

Hearing a story to celebrate Native tribes

By Emily-Rose Pappas
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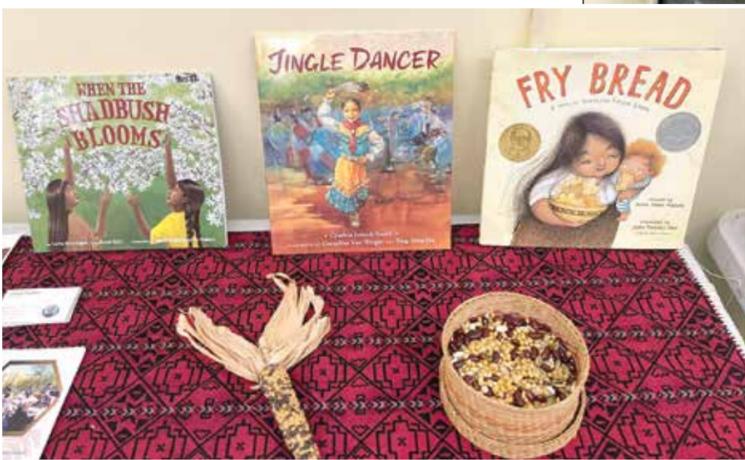
BELCHERTOWN – Working to remember and appreciate other people and cultures is important work, as it brings us into closer understanding with one another and allows us to learn more about the world around us.

Cheryl Stedtler, a former elementary school teacher, has worked with children for years and has found a passion for teaching them about Native Tribes and their customs.

“It’s important to me that children learn to think about Nipmuc people all year round, not just during Thanksgiving. At this age, they are naturally curious and open-hearted, so watching them connect the stories to the land and waters they know, and seeing how engaged they were, was truly the highlight for me,” said Stedtler.

Stedtler hosted a special Nipmuc Story Time for children at the Clapp Memorial Library on Saturday morning, where she read books to

Please see **NIPMUC**, page 7



TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS
ABOVE: Cheryl Stedtler showing the kids some photos and the seeds of the “Three Sisters” in a bowl: corn, beans, and squash.
AT LEFT: Corn, the seeds of the Three Sisters, and some more books that teach children about Native culture.

VOICE: Creating a way for veterans of WMass

By Emily-Rose Pappas
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REGION – The Veterans Outreach Into Community Engagement, or VOICE, is a group of members of Western Massachusetts dedicated to helping veterans.

Composed of Veterans Agents, veterans, nonprofits, small businesses, and beyond, VOICE is a group that prioritizes the veteran living in the Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin, and the Berkshires Counties.

“It started with a veteran employment and opportunity approach, and it’s really blossomed into something more for all veterans. It’s such an amazing network, and its intended for any program, whether a governmental department, business, or nonprofit that has a veteran program that they administer, and it’s to collaborate,” said Stephanie Shaw, Chair of VOICE and Director of Veterans Services in Chicopee.

VOICE has been going on for at least 20 years, focusing on cross-sharing resources between veteran agencies, small businesses, and nonprofit organizations that work to serve the veteran in many different ways.

Shaw has been engaging with VOICE for the past fifteen years, since 2010, and has seen organizations like Encompass, Compassion Care, Veterans’ Inc., and Project New Hope come together to sit in person at their meetings to collaborate.

“It’s about ensuring that veterans are prioritized. We look at it as it’s about the veterans, and I think that really helps make us unique. There really is something unique about our cohesiveness and the bonds that these representatives have,” said Shaw. “These people are consistent and show up, and after doing this for so long,

Please see **VOICE**, page 4

Pathfinder strikes deal for Cold Spring

By Emily-Rose Pappas
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BELCHERTOWN – Cold Spring will hold its last day on June 30, 2026, but not all is lost as the town received a message from neighboring Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School that they needed to expand.

Pathfinder Tech has been expanding its school’s offerings. These include an addition of new academic classrooms, an expansion of existing programs, a potential of over 50 seats at the main campus, and an expansion of Adult Continuing Education.

The Cold Spring School building served as the perfect solution to the school’s growing need for space. Cold Spring was the perfect solution, with 30,000 square feet of space, and is a 10-minute drive from the main school in Palmer.

Pathfinder Tech proudly announced the official signing of a 25-year lease agreement with the Town of

Belchertown for the use of the Cold Spring Elementary School building, and they made it official with a presentation of a \$100,000 check last week.

“It’s going to be a great opportunity for the kids and good for the town,” said Pathfinder Tech Superintendent Eric Duda.

Pathfinder Tech is looking to move into the building and start preparing it for the Fall 2026 semester after the last day of school in June of 2026. Though a bittersweet moment, the transition has left the town leadership and Pathfinder leaders hopeful for the good things that will come from this partnership in the future.

“As Superintendent of Pathfinder Tech, I want to assure the Belchertown community that Cold Spring School will remain open, improved, and valued long into the future,” Duda said. “We will protect this taxpayer investment, enhance it, and grow

Please see **PATHFINDER**, page 5

BOH discusses permitting for West Street project

By Melina Bourdeau
 Correspondent

GRANBY — The Board of Health examined permitting questions and public health requirements regarding the ongoing renovation of the school at 414 West Street, focusing on septic system capacity, water safety and the late involvement of health officials in the review process.

During the session, board members and project representatives discussed the need to clarify the status of multiple septic systems serving the campus, poten-

tial water quality impacts, and the compliance of air quality and energy systems with municipal and state code.

Despite project representatives’ assurances, no permit decisions would proceed without a detailed review and, if necessary, on-site witnessing of soil and system testing. West Street Building Committee Chair Lynne Mercier indicated that relevant documentation could be provided to the board within a few days of the meeting and members stressed reviewing “the very detailed, nitty gritty report.”

Both parties agreed to expedite this process due to weather and scheduling pressures, with a follow-up meeting to consider all engineering data and determine whether more extensive system upgrades or variances are needed. Final board approval will depend on these findings.

Board Chair Dick Bombardier said the main concern early in the discussion, referencing regional soil conditions.

“We have to now be involved because we’ve

Please see **BOH**, page 3

Trail tidy brings people out to enjoy nature

By Emily-Rose Pappas
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BELCHERTOWN – Over the weekend, six people gathered together with tools and their strength and skills to tidy up the Sensory Trail around Lake Wallace of organic debris.

“Everyone can experience this stunning slice of western Mass and perhaps grow to love it as much as I do,” said Louise Levy, Co-Leader of the Friends of Lake Wallace.

The trail tidy is important because, while some trails do not require regular maintenance of natural debris, a dirt trail needs special care and attention in order for it to remain safe for people to use.

“It is true - when you do for others, you reap more than you put in. An attitude of stewardship means you acknowledge how much the space gives to you, instead of just consuming it,” said Levy. The Lake Wallace Sensory



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Brian Gibbons, Louise Levy, Shawn Finn, and Martha Duro-Shea are ready for a trail tidy.

Trail was built with the intention for it to be accessible to everyone, and for people who need a flat and consistent surface that cannot always be guaranteed when dealing with a dirt trail.

“The Lake Wallace Sensory Trail is built for use by folks who need flat, con-

sistent surfacing - some of the only trails that can be used for those in wheelchairs and with balance issues or risk of falls and/or injuries,” said Levy.

The discarded debris is tossed back into nature off the trail in order to decompose and provide more nutri-

ents for the soil, except for bittersweet. The Friends work closely with the Recreation Department to keep the trail clean by clipping back branches, vines, and tall plants, blowing leaves off the trail, and doing other things to help keep the trail accessible and safe for all to walk or roll on.

“The Sensory Trail means inclusion to me. I run into plenty of places that aren’t disability friendly, so seeing wide paths, smooth walkways, and benches located at nice resting points with pretty views reminds me that people in charge do want everyone to enjoy nature,” said Charlotte Cassidy, who came for the Trail Tidy.

The Trail is a wonderful place, that is not only beautiful but provides a close space for people to come to any time and walk with their friends and family, and enjoy the nature that Belchertown has hidden away, a private

Please see **TRAIL**, page 13



TURLEY PHOTO BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

Superintendent Brian Cameron, Town Manager Steve Williams, Select Board Chair Lesa Lessard Pearson, Chair of School Committee Julie Quink, and Superintendent Eric Duda standing outside Cold Spring School with the presented check for \$100,000.

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COMMUNITY

The work is finished for the Sensory Trail



Taking notes and looking at the beauty of Lake Wallace in the planning stages.

BELCHERTOWN – “After nearly nine years of work, the Lake Wallace Sensory Trail project is complete! — and with that, our (Terra Genesis) role in this effort is coming to a close,” said Andrew Kilduff, one of the many minds who started this project.

What started in 2016 as a graduate school project with Andrew Kilduff and Amanda Mackay grew into a community-centered vision that involved countless conversations, dozens of site visits, and hundreds of volunteer hours committed. And together, they raised over \$1.1 million to build all three phases!

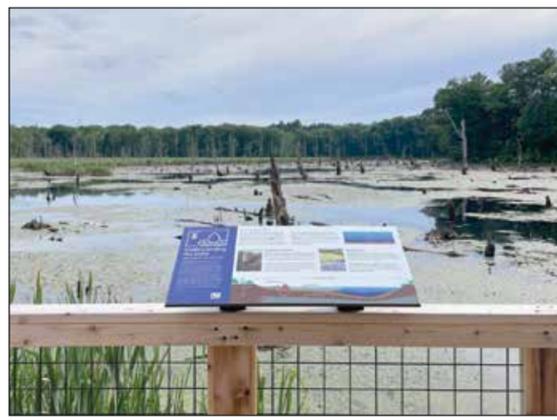
The Sensory Trail was also the first paid project Tim Tensen and Kilduff took on as TK.designlab, and later a legacy project carried by our second company, Terra Genesis.

