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GIRL SCOUTS kick off the cookie season

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

BELCHERTOWN – Belchertown Girl Scout Troops 64592 and 64156 came together in a multi-level troop of 24 friends who work together, the older Girl Scouts mentoring the younger.

The troops have a goal of going on a bus trip with the money raised from sales and are looking forward to planning where their trip will take them. They also are looking forward to their annual camping trip in June to Bonnie Brae.

Each Girl Scout sets their own goals to decide how many boxes they want to sell, and some have lofty goals of 500 boxes, and other 300, but what they choose to be their goal is perfect for them.



TURLEY PHOTO BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

Come and get your cookies! The Girl Scouts will be at the common till the end of February.

Please see **COOKIES**, page 5

Literary agent shares her publishing knowledge

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

BELCHERTOWN – Today, between multinational media corporations and global entertainment conglomerates, getting a publisher's attention takes more than a great idea and a flair for the written word. Whether you like it or not, publishers view your manuscript as much a business proposition as a work of art.

Literary Agent Jan Kardys came to the Clapp Memorial Library over the weekend for a special workshop: session one of two. Her career includes working at eight major book publishers since 1997 - Doubleday, Scholastic, St. Martin's Press, Macmillan, Scribner's Sons, Warner Books, Little, Brown, Conde Nast Publications, and Google for three years.

In *You Wrote a Book, Now What?*, Kardys illustrates to writers several important facts about getting a manuscript ready to send to a literary agent, including submission guidelines. She also explains how to write a query letter, how to studying your genre, and the importance of hooking your reader in the opening first page of your manuscript.

Kardys has her own literary agency, Black Hawk Literary & Portfolio Agency, and an additional company, Unicorn for Writers, that has 40 paid services. An author can submit a query letter to a literary agent and wait for an agent to request the manuscript. If the



Jan Kardys, the literary agent here to help you get your book known.

Please see **AGENT**, page 4

Agricultural Council holds annual farmers meeting

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

BELCHERTOWN — Every year, the Agricultural Commission hosts a special meeting for Farmers, where they can get useful information and resources to help them thrive.

"We want to make your life better, and take less from the environment."

— Zoraia de Jesus Barros

Three speakers came to the town hall's auditorium last weekend to share information about their respective organizations and important information to help them.

Zoraia de Jesus Barros, a Public Affairs Socialist from the NRCS, Natural Resources Conservation Services, came to share a presentation of what NRCS offers farmers.

Barros has been with the farming community for 17 years, and spent a lot of that time working for the NRCS.

"We are a non-regulatory federal agency, which means we are here to help you, judgment-free, get the land that they need," said Barros. "We provide technical and financial assistance, and act as a coshare program."

The NRCS provides help including Conservation Technical Assistance, Financial Assistance, and helps address Resource Concerns like air, water, soil, animals, human, plants, and energy considerations.

"We want to make your life better, and take less from the environment," said Barros.

They also offer several different programs, including the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Conservation

Please see **MEETING**, page 9



TURLEY PHOTO BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

Zoraia de Jesus Barros, a Public Affairs Socialist from the NRCS giving her presentation.

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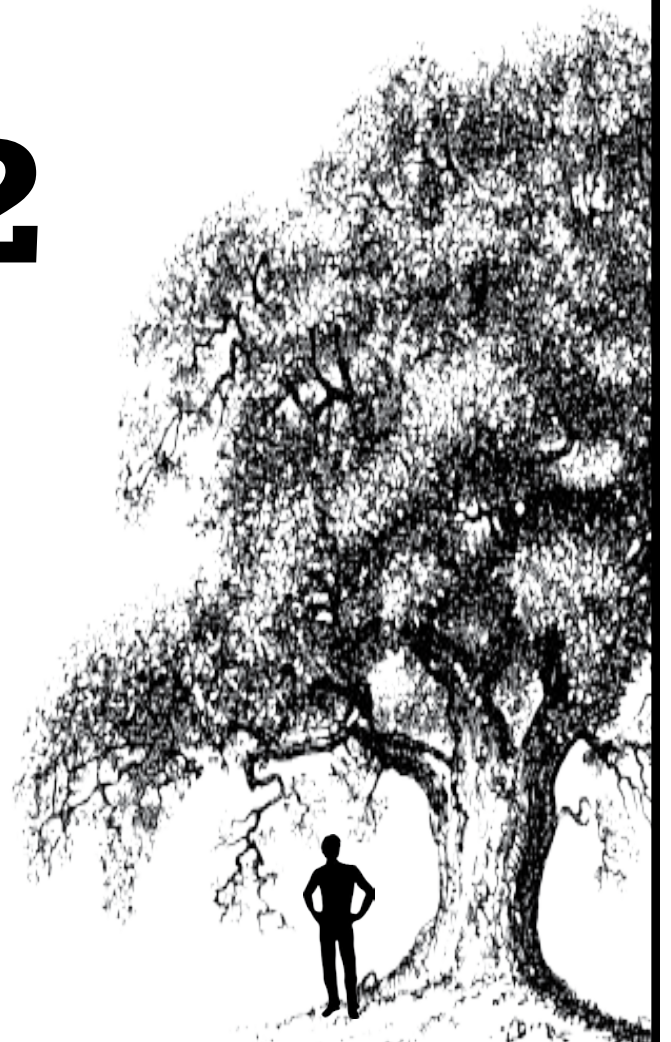
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Belchertown author book signing Feb. 9

BELCHERTOWN—Resident Katherine Brady has self-published a book about the stories her late father told while sitting at their kitchen table. These stories were funny, shocking, and sometimes felt like lessons of what not to do. Her father's stories will live on in her book for others to enjoy.

This book can be found online for sale at many booksellers under the genre: parenting & family humor, as well as memoirs. Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble have it on their websites for purchase.

There will be a book signing held on Sunday, Feb. 9, 2025 at the Belchertown United Church of Christ, 18 Park Street, Belchertown from 2 to 5 p.m. The facility is handicap accessible.

Light refreshments will be served. Katherine's book will be available for purchase before the signing or at the event. She will have plenty of paperback books for purchase.

Katherine will also be reading from the book, one of her father's stories.

BCTV Schedule

Tuesday, Jan. 23

- 8 a.m.- Select Board - 21 Jan
- 10 a.m.- Energy and Sustainability Committee - 16 Jan
- Noon- State of Commonwealth 2025 - 16 Jan
- 5 p.m.- Select Board - 21 Jan
- 7 p.m.- Energy and Sustainability Committee - 16 Jan
- 9 p.m.- State of the Commonwealth 2025 - 16 Jan

Friday, Jan. 24

- 8 a.m.- School Committee - 21 Jan
- 10 a.m.- Branding Belchertown Project - 22 Jan
- Noon- Community Preservation Committee - 21 Jan
- 2 p.m.- Agriculture Comm. - Kathy Ruhf - Land for Good
- 3 p.m.- Agriculture Comm. - NRCS - Assistance for Farmers
- 5 p.m.- School Committee - 21 Jan
- 7 p.m.- Branding Belchertown Project - 22 Jan
- 9 p.m.- Community Preservation Committee - 21 Jan

Saturday, Jan. 25

- 8 a.m.- Agriculture Comm. - Kathy Ruhf - Land for Good
- 9 a.m.-Agriculture Comm. - NRCS - Assistance for Farmers
- 10 a.m.- Clapp Memorial Library/BUCC - Stephen Page Concert
- 4:30 p.m.- Agriculture Comm. - Kathy Ruhf - Land for Good
- 5:30 p.m.- Agriculture Comm. - NRCS - Assistance for Farmers

- 7 p.m.- Clapp Memorial Library/BUCC - Stephen Page Concert

Sunday, Jan. 26

- 4:30 p.m.- St. Francis Roman Catholic Church
- 6 p.m.- Christ Community Church
- 7 p.m.- Hope United Methodist Church
- 8:30 p. m.-Agriculture Comm. - Kathy Ruhf - Land for Good
- 9:30 p. m.- Agriculture Comm. - NRCS - Assistance for Farmers

Monday, Jan. 27

- 8 a.m.- BVJ - How to Run for Office
- 5 p.m.- BVJ - How to Run for Office
- 7 p.m.- Conservation Comm. - Channel 192

Tuesday, Jan. 28

- 8 a.m.- Memories of Belchertown - World War II Veterans
- 4 p.m.-Lampson Brook
- 7 p.m.-Memories of Belchertown - World War II Veterans

Wednesday, Jan. 29

- 8 a.m.- BHS Jazz Concert 2024
- 9:30 a.m.-BMS 6th Grade Showcase 2024
- 11a.m.- BHS Fall Concert 2024
- 5 p.m.- BHS Jazz Concert 2024
- 6:30 p.m.- JBMS 6th Grade Showcase 2024
- 8 p.m.-BHS Fall Concert 2024

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.

