

BARRE GAZETTE

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Flower arrangements

demonstrated at Barre Library



Diane DiPietro did a flower arrangement demonstration at the Woods Memorial Library in Barre.

Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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BARRE - The Woods Memorial Library welcomed Diane DiPietro of Flowerland @ Tintagels Gate to demonstrate flower arrangements.

DiPietro's flower shop is based out of Athol and has done flower arrangements for five years. The earliest recorded history of flower arrangements dates back to the ancient Egyptians roughly around 2500 BC. Arrangements come in all forms from being in sculptures, tapestries vases, baskets and bouquets.

When it comes to flowers, they are always being picked, cooked, healed and always put in arrangements. DiPietro did a step by step demonstration on how to arrange flowers in a vase. Flowerland @ Tintagels offers flowers by the stem and by the bouquet. As some of the rose pedals were falling off, DiPietro mentioned that her flower shop also sells pedals by the bag.

During the flower arrangement, DiPietro brought up one of the toughest mysteries behind flower arrangements. The question many guests were trying to answer was when did modern flower arrangements first happen. In other words, when did this form



DiPietro started off with arranging a dozen roses.

of industry come to realization. Many assume that modern flower arranging started sometime during the Victorian Era.

DiPietro's first demonstration was a standard dozen rose vase. She insisted on patience being important to have when it comes to arranging a vase or bouquet of flowers. The process of flower arranging should never be rushed and takes practice.

Being involved with flower arrangements, DiPietro knows it takes not only patients but also care and passion. While demon-

strating the flower arrangements, DiPietro hopes her guests and customers enjoy arranging flowers.

"If you don't enjoy this, your arrangements look like you don't enjoy this," said DiPietro.

After the bouquet demonstration, DiPietro switched to another arrangement of a carnation. Using a jar and floral foam, DiPietro created a beautiful carnation to go along with the bouquet of roses.

To conclude the demonstration, DiPietro had everyone's names put in a drawing to give away the arrangements she made during



The next arrangement was a carnation using floral foam.

presentation. Two guests won and got to take the flower arrangements home.

To learn more about flower arrangements, visit DiPietro at her store, Flowerland @ Tintagels Gate at 501-505 Main St, Athol, Ma. DiPietro's business offers flower arrangements for every occasion such as weddings, funerals and special occasions. Flowerland @ Tintagels offers local delivery and can be reached at 978-249-3057. For more information, visit www.flowerlandathol.com.

Finance Committee starts FY 25 budget process

By Ellenor Downer
Editor
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BARRE - The Barre Finance Committee started off the new year by reorganizing with the election of chair, vice chair and secretary at their Tuesday, Jan. 23 meeting.

The committee re-elected Dan Jewell, chair; Leigh Ann Spring, vice chair and newest member, Zackary Macutkiewicz secretary. At the beginning of the meeting, chair Jewell had the new Town Administrator Tammy Martin and the newest Finance Committee member Zackary Macutkiewicz introduce themselves.

Introductions
The Town Administrator said she was looking forward to working with the Finance Committee. She has an extensive background in finance having worked at a bank and most recently as Chief

Financial Officer for the town of Warren. Finance Committee member Macutkiewicz said he recently moved to town and wanted to get involved in the town.

The other Finance Committee members introduced themselves. They were in addition to Jewell and Macutkiewicz: Eric Reicker, Brian Inman, Irena Massei and Leigh Ann Spring.

Meeting schedule
Chair Jewell recommended meeting every other Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. beginning on Tuesday, Feb. 13. They meet in the Selectmen's Meeting Room located on the first floor of the Henry Woods Building, 40 West St.

Meetings with Department heads
The committee chair said then Interim Town Administrator Greg Balukonis sent out letters to all

See FINANCE COMMITTEE, page 5

Food policy council participates in opioid rescue training

By Paula Ouimette
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The Quaboag Valley Food Policy Council met to discuss food security and access within the communities it serves, and offer a free "Opioids and Opioid Rescue Training" in collaboration with the Quabbin Health District.

Opioids and Opioid Rescue Training

At the Jan. 25 meeting, Quabbin Health District's Public Health Nurse, Kirsten Krieger, presented a training about opioids, addiction and how to recognize signs of an opioid overdose.

"The biggest goal is to give people some basic information," she said.

Addiction, she said, is a treatable, chronic medical disease and that only one in 10 people with substance use disorders are getting treatment.

"It's finally being seen as more of a disease than a choice," Krieger said.

"Most people who are using, they feel euphoria, they feel high, it makes them feel better," she said. "They get to a point when it's not about the high; it's about not getting sick."

Krieger explained the neurobiology of addiction and how it affects the prefrontal cortex, which is responsible for impulse control and predicting consequences of actions. This part of the brain doesn't fully develop until a person is in their early-to-mid-20s, making adolescent substance use a great concern.

Addiction also impacts the basal ganglia, the part of the brain that controls the pleasurable/rewarding effects of substance use and is responsible for formation of habitual substance use. The external amygdala is also affected by addiction, and is where the "fight or flight" response comes from.

Krieger said stigma is something substance users face, both from themselves and from the world around them.

"There are three kinds of stigma," she said, including self-stigma, public stigma and structural stigma.

Krieger said language matters when it comes to reducing stigma, including using "person with a substance use disorder" instead of derogatory terms like "addict" or "junkie," and "had a setback" or "resumed use" rather than "relapsed."

See FOOD POLICY, page 5

Sportsman's Club hosted comedy fundraiser for eighth graders



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

Members of the Central Tree Middle School PTO helped put together this fun comedy show and fundraiser at the Rutland Sportsman's Club.

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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RUTLAND - The Rutland Sportsman's Club welcomed comedians and guests for a fundraiser to support the eighth grade class of Central Tree Middle School.

Members of the CTMS Parent Teacher Organization welcomed

over 100 guests to the Rutland Sportsman's Club for food, beverages and a night of laughter. The goal of the Central Tree Middle School PTO is to aid the students and staff of Central Tree Middle School by providing support for their educational and recreational needs.

The CTMS comedy show featured a total of five comedians



Amy Daignault of Daignault Real Estate, left, standing alongside comedian Cindy Gray who was one of the five comedians to perform at the comedy show.

to entertain the guests. Originally from San Francisco now residing in Worcester, comedian Cindy Gray appeared in her first comedy gig in Rutland. Gray has been a comedian for seven years and enjoys bringing laughter to the atmosphere she performs in.

In addition to comedy, the CTMS PTO hosted a raffle to raise money and support end of

school year events for the eighth grade class. Raising money for class barbecues, field trips and class T-shirts. Other support for the CTMS PTO was sponsorships for the CTMS Comedy Show.

