

*It's a benefit to us to move forward with the project. It's taxpayer money that the federal government gave us, and I'd hate for them to take it back."*

**GLENN SEXTON**  
Selectboard member

## STM asks voters to decide on \$5.3 million restoration project

BY MELINA BOURDEAU  
Correspondent

GRANBY – In order to get its municipal offices under one roof, the town of Granby is requesting voters to approve a \$5.3 million restoration project of the former West Street School building at a Special Town Meeting next week.

The Special Town Meeting will be held on Monday, Dec. 11, at 7 p.m. in the East Meadow School gym. The vote on funding the West Street building project is the only item on the warrant.

One of the reasons for the project is due to the fact that the town is renting the Town Hall Annex building for \$25,000 annually and

has 18 months to determine what to do with the offices within the building since the property owner is seeking to sell it.

Granby Town Administrator Chris Martin explained the funding sources for the project in a STM information session held last week.

The town proposes to use \$1.8 million in ARPA funds, \$1.4

million in unspent prior general fund articles, and \$2.3 million in unspent capital project articles.

The cost of the project includes installation and/or repairs of a sprinkler/fire protection system, windows and doors, the HVAC system, a water system, and PCB

Please see **STM**, page 9

## BEF honors two community champions for 2023



Belchertown Education Foundation 2023 Community Business Champion Awardee Andrea Bordenca, left, with Board Member Jennifer Faulkner.

BELCHERTOWN - The Belchertown Education Foundation has recently honored Andrea Bordenca and Laura Mankowsky as 2023 Community Champions for their efforts to enable the Foundation to enrich the education of students in Belchertown Schools.

According to a press release, Bordenca was honored as a Community Business Champion for her long-term support as a donor to the Foundation since its inception.

"Her community-minded corporate citizenship as a sustaining donor has helped the Student Success Grant's program to continue to prove grants year after year," the Belchertown Education Foundation (BEF) released. "In addition to being a donor, Bordenca has been an ardent supporter of the Foundation's mission."

Please see **BEF**, page 4



Belchertown Education Foundation 2023 Community Champion Awardee Laura Mankowsky, left, with Board Member Jennifer Faulkner.

## Two-car motor vehicle crash on Route 9 in Belchertown

BELCHERTOWN – At approximately 7:30 a.m. last Friday, two vehicles were involved in a collision at the intersection of Route 9 and Allen Road.

The operator of one of the involved vehicles, a 54-year-old male from Belchertown, was ejected from his vehicle and suffered serious injuries. He was transported to Baystate Medical Center in Springfield where he remained in critical condition as of press time. The driver of the other vehicle, a 29-year-old male from Chicopee, remained on scene and was cooperative with the police investigation.

Anyone who may have observed the collision is urged to call the Belchertown Police at 413-323-6685.

## VFW makes donations to food pantries

BY TINA LESNIAK  
Correspondent

REGION - After a recent merging with the Amherst Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post, South Hadley VFW Post 3104 found itself with some extra money, and with knowledge of the financial strains on local families with inflation and rising costs of living, the Post decided to start the holiday season off with donations to three local food pantries.

"The South Hadley VFW recently merged with Amherst after the sale of its building, and that brought a fair amount of money into the new Sanders/White South Hadley VFW Post 3104," said Michael Slater, a Post member and veterans' agent for South Hadley. "This allowed us to have the funding to make this \$15,000 donation"

Just before Thanksgiving, Post Commander Dave Mendoza presented a \$5,000 check to both the Amherst Survival Center and Ludlow Veterans Center food pan-

try. The Amherst Survival Center offers community meals, a food pantry and fresh food distribution, among several other services, to residents in need. The Ludlow Veterans Center maintains a food pantry for its veterans that is open twice a week to help supplement their food needs. Mendoza presented another \$5,000 check to South Hadley's Neighbors Helping Neighbors food pantry on the Mass Appeal television show.

"Food insecurity affects a large number of local families, especially during the holidays," Slater said. "For us, it was an opportunity to support our local community."

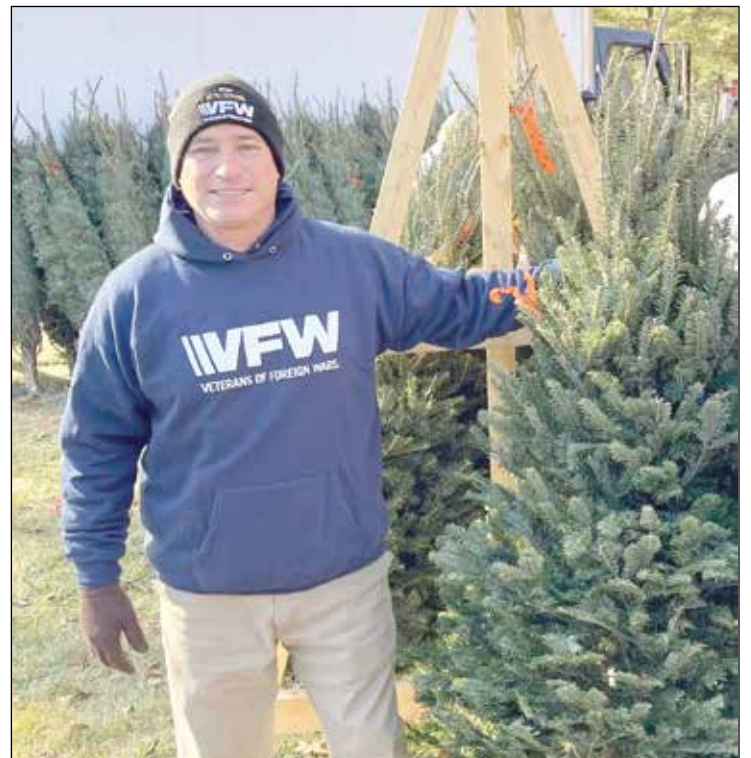
The food pantry donations are just one of the many ways that the VFW Post helps not only local veterans and their families but the larger community as well.

"Each of these pantries provides an amazing level of support to veterans here in western Massachusetts, but our goal is not only to take care of veterans but to support our community in its

entirety," Slater said.

To that end, Slater and the post are looking to explore bringing back the Bag the Community food drive next year. The drive began more than a decade ago and ran successfully until the COVID-19 pandemic. Each year, on the Saturday of Martin Luther King Jr. weekend, community and student volunteers would blanket the town, dropping off empty paper bags to be filled by residents with non-perishable food donations or monetary gifts. Those same volunteers would return to pick up the donations on Monday, sort them through, and get them to the local food pantry. Slater said the goal is to bring back the food drive before the 2024 holiday season.

"The VFW will also be looking to partner with different agencies and organizations over the next few years to increase our involvement in the community, especially now that we cover South Hadley and Amherst," Slater said.



COURTESY PHOTO, SOUTH HADLEY VFW POST 3104

In addition to the donations, South Hadley VFW Post 3104 also recently helped out by distributing Christmas trees to Airmen and families of the 104th Fighter Wing, courtesy of Operation Service.



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**COMMUNITY**

# Belchertown Council On Aging 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 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 pajamas,” 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.

Please see **COA**, page 10



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

## Public Health Nurse receives award

During its November meeting, the Quabbin Health District awarded the Public Health Nursing Award to Public Health Nurse Kirsten Krieger. Director Andrea Crete described her outstanding performance, especially during the pandemic, to maintain community health in the three member towns, Belchertown, Ware, and Pelham. All three Boards of Health attended the televised event, according to reports.



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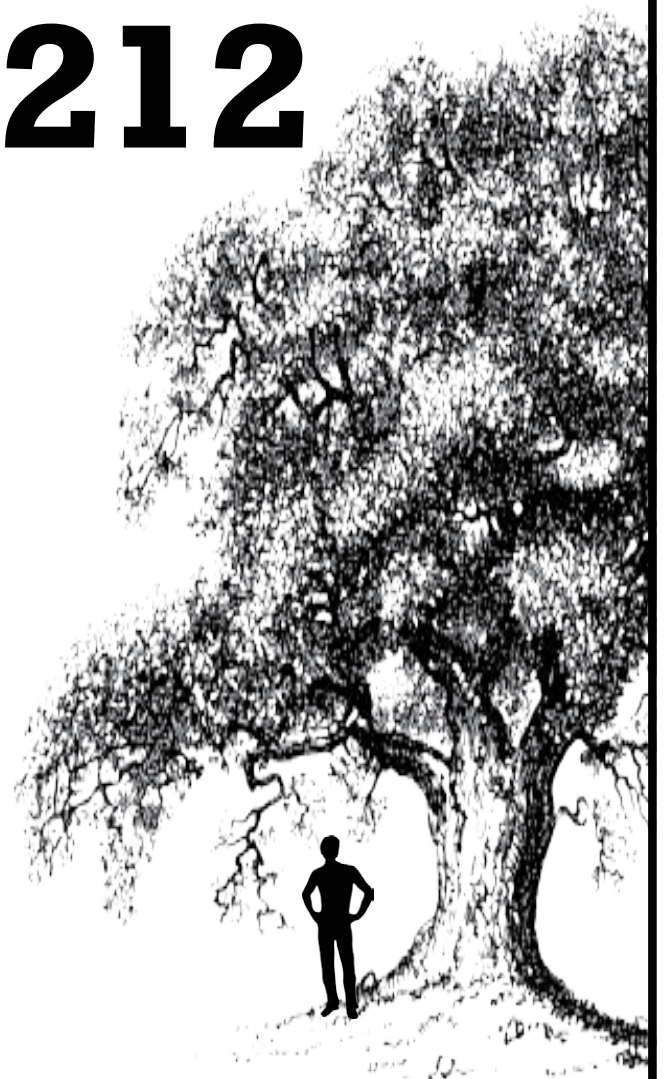
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### December Events

**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:

**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.”

# Clapp Memorial LIBRARY



**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. 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. 11, Jan. 8, 22, and 29, from 10-10:45 a.m.

