

Oh how sweet it is!

Belchertown resident enters gingerbread house contest



Anna Cormier of Belchertown has entered her gingerbread house "Anna's Farm" in the youth category (entry number 22) at Old Sturbridge Village during Christmas by Candlelight.

TURLEY PHOTO BY PAULA OUIMETTE

BOOK REVIEW:

'Of Time and Turtles: Mending the World Shell by Shattered Shell'

BY RICHARD MURPHY
Correspondent

On Sep. 30, the Southbridge Community Center hosted an evening event of the Turtle Rescue League with featured speaker, author Sy Montgomery.

Montgomery spoke passionately about turtles and their place in the world as well as the role of organizations such as Turtle Rescue League.

It is a subject she knows about as evidenced by the book she wrote that was on sale that evening, "Of Time and Turtles: Mending the World Shell by Shattered Shell". Included in the book were illustrations by artist Matt Patterson.

For children, there is "The Book of Turtles" by Montgomery and also with Patterson's illustrations.

Please see **REVIEW**, page 4

Man sentenced for burglary, attempted kidnapping in 2021

AMHERST - A man who broke into an Amherst home in the middle of the night in March of 2021, stole several items, and then attempted to flee the house with a 20-month-old toddler has been sentenced to serve 8-10 years in state prison followed by five years

on probation.

Before Hampshire Superior Court Judge James Manitsas, Jimmy Sanchez, 39, of Amherst, pleaded guilty to charges of: kidnapping a child under 16; breaking and entering in nighttime with intent to commit a felony;

burglary with assault upon an occupant; stealing in a building; assault and battery; breaking and entering in nighttime with intent to commit a felony; attempted larceny in a building; and two counts larceny under \$1,200.

The incident unfolded in the

early hours of March 13, 2021, when Sanchez broke into a Spring St. home in Amherst, according to a press statement from the office of Northwestern District Attorney David E. Sullivan.

"The occupants of the home were awakened, confronted

Sanchez, and wrested the toddler from his arms as he attempted to flee the house," the press statement reads. "Sanchez then fled the scene. The toddler sustained minor injuries in the incident. The

Please see **SENTENCE**, page 3

JBMS WINTER HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR



Three vendors posed together at the craft fair, held Dec. 16.



Some attendees of the event were decked out in holiday cheer.



Cookies by Ray, a Monson-based business, was in attendance.



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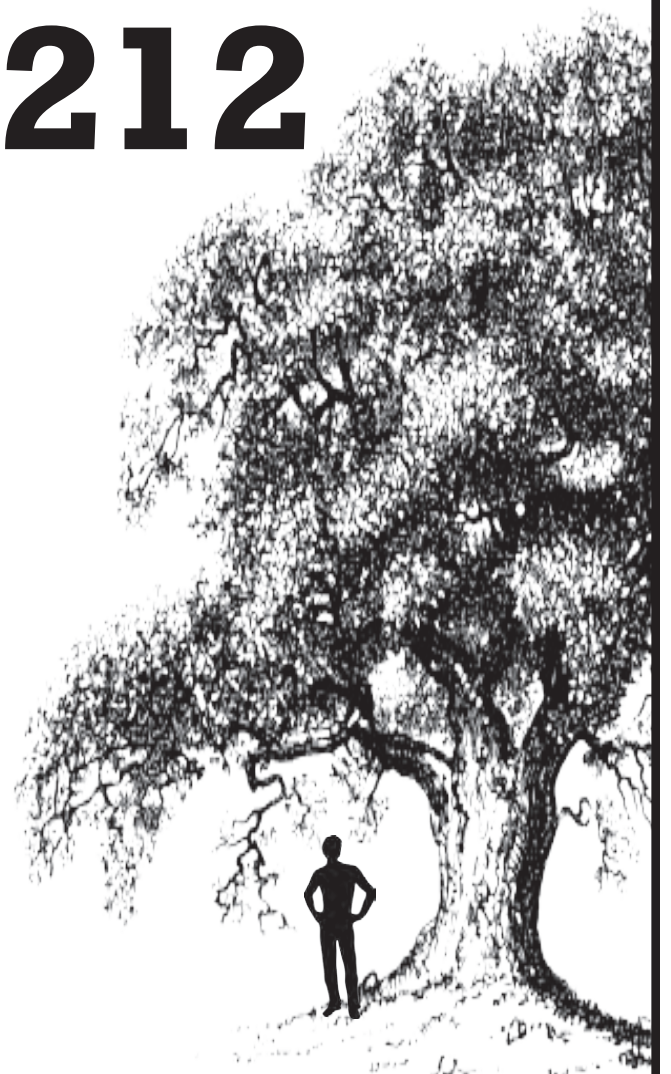
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COMMUNITY

Belchertown Lions Club honors two of its finest

BELCHERTOWN - At a recent ceremony, Lions John Scalia and Mike Mathras were each presented with Lifetime Memberships in recognition of their countless hours of service to the club, its various committees, and the community, and for promoting the ideals of Lionism throughout their memberships.

"In the past, both of these gentlemen have received the meritorious Melvin Jones Fellowship Awards from the Lions Club International Foundation for their humanitarian services and the Val Zewski Fellowship Award for their dedication and commitment to the continued success of the District 33-Y Eyemobile," the Lions Club released in a press statement.

On the local level, Scalia and Mathras have each served as the club's Belchertown Fair Food Service chairpersons as well as serving on the Super Raffle, Golf Tournament, Rag Shag Parade, Saturday Meatball Grinder Sales projects, and more.

"John is affectionately



Lions John Scalia and Mike Mathras were each recently presented with Lifetime Memberships.

known around the club as 'Mr. Spreadsheet' for his detailed and impeccable inventory of food and supply purchases and sales in the organization's many endeavors," the Lions released. "Past President Mike is currently in charge of publicity and communications for the club and most

recently on the development staff for bringing a Lions Club 'first' to the Belchertown Common."

Coming in August of 2024, the Lions Club added, "stay tuned for what promises to be a fantastic and quite enjoyable community and family event right in the center of town."

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 select-board@belchertown.org.

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

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

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

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

Please see **VACANCIES**, page 15

SENTENCE from page 1

police arrived shortly afterwards and launched an investigation."

Sanchez was arrested the following day inside a laboratory on the UMass Amherst campus, attempting to steal a laptop. In an interview with Amherst Police, he admitted to stealing items from the home, said he took the baby as a way to escape the house without harm to himself or others, and stated that he had no desire to harm the child. During the investigation, police also discovered Sanchez had taken items from other homes in the area

leading to additional charges. Sanchez was initially arraigned in Eastern Hampshire District Court on March 15, 2021, subsequently indicted and arraigned in Hampshire Superior Court on March 28, 2021. He has been held without bail since.

In court, Northwestern Assistant District Attorney Matthew Russo recommended a sentence of 10-12 years in state prison followed by five years on probation. Defense attorney Daniel Solomon recommended a sentence of 4-5 years in state prison followed by probation. While on probation, Sanchez will have

to undergo a mental health evaluation and follow any recommended treatment, stay away from the victims and their residences, and stay off the UMass Amherst campus.

"We are pleased with the outcome of today's hearing. The significant state prison sentence provides justice to the victims in the wake of an unthinkable incident," ADA Russo said. "We hope that they can regain a sense of safety in the community and that this brings some closure from which they can begin to move forward."



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COMMUNITY

BCOA's upcoming events

BELCHERTOWN – The town's Council on Aging has announced the following upcoming events:

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.
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.

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.

BCTV schedule

BELCHERTOWN – Here is the BCTV schedule for Thursday, Dec. 21, through Wednesday, Dec. 27.