“I am super proud of what we’ve all built together. With construction now complete, it’s time for the next chapter,” said Kilduff.

Future updates, announcements, and solicitations for bird pictures will be found on the Friends of Lake Wallace group. They’ve put in a ton of effort over the past three years in particular and are taking this project to a whole new level. They will steward updates, events, volun-

teer opportunities, and community engagement moving forward. All in all, they’ll guide the trail’s evolution in the years ahead, along with all the community members who make the trip to Lake Wallace.

“Thank you to everyone who believed in this vision and helped make it real. I look forward to visiting the trail often — this time simply as a member of the community it was built for,” said Kilduff.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The beautiful dock we can stand on today.



The dock in its early stages of being built.



Plotting, planning, and carving out the Trail.



The finished bridge, perfect for viewing all parts of the beautiful area.

BOH from page 1

got, at a minimum, the septic systems are systems that, if ... the soils are anything like the soils that I’ve witnessed around there, they do not meet Title Five,” he said.

The project, originally designed to encompass a larger expansion, was reduced in size, but health officials noted the scrutiny required for such work had not changed. Asked whether engineers had coordinated septic testing and review with the Board, project representative Tim Widman responded: “I believe you’re right that we did not reach out in terms of the engineer when they reviewed it, but we cannot ... part of why we wanted to get

on the agenda, open the conversation here and figure out our steps forward is to rectify that issue.”

Board members sought clarification on which documentation had been collected and what steps had been taken. Discussion centered on whether the engineers examined the system’s ability to accommodate changes in building use, the depth and distance to ledge and if Board of Health officers had witnessed relevant soil or system testing.

Mercier summarized, “Yes, we had engineers come in and look at all those issues that you’re talking about... the septic system was looked at originally when the building was going to be the bigger

project ... From what I understand, after it was looked at and tested ... it can indeed handle the amount of people coming in and out of the building.”

However, it was acknowledged that these processes had proceeded without Board of Health oversight. Woodman confirmed, “Unfortunately ... we did not reach out in terms of the engineer when they reviewed it,” and expressed a desire to address that gap in collaboration with the board.

Additional discussion addressed the need for appropriate air exchange and ventilation for occupant safety. Bombardier commented that “ventilation for us to protect the people in the buildings is

a very, very important thing, and it’s not necessarily the same ventilation that you use to conserve energy, unless it’s designed to conserve energy.”

Building Commissioner Tom Quinlan maintained that energy and HVAC compliance would be covered by state building code, while health officials would retain review over septic and well systems.

As the need for expedited review became clear, Town Administrator Tammy Martin requested guidance: “What steps do we need to do to go forward, to bring the Board of Health on board with us? If you could tell us the steps that we need to take. I think it’s very important for the town, for this project to go forward.”

Board members identified acquisition and review of accurate engineering reports as a priority. “The biggest thing that we can do right away is understanding the needs of the septic system ... find out where the water table is and whether we’ve got ledge problems,” Bombardier said.

Mercier assured the board that reports, and relevant data could be shared within days. The board emphasized the need for “the very detailed, nitty gritty report,” as described by Board member William Shaheen, and stated that decisions about required upgrades or variances would depend on information that had not yet been submitted for board review.

The parties also discussed the process for legal compliance and the cost and schedule implications if substantial system upgrades proved necessary. Referring to a report suggesting major septic work might be warranted, Bombardier noted, “If there’s \$100,000 needed to replace septic systems, we should know that now, because ... you have to find out if it needs to be done, because it’s a big ... expensive thing.”

As the meeting concluded, a process was established for document delivery and review, with the understanding that further decisions, including permit approvals, would take place following examination of the submitted material.

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COMMUNITY

Board approves updated host community agreement policy

By Melina Bourdeau
Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN – After a detailed presentation by Town Planner Doug Albertson, the board approved significant revisions to the town's Host Community Agreement Policy and Social Equity Plan to bring Belchertown into line with new state requirements.

The host agreement is the town's regulatory framework for cannabis businesses operating locally. The policy update was prompted by new state requirements set forth by the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission, which require towns to revise their agreements and incorporate robust social equity considerations.

The new Host Community Agreement will require "a lot more information, and a lot more detail and accountability on both sides,"

Albertson said in an interview with the Sentinel.

"What the board endorsed Monday is the 'Social Equity Plan and Host Community Agreement Policy.' The Host Community Agreement gets negotiated with each applicant," he said. "The proposed agreement template sent by our counsel, which was written to ensure compliance with the new law and regulations, requires more detailed information on the operation of the facility, including record-keeping, environmental performance, and inspections."

"The updated policy includes a new scoring matrix for prospective cannabis operators, with social equity accounting for 25% of the total possible points," Albertson said.

Selectboard member Nicole Miner, the dissenting vote, voiced reservations about specific policy lan-

guage: "I personally don't like the word 'social equity.' It is Affirmative Action, through and through, and I'm completely against it, even though we don't really have a say."

Selectboard member Whitney Jorns-Kuhnlenz explained the reasoning.

"They're saying the state now recognizes it as a legal substance. They are now making amends for how they treated people, especially since there were targeted communities in profiling," she said.

The town has no applications, and hasn't had one in a few years, according to Albertson. However, "if anyone new shows up they'll be under the new rules, as will (the town)," he said.

The board ultimately voted in favor of the revised policy, three to one, with Miner opposed. Selectboard member Jen Turner was not present at the meeting.

Food pantries to donate to and utilize

BELCHERTOWN – Although SNAP and EBT services are back, it is important to know that there are resources available as food insecurity is still prevalent in our communities, especially before the holidays. Below is a list of local pantries you can donate food and other items to, and for anyone who needs to utilize them.



Amherst Survival Center
138 Sunderland Road
Amherst, MA 01002
Phone: 413-549-3968
Email: pantry@amherst-survival.org

Located in nearby North Amherst, the Amherst Survival Center is a welcoming, community-led hub offering food, meals, fresh produce distribution, pantry services, and support resources for all in need. Open several days a week for dining, pantry access and outreach, the Center fosters connection, dignity, and mutual care in the Pioneer Valley.

Dwight Chapel Provisions Pantry
885 Federal Street
Belchertown, MA 01007
Phone: 413-253-0292
Email: office@gracefortheway.org

We all need a little help sometimes! Our goal is to care for our community in a way that reflects Christ's love for each of us. If you have a need for a non-perishable food item please

let us know and we will be ready to shop with you on Saturday morning or we can deliver it to your door.

FindHelp
Link: https://findhelp.org/search_results/01007

This website provides a variety of assistance options, for food, as well as shelter and other social services. By clicking the link above you can view emergency food, food delivery options, and food pantries.

Mass 211
Phone: 211
Link: <https://mass211.org/food-security>

Massachusetts residents with local food pantries, meal programs, and nutrition assistance. Call 2-1-1 (or 877-211-6277) anytime for free, confidential help, or search food resources online at mass211.org/food-security

St. Francis Food Pantry
10 Park Street
Belchertown, MA 01007
Phone: 413-323-6272
Ext. 8
Email: FoodPantry.sfa@gmail.com

St. Francis of Assisi Parish supports Belchertown residents through its volunteer-run food pantry, providing groceries to local families each month and extra help during the holidays. Donations of non-perishable food or funds are always welcome.

The Helping Hands Cupboard Food Pantry at BUCC
18 Park Street
Belchertown, MA 01007
Phone: 413-323-7442
Visit [Helping Hand's Facebook Page](#)

Food distribution is on the 3rd Thursday of every month. Contact Amy to learn more 413-636-5031.

Celebrating the holidays at the Belchertown Council on Aging

BELCHERTOWN – Get ready to join in on the fun at the COA, and be sure to check out their Facebook page for more fun and weekly events.

Gnome for the Holidays

Please join us for a special Prime Rib Holiday meal
Friday, December 19, at 10:30 a.m.

Doors will open at 10:15 a.m. for a performance by Freddie Marion, featuring a wide variety of songs from some of your favorite artists! Be sure to wear your best holiday sweater!

Thanks to our BSCCA for sponsoring this performance and meal.

Call Stephanie 413-323-0420 ext. 501 starting at 9 a.m. on Monday, December 1 to reserve a seat for you and one guest for this \$5 meal!

Friday, December 12, is National Ice Cream and Violins Day

The origin of this odd holiday is shrouded in mystery, but who WOULDN'T want to celebrate it by eating some ice cream and listening to some violin music?!

Join us at 10:30 a.m. for a

holiday violin performance by Cynthia LaBarre, followed by lunch and delicious dairy-free ICE CREAM for dessert, sponsored by CAN (Compassion-ate Alliance for Nonhumans)!

Call Kim to sign up by December 11 at noon, at 413-323-0420 ext. 508

Memory Café: Better Together

Wednesday, December 10, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Looking for individuals who are experiencing memory loss to join us with their caregivers for this fun and engaging program! Participate in an activity with Fallon Health's PACE and meet others who are on a similar journey. Call 413-323-0420 ext. 501 to sign up!

Holiday Prize Bingo

Wednesday, December 3, at 10 a.m.

Join Lorna, from Christopher Heights of Belchertown, for some Holiday Prize BINGO! Free to play, but space is limited. Make it BINGO and BRUNCH and stay for a fabulous meal after you play! Call Stephanie to sign

up! 413-323-0420 ext. 501.