First Steps is for ages 12-24 months.

**Toddler Time**

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

Toddler Time is for children two years old.

**Preschool Storytime**

Thursdays, 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 clapplibrary.org for more information.

## St. Francis of Assisi announces Christmas Mass Schedule

**BELCHERTOWN** – St. Francis of Assisi Church has announced its upcoming Christmas Mass Schedule.

A Christmas Eve Mass is scheduled at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 24. This is a Children's Pageant Mass.

Christmas Day Masses will be held at midnight, 8 a.m., and 10:30 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 25.

The church is located at 24 Jabish St. in Belchertown.

BEF from page 1

Laura Mankowsky was honored as a Community Champion for dedicating her time and talents in support of the Foundation's fundraising and community events.

“Laura has dedicated countless hours from parking lot coverage fundraisers each year during the Belchertown Fair to selling raffle tickets at an annual McCarthys Pub fundraiser and marching with the Foundation in the Fair parade,” the BEF shared.

“As a community organization, the Belchertown Education Foundation relies on a network of individuals including champions such as Andrea and Laura, who have gone above and beyond to help us sus-

tain our mission,” said Jennifer Faulkner, one of the founding board members of the Belchertown Education Foundation. “We are extremely grateful to Laura and Andrea for always being there to support the Foundation. They are both dedicated to education in other aspects of their lives and the impact each of them has had on the students of Belchertown and our community through the Foundation, is immense.”

In total, the Foundation has awarded 34 grants totaling nearly \$86,000 over the last six years.

The BEF is an independent, volunteer, non-profit organization committed to enriching the educational opportunities of students in Belchertown public schools. Learn more at [www.BelchertownEducationFoundation.org](http://www.BelchertownEducationFoundation.org).

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Thanks,  
The Mill Valley Snowmobile Club of Belchertown





# Town announces updated 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 selectboard@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, Jan. 5*

**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, Jan. 5*

**Animal Control Advisory Board**  
*Two 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 emergen-

cy medicine, an animal enthusiast or caregiver, a pet owner, and/or interested residents.

*Deadline: Friday, Jan. 5*

**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 marketing, communications, and/or social media is highly preferred.

*Deadline: Friday, Jan. 5*

**Belchertown State School Buildings and Grounds Committee**  
*One full-member real-estate 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, Jan. 5*

**Belchertown Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force**  
*Two community member vacancies*

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 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, Jan. 5*

**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, Jan. 5*

**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, Jan. 5*

## Frozen Polish Food sale to occur in Indian Orchard Dec. 9, 16

INDIAN ORCHARD -- There will be a FROZEN POLISH FOOD SALE (Pierogi, Golabki, Kapusta) at Immaculate Conception Church

Hall 25 Parker St. Indian Orchard, on Saturday, Dec. 9, 2023, and on Saturday, Dec. 16, 2023, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. You can also call Jane

Wurszt at 413-543-2835 to arrange a different time. All are welcome to come and purchase.

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## OPINION



### We're planning to claim at 62; what do we need to know?

Dear Rusty:

My wife (born May 1962) and I (born April 1963) are retired and will soon be looking to start collecting our Social Security as we each hit 62. As this is new to us, I'm wondering what things we may need to be aware of or consider as we get closer to her 62nd birthday in May. Any advice or information will be appreciated.

Signed: Planning Ahead

Dear Planning:

If you and your wife are both retired from working and have decided to start your (reduced) Social Security as soon as you are eligible at age 62, then there is nothing you need to do in advance of applying. The Social Security retirement benefit amount for each of you will be determined by your individual lifetime earnings record and your age when you claim. If either of you will be eligible for a spousal boost from the other, that will be automatically applied when both of you are collecting.

If your wife plans to claim her Social Security as soon as she is eligible, she should apply for her benefits about three months in advance and choose the option on the application which states "I want benefits beginning with the earliest possible month and will accept an age-related reduction."

For information, an applicant must be 62 for an entire month to get benefits, so your wife's first month of eligibility will be June 2024. Social Security deals only in whole months and pays benefits in the month following the month earned; so if your wife's birthday is between the 11th and 20th of the month her first Social Security payment will be received in her bank account on the third Wednesday of July. All subsequent payments will be on that same schedule.

Then, when it's time for you to claim, you should follow the same process as your wife and, if either of you is entitled to a higher amount as a spouse, it will be automatically applied when your benefits later start.

Applying for benefits is a relatively simple process if done online at [www.ssa.gov/apply](http://www.ssa.gov/apply). Note that to apply online your wife will need to first create her personal "my Social Security" account, which is easy to do at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount).

To prepare for applying later, you can also create your personal online account now (it's required to apply online), at which you will see what your estimated benefit will be at different ages. Of course, your wife first (and later you) can also call Social Security at 1-800-7721213 to request an appointment to apply for SS retirement benefits in person. Applications which are not done online are usually taken over the phone vs. requiring a visit to your local Social Security office, but applying online is, by far, the most efficient method; you can link to the application process from your online account.

One important thing to be aware of: By claiming at age 62, the monthly payment for each of you will be 70% of what it would be at your Full Retirement Age and that is a permanent reduction.

If you expect at least average longevity about 84 for you and 87 for your wife and if it is financially feasible, then waiting longer to claim would yield a higher monthly amount as well as the most in cumulative lifetime benefits. For those with an FRA of 67, SS retirement benefits claimed at FRA are 30% higher than at 62 and, if claimed at 70 are 75% more than at 62. And, although the decision on when to claim is always personal, a married couple should also evaluate their joint needs when deciding.

One final word of caution: although you and your wife are now retired from working, be aware that if you claim SS benefits before your FRA and return to work, Social Security has an earnings test which limits how much you can earn before some benefits are taken away. The earnings test lasts until you reach your full retirement age.

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



### Seventy-five years and going strong

I was opening the curtains in my bedroom this morning to find that my Babci's Christmas cactus had burst into bloom!

How exciting for an indoor plant to live for seven plus decades, never mind that the last two have been under my care. It's no secret that I am not an indoor plant aficionado, but I do have my favorites, and this is one of them.

Read on to learn about this beloved plant, straight from the archives.

One horticulture related Christmas memory involves my mother's Christmas cactus. I remember the arching, woody stemmed plant on an iron stand in her bedroom; before that it lived in my Babci's house.

Every year, just in time for the holiday, it would flower, putting on quite a show, beautiful and exotic in hot fuchsia-pink.



### Hamilton on Foreign Policy

#### We can fix our broken politics

Americans are fed up with politics. That's the obvious conclusion of a recent survey by the Pew Research Center, which found many of us have "unrelentingly negative" views of politics and elected officials.

It's understandable that people are discouraged. There are plenty of reasons to feel that way.

I'm not especially alarmed at the findings of the survey, however. The key thing is that we maintain an interest in improving our broken politics.

That's critically important.

If the American people were to get so turned off by politics that they refuse to participate, that would be a real problem for our democracy. Fortunately, there's evidence that we haven't reached that point.

Americans have long had a healthy skepticism about political power and those who wield it, but the Pew survey suggests distrust has reached new heights. Some 65% of those questioned said thinking about

Today, only five original branches remain. But if you look closely within the base of the plant, you'll see lots of new growth.

Perhaps if I follow the advice, I have outlined below this heirloom will be blooming in the home of my future grandchildren!

The Christmas cactus (*Schlumbergera bridgesii*) is an epiphyte, native to South America where it happily grows hanging from trees in the jungle. Inside, it prefers a location with indirect light. Positioning it in front of a north or east facing window is best.

During the summer months many people prefer to move the plant outdoors. I have had good luck placing it under the shade of a tree; too much sun will burn its leaves.

When night temperatures begin to dip into the forties it is time to bring the Christmas cactus indoors. Gradually acclimatize the plant to its winter home by increasing the number of hours spent inside each day.

It is very important that the Christmas cactus be planted in a well-drained growing medium. For this reason, either coarse sand or perlite should be added to any homemade potting soil.

A recipe that combines equal parts of either of these along with garden loam and

Please see **GARDEN**, page 10

politics left them exhausted.

More than half said it made them angry. Only a few said it made them hopeful or excited.