- Thursday, Dec. 21**
- 8 a.m. – Select Board, Dec. 18
 - 10 a.m. – School Comm., Dec. 19
 - 7 p.m. – Select Board, Dec. 18
 - 9 p.m. – School Comm., Dec. 19

- Friday, Dec. 22**
- 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
 - 9 a.m. – Winter Light Night 2023
 - 9:30 a.m. – Christmas Lights of Belchertown
 - 10 a.m. – JBMS Winter Concert 2023
 - 5 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman
 - 7 p.m. – Winter Light Night 2023
 - 7:30 p.m. – Christmas Lights of Belchertown
 - 8 p.m. – JBMS Winter Concert

- Saturday, Dec. 23**
- 8 a.m. – Educational Crafting with Charlotte, Winter Story
 - 8:30 a.m. – JBMS Winter Concert 2023
 - 10 a.m. – Christmas Lights of Belchertown
 - 4:30 p.m. – Educational Crafting with Charlotte, Winter Story
 - 5 p.m. – JBMS Winter Concert

- Sunday, Dec. 24**
- 4:30 p.m. – St. Francis Roman Catholic Church
 - 7 p.m. – Hope United Methodist Church
 - 8:30 p.m. – JBMS Winter Concert 2023
 - 9:45 p.m. – Christmas Lights of Belchertown 2023

- Monday Dec. 25**
- 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
 - 9 a.m. – Carols on the Common
 - 9:30 a.m. – Christmas Lights of Belchertown
 - 12 p.m. – JBMS Winter Concert 2023

- 1:30 p.m. Carols on the Common
- 2 p.m. – Festival of Lights
- 2:15 p.m. – Christmas Lights of Belchertown
- 4:30 p.m. – St. Francis Roman Catholic Church Christmas Service
- 6 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 7 p.m. – Hope United Methodist Church Christmas Eve Service
- 8:30 p.m. – JBMS Winter Concert 2023
- 9:45 p.m. – Festival of Lights
- 10 p.m. – Christmas Lights of Belchertown
- 10:15 p.m. – Carols on the Common

- Tuesday, Dec. 26**
- 8 a.m. – Clapp, Hospice
 - 9:15 a.m. – JBMS Winter Concert
 - 7 p.m. – Clapp, Hospice
 - 8:15 p.m. – JBMS Winter Concert

- Wednesday, Dec. 27**
- 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
 - 9 a.m. – Clapp, Hospice
 - 5 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman
 - 7 p.m. – Clapp, Hospice
 - 8:30 p.m. – Christmas Lights of Belchertown

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

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

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

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

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

bankESB promotes resident to vice president, retail administration

BELCHERTOWN - bankESB recently promoted resident Tiffany Raines to vice president, retail administration.

Raines, of Belchertown, joined bankESB in 2018 as assistant vice president, branch officer of the Holyoke branch and was promoted to vice president, branch officer in 2021, according to a press release. She has nearly 25 years of banking experience, including her previous roles as assistant vice president and banking center manager at PeoplesBank in West Springfield and Amherst.

"To her new role, Raines brings extensive management

and supervisory experience, with a focus on forging new customer relationships, customer service, training, and compliance," the business released. "In this role, she will serve as the liaison between the bank's branch network and as other departments across bankESB and its parent company, Hometown Financial Group, in order to foster communication, develop organizational awareness, and achieve operational excellence. She will also be responsible for managing the bank's suite of deposit products."

Raines currently serves on the board of The Care Center of Holyoke.



SUBMITTED PHOTO
 Belchertown resident Tiffany Raines

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happy new year!

Holiday schedule, announcements

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:

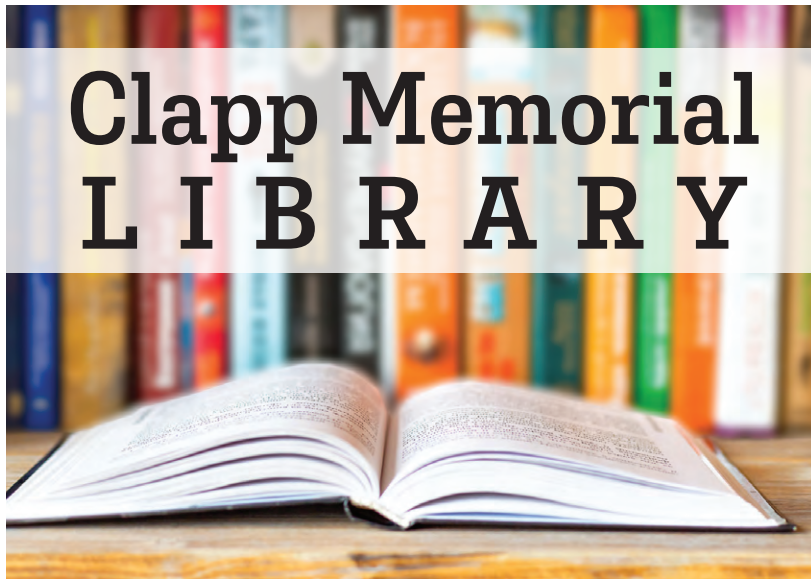
Teen Movie Night

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, 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.

REVIEW from page 1

Montgomery is a prolific author with titles that suggest an interest in subjects related to the natural world. She may be most known for her book, "The Soul of an Octopus: A Surprising Exploration into the Wonder of Consciousness". The author was able to connect with this surprisingly intelligent cephalopod.

The cover of "Of Time and Turtles" has a Patterson illustration that speaks to the subtitle of the book, "Mending the World Shell by Shattered Shell". It's a handsome turtle that has what looks like tape holding together its wounded shell.

It is a fair introduction to what is coming in the book, but it is not all that the book is about.

The modern world is a difficult environment for turtles. Doing what they have been doing for millennia in the age of the automobile means crossing roads where even conscientious motorists might crush a terrapin.

There are other environmental threats to turtles, some evidencing human cruelty.

That is a tragedy of the world we live in, but it is not the whole story. Montgomery was in Southbridge on the last day of September and not somewhere else because two town residents have taken on the task of rescuing turtles and have educated themselves and others and have made their town in western central Massachusetts a regional center of rescue and rehabilitation.

Montgomery has even equated it to a religious shrine.

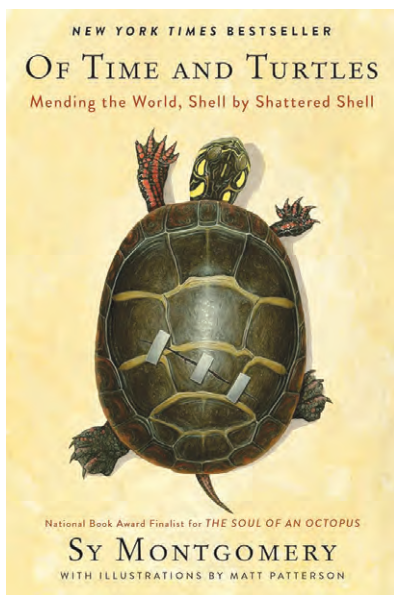
"Last year, we attended a turtle summit, a symposium for turtle rehabilitators, here at the league. We came away stunned as if we'd visited Lourdes," she said.

The description of Turtle Rescue League prior to the quote above read a bit more utilitarian as the author described a headquarters where security measures such as closed-circuit TV are necessary as even sick or injured turtles are valuable on the black market and are subject to abduction.

Compassion is serious business.

"Of Time and Turtles" is about many facets of turtles and their existence today, but the story cannot be told without the people who seem to have put heart and soul into saving and rehabilitating these animals.

The two women behind the Turtle Rescue League, Alexxia Bell and Natasha Nowick are most featured in the book, though there are others



elsewhere.

Montgomery relates how Nowick and Bell became turtle rescuers. On a spring day, headed for a hike, they came across a crushed, mortally wounded turtle. Obviously suffering, it was euthanized by running over it.

Soon, hiking was out and rescuing turtles was in.

The two sought to learn from institutions and individuals with knowledge to impart. One of them was Kathy Mitchell of the New York Center for Turtle Rehabilitation.

"Mitchell had herself survived cancer, multiple sclerosis, and then a cancer relapse. With a survival prognosis of six months—which turned into a year, and then two, and then five years and counting. She imparted tenacity," Nowick said. "She taught us not to give up."

And "Never give up on a Turtle" is a Turtle Rescue League motto.

Bell and Nowick are not the whole show when it comes to Turtle Rescue League, but there are others who have found their way such as Michaela Conder.

Conder is from far away Kansas and moved to Rhode Island, living with her grandmother and commuting to Turtle Rescue League. Her devotion is evidenced by the quote, "When I look into the eyes of a turtle...It almost feels to me as if the entire universe is held within them. They have so much understanding and knowledge."

There are others, and Montgomery and Patterson should not be left out as throughout the book they are, heart and hand, part of the team.

Turtle Rescue League in Massachusetts is hugely significant

in conserving turtles, but there are other places and entities involved in the struggle, such as the aforementioned New York Center for Turtle Rehabilitation, and New England Aquarium among others, but down south, the Turtle Survival Alliance outside of Charleston, South Carolina, is home to one of the "largest and most important breeding colonies for the world's most critically endangered turtles."

Cris Hagen is in charge of animal management at the South Carolina organization, and his bio seems evidence that he was born for the job. After a problem filled childhood and youth, he reformed himself and found his métier.

Hagen manages the center's collection, but has 500 turtles at home. Kind of says it all.

In "Of Time And Turtles", you go with Bell and Nowick and Montgomery and Patterson and others to find, care for and interact with turtles. All the turtles have names associated with how they came to Turtle Rescue League, such as Fire Chief, a subject with an interesting biography.

Fire Chief inhabited a pond next to a fire house in summer and was well known to the firemen. He would hibernate in a different pond in winter, but to get there he had to pass over a road and a truck caught him in one crossing. The Chief was left with a wounded shell and broken spine.

Thus, after a water rescue by Bell, the huge snapper came to Turtle Rescue League.

There was hope for his recovery. It would take tenacity, but that is a quality turtles seem to have and the team at Turtle Rescue League has it as well.

Fire Chief would have a long rehabilitation and as his getting around was a problem, the team developed a wheelchair, to aid mobility.