The supporting sponsorships were from organizations such as Daignault Real Estate, Jake Pettis Septic Systems, Quinn's Restaurant, Rutland Marketplace,



A raffle was taking place during the comedy show to support school events for the Central Tree Middle School's eighth grade class

Brilla Coffee, Stone Cow Brewery and many more.

The Rutland Sportsman's Club is located at 75 Pleasantdale Road and has served central Massachusetts sportsmen since 1932. The Rutland Sportsman's Club has over 400 members and promotes education and good sportsmanship in hunting and fishing, and also promotes social activ-

ities among its members and assists in the propagation of wild game and fish under the supervision of the proper authorities.

To learn more, visit <https://rscma.org>.



News of the Towns



Round Town
Ellenor Downer
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Barre Taxpayers Association to meet Feb. 14
The Barre Taxpayers Association will meet at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road, on Wednesday, Feb. 14 at 7 p.m. People should bring their questions and concerns. The BTA will have an on-going regular meeting the second Wednesday of the month, same time and place.

Barre Food Pantry
Once or twice a year a month begins on a Thursday. This makes the third Thursday of the month the day right after the second Wednesday. February 2024 is such a month. As a result, the Barre Food Pantry's two distributions in February will occur on successive days, Wednesday morning Feb. 14 from 10-11:30 a.m. and Thursday evening, Feb. 15 from 5:30-7 p.m. Clients are invited to pick up groceries from the food pantry either in the morning on Wednesday, Feb. 14 or in the evening on Thursday, Feb. 15, whichever is the more convenient for them. To maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients Feb. 14 and 15 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.

Pancake breakfast
Cradle Rock Chapter Order of Eastern Star will hold a Designer Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, Feb. 3 from 7:30-10:30 a.m. at Masonic Hall, 71 Pleasant St. Cost is \$9 per adult and \$5 for children 10 and under. People can create their own pancake. Compete breakfast choices include designer pancakes, waffles, sausage gravy with biscuits, bacon, sausage links, coffee and juice. All are welcome.

Make a Valentine
Preschool, school age and tweens can come anytime during open library hours and create a Valentine on Friday, Feb. 9, using supplies from the Valentine's Day station, at the Woods Memorial Library, located in the Children's Room.

Nomination papers
Nomination papers for the Annual Town Election on April 1 are available at the Town Clerk's Office, 40 West St., for any registered voter wishing to take out papers for any of the available seats.

The last day and time to take out nomination papers will be on Wednesday, Feb. 7 at 5 p.m.

All Nomination Papers must be returned to the Town Clerk's Office for certification of signatures by the Board of Registrars no later than Monday, Feb. 12 at 5 p.m. The last day to register to vote in this election will be on Friday, March 22 at 5 p.m.

Library offers winter play group and story time

NEW BRAINTREE - Making Opportunities Count will be offering a winter play group in place of Story Time at the New Braintree Public Library, 45 Memorial Drive, on Monday, Feb. 5 at 10 a.m.

MOC offers Coordinated Family and Community Engagement programs and is funded by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care. The next Story Time program will be held on Monday, Feb. 19, President's Day, at 9 a.m. The story time will feature "Stomp, Wiggle, Clap and Tap: My First Book of Dance" by Rachelle Burk and "Smile, Pout-Pout Fish" by Deborah Diesen. Parental supervision is required. People may call the library at 508-867-7650 during regular business for more information.



Turley photo by Ellenor Downer
Sunday and Monday saw more snow falling in the area. This time it was about two inches or more of heavy, wet snow, which clung to these hemlock trees.

Country Bank supports QVCDC with \$10,000 donation

WARE - Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serving central and western Massachusetts, announced a \$10,000 donation to the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation to support various programs to help local communities in the region.

"The Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation is grateful for this generous donation from Country Bank. We appreciate Country Bank's support for our initiatives and its investment in the economic growth and stability of the Quaboag Region," said Melissa Fales, QVCDC executive director in a press release.

To learn more about the various support programs the QVCDC offers, visit www.QVCDC.org.

About Country Bank
Country Bank is a full-service \$1.7B with 17.0% Tier 1 Capital mutual community bank



Submitted Photo
Shown from left to right are Lisa DiMarzio, vice president of Compliance and CRA at Country Bank; Melissa Fales, executive director and James DaRosa, loan program coordinator for the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation.

serving central and western Massachusetts with 14 offices in Ware, Palmer, West Brookfield, Brimfield, Belchertown, Wilbraham, Ludlow, Leicester, Paxton, Charlton and Worcester.

Country Bank is a member of FDIC, DIF, and the SUM network. Country Bank can be reached by calling 800-322-8233 or online at countrybank.com.

Salvadore family donates \$100,000 to support automotive technology program

BARRE - The Salvadore Family, long-time Barre residents and owners of Salvadore Chevrolet, Salvadore Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram and Salvadore Pre-Owned Super Center in Gardner, recently donated \$100,000 to fund local Automotive Technology Program Scholarships.

As a trade school graduate himself, Angelo Salvadore

understands first-hand the importance of Trade education. "We need more tradesmen and tradeswomen in today's society and the lack of qualified candidates for automotive technicians is a clear indication of this. We hope this donation will provide young people who are as passionate about the automotive industry as we are, an opportunity they may not otherwise be able to afford,"

said Angelo Salvadore. "We look forward to having them join our team someday".

Last year, Mount Wachusett Community College purchased 42 Linus Allain Avenue to create an Auto Tech program center. The donation by the Salvadore Family will be distributed as full and partial scholarships to applicants, who qualify for assistance.

Hubbardston
Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com



Forester to lead Valentine for the woods hike
Forester and naturalist Tim Hawley will lead a Valentine for our woods poets and trees hike on Sunday, Feb. 11 at 3 p.m. at Barre Falls Dam. People should meet at the Overlook Parking Lot on the Barre Road entrance to Barre Falls. The hike is a one or two mile hike on moderate terrain and an easy pace for all ages. Poles and microspikes or even snowshoes may be helpful, but not essential, depending on trail conditions. It will be held rain, snow or shine. Participants will count down Ten Reasons to Love Trees with forester-naturalist Tim Hawley.

Valentine's Day Roast Beef Dinner
The Hubbardston Scholarship Committee will hold a Valentine's Day Roast Beef Dinner on Saturday, Feb. 17 with servings from 5-8 p.m. at the Hubbardston Rod and Gun Club, 55 Williamsville Road, Hubbardston. Menu includes beside roast beef, mashed potatoes, green beans, mixed vegetables, bread, coffee and dessert. Cost is \$15 per adult and \$8 per child. People may call Flo at 978-928-5113 or Paula at 978-928-4095.

Hubbardston Community Theatre
The 2024 production at the Hubbardston Community Theatre will feature "The SpongeBob Musical."

