

SB sets tax rate

BY MELINA BOURDEAU
Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN – The Selectboard set the tax rate last week, opting to have a residential factor of one, voting not to shift the tax burden from the residential to the commercial.

The 2024 fiscal tax rate approved by the board is \$15.32.

For the average single-family home valued at \$381,145, the average tax bill would be \$5,839. For the average two/three family home valued at \$314,046, the tax bill would be \$4,811. For an average condo valued at \$279,182, the tax bill would be \$4,277. For an average commercial property valued at \$514,529, the tax bill would be \$7,882 and for an average industrial property valued at \$191,396, the tax bill would be \$2,932.

Director of Assessors John Whelihan came before the board in the tax classification hearing.

The Board of Assessors recommended the Selectboard approve a factor of one, sharing the levy to each class of property.

Whelihan said the town's valuation is about \$2.2 billion, of which the residential portion makes up 93 percent and the commercial/industry properties make up six percent.

Please see **TAX RATE**, page 8

EVENT RAISES FUNDS

for mental health support, suicide prevention programs



The Western Division "You're Not Alone" Tournament Champions from Belchertown.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Second Annual basketball tournament a huge success

BELCHERTOWN – A recent event organized by three high school seniors was described as a huge success, raising nearly \$6,000 for mental health support and suicide prevention programs.

The second annual "You're Not Alone" pre-season high school basketball tournament took

place Nov. 18-19 at the South End Community Center in Springfield. The two-day, 10-team event, sponsored by many local community organizations, was organized by three seniors of the varsity boys' basketball team at Belchertown High School, Jackson Couchon, Cal Orzech, and Tyler Marino.

The aim was to raise awareness and funding for mental health support and suicide prevention programs.

"Our community has witnessed firsthand the devastation that suicide can cause. My

Please see **EVENT**, page 8

Community members speak against 51 State St. demo

BY MELINA BOURDEAU
Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN – Residents and community members spoke against the demolition of 51 State St. at the Selectboard's meeting last week.

In the beginning of October, the Selectboard voted to demolish 51 State St. and turn it back into lawn using American Rescue Plan Act funds in a four-to-one vote.

The DPW tentatively scheduled the demolition of the building for the beginning of December.

During the town manager's report, Selectboard Chair Ed Boscher allowed for members of the public to speak to the mat-

"You've left us without a home, and I think the community is devastated by this."

NATASHA MARTIN

Belchertown Family Center Committee Chair

ter and said that the board could not discuss the matter as it was not on the meeting's agenda, so a discussion would violate the Massachusetts Open Meeting law.

Natasha Martin, chair of the Belchertown Family Center Committee, said she didn't feel like the group had an opportunity to be heard about the destruction of the building.

"You've left us without a home, and I think the community is devastated by this," she said. "We don't have a place to run

programs... We are clearly needed in this community, and we're at a loss for how to continue."

The Family Center Committee submitted a formal proposal to the board requesting funding the \$250,000 for the roof and HVAC system, using \$50,000 in ARPA funds reserved for demolition of the building.

"Two, to continue its commitment to provide custodial services pest mitigation and management and ongoing prevention-

Please see **DEMO**, page 8

Police increase presence at schools after 'vague, anonymous' email

BY KIMBERLY PALMUCCI
sentinel@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – The police department increased its presence in and around the schools this week after a "vague and anonymous" email was received by school personnel last weekend.

"The Belchertown School Department as well as our Communication Center has received a number of calls... from parents concerned about their child in light of this incident," the police department released in a statement on social media. "We share this message in hopes of easing some of the fear and anxiety parents, students, and school staff may be experiencing."

According to reports, last Saturday evening, a vague and anonymous email was sent to Belchertown School personnel. Police said the email contained "threatening language that comprised 'all your schools' on 'Monday.'"

"In a proactive effort, the Belchertown Police & Fire, local police, State Police, and school/district staff diligently carried out comprehensive safety inspections of all school buildings, including the central office [on Sunday, Nov. 26]. Fortunately, no immediate issues were detected during these checks," Belchertown Police released as of press time.

Please see **POLICE**, page 8



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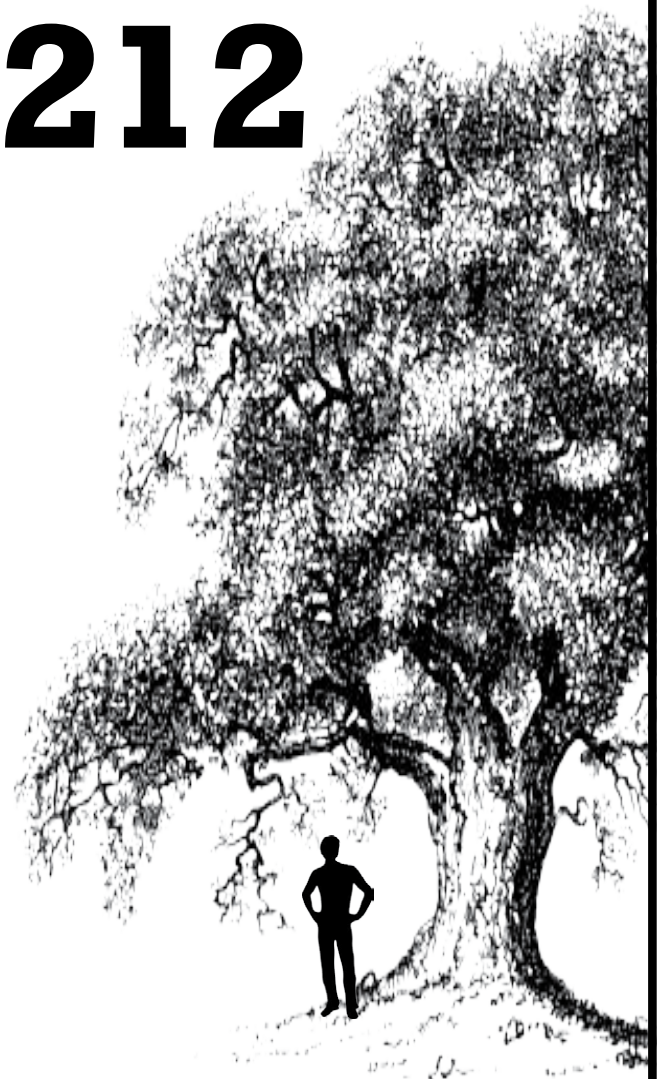
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COMMUNITY

BCTV schedule

BELCHERTOWN – Here is the BCTV schedule for Thursday, Nov. 30, through Wednesday, Dec. 6.

Thursday, Nov. 30

8 a.m. – Conservation Comm.
10 a.m. – Planning Board
12 p.m. – School Committee
7 p.m. – Conservation Comm.
9 p.m. – Planning Board

Friday, Dec. 1

8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
9 a.m. – Winter Light Night 2023
5 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman
7 p.m. – Winter Light Night 2023
8 p.m. – School Committee

Saturday, Dec. 2

8 a.m. – Educational Crafting with Charlotte
8:15 a.m. – Swift River School Sings for the Senior Center
4:30 p.m. – Educational Crafting with Charlotte
5 p.m. – Healthy Bones and Balance

Sunday, Dec. 3

4:30 p.m. – St. Francis Roman Catholic Church
6 p.m. – Christ Community Church
7 p.m. – Hope United Methodist Church
8:30 p.m. – Winter Light Night 2023

Monday Dec. 4

8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
5 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman
6:30 p.m. – Select Board, Channel 191

Tuesday, Dec. 5

N/A

Wednesday, Dec. 6

8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
5 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman
7:30 p.m. – Agricultural Comm., Channel 191

Belchertown Community Television always streams channels 191 and 192 and archives most shows after being broadcast.

To access previous broadcasts, visit: belchertown.vids.io/

To access live streaming broadcasts, visit: cloud.castus.tv/vod/belchertown/?page=HOME

Or access these services by visiting the Belchertown webpage, belchertown.org, and visiting the “residents” header on the upper right side.

Click on Belchertown Community TV, then “Watch previous Belchertown Meeting” or “Watch Channel 191 and 192 live stream.”

BCOA announces December events, news

BELCHERTOWN – The town’s Council on Aging has announced upcoming events:

Winter Wonderland Holiday Luncheon
Friday, Dec. 15, at 10:30 a.m.

Doors will open at 10:15 a.m. for a performance by Larry Lewis.

“Larry brings melody, energy, and fun, featuring music spanning decades, with some holiday tunes as well,” the COA released. “Thank you to our BSCCA for sponsoring.”

Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m.

“We’ll be serving holiday baked ham with homemade pie for dessert.”

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

Holiday Sing-A-Long

Wednesday, Dec. 6, at 10:30 a.m.

Join for a special holiday sing-a-long with Jacques “Pop” Hooten and the children of the Clapp Memorial Library music program.

Call Stephanie 413- 323-0420 ext. 501 to sign up, and be sure to mention if you’d like to stay after for lunch.

Holiday Concert at Belchertown High School

Thursday, Dec. 21, at 9 a.m.

Winter Pops Concert; light refreshments will be sponsored by the Belchertown Band Boosters, and served by the Tri-M Music Honors Society. To sign-up, please call Stephanie 413-323-0420 ext. 501, or use the sign-up sheet at the Senior Center.

National Cocoa Day

Monday, Dec. 13

“What better way to celebrate than with a delicious cup of hot cocoa in our paja-

mas,” the COA released. “Wear your pajamas (or comfortable attire) to the Senior Center and enjoy a cup of hot cocoa as we watch some classic holiday TV specials in the community room throughout the day. From Charlie Brown to Frosty and Rudolph, we will have all your favorites.”

Take Care of Yourself

Footcare: Piper Sagan, RN and Certified Foot Care Specialist, provides services on the second Monday of every month. Sagan will assess overall foot health, clip/file nails, file callouses, and recommend shoe wear and cushioning as needed. She will finish with a massage using healing essential oils to promote foot health. \$50 per visit.

Skincare: Diane Neill, licensed esthetician, offers facials and waxing services on the third Wednesday of every month. Clients can choose between a Signature Facial, a Microdermabrasion Facial, LED Light Therapy, or waxing services. Prices vary.

Massage: Jodi Kaufman, licensed massage therapist and certified in geriatric massage, offers one-hour massages on the first Tuesday of every month for \$70 per visit.

Call Stephanie 413-323-0420 ext. 501 or Kim ext. 508 for appointments.

“Please give 24 hours’ notice of cancellations whenever possible.”

Dental: Manda Day, RDH of Mobile Dental Hygiene Services of Western Mass, LLC, will be taking appointments on the third Friday of every month. She will offer dental cleaning, exams, fluoride treatments, oral cancer screening, assessment of dentures, and denture cleaning. She accepts private pay patients as well as Mass Health.