After the long recovery, he would be able to move out, sans wheelchair, but where? Certainly not to an environment where he could be injured as before.

A pond was dug with a backhoe at the new home of Matt and his wife Erin in New Hampshire and Fire Chief will be in residence, with friends, and one might even suggest, family. It's a lovely triumph.

"Of Time and Turtles" is many things, an adventure, a story, and even almost an introductory text book for us uninitiated. It would be difficult to read this book and not come away with a sense of wonder about the world of turtles.

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OPINION



I'm 65 and working; can I collect ex-spouse benefits?

Dear Rusty:

I turned 65 earlier this year and I still work full time. I was divorced four years ago after 38 years of marriage, but my ex-husband has been collecting Social Security for at least 10 years now. Can I start collecting Social Security and still work full time? And can I collect my ex-husband's amount if it is more than mine and what is the best way to achieve this? When I went to my local SSA office, they said they had no way of knowing that.

Signed Working Divorcee

Dear Working Divorcee

Although you are eligible to claim Social Security at age 65, because you are working full time you may wish to wait a bit longer to do so. That's because Social Security has an "earnings test" which applies to anyone who collects benefits before Full Retirement Age and you have not yet reached yours.

The earnings test imposes a limit on how much you can earn before SS takes away some of your benefits. If you exceed the annual earnings limit (\$22,320 for 2024), Social Security will want back \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit and you will need to repay that, usually by having future benefits withheld. If you significantly exceed the limit, you may even be temporarily ineligible to receive SS benefits until you either earn less or reach your full retirement age (FRA) of 66 years and 8 months.

So, if your earnings from working will significantly exceed the annual earnings limit, which changes yearly, it's likely that your wisest move would be to wait longer to claim your Social Security. As a bonus for doing so, your monthly payment will have grown and will be higher when you claim later. The earnings test no longer applies after you reach FRA.

Regarding benefits from your ex-husband, you cannot collect his instead of yours. What you may be able to do, when you claim your own benefit, is to get an additional amount, which brings your monthly payment up to 50% of his. In order for that to happen, you would need to satisfy the following criteria:

You are not currently married.

The personal benefit you are entitled to at your FRA must be less than 50% of your ex-husband's FRA entitlement.

If the above are true, when you claim your own SS retirement benefit you will also get a "spousal boost" to bring your payment up to what you're entitled to as an ex-spouse. The amount of the spousal boost, if you claim Social Security at your FRA, will be the difference between half of his FRA entitlement and your FRA entitlement. If you claim your benefit before your FRA, not only will your own benefit be reduced for claiming early, but the amount of your spousal boost will also be reduced. Benefits claimed before FRA are always reduced.

Whenever you decide to claim Social Security, you will be automatically deemed to be filing for benefits from your ex-husband as well (you shouldn't need to apply separately). You've already satisfied the basic criteria of at least 10 years married to get benefits from an ex-spouse and, if you satisfy the above criteria as well, you will be entitled to a spousal boost when you claim.

But your current earnings from working full time will likely affect your eligibility to collect Social Security benefits at this time, so waiting until your full retirement age to claim may be your best choice.

If you will only slightly exceed the annual earnings limit you can consider claiming earlier, as long as you are comfortable with receiving a permanently reduced amount, and the prospect of not getting benefits for a number of months if you exceed the earnings limit, the number of months you will go without benefits depends on how much you exceed the limit by.

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LETTER

Pet supply sale thank you

Dear Editor,

Belchertown Animal Control would like to thank everyone who came to the Pet Supply & Gift Tag Sale on Dec. 2. A big thank you also to the many people who donated items for the sale. Animal Control always uses donations first for the animals in its care, but because of the overwhelming generosity of the community, there are always items that just can't be used. Those items go into the sale and all money

goes to the Gift Fund which is used for the animals in our care and for outreach to the community. The sale was very successful with over \$1,100 raised for the Gift Fund.

We are hoping to have another tag sale in the spring, so watch for announcements in April. Donations of clean and usable pet items are always welcome and can be left in the outside donation bin at the shelter.

Belchertown Animal Control



ARMY • MARINES • AIR FORCE NAVY • COAST GUARD

BY HANK HOUGHTON, VIETNAM VETERAN

Twas the night before Christmas, he
lived all alone,
In a one bedroom house made of plas-
ter and stone.
I had come down the chimney with
presents to give,
And to see just who in this home did
live.
I looked all about, a strange sight I did
see,
No tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.

No stockings by mantle, just boots
filled with sand,
And on the wall pictures of far distant
lands.
With medals and badges, awards of all
kinds,
A sobering thought came to my mind.
For this house was different, so dark
and dreary,
The home of a soldier, now I could see
clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone,
Curled up on the floor in this one bed-
room home.
The face was so gentle, the room in
such disorder,
Not how I pictured a United States
soldier.
Was this the hero of whom I'd just
read?
Curled up on a poncho, the floor for
a bed?

I realized the families that I saw this
night,
Owed their lives to these soldiers who
were willing to fight.
Soon round the world, the children
would play,

And grownups would celebrate a
bright Christmas day.
They all enjoyed freedom each month
of the year,
Because of the soldiers, like the one
lying there.

I couldn't help wonder how many lay
alone,
On a cold Christmas eve in a land far
from home.
The very thought brought a tear to my
eye,
I dropped to my knees and started to
cry.
The soldier awakened and I heard a
rough voice,
"Santa don't cry, this life if my choice;

I fight for freedom, I don't ask for
more,
My life is my God, my country, my
corps."
The soldier rolled over and soon drift-
ed to sleep,
I couldn't control it, I continued to
weep.
I kept watch for hours, so silent and
still,
And we both shivered from the cold
evening's chill.

I didn't want to leave on that cold,
dark, night,
This guardian of honor so willing to
fight.
Then the soldier rolled over, with a
voice soft and pure,
Whispered, "Carry on Santa, it's
Christmas day, all is secure."
One look at my watch, and I knew he
was right.
"Merry Christmas my friend, and to all
a good night."

Turley Publications Letters to the Editor Policy

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

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www.turley.com

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Baby's First Christmas
2023



Raelynn Brown

July 20, 2023

Parents: Ryan & Ashley Brown, Hampden
Grandparents: Art & Lynn Anderson, Wilbraham
Rick & Joanne Brown, Monson



Hayden Theresa LaPlante

March 6, 2023

Parents: Giles & Krysta LaPlante, Belchertown
Grandparents: David & Judy LaPlante, Granby
George & Karin Howard, Belchertown



Morgan Jane Olszewski

June 18, 2023

Parents: Linsey & Matt Olszewski, Hadley
Grandparents: Deb & Ed Weigel, Belchertown
Colleen & Jay Venditti, Hadley
The late Mike Olszewski



Willa Rae Grzymkowski

October 26, 2023

Parents: NElaina Natario & Eric Grzymkowski, Salem
Grandparents: Ann & Mark Natario, Belchertown
Great Grandparent: Claire Natario, Ludlow



Lucy Roberts

October 25, 2023

Parents: Joseph and Julia Roberts, Belchertown
Grandparents: Ken & Cheryl Kozlik, Belchertown
Luke & Lisa Roberts, Palmer



Delaney Sabourin

May 14, 2023

Parents: Matthew & Amanda Sabourin, Belchertown
Grandparents: Allan & Joanne Beauregard, Belchertown
Diane Sabourin, Chicopee
Dave & Trish Sabourin, Holyoke

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POLICE LOGS

Belchertown

Editor's note: The following are brief explanations of select entries in the Belchertown Police log and arrests for the weeks of Nov. 29 through Dec. 12. The information was provided by a member of the police department based on the review of the detailed log summary. This feature is designed to provide context and explanation to some of the calls police respond to every day. Of the 915 calls police responded to, there were 28 incidents, seven accidents, six arrests/summons and 164 citations.

ARRESTS/SUMMONS

Saturday, Dec. 2

9:29 a.m. – Benjamin Grillow, 19, of 13 Jackson St., Belchertown was arrested on charges with possession of liquor under 21, possession of a class C drug, and failure to wear a seatbelt. An officer doing traffic enforcement heard a call put out for a dark colored Audi on Franklin St. A caller reported the vehicle made an illegal pass and they were almost hit head on. The officer turned their cruiser around when they spotted the vehicle on Main St. The officer made a stop saw the person wasn't wearing a seatbelt. There was a partial container of beer open in the vehicle. The person was arrested and charged accordingly. While being booked, two-and-half pills were located in their pants pocket.

Monday, Dec. 4

5:25 p.m. – A summons was issued for a Chicopee man for violation of a harassment order.

Thursday, Dec. 7

2:01 p.m. – A 49-year-old Holyoke man was issued a summons for 11 counts of unlawful wiretap. A person called the station and reported they became aware of a person recording activities without their knowledge.

Friday, Dec. 8

1:01 p.m. – A person was arrested on violation of an abuse prevention order.

