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AUGUST 17, 2023

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

Volume 108 • Number 23

www.sentinel.turley.com



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'Julia's 3v3 Jamboree' event this weekend

BY KIMBERLY PALMUCCI
sentinel@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – A soccer jamboree this weekend will not only honor the memory of a 14-year-old resident who lost her battle with brain cancer this year, but also establish a scholarship fund in her name.

The Julia Haynes 3v3 Soccer Jamboree is scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, August 20, at the State Street fields in Belchertown.

"Julia was a 14-year-old Belchertown girl who lost her battle with brain cancer," a spokesperson with the event shared in an email. "This is going to be an annual jamboree in her memory."

According to event details, the tournament will be for anyone entering third-grade through high

school, including girls and boys U9-U18. Registration has closed for the event; there was a maximum of four players per team, and players could not appear on two rosters within the same division.

"Julia's 3v3 Soccer Jamboree will benefit the Julia Haynes Scholarship Fund," event details read.

An event page on social media dedicated to the jamboree released a recent post encouraging teams to get creative with their uniforms, as long as they match.

"Have fun customizing your team attire with glitter, paints, and other fun accessories," the post reads. "Julia always loved to make things fun."

For more information, visit facebook.com/julias3v3jamboree.



COURTESY PHOTO

A soccer jamboree will be held this weekend to establish a scholarship fund in the name of 14-year-old Belchertown resident Julia Haynes, who lost her battle with brain cancer this year.

Planning Board seeks to fill immediate opening

BY KIMBERLY PALMUCCI
sentinel@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – The town's Planning Board is seeking an Alternate Voting Member for Special Permits. "This is an immediate opening and the appointment would be through June 30, 2024," the Planning Board released in a press statement.

This vacancy is a joint appointment of the Planning Board and Select Board, according to reports. "The Alternate Voting Member for Special Permits acts as a board member in cases of special permits when there is not a full complement of board members," the Planning Board released.

Planning Board meetings are the second and fourth Tuesday evening every month.

"No experience is necessary, and this is an excellent way to learn about land use and town government," a press statement reads. "The position provides the opportunity to learn about subdivision, zoning, development, transportation, property rights, and land use principles."

Applicants must be a registered voter in Belchertown, according to further details. Those interested are asked to send a letter of interest by email to planning@belchertown.org or to: Belchertown Planning Board, c/o Douglas Albertson, P.O. Box 670, 2 Jabish Street, Belchertown, MA 01007.

For more information, contact Doug Albertson, town planner, at 413-323-0407 or Steven Williams, town administrator, at 413-323-0403.

The final date to submit applications is Thursday, August 31.

Donation window still open for upcoming tag sale

BY KIMBERLY PALMUCCI
sentinel@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – Community donations for the upcoming St. Francis of Assisi Parish tag sale event on the Town Common will be accepted through this weekend.

A spokesperson with St. Francis said the parish is "grateful for the plethora of treasures" the community has already donated toward the 2023 Tag Sale event, adding that "it was a very busy two-week collection period."

Donations will be collected through 5 p.m. on Sunday, August 20.

"As of Monday, August 21, 2023, donations will no longer be accepted," the tag sale planning team released in a press statement.

In preparation for the Saturday, August 26, "Giant Tag Sale" event on the Belchertown Town Common, parish volunteers said they will "continue to sort, categorize, and price the contributions" into more than seventeen departments next week.

Finally, on Friday, August 25—the day before the event—the team of volunteers said

they will "manage to place all items on the Town Common as they complete setting up for the Saturday sale."

"This necessary activity occurs in rain or shine," a press statement reads. "Each department is fully stocked with the donated inventory. There is even a detailed 'floor plan' for the departments that will be established in one day on the Town Common."

The tag sale itself will be held from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. on August 26, according to event details.

"Organizers remind buyers that all sales are cash only; no checks or charge cards are accepted. This is a first-come, first-serve event," the tag sale team released. "As a reminder, there is no smoking, vaping, etc. on the Town Common and for this event, pets are not allowed within the designated sale barriers."

Event volunteers said that when the event ends at 2 p.m., the St. Francis parish community will "work feverishly to return the Town Common to its pristine glory."

"Yes, there will be trash; unfortunately, not all donated

Please see **TAG SALE**, page 3



COURTESY PHOTO, CLAPP MEMORIAL LIBRARY

A pro-wrestling story time event is upcoming at the Clapp Memorial Library.

'Pro-wrestling' story time at library

BELCHERTOWN – Professional wrestlers will soon visit the town's Clapp Memorial Library for an upcoming story time event.

Library staff said the event, to be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, September 9, will be held on the library's lawn with a rain location of the Town Hall auditorium.

"Bring a blanket or chair to sit on and join us on the library lawn for pro-wrestling story time," the library released. "Professional wrestlers are visiting...with some of their favorite picture books and a craft for a slamming good time and family-friendly entertainment."

Event attendees will meet "Big Juicy, The Mighty Bosch, Syd Morrigan, and Ryan Fraust," the library released.

"Cheer, laugh, and help the referee count to three," a press statement reads.

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COMMUNITY

Select Board announces board, committee vacancies

BY KIMBERLY PALMUCCI
sentinel@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – The Select Board is seeking citizens to volunteer for several town boards and committees.

In a statement on its website, the town announced that it wishes to fill the following vacancies:

Historic District By-Law Commission: Full-member real estate seat

According to the town, the Commission has regulatory control over new construction, reconstruction, alterations, movements, and demolition of all exterior architectural features of buildings and structures within the Historic District, which are visible from any public street, public way, or public park.

Deadline: Friday, August 25

Council on Aging: One vacancy

Members of the Council on Aging coordinate programs and services for the elderly population and oversee the Belchertown Senior Center.

Deadline: Friday, August 25

The Calvin Bridgman Library Fund: Trustee

The Trustee vacancy is a three-year elected volunteer position “with random hours as needs arise,” according to the town. This position will be elected at the 2024 Annual Town Meeting. Individual will work with two other Trustees to oversee disbursements of funds to libraries within the town of Belchertown.

Deadline: May 10, 2024

Trail Stewardship Council: One vacancy

The vacancy will “represent landowners of the town on the Trail Stewardship

Council.” Interested individuals should be knowledgeable about local land use and related issues. Additional information specific to this council can be found at www.newenglandtrail.org.

Deadline: Friday, August 25

Animal Control Advisory Board: One vacancy

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 applicant may be a dog trainer, a veterinarian, a non-pet owner from the community, a medical professional specializing in emergency medicine, an animal enthusiast or caregiver, a pet owner, and/or interested residents.

Deadline: Friday, August 25

Cultural Council: One vacancy

The Cultural Council promotes an “appreciation of the arts and culture by participating in the development and administration of funds for local cultural activities, awarding grants each year to support cultural activities in town, using the funding the town receives from the Massachusetts Cultural Council.” Additionally, the council sponsors two flagship events: Food Truck Fridays and Winter Light Night. The Belchertown Cultural Council generally meets on the first Tuesday evening of the month via zoom. They are especially interested in recruiting a member who is “experienced with website design and social media platforms.”

Deadline: Friday, August 25

Communications Committee: Two full-member seats

The purpose of this committee is to develop a communication plan for the town of Belchertown to “improve information

flow from the town to the public,” according to reports. Experience with marketing, communications, and/or social media is highly preferred, the town released.

Deadline: August 25

Veterans’ Services Advisory Board (VSAB): Anticipated At-Large vacancy

The VSAB works closely with the town’s Veterans’ Agent on issues pertaining to veterans, including Veterans Day and Memorial Day ceremonies, war memorials, veterans’ graves, or any other related areas of concern.

Deadline: Friday, August 25

Belchertown Family Center Committee: One active, voting member position

This committee is charged with oversight of the Belchertown Family Center and its support programming for families, and is actively working to “create a breadth of resources for our community.”

Deadline: Friday, August 25

Scholarship Committee: Home-schooling representative seat

Deadline: Friday, August 25

Belchertown State School Buildings and Grounds Committee: Two additional full-member seats

The committee will advise the town and the Select Board on funding opportunities for maintaining and developing the remaining State School buildings, as well as advising on historical and cultural development opportunities. Expertise with real estate/architecture, grant writing, or historical experience to strengthen the skill set of the committee is preferred, the town released.

Deadline: Friday, August 25

Belchertown Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force: New vacancies

The town is accepting letters of interest to fill vacancies on the newly-developed Belchertown Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force. The focus of the Task Force is to “develop a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement for the Select Board to review and to consider adopting, to seek out opportunities to acknowledge and/or celebrate the diversity within our own community and to welcome the whole community to join in, and to offer suggestions on how the town addresses specific or potential acts of violence, including hate speech, should such acts arise in our community, region, or state.”

Efforts are being made, the town released, to include “voices from the community or communities that are directly affected.” Partnership opportunities with surrounding towns to strengthen regional or state efforts might also be explored. This is a seven member committee to include a representative from law enforcement, a representative from Town Hall, and five community members representing diversity in one or more of the following areas: racial and ethnic backgrounds; social positions with respect to gender identity and sexual orientation; social positions with respect to disability; and age groups and prior vocational experiences. All are encouraged to apply.

Those with interest in getting involved on a town board or committee are asked to return the form linked on the town’s website, belchertown.org, by emailing selectboard@belchertown.org, or by sending a letter or interest to: Select Board, The Finnerty House, One South Main Street, P.O. Box 670, Belchertown, MA 01007

TAG SALE from page 1

items are sold and the parish has no storage capabilities,” a press statement reads. “The over-abundance of inventory is a continuing dilemma, with no viable solutions, except the use of dumpsters, unfortunately.”