Call Manda Day directly for dental

appointments and pricing at 508-341-1599.

Groups and More

Quabbinaires: Bundle up, and get ready for some fun and beautiful winter walks; the group walks on most Tuesday mornings at 9 a.m., weather-dependent. The Senior Center will send information at the beginning of the month to all those who have registered with details and locations for walks planned. Walks last about an hour and a half, and range from flat pavement, to moderate trail hikes.

Senior Center Book Club: Meets on Monday, Dec. 18, at 10 a.m. and the third Monday of every month. This month the group will be discussing “The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo” by Taylor Jenkins Reid.

Declutter Group: Join organizing professional Becky Martin on Friday, Dec. 1, at 10 a.m. and the first Friday of every month to learn clutter-reducing techniques, and downsizing tips, that will help you get organized, and stress less this holiday season.

Grief/Loss Support Group: If you’ve suffered a loss, and feel that you need some help working through difficult emotions, join Liane Smola for help. This group meets on the first Wednesday of every month at 12:30 p.m. and is sponsored by Beers and Story Funeral Homes and Cremation Services.

Rainbow Social Group: Join Elaine and the LGBTQIA+ Community and Allies on Wednesday, Dec. 13, at 10 a.m., and the second Wednesday of every month.

“We are proud to offer this affirming and inclusive social group,” the COA released.

For more events and offerings, contact the Belchertown Senior Center, 60 State St.

Holiday pet supply sale this weekend

BELCHERTOWN - Belchertown Animal Control is planning a holiday Pet Supply and Gifts Sale from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 2, at the shelter, 165 George Hannum St.

“Donations of clean, usable items will be gratefully accepted between now and Dec. 1,” Animal Control released. “There is an outside donation bin at the shelter that is accessible at all times. Please don’t leave items outside the bin.”

Animal Control released that it “always uses donations first for the animals in its care, but because of the overwhelming generosity of the community, there are

always items that just can’t be used.”

“Those items go into the sale and all money goes to the Gift Fund which is used for the animals in our care and for outreach to the community.”

Town Hall closed Dec. 6

BELCHERTOWN - The Belchertown Town Hall and the Finnerty House will be closed to the public on Wednesday, Dec. 6, for staff training.

Regional coat drive ongoing

WILBRAHAM - Margolis Orthodontics will be holding a coat drive now through Dec. 31. Donations will be accepted at their office located at 3 Crane Park Drive, Suite

5, Wilbraham, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

“Together we can make a difference,” a press statement reads.

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COMMUNITY

Deadline upcoming for town board, committee vacancies

BELCHERTOWN – The town’s Select Board is seeking citizens to share their expertise by serving on a town board or committee.

Those who have time and are interested in getting involved in the town’s activities are asked to 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 select-board@belchertown.org.

The town has announced that it wishes to fill the following vacancies:

Opioid Settlement Fund Advisory Committee

One Community Member At-Large seat

This committee will advise and make recommendations on the spending of Opioid Settlement Funds.

Deadline: Friday, Dec. 1

Agricultural Commission

Two associate non-voting member seats

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.

Deadline: Friday, Dec. 1

Trail Stewardship Council

One vacancy

The town wishes to fill a vacancy to represent landowners of the town on the Trail Stewardship Council. Interested individuals should be knowledgeable about local land use and related issues. Additional information specific to this council can be found at newenglandtrail.org.

Deadline: Friday, Dec. 1

Animal Control Advisory Board

Three vacancies

This board has the authority to conduct hearings as allowed in the town’s by-laws and pose reasonable conditions as deemed appropriate. The ideal applicants may be a dog breeder, a dog trainer, a veterinarian, a non-pet owner from the community, a medical professional specializing in emergency medicine, an animal enthusiast or caregiver, a pet owner, and/or interested residents.

Deadline: Friday, Dec. 1

Communications Committee

Two full-member seats

The purpose of this committee is to develop a communication plan for the town of Belchertown, to improve information flow from the town to the public. Experience with mar-

keting, communications, and/or social media is highly preferred.

Deadline: Friday, Dec. 1

Belchertown State School Buildings and Grounds Committee

One full-member seat

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

Deadline: Friday, Dec. 1

Belchertown Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force

One community member vacancy

The focus of the Task Force is to develop a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement for the Select Board to review and to consider adopting, to seek out opportunities to acknowledge and/or celebrate the diversity within the community, and to welcome the whole community to join in, offering suggestions on how the town addresses

Please see **VACANCIES**, page 5



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Resident presented with 'super raffle' winners' check

Frank Cowdrey, Belchertown Lions Club Treasurer (left) presents Belchertown resident Roland Boucher with one of the winners' checks at its 37th Annual Super Raffle held at the Mill Valley Golf Links on Nov. 18. In total, \$21,000 in prize money was handed out that evening. Proceeds from this event and the many other fund-raising endeavors throughout the year allow the club to sponsor both the Girl and Boy Scout troops in the town, provide scholarships to graduating seniors of BHS and Pathfinder Regional Vocational HS, monetary support for the four churches' Food Banks, the town's Council on Aging Senior Center, the Veterans Service Organization, and to many other charitable causes in the community.

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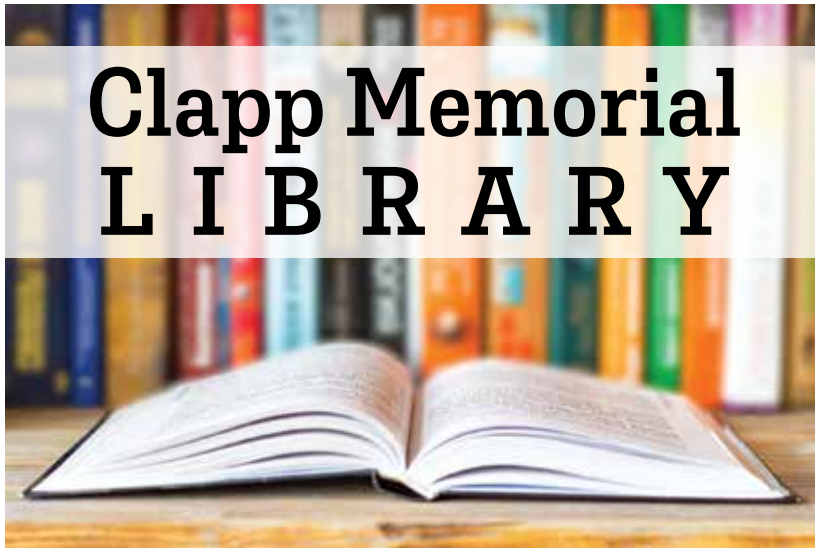
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Clapp Memorial LIBRARY

December events:

BELCHERTOWN – The Clapp Memorial Library will be closing at 1 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 22, and will be closed on Saturday, Dec. 23, and Monday, Dec. 25, for the Christmas holiday.

The library will be closing at 1 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 29 and will be closed on Saturday, Dec. 30, and Monday, Jan. 1, for the New Year's holiday.

Additionally, the Clapp Memorial Library has announced a list of upcoming events for December:

A Musical Afternoon with Peregrine Road

Saturday, Dec. 2, from 3-4 p.m.

A concert of Celtic, English country dance, French, and contra dance music with Karen Axelrod (piano and accordion) and Rachel Bell (accordion).

"Peregrine Road will take you on a journey from a quiet, healing space with achingly beautiful waltzes to the exciting feeling of a crowded dance hall with energetic reels and then on a stroll into a Parisian cafe. There will be something for everyone: old tunes, new tunes, relatable stories, and good laughs."

Funded by the Friends of the Clapp Memorial Library.

Music with Pop

Wednesdays, Dec. 6, 13, and 20, at 10:30 a.m.

Music with Jacques Hooten, aka "Pop," in the Children's Activity Room, geared toward ages one to six. Spaces will be filled first by children who reside within Belchertown, the library released.

"Enjoy singing and dancing in this interactive music series."

Registration and confirmation are required; visit clapplibrary.org to register. These events are funded by the Friends of the Clapp Memorial Library.

Hospice 101

Thursday, Dec. 14, from 1-2 p.m.

"Everything you wanted to know but were afraid to ask," the library released. "There are so many questions when it comes to hospice care, from when to consider it, to the expectations of family and caregivers. The first part of our educational series is to break down all myths and facts concerning hospice care so that you can make thoughtful decisions if ever faced with the question, 'should we consider hospice services?'"

There will also be time afterward for Q & A.

Part of the series "Hospice Informational Series—From Start to Finish, Understanding Home Health Care."

Teen Crochet Night

Wednesday, Dec. 20, from 5:45-6:45 p.m.

Learn how to crochet an amigurumi tea bag bookmark at the Clapp Memorial Library's next Teen Crochet Night. All materials will be provided, although teens are encouraged to bring their own 3.5mm crochet hook if they have one. Teens new to crochet may also attend. Email clapplibrarytab@gmail.com or visit the library to register.

Teen Movie Night

Thursday, Dec. 28, 7-9 p.m.

Teens in grades 7-12 are invited to a movie night at the Clapp Memorial Library over the holiday break. The library will be showing a recently-released movie about a famous plastic doll featuring Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling. Popcorn and pink beverages will be provided. Teens are asked to register by emailing clapplibrarytab@gmail.com.

Story Times

Registration and confirmation are required for the following story times, which feature "age-appropriate stories, songs, finger plays, and art activities."

Babytime Storytime

Mondays, Dec. 4 and 11, Jan. 8, 22, and 29, from 9-9:45 a.m.

Babytime is for ages three to 12 months.

First Steps Storytime

Mondays, Dec. 4 and 11, Jan. 8, 22, and 29, from 10-10:45 a.m.

First Steps is for ages 12-24 months.

Please see **LIBRARY**, page 9

VACANCIES from page 4

specific or potential acts of violence, including hate speech, should such acts arise in the community, region, or state.

"Efforts should be made to include voices from the community or communities that are directly affected," the town released.

Partnership opportunities with surrounding towns to strengthen regional or state efforts might also be explored. This is a seven-member committee to include a representative from law enforcement, a representative from Town Hall, and five community members representing diversity in one or more of the following areas: racial and ethnic backgrounds, social positions with respect to gender identity and sexual orientation, social

positions with respect to disability, and age groups and prior vocational experiences.

All are encouraged to apply.

Deadline: Friday, Dec. 1

Zoning Board of Appeals

One Associate Member seat

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.

Deadline: Friday, Dec. 1

Community Preservation Committee

One at-large seat

The CP Committee studies the community presentation needs, possibilities, and resources of the town.