Asked to describe U.S. politics in one word, many came up with "divisive," "corrupt" or "chaotic." Asked to identify the strong points of our politics, more than half couldn't come up with anything.

It's obvious that our politics are going through a difficult time.

Congress seems dysfunctional, struggling to pass spending bills to keep the government operating. A single senator has blocked promotions for hundreds of military officers.

Election campaigns are filled with personal attacks. Divisions threaten our support for allies, including Ukraine, a rejection of the adage that politics stops at the water's edge.

Partisanship has reached new heights, with Democrats and Republicans seeming to inhabit separate worlds. The one thing both sides agree on is that our politics aren't working.

Dissatisfaction with politics crosses political, social and demographic lines, according to the Pew survey. It is shared by White, Black, Asian and Hispanic adults. It affects old people as well as young people.

Nearly nine out of 10 Americans say politicians are more focused on fighting each other than on solving problems. Some 28% distrust both major parties, the highest figure in nearly 30 years.

Please see **HAMILTON**, page 10

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**PUBLIC SAFETY**

**Belchertown Police Log**

*Editor's note: The following are brief explanations of select entries in the Belchertown Police log and arrests for the weeks of Nov. 14 through Nov. 28. 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**  
**Wednesday, Nov. 22**

2:28 p.m. – Shemiah Golden, 49, of 121 N Main St., Belchertown was arrested for operating under the influence, negligent operation of a motor vehicle and a marked lanes violation. An officer got a report of a vehicle operating erratically on Ware Road. The officer saw the vehicle go by and cross over solid yellow lines. The officer pulled the vehicle over and identified the operator. A field sobriety test was given and the person was charged accordingly.

9:30 p.m. – Joshua Jansen, 45, of 447 South Washington St., Belchertown was arrested on operating under the influence, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, and failing to drive in the right lane. An officer responded to the area of South Liberty St. for a report of a pickup truck operating erratically. There were reports of the vehicle driving on the sidewalk. Then the officer responded to the area of South St. for a report of a crash. There was a vehicle in front of a residence and there was damage to the front bumper and the vehicle had a flat tire. The person got out of the vehicle and was unsteady on their feet. When asked what they struck, the person said they didn't know. Belchertown Fire and paramedics responded to the scene to evaluate. The person refused treatment and was charged accordingly.

**Tuesday, Nov. 28**

2:38 p.m. – A summons was issued to a Belchertown resident on charges of unlicensed operation of motor vehicle.

**ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS**

**Tuesday, Nov. 14**

7:09 a.m. – A person turned in a black phone into dispatch. It was found around Clark St.

11:57 a.m. – An officer took a report of a person messaged on Facebook about making money. The person conversed with the scammer and was told to send their Cash App information. The person gave their information, including their email and bank account number. There are no suspects at this time.

1:50 p.m. – An officer responded to Warren Wright Road for a report of a traffic hazard in the roadway. Asphalt and a truck in the roadway took up a travel lane. There were multiple complaints about the matter. The officers spoke with people on site who were uncooperative and unwilling to talk with the officer. The DPW was contacted, and the person became argumentative. The officers noted the project was done, and the crew began cleaning

the asphalt in the roadway. The matter was resolved.

3:58 p.m. – An officer responded to a residence for a report of stolen items. The person had dropped off items for another person to do appraisals on. The items were not returned to the owner. The officer was able to retrieve the items. The reporting person was told how to get a harassment order if needed.

7:38 p.m. – An officer responded to a report of a juvenile who left their residence, and the guardians didn't know where the child went. The officer drove around to find the child at the provided locations. The officer was updated that the child had returned home and was throwing items around the residence. A 51A report was filed, and the School Resource Officer was contacted.

**Wednesday, Nov. 15**

4:11 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on State St. near Eksett St. and Barton Road. A vehicle struck a deer, which was still alive. There was damage to the vehicle, which was towed from the scene. The deer was dragged to the side of the road with a bow sticking out of it. A Massachusetts Fish and Wildlife member on the scene reported that a bystander dispatched the deer with a bow and arrow. The person said they shot the deer because they believed the deer was suffering. The representative of the Massachusetts Division of Fish and Wildlife took the deer. The matter is under investigation.

6:08 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Ware Road. A vehicle traveling west on Ware Road struck a deer that entered the roadway. No injuries were reported, and no tow was necessary.

6:31 p.m. – An off-duty officer heard fire personnel going to a barn fire on Boardmen Road in Belchertown. A juvenile reported the fire and said a family member may still be inside the barn. There was heavy smoke from the open barn door. The officer went to the barn and saw a Massachusetts State Trooper speaking with the juvenile's parent. The officer stated they were inside the barn and told the child to call to report the fire. Belchertown Fire Department arrived a short time later. The fire was on the first floor, where a wood stove pipe connected to the exterior of the building. The fire spread to the barn's second floor from the exterior wall. Photos of the matter were taken. It appeared that an improperly installed wood stove caused the fire.

7 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Chauncey Walker Road. A vehicle traveling north on Chauncey Walker Road struck a deer that went into the roadway. No tows were necessary, and no injuries were reported.

7:20 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Chauncey Walker Road. A vehicle was traveling south on Chauncey Walker Road struck a deer that went across the roadway. No injuries were reported, and no tows were necessary.

**Thursday, Nov. 16**

1:11 p.m. – Officers documented emptying the drug take-back box in the station and secured its contents into property.

6:38 p.m. – An officer responded to a

Main St. residence to assist a person who reportedly sent texts with suicidal threats. The person was transported to the hospital.

6:54 p.m. – A person called to report an elderly family member was missing for four hours. The person said the family member left and was supposed to come home but had yet to return. They checked the area the person was known to frequent. The officer followed up later and found out the person had returned home and everything was okay.

**Friday, Nov. 17**

9:48 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on North Main St. A vehicle traveling westbound into a plaza parking lot struck a second vehicle while both attempted to go around a third one. No injuries were reported and no tows were necessary.

12:01 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on State St. Both vehicles were moved from the initial crash site. A vehicle traveling northbound on State St. was sideswiped by a second vehicle attempting to pass on the left side. The operator of the second vehicle said the first vehicle pulled out in front of them, and they tried to swerve to avoid hitting the vehicle. The vehicle then drove up onto the curb and passed the vehicle. There was damage to both vehicles. No injuries were reported.

3:22 p.m. – An officer assisted the Department of Social Services in removing a child from a residence.

5 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on North Main St. A vehicle stopped for a pedestrian crossing was struck by a second vehicle in the rear. No injuries were reported, and no tows were necessary.

9:03 p.m. – An officer responded to a River St. residence for a report of a damaged mailbox. A tractor-trailer unit drove by it and knocked the mailbox over. The officer spoke with a witness who saw the trailer strike the mailbox but had no other information about the truck.

**Sunday, Nov. 19**

9:41 a.m. – An officer spoke with a person about the balance of a credit card. They went to withdraw money, and the balance was lower than expected. They asked if they could do another transaction. There were multiple charges they did not make on the account. They wanted the matter documented.

11:50 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on North Liberty St. and Bardwell St. A vehicle traveling north on North Liberty St. was struck in the side by a second vehicle. The second vehicle traveled east on Bardwell and failed to yield at the intersection. No injuries were reported and no tows were necessary.

6:21 p.m. – Officers responded to an accident on Aldrich St. A vehicle rolled down a driveway into the roadway and a residence. The vehicle was shifted into reverse instead of park. No injuries were reported, and the vehicle was towed from the scene.

**Monday, Nov. 20**

11:42 a.m. – An officer took a report of unemployment fraud. The caller said they were laid off from their job and started to file for unemployment when they were

told a claim was made in their name. They reported they filed the appropriate documents with the state and wanted the matter documented.

1:24 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Federal St. The operator of a vehicle thought they pressed their breaks when they actually stepped on the gas, striking a building. Supply shelves and the items on them were knocked over. The damage was documented and the building inspector was notified.

**Tuesday, Nov. 21**

4:32 p.m. – An officer took a report of an accident. A vehicle possibly involved in the accident had its mirror struck, and a caller reported the mirror flew off the vehicle. No description was provided, and no other crashes were reported.

5:22 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on West St. Op southbound on West St. struck two trees before stopping. There was damage to the front and left side of the vehicle. The vehicle was towed from the scene, and the person was transported to the hospital.

5:41 p.m. – A person came to the station's lobby with a handgun case that belonged to a former acquaintance. The case was confiscated previously and entered into property.

10:22 p.m. – Officers responded to an accident on West St. A vehicle traveling eastbound on West St. went to the right side of the roadway and into a ditch. It was snowing, and the roadway was untreated during the accident.

**Wednesday, Nov. 22**

11:40 a.m. – An officer took a report of a possible breaking and entering incident. A resident reported they were sleeping when they heard their front door slam shut. The person said they heard footsteps. The resident reported seeing two people walking away from the building. Nothing was stolen and the matter was documented.

8:53 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Federal St. A vehicle traveling west on Federal St. was side swiped by another vehicle. The second vehicle entered the east side lane of the first vehicle and side swiped the first. There was no damage to one vehicle and the second was towed from the scene. No injuries were reported.

