

TOWN Reminder

FREE
December 27, 2024
Vol. 55, No. 36



A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

Serving the town of South Hadley

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Five generations of family run local farm

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
epappas@turley.com

GRANBY – Being able to work with your family is one of the best things, and for the Clark family, it is their everyday life working on Clara's Coop and Rocking M. Ranch on Batchelor Street.

William "Billy" Clark and his wife Dayle run the beef farm and chicken coop with their daughter Andrea, and son and daughter-in-law Josh and Leslie and their kids Alston, Adeline, and Luella.

Billy grew up in Granby, and he and his family had been taking care of the ranch for three generations, as well as the coop.

Clara's Coop was named for Billy's grandmother, who would ride her bike to the farm in Granby from Springfield and help gather and deliver the eggs from the 1500 laying hens she had.



Luella holding one of the well-loved hens on the couch.



The chickens coming out to say hello.

Turley Photos by Emily-Rose Pappas

Please see **FARM**, page 11

Senior center works to keep the community warm

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
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SOUTH HADLEY – One of the many things we may take for granted, especially in the winter time, is access to a good pair of gloves, a hat, or gloves to keep ourselves warm.

However, as times are changing, it may be harder to access these items, let alone a winter jacket, and there may have to be some hard choices made.

The Council on Aging, however, along with their partnership with Neighbors Helping Neighbors, is working hard to ensure that people can access these necessary items to stay warm this winter.

"Donations can be anything that provides warmth and comfort during the cold winter months; ranging from mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves to snugly blankets," said Council on Aging Director Julie Pearce.

The COA has put this together for two years now, and they put up a special tree dedicated to holding these soft and warm things for people who need them.

The donated items are a mix



Turley Photo by Emily-Rose Pappas

The tree at the senior center loaded up with hats and gloves, and some warm and soft blankets underneath.

Please see **TREE**, page 5



Turley Photo by Emily-Rose Pappas

Terry Johnson, elf helper Emma Johnson, and George Randall as Santa Claus in a beautifully decorated dining room, table set for some Christmas tea.

Celebrating the wonders of Christmas through history

By Emily-Rose Pappas
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GRANBY – Everyone has a special Christmas tradition, and they are unique to your family, and hold special memories, or you share a tradition with someone else.

Traditions have a way of lasting through the centuries to provide a way for us to re-

main connected, and serve to add something that makes the already exciting holiday season even more so.

The Granby Historical Association held its first ever Wonders of Christmas event at the Quirk House, and people came during both weekends it ran to enjoy a day of Christmas memories and history from our own town.

Please see **WONDERS**, page 6

Schools preparing for upcoming budget season

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
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SOUTH HADLEY – The school committee met last week to discuss a date for a public hearing for the FY25 budget, discuss updates as the last meeting of 2024, and to address the MCAS requirement after the vote. The Dec. 19 meeting was hosted by Chair Eric Friesner, as well as Vice Chair Danielle Cooke and members Jackson Matos, Jack Witowski, and Dan Vieu.

Also in attendance were Superintendent Mark McLaughlin and Assistant Superintendent Jannifer Voyik.

Public Hearing for FY26 Budget

The time has come for budgets to be put together, and the committee worked to figure out a date to hold a public hearing for the community to come and hear the FY26 Budget.

Voyik put forward a possible date of Tuesday March 11 at 6 p.m. for a public hearing to be hosted as a hybrid meeting at the senior center and online.

“As always, the week prior to the meeting, we’ll have everything up on the website as far as what is the budget that will be presented that night so that the community will be able to look it over prior to that public budget

hearing,” said Voyik.

Updates on Implementation of Elementary Standards-Based Report Card

McLaughlin shared with the committee updates to implementing a standards-based report card for elementary school students.

“We had indicated that the first rollout will be in January,” said McLaughlin, sharing the decision to move into a twice-a-semester report card distribution.

“It’s intended to transmit accurate information to parents, caregivers, and students and other teachers about the progress of students towards the achievement of end-of-year content standards for each elementary grade,” said McLaughlin.

The way the course curriculum standards, there are different requirements for different points of the year, and the report cards reflect the work of the student in that section of the curriculum year.

In early January, McLaughlin and the report card committee will be working on ways to communicate the upcoming report cards that parents will receive in January, and then March and June.

“I think its going to be a switch, and I think some people will feel excited about it, and some people will feel like it’s different, and difference is always a challenge for people, so

we will have to make sure that we communicate well,” said McLaughlin.

The March report cards, however, will come out in time for the March conferences so parents can discuss these report cards with parents.

Vocational Transportation Reimbursement and Charter School and School Choice Funding

Friesner opened a discussion and vote about the consideration for formal support of vocational transportation, and the Charter School and School Choice funding revisions.

Friesner introduced each of these separately, beginning with the endorsement of the vocational transportation reimbursement, and the committee voted in favor unanimously for the superintendent and committee chair to sign it.

The next was for school funding for children interested in charter schools and school choice, and after a brief discussion, voted to endorse it, voting unanimously.

Superintendent Addresses MCAS Requirements

Mark McLaughlin shared that he and Jeen Voyik attended a webinar about MCAS after the vote to remove MCAS as a requirement for high school graduation.

“We do think there is some important information there,” said McLaughlin. “My message to folks would be... do not assume, that because there is no more high school graduation requirement, that requirements, period, are done. They are most definitely not.”

He shared that there may be misconceptions about this in the high school community and will hold in January a meeting to “set the record straight” with information to further require the standard requirements for graduation.

“The principal still needs to complete a determination for each student to ensure they completed all their core requirements,” said Voyik. “We are just taking the MCAS off and leaving everything the way it is... because there are still requirements to graduate high school.”

McLaughlin shared an idea in the works called “service learning,” where students can work with professors at Mount Holyoke to build connections and provide students with different learning experiences.

“The work of teachers is always incredibly appreciated. This is a fun and also challenging time of year,” said McLaughlin. “But in the midst of all of that, our teachers are creating fun and festive opportunities for our students to enjoy the holidays and enjoy each other.”

Cooke shared a suggestion to have a public discussion regarding the absent MCAS track, and to hold conversations regarding this new change in the new year.

Appreciations

“I just wanted to thank the Plains PTA for their Festival of Trees, which was a great event, and then the Mosier Hot Chocolate Fun Run,” said Witowski. “We had fun, and it was well-attended.”