Deadline: Friday, Dec. 1

Council on Aging

One vacancy

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

Deadline: Friday, Dec. 1

Historic District By-Law Commission

One full-member real estate seat

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

Deadline: Friday, Dec. 1

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

Holiday Season at McCarthy's Pub starts December 14-24

Kids Holiday Kick Off Cookie Decorating Party Thursday, Dec. 14th 5-8:30
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OPINION



About the fairness of WEP and GPO

Dear Rusty:

I was married to my ex-husband for 30 years. For 14 of those years, I was an unemployed mom and community volunteer. After my sons were grown, I began teaching in California and earned a teacher pension. That teacher pension eliminates all the spousal benefits my husband paid for. How can that be justified? I, like a number of my retired friends, rent out rooms in my house to be able to live on a small teacher's pension and get none of my earned spousal benefits.

Signed: Frustrated Teacher

Dear Frustrated Teacher:

I can only say that your frustration is shared by many retirees from public service in States, which do not participate in the federal Social Security program, that is, neither the employee nor the State contribute to the federal Social Security program. There are about 26 states including California, which exempt at least some of their employees and themselves from paying Social Security payroll taxes, but those states are obligated to provide retirement benefits robust enough to offset the loss of Social Security benefits, which will occur later in life after the employee retires.

As controversial as these laws - the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset are, they have withstood legal challenges since they were enacted four decades ago. Because you have a "non-covered" pension from your state employment, WEP reduces any personal Social Security retirement benefit you may have earned elsewhere and, to your specific point, the GPO has eliminated the spousal benefit you might otherwise have been entitled to from your ex-husband.

Like you, many who are affected believe this to be unfair, but Congress has steadfastly failed to enact legislation to repeal these provisions or even to soften their impact. The likely reason is that Congress has evaluated the fundamental premise of the provisions and concluded they appropriately equalize the way benefits are paid to all Social Security beneficiaries.

It might help to think of it this way: in normal circumstances, if one spouse has a personally earned Social Security retirement benefit, which is more than 50% of their partner's Full Retirement Age amount, no spousal benefit is paid (the spouse benefit is offset by the recipient's own SS retirement benefit).

The GPO, the provision which affects SS spousal and survivor benefits) applies that same logic for a spouse who has a "non-covered" pension earned outside of the Social Security program, their spousal benefit is offset by the amount of the person's own "non-covered" retirement pension. The one difference is that the GPO offset is actually a bit smaller (2/3rds of the non-covered pension vs. 100% offset for a spouse with their own SS retirement benefit).

Both WEP, which reduces SS retirement benefits and the GPO, which reduces spousal or survivor benefits, are consequences of working for a State which has chosen to not participate in the federal Social Security program, and those states are obligated to inform their employees of those consequences. I know that doesn't make your situation any less frustrating, but Congress "justifies" these provisions as being necessary to equalize how benefits are paid to all Social Security beneficiaries.

There are about 2 million beneficiaries affected by WEP and over 700,000 affected by the GPO, most of whom share your displeasure. Nevertheless, Congress has so far maintained both these provisions as originally enacted. If you wish to add your voice to those who believe WEP and GPO are unfair, you may wish to contact your federal Congressional Representatives to express that point.

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.



LETTERS

'Bail Commissioner'

Saw the ad in the newspaper, on a page
No benefits it said—not for a wage
To free a prisoner
Hire a slave
For forty dollars
Prisoner walks away
Bail Commissioner looking for a hire
To do a job they do not want to do—
uninspired
Needing a clerk early morning
Even when it's really pouring
Qualified and dignified

Looking for a job, blue inside
I was a cop; I know what they think of
me
That is why they ghosted me
Bail Commissioner to be hired in the
state
To do a job involving hate
The justice system is like a sport
A disgusting system—the Trial Court.

Lee Belisle

'Thank you, volunteers'

Dear Editor,

As we take stock of things for which we are thankful, I would like to express my appreciation to the quiet volunteers who regularly deliver food to our local food programs. These volunteers bring donated food from Stop & Shop to food programs at the United Church of Christ, St. Francis Church, Dwight Chapel, and the Belchertown Senior Center.

Of course, none of this would be possi-

ble without the assistance of the employees at Stop & Shop, the food program volunteers, and especially those members of the Belchertown community who regularly support these efforts with donated food.

If you would like to help by donating non-perishable foods, look for the orange bins just past the checkout lanes at Stop & Shop.

Yours thankfully,

Cliff McCarthy
Belchertown

'Before the Trees Were Lit'

Written in honor of the Belchertown Cultural Council and the many volunteers who make Winter Night Light such a wonderful community celebration:

before the countdown
before the trees lit up
with snowflakes and shooting stars
before hundreds cheered as one
a fingernail clip of moon
smiled down on the Town Common
six-foot red-clad wooden soldiers
stood sentry around the gazebo
hot chocolate fortified our bodies
and spirits against late-November wind

strangers shared candles to light
others' smiles in the circular glow
the children's choir shouted out carols
enthusiasm more important than musical
prowess
draft horse-pulled wagon clomped
around the block
serving an endless line of would-be riders
for a moment I feared
I had lost you in the crowded shadows
then I felt you take my hand

Marianne Gambaro



Christmas-time questions for the Garden Lady

A reader from Palmer wrote in with this holiday question for the Garden Lady: "I enjoyed your wreath-making column last week. I thought it was interesting that you advised scouring the landscape for suitable greenery. Overgrown boxwood shrubs are plentiful at home. Can I harvest the tips for making my own holiday wreaths and swags? If so, how do

I ensure that the shrubs look good come spring?"

Yes, you can certainly harvest boxwood, especially since your plants are considered "overgrown." A haircut doesn't sound as if it will do much harm, even though it's the off season.

Rather than snip just the tips, however, insert your clippers further into the plant where the growth has become woody. Cutting deeper in several random spots will make "windows" for new growth, at a reduced size!

The addition of boxwoods to your wreaths, planter boxes and swags will offer a nice variation in texture to coarser greenery.

Tabletop "trees" made almost entirely out of boxwood make great Christmas centerpieces.

Here is how you do it, straight from the archives: Cut a piece of wet floral foam

Please see **GARDEN**, page 7

Turley Publications Letters to the Editor Policy

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

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I received an email from a Brimfield resident. He said he had a few song sparrows in his yard in late October along with white-throated sparrows.

The song sparrow is six inches long and has a whitish breast with brown streaks. A distinguishing mark is a black, central spot on its chest. The song sparrow's crown is reddish brown and it has gray eyebrows. Its tail is long and rounded. Song sparrows feed on the ground eating seeds, insects and some fruit.

This sparrow's song is a few repeated notes followed by a rich and varied warble. Its call includes a "tsp" and "tchump." The female lays three to five greenish, white eggs with dark marks in a cup like nest of grasses and occasionally leaves. She place the nest on the ground, in a

shrub or weeds.

The male song sparrow defines his territory by singing from prominent perches in about 1/2 to 1 1/2 acres. The male chases the female away when she first arrives and reduces the amount of his singing. Courtship includes male diving at the female and her making a trill like call.

Song sparrows inhabit dense shrubs at the edge of open areas such as fields, yards and streams. They inhabit this area year round.



Song sparrow

Other Brimfield birds

The Brimfield resident said he had juncos and one golden crown and one ruby-crowned kinglet. He also saw four male Eastern bluebirds, a pair of house finches and juncos. He said, "The 'best' sighting was a male American kestrel. It was perched on a wire, flew to a tree and then down into the grass where it caught what looked like a mouse or vole."

Cedar waxwings

My daughter and family saw a flock of cedar waxwings eating berries in Granby near Horse Caves.

Pond birds

The Brimfield resident did a tour of some ponds in Brimfield, Sturbridge and Warren recently. He reported lots of Canada geese, but not a lot of ducks other than mallards. He saw two-ringed necked ducks in Warren and a robin eating fruit from a mountain ash tree.

He compiled a list of birds seen Nov. 18 in Brimfield, Sturbridge and Warren. It included 33 mallards, 76 Canada geese, a pair of hooded mergansers (male and female), two great blue herons and two mourning doves.

Feeders

I still have not put out my suet feeder until I am sure the black bears are hibernating. I have lost too many suet feeders to black bears; they either destroy them or take off with them. There must be a pile of them in the woods somewhere.

I do put some bird seed out during the day, but I only put a small amount for the birds. I include shelled peanuts as the tufted titmice, woodpeckers and blue jays love them. Yes, the squirrels do as well.

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

GARDEN from page 6

into an elongated triangle and secure it in your container of choice. I prefer to use a plastic centerpiece base available from the florist - the bottom of the foam fits in perfectly.

From your collection of boxwood or other greens, choose a nice, pointed piece for the top of the tree and place it into the foam an inch or so; three or four inches will be left sticking out the top. If leaves or other stems along the branch are in the way of insertion, remove them first so that the smallest hole possible will be made in the foam.

Now, gauge the size of the rest of your tree by inserting pieces of greenery at the halfway point as well as at the very bottom.

After that, fill in between the top and middle and middle and bottom, turning the foam as you go, so that a multidimensional tree results. Once greenery completely covers the foam, you can decorate it any way you like.

Tiny glass balls, battery-powered lights, dried cranberries or cinnamon sticks are just a few options. Don't forget

to water the tree at the base - the foam will absorb moisture and keep the greens hydrated for weeks of enjoyment.

Marissa, who reads the Ware River News, posed this timely question concerning flowering gifts. "I purchased an amaryllis kit as a gift for my sister. Do you have any tips for to make sure it grows and flowers well?"

Sure! As long as the amaryllis bulb is dry and free of soft spots it should bloom just fine. Like other flowering bulbs, the amaryllis is a self-contained unit ready to do its thing!

Just follow these simple planting instructions: fill the container with moistened growing medium to about one-half to two-thirds full. Position the bulb on top and add the rest of the potting soil- the upper portion and the neck should rest just above the rim of the pot.

The bulb may rot if it stays too wet, so add water only when the soil dries out. Temperatures should be kept around 60 degrees.

Once the sprouting occurs, fertilizer can be added, but the amaryllis will likely bloom well without it. Stake heavy flower stalks as they form to prevent them from snapping.

Keep blooms looking their best for the greatest amount of time by pinching away anthers before they form pollen, and by housing the plant in a cool room of the house.

Pet owners be forewarned, toxic alkaloids present in these tennis ball-sized bulbs can cause vomiting and diarrhea in animals who have consumed them. Dogs, who are more likely to play with and chew objects this size, are at greater risk.

Purdue University states that the stomach upset will likely cure itself within a few hours, but that special medical attention should be given to weak, old, or otherwise in-firmed dogs who have come in contact with amaryllis bulbs.