Kindergarten registration starting now

BELCHERTOWN—If you are a resident of Belchertown with a child who will be 5 years of age on or before Sept. 1, 2025, you are encouraged to complete a Kindergarten registration packet for the upcoming

2025-2026 school year.

Please contact Christina Aponte via email: caponte@belchertownps.org or by phone at 413-323-0423 Ext. 100 for additional information.



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CLIENT TESTIMONIAL

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- Alexandra L. & Dremus W.



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Boy Scout can and bottle drive, Jan. 25

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.

Murder mystery dinner

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

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

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



TURLEY PHOTO BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

Seventeen people gathered on Saturday afternoon to listen to Jan Kardys share her knowledge on how to get published.

AGENT from page 1

agent decides to represent the author, there are no fees for an author. At Black Hawk Literary Agency, every manuscript they represent is professionally edited free of charge. A client of Unicorn for Writers cannot be transferred to Black Hawk Literary Agency - that is a conflict.

An English literature major at Elmira College, Kardys earned a teaching degree and became an English teacher in Brooklyn, NY. During her education career, she took courses in editing and copyediting at New York University and ultimately transitioned her professional career to book publishing.

"There is a lot to learn about book publishing," Kardys said. Her dedication to teaching people the ropes is reflected in the countless library workshops she hosts, as well as the abundance of information available on her website. At each workshop, she provides some 50 handouts for each attendee, plus an 80-page PowerPoint presentation. Her true passion is in teaching and helping others navigate the publishing world.

"My favorite part of being a literary agent is getting

excited about a manuscript that has great potential," Kardys said. She shared about working with one author, Eric Burns, (a double Emmy Award-winning journalist and a two-time winner of the American Library Association's Best of the Best Award). Burns was a former correspondent for NBC News and The Today Show. He is called one of the best writers in the history of television journalism, and has won two Emmys. For Kardys, it was an absolute privilege to meet him and read his new manuscript, which Black Hawk has just submitted to major book publishers.

"When you get a client like that, it's a challenge because you know that the author has to have a strong social media presence and a sterling marketing plan." In Eric Burns' case, Kardys will develop a marketing plan and compose creative social media campaigns free of charge for this rare client. "Normally, a literary agent will not provide these services and require each author to have high social numbers and followers. Book publishers require that today."

Research your competition, read books in this genre, and create your social media and be present on it, and after that, you'll have a good idea of the markets and audiences for your manuscript/book."

Kardys' dedication to her work and the people she represents is apparent in every workshop she leads, every conversation she has, and in the way she shares this valuable information.

This was Part One of the workshop. Part Two will be held Saturday, Feb. 8 at 2 p.m., so mark your calendars and get ready to learn the steps to get published today.

Local nonprofit offers \$1,000 scholarship to two high school seniors

BELCHERTOWN/GRANBY – Local charitable organization Nick's Waves of Change is holding a special scholarship program of \$1,000 towards college for two students.

Nick's Waves of Change was created for Nicholas R. Boileau who passed away from acute myeloid leukemia in 2021, and in his memory, the organization strives to create "waves of change" throughout the community.

One student from Nick's alma mater, Belchertown High School, and one to another high school senior in Western Massachusetts that matches the qualifications will receive the scholarship.

The application can be found on their website, www.nickswavesofchange.org under the "Scholarship Opportunities" tab, as well as requirements for the grant award. Applications are due to be completed by April 17, 2025.

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Getting excited for some customers to come.

COOKIES from page 1

Leader Heidi Gutekenst loves cookie season, and she and the Girl Scouts are excited to make sales and more.

“I think the thing that most excites me is seeing how happy people are to see Girl Scout cookies are back. This was the first weekend of the sale and the excitement from people driving by was palpable,” Gutekenst said.

The Girl Scouts will be at the town common for the next several weekends on Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. until mid to end of February.

There are many places the Girl Scouts will be selling their cookies, but the common space is the favorite of the troops because of the cars honking as they go by.

“Often, when customers buy, as they are leaving the lot, they will hold their cookies up for the Girl Scouts on the corner to see they bought,” Gutekenst said.

Gutekenst has been a Girl Scout for 35 years, and was a youth Girl Scout for 12 years, and as an adult for the rest. “I credit the Girl Scouts for a lot in my life. I’m positive it is the leadership, confidence and business skills I learned as a girl in Girl Scouting that gave me the skills I have today.”

“My favorite thing about my multi-level troop is watching the troop members learn and grow,” Gutekenst said. “I have younger troop members really look up to the older troop members. It is empowering for me to see the bond they make across different age groups. Seeing an older Girl Scout teach something to younger ones, it is pretty special.”

Each of the Girl Scouts gets the opportunity to learn, grow, and



TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

The rainbow selection of cookies to choose from.

move forward to new and better things that will challenge them, but in a space that is safe and surrounded by friends, and in some cases, family, as siblings are able to be in the same group.

“My favorite part of cookie sales is watching our Girl Scouts learn and develop skills. The cookie sale is a great opportunity to practice talking to customers, practice math skills and realizing they are reaching their goals,” said Gutekenst.

Even in just one cookie sale day, Gutekenst has been able to see tremendous growth in the members of this troop. One of the girls, during her first sale, started out the day nervous and shy, but by the end of the day, her confidence had grown tremendously.

Girl Scouting is an opportunity for young people to learn about themselves, and the world they live in, all in the supportive circle

of others on the same journey.

“I would like to thank customers for being patient with the Girl Scouts. They might stumble when talking about cookies. It might take them a little longer to figure out your change. But consistently, we see customers understand and support these Girl Scouts in their learning,” said Gutekenst.

“I’d encourage you to ask them about their goals. Ask about their favorite part of Girl Scouting. Share stories of your Girl Scout experience. It will all help them develop great customer service skills.”

So, don’t forget your cookies next weekend, and be sure to leave the girls with a word of encouragement, as they strive towards their goals and grow as young people.

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OPINION



When to claim Social Security and taxation of benefits

Dear Rusty:

I am 65 and currently working full-time.

Can I apply for and start receiving my Social Security benefit? I'd expect to have to pay income tax on it if/when I do.

Signed: Curious Worker

Dear Curious Worker:

If you are working full time, you should likely delay claiming Social Security at this time. At age 65, you haven't yet reached your SS Full Retirement Age, so you will be subject to Social Security's "annual earnings test" which limits how much you can earn from work while collecting early benefits. The earnings limit for 2025 is \$23,400 and if you earn more than the annual limit, SS will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit.

If you earn significantly over the limit, you may even be temporarily ineligible to collect SS benefits. FYI, the annual earnings limit goes away when you reach your full retirement age, which for you is 66 years and 10 months, or March 2026.

As you obviously already know, a portion of your Social Security may be subject to income tax after you start collecting. The threshold for taxation of SS benefits depends on your IRS filing status – if you file your taxes as a single and your combined income from all sources (including half of the SS benefit you received during the tax year) exceeds \$25,000 then 50% of your received SS benefits are taxable.

But if you file taxes as "married/jointly" and your combined income is over \$32,000, then up to 85% of your received SS benefits are taxable. Thus, whenever you claim SS, you may wish to consider having income tax withheld from your SS benefit. This is optional, and you can do this by submitting IRS Form W-4V to your local Social Security office, or you could choose to increase your income tax withholding at work or, alternatively, pay estimated income taxes quarterly.