Voyik gave shout outs to two teachers from Plains and the high school, regarding posts on social media posts from October.

The first graders drew pictures of monsters as part of their curriculum, and they were sent to the high school, where students constructed the children’s monsters out of clay, and took photos of the clay sculptures with the drawings.

“It is very cool to see,” said Voyik. “It’s really well done, and I just want to shout out both of them for coming up with such a creative idea and collaborating both Plains and the high school students together for this great project.”

Cooke shared her appreciation for Jenn, and that “she keeps us all on the same team”, after working with her very closely on many projects over the past two weeks.



We want to thank all of
our friends and clients
for their support in 2024
and wish them a
Happy, Healthy and
Prosperous New Year!

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Superintendent search continues

Committee nets zero following resignation

By Melina Bourdeau
Correspondent

GRANBY—At its recent meeting, the School Committee decided to post the superintendent position at the beginning of the new year.

Committee member Lafond reported to School Committee Chair Jen Bartosz that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees offers free technical assistance.

“They can help with posting. There is a staff member that can receive all the applications and make sure they’re complete,” said Bartosz.

The last time the position was posted, a salary range was included, and Bartosz asked if the committee wanted to have the range on the posting.

Granby Public Schools Director of Finance and Operations Todd Dorman said the range posted last time would be a good start.

“We can verify this. There was some legislature or ruling about salary ranges on Deason job posting,” he said. “We can do ‘commensurate on experience and qualification.’”

Committee loses one, gains another

Within the last month, the committee saw Lafond’s appointment and Jill Pelletier’s resignation, effective Dec. 18.

Bartosz said she hopes filling the position will take less than eight months.

Building improvements

Dorman also updated the board on the

asbestos management program.

“We are, at this time, doing our three-year review of that program and reinspection at the Granby Jr./Sr. High School,” he said. “They’ll make recommendations around the procedures that we do, East Meadow isn’t impacted.”

When the school renovation was done, Dorman said there was nothing specified or used containing asbestos.

However, at the high school, there are floor tiles that have asbestos embedded in them. It is not airborne or something that poses a threat.

“We are following procedures. We are doing the things we need to do,” Dorman said. “We are training our staff, but it’s time for that reevaluation.”

Bartosz asked about the presentation of any findings from the inspection.

Dorman said things are rated by the most attention needed sooner rather than later.

“Anything that is going to need immediate attention or more timely attention is going to be in it,” he said.

He added that the way that the floor is maintained by staff meets all requirements for keeping everything encapsulated.

He added that he recently met with mechanical engineers and an architect to discuss the timeline for a bid for the kitchen at the high school.

“Our plan is for around Jan. 20. We have our materials posted...having our site walkthroughs at the beginning of Feb. and having bid documents due at the end of Feb.,” said Dorman.

“Our anticipated start date will be June 23.”

The first step will be abating the kitchen then the kitchen renovations will begin.

South Hadley Public Library

2 Canal St., South Hadley • www.shadleylib.org • 413-538-5045

JANUARY EVENTS

Adult Programs

Hello Sunshine Book Club

Wed., Jan. 8 at 6:30

First Wednesdays of the Month. A book discussion group focusing on selections from Reece Witherspoon’s Hello Sunshine Book Club.

Between the Covers Romance Book Description

Tues., Jan. 14 at 3

Do you enjoy happy endings? Perhaps a series of romance novels? Whether you are already a romance reader or are new to the genre, join us for a monthly get-together of romance novels that offer happy endings and often are part of a series. Books will be available to check out from the library in the weeks prior to each meeting.

In House Author Talk: Murder at the Alma Matter: A Nora Phillips Mystery” with author Katherine M. Anderson (Book Set at Elms College)

Wed., Jan. 15th at 6 pm

It’s the story of New York Times bestselling author Nora Phillips who has made a name for herself with her beloved Charlie Donahue mystery series. Her editor has unceremoniously rejected her latest work, leaving her with mere weeks to come up with another installment of Donahue before she’s forced to pay back her hefty advance. Teaming up with a current Elms student, Nora finds herself immersed in the details of an unexpected crime that just might repeat itself if she doesn’t solve it fast.

Katherine Anderson is also the author of “Hospital Hill,” set at Northampton State Hospital, and “Shadows in the Ward,” set at Westborough State Hospital, Anderson treasured her time at the Elms.

Online Program: What’s It Worth?

An Online Antiques Road Show with Mike Ivankovich

Wed., Jan. 22 at 6 pm

Sign Up Online: <https://shadleylib.libcal.com/event/13408770> or Call 413-538-5045.

Author, Auctioneer, Appraiser and Radio Show host Mike Ivankovich will introduce you to “What Determines Value”... and reveal what your Antiques, Collectibles, and Personal Treasures are really worth today. Each attendee is invited to show 1 – 2 items for Mike to appraise. Mike Ivankovich has been involved in some phase of the Antiques & Collectables business for more than 40 years.

He has authored more than 20 books and eBooks in his area of specialty and has written articles and columns for most major trade papers.

Online Author Talks:

The Magic of Found Family with TJ Klune

Wed., Jan. 15 at 7

Sign Up Here: <https://library.org/shadleylib/64275>

If you’re new to the Cerulean Chronicles, that’s okay! Let us lay the groundwork.

Klune’s The House in the Cerulean Sea introduces us to Linus Baker.

A by-the-book caseworker in the Department in Charge of Magical Youth.

He’s tasked with determining whether six dangerous magical children are likely to bring about the end of the world. The House in the Cerulean Sea is an enchanting love story, masterfully told, about the profound experience of discovering an unlikely family in an unexpected place and realizing that family is yours. TJ Klune is the New York Times and USA Today bestselling, Lambda Literary Award-winning author of

The House in the Cerulean Sea, The Extraordinaries, and more.

Being queer himself, Klune believes it’s important—now more than ever—

to have accurate, positive queer representation in stories.

Notes on Modern Irrationality with Amanda Montell

Thurs., Jan. 23 at 2

Sign Up Here: <https://library.org/shadleylib/64754>

“Magical thinking” can be broadly defined as the belief that one’s internal thoughts can affect unrelated events in the external world: think of the conviction that one can manifest their way out of poverty, stave off cancer with positive vibes, thwart the apocalypse by learning to can their own peaches, or transform an unhealthy relationship to a glorious one with loyalty alone. In all its forms, magical thinking works in service of restoring agency amid chaos, but in

The Age of Magical Overthinking, Montell argues that in the modern information age, our brain’s coping mechanisms have been overloaded, and our irrationality turned up to an eleven. Amanda Montell is a writer and linguist from Baltimore.

