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Students attend *Jolly Holiday concert* at Symphony Hall

BY KIMBERLY PALMUCCI
sentinel@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – The students and families of Swift River Elementary School recently attended the Springfield Symphony Orchestra's "Jolly Holiday concert" at Symphony Hall.

The group trip, which took place on Dec. 9, brought more than 150 people from the Belchertown community to "take in the sounds of the season," said Geoffrey Gould, a music educator at Swift River who organized the trip.

"For many of our children, it was their first experience with live symphonic music," Gould said.

Students and families were treated to holiday classics featuring the talents of the Springfield Symphony Orchestra, led by famed composer and conductor William Waldrop. The show also featured the talents of former American Idol finalist Michael Lynch and cantor Elise Barber, as well as what Gould described as the beautiful singing of the combined SSO Choir.

"The show also featured special guest Santa Claus, who

Please see **CONCERT**, page 7



Bryce Clough posing with the orchestra in the background.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Boards to explore High School ADA compliance

BY MELINA BOURDEAU
Correspondent

GRANBY – The Selectboard and School Committee are gathering information on the Americans with Disabilities Act compliance of the Granby Junior Senior High School building following concerns brought up by the committee.

Town Administrator Chris Martin is set to gather information about an ADA compliance inspection by the town's shared building inspector.

In a recent letter to the Selectboard, the School Committee expressed interest in the future of the conditions and operational efficiency of the high school.

Selectboard member Glenn Sexton said the letter stimulated

Please see **ADA**, page 10

Roses for Rescue

Annual fundraiser benefits local shelters

BY PAULA OUIMETTE
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Staff at Otto Florist & Gifts have wrapped up another successful year of the Roses for Rescue fundraiser to benefit local animal shelters.

Owner Michele Lariviere said this year's fundraiser, which was held in October, sold out for the first time since the pandemic, helping to raise crucial funds for BARC (Belchertown Animal Relief Committee) and Second Chance Animal Services.

"I just want to give a big thank you to all who donated to support Roses for Rescue, to help our local animal shelters," Lariviere said.

Since 2017, Otto Florist & Gifts has held Roses for Rescue, offering a dozen high-quality roses for \$15. Prior to that,



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Michele Lariviere, owner of Otto Florist & Gifts (center), delivered arranged roses to BARC (Belchertown Animal Relief Committee) for the annual Roses for Rescue fundraiser. Proceeds from the fundraiser were donated to BARC and Second Chance Animal Services.

from 2001-2015, the rose sale was called the Shirley Batsie Memorial Rose Sale benefiting Mary Lane Hospital's cancer services.

The Shirley Batsie Memorial Rose Sale raised over a quarter of a million dollars.

Please see **ROSES**, page 16

'One horse open sleigh' returns home to Belchertown



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Trustees of the Belchertown Historical Association have announced the acquisition of a 19th century "one horse open sleigh" that was built in Belchertown by the firm of Hawks and Smith. "The beautiful sleigh, in very good original condition and paint, has returned 'home' just in time for the holidays, and has been moved to the Ford Annex carriage barn at Belchertown's Stone House Museum," a press statement reads.



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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.

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



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Fire dept. participates in 'No Shave November'

This year, members of the Belchertown Fire Department participated in the "No Shave November" campaign, including the Fire Chief's first ever mustache. A total of \$300 was raised to purchase toys that will be used for the Belchertown Police Department's Stuff-A-Cruiser.

Christmas Eve at Hope United Methodist Church

BELCHERTOWN - Hope United Methodist Church will hold two services on Christmas Eve. At 10 a.m., there will be a regular worship service for the Fourth Sunday of Advent. In the evening at 7 p.m., there will be a traditional family Candlelight service. The community is

invited to come and hear the Christmas story along with beautiful music.

The church is located at 31 Main St. in Belchertown, next to the Post Office.

"Hope UMC is a welcoming congregation committed to the inclusion of all," a press statement reads.

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 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.

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.

Please see **BCOA NEWS**, page 10



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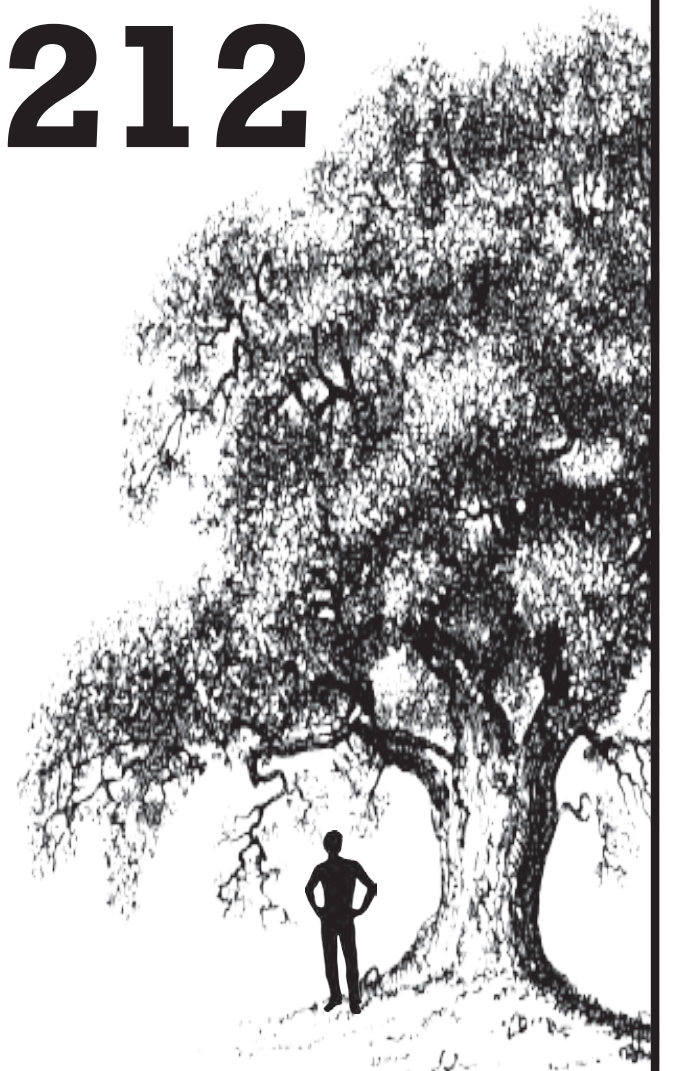
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COMMUNITY

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:

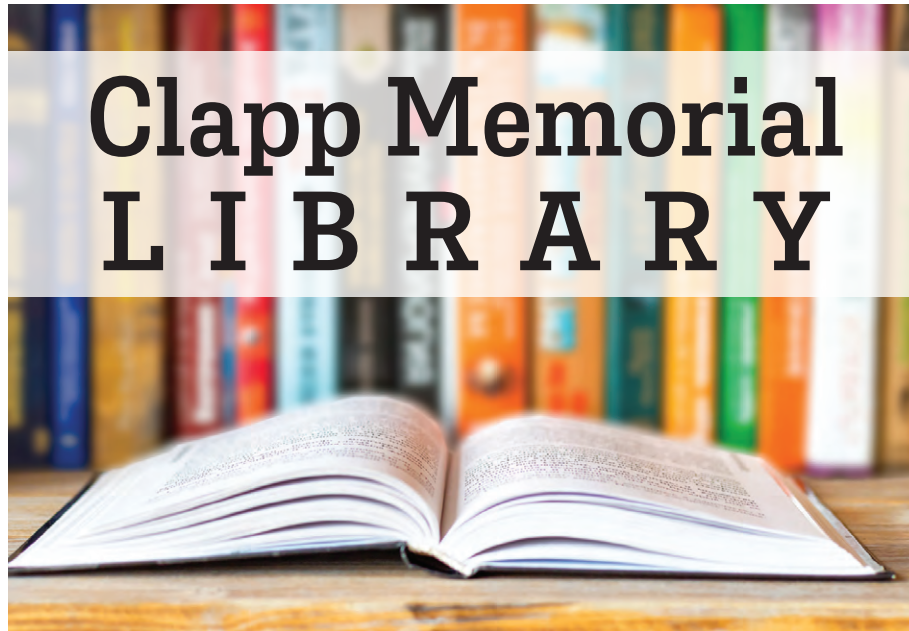
Hospice 101

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.”



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, Jan. 8, 22, and 29, from 9-9:45 a.m.

Babytime is for ages three to 12 months.

First Steps Storytime

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

First Steps is for ages 12-24 months.

Toddler Time

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

Toddler Time is for children two years old.

Preschool Storytime

Thursdays, Dec. 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.

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CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Christmas is a quiet and powerful mystery – dark, wintry nights lit by twinkling lights overcoming the cold darkness, distracted shoppers startled by soft carols about the Creator invading our world with His love. It’s Christmas, when God came to earth as quietly and beautifully as a sunrise. As Zechariah said, “The sunrise from on high will visit us, to shine upon those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death...”

Who can understand the ways of our God? A favorite Christmas poem is The Holy Thing by George MacDonald. The first stanza says,

“They all were looking for a king,
To slay their foes, and lift them high:
Thou cam’st a little baby thing
That made a woman cry.”

That made a woman cry...It’s hard to ignore that powerful image. Mary’s tears – the joy of a first-time mother, a woman enraptured by the wonder of what the angels said about what this child was destined to do for humanity, a woman standing on the precipice of eternal glory. The manger, lit by smoking candles and oil lamps on that dark night when Christ was born, cradled the Light of the world!

Please invite your friends and family to join us and experience the life changing depth and beauty of the “little baby thing” destined to save us from our sins and be the center of our joyful worship.

We will be joining together to reflect on that first Christmas Eve through scripture readings and beautiful music on Sunday, December 24th at 6pm, CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH 1255 FEDERAL STREET, BELCHERTOWN



Quabbin Art Association to host Annual Members' holiday social

SUBMITTED PHOTO
QAA Holiday Social and Greeting Card Swap

BELCHERTOWN - The Quabbin Art Association will host its Annual Members' Holiday Social on Dec. 21 as part of its regular monthly meeting. Members will have the opportunity to socialize and enjoy refreshments and food before taking part in a greeting card swap featuring their artistic talents and original artwork. The social will be held at the St. Francis Parish Hall Lower-Level Meeting Room, at 12 Park St. in Belchertown. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

with a brief business meeting. The public is invited to attend and bring a 5x7 hand-made greeting card to participate in the swap. Parking is available behind the building for easy access to the lower-level entry door, according to a press release. "With the rise in COVID, flu, and RSV, we ask that attendees please consider wearing a mask or face covering if you think you have been exposed to any of these illnesses or

consider joining us at another time," the QAA released. Since its founding in 2016, the Quabbin Art Association (QAA) has promoted community interest and appreciation in the visual arts while providing education, support, and opportunity for local artists and art supporters. To learn more about the organization or to become a member, visit www.quabbinartassociation.com.

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OPINION



By Ellenor Downer

I received an email last month from a La Brimfield resident who reported an acquaintance from Hardwick had a fox sparrow and pine siskin in his yard recently.

The fox sparrow is a large sparrow, seven inches. It has rufous sneaking on a gray head and back, whitish underparts and boldly streaked with brown or rufous. It has an irregular central dot on its breast and a reddish brown rump and tail.



Fox sparrow

These sparrows feed on the ground with seeds, fruits and insects making up its diet. They often jump forward and back to remove debris from the ground to uncover food. They come to feeders eating the seeds scattered on the ground by other birds.

The female lays four to six light blue, green eggs with darker marks in a cupcake nest if grasses, lichens and leaves lined with grasses, fur and rootlets. It is placed on the ground under a small tree or shrub. Their song is a series of clear melodious whistles and is more melodic than most sparrows.

Loon life span

In the Loon Preservation Committee newsletter, they discussed the loon life span.

"How long do loons live?" is one of the most common questions that LPC biologists are asked.

The two oldest known loons in the world breed in Michigan, at the Seney Wildlife Refuge. They used to be a pair, however, in recent years they have gone their separate ways. The male's exact age is known because he was banded the year that he hatched. The female's exact age is unknown because she was banded as an adult, however, we know her minimum age. This summer, the female was at least 37 years old, while the male turned 36 years old.

New Hampshire has a male loon who was banded as an adult in 2000, making him at least 26 years old. In addition to his advanced age, he has another claim to fame: he is the only loon, so far, in New Hampshire that has produced chicks after surviving lead poisoning.

The oldest known loon in New Hampshire is a female, who occupies a territory on Lake Umbagog. She was originally banded as an adult in 1993. Because she was banded as an adult, we don't know her exact age. We only know for sure that she was at least three years old in 1993. However, loons don't hatch chicks, on average, until they are 6 years old, and this loon hatched chicks the year she was banded. That means she was likely 6 years old or older in 1993. She is at minimum 33 years old, but more likely 36 or older.

Decrease in bird activity

I received an email from a man who said this year he has a very noticeable decrease in bird population.

He reports he has a male and female bobcat and squirrels, rabbits and chipmunks have disappeared. He said "maybe that's part of it."

Bird club

A Brimfield resident emailed, "On Nov. 30 I took part in a project for the bird club and afterwards we went to Forest Park in Springfield and saw a black duck, a chilly looking great blue heron, a hermit thrush and several golden-crowned kinglets.

He said he started to leave one feeder out overnight testing to see if there are still bears about. Here's hoping they have all gone into hibernation.

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.



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I'm returning to work; what should I do about Social Security?

Dear Rusty

I started collecting Social Security at age 62 earlier this year.

I had an opportunity to partner in a new business this year that will allow me to earn about \$200,000 in 2024. Because this is significantly above the allowed earnings when collecting early benefits, I need advice on how I handle this with the Social Security Administration.

Am I supposed to call them and advise them of my change in income for 2024? If so, am I going to be penalized in any way? I expect they will stop all payments in 2024 once I alert them to the change. Will I be eligible for Social Security payments when I retire again? This is planned to take place before I reach full retirement age of 67. For information, my 2023 income will not exceed the 2023 allowable income limit.

