

## Winter Markets *bring fresh food*

Donates food to the community

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

BELCHERTOWN – Farmers markets are the perfect way to get fresh vegetables, honey, fruits, seasonings, and baked goods from a reliable and organic source, and directly supports the farmers and creators in the process.

The Belchertown Farmers Market has been going for years and has been a favorite of the town's for handmade and delicious goods.

However, the love for the farmers markets doesn't have to stop when it gets too cold to be outside, and in Belchertown, there are two special markets for people to get some good food and handmade gifts in time for the holiday season.

This year, there were twenty-one vendors, selling a variety of items from farms and small businesses like honey, candles, bread, produce, lotions, baked goods and chocolates, as well as pet treats.

For the past three years, the Winter Markets have worked towards bringing these delicious goods to be enjoyed even in the cold months.

Every year, they also collect food items to be deliv-

Please see **MARKET**, page 5



TURLEY PHOTO BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS  
Charlotte Valle and her mom, Meghan Hatings with Dave's Natural Garden and an assortment of fresh produce to choose from.

## Board sets tax rate

By Melina Bourdeau  
Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN – The Selectboard set the residential and commercial industrial and personal property tax rates at one, meaning they will be taxed the same, at \$14.51. This is a \$0.81 decrease over last year, which was \$15.32 per thousand.

Director of Assessments John Whelihan addressed the board to discuss the proposed rate. He explained that while the rate went down, property valuations increased, meaning taxpayers would see an increase in their bills.

He said this year's budget is about \$63 million. The town is estimated to receive \$28.4 million in receipts and other revenue sources. According to Whelihan, the tax levy is \$34.5 million, which is money raised through taxation.

"(The tax rate) is really just a mathematical formula – It's the tax levy divided by the total taxable value, so we're over \$2.4 billion in tax value," he said.

The levy limit for last year was \$43 million, which is the base for FY25.

Last year, the town saw about \$400,000 in new growth. New growth is "when a home is remodeled, a garage is built,

Please see **TAX RATE**, page 8

## Senior center hosts grief and loss support group

By Emily-Rose Pappas  
Staff Writer  
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BELCHERTOWN – We all have experiences grief, whether it was the loss of a parent, loved one, other family member, or something else, experiencing grief is not entirely a foreign concept.

However, it is important to seek help during times of grief, and find someplace to talk through it, and finding others to relate to and find comfort in also on the grieving journey.

The Belchertown Senior Center hosts a Grief and Loss Support Group is hosted on the first Wednesday of the month at 12:30.

The group consists of anywhere from ten to sixteen people present at a time, and they come to share their grief over a variety of losses, from parents, grandparents, children, spouses, friends, siblings, and even pets.

"Providing support to people who deserve to have a space to come where they feel validated,

not judged, and can hopefully learn from each offered group class," said Liane Smola, the leader of the group.

Smola started the group in February of 2022, and had been holding grief groups are various other senior centers, recognizing the need in order communities.

"We unfortunately live in a very grief avoidant society as most of us were never taught how to cope with grief and/or support someone else who may be grieving," said Smola.

"It's important to provide support groups for people to not only help to validate how they are feeling, but also to share small things they can do daily to help alleviate some of the heaviness associated with grief."

Smola holds two bachelor of science degrees in Criminology and Sociology and is self-taught in grief and personal growth spaces.

After losing her brother ten years ago and being unable to find the support she needed,



SUBMITTED PHOTO  
Liane Smola, the leader of the grief and loss support group at the senior center.

she began to take classes and dive into content to educate herself about her own grief journey, but also how to help others and herself navigate life after grief.

"After recognizing a significant need for these services at the beginning stages of covid I decided to leave a long-term career in healthcare administra-

Please see **SUPPORT GROUP**, page 7

## Select Board addresses town concerns after STM

By Emily-Rose Pappas  
Staff Writer  
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GRANBY – The Select Board held various appointments and discussion of the Recall Bylaw, the veteran's memorial, and more.

The November 12 meeting was held by Chair Crystal Dufresne, and she was accompanied by Clerk David A. Labonte and member Glen N. Sexton, as well as Interim Town Administrator Christopher Martin.

### Update on Veteran's Memorial

The Granby Veterans Memorial Committee, the Friends of Granby Veterans, and the Granby American Legion Post 266 have been working to restore the Veterans Memorial in the center of town, and are seeing great

Members of the Committee came to the Select Board to provide an update on the construction of the memorial, and came

to the board to share updates.

Sargeant Jason Richard came to present the information, as well as provide updates that State Representative Mindy Domb was able to secure funding to put towards the construction on the gazebo.

They also discussed the idea of hosting a tree lighting in the gazebo, and how to go about organizing the electricity usage and circulation for the lighting of this tree.

### The Recall Bylaw

A member of the community came to the Select Board with a concern regarding the recall bylaw and its

This bylaw is a bylaw that allows for voters within the town of Granby, after a certain period of time, to recall a member that has been elected into an office through a three-step process.

Recall elections allow for the voters to remove one of these elected official from office before the end of his or her

Please see **GRANBY**, page 7

# Winter wonderland comes to showcase Christmas traditions



The fireplace at the Quirk House, decorated beautifully and the stockings hung by the chimney with care.

RIGHT: A sneak peek of the adorable little Christmas village set up to see and explore.

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

GRANBY – Coming up in December, the Historical Association will be hosting a special celebration at the Quirk House, showcasing the many traditions of Christmas.

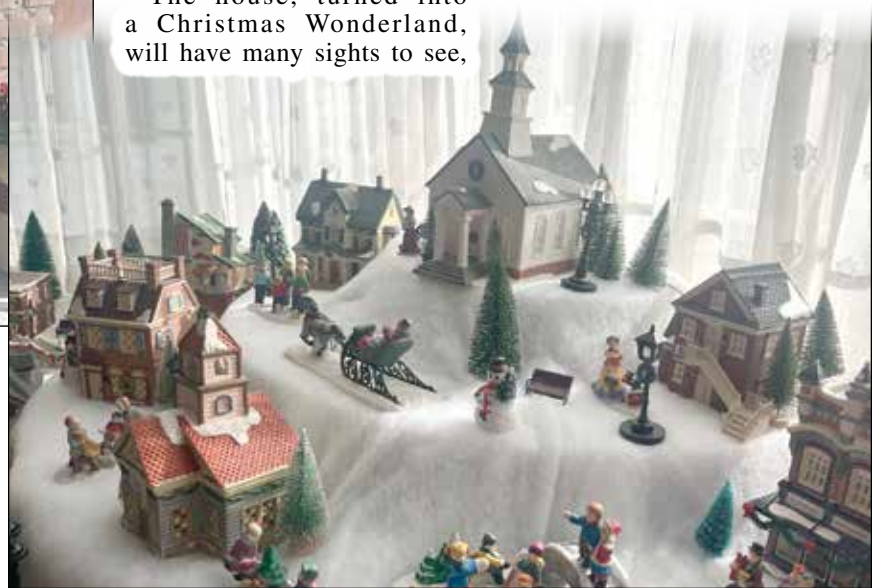
The history of the beloved holiday, as well as many of its traditions, will be showcased, and spectators will be able to walk through the rooms of the house to learn more and see the beautiful decorations.

The house, turned into a Christmas Wonderland, will have many sights to see,

and will be open for the special event through two weekends on December 7, 8, 14, and 15 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The event is free, but donations are accepted in order to help the Historical Association continue its mission of keeping Granby's history alive.

