. Neither
- 25. Sums
- 26. They follow "A"
- 27. Satisfaction
- 28. People of southeastern Burma
- 29. Small amount
- 35. Guy (slang)
- 36. Sound unit
- 37. Midway between northeast and east
- 38. Affirmative
- 40. Almost at the top
- 41. Extremely slow
- 42. Pearl Jam's debut album
- 43. Influential mid-century playwright
- 44. Martens
- 45. Approval
- 47. Dallas-adjacent Texas city
- 48. African nation
- 49. Dark brown or black
- 52. A place to get caught
- 53. Large-headed, elongated fish
- 54. Type of sword
- 55. Scottish tax or levy

~ **DORSEY MEMORIALS** ~

- Monuments & Cemetery Lettering • 707 Main St., Amherst, MA • 413-253-5212
- Civic Memorials & Custom Designs • [www.DorseyMemorials.com](http://www.DorseyMemorials.com)

*You can count on Dorsey Memorials to guide you through the Memorial Stone Process.*

**Haluch's**  
MEMORIALS

**Cemetery Memorials + Markers  
Granite Benches  
Religious Statuary + Outdoor Display**

**RAY HALUCH INC.**  
1014 Center St | Ludlow, MA | 583-6508

[haluchsmemorials.com](http://haluchsmemorials.com)

## ■ BUSINESS

# Physical therapist offers program to help with chronic pain

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

BELCHERTOWN – Chronic pain is something that many of us may struggle with, and there are many instances where the regularly prescribed medications, physical therapy, or massage therapy just doesn't cut it.



Linda Coffey

However, Physical Therapist Linda Coffey has created a new program that will help persistent and chronic pain through a four-month, nine-session course to discuss a variety of topics that can help.

Coffey provided a free information session at the Belchertown Recreation Department on Jan. 9, and several people attended to learn more about her beneficial program.

The course will teach people what chronic pain is, and different ways to manage and treat it. Pain is an alarm system that comes from our brains and sent to our body to compel us to change our behavior and is very sensitive.

There are two kinds of pain; acute pain is a normal and immediate response to pain signals, has an identified cause, an expected healing timeline, and it goes away over time.

The second kind of pain, persistent or chronic pain, deals with measurable

**“With really persistent chronic pain, just dealing with the state of the tissues is not helpful.”**

– Linda Coffey

changes in the central nervous system, and diagnostic labels like “back pain” or “leg pain” may not have anything to do with what the actual diagnosis is.

Chronic pain has been shown with studies to increase with age, and it may wax and wane with the presence of the pain, but it always lasts longer than the expected healing time.

Throughout the history of medicine, it was always thought that pain meant tissue damage, but in reality, “Pain is not an accurate tissue damage reporter,” said Coffey.

When you think of pain, you must consider it through what is called the biopsychosocial model, which is central and peripheral sensation, but it's also mental.

The mental side of persistent pain includes past experiences, mood, anxiety, depression, and attention disorders.

Persistent pain is not just tissue damage, but it can also be stress, systemic or local inflammation, neuroplasticity, thoughts and emotions, sleep and circadian rhythm, or an overprotective pain system.

“With really persistent chronic pain, just dealing with the state of the tissues is not helpful,” said Coffey. “Different types of tissues heal in different ways.”

One of the ways we cure persistent

pain is by restoring normal systems biology, which involves care of the immune system, inflammation, nutrients, microbiome, sleep, Circadian Rythm, and managing stress and toxins.

Regulating, treating, and managing persistent pain is a lifestyle approach, and may even involve some changes to your regular routine or life.

“Learning about how the pain system works is the first step in influencing persistent pain,” said Coffey. “Understanding the pain system as a danger signal is important to understanding why your system triggers pain.”

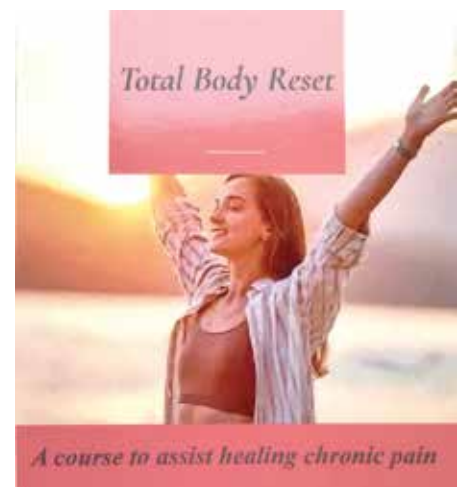
Neuroplasticity, the study of how our brains physically change with new information, and how it can continue to be changes.

In the end, the most important things to remember about pain is that pain does not mean tissue damage, findings on imaging often don't match the pain felt, the brain makes the pain- acute or persistent, and while pain is a protector it can become overprotective, and you can retrain your brain and restore a normal pain response.

“This is very needed,” said Coffey. “There are people with life-changing chronic pain who are really suffering. If we change certain things in our environment, it can really change us and our mental state.”

However, people can become very attached to their lifestyles, and this kind of change is something that you should be ready for, and needs to be thought through.

Over the course of two years, Coffey took the time to research and use science as well as her degrees in physical therapy



A copy of the brochure for the Total Body Reset program created by Linda Coffey.

and functional medicine, as well as being inspired by individual patients' needs she's worked with.

The class across its nine sessions is a small group, in-person course made for about 4-10 people with average meetings of about an hour and a half.

The enrollment process ends on Feb. 1, and the course begins officially on Feb. 6. It will include teaching, group interaction, sharing, and homework.

The total cost of the course is \$450, and it is a fraction of what it would cost for all of these services on an individual therapy session.

You can email Linda Coffey at [drindacoffeypt@gmail.com](mailto:drindacoffeypt@gmail.com) for more information about this new and beneficial program.

## BACKYARD from page 14

the feeder. The birds are busy eating suet especially during this cold weather.

### New Hampshire Loon Preservation Committee

The New Hampshire Loon Preservation Committee reported in 2024 they surveyed 498 occupied or potential loon territories on 327 lakes to assess presence/absence and breeding success of loons and the success of LPC's management to help them. They documented the presence of 359 loon pairs and 126 unpaired adult loons. They also floated a record 156 nest rafts to help loon pairs displaced from their traditional nest sites by shoreline development, recreational lake use and water level fluctuations. They also installed signs and rope lines at 135 nesting loon pair locations.

They banded 57 loons and rescued 38 loons in distress and a result of illness or injury. The Loon Preservation Committee continued to expand their lead tackle buyback program. Ingestion of lost lead tackle by fisherman remained the cause of lead poisoning in the loon population. There were six documented deaths due to lead poisoning, two loon deaths from trauma due to boat strikes and two loon deaths due to entanglement in fishing gear in 2024.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing [mybackyard88@aol.com](mailto:mybackyard88@aol.com) or [edowner@turley.com](mailto:edowner@turley.com) or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

## Civil Air Patrol Cadet promoted

AMHERST - Belchertown resident Tucker Almeida, 12, a cadet member of the Civil Air Patrol, U.S. Air Force Auxiliary, earned the Feik Achievement and was promoted to Cadet Senior Airman on Monday, December 16th at the Brig. Gen. Arthur J. Pierce Squadron weekly meeting in Amherst, MA.

