

BARRE GAZETTE

USPS 044560

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

January 4, 2024 | Vol. 189, No. 39 | \$1.00

www.barregazette.turley.com

Hubbardston in Review **2023**

By Ellenor Downer
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HUBBARDSTON – During 2023, the town of Hubbardston hired a new Town Administrator, Police Chief and Town Clerk.

JANUARY

Cindy Schlenker gave an update on the draft proposal by the Department of Conservation and Recreation at the Tuesday, Jan. 10 Select Board meeting. She said, "Some things changed drastically, which impact Come Pond." She said the DCR determined long distance swimming was dangerous and would no longer be allowed.

Long distance swimming entailed aiming outside the marked swim area at the pond. She also said trail access would be closed to the public after sunset. It would be problematic in the winter months when it gets dark early. This would mean no snowmobiling at night or people walking or mountain biking with lights when they got out of work.

She said these proposed regulations were not good for residents or businesses in town. The Select Board agreed to send letters.

The Hubbardston Finance Committee started the Fiscal Year 24 budget process on Jan. 17. At present, the five-member committee only had three members. Finance Committee Chair Susan Rayne said she received an application from Sherry Maynard to serve until the Annual Town Election and she received an email from a man who recently moved to town.

FEBRUARY

Not even a frigid Saturday night could stop over 160 supporters to come out the Hubbardston Rod and Gun Club, which generously makes the Lodge available at a moderate cost and enjoy a delicious fund-raising dinner



File photos

Select Board member Katie Young, third from left, cuts the ribbon to officially open the new pavilion at Curtis Recreation Field in Hubbardston.

for a good cause. It was one of three events the Hubbardston Scholarship Committee offers during the year to bring about awareness and encourage modest donations that in turn can be given to teenagers and adults alike who have aspirations to earn a degree or professional certification.

Communication and Transparency are not meaningless platitudes when it comes to describing the management philosophy of the new Hubbardston Town Administrator, Nathan Boudreau. Two months into his position he has sat in the meeting of almost all of the 30 commit-

tees act make up the town administration. He double majored at American International University in political science and criminal justice.

Following earning his Bachelor of Science degrees and while working in various central Massachusetts towns in assistant administrative posts, he earned a Masters Degree in public administration at Clark University.

Bella Kaldera of the Hubbardston Militia Company, along with other militia mem-

See HUBBARDSTON YIR, page 6



Select Board members, Kris Pareago and Katie Young hold the "key to the pavilion presented to the by the Hubbardston Lions Club at the recent ribbon cutting ceremony on Sunday, Oct. 1.



Shown from left, are Select Board Chair Jeff Williams, Select Board Vice-chair Katie Young and Town Administrator Nathan Boudreau.



It's a celebration at the end of the Lobster Ball Dance when lead characters, from left, Susanna Stefano, Will Lambert, Abigail Ramsey, Harry Lewis, Jady Gonzalez and Sara Eric jump into a dance line. Hubbardston Community Theatre presented "Wonderland High."

Library director submits resignation

By Ellenor Downer
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OAKHAM – Select Board Chair Donald Haapakoski read a letter of resignation from Samantha Bodine, Fobes Memorial Library Director, at their last meeting of 2023 on Dec. 26.

In her letter, she said she would continue as director through the hiring process and training of her successor. She also said the Library Director's hours should not be capped at 19 1/2 hours per week. Library hours were 29 hours per week.

Bodine worked additional hours and accumulated comp time. Select Board Chair Haapakoski said she would be paid for the comp time after consulting with Town Counsel.

In the letter, she also resigned from the Parks and Recreation Committee. She said she would continue as president of the Friends of the Fobes Memorial Library. The Board acknowledged her resignations with regret.

Adams Road flooding

During a recent storm, the town received about five inches of rain, which caused flooding in several areas including Adams Road. Select Board member Aaron Langlois traveled the roads of town after the storm and recommended the town identify areas of water retention in town and do a culvert review.

Select Board Vice Chair Lucy Tessnau said the water on Adams Road was coming from the top of the hill. A small pipe also contributed to the problem.

See OAKHAM, page 9

EQLT celebrates start of 30th year with annual event

New Year's Day walk rings in 2024

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

NEW BRAINTREE – Since 2012, the East Quabbin Land Trust has started each year with a New Year's Day group walk along the Mass Central Rail Trail, renewing the organization's dedication and commitment to protect open space.

Held on Jan. 1, the group walk has seen all weather conditions ranging from cold to warm temperatures, with some years even having snow. Participants are invited to travel the trail in a variety of ways, including on foot, wheels, skis, snowshoes or horseback; dogs are always welcome.

Now in its 30th year, EQLT is preparing for a year of events to celebrate this momentous milestone, including the Gala Dinner and Auction scheduled for Saturday, April 20.

"2024 is a special year for us," Executive Director Cynthia Henshaw said before the start of the walk.



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

Over 60 people joined the East Quabbin Land Trust for its annual New Year's Day group walk on the Mass Central Rail Trail. Participants stopped to pose for a photo along the Ware River, on a newly stone-dusted section of trail in Wheelwright.

EQLT has a lot to celebrate, including continued efforts to expand and improve the Mass Central Rail Trail, with segments from New Braintree to Wheelwright, New Braintree to Creamery Road in Gilbertville, Ware River Park in Gilbertville, near the Ware-Hardwick Covered Bridge, as well as Upper Church Street in Ware.

Henshaw credited volunteers with helping to replace timbers on the decking of the lattice truss and pony truss bridges along the Mass

Central Rail Trail.

The volunteers "put in a huge amount of effort to make the bridges safe," Henshaw said.

Volunteers and others also helped to spread stone dust along a newly cleared section of Mass Central Rail Trail in Wheelwright, giving way to a stunning view of the Ware River and the Wheelwright dam.

For more information about EQLT and its mission, visit eqlt.org or find them on Facebook and Instagram.



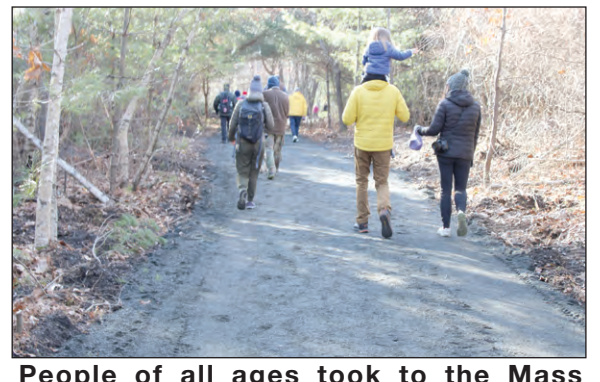
Judith Jones leads her daughter, Susannah, on horseback.



Cordelia Grandinetti gets a lift from her friend Calia Rich.



Many dogs also participated in the New Year's Day hike, including Dottie.



People of all ages took to the Mass Central Rail Trail from New Braintree to Wheelwright for New Year's Day.

BARRE  GAZETTE

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News of the Towns



Round Town
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Veterans honored at Quabbin Park Cemetery



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

Volunteers joined the Department of Conservation and Recreation staff at the Quabbin Park Cemetery to honor and remember veterans through the Wreaths Across America program.

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – One week after the town held its first ever Wreaths Across America Day ceremony, honoring veterans in town-owned cemeteries, volunteers made their way to Quabbin Park Cemetery with more than 260 wreaths to honor those from the lost towns.

These wreaths were received as a last minute gift to the town, Ware's Wreaths Across America Coordinator Frank Bateman said, and they were placed on gravestones in both Quabbin Park Cemetery and Holy Cross Cemetery on Dec. 23.

Wreaths Across America became a nonprofit organization in 2007, continuing the wreath-laying tradition started by Morrill Worcester, owner of the Worcester Wreath Company of Harrington, Maine over 30 years ago.

It all began one year when Worcester's company had a surplus of wreaths and he decided (with the help of Maine Senator Olympia Snow) to place those



Volunteers came from surrounding towns to lay wreaths at Quabbin Park Cemetery.

Wreaths Across America requires that in order to place the wreaths, whoever owns the cemetery has to approve participation in the program.

In order to secure enough wreaths for the four cemeteries, Bateman has paired up with two sponsorship groups, the Ware Middle School PTO and Scouts BSA Troop 281. Sponsoring a

There is always an opportunity for other groups to become a sponsorship group. For more information, email Bateman at logman26meh@hotmail.com or call 413-949-6517.

"This a great start but we have work to do to make sure that every hero that rests here in town is honored with a wreath for next year," Bateman said.



Cheri Chipman of Ware placed a wreath after reading the name of the veteran aloud.



Balsam wreaths were laid at veterans gravestones.

Sen. Durant announces Community One-Stop for Growth Award funding

BOSTON – State Senator Peter J. Durant (R – Spencer) announced Fiscal year 2024 Community One Stop for Growth Award Funding.

The award funding was announced MassDevelopment on December 13, 2023 at the Collaborative Workspaces awards in Fitchburg. The FY24 Round of the Community One Stop for Growth resulted nearly \$164 million in funding for 338 local economic development projects in 161 communities.

New Braintree received \$120,000 from MassWorks Infrastructure program.

"I am happy to see our communities and local organizations receive funding through the One Stop Grant Awards. Economic and community development are essential to making sure that our communities continue to thrive," said Senator Peter Durant.

According to the Administration's website, The Community One Stop for Growth is a single application portal and collaborative review process of community development grant programs that make targeted investments based on a Development Continuum. This process streamlines the experi-

ence for the applicant and better coordinates economic development programs and staff on engagement and grant making.

The One Stop benefits communities in the following ways, as they pursue state funding to realize their housing and economic development goals: ability to be considered by more than one grant program simultaneously; guidance and State partnerships; direct referrals to additional programs; removal of redundant legacy program processes and questions; a broader view of community priorities and collaborative review.

HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE? Send your stories and photos to edowner@turley.com

Hubbardston
Ellenor Downer
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Frozen Assets return

Frozen Assets is back. The deadline for submissions is Thursday, Feb 1. This event supports local businesses and raise money for the Special Events Fund to support future town events. People may pick up Frozen Assets forms at the following locations in town: Stars & Stripes Diner, Giacomo's Gourmet Foods, Hubbardston Pizza Palace, Plain View Farm and the Country Trail. There is a suggested donation of \$20 per form, but any and all donations are appreciated.

With the form, participants guess when the outhouse on the ice at The Country Hen Pond, 5 Williamsville Road will fall through the ice. Prizes include a \$300 gift card for the closest guess, \$150 gift card for second place, \$75 gift card for third place and one flat of eggs for eight weeks courtesy of The Country Hen for fourth place.

Town Report Cover Photo Contest

The town of Hubbardston seeks photo submissions from community members for the cover of the 2023 Annual Town Report. Amateur and professional photographers are encouraged to submit images that showcase "What Hubbardston Means to You," -whether it's landscapes, buildings, events or any scenes that capture the spirit of the town. Up to three photographs can be submitted by each entrant along with a short description of the meaning and location of each photo. The Select Board will vote to choose the winning photo during a meeting in February 2024. The selected entry will be featured on the cover of the printed 2023 Hubbardston Annual Town Report as well as online publications. The winning photographer can choose to have their name published with the report.

Submissions Deadline is Thursday, Feb. 1. People should email entries to bos@hubbardstonma.us.

People may email contest questions to Toni Walker at bos@hubbardstonma.us or by call 978-928-1400, extension 200. By entering the contest, photographers grant the town of Hubbardston the right to publish, print and display submitted photos for use in the Annual Town Report and related town promotional materials. The town may alter, edit or crop photos at its discretion.

Senior center events

The Hubbardston Senior Center, 7A Main St., events include: Bingo from 12:30-3 p.m. on Mondays; Knitting Group at 10 a.m. every Tuesday at 10 a.m. and WiiBowling beginning at 8:30 a.m. every Monday and Wednesday beginning at 8:30 a.m. Eggs may be picked up on Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. in the Senior Center. Cribbage is played on Thursdays from 1:30-3 p.m. Pitch is played the first and third Friday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Art group meets every Friday at 9 a.m.

Barre Dining Center

BARRE — Elder Services of Worcester Area Nutrition Program welcomes guests to dine at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road. The following meals will be served for the week of Jan. 8. Lunches are back at the senior center, but require a pre-sign up. Volunteers are needed at the Barre dining site. Volunteers are needed for Meals on Wheels (mileage reimbursement) and in the kitchen. People should contact 978-355-5027.

MONDAY – Spaghetti and meatballs, Marinara sauce, green beans, fresh fruit, French bread

TUESDAY – Chicken fajitas, Spanish rice, black beans and corn, sour cream, pineapple, pita bread

WEDNESDAY – Roast port with gravy, cornbread stuffing, roasted broccoli and carrots, brownie, diet = Lorna Doones, marble rye bread

THURSDAY – Hot dog, baked beans, coleslaw, baked apples hot dog bun, mustard

FRIDAY – Fish with crumb topping, Delmonico potatoes, honey glazed carrots, vanilla pudding, diet = sugar free vanilla pudding, tartar sauce, whole wheat bread

*Higher sodium entree Meal includes milk and margarine. Menus are subject to change. All meals are served at about 11:45 a.m. each weekday. Reservations should be made the day before by calling 978-355-5027 before 10:30 a.m. The donation of \$3.00 per meal helps keep the program running.

Correction

Picture in paper in Look Back of the Rainbow girls one of the girls names was omitted. Joanne Stevens LeBlanc, Past Worthy Advisor and Grand representative. She was in the middle of the photo.

Barre Food Pantry needs volunteers

BARRE – Last month, the Barre Food Pantry distributed groceries to just shy of one hundred households.

All this takes a great deal of time and effort, not to mention muscle. The Food Pantry is looking for local people, who are willing to volunteer as much as they are able. It is such a satisfying thing to help those who need it.

On Tuesday evening, Jan. 9, they need people to unload the truck of cases of groceries from the Worcester County Food Bank, date the cases and store them in the closet, pre-pack brown paper grocery bags for distribution and check donated cans and boxes for valid dates and good condition. Experienced volunteers will be there to show new volunteers what to do.

On Wednesday morning, Jan. 10 and Thursday evening Jan. 16, the pantry needs volunteers to work outdoors to set up tables, carry bags of food out to tables, place food into clients' cars, help clients choose their groceries, re-stock the closet, vacuum and break down and store the tables.

All these tasks recur monthly. Any amount of time, people can offer would be of great help.

Woods Memorial Library Saataurday Story Time

BARRE - Saturday Story Time will be held today from 10:30 a.m.-noon at the Woods Memorial Library, 19 Pleasant St., Barre in the multipurpose room at the library. The program is recommended for ages three to six. Each week Ms. Katie will read a story and pair it with a craft or related activity.

To request sign language interpretation or other accommodation for special needs for any program, people should call the Library Director at least two weeks before the program date at 978-355-2533 extension 101 or email jhood@barrelibrary.org.

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News of the Towns

PUBLIC MEETINGS

BARRE.

Board of Health – Jan. 8 at 5 p.m.
Water Commission – Jan. 8 at 6:30 p.m.
DPW Commission – Jan. 8 at 7 p.m.
Conservation Committee – Jan. 9 at 7 p.m.
9/11 Memorial Development Committee – Jan. 10 at 5 p.m.
Library Trustees – Jan. 10 at 5 p.m.
Barre Housing Authority – Jan. 11 at 3 p.m.
Select Board – Jan. 16 at 6 p.m.
Sewer Commission – Jan. 18 at 7 p.m.
Insurance Advisory Committee – Jan. 25 at 1:30 p.m.
Cable Advisory Committee – Feb. 13 at 7 p.m.

HARDWICK

Paige Library Trustees – Jan. 4 at 7 p.m.
Hardwick New Braintree Cultural Council – Jan. 8 at 6:30 p.m.
Board of Selectmen – Jan. 8 and Jan. 22 at 7 p.m.
Planning Board – Jan. 9 at 6:30 p.m.
Master Plan Steering Committee – Jan. 9 at 6:30 p.m.
Council on Aging – Jan. 10 at 9 a.m.
Gilbertville Public Library – Jan. 10 at 4 p.m.
Board of Health – Jan. 11 at 6:45 p.m.
Gilbertville Water District – Jan. 16 at 5:30 p.m.
Recycling Commission – Jan. 16 at 6:30 p.m.
Conservation Commission – Jan. 17 at 6:30 p.m.
Capital Planning Committee – Jan. 22 at 3 p.m.
Wheelwright Water District – Jan. 22 at 7 p.m.