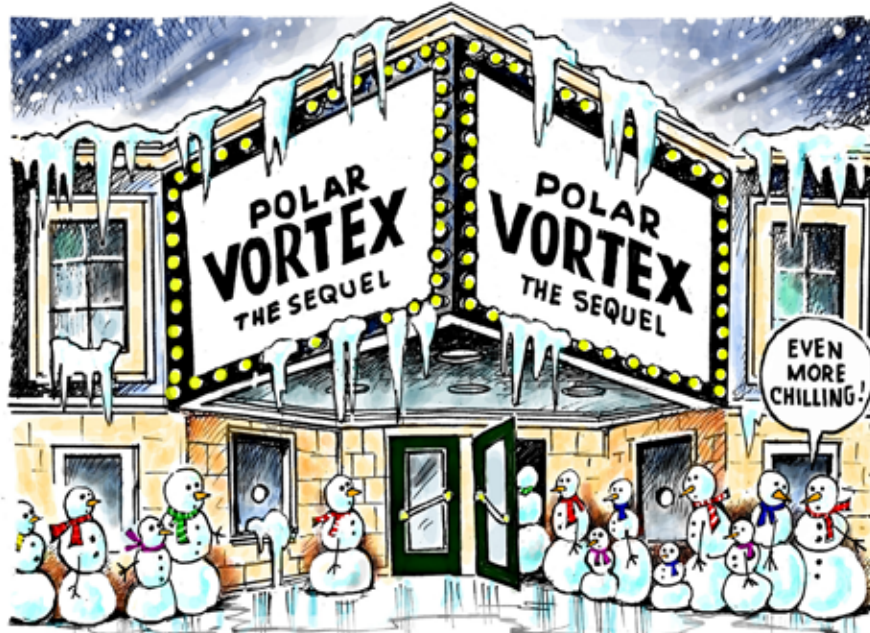
So, whether you can claim Social Security now depends entirely on how much you will earn from working full time prior to your FRA. If you exceed the annual earnings limit before your FRA, SS will take away some of your benefits or, if you greatly exceed the earnings limit, you may even be temporarily ineligible to get benefits until you either reach your FRA or earn less. But note, if you decide to claim early and any SS benefits are withheld because you exceeded the earnings limit, you will get credit for that in the form of a slightly increased benefit after you reach your full retirement age.

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

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.



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

LETTER

Following the law

Letter to the Editor:

Everyone knows that nicotine addiction causes cancer, heart attacks and deaths. Nevertheless, unlike heroin and cocaine, local dealers are authorized to sell nicotine products, provided they follow state and local law. It is a responsibility of local boards of health to enforce those laws.

The Belchertown Board of Health held hearings in which we waived the

penalties for several dealers who had admitted to violating the regulations. It is important for those who sell these addictive substances to understand that their employees need to follow the law.

Without getting into personnel issues, I can say that I have full confidence in the staff of the Quabbin Health District.

Ken Elstein,
Member

Belchertown Board of Health

A starlit hike in the White Mountains

By Julie Midura
Correspondent

This was our final hike of 2024. It was 5:15am, and we were lying on our backs staring up at the stars, cocooned in our bright green two-person down sleeping bag atop several feet of snow on the wide open summit of Mt. Jackson in NH. The sun was still 2 hours from cresting the distant horizon. It was dead calm, but bitterly cold.

In spite of donning every layer in my winter arsenal, I shivered and snuggled closer to Tom as I gathered the excess fabric of the bag as close to my body as I could.

We had arrived at the trailhead parking lot almost 3 hours before. It was 0 degrees when we stepped out of our SUV and opened the back hatch to retrieve our backpacks. In a split second of hesitation, I questioned our sanity. "Who in their right mind climbs a mountain in the pitch black of night in these ungodly temperatures just to see the sun rise?" Then I immediately thought, "Too late now. We dropped the motel key in the drop box a half hour ago in the dead of night, so we'll be climbing this mountain whether I want to or not."

As we moved upward along the snaking path, the beams of light from our headlamps danced between the snow covered trees, creating an aura of mystery as the long shadows stretched deep into the blackened forest. Our headlamps ignited the untouched snow on the sides of the trail, giving the illusion of walking on a smooth white carpet of infinite shimmering diamonds.

When we finally broke tree line, the crescent moon and twinkling stars welcomed us to a dark and windless sum-



A visit from the infamous Grey Jays, with Mt Washington in the distance.

mit. I stood, unmoving, serenaded by the whisper of starlight in the heavens above me.

Eight years of hiking in every season. Numerous hiking lists. Thousands of miles. Climbing the second tallest mountain in the continental United States. Section hiking the Appalachian Trail.

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A moment of being suspended in time, somewhere between our very first hike and what will someday be our very last. Suspended between the valley below and the heavens above while basking under the brilliance of a million twinkling stars

Please see **HIKE**, page 7

Turley Publications Letters to the Editor Policy

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

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Belchertown, Granby & Amherst SENTINEL TEAM

EDITORIAL
sentinel@turley.com



ADVERTISING SALES
Maureen
McGarrett Hall
mmcgarrett@turley.com



SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com



STAFF WRITER
Emily-Rose Pappas
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.



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WEB
www.sentinel.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

DEANNA SLOAT
Graphics Manager

Turley
Publications, Inc.

www.turley.com

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ABOVE: Watching the sunrise from the summit of Mt. Jackson, NH.

RIGHT: Snuggled in our sleeping bags on our snowy perch.



HIKE from page 6

against the backdrop of a black velvet sky, while waiting for the sun to awaken the earth in a blaze of fiery brilliance.

And although we hope that we'll have the opportunity to experience a moment like this again, we've learned the hard way that there are no guarantees in this life.

So we settle in for however long it takes. We inhale the clean mountain air. We feel the cold kiss our cheeks and the silence fill our ears. We wait for the sun to silence the stars and breathe life onto the earth.

We remain snuggled in our lofty bright green sleeping bag on a snowy perch atop a 4,000-foot mountain for over four hours, unwilling to leave lest we miss one single minute of the magic that is unfolding in front of us.

And as we watch the black of night turn into the blazing red of dawn, we know that for the rest of our lives, for as long as there is breath in our lungs and blood running through our veins...

WE. WILL. NEVER. FORGET. THIS. MOMENT. See you in the wild places, my friends!

To read more about our hiking adventures, follow us on Instagram @more-thanthemountain.

BELCHERTOWN

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 available.

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

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

All dogs over the age of 6 months are required to be licensed by January 31st each year. After February 1st, late fees begin. Avoid the fines, license on time.

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

Town Election is May 19, 2025.

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

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

Meeting to discuss East/West Rail at Steaming Tender, Jan. 27

PALMER – A meeting will be held this month to discuss the future of the rail stop in the state's East/West Rail Project.

The meeting will be held at

Steaming Tender Restaurant on Monday, Jan. 27, from 6 to 8 p.m. The public is invited to participate in the discussion while enjoying food and a cash bar provided by the restaurant.

Part Time Van Driver-Senior Center

The Town of Belchertown is accepting applications for a part time van driver to transport Belchertown older adults to and from various locations around town in a 14 passenger van. Must possess a valid Class D Massachusetts driver's license (no special license is required) and have a good driving record. Operation of a wheelchair lift and wheelchair securement experience is preferred. Approximately 1-2 days per week (5-10 hours per week). This is a non-benefited position with an hourly rate is \$17.19/hour.