“Cadet Almeida works hard,” said Lieutenant Laurie Stewart, the Unit's Commanding Officer.

“This achievement is well-earned.”

On hand to pin on his new insignia were his parents, Kelly and Jeff.

Cadet Almeida attends Jabish Brook Middle School in Belchertown, MA.

The Feik Achievement is named for Colonel Mary Feik, who is credited with becoming the first woman engineer in research and development in the Air Technical Service Command's Engineering Division. In addition to logging more than 5,000 hours as a B-29 flight engineer, engineering observer and pilot in fighter, attack, bomber, cargo and training aircraft, she also designed high-performance and jet fighter pilot transition trainers. Feik authored pilot training manuals and technical engineering reports that were distributed throughout the armed forces.

The Brigadier General Arthur J. Pierce Cadet Squadron meets on Monday evenings from 6 to 8:30 p.m. in Amherst, MA.

Civil Air Patrol is the auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force and as such is a valued member of its Total Force. In its auxiliary role, CAP operates a fleet of 560 single-engine aircraft and more than 2,100 small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS). It performs about 90 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and is credited by the AFRCC with saving an average of 82 lives annually. CAP's 56,000 members also perform homeland security, disaster relief and drug interdiction missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. Operating as a nonprofit organization, CAP also plays a leading role in STEM/aerospace education, and its members serve as mentors to more than 23,000 young people participating in CAP's Cadet Programs.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Tucker Almeida's parents, Kelly and Jeff pin his new insignia.

WE'VE EXPANDED OUR WEB SITE  
**PUBLIC NOTICES**  
ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to [notices@turley.com](mailto: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.

VISIT  
[www.publicnotices.turley.com](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)

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



# Hampden Charter School of Science: Empowering Students for a Brighter Future

Are you searching for a school where academic excellence meets a supportive community? Hampden Charter School of Science (HCSS) is a top-ranked, tuition-free public charter school serving grades 6-12 in Western Massachusetts. Since its founding in 2009, HCSS has been dedicated to preparing students for college, careers, and a lifetime of success.

### Why Choose HCSS?

HCSS stands out as a premier choice for families because of its unique combination of academic rigor, personalized attention, and community spirit. Our two campuses—the Middle School in West Springfield (Grades 6-8) and the High School in Chicopee (Grades 9-12)—offer students a seamless transition from middle school to high school and beyond. Here's what makes HCSS truly exceptional:

**Academic Excellence:** Our rigorous curriculum is guided by College Board AP standards and Common Core. With honors courses beginning in 7th grade, 14 AP offerings in high school, and innovative programs like Project Lead The Way

(PLTW), students are challenged to reach their full potential.

**Comprehensive College and Career Preparation:** HCSS begins college and career readiness as early as 6th grade, including early SAT/PSAT prep, dual enrollment opportunities, and experiential college campus visits. With a 100% college acceptance rate and over \$51M in scholarships awarded since 2013, our graduates are set for success.

**State-of-the-Art Technology:** Students benefit from one-to-one Chromebook access, SMART Interactive Displays, and hands-on science labs, preparing them for a tech-driven world.

**Award-Winning Extracurriculars:** From robotics and science clubs to competitive athletics and social activities, students thrive outside the classroom as well.

### Join Us for an Open House!

Explore what HCSS has to offer during our upcoming Welcome Saturday Open House events! Meet our dedicated staff, tour our campuses, and learn how HCSS can help your child achieve their dreams. Interested families can also join

a Virtual Information Session for an in-depth look at our programs from the comfort of home.

### What Parents and Students Love About HCSS

Parents and students consistently praise HCSS for its nurturing environment, where every student feels valued and supported. The school's commitment to diversity and inclusion fosters a vibrant community that celebrates different perspectives and cultures. Families also appreciate the convenience of free transportation and extensive tutoring services, ensuring all students have the tools they need to succeed.

### Student Success Stories

HCSS alumni have gone on to attend prestigious universities, including Ivy League institutions like Harvard, Columbia, and Dartmouth. Our students' achievements are a testament to the school's dedication to academic and personal growth. With a consistent college matriculation rate of over 95%, HCSS prepares students not just to attend col-

lege but to excel once they get there.

### How to Apply

Applications for the 2025-2026 school year are now open! Rising 6th-10th graders should apply no later than March 2, 2025, to secure a spot in our admission lottery. Visit [www.hampdencharter.org](http://www.hampdencharter.org) to apply and take the first step toward a brighter future.

At Hampden Charter School of Science, we believe every student deserves a world-class education. Join our community of learners, achievers, and leaders today—because your child's future begins here!

Agawam, Holyoke, Westfield, West Springfield Chicopee, Ludlow, Springfield

### HCSS High School

20 Johnson Rd. Chicopee, MA 01022 | Tel. 413-593-9090, Fax. 413-294-2648

### HCSS Middle School

511 Main Street West Springfield, MA 01089, Tel.413-278-5450

**HAMPDEN CHARTER SCHOOL OF SCIENCE**

**ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR GRADE 6-10**

**Why Hampden Charter School of Science?**

- NO COST
- FREE TRANSPORTATION
- COLLEGE-PREP EDUCATION
- TECHNOLOGY IN CLASSROOM
- EXCELLENCE IN ACADEMICS
- ATHLETICS
- ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES and CLUBS
- 100% COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE

**WELCOME SATURDAYS**

**11:00 AM - 1:00PM**

January 4th  
January 11th  
February 1st  
February 8th  
March 1st

**VISIT:**  
**WWW.HAMPDENCHARTER.ORG**

**APPLY NOW / DEADLINE** → **MARCH 2, 2025**

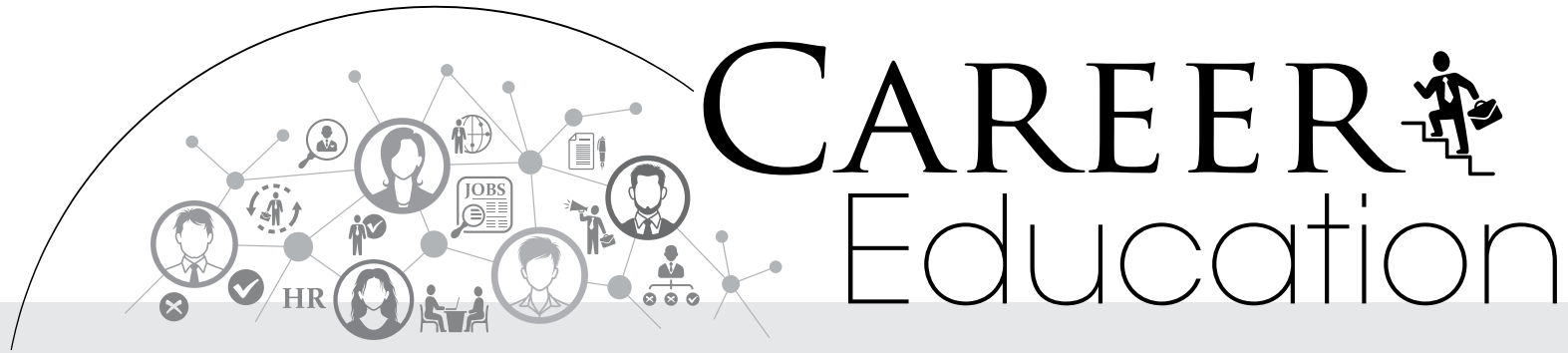
**BEST HIGH SCHOOLS USNews RANKINGS 2024**

**2024 NICHE BEST SCHOOLS**

**AP HONOR ROLL PLATINUM**

**AP ACCESS AWARD**





# CAREER Education



## WELDING

- Real hands-on experience
- Includes on site and off site internship
- State of the art facilities renovated in 2022 including a robotic arm

Gateway's Welding program is a Chapter 74 vocational education program that prepares students for a career in Metal Fabrication and Welding!