She is the author of the acclaimed books Wordslut, Cultish, and The Age of Magical Overthinking. Along with hosting the podcast Sounds Like a Cult, her writing has also appeared in The New York Times, Marie Claire, Cosmopolitan, and more.

An Inside Look at Working as Literary Agent with Seth Fishman

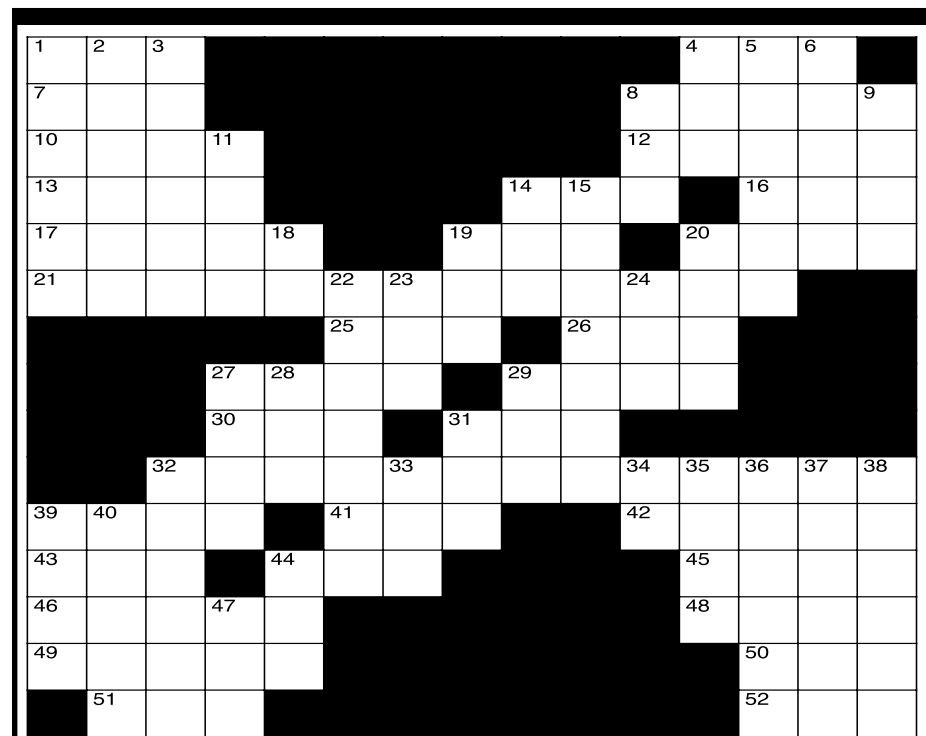
Tues., Jan 28 at 1

Sign Up Here: <https://library.org/shadleylib/652334>

The Gernert Company represents more than 500 authors and is a full-service literary agency with offices in New York and Los Angeles. Their client list is as broad as the market and they represent fiction, both literary and commercial (such as Liz Moore, John Grisham, Louise Penny, Cixin Liu), as well as general nonfiction and practical nonfiction genres.

Head of the Los Angeles office, Seth is a Vice President and agent at The Gernert Company, which he joined in 2010 after beginning his career as an agent at Sterling Lord Literistic, Inc. Born in Midland, Texas, he graduated from Princeton University and earned an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of East Anglia in Norwich, England.

His interests are wide-ranging, but in particular he’s looking for the new voice, the original idea, the entirely breathtaking creative angle in both fiction and nonfiction.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Central processing unit
- 4. Taxi
- 7. Body part
- 8. Papal court
- 10. Young women making their public debuts
- 12. Metal shackles
- 13. Joseph’s wife
- 14. Licensed professional
- 16. Partner to cheese
- 17. Mild fruits
- 19. File format
- 20. Province of Indonesia
- 21. Beloved grilled foods
- 25. Bar bill
- 26. Don’t know when yet
- 27. Whale ship captain

CLUES DOWN

- 29. Touches softly
- 30. Mock
- 31. Red-brown Pacific sea bream
- 32. Summer entertainment options
- 39. Protective crust
- 41. Cool!
- 42. Behave in a way that belittles
- 43. Denial
- 44. A place to sleep
- 45. Electronic counter-countermeasures
- 46. Intestinal pouches
- 48. SE Asia family of languages
- 49. Sound
- 50. Select
- 51. Give the impression of dishonesty

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Of cadmium
- 2. Deliver a sermon
- 3. Inner regions of a shadow
- 4. Aggressive dog
- 5. Smells
- 6. Twofold
- 8. Former OSS
- 9. Computer language
- 11. Indian groom
- 14. Automobile
- 15. Hairstyle
- 18. Atomic #76
- 19. Guy (slang)
- 20. Ladies’ undergarments
- 22. Furniture with open shelves
- 23. Back-arc basin
- 24. Partner to flow
- 27. A type of horse

- 28. Possesses
- 29. Split pulses
- 31. Small amount
- 32. Flat-bottomed riverboat
- 33. Not good
- 34. Atomic #31
- 35. Assist in committing a crime
- 36. Chauvinists
- 37. Get away
- 38. One of a people who speaks a Semitic language
- 39. Civil rights college organization
- 40. Combustible dark rocks
- 44. Grocery container
- 47. Central nervous system

Opinion



Coriander makes a great cookie

Today was the designated day to begin to bake like crazy. Personally, I wish we could cull the number, and honestly the sheer volume of Christmas cookies we make, but if the kids or my husband hear of that I will be banished to Grinch status.

It's a tradition to go through the recipes ahead of time and decide what cookies we'll bake.

One of my all-time favorites, and one I would never consider culling, is the coriander cookie. My family tried a sample at Old Sturbridge Village's Christmas by Candlelight some years back and enjoyed it so much we added the recipe to our repertoire. Yummy indeed!

You may be surprised to learn that Coriander sativum is the Latin name for two herbs. Confused? Most folks are when they learn that the seeds of this plant are called coriander, while the leaves are known as cilantro.