10:44 a.m. – A Belchertown resident came to the station with an item found at a George Hannum Road business. A key-chain and two keys were items placed into property.

6:26 p.m. – An officer took a report of a possible breaking and entering incident. The resident reported they were away on business had someone watch residence found things weren't there when he left. Items were missing from the residence. Called the other residence. No charges waiting written statement. No further information.

10:17 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident's liberty erratically black pickup truck then south street and crash reported afterwards. Officer spoke with the reporting party. Inspected further on Belchertown

Please see **POLICE**, page 13

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# Be aware of this smart TV cyber scam

Scammers can target victims through any device connected to the internet, and your TV is no exception.

The Better Business Bureau Scam Tracker has seen an influx of reports about scammers catching people off guard with pop-ups on their smart TVs, according to a news release. Their objective is to steal your personal information and money.

### How the scam works:

You open a familiar streaming service on your smart TV. However, you can't log in. Instead, a pop-up appears, telling you there is a problem with your device or your streaming subscription. You need to call a phone number or visit a website to fix it.

Don't fall for it.

If you call the number, scammers pretend to be customer service representatives. They will insist you pay an activation fee or allow them remote access to your smart TV. These con artists will get your credit or debit card number if you pay the fee, the BBB warns. If you give them access to your device or click on a link they provide, the scammers may install malware on your TV and use it to gain access to sensitive personal information.

Sometimes scammers ask you to "fix" the issue by paying them in gift cards. One consumer reported that after calling a number that appeared in a pop-up on their smart TV, a scammer instructed them to purchase three \$100 Xbox gift cards to



add "anti-hacking protection" to their account. After buying the gift cards and contacting the number again, it became clear they were dealing with scammers.

### How to avoid smart TV scams:

Double-check any fees you have to pay. If scammers ask you to pay an activation fee, antivirus protection fee, or any other kind of fee, do some research beforehand. For example, scammers claim you need to pay an activation fee to start using your Roku. However, a quick online search reveals that Roku never charges activation or registration fees.

Don't fall for fake websites. Scammers love to create imitation

websites using URLs that are just a letter or two off. Fake websites are a threat, even on smart TVs, so double-check the URL. Another way to protect yourself is to avoid clicking on links in pop-ups and, instead, type web URLs directly into your browser.

Check before you call. If a "customer service" phone number appears in a pop-up, double-check it before you call. Contact a streaming service or TV manufacturer's website to find their customer support number.

Never let anyone control your device remotely. Scammers usually ask for remote computer access, but they could also ask for access to your smart TV. Don't ever give control of your device to a stranger.

# BCTV schedule

BELCHERTOWN – Here is the BCTV schedule for Thursday, Dec. 7, through Wednesday, Dec. 13.

### Thursday, Dec. 7

- 8 a.m. – Select Board, Dec. 4
- 10 a.m. – School Comm., Dec. 5
- 12 p.m. – Agriculture Comm., Dec. 6
- 7 p.m. – Select Board, Dec. 4
- 9 p.m. – School Comm., Dec. 5

### Friday, Dec. 8

- 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 9 a.m. – Clapp, Squeezebox Stompers
- 5 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 7 p.m. – Clapp, Squeezebox Stompers
- 8:30 p.m. – Agriculture Comm., Dec. 6

### Saturday, Dec. 9

- 8 a.m. – Educational Crafting with Charlotte, Baby Binoculars
- 4:30 p.m. – Educational Crafting with Charlotte, Baby Binoculars

### Sunday, Dec. 10

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

### Monday Dec. 11

- 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 5 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 7 p.m. – Conservation Comm., Channel 192

### Tuesday, Dec. 12

- 8 a.m. – Winter Light Night 2023
- 8:30 a.m. – JBMS Winter Concert
- 6 p.m. – Winter Light Night
- 7 p.m. – Planning Board, Channel 191

### Wednesday, Dec. 13

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

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

To access previous broadcasts, visit: [belchertown.vids.io/](http://belchertown.vids.io/)  
To access live streaming broadcasts, visit: [cloud.castus.tv/vod/belchertown/?page=HOME](http://cloud.castus.tv/vod/belchertown/?page=HOME)

Or access these services by visiting the Belchertown webpage, [belchertown.org](http://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."

## Program for fathers/male caregivers on Tuesdays

WARE – Nurturing Fathers at Behavioral Health Network's Family Resource Center, 82 Main St., is held on Tuesdays from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

This is an empowering program for fathers and male caregivers.

For more information or to register contact the Family Resource Center by calling 413-277-6601 or emailing [bhncfrc@bhninc.org](mailto:bhncfrc@bhninc.org).

*Are you having difficulty communicating with your partner, struggling with boundaries, and healthy relationships?*

**We invite you to join us Friday afternoons from 1-2:30 pm to explore these topics and more.**

This group will be held in zoom, is educational, confidential, and free.

Please contact **Pat James 413-726-8661**.

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## Firefighters host raffle for Boston Bruins hockey tickets

WARE – Ware Firefighters Local 1851 is hosting a raffle of four tickets to see the Boston Bruins on Jan. 22, 2024 at TD Garden, plus a free parking pass.

The prize is valued at \$990. The winning raffle ticket will be drawn on

Christmas day.

Raffle tickets are a \$10 donation each with proceeds to support the Ware Firefighters Local 1851.

All members of Ware Fire Department have tickets, or people may call 413-967-9630.

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**GRANBY**

# Granby Library announces upcoming nature story time

GRANBY – The town’s library has announced an upcoming nature story time and fun with Ranger Tasha.

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

**Animal Tracking**

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

“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.

# Town Clerk offers community reminders

GRANBY – The Town Clerk has offered 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.

“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.

STM from page 1

and asbestos removal. The funding also covers Owners Project Manager’s fees, designer/engineer fees and contingency, according to the future of the West Street building document on the town’s website.

The West Street building committee, appointed in January of this year, was assigned the task of determining the best course of action for the use of the building, which has been largely vacant since 2018. The town currently maintains the building for \$23,000 a year.

The committee determined the best use of the property was to renovate it.

Committee Chair Lynn Mercier explained the building would be able to accommodate current municipal offices, the senior center, as well as room for more in the future.

“As the structure of the building was sound, the roof was relatively new, and the

existing 44,000 square feet of space would be more than adequate for the town’s needs,” she said. “The space as it exists, is capable of conducting town meetings, town elections and has the potential for a community recreational center in the future.”

One of the major priorities of the project for the town is the removal of a single-wall oil tank, which was supposed to be removed, but wasn’t, according to Martin.

“The concern we have is that we know it’s a single wall. We don’t know if its leaked. That’s the first thing before we even go forward with that building,” he said.

He said the town must determine whether the tank has leaked into the soil and to remove it before any work is done on the West Street building.

“If we find out there is a leakage and there’s contamination of the soils, we know that \$116,000 is not going to cover it. You’re talking up to \$1 million and if surrounding wells aren’t contaminated,” Martin said.

If that is the case, the town would need to address remediation and requirements from the Department of Environmental Protection, Martin added.

The plan is to move to a propane mini split for the heating and cooling of the building, following the removal of the tank. Finance Committee Chair John Libera Jr. said he supported the allocation.

“When you look at the long-term picture of it,” he said. “The fact that there is \$5 million in other funds, including ARPA funds, if you took all that money and put it back into the stabilization fund...then you’d have a big pile of money in that fund. You’d still have the same question of ‘what do we spend money on?’”

He said having the municipal offices in one central location is a good use of the funds.

He added that if the town needs to address the oil tank and unforeseen issues with it, that the town will decide what to do from there rather than simply proceed forward with the West Street building project.

Selectboard member Glenn Sexton said he wanted to remind people if the ARPA funding given to the town was not used, they could potentially lose it.

“It’s a benefit to us to move forward with the project. It’s taxpayer money that the federal government gave us, and I’d hate for them to take it back,” he said.

If the voters approve the expenditure, the committee plans to continue working on the project, with the oil tank being the first matter addressed. Barring any issues, the project has an estimated completion date of December 2024, according to the future of the West Street Building information sheet on the town’s website.

If the voters do not approve the article, the town will continue to pay for general maintenance on the building until it is decommissioned. The estimated cost of decommissioning due to asbestos abatement and demolition would be about \$2.5 million.



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June 5, 2022  
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Grandparents: Marc Davignon & Lisa Dube, Chicopee  
John & Pamela Kosnicki, Palmer

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**Deadline for photos and forms is Friday, December 8, 2023**



**OBITUARIES**

**DEATH NOTICES**

**Kathleen Roach**  
Died: November 30, 2023

**Linda Mae (Squires) Lloyd**  
Died: November 29, 2023  
Visitation: Thursday,  
December 7, 2023

**Linda M. (Clark) Desroches**  
Died: November 27, 2023

**NOTICE**

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

*The Sentinel*  
**OBITUARY POLICY**

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

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

**Linda Mae (Squires) Lloyd**

PALMER - Linda Mae (Squires) Lloyd (74) of Palmer passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on November 29, 2023, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Linda was born in November of 1949. She was the daughter of the late Wanda and Richard Squires of Belchertown, and the sister of Christine Wheeler and the late Richard Squires Jr.