HUBBARDSTON

Capital Improvement Planning Committee – Jan. 4 at 4 p.m.
Open Space Committee – Jan. 4 at 7 p.m.
Library Trustees – Jan. 4 at 7 p.m.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

Parks and Recreation – Jan. 4 at 6 p.m.
Water Commissioners – Jan. 8 at 6 p.m.
Capital Improvement Planning – Jan. 10 at 6 p.m.
Board of Selectmen – Jan. 16 and 30, Feb. 13 and 27 at 6 p.m.

OAKHAM.

Select Board – Jan. 8, Jan. 22, Feb. 5 and Feb. 20 at 6 p.m.
Planning Board – Jan. 16 at 7 p.m.
Special Town Meeting – Jan. 22 at 7 p.m.

PETERSHAM

Board of Health – Jan. 4 at 6 p.m.
Council on Aging – Jan. 8 at 10 a.m.
Cemetery Commission – Jan. 9 at 10 a.m.
Board of Assessors – Jan. 9 at 5:30 p.m.
Petersham Historic District – Jan. 18 at 6 p.m.
Planning Board – Jan. 25 at 7 p.m.

RUTLAND

Earthworks Board – Jan. 4 and Jan. 18 at 6:30 p.m.
Economic Development Commission – Jan. 10 at 6 p.m.
Ad Hoc By-Law Committee – Jan. 9, 16, 23 and 30 at 1 p.m.
Planning Board Public Hearing – Jan. 9 at 6:30 p.m.
Economic Development Commission – Jan. 10 at 6 p.m.

Quabbin Visitor Center offers outdoor programs

BELCHERTOWN – The Department of Conservation and Recreation's Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center will offer several free outdoor programs now through March.

To register for any of these events, visit www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events and follow the link in each program description.

Please dress appropriately for the weather and bring water. For more information email QuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov.

Exploring the Ware River Watershed

Join DCR staff for a 4.4-mile lollipop loop hike in the Ware River Watershed on Saturday, Jan. 6 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. The route climbs/descends roughly 200 feet in elevation.

Participants will meet at the Mass Central Rail Trail parking area located on Route 122 in the town of Rutland. The hike begins/ends on the MCRT with a loop in the middle consisting of Camel's Hump, Long Meadow Road, and Prison Camp Road.

Visit the following website for additional information on the route: <https://www.trailforks.com/route/4-mi-inner-loop-near-rutland-state-park/> (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/dgzSozmfy7NFJr7>)

Explore the Road to Dana Common

On Saturday, March 2 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. explore the road that leads to Dana Common. Along the old road to Dana Common are foundations, walls and trees that tell the story of the towns now long gone.

Join DCR staff on this 1.8 mile (3.6 round trip) hike to Dana Common and discover what life was like in the Quabbin Valley and how the landscape has changed since the reservoir was built 84 years ago. Please dress appropriately for the weather and bring water and a snack.

Participants will meet at Gate 40 on Route 32A in Petersham. Dogs are not allowed. (<https://goo.gl/maps/d4RxN91vSyHUzhEE6>)

Rutland Prison Camp

Fresh air, three home-cooked meals a day, comfortable sleeping quarters and a private hospital - sounds like a delightful retreat for a prisoner?

Join DCR staff as they explore the remains of this surprisingly successful social experiment at Rutland Prison Camp on Sunday, March 31 from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Ticks may be active, so protection is advised. The terrain is uneven.

Participants should be in the main parking lot of Rutland Prison Camp, 299 Intervale Road, Rutland. (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/J1iu7QGB3rEAbxJ9>)

Local farms receive disaster recovery funds

BOSTON – Senator Peter J. Durant (R-Spencer) along with Representatives Kimberly Ferguson (R - Holden), Todd Smola (R - Warren), Paul Frost (R - Auburn), Jon Zlotnik (D - Gardner), and Meghan Kilcoyne (D - Clinton) announced funding to 36 farms Worcester and Hampshire Senate District that were greatly affected by recent natural disasters.

All the farms receiving payments lost significant amounts of crops due to this past February's deep freeze, a late May frost, and the catastrophic flooding in July.

The farms in the Worcester Hampshire District that are receiving this funding are: Fay Mountain Farm in Brookfield; Waugh Farms in New Braintree; Meadowbrook Orchards, Inc. in Sterling; Davis Carlson Farm in Ware; Coldbrook Springs Winery and Stevens Farm in Barre; Center View Farm in Spencer;

Agronomy Farm Vineyard, LLC in Oakham; Alta Vista Farm, LLC, Rutland; Ashland Farm in New Braintree; Breezy Gardens in Leicester; Brookfield Orchards, Inc. in North Brookfield; Coy Brook Farm in West Brookfield; Cranberry Pond Farm in Brookfield; Heavens Harvest Farm in New Braintree; Hickory Lane Farm, LLC in North Brookfield; Howes Farm and Garden, LLC in New Braintree; Hunt Road Berry Farm, Inc. in West Brookfield; Jordan Dairy Farms, Inc. in Rutland; Clover Hill Farm, LLP in Gilbertville; Lone Birch Blossoms in Gilbertville; Kettle Brook Farms, LLC in North Brookfield; Maple Hill Farm Grass-fed Beef, Inc. in Hardwick; Lilac Hedge Farm, LLC, Jefferson; P & A Petrucci Farms in East Brookfield; Pease Orchard in Templeton; Prairie Orchard in New Braintree; Ragged Hill Orchard in West Brookfield; Rattleroot Farm, LLC in Princeton; Red Apple

Farm, LLC in Phillipston; Royal Crest Farm, LLC in Spencer; Schultz Farm in Rutland; Stillman Quality Meats, LLC in Hardwick; Stillmans Greenhouses & Farm, Inc. in New Braintree; Sunny Crest Orchards in Sterling; Walker Farm at Whortleberry Hill in New Braintree and Wildberry Acres Farm in Brookfield.

"These funds come at a crucial time for farmers across the Worcester and Hampshire District and across Central Mass as a whole. Thirty-six farms in my district will directly benefit from this much needed funding. I applaud the efforts of the Administration, and all involved for helping farmers get the relief they need," said Senator Peter Durant.

"These funds will go a long way to assist our farmers and I appreciate the commitment made by the Administration and the legislature. This has been an incredibly difficult year for farms across the state, and we need to support them in whatever way we can," said Representative Kimberly Ferguson.

"Support to farmers in Central Massachusetts is well founded. Farmers deserve the necessary tools to overcome the losses sustained from weather conditions in February, May, and July of this year. This funding will enable farms to continue their vital work. I am grateful for the diligent efforts of the Administration and the legislature to help the Commonwealth's agricultural industry," said Representative Todd Smola.

Representative Paul Frost said, "Having farmers in communities I represent in Charlton, Leicester and Millbury receiving this much needed disaster relief is very welcoming news. I'm pleased to see the support for farms, which contribute to the local economy and add their own special charm to each of these communities."

"This funding is important to stabilize farms in years like this when the weather and other conditions dealt a bad hand. I'm happy to support this and glad central Mass farmers have been able to access this support," said Representative Jon Zlotnik.

"This summer, I personally saw the devastating impacts of this summer's severe weather on our farms. Now, I am grateful that those same farms that suffered will be getting much needed support through \$20 million in disaster relief funding," said Representative Meghan Kilcoyne. "This funding will go directly towards helping our farmers recover from July's devastating floods, protect our local produce, and help them prepare for future climate challenges. I am pleased that part of this funding will go directly to ten farms in the 12th Worcester District and ensure they will continue their vital contributions to our communities. I am grateful to both the Healey Administration and my colleagues in the Legislature for supporting this effort."

Governor Healey's Administration announced this funding on Monday, Dec. 11 that \$20 million has been made available to 347 farmers in Western and Central Massachusetts through the Natural Disaster Recovery Program.

According to the Administration, to receive funding through the NDR Program, applicants were required to be a Massachusetts-based agricultural operation growing field crops, hay and forage crops or produce crops. Eligible farms had to demonstrate that they suffered losses of greater than 15% of their total planted acreage during one of the 2023 natural disasters. Funds from the NDR Program will be distributed immediately in time for local farms to begin the work needed for next year's growing and harvesting season.

Quabbin Visitor Center lists free indoor/virtual events

BELCHERTOWN – The Department of Conservation and Recreation's Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center will offer several free indoor/virtual programs in January and February.

Space is limited and registration is required. In-person seating will be limited to 45 people.

All ages are welcome. To register for any of these events, visit www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events.

Presentations will be offered in-person and via Zoom. To register, follow the link in each program description and chose to attend in-person or to receive the Zoom link.

Construction of the Winsor Dam

On Sunday, Jan. 21 from 2-3 p.m. join staff from the DCR Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center to learn more about how the Winsor Dam and the Goodnough Dike were constructed and how they formed the Reservoir.

Quabbin Reservoir is so noted for its natural beauty and pure water that we often forget that it is a constructed landscape created by the Winsor Dam and

Goodnough Dike.

Secrets Beneath the Trees

On Sunday, Jan. 28 from 2-3 p.m. join Dr. Becky Seifried, Geospatial Information Librarian at UMass Amherst to learn how we can use Lidar (Light Detection and Ranging) to map the traces of historical settlements, like stone walls and road cuts - and you'll discover just how much built heritage is hidden beneath the forests of Quabbin in Secrets Beneath the Trees: Exploring the Quabbin's Hidden Historical Landscape with Lidar.

Lidar is a technology that lets researchers peek beneath the tree canopy to model the surface of the earth.

Project Mishoon: Underwater Treasures of the Nipmuc

On Sunday, Feb. 4 from 2-3 p.m. join Hassanamisco Nipmuc Band member and Project Mishoon Director, Cheryl Stedtler, as she shares the history of Project Mishoon.

A recreational diver exploring the dark waters of Lake Quinsigamond happened upon a dugout canoe. For nearly 400 years, this canoe and others found nearby have rested quietly in the lake's silty bottom awaiting the

return of their Indigenous paddlers.

Not until 2001 would Nipmuc descendants return to them and become the first Indigenous community in Massachusetts history to secure an archaeological reconnaissance permit from the Commonwealth's Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources.

Understanding Watershed Forestry Management

Join a DCR-DWSP forester to learn about the benefits of a managed forest and the objectives and conditions that dictate when, where, and how trees are harvested on Sunday, Feb. 25 from 2-3 p.m.

Oakham

Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com



Sunday School resumes Jan. 14

Sunday School at the Oakham Congregational Church will resume on Sunday, Jan. 14 at 10 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 7 is Family and Communion Sunday.

Christmas pageant

The annual Christmas pageant was held on Sunday, Dec. 17. Sadie Cogoli was Mary and Clayton Cranston, Joseph. Angels were Elizabeth Laramee and McCanna Wilson. Playing the role of shepherds were Bodin Cranston, Noah Chant, Cole Joyal, Owen Joyal and James Laramee. Sheep were Olivia Chant and Easton Wilson. Wisemen were Caila Rich, Brynna Trout and Lottie Trout. Narrating the Christmas story were Addie Cranston and Carlee Rich.

Library hosts read and play

The Fobes Memorial Library, 4 Maple St. hosts Read and Play on Wednesday for ages birth to five. Children will hear stories and rhymes and sing songs as well as an activity and playtime. No registration is required. Upcoming dates are Wednesdays, Jan. 17, Jan. 24 and Jan. 31 from 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Clothing donation

People may donate warm clothing for the Quabbin Regional High School Q-Munity Closet. They are looking for new socks, shirts, sweat-shirts, hats, gloves or any new or gently used clothing items. All donations and proceeds go directly to families through the Quabbin Regional High School's Q-Munity Closet. There is a donation bin located at the Fobes Memorial Library, 4 Maple St. For more information, people may email Jason Bergman at jbergman@qrsd.org.

Senior center activities

Ongoing activities include Zumba Gold Monday from 10:30-11:15 a.m., Wii Bowling Tuesdays: from 10-11 a.m., cards and cribbage on Tuesdays beginning at 1 p.m., coffee Wednesdays and social hour from 9-11:45 a.m. and BBC Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. which includes crafts and BBC miniseries. FUNctional Fitness Fridays is held at 10:30 a.m. in the New Braintree Town Hall, Memorial Drive, New Braintree.

Meal site

Elder Services of Worcester effective the first of January increased the suggested donation for meals served at the Back Door Cafe from \$2.50 to \$3 per meal.

Food Pantry holds distributions

BARRE – The next two Barre Food Pantry distributions will occur on Wednesday, Jan. 10 from 10-11:30 a.m. and on Thursday, January 18 from 5:30-7 p.m.

Clients are invited to pick up groceries from the food pantry either in the morning on Wednesday, Jan. 10 or in the evening on Thursday, Jan. 18, whichever is more convenient for them.

The Barre Food Pantry volunteers strive to continue to fulfill their mission to get food to hungry and food insecure clients.

To maintain safe and healthy physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients Jan. 10 and Jan. 18 will again be "drive-through" style distributions. Clients will line up in their vehicles on Park Street and proceed into the right hand (east) entrance driveway of the Barre Congregational Church.

They will remain in their cars. They'll drive up and be checked in by a volunteer, then continue up to the church building where their groceries will be put into the trunk or wayback of their vehicle by volunteers at multiple stations.

Editorial deadline reminder

Deadline for e-mailed press releases is noon on Monday. Deadline for hard copy is noon on Friday.



FREE FLY TYING CLASSES

Sponsored by the Western Mass Fly Fishermen, the Ludlow Elks Lodge 2448 and Turley Publications are starting January 11th, 2024.

Held at the Ludlow Elks Lodge located at 69 Chapin St. Ludlow Mass.

Thursday nights for eight weeks from 7PM to 9PM.

The classes are open to the public with children 8 years and up accompanied by an adult.

Classes are geared to the beginner or novice.

Course materials and tools will be supplied.

Should you have your own tools, feel free to bring them.

No Registration is Necessary!

Should there be Bad weather please contact the Ludlow Elks after 4:00 PM for any cancelations at (413) 583-2448 or check our website <http://www.wmffclub.org>

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Opinion

Letters to the Editor

Historical Society thanks supports of Festival of Trees

The Rutland Historical Society would like to thank all those who attended the 22nd annual Festival of Trees on Dec. 2 and 3.

On Friday night they kicked off the event with the Merrimack Valley Ringers and about 200 people attended the concert. On Saturday and Sunday, they had the Festival of Trees at the Rutland Public Library. The library was filled with smiling faces and lots of holiday spirit.

The Historical Society would like to thank all of the sponsors, entries and all those, who attended the Festival. The winners of the 2023 Festival of Trees are Noteworthy Songs, Girl Scout Troop 30862, Heather and Spencer Quiry, Naquag second graders, Amelia Gracey, Sandi Zalenski, The Finnish Heritage Society Sovittaja, Brownie Troop 65421, Pine Hill Girl Scouts Service Unit Volunteers, Pine Hill Girl Scouts, Lyla Frysinger and The Haber Merchant Family.

The Rutland Historical Society thanks all, who participated and hope people have started to plan for next years.

Happy Holidays to all.

Benjamin Barakian
Rutland

Some hunters give the sport a bad name

He was a deer known by all the locals.

Nearly five years of photos and video footage – learning him, letting and watching him grow, seeing him spar with the youngsters, and embracing his magnificence.

I say locals, I specifically mean ethical and conscientious local hunters.

Individuals who cared that this deer continued to grow and thrive. Individuals that cared enough to respect him as an individual, and respect him enough to hunt him ethically.

All it took was a bit of bar gossip for his story to come crashing to a halt.

The Orange Army is what they're known as. A large group that does none of the scouting and all of the pushing.

Not one of them takes the time to communicate with or offer respect to local individuals, who are ethically and independently hunting in the exact same area. They blow through with the intent to annihilate.

Not one participant takes the time to study or care about any of these specific deer. They hear about a "trophy" and do whatever it takes to claim it.

This deer that has been celebrated and embraced for years, was chased by the 10-15 men for over a week until they ran him just right into their line of fire. A life ended by individuals, who knew nothing about him, except they wanted him to be their trophy.