Signed: Un-retiring Temporarily

Dear Un-retiring

You have a couple of options, considering that you recently claimed early Social Security benefits but are returning to work with income significantly more than the 2024 earnings limit of \$22,320.

The first is to simply contact Social Security and tell them you are returning to the work force and tell them your anticipated 2024 income. They will suspend your SS benefits for all of 2024 to avoid overpaying you and making you return those 2024 payments later. If you plan to continue in your new business beyond 2024, you can advise them of that as well and they will continue the suspension of your benefits, until such time as you either discontinue working or reach your Full Retirement Age, the earnings test no longer applies after you reach your FRA.

At that time, SS will resume your monthly Social Security payments and, at your FRA, will give you time credit for all months your benefits were suspended, providing you with a higher monthly payment

after your full retirement age is attained with an adjustment for benefits already paid).

Your other option is to contact Social Security soon and request that your recent

application for Social Security benefits submitted earlier this year be withdrawn. You have 12 months from the date of your application to do this, but you will need to repay Social Security all money which they paid to you or on your behalf (including your monthly payments, any income tax you had withheld from those payments, and any dependent benefits which might have been paid based on your record..

That will effectively "wipe the slate clean" with Social Security and will be as though you had never claimed, allowing you to simply wait until you stop working or until your FRA or even beyond your FRA, to re-apply for Social Security at a higher monthly amount. The advantage of this option is that when your benefit restarts there will be no adjustment (reduction) for past benefits paid.

What I suggest you not do is simply wait to see what happens. That would result in Social Security catching up after the IRS informs them of your 2024 earnings, resulting in you receiving an Overpayment Notice from the SSA demanding repayment of 2024 benefits paid.

In that case, you would need to quickly repay Social Security in a large lump-sum or have your SS benefits withheld until the debt for exceeding the earnings limit was repaid. In a nutshell, I suggest you call Social Security and tell them you are returning to work, what your earnings are expected to be, and for how long.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for informational 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.

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Submitted photos
Emma Desroches and her dad singing holiday songs with the orchestra.



Odin Carlson, looking sharp in the lobby before the show.

CONCERT from page 1

led the entire hall in a community sing along to end the night," Gould said.

Each year, Gould said he selects two concerts for his students to attend that "expose them to symphonic music through the power, joy, and authenticity of the orchestra."

"This is an opportunity to

open a new door for my students and their families," he said. "I think many of us want to experience more 'real life' in today's world...I can think of no better way to share an authentic community experience than to have my Swift River families immersed in evenings like this."

Friends of Swift River Elementary School will head

back to the orchestra on March 9 for "Fantasias." This concert will feature a world-class pianist, Quynh Nguyen, and will be led by conductor Adam Kerry Boyles and also feature the Symphony Choir led by Nikki Stoia.

"All are welcome to join us at the symphony hall in March," Gould added.

BCTV schedule

BELCHERTOWN – Here is the BCTV schedule for Thursday, Dec. 14, through Wednesday, Dec. 20.

- Thursday, Dec. 14**
- 8 a.m. – Select Board, Dec. 11
 - 10 a.m. – Conservation Comm., Dec. 11
 - 12 p.m. – Planning Board., Dec. 12
 - 7 p.m. – Select Board, Dec. 11
 - 9 p.m. – Conservation Comm., Dec. 11
 - 11 p.m. – Planning Board, Dec. 12
- Friday, Dec. 15**
- 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
 - 9 a.m. – Board of Health, Dec. 13
 - 11 a.m. – The Last Putt-a-Thon 2023
 - 5 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman
 - 7 p.m. – Board of Health, Dec. 13
 - 9 p.m. – The Last Putt-a-Thon 2023

- Saturday, Dec. 16**
- 8 a.m. – Educational Crafting with Charlotte, Snowflake
 - 8:30 a.m. – Clapp Library, Lego Dan
 - 4:30 p.m. – Educational Crafting with Charlotte, Snowflake
 - 5 p.m. – Clapp Library, Lego Dan
- Sunday, Dec. 17**
- 4:30 p.m. – St. Francis Roman Catholic Church
 - 7 p.m. – Hope United Methodist Church
 - 8:30 p.m. – The Last Putt-a-Thon 2023

- Monday Dec. 18**
- 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
 - 5 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman

- Tuesday, Dec. 19**
- 8 a.m. – BHS Choir/Percussion Concert
 - 10 a.m. – The Last Putt-a-Thon 2023
 - 5 p.m. – The Last Putt-a-Thon 2023
 - 6 p.m. – School Comm., Channel 192
 - 7 p.m. – Community Preservation Comm., Channel 191

- Wednesday, Dec. 20**
- 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
 - 5 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman
 - 6:30 p.m. – ZBA, Channel 191
 - 7 p.m. – BEDIC, Channel 192
- Belchertown Community Television always streams channels 191 and 192 and archives most shows after being broadcasted.*

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."



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COMMUNITY

A successful QAA 'Art Take-Away Tree' event, new artisan market



Artisan Market Anna Burns

BELCHERTOWN - The Quabbin Art Association hosted its Annual Art Take-Away Tree event during the Winter Light Night Festival on Nov. 25 in Belchertown.

More than three hundred pieces of artwork and art-related gifts were donated to the community, according to reports.

"This year, they combined the give-away with a successful bake sale on the Town Common," the Quabbin Art Association (QAA) released in a press statement. "QAA President Rick Guimond was in charge of the event and is grateful to all volunteers and artists who contributed to its success. Members are already busy making new artwork for next year's tree."

Additionally, the QAA held its first Artisan Market the same day at St. Francis Parish Hall where members exhibited and sold artwork, pottery, hand-made crafts, mixed media assemblage, greeting cards, and art-related merchandise.

Members Nancy Birmingham and Anna Burns coordinated the event and participated with artists including Anna Jacke, Nina Place, Desire Scheinost, and Rochelle Shicoff. Next year's Artisan's Market is already being planned, the QAA released.



Artisan Market Nancy Birmingham

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Art Take Away Tree 2023



QAA President Rick Guimond and Volunteer Linda Snow

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Happy Holidays!

Happy New Year!

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

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:

Conservation Commission

Two associate member vacancies

The Commission is charged with the protection of the community’s natural resources and advises other municipal boards and committees on conservation issues relating to their areas of responsibility. Interested applicants will need to familiarize themselves with the Wetland Regulations and attend workshops and meetings regularly.

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 emergency 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

Please see **VACANCISS**, page 13



QAA Black Birch Vineyard Group Exhibit, John Collins

SUBMITTED PHOTO

New Landscapes Exhibit at Black Birch Vineyard

BELCHERTOWN - The Quabbin Art Association has a new group exhibit titled “Landscapes at the Vineyard” at the Black Birch Vineyard in Hatfield through March 3, 2024.

The exhibit features more than two dozen landscape pieces in watercolor, oil,

acrylic, and photography.

“Stop by the vineyard during regular business hours and view show,” the QAA released in a press statement. “Many pieces are for sale during the holidays directly from the artists.”

