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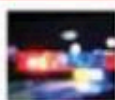
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When luck finds you

Resident collects four-leaf clovers at Christopher Heights

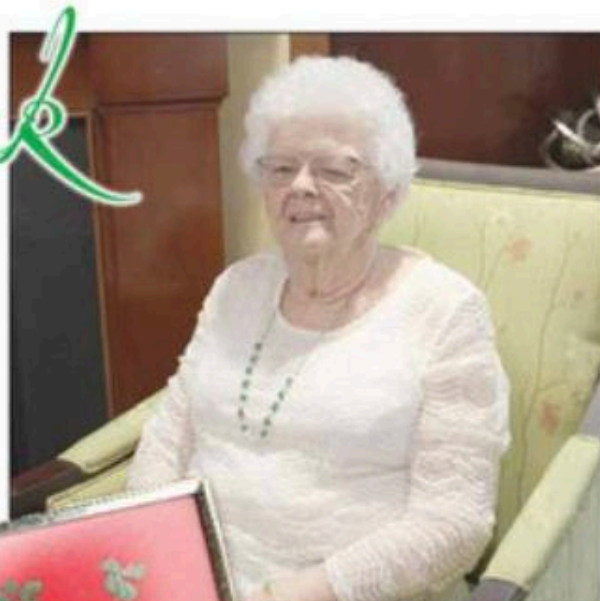
BY PAULA QUIMETTE
pouimette@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – Nancy Dahlquist has always considered herself a lucky person, and last year that luck manifested itself when she collected an incredible number of four-leaf clovers around the grounds of Christopher Heights of Belchertown.

When asked how she managed to find the four-leaf clovers, Dahlquist said, "You don't find them, they find you. I'll tell you, most of the time I just see it and pick it."

From September through December of last year, Dahlquist collected 24 four-leaf clovers.

She said there are eight clover patches that grow four-leaf clovers at Christopher Heights, an assisted living facility, and



(TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY PAULA QUIMETTE)
Nancy Dahlquist has found a total of 25 four-leaf clovers on the grounds of Christopher Heights of Belchertown since she moved there in 2022. She is shown wearing a four-leaf clover necklace made for her by one of the staff members.

she regularly walks the grounds searching for more.

"I've been looking since I've been here," she said.

Once she finds a four-leaf clover, she puts it on a napkin or presses it in her Bible. She has

Here are some of the four-leaf clovers Nancy Dahlquist found at Christopher Heights last year.

Please see **LUCK**, page 4

Saunders discusses state budget

Will advocate for town projects

BY MELINA BOURDEAU
Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN – Speaking to the SelectBoard for the first time since getting elected to as Representative for the 7th Hampden district, Aaron Saunders, of Belchertown, said he's been visiting municipalities in his district to find out its priorities.

SelectBoard members asked Saunders about the state's revenue and federal funding for infrastructure projects.

He said he wanted to hear from the board and continue conversations to update the board on its questions.

"The best case scenario is that as we go through this and the session, as you're hearing from folks, I am a phone call away," he said. "I'm always happy to have a conversation. To the extent I can lend my voice to being responsive, but also addressing the concerns you have as elected representatives and on behalf of our constituents

together."

SelectBoard member Ron Aponte, who was not present at the meeting but sent a question to Chair Jim Barry to ask, wanted to know if the state's fiscal 2023 revenue receipts are trending above forecast.

For the first time in 30 months, January's receipts came in below benchmark, Saunders said.

"The goal of these benchmarks is not to set them artificially low so that the numbers can come up, but it really is to try to budget to caution," he said.

"I think the worst thing we can do is to assume we're going to have more money than we have and make appropriations based on forecasted collections," Saunders added.

Barry asked Saunders about federal funding for bridges and roads, and the state's plan to distribute infrastructure funding.

Whether it's through Chapter 90 money, accelerating projects on the Massachusetts State Highway schedule, or funding projects that are in the State

Please see **BUDGET**, page 8

Author Ed Tick celebrates double book release

BY COLETTE LEFEBVRE-DAVIS
Staff Writer
cdavis@turley.com

AMHERST – Local author Ed Tick, of Belchertown, recently held his double book release at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst.

The Reverend Rachel Hayes introduced the program as a "happy and auspicious event." Hayes mentioned that



which have "become classics," and have been translated into other languages including Italian, Ukrainian and Russian, and Tick's work with Vietnam veterans, called Global Spirit, a program on forgiveness and healing.

He said their paths continued to cross in life, running into each other in Greece, and eventually here, when he moved from New York to Northampton and Tick to Belchertown.

devoted his work to helping veterans. He explained that he does a lot of work through pilgrimages, believing that this ancient practice allows veterans to heal in a way no other therapy permits.

"It is the wisdom of the ancients and their healing ways," said Tick.

Tick resides in Belchertown where he operates a private practice and provides volunteer consultation support to colleagues. He also provides support to soldiers in the Ukraine, Italy, Greece and Russia.

Tick introduced one of his books "Soul Medicine. Healing

healing through cultural immersion," said Tick. "We have worked in Vietnam with Agent Orange victims and partnered with villages to supply them with pregnant sows to help feed their families."

Tick's other book "Coming Home in Viet Nam" is a collection of poems related directly to the healing and soul searching that occurs with Vietnamese women and children and veterans.

When a Vietnam veteran needed to heal from the harshness of war, he had a pilgrimage that took him to the Mekong Delta.

Tick worked with an elder who



"Soul Medicine. Healing Through