[www.grsd.org](http://www.grsd.org)



**JOIN US!**  
Apply today!

## EARLY EDUCATION & CARE



At Gateway you can join our Early Education and Care program (EEC) in 9th grade!  
By the time you graduate, you will be ready, certified, and prepared to work with young learners!



You will also be on track to:

- Know how to plan engaging activities and lessons
- Have CPR & First Aid certification
- Experience awesome internship opportunities



Visit:  
[www.grsd.org](http://www.grsd.org)  
for more information!



## GATEWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT INVITES YOU TO JOIN US! [WWW.GRSD.ORG](http://WWW.GRSD.ORG)



Nestled in the foothills of the Berkshires, Gateway Regional School District offers a caring and supportive small school environment. With support from the Barr Foundation, Gateway is engaging in transformative work to reinvent the school experience to make learning joyful for every student. Each GRSD school has a focus that aligns with the district's vision of emphasizing real-world learning, collaboration, and innovation.



### Littleville Elementary School

- incorporates engaging, hands-on projects and events:
- Hartford Wolf Pack School Learning Day
  - Springfield Symphony Orchestra string instrument workshop
  - Holiday Craft fair
  - Interactive "Author's Experience" with writer Daryl Cobb.

Gateway Regional School's (grades 6-12) pilot program will equip student for success after high school through:

- Fun team-building activities
- College tours
- Career exploration with experts
- Life-skills workshops
- Community projects

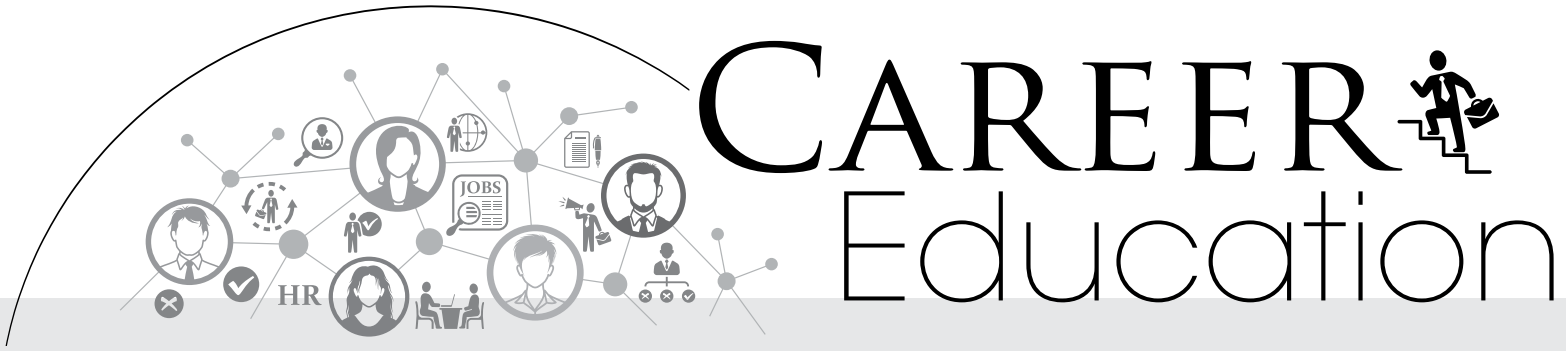


### Chester Elementary School

- focuses on sustainability, creativity, and environmental awareness:
- Teaching with Trout (raising brook trout from eggs to adulthood)
  - School-wide composting initiative
  - Student Media Club
  - School-wide production of Willy Wonka Jr.
  - Visit from the Whalemobile



**WE ARE EXCITED TO MEET YOU!**



## Gateway Raises the Bar(r) for Students

The Gateway Regional School District is making significant advancements in student engagement and staff development, thanks to funding from the Barr Foundation and enthusiastic commitment from students and staff. These funds are being used to support a variety of initiatives that align with the district's instructional vision, emphasizing real-world learning, collaboration, and innovation.

At Gateway Regional, a comprehensive plan has been developed for grades 6-12 to help students prepare for life beyond high school. This plan includes tailored learning experiences for each grade level, such as team-building activities for sixth graders, community exploration in seventh grade, and visits to community colleges for eighth graders. Ninth-grade students will engage in career exploration workshops led by industry experts, while tenth graders will visit four-year colleges. Eleventh-grade students will attend a local college fair and participate in life skills workshops, and seniors will celebrate their achievements with a banquet and lead activities for younger students. While some of these initiatives will be piloted this year, others will launch in the next school year, ensuring students are equipped with knowledge and skills for future success. The high school offers two Chapter 74 programs for students interested in welding and early childhood education. Graduates of these programs will complete a full comprehensive internship and be equipped to enter the workforce with the skills obtained.

Littleville Elementary is incorporating the Barr Foundation funds into engaging, hands-on projects and school-wide events. For example, students in grades three through five recently attended the Hartford Wolf Pack School Learning Day, where they applied physical science concepts like force and motion to a live hockey game. Kindergarten students participated in a String Instrument Workshop led by members of the Springfield Orchestra, while all grade levels are eagerly anticipating an interactive "Author's Experience" with writer Daryl Cobb in March.

Plans are in the works to create a Schoolyard Habitat for Monarch butterflies and other pollinators. Littleville is also planning a mentoring program that will pair high school students with elementary students for long-term support. The school recently hosted a successful Holiday Craft Fair, showcasing student-made goods and fostering creativity.

At Chester Elementary, the focus is on sustainability, creativity, and environmental awareness. For the third year in a row, students are engaged with hydroponic agriculture, growing healthy food for their own school lunches and community. Students are participating in the Teaching with Trout program, where they raise brook trout from eggs to adulthood while learning about ecology and conservation. A composting initiative led by fifth graders is teaching students how to sort waste and reduce their environmental impact. The Student Media Club provides third graders with opportunities to develop and produce their own videos, promoting teamwork and innovation. Chester is also preparing for a school-wide production of Willy Wonka Jr., with fifth graders in lead roles and younger students in supporting roles. Additionally, an in-school field trip featured the Whalemobile, a life-sized inflatable whale that taught students about marine biology and conservation.