Monday, Dec. 11

9:32 p.m. – Zachary Chalue, 21, of 5 Silvia St., Three Rivers, was arrested on charges of operating under the influence of liquor and negligent operation of a motor vehicle. An officer responded to South St. for a report of a rollover crash. The operator said they were trying to avoid deer when they rolled their car. The vehicle was on the roof in the middle of the road. It appeared the vehicle reared off the road then back on and rolled over. The severity of the accident implied the vehicle was speeding. The person said they had passengers in the vehicle but had friend to pick up the passengers. No one was injured. The person said they didn't know the names of the passengers. The person declined transportation from Belchertown Fire and paramedics. A field sobriety test was administered. The person was arrested and charged accordingly. The vehicle was towed from the scene.

ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS

Wednesday, Nov. 29

5:32 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on

Chauncey Walker Road. A vehicle traveling south on Chauncey Walker Road struck a deer that ran out into the roadway. The vehicle drove from the scene and no injuries were reported.

5:36 p.m. – An officer took a report of fraud. A resident called the station to report suspicious activity on their YouTube and Twitch accounts with livestreaming and PayPal. The person's information and relative's cell phone number were obtained by someone online. The relative reporting getting calls and texts from fake numbers. People were also ordering items and having them delivered to the resident's home. They were concerned about their residence and their safety. The resident forwarded screenshots to the detective.

11:56 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Granby Road. A vehicle traveling on Granby Road struck a deer that ran into the road. There was some minor damage to the vehicle. No injuries were reported, and the vehicle was able to be driven from the scene.

Thursday, Nov. 30

3:39 a.m. – An officer spoke with a juvenile looking for transportation to a relative's house. They said they got into an argument with another relative. There were concerns about the child's welfare at the relative's residence. A 501A was filed.

5:42 p.m. – An officer took a report of fraud. A resident got an alert that their computer was going to be disabled by Microsoft. They contacted the alleged customer service phone number provided and were told to go onto a website and allow the customer service agent to access their computer. The person on the phone said the resident's credit card used for purchase of child pornography and the matter was forwarded to the FCC with a purchase and they were now a felon. The resident then told the person on the phone about their credit card, how much money was in their bank account and the bank they used. They were advised to contact their computer technician. The resident got off the phone and suspected the matter was fraudulent. The incident was documented.

Friday, Dec. 1

7:29 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Federal St. A vehicle traveling eastbound on Federal St. was struck by a second vehicle traveling south on Allen Road. The first vehicle flipped over. The accident remains under investigation.

10:48 a.m. – An officer spoke to a person about concerns about issues with an estranged family member.

1:50 p.m. – An officer took a report of a stolen dirt bike.

2:59 p.m. – An officer took a container of ammo from a person who dropped it off at the station. The ammo was found at the person's relative's house they were cleaning. They wanted it destroyed.

Saturday, Dec. 2

4:22 p.m. – An officer responded to the area of Bay Road for a vehicle on fire. A vehicle was on the right side of the westbound lane and was almost entirely engulfed in flames. The officers were trying to figure out who owned the vehicle. The operator was there and then told officer it was driving weird then they pulled to the side of the road, and it quickly became engulfed in flames. They were transported home.

5:03 p.m. – An officer responded to a George Hannum Road business for people who had to be trespassed from the property. A couple people were trying to make a purchase and it didn't go through. The people started yelling at the employee. Descriptions of the people were provided and the two people were identified. The person was upset they couldn't make a purchase. The officers left and were dispatched to the location a second time. The second time the person said they were upset and said racial slurs during the altercation. The officer followed up with the owner to see how they wanted to proceed and the two were trespassed from the property.

11:25 p.m. – An officer responded to assist Belchertown Fire and paramedics for a person having a mental health crisis.

Sunday, Dec. 3

8:33 a.m. – An officer responded to a residence for a report of a disturbance. A person who provided services to the resident was living in the residence. The matter was presenting issues and concerns with the resident. DCF was notified because children were present.

10:55 a.m. – Officers responded to assist Belchertown fire and paramedics.

10:23 p.m. – An officer speak with a homeowner regarding people living at the residence that the person was having problems with and alleged damaged caused by them.

Monday, Dec. 4

11 a.m. – An officer spoke with a resident about a person using their vehicle without a license. The matter was documented.

2:16 p.m. – Officers responded to assist Belchertown Fire and paramedics.

Tuesday, Dec. 5

12:13 a.m. – A person reported they were concerned about suspicious activity on a dating website. They said they were worried about information they provided a person. They were texting the person and provided them with their email address. The person's profile was then deleted immediately afterwards. A relative searched the profile and it came back as someone living in the country. No other suspicious activity reported and was told to dial the department immediately.

8:28 p.m. – An officer following up with a person about statements made by a child and concerns they had.

8:39 p.m. – An officer took s report of a juvenile that ran away from the residence. A description was provided, and the officer spoke with the reporting party. The juvenile was located at a neighbor's house. A copy of the report was forwarded to the school resource officer. A 51A was filed.

Wednesday, Dec. 6

11:06 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on State Street. A delivery truck was making a delivery and was parked on the road with its flashers on. A second vehicle attempted to go around the truck while passing a bus and side swiped the delivery truck. There was damage to both vehicles. No injuries were reported, and no tows were necessary.

Thursday, Dec. 7

7:06 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Ware Road. A vehicle traveling on Ware Road struck a deer. The deer needed to be euthanized. The vehicle was able to be driven from the scene.

Friday, Dec. 8

9:25 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Stebbins Street and Bay Road. A vehicle traveling south on Stebbins Road from Bay Road failed to yield to another vehicle. The second vehicle ran off the road and hit a curb. There was minor damage to the rim and tire of the second vehicle. The first vehicle didn't have any damage. No injuries were reported, and no tow was needed.

11:20 a.m. – An officer monitoring traffic on Bay Road saw a vehicle that didn't have an inspection sticker. The license plate was run and came back as a Camaro, but it was a Chevy Cruise. The operator provided registration for the vehicle. The person was advised without proof, they couldn't just swap plates. Due to it being unregistered and uninsured, the vehicle was towed. A criminal complaint was issued to the person.

11:57 a.m. – Dispatch got a call from Ludlow Police about a vehicle they wanted Belchertown officers to check on because the vehicle was at a possible location in Belchertown, and it was possibly stolen. Upon their arrival, the officers located the vehicle that was described and confirmed it was stolen. The officer contacted Ludlow Police, and they wanted the vehicle to be held. The vehicle was towed, and the keys located in the ignition. The towing company was advised, and the vehicle couldn't be released.

5:44 p.m. – An officer spoke to a person about ongoing issues with a person residing at their residence.

9:01 p.m. – An officer spoke to a person about ongoing issues with a person residing at their residence.

Saturday, Dec. 9

12:24 p.m. – An officer spoke with a person concerning a relative arrived at their residence and wanted to stay over. After the relative left, the person reported missing medications. They didn't know the location of the person staying over.

8:14 p.m. – A resident reported a delivery driver dropped off the package, drove on the freshly planted lawn and

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POLICE from page 8

landscape then slid downhill and became stuck. The van missed hitting a water well cap on the way down. The matter was recorded on video. Officers were able to see the tracks in the area. The resident wanted the matter on file in event there was damage to the underground sprinkler system. The resident would be contacted the company, and the matter was photographed.

Sunday, Dec. 10

12:39 p.m. – An officer took a report of missing FedEx package. The person had a package delivered and a photo was provided. The photo didn't match the house but matched one on a different street in the area. The person checked and the package was not visible there. The person contacted the company where they purchased the items. The package delivered to the wrong address.

12:50 p.m. – An officer to a residence to assist a person having a mental health crisis.

Monday, Dec. 11

1:01 p.m. – An officer responded to the town's wastewater pumping station for a report of spray paint on the rear of the concrete structure. The incident was documented.

Tuesday, Dec. 12

2:14 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Bardwell Street. A vehicle traveling east on Bardwell Street struck a second vehicle pulling out of South Washington Street head on. The operator of the first vehicle said they tried to swerve to avoid the accident. The operator of the second vehicle said they were stopped and didn't observe anyone coming. The first vehicle was able to be driven from the scene and the second was towed. No injuries were reported.

5:51 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Federal Street. A vehicle traveling west on Federal Street struck a deer that ran into the roadway. The deer died from the impact. There were no injuries reported and the vehicle was able to drive from the scene.

10:28 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Franklin Street. A vehicle traveling south on Franklin Street struck a deer that ran into the road. The vehicle was able to drive from the scene.

Granby

Editor's Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 187 calls for the week of Dec. 8 through Dec. 14. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The Granby Police Department provides all information.

Friday, Dec. 8

9:31 a.m. – Multiple 911 calls reporting a three-car accident. Granby Police and Fire responded. A South Hadley ambulance was requested as well. Two parties were transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. An accident report was completed.