The funds raised through this annual tag sale will benefit the growth and development of the St. Francis Parish as they “continue to plan for our future in Belchertown and celebrate our Centennial Anniversary in October 2023,” the parish released.

Meatball grinder sale this month

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown Lions Club will hold its monthly drive-thru/pick-up “Meatball Grinder Sale” from 11 a.m. to sell-out on Saturday, August 19, on the grounds of the Belchertown United Church of Christ, 20 Park Street in Belchertown.

There is no need to pre-order; \$10 includes the sub, chips, and a beverage.

“Actually, there is no need to even leave your vehicle—just drive up, tell us what you would like, and we will prepare it fresh on the spot and deliver it to your window,” the Belchertown Lions Club released.

All proceeds from the club’s fundraising events go to charity and local projects.

Media sale to benefit library

BELCHERTOWN - The Friends of Clapp Memorial Library will conduct a media sale from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Saturday, August 26, in the Belchertown municipal parking lot near the back entrance to the library.

During the event, a large selection DVDs and CDs (for both children and adults) will be offered for \$1 each. All funds raised will be used to support library programs, according to a press statement.


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COMMUNITY

Clapp Memorial Library announces upcoming events

BELCHERTOWN - The Clapp Memorial Library offers a wealth of resources for the community, as well as a full schedule of free public programs for all ages. "Stop in at 19 South Main Street, or go to clapplibrary.org to see what's new," the library released in a press statement.

Upcoming programs at the Clapp Memorial Library include:

Science Fiction & Fantasy Book Group 6 p.m. on Tuesday, August 22

This month, the group will meet in-person at the Clapp Memorial Library to discuss "The Adventures of Amina Al-Sirafi" by Shannon Chakraborty. Stop by the Clapp Memorial Library to pick up a copy, the library released.

Ukulele Play Along (virtual) 7 p.m. on Monday, September 4

Strum along with Julie Stepanek at the Ukulele Play Along on the first Monday every month.

"Grab your ukulele and play along—because playing your ukulele is more fun when you do it with others," the library released. "We'll be focusing on three- and four-chord songs, with lyrics and chords provided on screen."

To join, visit clapplibrary.org and email the library; you will be connected with the Zoom link and songs for the program.

Saving Nature with Doug Tallamy: A Film Viewing and Discussion 7 p.m. on Tuesday, September 5

Join this event at the Clapp Memorial Library for a showing of "Saving

Nature with Doug Tallamy" followed by a discussion led by Heidi Dollard. In his presentation, Dr. Tallamy breaks down the concept of, "you don't have to save biodiversity for a living, but you can save it where you live," with specific strategies to improve your own immediate local ecology. After the presentation, Dollard will invite attendees to dive into the topics introduced in Dr. Tallamy's presentation and how to apply these ideas to one's home and town.

What "YA" Readin' Book Group 7 p.m. on Wednesday, September 6

The library's book group for adults who read young adult books will meet at the Clapp Memorial Library to discuss "Sanctuary" by Paola Mendoza & Abby Sher. Copies of the book are available for checkout at the library, and new members are welcome.

Drum Away the Blues 2 p.m. on Saturday, September 9

Using assorted percussion instruments, Music Educator/Percussionist Craig Harris will provide adults and children with "the key to stress relief tools for emotional balance." To guide his vocal, imagery, and drumming exercises and interactive participation, preschoolers to senior citizens "discover the joys of creating music, strengthen their ability to work with a group, cooperate with others, follow directions, make decisions, build self-esteem, improve abstract thought processing, creatively express themselves, foster a lifelong love of music, establish a positive mood, and relieve stress," the library released.

Watch a 'movie under the stars'

BELCHERTOWN - The town's Recreation Department is hosting a "Movie Night" on the Town Beach next week.

The event, featuring "The Super Mario Bros Movie," will be held at 8 p.m. on Friday, August 25.

"Come watch a movie under the stars," the Rec. Department released. "Join us at the

Town Beach, 21 Town Beach Road, Lake Arcadia, before going back to school for a fun-filled family night."

Moviegoers are asked to bring blankets and beach chairs. Picnics are welcome; refreshments will be sold at the concession stand.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Weir River Concert Band is preparing for its 19th season, starting Sept. 6.

Weir River Concert Band gets ready for 19th season

REGION - The Weir River Concert Band will begin rehearsals for its 19th season on Sept. 6 at the Stone Church Cultural Center in Gilbertville.

The band rehearses from 7-8:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings from September through June. The band performs two concerts each season—a Christmas concert in December and a concert of traditional pop and marches for concert band in June.

The band also provides live music for the Memorial Day and Veterans Day parades in Ware.

The Weir River Concert Band (originally the Ware Community Band) was formed in February of 2006. Former Ware High School Band Director John Sacco formed the band at a time when instrumental music was no longer being offered in the Ware school system, according to a press statement. He continues to conduct the band entering its 19th season.

The band was created to give musicians of all ages and abilities a place to learn and grow as musicians. The band has included members from the ages of 11-90 over the years.

rounding area, from Rutland to Monson and places in between. The Weir River Concert Band mission statement is "to give musicians of all ages and playing levels a place to improve their musicianship in an accepting and enjoyable atmosphere. It is also our mission to provide enjoyable, quality performances for the people of the surrounding communities."

The Weir River Concert Band has joined forces and collaborated with the Stone Church Cultural Center. After COVID, the band was not able to use the Ware High School as a rehearsal/concert venue. The Stone Church provided the band with a place to rehearse and hold performances. They have also taken on much of the responsibility of making the concert happen, according to the press statement.

The Weir River Concert Band is inviting area musicians to join. The only requirements are that you have your own instrument, you are able to read music (at any level), are willing to attend rehearsals on a regular basis (the band understands that things can sometimes interfere, and that's okay), and want to have some fun while improving your musical abilities, the group released.

Contact Joanne Meegan by email at jomeegan@comcast.net.

The group consists of musicians from the sur-

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TECHNICAL ASSISTANT ASSESSING DEPARTMENT— FULL TIME

The Town of Belchertown is accepting applications for a Technical Assistant. This full-time position performs administrative tasks, including the maintenance of databases that support the operations of the Assessing Department. Major duties include: Assists taxpayers with general inquiries involving motor vehicle excise, property valuation, and property tax exemptions. Updates property ownership of municipal records through documents recorded at the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds. Prepares notice of commitment and warrant regarding real estate, personal property, motor vehicle excise, CPA surcharge and municipal liens. Creates tax files for billing purposes regarding real estate and personal property. Review recorded plans/surveys and update assessor's tax maps. Assists with updating the Town's GIS mapping database on a quarterly basis. Process water betterment and sewer assessment payment requests.

Minimum qualifications: Associates Degree required; and 3-4 years of related technical office experience; or any equivalent combination of education, training and experience. Must be attentive to detail and demonstrate a high degree of accuracy. This is a grade 6 position, 40 hours/week, with a pay range of: \$26.99 - \$34.44/hour.

Applications are available online at www.belchertown.org/human_resources and can be sent to jobs@belchertown.org. Application deadline is September 1, 2023.

*The Town of Belchertown is an EEO employer,
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The Town of Belchertown is accepting applications for a Mechanic/Truck Driver in the Highway Division of the Department of Public Works. This full-time position performs skilled maintenance and repair work on various municipal vehicles and equipment, operates heavy and light motor equipment and occasionally performs manual construction work.

Minimum qualifications: High school graduation; training in mechanical and automotive repair work; three years' experience in the maintenance and repair of related equipment; experience in highway construction including heavy equipment motor vehicle operation; or any equivalent combination of education and experience.

Special Requirements: Possession of a valid Class B Commercial Driver's License. Possession of a Hoisting Engineer license, or have the ability to obtain within 1 year.

Starting salary range of \$24.62 to \$32.41 per hour. Applications are available online at www.belchertown.org/human_resources and will be accepted until filled.

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REGION

New CEO finds his sweet spot at QHCC

BY PAULA OUIMETTE
pouimette@turley.com

REGION – It’s been just over one month since Palmer Town Council member Robert Lavoie stepped in as the Chief Executive Officer of the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce, and it’s certainly been a “treat” so far.

Two weeks ago, Lavoie received a call that 8,000 surplus ice cream sandwiches needed to find a new home, and Lavoie decided he would drive throughout the 15 towns the Chamber covers and give them away.

Lavoie started with the schools, including summer programs at Old Mill Pond School, Stanley M. Koziol Elementary School in Ware, and the Quaboag Regional School District, branching out to senior centers, community centers, veterans offices, and more. He even donated the ice cream sandwiches to local police departments to give away at National Night Out.

This was “the coolest thing about becoming CEO,” Lavoie said.

But now, it’s back to business for Lavoie, who is focused on building membership of the Chamber, as well as strengthening its role in developing the local workforce. During his visit to the Quaboag Regional School District, Lavoie spoke with Assistant Superintendent of Development Madeline Smola about the need for outreach to local employers for the school’s co-op program.

“I’m going to partner with the schools to start,” Lavoie said. “They want to be used as a pool for regional employers...that is one of my goals.”

Lavoie said the school district has a grant that would not only cover wages for students in the co-op, but it would also cover transportation. Lavoie plans to work with the school district and meet with students to talk about the merits of participating in the co-op.