This production was directed by Donna Farrell & Michelle Johnston. The play will premiere at the Hubbardston Center School Gym at 8 Elm St. The dates for the show are March 15, 16 and 17.

The Hubbardston Community Theatre, Inc. seeks to provide a theatrical experience to children and families throughout the Hubbardston Community. They began back in 1993 with a production of "The Pied Piper," directed by Russell Killough-Miller. Originally, the cast was solely comprised of students, but the following year was expanded to include students and their families and opened up to Hubbardston and surrounding communities over the years.

Community discussion
On Monday, Feb. 5 at 6:30 p.m. a community discussion will be held to provide input on the priorities and agenda for the Hubbardston Legislative Delegation this term. State Senator Peter Durant and state Representative Donnie Berthiaume will be present to hear directly from Hubbardston residents. This event will take place during the Select Board meeting at the Slade Building, 7 Main St. Both in-person and hybrid/virtual attendance options will be available. If people plan to attend in person, they should email admin@hubbardstonma.us to ensure proper seating arrangements. This is a prime opportunity or residents to make their voice heard and impact the key issues the legislators will address on behalf of Hubbardston this term.

Dog licenses
2024 Dog License applications are due by Sunday, March 31. Dog owners may fill out the application and return by mail with a check, pay in the office with cash/check or pay online

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 Feb. 5. 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 - Chicken pot pie, mashed potatoes, country blend vegetables, pears, biscuit

TUESDAY - Braised beef, Gemelli pasta, broccoli, fresh fruit, French bread

WEDNESDAY - Baked Ham, sour cream/chive mashed potatoes, honey glazed carrots, yogurt, pumpernickel bread

THURSDAY - Jambalaya, rice pilaf, green peas, pineapple, marble rye bread

FRIDAY - Garlic herb chicken, bread stuffing, roasted Brussels sprouts, banana pudding, diet = sugar free pudding, 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.

Designer Pancake Breakfast on Feb. 3

BARRE - A Designer Pancake Breakfast, sponsored by Cradle Rock Chapter Order of Eastern Star will be held Saturday, Feb. 3 from 7:30-10:30 a.m. at Masonic Hall, 71 Pleasant St., Barre. Cost is \$9 per adult and \$5 for children 10 and under.

People can design their own pancake. Compete breakfast choices include: designer pancakes, waffles, sausage gravy with biscuits, bacon, sausage links, coffee and juice.

All are welcome.

Edward Jones

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News of the Towns

PUBLIC MEETINGS

BARRE.

QRSD Budget Subcommittee – Feb. 1 at 6 p.m.
 QRSD Student Services Subcommittee – Feb. 5 at 5:30 p.m.
 Select Board – Feb. 5 and Feb. 7 at 6 p.m.
 Board of Assessors – Feb. 6 at 6 p.m.
 Felton Field Commission – Feb. 6 at 6:30 p.m.
 Planning Board – Feb. 6 and Feb. 20 at 7 p.m.
 Council on Aging – Feb. 7 at 1 p.m.
 Barre Housing Authority – Feb. 8 at 3 p.m.
 Board of Health – Feb. 12 at 5 p.m.
 Water Commission – Feb. 12 at 6:30 p.m.
 DPW Commission – Feb. 12 at 7 p.m.
 Cable Advisory Committee – Feb. 13 at 7 p.m.
 Conservation Committee – Feb. 13 and Feb. 27 at 7 p.m.
 Library Trustees – Feb. 14 at 6:30 p.m.
 Sewer Commission – Feb. 15 at 7 p.m.
 Planning Board – Feb. 20 at 7 p.m.
 Cemetery Commission – Feb. 22 at 11 a.m.
 Primary Election Day – March 5 from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.
 Town Election Day – April 1 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

HARDWICK

Board of Health – Feb. 1 at 6:30 p.m.
 Paige Library Trustees – Feb. 1 at 7 p.m.
 Master Plan Steering Committee – Feb. 6 at 6:30 p.m.
 Recycling Commission – Feb. 6 at 6:30 p.m.
 Capital Planning Committee – Feb. 12 at 3 p.m.
 Board of Selectmen – Feb. 12 and Feb. 26 at 6:30 p.m.
 Hardwick New Braintree Cultural Council – Feb. 12, March 11, May 13, June 10 and July 8 at 6:30 p.m.
 Planning Board – Feb. 13 at 6:30 p.m.
 Council on Aging – Feb. 14 at 9 a.m.
 Gilbertville Public Library – Feb. 14 at 4 p.m.
 Gilbertville Water District – Feb. 20 at 5:30 p.m.
 Zoning Board of Appeals – Feb. 21 at 5:30 p.m.
 Conservation Commission – Feb. 21 at 6:30 p.m.
 Board of Registrars – Feb. 24 at 9 a.m.
 Personnel Committee – Feb. 26 at 4:30 p.m.
 Capital Planning Committee – March 18 at 3 p.m.

HUBBARDSTON

Finance Committee – Feb. 1 at 5:30 p.m.
 Library Trustee – Feb. 1 at 7 p.m.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

Parks and Recreation – Feb. 1 at 6 p.m.
 Library Trustees – Feb. 1 at 6 p.m.
 Town Administrator Search Committee – Feb. 8, Feb. 15 and Feb. 22 at 6:30 p.m.
 Board of Selectmen – Feb. 13 and 27 at 6 p.m.
 Conservation Committee – Feb. 13 at 7 p.m.
 Planning Board – Feb. 21 at 6 p.m.

OAKHAM.

Select Board – Feb. 5 and Feb. 20 at 6 p.m.
 Finance Committee – Feb. 7 at 6 p.m.

PETERSHAM

Board of Health – Feb. 1 at 6 p.m.
 Open Space and Recreation Committee – Feb. 3 and Feb. 6 at 6 p.m.
 Core Planning Team – Feb. 5, Feb. 12, Feb. 19, Feb. 26, March 4, March 11 and March 18 at 1:30 p.m.
 Board of Assessors – Feb. 6 at 5:30 p.m.
 Conservation Commission – Feb. 6 at 7 p.m.
 Council on Aging – Feb. 12 at 10 a.m.
 Cemetery Commission – Feb. 13 at 10 a.m.
 Petersham Historic District – Feb. 15 at 6 p.m.
 Planning Board – Feb. 22 at 7 p.m.

RUTLAND

General and Zoning By-Law Proposed Amendments Public Information Sessions – Feb. 4 and Feb. 11 from 1-4 p.m.
 Special Winter Town Meeting – Feb. 15 at 6 p.m.

Hearts for Heat helps warm homes with annual dinner



Turley Photos by Emily-Rose Pappas

Many people came to show their support of Hearts for Heat and its mission as they enjoyed a spaghetti dinner

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

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Hearts for Heat, a local organization, hosted their 15th annual spaghetti dinner to raise money for winter heating help.