Medicare Open Enrollment

October 15 through December 7

Medicare Open Enrollment runs from October 15 through December 7. During this period, eligible individuals can review and compare plans or providers. ALL open enrollment appointments for Medicare Plan reviews with Laurene are currently FULL. Please contact your current plan or Medicare (1-800-Medicare) for assistance.

Fuel Assistance Program

Now through April 30

The Fuel Assistance Program is open. Call Heather to set up an appointment for assistance. You will need to have ALL required documents to send along with your application. Please call Heather if you have any questions regarding the program or what is required.

For all Social Service inquiries, especially during the busy Open Enrollment time for BOTH programs, we ask that you always call

Please see COA, page 8

VOICE from page 1

it's invigorating to sit down once a month to collaborate and support one another."

VOICE works hard to create ways to ensure that veterans across all four counties in Western Massachusetts can access care and resources like fuel assistance, employment help, connections to food pantries, and also enjoy events for veterans and coffee hours at different places in towns all over.

"It's so that any veteran we come across can have access to more, and be able to access more from neighbors," said Shaw.

75 to 80 different entities offer a full program or have specific offerings for veterans to access, and take part in working alongside VOICE so that all representatives of veterans can access this essential information.

"Not everyone in that room is a veteran, but they really care about veterans, and that's what makes this perfect," said Shaw.

Alongside their regular meetings, VOICE brings in a guest speaker, and this month, Loving Hands and its faithful leaders, Marie Francis and Margie Bacon, who work to sew with love hats, scarves, and mittens, and create blessing bags for the homeless and veterans.

The pair pray and are blessed with donations as they believe in trusting in God to provide for them, as they have seen miracles happen left and right, a testimony of the power of faith, and



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A collection of the local agencies a part of VOICE that help it reach as many veterans as possible.

a tight-knit community willing to help others in need.

The organization is in need of yarn, socks for both men and women, and mittens and gloves in order to put together the blessing bags they hand out to anyone in need.

"In the veterans sphere in western Mass, there is always something happening and we're always working and we want the veterans to know they aren't alone," said Shaw. For people who work with

a veteran-centered mission and services, they can connect on Facebook or through their Gmail, voicewesternma@gmail.com

You can donate to veteran-centric food pantries which include The Barnes Air National Guard Wellness Center, Project New Hope at Hampden Pond Plaza in Westfield, Ludlow Veterans Services Center, and Belchertown Veterans Services Office.

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USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS PORK SPARE RIBS.....	\$2.49 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN CHICKEN THIGH TRAY PAK.....	69¢ lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN TEMPURA BREADED SHRIMP 12 OZ. BOX.....	\$3.99 ea
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OPINION

SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

If we both collect Social Security, will our benefits be affected?

Dear Rusty:

I reached full retirement age back in June, but I have not yet filed to collect Social Security. My husband currently collects SS funds, and he waited until he had reached full retirement age a few years ago. I am considering signing up now to receive my funds, but I am a little confused about whether I will receive my full benefit or is there some kind of adjustment made based on both of us collecting?

We are a simple case. We have been married for 46 years, so there are no other exes involved in this equation. He did everything online when he was ready to start receiving his funds, but we didn't consult with any advisor when my husband claimed. Now I think that adding me as a spouse might trigger some other things I should consider. Thank you for your advice.

Signed: Concerned Wife

Dear Concerned:

Since you and your husband have both reached your respective SS Full Retirement Age, you are both entitled to receive your full benefits without any reduction. And since you haven't yet filed, you are now accumulating Delayed Retirement Credits at the rate of .667% additional benefit for each month you continue to delay. You will get your full SS retirement benefit plus any earned DRCs when you claim. The only question you need to consider is whether either you or your husband will be entitled to a "spousal boost," an increase when you claim.

If the SS retirement benefit you were entitled to at your FRA is less than 50% of the amount your husband was entitled to at his FRA, then you will get a "spousal boost" on top of your own SS retirement amount (the "boost" amount would be the difference between your FRA amount and half of his FRA amount). But if your SS amount at your FRA is more than 50% of your husband's FRA entitlement, then

you will only get your own SS retirement benefit based on your own lifetime earnings record. Spouse benefits are always determined from each partner's FRA entitlement and if one partner's FRA amount is less than 50% of the other partner's FRA amount, then a spousal boost will be given. And that also works if your FRA entitlement is higher than your husband's, if your FRA amount is more than twice your husband's FRA amount, then he will get a spousal boost from you. Otherwise, each of you will get only your personally earned SS retirement amount and both of you collecting SS will not negatively affect each other's individual SS benefit.

FYI, the spousal boost amount stops growing at full retirement age, so if you are eligible for a spousal boost from your husband then you should claim your SS benefits now and ask for benefits retroactive to June (your FRA month). However, if you will not get a spousal boost from your husband, you have the option of delaying even further and earning more DRCs (thus a higher monthly benefit). You can earn DRCs up to age 70, at which time you will get the maximum possible Social Security benefit about 127% of your personal FRA amount if you delay that long.

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.

THANKS for GIVING



Thanksgiving nostalgia and planning ahead for next year's gratefulness

The arrival of Thanksgiving always gets me a little nostalgic.

Gone are the days of sneaking into the kitchen with my sister for a little bit of the crispy dressing from the stuffed turkey still in our parent's oven. Or how about awakening to the wonderful scents the morning of, knowing mom had been up at 4 a.m. getting the bird prepared.

It was always so much fun to butter the brown and serve rolls and then transfer them from the oven to the pre-heated trivet in their little wooden basket. I can smell the smells if I think about it long enough, and surely I can see my dad at the counter with the carving knife in hand.

Another big tradition was the nut bowl and the nut cracker and tools. We only ate nuts at Thanksgiving, and at Christmas to a lesser extent. I remember the Brazil nuts and walnuts being especially hard to crack with my little hands, but the challenge was half the fun.

These memories from my childhood are replaced with new traditions that my kids will call their own memories when they are my age. I guess the important thing is that we are thankful on this day whether it is for the memories, the people or the food or all of it. Gratitude goes a long way.

This Thanksgiving I am especially thankful for the bountiful harvest from this year's vegetable garden. The old motto goes something like: "you get out what you put in."

This year I sure put in a lot of effort in hopes of that harvest. When rain stopped I watered and watered and watered some more.

I made an investment in organic fertilizers and mulched the rows as best as I could. I lugged free compost home by the bucket. I harvested even when I was tired of it and preserved it all even after I grew weary.

If you want to try growing new things, maybe Brussels sprouts like I wrote about last week, or sweet potatoes, like I experimented with this past summer, take some time over the offseason to look up the particulars so that you will be successful.

I did a show and tell with some students recently and it was a lot of fun to show them some out of the ordinary things that can be grown at home, like popcorn and luffa sponges for example. Get creative.

Maybe what will inspire you is getting something right, doing a better job growing a certain crop.

Did your zucchini look like baseball bats? Don't worry, next year you'll harvest sooner and more often. Same thing goes for those blimpy cukes. And what about those carrots? Next year you'll loosen up your soil and remove some rocks from the carrot patch so that they won't all fork. Straight, long roots here we come.

Wishing you all a Happy Thanksgiving! Have fun when the planning stage begins for next year's garden. It is, after all, just about six months away from our frost-free date.

Now that is something to be thankful for!

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

in the Garden
by Roberta McQuaid



Does all this make me a saint or a perfect gardener? By all means, no. I still planted too close and didn't weed as much as I should. I got my flowers in too late and didn't stake a single one.

Oh well, no one and nothing is perfect, but I guess my attention was directed towards the harvest and I am happy to have succeeded at that to a pretty good degree.

I ordered my first seed catalog for the 2026 growing season this past week, and I can't wait until it arrives. I can picture how much fun I'll have going through last year's seeds and notes while I plan my garden.

When you undertake this process, keep in mind what you want your attention directed towards. Do you want to streamline, experiment or perfect?

I learned this year that I don't need eight varieties of tomatoes to make a really good sauce. What I do need is a really good paste tomato variety, and maybe a two or three cherry types for salads, and one slicing variety to top an occasional burger.

That is just an example, but you get the idea. Streamlining is practical.

test does not, making it easier on patients and their providers.

The number that comes back is expressed as a percentage. For example an A1C of 5.7 means that 5.7% of the hemoglobin is "glycated," or linked to sugar.

What's a normal A1C?

Typically, an A1C lower than 5.7 is considered "normal"; between 5.7 and less than 6.5 is considered "pre-diabetic." This is the blinking yellow light that tells you it's time to make some lifestyle changes to prevent full-blown diabetes. You know what these changes are: a healthier diet and more exercise, probably coupled with medication.

An A1C of 6.5 or higher indicates diabetes. That said, A1C can be affected by other factors, such as blood transfusions, medications, stress and hormone levels, so there's no "one size fits all" interpretation. That's why Medicare decided to cover two screening tests a year, in case levels are being affected by something else.

Should you get screened?

The American Medical Association is hopeful that making it easier for patients to get two A1C screenings a year will lead to earlier diagnosis of pre-diabetes and prevention of full-blown diabetes. Some of the symptoms of diabetes can be so subtle you may not even notice them, so if you have a family his-

Please see **A1C**, page 8

Turley Publications Letters to the Editor Policy

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

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.

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Be aware of your A1C

The people dancing and singing in pharmaceutical commercials brag that "Drug X lowered my A1C!" This seems to make them happy, so you may be wondering what A1C is and why it may be an important number for you to know – especially during November, which is National Diabetes Awareness Month.

It's important because an elevated A1C is a possible signal that you are at a higher risk of developing Type 2 diabetes. The good news is that if you can catch this disorder while it's still in its "pre-diabetes" phase, you have a good chance of avoiding Type 2 diabetes altogether.