Mark your calendars for this self-guided tour, and treat yourself to the gift shop, mini raffle, and more. They are accepting donations for the raffle, and you can reach out to Terry Johnson via email at granbyhistorical@outlook.com to donate an item.



## Virtual people's Town Hall set for tonight

BELCHERTOWN— Sen. Comerford will be hosting an opportunity for constituents to engage with her and her team on Thursday, Nov. 21, from 6 to 7 p.m., in a virtual people's Town Hall.

Join Comerford for a People's Town Hall, an online gathering that will highlight what Comerford and team have been doing on behalf of the Hampshire, Franklin, Worcester district and look forward to what lies ahead. Attendees will also have the opportunity to ask questions, share ideas, and/or offer

feedback.

Registration is required for this free event. English live transcription (subtitles) and translated captions will be enabled for this Town Hall. Zoom translated captions enable users to have the speech in the Town Hall automatically translated in real-time to captions in another language. Participants will be able to self-enable captions and switch languages without the need of the host. Zoom offers translated captions in Chinese (Traditional and Simplified), French, Spanish, Vietnamese, and more. For more

information on configuring translated captions and a full list of languages offered.

The transcript will be posted on the Comerford's website after the event.

The Town Hall will be recorded and shared online for those who are unable to attend live.

For any questions about the Town Hall or accessibility concerns, please contact Director of Communications and Engagement Katelyn Billings at katelyn.billings@masenate.gov.

## Granby High class of 1979 Reunion to take place Nov. 30

GRANBY—The Granby High School class of 1979 will hold a 45th reunion on Saturday, Nov. 30 at Johnnie's Tap Room in South Hadley. The reunion will begin with a social hour at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and include dinner and music. Tickets can be purchased via Venmo to Doreen (Chauvin) Beard at Doreen-Beard-2. Contact Denise (Emond) Billow to buy tickets via check or for more information, at dbillow@pittsfield.net. Please share this information with fellow classmates.

## BCTV Schedule

### Thursday, Nov. 21

- 8 a.m.- Select Board- Nov. 18
- 10 a.m.- Finance Committee- Nov. 19
- Noon- Community Preservation Committee- Nov. 19
- 5 p.m.- Select Board- Nov. 18
- 7 p.m.- Finance Committee- Nov. 19
- 9 p.m.- Community Preservation Committee- Nov. 19

### Friday, Nov. 22

- 8 a.m. Clapp- A narrative of Dwight Village in Belchertown
- 9:30 a.m. Clapp/Bucc- Concert on the restored Steinway
- 11 a.m. EDIC- Nov. 20
- 1 p.m. Communications Committee- Nov. 14
- 5 p.m. Clapp- A narrative of Dwight Village in Belchertown
- 6:30 p.m. Clapp/Bucc- Concert on the restored Steinway
- 10 p.m. Communications Committee- Nov. 14

### Saturday, Nov. 23

- 8 a.m. Clapp- A narrative of Dwight Village in Belchertown
- 9:30 a.m. Clapp/Bucc- Concert on the restored Steinway
- 4:30 p.m. Clapp- A narrative of Dwight Village in Belchertown
- 6 p.m. Clapp/Bucc- Concert on the restored Steinway

### Sunday, Nov. 24

- 4:30 p.m.- St. Francis Roman Catholic Church
- 6 p.m.- Christ Community Church
- 7 p.m.- Hope United Methodist Church

### Monday, Nov. 25

- 8 a.m. Clapp- A narrative of Dwight Village in Belchertown
- 9:30 a.m. Clapp/Bucc- Concert on the restored Steinway
- 7 p.m. Conservation Commission- Channel 192

### Tuesday, Nov. 26

- 6 p.m. School Committee- Channel 192
- 7 p.m. Planning Board- Channel 191



### THANKSGIVING REVIEW

"Hi Paul, she was great! Lots of plump meat and just enough fat to help prevent her from drying out. We will be having leftovers for a very long time."  
— Beth from Belchertown

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# Practicing hygge, a Danish self-care practice

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

BELCHERTOWN – As the cold weather approaches, and the sun begins to set earlier, many people begin to feel the effects of what is known as seasonal depression.

Seasonal depression comes around during the colder and darker months, and many find it difficult to complete everyday tasks, and this is when learning different kinds of self-care becomes more and more important.

In Meik Wiking’s book, “The Little Book of Hygge: Danish Secrets to Happy Living”, he brings about the different techniques of self-care that will allow anyone to find happiness, even in the dark and cold months of winter.

“Winter is my least favorite season, so the idea of hygge (pronounced “hoo-ga”) during wintertime is very appealing to me,” said Ruthie Sterling, the teen librarian at Clapp Memorial Library.

Sterling held a special Hygge (pronounced “hoo-ga”) Night at the library with cookies, tea, and hot chocolate, and a chance to learn about different self-care techniques in a fun, interactive presentation.

The eleven teens in attendance also got to take home self-care kits, which contained fuzzy socks, tea, hot chocolate, a notebook, an LED candle, chocolate, and a pre-addressed envelope with a card in order to send a letter to a loved one, which is a hygge activity.

The teens gathered spent a lot of time

sharing with one another their favorite hot chocolate recipes, talking about which one is the best, and their reasons why.

“I think self-care is really important for everyone right now, not just teens. However, the library is a place full of hygge, and I wanted to do this program to help young people like me who might get winter blues and struggle to be social in the winter,” said Sterling.

Please see **HYGGE**, page 10



SUBMITTED PHOTOS  
Salem H. and JenaRose Z. enjoying some hot chocolate together and getting ready to learn about the hygge practices of self-care.



A self-care kit that the teens got to take home to enjoy, complete with a card to send a letter to a loved one.



Tea, hot chocolate, and cookies, the perfect mix for a night of self-care and relaxation.

Happy Thanksgiving

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## ■ POLICE LOGS

### 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 Nov. 6 through Nov. 12. 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 calls police responded to, there were 11 incidents, two accidents, seven arrests/summons and 24 citations.*

#### ARRESTS/SUMMONS Friday, Nov. 8

A 20-year-old Springfield male was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle without a license, unregistered motor vehicle and uninsured motor vehicle. An officer saw a vehicle without plates and then discovered it wasn't registered. The person was charged accordingly.

#### Tuesday, Nov. 12

10:13 a.m. – A 25-year-old Amherst woman was issued a summons for violation of a harassment prevention order and threat to commit a crime. The person was located and arrested in Amherst. Belchertown Police went to Amherst to retrieve the person.

#### Sunday, Nov. 10

9:46 p.m. – A 28-year-old South Hadley man was charged with a lights violation, an unregistered motor vehicle and an uninsured motor vehicle. An officer noticed a vehicle with no rear lights and stopped the vehicle. The officer stopped the vehicle. The operator told the officer that they were told by the person who sold the car that they could return the plates once they got home. The ones that were on the vehicle expired several years ago. They were charged accordingly.

#### INCIDENTS/ACCIDENTS Wednesday, Nov. 6

6:14 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident. A vehicle struck a deer and sustained front passenger side damage to the vehicle. No injuries were reported, and no tow was needed. The deer was euthanized, and the Department of Public Works was called to pick it up.

10:14 a.m. – An officer took a report of fraud. A resident gave out personal information to someone online, and they were concerned afterward. They were advised to check in with their banks.

11:17 a.m. – An officer took a report of fraud. A person tried to purchase an item on Facebook marketplace, then didn't get the item and tried to get a refund. Then the person kept getting billed for the item after trying to dispose of it.

6:34 p.m. – An officer took a report of a juvenile harassed

while at school. The caller was informed of the harassment order process, and the Belchertown Public Schools School Resource Officer was informed of the matter.