Linda was married to the love of her life, Norman Lloyd Sr., for 44 years; together, they raised five children: Tracey Applebee-Cole, April Montanez, Kristy Lagimoniere, Norman Lloyd Jr., and Russell Lloyd. She was an amazing nana to her eight grandchildren who she called her monkeys: Benjamin Applebee, Tyler and Madison Cole, Moriah and Amanda Burns, Austin and Greenly Lagimoniere, and Sawyer Lloyd. Linda was also a great grandmother (gee-gee) to Eleanor Carter.

While her children were young, Linda worked with her husband to manage their family trucking business (T.A.K Trucking). Then, in 1998, her passion for helping children brought her to Converse Middle School where she proudly served as a para-professional until 2016. Linda cherished her CMS students and friends and spoke fondly of them in her final days.

Linda enjoyed the beach, kayaking, and road trips in her VW with the top down; she could never pass up a free chair on the side of the road. She was her children's biggest cheerleader. She embodied compassion, kindness, forgiveness, and love. Linda will be deeply missed by her family and friends.

Linda adored animals and it was her wish that in lieu of flowers, any memorial tributes be made in the form of a charitable donation to an animal shelter.

Visitation will be held at Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home on Thursday, December 7, 2023, from 3-6 p.m. Immediately following, a celebration of life gathering will be held at St. Joseph's Club in Palmer.

Please visit [www.beersandstory.com](http://www.beersandstory.com) to extend online condolences.



**Kathleen Roach**

GRANBY - Kathleen Roach, 73, passed away peacefully on November 30, 2023, at her home. Born December 12, 1949, in Palmer, she was the daughter of Francis P. and Theresa I. (Trotta) Roach. Kathy grew up in Monson and has lived in Granby for many years. While she was pursuing her teaching degree at Fitchburg State College, she worked at Monson Developmental Center. She began her special education teaching career in Palmer and then for an additional 32 years she touched the lives of countless students in the Belchertown Public School system until her retirement. Her family fondly remembers time together at the holidays, her Labor Day pool parties, and special weekends together making cherished memories. As an avid reader, she devoured printed and audio



books and especially loved sci-fi and fantasy novels. Kathy's four-legged fur companions Bear, Naughty, and Boo and the many other dogs and cats she invited into her home brought her so much joy over the years. She leaves her two brothers, James and his wife Patricia of Brimfield and

Fran and his wife Bernadette of Monson and her late sister Roberta and her husband Jerry of Wilbraham. As well as numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews and one great-great nephew due to arrive any day. Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements. A celebration of life will be planned for the summer. In lieu of flowers, please consider donations in her memory to PAWS of Granby, MA, PO Box 472, Granby, MA 01033.

Please visit [www.beersandstory.com](http://www.beersandstory.com).

**HAMILTON** from page 6

It's common to hear people say that neither party cares about ordinary people. Americans distrust the executive and legislative branches of government, and a majority have a dim view of the Supreme Court.

Americans are rightly suspicious of the growing role that money plays in politics. About 85% said that the cost of election campaigns keeps good candidates from running and that special interests have too much influence on politicians.

Only about a quarter of the people rate the quality of political candidates as very or somewhat good, down 20 percentage points in the past five years.

You might expect this distrust and discouragement would cause Americans to disengage from politics. Fortunately, that doesn't seem to be happening.

The elections of 2018, 2020 and 2022 featured some of the highest voter turnout rates in decades. About two-thirds of eligible adults voted in 2020, the highest rate for a national election since 1900.

Those are very encouraging signs. The public has ideas for improving our politics. In the Pew survey, majorities

avored limits on campaign contributions and spending.

The survey found broad support for term limits on members of Congress and for age limits on elected and appointed officials, including Supreme Court justices. Elections this month in Kentucky, Ohio and Virginia drew strong interest and participation.

In another hopeful sign, more young people have been running for office – and often winning.

We Americans have always been an optimistic and forward-looking people, confident in our ability to solve problems and make progress. We're right to be unhappy with the condition of our politics, but we have the power and the ability to make our politics better.

*Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.*

**GARDEN** from page 6

leaf mold or compost should work out just fine. Christmas cactus like to be somewhat pot bound, but if the plant has been growing in the same pot for several years its soil is likely exhausted of nutrients.

Repot by gently teasing away some of the soil from the plant's roots. Replace it with the new soil mixture. Choose a pot that is a single size bigger than the existing root ball, or reuse the old pot.

Many people hear "cactus" and think that the plant is drought tolerant. With the Christmas cactus this is only partly true.

Although its leaves are succulent and can retain a fair amount of water, it is not a true cactus. As a general rule you should water Christmas cactus when the potting soil is dry to the touch.

Adequate moisture is especially necessary during the spring when it begins its growth and once buds are set. A diluted amount of liquid fertilizer can be added then as well, especially if the soil hasn't been refreshed in many years.

When the plant is done flowering, it will go into a period of rest; almost no water is necessary for nearly two months. Just prior to bud set it will rest again but this time the soil shouldn't dry out completely.

Two environmental factors are responsible for coaxing a plant into bloom. The first is temperature and the second is light.

If temperatures at night range between 55 and 60 degrees for a six week period,

the plant will set buds regardless of day length. If temperatures run higher than that, thirteen hours of uninterrupted darkness will bring about buds.

Simply put the plant to bed each night from 6 p.m.-8a.m. until buds form. My luck has been temperature related; because I leave the plants outside until early fall its temperature requirements are met and I am delighted with blooms come Christmas time.

If your plant sets buds and then drops them prior to full bloom it is likely due to overwatering or exposure. For this reason, keep it away from drafty windows, doorways or radiators.

If you don't already own Christmas cactus, consider purchasing one this holiday. Better yet, start a plant.

Simply get a leaf - no longer than two or three segments, from a friend. They are easy to root in regular potting soil.

Two or three of these per four-inch pot is perfect. By year two you should be delighted with some beautiful flowers and maybe the start of your own family tradition.

*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](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*

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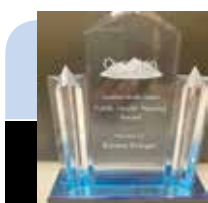
All Papers Will Deadline Thursday, Dec. 21 at Noon for Publication Dec. 25-29

All Papers Will Deadline Thursday, Dec. 28 at Noon for Publication Jan. 1-5



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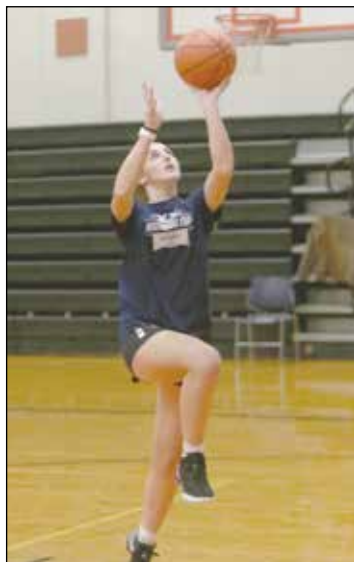
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## Orioles prepare for opener

**BELCHERTOWN** – Last Thursday, Belchertown girls basketball continued to prepare for its regular season opener. The Orioles were 10-10 overall last year and made the tournament and lost in the opener at Ipswich High School. The Orioles scrimmaged Quaboag earlier this week and face off with Pope Francis on Tuesday, Dec. 12 at 5:30 p.m.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY  
WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM  
Alexa Karabetsos goes a layup.



Aubrey McCain does a layup drill during practice last Thursday.



Chloe LaRoche shoots during practice.



Gavin Couchon shoots in traffic.



Grady Martin goes for a layup.



Jacob Pacunas fakes and shoots during practice.

## Boys basketball set to open new season

**BELCHERTOWN** – The Orioles boys basketball team is head for its season opener against Westfield on Friday, Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. after having a 13-8 season in 2022-2023. The Orioles will be looking to make the state tournament for the third straight season.



Tyler Marino jumps and catches a pass inside the paint.



Tabari Mann shoots on the run in a lot of traffic.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY  
WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

## PVSOA presents year-end awards

**BY TIM PETERSON**  
Sports Correspondent

**LUDLOW**—The Pioneer Valley Soccer Officials Association (PVSOA), which was formed in 1946, held its annual banquet at the Polish American Citizens Club in Ludlow on Dec. 1.

One of the highlights of the evening was the buffet catered by Tony & Penny's Restaurant.

There was also an awards ceremony.

Ludlow junior Thomas Wadas is the 2023 George E. Russell Award (Boys Large School MCP award) winner.

“Thomas falls in line with all our former Ludlow players who have won the George Russell Award,” said longtime Ludlow boys soccer coach Greg Kolodziej, who won his 200th career game this fall. “He’s

a very talented player who has worked extremely hard to get what he has achieved.”