The organization was started by Cindy Shea 15 years ago with the dream of “community helping community.”

“Ninety percent of our funds come from within North Brookfield, proving how much we care about all residents in our little town,” Sue Lewandowski, the president of the organization, said.

The 15th annual spaghetti dinner was hosted this year in the North Brookfield Elementary School’s cafeteria. There were many sponsors of the event, including food donated by Hannaford Supermarket.

Hayden Lodge A.F. & A.M. was another sponsor, and helped to make the food and serve it. Local band, The Otters, helped to liven the atmosphere, and attendees got to enter a raffle for fun prizes.

“The community really cares,” Lewandowski said, as was seen at the end of the fundraiser where the event raised a

Local band, The Otters, offered those gathered a wonderful show of music to add to the fun.

total of \$2,540, all to be donated to help provide a variety of heating fuel to residents in need.

“The North Brookfield Hearts for Heat raises funds to help with fuel assistance for qualified North Brookfield residents,” Lewandowski explained. “Last year, we helped 31 families and raised \$33,000, the most we have raised in a year so far.”

The Hearts for Heat, a non-profit organization, takes all money donated or raised through raffle tickets or the dinner to send directly to fuel providers of those who qualify for the assistance.

Fuel includes oil, propane, natural gas, electricity, pellets, or cord wood that would be used in order to heat a home.

The event was successful, and helped to raise money that will make a difference in the lives of many people this cold winter season.



Members of the Hayden Lodge A.F. & A.M. volunteered to do all the cooking and serving for the fundraising event.



Paige Memorial Library lists events

HARDWICK – The Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, is calling out to those who would like to do some stress-free writing, to record ideas and memories and to meet with others for a rewarding sharing session.

Paige Writers is an informal group. It can be a confidence builder and an enjoyable social experience. Interested people should come to the Paige Memorial Library on Tuesdays at 3 p.m. for an adventure in creativity. They may email the

Paige Library for more information at director.paigelibrary@gmail.com or call 413-477-6704.

On Saturday, Feb. 10 at 1:30 p.m., Julie Rawson and Jack Kitteridge of Many Hands Organic Farm, Barre, will talk about their book: “Many Hands Make a Farm,” shareholding, organic farming and their connection with the Northeast Organic Farming Association.

Organic farming is a farming system that respects the balance of natural cycles and works as much as possible within those

cycles. The event will be held at the Town House, 32 Common St.

Other adventures in creativity are the Cookbook Club, try recipes and share the results or FUNDamentals of Art, a workshop for artists and craftsmen of all abilities. People may call 413-477-6704, email director.paigelibrary@gmail.com or stop at the library.

The library is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2-7 p.m., Wednesdays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Oakham
 Ellenor Downer
 edowner@turley.com



Church to hold breakfast Feb. 17

The Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, will hold a breakfast on Saturday, Feb. 17 from 8-9:30 a.m. The menu will include pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, homemade doughnut holes, fruit, orange juice, coffee, tea and hot chocolate. Donations will benefit the Oakham Congregational Church.

COA health fair

A Health Fair sponsored by the Oakham Council on Aging will be held Wednesday, Feb. 14 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road. There will be a Life Coach, Medicare/Medicaid guidance, a Caregiver’s Guide, Massage Therapy, Reiki and other energy treatments. There will also be a public health nurse, yoga instructor, dietitian, Oakham Board of Health and fire officials, Ayurveda and much more. Refreshments will be available. All are welcome.

Dog licenses

Dog licenses are due by Sunday, March 31. All dogs six months of age or older must be licensed each year. In order to license a dog the following items must be presented to the Town Clerk, a copy of a valid rabies certificate, a spayed/neutered certificate if applicable for first time licensing the dog and a check made out to the Town of Oakham for the correct amount. No cash will be accepted. The license fee is \$11 for a male or female and \$7 for a neutered or spayed dog. People may mail the information and check to Town Clerk, 2 Coldbrook Road, Unit 4, Oakham, MA 01068 and include a stamped self-addressed stamped envelope. The information also may be dropped off at the Oakham Town Hal blue box located to the left of the Town Hall’s side entrance. Town Clerk office hours are Monday from 6:15-7:30 p.m. and Fridays 10 a.m.-noon.

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.

Historical Society to hold genealogical presentation

NEW BRAINTREE – The New Braintree Historical Society will hold a free genealogical presentation with Dan Hamilton on Friday, March 15 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the New Braintree Historical Society Museum, 10 Utley Road.

The Tapestry of Life by Dan Hamilton is a personal journey through historical, genealogical and DNA research using a live demonstration of online tools and often used reference books. There will be a question and answer period as well.

Dan, a retired professional actor and Emmy-winning director, spent the last 25 years exploring the genealogy and history of his own family and that of friends and clients. He is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogy and holds a Certificate in Genealogical Research from Boston University.

He is a lifetime member of the New Braintree Historical Society, the Quaboag Historical Society, served on the West Brookfield Historical Commission where he produced the Lucy Stone Bicentennial Celebration in 2018, and most recently, produced the Brookfield Historical Commission’s event; A Robert Wilder Memorial Presentation: Honoring Brookfield’s First Inhabitants.

He is also a member of the Massachusetts Archeological Society, the Archaeological Society of Virginia, the Planetary Society and the Mayflower Society. He builds and maintains websites, creates video documentaries on YouTube and occasionally appears as a speaker.

All are welcome to attend. Masking is optional.

Editorial deadline reminder

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

SUBMISSIONS ALWAYS WELCOME

Send your stories and photos to edowner@turley.com

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Opinion

Letter to the Editor

Operation Christmas Child makes a difference

Generosity throughout Barre contributed to a successful shoebox gift collection season at drop-off locations for the Samaritan's Purse project Operation Christmas Child.

Across the U.S., the project collected 10 million shoebox gifts in 2023. Combined with those collected from partnering countries in 2023, the ministry is now sending over 11.3 million shoebox gifts to children worldwide, including many who are suffering from war, poverty, disease and disaster.

Through shoeboxes-packed with fun toys, school supplies, and personal care items-Barre area volunteers brought joy to children in need around the world. Each gift-filled shoebox is a tangible expression of God's love and it is often the first gift these children have ever received. Through the continued generosity of donors since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 220 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 170 countries and territories.

Across Massachusetts, shoebox packers often shop for deals on shoebox items throughout the year, and many serve at a deeper level by becoming a year-round volunteer. Information about ways area participants can get involved year-round can also be found by visiting samaritanaspurse.org/occ or by calling 518-437-0690.

Although local dropoff locations for shoebox gifts are closed until Nov. 18 - 25, 2024, anyone can still be a part of this life-changing project by conveniently packing a shoebox gift online in just a few simple clicks at samaritanaspurse.org/buildonline.