To complete an online employment application, please visit: www.belchertown.org/jobs. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

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

Visit us on the web www.turley.com

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USDA INSP. FROZEN ST LOUIS PORK RIBS	\$2.59/lb	USDA INSP. FRESH STORE MADE BONELESS STUFFED PORK LOIN CHOPS or ROAST w/ BREAD STUFFING	\$3.35/lb	USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN WINGS 10 LB BAG	\$2.49/lb
SLICED IN OUR DELI ITALIAN ROAST BEEF	\$5.99/lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF CHUCK ROAST or STEAKS	\$5.99/lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN CHICKEN THIGHS TRAY PAK	79c/lb
SLICED IN OUR DELI MUESTER CHEESE	\$5.99/lb	USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY DIET LEAN GROUND BEEF 5 LB BAG	\$4.99/lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN FRENCH TOAST STICKS 2 LB BAG	\$5.49/ea
USDA INSP. STORE MADE BONELESS ITALIAN MARINATED CHICKEN BREAST	\$2.99/lb	USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN RAW SHRIMP EASY PEEL 31/40 COUNT 2 LB BAG	\$9.99/ea		
USDA INSP. STORE MADE BBQ SWEET MARINATED BEEF BLADE STEAKS	\$6.99/lb				

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SALE DATES: 1/23/25-1/29/25

BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE

BUSINESS

Consignment shop has perfect selection of trinkets

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

GRANBY – Finding the perfect décor piece, new accessories for your outfits, or even some other used items like clothing and shoes doesn't have to be a hassle.

With the ever-present thrift and consignment stores available, it is not difficult to find the perfect piece without spending a fortune.

Cinderelli's Consignments right on 183 West State Street is the perfect spot to find the perfect additions to your outfits and home.

"We consign women's better brand career wear, athletic wear, casual clothing items, shoes, handbags, beauty items, jewelry and home décor," said owner of Cinderelli's Consignments, Diane Olson.

"We specialize in new or like

new items that are a few years old or less," said Olson.

Recently, items sold at the consignment shop have included a Louis Vuitton tote, Ugg boots, Chanel perfume, Nars makeup, Tory Burch sunglasses, Levi's jeans, a John Medeiros necklace, a set of Fiesta Wear dishes, and more.

The shop is filled with even more treasures like these, and has been operated by Olson since she took over Cinderelli's on January 1, 2014 after starting as a volunteer there in July of 2013 after being laid off from her previous corporate job.

"I had worked very hard at my corporate career earning a Master's in Engineering right

after undergraduate school and never had taken a break for 25 years. So, volunteering while I was thinking about my next career move was just a way for me to keep busy," said Olson.

The director of the non-profit organization Providence Ministries out of Holyoke, announced in December 2013 they would close the store, but offered it to Olson, who welcomed the opportunity with excitement and graciously took it over.

"I think my motivation for taking on the business was to test my own skills and see if I had the ability to be an entrepreneur. I love learning and took it on as one of the best learning experiences of my life," Olson said.

The name of the consignment shop, Cinderelli's, came from the original owners of the shop, and it was kept by Olson to remember them by.

"I kept the name of the store mostly because it was named after a fairy tale with a great moral message. Basically kindness and hard work are beautiful virtues and that one should stay true to themselves and never give up hope," said Olson.

While thrift stores and consignment shops carry similar used and like new items, a consignment store typically carries more higher quality items like the name brand designer items.

A consignment store does screenings to check for cleanliness, and is discerning of quality, age, and condition before it even considers accepting an item for sale. "It's appealing to shoppers who want to find like new items in ready to use condition for a much lower price than retail," said Olson.

Consignment shops also provide a way for the general public to make money as the profits



Diane Olson, the owner of Cinderelli's Consignment Boutique.



Beautiful works of art and accent pieces for tables and couches galore.



Scarves, jewelry, purses, and home décor, the shop has everything all in one place.

from sales are shared between the store and item owner. "I can say that some very stylish ladies who sell their items in my store make a really good side hustle income!"

The shop accepts consignments only, and people with collections of like-new items can contact the shop directly and set up an appointment with Olson to bring them in to her. The shop also offers estate services for large lots of clothing or home items where they come to you by special arrangement. "(My favorite part is) definitely doing the displays," said Olson. "The way someone feels when they walk into my store is really important to me, so I take a lot of time designing clothing, jewelry and home decor displays."

"It's not about selling for me; it's about inspiring my customers with a beautiful and original presentation. Even our front windows and dressing rooms are filled with fun themes, lighting and messages of encouragement. Also, the music I play, the scents I use, the temperature, it's all really important details of the whole experience a customer has."

Olson loves the store and working with people in and around the community, helping with whatever you need, whether its styling an outfit for an important occasion, picking out pieces to make your living space perfectly and uniquely you, or anything else.

Please see **SHOP**, page 16



Whether it's a new pair of shoes you need or something else, Cinderelli's is perfect for everyone.



A necklace and pair of earrings can make any outfit shine brightly.

Relay for Life looking for participants

BELCHERTOWN—Quaboag Valley Relay for Life is looking for more teams to join our Relay on May 31 on the Belchertown Common from 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Everyone has been affected by cancer so now is the time to form a few friends and family so you can fundraise and spread awareness of this dreaded disease.

You do not have to have a large team or lots of money collected.

A few new teams getting in some donations is a big help to the American Cancer Society.

After we are done doing all our fundraising, the Relay is a way to unwind and celebrate our accomplishments.

The teams can be in honor or in memory of a loved one or friend. Any questions please feel free to email ctellie@juno.com

A Kick-Off event will be held on Feb. 23 at Hope Church on Main Street in Belchertown from 1 to 3 p.m. This is an informative and fun event. Come and learn what Relay is all about.

Health grants available to central Mass organizations

WORCESTER – The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts announced the opening of its 2025 Activation Fund grant opportunity, which provides capacity-building support for organizations working to address the community-identified health needs of central Massachusetts residents and workers.

With grants typically ranging between \$60,000 and \$125,000, the Activation Fund supports discrete, one-year projects in central Massachusetts aimed at helping organizations advance to their next level of capacity and effectiveness that can be sustained over time. The deadline for submission of a brief concept paper to express interest is Feb. 28.

Organizations invited to apply will be notified in April so that they can submit full applications; final funding decisions will be made in late June so that projects can launch in July.

“Through the Activation Fund, we seek to offer grants that enable organizations to seize strategic opportunities for growth, address emerging challenges, purchase equipment, or improve facilities, thereby facilitating activities and outcomes beyond the status quo” said Dr. Amie Shei, President and CEO of the Foundation. “Over the past 25 years, nearly \$12 million in Activation Fund grants has been awarded to 117 unique organizations with positive and lasting ripple effects on health throughout the region.”

Those interested in applying for an Activation Fund grant should visit the Foundation website at www.thfcm.org to access information on the application guidelines and register for a virtual information session to learn about the geographic focus and other eligibility requirements, types of support considered, and examples of previous grants.

Examples of 2024 grant recipients include Growing Places, which received a \$110,000 grant for development of a customized IT solution to enhance efficiency and expand its capacity to serve local food consumers, buyers and small farmers in north central Massachusetts, and Quinsigamond Community College, which received a \$125,000 grant to replace outdated dental chairs and equipment stations at its Worcester-based dental clinic that prioritizes underserved patients.

For questions about the application process, please contact Vice President for Programs Jennie Blake at jblake@thfcm.org or 508-438-0009 extension 6.

About the Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts

The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts is dedicated to improving the health of those who live or work in central Massachusetts, with particular emphasis on vulnerable populations and unmet needs. Through its unique and impactful approach to grantmaking, The Health Foundation supports community-identified health issues, with health defined broadly to include social determinants of health and with a focus on promoting health equity.

As a health conversion foundation launched in 1999 following the sale of the not-for-profit HMO Central Massachusetts Health Care Inc., The Health Foundation’s grants have totaled over \$59 million to more than 230 unique organizations over its history. For more information, visit www.thfcm.org.

MEETING from page 1

Stewardship Program, and the Agricultural Management Assistance Program.

“We are here year-round on a first-come-first-serve business,” said Barros. “You engage with us and see that we are here to help you.”

The NRCS prioritizes people that come in basked off of the benefit the plans of the farmer are to the environment, and help match them to the correct program that will work for them.

The NRCS does not have grants, but offers loans to help farmers get what they need quickly and efficiently.

You can find more information on their website at www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov.

Kathy Ruhf, a member of the Belchertown community for years, came to the meeting to share about Land for Good.