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

MECHANIC/TRUCK DRIVER – FULL TIME

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

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

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

Starting salary range of \$24.62 to \$32.41 per hour. Applications are available online at www.belchertown.org/human_resources and will be accepted until filled. The Town of Belchertown is an EEO employer; we encourage women, minorities and veterans to apply.

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Vein specialist discusses common causes of leg, ankle and foot swelling

Dr. K. Francis Lee offers insight and advice about when to seek treatment

SPRINGFIELD –Pain and swelling in legs, ankles and feet can happen anytime, but the incidence increases for several reasons as temperatures rise. K. Francis Lee, MD, FACS, RVT, RPVI, founder and med-

ical director of Advanced Vein Care Center in Springfield, part of Center for Vein Restoration, discusses the most common causes of pain and swelling of the lower extremities during the spring and summer, and offers recommendations about when to seek medical care.

“People tend to become more active during the warmer months, which often leads to injuries including bruises, fractures, sprains and strains,” said Lee. “If

you sustain an injury, you can expect some pain and swelling. Ice, rest, and over-the-counter pain medications can treat minor injuries. However, if the pain worsens over time or you can’t bear weight on the affected limb, seek urgent medical care.”

Venous insufficiency, a condition with which Lee, a board-certified general surgeon and vein surgery specialist, has decades of experience, can also cause pain and swelling in the lower extremi-

ties. Those affected may also experience heaviness and cramps or the appearance of spider or varicose veins.

“With venous insufficiency, the valves inside your veins aren’t functioning properly, which allows the blood to back up and pool in the lower veins,” explained Lee. “Pain, swelling and nighttime cramping are often the first symptoms. During

Please see **VEIN**, page 9

EVENT from page 1

teammates and I are hoping that with this tournament, we can raise awareness for this very important issue, by bringing students together from multiple schools for a fun event, while at the same time raising funds and awareness to address this issue,” Marino said.

“It’s more important than ever before that we make mental health and suicide prevention education in schools a priority,” said American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) Executive Director of Massachusetts Jessica van der Stad. “We’re grateful for the captains and seniors of Belchertown’s Varsity basketball team—and their very supportive community—for putting together this event which helps to increase awareness, raise funds to save lives, and remind us that we are not alone.”

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Event organizers Jackson Couchon, Cal Orzech, and Tyler Marino.



DEMO from page 1

tive maintenance,” Martin read.

The committee also expressed interest in partnering with the Recreation Department, creating a multi-purpose meeting space to be used by a variety of community partners and potential gallery.

Martin also spoke to the need from the community, referencing multiple programs like the homework help program, parent education programs and a community closet initiative.

So, the town was at a junction, Williams said, with no funding source and roughly half \$1 million worth of repairs.

In late September, Williams brought a quote for the repairs to the board.

Williams provided information on the estimated \$485,000 in building repairs which included the following:

- \$150,000 for roof replacement
- \$50,000 for a boiler replacement
- \$90,000 for bathroom renovations
- \$45,000 for HVAC repairs
- \$100,000 for window and door replacement
- \$35,000 for exterior siding
- \$15,000 for flooring repairs

He said his concern is that once the work begins on the building, all the projects will need to be done.

A new building on the other hand, would cost the town about \$1.4 million. Demolition was quoted at about \$50,000.

Resident Sean Donovan said he didn’t agree with the cost estimates provided to the board.

“What was proposed instead of fixing the roof and the basics, was a whole list of siding, new doors, a bunch of stuff that added up to \$450,000,” he said. “This is a really valuable community resource. I know that building can be fixed for less than \$500,000, that number is

astronomical. The playgroups are a lifesaver for parents in this community.”

He added that the public should be more notified and be able to ask questions before the demolition process proceeds forward.

Resident Katie Ruell said the board needed to think about the future of the town.

“The goal of the family center is to bring services, programs, and education to families that are under privileged and underserved,” she said. “We have been advocating to get this space up and running...I feel like the board in the town hasn’t been transparent when it comes to the plans for this building. I understand it’s a town building, but there has been no other place that’s been offered to us.”

Resident Jennifer Whitehead spoke about how the family center has been “pushed around” from building to building.

“We don’t have any space for all these things we already own that belong to us. We don’t know what’s going to happen to us and now you’re telling us we have two weeks to figure out what to do,” Whitehead said.

She questioned what the town was offering to families with young children.

“I’ve been involved with the family center since it started... All of a sudden we have nothing after 25 years,” she said. “It doesn’t feel right. It’s not fair to the youth of our town or to the parents and grandparents of our town.”

In the meeting Selectboard member Jennifer Turner said she wanted to say she was opposed to the demolition vote.

“Rightly, we don’t have a plan and we did have a vote. I voted against demoing 51 State St., and I am still in favor of saving the building,” she said.

TAX RATE from page 1

“I started working here 25 years ago and the valuation in that time has gone from \$500,000 to \$2 billion, so that shows that the values have increased due to appreciation and new construction,” he said.

Whelihan explained how the tax rate was calculated.

“The total amount to be raised is about \$61.1 million. The total estimated receipts from outside sources, state enterprise funds, money from fees etc. is \$27.7 million, and the difference is the tax levy,” Whelihan said. “That’s the money we raise through taxation we need to spend, it’s \$33.4 million.”

The levy increased by \$1.2 mil-

lion, which is less than last year’s increase of \$1.39 million. New growth went down compared to last year going from \$470,738 to \$396,000.

To get the tax rate, tax levy is divided by the total valuation in town which is \$15.32. The maximum allowable levy this year is \$33,466,199, but Whelihan proposed \$33,423,256, but wanted to leave \$42,000 to be available for next year.

He said the town is in a healthy position.

“We have a cushion so if we ever needed to have an override, we have a buffer. What’s happened in cities for the last five years, the levy limit raises to the levy ceiling, that’s it. You can’t raise any additional revenue,” he said.

Selectboard Chair Ed Boscher asked how the residential and commercial valuations compare to surrounding communities.

Whelihan said Northampton has 18 percent commercial and Amherst is around the same.

The Board could have opted to increase the commercial/industrial rate, which would decrease the residential rate.

Selectboard member Ron Aponte said he believed that voting for anything by a residential factor of one was “bad business.”

“It makes us very, very unmarketable to existing businesses as well as pulling businesses in. We’re in competition with other towns as Jay had indicated in his presentation,” Aponte said. “It would be disadvantageous to our marketing position.”

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GRANBY



SUBMITTED PHOTO, GRANBY PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Granby Public Library has announced upcoming events for December, including a town-wide scavenger hunt to find six missing "Library Snowmen" in town.

Holiday-themed events scheduled at GPL

GRANBY – The library has announced two upcoming events this month:

Annual Holiday Knit Sale & Hot Cocoa Bar

Saturday, Dec. 2, from 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

The Friends of the Granby Public Library and the Library Knitting Group are sponsoring their Annual Holiday Knit & Basket Sale. Refreshments will include a free Hot Cocoa Bar for patrons from 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

"You may also pick up a clue sheet for our 'Snowman Scavenger Hunt' through the Town of Granby," the library released.

All proceeds benefit Library

Programming.

There's Snow Place Like Home Scavenger Hunt

The Granby Library is holding its third annual town-wide scavenger hunt starting on Saturday, Dec. 2.

"There are six missing Library Snowmen lost within the Town of Granby. Pick up your clue sheet at the Granby Public Library. Once you find all six snowmen, return the sheet to the library and receive a raffle ticket for one of the raffle prizes."

Prizes are sponsored by the Friends of the Library and local businesses. There will be a prize for adults and one for children. Please contact the library for more information at 413-467-3320.

Granby Town Clerk offers community reminders:

Tomorrow is last day to register to vote for STM

GRANBY – The Town Clerk has offered several reminders for the community about the upcoming Special Town Meeting, which will be held on Monday, Dec. 11, at the East Meadow School in the gymnasium at 7 p.m.

"All residents participating must be registered voters. Eligible voters will receive a card when checking in, the doors will open at 6:15 p.m. for check in," Katherine A. Kelly-Regan, Granby's town clerk, released. "Please park in between the two

schools near the softball fields."

Residents may view the warrant for this meeting at the following public buildings: Town Hall Annex, 215 B West State St.; Select Board's office at the COA Building, 10 West State St.; Granby Post Office; Public Library; Public Safety Complex; Florence Bank; and Polish National Credit Union.

The warrant can also be viewed on the town's website at granby-ma.gov.

Additionally, the last day to register to vote is Friday, Dec. 1.

"If you are not a registered voter and wish to participate at this STM, the last day to register to vote for this STM is Friday, Dec. 1," Kelly-Regan released.

Residents may register any-

time during regular office hours in the Town Clerk's office; they may also pick up mail-in voter registration forms at the Granby Post Office, download a voter registration form, or register on-line with a valid MA Driver's License or Mass ID by going to the town website, granby-ma.gov, under "Town Clerk Department - voter registration."

Mail-in forms must be post-marked by Dec. 1, 2023, to be eligible to participate in this Special Town Meeting.

"If you are not sure on your voter status, please call the Town Clerk's office for verification."

Any questions or concerns can be directed to Kathy Kelly-Regan at the Granby Town Hall, 413-467-7178.

Granby Library announces nature story times

GRANBY – The town's library has announced two upcoming nature story times and fun with Ranger Tasha.

The events are for ages three and up, and homeschoolers are welcome, according to the library.

Tuesday, Dec. 5, at 10:30 a.m.
What Animal Is It?

"Learn how to identify what animal you hear outside by the sound it makes. Check out feathers from local birds, fur from a gray fox, and more."

Tuesday, Dec. 12, at 10:30 a.m.

Animal Tracking

"How do you know what animal track you see in the snow?"

Make a track mold, identify some skulls and pelts."

All library programs are free of charge and open to the public. The Granby Free Public Library is located at 297 East State St., Granby. Call the library at 413-467-3320 during open hours for more information.

POLICE from page 1

"Every threat, whether rumored or explicit, receives the highest level of attention and seriousness. Out of abundance of caution, there will be an increased police presence within the district...throughout the week."

There was no additional information or evidence immediately available at press time "indicating any specific or credible threats" to the schools.

"Please keep in mind we have a presence all during the school year regardless of threatening emails that come forward," the police department added. "Also please understand that this incident has been investigated and there is no information or evidence indicating a specific or credible threat to any of our schools."

LIBRARY from page 5

Toddler Time

Tuesdays, Dec. 5 and 12, Jan. 9, 16, and 23, from 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Toddler Time is for children two years old.

Preschool Storytime

Thursdays, Nov. 30, Dec. 7 and 14, Jan. 11, 18, and 25, from 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Preschool Story Time is for children ages three to six.