“Students can try out a job and see

if it’s for them or not. I’ll sit with them and try to connect the pieces,” he said.

Lavoie is well-versed in the importance of job opportunities and training for students, with his connection to a vocational technical school that represents nine of the Chamber’s 15 towns.



Robert Lavoie has been named the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce’s newest CEO.

Lavoie serves on the School Committee for Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School, a position he originally filled as a liaison to the Town Council starting five years ago. After longtime School Committee member Michael Cavanaugh’s death, Lavoie filled

the vacant seat until he was officially elected to the position. He is the second person to fill that seat, which Cavanaugh had held for nearly 50 years since the school was founded in the early 1970s.

“Mike and Dr. [Gerald] Paist basically opened Pathfinder Tech...he had that seat from the beginning,” Lavoie said.

A native of Ludlow, Lavoie moved to Palmer in 2000, having spent most of this career up until now travelling all over New England. Most recently, he has been with Genden Auto Parts (Carquest) covering commercial accounts on the road, from South Deerfield up through Vermont and New Hampshire.

“I had a parsnip farmer, a potato farmer...I was all over the map,” Lavoie said. “With Carquest, I was straight up and down Route 91. Now, I’m all over the 15 towns, spanning from east to west.”

His work experience has given him the opportunity to see the needs of all types of businesses—from family farmers to large corporations—first-hand. When Lavoie first started on the Town Council, he reached out to State Rep. Todd Smola for advice on the best way to reach the people he represents.

“He said, ‘go to everything that’s

free...whether its Little league, Scouting, just get your face out there and meet people,” Lavoie said.

Lavoie took that advice and is now applying it to his role as Chamber CEO, taking time to meet with community and business members in the towns he now represents, including some towns he’s never been to before up until now.

“I had never set foot in New Braintree in my entire life,” Lavoie said.

In addition to handing out ice cream sandwiches, Lavoie has been distributing the Chamber’s newest recreation guide and business directory, a free resource that provides a detailed description of the services and products Chamber members offer.

Supporting its members is the real purpose of the Chamber, Lavoie said, and something he is dedicated to improving. He intends to do this by promoting members through social media, as well as helping them improve their own digital media skills through training.

Lavoie is eager to hear from Chamber members about the type of support each one needs, knowing that finding employees is a big concern.

“I’m trying to make everybody win. Everybody’s got to benefit, or it won’t work,” Lavoie said. “We exist to benefit the members.”

About QHCC

The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce was established in 1978 to assist businesses in the Quaboag Hills Region, serving the towns of Belchertown, Brimfield, Brookfield, East Brookfield, Hardwick, Holland, Monson, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Palmer, Spencer, Wales, Ware, Warren, and West Brookfield.

Its mission is to advance economic growth and tourism in the

Please see **QHCC**, page 10

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OPINION



Why is Social Security withholding my monthly payments?

Dear Rusty: I have been working since I started collecting Social Security when I turned 62. Last year I was apparently overpaid because of my job. I made \$37,000 and now the Social Security Administration says I owe them \$8,800 dollars because I made too much and they have withheld my \$2000 monthly SS payment.

I am close to the maximum allowable again already this year. So, I am looking at quitting my job so I don't go over, but they are holding my payments so then I would have no money. Any help would be appreciated.

Signed: Frustrated by Social Security

Dear Frustrated: You are being affected by Social Security's "earnings test," which applies to everyone who collects early Social Security and also works before reaching their Full Retirement Age. If your earned income exceeds the annual limit, which was \$19,560 for 2022, Social Security will withhold \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit.

If you earned \$37,000 in 2022 you were more than \$17,000 over the limit and owe half of that back to Social Security. They usually recover what you owe by withholding your future benefit payments, so they won't pay you benefits until they have recovered that \$8,800, after which your benefits will resume, but only for a while.

If you are working full time and also collecting early Social Security benefits, the earnings test lasts until you reach your full retirement age, which for you is 66 years and 8 months. The earnings limit goes up a bit each year for 2023 it is \$21,240, but if you continue to work full time, you'll receive another overpayment notice and have more benefits withheld.

A better approach might be to contact Social Security in advance and tell them what your 2023 earnings are expected to be, thus permitting them to suspend your benefits in advance and avoid overpaying you. I'm afraid there is no way around this – collecting early benefits while working full time means the "earnings test" will affect your benefit payments.

The "good news" in all of this is that when you reach your Full Retirement Age, you will get time-credit for all months your benefits were withheld. By that I mean they will, at your FRA, recalculate your benefit entitlement as though you had claimed later (later by the number of months you had benefits withheld), which will result in a higher monthly payment after your FRA.

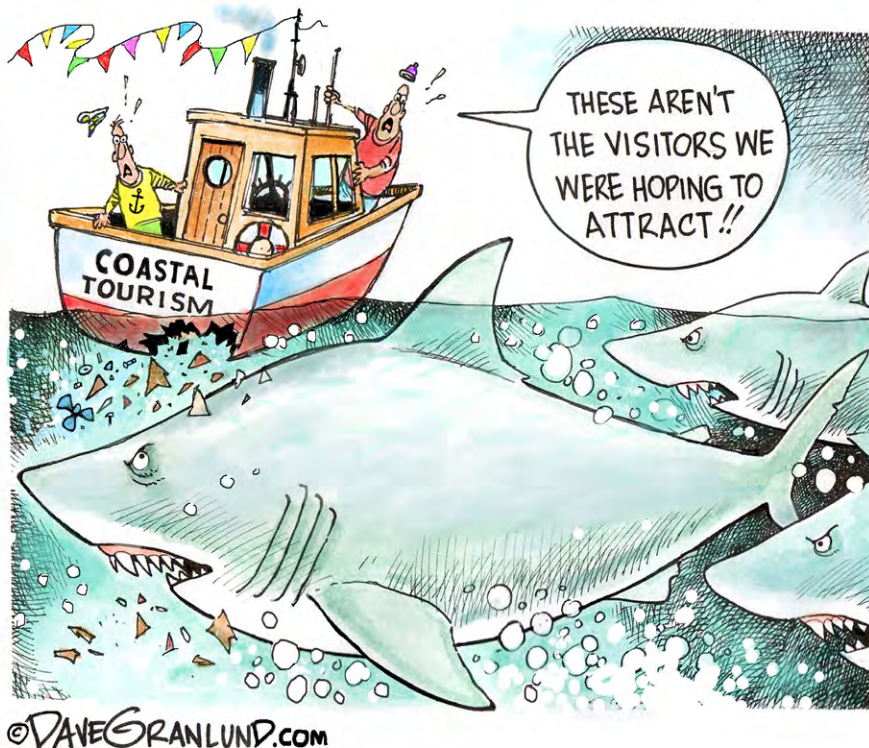
In that way, you may eventually recover some or all of the benefits withheld by receiving a higher monthly amount for the rest of your life, starting at your full retirement age.

I suggest you contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 or at your local office and tell them you want to provide them with an estimate of your 2023 earnings because you are working and collecting early Social Security benefits.

They will work with you to suspend your benefits for an appropriate number of (additional) months to avoid another overpayment situation. Note, you'll likely need to do this each year you continue to work full time, until the year you reach your full retirement age when the earnings limit more than doubles. The earnings limit goes away when 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.



Soil test this fall and beat the rush

A dear friend of mine sent me a picture of her pepper; her one pepper.

Granted, the fruit was picked a wee-bit prematurely by her 3-year-old granddaughter Genevieve, but still, one single fruit measuring 2 inches by 2 inches for all of her many pepper plants is nothing to brag about.

If I'm not mistaken, she used the word "pathetic" to describe said plants. Along with "stunted" and "pale."

Alas, what is a friend to do, but recommend a soil test.

I finally got the soil in two of my gardens tested last fall and I am so very happy that I did. With the necessary amendments added to bring up sub-par soil, I am enjoying bush beans and happy flowers in those areas.

Many of us garden for years before we have our soil tested. It is likely that we get fixed on our own routine of liming and fertilizing.

Perhaps too, we live with the same insect and disease problems each season and think that little can be done to remedy our situation. Maybe with a better understanding of our soil through testing, we will be able to create and maintain a fertile soil that supports healthy, optimal plant growth.

Rather than waiting until spring, beat the rush and send your sample off this fall. Here is a refresher on the nuts and bolts of soil testing.

We test the soil for many reasons. Perhaps the most important reason is to learn its pH.

Here in New England soil tends to be on the acidic side. Vital soil nutrients are unavailable to plants in an overly acid soil, even if they are in great supply.

Optimum pH for most plants is close to neutral, in the range of 6.2-6.8. Before you head for the garage to dust off the spreader, be forewarned that all limes are not the same!

Test results will indicate whether calcitic lime, hi mag lime, or dolomitic lime is best for your soil, and at what rates.

The test will also give you recommendations for boosting necessary soil nutrients, the most common of which are phosphorous, and potassium, magnesium, calcium and more. Let the soil testing laboratory know what crops you grow and what kind

of gardener you are, that way their advice can be specific to your needs.

Organic gardeners will want to use natural fertilizer sources such as blood meal, bone meal, bone char, wood ash, rock phosphate and greensand among others to feed the soil.

The standard soil test will also give you the levels of lead in your soil. As we all know, lead poisoning is a particular concern to children under the age of 6.

Produce grown in soils high in lead can accumulate enough lead in their tissue to be hazardous when eaten. The most likely cause of soil contamination is from particles of lead based paint that have been removed from nearby structures.