Wadas is the 24th Ludlow boys’ soccer player to receive the Russell award, which is named in memory of the former Ludlow High School principal, since 1965. The first Ludlow boys’ soccer player to win the prestigious award was Bob Duarte.

Wadas, who’s a three-year varsity starter, didn’t attend this year’s PVSOA banquet because the Ludlow High School soccer banquet was held on the same night.

In his first three seasons as a member of the varsity soccer team, Wadas, who’s a midfielder, scored 15 goals and 15 assists. He also helped the Lions (18-2-2) capture the Western Mass. Class A title for the third consecutive year. The Lions also competed in the Division 1 state



TURLEY PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM  
Tomasz Ludkiewicz of Granby receives the Jimmie Downie award.

tournament.

Pathfinder Tech senior Riley Sanderson received the Henry O. Holly/Dave Grieve (Boys Small School MVP award).

“I received an email from my

soccer coach (David Wilson) telling me that I had been selected for the MVP award for small schools,” said Sanderson, who

Please see **AWARDS**, page 12



# 2023-2024 Winter Varsity SCHEDULE

## Belchertown High School

### BOYS BASKETBALL

Friday, Dec. 8	Away	Westfield	7 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 11	Home	Monument Mtn.	7 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 14	Home	Baystate Acad.	7 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 18	Away	Easthampton	7 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 21	Away	Hoosac	7 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 27	Away	Granby	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 2	Home	Smith Academy	7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 4	Away	South Hadley	7 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 8	Away	Monument Mtn.	7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 11	Away	Baystate Acad.	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 16	Home	Hoosac	7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 19	Home	Easthampton	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 23	Home	South Hadley	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 30	Away	Palmer	7 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 2	Home	Tantasqua	7 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 5	Home	Agawam	7 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 8	Away	E. Longmeadow	7 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 10	Home	Malden	2:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 13	Away	Quabbin	7 p.m.

### GIRLS BASKETBALL

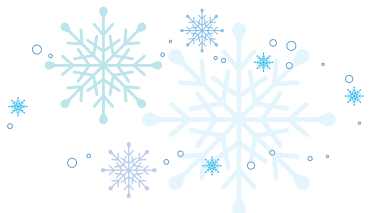
Tuesday, Dec. 12	Home	Pope Francis	5:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 15	Away	Mt. Greylock	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 19	Away	Agawam	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 2	Home	Minnechaug	6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 3	Away	Southwick	7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 5	Away	Monument Mtn.	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 9	Away	Pope Francis	7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 12	Home	Mt. Greylock	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 16	Home	Hampshire	7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 18	Away	Agawam	7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 19	Home	Palmer	7 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 22	Away	Drury	7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 25	Home	Monument Mtn.	7 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 29	Away	South Hadley	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 30	Home	Frontier	7 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 7	Home	Drury	7 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 12	Home	Chicopee Comp	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 13	Away	Quabbin	5:30 p.m.

### ICE HOCKEY

Friday, Dec. 8	Home	Greenfield	7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 9	Home	Easthampton	6 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 13	Away	McCann Tech	7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 16	Away	Minnechaug	4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 20	Away	Easthampton	7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 23	Away	Greenfield	6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 27	Away	Oakmont	5 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 28	Away	E. Longmeadow	6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 30	Away	Southwick	5:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 5	Home	West Springfield	7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 10	Away	Westfield	7 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 20	Home	Longmeadow	6 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 26	Home	McCann Tech	7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 3	Home	Southwick	8:30 p.m.

### BOYS AND GIRLS SWIMMING

Friday, Dec. 8	Away	Palmer	4 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 13	Home	Hampden Charter	4 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 19	Home	West Springfield	4 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 21	Away	Amherst	4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 2	Home	Northampton	4 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 4	Away	East Longmeadow	4 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 12	Home	Westfield	4 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 16	Away	Longmeadow	4 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 19	Home	Minnechaug	5 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 23	Home	Agawam	4 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 26	Away	Chicopee Comp	4 p.m.



## Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School

### BOYS BASKETBALL

Thursday, Dec. 7	Away	PV Christian	7 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 11	Away	Mt. Everett	6:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 15	Home	Ludlow	7 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 21	Away	Gateway	7 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 28	Home	Palmer	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 2	Home	Smith Vocational	7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 5	Away	Hampden Charter	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 9	Home	PVCIC	7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 12	Away	St. Mary's	6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 18	Home	PV Christian	7 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 22	Away	Duggan	7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 26	Away	Monson	7 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 29	Home	Gateway	7 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 1	Away	Smith Vocational	6:30 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 5	Home	Hampden Charter	7 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 8	Away	PVCIC	6 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 13	Home	St. Mary's	7 p.m.

### GIRLS BASKETBALL

Monday, Dec. 11	Away	Baystate Academy	6 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 14	Home	Duggan	5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 19	Away	Smith Academy	6 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 21	Away	Gateway	4 p.m.

### BOYS BASKETBALL

Monday, Dec. 11	Away	Ware	7 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 14	Away	Southwick	7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 16	Home	Hopkins	11 a.m.
Monday, Dec. 18	Home	Renaissance	7 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 21	Away	Palmer	7 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 27	Home	Belchertown	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 2	Home	Gardner	7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 4	Home	Monson	7 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 8	Home	Ware	7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 12	Home	Southwick	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 16	Away	Renaissance	7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 19	Home	Palmer	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 23	Away	Monson	7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 26	Away	Easthampton	7 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 31	Away	Baystate Academy	7 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 5	Away	Hoosac	7 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 7	Away	South Hadley	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 13	Home	Duggan	7 p.m.

### GIRLS BASKETBALL

Tuesday, Dec. 12	Away	Easthampton	7 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 14	Home	Mt. Everett	7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 16	Home	Hopkins	9 a.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 19	Home	Ware	7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 22	Away	Renaissance	7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 4	Away	McCann Tech	7 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 8	Away	Ludlow	7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 11	Away	Southwick	7 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 15	Away	Lee	7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 18	Away	Mt. Everett	6:30 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 22	Home	Renaissance	7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 25	Home	Baystate Academy	7 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 29	Home	McCann Tech	7 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 1	Home	Ludlow	7 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 5	Home	Southwick	7 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 8	Home	Lee	7 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 12	Away	Smith Academy	7 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 14	Home	Hampshire	7 p.m.

### ICE HOCKEY (CO-OP)

Saturday, Dec. 9	Away	Southwick	5:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 16	Home	Easthampton	5 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 18	Away	Amherst	5 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 20	Away	Apponequet	4 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 23	Away	Agawam	3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 27	Home	Chicopee Holiday	7 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 28	Home	Tournament	TBD
Saturday, Dec. 30	Away	Taconnic	7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 3	Home	Ludlow	4 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 6	Away	Saint Paul	3:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 13	Away	Fitchburg	1 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 15	Home	Taconnic	3 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 17	Away	McCann Tech	7 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 20	Home	Amherst	5 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 24	Home	Agawam	4 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 28	Home	Peabody	1 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 3	Home	Oakmont	5 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 8	Away	Ludlow	8:30 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 10	Away	Gardner	1 p.m.

### WRESTLING

Saturday, Dec. 9	Home	Quad-Meet	9 a.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 12	Away	SICS	5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 20	Away	Smith Vocational	6 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 22	Away	West Springfield	5 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 10	Away	Athol	7 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 17	Home	Mahar	7 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 20	Home	Team Tournament	9 a.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 24	Home	Franklin Tech	7 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 27	Away	East Hartford	9:30 a.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 31	Home	Northampton	7 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 3	Away	Marlborough	10 a.m.

### BOYS BASKETBALL

Wednesday, Dec. 27	Home	Mohawk	5:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 4	Away	St. Mary's	6 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 5	Home	Westfield Tech.	5:30 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 8	Home	Hampden Charter	5:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 11	Away	Sci-Tech	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 16	Home	Hampden Charter	5:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 19	Away	PVCIC	6 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 23	Away	Duggan	7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 25	Home	Smith Academy	5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 30	Home	Gateway	5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 6	Home	St. Mary's	5:30 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 9	Away	Hampden Charter	6 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 13	Home	Sci-Tech	5 p.m.

### WRESTLING

Wednesday, Dec. 13	Away	Smith Vocational	6 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 20	Home	Frontier	6:45 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 27	Away	Northampton	5 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 3	Away	Mohawk	7 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 17	Away	Gateway	7 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 20	Away	Granby	9 a.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 24	Away	Duggan	7 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 31	Away	Mahar	7 p.m.



TURLEY PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM  
Pathfinder's Riley Sanderson was the Small School MVP.

### AWARDS from page 11

led his team with 11 assists this past fall. "We weren't able to win any banners this year, but this is a nice way to cap off my high school soccer career."

Sanderson, who missed his junior season due to an injury, also scored 11 goals as a senior.

"Riley has an outstanding right foot, and he could've taken a lot more shots on goal for us, but he would always pass the ball to one of his teammates," Wilson said. "He always plays the game very hard and I'm very proud of him."

Junior Evan Costa led the Pioneers with 34 goals.