And avoiding elevated blood glucose means you also lessen the risk of its associated outcomes, such as a higher chance for stroke, heart disease, kidney failure, limb amputation and blindness.

Even if you have regular bloodwork at your doctor's office, it may not include A1C, which requires a separate testing procedure. There were sometimes hassles with insurance coverage if the test was being used for screening and not diagnosing, but in 2024 Medicare began covering two screening A1C tests a year. If you have commercial insurance, you will want to check with them to see if the test is covered for



your health

By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column

you.

What does A1C measure?

An A1C test (also known as an HbA1c test) looks at a sample of your hemoglobin to find your average estimated blood glucose level over the previous three months, which is a more useful measure than a single point in time. While the standard blood glucose test requires fasting, the A1C



TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

Cheryl Stedtler holding a coloring page and telling the kids how they can color the corn stalk, one of three of the Three Sisters.

NIPMUC from page 1

the children that taught them the story of the Nipmuc people and their traditions, as well as a cultural story, The Three Sisters.

Also in attendance was the group called the Belchertown-Nipmuc Farm Conservation Alliance (or, BNFCFA), which had a table of information and members to speak to about the importance of the Alliance.

"It is really important to me (and all of BNFCFA) that we center Nipmuc voices," said Deborah Keisch.

The BNFCFA prioritizes and is committed to the care of Lampson Brook in a respectful and sustainable way to benefit everyone.

"This kind of partnership feels powerful. It shows what can happen when people choose connection over division and work side by side to heal land in a traditional way that has been important to my Nipmuc ancestors for thousands of years," said Stedtler.

The members of BNFCFA hold a special bond with one another, as they work to host conversation tables, events like the story time, and the work they do in teaching about the Hassanamisco Nipmuc Tribe, and its culture, educating and sharing what the tribe means to the people who live on these lands now.

"We also believe that land rematriation to Native people is one way to address the egregious violence done to Native tribes and communities throughout history and that continues to this day," said Keisch. "Those of us



Members of the Belchertown-Nipmuc Farm Conservation Alliance (or, BNFCFA).

who are non-Native members of BNFCFA believe we have a responsibility, as people who have settled on this land, to contribute to this effort."

The BNFCFA prioritizes the belief of rematriation, or a practice to return the land to the People, and focuses on reestablishing stewardship, educating people about their traditional knowledge, sovereignty, and prioritizing restoring the relationship between the people and the land.

"It gives me a lot of hope to see that so many people want to be part of something that honors Nipmuc history, recognizes our continued existence, and supports a healthier future for everyone," said Stedtler.

"What I greatly appreciate about (and why I am part of) BNFCFA is that we share

a vision of Hassanamisco Nipmuc stewardship of Lampson Brook Farm, and we believe that Nipmuc stewardship of this land will result in benefits not only for the Nipmuc people but for the broader community," said Keisch.

You can find out more about the BNFCFA on their website, <https://www.lampsonbrook-landback.org/>, as well as about their local organizational supporters at <https://www.lampsonbrook-landback.org/rematriation-supporters/>

The members consist of Nipmuc tribal members as well as Belchertown residents and community members around the region, with a passion and drive to support what the BNFCFA stands for.

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 Nov. 14 through Nov. 19. 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.

ARRESTS/SUMMONS

Sunday, Nov. 16

6:49 p.m. – A 38-year-old Easthampton woman was issued a summons on charges of operating with a suspended license, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, and a marked lane violation. An officer responded to Mill Valley Road for a vehicle off the road. Upon the officer's arrival, there was a sedan and a tree on the southbound side of Mill Valley Road. The operator was identified. The person said they closed their eyes for two seconds and reported they were tired. Belchertown Fire paramedics responded to the scene. The person had a suspended license due to a preexisting immediate threat order on their license, and a citation was issued. They were transported, and the vehicle was towed.

ACCIDENTS/ INCIDENTS

Friday Nov. 14

6:04 p.m. – An officer responded to an incident about parking next to another vehicle. Another vehicle was parked near the calling person, who said the driver then opened the door and created a scratch mark. The other person spoke with the officer. The officer was unable to identify whether the scratches came from the involved vehicles. They wanted the matter documented.

Saturday, Nov. 15

12:28 p.m. – An officer responded to Kopec Ave and Daniel Shay's Highway for a report of an injured deer on the side of the road. The deer needed to be euthanized, and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation was contacted to pick it up.

12:34 p.m. – An officer responded to Federal Street for an accident. A vehicle on Federal Street attempted to cross Route 9 over to Allen Road and failed to yield to oncoming traffic. It struck another vehicle that was going east on Route 9. The operator of the first vehicle was issued a warning for not yielding. There was minor damage to the flashing structure at the intersection. No tows were needed, and no injuries were reported.

5:24 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Federal Street. A vehicle traveling east on Federal Street tried to make a right into a parking lot, and another vehicle attempting to pass on the right was struck by the first vehicle. The second vehicle failed to stay within marked lanes. No tows were needed, and no injuries were reported.

8 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on North Main Street. A vehicle backing out of a parking space struck another vehicle. The other vehicle was parked and unoccupied. Photos were taken. No injuries were reported, and no tows were needed.

Sunday, Nov. 16

8:37 a.m. – An officer responded to Federal Street for an accident. A vehicle traveling south on Federal Street struck a vehicle stopped to turn left into a business. The operator of the first vehicle said there was a glare from the sun on

the wet road. No vehicles were towed, and no injuries were reported.

Monday, Nov. 17

1:28 a.m. – An officer responded to assist Belchertown Fire paramedics.

9:58 a.m. – An officer responded to assist Belchertown Fire paramedics.

12:10 p.m. – An officer spoke with a parent regarding suspicious photos found on their child's phone.

5 p.m. – An officer spoke with a Franklin Street resident reporting a stolen trailer plate. It was entered into the system as stolen.

5:03 p.m. – An officer responded to Boardman Road for an accident. A vehicle struck a deer. It was later learned that a person standing by the vehicle was not the operator. The Department of Public Works was advised. The deer was euthanized. The operator was later identified. No injuries were reported, and no tows were needed.

6:06 p.m. – An officer responded to Franklin Street for an accident. A vehicle struck a deer that was in the roadway. It was euthanized. No injuries were reported, and no tows were needed.

Tuesday, Nov. 18

5:44 p.m. – An officer responded to Mill Valley for an accident. A deer struck the left side of a vehicle traveling on Mill Valley Road. There was some damage on the side and rear. Photos were taken and attached to the report. No injuries were reported.

Wednesday, Nov. 19

2:33 p.m. – An officer took a report of two trailer plates stolen within the last few weeks, entered as stolen.

CHECK OUT ALL THE

www.turley.com

Get ready for the Knit and Basket Sale at the library

GRANBY – The Granby Free Public Library will hold a Holiday Gift Basket and Knit Sale on Saturday, December 6, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The sales will continue to run through December during open library hours, while supplies last. Come shop from a variety of gift baskets, knitted & crocheted items, holiday ornaments, and much more. Do you have someone on your list who is hard to shop for? We have got you covered!

Donations of premade gift baskets and new handcrafted items are accepted until December 4th.

*Sponsored by the In Stitches Knitting Group and the Friends of the Granby Library. The Granby Free Public Library is located at 297 E State St in Granby, MA. For more information and a listing of open library hours, please visit granbylibrary.org or call 413-467-3320.



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Wednesday, December 3rd @ 1pm
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Warm up this December at the library

BELCHERTOWN – Warm up at the Clapp Memorial Library this December with a variety of events and programs for every age. We hope to see you soon!

Christmas holiday schedule: The Library will close at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, December 24, and remain closed on Thursday, December 25. Regular hours resume Friday, December 26.

For General Audiences:

2026 Quabbin History Calendar - Sale and Signing with J.R. Greene
Tuesday, December 2, 7 to 8 p.m.

Historian and author J.R. Greene returns to the Clapp Memorial Library for a 2026 Quabbin History Calendar sale and signing. Join us for a slideshow with scenes relating to the calendar images, followed by the sale and signing of the 2026 calendar and many of his books. The Library is very grateful to be the recipient of a portion of the proceeds from this evening's calendar sales.

Belchertown Community Bells Choir

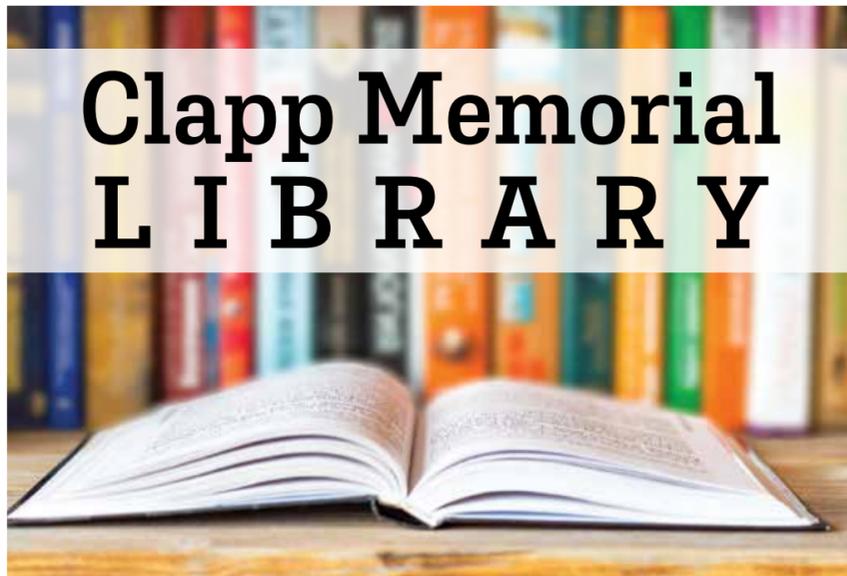
Tuesday, December 16, 7 to 8 p.m.