The focus of Land for Good is to ensure that land is accessible, tenured, and transferred according to the will of the farmers, and helps to orchestrate, organize, and figure out how to successfully organize that process.

The organization works in the national level, and provides educational workshops, trainings, coaching, and more since its opening in 2004.

“Returning farmers had no support on how to transfer their farm lands. We realized land succession is only one side of the problem,” said Ruhf.

The organization recognizes the multi-faceted ideas and issues surrounding land succession, and all the many twisting and turning ideas and circumstances that make the process more difficult than it should be.

Many farmers will postpone their land succession plans because of it being hard to find advisors, anxiety, family factors, finances, insurance, and more.

Land for Good helps farmers find something to do when they finally decide to retire, or need to retire, for whatever reason, dealing with both emotional, mental, and physical reactions to the change this will bring.

“Farm Succession Planning is your legacy. What kind of meaning are you passing down?” Ruhf said. “Succession planning is evidence of leadership.”

Land for Good can also help farmers find successors, and navi-



TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

Grace Adzima and Selectboard Vice Chair Lesa Lessard Pearson came to share a survey that the MVP 2.0 group put together.

gate what they need at their disposal in order to put together their toolkit for the succession transfer.

Some items needed include a will, business entity, establishing trust(s), family and inter-family financing, life insurance, legacies, attorneys, accountants, and more that Land for Good can help you find.

More information, including how to find specialized checklist workbooks, can be found on their website, at www.landforgood.org.

Lastly, Grace Adzima and Selectboard Vice Chair Lesa Lessard Pearson came forward to share with the gathered attendees a survey that the MVP 2.0 group put together.

The Municipality Vulnerability Preparedness Committee works to consider how Climate Change effects the lands around us, and develop ways to combat these changes, as well as to lessen their negative affects in the community lands.

MVP looks to focusing on vulnerable populations, including farmers, in order to address how to help these members of our community work through climate change in whatever form that may be.

“We are looking at very specific areas and how climate change affects them,” said Pearson. “What can we do to make the community more aware of the plight of the



Kathy Ruhf, a member of the Belchertown community for years, came to the meeting to share about Land for Good.

farmer? We want to help farmers find their voices.”

You can find more information about MVP and what they are doing through the town website, under Conservation Department, and find the MVP 2.0 page.

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DEATH NOTICE

Jeanette B. (Rhodes) Phaneuf
 Died Jan. 10, 2025
 Services are private
 Beers & Story
 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.

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

OBITUARY

Jeanette B. (Rhodes) Phaneuf

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Jeanette B. (Rhodes) Phaneuf, who departed this life on Jan. 10, 2025, in Worcester, MA. Born in Belchertown, MA, in 1935, she remained a lifelong devoted resident of her birthplace. Jeanette's life journey, rich with warmth and compassion, is remembered fondly by her family and community.

Jeanette was preceded in death by her beloved parents, Lawrence and Donella (Martin) Rhodes. She leaves behind her cherished husband of 71 years, Roger Phaneuf, who shared with her a remarkable bond of love and partnership in Belchertown. Her legacy is also carried on by her children, Roger "Kim" Phaneuf and his wife Susan of Belchertown and Lynn Forgette and her husband Edward, also of Belchertown as well as grandchildren, Liam, Caitlin, Dana, Garrett, Alex and Tim.

A proud graduate of Belchertown High School, Jeanette dedicated over three decades of her life to the community as a secretary in the Guidance office of her alma mater. Her dedication to the educational upbringing of many reflected her generous spirit and commitment to serving others.

Jeanette embodied kindness and generosity in her everyday life. She was an enthusiastic gardener, loved preserving vegetables, and was an avid bird watcher. Her passion extended to crossword puzzles, revealing her sharp mind and love for words. Her home was a sanctuary for stray animals and wayward souls alike, often opening its doors to those in need.

The services celebrating Jeanette's life will be private and held at the convenience of her family, respecting their wishes. Those wishing to honor her memory may do so through donations to the Belchertown Senior Center.



DCR lists upcoming winter hybrid presentations

BELCHERTOWN – The Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center, 100 Winsor Dam Road, announces the schedule for winter hybrid presentations.

All programs are scheduled for 2 p.m. In person seating is limited to 45 people.

In case of bad weather, the programs will only be held virtually. Please register for any of these events by visiting <https://www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events>.

Understanding Fish Species at Quabbin Reservoir

Sunday, Jan. 26 from 2-3 p.m.

Creel surveys are a common technique used by fisheries professionals to better understand waterbody specific catch and harvest trends. Creel data from Quabbin Reservoir were collected at each of the three boat launch areas during the 2024 fishing season.

The presentation will provide updates regarding participation, catch, harvest and species specific trends. These data will be compared to other statewide and waterbody specific creel data collected by MassWildlife and Department of Conservation and Recreation.

The Mystery of Prescott Quilt of Names

Sunday, Feb. 2 from 2-3 p.m.

Step back in time and delve into the intriguing story behind a remarkable artifact that has woven together generations—a quilt embroidered with fifty signatures from 1895, hailing from Prescott, Massachusetts. Who created this piece of history, and why? How did it make its way to the Hitchcock Chair Museum in Riverton, Connecticut, and who played a crucial role in returning

it to the Swift River Valley Historical Society?

Join historical interpreter Karen Traub as she embarks on a fascinating journey to unravel the quilt's past.

History of Rutland Prison Camp

Sunday, Feb. 16 from 2-3 p.m.

Fresh air, three home-cooked meals a day, comfortable sleeping quarters and a private hospital - sounds like a delightful retreat for a prison? Indeed, it was!

This presentation will tell the story of this surprisingly successful social experiment nestled within the Ware River Watershed.

Microscopic world of the Quabbin Reservoir

Sunday, Feb. 23 from 2-3 p.m.

What's in the water? Learn about the microorganisms that live in the water, and how they can impact water quality.

This presentation will cover phytoplankton and zooplankton found in the Quabbin Reservoir with a live microscope demo.

Quabbin Reservoir and Watershed Protection

Sunday, March 2 from 2-3 p.m.

Engineering, forestry, wildlife and aquatic biology, carpentry, mowing and snowplowing...how do all of these things combine to protect the water supply of over three million people in Massachusetts? How does they benefit the region around the reservoir?

This presentation from the Visitor Center staff explores how the many different goals of DCR staff all support one goal, Quabbin watershed protection.

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 Jan. 7 through Jan. 13. 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 18 incidents, four accidents, one arrests/summons and 37 citations.

ARRESTS/SUMMONS

INCIDENTS/ACCIDENTS

Tuesday, Jan. 7

1:57 p.m. – An officer responded to assist Belchertown fire and paramedics.

7:23 p.m. – An officer responded to a residence to assist with a juvenile who ran away. The officer got a call from a person that lives in the area saying juvenile was there.

Wednesday, Jan. 8

8:14 a.m. – An officer assisted with juvenile issues about a child who was refusing to go to school. The Belchertown School Resource officer assisted with the incident.

9:25 a.m. – An officer took a report of fraud. A person reported they noticed there was fraud on their debit account. The account they tried to use it was flagged by the bank. They contacted their bank and found the account was suspended due to possible fraudulent activity. The matter was documented. A report was filed.

12:01 p.m. – An officer did a follow up to a residence to assist with Belchertown Fire and paramedics. There was another incident at the residence.

1:29 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on State Street. A vehicle going south on State Street entered Front Street with a green light, the vehicle then swerved to avoid another vehicle. The second vehicle attempted to turn left and failed to yield. Both vehicles were towed from the scene. No injuries were reported.

3:39 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Boardman Road. A vehicle traveling on Boardman Road when a deer jumped out in front of the vehicle. The vehicle tried to stop and struck deer. The vehicle left the scene and no injuries were reported.

85:21 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Bay Road. A vehicle rear ended another vehicle traveling east on Bay Road. The operator of the second vehicle said they looked down briefly and struck the first vehicle. No tows were needed, and no injuries were reported.

9:45 p.m. – An officer responded to a deer that was struck by a vehicle. The deer was euthanized. Massachusetts Department of Transportation was contacted to remove the remains.