For over a week they terrorized him. For over a week they decimated an area. For over a week they disrespected a local community of hunters.

So while this particular Orange Army is feeling proud, the reality is they should feel ashamed. They're not hunters. Gathering 10-15 individuals who do zero scouting throughout the year and proceed to chase a deer into a line-up of people with guns isn't anything to be proud of. And quite frankly, it is lazy and disrespectful to everyone out there conscientiously hunting.

The question begs to be asked, why wouldn't ethical hunters discuss their concerns with this crew? The reality is, these individuals are too ignorant to care about the opinions of those in the community they claim to be a part of.

I know a large quantity of ethical and conscientious hunters. You know the one piece that ties them all together? Not one of them would willingly go hunting with this Orange Army....not one.

So with that being said, you can eliminate what I'm sure this crew would claim is jealousy and replace it with disappointment and disgust. Disappointment and disgust with what this crew is attempting to turn hunting into.

I hope that those that care about the participants of this Orange Army one day hold them all to a higher regard, demand that they have values and show an ounce of respect to those in the hunting community they claim to be a part of.

Know better, do better. For this deer, and every other deer's life the Orange Army never gave a passing thought to.

Stephanie Jordan

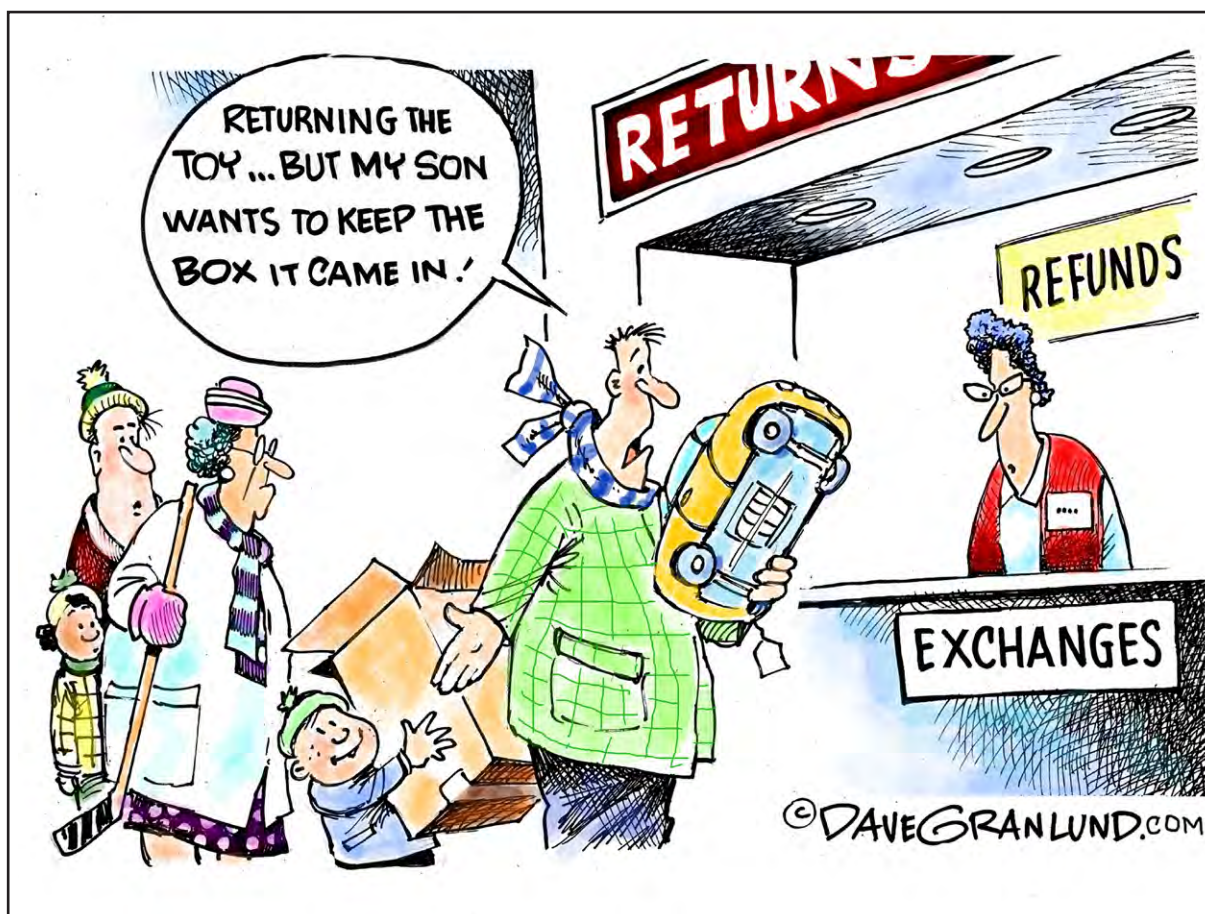
No. 4 Schoolhouse held fund drive

I would like to personally thank all the people who generously donated to the #4 Schoolhouse fund drive and made it a success.

Without your support, they would not be able to continue doing the programs they do for the children. I remember going to them when I was a child. Even sitting on Santa's lap.

Again, thank you. Be safe and God Bless.
A Very Happy New Year.

Sincerely,
Bridget Bullard Lachance



Guest Column



If my wife claims now, will it hurt my Social Security Amount?

Dear Rusty

I am 69 years old, and my wife turned 70 early this year. I am still working full time. My wife is not working, but she got a letter from Social Security saying she should take her Social Security as soon as possible.

My question is: since my wife has reached her full retirement age, can she take her SS without it affecting mine when I claim? I plan to work at least another year, depending on how the economy goes I may have to work longer if it doesn't get better. I have IRAs and a 401k to pull from when I retire. Signed Anxious Husband

Dear Anxious

The reason your wife received a letter from Social Security suggesting she claims now is because her benefit reached maximum some time ago at age 70. Thus, there is no reason for her to wait beyond age 70 to claim. By delaying past age 70 your wife is losing money so she should apply as soon as possible.

I suggest your wife call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 or your local office right away to request an appointment to apply for her benefits and she should be sure to request six months of retroactive payments. SS will pay up to six months retroactively.

If your wife has a "my Social Security" online account, she can also apply online at www.ssa.gov/ apply, but she should be sure to request six months of retroactive benefits in the "Remarks" section of the online application. Because your wife is more than six months past age 70, getting six months retroactive benefits will not reduce her age 70 benefit amount. Nor will your wife claiming her benefits now negatively affect your Social Security when you later claim.

Even though you plan to continue working, likely beyond 70 years of age yourself, you should not wait beyond age 70 to claim for the same reason, your benefit will reach maximum when you are 70. You can apply for your benefits up to four months in advance and specify you want benefits to start in the month you turn 70.

If you haven't already done so, you may wish to create your own "my Social Security" online account now at www.ssa.gov/myaccount, which will make it easier for you to apply online at www.ssa.gov/apply when the time comes next year. Applying online is, by far, the most efficient way, but you need to have your online account set up first to do so.

Just so you know, there is no need to worry that you won't get credit for work income earned after you have applied for your benefits. Even after you are collecting benefits, Social Security will automatically review your earnings each year when that information is received from the IRS, after you file your income tax return.

If your most recent earnings are higher than those in any of the 35 years of lifetime earnings used to calculate your benefit when you claim, Social Security will automatically increase your monthly payment amount. In other words, you shouldn't delay past age

See SOCIAL SECURITY, page 5

In Past Pages

5 years (Jan. 10, 2019)

Barre Selectman Vice-Chair Greg O'Sullivan proposed a time limit on public discussion at Board of Selectmen's meetings. He recommended keeping public discussion to a few minutes especially on matters not on the meeting agenda. He suggested keeping response times more concise for board members as well. He said if someone wanted a longer discussion tie, they should request the matter be placed on the agenda. Anyone wishing to be on the agenda should contact either contact town administrator or the chairman of Selectmen via email by the Wednesday before the Monday meeting. The board will discuss the matter at its next meeting and vote on discussion tie limits at the first meeting in February.

Sara Emery was only four years out of high school when she participated in the first every Quabbin Alumni Ban back in January of 2012. Although because of college and job commitments, Emery was always there in spirit, but never physically present for any additional alumni events until this past weekend when she and over 50 former Quabbin musicians, now living all around the United States, participated in the Seventh Annual Quabbin Alumni Band. Emery, who holds a Master of Music Performance and an undergraduate degree in music education and performance from Ithaca College, currently serves as the Development Officer for the Hugh Hodgson School of Music at the University of Georgia in Athens.

Near the end of the Barre Board of Selectmen meeting, member Charles Chase, announced he would not seek another term. He decided to go back to being a private citizen. He said he gave the matter a lot of thought and talked with his family. Chase served a total of 18 years as a selectman. He also served three terms on the Quabbin Regional School District Committee. He wanted to make the announcement early so possible candidates would have time to file nomination papers, get them signed and returned to the Town Clerk.

10 years (Jan. 2, 2014)

About 20 people attended the last Petersham Select Board meeting of the year. Most of those in attendance were there to participate in the meeting with National Grid representative, Lance Wade, to address the issue of the utility's tree removal project on West Road. At the beginning of this week's board meeting, Selectman Peter George addressed those gathered and said the board had made a mistake in directing the tree warden to postpone the hearing. Selectmen, he said, have no authority over the tree warden.

LOOK BACK Santa Visit - 1991



Santa held court at St. Joseph's Catholic Church's annual Christmas Fair. Santa took the orders of many youngsters as their parents shopped at the various tables. Some of those with big lists were, from left, Jessica Sousa of Barre, Deanna Fournier of Hubbardston and Megan Hastings of Barre.

File photo

Fire Chief Thomas Snay presented selectmen with some information he obtained on the mandatory retirement age of 65 for firefighters. Town counsel recommended a governor's bill rather than a home rule petition at a special town meeting. He said it would be an easier and smoother way to go. The Board of Selectmen would vote to allow the fire chief to work beyond the mandatory retirement age for a specified number of years.

The Quabbin Regional High School presents the third annual Quabbin Alumni Band concert on Sunday, Jan. 5 at 2 p.m. in the Corridor Trask Auditorium at the high school. This performance will feature over 50 plus former QRHS students and/or educators spanning the course of four decades.

25 years (Jan. 7, 1999)

Each New Year's Day for the past 13 years members of the Minot Beach Polar Bear Club meet at 10 a.m. for a dip in Browning Pond and each year the number of swimmers increases. This year a record breaking 18 people took the icy plunge to wash away the old year: Russell, Joan and Julian Killough-Miller; Kenny Williams; Phil and Jessica Katz; Tom Tabby and Mark Tashjian; Mitchel and Martha Sibley-Jett; Elaine Griffith; Jessica Rosenkrantz; Meg Rutherford; Heather Fuller and Jeremy Clough. Landlubber onlookers numbering in the twenties enjoyed the spectacle and a potluck celebration afterwards.

Barre Selectmen announced they are continuing to seek applications for positions on a committee to study the feasibility of building a senior center town. The board also wants the committee to study what other area towns have done to provide for their elderly populations. The committee will likely have

about six months to do the study and submit findings to the board.

With the 153rd Levee scheduled for Jan. 23, here is some history on the Levee. The first such event, which in simplest terms, is a glorified turkey supper and dance, came about in 1842 as a fundraiser for the Unitarian church. Back then folks quite often traveled by sleigh and by moonlight if the weather cooperated. The horse sheds adjoining the church, now the Davis Memorial, always had their stalls well filled as one couldn't leave Old Dobbin out in the cold while dining royally.

38 years (Jan. 9, 1986)

Cullinan Engineering, who has held Barre's contract for the sewer project since its inception has withdrawn as the company of record. In a Dec. 19 letter sent to Kathy Inman, Chairman of the Board of Sewer Commissioners, the executive vice-president of the firm expressed the company's desire to be removed from the project because of the town boards "lack of confidence" in the ability of Cullinan. The letter stressed Cullinan would work closely with the new firm to make the transition a smooth one.

The month of January brings blustery winter days and exposure to the cold weather may lead to accidental hypothermia. Hypothermia is described as a dangerously low body temperature. Measures to prevent hypothermia will be presented at the Oakham Senior Center Blood Pressure Clinic sponsored by the Wachusett Home Health Agency. The clinic will be held on Jan. 14 from 12:30-1:30 p.m.

The New Braintree Board of Selectmen met Monday, Jan. 6 in the town hall. Steven Cronin, chairman of the board, read a letter from Town Counsel, Vincent J. McCaughey of Warren, regarding a long-standing suit against the town and three residents, brought by George T. Merithew. Based on the latest conference, McCaughey recommended the town accept a \$5,000 out of court settlement. Originally, a \$1.1 million dollar suit was involved

PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT BARRE, MA
The Barre Gazette is a weekly newspaper published every Thursday by Barre Gazette, Inc., with offices located at 5 Exchange St., Barre, MA 01005 and at 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069. Telephone at 978-355-4000 or FAX at 978-355-6274. USPS number is 044-560. Postmaster: Send address changes to: Barre Gazette, 24 Water St. Palmer, MA 01069 \$1.00 per copy

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BARRE GAZETTE

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The Barre Gazette (USPS 044560) is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069.

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Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

I remind every one to predate their bank checks with 2024 so they won't forget. This is the first time I have written 2024.

We had two Christmas times this year as we did not go to the family gathering so they came to us two different days. On Tuesday one family brought a Chinese dinner and gifts and on Sunday the other family served lunch and brought a lot of gifts. This daughter brought us two weeks of groceries.

I took apart my last year calendars and saved some pictures and recipes.

Here is one recipe I plan to try.

APPLE DIP

1 seven ounce jar of marshmallow creme

1 eight ounce package of cream cheese

Blend the jar of marshmallow creme with the soft-

ened package of cream cheese. Mix well until blended. Serve with sliced apples.

This and That

Late summer, I had a lot of fruit flies that seemed to want to hang around my counter composter. Here is a hint I read about and I will try it next time I have them.

Take a small glass, fill 1/2 inch with apple cider vinegar and 2 drops of dish washing liquid and mix well.

If you have ants make small piles of cornmeal and they will eat it. They take it home and are not able to digest it.

I hope my readers have a Happy New Year. I have spent the week picking over papers in the office and trying to eliminate some clutter.

his first Allen Bird Club count in the late 1970s. He said, "We have been covering the town of Ludlow, excluding the Westover Conservation Area covered by others, since 1989. The club's count circle center is in Springfield and includes adjacent towns.

He also said, "We had an excellent day weather wise, but the songbirds were hard to come by. With all the water ice free, we had high number of Canada geese (93), common mergansers (170, mostly males) and mallard (115). The common mergansers and many of the mallards were at the Springfield Reservoir."

He reported 20 ring-necked ducks at a pond near the Ludlow Country Club was another unexpected species in the count. In all, they had 32 species on their list, slightly more than the average of 29 species. Following the time in the field, the participants held a zoom meeting to discuss the results. No one mentioned seeing any winter finches i.e. redpoll, siskin or evening grosbeak.

Large flock of Canada geese

Recently, I saw a large flock of Canada geese in a cornfield in Spencer. There must have been at least 100. I did not stop to take an accurate count, but it was the largest flock I've seen.

Christmas card count

Years ago, Thelma Crawford, told me she kept a Christmas card bird count every year. While she was alive, we would share our card counts. Often the bird fell into the unspecified species category. I wven received a Christmas card one year with a loon with an evergreen wreath around its neck.. This was the first year I did not receive any Christmas cards with birds even one perched off in a distant tree in the background.

Suet feeder

I now have my suet feeder out all the time as I have not seen any sign of wandering black bears in awhile. I also feed a combination of mixed bird seed, black oil sunflowers and shelled peanuts, which I mix together to put out daily. I have the usual juncos, chickadees, titmice, nuthatches, blue jays, mourning doves and of course, squirrels. I have not seen the cardinal pair yet, but then I don't have a lot of time to spend watching my feeders.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

a \$5 fee for supplies.

Food for Thought

Dave Brown will be continuing his program "Food for Thought" at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 12. He will explain his research into the relationship between diet and brain health.