To reduce the risk of contamination, locate gardens away from old painted structures and keep pH and organic matter contents at optimal ranges.

For just a few dollars more, the percentage of organic matter in the soil can be determined. Organic matter is very important because it encourages a healthy population of soil microbes that solubilize stored nutrients, making them more available for plant uptake.

As organic material decomposes, humus results. Humus binds sandy soils and improves their water holding capacity; alternately, it aerates heavy clay soils and promotes better drainage.

If the percentage of organic matter in your garden comes in low, add compost, aged animal manure, or cover crops to bring levels up. Established shrub or perennial borders benefit from an application of bark mulch for the same reason.

It is very easy to gather soil for testing.

First, remove a 6-8-inch core of soil from your garden with a stainless steel trowel. Remove surface debris and air dry.

If your garden is large, mix about a dozen cores together to end up with about a cup of soil for testing. The different microclimates of your landscape should be tested separately.

Official directions and an order form are available at <http://soiltest.umass.edu>. The standard soil test is \$20, add an additional \$6 for the standard test including organic matter.

Test results could initiate some revisions to our fertilization and liming routine this fall, preparing the way for a healthier, more productive garden next spring and summer, and maybe even a few more peppers for Genevieve to enjoy!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

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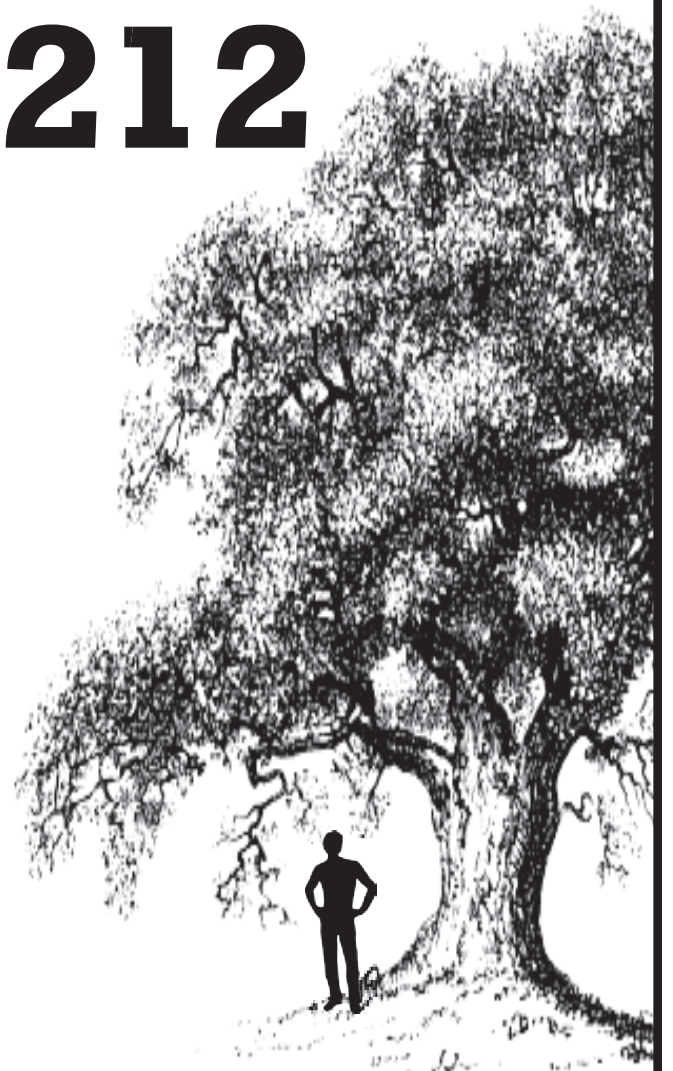
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REGION

Selfless commitment to public service

State Police Academy's 88th Recruit Training Troop graduates

BY PAULA OUIMETTE
pouimette@turley.com

REGION – Earlier this month, the State Police Academy graduated its 88th Recruit Training Troop, which featured 165 men and women from cities and towns across the commonwealth.

The State Police Pipes & Drums Band ushered dignitaries into the Mass Mutual Center on Aug. 3, where Sgt. Mike Goonan, Director of Training at the State Police Academy acted as master of ceremonies.

The 88th RTT began training at the State Police Academy in New Braintree earlier this year, passing through an intensive 16-hour day program, five days a week.

Following a moment of silence for police and military personnel who have given their lives defending the nation and a prayer by State Police Chaplain Rev. Dr. Johnny Wilson, the 88th RTT demonstrated Troop drill under the command of Senior Drill Instructor Trooper Alicia Amaral.

“Since 1921, your uniformed State Troopers have been subject to demands of strict discipline that only paramilitary training can provide,” Goonan said. “Troop drill helps develop the core qualities of pride, professionalism, respect, attention to detail and esprit de corps. Troop drill inspires the common spirit necessary to become a Massachusetts State Trooper.”

Captain Jon Provost, Commandant of the State Police Academy, thanked all for attending the ceremony in Springfield, which he described as a “resilient city of firsts.”

“Today, they add another first to that list, as they for the first time, host the

Massachusetts State Police in our graduation ceremony,” Provost said. “Our friends in Springfield selflessly rolled out the red carpet in support of our 88th Recruit Training Troop and your Massachusetts State Police.”

Provost said the 88th RTT is full of strong men and women who, “selflessly and humbly persevered to reach this proud moment.”

He addressed the family and friends of the Recruits in the audience, thanking them for their sacrifices as their loved ones dedicated themselves to the training program.

“At orientation, a true lifetime ago, we promised you we’d eventually give them back,” he said. “Today, we make good on that promise.”

Provost spoke about the training the Recruits received since they started at the State Police Academy on Feb. 27 in a class that started with 249 eager members. The only “easy day” at the State Police Academy, he said, was a day that had already gone by.

He addressed the Recruits, “88th RTT, together we embarked on an incredibly challenging and humbling journey. Together, we have persevered. It has been one of the great honors of my career to share in this accomplishment with all of you. We are the 88th RTT.”

Provost welcomed the new Troopers to the State Police family, saying it opened up a “world of opportunity” to do justice, to show kindness, to walk humbly, to selflessly serve their communities and to persevere.

“Persevere 88th...be safe, and congratulations,” Provost said.

The newly graduated Troopers received a shield-shaped badge, which was pinned on their uniforms.

“It represents allegiance to justice, service, sacrifice, and an honor to all those who wear it,” Goonan said. The badge is considered the most recognizable symbol of policing around the world, he said.

“The badge is not a gift; it’s not awarded lightly...it must be earned,” he said, which the 88th RTT has done.

Following the pinning, the 88th RTT received its final inspection by Governor Maura Healey before being officially sworn in. Healey administered the Oath of Office to the 88th RTT, having them swear allegiance to the commonwealth and its constitution.

“It is an honor and a privilege to be with you here today, for what is a most joyful and meaningful occasion,” she said. This was Healey’s first graduation ceremony in her role as Governor.

“Public safety remains the most important function of government,” she said. “We can’t do anything without a safe and secure commonwealth.”

Public safety takes investment and collaboration, she said, as well as community engagement, focus, commitment and dedi-

cation at “every level.”

“Ultimately, it rests on the ability, the character, the courage and the professionalism of our law enforcement officers...the men and women on the front lines. In other words, it depends on all of you,” Healey said. “Your training...has prepared you so well.”

State Rep. Carlos Gonzalez (D-Springfield), Chair of the Committee of Public Safety and Homeland Security, addressed the new Troopers.

“You have chosen a noble path, to serve the residents of Massachusetts,” he said. “Policing is a profession that demands courage, compassion, and unwavering dedication.”

Gonzalez urged Troopers to remember the importance of community.

“Policing is not merely a job; it is a calling to serve and protect the people who rely on you for safety and security,” he said.

State Police Superintendent Col. John E. Mawn Jr. said this was an important day for the department.

“We welcome to our ranks, and to our mission, a large group of highly skilled, deeply motivated and expertly trained new members. I stand here today...and look out over the future of the Massachusetts State Police,” Mawn said.

Mawn said it took many to make this day possible, including State Police Academy staff, drill staff, civilian work force, legislators and many more. He also thanked former Governor Charlie Baker, who attended the graduation ceremony.

“You are among the best trained recruit classes in the nation,” Mawn said. “Congratulations 88th Recruit Training Troop; you earned it.”

“Earned” Mawn said, is an important distinction the Troopers should remember.

“Your achievement was not given to you; you had to earn it...you’ll have to continue to earn your way forward,” he said.

Several members of the 88th RTT, hail from communities covered by Turley Publications’ newspapers, including Charles P. Oberg of Barre, Jonah C. Vaclavicek of Granby, Stephen M. Houle of Ware, Matthew R. Pingitore of Rutland, John M. Sarnacki of Chicopee, Jacob F. Crevier of Ware, Nicholas R. Brooks of Oakham, Brandon M. Aviles of Rutland, Ryan E. Monteiro of Wilbraham, Matthew S. Pepin of Sturbridge, David Soto of Holyoke and Zuzu Y. Demetrius of Warren.

Representing the 88th RTT was Trooper Ryan L. Ruef of Lee, who said it was “truly an honor” to stand before everyone at the graduation ceremony.

“Our once dream has now become a reality,” Ruef said. “On behalf of the 88th to all friends and family who helped us get to this point in our journeys, a thank you is simply not enough.”