Both have been used for culinary purposes since the beginning of time! All portions of the plant are edible but some argue that the green portion is barely that.

Read on.

I liken cilantro to be the "marigold" of the herb world. Either you love it or you hate it. I, for one, immensely dislike it and if given the chance to pick it out of my salsa I will certainly do it! Even in a restaurant.

I found it interesting to learn that some people possess a genetically predisposed aversion to it, according to studies by Charles J. Wysocki of the Monell Chemical Senses Center in Philadelphia.

To me it has a bitter taste that I have a hard time describing beyond that. Dirty? Soil-like?

Most people that do dislike it have a similar lack of descriptive ability; they just can't put their finger on it, but they don't like the taste... or the smell of it.

As I mentioned, cilantro is often used in salsa and other Mexican, Asian and Italian dishes including curries, sauces, salads and soups. If you prefer to grow the plant more for its greens and less for its seeds, manage it as you would spinach.

Sow seeds in the ground in the cool of the season and in succession every two weeks. It dislikes being transplanted but doesn't mind pot culture. Harvest greens rather aggressively – about one-third of the plant at a time.

Just like spinach, there are slow-to-bolt varieties to choose from such as aptly named "Slow Bolt" and "Longstanding."

Coriander seeds, on the other hand, have a pleasant (at least to me!) fragrance once dried. The scent is easier to pin-point too; nutty and spicy (ever so slightly) come to mind.

Coriander seed is also well known in various ethnic cuisines and is a favorite in spice blends, curry being the most popular. It is also used in the making of a number of distilled spirits and herbal liqueurs, and cookies.

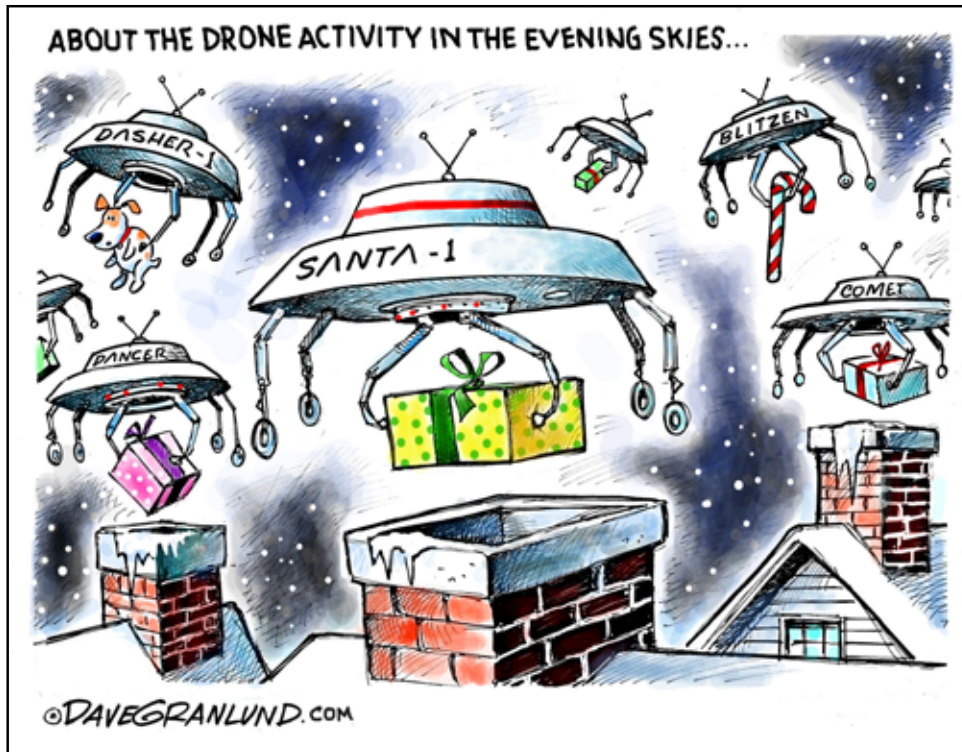
It's funny that I can like one part of the plant and not the other. Coriander seed can be eaten whole, crushed or powdered.

The Herb Society noted that during World War II the seeds were coated in white or pink sugar and thrown from carnival wagons, earning the name "confections" or "confetti!" When the seeds were replaced by balls of colored paper the name confetti stuck. Take this one to your next game of Cruise Ship Trivia!

It is easy to harvest the seeds. Simply let the heads dry to brown right on the plant. Clip them and place inside a paper bag; as they dry further they will open and the seeds will pop out.

Even if you are only interested in harvesting the seeds, multiple plantings (or a big garden patch) are necessary to get a decent-sized harvest.

Please see **GARDEN**, page 5



A wintry hike on Mt. Monadnock

By Julie Midura

"I don't think we're on the trail anymore."

Tom and I drove to Mt. Monadnock in New Hampshire last week following a recent snowstorm. After parking our car at the trailhead, we made quick work of the road walk to the old Halfway House site, where we had a choice to make. We could continue straight ahead onto the well packed out and very popular White Arrow Trail, or hang a sharp right onto the lesser used and more difficult to follow Hello Rock Trail.

We paused when we reached the junction. One look in the direction of Hello Rock Trail told us that we would have our work cut out for us if we chose that route. Not only was the snow much deeper than we expected, but there were no other boot prints in sight. We would be breaking trail.

After not hiking anything strenuous in weeks and feeling less than confident in our ability to tackle some moderate trail breaking, I hesitated for a fraction of a second. I took a deep breath, exhaled slowly, then turned right towards Hello Rock Trail. No time like the present to see just how out of shape we were!

As we broke through the calf-deep, thick blanket of white that covered the tread-way, the path was fairly obvious- four feet wide and slightly lower than the earth on either side. But We continued forward, undaunted by the fact that we were fairly certain we were no longer on the actual trail. After all, if we couldn't locate the path, we'd just follow our footprints in the snow back to where the trail was more obvious, and then attempt to find the spot where we had made a wrong turn. In the meantime, we enjoyed moving through the Narnia-like forest of white.