District-wide, the Barr Foundation funds are also being used to enhance staff development and collaboration. Teachers are participating in study tours to locations such as Kentucky, Maine, Providence, Boston, and New York City to explore innovative educational practices. An internal instructional vision board encourages staff members to share ideas for projects that utilize the funds to further educational transformation.

Through these initiatives, the Gateway Regional School District is fostering creativity, collaboration, and real-world learning for students while empowering educators with new ideas and strategies. These efforts are preparing students for success both in school and beyond while creating a culture of innovation and engagement throughout the district.

## A New Year a New Career

A new year is upon us and as we declare resolutions, a new job might be in order. The first 5 years of a child's life are so important and since 1965, HCS Head Start has helped thousands of children and families prepare for school and life. We know that it takes a big heart to help shape growing minds and if you want to work with infants, toddlers, and preschoolers in your community, Head Start might be the place for you.

The Head Start approach offers both families and their children, birth to five, an extraordinary school readiness experience. Educators who decide to teach in a comprehensive early learning setting have the opportunity to work collaboratively with other specialty areas like health, nutrition, mental health, and family and community engagement, that are designed to prepare vulnerable children for future educational success.

Data shows that when children are enrolled in a high-quality Head Start

program they are better prepared for kindergarten and beyond. Staff and parents work together, learning from one another, to create the best early educational experience both at home and at preschool. This is possible because when parents are involved and engaged in their child's education, children have better outcomes.

In addition to teaching, Head Start also has various career opportunities in the areas of health, nutrition, human services, administration, mental health, and special education. Professional development opportunities and career ladders are built within the Head Start model to promote growth and advancement.

Holyoke Chicopee Springfield Head Start, Inc. offers programs in several cities and towns in Western Massachusetts working with over 1,000 children each year. If you are interested in a rewarding Head Start career please visit [www.hcsheadstart.org/employment/](http://www.hcsheadstart.org/employment/) or call 413-788-6522.

## HCS Head Start is Hiring

Help give a child a *Head Start* in school and in life

**BUILD**  
a WINDOW of  
OPPORTUNITY  
with HCS  
**HEAD  
START!**



Check out job postings at  
<https://hcsheadstart.org/employment/>



EDUCATING children. SUPPORTING families. BUILDING healthy communities.  
30 Madison Ave. Springfield, MA 01105 (413)788-6522 [www.hcsheadstart.org](http://www.hcsheadstart.org)

## FREE JOB SEEKER SERVICES



- Career readiness and job search counseling
- Training information and potential funding opportunities
- Job search and computer workshops provided virtually and on-site
- Resume development guidance and critique
- Job development and matching for qualified individuals
- Resource Center with fully equipped computerized workstations, Internet access, career information, up-to-date job listings, and assistive technology for individuals living with disabilities.
- Most services available in English or Spanish

Call us at 413-532-4900 to schedule a career center seminar!

[masshireholyoke.org](http://masshireholyoke.org)

[www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)




### Teaching the Next Generation

Are you passionate about making a positive impact on young minds within a dynamic public school environment? Springfield Public Schools is seeking knowledgeable, highly effective, diverse educators, to join our K-12 district!

Be part of a school system that is thriving in *A Culture of Equity and Proficiency* serving over 26,000 students.

**TO APPLY**  
Visit our website or scan the QR Code!




# Join Our Team!

# WE'RE HIRING!

[springfieldpublicschools.com](http://springfieldpublicschools.com)



[springfieldk12](https://www.facebook.com/springfieldk12)

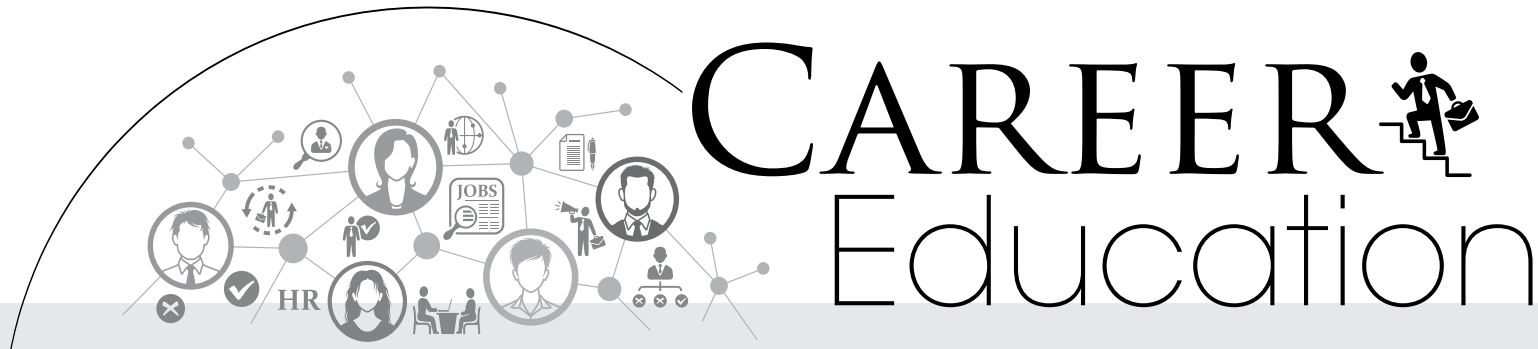
**HOLYOKE  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE**

Small town feel.  
Big time opportunity.  
*(And it's free.)*

No matter your age or income, community college is now free to eligible Massachusetts residents without a bachelor's degree.

**REGISTER FOR SPRING!**

**[hcc.edu/freeCC](http://hcc.edu/freeCC)**



## HCC gearing up for spring semester

Registration is open for spring 2025 semester classes at Holyoke Community College.

The HCC spring 2025 semester begins Tuesday, Jan. 21, for full 15-week spring semester classes begin. HCC will also be running three accelerated spring flex start sessions: Flex Start I classes begin Jan. 21 and run for seven weeks. Flex Start II classes begin Monday, Feb. 3, and run for 12 weeks; Flex Start III classes begin Monday, March 24, and run for seven weeks.

Thanks to the state-funded MassEducate program, a community college education is now free for all Massachusetts residents who have yet to earn a bachelor's degree.

"MassEducate provides an exciting opportunity for eligible students to attend college without the concern or weight of how to pay for it," said Mark Hudgik, HCC dean of strategic recruitment initiatives, admissions, and financial aid. "There has never been a better time to enroll.

Eligible students who want to earn a certificate or degree need only to complete the standard HCC application, complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) for the 2024-2025 school year, and register for at least six credits (typically two classes).

"Our admissions counselors, academic advisers, and financial aid staff are available to make sure prospective students get all the assistance they need," said Hudgik.

Class schedules and information about MassEducate can be found on the HCC website: [hcc.edu](http://hcc.edu).

Enroll today [hcc.edu/admissions](http://hcc.edu/admissions).

## The MacDuffie School more than just a school, a community

At The MacDuffie School, we believe education is more than academics—it's the foundation for a lifetime of achievement. Our vibrant community fosters creativity, leadership, and excellence while instilling respect and integrity in everything we do.