Tri-Lakes chicken BBQ upcoming

BELCHERTOWN - On Sunday, August 20, the Tri-Lakes Association will hold its Annual Chicken BBQ at the Belchertown VFW from 1-4 p.m. There will be music and raffles; tickets are \$25, which includes: Half chicken, baked potato, corn, salad, and dessert. Meals are available to go, and tickets are available for purchase at eventbrite.com. Find the Tri-Lakes Association on Facebook by searching “Friends of the Tri-Lakes.”

Immaculate Heart of Mary to hold Summerfest event

GRANBY – The Immaculate Heart of Mary Church will hold its Summerfest event from 12-4 p.m. on Sunday, August 20. Chicken dinner is \$15 and includes: Half BBQ chicken, baked potato, and corn on the cob; hamburgers and hot dogs will also be available.

The event will feature raffle prizes of \$500, \$250, and \$100, raffle baskets, a bake sale, kids’ games, prizes, music, and more.

UMass Amherst’s ‘Clean Energy Extension’ host solar forum

AMHERST – In collaboration with members of the Western Massachusetts State Delegation, UMass Amherst’s Clean Energy Extension will host the Western Massachusetts Solar Forums.

According to a press release, the “solar forum” is a series of online public discussions and information-sharing sessions focused on “the opportunities and challenges associated with solar photovoltaic development and installation in western Massachusetts.”

“Part I of the forum will consist of four virtual sessions led by experts representing a diversity of perspectives who will provide an overview of the current state of solar deployment, including challenges, opportunities, and current initiatives,” event details read. “Attendee perspectives will be incorporated through pre- and post-forum surveys, session polls, and Q&A.” Part I of the Forum will be held on each Tuesday in September 2023.

Based on participant interest, there are plans for a Part II of the forum that would be held in the spring of 2024.

These discussions are open to members of the general public; to learn more, visit: cvent.me/Onz19G

Overdose Awareness Vigil this month

BELCHERTOWN – The police department is inviting members of the community to join its annual Overdose Awareness Vigil this month on the Town Common.

The vigil is scheduled from 6-7:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 31.

“This event is put on by our community partners, Belchertown Overcoming Adversity Together (BOAT),” the department shared in a statement on social media.

PUBLIC NOTICE BAIL COMMISSIONERS NEEDED EASTERN HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT COURT JURISDICTION

The Massachusetts Trial Court hereby gives notice of the availability of one or more Bail Commissioner appointments for the Eastern Hampshire District Court located in Hampshire County.

A Bail Commissioner is appointed by the Massachusetts Trial Court to make release and bail determinations for persons arrested when courts are closed (overnights, weekends and holidays.)

PLEASE NOTE: This is an appointment only. No salary or benefits are included but fees may be collected from the person in custody at the time of release. The base fee is \$40.00.

Bail Commissioners are required to have reliable transportation in order to travel to the Eastern Hampshire District Court and the police departments located in Amherst, Belchertown, Granby, Hadley, Pelham, South Hadley and Ware. Proximity to the communities listed and familiarity with criminal law and procedures helpful.

If you are interested in being considered for appointment please contact:

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Josh's golden scam

The nickel that caused a dollar's worth of scandal

BY J. MARK POWELL
jmarkpowell.com

Like so many things in life, it seemed like a good idea at the time, and it would have been, too, if one man's swindle hadn't ruined everything.

When all was said and done, a conman got off scot-free, Washington had egg on its face, and a new phrase entered the American vocabulary that's still used today.

This is the story of Josh's golden scam.

Back in 1866, the government began minting the first five-cent piece. It had the United States shield — our country's coat of arms if you will — on the front and "5 Cents" surrounded by 13 stars on the back.

The public liked the new coin and immediately began referring to it by the metal used to produce it: the nickel. (Its predecessor had been silver and called the "half dime.")

But it proved difficult to strike, causing countless headaches for the United States Mint. So a new design was produced.

Released on February 1, 1883, it featured Lady Liberty on the front with a giant V (the Roman numeral for five) in the center



of the reverse. Americans enthusiastically embraced the new coin.

There was just one problem. It was a big one, too...and a man in Boston named Josh Tatum quickly spotted it.

No denomination appeared on the coin. There was just that great big V.

It could mean 5 cents or 5 dollars. Which caused a lightbulb to switch on in Josh's head.

The new nickel was about the same size as a \$5 gold piece. Both bore the likeness of Liberty on the front and, while not identical, to the untrained eye they looked similar to one another.

So, Josh took several of the new nickels to a jeweler and had them electroplated with gold. Then he went to a store.

Walking up the counter, he pretended to be deaf mute and pointed to a cigar. The clerk said, "Five cents, please."

Josh handed over his phony gold-plated

coin and was promptly given \$4.95 in real money in change. When he pulled the scam at different stores, it worked perfectly every time.

Apparently, Josh liked to think big. He had 1,000 nickels covered with a thin layer of cheap gold and worked his way to New York City.

Never speaking, only pointing, and always walking away the richer for the exchange. He supposedly made \$15,000 (about \$375,000 today) by the time he was arrested.

Josh was eventually hauled into court and tried for his hoax. But prosecutors had a serious problem.

At no time did Josh ever claim the coin was a \$5 gold piece. In fact, he never said anything at all.

He simply handed it over and trusting clerks accepted it was as genuine. Because he never claimed it was actually gold, the jury found Josh had committed no crime. He was acquitted.

While all this was happening, Washington was dealing with similar headaches caused by the new nickel. Other con artists had spotted the design oversight and were also taking advantage of it.

The head of the Secret Service had noted the potential for criminal mischief at the outset and warned the government. Then as now, bureaucrats are loath to admit a mistake.

The Philadelphia Mint's director loudly

defended the new nickel. He pointed out a three-cent coin had been minted for 22 years with just the Roman numeral III on the back and no denomination, and there hadn't been any problems.

Although he didn't mention that coin was smaller than a dime and the \$3 gold piece was larger than a quarter, making it impossible to confuse the two.

By now the scam was being reported as far away as St. Louis, Morgan City, Louisiana, and San Francisco. The government had no choice but to act.

On March 11 new nickels began coming out of the Mint with the word "cents" added directly below the V. It remained there until the Buffalo Nickel replacement debuted in 1913.

Today, the gold-plated frauds are called Racketeering Nickels and are cherished by collectors.

Two lessons from this story. First, the phrase "I'm joshing you" was popularized by the incident.

Though it appears to have shown up in print as early as 1845, its usage exploded after 1883.

And, the Mint learned its lesson. That was the last time it ever produced a coin that didn't bear the denomination.

I'm not joshing you.

Holy Cow! History is written by novelist, former TV journalist and diehard history buff J. Mark Powell.

'Overcoming the Solid Waste Crisis' public forum next week

AMHERST — Community members are invited to an "Overcoming the Solid Waste Crisis" public forum next week.

The event is scheduled to begin with a reception at 5:30 p.m. and the forum from 6-7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 23, at Franklin Patterson Hall, Hampshire College, 893 West Street in Amherst.

"This forum will focus on legislation presently before the Massachusetts legislature concerned with recycling paint and mattresses using the Product Stewardship approach," a press statement reads. "This exciting approach holds the potential to be an important tool in gaining control of the solid waste crisis."

This 90-minute forum will feature four panelists, according to event details.

"They will discuss the details and benefits of Product Stewardship, as well as discuss the Paint and Mattress recycling laws," event organizers shared. "These measures have the potential to meaningfully decrease the quantity of material going to our landfills, which is an advantage for everyone and the environment."

Panel Members include: Sen. Susan Moran, State Senator for Plymouth and Barnstable, Senate Bill sponsor, and member of the Zero Waste Caucus; Justine Fallon, Director of Operations, Mattress Recycling Council; and Waneta Trabert, Chair, Massachusetts Product Stewardship Council.

"Join us for a panel presentation followed by questions from the audience."

Area town designated as 'Green Community'

BY KIMBERLY PALMUCCI
townreminder@turley.com

REGION — Hadley has recently been designated as a "Green Community" and is now eligible for \$139,250 in grant funding.

The Healey-Driscoll Administration recently announced that as a Green Community, Hadley commits to "clean energy and energy efficiency goals to reduce energy usage and lower greenhouse gas emissions."

Additionally, East Longmeadow and Southwick were also named as Green Communities; with this recent designation, 291 of the Commonwealth's municipalities hold a Green Communities title. Since the program began, the Department of Energy Resources' (DOER) Green Communities program has awarded more than \$166 million in grant funding to the Commonwealth's cities and towns through designation and competitive grant rounds.

"The Green Communities program is an essential partnership with cities and towns to help them lower carbon emissions and energy costs, strengthen local economies, and help move Massachusetts to a clean energy future," said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper. "We commend East Longmeadow,

Hadley, and Southwick for their commitment to implement clean energy projects and reduce building and transportation emissions."

Green Communities commit to reducing municipal energy consumption by 20 percent each, according to a press release. East Longmeadow, Hadley, and Southwick commit to reducing their energy consumption amounts to a savings of 23,188 MMBTUs in five years, the energy use equivalent to heating and powering 179 homes, and a greenhouse gas emission reduction of 1,635 tons, equivalent to taking 344 cars off the roads.

Proposed projects for the three new Green Communities include weatherization improvements in schools and municipal buildings, electric vehicles for town and school fleets, and renewable thermal technologies, such as air source heat pumps.