Bigfoot researcher

Come hear TV personality and Leominster native Ronny LeBlanc at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 26, as he regales the audience with tales of Bigfoot in Massachusetts and elsewhere.



in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer

Female Bufflehead



I received an email from a Brimfield resident, who along with his wife, participated in the Allen Bird Club's Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, Dec. 16.

One unexpected species they saw were three female buffleheads at the Springfield Reservoir.

The bufflehead is a small duck about 14 inches long. It has a distinct, large rounded head.

The male has a white wedge behind its black head. The male also has white flanks and breast. The female is gray brown with a small patch of white behind the eye.

They are diving ducks and feed on mollusks, fish, snails and crustaceans. They summer on wooded lakes, rivers and winter on lakes and coastal waters.

The female lays eight to ten ivory to buff eggs in a tree cavity or nest box. There courtship begins in January and these ducks show a high level of aggression during that time.

Buffleheads are generally silent. However, the female makes guttural sounds during courtship.

Bird count

In his email, the Brimfield resident said he did

Haston Free Public Library January events

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Haston Free Public Library, 161 North Main St., announces upcoming events for the month of January.

Shibori fabric dyeing

A Shibori fabric dyeing workshop will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 9.

Shibori is a Japanese manual resist dyeing technique. The resulting patterns are often emblematic of Japan's appreciation of the beauty of imperfection.

Space is limited; registration is required along with

SOCIAL SECURITY, continued from page 4

70 to claim Social Security because you're working; you'll still get credit for those earnings, automatically.

So, I suggest that your wife take fast action to apply for her Social Security benefits to avoid losing any more money and that you plan to apply for your benefits

to start when you turn 70. There is no financial advantage to waiting beyond age 70 to claim, even if you continue working.

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

es and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



Native plants often need to be coaxed into germinating

Are you interested in starting your own perennials from seed this year?

This column, straight from the archives, will be of use to you! Sadly, not all seeds sprout as quickly and easily indoors as tomatoes do.

Some seeds can be a bit tricky to germinate, and we must go through extraordinary measures to get them to sprout. In the grand scheme of things, you will learn that this is actually a good thing.

Take the Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) for example, and imagine what would happen if this late bloomer dropped its seed on the ground in October and the seed came up immediately? Likely, the seedlings would be so small and tender that they would not survive the winter.

On the other hand, if germination occurred in early spring (and it does!), success could almost be guaranteed.

The Cardinal Flower, along with many other native plants, has a built-in dormancy that is broken only by a period of moist-cold. Until "winter" has passed – either for real or simulated by us, these plants will simply not sprout.

In addition to Cardinal Flower, Columbine, Delphinium, Gas Plant, Great Lobelia, Lupine, Iris, Monkshood, Border Phlox, Primrose, Purple Coneflower and probably more that I am unaware of, all benefit from what is called "stratification." The term, which admittedly sounds a bit intimidating, refers to the practice of "stratifying," or storing seeds in layers alternating with moisture-holding material and exposing them to cold temperatures.

This can be accomplished both indoors and out, and I will go through the pros and cons of each.

No doubt the easiest way to expose seeds to a period of moist-cold is to sow them outdoors in the fall in a nursery bed or cold frame. They will go through the winter and when conditions are right (cross your fingers!) germinate neatly in their rows.

But because you are outside, seeds can sometimes

disappear thanks to ants, rodents and birds. Weeds can also pop up in the seed bed, making it hard to tell which plant is which!

The elements can likewise take their toll and unless the beds are protected, soil can either dry out or get completely waterlogged.

Another way to stratify seeds outdoors is by using the milk-jug method. Taking a gallon size clear milk container and starting just below the handle, cut it almost all the way across.

If you begin just after the handle on one side and end up just before the handle on the other, you will make a hinge. Punch a few drainage holes in the bottom and a couple more on the sides, up and down from the cut so that you can "twist-tie" the jug shut after you are done.

Fill the bottom half with well-moistened seed starting mix and plant the seeds according to the directions on the packet – if they are tiny don't cover; simply press them into the soil. Connect the two halves of the jug with twist ties (or just use duct tape) and label with pencil.

Keep the cap off to provide ventilation, then place in a spot protected from hard winds. As seedlings emerge in the spring you can flip back the top on nice days, but remember to replace each night and water as needed.

If you prefer to start your seedlings indoors you can mimic winter by placing your seeds in the refrigerator to "chill." Don't put them in there in their seed packets, though, since they must also be kept moist.

If you have enough room in the refrigerator, you can simply sow them in their flats, cover the flat with a loose plastic bag and place it inside for the recommended length of time, usually anywhere from one to three months. Afterwards, set them out to germinate as you normally would, with supplemental light and bottom heat (in other words, fake spring this time around!).

Most folks don't have a spare refrigerator to fill up with seedling flats. In this case put a small amount of moist seed-starting medium in a tiny plastic bag and sprinkle in the seeds.

After "winter" has elapsed, sprinkle the contents on to the top of moistened soil in your container and firm down. Large seeds can be covered with an additional sprinkling of growing medium. Proceed as above to promote germination.

If you plan to order perennial seeds by mail, do so soon, so that you can stratify and have them sprout at the normal time. This may sound tricky, but it's really pretty simple, and the pay-off is lots of new plants for your perennial border!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

Applications open for young women award

WESTERN MA — Applications for the 2024 Young Women in Public Affairs Award are available from the Zonta Club of Quabog Valley. Applications can be obtained from the high school guidance counselors in local towns and on its website: ZontaQV.org/scholarships/.

A local recipient will receive a \$1000 award, funded by the Zonta Club of the Quabog Valley and will be entered for the District YWPA award. The District recip-

ient will be eligible for a \$5,000 award from Zonta International.

According to Zonta Club President Dana Burton, the goal of the award is to encourage young women to participate in public and political life by recognizing a young woman's involvement in government, policy-making, and volunteerism. "The YWPA program looks to the young women of today for leaders of tomorrow and advocates the Zonta International's mission of advanc-

ing the status of women worldwide," noted Burton.

To be eligible for this award, applicants must be between the ages of 16 and 19, have an active commitment to volunteerism, leadership achievements, and experience in local or student government. Applicants must be pre-university or pre-college students.

Completed application and supporting documentation are due to the Zonta Club of Quabog Valley by March 8.

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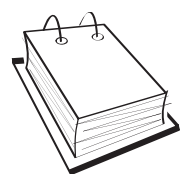
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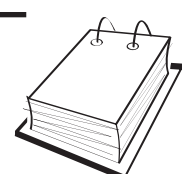
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Corrections policy

The Barre Gazette will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2. To request a correction, send information to Editor Ellenor Downer at barrenews@turley.com or call 978-355-4000. Corrections may also be requested in writing at Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.



Calendar of Events



FRIDAY, JAN. 5

FRIDAYS WITH FRIENDS will be held today from 3:30-4:30 p.m. at the Woods Memorial Library, 19 Pleasant St., Barre in the multipurpose room for school age children. Different activities are held each week ranging from arts and crafts to STEAM based challenges all meant to bring the community closer together. The program is held Fridays during January, February and March and is recommended for ages five plus.

SATURDAY, JAN. 6

SATURDAY STORY TIME will be held today from 10:30 a.m.-noon at the Woods Memorial Library, 19 Pleasant St., Barre in the multipurpose room at the library. The program is recommended for ages three to six. Each week Ms. Katie will read a story and pair it with a craft or related activity. To request sign language interpretation or other accommodation for special needs for any program, people should call the Library Director at least two weeks before the program date at 978-355-2533 extension 101 or email jhood@barrelibrary.org.

MONDAY, JANUARY 8

MEET AND GREET, a new program, begins today at starting 12:15 p.m. with Town Clerk Ellen Glidden. She can answer questions regarding voting, census, meeting notice information or any other questions people may have.

TUESDAY, JAN. 9

TWEEN AND TEEN BOOKEND DECORATING will take place today from 6-7 p.m. at the Woods Memorial Library, 19 Pleasant St. Barre in the multipurpose room. All materials are provided. In person registration at the library is required. There are 15 seats available.

THURSDAY, JAN. 11

CIRCLE OF SONG REHEARSALS will resume tonight at 7 p.m. in the Barre Town Hall, Exchange Street, Barre. The choral group of 23 years sings in four-part harmony and often in other languages. People may email julie@mhof.net or call 978-257-1192 for more information. They perform several concerts during the year. The next concert will be Saturday, May 18 at



Where is this?

This week's mystery photo is from Barre. If any readers know where this photo was taken, they may email edowner@turley.com or call the Barre Gazette at 413-967-3505, extension 100 with their answer by noon on Monday, Jan 8. The names of those that correctly guessed the location will appear in the following edition. Linda Barringer, Bill Bowles, Peggy Civilik, Stephen Craven, Elizabeth Laramee, James Laramee, Evelyn Luukko, Gretta Scully and Carolyn Semon correctly identified the photo. The photo last week was the gate to the Old Burial Ground in Rutland Center, near the library and old Fire Barn.

Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer

the Barre Town Hall. New members are always welcome. Membership dues are sliding scale from \$25 per year for students and \$40 - \$70 for adults according to ability to pay. If people are interested in joining Circle of Song, they may email Julie Rawson, director, at julie@mhof.net, or call 978-257-1192 or show up at the Barre Town Hall, on Thursday, Jan. 11 at 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, JAN. 14

BOOK SIGNING EVENT will take place today from 2-5 pm. at Barre Players Hall on Barre Common, 64 Common St. Julie Rawson and Jack Kittredge will read from their new book, "Many Hands Make a Farm: 47 Years of Questioning Authority Feeding a Community, and Building an Organic Movement." In addition there will be music from groups they are part

of and some special surprises. A potluck will follow. It's optional to bring something to share to eat. This special event will recognize the thousands of acts of thoughtfulness and learning that Julie Rawson and Jack Kittredge have provided over the last 40 plus years through NOFA/Mass, the Barre Farmers Market, Circle of Song, Quabbin Community Band, annual plays at Quabbin Regional High School, Barre Players Theater, Many Hands Organic Farm, Many Hands Sustainability Center, meals at their table and more.

ENGLISH SOCIAL TEA, the first 250th Anniversary event, will be held today from 2-4 p.m. at the Barre Senior Center, 450 South Barre Road, Barre. Admission is free. Reservations are required by Friday, Jan. 5 by email at 250anniversary@townofbarre.com or by signing up at either the Barre Senior Center or Grand

View Terrace. Snow date is Sunday, Jan. 21.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16

MASS ADVANTAGE REPRESENTATIVE will be at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road, Barre today at 2 p.m. People in the special enrollment period may stop in and meet with the representative to ask questions.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18

BREAKFAST WITH THE POLICE DEPARTMENT will take place today at 9 a.m. at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road, Barre. The menu includes scrambled eggs, home fries, bacon, sausage, toast and coffee. Sign up is required by Monday, Jan. 11 as seating is limited.

FRIDAY, JAN. 19

SUPPORT GROUP for grandparent raising grandchildren will be held today from 9:30-11 a.m. at Worcester Family Resource Center, 20 Cedar St., Worcester. This group meets the third Friday of every month. People should call 508-796-1411 or email yiw-frycyouice@sevenhillsorg to register or for more information.

MONDAY, JANUARY 29

SOUP BAR will be held today at 11:45 a.m. at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road, Barre. People, who bring their favorite soup, will eat free. Those, who do not bring a soup, the cost of \$4 is due at the time of signing up.

Calendar Policy

POLICY: Our calendar section is intended to promote "free" events or ones that directly affect a volunteer-driven organization that benefits the community. Paid events that are not deemed fund-raisers or benefits do not qualify. Non-charitable events that charge the public to enter are not allowed as we consider that paid advertising. The deadline to submit calendar items in the mail, by fax, or emailed in Word document format is Monday at noon or sooner. We usually print one week in advance of an event, and the listings should be brief, with only time, date, location, brief activity explanation and contact information.

HUBBARDSTON YIR continued from page 1

bers attended the Monday, Feb. 6 Select Board meeting. Kaldera said Massachusetts law required the militia to get permits to fire their muskets at public events such as Memorial Day and parades.

He said one of the steps in getting the permit was a proclamation from the Select Board. The Select Board made the motion for Chair Jeff Williams to sign the proclamation for the Hubbardston militia Company with approval of the Fire Chief and Police Chief.

MARCH

You might say it runs in the family for Will Lambert, who will be taking the stage with 600 other cast members as the Hubbardston Community Theatre presents "Wonderland High," March 18 and 19. It's actually a family event for the Lambert's as younger sister, Elizabeth is also part of the large cast.

HCT Director, Choreographer and Board Member Amanda Schuster couldn't be more please when she hears of the enjoyment of cast members. "I have tow goals as a director," said Schuster. "One is to put on a great show. The second is that every person that I worked with has a good experience."

The Hubbardston Finance Committee welcomed new member, Amit Kaul, to his first meeting on Monday, March 13. Finance Committee Chair, Susan Rayne, said the other new appointment to the committee, Sherry Maynard, resigned. She said now the board has four instead of five members.

Over a foot of snow arrive date begging of this week on March 12. It was heavy, wet snow and caused branches and small trees to bend under the weight of the snow.

APRIL

The Select Board accepted the resignation of Town Clerk, Kristin Foster at their Monday, April 3 meeting. Town Administrator, Nathan Boudreau said the found a replacement for Foster and would present Candace Livingston as a candidate at the next Select Board meeting as he was waiting for a Criminal Offender Record Information Check. Livingston would be starting Monday, April 24. He said Foster's last days was 13 and he would ask her if she could stay another week.

Following a nation wide search, the Hubbardston Select Board found a qualified candidate with 21 years of experience in various law enforcement positions demonstrating integrity and strong leadership skills to be the new Hubbardston Chief of Police. Ryan Couture was the man selected, not despite, but because of his many years of experience within the



Hubbardston Police Chief Ryan Couture, from left, is shown with now retired Police Chief Perron.

Hubbardston Police Department. He grew up and still lives in Templeton. After six years of diligent scholastic effort, he earned his Bachelor of Arts in criminal justice at Curry College in 2008.

MAY

The Select Board accepted from the North Central Chamber of Commerce the gift of a welcome sign to the town. Town Administrator Nathan Boudreau said the Chamber of Commerce offered these signets participating towns, of which Hubbardston was one. They will also install the sign; the Select Board had to select a location and accept the gift on behalf of the town. They accepted the gift at their Monday, May 1 meeting and suggested placing it on Gardner Road, the most traveled road. The sign would contain the town seal with the Nonesuch apple.

Board of Health Chair Cathy Hansgate discussed the joint meeting with the Planning Board held on May 3. She said at the BOH meeting held Tuesday that a second meeting with the Planning Board will be held on Wednesday, June 7 to discuss the odor issue at the two commercial marijuana grow operations on Gardner Road, Royal Sun and Paper Crane. Members of the public also attended the meeting. At the May 3 meeting, the operators of the two facilities said they would submit their plans for odor mitigation during this year's harvest season.

The Annual Hubbardston Memorial Day parade will take place Monday, May 29 with parade line up at 10:15 a.m. at Curtis Recreation Field. The parade begins at 11:05 a.m. and ends at the Hubbardston Town Common. The Memorial Day Ceremony will follow at noon.

JUNE

Moderator Rene Lafayette, opened the Annual Town Meeting in a very special way this year. Tuesday, June 6 marked the exact day, 79 years ago, Tuesday, June 4, 1944, the day then known as



Candace Livingston is the new Hubbardston Town Clerk.

Operation Overlord, but soon called D-Day. Lafayette said, in part "Over 150,000 allied troops faced Hitler's Atlantic wall. By May 1945, the Nazis were defeated, but the first steps to victory took place 11 months earlier on these bloody beaches of Normandy."

A representative from Country Hen and the Select Board recognized the two Country Hen Scholarship winners, Abigail Ramsey and Anneliese Kuske, at the Monday, June 20 meeting. The Select Board held three pole petitions at the meeting. The Select Board approve all the petitions with one change on the location of one pole.

JULY

The Finance Committee reorganized at their July 13 meeting. Town Administrator Nathan Boudreau presided over the meeting to accept nominations for chair. The committee voted Susan Rayna as chair. She then took over the meeting and sought nominations for vice-chair and secretary. The committee elected Charles Reed, vice-chair and Susan Rayne as secretary. At present, there are only three members on the committee, Ryane, Reed and Amit Kaul.