At MacDuffie, you're not just a student—you're part of a community that celebrates your individuality and supports your growth. Our small class sizes and dedicated teachers ensure you're seen, heard, and challenged to reach your full potential. Here, students don't just prepare for college—they prepare for life.

Choosing the right school is a big decision. That's why we invite you to learn more about MacDuffie and how it can shape your future. Visit our website, schedule a tour, or attend our April 5th open house to see for yourself what makes us different.

Your journey starts here. Define your future at MacDuffie—apply today! [admissions@macduffie.org](mailto:admissions@macduffie.org)

## Come and see what's new at St. Joan of Arc School

Physical Education Teacher Larry Moore and SJA students are enjoying a new basketball hoop funded by generous donations from our Annual Campaign.

A schoolyard basketball hoop is so important in creating not only a healthy environment, but helps with critical thinking, resilience, perseverance & teamwork.

The Dollar General Literacy Foundation recently awarded St. Joan of Arc School a \$500 grant to support its youth literacy program. A Book Club was formed for third and fourth grade students to encourage reading and literacy at a young age. This Book Club helps our students gain a deeper understanding of their reading, of other people through conversations, and provides an opportunity to safely fail and celebrate success. The club meets monthly to discuss the book, work on a fun activity, and share their findings.

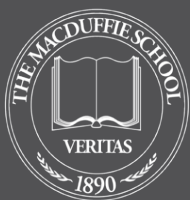
The school will be holding

an Open House on Saturday, Jan. 25 from 9 a.m. to noon (no appointment needed). Appointment only tours for families will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 28 and Thursday, Jan. 30 from 3 to 7 p.m. Please call Chris or Janine in the Business Office at 413-276-4608 for registration information or to make an appointment.

St. Joan of Arc School is a welcoming, safe & secure school community providing social, physical, spiritual & intellectual wellness for students in Pre-K 3 to Grade 8. SJA has innovative offerings that include affordable tuition and extended care, free breakfast and lunch, extracurricular programs, technology, music, library, and Duolingo language classes. Easy access to I391 & I90. Financial Aid and tuition assistance is available. To learn more visit [www.sjachicopee.org](http://www.sjachicopee.org).

We look forward to meeting you!

Explore Your Passions.  
Be a Leader.  
Choose MacDuffie.



## OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, April 5, 2025 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.



The MacDuffie School is a special place, and it all begins with our mission:  
*To foster in all students the intellectual habits of mind, high ethical standards, and respect for diversity required for becoming effective individuals in their personal and work lives, and moral and responsible participants in the world beyond.*

*There's no better way to get a feel for The MacDuffie School than spending time with us!*

Please register for our Open House at [www.macduffie.org](http://www.macduffie.org) or contact the Admissions Office at (413) 255-0000 to reserve your spot.

**Come Be A Part Of Our Community!**

66 School Street  
Granby, Massachusetts

[www.MacDuffie.org](http://www.MacDuffie.org)

For Students  
in Grades 6 through 12

## St. Joan of Arc School ~ Pre-K to Grade 8

587 Grattan Street, Chicopee ~ 533-1475 ~ [sjachicopee.org](http://sjachicopee.org)

*Learning Rooted in Christian Values*

## OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, Jan 25th 9am-12 noon ~ No Appointment Needed  
Jan 28th & Jan 30th 3pm-7pm ~ By Appointment Only



**Affordable Tuition & Extended Care**

**Free Breakfast & Lunch**

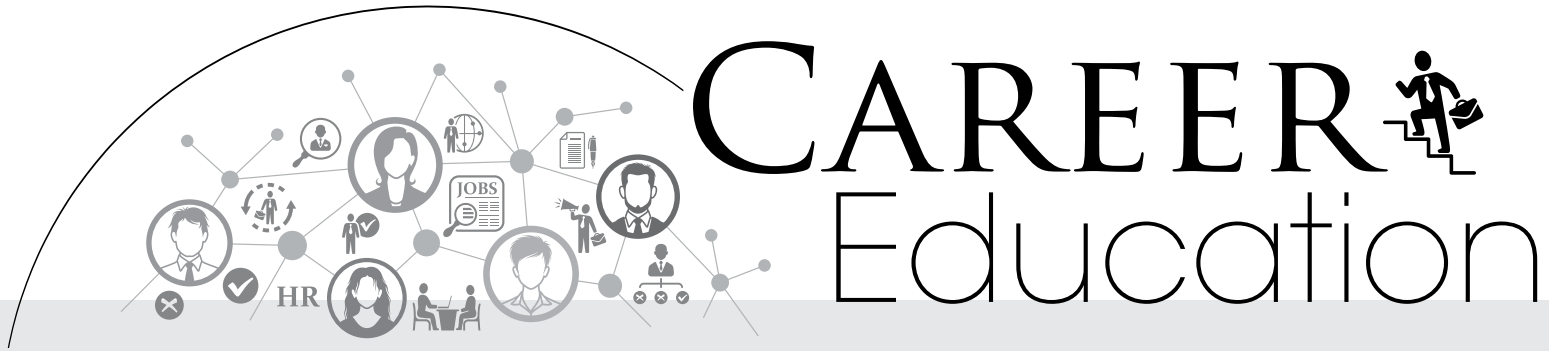
**Extracurricular Programs~ Technology**

**Phys. E ~ Music ~ Library ~ Duolingo**

**Welcoming, Safe & Secure School Community**

**Social, Physical, Spiritual & Intellectual Wellness**

**Easy Access to I391 & I90 ~ Tuition Assistance Available**



# CAREER Education

## Come and see what great things are happening at St. Stanislaus School in Chicopee

This year the school's theme is "Many Gifts, One Spirit", which is our belief that every student has gifts to share with others towards the goal of making our world a better place. Our school encourages our students to focus on a different Corporal Work of Mercy to help our greater community. Some of the outreach programs we have participated in this year were: collection of canned goods for Lorraine's Soup Kitchen, for which our students collected 3,800 canned goods; and recently we collected toiletries, diapers, and other personal items to support the wish lists of both The Gray House and Christina's House in Springfield. The Works of Mercy which have been covered are – Feeding the Hungry and Working for Peace.

Service projects are done throughout the year to help teach students the value of giving back.

The school will be holding an Open House on Sunday, Feb. 2 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. (no appointment needed). If you would like to schedule a private tour for

another time, please call the school to schedule an appointment at (413) 592-5135.

St. Stanislaus School is a Roman Catholic, Franciscan, co-educational Pre-K through 8th grade school. Students are assisted in developing their potential spiritually, physically, and socially within a safe and diverse community. A foundation of academic excellence is created to prepare students to become contributing members of a global society. The school has a welcoming Franciscan environment, modern air-conditioned facility, strong core curriculum, enrichment classes, certified faculty, full-day preschool (PreK3 & 4) and Kindergarten, free breakfast and hot lunch, before & after school program, and one to one use and integration of iPads & Chromebooks into curriculum. Financial Aid is available. Interested students are invited to "spend a day with us". To learn more please visit [www.saintstansschool.org](http://www.saintstansschool.org).