Town Hall announces holiday closures

BELCHERTOWN - The Belchertown Town Hall and the Select Board’s Office at the Finnerty House will be closing at noon on Friday, Dec. 22, for the Christmas holiday. Offices will reopen at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 26.

The Belchertown Town Hall and the Select Board’s Office at the Finnerty House will be closing at noon on Friday, Dec. 29, for the New Year’s holiday. Offices will reopen at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Granby Police

Editor's Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 148 calls for the week of Dec. 1 through Dec. 7. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The Granby Police Department provides all information.

Friday, Dec. 1

4 p.m. – Roland Monfette, 65, of Granby was placed under arrest due to an active arrest warrant.

Saturday, Dec. 2

2:46 a.m. – A motorist reported a car that went off the road and had flipped over. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries. An accident report was completed.

10:56 a.m. – A motorist reported a minor two-car accident in front of the library. There were no injuries. An accident report was completed.

6:01 p.m. – While on patrol, an officer observed a motor vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed that the vehicle was traveling at 51MPH in 35MPH zone. The vehicle was stopped and the operator was issued a civil citation for speeding.

Sunday, Dec. 3

11:49 a.m. – Granby Police and Fire responded to a reported car fire in the post office parking lot. There were no injuries and the fire was extinguished.

7:31 p.m. – While on patrol, an officer observed a motor vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed that the vehicle was traveling at 54MPH in 35MPH zone. The vehicle was stopped and it was discovered that the operator had a suspended Massachusetts driver's license. The operator was issued a criminal citation for

speeding and operating with a suspended license.

Monday, Dec. 4

1:55 a.m. – While on patrol, an officer observed a motor vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed that the vehicle was traveling at 80MPH in 45MPH zone. The vehicle was stopped and the operator was issued a civil citation for speeding.

7:12 p.m. – While on patrol, an officer observed a motor vehicle fail to stop at a stop sign. The vehicle was stopped and the operator was issued a civil citation for failing to stop at a stop sign.

10:10 p.m. – While on patrol, an officer observed a motor vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed that the vehicle was traveling at 58MPH in 35MPH zone. The vehicle was stopped and the operator was issued a civil citation for speeding.

Thursday, Dec. 7

5:40 p.m. – Several 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. It was determined that the operator of one of the vehicles did not stop for the stop sign and caused the accident. That operator was issued a civil citation for failing to stop at a stop sign.

10:14 p.m. – A motorist reported that a car struck a utility pole. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries. An accident report was completed. It was determined that the operator of the vehicle had a suspended MA driver's license. The operator was issued a criminal citation for crossing marked lanes and operating with a suspended driver's license.

BCOA NEWS from page 2

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

Quabbinares: 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.

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.

ADA from page 1

a conversation, which needed to happen.

"We are talking about it and taking some steps. Maybe the School Committee and Selectboard start meeting on a quarterly basis to talk about this and updates. Perhaps we get the Finance Committee involved as well," he said. "This is a big project to address on all sides."

School Committee Chair Jennifer Bartosz read a letter sent to the Selectboard from the committee.

The district has done proactive measures to attempt to address concerns about the building including an internal facilities assessment which details needs for the building and grounds.

"Over the past three consecutive years the Granby School Committee has diligently submitted a statement of interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority," she read. "Superintendent Sullivan has met with the Select Board each year for your approval in this regard each year as time passes, new issues continue to arise necessitating our collective attention and action."

Last year at the annual town

meeting, a project to address needs of the high school's kitchen and cafeteria was approved by voters. Bartosz said while it would be great to have the issue addressed, there are concerns that the entire building would need to be ADA compliant.

"It is in this context we that we emphasize the critical need for a comprehensive plan regarding the Granby Junior Senior High School facility," she read. "Timely decisions and strategic planning are essential to address the existing concerns and prevent further deterioration that may significantly impact the school's ability to serve its educational purpose."

She said the committee didn't want to force action from the board, but to create a plan to move forward in collaboration with the Selectboard.

Currently, food for the high school is being made at East Meadow School and is brought over to the high school. The reason the cafeteria was addressed first was due to need.

Another project was the boilers at the school, which are original to the building. The matter was a joint item with HVAC repairs in the FY22 town meeting, the article wasn't approved.

It is currently unknown what

financial threshold exists that would cause the school district to bring the entire high school building up to compliance.

Selectboard member Crystal Dufresne asked if that would be something the building inspector could determine.

Sexton replied that the building inspector may be able to tell the town what needs to be done to bring the building into ADA compliance.

Finance Committee Chair John J. Libera Jr. spoke in the meeting as well, agreeing with the board and committee.

"We need that first question answered [about the cost to bring the school up to ADA compliance.] From there, we can move on to address what's next. If, for example, it's thought that the best thing to do would be to keep educating students like they are now. Then from there you have to start a very serious study into what that would cost," he said. "We know that we know that the costs are going to be high because any kind of preliminary work that's been done looking at things show that the renovation costs are outrageous, and the building costs are getting worse. And compliance issues are paramount, and anything is being done."



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SPORTS

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Orioles prep for season opener

HOLYOKE – Last Thursday afternoon, Belchertown and Chicopee hockey met in a scrimmage as both teams prepared for their regular season opener. Belchertown is coming off an appearance in last year’s state tournament while Chicopee’s team will feature several different players this season as the Pacers now co-op with four other schools. This year’s team will be a five-team co-op with Chicopee, Chicopee Comprehensive, South Hadley, Granby, and the Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School (PVCIC) all participating.



Owen Hess works away from the boards.



Jack Mandeville works near center ice.



Jack Mandeville tries to get around a defender.



Grayden Kendall circles around toward the goal.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Rams host multi-team event



The Rams then faced Springfield International Charter earlier this week.



Last year, the Rams had a tougher time in regular season dual meets.



The Rams hosted several teams, including Agawam and Holyoke at their event.

GRANBY – Last Saturday morning, several teams, including Agawam, Monument Mountain, Chicopee, Southwick, and Holyoke, came to Granby to match up in a series of dual meets on two mats in the Granby High School gymnasium. The Rams host a few events during the regular season on Saturdays. But coming up this weekend, Granby will travel to Holyoke for the Knight-Hawk Tournament, which is an individual competition. Their next single dual meet will be Wednesday, Dec. 20 against Smith Vocational.



Saturday wrestling meets at home are a regular thing for the Rams, which host three events this season.



Granby wrestling hosted multiple meets last weekend.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Hunter Griswold takes a free throw in the first quarter.



Richie Gula reaches up to try and bring in a rebound.



Pioneers pick up season opener victory

SPRINGFIELD – Last Thursday night, Pathfinder was aggressive early on and was able to score a win over Pioneer Valley Christian School 58-46 in the season opener for both teams. The Pioneers remained on the road facing Mt. Everett earlier this week and host Ludlow in its home opener this Friday evening at 7 p.m.

Following a defensive rebound, Adrian Moskovitz sprints down the court.