Saturday, Dec. 9

12:32 p.m. – While on patrol, an officer performed a random plate query and discovered that the vehicles registration was revoked due to no insurance. The vehicle was stopped and the operator was issued a criminal citation for operating with a revoked registration and no insurance.

6:36 p.m. – Granby Police and Fire responded to a report of a single vehicle that struck a tree. The operator was transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. An accident report was completed.

Sunday, Dec. 10

2:03 a.m. – Granby Police and Fire responded to a report of a single vehicle that struck a tree. There were no injuries and an accident report was completed.

Tuesday, Dec. 12

9:12 a.m. – A resident reported that someone opened a credit card account in their name and tried to access their Social Security account. An identity theft incident report was completed.

11:37 a.m. – An officer observed a known party operating a motor vehicle with a suspended driver's license. The vehicle was stopped and the operator was issued a criminal citation for operating with a suspended driver's license.

11:37 a.m. – The vehicle from the previous stop struck another vehicle while pulling over causing minor damage. An accident report was completed.

10:56 p.m. – Granby Police and Fire responded to a report of a single vehicle that struck a fence, bushes, and mailboxes. There were no injuries. See next log entry.

11:28 p.m. – Lorenzo Ainslie, 20, of Ludlow, was placed under arrest for operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, minor possessing alcohol, possessing an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle and crossing marked lanes.

Wednesday, Dec. 13

1:49 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 64MPH in 35MPH zone. The vehicle was stopped and the operator was issued a civil citation for speeding.

8:46 p.m. – A resident reported that someone ordered a phone utilizing their personal information but had it delivered to an abandoned residence. An incident report was completed.

Thursday, Dec. 14

9:49 a.m. – A resident came to the station to a report a fraudulent transaction. An incident report was completed.

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OBITUARIES

DEATH NOTICES

Julia Rebecca (Wilkins) Wheeler
Died: December 1st, 2023

Donna Louise (Horta) Andre
Died: December 11, 2023

Ellen (Real) Campbell
Died: December 13, 2023

The Sentinel
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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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.

Donna Louise (Horta) Andre

BELCHERTOWN – Donna Louise (Horta) Andre passed away on December 11, 2023, at home surrounded by family and friends. She was born on July 10, 1944, in New Britain, Conn. to the late Ramon and Marion Horta.

Donna was raised in Belchertown and graduated from Belchertown High School on June 10, 1965. She was an employee of the former Belchertown State School for many years.

Donna was a big fan of Elvis Presley. She was instrumental in starting family trips to York Beach, Maine, that for some continue today. Another pastime was watching animal shows and QVC.

Donna will be missed by her siblings Marion Nelson (Jim), Ramona Parker and Jacqueline Corbett. She was predeceased by sisters Doris Hebert and Juanita Eckert as well as brother-in-laws Paul Hebert, Walter Eckert, Robert Corbett, Edward Parker, and Lloyd Chadbourne. To also cherish her memory is her Goddaughter Lindsay Ruscin of Colorado (Joshua and Sadie) and many nieces and nephews.

The family would like to give special thanks to Billy and Cindy Casaldi for the love and support they gave to her as friends and to Bill Musiak. Many thanks to Baystate Hospice for the wonderful care she received.

Memorial donation may be made to Baystate Hospice, 30 Capital Dr. W. Springfield MA 01089 or to BARC, PO Box 161, Belchertown MA 01007.

All arrangements are private and being entrusted to Beers & Story Funeral Home.



Ellen (Real) Campbell

BELCHERTOWN – Ellen (Real) Campbell, 69, died at home on December 13, 2023, due to complications from ALS. She was surrounded by her loving family.

Ellen was born June 10, 1954, to the late James and Mary Real of Westfield. Ellen graduated from Westfield High School in 1973. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from American International College in 1976. In 1982, Ellen earned an Associate Degree in Nursing from Greenfield Community College.

Ellen married David Campbell in 1984. Together, Ellen and David enjoyed family life and travel. David built Ellen a beautiful home in Belchertown where they raised their children Kevin and Grace. Their travels included family ski trips, summers on Cape Cod and more recently trips to Ireland. Ellen was proud of her Irish heritage and their vacations in Ireland were among her most favorite trips.

Ellen's nursing career spanned nearly 40 years, working at Baystate Medical Center, Cooley Dickinson Hospital, and University Health Services at UMass, Amherst. Ellen also spent many wonderful summers work-

ing as a nurse for the New England Music Camp in Sidney, Maine.

Ellen will be remembered as a kind, compassionate person with a quick wit and a beautiful smile. She loved caring for others. Raising her children and working with college students were particularly fulfilling for her.

Ellen is survived by her loving husband David; her devoted children, Kevin Campbell and Grace Campbell Koch (Alexander); siblings Jimmy Real, Mary Kay LaCross (Larry) and Thomas Real (Elaine); niece and nephews, Kati Lambert, Alan Pinders and Jamison Real; and her many close cousins.

Visiting hours were held Tuesday December 19, 2023, from 3-6 p.m. at Beers & Story Funeral Home, 10 Maple St., Belchertown, MA. A mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 24 Jabish St., Belchertown, on Wednesday December 20, 2023 at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Compassionate Care ALS, 17 Chase Road, Falmouth, MA 02540 (ccals.org) or Fisher Home, 1165 North Pleasant St., Amherst, MA 01002 (fisherhome.org). Please visit www.beersandstory.com.



Julia Rebecca (Wilkins) Wheeler

Julia Rebecca (Wilkins) Wheeler, 93, passed away December 1, 2023, at Pine Heights Nursing Home in Brattleboro, Vt. Julia was born on November 6, 1930, in Londonderry, Vt., to the late Elmer Paul Wilkins and Lizzie Lorena (Payne) Wilkins. She was the wife of the late Graydon H. Wheeler.

Julia grew up in Londonderry and attended school in a one-room schoolhouse. She developed rheumatic fever in her senior year, while she did not graduate with her class, she did receive her diploma in the mail. She met her husband, Graydon, while working at the Rollins Inn, Windham, Vt. He also delivered grain and hay to her family farm. They were married on December 29, 1951. They eventually moved to Hadley, Mass. Julia had several jobs; she was a cook for Ketos restaurant, the Florence Inn, Zeta Nu fraternity at UMass, even working at the VA hospital in Northampton. She then moved her family to Belchertown, where she worked as an aide at the Belchertown State School until she retired. After several years in Belchertown, Julia and her husband moved back to Vermont to the Brattleboro area. They resided in Mountain Home trailer park until her husband's passing in 2011. Shortly after Julia moved into Pine Heights nursing home.

In her younger days, Julia enjoyed horseback riding, camping, going on her son Robert's boat, traveling to see her daughter Liz and her son Graydon. She

loved spending time with her family, especially on holidays. She always hosted dinners and barbecues throughout the years, hosting 22-24 people in her trailer for meals. Julia enjoyed cooking, baking, knitting, and cross stitch. Upon moving into Pine Heights, she enjoyed arts and crafts, but most of all her bingo days. She always seemed to come out the biggest winner at bingo.

Julia is survived by her children, Robert R. Wheeler and his wife, Carol, her son Graydon L. Wheeler and his wife Irene, and her daughter Lorena L. Hubler and her husband Darren. Julia is also survived by her grandchildren: Sara McKelvey, BJ Kelley, Erik Wheeler, Graydon H. Wheeler II, Chrystal Lizotte and her husband Kevin and her Great grandchildren: Mateo, Chloe, Macie, Mckenzie, Jeremiah and Phineas. Julia recently attended a gender reveal for her granddaughter, Rebecca, and learned she would be having a great-granddaughter due April 2024. Julia is also survived by her former daughter-in-law Katherine Wheeler of Belchertown, whom she remained close.

Calling hours for Julia were held on Sunday, December 17, from 2-4 p.m. at Ker Phaneuf Funeral Home, 57 High St., Brattleboro. The burial will take place in the spring at Glebe View Cemetery in Londonderry, Vt. Ker Phaneuf Funeral Home has been entrusted with arrangements. To view an online tribute, leave a message of condolence or for more information please visit www.phaneuf.net.