We can't wait to meet you!

## Join us at PVPA for an open house to see what we can offer your child

Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School (PVPA) has a 25+ year history of providing an excellent, arts-focused, college-prep education to students in Grades 7-12.

PVPA students thrive in an creative, challenging learning environment that offers them a broad exposure to the performing arts. Our students consistently show that incorporating the arts into education creates, not just better artists, but better students who are equipped to be active participants in their future.

With an extensive Course Catalog of over 65 Arts Classes across Music, Dance, Theatre, Visual Arts and Technical Theater, students have access to both introductory courses and audition level courses, with multiple performance opportunities, offered alongside their core academics.

Join PVPA for an Open House and see why we are consistently voted one of the Best Charter Schools in the



Valley!

Now accepting applications for the 2025/2026 school year for Grades 7-12 at [pvpa.org/admissions](http://pvpa.org/admissions).




Free, Arts-focused, College-prep  
Grades 7-12  
Application Deadline Feb 23, 2025

65+ courses in Theater, Dance,  
Instrumental and Vocal Music,  
Visual Arts, Technical Theater and Film



Visit us to learn more!  
To register for Open House,  
and TO APPLY:  
[www.pvpa.org/admissions](http://www.pvpa.org/admissions) or  
QR Code below



**OPEN HOUSE**  
Weds, Jan 15 4-6pm  
Sat, Jan 25 & Feb 1  
10am-12pm  
Tues, Feb 18 10am-12pm

**Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School**  
[www.pvpa.org/admissions](http://www.pvpa.org/admissions)



photo credit: Julian Parker-Burns

15 Mulligan Drive, South Hadley, MA [www.pvpa.org/admissions](http://www.pvpa.org/admissions) 413.552.1580

**OPEN HOUSE**  
SUNDAY, FEB. 2, 2025  
11AM-1PM



## ST. STANISLAUS SCHOOL

SERVANT LEADERS FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW

- Welcoming Franciscan environment
- Strong core curriculum
- Enrichment classes
- Certified faculty
- Full day Preschool & Kindergarten
- Free breakfast and hot lunch
- Before & After school program
- One to one use and integration of iPads & Chromebooks into curriculum
- Modern facility - full gym, full cafeteria, air conditioned, carpeted classrooms.



PREK - 8TH GRADE SCHOOL  
PHYSICAL, SPIRITUAL, AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



To learn more →



Call us for more information and to schedule a tour. We welcome the opportunity for you to experience St. Stanislaus School! Interested students are invited to "spend a day with us."

[www.saintstansschool.org](http://www.saintstansschool.org)  
534 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013  
413-592-5135





Best Private School

# Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

**FOR SALE**

**BEAUTY SALON EQUIPMENT.** One regular and one electric styling chair, one Jeffco freestanding hair dryer, excellent condition \$500 for all. Call **413-534-4992.**

**MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY. EXTRAORDINARY** performance. Central Boiler certified Classic Edge Titanium HDX OUTDOOR WOOD FURNACE. Call today **413-296-4320.**

**FIREWOOD**

**FIREWOOD**  
Fresh cut & split \$200.00  
Seasoned cut & split \$300.00  
All hardwood.  
Tree length available  
\*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap). Quality & volumes **guaranteed!** New England Forest Products **(413)477-0083**

**MORE HEAT LESS WOOD.** Central Boiler Classic Edge HDX Outdoor Wood Furnace. EPA Certified. Titanium Stainless Steel. 26% Tax Credit. Call **(508)882-0178**

**WANTED**

**WANTED TO BUY**

**ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.**  
**BUYING** Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, kitchenware, cookware, knives, military, automotive, fire department, masonic, license plates, beer cans, barware, books, oil cans, advertising tins, hunting, fishing, signs, and more Donald Roy **(860) 874-8396**

**JUNK REMOVAL**

**A Call We Haul FAST REMOVAL**  
Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts.  
We load it & take it.  
**413-531-1936**  
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

**SERVICES**

**A B Hauling and Removal Service**

**2\*\*\*\*\*A & B HOUSEHOLD REMOVAL SERVICE\*\*\*\*\***  
Cellars, attics, garages cleaned, yard debris. Barns & sheds demolished. Swimming pools removed. Cheaper than dumpster fees and we do all the work. Lowest rates. Fully insured. **(413)283-6512, cell (413)222-8868.**

**DRYWALL AND CEILINGS,** plaster repair. Drywall hanging. Taping & complete finishing. All ceiling textures. Fully insured. Jason at Great Walls. **(413)563-0487**

**ELECTRICIAN**

**NEED AN ELECTRICIAN?**  
*Look no further!*  
**PJ's Electrical** offers fast and reliable electrical services for your home or business.  
Call now for a **FREE** estimate!  
**(413) 366-1703**  
LICENSED & INSURED

Find archives of this local newspaper at [www.newspapers.turley.com](http://www.newspapers.turley.com)

**SERVICES**

**HOME IMPROVEMENT**

**HANDYMAN RESIDENTIAL REPAIRS.** Powerwashing, home repairs, interior/exterior painting, ceiling/wall repairs and chimney repairs. Fully licensed/insured. Lic. #105950CSL. Call **413-566-5596/413-433-5073.**

**HOME IMPROVEMENTS. REMODELING** Kitchens, baths. Ceramic tile, windows, painting, wallpapering, siding, decks. Insurance work. Fully insured. Free estimates. **(413)246-2783 Ron.**

**LANDSCAPING**

**A+ ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BOBCAT SERVICE**  
Excavator Services  
Overgrown property?  
Extreme Brush Cutting!  
Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal  
Lawn/Arborvite Installed  
Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand  
Storm Clean-up  
Small Demolition/ Junk Removal  
Insured  
**Josh Rozell 413-636-5957**

**MASONRY**

**STOP WET BASEMENTS**

**ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT WATERPROOFING**  
All brick, block, stone, concrete. Hatchway doors, basement windows, chimneys rebuilt & repaired, foundations repaired, basement waterproofing systems, sump pumps. BBB+ rating. Free estimates. Lic #14790. Call **(413)569-1611, (413)374-5377**

**SERVICES**

**PAINTING**

**DUTCH TOUCH PAINTING**  
Interior only \$199.00 for average 12x16 room. Very neat, references, prompt service call **(508)867-2550**

**PLUMBING**

**GREG LAFONTAIN PLUMBING & HEATING** Lic #19196 Repairs & Replacement of fixtures, water heater installations, steam/HW boiler replacement. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30 years experience. Fully insured. \$10 Gift Card With Work Performed. Call Greg **(413)592-1505**

**ROOFING**

**JENKINS ROOFING** specializing in residential roofs & repairs, chimney repairs. Hampden, MA - **413-566-5596/413-433-5073.** Lic. #105950CSL. Fully insured.