The library is open:
Monday, 9:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Thursday, 9:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Friday, 9:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Saturday, 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

The library is located at 19 S. Main St.; visit claplibrary.org for more information.

VEIN from page 8

warmer weather, the veins expand and hold more blood, intensifying pain and pressure. Untreated, venous insufficiency can lead to varicose veins, venous stasis and venous ulcers, as well as other serious consequences, so it's important to see a vein specialist for evaluation and treatment."

The sudden onset of significant pain and swelling, particularly if it affects only one leg, may indicate a blood clot or deep vein

thrombosis, which can be deadly and requires immediate medical care, according to Lee.

"Blood clots can happen to anyone at any age, but several factors can put you at higher risk. Risks include being inactive for an extended period, such as when you are on a plane for a long trip," Lee said. "Seek urgent medical care if you experience severe, sudden leg pain, swelling and fever as well as redness, warmth, itching and burning around the site of the pain."

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DEATH NOTICES

James William Meighan
Died: October 24, 2023

Robin LaBorde
Died: November 17, 2023
Visitation: December 8, 2023

Rita May (Dugre) Brougham
Died: November 15, 2023

OBITUARIES

James "Jim" William Meighan 

BELCHERTOWN – James "Jim" William Meighan, 55, passed away on October 24, 2023 after a three month battle with unexpected heart failure. Even though a failing heart took him away from this world, Jim's loving heart left a beacon of light for his devoted wife, children and extended family.



After graduating from high school, Jim joined the United States Army where he served for six years. Thereafter, Jim graduated from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. Jim was employed by Gulfstream Aerospace for over 25 years as an avionics technician.

Jim's family was his top priority until he took his last breath. He is survived by his wife of 20 years, Jennifer, their daughter, Eleanor and their son, Braeden. Jim is also survived by his mother, Elizabeth, sister, Debbie and her husband Mark Westmoreland, brother, David, in-laws, Christine and Stephen Fletcher, sister-in-law, Kate Fletcher and her husband, Carl Libby, and nieces and nephew. He was preceded in death by his father, Kenneth.

Despite his battle lost, Jim came out a hero and stayed strong until the end, surrounded by the love of his family, with whom he was able to spend his last few days. Jim was so proud of his little family and was steadfastly devoted to Jen, his best friend. Ellie and Brady were the lights of Jim's life, and he will rest easy knowing that he and Jen raised two strong, intelligent and compassionate children.

Jim's family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the staff at Brigham and Women's Cardiac ICU, although no words of thanks will ever be enough. Their care and compassion was remarkable.

In lieu of services, and to honor Jim's character, we ask that you spend extra time with your family, and simply hug them a little tighter. Memorial donations may be made to support Jen, Ellie and Brady at <https://gofund.me/e369cf28>.

Rita May (Dugre) Brougham

BELCHERTOWN - With great sadness, we share that Rita May (Dugre) Brougham



passed away peacefully at home on November 15, 2023. She was born on September 22, 1934, in Chicopee to Dorothy (Cormier) Dugre and Alfred Dugre and was lovingly raised by her Aunt Pearl (Larouque) and Uncle Charles Lucien Dugre. She attended Chicopee Schools. Shortly after her marriage to Harry on Thanksgiving Day 1949, she moved to Belchertown where they started a family. She lived her entire life in Belchertown, which was dedicated to her family. She was a true "home body."

Harry and Rita were married for 71 years. During this time, she supported their family-owned business, H. Brougham Excavating, while keeping the home fires burning.

Rita was expert at creating something special out of every little thing. She was an excellent cook and baker. She enjoyed gardening, preserving food by canning or freezing, knitting, sewing, and quilting. She was an avid square dancer and country music enthusiast. She especially enjoyed her trips to the Grand Ole Opry in Tennessee. Although she traveled extensively with Harry across the country and in Canada, she would always say, "there is no place like home." If you visited her home, the first thing she wanted to do was feed you. She started the tradition of baking homemade cookies for all Belchertown Fair volunteers on Tent Sunday. The second thing she might do is show you her Santa room as she loved everything Christmas, all year long.

She is predeceased by her mother Pearl and her father Charles Lucien, her brothers

Leo, George, and Clement. She is predeceased by her husband Harry in 2020, her son Mickey, missing in 2010, her grandson Scott 1998, triplet grandchildren; Hannah, Katie, Michael 1989, and son in law Kevin Brown in 2021. Rita lovingly held a special place in her heart for those who passed.

She is survived by her daughter Cindy Brougham Brown of Belchertown, son Gary Brougham and his wife Sandy (Opalowski) of Belchertown, son Brian Brougham and

his wife Bonnie (Zwingelstein) of Ware, daughter Fran Lofland and her husband Nathan Thompson of North Yarmouth, Maine, and daughter Carla Chaisson and her husband David of Ware. Rita is survived by eight grandchildren; Becky, Graham, Jennifer, Adam, Larissa, Dakota, Molly, and Nicholas, four great-grandchildren; Zachary, Zane, Jackson and Olivia, and one great-great grandchild Adeline.

Rita loved her children and grandchildren very much and enjoyed caring for them and supporting them. She was always proud of their accomplishments and looked forward to receiving letters and pictures from afar to stay informed of their accomplishments.

We extend special thanks to her devoted caregivers, Dakota, Nicholas, Bev, Laurie, Sheryl, Vicki, Wendy, and Kathy who provided daily support and care, becoming extended family.

Arrangements are to be determined. In lieu of flowers, please donate to the BPD K9 Program at:

Town of Belchertown, BPD K9 Gift, PO Box 901, Belchertown, MA 01007.

Please visit www.beersandstory.com to extend online condolences.

The Sentinel
OBITUARY POLICY

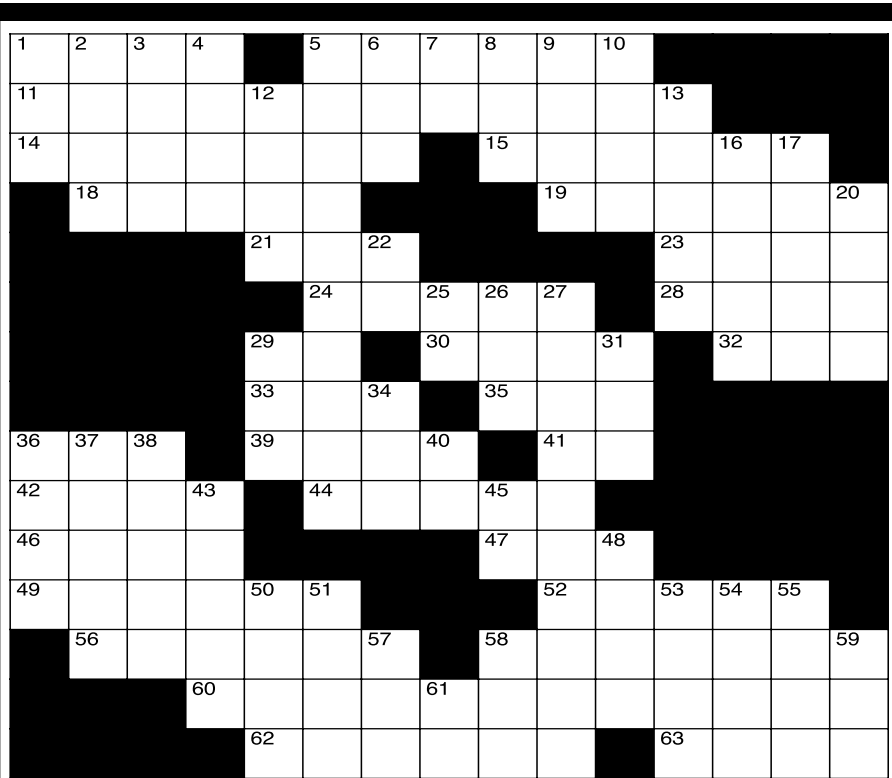
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Old English letters
- 5. Sculpture
- 11. Showing up again
- 14. Tie the knot again
- 15. Washington city
- 18. Stiff structures in invertebrates
- 19. Mark over a vowel
- 21. Explosive
- 23. Popular race: ___ 500
- 24. Pile up
- 28. Mint
- 29. Commercial
- 30. A minute amount (Scottish)
- 32. Small Eurasian deer
- 33. Baseball stat
- 35. Numbers cruncher
- 36. Japanese masked drama
- 39. Gasteyer and de

- Armas are two
- 41. Blood group
- 42. Assist in wrongdoing
- 44. Language spoken in Cameroon and Chad
- 46. Grayish-white
- 47. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
- 49. Microorganism
- 52. Place under prohibition
- 56. Calm, dependable
- 58. Congressman
- 60. Force
- 62. As a result of this document
- 63. One of two main branches of Islam

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Make a mistake
- 2. Gordon and Snider are two

- 3. Geographical region of Finland
- 4. Ejected saliva
- 5. A way of performing
- 6. Scotland's longest river
- 7. One of the six noble gases (abbr.)
- 8. Body art
- 9. Two-toed sloth
- 10. Electronic counter-measures
- 12. Foolish person (Brit.)
- 13. Of the wind
- 16. Grand home
- 17. Sound
- 20. English river
- 22. Symbol indicating ownership
- 25. Exclamation of surprise
- 26. Pouch
- 27. Apart from
- 29. Satisfaction
- 31. The bill in a restaurant
- 34. Sea bream
- 36. Port in southern Japan
- 37. Double-reed instruments
- 38. Center
- 40. South Dakota
- 43. An orderly crowd
- 45. Indicates position
- 48. ___-pedi
- 50. Nonsense (slang)
- 51. Republic of Ireland
- 53. Nocturnal flyers
- 54. American state
- 55. Clusters in fern fronds
- 57. Patriotic women
- 58. A person's brother or sister
- 59. Breed of sheep
- 61. Popular film "Despicable ___"

Robin LaBorde

GRANBY - Robin LaBorde, 68, passed away November 17, 2023. He was born on December 9, 1954, in Springfield, Mass., to the late Frank and Phyllis (Sprissler) LaBorde. Robin was a 1973 graduate of Granby High School and a 1978 graduate of Holyoke Community College where he earned an Associate's in Arts and Science.



Shortly after graduating high school, Robin was greatly influenced by Ted Duda of the American Turners of Holyoke, where Robin became a student. Gymnastics became a true passion of Robin, and he began teaching gymnastics in 1980 until retiring in 2014 from Louise Noels Dance & Gymnastics of W. Springfield. Robin also worked as an automotive mechanic at Sears Roebucks of W. Springfield and the Holyoke Mall.

Robin volunteered as a Cub Scout Leader, at the Assistant 4-H Barnyard Buddies Club, and for the Convention of States.