These simple gifts, packed with love, send a message to children worldwide that they are loved and not forgotten.

Sincerely,
Jasmin Sutton
Samaritan Purse
Operation Christmas Child

Guest column



Will withdrawing from 401(k) affect my Social Security?

Dear Rusty

My full retirement age (FRA) is 66 and 8 months, which I'll reach in September 2024. I'm still working three days a week. I want to cash in my 401K and want to know if I have to wait until my FRA for IRS purposes or can cash it in anytime in 2024. I don't want to affect my Social Security or end up paying taxes on my benefits.

Signed: Seeking to Avoid Taxes

Dear Seeking

We're not experts on IRS matters here at the AMAC Foundation so I can't address 401(k) questions, but we can provide information on your Social Security circumstances and how 401(k) withdrawals may affect your SS. I assume from your question that you are now receiving early Social Security and wish to avoid any tax consequences thereto by cashing in your 401(k), as well as from working. Here's what you need to know:

Since you will reach your Full Retirement Age in 2024, your 2024 work earnings limit will be \$59,520 up to the month you reach FRA. If you were born in January 1958, you'll attain FRA in September 2024. After you have reached your FRA there is no longer a Social Security limit to how much you can earn from working, so your work earnings thereafter will not affect your monthly Social Security benefit regardless of how much you earn. If your part time work between January and August 2024 won't put you over the \$59,520 limit, your work earnings will not negatively affect your gross monthly Social Security benefit.

Assuming you are on Medicare, the premium for which is deducted from your Social Security payment, withdrawals from your 401(k) might affect your net monthly Social Security payment in two years hence. Medicare premiums are based upon your combined income from all sources, including 50% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year. If your 401(k) withdrawal(s) put you over an income threshold for your tax filing status, you may be required to pay an Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount on top of the standard Medicare premium. That IRMAA supplement would be deducted from your Social Security, which would affect the net amount of your Social Security payment. Your Medicare premium for each coming year is determined by your combined income from two years prior, so if you "cash in" your 401(k) in 2024, it would affect your net Social Security payments in 2026.

Whether you will pay income tax on your Social Security benefits is determined by your combined income from everywhere, which the IRS calls your "Modified Adjusted Gross Income." MAGI is your income from all sources except ROTH IRA withdrawals and includes half of the SS benefits you received during the tax year.

If you file your taxes as a single, and your MAGI is over \$25,000 or if you file your taxes as "married-jointly" and your MAGI is over \$32,000 then 50% of the Social Security benefits received during the tax year becomes part of your overall income taxed by the IRS

See SOCIAL SECURITY, page 5



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

In Past Pages

5 years (Feb. 7, 2019)

A Valentine's roast beef dinner will benefit the Hubbardston Scholarship Committee Saturday, Feb. 16 from 5-8 p.m. at the Hubbardston Rod and Gun Club, 55 Williamsville Road. Menu includes roast beef, mashed potatoes, green beans, mixed vegetables, bread, coffee and dessert. Advance tickets are \$12 per adult and \$6 per child and \$14 per adult and \$8 per child at the door.

Hardwick senior participation numbers increased since the towns of Barre and Hardwick first entered a regional agreement to share senior center services. Hardwick Selectmen met with Barre Selectmen and Eileen Clarkson, Barre Senior Center director, to discuss a new agreement for the upcoming fiscal year. Hardwick Selectmen said the seniors from their town liked going to the Barre Senior Center. Hardwick provided transportation by van to the Barre Senior Center Monday through Friday. The two towns entered into an agreement several years ago. Hardwick Selectmen said initially their senior citizens wanted to keep the center in town. However, Barre had a newer facility and offered more services. Selectmen stated now their seniors enjoyed the arrangement. About 28% of seniors are from Hardwick.

The Big Game in Atlanta wasn't the only sold out and successful bowl event or those in Central Mass last weekend. Locally, the first ever Soup-er Bowl, sponsored by the Friends of North Brookfield Council on Aging, was like ninety years touch-down return, selling out of soup in less than thirty minutes last Saturday afternoon. "It was the best fundraiser, we've had in years," Anne Role Tymczyn said. "It was all about the soup." Held at the North Brookfield Senior Center for take out only, the public was invited to stop in to purchase a variety of donated soups sold in pints and quarts.

10 years (Jan. 30, 2014)

Dr. Virginia "Ginger" Asel was at New Life Assembly of God, Main Street, South Barre for a dedication and book signing on Sunday, Jan. 12. She is the author of "Four and No More: Ezekiel's Introduction to the Gospels." Rev. Dr. Asel has been in active ministry for over fifty years as pastor, conference center co-founder and co-director and conference and retreat speaker. She speaks internationally and held seminars in Africa, India, South America, Guatemala and Asia. She also published "The History of the First Congregational Church of Royalston" in 2001.

The winter system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this incident was

LOOK BACK Cold and alone - 1993



File photo

This snowman was built in the middle of Connors Pond in Petersham. The friends who made him got in somewhere out of the cold, but the snowman doesn't seem to mind the blustery day.

not an emergency, as Barre Water Department customers, residents have a right to know what happened and what the department did to correct the situation. The water department routinely monitors for drinking water contaminants. On Jan. 13, the department collected 12 bacteria samples to test for the presence of coliform bacteria. More than one sample showed the presence of coliform bacteria, which exceeds acceptable standards. On Jan. 15, the department collected an additional six samples. All of the samples on the Jan. 15 came back negative for coliform bacteria.

Town Administrator Heather Lemieux reported she received a letter from Meghan Kellaheer of Rutland Regional Dispatch regarding an update on the communication tower. Kellaheer said National Grid informed Rutland Dispatch, which is coordinating the installation of the communication tower off Pleasant Street, the existing pole on Pleasant Street by the site must be replaced. The utility company stated the pole would need to be replaced with a stronger one to house the transformer needed for service the tower.

25 years (Feb. 4, 1999)

The Barre Town Hall is featured on the 1998 Limited Edition Medallion collection of historical landmarks in town. The medallions are in and are available at Country Gourmet and Barre Opticians. The Barre Lions Club started the collection in 1994 with the intention of offering a series of seven medallions, the final one to be released in the year 2000. Each medallion is cast metal with raised lettering and design and has an antique bronze wreath and packaged in an attractive see through box. They can be used as Christmas ornaments or displayed year round. About 350 medallions will be available for sale at a cost of \$14.95.

For history buffs or anyone who enjoys true adventure, the recently issued book, "So Red the River," will provide interesting and thought provoking reading. The book, authored by the late Robert M. Newbury who grew up in Petersham, follows the trail of havoc laid by King Phillip, actually the Native American, Metacombet, from 1675 to 1690. King Phillip, the name given him by the white settlers, was well known to both the Massachusetts and Connecticut settlements Both were aware of his intention to drive the whites from the land.