The Select Board once again elected Jeff Williams chair at their Monday, July 17 meeting. Town Administrator Nathan Boudreau took over the meeting to accept nominations for chair. Jeff Williams was the only nominee and he was elected unanimously. Williams then took over the meeting for the nomination and election of vice chair and clerk as part of the reorganization of the board following the town election. The board nominated and reelected Katie Young vice chair and Heather Munroe clerk. It was the same board configuration as last year.

AUGUST

The Hubbardston Select Board discussed goals and a proposition 2 1/2 override with Town

Administrator Nathan Boudreau at their Monday, Aug. 7 meeting. The Town Administrator went over some of the goals the Select Board discussed at a retreat meeting during a previous month. The first goal on the list was to find new ways to bring revenue into the town. Another goal was to find ways to prove town meeting attendance. Select Board member Kris Pareago said the town meeting quorum should be lowered.

During public comment Debra Chamberlain of Laurel Road said Laurel Road was "almost impassable." She said when the ambulance transported her daughter to the hospital, the driver was unable to go over 19 miles per hour on the road. It wasn't until the ambulance got to the center of town it was able to increase speed to 42 miles per hour. For the ride to Worcester, it was able to travel even faster. She said "time was of the essence" and the condition of Laurel Road made it a public safety concern.

The Hubbardston Select Board met with the remaining three Hubbardston members of the Quabbin Regional School District Committee to fill a vacancy. The vacancy was due to the fact no one took out nomination papers for one of the two positions for school committee on the ballot. At the Monday, Aug. 21 meeting. The first vote was a tie vote with four for Charity Chaffee and four for Joseph Alfonso. On a second vote to break the tie, the vote was six for Chaffee and two for Alfonso. The appointment runs until the Annual Town Election in June 2024.

About a dozen residents attend the Monday, Aug. 21 Select Board over concerns about road conditions. The attendees lived in some of the lesser traveled road in town such as Laurel, Jordy, Hall and Burgess roads. They came to hear Travis Brown, Department of Public Works Director, discuss the town's road maintenance plan.

SEPTEMBER

Select Board member Kris Pareago said at the Monday,



Shown are Hubbardston Scholarship Committee Vice-President Paul Pervier and President Flo Pervier.

Sept. 5 board meeting the quorum number of 50 for Annual Town Meeting and Special Town Meeting shock be reduced to nine. He said town meetings in the past were delayed while those present made calls to get other to attend to obtain a quorum so town business could be acted upon.

Select Board Vice-Chair Katie Young said the quorum of 50 was reasonable. She said in the four years she served on the board there was only one time those at the meeting had to call people to come to make a quorum.

The Select Board decided to invite the Town Moderator, Rene Lafayette, to their next meeting. Town Moderator Lafayette said he spoke not only as moderator, but as a student of government, who studied parliamentary government for 40 years. He said to move forward with such a drastic change in the quire, raised a red flag: they must be "up to something."

OCTOBER

Select Board members, Kris Pareago and Katie Young hold the "key to the pavilion presented to the by the Hubbardston Lions Club at the recent ribbon cutting ceremony on Sunday, Oct. 1.

The Select Board held a Zoom presentation with Michael Janke of Grant Match, a company that provides grant writing to municipalities. They receive a few of 10% for grants users \$1 million and 5% for grants over \$1 millions. The fee was only if the town received the grant.

The town's new ambulance has arrived and waiting for all paperwork completion to be put into service. Town Administrator Nathan Boudreau said the new ambulance replaces an 18 year old ambulance. He said the Department of Public Works will take the old ambulance and refit it as a service vehicle used to repair DPW vehicles, which break down on the road.

The Special Town Meeting was gavel into order at 7:03 p.m. by Moderator Rene Lafayette. There were six articles on the agenda. Both articles 1 and 2 passed unanimously as did the next three. The

final article had 74 say yes and seven no at the Oct 26 meeting. The meeting closed at 7:27 p.m.

NOVEMBER

Robert Heckman, Regional Associate Assessor, held a public tax classification hearing on behalf to the Hubbardston Board of Assessors at the Select Board meeting Monday, Nov. 20. Heckman recommended the Select Board adopt a single factor of 1,000 residential and 1,00 commercial, industrial and personal property. The estimated tax rate is \$11.79 per thousand This is a decrease of \$1.24 from last year's tax rate. It will now go to the Department of Revenue for their approval.

Although the tax rate went down, property valuations increased. The average household in Hubbardston will pay about \$130 more per year.

DECEMBER

Judy O'Donnell of the Board of Health proposed hiring a public health nurse for there town at the Dec. 4 Select Board meeting. She said communities, which have public health nurses are "few and far between" and included Ware and Rutland. She said the Board of Health proposed hiring a nurse for 16 hours per month at a rate of \$45. The board had one candidate, who expressed an interest in the position.

Select Board Chair Jeff Williams said he met with Town Administrator Nathan Boudreau on the result of his first year evaluation. Four of the five members of the Select Board filed out evaluations. Town Administrator Boudreau received a score of 84.7 out of a possible 90. Select Board Chair Williams said the was Avery good score. At their Monday, Dec. 18 meeting, the Select Board gave him high scores on visibility, visual skills and ability to make presentations with easy to follow instructions. Chair Williams said he was a "driven" individual, which was a positive.

SPORTS

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Doyle leads Quabbin past Oakmont



BARRE – Last Wednesday night, Meaghan Doyle led a big offensive effort by Quabbin Regional girls basketball with 21 points. The Panthers would easily dispatch Oakmont 50-19. The team also had a stellar defensive effort, keeping Oakmont off the scoreboard for a good portion of the game. Quabbin entered 2024 with an excellent 5-1 record.



Meg Doyle drives in for the layup.

Riley Bassett hits a jump shot.



Hannah Baxter chases down a loose ball.



Mia Ducos passes through a crowd of defenders.



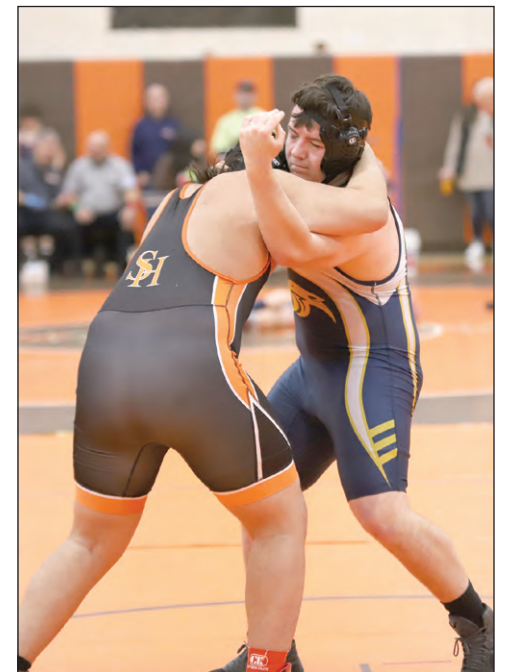
Leanna Leger waits to rebound.



Sam Jamieson competes in a 132-pound match.

Quabbin competes at Agawam tournament

AGAWAM – Quabbin Regional wrestling took part in Agawam's Phil Tomkiel Holiday Tournament last Thursday. As a team, Agawam took the crown with an impressive 274.5 points. Natick placed second with 234 points. Also competing was Chicopee, which placed ninth with 68 points, South Hadley (12th) with 56 points, Holyoke (13th) with 53 points, and Quabbin Regional (14th) with 46 points. Agawam also placed a "B" squad in the meet, and their squad came in eighth with 79.5 points. Agawam would crown three individual champions and five runner-ups. Holyoke had an individual champion as well. Holyoke's Steven Santiago was a champion at 113 pounds, while Agawam was led by Jordin Agosto (120), Nicholas Ugolini (132), and Ilya Shlemanov (150) led Agawam. There was also a girls tournament that several teams sent competitors to.



Noah Miett locks up in a match.

Matthew Tolman competes in an early round match 190 pounds.



Quabbin to celebrate 1999 team

BARRE – Next month, Quabbin Regional High School is celebrating the 25th year reunion and recognition of its 1999 championship boys basketball team.

This team was special, having won 24 games, including the Central Massachusetts Championship, Clark Tournament and being a state finalist, having lost to East Boston at the Worcester Centrum in the state final game.

The reunion and celebration will take place Friday, Feb. 2 against Tyngsboro at home. Game time is set earlier at 6 p.m.

There will be a social and school tour from 5 to 6 p.m. Members of the team attending will be recognized and honored at halftime of the game. Admission is free of charge to returning members of that championship team as well as their families.

Quabbin boys fall to Spartans

OAKMONT – Last Wednesday night, Quabbin was defeated by host Oakmont in boys basketball action 56-34. The Panthers, which dropped to 2-4 on the season, got 20 points from Quinn Geary to lead its offensive attack. Unfortunately, that was majority of the offense with Kyle Clarke and Zeke Santoro limited to just five points each. Quabbin hopes to rebound in the new year.

Pioneers fall after big comeback by Palmer



Hunter Griswold takes a free throw.



Adrien Moskovitz takes a shot.



Richie Gula tries to sent a shot over the defense.

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER— After falling behind early in the first quarter, the Palmer Panthers boys basketball team responded by scoring 14 unanswered points and they coasted to a 53-37 non-league victory over the Pioneers in front of a capacity crowd inside the Pathfinder Tech gymnasium.

"This is a really big win for us because a lot of the kids know each other," said Palmer first-year head coach Missy Rocker. "We also held them to less than 40 points, which is one of our team goals in every game. Whenever

we're able to do that, there is a very good chance that we'll win the game."

The Panthers headed into the new year with a 4-1 overall record.

The Pioneers (3-1) suffered their first loss of the regular season.

"Obviously, this wasn't the result that we wanted, but I think we're heading in the right direction," said second-year Pathfinder head coach Zac Button. "You just have to give Palmer a lot of credit because they played an outstanding game against us tonight."

The last meeting on the hardwood between the two high

schools, which are separated by less than a mile, took place at Palmer High on February 17, 2021. The Panthers won that contest by 28 points.

Both head coaches are hoping that the series can continue during the next couple of years.

"It would be nice if we could continue playing Pathfinder in the future and make it more of a rivalry game," Rocker said. "I think it's a very good thing for the community."

"This was a huge game for us," Button said. "I'm really hoping that Palmer and Pathfinder

See PIONEERS, page 8



Jack Fors goes for the pin.



Christian Stolgitis locks up with an opponent in a heavy-weight match.

Railers edged in one-goal loss to Reading

READING, PA – The Worcester Railers HC (12-11-3-2, 29pts) lost in a close one against the Reading Royals (11-13-1-1, 23pts), on Saturday night, Dec. 30 by the final score of 4-3 in front of 3,233 fans at the Santander Arena.

The game started right where they left off last night: physical. The Royals would do most of the heavy lifting in this department as they committed their 8th and 9th penalty of the weekend with a tripping minor penalty by Royals Forward Kenny Johnson (0-0-0) and a bench minor by Forward Tag Bertuzzi (1-0-1) committed while he was on the bench. The Railers offense would make them pay on

the Bertuzzi minor penalty. Joey Cipollone entered the offensive zone with the puck in the middle of the ice where he found Zach White open on the right wing of their offensive zone. White quickly sent a cross-ice pass to an open Daylan Kuefler on the left side dot and sniped it past Royals goaltender Parker Gahagen's blocker side. Bertuzzi came back the other way three minutes later for Reading and tied the game 1-1 going into the second period. The Railers led the period in shots on goal 13-11.

The Railers struggled to find many scoring chances in the sec-

See RAILERS, page 8

Sports

T-Birds fall hard against Bruins

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (16-10-3-1) had few answers for a confident opposing attack, falling 8-2 to the Providence Bruins (17-12-2-2) on Saturday night in front of a sold-out MassMutual Center crowd of 6,793.

The Bruins were opportunistic off a self-inflicted T-Birds mistake to jump to a 1-0 lead at 3:44 of the opening period. Will Bitten directed a pass back toward the Springfield bench, where a pair of defenders were in the process of a line change. Out of the confusion, Anthony Richard jumped on the loose puck and quickly snapped a wrist through Vadim Zherenko to give Providence the game's opening goal.

Rookie Bruins blueliner Ethan Ritchie would add his first career AHL goal just 60 seconds later, jumping up into a 3-on-2 rush and ripping a shot through Zherenko at 4:44 off a drop pass from Jesper Boqvist. Providence also made life difficult on the T-Birds' offense, as the Springfield attack mustered only five shots in the opening 20



minutes.

After going unsuccessful on a power play early in the second, the T-Birds saw a familiar bout of adversity when Justin Brazeau whipped a turnaround wrister through Zherenko at 6:21 to make it 3-0 for Providence.

The T-Birds gave the sellout crowd a glimpse of another comeback bid when Jakub Vrana extended his point streak to four games with a beautiful wrist shot under the crossbar behind Brandon Bussi, cutting the lead to 3-1 just 18 seconds after the Brazeau goal.

The two-goal deficit proved only temporary, though, as Jesper Boqvist scored on the front end of a four-minute power play, one of his three points on the night, at 8:40 to

make it 4-1.

Zach Bolduc had the opportunity to give the T-Birds another jolt when he was awarded a penalty shot with Springfield down a man at the 10:46 mark. However, Bussi had the answer with the leg pad, shutting the rookie's bid down and keeping Providence ahead by three.

The Bruins rewarded their goalie in kind with back-to-back power-play goals from John Farinacci at 11:31 and Trevor Kuntar at 15:11, upping the margin to 6-1 before Bitten finally got Springfield on the board again with a power-play tip-in at 19:27 of period two.

Patrick Brown would add to the Providence lead with a rush up the left side at 7:17 of the third, and Jayson Megna capped off the scoring by netting the first shorthanded goal against Springfield all season at 18:00.

The T-Birds finish up the homestand as they begin a 3-in-3 weekend against the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins on Friday at 7:05 p.m. at the MassMutual Center.

New modifieds event announced for early February

AUBURNDALE – After discussion with race teams, competitors and fans, Showdown Series officials have decided to update the schedule for the upcoming events at Auburndale Speedway in February during Speedweeks. With the new adjustments, the 602 Modifieds and Tour-Type Modifieds will compete in racing action at Auburndale on Thursday, Feb. 8 and Friday, Feb. 9 only.

The Tour-Type Modifieds will run two feature races - one Thursday and one Friday. Tour Modified events pay \$2,000 to win, \$1,000 for second and \$750 for third. The 602 Modified division will pay \$500 for the winner of each race, \$350 for second and \$300 for third. The 602 division will run double-feature events on Thursday and one on Friday. The 602 Modified features will be 30 laps and the Tour-Type Modifieds 50 laps.

"We're getting more and more phone calls and momentum is building surrounding these Modified races and we wanted to do everything possible to avoid conflicts with the New Smyrna Speedway Modified events," Brad Hockaday, owner of Professional Motorsports Solutions, said. "Seeing

Modifieds on Auburndale Speedway is going to be something special that fans and competitors are not going to want to miss. Extending Speedweeks a few days earlier is a great opportunity for everyone to enjoy some more time in the sunshine state."

For the 602 Modified division, unlike some other events, there is no age limit on the races. Teams are asked to be responsible with their drivers age and experience level to compete in this event. No NASCAR licenses are required for either division.

New Smyrna Speedway has also adjusted the times for their parking times for Modified teams. No Modified teams (excluding the Whelen Modified Tour) will be able to park until early on Sunday morning. This means that teams can compete in the Auburndale Speedway events and have plenty of time to make it across the state, which is just over a two-hour ride.

The Tour-Type Modifieds have been adjusted to go out early in the schedule for Friday and will be able to exit the track by approximately 9 p.m. The 602 Modifieds will race earlier in the night.

The tire rule for the event is posted online. The rule will

be six race tires for the 602 Modifieds with the F45 by Hoosier, and eight race tires for the Tour-Type Modifieds running the M20 & M30. Practice tires allotment is unlimited for the event, but teams need to let the management know in order for Hoosier to have a proper amount on site for the event.

Race teams with questions about the event are encouraged to email wntshowdown@gmail.com. There are practice nights available on Tuesday and Wednesday. Each night has a session from 4-7 p.m. and another from 7-10 p.m. Each session is \$50 per car running.