SPORTS

T-Birds stuff Islanders on Teddy Bear Night

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (12-8-2-0) thoroughly controlled the game and came away with a defiant 5-1 win over the Bridgeport Islanders (6-15-1-0) on Saturday night before a sold-out crowd of 6,793 for the annual Teddy Bear Toss.

Fans did not have to wait long to chuck their stuffed animals onto the ice, as Mathias Laferriere cleaned up a loose puck rebound in front of Jakub Skarek and tucked it home on the backhand just 1:40 into the game, bringing about thousands of bears raining onto the ice sheet.

After a delay in picking up all the stuffed donations, the T-Birds picked right up where they left off, and just 6:10 after the Laferriere goal, the top line generated another marker. Adam Gaudette connected on a pass to the right side to Nathan Walker. Dylan Coghlan quickly raced up into the play as a trailer and perfectly placed a wrist shot over Skarek's blocker arm to make it a 2-0 game at 7:50.

Vadim Zherenko was mostly untested in the T-Birds' net, as the offense for both teams went dry for well over the next 30 minutes

of game action.

The game's temperature then rose at the 3:18 mark of the third as Sam Bitten and Travis Mitchell dropped the mitts in an old-school style scrap, bringing up the noise on both benches and inside the building. When the game moved to 4-on-4 following matching minors three minutes later, the T-Birds put the game out of reach with two goals in short order.

First, Calle Rosen drifted back toward his blue line and stunned the Islanders with a perfect diagonal pass to a streaking Walker, who beat Skarek with a back-

hander to make it 3-0 at 7:18 of the third. Just 22 seconds later, Walker was the distributor off the rush, setting up Wyatt Kalynuk for a snapper through Skarek's five-hole, and in a matter of a half minute, the lead had ballooned to 4-0 for the T-Birds.

Matt Maggio broke up Zherenko's shutout bid with a shot that caromed off a defender and through Zherenko's legs at 10:27 to make it a 4-1 game, but that would be all the Isles could muster on this night.

Coghlan would add his second of the night on Walker's fourth

point of the evening, blasting a one-time power play slapper through Skarek's legs at 13:59, rounding out the scoring with his seventh goal of the year and his second multi-goal game.

For the first time this season, the T-Birds went the full 60 minutes without having to play short-handed, and Springfield scored on their lone power play chance to make it a perfect night in special teams. Zherenko got his fourth straight win with 34 saves. In his last four outings, the second-year netminder has stopped 126 out of 132 shots.

Railers suffer loss to Thunder

WORCESTER – The Railers dropped a 3-2 shootout to the Adirondack Thunder here Saturday before a loud Teddy Bear Toss crowd of 5,029. While Worcester did not dominate play in this one as much as it did in Friday's 4-2 triumph, the Railers had more and better chances than the Thunder.

However, Adirondack was 1 for 2 on its power plays, Worcester 0 for 1. This marked the ninth time in 21 games this season the Railers were outscored by the opposition on special teams. Worcester is 2-4-3 in those games.

The Railers did not get a power play until overtime. At 3:08 of the fourth period, something happened that typified the night. A Worcester shot rang off the post, rolled into the back of Thunder goaltender Vinnie Purpura, then bounced back towards the net.

It stopped on the goal line. Worcester outshot the visitors, 38-28. That included a 21-6 edge

in the first period, which ended 1-1 but could have been 5-1.



“Stay the course,” was coach Jordan Smotherman's advice to his team in the dressing room. “That's two really good games out of us. We have 80 shots in two nights and we should win both those games.

Obviously, we'll take the three-point weekend but prefer the four.

“There's a lot to build on.”

The seven-minute overtime was exactly what hockey's honchos had in mind when they thought up the idea. It was non-stop offense with great goaltending from Worcester's Tristan Lennox and Purpura, both of whom stopped five shots.

The shootout was the kind of thing hockey's honchos are trying to avoid. The teams traded slow-motion approaches to the net. Adirondack's Patrick Grasso had the only goal in eight tries, a 12-foot wrist shot along the ice.

Keeghan Howdeshell and

Anthony Repaci had the Railers goals. Worcester never led. Jack Jeffers and Mike Gillespie scored for Adirondack.

Howdeshell's goal came at 19:07 of the first period. It was set up by a physical play by Riley Piercey along the right boards. Repaci redirected a long pass from the right point by Todd Goehring at 13:33 of the second period.

In the last four games the Railers have outshot the opposition by 160-108 but have been outscored — goalie in the net — by 11-8. Worcester's shots have not been time-to-change lines softballs, either. The Railers are pummeling opposing goalies.

“It's the old adage in hockey,” Smotherman said. “If you keep getting the chances they're gonna go in at some point. I'd rather be getting them than not.”

Saturday night's game marked the 16th time the Railers and Thunder have met in the last 30 games going back to the end of last season. That ridiculous overload is almost over. The teams play just three more times this year, one of those games next week.

Winter Showdown to feature SK Type Open Modified programs

WINTER HAVEN, FL – As tradition has it, motorsports fans from coast to coast will soon be flocking to the Sunshine State, ready to elude the abrasive winter chill in exchange for a full month of racing at a variety of ovals across the peninsula. Auburndale Speedway in Winter Haven, Florida, centrally located between Tampa and Orlando, will join in on the winter action, ready to host its highly-anticipated Winter Showdown on February 6-10.

In total, seven different asphalt divisions will be taking to the Auburndale shorttrack, all of which anchored with the 602 Tour Type Modifieds, and the Tour/SK Type Open Modifieds, that will headline the week-long Winter Showdown agenda on Thursday through Saturday. The 602 Modifieds, battling for \$500-to-win in each of their respective programs, will compete on all three of the aforementioned evenings with the Tour/SK Type Open Modifieds competing for \$2,000-to-win paydays on Friday and Saturday, only.

A true must-see for any short track enthusiast, the Tour Type Modifieds have never competed at Auburndale Speedway giving fans the opportunity to witness a new piece of Florida history.

Competitors should note,

Modifieds will utilize the F45 Hoosier; additional rules will be posted in the coming days.

In addition to the aforementioned Modified divisions, Legends/Bandoleros (highlighted with double programs on Wednesday and Thursday), Mighty TQ Midgets (chasing a \$5,000 total purse), USAC Eastern Midgets, the National Compact Tour, and the infamous Crown Vics, will also join in on the Winter Showdown, activating officially with open practice and track rental sessions beginning Tuesday, February 6.

Registration for Auburndale Speedway's Winter Showdown is officially open. Competitors seeking to pre-register can do so by clicking the link below. Online registration will close on February 1 with additional registration opportunities available at-track during each day's respective program.

Speed Sport TV, home to the widest variety of motorsports events, award-winning shows and exclusive features with live and on-demand capabilities, is the official broadcast partner of the annual Winter Showdown and is set to broadcast each evening live. Race coverage packages and pricing will be available soon. Learn more at www.speed-sport.tv.

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ture 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.

Be aware of phony bank text messages

One of scammers' favorite tactics is impersonating a person or organization you know and trust. That's the premise of this new text message scam, which has been popping up in recent BBB Scam Tracker reports. This time, con artists are impersonating your bank.