Under the Green Communities Act, DOER's Green Communities Designation and Grant Program can provide up to \$20 million annually to qualified cities and towns. The goal of the Designation Grant Program is to support communities' investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy projects that further the clean energy goals determined by the designated communities. Initial designa-

tion grants are based on a \$125,000 base for each designated Green Community, plus additional amounts tied to per capita income and population.

"To combat the urgent climate crisis, that state must support cities and towns to develop climate resiliency, transition to clean energy, reduce energy usage, and lower greenhouse gas emissions," said State Senator Jo Comerford (D-Northampton). "I am thrilled Hadley has chosen to become a Green Community and I am grateful to the Healey-Driscoll Administration and the Department of Energy Resources for leading the Green Communities program and awarding Hadley \$139,250 in initial grant funding."

"Congratulations to Hadley on receiving their Green Communities Designation," added State Representative Daniel R. Carey (D-Easthampton). "This designation shows the town's commitment to clean energy and a sustainable future. The hard work it takes to become a Green Community is already paying off with \$139,250 in state funds coming to Hadley to pursue energy efficiency goals."

Funding for these grants is available through proceeds from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

Explore the Upper Ware River on Aug. 19

HARDWICK — Join the Chicopee 4Rivers Watershed Council for the inaugural paddle of the Upper Ware River Blue Trail on Saturday, Aug. 19.

The paddle will meet at the Old Furnace Launch at 8:30 a.m. and set off down the river at 9 a.m. to Ware River

Park in Gilbertville.

The Upper Ware River Blue Trail is a 4.5-mile scenic paddle that is a smooth and quickwater run. The paddle is expected to last 1.5 hours, according to a press statement. Please RSVP to chicopeewatershed@gmail.com.

C4R will be monitoring weather and river flows to ensure safe paddling conditions. They said they will post any issues or changes on their website, c4rivers.org, the day before and contact all participants who have RSVPed.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Belchertown Police Log

Editor's note: The following are brief explanations of select entries in the Belchertown Police log and arrests for the weeks of Aug. 2 through Aug. 8. The information was provided by a member of the police department based on the review of the detailed log summary. This feature is designed to provide context and explanation to some of the calls police respond to every day. Of the 378 calls police responded to, there were 18 incidents, four accidents, five arrests/summons and 11 citations.

ARRESTS/SUMMONS

Friday, Aug. 4

10:22 p.m. – An officer assisted Belchertown fire and paramedics with a report of an intoxicated juvenile. The person in charge of the residence was spoken to about the incident. A summons was issued to a 21-year-old female charged with furnishing alcohol to a person under 21. A 51A was also filed and the matter was forwarded to the SRO.

Monday, Aug. 7

8:31 a.m. – An officer responded to a truck that had struck a guard rail and utility pole. A tow truck allegedly came around the corner and began travelling head on in his lane. The person said the tow truck driver was going fast. There was a dangerous curve sign. Forty feet of guard rail was struck, and National Grid was contacted.

ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS

Wednesday, Aug. 2

1:51 p.m. – A person came to the station to speak with an officer about an ongoing case. The person said they believed they may have been contacted on behalf of someone who wasn't supposed to be contacting them. The officer contacted the other person and told them they could not

have any written or verbal communication with the person.

1:55 p.m. – An officer responded to a North Main Street residence for a report of a person who was attacked by a group of dogs. A bystander saw the person laying on the ground and called the station. The person was walking down the sidewalk when a dog owner was walking their dogs. The owner lost control of the dogs. The dogs didn't have appropriate vaccinations. The owner said there was no biting involved. The person did have some bites on their legs. The dogs needed to be quarantined for 10 days and updated on their vaccinations. The person was transported to the hospital.

2:01 p.m. – An officer responded to Daniel Shays Highway for a person experiencing a mental health crisis. A voluntary commitment form was completed. Belchertown Fire and paramedics transported the person to the hospital.

Thursday, Aug. 3

9:28 a.m. – An officer did a follow up call with a person about an ongoing case.

10:19 p.m. – An officer responded to assist Belchertown Fire and paramedics for a wellbeing check. The person called for an ambulance but didn't say why they needed one. They were transported to the hospital at their request.

Friday, Aug. 4

12:06 p.m. – An officer responded to assist Belchertown fire and paramedics.

3:49 p.m. – A person dropped off a wallet they found at a business on Federal Street. There were several cards and a Tennessee driver's license. The officer called the person, and the person said they couldn't come when the property officer was there.

3:52 p.m. – An officer responded to Turkey Hill Road for a report of a person living out of their vehicle and urinating near a dumpster. The officer spoke with the

reporting party who said the person was behind a dumpster in a lower parking lot. They requested the person be trespassed from the area. The officer spoke with the person and noted it appeared they were living out of their vehicle. They appeared to be under the influence of alcohol. They had a bottle of alcohol on a shelf in the truck of their vehicle. A towing company was contacted to tow the vehicle. A 12-hour hold was placed on the person.

4:30 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Turkey Hill Road. A vehicle traveling west on Turkey Hill Road slowed to take a turn. A second vehicle was traveling behind the first and the operator said they looked down for a second before colliding with the first. No injuries were reported. One vehicle was towed from the scene.

Saturday, Aug. 5

9:52 a.m. – An officer placed a debit card found on the sidewalk while on the dog bite call. The card was placed into property.

Sunday, Aug. 6

2:45 p.m. – An officer responded to Park Street for a report of a vehicle operating erratically. The vehicle was stopping suddenly and then speeding up. When the officer arrived, the vehicle was stopped in the travel lane on Walnut Street. The operator had their head down as if to be sleeping. The officer identified the operator, and they reported their vehicle was malfunctioning. It was determined the person was suffering a mental health crisis. The operator was transported to the hospital.

3:30 p.m. – A person reported their social security card was stolen. It was unknown who was involved. No other information is available at this time.

4:24 p.m. – An officer was watching traffic on Franklin Street when they saw a vehicle passing northbound. The officer ran an inquiry on the plate. The registration was revoked for cancelled insurance. The officer stopped the vehicle. The vehicle was towed, an inventory was completed, and a citation was issued for operating an unregistered motor vehicle.

10:45 p.m. – An officer responded to a street in the southern part of town for a report of a male party screaming; a person was concerned for their wellbeing. The officer spoke with the reporting party and did a welfare check on the person who was screaming. A referral was made to elder protective services.

Monday, Aug. 7

9 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Chauncey Walker Road and Springfield Road parking lot. One vehicle backed into another. The operator said

they didn't see the vehicle behind them. There was no damage to the first vehicle, but there was some damage to the second. There were no injuries reported and no tow was necessary.

4:35 p.m. – An officer responded to speak with a person who wanted to turn over a relative's firearms. They were cleaning the relative's home and found the firearms. The person said they don't have a license and don't want the guns. They took the firearms to the station and they were placed into property.

Tuesday, Aug. 8

3:57 p.m. – A person called to report a person was trying to open a credit card in their name. They said they got a text message asking them to confirm or deny a charge. They were told to call their bank. They wanted the matter documented.

Granby Police Log

Editor's Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 149 calls for the week of July 21 through July 27. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The Granby Police Department provides all information.

Friday, Aug. 4

8:53 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 61MPH in a 35MPH zone. The vehicle was stopped and the operator was issued a civil citation for speeding.

Sunday, Aug. 6

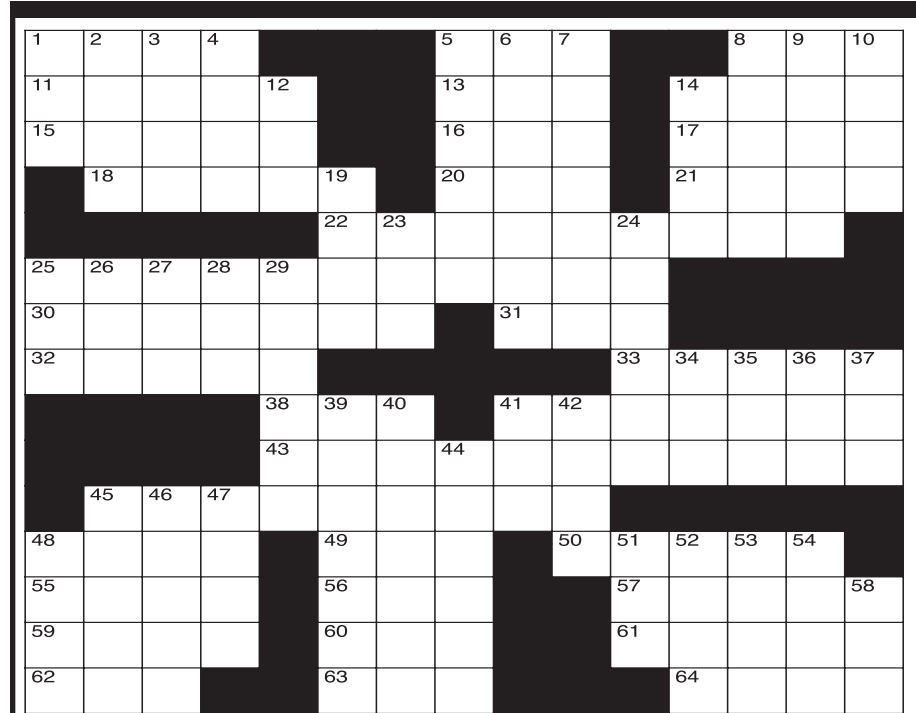
5:30 p.m. – While on patrol, an officer observed a motor vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed that the vehicle was traveling at 50MPH in a 30MPH zone. The vehicle was stopped and the operator was issued a civil citation for speeding and not having a license in their possession.