Teams are also encouraged to register as soon as possible so the promoters can prepare for the race.

For more information on the Showdown Series events at Auburndale Speedway, everyone is encouraged to visit <https://linktr.ee/seriesshowdown>. There, you can find the event tickets, registration forms, event schedule, event flyers, technical rules, general information and more.

Auburndale Speedway will see the rumble and roar of Modifieds in February for the first time in the history of the Florida oval.

Education

Ambulance Simulator available at MWCC Leominster campus

GARDNER – Mount Wachusett Community College welcomes the new addition of an ambulance simulator to its Leominster Campus.

It will be used by students registered in the Emergency Medical Technician program. The simulator replicates an authentic ambulance, complete with a removable stretcher and flashing lights.

The ambulance simulator prepares students by giving them "real world experience by getting to know how the inside of an ambulance is set up, where supplies are located and what it feels like to move around in the tight space," says Greg Lambert, MWCC's EMT Instructor.

Lambert is ecstatic about the new addition to the campus. He is an Advanced EMT, who has been working in the field since 2003. He began his career serving as an Army combat medic and later became a combat medic instructor for which he received a commendation. In 2005, he received his official instructor coordination license through the state of Massachusetts.

Over the decades, Greg's passion for teaching has only increased. One of his favorite aspects of the job is teaching students with no prior medical experience from all different backgrounds and seeing how much they grow throughout the course.

"You take somebody that has no medical experience and by the end of the class they can talk to you in medical jargon, you tell them con-



Submitted photo

MWCC Leominster campus has an ambulance simulator.

cepts and a light snaps in their eyes with understanding. That's always my favorite part," says Lambert.

Former student Mary Grace Howard completed the course and now works as an EMT for MedStar Ambulance. She says that the program was an excellent base layer that resulted in her feeling prepared for the job. She enjoyed the structure of Lambert's lectures because he is able to merge lecture materials and his own real-world experiences seamlessly.

William Howard, another former student and current EMT at MedStar Ambulance, says he started working at MedStar in their emergency medical responder program as a driver. The program gave him the opportunity to get a taste of what it's like to work inside an ambulance before committing to

the EMT training. He worked as an ambulance driver while pursuing a certification and his company reimbursed him for the training cost after completing the course.

There is a plethora of job opportunities available to Emergency Medical Technicians. "Right now, it's an EMT's market. There are so many companies hurting for employees. It is a career that you can do nights, weekends, holidays, and anytime you need extra cash," says Greg Lambert.

People interested in learning more about the EMS and EMT training available at Mount Wachusett Community College may visit mwcc.edu/emt or call Camilla Rojas at 978-630-9246 for more information. The next class begins Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2024.

FSU holds winter graduation ceremony

FITCHBURG – Fitchburg State University awarded more than 400 graduate and undergraduate degrees during the winter ceremony of its 127th commencement exercises Friday, Dec. 22.

Local graduates included: Kyrstin B. Mello of Barre, Bachelor of Science in early childhood education; Finleigh Rose Riendeau, Master of Education in special education; Matthew Robert Pingitore of Rutland, Master of

Foresman of Hubbardston, Master of Education in early childhood education; Debbie Ann Robillard of Hubbardston, Master of Business Administration; Joshua Curtis Frazier of Oakham, Bachelor of Science in engineering technology; Colleen Genevieve Dumart of Rutland, Master of Education in special education; Matthew Robert Pingitore of Rutland, Master of

Science in criminal justice; Erin Margaret Ross of Rutland, Master of Business Administration and Rebecca Marie Taylor of Rutland, Master of Business Administration.

In his keynote remarks, Fitchburg State President Richard S. Lapidus highlighted several graduating students for embodying the university's motto of perseverance, meaning persistence.

PIONEERS, continued from page 7

Tech can play each other every year. It was a great environment tonight."

A couple of the Panthers supporters who attended the road game were Palmer High School Principal Susan North and Athletic Director Matt Marciniac. "The players have been working very hard at practice, so it was fantastic for them to have a lot of support at tonight's game," Rucker added. "I'm hoping that we can keep building our fan support throughout the course of the regular season. The players really deserve it."

Pathfinder Athletic Director Tyler Simons, along with several Palmer Police Officers, did an outstanding job of keeping everything under control throughout the j.v. and varsity games.

It was a very memorable game for Palmer senior captains Andrew Menard and Shawn Troche. "It was awesome getting an opportunity to play against Pathfinder for the first time," said Troche, who scored all seven of his points during the third quarter. "When I was in the eighth grade, a couple of the Pathfinder players were my teammates on a Palmer Youth Basketball team. We won a championship title that season."

Menard, who was a force at the defensive end, finished the contest with five points.

Palmer freshman Taydem Haley, who's also a captain, led the way offensively in the road victory with a game-high 16 points, which was also his season-high. He has scored ten or more points in four of the first five games. "Taydem has been a catalyst



Seth Mitchell flies for a layup

offensively for us so far this season," Rucker said. "He has been consistently scoring in double digits. That's what we're expecting from him."

The seven Pathfinder seniors, who were hoping to celebrate a victory against Palmer, are Trevor Allard, Hunter Griswold, Richie Gula, Brandon Hnitecki, Luke Magnus, Adrien Moskovitz, and Adam Slonka.

The home team raced out to a 5-0 lead less than two minutes into the contest.

The Pioneers got on the scoreboard on the game's first possession following a Slonka (10 points) old fashion three point play. Then following a steal by Gula, who led the home team with 12 points, Mitchell (3 points) hit a jumper in the lane.

A pair of inside hoops by Palmer sophomore Gavin Smola (8 points), which were sandwiched around a made free throw

from sophomore Dylan Doherty (5 points) tied the score for the first and only time.

With 4:55 left in the opening quarter, a Haley steal and lay-up gave the Panthers the lead and they never looked back after that.

Palmer entered the second stanza with a 14-5 lead following back-to-back lay-ups by sophomore Angel Torres (8 points) and a Haley coast-to-coast lay-up.

A little more than a minute into the second quarter, the Pioneers were only trailing by three points (14-11). Gula buried a 3-pointer from the left side and Moskovitz (5 points) was fouled while making a lay-up. He added the bonus free throw completing the old fashion three point play.

The Panthers closed out the first half with a 13-4 run and headed into the locker room holding a 27-15 lead.

A Troche 3-pointer from the left corner increased the Panthers lead to 31-17 three minutes into the third quarter.

"I didn't score any points in the first half, so it felt very good after I made the 3-pointer in the third quarter," said Troche, who joined the varsity basketball team as a sophomore. "I also scored a few more points, which helped us keep the momentum."

A put-back hoop by Palmer sophomore Stephen Fredette capped off a 9-0 run and it pushed the Panthers lead to over twenty points (40-19) for the first time.

The Pioneers outscored the Panthers, 17-9 over the final eight minutes of the contest, but they couldn't get any closer than 16 points.

The two boys' basketball teams are scheduled to meet again down the street at Palmer High School during the 2024-25 regular season.

RAILERS, continued from page 7

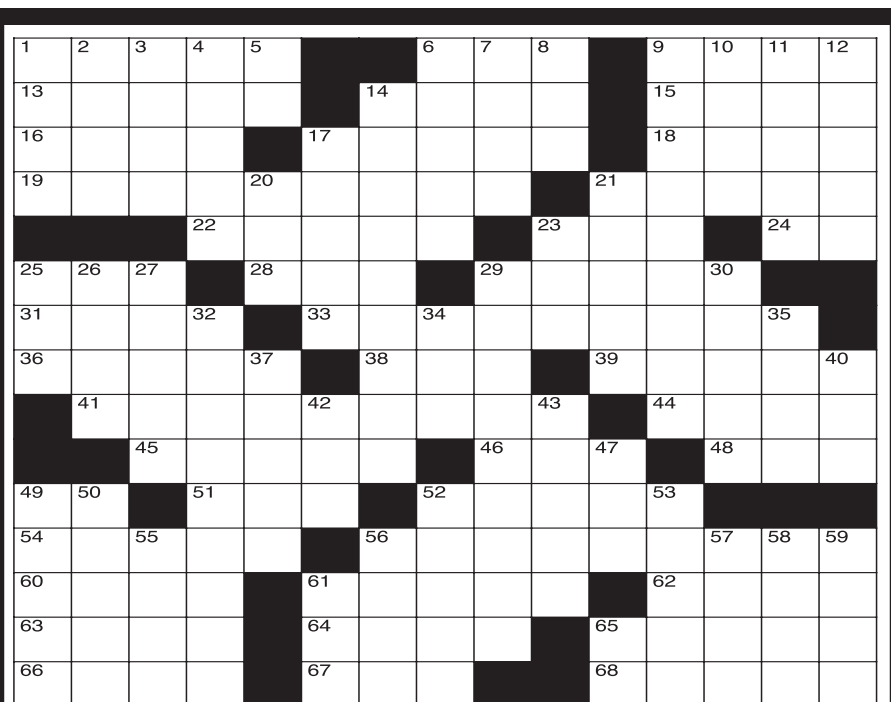
ond but relied on their defense and goaltending to get them through the period and deny the Royals from scoring. The Railers were disciplined and managed spacing well throughout the period until they would get a power play opportunity late in the second period. Towards the end of the power play, Copeland drove the puck past Gahagen in net for the Royals to

put Worcester back ahead, 2-1. The Royals answered back not much later with a power play goal by Forward Shane Sellar to beat Fulcher and tie it 2-2. The Royals led shots on goal in the period, 12-5.

Reading grabbed their first lead of the night when Matt Brown shot one blocker side to beat Fulcher and make it a 3-2 game. Late in the third, the Railers got another power play and did a great job keeping the puck in the zone and battling down

low. Jenkins quickly fired the puck past Gahagen's low blocker side to tie the game up once again. Both sides would get chances on the net but nothing came out of it in the box score where this game would head into overtime. The Railers led the period in shots on goal, 14-13.

In overtime, the Royals worked their way down ice in a 2-on-1 3:18 into the frame with Brown and Bertuzzi to score and give the Royals the 4-3 win at home.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Bleated
6. Snake-like fish
9. Database management system
13. Russian-American violinist
14. Wendy's founder Thomas
15. Ancient Italian-Greek colony
16. Negatives
17. Rescued
18. Self-immolation by fire ritual
19. Assigns tasks to
21. Island nation native
22. Trade
23. Detergent brand
24. Famed NY Giant
25. Before
28. Split pulses
29. Extremely angry; highly incensed
31. Body part
33. American state
36. David __, US playwright

38. Move one's head slightly
39. Secret rendezvous
41. Improved
44. A place to exercise
45. 18-year astronomical period
46. Automobile
48. You can take it
49. A radio band
51. Jaws of an animal
52. Short-billed rails
54. Chinese province
56. Shameless and undisguised
60. Horizontal passage into a mine
61. Adult males
62. Fail to entertain
63. Dried-up
64. City in north-central Utah
65. Southern U.S.
66. German river
67. Oxygen
68. Make law

1. Curved segment
2. Wings
3. From pentane (Chemistry)
4. Gradually gets into
5. Commercial document (abbr.)
6. Overhang
7. Christmas and New Year's
8. Type of bulb
9. Lacking a plan
10. Tattle
11. Rockers like it "heavy"
12. One who's been canonized
14. Indicate time and place
17. Nobel Prize winner in physics
20. The voice of Olaf
21. Fragmented rock
23. They __
25. Master of Philosophy
26. Backside
27. Landmark house

29. An act of undue intimacy
30. From which a later word is derived
32. Equal to 10 meters
34. Neither
35. Computer language
37. Sacred book of Judaism
40. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
42. A way to dedicate
43. Challenges
47. British Air Aces
49. Large, influential bank
50. Portended
52. Cavalry-sword
53. Vaccine developer
55. Napoleonic Wars general
56. Italian Seaport
57. Hip joint
58. __ Clapton, musician
59. Insect repellent
61. Decorative scarf
65. Delaware

CLUES DOWN

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Church News

A 2024 Meditation Part 1

Happy New Year. As we begin 2024, let us consider the manner in which the apostle Paul began each of his inspired letters.

I believe there is much we can glean from the following texts-texts which can inform and impact our trajectory in 2024! In this edition, I would ask that you prayerfully consider these selections, looking for common themes, phrases and words:

Romans 1:1, 7 (NIV)

1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God... 7 To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:1-3

1 Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, 2 To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ-their Lord and ours: 3 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 1:1-2

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the church of God in Corinth, together with all his holy people throughout Achaia: 2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Galatians 1:1-3

1 Paul, an apostle-sent not from men nor by a man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead- 2 and all the brothers and sisters with me, To the churches in

Galatia: 3 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ...

Ephesians 1:1-2

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To God's holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus: 2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:1-2

1 Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all God's holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons: 2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Colossians 1:1-2

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, 2 To God's holy people in Colossae, the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ: Grace and peace to you from God our Father.

1 Thessalonians 1:1

1 Paul, Silas and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you.

2 Thessalonians 1:1-2

1 Paul, Silas and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: 2 Grace and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Timothy 1:1-2

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope. 2 To Timothy my true son in the faith: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

2 Timothy 1:1-2

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, in keeping with the promise of life that is

in Christ Jesus, 2 To Timothy, my dear son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Titus 1:1, 4

1 Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ to further the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness... 4 To Titus, my true son in our common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

Philemon 1-3

1 Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker- 2 also to Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier-and to the church that meets in your home: 3 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Did you catch any repetition in these texts? Did you see any recurring themes, phrases or words? I did. Upcoming editions will touch upon such elements in kind, addressing how each item should influence us in 2024 and beyond.

Thank you for taking the time to read this publication. Should you have any comments or questions, feel free to contact me at your convenience using the information below.

Also, feel free to check us out online at www.NewLifeBarre.org or visit us each Sunday at 10:30am. We hope to see you soon.

Pastor James Foley

New Life Assembly of God
60 Main St. South Barre
jamesfoley@newlifebarre.org
978-355-6407

Obituaries

Peter A. Ruskowski, Jr., 77

BARRE - Peter A. Ruskowski, Jr., 77, of Barre, died on Thursday, Dec. 28, 2023 in UMass University Healthcare Center, Lake Avenue, Worcester.

He leaves his wife of 53 years, Judy (McCauley) Ruskowski; his daughter, Tammy (Ruskowski) Norwood and her husband, Michael; his son, Mark Madsen Sr. and his sister, Joanne (Ruskowski) Cesary. In addition, he leaves his sisters and brothers in law, grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Peter was predeceased by his son, Michael Arthur Madsen in 2006.

Peter was born Sept. 9, 1946, in Worcester, the son of Peter A and Benedicta "Betty" (Grigas) Ruskowski. He graduated from Worcester Vocational Technical High School Class of 1965 and

was a United States Marine Corps Veteran where he served in the Vietnam War.

Pete was a mechanic for his entire career before retiring where he found enjoyment and peace when he was fishing, hunting, cooking and going to local car shows with his 1941 Plymouth.

His greatest moments were spent with family and friends around him on holidays, special occasions or any given time together.

Services will be private for the family. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions



may be made to: Massachusetts Outdoor Heritage Foundation PO Box 47 Westboro, MA 01581 or www.mass.gov/sharetheharvest.

Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home, 96 South Barre Road, Barre. For an online tribute, please visit: Pillsburyfuneralhome.com.