Join the Belchertown Community Bells Choir for a free concert at the Clapp Memorial Library. The Choir have been playing and presenting concerts for nearly 40 years. This volunteer musical group is led by Bill McClure and plays several different styles of music from religious to pop. They enjoy ringing, rehearsing, and sharing their music with others in the community.

Community Wellness

Friday, December 19, 3 to 5 p.m.

Clapp Memorial Library and BOAT welcome anyone in the community needing access to health care, mental health/substance use resources to the library on the 3rd Friday of every month from



3 to 5 p.m. Free refreshments will be available.

For Adults: What "YA" Readin' Book Group with Author Angeline Bouley

Thursday, December 4, 7 to 8 p.m.

The library's What "YA" Readin'? Book Group, a group for adults who read Young Adult books, will have a special meeting on Thursday, December 4 to discuss *Sisters in the Wind* by Angeline Bouley. While the meeting will be in-person, Angeline Bouley will be joining virtually to discuss her book and answer questions! Copies of the book are available for checkout at the circulation desk. New members are welcome!

Daughters Book Talk with Corinne Demas

Wednesday, December 10, 7 to 8 p.m.

Corinne Demas will be at the Clapp Memorial Library to talk about her new book, *Daughters*, a novel "exploring the age-old friction between mothers and daughters, a story of a family rediscovering itself." Corinne Demas is an award-winning author and Professor Emerita of English at Mount Holyoke College. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

Passage to Poros: In the Sanctuary of the Sea

God Book Talk with Dr. Edward Tick

Thursday, December 11, 7 to 8 p.m.

Join us for a book talk with Dr. Edward Tick, author of *Passage to Poros: In the Sanctuary of the Sea*. Explore the reawakening of ancient Greek healing practices by taking this journey of transformation, myth, and divine presence to the sacred island of Poros, a site of pilgrimage and healing for more than 3,000 years. This book examines pilgrimage, sanctuary, and asylum, the duties of Poseidon, who was the ruling god of Poros. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

Adult Winter Reading Program

December 20, 2025 - February 20, 2026

Adults are invited to participate in "Cozy Up with a Good Book", our Winter Reading Program. Enjoy books and fun, cozy activities as you complete the squares. Earn chances to win some great prize bundles. Sign up at clapplibrary.beanstack.org or on the Beanstack app. Physical Bingo cards are also available for pick-up at the library. Get all the details when you sign up. For adults age 18 and over. See below for our Teen Winter Reading Bingo. This program is funded by the Friends of the Clapp Memorial Library.

For Teens: "Stranger Things" Escape Room

Tuesday, December 2, 4 to 5 pm

(earlier 3 p.m. session is full)

Can you escape before time runs out? The library will host "Escape the Under: a 'Stranger Things' Escape Room" run by librarian Tegan Mannino on Tuesday, December 2 in the library's Activity Room. Teens will have 40 minutes to look for clues, solve puzzles, and work together to escape before time runs out! Space is limited. Teens in grades 7-12 should email clapplibrarytab@gmail.com to register for the 4 p.m. session. Solving puzzles does not require any knowledge of *Stranger Things*, but dressing up in Hellfire Club, Scoops Ahoy, or other *Stranger Things* swag is encouraged!

Anime and Manga Club

Wednesday, December 10, 4 to 5 p.m.

The Clapp Memorial Library is starting an Anime and Manga club for tweens and teens in grades 6-8! The club meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 4:00 pm. During club meetings, we will watch 1-2 episodes of an anime, discuss manga, share artwork, eat snacks, and more! Registration is required. Email macona@cwmars.org to sign up.

Free Food Friday

Friday, December 12, 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Teens are invited to the library after school for free snacks as they visit and use the library! Students must be in grades 7-12 and arrive between 2 to 3:30 p.m. for a free snack, courtesy of the library, as supplies last. This program is funded by the Friends of the Clapp Memorial Library.

Teen Winter Reading Bingo

December 20, 2025 - February 20, 2026

For the first time ever, the Clapp Memorial Library is running a Teen Winter Reading Program! Teens in grades 7-12 are invited to sign up for Teen Winter Reading Bingo at clapplibrary.beanstack.org or on the Beanstack app! Physical Bingo cards are also available for pick-up at the library. Participating is easy - and, of course, there are prizes! Get all the details when you sign up. Save the date, and start earning tickets on December 20th! This program is funded by the Friends of the Clapp Memorial Library.

For Children:

Drawing Class: Doughnut Forget the Sprinkles!

Thursday, December 11, 4:30 to 6 p.m.

Join us for a doughnut drawing class for kids with Nicole Gibbs. The class will be sprinkled with drawing, story, and DOUGHNUTS (well, at least on paper) as we read *Arnie the Doughnut* by Laurie Keller and practice our doughnut drawing skills! Registration is required. Register online at clapplibrary.org or call the library at 413-323-0417.

Magic: The Gathering

Saturdays now through January 10, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Join us for Magic The Gathering in the Activity Room. Bring your own deck or use one of our learning decks. Everyone is welcome; however, players must be fluent readers. Players under the age of 10 must have a caregiver who is at least 14 years

old on the Library premises. Join us for every session or just one - it's up to you! We will have two instructors to help get games started and assist with the rules of the game. No registration is required. Check the Library website or Facebook page if there is inclement weather.

Winter Story Times - Beginning the week of December 8

Stories and fun for children and their caregivers! We'll tell stories, sing, dance, have finger plays, do crafts, and play instruments. Registration is required. Emails will be sent to confirm enrollment. When sessions are full, children will be put on a waitlist. Register online at clapplibrary.org/story-hour or call the library at 413-323-0417.

Babytime Story Time (for ages 3-12 months)

9 to 9:45 a.m., Mondays, December 8, 15, January 5, 12, 26, and February 2, 9

First Steps Story Time (for ages 13-24 months)

10 to 10:45 a.m., Mondays, December 8, 15, January 5, 12, 26, and February 2, 9

Toddler Time (for ages 2-3 years)

9:30 to 10:30 a.m., Tuesdays, December 9, 16, January 6, 13, 27, and February 3, 10

Preschool Story Time (for ages 3-6 years)

9:30 to 10:30 a.m., Thursdays, December 11, 18, January 8, 15, 29, and February 5, 12

The Clapp Memorial Library is open:

Monday 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Tuesday 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Wednesday 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.*
Thursday 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.*
Friday 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

*The Library will close at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, December 24, and remain closed on Thursday, December 25, for the Christmas holiday. Regular hours resume Friday, December 26.

Help save historic horse barn

Fundraiser announced to preserve a piece of local history

BELCHERTOWN – New England Small Farm Institute (NESFI) is proud to announce a fundraiser to save the historic Horse Barn, a treasured landmark that is located on the Lampson Brook Farmstead which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Farmstead is a beautiful property described as a jewel in the heart of Belchertown once served as the Belchertown State School Farm. The "Save the Barn" campaign aims to raise funds to restore and preserve the structure.

Built in circa 1910, this post and beam horse barn features a unique oak block center aisle floor. For many years it was once home to the first Therapeutic Riding Center while the Belchertown State School Farm was still a working farm. The barn has had minor repairs over the years,

but it now faces structural deterioration that threatens its survival. Preservation experts estimate that without timely repairs, the barn could be lost.

"Stories are written in buildings like the horse barn" said Susie McCrea, Board Member of New England Small Farm Institute. "My dad, Joe McCrea, was the head farmer at the Belchertown State School from 1961-1972. My family, friends and locals have many fond memories of this historic barn. This fundraiser isn't just about saving a barn—it's about honoring the people, traditions, and craftsmanship that have contributed to making Belchertown a special community."

"The Horse Barn is on the National Register of Historic Places. The restoration, beginning with a new roof, is made possible with a Community Preservation Grant and donations," added Pat Barry, NESFI Board Member. "The water damage over the years has caused more damage than is visible. Our fundraising is to address these additional costs not covered by the grant."

The fundraiser is ongoing and features the "Winners Circle" where donors can "Buy a Horseshoe" with a customized nameplate to be displayed in the restored barn. There are additional ways to donate. Visit: www.smallfarm.org/donate. All proceeds will directly support restoration of the barn.

For more information, sponsorship opportunities, or In-Kind donations, please visit www.smallfarm.org/donate or contact via email: info@smallfarm.org.

About New England Small Farm Institute

NESFI is a land-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization working to support beginning farmers and small-scale farming. It was founded in 1978 by a local citizens' action group—Women in Agriculture, Food Policy and Land Use Reform—to encourage more sustainable regional agriculture. As stewards of the Lampson Brook Farm, the volunteer Board of Directors is committed to protecting the land and the buildings.

Jingle Bell Bazaar returns to Church of Christ

GRANBY – The Jingle Bell Bazaar is coming up fast. December 6, 2024, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Come enjoy our Cookie Walk, it will have hundreds of delicious cookies to choose from. Be sure to check out

handmade crafts, freshly crafted greens, jewelry, a New to You section, Bake Sale, hot Lunch, the Quilt Raffle, see Santa, and more. Santa will be in the building. Come and visit. This event helps

support the work of our WOTC at Church of Christ Congregational, UCC Granby, MA. Come on down and get in the holiday spirit. a

A1C from page 6

tory of Type 2 diabetes, ask your doctor about getting screened.