Recently, there have been press releases from the legislator in Boston about the town receiving money through the Heritage Tree Care program of the Commonwealth. A matching grant amount of \$985 was approved for the repair of three large trees, including a giant ash and a maple tree on Petersham Common. In Petersham, there are memorial trees for each of the servicemen and women lost in battle from World War I through the Vietnam War.

38 years (Feb. 6, 1986)

Sue Strauss, chairperson for the Dispatch Study Committee, gave a report on the committee's recommendations to the Barre Selectmen at Monday night's meeting. The committee met four times to discuss the feasibility of a central dispatch system. The committee was in favor of converting to this system, because of the new Federal Labor Standards Act, which will mandate the town to pay time and a half for any hours dispatchers work over forty in a given week. Other committee members included Mike Ryder, Barre Police Chief; Dick Clark, Barre Fire Chief; Don Rich, a radio and telephone expert and Irene Marsh of the Personnel Board.

Heidi Young, Jennifer Sweet, Liz Twarog and Leah Calberg help man the Quabbin High School store, a joint project of the Student Council and sophomore class. On sale are sweatshirts, pants, shorts, tee-shirts, socks, jackets, pens, pencils, personalized buttons and notebooks. The store will be open to students during every lunch period. Checks

See PAST PAGES, page 5

Guest Column



Re-blooming paper whites

I purchased some paper white bulbs early in December, figuring I'd need some flower power come January.

Four bulbs were planted in potting soil in an old tureen bowl that I found at the local recycling center swap shed. I covered the soil in moss I saved from my yard and honest to goodness when those bulbs burst into bloom about a month after planting, I felt pretty proud of myself for creating such a chic display.

Now what to do with it? Usually, when paper whites are forced in pebbles, or just plain water, they are a once and done kind of experiment. But because I planted them in decent potting soil, there may be hope for re-bloom.

Read on to see how it's done.

First, it's important to think about how bulbs work. They are a self-contained unit that has everything in that unit to bloom the first time no matter what, as long as basic environmental needs are met.

Pretty impressive.

For bulbs to bloom again, we have to make sure that unit gets re-charged. I read once to think of the bulb as a solar battery - that's not far off!

For typical daffodil bulbs that are planted in the ground that means removing spent flowers, keeping the foliage intact until it yellows, and giving the plant a little fertilizer or a compost top dressing if the soil isn't fertile. Now that we understand, we can use this information to re-charge our hyacinth bulbs.

The flowers are still on my chic display, but they are definitely gone by. I will snip off the spent blooms.

Next, I will put the tureen in a sunny window. To be honest, I had placed it in my pantry when it was in bloom.

My husband found the fragrance a little too overpowering and not to his liking. Over the years I have found that people either love it or hate it and sadly he leans toward the latter of the two.

But, because it was placed in the window of a cool room, it grew upright without falling over, and the flowers lasted close to three weeks! Now that I have the pot of foliage in a sunny window, I will sprinkle a little bulb fertilizer on the soil surface and water it in.

Choose one that has both nitrogen for the leaves and phosphorus for the bulb. The numbers on the fertilizer indicate NPK: Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium.

We want to encourage those leaves to photosynthesize and make energy to build up the reserves in the bulb. Fertilization will happen monthly as long as the leaves are green.

The leaves will grow for longer than you might think, maybe even into late spring and summer. I'll put the pot outside in the sunshine once the weather warms up enough.

Eventually, though, the leaves will yellow and brown. Once they do it's time to cut them back and let the soil dry out completely, after which the bulbs can be removed.

Give them a couple of days in the sun to dry out

See GARDEN, page 10

Turley Publications Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the editor should be 350 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources. Send letters to: Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005 or via email to edowner@turley.com. The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

BARRE GAZETTE

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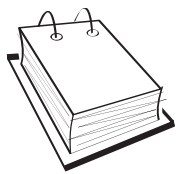
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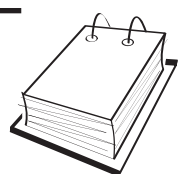


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Calendar of Events



THURSDAY, FEB. 1

CIRCLE OF SONG REHEARSALS take place 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 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 a rehearsal.

FRIDAY, FEB 2

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, FEB. 3

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.

DESIGNER PANCAKE BREAKFAST sponsored by Cradle Rock Chapter Order of Eastern Star will be held today from 7:30-10:30 a.m. at Masonic Hall, 71 Pleasant St., Barre. Cost is \$9 per adult and \$5 for children 10 and under. People can design their own pancake. Compete breakfast choices include; designer pancakes, waffles, sausage gravy with biscuits, bacon, sausage links, coffee and juice. All are welcome.

SUNDAY, FEB. 4

VIRTUAL HEART AND VASCULAR HEALTH by Baystate Health cardiac surgeon Dr. Andrew Goldsweig will lead the first in the series entitled "Minimally Invasive, Maximally Effective New Technologies in the Cardia Cath Lab" today at noon followed by a question and answer period. Registration is required for each session. Dr. Goldsweig's presentation can also be attended in-person at the Baystate Health Education Center on 361 Whitney Ave., 2nd entrance to building, in Holyoke. This is the only lecture in the four-part series to also

Where is this?



Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer

This week's mystery photo is from North Brookfield. 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, Feb. 5. The names of those that correctly guessed the location will appear in the following edition. Bill Bowles, Peggy Civilik, Stephen Craven, Evelyn Luukko, Jeremy Varnum and Phil Warbasse correctly identified the photo. The photo last week shows the solar array on Oakham Road in New Braintree across from the New Braintree Grade School and Town Hall.

be held in-person.

MONDAY, FEB. 5

WINTER PLAY GROUP offered by Making Opportunities Count will be offered the first Monday of the month in place of Story Time. The play group will be held today and Monday, March 4 at 10 a.m. in the New Braintree Public Library, 45 Memorial Drive, New Braintree. MOC offers Coordinated Family and Community Engagement programs and is funded by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care. Parental supervision is required. People may call the library at 508-867-7650 during regular business for more information.

SATURDAY, FEB. 10

LOCAL AUTHORS at 1:30 p.m., Julie Rawson and Jack Kitteridge of Many Hands Organic Farm, Barre, will talk about their book: "Many Hands Make a Farm" today at 1:30 p.m. They will discuss shareholding, organic farming and their connection with the Northeast Organic Farming Association. Organic farming is a farming system that respects the balance of natural cycles and works as much as possible within those cycles. The event will be held at the Town House, 32 Common St., Hardwick.