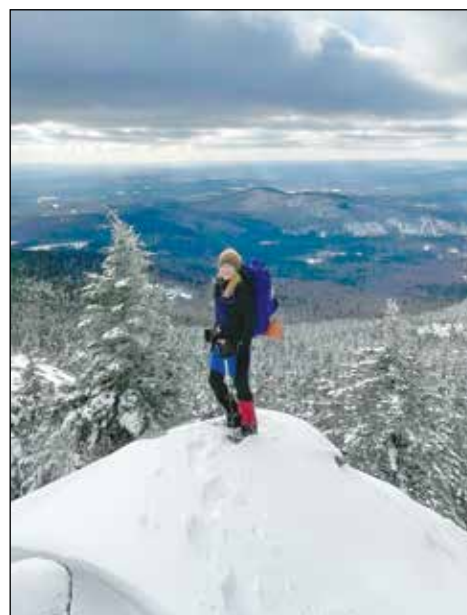
I was in the lead when I stopped suddenly at the base of a very steep rock outcropping. The thought of going up the hill made my heart rate soar. However, the hope that we might be able to catch sight of the trail from the top and reconnect with the path we were supposed to be on helped assuage my fear. I ignored my rapidly beating heart, slammed my trekking poles into the snow-covered rock, kicked my spike-clad boots into the snow, and hauled myself up.

Only to realize that "You can't get there from here."

Upon reaching the top of the snow covered ledge, we discovered that we were mere feet from a sheer vertical drop-off. At this point, we had three options. Well, in reality, just two, since plunging off the ledge onto the jagged rocks below was never really a viable option to begin with.

1- Continue bushwhacking upwards in an attempt to see where we would end up. The hope being that we'd eventually find Cliff Walk Trail. (Tom's idea)

2- Turn back and try to find where we zigged when we should have zagged, and



Julie smiles brightly at the top of Mt. Monadnock.



Tom takes in the beautiful snow covered view.

get back on the actual trail. (My idea)

One of the great things about hiking with a partner is that when one of you has a harebrained, cockamamie, dare I say utterly ridiculous idea, the more rational one can help you dial back the crazy, so to speak

Now I'm not saying that I'm always the logical part of the equation. Quite the contrary. I'm usually the one who likes to push the envelope when we hike together. You know- find out just how much we are capable of.

In those instances, Tom graciously offers his unsolicited advice, both for the betterment of our marriage, as well as to ensure that we aren't put into a perilous situation by my occasionally wacky ideas.

On Saturday, however, it was my turn to be the sensible half of our partnership. With temperatures in the teens, I had no desire to

Please see **HIKE**, page 5

OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the Editor have a maximum of 350 words. We require writers to include their name, address and phone number in order for our office to authenticate authorship prior to publication. Addresses and phone numbers are not published.

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions. Libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks or defamation of character are not allowed. Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

Please email (preferred) letters to townreminder@turley.com. Mailed letters can be sent to Town Reminder, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

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The Town Reminder is published every Friday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.

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Granby Clerk Reminders

GRANBY—Annual Census Information: The 2025 Annual Census will be mailed out at the beginning of January, to avoid any voting problems please mail back your census.

Compliance with this state requirement provides proof of residence, it protects voting rights, veteran's bonuses, housing for the elderly and related benefits.

The Annual Town Census does not register you as a voter or change your party enrollment. You must fill out a voter registration form or a change of enrollment card. This can be done by going on-line at www.sec.state.ma.us and go under "Elections", or for more information on voter registration call the Town Clerk's office.

Also included with the Census is a flyer pertaining to voting, office hours, dog licensing, and a schedule for the landfill pickup.

Please continue to check our website at www.granby-ma.gov for any further information on any of our town affairs.

Dog Licenses: The Annual Census contains a Pre-Registration form, and this is the First Notice for the 2025 dog licenses. Dog licenses are valid from April – April of each year however, if you wish to pre-register your dogs for 2025, follow the instructions on the form and return it with the census, or you may wait until March or April and stop by the office to license your dog. Please note that after May 1, 2025, a \$25.00 late charge may be applied along with the annual dog fee.

Thanking you all in advance for your cooperation with this mailing.

For any questions or concerns please call the Town Clerk's office- 467-7178.

Farm becomes forever farmland

SOUTH HADLEY—The Lauzier Farm on Alvord Street is the last farm of its size in South Hadley, now has been permanently protected with strong support from the community. Kestrel Land Trust worked for several years in partnership with the farm owners, the Town of South Hadley, and the community to protect Lauzier Farm with an Agricultural Preservation Restriction now held by the commonwealth's department of agricultural resources.

The APR protects the farmland from development, requires that it remain in active agricultural use, and keeps the land affordable for future owners. Lauzier Farm's fields have provided nourishing feed for dairy cows as well as local vegetables for decades. While South Hadley is no longer a predominantly rural community, the town still maintains an important agricultural footprint. Though smaller farms have disappeared over the decades, several large farms like this one remain a valuable part of the community.

Kestrel's Conservation Director, Mark Wamsley said, "We are grateful to the landowners for their patience throughout this process, as their decision to perma-

nently protect their land benefits the entire region. And, we thank MDAR as their staff guided this conservation process through various complexities to a successful outcome."

South Hadley's Planning and Conservation Director Anne Capra said, "The Town of South Hadley is thrilled to see this historic farm and landscape preserved forever. The Lauzier Farm has been an important part of the community for decades and we are excited to see a working farm maintained on Alvord Street for years to come."

Over the years, the land has been cared for by the owners of McCray's Dairy Farm, and Barstow's Longview Farm, two local farms that Kestrel helped conserve over the last decade. At 100 acres, McCray's is the only other large active farm in the area, just to the north of the Lauzier farmland. Both of these farms benefit from their close proximity to the Connecticut River, which has provided fertile floodplain soils for growing crops.

Now that the farm is conserved, a new chapter will begin, as the land will be purchased by the Barstow family of Hadley. Barstow's Longview Farm owners plan

to grow hay and field corn to feed their dairy herd using no-till planting practices to reduce erosion, protect soil health, and boost carbon storage on the land, said Denise Barstow Manz, a family spokesperson. "With increasing development pressure and the high price of land, we are grateful that the Lauzier family used the APR program to keep this acreage in agriculture. Agricultural land is important for wildlife habitat, clean air and water, climate resilience, and food security in Western Mass," said Barstow Manz. To leverage \$1.7 million in state and federal funding to purchase the APR, the Town needed to raise a local match of \$190,000. The South Hadley Conservation Commission committed \$40,000 and local residents donated \$7,000, and Kestrel raised the remaining funding from generous local residents and Kestrel donors. These included gifts from more than 150 individuals, including a former South Hadley resident who reached out to Kestrel and generously offered to bridge the final gap with a leadership donation. Local businesses supported the effort as well, including Route 33 Pizza House, Parkview Financial, and Peoples Bank.