Also let your primary care provider know if you're experiencing any of these symptoms:

- Extreme thirst and/or hunger
- More frequent urination
- More fatigue
- Slow-healing sores
- Blurry vision

A special offer from the American Red Cross

This November in honor of Diabetes Awareness Month and its theme – "Taking Action to Prevent Diabetes-Related Health Problems" – the American Red Cross is offering free A1C screenings to all blood donors who haven't received the test in the past

12 months. It has found that about one in every five donors has an A1C in the pre-diabetic or diabetic range.

To receive your free A1C result, make a successful blood, platelet or plasma donation and ensure you haven't received an A1C test through the Red Cross in the past 12 months. Results will appear within one to two weeks in the Red Cross Blood Donor App or at RedCrossBlood.org. If your A1C is elevated, follow up with your health care provider.

Diabetes is recognized as a global public health epidemic, with the number of cases more than quadrupling since 1990. Cases in the U.S. are expected to surge more than 50% by 2030. More worrisome is that, according to 2021

estimates from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 8.7 million adults met the criteria for diabetes but were unaware of it.

Awareness is the first step toward controlling blood sugar and perhaps preventing diabetes. Your A1C can point the way.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, is a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate and founder of www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com, which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. Teri offers a free phone consultation to *Turley Newspaper* readers as well as to nurses interested in becoming advocates. Reach her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com

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COA from page 4

ahead for an appointment rather than drop in. Thank you.

Laurene Kendall : 323-0420, Ext. 505

Heather Moran: 323-0420, Ext. 509

We're excited to share that our events at the Senior Center are growing in popu-

larity!

While we love seeing so many familiar faces, our space has its limits. To ensure fairness for all attendees, we've introduced some new reservation guidelines.

To make reservations for large parties, please call Stephanie starting at 9 a.m. on the date specified in the

newsletter. Please note that her voicemail is time-stamped, so starting at 9 a.m., reservations will be granted in the order that calls are received, and any messages left before 9 a.m. will not be honored.

You may make a reservation for yourself and one guest. The name of your

guest is required at the time of the call. Please refrain from requesting that staff add your name to the large party list before the designated reservation date.

You will get an automated call letting you know if your reservation was successful or if you've been placed on the waitlist. It's important to

listen to the entire message; just receiving the call doesn't guarantee you have a reservation.

If you do not receive a call back, please contact us for confirmation before the event date. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation!

SPORTS

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Orioles boys soccer defeated in first round of state tournament

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

SPRINGFIELD—The main objective for the Belchertown boys' soccer team is to compete for a state title every year. The Orioles played in the 2021 Division 3 state championship match, but they haven't made it back there since.

Belchertown entered this year's Division 3 state tournament as the 18th-seed with a 7-7-4 record. Their journey only lasted one game as the 15th-seeded Pope Francis Cardinals celebrated a 3-0 home victory in the round of 32 match on Wednesday, Nov. 5.

"We've played in the state championship match in the past and it's something that we try to strive for every year," said Belchertown head coach Zach Siano. "I thought we created some good chances, but it just wasn't our night."

A year ago, the Orioles posted a 1-0 home win over Watertown before losing at Pope Francis, 3-0, in the round of 16. They also lost at Pope, 2-1, in the Western Mass. Class B semifinals.

"It's brutal losing a tournament game on this field once again this year," said Belchertown senior co-captain

Austin Raymer, who's a starting forward. "After losing to Pope in the round of 16 last year, I told my teammates that we needed to work a little bit harder this season. We did put in the work and it's very unfortunate to end the season like this again. I'm very thankful to be a co-captain. I'm hoping that this team can go far in the state tournament next year."

The Orioles other senior co-captain is Nate Marino, who's a starting defender.

"Nate and I have been friends for as long as I can remember," Raymer said. "It has been awesome being co-captains with him this year."

The other seniors listed on the Orioles varsity roster are Jordan Kalish, Jake Gormely, Timothy Haley, Chase Connor, Tyler Burrows, and Luke Dudek, who was the starting goalie.

"The seniors are an irreplaceable group," Siano said. "It has been a pleasure watching them grow and mature during the past couple of years."

Haley, who joined the varsity squad this fall, led the way offensively with nine goals and six assists for a total of 15 points.

Conner chipped in with



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Luke Dudek sends a goal kick away.

three goals and five assists.

Haley and Raymer are the only two Orioles players who were selected to the All-State team.

When Raymer was a freshman, he played for the junior varsity team during the regular season before being called up to the varsity team for the

postseason tournament.

That season, Belchertown captured the Western Mass. B championship title with a 3-0 win against South Hadley. The Orioles also advanced to the Final Four

Please see **ORIOLES**, page 10



Nathan Marino gets a header.



Layla Liminski squares an easy bump from the bike line.



Layla Liminski sends a spike away.

Local players partake in showcase event

HOLYOKE – Last Tuesday evening, the International Volleyball Hall of Fame hosted the Western Mass. Girls Volleyball showcase with a second team game and a first team game held at Holyoke Community College. Layla Liminski was among the participants, representing Belchertown.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Coach Chris Shea with Layla Liminski, left, and Olivia Skora, right.

Pioneers beat Smith in vocational tournament



Jarett Skowyra takes the snap for a point-after kick.



Dustyn Cook kicks off for the Pioneers.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



PALMER – On Friday, Nov. 14, Pathfinder football picked up a Week 10 win over Smith Vocational 42-12. Pathfinder had multiple turnovers in the first half to get up fast in the game. The matchup was the first round of the vocational school football tournament, with Pathfinder advancing to face Cape Cod Regional Tech on Friday, Nov. 21. Highlights from that matchup will be in next week's edition.

The Pioneers get a tackle of a kick returner on special teams.



The Pathfinder defensive line goes for the ball carrier.

SPORTS

MIAA makes calendar change to start of fall

FRANKLIN — The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association recently approved a couple of changes in their calendar, including codifying a practice that is already in place. The biggest change will be the start of the fall season for football pre-season while two other changes were denied.

The Board of Directors voted to set the official start date of all fall sports, includ-

ing football at two Mondays prior to Labor Day, beginning with the 2026-2027 school year. In recent years, football would begin the Friday prior to that Monday with the rest of the sports beginning two Mondays before Labor Day.

A proposal was denied to delay the start of winter pre-season to the Tuesday following Thanksgiving. Right now, practices immediately begin on Monday after

Thanksgiving. The proposal sought to give an administrative day for schools to prepare for the winter season.

Another proposal denied was for all postseason tournament brackets to be released exclusively on weekdays, with the exception of the football brackets, which are released on the Sunday after Week 8 games conclude.

The final accepted proposal was establishing a firm date

for the end of all spring athletic seasons to be no later than the third Sunday in June, to coincide with the end of the academic year. It ensures that all postseason play and championship would take place on a consistent timeline each year. This is the current practice so no noticeable change will be seen on the current MIAA calendar.

T-Birds score win over Utica

SPRINGFIELD - The Springfield Thunderbirds (3-10-2-1) rode a magnificent night from their goal-tender to a 2-0 shut-out victory over the Utica Comets (2-9-2-1) on Friday night inside a sold-out Mass Mutual Center.



forced to be at his best with a handful of saves off redirections. The netminder also got some fortunate luck on one occasion as a Mike Hardman deflection attempt glanced off the underside of the crossbar, but stayed out. Springfield

An unlikely source got the T-Birds onto the score-sheet just 4:04 into the period, as defenseman Leo Loof made a wise read from the defensive zone, jumping into a rush to create a 2-on-1 attack. With Jakub Stancl crashing the net from the left-wing side, Loof used the shooting lane available to him, snapping a wristed shot over Nico Daws' blocker, giving Springfield the one-goal edge off setups from Hugh McGing and Nikita Alexandrov.

Georgi Romanov got the nod in the T-Birds' goal crease and answered the bell in the opening 20 minutes, making eight stops while his defense in front of him limited Utica's high-danger chances.

The middle period did not produce much in the way of chances, but the Comets made a strong push in the final minutes of the frame, and Romanov was

also killed off one Utica power play attempt in the later stages of the second, while Utica went 2-for-2 to begin its night on the penalty kill, including 1:16 of power play time for the T-Birds at the start of the third. The Comets relentlessly pressured the Springfield net throughout the third, but Romanov had answers time and time again. Utica finished the game with 33 shots, but Romanov had stops on every one.

Calle Rosen finally put the game away with 1:11 to play, taking a pass from Romanov behind the net and lobbing a shot 200 feet down the ice and into a yawning cage to round out the scoring. The netminder's first shutout win as a T-Bird also gave Springfield its second straight win on home ice.

Railers grab home win over Gargoyles

WORCESTER — At the next ECHL Board of Governors meeting, Railers COO Mike Myers should suggest that, to save time and aggravation and wear and tear, the league should forego the first three periods of each hockey game and go directly to overtime.

If enough of those around the table said "aye" Worcester might be the first ECHL team to go undefeated.

The Railers did it again last Sunday afternoon. Anthony Repaci scored 90 seconds into OT to give his team a 3-2 victory over the Greensboro Gargoyles. Worcester has won six games this season, three in overtime.

It is 36-32 in overtime through the years but a remarkable 12-3 in its last 15 OT games. Sunday's fourth-period goal was the seventh of Repaci's career.

At the time, the shot seemed like a waste of time.

Repaci was at the very bottom of the offensive zone,

almost to the goal line, and at least 10 feet from Gargoyles goalie (say that fast three times, why don't you?) Ruslan Khazheyev (say that fast three times, too) but fired away, anyway.

It went through the five-hole to earn two points for the home team.