#### Thursday, Nov. 7

7:29 a.m. – Officers assisted a family with juvenile issues.

7:50 a.m. – A deer was found on the road injured. No vehicle was found. The deer was euthanized.

11:17 a.m. – A person cleaning out a residence of a former relative found what they believed was an antique firearm. It was a toy gun. The person wanted it removed, and the officer took it to be destroyed.

10:37 p.m. – An officer spoke with a resident who reported being threatened by a person online. They were told a video would be posted if they didn't pay the person online. The person sent money. The matter is open and under investigation.

#### Friday, Nov. 8

7:51 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on North Main Street. A vehicle was rear-ended after stopping in traffic. No tow was needed, and no injuries were reported.

6:37 p.m. – An officer escorted a person to retrieve personal property after an alleged 209A violation. It was then found no violation occurred.

9:47 p.m. – The officer responded to a call reporting juvenile issues. The officer went to where the juvenile was and spoke with them. They reported

they left after an argument over electronic device usage. A 51A was filed.

#### Saturday, Nov. 9

12:42 p.m. – A summons for a Belchertown man was issued a summons for an unregistered and an uninsured motor vehicle. An officer came across a vehicle with no registration plate and found it was not registered.

#### Sunday, Nov. 9

8:22 a.m. – A person was walking their dog on Cold Spring Road when another dog came from a parked vehicle and attacked their dog. They were able to contact the owner. They didn't give information to them. So, the person took a photo of the registration plate. Then they were in touch with Animal Control, Animal Control, and they contacted the person. The person will arrange to pay the victim's vet bill.

10:43 a.m. – An officer responded to an Allen Road residence after a resident discovered their windshield was broken. The reason for the windshield's breakage was unknown; there were no objects within the vehicle.

12:18 p.m. – A person called about a relative out of state and supposed to be on a flight. The relative said they tried to contact the person but couldn't. The person was entered as a missing person.

#### Monday, Nov. 11

6:08 p.m. – An officer was contacted by DCF and asked to

go to a residence to check on a child's well-being.

6:31 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on North Main Street. A vehicle traveling north on North Main Street was pulling a trailer. Another car was turning and didn't see the trailer and contacted it. No injuries were reported, and no tows were needed.

#### Tuesday, Nov. 12

10:05 p.m. – A person was served a restraining order and was ordered to surrender the firearms. An officer transported them back to the station to be inventoried and turned into property.

### Granby Police Log

*Editor's Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 103 calls from Nov. 18 through Nov. 14. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The Granby Police Department provides all the information.*

#### Friday, Nov. 8

1:33 p.m. – A motorist stopped at the station and said they struck a bollard in the Dunkin Donuts parking lot near the drive-thru. There were no injuries.

#### Sunday, Nov. 10

6:55 p.m. – A motorist

Please see **POLICE LOG**, page 10



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# Winter Markets



Alicia and Jimmy Austin with some pork and beef products from Austin's Farm, a family-owned farm here in town for eight generations.

**MARKET** from page 1

ered to a local food pantry, and this year, the food donations were brought in for the Western Massachusetts Veterans Thanksgiving Food Pantry.

In total, they collected four full banana boxes with a total of 150 items to go towards veterans in need.

They also offered a deal for anyone that brought in a food item, they would receive a \$5 discount voucher at the market to use at any of the stalls.

"My favorite part about the winter markets is getting to see all of our loyal customers, vendors and meeting new faces," said Brittni Robidoux, who has been working with the farmers market for the past four years.

There are two winter markets, and then the farmers mar-

ket takes a break before it starts again in June, and the vendors have developed a strong friendship over the years.

"This year we have had so many vendors from the summer collaborating with each other on different projects and that is so cool! So many vendors have gained friendships and partnerships and that what the market is really about, bringing our community together," said Robidoux.

The next, and last, Winter Market, will be on December 15, so remember to mark your calendars in time to get some treats and gifts in time for Christmas.

"We have so many fun projects that we will be bringing to the table in 2025, and we are so excited," Robidoux said.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

Elaine Shepard and delicious chocolates and desserts from her small business, Wicked Food Treats by Elaine.



Olga and Greeley Kyle, owners of The Lavender Woods, a flower farm with an apiary, where they make candles, lotions, and more.



Jamie Bartholoma selling delicious and homemade crème brûlée's of several flavors from the small business, Crème Bru LA, named for its start in California.



Stephanie Oates showing her talent in photography through her small business, Stunning Images Photography, and offering several cards just in time for the Christmas season.



Lindsey Baird of Oak and Ash Farm, who sold out of her hand made breads.

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**OPINION**



**Older Veteran asks about Special Social Security credit for military service**

Dear Rusty:

I served in the U S Army from January 1958 to February 1961.

What increase should I receive for those years and who do I call and at what phone number?

Signed: Proud Veteran

Dear Proud Veteran:

First, thank you for your military service. I expect you are referring to the "special extra credits for military service," which are available to some who served in in the US Military in earlier years. It is important to note that these "extra credits" take the form of an adjustment to your military pay record while serving and are not an incremental amount added to your monthly Social Security benefit because you served.

Military pay has been subject to deductions for Social Security since 1957. Thus, while serving between 1958 and 1961 you paid SS tax on your military earnings. But, for purposes of determining your Social Security benefit, your military earnings record would be increased by \$300 for each quarter you served on active duty, up to a maximum of \$1,200 increase per year of service.

That means for 1958 - 1960, when calculating your SS benefit, \$1,200 would be added to your military earnings record for each year you served. FYI, for those who served after 1967, this adjustment was automatically made by Social Security. But for service years prior to 1967, as in your case, you would need to inform Social Security of your service when you claimed SS and provide a copy of your military form DD-214, your discharge papers. SS would then make the appropriate adjustment to your military earnings record prior to calculating your benefit amount. And, for clarity, additional credits for military service are not available to those who served after 2001.

A key point to understand is that this adjustment to your military pay may or may not affect the amount of your Social Security benefit. Social Security determines your benefit amount based on your highest earning 35 years over your entire lifetime, adjusted for inflation.

If, after you served in the military, you had at least 35 years of civilian employment where you earned more than your military pay, it is probable that your military pay is not included when calculating your Social Security benefit. If that is the case, it is likely that the "special extra credits for military service" would have no effect on your Social Security payment. If, however, your military pay including those special extra credits for any year is more than you earned in civilian life, then you can contact Social Security (1-800-772-1213), provide them with a copy of your DD-214, and ask that they recalculate your Social Security benefit to include the extra credits for your years of military service.

Again, thank you for your service to our country, and please do not hesitate to contact us again if you have any further questions. FYI, you may also find the "For Veterans" section of our AMAC Foundation website by visiting [www.amacfoundation.org](http://www.amacfoundation.org).

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



*in the Garden*  
by Roberto McQuaid

**Wrap it up!**

I spent this past weekend trying to wrap things up. Before we know it the holidays will be upon us and there will be little time to spend in the garden.

I had, and sadly still have, areas yet to clean up, last minute bulbs to plant and statuary and tools to put into storage. One major concern is how dry it is.

Read on to learn about some chores that should be tackled before the ground freezes.

Honestly, in all my years of gardening I have never felt the need to water in spring bulbs after planting them. This year is the exception.

What about our newly planted perennials, trees and shrubs? Just to be safe, get out the hose and give them a good soaking.

If weather permits, move a slow running hose from shrub to shrub over the course of a few hours. This is especially critical for our broad leaf evergreens such as rhododendrons, azaleas, and Pieris.