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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Droops
- 5. Subatomic particle
- 10. Not in danger
- 14. Nursemaid
- 15. Black band worn in mourning
- 16. Long song in opera
- 17. Edible seed of a Philippine tree
- 18. Chicago political family
- 19. Pursues pleasure from one place to another
- 20. Appetizer
- 22. Hill (Celtic)
- 23. Simple shoe
- 24. Songs to one you love
- 27. Secret activities
- 30. Upset
- 31. Popular hot drink
- 32. Body art (slang)
- 35. Fired
- 37. Blood relation
- 38. Identical
- 39. Porticos
- 40. Partner to cheese
- 41. Type of sword

- 42. Enough (archaic)
- 43. Surface layer of ground
- 44. Cotton fabric woven like satin
- 45. Choose for a post
- 46. Father
- 47. Tell on
- 48. Indian title of respect
- 49. Fonts
- 52. Fencing sword
- 55. Mock
- 56. Vaccine developer
- 60. Atmosphere surrounding a person or place
- 61. Marten with a short tail
- 63. Chinese temple
- 64. Invests in little enterprises
- 65. Popular cut of meat
- 66. Charity
- 67. Iron-containing compound
- 68. River in Northern Europe
- 69. One point east of southeast

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Exhausts
- 2. Genus of fish related to gars
- 3. Impudent behavior
- 4. Adherents to Islam
- 5. They come after A
- 6. Spoke
- 7. Room to receive guests
- 8. About opera
- 9. End-blown flute
- 10. Heroic tales
- 11. Member of a Semitic people
- 12. Dog's name
- 13. Opposite of west
- 21. Political divisions in ancient Greece
- 23. Ocean
- 25. Cool!
- 26. Young woman about to enter society
- 27. One from central Caucasus
- 28. Indian city
- 29. A way to serve ice cream

- 32. Emaciation
- 33. Escort aircraft carrier
- 34. Italian city
- 36. Mythical settler of Kansas
- 37. Unhappy
- 38. High schoolers' test
- 40. Measured in pace
- 41. Satisfies
- 43. Gullible person
- 44. Enclosed space
- 46. Substance used to color something
- 47. Shirt type
- 49. Discover by investigation
- 50. ___-Castell, makers of pens
- 51. Semitic Sun god
- 52. Grads wear one
- 53. French river
- 54. Part of a cap
- 57. Digestive fluid
- 58. Metrical foot
- 59. Body part
- 61. Very fast airplane
- 62. Supplement with difficulty

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.

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.

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SPORTS

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Avery Cooper goes for a shot under coverage.



Logan Moses shoots off-balance.

B-Town girls open up 1-1

SPRINGFIELD – The Belchertown High School girls basketball team has opened up the season with a pair of road games. The Orioles went 1-1 in their opening week, losing at Pope Francis 44-25 and then winning a 50-15 decision over Mt. Greylock last Friday evening. The Orioles faced Agawam earlier this week and are off until the new year when they face Minnechaug on Jan. 2.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Alexa Karabetsos takes a long jump shot.



Morghan Litz looks to make a long pass.



Aubrey McCain tries to get around the pressure.



Isabel Moreau tries to keep a loose ball from going out of bounds.

Third period comeback comes up short for Orioles

BY TIM PETERSON
Sports Correspondent

WEST SPRINGFIELD—Minnechaug Regional hockey coach Kyle Bousquet was very pleased with how his team performed during the first two periods of last Saturday's non-league match against Belchertown.

Minnechaug, who's a member of the Berry Division, entered the final period with a 5-0 lead.

Belchertown, who's a member of the Wright Division, battled back with the help of junior Charles Fijal, who recorded a hat trick over the final 15 minutes. The effort wasn't quite good enough, as the Falcons held on for a 5-3 win at the Olympia Ice Center in West Springfield. "We just didn't play a complete game today," Bousquet said. "A lot of good things happened during the first two periods. I'm not very happy with how we played in the third period. It was a missed opportunity and they outplayed us. We really should've put them away."

Even though the victory improved the Falcons overall record to 2-1, it'll hurt them in the MIAA power rankings. A hock-



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Grayden Kendall heads up the ice.

ey team needs to win a game by at least three goals to earn extra points in the ratings.

"We did get the two points for the win, but we just didn't maximize our points in the power rankings," Bousquet said. "One of the ways to maximize your points is to have a three goal margin. Their third goal takes away the differential."

The loss gave the Orioles

(1-3) a few extra points in the power rankings because they're a Division 4 team and Minnechaug is a Division 2 team.

First-year Belchertown head coach Jordan McCarthy wished his squad didn't wait until the third period to start playing well.

"I prefer that we play well for the whole game and not just one period," said McCarthy, who replaced Derek Chandonnet as



Caleb Reardon attempts to clear the puck.

the Orioles varsity hockey coach. "We have a very young team this year and it was nice to see the players improve during the game."

Seven of the players listed on the Orioles hockey roster are either eighth graders or freshmen.

The only three seniors listed on the Belchertown roster are Caleb Reardon, Caiden St. Laurent, and Chris Wood.

Fijal also had a hat-trick in the

Orioles 8-2 win against McCann Tech on December 13.

"We've been relying on Fijal offensively so far this season," McCarthy said. "We just need to have a few other players contribute offensively."

McCarthy coached the women's hockey team at Curry College, which is in Milton, for five years. He was also an assistant girl's hockey coach at Lincoln-Sudbury High School.

"I recently moved to the area, and I wanted to coach a hockey team," said McCarthy, who's currently the varsity baseball coach at Doherty High School in Worcester. "Coaching a boys hockey team is a little bit different than coaching a girls' team. It's the same game, but it's a little more physical on the boy's side."

Fijal wasn't the only player to score three goals in last Saturday's game.

Minnechaug senior Gabe Tassinari posted his first hat-trick in a varsity hockey game.

"It was nice to see Gabe get his first hat-trick in a high school hockey game," Bousquet said. "He's also one of our captains."

Please see **ORIOLES**, page 12

SPORTS

Rams take part in Knight-Hawk

HOLYOKE – Last weekend, Granby wrestling took part in the Knight-Hawk Classic at Holyoke High School. The Rams have been to the event in the past and came in 16th out of 19 schools competing. As a team, the Rams had 43 points with a third and fourth place finisher.



Eliza Speak wrestles at 138 pounds.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Johnson Bishop starts from the referee's position.



Junior Ramsey gets the takedown.

T-Birds suffer 1-0 shutout against Bears

HERSHEY, PA – The Springfield Thunderbirds (14-9-2-0) could not solve the top-ranked defense in the AHL, as the Hershey Bears (22-6-0-0) skated off with a narrow 1-0 triumph on Sunday inside Giant Center.

The battle of the Eastern Conference's two best defensive teams lived up to that billing in the opening 20 minutes, as neither Springfield's Malcolm Subban nor Hershey's Hunter Shepard showed nerves in their goal crease. Subban had a trio of high-danger denials off odd-man rushes, including a right-pad kick out on a Jimmy Huntington breakaway. Shepard had his own sterling saves, including a point-blank snapper from Kean Washkurak.

The biggest fireworks of the period came in the form of mitts dropping between former T-Bird Dylan McIlrath and Sam Bitten less than four minutes into the action. The early scrap between two of the toughest customers in the AHL added a big boost to both benches but ultimately did not lead to either team cracking into the score-sheet in the first 20 minutes.

As difficult as it was for the teams to establish in the first, it became even more difficult in

a second period that saw only seven combined shots between the two teams, with Subban stopping four Hershey attempts and Shepard blocking three Springfield offerings, forcing the scoreless draw into a final period.

The game gave every indication that the first goal would be pivotal, and at 5:31 of the third, Pierrick Dube finally got on the board for the Bears, blasting a slapper that glanced off Subban's left shoulder and squeaked across the line just moments before a T-Birds defender could get to the goal line to save it.

The winger's 14th of the season proved to be the only tally, as Springfield could not dent Shepard the rest of the way. Former Bear Jakub Vrana had perhaps the best chance to tie the game on a one-timer from the right circle, but Shepard slid from right to left to deny the chance, and Springfield succumbed to their first shutout defeat of the season.

The two teams will have a grudge match on Friday night inside the MassMutual Center as the T-Birds begin a seven-game homestand. Puck drop on Friday is set for 7:05 p.m. for another Deuces Wild Friday.

Shenette declares for modifieds tour

WORCESTER – Driving the No. 8, John-Michael Shenette will chase the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour Rookie of the Year honors in 2024. When the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour begins a 16-race schedule in February at New Smyrna Speedway in Florida, Shenette plans to be in attendance. It will be the first race in his quest to compete in a majority of the races on the schedule to chase the prestigious award.

Formerly based in Thompson, Connecticut, Shenette is the CEO of Eighty-Two Services, a General Contractor located in Concord, North Carolina. The team, Eighty-Two Autosport, will also contest additional SMART Modified Tour and Open Modified events when available in 2024.

Shenette made his debut on the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour at Langley Speedway in 2023 and finished 12th. He also competed in events at North-Wilkesboro Speedway and Martinsville Speedway prior to the end of the season.

"We're excited for 2024," John-Michael Shenette said. "Last year was about putting a car on the track. We struggled with a mechanical issue that plagued us at all three events and prevented us from logging laps. All-in-all, it was a good year - we were able to

build a great group, add a second car and square away all the bits and pieces that it takes to run. The NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour is the best of the best in modified racing, if not NASCAR as a whole. Our team is ready for the challenge. Chasing the prestigious Rookie of the Year award is on our bucket list, but we're also looking for consistency and to chase our first career win in Modified in 2024."

Shenette was born in Worcester, and started racing at 7-years-old at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park's "Little T" track in Connecticut. He's raced on and off his entire life - running in the Pro Stocks, Thompson Modifieds, PASS Super Late Models, ARTS Trucks, Karts and now Tour-Type Modifieds 30 years later.