Tuesday, Aug. 8

10:07 a.m. – A motorist reported that a vehicle struck a farm tractor. There were no injuries and responding officers completed an accident report.

Thursday, Aug. 10

1:56 p.m. – Several motorists reported that a vehicle struck a utility pole. Granby Police and Fire responded. The operator was transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. The operator was issued a criminal citation for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended MA driver's license.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Civil rights organization
- 5. Calendar month (abbr.)
- 8. Monetary unit of Burma
- 11. Twyla __, US dancer
- 13. Everything included
- 14. "Antman" actor Rudd
- 15. Italian city
- 16. Nowhere to be found
- 17. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
- 18. Turkish officer
- 20. Perform on stage
- 21. Ribosomal
- 22. Canadian coastal provinces
- 25. Furnishes anew
- 30. Edible mollusk
- 31. No seats available
- 32. Garden figurine
- 33. Two-legged support
- 38. Rest here please (abbr.)
- 41. In a silly way

- 43. One from the Golden State
- 45. Photographers
- 48. Native religion in parts of China
- 49. Dickens character
- 50. Broadway actress
- 55. Ancient Greek sophist
- 56. Undivided
- 57. Daniel __, French composer
- 59. Nocturnal S. American rodent
- 60. Rusty
- 61. Jewish spiritual leader
- 62. Patti Hearst's captors
- 63. Popular global holiday (abbr.)
- 64. Tall, slender plant

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Defunct US energy company
- 2. Fellow
- 3. It's issued from

- 4. Type of acid
- 5. Winged nut
- 6. Arouses
- 7. Things are served on it
- 8. San Diego ballplayer
- 9. Currency and a Chinese dynasty
- 10. __ mater, one's school
- 12. Exclamation that denotes disgust
- 14. Hairstyle
- 19. Supreme ancient Egyptian god
- 23. They __
- 24. Connecting line on a map
- 25. Mock
- 26. One point north of due east
- 27. Chinese philosophical principle
- 28. Type of tree
- 29. Persuade to do

- 34. A place for travelers to rest
- 35. National Gallery of Art designer
- 36. Panamanian province
- 37. Field force unit (abbr.)
- 39. Whalers' tool
- 40. Simply
- 41. Nigerian City
- 42. Not one
- 44. Obstruct
- 45. Political plot
- 46. Manila hemp plant
- 47. Dough made from corn flour
- 48. Fishes by letting the bob fly
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Plant that makes gum
- 53. A French abbot
- 54. One point east of northeast
- 58. Get free of

QHCC from page 5

region, to be an advocate for policies that achieve the development goals of the communities, and to advance the interests of its members.

The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce offers more than just networking opportunities. It helps the business community from the smallest entrepreneurs to the largest corporations through train-

ings, seminars, and more.

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The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce is located at 4 Springfield Street, Suite 525, Three Rivers. For more information, visit qhma.com, call 413-283-2418, or email info@qhmc.com.

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SPORTS

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Rams makes PVSSL quarterfinals



Jaidyn Roberge settles the ball and looks to pass.

LUDLOW – The Rams were defeated by Ludlow in the B Division playoffs. They now turn their attention to the fall season, which begins next week.



Kalli White heads up the field.



Jennifer Galindo sends a free kick away for Celtic Gray.

Westside Sports Shop takes women's summer soccer title

BY TIM PETERSON
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—While the Monson girls and the Ludlow boys soccer teams captured the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League A-Division titles for the third consecutive year, Westside Sports Shop also took home the women's championship trophy for the third year in a row.

The second-seeded Westside Sports Shop out-shot the sixth-seeded Celtic Grey for almost the entire match, but goalie Brianna Kubik, who's from Agawam, managed to keep the contest scoreless until the penalty shootout.

Westside goalie Emily Letendre made a couple of outstanding saves during the shootout and her team celebrated a 0-0 (3-1 PK's) win at Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow on Aug. 5.

"I never expected this game to be so close," said Westside Sports Shop coach Chris Andre. "Their goalie was outstanding. She kept her team in the game during regulation and in overtime. Emily made a couple of saves in PK's. We were finally able to score a couple of goals during the penalty shootout."

Westside Sports Shop (9-2), which is also known as Andres, joined the prestigious summer league in 2021. They posted a 4-0 shutout victory over fifth-seeded



Mylin Laliberte-Witaszek socks a kick away.



Addison Scott dribbles up the field.

Please see **WOMEN**, page 12

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Nico Fazio drives to the hoop.



Bentley Pope goes up for a shot.

Orioles fall in semifinals

WILBRAHAM – Last Thursday evening in the semifinals of the Spec Pond Summer Basketball League, Belchertown was defeated 21-15 by Palmer. The game was held indoors at Wilbraham & Monson Academy due inclement weather. The previous day, Belchertown defeated Wilbraham 23-20.



Orelio Manduley approaches the paint.



Evan Gallagher is under pressure as he heads for the basket.

SPORTS

West showcased in boys soccer

BOSTON – In last month’s Bay State Games, the Western part of the state featured a boys soccer team showcased. Here is a look at how they fared in some of their matchups held July 6-9: The West would win the gold medal in the showcase.

In the gold medal match, the West won 3-2.

The Gold medal match saw powerhouse West face off against Central in what would be an exhilarating and heated match. West opened the scoring within the first minute of the match with a blast

from Cole Bamford (Ludlow, Ludlow HS). West then went up 2-0 with help from a penalty kick, expertly taken by Mateo Balbino (Ludlow, Ludlow HS). Swiftly followed by another goal to give them a commanding 3-0 lead. Central was able to crawl back within one with a strike from Jovuan Mensah (Worcester, Burncoat HS) and Kingston Mcgee (Sutton, Sutton HS). West ended the showcase with a dominant 5-0 record. Central ended with a 3-1-1 record.

The West started out the showcase with a 5-2 win over

the Metro team.

West got on board first with a sensational strike from forward Brayden Marta (Ludlow, Suffield Academy). Followed by a hat trick of goals from Balbino. Down 4-0, Metro was able to get on the board with a tremendous effort from Oscar Martinez (Boston, East Boston HS) who scored both Metro goals to bring them within two. West then scored to make it 5-2 to capitalize on a dominant win in their first match.

The West would go a perfect 6-0 in the showcase.

Coaches honored during Hall of Fame weekend

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced four benches that will be installed in the Naismith Coaches Circle. Sylvia Hatchell, Rollie Massimino, Tom Young, and Kay Yow, will be honored with a bench dedication ceremony on Saturday, August 12 at 2:00 PM EST in the MassMutual Gallery at the Hall of Fame.

The Naismith Coaches Circle program was first launched in 2015 and is the brainchild of Hall of Famers John Calipari, Jerry Colangelo, and Geroge Raveling. The intent of the program is to pay tribute to basketball’s first coach, Dr. James Naismith, and the core values Dr. Naismith instilled in his players – teamwork, determination, self-respect, leadership, initiative, and perseverance. He believed these principles to be the foundation by which young men and women should play the game and conduct their lives.

The Coaches Circle features a sculpture created by Master Sculptor Brian Hanlon, dedicated to celebrating Dr. Naismith. Additionally, it showcases granite benches on a recognition platform, paying tribute to coaches who share the same core values of teaching, nurturing, and mentoring their players on the court, while offering perspective off the court.

An interactive Coaches Circle video is exhibited on the second floor of the museum, which allows coaches to share their personal stories and honor those in their lives who inspired them.

Through the Coaches Circle Program Legacy Initiative, coaches are honored posthumously by either one individual or a group of individuals. Honorees include Denny Crum, Bill Fitch, Cotton Fitzsimmons, Dave Gavitt, John MacLeod, Dean Smith, Jim Valvano, and John Wooden, among others.

Foursomes needed for charity golf tournament

AGAWAM – Registration and signups are currently open and underway for the Sixth Annual “Shoot Fore The Stars To Cure Cancer” Golf Tournament to benefit the Dana Farber Cancer Institute. In the first FIVE years we have raised over \$15,000 for cancer research. The four-person scramble event will take place on Monday, Sept.

18 at Wintonbury Hills Golf Course in Bloomfield, CT. The event will be an 11 a.m. shotgun start. There will be prizes up for grabs (Closest to Pin/ Long Drive) along with a putting contest. Entry fee covers golf, lunch and dinner. Please contact ShootFORETheStarstoCureCancer@gmail.com more information. We hope you can join us.

WOMEN from page 9

Here for Beer in last year’s championship match. They defeated the Lusitano Women, 2-1, in the 2021 finals.

For her outstanding performance during the shootout, Letendre received the MVP Award following this year’s championship match.

“It just feels amazing to win our third championship title in this summer league,” said Letendre, who’s from West Springfield. “We did beat Celtic during the regular season, but they wanted it as much as we did in tonight’s match.”

Six of the Westside Sports Shop players played high school soccer for longtime head coach Nundi Goncalves at Minnechaug Regional. They are Emily Howard, Chapin Jeannotte, Rhianna Ryan, Madison Sanborn, Katie Shea, and Gabby Williams.

Several of the other players are from Ludlow, South Hadley, and Chicopee.

“Most of the players on this team played on the same youth soccer teams,” Andre said. “Then they went their separate ways in high school and it’s very nice having them back together again. It has been a lot of fun coaching them and I’m already looking forward to next season.”