Remember the damage on older rhododendrons a few winters back? Some large specimens lost a third or more of their overall size!

Much of that was caused by excessive cold and winter winds that desiccated (removed moisture from) the foliage and left it susceptible to injury. Antidesiccant sprays are available from nurseries and garden centers. These products leave a waxy layer of film over the leaf, locking in its moisture.

Did you purchase any shrubs, roses or otherwise that were so beautiful you couldn't resist, even though they were only marginally hardy in our area (zones 6 or higher)? These need special attention.

Pound some stakes into the ground just outside the drip line of the plant. Wrap the stakes with burlap and stuff it full of straw, salt marsh hay, or shredded leaves, anything that will insulate yet not pack

down and cause rot.

Never use plastic; this material creates a greenhouse of fluctuating temperatures that will surely kill the plant. Climbing plants such as roses or clematis can be removed from their trellises, tied in loose bundles and wrapped in a similar fashion as above.

Many of our evergreen shrubs suffer under the weight of ice and snow. Smaller specimens can be protected by making "A-frame" tents out of plywood and placing them over the susceptible plant. Use hinges rather than nails to construct them; storage during the off-season will be a breeze.

These types of enclosures also provide a great deal of wind protection. Paint them to blend in with the landscape.

Other articles have covered the importance of winter mulch to protect strawberries, fall mums, garlic, and spring flowering bulbs among others. Large evergreen branches do well to cover bigger areas. I have used them successfully to weigh down other light mulches such as straw or chopped leaves for twice the protection.

Remember, this task is best accomplished after the ground freezes, with our goal being to keep it frozen, thereby avoiding thawing spells that heave plants from the ground.

During the winter voles and field mice can wreak havoc on young fruit trees by tunneling through the snow to the bark in search of food. Their gnawing will girdle the tree and if excessive enough will eventually kill it.

Remember, the layer of tissue just below the bark is the tree's "plumbing"! Protect the trunk by wrapping it with one-quarter inch hardware cloth or commercially made trunk protectors. Remove the protectors in the spring.

Unfortunately, I neglected to protect young trees one fall and that was all it took. A poor tree was gnawed almost completely around the trunk. I was surprised it had enough energy to leaf out the following spring, but less surprised to see it wither and die not a month later.

In case you were wondering, yes, my bulbs for Old Sturbridge Village did finally come in. I wish they could talk. What a story they would tell.

I think they have honestly traveled more in the last six weeks than I have in

Please see **GARDEN**, 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](mailto:sentinel@turley.com). The deadline for submissions is Friday at 5 p.m.

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

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**Turley Election Policy**

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

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

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

**NOTICE**

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

**SUPPORT GROUP** from page 1

tion to open GuidanceByLi,” Smola said. However, joining a grief support group may not be such an easy task, and for some people, it may even be a terrifying thought for some to reach out and open up about their struggles. “I would recommend you doing your best to find the strength to push through those nerves to show up -even if it’s just trying it once,” Smola said, recommending the group to all struggling with grief and loss. The group works to help support and encourage one another, and they meet both within and outside the group to encourage and support one another as friendships are formed between people who understand what they are going through, which is very validating. Every session, the members are pointed to and provided with resources, and Smola works to provide assistance and answer any specific questions asked.

People share tips about things that are working for them in their healing journey, and they discuss the material prepared as well as anything else they want to share. Topics include “Holiday Grief, Processing Guilt, Learning How To Accept Grief, Dealing With People That Don’t Understand, Validating Emotions, What to Expect As Grief Changes Over Time, & How To Find What I Call -Your Pockets of Peace”. Beers and Story Funeral Home sponsors the group through Stephanie Fraleigh, the senior center’s Programs and Volunteer Coordinator who does the outreach between the group and the funeral home, which continues to sponsor and support the group as it has for years. “I am most thankful for their willingness to continue providing support for such a needed program. Their continued commitment to support this group means so much to me as well as the attendees in the group,” Smola said. “What I find to be most special is how

warm and welcoming the group attendees are for those who are new to the group. It’s as though they take them under their wing to make sure that they are as comfortable as possible. Some of these bonds have significantly helped attendees in navigating their grief journey without their loved ones,” Smola said. You can find resources and more about Smola on her website at [www.guidancebyli.com](http://www.guidancebyli.com), as well as on Facebook and Instagram as @GuidanceByLi. Her private practice is located in The Wilbraham Shops at 2341 Boston Road, and has other grief support groups at the senior centers in Chicopee, Ludlow, and Wilbraham. She has an 18-plus age grief group on the second Tuesdays of each month at 5:45 p.m. at the Ludlow Senior Center, and has several Self-Care and Friendship Groups you can join, all found listed on her website.

**GARDEN** from page 6

my entire life. Holland to New York to Alabama to the Bahamas to New Jersey and then to a shoe store in New York City. Yes, a shoe store. A good Samaritan saw my name on the packing slip and called to say she received them. Regardless, I am happy they finally arrived in Sturbridge. I am hopeful that they will all be planted (and watered in) within the next couple of days!

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 32 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](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.*

**GRANBY** from page 1

term, following the three-step guidelines within the bylaw. One of the members of the community that came forward to discuss his concerns shared his concerns about the bylaw, and what changes could be made. The senate council at the time that it was submitted that it was too short, and per an email from current Sen. Oliveira’s senate council shared it was too long of a time period. “I would rather give us more time to properly perform a recall vote than to change the bylaw again to a short period of time,” said Town Administrator Christopher Martin. The board made a motion to vote to leave the bylaw as written, with the 64-day minimum to call for the recall, and it passed between the three members after no further discussion.

**Opioid Task Force**

Martin brought up the installation of an opioid task force to the board, and shared that they have not officially appointed members to the task force, and the desire to appoint that sooner to “address the issues of opioids in the town of Granby.” Dufresne presented the list of people that she and Susan Knightly had in mind to appoint to the task force, and asked to make a motion to appoint these community members to the task force. They included Police Chief Kevin O’Grady, Deputy Director of the Fire Department Tyler Yvon, School Guidance Counselor Sarah Bierden, School Social Worker Charlene Korza, Veterans Services Officer David Mendoza, School Resource Officer Zacharie Gilley, Susan Knightly as a citizen member, and Crystal Dufresne to act as a non-voting member. The board moved to approve of the members of the opioid task force and to set it into motion.

**Concerns for The Wine Haus**

Two members of the community living on Batchellor Street expressed concern during the public hearing segment about The Wine Haus, and the gravel pit itself happening on and around the property causing noise and health concerns for the residents. The selectboard heard from Jay Joyce, who came to the board with a concern regarding local business, The

Wine Haus, which he came to the board with the concern of the legality of their operating. The board assured him that they are aware of the situation, and are working towards a final decision, and that it is within executive session and not at this time.

**Town Administrator’s Report**

Christopher Martin brought to the board various correspondence, including a request for resignation from a full-time police officer and permission to advertise for an opening. The board approved of the resignation request, and for the approval of Chief O’Grady to put up the advertisement for the opening. Martin also brought up the idea of regional dispatching, and if that is something the board would be interested in for the town of Granby. The police department also requested the addition of a part-time dispatching position to add to the four full-time positions in order to fill in the gaps of where that extra help is needed. The board approved of the addition of a part-time position to the dispatching team.

**New and Regular Business**

The Board reviewed and signed the amendment with the I.B.P.O. Local 321 Contract, to hear a request from the Union regarding dispatch shift coverage. A Union member clarified that the request would be that open dispatching shifts would be offered to dispatchers within the Union before non-Union employees. The board voted and approved of the request, and the Union members present signed the document. The board moved to approve of the various departmental reports with an editorial change and reviewed and approved the various maintenance warrants and meeting minutes.