DEATH NOTICES

Ruskowski, Peter Jr.
Died Dec. 28, 2023
Services private

Public Safety

Barre Police Log

Sunday, Dec. 17

1:31 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Summer Street, Written Warning
2:02 p.m. Emergency Medical Services - Sick/Unknown, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
6:31 p.m. Animal - Wildlife, Wauwinet Road, Removed Hazard
8:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Written Warning
9:26 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Written Warning
11:54 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Summer Street, Negative Contact

Monday, Dec. 18

4:51 a.m. Fire - Electrical Emergency, Hawes Hill Road, Investigated
7:03 a.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Woods Road, Officer Advised
8:18 a.m. Emergency Medical Services - Falls, Ruggles Lane, Ambulance Signed Refusal
8:36 a.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Britton Road West, Area Patrolled
9:30 a.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), South Street, Negative Contact
11:17 a.m. Animal - ACO Call, Old Dana Road, Message Delivered
11:42 a.m. Emergency Medical Services - Chest Pain/Heart Problem, South Street, Transported to Hospital
12:03 p.m. Assist Other Agency/Non-Police, Summer Street, Referred to Other Agency

Tuesday, Dec. 19

7:33 a.m. Road Condition Notification, South Barre Road, Message Delivered
11:41 a.m. Animal - ACO Call, Old Dana Road, Message Delivered
12:42 p.m. Assist Other Agency/Non-Police, South Street, Officer Took Call
5:25 p.m. Erratic Operator, West Street, Investigated
7:42 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Cedar Street, Officer Advised
10:30 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Mechanic Street, Information Given

Wednesday, Dec. 20

5:35 a.m. Emergency Medical Services - Breathing Difficulty, Maple Lane, Transported to Hospital
8:17 a.m. Suspicious Person-Vehicle Activity, Farrington Road, Gone on Arrival
9:06 a.m. Road Condition Notification, Mechanic Street, Message Delivered
5:27 p.m. Emergency Medical Services - Falls, Worcester Road, Transported to Hospital
5:32 p.m. Motor Vehicle Hit and Run, Kendall Street, Negative Contact

Thursday, Dec. 21

6:58 a.m. Motor Vehicle - No Fire Department/EMS Response, Williamsville Road, Officer Spoke to Party

Friday, Dec. 22

7:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle - Disabled, Valley Road, Officer Advised
12:08 p.m. Emergency Medical Services - Falls, Elm North Street, Transported to Hospital
4:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Barre Road, Written Warning
4:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Valley Road, Written Warning
4:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued
5:32 p.m. Emergency Medical Services - Falls, Wheelwright Road, Transported to Hospital

Saturday, Dec. 23

1:46 p.m. Emergency Medical Services - Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Grove North Street, Transported to Hospital
5:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hubbardston Road, Written Warning
4:26 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Barre Road, Written Warning
4:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Barre Road, Written Warning
10:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Common Street, Citation Issued

Sunday, Dec. 24

3:24 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hubbardston Road, Written Warning
3:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
4:02 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Valley Road, Written Warning
4:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Barre Road, Citation Issued

Oakham Police Log

Sunday, Dec. 17

1:16 a.m. Vandalism, Barre Road, Criminal Complaint

Monday, Dec. 18

7:57 a.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Coldbrook Road, Area Patrolled
8:24 a.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Old Turnpike Road, Negative Contact
9:14 a.m. Fire - Power Lines Down - Arcing, Coldbrook Road, Information Taken
1:29 p.m. Fire - Power Lines Down - Arcing, Stone Road, Information Taken
5:35 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Old Turnpike Road, Mutual Aid Assist

Tuesday, Dec. 19

12:30 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning
12:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning
2:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old

Friday, Dec. 22

2:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old Turnpike Road, Citation Issued
3:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued
3:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Road, Citation Issued

Wednesday, Dec. 20

8:55 a.m. Court Duty, East Brookfield District Court, court Duty
4:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle - Disabled, Deacon Allen Drive, Public Assist
5:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued
9:58 p.m. Fire - Structure Fire, Spencer Road, Fire Extinguished

Thursday, Dec. 21

11:37 a.m. Animal - ACO Call, Farm Pond Road, Officer Advised
1:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old Turnpike Road, Written Warning
1:02 p.m. Suspicious Person - Vehicle Activity, Old Turnpike Road, Officer Spoke to Party
5:49 p.m. Emergency Medical Services - Animal Bites, Forest Hill Drive, Ambulance Signed Refusal

Friday, Dec. 22

12:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old Turnpike Road, Written Warning
12:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old Turnpike Road, Written Warning
12:52 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old Turnpike Road, Written Warning
1:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning
2:06 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning
2:50 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning
3:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning
3:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning
5:24 p.m. Suspicious Person - Vehicle Activity, Robinson Road, Officer Spoke to Party

Saturday, Dec. 23

12:10 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Old Turnpike Road, Information Given

More Police Logs on Page 10

Nugget gets second chance

EAST BROOKFIELD—Nugget, formerly known as Natty, faced unimaginable pain and adversity when he arrived at Second Chance Animal Services with a severe leg injury. The dedicated team at Second Chance worked tirelessly to save his leg, but ultimately, the decision to amputate was made to ensure Nugget's comfort and quality of life.



Submitted Photo

Nugget, once known as Natty, came to Second Chance with a severe leg injury and is now the Timberyard Brewery dog.

In a heartwarming twist of fate, Nugget caught the attention of Matt and Nellie Zarif, the generous owners of Timberyard Brewing Company and longtime supporters of Second Chance. The brewery, known for its commitment to the community, had not only donated to Second Chance but also hosted events and provided storage for a large donation.

Nugget's story resonated with the Timberyard team, who had just started hosting popular puppy yoga classes to benefit Second Chance, led by the talented yoga instructor Audrey Martinez. The classes, held monthly, include a visit from friendly adoptable dogs available at Second Chance, who romp around the taproom while attendees work on their yoga moves.

Nugget, now thriving after his surgery, found his forever home with the Zarifs, joining a loving pack that includes three young

boys and another three-legged dog, Lucy. Nuggets dog-sister wears a prosthetic leg and goes to work with her dog mom, Nellie Zarif, a prosthetist at Hanger Clinic in Worcester, where she helps to inspire people with limb loss.

Nellie considered making a prosthesis for Nugget but quickly realized that he did not need one due to the nature of his amputation and his young age. "He is so fast on three legs that four legged dogs have a hard time keeping up

with him." said Lindsay Doray, chief development officer at Second Chance, who expressed admiration for Nugget's resilience. "We were in awe of his determination."

As a proud member of the Timberyard family, Nugget comes to work with Matt Zarif every day and has become a local sensation. The staff from Second Chance, including the veterinarian that performed his surgery, stop by the brewery from time to time to visit him. "Nugget is the smartest dog that I have ever met," said Matt Zarif. "Like-Lassie level smart; when you talk to this dog, he understands you. He's the perfect brewery dog, so well behaved, sweet, and friendly. He loves being a part of the action."

Nugget has embraced his role as a dogfluencer, delighting visitors at Timberyard and stealing the spotlight in social media posts. His favorite gig? Greeting attendees on puppy yoga mornings. He's even been spotted auditioning with Santa for a chance to be a reindeer, sitting patiently next to Santa for hours during his visits to the brewery, posing for photos with happy families, and helping to fundraise for a local charity. Nugget's journey from pain to fame is a testament to the power of love, resilience, and a community that cares.

OAKHAM, continued from page 1

Resident Paul Rochette said the owners of the dam on Adams Pond should lower the water level during the off season. He said there was no reason for the pond to be so high off season. The water level is close to the road. There is a grate on the edge of Grace Lane and it was covered in leaves.

The Board heard of pothole issues on Barre Plains Road, which the highway department filled. It caused one resident to get a flat tire.

Valuation of town buildings

Maribel LaRange said the town owned buildings were under valued and were under insured. Recently, the assessors revalued them. For example, the Fobes Memorial Library building increased from \$641,370 to \$1,041,000 and the Oakham Center School from \$4.295 million to \$2 million plus.

New state Senator

Peter Durant (R-Spencer), the new state Senator and former state Representative of the Sixth Worcester District, visited

the Select Board at the Tuesday night meeting. He introduced himself and encouraged the Board to keep him informed of any issues in town. He may be reached by calling 617-722-1540. He said he was still in the process of appointing his new staff. A staff member would be holding office hours in Oakham on a monthly basis and the hours might be in conjunction with state Rep. Donald Berthiaume's office hours.

Community Compact Technology grant

The town received a Community Compact Technology grant for \$25,587. The Board authorized Administrative Assistant LeRange to sign the grant.

School repairs

Last fall, the Select Board did a walk through with the Quabbin Regional Plants and Facilities Committee at the Oakham Center School. The school gym floor needs replacing along with repairs to a wall in the gym and the roof. The director at Quabbin will be following up on this.

Other Business

The safe door in the Town Clerk's office no longer locks. A

locksmith looked at the door and did some work on it, but he was unable to get the door to lock. Parts were no longer available. Interim Town Clerk Edna Holloway was trying to find out if the safe door must be locked or not. The replacement cost of the vault door was about \$30,000.

The Select Board approved a new payroll system. It will not include bi-annual stipend employees only those, who receive a regular pay check from the town.

Select Board Vice Chair Tessnau read a letter from Susan Turnbull, a former Library Trustee, as Turnbull requested the letter be read at the meeting. In her letter, she mentioned only the boundary pin between the library at 4 Maple St. and the abutter at 17 Maple St. near the road remained, the others either were obscured or missing. She said the Friends of the Fobes Memorial Library raised about \$8,000 annually to help fund library programs. She said the Children's Play Garden and Playhouse received no funding from the town, but funding through donations in memory of Tessa Wisnewski.

BUSINESS

Turley Publications is liberal with regard to its business coverage policies, but we do have some standards folks need to understand. First, local businesses and merchants are just as much institutions in our towns as the library and schools. Without them, there are no towns.

We will feature coverage of local businesses that are new, have a major expansion, moving, closing, under new management or ownership, celebrating a milestone anniversary, or have been thrust into the news realm. Merchants can request that coverage through the editor, or for our existing advertising clients, through their ad representatives.

For more information on business coverage for the Barre Gazette, please email edowner@turley.com.

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

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

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

Please contact Pat James 413-726-8661.

Barre Gazette OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

Public Safety

Rutland Police Log

Sunday, Dec. 17
 1:28 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, Oakham, Mutual Aid Assist
 2:45 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, Worcester, Officer Spoke to Party
 8:35 a.m. Property Damage, Main Street, Report Filed
 8:54 a.m. Vandalism, Julie Ann Circle, Report Filed
 9:50 a.m. Erratic Operator, Pleasantdale Road, No Action Required
 10:37 a.m. Suspicious Person – Vehicle Activity, Sycamore Drive, No Action Required
 12:50 p.m. Lockout (Home or Vehicle), Campbell Street, Entry Gained
 4:05 a.m. Property Dispute or Exchange, 1 Milne Road, Officer Took Call
 5:38 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Dizzy, Main Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 8:20 p.m. Erratic Operator, Pleasantdale Road, Officer Spoke to Party
Monday, Dec. 18
 5:04 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Falls, Paddock Road, Transported to Hospital
 6:37 a.m. Fire – Power Lines Down, Barre Paxton Road, Investigated
 7:01 a.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Hillside Road, Officer Advised
 7:13 a.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Forest Hill Drive, Message Delivered
 7:18 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Sick/Unknown, Glenwood Road, Transported to Hospital
 7:24 a.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Intervale Road, Officer Advised
 7:35 a.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Charnock Hill Road, Information Taken
 7:51 a.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Irish Lane, Removed Hazard
 8:03 a.m. Road Condition Notification, Welch Avenue, Information Given
 9:27 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Maple Avenue, Transported to Hospital
 10:19 a.m. Vandalism, 220 Main Street, Report Filed
 10:39 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Glenwood Road, Investigated
 11:21 a.m. Suspicious Person – Vehicle Activity, Lewis Street, Party Departed without Incidents
 11:29 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Naquag Street, Transported to Hospital
 11:56 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Lewis Street, Message Delivered
 1:29 p.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Finn Park Road, Officer Advised
 2:30 p.m. Public Assist, Crawford Road, Public Assist
 5:12 p.m. Road/Traffic/Hazard, Turkey Hill Road, Investigated
 5:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Skyline Drive, Public Assist

7:18 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Paddock Road, Information Given
 8:33 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Sick/Unknown, Maple Avenue, Transported to Hospital
 10:05 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Turkey Hill Road, Officer Advised
Tuesday, Dec. 19
 7:42 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Breathing Difficulty, Village Way, Transported to Hospital
 10:27 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, East County Road, Animal Returned to Owner
 11:14 a.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Main Street, Information Given
 12:11 p.m. Public Assist, Main Street, Officer Took Call
 2:46 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Main Street, Vehicle Towed
 3:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Written Warning
 3:30 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Citation Issued
 3:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning
 8:57 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 9:01 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Abdominal – Back Pain, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 9:08 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Barre Paxton Road, Information Given
Wednesday, Dec. 20
 12:49 a.m. Suspicious Person – Vehicle Activity, Barre Paxton Road, Investigated
 3:57 a.m. Road Condition Notification, Barre Paxton Road, Message Delivered
 8:41 a.m. Animal – Wildlife, Main Street, Referred to Other Agency
 11:20 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
 5:28 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Diabetic, Peters Avenue, Public Assist
 6:22 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Miles Road, Information Given
 8:05 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Holden, Negative Contact
 8:53 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Village Way, Ambulance Signed Refusal
Thursday, Dec. 21
 12:49 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Summerhill Drive, Citation Issued
 4:28 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Written Warning
 8:16 a.m. Road Condition Notification, Glenwood Road, Referred to Other Agency
 9:11 a.m. Court Duty, East Brookfield District Court, Court Duty
 11:31 a.m. Animal – Lost and/or

Found, Intervale Road, Animal Returned to Owner
 12:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 12:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Citation Issued
 12:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 12:53 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Criminal Complaint
 1:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 1:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Maple Avenue, Citation Issued
 3:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Citation Issued
 4:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Vehicle Towed
 4:41 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stoop, Main Street, Written Warning
 5:35 p.m. Tree on Wires, Pommogussett Road, Information Given
 5:49 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Animal Bite, Forest Hill Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 6:50 p.m. Suspicious Person – Vehicle Activity, Maple Avenue, Investigated
 8:17 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Main Street, Vehicle Towed
 8:39 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Choking, Prescott Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 9:34 p.m. Suspicious Person – Vehicle Activity, Main Street, Officer Advised
 10:57 p.m. Suspicious Person, Barre Paxton Road, Officer Advised
Friday, Dec. 22
 2:56 p.m. Fire – Smoke Investigation, Main Street, Investigated
 8 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, River Road, Officer Advised
 10:45 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning
 7:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 7:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 7:23 p.m. Gunshots, Michael Drive, Area Patrolled
 7:30 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 7:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 7:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 7:56 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Worcester, Officer Spoke to Party
 8:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 8:30 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 8:51 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Crestview Drive, Public Assist
 8:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 9:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 Other Agency
 8:59 a.m. Assist Citizen, Unknown Location, Officer Handled
 9:21 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Hardwick Road, Dispatch Handled
 9:58 a.m. Assist Citizen, Ravine Road, Officer Handled
 10:01 a.m. Assist Citizen, Unitas Road, Officer Handled
 12:27 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled
Thursday, Dec. 21
 8:28 a.m. Safety Hazard, Horse Rests, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 10:20 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Unitas Road, Spoken To
 12:06 p.m. 911 Disabled Motor Vehicle, Hardwick Road, Services Rendered
 6:15 p.m. Safety Hazard, Pierce Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 6:38 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Webb Road, Transported to Hospital
Friday, Dec. 22
 10:48 a.m. Assist Citizen, Webb Court, Officer Handled
Sunday, Dec. 24
 7:56 a.m. 911 Threat, Sibley Road, Services Rendered
 11:49 a.m. Assist Citizen, Unknown Location, Officer Handled

Hubbardston Police Log

Sunday, Dec. 17
 3:11 p.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Grimes Road, Dispatch Handled
 5 p.m. Property – Lost and/or Found, Rutland, Dispatch Handled
Monday, Dec. 18
 5:21 a.m. Tree Incidents, High Street, Investigated
 9:08 a.m. Court Duty, Gardner District Court, Court Duty
 9:46 a.m. Tree Incidents (No Trees), Kruse Road, Unfounded
 11:08 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Trauma, Gardner Road, Transported to Hospital
 2:29 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Lombard Road, Information Given
 4:08 p.m. Fire – Public Service Call, Old Princeton Cutoff Road, Public Assist
 7:34 p.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, New Westminster Road, Report Filed
Tuesday, Dec. 19
 4:22 a.m. Public Assist, Gardner Road, Public Assist
 8:29 a.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Ragged Hill Road, Message Delivered
 1:42 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Old Princeton Road Cutoff, Transported to Hospital