**RUBBISH REMOVAL**

**BOB ROBILLARD'S RUBBISH REMOVAL** Attics, Cellars, Garages cleaned, Pools/Hot Tubs Removed. Family owned/operated since 1950 **(413)537-5090**

**TREE WORK**

**AAA-TROM'S TREE SERVICE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE.** Residential removal of trees. Free estimates, Fully insured W/Workman's Comp. Remove them before the wind takes them down. Cordwood, stump grinding. Call **413-283-6374.**

**SERVICES**

**DL & G TREE SERVICE-** Everything from tree pruning, tree removal, stump grinding, storm damage and brush chipping. Honest and Dependable. Fully insured. Now offering a Senior Citizen and Veteran discount. Call today for free estimate **(413)478-4212**

**H & H TREE SERVICE** All phases of tree care. Call Dave **413-668-6560** day/night.

**STUMP GRINDING**

**DL & G STUMP GRINDING** Grinding stumps of all sizes, insured & certified. Senior discounts. Call Dave **413-478-4212.**

**AUTO**

**CASH FOR JUNK AND REPAIRABLE CARS**  
FREE TOWING FAST SERVICE CASH PAID AS IS  
CALL OR TEXT **413-219-6839**

**HELP WANTED**

**TOWN OF BLANDFORD HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT**  
The Town of Blandford is seeking a qualified individual for the position of Highway Superintendent. Salary range starting at \$75,000-\$80,000+ negotiable based on experience/skills. Please visit our website **TownOfBlandford.com** or email **Administrator@TownofBlandford.com** for more information.

**HELP WANTED**

**TOWN OF WILBRAHAM**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT BUILDING & CONSERVATION P/T EMERGENCY DISPATCHER**  
The Town of Wilbraham is looking to fill multiple vacancies.  
Application deadline 1/27/25.  
For application and more information please visit **www.wilbraham-ma.gov.**  
EOE

**TOWN OF WILBRAHAM**

**POLICE OFFICER**  
For application and more information please visit **www.wilbraham-ma.gov.** Review of applications begins immediately. Open until filled. EOE

**WILBRAHAM UNITED CHURCH** is hiring a sexton three evenings, 7-10 hours per week, \$16 per hour. Additional compensation for hours needed for weddings and funerals. Please send resume to **admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org**  
More information found at **www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org/about-us-2/**


**REAL ESTATE FOR RENT**

  
**EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY**

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

**GREEN STREET, PALMER** Newly renovated 1 bedroom apt. porch, off-street parking, coin-op laundry, \$1,500/ mo includes heat. No Pets. Call Tom **413-896-1555**

**FOR RENT**

  
All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.  
This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

Advertise your **HOME IMPROVEMENT SERVICES** in our classifieds. **WE GET RESULTS!** Call **413-283-8393**

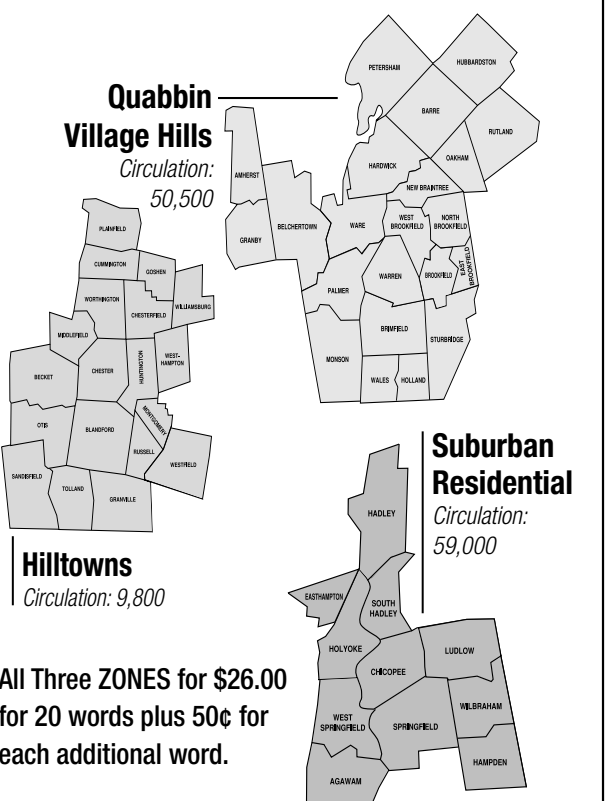


## FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 DEADLINES: MONDAY AT NOON or call: 413-283-8393

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of Weeks: \_\_\_\_\_ X per week rate = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Credit Card:  MasterCard  VISA  Discover  Cash  Check# \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount of charge: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



All Three ZONES for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50c for each additional word.

**GREAT VALUE!**  
**ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!**

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

**GRANBY** from page 11

at Palmer High School. She was also a member of the women's basketball team at Westfield State University.

A couple of years ago, Darling won ten games in her first stint as a girls' varsity basketball coach at Minnechaug Regional.

One of the eight Lady Mustangs players is senior Olivia Chrzan, who's also a member of the elite 1,000-point club. Chrzan scored a game-high 30 points against Granby (3-4). It pushed her career point total over the 1,700 mark. Chrzan has also scored 140 points in the seven basketball games that she has played against Granby.

"It's a coach's dream to coach a basketball player like Olivia," said Darling, who also had the opportunity to coach Chrzan at the youth level. "The things that she does on the court is just amazing. She's a great kid, a great teammate, and is very coachable. We're hoping that she can reach 2,000 career points this season. She's just an amazing athlete."

The Lady Rams were led offensively by Kalli White, who's one of the Lady Rams three sophomore starters. White finished the home contest with 27 points. Sophomore Brenna Moreno scored six points and senior Autumn Sicard added five points. Junior Kaitlyn Curran only scored two points, but she guarded Chrzan which isn't a very easy task.

"We're a young basketball team and the players are still learning a new system," said first-year Granby head coach Dave Padavano. "I really enjoy coaching the Granby girls' team. All of the players are great kids and I'm hoping they have a good experience playing basketball. This would've been a very big home win for us."

Padavano is a veteran varsity basketball coach. He began his coaching career as the boys' varsity coach at Millbury High School before switching over to the girls' side. Before coming to Granby High School, Padavano was also the girls' varsity coach at Pope Francis, Leicester High School, Ashland High School, and at Sizer (Fitchburg).

"I saw an ad online that Granby was looking for a girls' varsity basketball coach, so I decided to apply for the position," Padavano said. "At the start of my coaching career, I never planned on coaching a girls' team, but then the coaching position at Pope Francis



**Autumn Sicard dribbles around the traffic.**



**Kalli White wants to shoot with lot of pressure.**



**Kaitlyn Curran looks to pass around the defense.**

opened. I just love coaching the girls."

With 2:59 remaining in the fourth quarter, Chrzan made a pair of free throws which tied the score at 38-38 for the third time in the game. She then made a put-back hoop with 2:10 left giving her team the lead for the first time since the score was 2-0 Monson.

Following a Chrzan putback basket, an inside hoop by freshman Grace Berry, which were her only points, increased the Lady Mustangs lead to 42-38 with 1:40 left on the scoreboard clock.

Then freshman Emma Bannon (3 points) made a foul shot giving the visiting team a five point lead with 30 seconds left.

"We did have a couple of other players step up offensively during the fourth quarter. We also played well defensively, which also helped us," Darling said. "It was a very exciting comeback win for us."