The board also reviewed the Building Commissioner Correspondence, and addressed the fees and bylaws sent in.

The board reviewed the bylaw and proposed changes to be forwarded to the Planning Board for review, that requires a change to some bylaw amendments, under Mass General Law 40a Section 5 and amending the definition for an accessory dwelling unit. They motioned to send along the bylaw amendments to the Planning Board in order to review these amendments. The board reviewed the fees and their increases, and the board discussed whether this change would be good for the town of Granby or not.

The board moved on to approve and sign the annual report for the fiscal year 2024 for the Green Communities, and that they are inviting them to a special meeting to celebrate the reduction of energy usage by 20%.

The board affirmed appointments for the upcoming Charter Days events, including the ones who requested to become members, and the board moved to accept these new members.

Martin brought up a request from our current veterans’ services officer who is looking to retire, and Martin reached out to surrounding towns and their veterans services, and received a request to join their services.

The cost of joining this group veteran’s services agency would be about \$200,000, which is in the budget. The board made a motion for Martin to reach out to the veterans services intermunicipal Central Hampshire County Veterans Services district to join them.

The board also reviewed a request from the Parks Department for a new position, and moved to have this be pushed into the new year in order to deal with other town matters beforehand for the tentative second meeting in January.

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### Belchertown High School use of Indoor Track

BELCHERTOWN—The track will be open for use between 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.

The track will be closed on weekends, holidays and vacations. You may view the Belchertown Public School calendar at the link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XbmQWEyCvXj5sPml-566fi2szFDmaQkK/view>

Walkers must have an approved CORI/SORI on file with the school district. CORI/SORI is valid for 3 years. If you do not have a valid CORI/SORI, please come to Belchertown Public School, Central Office, 14 Maple Street, Belchertown to complete an in-person CORI/SORI form. You will need to show a valid driver's license or state ID.

- All walkers must sign in and sign out in the Main Office at Belchertown High School.
- All walkers must wear a visitor's badge while walking the track.
- All walkers must leave the building if there is a fire drill/emergency and report to the front of the building to be accounted for when checking attendance.

### Winter Market dates

BELCHERTOWN— The Belchertown Farmers and Artisans Market have put together two upcoming winter markets this year. The second market will be Sunday Dec. 15, stop by Jabish Brook Middle School, 62 N. Washington St., and shop for local produce, one of a kind gifts, snacks and more. Market hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

While the Winter Markets will have many of the summertime vendors, organizers also bring in some new artisans for those one of a kind gifts. Also, 2025 Market Gift Cards will be on sale at the Market Manager's table. Shop local and help our community grow and connect. For more information, follow the Market's social media channels on Facebook and Instagram. Email at [belchertownfarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:belchertownfarmersmarket@gmail.com) and website address is: [www.belchertownfarmersmarket.weebly.com](http://www.belchertownfarmersmarket.weebly.com).

### TAX RATE from page 1

revenue is raised from new additions in town," said Whelihan.

The new growth with the previous levy limit creates the previous levy limit, which was \$34.4 million, creates this year's limit. Whelihan said last year's limit is the starting point for determining this year's tax rate. He added that the limit can't exceed the ceiling.

This year's levy ceiling is \$59.6 million. Last year, it was \$54 million.

"When your levy ceiling hits your levy limit, you can't raise any more revenue," he said. "Because the market is healthy here, our levy limit isn't outpacing our levy ceiling."

He said that the tax levy was \$24.6 million in 2016 and increased to \$34.5 million in about 10 years.

"The wider the gap is (between the levy limit and the levy ceiling, the better your finances should be," Whelihan said.

There was also nothing to calculate for a budget override, paying debt exclusion nor the new growth adjustment, money over the levy limit.

Selectboard Chair Ed Boscher said that although, from Whelihan's perspective, it may be the last step in the budget process, he wanted to highlight that it was the beginning for the board.

"We have to take those numbers and make the town run," he said. "That's not going to be an easy task this year, especially for the Town Manager (Steve) Williams."

He also highlighted the need for the town to be better at borrowing to benefit the overall budget since debt exclusions in the past have caused the rate to be up to \$1 higher.

Selectboard member Nicole Miner said the town also needs to borrow funds for capital projects.

"It's like they say, 'Use your credit card a little bit, it increases your credit score,'" Miner said.

Whelihan said that when the town estimates the new growth and revenue budget, it's conservative.

He added that the valuation is increasing, but at a slower pace. In return, taxpayers are being asked to pay a little more.

For a single-family home valued at about \$414,389, at the approved tax rate, the bill would be \$6,012.

Whelihan said he was commonly asked why residents paid more in taxes when valuations went down – because the budget didn't go down.

Using last year's data, the town's tax rate is lower than that of Amherst, Wilbraham and Northampton and about the same as that of Granby, South Hadley and Southwick.

The Selectboard ultimately decided not to shift the tax rate burden from residential rates to CIP.

Whelihan told the board there wasn't enough CIP to support a shift in the rate.

Miner asked if any towns did a split rate, which Whelihan said were primarily cities.



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# Wildfire notice for outdoor users

REGION—Massachusetts is dealing with widespread wildfires and severe drought, both of which heighten the risk of additional fires. MassWildlife staff are assisting the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and local fire departments in the ongoing effort to contain wildfires across the state. When venturing into the woods, MassWildlife is advising all outdoor users to take the following precautions to keep yourself and others safe:

- Stay away from active fires. Some may appear out but could still have a fire burning underground. Call 911 to report new fires.
- Extinguish and dispose of smoking materials such as cigarette butts appropriately.
- When visiting wooded areas, park vehicles away from dry grass and leaves and do not

block access gates.

- Avoid recently burned areas because of the risk of falling trees weakened by fire.
- If you see or smell smoke, be safe and leave the woods. Fire can move quickly under windy conditions.
- Refrain from any outdoor activity involving open flames. There is a ban on outdoor open burning statewide.

In addition to taking precautions while enjoying the outdoors, your actions at home can make a difference in preventing wildfires and conserving water. About 45 percent of Massachusetts homes are in or near areas at severe wildfire risk, meaning that any significant fire will put people and property in danger. To help reduce the risk, you can find tips on water conservation and fire prevention at [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov).

## MAC holiday craft fair

MONSON— The Monson Arts Council's 45th annual holiday craft fair, which features hand crafted items. The fair will open on Saturday, Nov. 30 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The fair presents 70 artisans, crafters and non-profit organizations who all offer a variety of items.

The crafters are located in four buildings in downtown Monson, Crafters are set up in

Memorial Hall, the House of Art, and the Universalist and Methodist Churches. All locations offer a wide variety of gifts, decorations and collectibles, including stained glass, bath products, books, candles, dry flowers, clothing, holiday decorations, jewelry, quilts, soft sculpture, hand crafted greet-

Please see **CRAFT FAIR**, page 15



## Belchertown United U14 girls win playoffs

The Belchertown United U14 girls won the D1 ROOTS Soccer League Playoffs on Sunday, Nov. 10, 2024. The U14 girls won against Wilbraham Soccer Club with a 2-0 score. The Belchertown United U14 girls also captured the fall 2024 regular season league division with a 7-1 record. This team has now won back to back league championships and league divisions (spring 2024). Also, in spring of 2024 the team won the Massachusetts tournament of champions which is a state wide tournament. The head coach is J.W Benoit

## Community mosaics in Guatemala

BELCHERTOWN — Cynthia Fisher, mosaic artist from Buckland and creator of the mosaics in Shelburne Falls will be giving a powerpoint presentation on her 10 plus years of community projects in Guatemala. Fisher has

made 3 community murals in Quetzaltenango, the second largest city in the country, and close to 35 murals in the town of San Lucas Tolimán on beautiful Lake Atitlán. Fisher has been bringing groups of Americans to participate since

2019, information will be included on trips in January and February of 2025 and for 2026 and beyond. The presentation will be on Friday, Nov. 22, at 6 p.m., at the Clapp Memorial Library.