The Pioneers, who qualified for the vocational, Western Mass. Class C. and Division 5 state tournaments, finished the 2023 campaign with a 15-5 overall record.

The only other boys' soccer player from Pathfinder Tech to receive the MVP award was Josh Sikorski in 2010.

Minnechaug senior Kylie Ray received the John Kalloch Award (Girls Large School MVP award).

"This is a very special award, especially from the referee's association," said Ray, who'll be playing college soccer at Seton Hall University next year. "I was teammates with Reighan Demers, who received this award last year. It's nice to join her and the other previous MVP award winners from Minnechaug."

Ray is the seventh Minnechaug girls' soccer player coached by Nundi Goncalves to be selected for the MVP award since 2005.

"I've been fortunate to coach many talented soccer players at Minnechaug," Goncalves said. "Kylie is one of them."

The Lady Falcons, who qualified for the Western Mass. and state tournaments, finished their season with a 13-5-2 overall record.

Pope Francis senior Isabella Meadows, who didn't attend the banquet, received the Robert C. Smith/ Stan Berntowicz Award (Girls Small School MVP award).

Minnechaug Regional also received the Bob McIntyre Sportsmanship Award (Girls Large School).

The Lady Falcons have only received two yellow cards during the past two seasons.

"It always feels good when your teams gets recognized for doing something well," said Minnechaug sophomore Ava Kearney. "Coach Goncalves never wants us to get a yellow card during the game."

Palmer High School received the John Kurty/Benny Santos Sportsmanship Award (Girls Small School)

"It feels very nice to receive the sportsmanship award from the referees," said Palmer senior Grace Burke. "We're always very respectful to the referees and to our opponents."

Burke attended the banquet with teammates Nyela Dupre, Vaness Baer, and Jordan Bigda, who are also members of the senior class.

It was the first time that the Palmer girls' soccer team has received the sportsmanship award.

"I was very surprised when I was informed that my soccer team has been selected for the sportsmanship award," said Palmer head coach Celso Sandoval. "We only had a couple of yellow cards this season and I'm very happy that the soccer officials recognized us. We had a great season and I'm looking forward to doing it all over again next year."

The Lady Panthers (12-8-1) defeated Granby, 3-1, in the Western Mass. Class D finals.

The Pathfinder boys' squad, which co-ops with Palmer, received the Carl Erickson Sportsmanship Award (Boys Small School).

The Bruno Rumpal Sportsmanship Award (Boys Large School) was given to Westfield High School.

The MISOA PVSQA inductee is Alex Goncalves, who's from Ludlow.

The Paul Bogan Service Award was given to Peter Manolakis, who's from Wilbraham.

The Jimmie Downie Award recipient is Tomasz Ludkiewicz, who lives in Granby.

The Larry E. Briggs Award winner is John Voight, who currently lives in East Longmeadow, but grew up in Hampden. He graduated from Minnechaug Regional.

Former Ludlow girls' varsity soccer coach Jose Anselmo, along with Chris and Diane Kolodziej, who do an outstanding job of running the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League, received Letters of Commendations.

The association is always looking for new referees.



**POLICE** from page 7

St. in Palmer went off right side of the road then hit the mailbox. Believed it was involved in another call.

**Thursday, Nov. 23**

12:26 a.m. – An officer took a call from a resident who wanted to their call stolen. Then they hung up the phone arrived on scene and was already with a male party. They refused to give their name, the man said the woman allowed to use the vehicle and she declined to pursuit further.

6:02 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Bay Road. A vehicle traveling east on Bay Road struck a bear that entered the roadway. The vehicle was unable to stop in time. It was unknown if the bear was okay. The vehicle was able to be driven from the scene. No injuries were reported.

**Friday, Nov. 24**

5:52 p.m. – An officer responded to a possible hit and run at a Federal St. business. A male person was in the roadway and a vehicle pulled over to see if the person was okay. The person got up and returned to the side of the road. The officer responded to the area and saw the person fitting the description. They spoke with the person and the person declined transportation. The person was allegedly struck by a vehicle. The matter was forwarded to the detective bureau for further investigation.

**Saturday, Nov. 25**

12 a.m. – An officer spoke with person about questions about a pre-existing restraining order.

5:29 a.m. – An officer responded to a residence for a report of a breaking and entering incident that occurred overnight. The officer was met by the owners and took a report of a street bike that was listed on Facebook marketplace. A month prior there was suspicious activities in the area. The bike was stolen during the evening. The bicycle was reported as stolen.

11:30 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Main St. A vehicle traveling south in a parking lot off Main St. when a second vehicle struck the first's back passenger side. No injuries were reported and no tow was necessary.

6:02 p.m. – An officer received a wallet with various cards found at a George Hannum Road business. Multiple attempts were made to contact the owner. The owner came to station to retrieve said wallet.

**Sunday, Nov. 26**

1:24 p.m. – An officer responded to a residence for an accidental shooting. The person accidentally shot themselves in right upper leg. Belchertown fire and paramedics attended to the person who was transported to the hospital. The resident said they got a new holster, and this caused the gun to go off. The person sustained non-life-threatening injuries.

4:30 p.m. – Officers and Belchertown Fire and paramedics responded to assist a person during a mental health crisis.

**Monday, Nov. 27**

8:55 a.m. – An officer took a report of fraud. A resident seeking to partake in a local craft fair spoke with a person who said they could buy a table at a local fair. The resident gave them their information and money. The person then realized they were scammed and quickly called their bank to stop the transaction. The craft fair was a scam. The bank personnel told the person they would be able to get the transaction stopped with a fee. The matter would be investigated and a police report was necessary.

6:58 p.m. – An officer responded to a report of an erratic operator swerving in the roadway coming from Granby into Belchertown. The officer observed the vehicle matching the description drive by their location and saw it swerving in the lane. The person was pulled over and the operator was identified. Based on a field sobriety test, it was found the person was driving while impaired. The vehicle was towed, and the person got a ride.

**Tuesday, Nov. 28**

2:17 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on State St. A vehicle struck a deer in the area of the Eastern Hampshire District Court. The deer was euthanized on scene. No injuries were reported and no tow was necessary.

10:54 a.m. – An officer investigated a report of a 209A violation.

**Granby Police Log**

*Editor's Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 260 calls for the week of Nov. 10 through Nov. 30. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The Granby Police Department provides all information.*

**Monday, Nov. 13**

9:21 a.m. – A motorist reported a minor two-car accident. Granby Police responded. There were no injuries. An accident report was completed.

**Wednesday, Nov. 15**

1:07 p.m. – A resident reported receiving a phone call regarding shutting his electricity off if they did not pay with gift cards. The caller knew it was a scam and wanted the department to know.

5:09 p.m. – A motorist reported a two-car accident. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries. An accident report was completed.

**Thursday, Nov. 16**

2:05 p.m. – A motorist reported a two-car accident with airbag deployment. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries. An accident report was completed.

3:46 p.m. – A motorist reported a minor two-car accident in the parking lot. Granby Police responded. There were no injuries. An accident report was completed.

**Friday, Nov. 17**

5:06 p.m. – A motorist flagged down an officer to report that they had just struck a deer with their vehicle. There were no injuries, and an accident report was completed.

**Saturday, Nov. 18**

5:23 p.m. – A motorist reported that they had just struck a deer with their vehicle. There were no injuries, and an accident report was completed.

**Tuesday, Nov. 21**

7:01 a.m. – Motorists reported a two-car accident. Granby Police and Fire responded. One operator was transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. An accident report was completed.

10:32 a.m. – A motorist reported a disabled vehicle at this location. The tire fell off the vehicle, causing it to be disabled and damaged. An officer responded the vehicle was towed, and an accident report was completed.

**Wednesday, Nov. 22**

6:49 a.m. – A motorist reported that a utility pole appeared to be leaning toward the roadway on Porter St. near Easton. National Grid was notified.

5:11 p.m. – Several motorists reported a three-car accident. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries, and an accident report was completed.

**Thursday, Nov. 23**

7:47 p.m. – A motorist stopped at the station to report that they had just struck a deer in front of the public safety complex. There were no injuries, and an accident report was completed.

**Saturday, Nov. 25**

10:50 p.m. – A motorist reported that a vehicle struck a deer. There were no injuries. An officer responded and completed an accident report.

**Monday, Nov. 27**

7:38 p.m. – While on patrol, an officer performed a random license plate query and discovered that the vehicle had not been inspected since 2019. The vehicle was stopped and it was discovered that the operator had a suspended license and an active warrant for their arrest. The operator was placed under arrest.

7:46 p.m. – Sarah Karriker, 46, of 68 Montgomery St., Springfield, was placed under arrest due to an active arrest warrant, operating a vehicle with a suspended license, and failure to inspect.

**Tuesday, Nov. 28**

5:41 p.m. – A motorist reported striking a deer. There were no injuries and an accident report was completed.

**Wednesday, Nov. 29**

5:35 p.m. – Two motorists reported striking the same deer on Amherst St. There were no injuries. An accident report was completed.