Shenette and his NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour team, led by crew chief Scott Morin and car chief Stephen Robinson, will open the 2024 season at New Smyrna Speedway on Saturday, February 10, as NASCAR opens their 76th season of racing. For more information on the team, fans are encouraged to follow the team on Facebook on their new page, Eighty-Two Autosport, for the latest news and information, including race day updates.

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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.

Railers fall short to Thunder

GLEN FALLS, NY – The Worcester Railers HC (8-11-2-2, 20pts) fell short to the Adirondack Thunder 13-6-2-1, 29pts), on Saturday night by the final score of 4-1 in front of 3,841 fans for their Teddy Bear Night at the Cool Insuring Arena. The Thunder extended their win streak to 4 games. The Railers will head back home to face the Trois-Rivières Lions at 5:05 pm on Friday, December 23rd, as one of their three "Home for the

Holidays" matchups.

The Thunder scored the first three goals of the game as Patrick Grasso (10th) and Nico Blachman (2nd, 3rd) put Adirondack ahead 3-0 after two. Joey Cipollone tallied his first professional goal on a tip-in out in front before Ryan Smith (11th) gave the Thunder back their three goal lead, and delivered the game's final score of 4-1.

The first period saw a lot of physicality which led to a total

of 24 minutes in penalties. It all started with a Rock 'Em Sock 'Em fight toward center ice with Railers forward Jake Schultz (0-0-0) and Adirondack defenseman Darian Skeoch (0-1-1). Adirondack let the teddy bears fly early in the period after an odd-man rush goal by Patrick Grasso (1-0-1). Grasso received a pass by Grant Jozefek (0-1-1) from across the slot, moving left to right, to

Please see **RAILERS**, page 13

ORIOLES from page 13

Belchertown sophomore goalie Curtis Wojnas (28 saves) made several saves during the first few minutes of the opening period.

The Falcons, who outshot the Orioles, 33-14, took a 1-0 lead at the 4:58 mark when a shot attempt by freshman Nick Garib deflected off the goalie pads and his classmate Ethan Keliher knocked the puck into the net for his second varsity goal. Senior Ben Daniels was also credited with an assist on the Falcons first goal.

Tassinari netted his first goal of the game on a power play a couple of minutes later, which was assisted by senior Derek Semanie.

With four minutes remaining in the opening period, Tassinari stole the puck at the red line before firing a shot that sailed over the goalie's left shoulder into the net for an unassisted goal.

The Falcons, who also won the previous two meetings against the Orioles, added two more goals during the first two minutes of the second period.

Sophomore Enzo Hrycay scored his first career varsity goal 43 seconds into the second period.

Tassinari completed his hat-trick with an unassisted goal at the 1:45 mark.

Neither team scored another



TURLEY PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Charlie Fijal heads up the ice.

goal during the final 13 minutes of the second period.

Minnechaug senior goalie Elijah Arel (11 saves), who made his first varsity start, entered the final period hoping to post his first shutout.

Fijal spoiled that milestone by scoring a goal, which was assisted by freshman Gavin

Harrington, at the 4:20 mark.

Fijal scored another goal, which was unassisted 36 seconds later. He netted his third goal, which was also unassisted, with 1:22 remaining on the scoreboard clock.

The Orioles did make it very interesting in the third period, but they came up a little bit short.

SPORTS



Richie Gula drives toward the hoop.



Trevor Allard reaches out for a long layup.



Seth Mitchell goes for a midrange shot.



Adrien Moskowitz pushes a pass to his teammate.



Hunter Griswold takes a shot under pressure.

Pioneers offense too much for Lions

PALMER – Last Friday night, Pathfinder boys basketball prevailed over visiting Ludlow 70-48. One of the big keys was a big second quarter for Pathfinder as well as great defense by the

Pioneers in the final frame holding the Lions to just four points. Pathfinder was led by Hunter Griswold with 22 points followed by Richie Gula with 20 points. Seth Mitchell added 10 points for

the Pioneers. While Ludlow got points from eight different players, it was not enough to combat Pathfinder's high scorers. Stephen Goodreau had 13 points to lead the Lions.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY
WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

RAILERS from page 12

beat Henrik Tikkanen on his high glove side. The next goal didn't come until the 16th minute when the Thunder Forward Ryan Smith (1-2-3) placed a low shot on net from in-between the dots on the rush to give a rebound opportunity to Forward Nico Blachman (2-0-2) and beat the outstretched blocker of Henrik Tikkanen. The Thunder lead the period in shots on goal 13-5.

The second period was a lot quieter compared to the first. Henrik Tikkanen made a lot of high-quality saves throughout

the period. Blachman and the Thunder would break through, however. After a failed offensive zone entry by the Railers, Adirondack's Forward Erik Middendorf (0-1-1) entered the right half of the Railers' defensive zone slowly and stopped at the top of the circle. He found Blachman crashing towards the net late and blasted it past Henrik Tikkanen's low blocker side from the high slot to make it a 3-0 game with 4:37 left in the period. The Thunder led the period with shots on goal 9-8.

The Railers finally got on the board early in the third period

after a blast from the left point by Ryan Verrier (0-1-1) that was then deflected in the slot by Joey Cipollone (1-0-1) for his first professional goal. The Thunder would capitalize on a break-away opportunity in the middle of the third after Colin Felix's (0-1-1) minor penalty expired. Felix passed the puck up to the speedy Ryan Smith who elevated the puck upstairs where it hit the crossbar, hit a Railers back-checker, and inadvertently ended up in the back of the net to make it 4-1 Thunder. The Thunder led the period in shots on goal 11-9.

Town Hall announces holiday closures

BELCHERTOWN - The Belchertown Town Hall and the Select Board's Office at the Finnerly 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 Finnerly 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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SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS WANTED Prefer local person. Will train. Lizak Bus' Warren, MA **(413)436-5262**

TOWN OF PALMER: CLERK BOARD OF HEATH

Duties include responsibility for performing secretarial and general office support activities. Work often involves public contact and effective coordination with other Town departments and outside organizations. Work requires sound exercise of judgment, initiative, and discretion based on knowledge of administrative or operating policies and procedures. For a full job description please go to www.townofpalmer.com/jobs or contact Nicole Gauthier at ngauthier@townofpalmer.com. The Town of Palmer is an EOE/AA employer.

Post your job openings in our classifieds. **WE GET RESULTS!**

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

WEST WARREN: 1 BR., off street parking, first and last required. **774-922-0529**.

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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or call: 413-283-8393

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33	Base Price \$30.50	34	Base Price \$31.00	35
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Hilltowns
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Suburban Residential
Circulation: 59,000

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GREAT VALUE!
ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

VACANCIES from page 3

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice of Public Hearing Relative to Site Plan Review Pursuant to MGL c.40A, §11

The Planning Board of the Town of Belchertown will hold a public hearing to discuss a Site Plan Application for a new commercial business submitted by David Pare of Arcpoint Brewing Company, LLC, 30 Front Street, Map 243, Lot 178.05. The public hearing will be held as follows:

Place:

**Select Board Meeting Room
Lawrence Memorial Hall
2 Jabish Street, Belchertown
Date: January 9, 2024
Time: 7:45 pm**

The subject matter of the plan is as indicated below.

30 Front Street – Arcpoint Brewing Company – Business Neighborhood Center Zone. To open a brewery with incidental tasting room and retail sales.

The plan and application are available for inspection during regular business hours at the Town Clerk's office and the Planning Board office and at masspublicnotices.org

Remote access information:

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://meet.goto.com/173538941>

com/173538941

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: +1 (408) 650-3123

Access Code: 173-538-941

Daniel Beaudette
Chair, Planning Board
12/21, 12/28/2023

Public Hearing Special Permit Legal Notice Belchertown Planning Board

In accordance with the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40A, Sections 9 and 11, the Planning Board will hold a public hearing to discuss a special permit application for an accessory apartment by Robert Wojtczak for 67 Pondview Circle, Map 232, Lot 174.09, Belchertown, MA.

A public hearing will be held as follows:

Place: Belchertown Town Hall, 2 Jabish St., Belchertown, MA

Date: January 9, 2023

Time: 7:30 PM

Remote access information:

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://meet.goto.com/173538941>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: +1 (408) 650-3123

Access Code: 173-538-941

The application is available for inspection during regular business hours at the Town Clerk and Planning Board office, 2 Jabish Street.

Daniel Beaudette, Chair
Planning Board
12/21, 12/28/2023

OFFICE OF THE SELECT BOARD BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN

Notice is hereby given under Chapter 138 of the General Laws that Arcpoint Brewing Company, LLC, has applied for a Section 12 Restaurant All Alcoholic Beverages License at 30 Front Street, Belchertown, MA 01007.

A public hearing relative to the above referenced application will be held on **Tuesday, January 2, 2024, at 6:33 p.m.** in the Select Board's Meeting Room on the first floor of Lawrence Memorial Hall, 2 Jabish Street, Belchertown, Massachusetts.