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Grandparents: Donald & MaryAnn Dunbar, Ware  
Thomas & Sharon Legasey, Spencer

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Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Names: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Pathfinder looks to rebound from last Turkey Day

Brian Carlin kicks off for Belchertown.



PALMER – Once again, the Pathfinder and Belchertown football teams will participate in a Thanksgiving morning football game. The unique part of this matchup is the teams begin play earlier than others, with kick off set for 9 a.m. instead of the traditional 10 a.m. other games start at on the holiday. The game time was changed a few years ago. Last year, Belchertown raised its Turkey Day record to 13-9 against Pathfinder with a 61-14 blow-out. But it's not a winning streak yet as Pathfinder got a win in 2022 47-22. Both teams have had a tough 2024 with Belchertown going 1-8 while Pathfinder went just 2-8.



Joshua Grillo heads toward the right side on a run.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

### Belchertown Football (1-8)

- Friday, Sept. 13 – Northampton 16, Belchertown 13
- Thursday, Sept. 19 – Pittsfield 42, Belchertown 14
- Friday, Sept. 27 – Ludlow 40, Belchertown 18
- Friday, Oct. 4 – Hoosac 43, Belchertown 8
- Thursday, Oct. 10 – Easthampton 20, Belchertown 19
- Friday, Oct. 18 – Lee 46, Belchertown 0
- Friday, Oct. 25 – Frontier 20, Belchertown 0
- Friday, Nov. 1 – Commerce 28, Belchertown 6
- Friday, Nov. 8 – Belchertown 46, Greenfield 13
- Thursday, Nov. 14 – Bye
- Thanksgiving Game
- Thursday, Nov. 28 – at Pathfinder 9 a.m.

### Pathfinder Football (2-8)

- Friday, Sept. 13 – Palmer 40, Pathfinder 7
- Friday, Sept. 20 – Athol 40, Pathfinder 0
- Friday, Sept. 27 – Franklin Tech 46, Pathfinder 6
- Saturday, Oct. 5 – SICS 40, Pathfinder 30
- Friday, Oct. 11 – Monument Mountain 40, Pathfinder 34
- Saturday, Oct. 19 – Pathfinder 28, Drury 12
- Saturday, Oct. 26 – Pathfinder 42, McCann Tech 12
- Friday, Nov. 1 – Smith Vocational 40, Pathfinder 8
- Friday, Nov. 8 – Frontier 38, Pathfinder 12
- Friday, Nov. 15 – South Hadley 27, Pathfinder 9
- Thanksgiving Game
- Thursday, Nov. 28 – vs. Belchertown 9 a.m.



Michael Muscaro leaps over a Pathfinder tackler as he heads into the end zone.

### BELCHERTOWN VS. PATHFINDER

Belchertown leads series 13-9

- 2023: Belchertown 61-14
- 2022: Pathfinder 47-22
- 2021: Belchertown 44-8
- 2020: No game - COVID
- 2019: Belchertown 44-7
- 2018: Belchertown 46-6
- 2017: Belchertown 39-0
- 2016: Belchertown 30-0
- 2015: Pathfinder 16-0
- 2014: Pathfinder 3-0
- 2013: Pathfinder 30-6
- 2012: Pathfinder 30-8
- 2011: Belchertown 29-0
- 2010: Belchertown 9-7
- 2009: Belchertown 41-6
- 2008: Pathfinder 15-13
- 2007: Pathfinder 34-8
- 2006: Belchertown 8-6
- 2005: Belchertown 25-0
- 2004: Pathfinder 28-0
- 2003: Belchertown 27-6
- 2002: Belchertown 9-6
- 2001: Pathfinder 48-24



Nicholas Pfister attempts to stiff-arm a Belchertown defender.



RIGHT: Landon Andre winds up for a long pass.



Branden Hnitecki goes for a tackle.



Nicholas Pfister looks to make a handoff.



Dustyn Cook fields a kickoff for the Pioneers.



The Pathfinder defense stops a Belchertown rusher during last year's matchup in Belchertown

SPORTS

# Orioles season ends in second round



Esat Cayan dekes as he heads up the left side.

SPRINGFIELD — On Saturday, Nov. 9, Belchertown boys soccer's season came to an end with a loss 3-0 against a strong Pope Francis team in the Round of 16 of the Division 3 State Tournament. Belchertown did open the tournament with a home win against Watertown High School, a 1-0 shutout. Belchertown had an unusual season with a 6-7-7 record. The Orioles had seven ties this season with three coming in their final four games of the regular season. The Orioles reached the semifinals of the Western Mass. Class B Tournament. Belchertown would also lose to Pope Francis in that tournament.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM  
Adam Cooper fights to keep the ball.



Chase Connor hustles toward the offensive end.



Kamden Houle goes for the header.



Austin Raymer sends the free kick away.

# Late goals get T-Birds much-needed win

SPRINGFIELD — The Springfield Thunderbirds (6-8-1-0) got a clutch late-game goal from their captain en route to a 4-2 win over the Charlotte Checkers (7-4-0-1) on Saturday night at the MassMutual Center. Springfield picked up its first set of back-to-back wins this season in the process.

The T-Birds played a stout defensive opening period against the AHL's most potent offense, keeping the Checkers to just nine shot attempts and one unsuccessful power play opportunity. Vadim Zherenko has a stable start to his night, denying each Charlotte shot that reached the blue paint.

At the other end, former T-Birds head coach Geordie Kinnear also had his team locked in defensively. The Checkers also killed off one Springfield power play, and Ken Appleby had answers for each of the T-Birds' seven first-period shots.

2:30 into the second, one

of the newcomers to North America got Springfield the night's first tally. Leo Loof brilliantly maneuvered himself down the right wing into the slot, moving the puck to his forehand and rattling a shot off the post. While Loof did not have luck on his side, his fellow Swede Simon Robertsson did, as the rookie arrived in the slot, found the loose puck, and snapped it past a fallen Appleby to give Springfield the 1-0 lead. It was Robertsson's first AHL goal, and it marked the first time in three games that Springfield tallied the first marker.

The Springfield power play, which had not scored since Nov. 2, got into the action next at 5:57, as Aleksanteri Kaskimaki uncorked a one-timer from the right circle off a setup from Samuel Johannesson. Marcus

Sylvegard parked himself in front of the net and deftly tipped the shot past Appleby for his second man-advantage goal of the season, and the T-Birds lead moved to 2-0.

A late penalty and subsequent unsportsman-conduct call put Charlotte on the power play for four minutes at the tail end of the middle stanza. With just 1.8 seconds left in the frame, Trevor Carrick held a clearing attempt in and snapped a shot past Zherenko to bring the Checkers to within a goal heading into the third.

The visitors built off that goal at the 2:23 mark of the third when Marek Alschler moved up from the blue line to find a loose puck in a scramble and score his first AHL goal to tie the game, 2-2.