"I didn't have an angle," Repaci said. "I knew I was late in the shift and I could see (Matt Stief) coming downhill. I didn't want to make a pass that gets picked off and there's a 2 on 1 going the other way.

"So what I was trying to do is just throw it into the goalie's pads and hopefully have it pop out somewhere."

Repaci has scored 97 goals now for the Railers so, just doing the math, some of them had to be overtime goals. Seven is a high percentage, though.

"I'll take 'em," he said. "I'm thankful that coaches trust me to go out there for 3 on 3 and put me in good situations

where there's open ice."

The victory was Worcester's fifth in the last six games, all at home. The Railers finished this eight-game homestand, their longest of the season, earning 10 of a possible 16 points. That is a .625 winning percentage, a good mark in a league where home ice is not a huge advantage.

Henrik Tikkanen got the win in the Railers net. He has won four in a row with an 0.73 goals-against average. Worcester is 5-2-1 for 11 points in Tikkanen's eight starts this season.

Riley Piercey and Matt DeMelis had the other Railers goals. Colton Leiter and Wade Murphy scored for the Gargoyles.

The Railers played one of their best first periods of the season, especially at home, and had the lead after 20 minutes for merely the second time this year.

They dominated the early going and had a lot of pres-

sure, but not a lot of goals. Worcester was finally rewarded when Piercey got his first goal of the season at 13:36 as the Railers took advantage of a turnover created by Max Dorrington.

He controlled the puck about 10 feet inside the blue line and passed it to Piercey. He put a low shot under Khazheyev's pads to make it 1-0.

Leiter tied it with a power play goal at 4:32 of the second period. DeMelis got the lead back at 11:04, set up by Stief. Murphy re-tied it with a shorthanded goal at 3:53 of the third period, finishing off a 2 on 1 break.

It remained 2-2 until Repaci figured he would just put the puck on net and see what happened.

What happened turned out to be a happy ending for the Railers.



Tyler Stahl eyes an open teammate up the field.



Timothy Haley sends a quick pass away.



Austin Raymer dekes with the ball.

ORIOLES from page 9 where they lost, 2-1, against Dedham High School.

"When I was a freshman, we lost in the final four, which gave me extra motivation going into the following season," Raymer said. "I was heartbroken for those seniors."

Raymer suffered an inju-

ry as a sophomore, and he didn't get to play in the post-season tournament.

He watched his teammates lose in the Western Mass. semifinals and in the round of 16 in the Division 3 state tournament. The same results occurred a year ago.

Raymer, who also plays basketball and baseball, finished his varsity soccer

career with three goals. His only goal of this season came against Monument Mountain in the Class B quarterfinals, which was a 4-3 home win.

The Orioles and Cardinals are both members of the Smith Division.

The first meeting of the regular season, which was played at Belchertown High School, ended in a 1-1 draw.

Pope Francis squeaked out a 2-1 at home in the second meeting.

Last Wednesday's match was scoreless until the 36th minute when sophomore Jonathan Martowski scored a goal for the home team.

Three minutes into the second half, a shot attempt from Connor was knocked over the crossbar by Pope sophomore

goalie Max Graham resulting in a corner kick.

The Cardinals' second goal was scored during the 55th minute by senior Matt Walsh, who was also selected to the All-State team.

With less than five minutes remaining in regulation, the Orioles had a golden opportunity to slice the deficit in half. They were given a pen-

alty kick following a foul in the box, but the shot by Marino sailed wide.

Then freshman Dylan Chapdelaine, who lives in Ludlow, scored his first career varsity goal. It sealed the round of 32 victory and ended the Orioles season a little sooner than the players had hoped it would.



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COMMUNITY

Belchertown Select Board announces board/committee vacancies

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown Select Board is looking for citizens interested in sharing their expertise by serving on a Town Board/Committee. If you have time and are interested in getting involved in your Town’s activities, please submit a letter of interest to: Select Board, The Finnerty House, One South Main Street, P.O. Box 670, Belchertown, MA 01007 or by email to selectboard@belchertown.org (unless otherwise indicated below). You may also submit a volunteer form on our website: <https://www.belchertown.org/374/Volunteer>

All vacancies are posted until filled.

The Town wishes to fill the following vacancies:

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

Belchertown Buildings & Grounds Committee: The Town wishes to fill one (1) full real estate member seat and one (1) associate member seat on the Belchertown Buildings and Grounds Committee. The committee will advise the Town and the Select Board on funding opportunities for maintaining and developing Town buildings that fit the guidelines of repurpose and/or renovation to benefit the local economy and population 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 highly preferred.

Board of Assessors: The Town of Belchertown is looking to fill a vacancy on the Board of Assessors. This position has a stipend of \$1,000 per year. This recently vacated position will be appointed in accordance with the provisions outlined in MGL Chapter 41, Section 11 by a joint appointment of the Board of Assessors and Select Board. The appointed individual will fill the seat’s remaining term and shall perform duties of the office until the next annual election in May 2026. The applicant must be a registered voter in the Town of Belchertown.

In accordance with MCL Chapter 59, Section 21, the Assessors shall assess all taxes duly certified to them and perform all necessary duties as defined in MGL Chapter 59. Some of the duties include the classification and valuation of all real and personal property along with setting the tax rate each fiscal year.

For further information, contact Jay Whelihan, Director of Assessments, at 323-0413, jwhelihan@belchertown.org or Steve Williams, Town Manager, at 323-0403.

Capital Improvement Planning Committee: Belchertown is seeking two (2) residents with demonstrated knowledge of construction, facility maintenance, fleet management, architecture, engineering, or a related field to fill a full member seat.

Communications Committee: The Belchertown Communications Committee is looking for two (2) new members to help shape how our town shares news and stays connected. This group has supported projects like the Belchertown.org upgrade, Carriagetown Chronicles, and installing a broader social media strategy. We’re seeking residents with everyday skills in communications, document preparation, accessibility, social media, or technology

– especially individuals with practical experience using AI in workplace or business settings, to support the careful and responsible adoption of these tools in town government.

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

Historic District By-Law Commission: The Town wishes to fill a member Real Estate seat on the Historic District By-Law Commission. The Commission has regulatory control over new construction, reconstruction, alterations, movements, and demolition of all exterior architectural features of buildings and structures within the Historic District which are visible from any public street, public way, or public park.

Pioneer Valley Transit Authority Advisory Board: The Town is seeking an individual to represent and serve as a Liaison to the Town of Belchertown on the PVTA Advisory Board. Interested individuals should have the time and desire to attend respective meetings in Springfield and periodically review the PVTA’s services to the Town and its contiguous communities.

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

Veterans’ Services Advisory Board (VSAB): The Town is looking to fill two (2) vacancies on the VSAB. The Board works closely with the Town’s Veterans’ Agent on issues pertaining to veterans to include but not limited to Veterans Day and Memorial Day ceremonies, war memorials, veterans’ graves or any other related areas of concern.

Zoning Board of Appeals: The Town wishes to fill one (1) opening for a full member seat and two (2) openings for associate member seats on the Zoning Board of Appeals. The ZBA is responsible for hearing and deciding on applications for Special Permits, Variances and Appeals from decisions of the Zoning Enforcement Officer/ Building Inspector.



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Smiling at the entrance, Caran welcomes you in for a Christmas tour.

Tours of Christmas Past coming to the Stone House Museum

BELCHERTOWN – As the Christmas season approaches and we begin decorating our homes and communities with all the trees, garlands, ornaments, and lights that we look upon as traditional, the Stone House Museum is opening its doors to welcome you in for a look at what a Victorian Christmas would have looked like.

Many of you, when picturing a “traditional” Christmas, may think of images from Clement C. Moore’s *The Night Before Christmas*, where visions of sugarplums danced through their heads. But early New Englanders did not celebrate Christmas. It was a festival celebrated only by religious minorities. So where did our traditions come from?

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ing, sending Christmas cards, and decorating trees. They transformed the folk figures of Father Christmas and Santa Claus into symbols of holiday generosity and popularized Germany’s Christmas tree.

The Belchertown Historical Association welcomes you to attend our Victorian Candlelight Tours at the Stone House Museum this holiday season. Tours will be led by interpreters wearing traditional Victorian dress. The house will be filled with garlands, candlelight, music, craft activities, and the smells of homemade treats. Tours will be held on Sunday, November 30, Saturday, December 6, and Friday, December 12. Tours will begin at 6, 7 and 8 p.m. For tickets information call 413-230-2022 or visit our website and Facebook page: stonehousemuseum.org.

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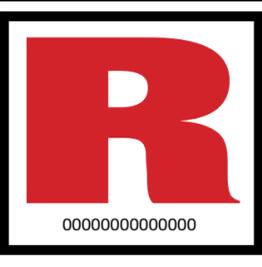
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Town of Worthington Highway Position Opening

The Town of Worthington is soliciting letters of interest from qualified candidates to fill two full-time Equipment Operator/General Laborer positions in the Town Highway Department.

Valid MA CDL operator, Hydraulic Hoister's licenses and OSHA-10 certification is preferred.
• salary rate range: \$26.49 - \$38.59 per hour
Further information can be found on the Town's website:

www.worthington-ma.us
Questions will be answered by the Highway Superintendent at 64 Huntington Road, Monday – Friday, 7 AM to 3 PM; the telephone number is 413-238-5830 or send letter of interest, resume and three (3) references with relevant contact information to: **highway@worthington-ma.us** or to **Worthington Highway Department, PO Box 643, Worthington, MA, 01098.** This posting will remain pertinent until the position is filled.
The Town of Worthington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

TOWN OF WORTHINGTON INVITATION TO BID SNOW PLOWING SERVICES

The Town of Worthington Highway Department is soliciting bids for seasonal plowing services for the 2025–2026 winter season. Work will include plowing backroads and selected blacktop sections throughout the Town of Worthington.
Minimum equipment requirements:
• 34-ton truck or larger
• 8-foot plow (minimum)
Please contact the Worthington Highway Department for bid specifications and route details:
Worthington Highway Department 64 Huntington Road Worthington, MA 01098 Phone: 413-238-5830 Email: highway@worthington-ma.us
The Town of Worthington reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids deemed to be in the best interest of the Town.