How the scam works

You receive a text message that looks like a fraud alert from your bank. It claims there is some unusual activity in your account. It may read: “Bank Fraud Alert - Did you approve a transaction for \$1,000? Reply YES or NO.” If you reply to the text, the scammer now knows they have an active number - and a person to scam.

The scam doesn't end there. The scammer will call you to follow up, and the number will appear in the caller ID as coming from your bank. When you answer, the caller claims to be a bank representative who can help stop the fraudulent

charges. To do so, you need to send money to yourself using Zelle or another digital wallet app. The caller walks you through the process of connecting the app to your bank account. Then, they ask you to verify the connection by sharing the code your bank sent.

Don't do it! If you give the scammer your verification code, the scammer can set up an account with your phone number and email - but their bank account information. If that happens, when you send money to “yourself,” you're actually sending money to the scammer. Disputing the charges will be difficult because the scammer has tricked you into approving the transaction. Sending money through a digital wallet app is like using cash, making it very hard to get your money back.

One consumer reported this experience to BBB Scam Tracker: “I received two texts stating it was the Wells Fargo Fraud Department

wanting to know if I had made a Zelle transfer... I responded no and immediately got another text stating, ‘Thank you, no further action is needed, a representative will call you from 800-869-3556.’ Within a few minutes, I got a call from an individual stating they were with the Wells Fargo fraud department. The caller ID on my phone said Wells Fargo, and the person said they could reverse the transaction if I sign into my online account and open the Zelle app. I did this and the caller asked if I saw my name. I told him I saw my name in two places. It looked like I would be sending money to myself. The caller said everything was fine and the money would come back to my account. After the call ended, I got two texts stating funds for \$2,500 and \$1,000 would be deposited in my Wells Fargo account. I went back into my account and there was no evidence of any deposits. What I did see was \$3,500 taken out of

my account and a zero account balance.”

How to avoid bank fraud scams

Understand your bank's policies. Know that your bank will never ask you to send money to yourself. If someone tries to convince you otherwise, it's a scam.

Watch out for fake caller IDs. Scammers can spoof caller ID names and numbers to make you think you are receiving a call from a reputable source. If you weren't expecting to be contacted by your bank, it's best to avoid answering. Instead, call the number on the back of your ATM card to confirm that there is an issue.

Never share one-time passcodes. Scammers can use one-time passcodes from your bank or any other company to access your accounts and change information. Don't share them with anyone, no exceptions. Contact your bank if you suspect a

scam. If you receive an unsolicited call, text, or email that you suspect is a scam, contact your bank immediately and let them know.

Don't reply to suspicious texts. Ignore any instructions to reply yes or no if you receive an unsolicited, suspicious text message. If you reply to a scammer, they could save your number as “active” and target you with future scams.

For More Information

See the related BBB Scam Alert about phony banking texts and calls and review the BBB Tip on avoiding impostor scams.

If you spot a scam, report it to BBB Scam Tracker. Your report can help others avoid falling victim to similar scams.

Do you want more information about how to avoid getting scammed? Check out the Spot a Scam page and sign up to receive weekly scam alerts.

Kate Lorenz Memorial fund announce awards

BELCHERTOWN – A memorial fund in honor of Kate Lorenz, a Belchertown resident, has announced its 2023 gift awards.

“As the year draws to a close, many thanks are extended to the generous friends of the Kate Lorenz Memorial Community Fund, which was founded in 2022 in honor and in memory of Kate Lorenz, who lived her 42 years with sparkling passion and generosity,” a press statement reads.

As a teacher, musician, community member, and planet advocate, her “compassion and empathy knew no bounds.”

“The Fund provides gifts to organizations that represent Kate’s passion for supporting: Children and Early Literacy; Women’s Rights; Visual and Performing Arts; Environmental Education and more.”

The Fund announced gift awards for 2023 to the following Massachusetts and Vermont organizations: The Shea Theater

Arts Center; The Institute for the Musical Arts; The Sunderland Elementary School; The Northampton Council for the Arts; The Spring Street Preschool; The Nature Museum; Holly’s Hugs and Kisses DayCare Center; The Cavendish Fletcher Memorial Library; The Next Stage Arts Project; and The Vermont Institute of Natural Science.



SUBMITTED PHOTO
The Kate Lorenz Memorial Community Fund has announced its gift awards for 2023.

“Kate’s family and friends will continue to grow the Kate Lorenz Memorial Community Fund to keep Kate’s spirit, caring, and kindness alive in the world and continue using these funds to support organizations that represent her interests and passions,” the press statement reads.

Donations to Kate’s Fund can be made at www.katelorenzmusic.com via PayPal or by mailing a check to The Kate Lorenz Memorial Community Fund, PO Box 418, Chester, VT 05143.

\$1 million received for clean energy infrastructure

BOSTON – Sen. Edward J. Markey (D-Massachusetts), chair of the Senate Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate, and Nuclear Safety, recently celebrated an announcement from the Department of Energy that Massachusetts will receive nearly \$1 million in federal funding to develop clean energy infrastructure.

This funding was awarded through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block grant program created through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Of these funds, Boston will receive \$659,900 to create a Building Decarbonization Advisory Program, which will assist residents with enhancing energy efficiency, decarbonizing their homes, and complying with the City’s standards.

Littleton will receive \$300,000 to col-

laborate with five local electric utilities, the Beneficial Electrification League, and the Northeast Public Power Association to launch a clean energy program. The program will help six Massachusetts municipal utilities transition to 100 percent clean energy while advancing their communities towards net-zero emissions by 2050.

“Massachusetts is the home of the American revolution, and we’ll be the home of America’s clean energy revolution,” said Markey in a press release. “With nearly a million in federal funding, we are supporting Massachusetts families in upgrading and decarbonizing their homes - all while electrifying and transitioning our commonwealth to clean energy. Together, we can reduce carbon emissions to zero, protect environmental justice communities, and save our planet.”

VACANCIES from page 9

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

OBITUARY

Beverly J. (Harrop) Willis

FLORENCE - Beverly J. (Harrop) Willis, 70, passed away December 8, 2023, at Cooley Dickinson Hospital.



She was born on December 5, 1953, in Holyoke to Joyce (Fleurent) Harrop of Granby and the late Robert Harrop. Beverly was raised in Granby and graduated from Granby High School. Beverly has lived in Florence for 20 years and previously lived in New Hampshire.

Beverly will be remembered for her kindness, her love of animals, especially cats, and her passion for country music and garden-

ing. Besides her loving mother Joyce, she is survived by two sons, Jason Edes of Fla. and Christopher Edes of Penn., and two granddaughters, Madeline and Juliette Edes. She also leaves six siblings, Robert Harrop (Paula) of Las Vegas Nev., Carol Reckers (Steve) of Ky., Susan Carpenter (Bruce) of Belchertown, Debra Basko of South Hadley, Sandra McCuskey (Patrick) of Ludlow, and David Harrop (Laura) of Las Vegas, Nev.