The stalemate carried into the

back half of the final frame, and a pair of matching minors set the teams up at 4-on-4 hockey with less than six minutes to play. Almost immediately, the T-Birds rose to the occasion. Hunter Skinner raced to the right point to hold a puck at the blue line. With no hesitation, he whipped a pass diagonally to a streaking Matthew Peca on the left-wing side. Appleby denied Peca's first attempt with the pad, but the captain corraled the rebound and swept it into an empty net, restoring the T-Birds lead, 3-2, with 5:29 to go.

With Appleby pulled in the closing minutes, Charlotte kept pressing the issue, but Zherenko and the T-Birds defense stiffened. Dylan Peterson blocked a last-ditch effort, cleared the defensive zone, and tapped the puck into the empty cage to wrap up Springfield's win.

Zherenko earned his first win since Oct. 12 with 25 stops on the night, while Appleby had 22 saves for Charlotte.



# Railers notch road win in Canada

TROIS-RIVIÈRES, QC—The Worcester Railers HC (6-6-0-0 12pts) beat the Trois-Rivières Lions (5-3-2-0, 12pts), on Saturday by a final score of 5-4 in front of a crowd of 1,936 at the Colisée Videotron. The Railers are back on the ice next at the Colisée Videotron taking on the Trois-Rivières Lions on Sunday, November 17th at 3:00 p.m. EST.

It was Trois-Rivières who scored first when Jakov Novak (2-1-3) scored on the power play at 15:30 in the first making it a 1-0 score going into the second. Jakov Novak found the back of the net for a second time in the second period 12:03 into the frame. The Railers then made it 2-1 with a power play goal from Matthew Kopperud (1-1-2). Under a minute into the third Riley Piercey (2-0-2) scored on the power play to tie the game up at 2-2. The Lions took the lead 3-2 9:41 into the third with a goal from Logan Njihoff (1-0-1). Jonathan Yantsis (1-0-1) then added another on making it 4-2. Anthony Repaci then got one through (2-2-4) 13:02 into the third. Anthony Repaci struck again making it a tie game at 4-4 17:44 into the third. Riley Piercey got the game winner with 22 seconds remaining in overtime making the final score 5-4.

Trois-Rivières scored a power play goal for the lone first period goal. Jakov Novak (6th) got one by John Muse of Worcester to make it a 1-0 game. The Lions would go back on the power play later in the period following a hooking call on Connor Welsh, but the Railers penalty kill was able to successfully kill the penalty off. Shots favored Trois-Rivières 11-7 in the first period.

The Railers had to start the second period off on the penalty kill following a slashing call on Griffin Loughran late in the first. Although the Railers successfully killed this penalty off to start the second, the Lions extended their lead to 2-0. It was Jakov Novak (7th) scoring again for the Lions as he ripped one through from the right circle. Matthew Kopperud (4th) cut into the Trois-Rivières lead with his power play goal making it 2-1 Trois-Rivières. Neither team would score through the rest of the second leaving the score at 2-1 headed into the third. Shots favored Worcester 11-9 in the second.

The Railers got another power play opportunity in the second and were able to tie it up at 2-2 as Riley Piercey (5th) tapped in a rebounded shot just 52 seconds into the third. The Lions went on to take the 3-2 lead with a goal from Logan Njihoff (2nd). Jonathan Yantsis (1st) went

Please see **RAILERS**, page 13



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**SPORTS**



Marcela Tapia goes after a loose ball.



Cassandra Flaherty brings the pass in.

## Owls finish football season with .500 record

WESTFIELD – Westfield State senior running back Dylan Disabella (Granby, Conn.) punctuated the Owls' senior day with 241 yards rushing and three TD's to power Westfield to a 22-7 win over Fitchburg State.

Westfield closes the season 4-6 overall and 4-5 in the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference under first-year head coach Lou Conte, Jr. Fitchburg ends its first season under coach Izzy Abraham at 2-8, 1-8 in the MASCAC.

Disabella and the Owls methodically ground out the win, as he finished with 35 carries, and scored on a 7-yard run in the first quarter, and a 21-yard run in the second quarter to grab a 14-0 lead at the half. He added a seven-yard TD run in the third quarter. He finishes the year as the Owls leading rusher with 763 yards and 7 rushing TD's on 143 carries, switching into the primary ball-carrier role for Westfield after a mid-season injury to Sean Willis (450 yards). Disabella also led the Owls in receiving for the season with 14 catches for 240 yards and two more TD's.

The Owls tacked on a 28-yard Cooper Harvey (Niskayuna, NY) field goal to take a 22-0 lead in the fourth quarter, before Fitchburg finally got on the board with 31 seconds left in the contest on a 50-yard Devin Lebron (Ledyard, Conn.) to Jeremy Alik (Natick, Mass.) comple-

tion. Westfield dominated in time of possession, 42:42-17:18, and had 342 yards of total offense compared to 216 for the Falcons. The game also featured eight fumbles and two interceptions between the two teams, and a combined 26 flags for 227 yards in penalties.

Ryan Scott (Dalton, Mass./Wahconah) started at QB and finished 4-10 for 72 yards passing. He was relieved by Lucas Pickard (Dalton, Mass./Wahconah) in the second half, who was just 1-1, but that was a 38-yarder to Jordan Lanoue (Belchertown, Mass.). Jacob Swinehart (Holyoke, Mass.) finished with three catches for 63 yards.

Fitchburg's offense was led by 55 yard rushing from Matthew Aguirre (Laredo, Tex.). Emilo Cabey (Boston, Mass./Dover Sherborn) caught three balls for 48 yards. Starter Rocky Marchitelli (Gunnison, Colo.) was 6-12 for 58 yards passing, but had to leave the game after receiving a second unsportsmanlike conduct foul. Lebron relieved him and completed 3 of 10 passes for 50 yards and a td.

Westfield's Eric Lovell (Barnstable, Mass.) picked off a pair of Lebron's passes, including a 24-yard return to the Falcons' 7-yard line in the third quarter that set up Disabella's third score of the day. Senior DT Cade Nelson (Shrewsbury, Mass.) led the

Please see **OWLS**, page 15

## Rams fall in second round

WARREN – The Granby High School girls soccer team were able to reach the second round of the Division 5 state tournament. The Rams were on

the round for both games, first traveling to nearby Quaboag Regional High School and capturing a 2-0 win on Wednesday, Nov. 6. Following that, the

Rams traveled to Eastern Mass. for a matchup at Georgetown. Granby would fall 4-0 in that matchup. Granby's season ended at 9-10.



Margaret Crawford brings in the bouncing pass.



Carli Zobka competes for the 50/50 ball.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI  
Eleanor Szlosek traps the ball.

### RAILERS from page 12

on to make it 4-2 Trois-Rivières with his goal 11:21 into the third. The Railers cut the Lion lead to one with a goal from Anthony Repaci (8th) 13:02

into the third period. Anthony Repaci (9th) was not done there as he scored again on the power play to tie the game at 4-4 with 2:16 remaining in the third. With his goal, Anthony Repaci passed Barry Almeida at 150 for

the franchise record in points scored with 151 (74G, 77A). Repaci's goal would be the final score of the third, forcing overtime. Shots were even at 17 for both teams.

It took almost the entire over-

time period for a team to win this one. Matthew Kopperud had an opportunity late into the overtime period but his shot hit off the left post. Riley Piercey (6th) then took the puck down all alone and scored the game

winner, giving the Railers the 5-4 overtime win. Worcester outshot Trois-Rivières in overtime, and Trois-Rivières outshot Worcester 40-39 in the game.