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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.

QUAINT WEST BROOKFIELD BROOKHAVEN LAKE by babbling brook, I-shaped 2bdrm. ranch. 2/full baths, finished basement, walkout slider, enclosed front porch. Enjoy nature trails, very quiet private area. \$2850/monthly rental fee. Bernice Stone 774-262-6667.

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.

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Knights host annual Coats for Kids drive

WARE – The Knights of Columbus is accepting donations for the annual Coats for Kids drive. Donations of new (or gently worn and clean) coats, hats, gloves and mittens will be accepted. Drop-off locations are at all three Ware Public Schools, Nat Falk, the Sharpest Edge Barber Shop, and the Country Bank

branch on West Street. Monetary donations can be made to Ware Knights of Columbus Council 183, P.O. Box 88, Ware, MA 01082. Please put “Coats for Kids” in the check memo. Families in need of coats for their children can contact the School Superintendent’s office at Ware Public Schools. Any



extra coats received during Coats for Kids will be distributed to the town’s food pantries.



Charlotte Cassidy, Brian Gibbons, Louise Levy, Shawn Finn, and Martha Duro-Shea celebrating their time together cleaning up the trails.

TRAIL from page 1

nature oasis from the hustle and bustle of life. “We are the community advocates for the Trail. The Friends will advise the Recreation Department on best practices. The Recreation Department and other parties will consult with Friends for community input on maintenance and improvement activities. Friends will be included in any big plans in the area to advocate for stewardship of the ecosystem and the community,” said Levy. “My favorite part of caring for nature is feeling connected to a larger community. I joined the Belchertown Nipmuc Farm Conservation Alliance, and our group has adopted a section of the trail to maintain. Being involved

has also allowed me to deepen my knowledge of the plants and animals around me,” said Cassidy. “Yes, there has been a lot of activity and disturbance in the area over the last year. The work has been done with the most ecologically sound methods possible, with the confidence that ecosystems rebound quickly from disturbances,” said Levy. “And now more people get to enjoy this stunning pocket of nature in the heart of town. Keep your eye out for new benches, coming soon.” The Friends of Lake Wallace are seeking another Trail Coordinator, so for all interested in taking part in caring for this beautiful trail, you can reach out to learn more through their Facebook Page and learn more about the project.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS
Charlotte Cassidy is learning how to use a mini chainsaw.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Belchertown Conservation Commission LEGAL NOTICE
Pursuant to the authority of the Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Ch. 131, Sec. 40, its Regulations (310 CMR 10.00) and the Belchertown Wetlands Protection Bylaw (Chapter 139), the Belchertown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Monday, December 8, 2025 at 7:00 PM in the Lawrence Memorial Town Hall Auditorium, located at 2 Jabish Street in Belchertown, MA 01007.** The Commission will review a **Notice of Intent** permit application submitted by Sherman & Frydryk Engineering for the project proposed by Jason LaFleur consisting of a new residential subdivision and access road connecting Jason’s Way to Aldrich Street (Assessor’s Parcels 245-56, 248-2, 248-45) in Belchertown. Work is proposed to occur within the 100-foot Buffer Zone and locally-protected 50-foot No Disturb Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands. Anyone interested in this matter should appear at the time and place designated. 11/27/2025

before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/03/2025.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 30, 2025
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
12/27/2025

and the Belchertown Wetlands Protection Bylaw (Chapter 139), the Belchertown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Monday, December 8, 2025 at 7:00 PM in the Lawrence Memorial Hall Auditorium, located at 2 Jabish Street in Belchertown, MA 01007** to review a **Request for Determination of Applicability** permit application submitted by Belchertown DPW for the proposed work to extend the turnaround area at the end of South Gulf Road (Assessor’s Map 206-19.13) in Belchertown. Work is proposed to occur within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to wetland resource areas. Anyone interested in this matter should appear at the time and place designated. 11/27/2025

Belchertown Conservation Commission LEGAL NOTICE
Pursuant to the authority of the Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Ch. 131, Sec. 40, its Regulations (310 CMR 10.00)

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 Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

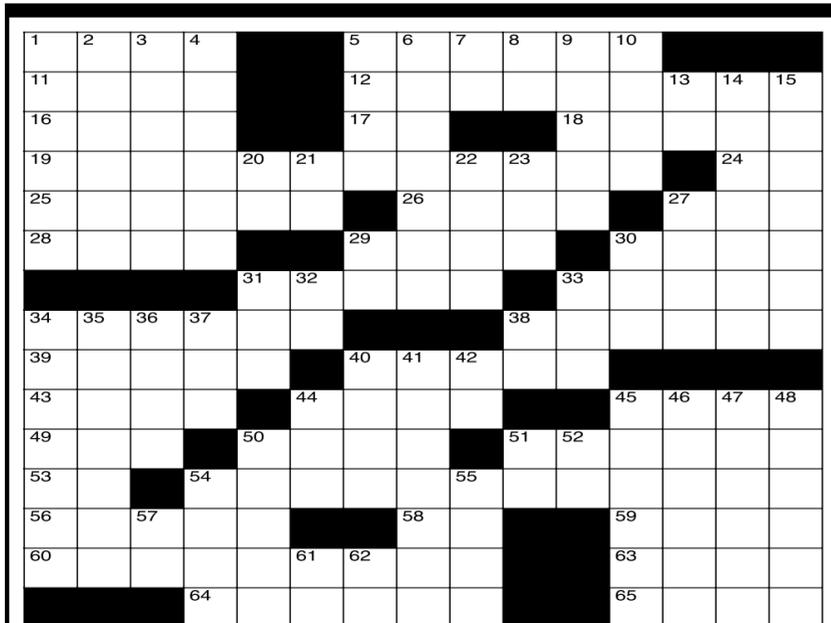
The Sentinel OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Popular wine ___ Spumante
5. Greatly impressed
11. ___ and that
12. Uttered with passion
16. Boats
17. Veteran actor Harris
18. Casserole with game
19. Reprehensible acts
24. They precede C
25. Says under one’s breath
26. Taxis
27. It transfers genetic info
28. NFL great Randy
29. Where college students sleep
30. Major European river
31. Taco condiment
33. -frutti
34. Polish city
38. Astronomy unit
39. Khoikhoi peoples
40. Bears QB Williams
43. Scrambled, fried, boiled
44. Price indicators
45. One-time world power
49. When you hope to get somewhere
50. Farm building
51. Choose carefully
53. Magnum was one
54. One who combines
56. Nursemaids
58. Partner to Pa
59. Notable river
60. Officially honors
63. Colorless compound
64. A fancy chair
65. Email function
2. Religion of Japan
3. Leggings
4. Officially distributes
5. Arabian Sea seaport
6. Spanish doctors
7. It cools your house
8. Currency of Poland
9. Slowly moves into
10. Days (Spanish)
13. Unit of volume
14. Emit
15. With two replaceable hydrogens
20. Title for a man
21. Equally
22. Scarlett’s home
23. One-time tech titan
27. Subway dwellers
29. One-tenth of a liter
30. Central European river
31. Distress signal
32. Expression of sympathy
33. The bill in a restaurant
34. Football equipment
35. Dance music
36. Russian river
37. Cosmetics giant Mary ___
38. Gym class
40. Automobiles
41. Roman honorific
42. Losses in sports
44. Skin tone in summer
45. Distant planet
46. Critical humor
47. Illegally obtained
48. Go back over
50. Home appliance brand
51. Unit of radioactivity
52. Home of the Flyers
54. Short official note
55. Emit coherent radiation
57. Anno Domini (in the year of Our Lord)
61. Most common noble gas (abbr.)
62. Toward

Logan Distler
September 22, 2024
Parents: Daniel & Lisa Distler, Brimfield
Grandparents: Christopher & Michele Mues, Warren
Carole & the late Bruce Distler, Long Island, NY

Turley Publications, Inc.

Turley Publications would like to help you show off the newest member of your family this Christmas, FOR FREE!

Mail to:
Turley Publications
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069
Attn: Jamie Joslyn
Include a self addressed/stamped envelope if you would like the picture returned or email photo to: jamie@turley.com with subject line: **BABY’S FIRST.**
This offer is available to all babies born in 2025. Pictures will be published the week of December 23-26, 2025.

Baby’s Name: _____
Birthdate: _____
Parents’ Names: _____
Parents’ Town of Residence: _____
Grandparents’ Names & Town of Residence: _____
Telephone #: (not to be printed - for office use only) _____

Please check the newspaper you would like your announcement to appear.

<input type="checkbox"/> Agawam Advertiser News	<input type="checkbox"/> Quabog Current
<input type="checkbox"/> Barre Gazette	<input type="checkbox"/> The Register
<input type="checkbox"/> Chicopee Register	<input type="checkbox"/> Sentinel
<input type="checkbox"/> Country Journal	<input type="checkbox"/> Town Reminder
<input type="checkbox"/> The Holyoke Sun	<input type="checkbox"/> Ware River News
<input type="checkbox"/> Journal Register	<input type="checkbox"/> The Wilbraham-Hampden Times

Deadline for photos and forms is Friday, December 12, 2025

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