SUNDAY, FEB. 11

VALENTINE FOR OUR WOODS HIKE will take place today at 3 p.m. at Barre Falls Dam. Forester and naturalist Tim Hawley will lead a one to two mile hike on moderate terrain and at an easy pace. People should meet at the Overlook Parking Lot on the Barre Road entrance to Barre Falls. Poles and microspikes or even snowshoes may be helpful, but not essential, depending on trail conditions. It will be held rain, snow or shine. Participants will count down Ten Reasons to Love Trees with forester-naturalist Tim Hawley.

MONDAY, FEB. 12

PROGRAM SHOWCASING PRESIDENT LINCOLN hosted by the Rutland Historical Society will be held today at 7 p.m. in the Rutland Historical Society, 232 Main St., Rutland. Stephen Brewer, a former Massachusetts Senator, will characterize President Lincoln and provide some interesting history and facts about the former President. Refreshments will be served following the presentation.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 14

SPRING EXHIBITIONS open today at UMass

Amherst's Hampden Gallery in Amherst. The gallery will host receptions for both Cynthia Guild's collection of oil paintings, "Fabrications and Dreams" and Gonzalo Silva's "Obsessive Compulsive Drawings" on Friday, April 5 from 5-7 p.m., with talks by Guild and Silva from 6-6:30 p.m. and 6:30-7 p.m. respectively. The reception and talks are free and open to the public. Admission to the gallery is always free.

HEALTH FAIR sponsored by the Oakham Council on Aging will be held today from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, Oakham. There will be a Life Coach, Medicare/Medicaid guidance, a Caregiver's Guide, Massage Therapy, Reiki and other energy treatments. There will also be a public health nurse, yoga instructor, dietitian, Oakham Board of Health and fire officials, Ayurveda and much more. Refreshments will be available. All are welcome.

BARRE TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION will meet at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road, Barre, today at Feb. 14 at 7 p.m. People should bring their questions and concerns. The BTA will have an on-going regular meeting the second Wednesday of the month, same time and place.

FRIDAY, FEB. 16

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 yiwfrycyouice@sevenhillsg.org to register or for more information.

SATURDAY, FEB. 17

VALENTINE'S DAY ROAST BEEF DINNER sponsored by the Hubbardston Scholarship Committee will be held today with serving from 5-8 p.m. at the Hubbardston Rod and Gun Club, Williamsville Road, Hubbardston. Menu includes beside roast beef, mashed potatoes, green beans, mixed vegetables, bread, coffee and dessert. Cost is \$15 per adult and \$8 per child. People may call Flo at 978-928-5113 or Paula at 978-928-4095.

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.



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SPORTS

Young Panthers learning lessons this season



Turley photos by Ray Duffy
Kyle Clark (rockin the new doo) with a left-handed layup.

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

BARRE—The basketball court is very similar to a biology class or an algebra class for longtime Quabbin Regional boys' varsity basketball coach Dennis Dextrateur. He and his assistant coaches have done a lot of teaching this winter.

The Panthers, who played last Tuesday night's home game without a key starter, suffered a 70-33 loss to Mid-Wach C rival Clinton.

"Clinton is the best team in our league this year. We were hoping to catch them on an off night," Dextrateur said. "We were also missing one of our starters, which made a big difference. He's one of our leading scorers. This was a very good learning experience for the other players. I would've like to have ten timeouts instead of only five."

Quabbin junior Quinn Geary, who's averaging 10.8 points per game, didn't play in the home game against Clinton (10-1, 8-0) because he was sick.

The Panthers (2-10, 0-8) began the regular season with victories against Murdock, (58-18 at home), and at Narragansett Regional, (53-42) before losing their next ten games.

"Our first two games of the regular season were against non-league opponents," Dextrateur said. "All of the teams in our league are having very good seasons. We're the only team who's going through the rebuilding process."

The Panthers lost the first meet-



Luke Salvadore put up a jump shot.



Bryce Venne leaps over the defenders with a jump shot.



Anthony Quarterone takes it to the hoop.

ing at Clinton by the final score of 66-41 on December 19.

The only senior listed on the varsity roster is Nick Whitelaw, who didn't score any points in the second meeting against the Gaels. His twin sister, Brianna, is a member of the Quabbin girls' varsity basketball team.

"Nick is our only senior and he's been a very good team leader. He understands that we're in a rebuilding year," Dextrateur said. "Everyone else on the varsity basketball team will be returning. The

j.v. team will also be staying the same."

Geary is one of the six juniors listed on the Panthers varsity basketball roster.

Junior guard Bryce Venne, who replaced Geary, made his first start in a varsity game. He scored one point, which was a made free throw during the second quarter.

The other four Panthers juniors are Luke Salvadore (2 points), Jaxon Warburton (4 points), Zeke Santoro (5 points), and Kyle Clark, who scored a team-leading 12

points. He also pulled down eight rebounds and blocked a shot.

Rounding out the varsity squad are sophomore Anthony Quarterone (6 points), freshman Jacoby Dilling (3 points), and eighth grader Brady Patchen.

Quarterone, who started the season as a member of the junior varsity team, played in his second varsity game against Clinton.

The two things that Dextrateur wasn't very pleased about in the Clinton game was his team's free

See PANTHERS, page 8

Pioneers suffer tough loss at Monson



Seth Mitchell drives to the hoop.



Cayden Bousquet makes his way down the court.



Hunter Griswold reaches out for the layup.



Adam Slonka tries to get a shot off.

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

MONSON — Colin Beaupre, who's a three-sport athlete, is writing the final chapter of his brilliant athletic career at Monson High School. He has been a member of the Mustangs boys varsity basketball team since the eighth grade.

Beaupre, who's one of the three seniors listed on the Mustangs varsity hoop roster, will have an opportunity to play in the Division 5 state tournament and most likely the Western Mass. Class D tournament in February.

The Mustangs (10-4) clinched a berth in the state tournament following an 84-57 non-league

victory over the Pathfinder Tech Pioneers before a large crowd at Michael J. Kane Gymnasium, last Friday night.

"I was in the eighth grade the last time that we qualified for the postseason tournament. We've had a couple of rough seasons since then," said Beaupre, who scored 10 of his 13 points against the Pioneers during the first half. "I wouldn't want to be a member of another basketball team. We're hoping to finish the regular season strong and we're looking forward to playing in the postseason tournament."

Monson, who won their fourth consecutive game, were ranked 12th in the MIAA Division 5 state

power rankings. They were also ranked fourth in the Western Mass. Class D. power rankings. The top eight teams in each of the four classes will qualify for the Western Mass. tournament.

The Mustangs just missed qualifying for the state tournament a year ago, as they finished with an 8-12 overall record.

"We put ourselves in a good position to make the postseason tournament last year, but we lost our last two games," said Monson head coach Zac Dreher. "It does feel very good to clinch a berth in the state tournament, especially this early in the regular season. We'll probably be playing in the Western Mass. tournament as

well."