A White lay-up closed the gap to three points with 23.5 left in regulation, but Chrzan was fouled in the final seconds. She made a foul shot enabling the Lady Mustangs to celebrate their first victory of the 2024-25 regular season.

The other scorers in the road victory for Monson, who don't have a j.v. team,

were freshman Cali Zielinski (4 points), freshman Madigan Graves-Harrison (3 points), and eighth grader Mila Hudak (2 points).

Granby pretty much controlled the first three quarters of the game.

White scored 14 points during the first eight minutes of the contest which helped the Lady Rams build a 19-11 lead.

Granby's other five points during the first quarter were a jumper in the paint by Moreno (6 points) and a 3-pointer from Sicard, who scored all her points before halftime.

With 1:25 remaining in the first half, Moreno made a lay-up giving the Lady Rams a 25-17 advantage.

Zielinski closed out the half with a jumper cutting Monson's deficit to six points at the break.

The third quarter was evenly played. The home team entered the final quarter of the game holding a 34-27 lead which they let slip away from them.



TURLEY PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY  
WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM  
**Eleanor Szlosek looks to bring in a rebound.**

# BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY

**AUTO BODY**

**REECE AUTO BODY** Complete Auto Body, Paint & Repair" auto glass, computerized paint matching, also routine car maintenance. Free estimates. Old Springfield Road, Belchertown. 413-323-6664.

**COMPUTERS**

**ALIX & SONS COMPUTER CENTER.** PC/Macs, Laptops, Screen Repairs. New Computer Sales and Accessories, PC Diagnostic Repairs and Upgrades, On Site Work, Home or Office. 40 Daniel Shays Highway. 413-323-1122. John Alix, Owner.

**HAIRDRESSER**

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

**INSURANCE**

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

**OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT**

**BOYDEN & PERRON INC.** Sales and service, Toro, Wheel Horse, Scag, Jonsered, Residential and Commercial. 41 South Whitney St., Amherst, since 1956. Call today. 253-7358.

**PLUMBING SERVICES**

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

**ROOFING**

**ROBERTS ROOFS CO., INC.** Trusted name since 1982. Commercial, industrial, residential. Specializing in shingles, slate copper work, historical restoration, flat roofing. Snow Removal. Fully licensed. Free estimates. 413-283-4395  
www.robertsroofsinc.com

**WELDING**

**AMHERST WELDING, INC.** Snow plows, sanders, sales & service, hydraulic hoses & repairs, trailer hitches, trailer repairs, welding, fabrication, lawnmower repairs. 330 Harkness Road, Amherst 413-253-4867.



**TO ADVERTISE ON THE BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY PLEASE CALL 283-8393**

# 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.



## Artist reception on Jan. 30

BELCHERTOWN—A reception for Valentina Pavlyuk will be held at the Clapp Memorial Library on Thursday, Jan. 30 from 6 to 7 p.m. to celebrate her art exhibit currently on display. Valentina Pavlyuk is a self-taught artist who began painting flowers and landscapes due to her love of gardening and has since expanded to include abstract works. Everyone is invited to this free event to view Valentina's work and enjoy light refreshments.

## Wistariahurst to offer kid's art classes starting Feb. 2

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. Go to one class or go to all to get the most out of these sessions: Feb. 2: Mixed media collage inspiration by artist Romare Bearden; March 2: Color, Pattern and building a mural using inspiration by artist Yayoi Kusama; April 6: Art with Recycled Materials and found objects (Earth Day inspired); May 4: Exploring Still Life drawing with pastels inspiration by artist Georgia O'Keeffe; June 1:

Drawing from Nature Outdoors inspiration by artist Claude Monet.

If a child has an art appreciation, a desire to learn a new skill, or wants to try something new, Wistariahurst Kid's Art Classes are a fantastic way for them to explore, discover, and engage. Don't hesitate to join the fun! Visit the Eventbrite to learn more and sign up for these amazing classes.

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

## Boy Scouts thank you, next event

BELCHERTOWN—The Boy Scout from Troop 507, here in Belchertown, would like to thank our local sponsors (Belchertown Lions Club, Stop and Shop Belchertown, Quaboag Valley Relay for Life, McCarthy's Restaurant, Swift River Sportsman's Club, Atkins Farms, Texas Roadhouse and Stop and Shop Hadley) for donating food and our community members who bought tickets for our Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser this past Saturday Jan. 11. The event was a HUGE success and we appreciate your support.

We are on our way to meeting our fundraising goal to send many of our scouts to Florida National High Adventure Sea Base, in Islamorada, FL.

Our next fundraising event will be a bottle and can drive, held on Saturday Jan. 25 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Pride Gas Station in Belchertown. We appreciate your continued support.

## Introduction to Dungeons & Dragons

AMHERST—Are you interested in facilitating a Dungeons & Dragons game for young people, but don't know where to start? Then join us on Sunday, Jan. 26, in the Woodbury Room of the Jones Library from 2 to 4 p.m.

In this workshop, you will learn the basics of the game, how to optimize it for different age groups, and how to set ground rules, develop adventures, and keep it fun for everyone. This program is for adult caregivers with any level of experience with role-playing games. Join us to learn more about how to engage with your kids through D&D. For more information, please contact Janet Ryan at [ryanj@joneslibrary.org](mailto:ryanj@joneslibrary.org).

HEALTHY QUABOAG & THE TOWN OF WARE

# QUABOAG VALLEY

## Food Policy Council

**VISION**  
"THE QUABOAG VALLEY FOOD POLICY COUNCIL WILL MAKE NUTRITIOUS LOCAL FOOD EASILY ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS"

**JOIN OUR GENERAL BODY MEETINGS!**  
EVERY 3RD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH FROM 12-1PM  
E2E SPACE ON MAIN ST, WARE, MA

**JOIN US BY ZOOM:**

Serving the towns of: Barre, Belchertown, Brimfield, Brookfield, East Brookfield, Hardwick, Holland, Ludlow, Monson, North Brookfield, New Braintree, Palmer, Spencer, Wales, Ware, Warren, West Brookfield & Wilbraham

For more information, email Sawyer, at [sblake@townofware.com](mailto:sblake@townofware.com)

A	C	T	H			T	H	O		E	S	O	P						
A	R	E	A	S		H	U	B		N	A	G	A						
H	O	W	L	E	D		E	D	T		T	U	A	N					
S	C	A	M	P	I		I	D	A		A	C	M	E					
						T	O	N	A	L	I	T	I	E	S				
B	A	M	B	I	N	O				E	N	O	L	S					
C	H	O	I	C	E	R				D	S	T							
D	A	N	T	E						A	B	B	E	Y					
							M	S	G		T	O	L	U	E	N	E		
							S	P	I	E	L		E	D	I	B	L	E	S
							P	A	R	A	M	A	G	N	E	T			
E	L	B	A				I	C	H		T	I	T	H	E	S			
B	A	L	I				P	I	A		S	E	R	A	P	E			
O	N	E	S				R	A	N		S	A	K	E	S				
N	O	S	E				O	L	A			P	E	E	S				