Thursday, Jan. 9

5:55 a.m. – An officer responded to assist Belchertown fire and paramedics.

12:39 p.m. – An officer spoke with residents concerning neighbor issues and a possible complaint of trespassing involving a person who the caller has an active no trespassing order against.

4:04 p.m. – An officer responded to assist Belchertown fire and paramedics.

Saturday, Jan. 11

1:14 a.m. – Officers and Belchertown Fire and paramedics responded to an address for a person who was making threats to harm themselves.

Sunday, Jan. 12

2:48 p.m. – An officer responded to a State Street business where a person indicated they witnessed a vehicle strike another vehicle and leave the scene. The officer met up with the witnesses and was able to get a registration plate of the vehicle that left the scene. The officer contacted Granby Police Department to make notification of the other driver. The person then contacted the police department. They didn't think there was much damage and that's why they left. They were issued a citation for leaving the scene.

Monday, Jan. 13

4:36 p.m. – An officer responded to assist Belchertown Fire and paramedics.

Granby Police Log

Editor's Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 122 calls from Jan. 10 through Jan. 16. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The Granby Police Department provides all the information.

Friday, Jan. 10

8:03 a.m. – While on patrol, an officer observed an operator of a vehicle pass another vehicle illegally. The vehicle was stopped and it was discovered that the operator did not have a MA driver's license. The operator was issued a criminal citation and charged with passing in a no passing zone and unlicensed operation.

9:59 p.m. – A motorist reported a two-car head-on collision with injuries. Granby Police and Fire responded. The operator of one vehicle had to be extricated by the Fire Department using the jaws of life. One operator was transported to the hospital with serious injuries. The State Police and South Hadley Police assisted.

Saturday, Jan. 11

5:53 a.m. – A resident reported that three vehicles were stolen from their address. All three vehicles were later located in Hartford and Manchester Connecticut. Several other residents in the area reported that their vehicles had been gone through. The matter is under investigation.

Wednesday, Jan. 15

11:03 a.m. – While on patrol, an officer observed a motor vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed that the vehicle was traveling at 70MPH in 40MPH zone. The vehicle was stopped and the operator was issued a civil citation for speeding.

Thursday, Jan. 16

7:39 a.m. – A motorist flagged down an officer and reported a minor 2-car accident. There were no injuries.

1:25 p.m. – A motorist reported a two-car accident. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries.

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.**

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Morgan Litz rushes toward the basket.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY
WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Avery Cooper goes for the layup under pressure.

Rams qualify for tournament with win



Cody White holds the ball back from an opponent.

PALMER – Last Tuesday evening, Granby boys basketball jumped out to a lead and was able to hold onto it as they defeated Palmer 52-33 for its ninth win of the season. Granby is now qualified for the Division 5 state tournament. Gavier Fernandez had a big game with 16 points while Cody White turned in 10 for the Rams, who are now 9-2. Palmer was led by Stephen Fredette, who scored 11 points for the Panthers. Palmer is 5-4 so far this season.



Raymond Colon starts his way down the court on a play.



Gavier Fernandez one-handedly holds the ball before making a pass.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Riley Goodhind makes his way down the court after making a defensive rebound.



Chloe LaRoche takes a free throw.

Orioles score big upset over Agawam

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN—Five of the previous six girls' basketball games played between Central Division rivals Agawam and Belchertown were decided by ten or fewer points.

After losing the first meeting of the 2024-25 regular season against the Brownies by three points in overtime, the Lady Orioles evened the season series with a 46-39 home win, last Thursday night.

"We played very poorly at Pope Francis the other night, so we really needed a victo-

ry in tonight's game," said Belchertown head coach Jason Woodcock. "We did get off to a slow start, but we were able to battle back."

Prior to the opening tip-off, the members of the Jabish Brook Middle School chorus did an outstanding job of singing the National Anthem.

Belchertown, who lost at Pope Francis, 44-37, three nights earlier, had a 7-3 overall record and a 6-3 league record. While they still have a slim chance of tying Agawam for the league title, the Lady Orioles'

Please see **ORIOLES**, page 12

Pioneers continue to impress with 8-1 record



Megan Clark takes the long jump shot.



Addison Doktor tries to keep the ball from going out of bounds.



PALMER – Last week, Pathfinder girls basketball scored two more wins and are now 8-1 on the season. Last Monday night, the Pioneers defeated Sci-Tech 49-38. Greenly Lagimoniere had 14 points to lead the team. She was followed by Taylor Allen with 13 points, and Megan Clark with 11 points. The Pioneers would then defeat Westfield Tech 50-17 last Thursday. Coming up, the Pioneers will face Smith Academy Jan. 23 at 6 p.m.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI
Ciara Green sends a pass toward the corner.



Taylor Allen is pressured near the arc.

SPORTS

Thompson Speedway to feature 10 events

THOMPSON, Conn. — After weeks of careful planning, the American-Canadian Tour (ACT) and Pro All Star Series (PASS) have finalized and released the 2025 schedule for Thompson Speedway. Beginning in late March through Columbus Day weekend in October, rolling thunder returns to the 'Quiet Corner of Connecticut' for ten individual dates in 2025 including the annual Icebreaker and Sunoco World Series weekends along with a return to monthly Wednesday night racing.

Everything begins on Saturday, March 29 with the first of two days celebrating the 51st Icebreaker weekend to kick off the 2025 New England racing season! Saturday is headlined by the return of the Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series for the first of two spectacular showings on the Thompson highbanks in 2025 plus the PASS Super Late Models, Evolve Bank Pro Truck Challenge and R&R Race Parts NH Open Street Stock Series! Saturday's showcase also kicks off the 2025 track championship season for

the Sunoco Modifieds and Mini Stocks plus the introduction of Thompson Speedway's newest division, the Thunderstock Crown Vic Division!

Sunday, March 30 is headlined by the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour Icebreaker 150 plus the second Sunoco Modified event of Icebreaker weekend along with the Thompson Late Models, Street Stocks and SK Light Modifieds for a spectacular closer to the season's rip-roaring start!

The Monaco Modifieds return to headline the first Wednesday night action on May 14, complete with all six Thompson track championship divisions before the fan-favorite Dash for Cash Series returns for the first of three Wednesday Night programs on June 18, complete with the Evolve Bank Pro Truck Challenge and six Thompson divisions. The Dash for Cash 50 lap sprints will also return with the NEMA Lite special on July 9, the Wednesday, September 17 showdown and the Friday of Sunoco World Series weekend.

The NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour is back for their

traditional midweek showdown on August 6 headlined alongside the New England Supermodified Series and six Thompson Speedway divisions for a thrilling midweek special that cannot be missed!

The 63rd Sunoco World Series of Speedway Racing begins on Friday, October 10 headlined by the Dash for Cash \$5,000 to win sprint plus the R&R Open Street Stocks and Senior Tour Auto Racers (STAR) alongside track championship finales for the Late Models and Mini Stocks. The Thunderstock Crown Vics will also run on both Friday and Saturday of World Series weekend.

Saturday afternoon is headlined by the incredible 75th annual Race of Champions 150 held for the first time at Thompson Speedway with a \$12,500 prize headed for the winner of the iconic Al Gerber Memorial trophy! Saturday also features the championship finale for the New England Supermodified Series, along with the Evolve Bank Pro Truck Challenge and Harry Kourafas Memorial 22 for the

New England Pro-4 Modifieds. The Sunoco Modifieds will compete in their first of two days during the Sunoco World Series and the SK Light Modifieds will crown their 2025 track champion.

Sunday, October 12 will feature the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour Sunoco World Series 150 with the Sunoco Modifieds and Street Stocks crowning their track champions with the NEMA Lites rounding out the season-closing program.

"We've built up a schedule we think works for everyone," said PASS President Tom Mayberry. "There's a little bit of everything for each event that we believe works for both fans and racers alike."

"Both Tom and I have had quite a few conversations with competitors and 2025 looks promising," said ACT managing partner Cris Michaud. "The return of the Dash for Cash races and expanding the Crown Vic races are something we're looking forward to seeing grow at Thompson next season."