BOARD OF LICENSE

COMMISSIONERS
Edward G. Boscher, Chair
Ronald E. Aponte
Margaret D. Louraine
Jennifer D. Turner
Lesla Lessard Pearson
12/21/2023



Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

S	A	G	S		B	O	S	O	N		S	A	F	E
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Early Deadlines
for all LEGAL NOTICES...

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

Happy New Year!

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

Happy Holidays!

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

BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY

AUTO BODY

REECE AUTO BODY Complete Auto Body, Paint & Repair" auto glass, computerized paint matching, also routine car maintenance. Free estimates. Old Springfield Road, Belchertown. 413-323-6664.

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ALIX & SONS COMPUTER CENTER. PC/Macs, Laptops, Screen Repairs. New Computer Sales and Accessories, PC Diagnostic Repairs and Upgrades, On Site Work, Home or Office. 40 Daniel Shays Highway. 413-323-1122. John Alix, Owner.

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OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT

BOYDEN & PERRON INC. Sales and service, Toro, Wheel Horse, Scag, Jonsered, Residential and Commercial. 41 South Whitney St., Amherst, since 1956. Call today. 253-7358.

PLUMBING SERVICES

D.F. PLUMBING & MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS are now offering plumbing services to Belchertown and surrounding town. Scheduling appointments Monday-Friday, 8 am to 4pm. Call 413-323-9966.

ROOFING

ROBERTS ROOF CO., INC. Trusted name for over 39 years. Commercial, industrial, residential. Specializing in shingles, slate copper work, historical restoration, flat roofing. Snow Removal. Fully licensed. Free estimates. 413-283-4395 www.robertsroofsinc.com

WELDING

AMHERST WELDING, INC. Snow plows, sanders, sales & service, hydraulic hoses & repairs, trailer hitches, trailer repairs, welding, fabrication, lawnmower repairs. 330 Harkness Road, Amherst 413-253-4867.



TO ADVERTISE ON THE BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY PLEASE CALL 283-8393

EDUCATION

Granby High School announces first quarter Honor Roll

GRANBY - Granby Jr./Sr. High School has congratulated the following students, who have achieved Honor Roll for the first quarter of the 2023-2024 school year.

Seventh Grade Maximum Honors Allisandra Crowley, Jocelyn Curran, Andrew Grabherr, Addison Hill, Jack Krupski, Natalie Parent, Macie Pelletier, Mia Smith, Marcella Tapia, Zachary Vega, Kara White 7 th Grade High Honors - William Ariza, Rowan Cook, Eli Hunter, Arianna Mislak, Marley Skipton, Avery Tipton-Wolmart Seventh Grade Honors Honor DeCarlo, Audree Flowers, Ruby Murdza, Scott Parsons, Stella Siudak, Kaylee Vincelette, Jonathan Vulpe

Eighth Grade Maximum Honors Gianna Capone, Noah Chambers, Ralph El Aouji, Vitaly Gavel, Adrien Harrington, Chase Hauschild, Analise Huertas, Sophia Labonte, Colin Sicard, Kaelynn Slapski, Richard Sweet, Isabella Tetreault 8 th Grade High Honors - Abigail Esquivel, Aiden Gardner, Wyatt Kennedy, Emma Murphy Eighth Grade Honors Emery Baldwin, Liam Baldwin, Lauren Barlow, Makayla Dennis, Henri Dufault, Amelia Gardner, Abigail LaDuke, Liam McKinnon, Isaac Simpson, Kaileen Smith, Rayden Sok, James Vulpe, Jacob Weglarz, Carli Zobka

Ninth Grade Maximum Honors Meredith Bartosz, Brenna Moreno, Lauren Piercey, Eleanor Szlosek, Kalli White 9th Grade High Honors - Tessa Healey, Madelyn LaPointe, Lydia Pike, Jaidyn Roberge, Nathan Walsh Ninth Grade Honors Daniel Brown, Sydney Chateaneuf, Kyrsten Gaj, Morgan Justin 10th Grade Maximum Honors - Kaitlyn Curran, Benjamin French, Braeden Gallagher, Keith Patterson

Tenth Grade High Honors Emma Beaulieu, Allison Charron, Angenice Cortes, Quinn Fuller, Daniel Hackett, Maxwell Kennedy, Mylin Laliberte, Scarlett LaRose, Faith Ramos, Addison Scott, Blake Swett, Isabella Woods

Tenth Grade Honors Richard Beaulieu, Angelina Fuentes, Durant Garden, Braydon LaDuke, Jared Lapite, Daniel Santiago, Stephen Szlosek

Eleventh Grade Maximum Jena Abbott, Nathan Benson, Margaret Crawford, Cassandra Flaherty, Cole Fuller, Gavin Kennedy, Alexis Lapite, Cheyenne Laramee, Cameron LeBlanc, Ava McFarland, Autumn Sicard, Austin Smith Eleventh Grade High Honors Raymond Colon, John Crawford, Bear Lacharite, Gavin Moreno, Jonathan O'Connor, Emma Parsons, Stewart Szlosek 11th Grade Honors - Junior Alcantara Garces, Xavier Arroyo, Aiden Beach, Quinlin Cook, Brianna Houghton, Lydia Kicza, Justin Merced, Jaedyn Pike, Olah

Roller, Ava Saunders, Maxwell Seymour, Cody White 12th Grade Maximum - Zachary Auclair, Chloe Castro, Andrew Feldman, Jessica Holubowich, Cindy Kusumo, Tia Looney, Thomas Merced, Phillip Silchuk

Twelfth Grade High Honors Sara Lessard, Neil Lindberg, Kamdyn Lopez, Connor McDonell Brandon Menard, Margaret O'Connor, David Silchuk, Noel Summerlin

Twelfth Grade Honors Ciara Charest, Brandie Dumais, Rhea Gagnon, Sophia Gagnon, Nicolas Grandmont, Peyton Justin, Nikolas Misiaszek, Maya Nott, Corey Rondeau, Grace Roy, Emily Tremblay

Resident named to Bridgewater College's Fall 2023 dean's list

BELCHERTOWN - Resident Brandon Adamson was named to the 2023 fall semester dean's list at Bridgewater College. Adamson is a history and political science major at Bridgewater. Adamson was among approximately 550 students named to the dean's list, which was announced by Provost and Executive Vice President Dr. Leona A. Sevik. Students on the list have attained a 3.4 or better grade point average out of a possible 4.0.

BBB Tip: Healthcare scams are after your personal information

Healthcare scams are as varied as just about any con out there, according to the Better Business Bureau. The fraudster often poses as a government authority to persuade you to provide personal information related to your Medicare or Medicaid account for identity theft. In other cases, the con artist is after your health insurance, Medicaid or Medicare information to submit fraudulent medical charges.

How the scam works: The scam typically starts with an email, text message or phone call that appears to be from a government agency. Con artists

use a variety of stories. In one common version, the "agent" tells you that he or she needs to update account information to send a new medical card. In another version, the scammer asks for your account number in exchange for free equipment or services. A third version involves a threatening robocall purporting to be from HealthCare.gov or the Health Insurance Marketplace. You're told you must buy health insurance or face a fine. Sure enough, you're soon asked to provide personal information. A more recent version has reported Medicare recipients receiving notices that new Medicare

cards with microchips will be sent out and further verification is required.

Tips to avoid this scam: Don't trust a name or number. Con artists use official-sounding names or mask their area codes by spoofing to make you trust them. Don't fall for it. Hang up and go to official websites. You can enroll or re-enroll in Medicare at Medicare.gov or a marketplace health plan at Healthcare.gov. Never share personally identifiable information with someone who has contacted you

unsolicited, whether over the phone, by email, or on social media. This includes banking and credit card information, your birthdate, Social Security or Social Insurance number, and, of course, your health insurance number.

Guard your government-issued numbers. Never offer your Medicare ID number, Social Security number, health plan info, or banking information to anyone you don't know.

Know the signs. Medicare will never contact you via email, text message, or phone, asking you to verify personal information.



This holiday season, protect yourself and your loved ones from COVID & the FLU!

Holiday gatherings are starting up, which means it's time to prevent the spread of germs by getting vaccinated! The Flu and Covid vaccines are safe and effective for ages six months and older, and can help protect you from serious illness. Healthy Quaboag is here to remind you to take care of yourself and those around you by getting vaccinated ahead of the holiday season, because YOU MATTER! Find vaccines near you at www.healthyquaboag.org/rural-vaccine-equality-initiative-rvei/

Go to www.healthyquaboag.org to find vaccines near you.

TOWNS SERVED BY HEALTHY QUABOAG: Barre | Belchertown | Brimfield | Brookfield | East Brookfield | Hardwick | Holland | Ludlow | Monson | New Braintree | North Brookfield | Palmer | Spencer | Wales | Ware | Warren | West Brookfield | Wilbraham

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