HIKE from page 4

continue bushwhacking in an area where a magnitude of snow had effectively erased the crevices and deep holes surrounding the enormous boulders which were lying in wait to swallow a leg or twist an ankle. And after only mild persuasion on my part, Tom agreed. Need-

less to say, 'self preservation' won out over 'adrenaline rush' and we turned back, eventually finding the sharp right turn we had missed earlier.

And at the end of the day, the summit was reached, views were had, pizza was consumed, hot cider was enjoyed, joy was found. And we lived to hike another day.

Honestly, what more could we possibly ask for?

See you in the wintry wild places, my friends!

Follow Julie and Tom on Instagram @morethanthemountain for more of their hiking adventures.

GARDEN from page 4

No matter how you like your Coriander sativum, sow the seeds in a sunny, well-drained spot in place for the best success. If you let a few drop their seed each year, chances are you will be blessed with volunteers.

Enough writing, I have four batches of cookies to get in the freezer!

Merry Christmas to all of my gardening friends out there!

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

TREE from page 1

of handmade and store-bought items, with crochet and knit pieces, and soft and fluffy ones with patterns.

The COA was put up on November 25, 2024, and will remain up to take donations up until January 3, 2025, to take warm items for those who need them

"The warming tree is a beautiful, visual reminder of the giving spirit," said Pearce. "It is inspiring to have the warming tree prominently displayed next to our fireplace where it represents the community coming together to bring that same warmth and comfort to their neighbors."

The COA also has an ongoing donation location for

donations for the Neighbors Helping Neighbors pantry in the front lobby.

"Each month in our Newsletter, the Golden Chronicle, we have an item of the month that the Neighbors Helping Neighbors program is seeking, however all food items which are not expired are accepted. We have an active donation box to help offset the cost of the ongoing programming that takes place at the Council on Aging as well," said Pearce.

The winter season may be a cold time, but it is the warmth of the community that makes it bearable, and the warm mittens, hats, and scarves, and even a blanket, there is no limit to what kind of warmth we can receive from those around us.

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The tree is set with presents and toys from years' past.



Turley Photos by Emily-Rose Pappas

The family accordion, with special books and movies popular for Christmas-time enjoyment on an old and well-loved piano.

WONDERS from page 1

Upon arriving, people got the chance to receive a packet of information, and it came with a self-guided or guided tour through the beautifully decorated Christmas-themed rooms and areas.

While not every winter holiday and tradition was covered, because there are so many, there were still dozens of things to see and explore for the special Christmas season.

"People came from all of the surrounding towns. People who were visiting from out of the area also came. It was wonderful to see so many new faces," said George Randall, our town's beloved and resident Santa Claus.

The Historical Commission worked hard to organize and put together the special event, taking care to organize and lay out the historical Christmas-time decorations and artifacts to truly transform the Quirk House.

There was even a special area, turned into Santa's Workshop, for kids to get the chance to sit with Santa and talk with him.

"He is the best Santa," said a local resident. "He makes it a point to get to know the kids, and spend one-on-one time and talk to them."

"It's all about the kids. Never about me or Santa. The smiles on the kids speak volumes. The smiles on the parents as well to see their kids happy. Santa had help from an elf. She did an impressive job and fit right in with the magic of the season. She was very gracious to assist as needed," said Randall.

Terry Johnson of the Historical Association worked hard to put this all together, and found her favorite part to be the fireplace set up in the kitchen, as well as the village set up on the windowsill.

"She was also quite fond of the fire-

place and took pride in explaining the meaning of the yule log and how the stockings came to be hung on the mantle. Everyone found that VERY interesting," said Randall.

The members of the Historical Association are already eagerly looking forward to next year, when they plan to include a full Santa's Workshop, and new displays to be appreciated.

Johnson wore a period dress and acted as hostess for all who came. "She clearly took pride in advising the visitors that the Historical Association has been long established and is an integral part of the community," said Randall.

The event also featured five donated raffle baskets, which people could enter in tickets for by giving a donation, with a ticket given for every dollar donated.

The event was a great success for the association, not only in terms of donations received, but in the people who came to experience the wonders of Christmas.

From old post cards to historic relics and a family heirloom accordion that was passed down for several generations, and played every year at Christmas.

"I loved it all, but, my favorite room was the dining room where Santa sat. I call that a meeting room where the man of the house would meet with the Parson," said Randall.

"[Terry] was clearly pleased with everything and was happy to give credit to the staff who arranged everything and to a volunteer that donated her time to repair the walls in the rear entry room, and to the Lions Club for their assistance in painting the walls," said Randall.

With the new year approaching, the Historical Association is already eager for the next year, with lists of new items and ideas, and new ways to share just how wonderful the Christmas holiday really is.



The living room set, with a Christmas tree up, ready for presents to be shared.

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Dustin McPherson-Parylak having a chat with Santa Claus, sharing some special stories and memories with one another.



A beautiful landscape, frozen in time, with a little ice-skating pon



Turley Photos by Emily-Rose Pappas
Nutcrackers and tinsel on trees, with a beautiful quilt made by a member from the Council on Aging's quilting group.



Marlene Sandora and Emma Johnson enjoying the Wonders of Christmas at the Quirk House.



The ice-skating rink in the little village in the kitchen with tiny moving figures.



Vintage post cards hung up on the mantle, with special Christmas wishes and messages.



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Ava Asselin dribbles low near the hoop.

Tigers out to 2-1 start

SOUTH HADLEY – The South Hadley High School girls basketball team, which is the reigning, defending Western Mass. Class B champions, are 2-1 to start the year. The Tigers defeated Wahconah in its season opener and Hampshire Regional on the road, but have a defeat against Northampton last week. In a 67-44 win over Hampshire last Friday, Kate Phillips led the Tigers with 17 points in the win. Cara Dean added 16 points and Olivia Athas had 15 points. The Tigers host Amherst Regional on Dec. 27 at 7 p.m.



Olivia Athas looks to pass on the run.



See more photos page 9.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Sawyer Clarke flies for a layup.