A calling hour will be held on Friday, December 15, from 10-11 a.m. at Beers & Story Belchertown Funeral Home. A Memorial Service will follow at 11 a.m. The burial will take place in Quabbin Park Cemetery in Ware. In lieu of flowers, please make donations in her memory to an animal shelter of your choice.

DEATH NOTICES

Beverly J. (Harrop) Willis
Died: December 8, 2023
Memorial Service:
Friday, December 15

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.

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

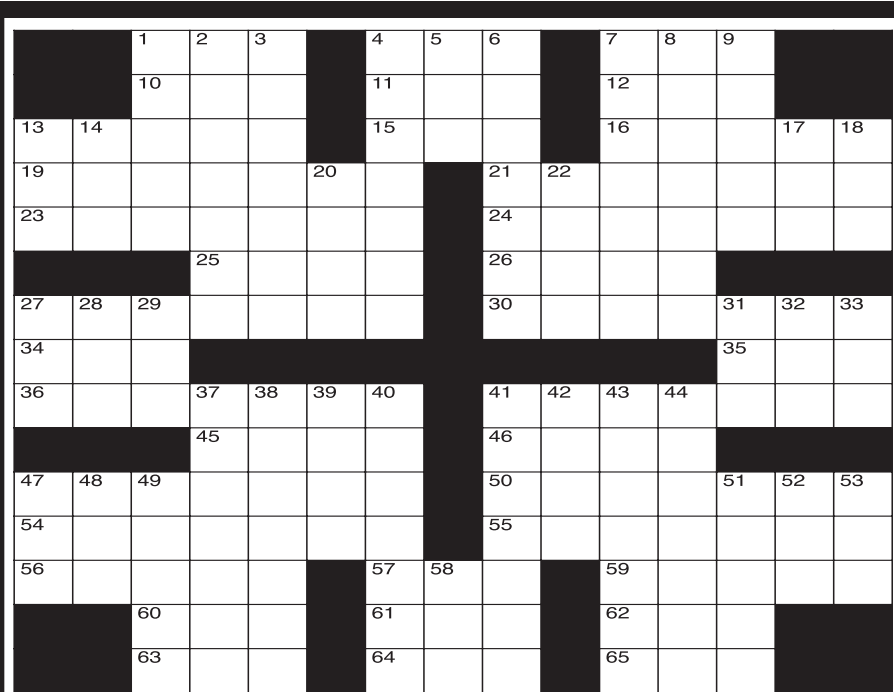
St. Francis announces Christmas Mass Schedule

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.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Mimic
4. Payroll firm
7. Perform in a play
10. Opine: ___ philosophical
11. Crony
12. Political action committee
13. 1991 Wimbledon winner
15. Affirmative
16. Exclamation of disgust
19. Action of connecting
21. A way to calm
23. Especially fine or decorative clothing
24. Walked proudly
25. Group of people related through male heir
26. Supplemented with difficulty
27. Soft touch
30. Erases
34. Spanish river
35. A princess can detect it
36. Clouds of gas
41. A way to get through
45. Part of a book
46. Southwestern US state
47. Fields where rice is grown
50. Area in Ghana
54. Sayings
55. Involve deeply
56. Compels to act
57. “Ignore all rules”
59. Indoor entertainment space
60. Born of
61. Back muscle
62. Sea dweller
63. Tools that resemble an axe
64. Prefix denoting class or kind
65. Tooth caregiver

CLUES DOWN

1. Inspiring
2. Put into a box
3. Breathes out
4. Pacify
5. Patriotic society for women
6. Fell down
7. Clothing
8. Dishwasher detergent brand
9. Former French republic
13. Single lens reflex
14. Men’s fashion accessory
17. Consumed
18. Marry
20. ___ up: intensifies
22. Body of water
27. People of southern Benin
28. Decorate a cake with frosting
29. Snag
31. Yearly tonnage
- (abbr.)
32. Records brain activity (abbr.)
33. Car mechanics group
37. Brought up to snuff
38. ___ faire: Economic approach
39. Phil ___, former CIA
40. Affixed
41. Period of adolescence
42. Substance
43. Danced
44. Baked without its shell
47. Parts per billion (abbr.)
48. Satisfaction
49. Balkans river
51. Christmas carols
52. Partner to tonic
53. “The Godfather” character Johnny
58. Swiss river

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GRANBY

Local author hosts reading at East Meadow Elementary

GRANBY - Local Ludlow children's author Kathy Picard visited East Meadow Elementary School on Nov. 30 for a reading to two kindergarten classes and two first-grade classrooms.

The event was held thanks to Superintendent Stephen Sullivan and Principal Lisa Desjarlais of East Meadow Elementary School, according to a press release.

"Seventy-nine students were impressed with the story and interacting with the colorful pages by Illustrator Deborah Nicholson," the press statement reads.

Life lessons featured in the book, "I love you so much that..." include the "why's" of asking to brush one's teeth, paying attention to a teacher in school, going outside to play, eating vegetables, and more.

"The children had the opportunity to share their favorite vegetables/fruits, [and] share the chores they do around the house to help out the adults in their family," the press statement reads. "Talking about the importance of keeping them even safer by not talking to a stranger. To ask an adult if it's okay to go with someone they may not know. When Kathy



Kathy Picard of Ludlow, middle, joined first-grade teacher April Johnson, right, and a teacher helper at East Meadow School in Granby.

asked them the important question, 'if a stranger said I have lots and lots of money and lots and lots of candy, would you help me find my lost puppy?' Every single child said no. So important, and these children all know the right answer."

According to reports, the children said their favorite part of the story was "seeing Abby, Kathy's mini schnauzer, on the pages." Abby "paw signs" each book given.

"They also liked Dr. Abair, the bicycle page, [and] bear brushing teeth," the press statement reads.

Picard gave each child a toothbrush and paw stickers. The teachers of the four classes were given materials to do a "paper plate teddy bear pouch" with the children when time permits.

Picard authored the first edition in 2021, followed by a second edition later in 2021 to include activity pages to "engage young minds through repetition and retention so the story's heartfelt message remains with them."

"It includes questions, color, scribble, draw and interact with the images on these pages," the author released.

In June 2023, the story was put into an Interactive & Bilingual

(Spanish/English) version. This children's book is also listed as an educational resource by organizations such as Childhelp and the Massachusetts Citizens for Children. It's also listed on ChildUSA, a non-profit organization in Pennsylvania, as a resource for parents and teachers, according to the author.

"Kathy has read her book to schools in Chicopee, Ludlow, and Springfield. Daycare centers in Chicopee, Granby, and South Hadley, YMCA's and Boys and Girls Clubs, Lupa Zoo, Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative in West Springfield, Book Clubs and Correctional Facilities," the press statement adds. "Her long-term goal is to give each child the opportunity to have this educational, loving book in their home library."

The books can be found on Amazon, libraries including the Granby Public Library, or directly purchased through Picard and for a limited time at Sapowsky Farms in Granby, Wilbraham Flowers in Wilbraham, and Beautiful You Salon in Ludlow.