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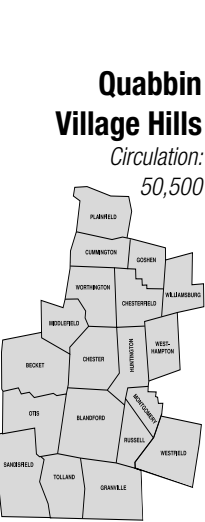
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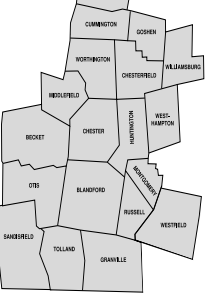
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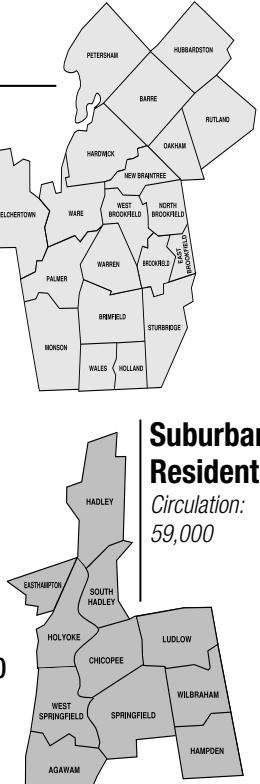
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## Baystate Wing Auxiliary selling Lotto calendars

PALMER—The Baystate Wing Hospital Auxiliary is currently selling their January 2025 Lotto Calendars. The one-month calendar, which costs \$5 each or 3 for \$10, has a daily winning amount of \$100 with special drawings on Jan. 1 and Jan. 31.

For over 65 years the Baystate Wing Hospital Auxiliary has been actively supporting local healthcare

through its sponsorship of special events and sales from the Baystate Wing Hospital Gift Shop located on the first floor of the hospital.

The calendars will be on sale beginning Oct. 29 at the Baystate Wing Hospital gift shop. Funds raised by the annual Lotto Calendars support the Auxiliary's scholarship program and their philanthropic efforts that benefit

Baystate Wing Hospital.

Whether looking for something special for a patient, a gift for a special occasion, or an item for the home, the Baystate Wing Hospital Gift Shop offers many unique, hand-selected items. For more information about the Lotto Calendar visit the gift shop located on the first floor of the hospital or call 413-370-8169.

### CRAFT FAIR from page 9

ing cards, pottery, and much more. The annual fair is a major fundraiser for the Monson Arts Council as well as several other non-profit groups. Luncheon will be served in

Memorial Hall, and the Methodist Church. A Girl Scout Carol Community Sing will take place in front of Memorial Hall at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 30. This holiday music precedes Santa's arrival on a fire truck at approximately 4:30

p.m. Once he arrives, all children may meet Santa Claus in person in the Town's Fire Station where cocoa and cookies will be served. For information or directions please call Wendy Murakami at 413-896-8666.

### OWLS from page 13

Owls with seven tackles with 1.5 TFL, and Justyn Gardener (East Hartford, Conn.) added six stops and half a sack. Dylan Zuerblis (Wethersfield, Conn.) netted 1.5 sacks.

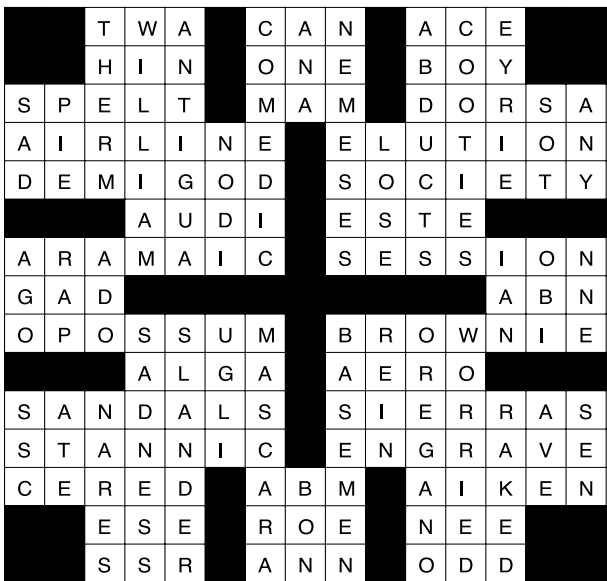
The Falcons defense was led by 13 tackles and a sack from Sebastian Burmester (Germantown, NY), ith John McGarry (Highland Lake, NY) adding eight stops.

Westfield State honored its 27 seniors before the game, and all who were healthy for the game played with the big lead late in the fourth quarter.

Jacob Applebee, Gavin Bullock, Dylan Clark, Curtis Dion, Dylan Disabella, Sean Ferguson, Gabriel Fernandez, Justyn Gardner, Nikolas Giotsas, Chris Greene, Jordan Lanoue, Adam Legere, Max Margeson, Anthony Messoro, Cade Nelson, Tim O'Connor, Gilberto

Rodriguez, Ethan Russell, Connor Schlittler, Blake Simpson, Jake Swinehart, Casey Tang, Matthew Varteresian, Nate Walton, Noah Will, Malachi Wright, and Alvin Yvon comprised the Owls senior class recognized in the pregame ceremonies.

Westfield finished with four wins, one more than the 2023 campaign, and their best total since the fall of 2018 when the Owls finished 5-5.



## EARLY DEADLINES FOR PUBLIC NOTICES

Thanksgiving will bring early deadlines for all public notices to run in TURLEY PUBLICATIONS the week of November 25-29, 2024.

- Wednesday, Nov. 20 at 2 PM for November 27 issue**  
• Agawam Advertiser News • Sentinel • The Register • Wilbraham-Hampden Times
- Thursday, November 21 at 2 PM for November 28 Issue**  
• Barre Gazette • Country Journal  
• The Journal Register • Quaboag Current • Ware River News
- Friday, November 22 at 2 PM for November 29 Issue**  
• Town Reminder • The Holyoke Sun • Chicopee Register

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

### Town of Belchertown REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Cultural District Manager, Consultant

The Town of Belchertown is soliciting proposals for a Cultural District Manager, who will take a lead role in the designation and on-going management of a local Cultural District. Specifically, this role will complete and submit the Cultural District designation application; provide administrative oversight for Cultural District operations and the Creative Economy Committee that manages it; collaborate in the production of large annual community events; oversee marketing communications for activities occurring within the Cultural District; raise funds to ensure continued support for programs, marketing, and staffing; partner with Town Departments and community groups to implement cultural programs; support local economic development through cultural activities; and ensure activities are responsive to Cultural District mission and economic development goals. The Cultural District Manager will work with support and guidance from the Creative Economy Coordinator, and regularly convene with Town leader-

ship, members of the Creative Economy Committee, and other stakeholders in the process.

The consultant services sought are outlined in detail in the Attachment A: Scope of Services below. This role is expected to be part time and run throughout 2025, with \$15,000 in total project compensation. A proposal must remain valid until the award date of the contract for services herein sought. The Town of Belchertown shall be the Awarding and Contracting Authority. The Town may cancel this RFP, in whole or in part, at any time whenever such an act is deemed in its best interest. The Town will not be responsible for any costs incurred by a proposer in preparing and submitting a proposal in response to this RFP. **Proposals must be submitted no later than 4:00 p.m. on December 9, 2024.**

Applicants should send proposals with a letter of interest detailing fit and related experience with the below scope, up to 3 past work examples, and an estimate for their consultant fees. Send proposals to E. Maude Haak-Frendscho, Creative Economy Coordinator, at econdev@belchertown.org. 11/21/2024

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