10:16 p.m. Erratic Operator, Gardner Road, No Action Required
Wednesday, Dec. 20
 11:02 a.m. Road Condition Notification, Barre Road, Information Given
 2:17 p.m. Suspicious Person – Vehicle Activity, Mt. Jefferson Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 2:35 p.m. Suspicious Person – Vehicle Activity, Ragged Hill Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 3:51 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gardner Road, Criminal Complaint
 7:59 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Brigham Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 10:01 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Healdville Road, Transported to Hospital
 10:37 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Barre Road, Vehicle Towed
Thursday, Dec. 21
 9:17 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Old Princeton Cutoff Road, Message Delivered
 11:05 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Sick/Unknown, Healdville Road, Mutual Aid Transported

Friday, Dec. 22
 7:52 a.m. Suspicious Person – Vehicle Activity, Old Princeton Road, Information Given
 4:26 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Twin Hill Road, Transported to Hospital
 7:13 p.m. Erratic Operator, Gardner Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 7:26 p.m. Erratic Operator, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 9:25 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Seizures, Gardner Road, Transported to Hospital
 10:10 p.m. Erratic Operator, Worcester Road, No Police Service Necessary
Saturday, Dec. 23
 3:01 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Rutland, Negative Contact
 4:58 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Sick/Unknown, New Westminster Road, Transported to Hospital
 10:20 p.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, Route 68, Message Delivered
 11:59 p.m. Suspicious Person – Vehicle Activity, Morgan Road, Officer Spoke to Party

Hardwick Police Log

During the weeks of Dec. 11-25, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 116 building/property checks, 69 directed/area patrols, 16 traffic controls, 27 emergency 911 calls, 11 radar assignments, four motor vehicle investigations, two investigations, 14 safety hazards, 11 citizen assists, one trespass, one scam, one missing person, three trespasses, six animal calls, one larceny/theft, one burglary, two motor vehicle accidents and eight motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.
Monday, Dec. 11
 12:21 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 1:28 p.m. Scam, Delargy Road, Spoken To
 1:29 p.m. Safety Hazard, Greenwich Road, Transported to Hospital
Tuesday, Dec. 12
 6:24 a.m. Safety Hazard, Petersham Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 10:37 a.m. Missing Person, Barre Road, Transported to Hospital
 7:42 p.m. Medical Emergency, Jackson Road, Transported to Hospital
 8:20 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Ridge Road, Investigated
 8:59 p.m. Assist Citizen, Broad Street, Officer Handled
 11:53 p.m. Assist Citizen, Old Petersham Road, Dispatch Handled
Wednesday, Dec. 13
 8:30 a.m. Investigation, Broad Street, Arrest(s) Made
 1:59 p.m. Serve Criminal Citation, Broad Street, Served in Hand
 10:33 p.m. 911 Disturbance, Hardwick Road, Services Rendered
Thursday, Dec. 14
 2:31 a.m. 911 Disturbance, Hardwick Road, Arrest(s) Made
 6:33 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Spoken To
Friday, Dec. 15
 6 a.m. Trespass, Church Street, Report Taken
 12:29 p.m. Assist Citizen, Lower Road, Officer Handled
 2:55 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, Lower Road, Report Taken
 2:58 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hillside View, Arrest(s) Made

3:26 p.m. Trespass, North Street, Officer Handled
 5:03 p.m. 911 Suspicious Activity, Muddy Brook Road, Services Rendered
Saturday, Dec. 16
 7:32 a.m. 911 Trespass, Barre Road, Investigated
 8:42 a.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled
 9:50 a.m. 911 Misdeal, Barre Road, Officer Handled
 10:59 a.m. Assist Citizen, Collins Road, Spoken To
Sunday, Dec. 17
 9:06 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Old Petersham Road, Transported to Hospital
Monday, Dec. 18
 6:24 a.m. Safety Hazard, North Road, Services Rendered
 6:28 a.m. Safety Hazard, Mellon Road, Dispatch Handled
 6:32 a.m. 911 Safety Hazard, Old Greenwich Plains Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 7:01 a.m. Safety Hazard, Greenwich Road, Dispatch Handled
 7:27 a.m. Safety Hazard, North Road, Dispatch Handled
 8:52 a.m. Safety Hazard, Barre Road, Removed Hazard
 9:39 a.m. Safety Hazard, North Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 9:45 a.m. Safety Hazard, Greenwich Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 9:47 a.m. Safety Hazard, Breen Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 10:45 a.m. Safety Hazard, Barre Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 11:14 a.m. Safety Hazard, Charity Hill Road, Dispatch Handled
 3:39 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Thresher Road, Transported to Hospital
 11:45 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
Tuesday, Dec. 19
 3:51 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning
 6:02 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Greenwich Road, Transported to Hospital
 7:38 a.m. Safety Hazard, Barre Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 12:24 p.m. Assist Citizen, Church Lane, Spoken To
 2:35 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency,

Off Ruggles Street, Transported to Hospital
 3:30 p.m. Assist Citizen, Church Lane, Spoken To
 5:12 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled
 6:34 p.m. 911 Lockout, Church Lane, Services Rendered
Wednesday, Dec. 20
 3:12 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Gaudet Road, Transported to Hospital
 7:56 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Jackson Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 10:39 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital
 11:41 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Joslyn Road, Removed Hazard
 12:52 p.m. Assist Citizen, Greenwich Road, Officer Handled
Thursday, Dec. 21
 9:34 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Sessions Road, Summons Issued
Friday, Dec. 22
 12:10 p.m. Medical Emergency, Mellon Road, Transported to Hospital
 8:50 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Hardwick Road, Services Rendered
Saturday, Dec. 23
 9:30 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Petersham Road, Officer Handled
 9:40 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Petersham Road, Officer Handled
 3:12 p.m. 911 Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Barre Road, Negative Contact
 6:31 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Pine Street, Officer Handled
 8:02 p.m. 911 Suspicious Activity, Breen Road, Officer Handled
 11:18 p.m. Burglary (Breaking and Entering), Main Street, Officer Handled
Sunday, Dec. 14
 11:39 a.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Dispatch Handled
 12:04 p.m. Investigation, Breen Road, Services Rendered
 1:44 p.m. Larceny/Theft/Shoplifting, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled
 3:03 p.m. 911 Threat, Main Street, Officer Handled

New Braintree Police Log

During the weeks of Dec. 11-25, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 30 building/property checks, 54 directed/area patrols, eight traffic controls, one radar assignment, 14 safety hazards, one larceny/theft/shoplifting, eight citizen assists, one assist other agency, one investigation, nine emergency 911 calls, two animal calls, one motor vehicle accident and two motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.
Wednesday, Dec. 13
 2:38 p.m. Larceny/Theft/Shoplifting, West Brookfield Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
Thursday, Dec. 14
 1:01 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Ravine Road, Written Warning
 8:09 a.m. Safety Hazard, Utley Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 8:15 a.m. Safety Hazard, North Brookfield Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 5:26 p.m. Investigation, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled
Friday, Dec. 15
 5:59 a.m. Safety Hazard, Hardwick Road, Dispatch Handled
Saturday, Dec. 16
 4:54 p.m. 911 Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Hardwick Road, Negative Contact

Sunday, Dec. 17
 11:52 a.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, Barre Road, Removed Hazard
 12:52 p.m. 911 Animal Call, Bernard Whitney Road, Services Rendered
Monday, Dec. 18
 6 a.m. Safety Hazard, North Brookfield Road, Negative Contact
 6:10 a.m. Safety Hazard, Oakham Road, Dispatch Handled
 9:11 a.m. Safety Hazard, Oakham Road, Dispatch Handled
 10:33 a.m. Safety Hazard, Utley Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 10:34 a.m. Safety Hazard, Wine Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 3 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Dispatch Handled
 6:03 p.m. Safety Hazard, Oakham Road, Services Rendered
Tuesday, Dec. 19
 1:22 p.m. 911 Assist Citizen, Moore Road, Services Rendered
 3:54 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, McEvoy Road, Transported to Hospital
 4:23 p.m. 911 Medial Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital
Wednesday, Dec. 20
 5:50 a.m. Safety Hazard, Barre Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 6:47 a.m. Safety Hazard, Unitas Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 6:53 a.m. Safety Hazard, West Brookfield Road, Taken/Referred to

Other Agency
 8:59 a.m. Assist Citizen, Unknown Location, Officer Handled
 9:21 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Hardwick Road, Dispatch Handled
 9:58 a.m. Assist Citizen, Ravine Road, Officer Handled
 10:01 a.m. Assist Citizen, Unitas Road, Officer Handled
 12:27 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled
Thursday, Dec. 21
 8:28 a.m. Safety Hazard, Horse Rests, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 10:20 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Unitas Road, Spoken To
 12:06 p.m. 911 Disabled Motor Vehicle, Hardwick Road, Services Rendered
 6:15 p.m. Safety Hazard, Pierce Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 6:38 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Webb Road, Transported to Hospital
Friday, Dec. 22
 10:48 a.m. Assist Citizen, Webb Court, Officer Handled
Sunday, Dec. 24
 7:56 a.m. 911 Threat, Sibley Road, Services Rendered
 11:49 a.m. Assist Citizen, Unknown Location, Officer Handled

Baystate hospitals policy returns to mask wearing

SPRINGFIELD – In light of the steady increase in the number of COVID-19 cases, both among patients and in the community, Baystate Health is updating its masking policy to require masking at its hospitals and strongly recommending mask wearing in its ambulatory care settings.
 Effective Friday, Dec. 29, masks are required at all times for visitors over the age of five at Baystate Medical Center, Baystate Children's Hospital, Baystate Noble Hospital, Baystate Wing Hospital and Baystate Franklin Medical Center, as well as the D'Amour Center for Cancer Care.
 Masking is strongly recommended, but not required, in other ambulatory settings, such as Baystate Medical Practices offices and in non-patient care locations.
 Key data points based on

community testing and wastewater surveillance data point to the increase in COVID-19 cases and they expect this trend to continue. Baystate Health hospitals and their Emergency Departments also have seen a steady increase in patient volume.
 The multidisciplinary team of experts meets regularly to evaluate the environment locally and regionally to assure that they are nimble and thoughtfully responding to infection changes that are impacting the communities. Baystate is taking this step to protect their patients, their care partners and team members while continuing to provide excellent and compassionate care.
 Guidelines for the Visitor Policy can be found by visiting baystatehealth.org/patients/visiting.
 Guidelines for staying healthy include:

Stay up-to-date with the recommended vaccinations against COVID-19, the flu, and RSV
 Use a face mask when there is a high risk of transmission of respiratory viruses in the community
 Practice good hand hygiene and wash hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water
 Use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol when soap and water are not available
 Disinfect commonly touched areas like doorknobs, handles and countertops
 Cover coughs and sneezes to protect others around you
 Be aware of early detection and treatment of illnesses
 People may learn more about when to call their doctor, visit convenient care or go to the emergency room by visiting baystatehealth.org.

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Public Notices

LEGAL NOTICE MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Edwin R. Kilpatrick and Eileen M. Kilpatrick to Sherwood Mortgage Group Inc., dated February 5, 2000 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 22297, Page 336 (the "Mortgage") of which mortgage Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as Trustee for Residential Asset Mortgage Products, Inc., Mortgage-Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2004-SL2 is the present holder by Assignment from Sherwood Mortgage Group, Inc. to Mortgage Amenities Corp. dated February 5, 2000 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 22297, Page 352, and Corrective Assignment from Sherwood Mortgage Group, Inc. to Mortgage Amenities Corp. dated March 6, 2018 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 58536, Page 381, and Assignment from Mortgage Amenities Corp. to Residential Funding

Corporation dated May 22, 2000 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 22622, Page 77, and Assignment from Residential Funding Corporation to Bank One National Association as Trustee dated October 1, 2003 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 31880, Page 233, and Assignment from Bank One N. A. as Trustee to Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as Trustee dated April 24, 2008 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 42807, Page 357, and Confirmatory Assignment from Bank One, National Association f/k/a The First National Bank of Chicago as Trustee to Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as Trustee for Residential Asset Mortgage Products, Inc., Mortgage-Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2004-SL2 dated April 14, 2014 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 52373, Page 369, for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 2230 Old Turnpike Road, Oakham, MA 01068 will be sold at a Public Auction

at 12:00 PM on January 19, 2024, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

Land on the northerly side of Old Turnpike Road in Oakham, Worcester County, Massachusetts being shown as Lot 5 on a plan entitled "Plan of Land located in Oakham, Massachusetts owned by Cameron T. and Sarah E. Smith, Murray Engineering, North Brookfield, Massachusetts, Scale 1 inch=80 feet, February 18, 1997", which Lot 5 is more particularly bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at an iron pin in the northerly line of Old Turnpike Road at the southeast corner of the lot herein described and the southwest corner of land now or formerly of G. Wiersma;

THENCE S. 80° 07' 10" W., 300.00 feet along the northerly line of Old Turnpike Road to an iron pin at the southeast corner of Lot 4 as shown on said plan;

THENCE S. 76° 06' 58" E., 95.31 feet along a stone wall to a point;

THENCE S. 75° 19' 07" E., 300.12 feet along said stone wall to a stake;

THENCE S. 02° 09' 20" E., 161.33 feet along a stone wall to a point;

THENCE S. 03° 27' 24" E., 344.22 feet along a stone wall to the iron pin at the point beginning.

Containing 4.47 acres, on said plan recorded in Plan Book 720, Plan 46.

Being the same premises conveyed to Edwin R. Kilpatrick and Eileen M. Kilpatrick by deed of Eileen M. Kilpatrick, Trustee of the Turnpike Road Realty Trust, under declaration of trust dated June 1, 1999 and recorded at the Worcester District Registry of Deeds at Book 21488, Page 27, deed dated February 5, 2000 and recorded in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds at instrument no. 14481.

For mortgagor's title see deed recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 22297, Page 334.

The premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and other municipal

assessments and liens, and subject to prior liens or other enforceable encumbrances of record entitled to precedence over this mortgage, and subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, reservations and conditions of record and subject to all tenancies and/or rights of parties in possession.

Terms of the Sale: Cashier's or certified check in the sum of \$5,000.00 as a deposit must be shown at the time and place of the sale in order to qualify as a bidder (the mortgage holder and its designee(s) are exempt from this requirement); high bidder to sign written Memorandum of Sale upon acceptance of bid; balance of purchase price payable by certified check in thirty (30) days from the date of the sale at the offices of mortgagee's attorney, Korde & Associates, P.C., 900 Chelmsford Street, Suite 3102, Lowell, MA or such other time as may be designated by mortgagee. The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

Other terms to be

announced at the sale.

Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as Trustee for Residential Asset Mortgage Products, Inc., Mortgage-Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2004-SL2

Korde & Associates, P.C.
900 Chelmsford Street
Suite 3102
Lowell, MA 01851
(978) 256-1500
Kilpatrick, Edwin R. & Eileen M. Kilpatrick,
16-027089
12/28/2023, 01/04, 01/11/2024

**PUBLIC NOTICE
Massachusetts Department
of Environmental
Protection
Division of Wetlands and
Waterways
100 Cambridge Street,
Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114**

Pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 1341 and M.G.L. c. 21 §43 and 33 U.S.C. 1341 M.G.L. c. 21 §§ 26 - 53, notice is given of a 401 Water Quality Certification application for the replacement of Bridge No. H-08-003=N-07-002 carrying Creamery Road over Ware River in the Towns of Hardwick and New Braintree by the

Massachusetts Department of Transportation - Highway Division, 10 Park Plaza, Room 7360, Boston, MA 02116. The project includes bridge replacement. Due to the existing structurally deficient and functionally obsolete condition of the existing superstructure and substructure of the existing Bridge No. H-08-003=N-07-002, the work includes the replacement of a new superstructure constructed of multiple composite steel plate girders on pile supported integral abutments. Additional information may be obtained from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation - Highway Division at the above address, Attention Melissa Lenker or by emailing melissa.lenker@state.ma.us. Written comments should be sent to Heidi Davis, MassDEP Wetlands Program, 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900, Boston, MA 02114 or heidi.davis@mass.gov within 21 days of this notice.

Any group of ten persons, any aggrieved person, or any governmental body or private organization with a mandate to protect the

environment who submits written comments within 21 days of this notice may appeal the Department's Certification. Failure to submit written comments before the end of the public comment period may result in the waiver of any right to an adjudicatory hearing.

01/04/2024

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.

Classifieds

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