Rams take charge of Palmer

GRANBY – Last Monday night, Granby High School boys basketball grabbed its second win of the season, holding on for a 57-51 win over Palmer. The Panthers kept the game close throughout, but Granby was able to hold its lead late in the game, not allowing the Panthers to grab a lead. The Panthers suffered their first loss of the season while Granby improved to 2-0.



CC Gurek looks to start a play for South Hadley.



Cara Dean makes a move around the opposition.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Simone Quinn shoots in traffic.



Riley Goodhind goes for an off-balance shot.



Adrian DaBeer wrestles at 157 pounds.



Renzo Cassesso goes for the win at 190 pounds.

Wrestling defeats Duggan

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

SOUTH HADLEY – In its first dual meet of the season, South Hadley defeated Duggan 54-30. The Tigers had multiple meets last Saturday at Mohawk and is scheduled to be back in action on Jan. 4 at Southwick Regional for multiple meets.



Jackson Erali looks to lock up at 138 pounds.



Aydan Luga looks to keep the leverage at 144 pounds.



Gavier Fernandez sets for the jump shot.

T-Birds fall to Checkers on the road

SPRINGFIELD — The Springfield Thunderbirds (12-10-2-1) fell victim to a two-goal comeback by the Charlotte Checkers (15-6-1-2) last Wednesday night at Bojangles Coliseum in a 4-3 defeat.

The T-Birds did themselves no favors by taking back-to-back penalties just four seconds apart, resulting in 1:57 of two-man advantage time for the league's top power play. Steve Konowalchuk's team dug in, though, as Vadim Zherenko and the penalty killers did the job to survive the lengthy threat.

Charlotte still rode the momentum from the power play to the game's opening tally by Oliver Okuliar at 4:45 of the first period, giving the Checkers a 1-0 advantage.

After the burst from Charlotte, the T-Birds quickly chipped away on the shot board. At 15:00 of the frame, Dalibor Dvorsky brought Springfield even with his team-leading 11th of the season, cashing in on a rebound at the edge of the crease and driving it past former T-Bird

Chris Driedger.

The 1-1 score continued for nearly a whole period of game action until the T-Birds' third and fourth units capitalized on back-to-back shifts. Tanner Dickinson started the scoring blitz with a wrister from the left circle that glanced off traffic and eluded Driedger at 14:02 of the second period, making it a 2-1 lead for Springfield.

34 seconds later, Mathias Laferriere and Drew Callin entered the offensive zone on a 2-on-1 and took advantage of the situation. Driedger made an initial pad save off a Laferriere shot from the left circle. However, the rebound kicked right to Callin, who quickly deked to the forehand and put it behind Driedger to give the T-Birds a 3-1 advantage.

Penalties, though, continued to throw a wrench in the T-Birds' plans, and the Charlotte power play finally connected in the final minute of the second as Rasmus Asplund redirected a Trevor Carrick wrist shot behind Zherenko, chopping the lead to

3-2 at 19:21 of the middle frame.

For a second straight night, rookie Ben Steeves provided a clutch tying marker for Charlotte, taking a feed from Okuliar in the right circle and snapping a shot past Zherenko's stick hand at 3:55 of the third, bringing the game to a stalemate, 3-3.

The two teams did not generate much after the Steeves goal, with the two clubs combining for only eight shots in the entire third period, and the tie score carried into the final three minutes of the game.

Again, discipline proved pivotal, as Tobias Bjornfot drew a high-sticking double minor and a four-minute power play for the Checkers with 2:39 remaining.

The league's top man advantage lived up to their billing in the final minute, as Wilmer Skoog unloaded a blistering one-time slapper that found twine with 54 seconds left to give Charlotte the 4-3 lead. Springfield's last-ditch efforts to tie came up empty in the closing moments, and Charlotte completed the two-game sweep of the T-Birds.

Railers announce major coaching change

WORCESTER — The Worcester Railers Hockey Club (@RailersHC), proud ECHL (@ECHL) affiliate of the New York Islanders (@NYIslanders) and Chief Operating Officer Michael G. Myers have announced that Bob Deraney has taken on a new role within the organization, Head of Scouting, effective immediately. Nick Tuzzolino has been named Head Coach & General Manager of the Worcester Railers.

"Bob has been a part of the Railers family for a number of years," Myers said. "We can't thank him enough for his dedication and commitment to this organization over the past several seasons. We look forward to him continuing to work with the team in this new role."

Tuzzolino becomes the fifth head coach in Worcester Railers history after serving as

General Manager & Associate Head Coach to begin the season. He first came to Worcester in June after he spent the 2023-24 season as assistant coach and director of player development with the Savannah Ghost Pirates. As a defenseman, he played over 500 games professionally between the UHL, IHL, ECHL & American Hockey League from 2007-2023. During his initial retirement, he coached the Buffalo Jr. Sabres of the Ontario Junior Hockey League from 2016-20.

"In his time here, Nick has demonstrated his readiness to lead the team both on and off the ice," Myers said. "He has a wealth of experience in dissecting professional systems and working in pro player development. We're excited for him to take the reins and continue his work on bringing a winning culture to Worcester."

Coaching classes available

Coaches hired after Aug. 1, 1998 are required to take a coaching course to be eligible to coach high school sports in Massachusetts.

According to the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Association, all coaches hired prior to Aug. 1, 1998 are exempt from taking the Fundamentals of Coaching Course. Coaches hired after that and before July 1, 2005 must have completed the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course with the exception of Certified MA teachers.

All coaches (stipend or volunteer) first serving as an interscholastic coach after July 1, 2005 must complete the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course, and an approved Sports First Aid course.

The NFHS Fundamentals of

Coaching Course requirement must be met through attending an MIAA sponsored Fundamentals of Coaching Class with MIAA Certified Instructors. Must be completed and passed prior to coaching a second year.

The NFHS Sports First Aid may be met by completing online courses with the NFHS www.nfhslearn.com. Must be passed prior to coaching a third year.

Additional requirements for all coaches:

Massachusetts requires coaches to be certified in CPR per Section 1. Section 47A of chapter 71 of the General Laws. Additionally, AED training is required and will most likely be done in conjunction with the existing mandated CPR training.

All MIAA member school coaches (stipend or volunteer)

are required to take annually the on-line National Federation Concussion Course, or other MA Department of Public Health recognized education program, prior to the start of their season. Rugby Coaches must see Rule 76.2 for additional coaches' education information.