Contact Picard at Kathychildadvocate@gmail.com or 413-575-4674.

Granby Library to host pastel workshop this weekend

GRANBY - The town's public library will soon host an upcoming Georgia O'Keeffe-inspired pastel workshop for adults and teens entitled "The Rose."

Award-winning pastel artist Gregory John Maichack will present the workshop from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 16.

"This is a pastel painting workshop designed for both sheer beginners to advanced participants," the library released, adding that space is limited. "Please call 413-467-3320 to pre-register."

In this new two-hour workshop, participants will produce their very own personalized and original pastel based on Georgia O'Keeffe's rose.

"Maichack guides everyone in drawing, blending, and layering. Mr. Maichack has been asked over the years to offer a rose workshop, the most popular of flowers, and a symbol of love. Here it is," the Granby Free Public Library released in a press statement.

All materials will be supplied, including pastels, paper, and blending materials, and all will keep their 12x18 painting while entertained by anecdotes on Georgia O'Keeffe's flower painting and her life.

"Maichack will bring his

Georgia O'Keeffe rose pastel painting to the presentation to help give close detail in pastel, supplement our creations, and unveil the process. All will be broken down into easy steps and methodically planned out to make it so easy," the library released.

Maichack is an award-winning artist, twice Mass. Cultural Council Gold Star Award Program nominee, a seasoned professional from instructing at the Museum of Fine Arts Boston, colleges, and hundreds of libraries. Maichack lives in the Berkshires and is a portraitist and painter working primarily in pastels.

"Winner of the Award of Merit for the Arts: Impressions of New England Show 2003, he also was awarded the Savoir-faire Pastel Award from the Great Lakes Pastel Society," the library shared. "Maichack was commissioned by Westfield State College to paint the pastel portrait of the past president of Westfield State University, Doctor Frederick Woodward, which was unveiled at the dedication of the Woodward Center; and pastel painted dictionary great Charles Merriam, unveiled by Merriam-Webster Co. at Merriam-Gilbert Library. He

has been in many national juried shows and was awarded numerous Massachusetts Cultural Council grants. In addition to portraiture, his still life [art] and landscapes are represented by galleries from Kennebunkport, Maine, to San Francisco, Calif."

Maichack is accepting requests to do various commissions to do pastel paintings; email him at EmJay7@aol.com or visit his new web site at GregoryMaichack.com. According to the press statement, he has been a faculty member of the Museum Studio School in the Fine Arts Museum Quadrangle in Springfield and taught at Holyoke and Greenfield Community Colleges, Westfield State University, East Works, the MFA Boston, and The Guild, Northampton.

"Maichack's pastel paintings have been selected twice for the Annual National Exhibition of the Academic Artists Association and as a result Maichack was invited to be a member of this prestigious organization."

This project is supported in part from a grant from the Granby Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A visit to the Cliffs of Moher, County Clare Ireland

Resident Garry Bock, as well as an edition of The Sentinel, recently visited the Cliffs of Moher, County Clare Ireland.

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PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

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

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

The Sentinel OBITUARY POLICY

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WANTED

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HELP WANTED

TOWN OF WORTHINGTON HIGHWAY POSITION OPENING

The Town of Worthington is soliciting letters of interest from qualified candidates for the full-time position of **Equipment Operator/General Laborer** in the Town Highway Department. Valid MA CDL operator, Hydraulic Hoister's licenses and OSHA-10 certification is preferred.

Further information can be found on the Town's website: www.worthington-ma.us
Questions will be answered by the Highway Superintendent at 64 Huntington Road, Monday - Friday, 7 AM to 3 PM; the telephone number is 413-238-5830.

Send letter of interest, resume and three (3) references with relevant contact information to: worthington-highway@gmail.com or to Worthington Highway Department, P. O. Box 643, Worthington, MA. This posting will remain pertinent until the position is filled.

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FOR RENT



All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



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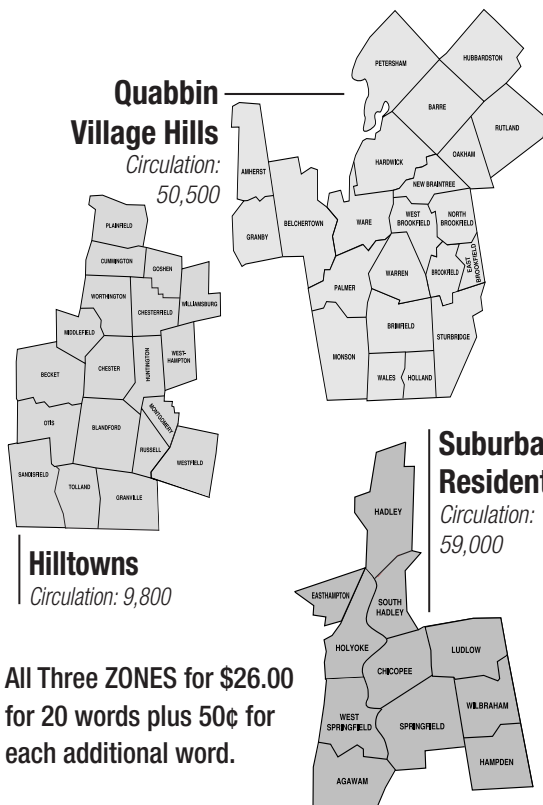
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5	6	7	8
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17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
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33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

Name: _____ Phone: _____
 Address: _____
 Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
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The staff at Otto Florist & Gifts held another successful Roses for Rescue fundraiser, helping animals in local shelters.



Residents at Quaboag Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center in West Brookfield received 35 dozen roses and in turn, baked homemade dog treats for animals at the shelters.



The Roses for Rescue fundraiser has been helping pets in need since 2017.

ROSES from page 1

This year's fundraiser also resulted in a very generous donation tied in with the rose sale, after one business purchased 35 dozen roses and donated them to residents at Quaboag Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center in West Brookfield.

Lariviere and her staff arranged the roses in vases that people had donated to Otto Florist & Gifts, and presented them to the residents.

"It brightened up the whole nursing home," Lariviere said. "It was so beautiful."

The residents of Quaboag Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center had a surprise in store for the Otto Florist & Gifts staff when they received their roses; having baked homemade dog treats to give to all the animals in the shelters who are still waiting to go to their forever homes.

"They were our superstars for the day," Lariviere said of the residents, adding that their gesture was a "beautiful, heartwarming thing."

Many people in the community also purchased roses in groups of 10 dozen or more, which gave them free, local delivery. These roses were delivered to family and friends, bringing smiles to the faces of all who received them.

Lariviere thanked everyone for continuing to support the Roses for Rescue fundraiser, and helping pets in need.

"Everybody needs a helping hand, includ-



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Second Chance Animal Services accepted a check from the Roses for Rescue fundraiser.

ing our local shelters," she said.

For more information about next year's Roses for Rescue fundraiser and how you can help, call Otto Florist & Gifts at 413-967-5381 or visit www.ottoflorist.com.

Staff at BARC (Belchertown Animal Relief Committee) accepted a check from Otto Florist & Gifts owner Michele Lariviere.



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