Robin was a dedicated family man and he loved his family dearly. In 1981, Robin married his best friend, Jane, and together they built a home and raised a family. Robin will always be remembered for his

dedication, compassion, loyalty, and his love for his wife, children, and grandchildren.

Besides his parents, Robin was preceded in death by his siblings, Theodore LaBorde of Easthampton and Sandra Rondeau of Ludlow.

He is survived by his loving wife of 42 years, Jane (Taksar) LaBorde; children, Robert C. LaBorde and Brigid Kearney (Dawn LaBorde), both of Granby; grandchildren, Pdraig Robin Kearney and Saoirse Jane Kearney; and his brother, Frank LaBorde of Wichita, Kan.

Visitation will be held on December 8, 2023, from 10 a.m. - noon with a Celebration of Life service to begin at noon at the Beers & Story Belchertown Funeral Home. There will be time during the service for family and friends to share personal memories. Burial will be held at the discretion of the family. In lieu of flowers, donations in Robin's name can be made to Massachusetts 4-H (non-profit) by visiting www.mass4hfoundation.org and clicking "donate."

Please visit www.beersandstory.com to extend online condolences.

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Joshua Grillo heads toward the right side on a run.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Orioles blow out Pioneers



Brian Carlin kicks off for Belchertown.

BELCHERTOWN – Last Thursday morning, Belchertown scored early and often, and used turnovers to score even more points in a 61-14 rout of Pathfinder on Thanksgiving morning. The Orioles led 32-0 late in the second quarter after taking advantage of an inside kick and a fumble for a turnover. Belchertown finished the season 8-3 while Pathfinder finishes 4-7.



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



Landon Andre winds up for a long pass.



Branden Hnitecki goes for a tackle.



Nicholas Pfister looks to make a handoff.



Dustyn Cook fields a kickoff for the Pioneers.

Great season for cross country

BY TIM PETERSON
Sports Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN—The Belchertown boys cross country team has qualified for the state championship meet in each of the past three years.

The 2023 Division 3 state meet was held at Fort Devens on November 18.

“We competed in Division 2 the past two years, and we were happy just making the states,” said William Wheeler, who completed his 13th season as the Belchertown boys cross country coach. “We’re now competing in Division 3, and we’ve set the

bar a little bit higher. We finished 22nd at states last year and our main goal this year is to place a little bit better.”

The Orioles qualified for this year’s state championship meet as a team after finishing in fifth place at the Division 3A sectionals, which was held at Northfield Mountain Recreation Center, a couple of weeks ago.

“Every high school cross country team in Massachusetts can compete in the sectionals,” Wheeler said. “The top seven team in each section qualifies for the states.”

Please see **ORIOLES**, page 12



Madysen LePage represented Belchertown in the game.

Orioles, Rams participate in all-star game

SPRINGFIELD – Last Monday evening at Pope Francis High School, the Senior All-Star Games were held. Two games took place, with Class C and D playing in one game and Class A and B playing in another. The games featured the best senior players from all Western Mass. High School girls soccer programs.



Granby's All-Star representatives, Rhea Gagnon and Sophia Gagnon.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Sophia Gagnon made it to the game for Granby High School.

SPORTS

Team effort results in big shutout of Utica

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (10-8-1-0) put together a total team effort and dominated the Utica Comets (6-6-3-0) in a 7-0 shutout win inside the MassMutual Center on Saturday night in the team's Hockey Fights Cancer game.

Vadim Zherenko got the start in the net for the T-Birds and had a perfect performance, stopping all 33 saves he faced on the night for his first career AHL shutout. In the opposite crease, Utica goaltender Isaac Poulter surrendered seven goals on 29 T-Birds shots in the loss.

It was a special night for the Bitten family, as the team donned lavender jerseys for the game to support Will and Sam Bitten and the Bitsy's Army cause. Bitsy's Army was created by the brothers to raise awareness for those battling cancer and to honor their late cousin Martin Piche. Piche tragically passed away from brain cancer back in 2021.

Springfield had several prime scoring opportunities in the opening minutes. Nathan Walker saw

linemate Adam Gaudette sneak behind the Utica defense on the left side, threading the team's top scorer a perfect breakaway pass.

Unfortunately, Gaudette's shot was stopped by the left pad of Poulter.

The work of the Springfield penalty killers got their team on the board first. While creating pressure in Utica's zone, Walker found Matthew Peca for a one-timer in the high slot after stripping a Utica skater of the puck in the left-wing corner. The captain fired home a perfect one-timer for a short-handed goal, his fifth goal of the year, which gave the T-Birds a 1-0 lead at 13:16. The score would remain 1-0 as the teams entered their dressing rooms for the first intermission.

Exactly halfway through the second period, the T-Birds struck once again. Defenseman Matthew Kessel controlled the puck at the blue line before firing a low shot toward Poulter. Although Poulter made the initial stop, MacKenzie MacEachern was there to backhand the rebound home for his fourth goal of the season to make

it 2-0 Springfield. The scoring did not stop after MacEachern's goal. On a power play, Will Bitten snapped a shot on goal from the hash marks. Poulter made the initial stop, but T-Birds forward Mikhail Abramov was there to clean up the rebound with a snapper from the left side. Abramov's goal made it 3-0 with 6:32 to go in the period.

As the period drew to a close, defenseman Dylan Coghlan was taken down from behind by Comets forward Kyle Criscuolo. In response, Wyatt Kalynuk stood up for his teammate and engaged in a fight with Criscuolo. Kalynuk's fight fired up his teammates and the crowd, but there would be mayhem that would follow. After a scrum ensued with multiple players going at it, Gaudette and Utica defenseman Cal Foote were given fighting majors with just 13 seconds left in the period. The T-Birds held on to the 3-0 lead, setting the stage for a third period out of the movies.

The T-Birds added to their 3-0 lead in the third, as Zach Dean ripped a shot home for his first professional goal of his career to make it 4-0 at 4:09 off a 2-on-1 rush. The scoring party would continue after Dean's

goal, as Bolduc capitalized for Springfield's second power play marker of the night at 9:54, beating Poulter on the stick side with a perfectly placed wrist.

It was a poetic night for the Bitten family. With 7:02 to go in the game, Will took the puck and raced up ice before dancing around a Utica defender to go in alone on Poulter. Bitten faked a slapper before slipping a five-hole shot into the twine before pointing skyward in celebration. The poetic script got better just a few minutes later when Will tipped in a Coghlan shot for his second of the night. Sam also recorded a milestone on his brother's second tally, as he notched his first AHL point on the secondary assist.

After having just three points in his first 14 games of the season, Will tallied two goals and two assists on this night alone. It was one of five multi-point performances by Springfield skaters on the evening.

The T-Birds return home next Friday, December 1 for another Deuces Wild Friday to take on Wilkes-Barre/Scranton. Puck drop is set for 7:05 p.m. at the Thunderdome.

Papermen to join Union Hockey League

HOLYOKE – Brian Pratt, president of the Holyoke Papermen Hockey Club, recently announced his team's participation in the newly-formed Union Hockey League. The UHL consists of 16 teams in the northeast and Midwest and is a senior level semi-professional league. Pratt said the Papermen are putting together their roster at this point.

"We have 14 skaters and two goalies signed, looking to add about 8 more players," Pratt said. "We have four preseason games in December and 20 regular season games starting Jan 5."

The schedule for the league has not been released yet and Pratt did not say where the Papermen would be playing their home games. Closest to Holyoke are Fitzpatrick Rink, state-run facility right in Holyoke next to Holyoke High School's Roberts Sports Complex, and nearby is Olympia Ice Center in West Springfield. More information will be forthcoming about the team and the new league as the Papermen prepare to participate in the new league. For more information, go to: <https://www.unionhockeyleague.com/>.

Worcester Railers sweep Thunder

GLENS FALLS, NY – The Worcester Railers HC (7-6-2-1, 17pts) took down the Adirondack Thunder (7-4-2-0, 16pts) on Saturday night by the final score of 4-2 in front of a crowd of 4,297 at Cool Insuring Arena. The Railers are back at home against the Kansas City Mavericks this Wednesday, November 29th at 10:05 a.m. ET.

Neither team scored in the first period as Tristan Lennox was excellent in net for Worcester in the first. He made 15 saves on 15 shots to open the game. Scoring opened in the second as Worcester's Anthony Callin (1-0-1) put Worcester ahead 1-0. Adirondack responded with two straight goals from Travis Broughman (1-0-1) and Yushiroh Hirano (1-0-1) to give the Thunder the 2-1 lead heading into the third. Worcester scored three unanswered in the third from Ashton Calder (1-0-1), Jake Pivonka (1-1-2), and Zach White (1-0-1) to seal the win and the weekend sweep, 4-2.

Both goalies were solid in the first period for Worcester and

Adirondack as Tristan Lennox turned away 15 shots for the Railers, while Jeremy Brodeur made 7 saves for the Thunder.

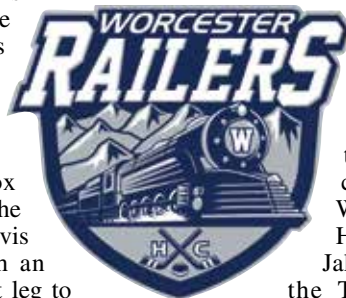
Two of Lennox's saves came in the dying seconds of the first as the Thunder headed down ice on an odd-man rush. Lennox sprawled across the ice and denied Travis Broughman with an outstretched right leg to keep the game level going into the second.

Anthony Callin (4th) unleashed a perfect wrist shot from atop the right circle on a spinning feed from Todd Goehring to give the Railers the first goal of the game. Both Callin and Goehring now have points in four straight games. The Thunder struck back with two straight goals to wrap up the second. Travis Broughman (2nd) picked up a Grant Jozefek rebound and deked around Lennox to tie the game 1-1. Four

minutes later, Yushiroh Hirano (6th) scored on the power play in his third straight game, putting the Thunder ahead 2-1 going into the third.

Ashton Calder (8th) extended his team lead in goals thanks to a great forecheck from Worcester. Keeghan Howdeshell and Jake Pivonka forced the Thunder defense to turn over the puck. As

Howdeshell found it beneath the goal line, he passed it to Calder in front who beat Brodeur five-hole to tie the game 2-2. Jake Pivonka (7th) found the puck alone in the slot about a minute later and beat Brodeur clean glove side to make it a 3-2 Railers lead. Zach White would finish things off with an empty-net goal with just 6.9 seconds left to give Worcester the 4-2 win, picking up all four points this weekend and sweeping the Thunder in Glens Falls.