Any questions, please call Donna Harrington at 508-541-9804 or email dharrington@miaa.net.

Fundamentals of coaching classes are being offered on Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2025 from 4 to 8 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Classes are open until capacity is reached and then a waiting list is established. There are online components to the course once the classroom portion is completed.

Rams take charge of Palmer



Ryan Colon takes his shot on the hoop.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Cody Breault shoots in traffic.

Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame Enshrinement Ceremony announced

SPRINGFIELD — The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced that the Class of 2025 Enshrinement Ceremony will take place on Saturday, Sept. 6, in Springfield — the Birthplace of Basketball.

The nominees for the upcoming class were set to be revealed on Thursday, Dec. 19, at 3 p.m. during "NBA Today" on ESPN. The Class of 2025 Finalist Announcement will be Friday, Feb. 14, as part of the NBA All-Star

Weekend in San Francisco, and the Class of 2025 will be announced on Saturday, April 5, during the NCAA Final Four Weekend in San Antonio.

Enshrinement Weekend will begin at the Mohegan Sun on

Friday, September 5, with the Tip-Off Celebration and Awards Gala, inclusive of the Class of 2025 jacket and ring presentation and the annual Hall of Fame Awards. The Enshrinement Ceremony will take place the fol-

lowing day in Springfield's historic Symphony Hall and will be available to a global audience.

A full schedule of events will be announced at a later date.

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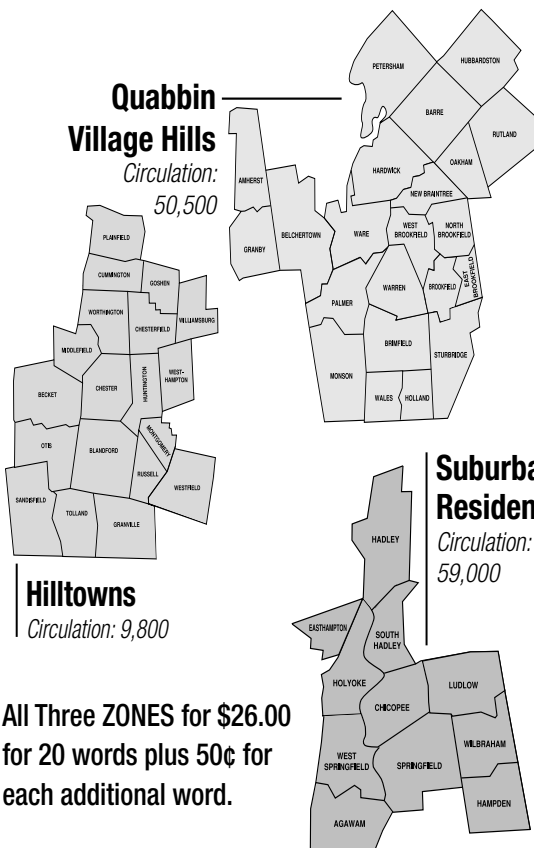
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5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40

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Turley Photos by Emily-Rose Pappas
Alston rides his bike with Emilito in the basket.



The Clark Family: (left to right) Josh, Luella, Leslie, Kathy (Leslie's mom), Dayle, Adeline, Alston, Andrea, and Bill.



The new sign out front for Clara's Coop.

FARM from page 1

Clara's Coop today, while on a smaller scale with 180 laying hens, still produces hundreds of eggs that can be purchased for \$5 a dozen at their farm store.

"I have three favorite parts to this," said Billy. "I love watching them ear, and I love calving time when we're having babies. In the summer I love spending time in the hay field. It's quite calming."

The family each have their own full-time jobs, but run the farm together, and enjoy what they do, naming the cows and some of the hens silly and witty names.

The family names the cows by letter, and this year, their names.

The ranch part has about 50 beef cattle, all raised and bred on the ranch, consisting of Belted Galloways, or Belties, and Angus cows.

When it comes time, the cows are brought to Adam's Farm in Athol, where they are USDA certified, and the meat is sold back in their farm store, with a variety of cuts and types available.

In 1982, the farm was passed on by Billy's grandfather to his father, and then in 2010, Billy's father made him the next owner and when he passed in 2020, Billy took it on.

"We do this as a family, and I love that we all pitch in and work together. I also love that the kids are around to help, and they seem to love working on the farm, too," said Leslie.

Her kids work hard, helping in the store, with the chickens, and other things on and around the farms and coops, learning from a young age how to do big things and more.

Alston befriended one hen, who he named Emilito, or Emmy for short, and the hen absolutely loves the little boy, going for adventures in his bike and scooter, and going where he goes.

The chickens at the farm came back after Luella's kindergarten class hatched some chicks, and the teacher asked them to take just a few at first, but they ended up with all 22, and



The kids working together to run the store.

from there, the rest is history.

Through troubles and run-ins with foxes, to fun adventures, the chickens of Clara's Coop are well cared for by a family that loves them, including the cows, getting spoiled with treats, loving, and all the most delicious foods they could want.

"I just love going out and spending time with the animals. It brings me great joy," said Andrea. "I like the family part of it, too. It's fun being able to spend so much time together and work together with the animals and the land."

"It's truly a passionate thing," said Billy. "It's hard work, and there's not much pay to it. But its 2% of the nation that feeds 100%. We work with passion, and I've made friends everywhere we go."

The family works hard, and you can find their farm store open on Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., where you'll find eggs and beef, but also homemade granola, cookie mason jar mixes, and beautiful candles. The store also has local honey and maple syrup.

Clara's Coop and Rocking M. Ranch are truly a wonderful, local place, for you to find fresh foods and know where it comes from.



A winter landscape on a peaceful farm.



A baby cow saying hello.

LEFT: A beautiful rainbow assortment of eggs available for purchase at the store.



Maple syrup, cookie mason jars, and honey to take care of dessert with your beef and eggs.



The cows with their fluffy winter coats enjoying a snack cuddled up to stay warm.

EARLY DEADLINE

In observance of **NEW YEAR'S PUBLIC NOTICES** WILL HAVE AN **EARLY AD DEADLINE**
Place your public notice no later than

Fri., Dec. 27 Noon

A TURLEY PUBLICATION

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 There will be an **EARLY CLASSIFIEDS & ADVERTISING DEADLINE** for Dec. 30 - Jan. 3.
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Happy New Year!

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