T-Birds get win at Bridgeport

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. — The Springfield Thunderbirds (17-15-2-1) had six players record multiple points in a 6-4 triumph over the Bridgeport Islanders (8-25-2-2) on Saturday night at Total Mortgage Arena.

The T-Birds and Islanders' netminders had all the answers in the opening 20 minutes, as Colten Ellis picked up where he left off from his shutout performance on Wednesday with 10 more stops in the opening frame. In the Bridgeport net, Hunter Miska made his first AHL start in nearly three years and was up to every Springfield challenge with 11 first-period stops.

The night marked the much-anticipated debut of Blues' 2023 first-round pick Otto Stenberg, and the 19-year-old wasted little time in period two making his mark on the game, taking a drop feed from Hugh McGing in the left circle and roofing a wrister short-side on Miska for his first AHL goal on his first shot at 2:43.

Unfortunately, the excitement of Stenberg's opening tally was quickly tempered when Chris Terry evened the slate with a power play goal at 3:29 for Bridgeport, snapping Ellis's shutout streak of over 83 minutes.

The T-Birds returned fire at 8:56 when Hunter Skinner leaned into a one-time slapper off a Matthew Peca drop pass, beating Miska over the stick hand to give Springfield a 2-1 advantage.

Once again, however, the Islander power play had a rebuttal. This time, a Samuel Bolduc point wrister eluded Ellis and got the game back even, 2-2, at 13:50.

Springfield continued to be just a tick faster than the Islanders in the see-saw second frame as Stenberg let a wrister fly from the left side at 15:45, creating a rebound for McGing to bury behind Miska and restore the T-Birds' lead.

Finally, the Islanders could not get the game back to a stalemate, and Alek Kaskimaki lifted a backhand under the crossbar on a net-crashing play up the left side at 19:20 to send Springfield to the second intermission dressing room ahead 4-2.

Bridgeport still did not keel over, and with the teams skating 4-on-4 in the opening minute of the third, Liam Foudy capitalized on a rebound outside the paint to make it a 4-3 contest.

MacKenzie MacEachern further bolstered the Springfield advantage when he picked the puck off from Bolduc and cruised in on Miska before beating the netminder glove side on a breakaway to make it a 5-3 game at 7:33.

McGing capped off his best night of the season with his second goal of the evening in the dying seconds of a power play at 11:13 of the third to up the lead to 6-3.

Eetu Liukas would get one back for the Islanders with 1:03 to play, but it was too late for the home team as Springfield cashed in its fourth straight win and second in four nights over Bridgeport.

ORIOLES from page 12

main objective is to qualify for both the Western Mass. Class B and the Division 3 state tournaments.

If Agawam (9-2, 7-1) had won the game, they would've locked up sole possession of the league title and qualified for the Division 2 state tournament.

"I thought it was a very evenly played game tonight, but they just made a couple more shots than we did down the stretch," said Agawam head coach Tim Murphy. "We now need to win one of our last two league games to clinch the league title outright. We also should qualify for both the Western Mass. Class A tournament and the Division 2 state tournament."

The Brownies, who defeated the Lady Orioles 50-47 in overtime at the end of December, shared the league title with Pope Francis last year. Their final two league games will be at Monument Mountain on January 30 and at home against Mount Greylock on February 10, which is the Brownies final game of the regular season.

Both Agawam and Belchertown were missing key players in last Thursday's contest.

Senior guard Marlee Montagna, who was the Brownies leading scorer this season, suffered a season-ending ACL injury to her right knee in a 46-36 win at Drury on January 10. Montagna also had



Logan Moses gets the short jumper.



Gabriella Slovack shoots ahead of a block.

a team leading 18 3-pointers.

"This was the first game that we played without Marlee and it's a very big loss for us," Murphy said. "She was averaging 13 points per game, so everyone else will need to step up offensively."

Junior guard Isabella Laprise scored seven of her season-high 18 points during the first quarter, which helped the Brownies take a 12-5 lead. Laprise scored a career-high 22 points in a road win against Mount Greylock as a sophomore.

Senior center Mia Canavan chipped in with eight points, while junior forward Sophia Laprise scored all seven of her points before halftime. Rounding out the scoring column for the visiting team were senior guard Kate Cleavall (4 points) and senior forward Hannah Solitario (2 points).

Belchertown freshman guard Kina Roy, who started the first

six games of the regular season, missed her fourth game against Agawam due to an injury.

"Kina was playing very well before suffering an injury at practice two weeks ago," Woodcock said. "She was a sparkplug, and it has been a little bit difficult not for us having her on the court."

The Lady Orioles' two double digit scorers were senior forward Chloe LaRoche with 15 points and freshman forward Aubrey Klingensmith with 12 points.

LaRoche, who has scored more than 800 career points, made her team's only field goal of the opening quarter. She also made two of the Lady Orioles' five 3-pointers in the second quarter. Klingensmith, who scored a game-high 22 points in the first meeting against Agawam, also made a pair of 3-pointers during that quarter. Sophomore point guard

Morghan Litz (6 points) hit the other one, which closed the gap to 23-20 at halftime.

Less than three minutes into the third quarter, LaRoche made a rare four point play. She was fouled while making a 3-pointer and made the bonus free throw giving her team a 28-25 lead.

Senior guard Logan Moses scored five of her eight points at the end of the third quarter, which helped the Lady Orioles build a 33-29 lead entering the final quarter.

"Logan is the unsung hero of our team this season," Woodcock said. "She does everything that we need her to do on the court. We're a much different team without her."

At the start of the fourth quarter, Litz hit a 3-pointer from the left side pushing the lead to seven points.

The Brownies, who only made three field goals during the third quarter, scored the game's next six points in less than two minutes.

Canavan began the run with a lay-up. Then Isabella Laprise also made back-to-back lay-ups closing the gap to 36-35 with 4:30 remaining in regulation.

Agawam was only trailing, 40-39 with 2:50 left before Klingensmith knocked down a 3-pointer from the right corner. A little more than a minute later, Klingensmith made a base-line lay-up before making a free throw.

"My 3-pointer late in the fourth quarter gave us a little bit of a cushion," Klingensmith said. "I really enjoy being a member of this basketball team. Everyone has been very supportive."

The last time that the Belchertown girls' basketball team celebrated a victory against Agawam was on January 6, 2023. The final score of that contest, which took place at Agawam's Cliff Kibbe Gymnasium, was 40-37.

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EDUCATION

COLLEGE NEWS

Dean College fall 2024 dean's list

FRANKLIN— Dean College is pleased to announce the students that have earned a place on the dean's list for the fall 2024 semester. These students have demonstrated a serious commitment to their studies while at Dean College. The following students are from Amherst:
Meredith Pickering and Spencer Waite.

SUNY Potsdam president's list

POTSDAM, NY— Paige Ivey of Belchertown, was recently named to the president's list at The State University of New York at Potsdam.
Ivey, whose major is Childhood/Early Childhood Education, was among 774 students who were honored for academic excellence in the Fall 2024 semester. SUNY Potsdam President Dr. Suzanne Smith recognized the students for earning top marks.

Dean's list honors at Roger Williams University

BRISTOL, RI — Chloe MacAluso, of Belchertown, has been named to the fall 2024 dean's list at Roger Williams University, in Bristol, R.I. Full-time students who complete 12 or more credits per semester and earn a grade point average of 3.4 or higher are placed on the Dean's List that semester.

ECSU fall 2024 dean's list

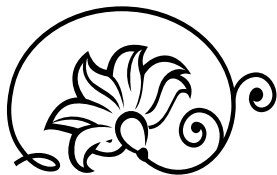
WILLIMANTIC, CT— Eastern Connecticut State University recently released its dean's list for the fall 2024 semester, in which more than 1,300 students were recognized for maintaining high GPAs.
Among them is Hannah Bernashe of Belchertown, a senior who majors in Elementary Education and English.

SNHU fall 2024 president's list

MANCHESTER, NH— It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University congratulates the following students on being named to the fall 2024 president's list.
Dylan Moore of Granby and Madison Houle of Belchertown.