**Thursday, Nov. 30**

9:29 p.m. – A customer reported that a vehicle hit a safety bollard in front of the main entrance to Cumberland Farms twice. Officers responded and after an investigation placed the operator under arrest.

9:48 p.m. – Roland Monfette, 65, of Granby, was placed under arrest for operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, second offense.



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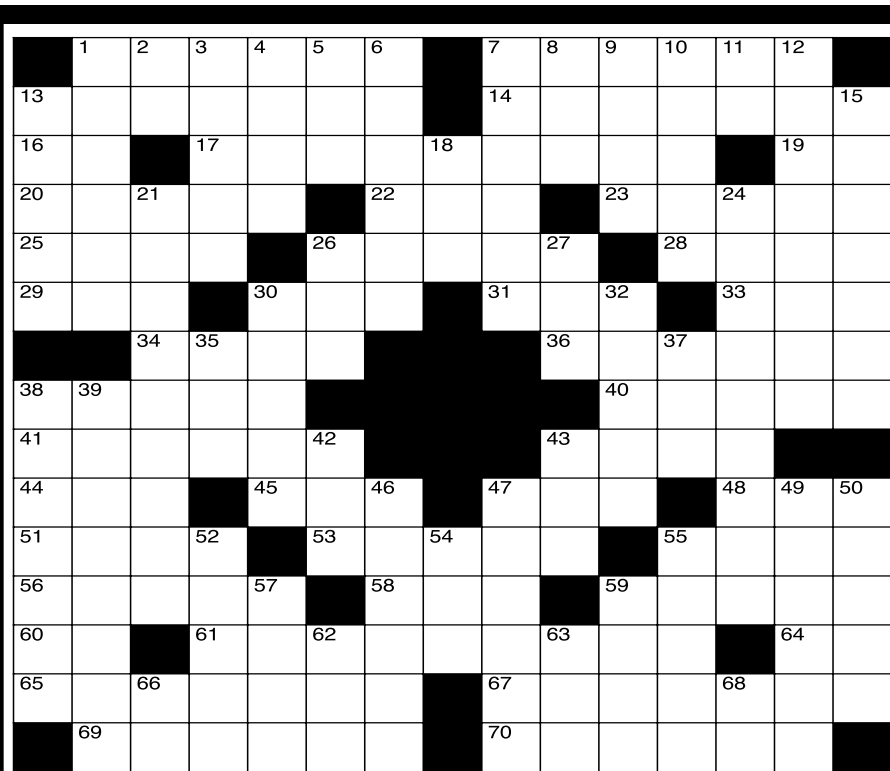
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# Crossword Puzzle



### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Spiritual leaders
- 7. Salt
- 13. Fortified wine
- 14. Edible mollusk
- 16. It begins with them
- 17. A way to compare
- 19. Governmentt lawyer
- 20. Back parts
- 22. 8th month (abbr.)
- 23. Very willing
- 25. \_\_\_ ex machina
- 26. Satisfies
- 28. Quebec river
- 29. A doctrine
- 30. Popular pickup truck
- 31. Dekagram
- 33. Naturally occurring solid material
- 34. Company officer
- 36. Villains
- 38. Cricket frogs
- 40. German founder of psychology
- 41. Endured
- 43. A female domestic
- 44. A "place" to avoid
- 45. Cigarette (slang)
- 47. Canadian politician Josephine
- 48. French ballet/ acting dynasty
- 51. Employee stock ownership plan
- 53. Belonging to the bottom
- 55. Sound
- 56. Yankees' slugger Judge
- 58. Dickens character
- 59. More wise
- 60. Flash memory card
- 61. Exposing human vice or folly to ridicule
- 64. Atomic #79
- 65. Longtime Braves pitcher Julio
- 67. Humor
- 69. Shawl
- 70. Preliminary assessment of patients

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Animal disease
- 2. Commercial
- 3. Craft supply
- 4. Storage units
- 5. Investment vehicle
- 6. Colorado Heisman winner
- 7. In a way, sank
- 8. Post-birth brain damage (abbr.)
- 9. Lay about
- 10. Intestinal
- 11. The opposite of yes
- 12. Caused to be loved
- 13. Messianic in Islamic eschatology
- 15. Showing since conviction
- 18. Not safe
- 21. The number above the line in a fraction
- 24. Yard invader
- 26. Pouch
- 27. Swedish krona
- 30. Start anew
- 32. While white or yellow flower
- 35. Fourteen
- 37. Graphical user interface
- 38. Up-to-date on the news
- 39. Campaigns
- 42. Touch softly
- 43. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
- 46. Violent seizure of property
- 47. One who supports the Pope
- 49. Anxiety
- 50. Body fluid
- 52. Phony person
- 54. Title of respect
- 55. Chilean city
- 57. City in central Japan
- 59. Silk garment
- 62. Draw from
- 63. Automobile
- 66. Man
- 68. Legal bigwig (abbr.)

## Early Deadlines

for all LEGAL NOTICES...

**All Papers Will Deadline Thursday, Dec. 21 at Noon for Publication Dec. 25-29**

*Happy Holidays!*

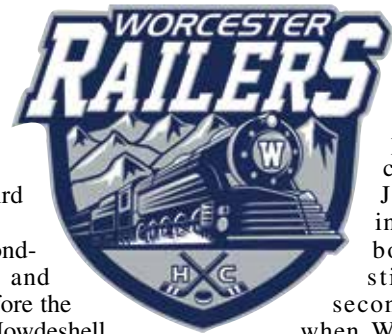
*Happy New Year!*

**All Papers Will Deadline Thursday, Dec. 28 at Noon for Publication Jan. 1-5**





# Worcester Railers fall in physical battle



WORCESTER – The Railers played a spirited game here Friday night but it had a dispiriting result, another loss on home ice.

Worcester was beaten by the Norfolk Admirals, 5-2, with the last opposing goal coming into an empty net. The Railers had a 40-29 edge in shots on goal and had leads of 1-0 and 2-1 they could not protect as the Admirals scored four goals in the third period.

The difference was special teams. Norfolk converted three of nine power plays while Worcester was 0 for 6.

Referee Austin O'Rourke was unusually busy, calling 21 minor penalties. Some of them were double minors for roughing that,

a few years ago, would have been fighting majors.

Nowadays, if a player has a pulse after engaging in a bout, the penalty is roughing, not fighting.

There was plenty of roughing. Seven of those penalties were called and Railers' rookies Artyom Kulakov and Riley Piercy were both involved in some serious jousting.

To no avail, as it turned out.

Worcester got goals from Ashton Calder and Keegan Howdeshell. Norfolk was paced by Carson Golder's two goals. Simon Kubicek, Danny Katic and Mathieu Roy had the other Admirals goals.

Calder's goal was his 10th of the season. It came in Worcester's 19th game. The last Railer to

score 10 goals in the first 20 games of the season was Jordan Smotherman, who did it at the beginning of the 2021-22 campaign.

The Railers were constantly thwarted by Norfolk goaltender Thomas Milic, who had 38 saves. A lot of them were good ones. Worcester had reams of good chances that wound up with shots on net, but only two shots in net.

Calder put Worcester ahead at 11:44 of the first period by beating Milic with a quick wrist shot from between the circles. The Railers were still ahead, 1-0, with the game more than half over but the Admirals changed that with their first power play goal.

Kubicek got it at 15:06 of the second period. He drilled a low

slap shot through traffic and past goalie Tristan Lennox for his third of the season.

Worcester responded well, though, and retook the lead before the period was over. Howdeshell got his second of the year at 17:38 via a snap shot from about 20 feet out. He was set up by a fine pass from the right wing by Joey Cipollone.

Norfolk regained the momentum early in the third period, however, with two goals just 52 seconds apart, both by Golder, both on the power play. The first one was a rebound at 3:54, the second a tap in from just outside the crease at 4:42.

The first power play came with Jake Pivonka in the penalty box for high sticking. The second happened when Worcester was called for two roughings, Norfolk one, on the same altercation.

Piercy was involved at the beginning then Connor Welsh wound up getting a minor as well.

The Railers had power play chances after that and eventually pulled Lennox but could not beat Milic. In those final 20 minutes, Worcester had 14 shots on net and no goals. Norfolk had eight shots and four goals.

Dear Patients,

It has been a true pleasure and an honor to provide Eye Care to so many people in Palmer and surrounding areas throughout my career.

I will be retiring February 15, 2024 after 44 years and will no longer be providing eye care after that date.

Quabbin Valley Eye Care is in the process of interviewing new provider candidates, and will notify patients once exam schedules are available.

All patients records will be maintained by Quabbin Valley Eye Care 1448 North Main Street, Palmer MA 01069, and a copy of your records will be available within 30 days.

A record release form is available to you from our office if requested.

In the interim Ludlow Eye Associates at Maple Tree Square, Ludlow MA (413-583-3600) has agreed to provide necessary services.

Contact lens exams with a current eyeglass prescription, materials and optical services are still available at QVEC with our licensed Optician.

I wish you all the best for your future health and happiness.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Gary Wolf  
Optometrist

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