UMass hosting Pioneer Valley Tip-Off

AMHERST – The Pioneer Valley Tip-Off is a student-run high school basketball showcase featuring some of the best talent in Central and Western Massachusetts. The PVTO was started in 2011 by Scott Moses and Pat Salle, both students at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and it continues to be entirely student-run by the McCormack Student Leaders Club today. The PVTO is

held each December on the University of Massachusetts Amherst campus, where we strive to create a professional environment for fans and players alike. This year's event will be held on Dec. 9 and 10 and will feature teams from throughout the region. A schedule is online at www.pioneervalleytip-off.com. All games will be held at the Mullins Center on the UMass-Amherst campus.

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Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching "turleysports." We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and share

with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.



ORIOLES from page 11

Belchertown wound up finishing in 17th place at the state meet.

"We were hoping to finish in the top 20," Wheeler added. "We finished five spots higher than we did last year."

The Orioles top runner was senior Nathan Fernandes, who finished 90th with a time of 18:20.54.

Fernandes was followed by junior Ben Les (18:29.78), who just missed finishing in the top 100.

"We bond together very well as a team during the course of the cross country season," Les said. "We're in great shape this year, and we're improved a lot since last year."

Belchertown's other five finishers at states on the boy's side were senior Derek Gould

(18:45.3), sophomore Miles McNamara (18:52.52), junior Liam Howard (19:00.52), junior Noah Les (19:02.95), and junior Ty O'Donnell (19:03.92).

"We had two powerhouse runners last year, but we didn't have a clear cut No. 1 runner this year," Wheeler said. "We would have a different runner finish first in almost every race during the regular season."

Derek Gould, whose younger brother, Ryan, is a sophomore on the cross country team, was a captain this fall.

"This is my fourth year as a member of the cross country team and it's my third time competing at the states," Gould said. "I'm one of the leaders of the team. I hope that I did a good job for the guys. It has been a very special season for us."

The other seniors listed on the

Orioles boy's cross country roster are Caiden St. Laurent, Caleb Perron, Conner Andrews, Gavin Messier, Parker Krol, and Luke Giguere.

"The class of 2024 are hard workers and even when they don't do well in a race, they hold themselves accountable and they try to do better the next time," Wheeler said. "Cross Country is a very difficult sport and there are a lot of kids at this school who are willing to work hard and better their times. The end of every season is always bittersweet for me. It'll be sad not to see these guys every day after school."

One of the Orioles returning runners is junior George Wheeler, who's the son of the boy's head coach.

Seniors Kami Wlodyka and Cameron Ting, who are members of the Lady Orioles cross coun-

try team, competed at the states as individuals. The last member of the girls' cross country team to compete at the state meet was Molly Bail in 2019.

Wlodyka (21:03.51) finished in 34th place, while Ting (23:40.53) finished 139th.

"I have only coached them for two cross country seasons but in those two seasons I have seen them improve a lot," said Noelle Roy, who coaches the Belchertown girls' cross country team. "I have seen them improve in time and physically, but also, I have seen them make a huge effort and improve mentally. It's been amazing to see how far they have come, and I couldn't be happier."

It was the first time that both Wlodyka and Ting qualified for states.

"Competing at the states for the

first time was a great way to end my senior season," Wlodyka said. "I was very excited about it."

"I really didn't expect to make the states this year," Ting said. "I came in 29th at sectionals and that's how I qualified for states. I thought the sectionals was going to be the final race of my high school career. It just felt amazing when I found out that I did qualify."

The other two Lady Orioles seniors are Megan Watts, and Zoe Bate.

"Our other two seniors ran great this year, and I am very happy with them," Roy said "I think everyone on the team did great this season and I am very happy with how it went. Everyone gave it their all and they had fun doing it."

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. 8 through Nov. 13. The information was provided by a member of the police department based on the review of the detailed log summary. This feature is designed to provide context and explanation to some of the calls police respond to every day.

ARRESTS/SUMMONS

Friday, Nov. 10

6:42 a.m. – A summons was issued for a 17-year-old Ware juvenile for charges of negligent operation of a motor vehicle and leaving the scene of property damage/accident.

An officer responded to North Main St. for a report of damage to the lawn caused by a motor vehicle. A vehicle traveling on North Main St. appeared to veer off the road, across a driveway and onto the resident's lawn. There were broken plastic parts and a bumper found on the lawn. The officer heard dispatch report a call from two hours prior about an erratic operator from Route 9 in a black Chevy Trailblazer. The reporting person saw the vehicle go off the roadway. Amherst Police located the vehicle. The operator said they lost control of the vehicle due to offroad tires on their way to a friend's house in Amherst. Photos of the incident were taken. The impact was so significant there was no way the driver was unaware of the damage.

10:31 a.m. – A summons was issued to a 36-year-old Bondsville resident for charges of no inspection sticker, unregistered motor vehicle, and uninsured motor vehicle.

An officer was on Bay Road when a gray sedan passed with an expired inspection sticker on the vehicle. The officer identified the operator, and when the officer ran the plate, it came back as revoked for insurance. The officer informed the person they couldn't drive the vehicle. The vehicle was towed, and a criminal complaint citation was issued.

9:18 p.m. – A 48-year-old Belchertown man was issued a summons on charges of assault and battery. An officer responded to a North Washington St. residence for a disturbance and was advised that neighbors were fighting in a backyard. One person mentioned a firearm. The officer located and identified the parties who said they

were yelling. One person had a bleeding bruise above their eye. The incident was part of an ongoing neighbor dispute. One person was outside and was calling the other names. The person then brandished a firearm and threatened to kill the second person. The person then struck the other with a closed fist. A third person pulled the two apart. There was a video of the incident. The person who punched the other was charged accordingly due to probable cause.

Evan Rudzik, 33, of Apt. 11, 259 North Washington St., Belchertown, was arrested for assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and threat to commit a crime. The other involved party in the incident was also charged on the matter.

Saturday, Nov. 11

1:57 a.m. – Peter Czepiel, 22, of 235 Shea Ave., Belchertown, was arrested on charges of operating under the influence of alcohol and possession of an open container in a motor vehicle. An officer responded to Bardwell St. to find a vehicle parked with its passenger tires off the roadway. The operator slumped over the driver's seat, and the vehicle was on. The officer knocked loudly on the window and tried to rouse the person, observing their chest rising and falling. They woke and were lethargic and smelled of alcohol. The operator turned the vehicle off, and the officer observed an open can of beer in the vehicle. The person said they were over at a friend's house. A field sobriety test was given, and the person was placed under arrest.

Monday, Nov. 13

9:47 p.m. – Jamelys D. Quezada, 25, of 45 Ward St., Worcester, was arrested for a warrant, unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and speeding.

An officer was on Mill Valley Road when they saw a vehicle speeding. The officer stopped the vehicle and ran the person's information. The operator had an expired nonrenewable license and a warrant for failing to appear in court. The bail clerk was contacted, and the person was due in court for two days. A citation was also issued.

Wednesday, Nov. 15

9 p.m. – A 15-year-old Belchertown juvenile was issued a summons for assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery on ambulance person-

nel, assault and battery on a family/household member and assault and battery on a police officer. An officer responded to a residence report of a juvenile destroying the residence. The person made threats to harm themselves. They were transported to the hospital.

Friday, Nov. 17

12:49 p.m. – A 32-year-old Monson woman was issued a summons for charges of unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, uninsured motor vehicle, unregistered motor vehicle and a marked lanes violation. An officer responded to North Washington St. for a report of a single accident. The vehicle was off the roadway facing north on the southbound shoulder. The officer identified the operator, who said they were driving toward town, fell asleep at the wheel and crashed the vehicle. The operator said they struck their head. They were transported to the hospital. The officer found the person's license was expired, and their registration was revoked for insurance reasons. An immediate threat was placed on the person's license.

7:44 p.m. – Raymond Clark, 56, 30 Knight, Belchertown, was arrested on charges of operating under the influence of liquor, negligent operation and failure to stop/yield. Dispatch received multiple 911 calls for a two-car accident at North Liberty St. and Bardwell St. An officer and the Belchertown Fire Department responded to the crash. A vehicle was on the northbound side with an operator and passenger outside of the vehicle. The second vehicle was pulled over on Bardwell St., facing west. An officer spoke with one operator, who claimed they had an injury. They said they stopped at Bardwell St. to cross North Liberty St. They tried to continue east and were struck while crossing the street. The officer observed alcohol on the front passenger's side of the vehicle and a bottle tipped over on the front seat. The operator of the second vehicle said the first vehicle pulled out in front of them, and they couldn't stop in time. The paramedics cleared the people on the scene for injuries. A field sobriety test was given to the operator of the first vehicle. They were transported to the station for booking. Other alcoholic beverages were located in the vehicle inventory.

Saturday, Nov. 18

10:28 a.m. – An officer and Belchertown Fire Department responded to a Chauncey

Walker Road business for a report of a car fire. The vehicle was parked in the driveway of the business. The officer got the registration plate, and a person identified as the vehicle's operator said they pulled the vehicle into the business when it burst into flames. The fire department extinguished the fire. Photos of the vehicle were taken, and the vehicle was towed. Upon review of the person's license, they only had an ID. The 29-year-old Chicopee man was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle without a license.

1:43 p.m. – A 70-year-old Belchertown woman was issued a summons for breaking and entering misdemeanor and trespassing. An officer responded to an apartment complex for a report of a disturbance between neighbors. The officer spoke with one of the residents, who advised they had a no-trespass order on a neighbor who opened their front door while attempting to enter the apartment. The door opened, and the person stepped into the apartment. The resident said they pushed the door closed and locked the door. The involved person left the area in a vehicle before the officer arrived. A witness said the person at the front door contacted the person who was not home. Dispatch confirmed the person had a no-trespass order against the person who pushed open their door. The reporting person was waiting outside while the person returned to their apartment. The other person said they did go over to the first person's apartment despite the trespass order. They said they were letting the person's dog out. The person said they thought they were helping, and the first person reported they didn't have a dog. It had died.

Monday, Nov. 20

8:05 a.m. – A Belchertown male was arrested on charges of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and assault and battery of a family member.

Tuesday, Nov. 21

5:10 p.m. – A 32-year-old Springfield man was issued a summons for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and speeding over the limit. An officer conducting traffic radar on Boardman Road near Eskett S. stopped a vehicle traveling nearly 20 miles over the speed limit. The officer ran the person's information and found they had an expired, nonrenewable license.

Please see **POLICE LOG**, page 15



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PAOLICE LOG from page 13

ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS

Wednesday, Nov. 8

4:13 p.m. – An officer and Belchertown fire responded to a State St. business for a report of a person who was threatening to harm themselves. The person was transported to the hospital.