SNHU fall 2024 dean's list

MANCHESTER, NH— It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University congratulates the following students on being named to the fall 2024 dean's list.
Rebecca Potter of Belchertown and Kaitlyn James of Amherst.



GRANBY

Granby nomination papers 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.

Friends put together library scholarship program

GRANBY – The Friends of the Granby Free Public Library is hosting a special scholarship program for high school students that are making their way towards higher education.

The awards are given to students who have demonstrated academic achievement and community service

through volunteer work at the library, and eligible students are required to be high school seniors graduating this spring and wither reside in Granby or attend the Granby Schools.

The minimum GPA required for consideration is a 2.5, and the student's community service record must also be included, with a minimum of

45 logged library volunteer hours completed during per each junior and senior year.

Students must submit their scholarship application and essay, which can be found on the library's website, www.granbylibrary.com, and must be submitted by the deadline of May 1, 2025.

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.



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Classified Advertising DEADLINE MONDAY AT NOON

HCC scholarship season opens

HOLYOKE — The Holyoke Community College Foundation will begin accepting scholarship applications for the 2025-2026 academic year on Tuesday, Jan. 21. The application deadline is Friday, March 14.

Last year, the HCC Foundation awarded 388 scholarships worth about \$350,000 to 323 incoming, current, and transferring HCC students. Some students received multiple scholarship awards. The average scholarship award is typically around \$900.

"Awarding scholarships to deserving students has been a cornerstone of the work of the HCC Foundation since its founding," said Amanda Sbriscia, vice president of Institutional Advancement and executive director of the HCC Foundation. "Scholarships established by donors celebrate academic achievement, community service, and civic engagement, and, most importantly, these funds ensure hundreds of students have the resources they need to complete their college degrees."

Students must be currently enrolled at HCC or have been accepted for the upcoming academic year to be eligible for scholarships.

"While the recent launch of MassEducate, the state's free-community-college-for-all program, has made HCC accessible to more individuals, that only means we have a greater responsibility to ensure students make it to the finish line," Sbriscia said. "Tuition and fees represent only a portion of the cost of being a college student today, and, oftentimes, a donor scholarship can truly change a student's life."

Applicants need only to fill out a single online form to be automatically matched with the scholarships they are most qualified to receive. There are scholarships for new students, current students and students transferring to other institutions, scholarships based on financial need, scholarships for students in specific majors, scholarships for residents of certain communities, and scholarships that recognize academic achievement.

To view scholarship opportunities and begin the application process, please go to www.hcc.edu/scholarships.

Last January, HCC opened a dedicated Scholarship Resource Center to help current and incoming students navigate the process of applying for scholarships and filling out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). The office, located on the first floor of the Donahue Building (Room 158) is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The HCC Foundation is a 501(c)(3) that works to advance the college's mission, vision, and values. Founded in 1968 as the Friends of Holyoke Community College, in response to a devastating fire that forced the college to rebuild on a new campus, the Foundation now manages assets of more than \$20 million, the largest community college foundation endowment in Massachusetts.

Questions should be directed to the HCC Foundation office at 413-552-2182, or by email to scholarships@hcc.edu.

PUBLIC NOTICE

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampshire Probate and Family Court
15 Atwood Drive
Northampton MA, 01060
Docket No. HS25P0013GD
In the matter of:
Justin S. Kleiner
Of: Belchertown, MA
RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated Person
CITATION GIVING
NOTICE OF
APPOINTMENT OF
GUARDIAN FOR
INCAPACITATED
PERSON PURSUANT TO
G.L. c. 190B, §5-304**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Shaloma K. Robinson of Granby, MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that **Justin S. Kleiner** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Shaloma K. Robinson of Granby, MA** (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **02/13/2025**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to

file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Diana S. Velez Harris**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: January 09, 2025
Mark S. Ames
Register of Probate
01/23/2025

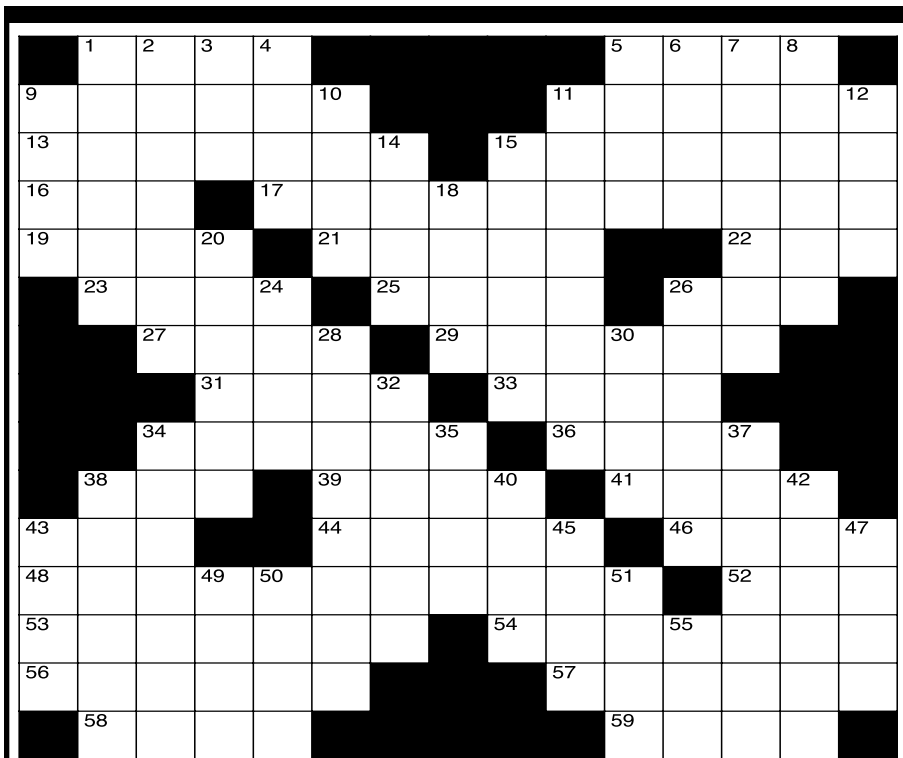
Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

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

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com



CLUES ACROSS

1. "Loser" rocker
5. Partner to relaxation
9. Mixing
11. Winged nut
13. Expression of blame
15. Vast ocean
16. Comedienne Gasteyer
17. Multiply
19. Meat from a pig (French)
21. Related
22. Rocker Stewart
23. Surprise completely
25. Loon
26. Canister
27. Large, deep-bodied fish
29. Takes forcefully
31. Oil cartel
33. Palmer and

- Hepburn are two
34. More than one
36. Places down purposefully
38. Pitching stastic
39. Type of sword
41. Witnesses
43. Body part
44. Mixes slowly
46. Satisfy
48. Strong belief
52. One's physique (slang)
53. More frightening
54. Soup cracker
56. Teaches
57. One who carries something
58. Actor Sean
59. Changes

CLUES DOWN

1. ___ Aires, city
2. Coarse grass

3. Type of gene
4. Door handle
5. Competition
6. Muslim ruler title
7. Hunting expeditions
8. Large mollusk
9. Bind securely
10. Former U.S. presidential candidate
11. 2-point plays in football
12. Breezed through
14. Type setting
15. Felt for
18. Codified rules
20. Small dome
24. Chevrotain
26. Male reproductive gland
28. Controversial beliefs
30. Z Z Z
32. One who confines another
34. Bishop
35. Garlands
37. Bird that flies by the coast
38. Optical device
40. Greek goddess of discord
42. Some are "Rolling"
43. Formerly (archaic)
45. Thrust a knife into
47. German river
49. Atomic #26
50. Make a grotesque face
51. Primordial matter of the universe
55. Chinese philosophical principle



With Valentine's Day coming up, it's the perfect opportunity to shop for that special someone second-hand.



Need some new makeup? You can find an array of shades perfectly matched to your skin tone.



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SHOP from page 8

He uses her experience in color analysis as well as kibbe body typing in order to help customers find the perfect things to wear that will suit them best.

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