It was a history making day for Celtic Grey (4-6-1). They have been a member of the summer league for the past twenty years, but it was their first appearance in the women’s finals.

“We just wanted to keep this game close as long as we could,” said Celtic Grey coach Rob Galazka. “We played very well defensively in tonight’s game. We’re hoping to make it back here again next year.”

One of the key defenders for Celtic Grey is Jennifer Galindo, who’s from Chicopee.

Galazka has also been the women’s soccer coach at Holyoke Community College for the past 19 years.

“I coached most of these players at HCC,” Galazka said. “It’s awesome coaching them again in this league. It’s a lot of fun.”

Celtic Grey peaked at the right time of the season.

“We ended the regular season with a shutout,” Galazka said. “Then we played the top three seeds in the playoffs, and they were all shutouts. The players just stepped up.”

Celtic Grey posted a 1-0 shutout versus the third-seeded Heat in the quarterfinals. They also posted a 1-0 win against the top-seeded W. Mass Extremes.

The first shot of the shootout was taken by Westside’s Jocelyn Trajkovski, who’s from Ludlow. She fired a low shot into the right corner to give her team a 1-0 lead.



Nicole Callini makes a throw-in.



Madison Sanborn chases down a loose ball.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Olivia Crespo, of Ludlow, corral the ball.



Emily Howard, of Wilbraham, takes a shot on goal.



Katie Shea makes a quick pass.

Then Letendre made a save on the Celtic Grey’s first shot.

After both teams hit the post in the second round, Jeannotte stepped up to the line and fired a shot into the left corner giving her team a 2-1 lead.

Galindo managed to put her team on the scoreboard, which sliced the deficit in half. It wound up being the only shot made by the Celtic Grey.

Following a goal by Olivia Crespo

(Ludlow), Letendre made a diving save giving the Westside Sports Shop another championship title.

The Westside players will be looking to four-peat next summer.

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

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.

PUBLIC NOTICES

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLE
 This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of August 18, 2023 at 12 p.m. the following motor vehicle will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien:
 Vehicle: 2004 Ford F150
 Vin #: 1FTPX04564KB27023
 Color: Red
 LKO: Lucas Merrill
 Address: 274 Gates Street Palmer, MA 01069
 Relentless Towing Belchertown, MA 413-530-3804
 08/03, 08/10, 08/17/2023

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLE
 This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of August 25,2023 the following motor vehicle will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien:
 Vehicle: 2011 Toyota Camry
 Vin: 4T4BF3EK3BR173415
 Color: Silver
 LKO: Justin Lesslie
 Address: 1139 Thorndike St, Apt 6 Palmer, MA 01069
 Vehicle: 2010 Hyundai Santa Fe
 Vin:5NMSG3AB4AH384985
 Color: Black
 LKO: Jordan Adams
 Address: 2338 Main Street Palmer, MA 01080

Relentless Towing Belchertown, MA 413-530-3804
 08/10, 08/17, 08/24/2023

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES
 This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of September 1, 2023 the following motor vehicle will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien:
 2003 Volkswagen Jetta
 Vin:3VWSE69M43M092344
 Color: Blue
 LKO: Daniel Tourville
 121 N Main Street, Apt. L2 Belchertown, MA 01007
 2012 Jeep Compass
 Vin:1C4NJDEB8CD588666
 Color: Orange
 LKO: Shaquanda Johnson
 520 Riverglade Drive, Apt. A Amherst, MA 01002
 Relentless Towing Belchertown, MA 413-530-3804
 08/17, 08/24, 08/31/2023

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION
 SNOW'S SELF STORAGE LLC, will sell the contents of the following shed online at www.aarbids.com:
 Wendy Bailey – P15
 The online sale will end

on Thursday, September 7, 2023 at 10 a.m..
Snow's Self Storage reserves the right to refuse any and all bids, or to cancel the auction at any time for any reason.
 08/17, 08/24/2023



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

CHECK OUT ALL THE
Turley Publications
www.turley.com

Community Newspaper EDITOR WANTED

Turley Publications is looking for a “hands on” energetic candidate who loves telling stories to be the editor for two weekly publications. This position will include managing and coaching a small news staff that will provide the community with a great local newspaper.

The editor will need to cover local government and events while representing the newspaper at public venues.

The successful candidate will have strong community journalism skills and is also expected to gather news and write stories for the two papers as well as for other occasional companywide publications.

This is a job for a self-starter who has a vision for growing and connecting with our valued readers, and who thoroughly enjoys community journalism.

This full-time position with flexible schedule is based in our Palmer office at 24 Water St., this is not a remote position.

Qualifications should include:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience
- Willingness to mentor a staff writer and correspondents
- Editing experience and ability to write clean copy in a fast-paced, deadline-driven environment
- Proficiency in Associated Press style
- Management experience and/or experience managing content for a print publication.

Please send resume and writing examples to:
 Eileen Kennedy, Executive Editor
 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
 or email directly to ekennedy@turley.com

OPPORTUNITY

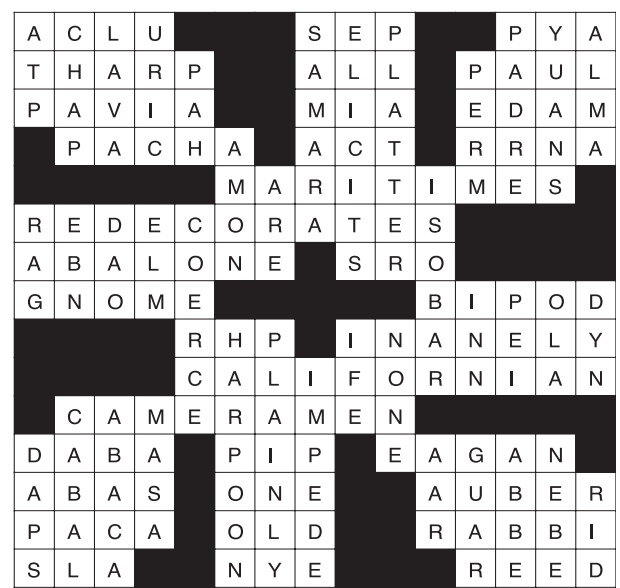
newspaper correspondent

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

- *Must be dependable, professional and able to meet strict deadlines*
- *Salary based on a flat rate by story and photo*

Send writing samples with resume to

Turley Publications, Inc. www.turley.com
 Eileen Kennedy, Executive Editor
 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
 or email directly to ekennedy@turley.com



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.

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.

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.

ROOFING
ROBERTS ROOF CO., INC. Trusted name for over 39 years. 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

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.

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.

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.

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

CLOTHING DRIVE
for Free Distribution to our Community!
Saturday, August 26th, 9am-2pm
Christ Community Church

*School is just around the corner,
 and we all know that kid's clothes can get expensive!*

Do you have a need for new or gently used clothes (3T-age 12) for your kids? If so, stop by Christ Community Church, located at 1255 Federal St., Belchertown, on Saturday, August 26th from 9am-2pm to help outfit your children for the upcoming school year. All clothes are donated by members of Christ Community Church and the surrounding community so you can take some home for free!

If you have new or gently used children's clothes that you'd be willing to donate please contact the church office or swing by during our office hours (Tuesday-Friday, 8:30-4:30pm) to drop off donations. Want to learn more? Check out our website at www.gracefortheway.org or contact us at office@gracefortheway.org.

All are welcome and encouraged to attend and shop. We hope to see you there!

food truck FRIDAYS

4-8PM • FREE ADMISSION • LIVE MUSIC

EVERY WE'RE BACK!
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USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN ASSORTED PORK LOIN CHOP \$2.22 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TENDERLOIN \$8.99 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP SIRLOIN STEAKS or SPOON ROAST \$4.99 lb
USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS PORK BUTT STRIPS \$2.77 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP ROUND LONDON BROIL \$4.44 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST 10 LB BAG..... \$1.77 lb
USDA INSP. FRESH COUNTRY STYLE PORK RIBS \$2.09 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN CHICKEN LEG 1/4 TRAY PAK 49¢ lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN SNOW CRAB CLAWS 2 LB BAG.. \$29.99 ea
IN OUR DELI - STORE MADE HAM SALAD \$3.99 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN IQF RAW SHRIMP 16/20 CT., 2 LB BAG \$9.99 ea	
GREAT ON THE GRILL	USDA INSP. STORE MADE BONELESS BBQ MARINATED PORK BUTT STRIPS \$2.99 lb	90 Meat Outlet 90 Avocado St. Springfield 413-737-1288 www.90meat.com
USDA INSP. FROZEN PORK TENDERS..... \$2.49 lb	USDA INSP. STORE MADE TERIYAKI MARINATED BEEF BLADE STEAK..... \$6.99 lb	HOURS: Mon. - Wed. 8-4 Thurs. 8-6 • Fri. 8-6 • Sat. 8-3

SALE DATES: 8/17/23-8/23/23 BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE

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 THE VOICE OF ROMANCE TOUR

SEPT. 23, 2023 at 8PM

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 Sept. 16 Funny Girl at PPAC \$120
 Sept. 23 Johnny Mathis in Concert \$130
 Oct. 21 Mrs. Doubtfire at PPAC \$99
 Nov. 4 Book of Mormon \$120

Share the Adventure with us soon!
 For further information call Randall at (413) 436-5357 or email adventuretours@att.net or go to www.adventuretoursofwarren.com

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