5:23 p.m. – An officer responded to Federal St. for an accident. A vehicle traveling west on Federal St. went through a stop sign attempting to turn right. The vehicle was struck on its passenger side by a second vehicle. No injuries were reported, and no tows were necessary.

Thursday, Nov. 9

12:41 a.m. – An officer responded to Franklin St. for a report of a juvenile who went to a residence, reporting they were lost. They said they were trying to ride home after visiting a friend's house. The person's parents were contacted and were unaware of their child's departure. A parent arrived on the scene. A 51A report was filed.

11:24 a.m. – An officer responded to Main St. for an accident. A vehicle was traveling north on Main St. when a pedestrian entered the roadway. The first vehicle stopped and was rear-ended by the vehicle behind it. Both vehicles could be driven from the scene, and no injuries were reported.

6:50 p.m. – An officer took a report of a person making threats via Snapchat. The reporting person said a person threatened them via the app with a photo of a firearm. The officer was unable to locate the image on the internet. The School Resource Officer was informed of the matter.

5:30 p.m. – An officer took a report of a child being harassed. The parent called to report the matter and said the child was being threatened. They were unsure if they wanted to press charges on the matter. The officer attempted to contact the involved person and was unsuccessful.

8:19 p.m. – An officer took a report of a threat. They wanted the matter documented.

Friday, Nov. 10

10:40 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident. A vehicle was backing out of a parking space simultaneously with another vehicle. The second vehicle continued backing up and struck the first. No injuries were reported and no tows were necessary.

2:17 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Federal St. A vehicle at a Federal St. business parked at a gas pump was struck head-on by a second vehicle. The operator of the second vehicle didn't realize they were going too far forward and hit the first. There were no injuries reported, and no tows were necessary.

2:52 p.m. – An officer responded to do a well-being check for a juvenile who argued with their guardian and left the residence. The person allegedly made threats to harm themselves. The person was located and was later transported to the hospital.

3:20 p.m. – An officer took a report of a person who said they were harassed. They said a person came out yelling at them, calling them names. The caller continued to state several times they feared the person. The officer advised the caller of their ability to get a harassment prevention order. The caller said they would go to court the next day.

6:21 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Sabin St. A vehicle traveling

northbound struck a deer that ran into the roadway. The deer continued and ran into the woods. The vehicle was able to be driven from the scene. No injuries were reported.

11:39 p.m. – An officer responded to the scene of a box alarm. There was a structure fire on Poole Road. There was a report of heavy smoke and fire from the residence's rear. No cars were in the driveway, and it appeared that no one was home. Physical flames were seen inside the building, which a resident of an adjacent house reported. The keyholder of the property was out of state. Belchertown Fire responded to the scene. A detective responded to aid in an investigation of the cause of the fire. The State Fire Marshal's office was also contacted and responded to the scene. The matter is still under investigation by the Massachusetts State Fire Marshal, Belchertown Police and Belchertown Fire Department.

11:44 p.m. – An officer responded to a report of a threat made to the person after police left the residence from an earlier call. Videos of the matter were provided to officers and documented as evidence. The officer advised the people to apply for a harassment prevention order.

Saturday, Nov. 11

7:45 a.m. – An officer responded to a North Main St. residence for a report of an argument in the area. An involved person said they were worried they would get in trouble because of their behavior and wanted the other person to leave. The argument was verbal, and the involved person packed up and left.

12:01 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on George Hannum Road. A vehicle in the parking lot of a George Hannum

Road business was traveling in the parking lot when a sign fell over. The operator tried to avoid hitting the sign and hit the median with its front bumper. No injuries were reported, and no tow was necessary.

2:08 p.m. – An officer found a debit card left in an ATM. Multiple phone calls were made to the person, and the officer documented the matter. The card was placed into evidence.

4:20 p.m. – An officer responded to an Old Enfield Road property after a trash bag with a jacket inside was located. The previous owner of the residence may have left it there, and the new residents didn't want it. The jacket was placed into property.

Sunday, Nov. 12

10:24 a.m. – An officer investigated a report of images posted on a social media platform.

1:30 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on North Liberty St. A vehicle traveling south on North Liberty St. was struck by a second vehicle. The second vehicle was stopped at a stop sign, and the operator thought they had enough time to get through the intersection but did not. No injuries were reported, and both vehicles were towed.

Monday, Nov. 13

10:11 a.m. – An officer executed a search warrant at a North Washington St. residence for a matter involved in a previous arrest.

1:56 p.m. – An officer reported an accident. A vehicle traveling through a utility work site had metal fall onto the roof. The metal broke a piece of plastic on the roof of the vehicle.

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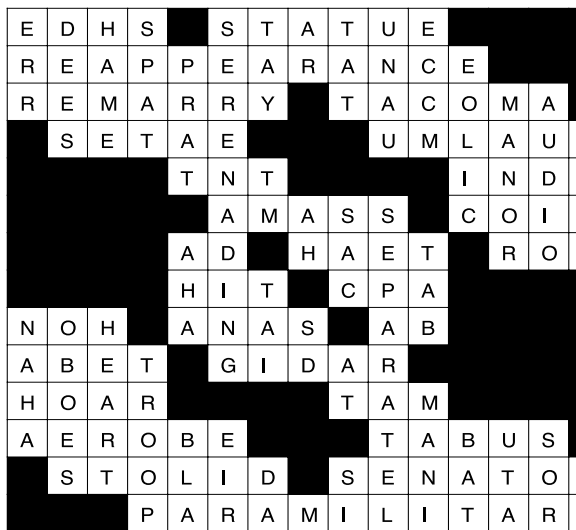
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June 5, 2022
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Deadline for photos and forms is Friday, December 6, 2023

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

Area veterinary hospitals recognized across the region

REGION - Second Chance Animal Services founder and CEO Sheryl Blancato recently accepted not one, but two awards recognizing the nonprofit's vet hospitals in a single day.

The Springfield Regional Chamber awarded Second Chance's Springfield Community Veterinary Hospital with a Super 60 Award in the nonprofit category at a ceremony held on Nov. 9 at the MassMutual Center. The award recognized organizations that have displayed selfless dedication to serving the community through exceptional programming and support.

"We are thrilled to celebrate the incredible diversity and innovation within our business community through this year's Super 60 program," said Diana Szynal, President of the Springfield Regional Chamber. "Small businesses are the heart and soul of our region, and we're excited to celebrate so many nonprofits that make a difference in our community. As we continue to overcome the challenges posed by the pandemic, it's



Springfield Regional Chamber Super 60 Award recognizes Second Chance's veterinary hospital on Mulberry Street.

more important than ever to shine a light on the accomplishments and

unwavering resilience of our local businesses and non-profits."



Second Chance CEO & Founder Sheryl Blancato displays the 2023 Best Veterinary Clinic award.

Later that evening, Second Chance once again took home a

Best Veterinary Clinic award.

"These awards are a testament to the trust and confidence the community places in our commitment to excellence," Blancato said. "They are a reflection of the dedication of our amazing, compassionate vet team and the support of our community. Their generosity has been enabling us to assist more pets at subsidized rates than ever before, ensuring that every pet receives the high-quality care they deserve."

"However, amid these celebrations, we are well aware of the challenges ahead. The demand for our services has reached unprecedented levels, and we are on track to set new records for the number of pets assisted in 2023. In the face of an uncertain landscape in animal welfare, characterized by high inflation, rising housing costs, and a veterinary care crisis, your continued support becomes more critical than ever."

Blancato is urging animal lovers in the community to rise to the challenge at a time when pets need help more than ever before.



Eclectic vintage shop, artists studio opens

By Dallas Gagnon
Staff Writer
dgagnon@turley.com

PALMER - An eclectic, vintage shop and artists gallery opened their doors at 1500 N. Main St.

"The Victorian" will provide locals a convenient shop close to home, offering quality painter's products, painted furniture, unique gifts, candles home decor, and more.

The shop features a wide variety of Fusion Mineral Paint products, including materials to re-purpose, refurbish and re-imagine furniture.

"Fusion Mineral Paint is primarily a furniture paint," said owner Julia Dias. However, she said the paint works well on a variety of materials, such as wood, metal, glass and fabrics.

In addition to the mineral paint, The Victorian will also offer milk paint, stains, antiquing glazes, a variety of decorating waxes and both natural and synthetic paint brushes.

The shop caters to artists seeking to add a splash of color to their homes and get creative with refinishing their furniture.

"I always wanted to open my own shop," said Dias.

She holds a bachelor's degree in fine arts with a focus on interior design from UMASS Amherst.

Dias' experience allows her to provide guests with expertise and a wealth of knowledge in design as well as the Fusion Mineral Paint product line.

"I live for making what is old new again," said Dias. "It's exciting."

She added the Victorian age has always been her favorite period in time, prompting her to scout out the perfect location for her shop.

"It has always been a dream of mine to have a Victorian. The



Submitted Photos

The Victorian is located at 1500 Main St., in Palmer, in the former Moulton Insurance building.



The Victorian carries Fusion Mineral Paint for furniture re-purposing and re-finishing.



For sale are 100% soy candles made in the USA.

building is a Queen Anne with all the traditional moldings," said Dias.

The Victorian was built in 1868 and is 155 years old.

Shoppers will not only have access to a Fusion Mineral Paint carrier locally, but they will also experience the charm of the old Victorian.

The shop features an array of colors, furnishings and art;

some Victorian style, others more abstract.

Vintage style "sassy talkin' towels," are on display, adding style and humor to the main shopping area.

For those interested in purchasing, duplicates are for sale.

Additionally, vintage-style match boxes are available for purchase, delicately wrapped in wax paper and sealed with a postage stamp.



Shown is the shopping area in the building, with items in display cases, which are for sale.



The building is a Queen Anne Victorian, decorated to accentuate the charm and authenticity of the building's architecture.

The Superior Dry Good Vintage Stick matches are a perfect compliment to those interested in gifting a locally sourced, 100% soy, 1803 candle.

Dias said the shop is Victorian themed to add an element of creativity and charm to the guests' experience.

"After the first of the year, we will offer Fusion Mineral Paint workshops" said Dias.

She added services and

products available at the shop will expand within the upcoming year, including the introduction of a parlor styled tea room.

While the room is not yet ready for renting, guests will eventually have the option of renting a Victorian-themed space equipped with art, comfortable vintage furniture, tea table near a decorative fireplace and a large, antique Victrola player.

Guests interested in adding a Victorian touch to their home also have the option of purchasing from a collection of vintage glassware.

Dias thanked and credited her husband, Joao Dias, for all he has done to make her dream come true.

Dias is inviting all to stop by today for all of your unique holiday shopping needs.

Shop is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 11 am to 5 pm and Saturdays 11 am to 2 pm.