Monson eighth grade guard Trey Dillahunt scored a game-high 24 points against Pathfinder Tech. Sophomore guard Jake Beaupre, who's Colin's younger brother, contributed with 21 points.

"Jake and I have been teammates on the varsity basketball team for the past three seasons," said Colin Beaupre, who also plays soccer and baseball. "It's always nice playing one on one against him at practice. I've taught him a lot and it has been a lot of fun being teammates with him."

Dillahunt and the Beaupre brothers combined to score 58

See PIONEERS, page 8

Defense lifts Quabbin to win

BARRE — The Quabbin Regional High School girls basketball team continues to hold the opposition down, this time keeping Maynard below 30 points in a 45-29 win last Friday night. Meg Doyle had 13 points to lead the team, and Riley Bassett and Hannah Baxter each scored 12 points. The panthers have qualified for the state tournament and are 10-3 this season with a 6-3 league record in the Mid-Wach C.



Brooke Austin hits a jump shot from the baseline.



Hannah Baxter puts up a shot.



Meg Doyle gets some air on her jump shot.

Indians creeping toward tournament berth

NORTH BROOKFIELD — The North Brookfield High School girls basketball team fell behind early, but had a strong second half to defeat Bethany Christian School 42-34 last Friday night. Olivia Holmes had 15 points for the Indians and Milcalia Ayala added 10 points.

The Indians are now 7-2 this season with a 4-1 league record. North Brookfield needs just two more wins to automatically qualify for the state tournament.

Their impressive mark could also get them into the sectional tournament.

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.



Riley Bassett catches the pass to make a layup.

Sports

Committee seeks HOF nominations

BARRE – Nominations for the Quabbin Regional Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2024 are being accepted. Nominations forms are available on the Quabbin Regional

Athletic website (www.qrsd.org). All forms are due March 1. Please mail forms to: Quabbin Regional Athletic Hall of Fame; PO Box 874; Barre, MA 01005 or e-mail to mmville@qrsd.org.

T-Birds offense scores big over Checkers

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (20-17-3-2) dominated for much of the night in a 6-1 win over the Charlotte Checkers (20-17-4-0) on Saturday night before a sellout crowd of 6,793 at the MassMutual Center.

The T-Birds jumped to a first-period lead for a second straight evening, this time just 3:37 into game action. Mathias Laferriere spun away from a defender to gain entry on the right-wing side. Mikhail Abramov raced up the middle of the ice, catching a perfect pass from Laferriere and lifting a shot into the top shelf behind Charlotte netminder Ludovic Waerber, making it 1-0 on his eighth goal of the season.

After not facing much action in the opening half of the period, Springfield goaltender Malcolm Subban got infinitely busier in the closing minutes, as the T-Birds killed off two Charlotte power plays, including 28 seconds' worth of 5-on-3 time. Subban shined, with point-blank saves off Gerry Mayhew and Rasmus Asplund sticking out in a 10-save opening frame.

After the goal by Abramov, Waerber also settled in, and the Checkers' third-ranked penalty kill also denied Springfield on two power plays as the two clubs' man-advantage units continued to scuffle.

For a second consecutive evening, Charlotte got an equalizer in the early stages of period two. Patrick Khodorenko approached the net and bashed home a rebound through Subban's legs after Patrick Giles had his initial try denied by the goaltender. The goal came just 44 seconds into the period to tie the score, 1-1.

However, like Friday night, the tie score would be short-lived. A Matt Kierstedt penalty sent Springfield's

power play back to work, and just 32 seconds after the Khodorenko tally, Hugh McGing got his first goal since Nov. 24, ramming home a wide shot from Laferriere that skipped off the end boards right in front of the goal on the left side.

With the lead back in their possession, the T-Birds would not relinquish it. Subban made a crucial 2-on-1 save on Checkers captain Zac Dalpe, and moments after another Springfield penalty kill, at 10:22 of the period, Hunter Skinner stepped into a one-time drop pass from Zach Bolduc and saw it ricochet off a Charlotte stick and behind Waerber to make it 3-1. It was Skinner's first goal as a Thunderbird.

Laferriere's night was far from over, as he stepped over the left-wing side and roofed a heavy snap shot through Waerber at 14:00, and in less than four minutes, the lead grew to 4-1.

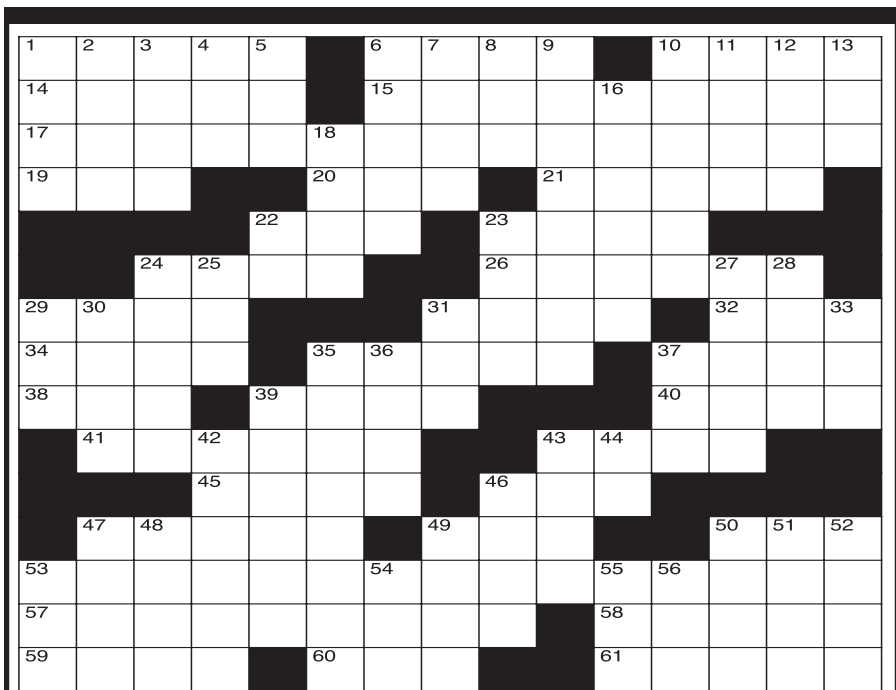
Things would not get any better for the Checkers in the third. Ryan Suzuki pounced on a loose puck in the slot after a Jakob Vrana pass to Bolduc caromed off Waerber's pad right into the slot area. Suzuki also found the top corner, advancing the lead to 5-1 on his third goal of the season.

Will Bitten would round out the scoring with his second point of the night, cashing in on a 2-on-1 after an initial shot from Bolduc bounced off Waerber's left pad and right onto Bitten's tape. Subban got himself back into the win column, making 29 saves in securing his ninth win of the year.

Including the postseason, Springfield is now 10-1-0-0 in its last 11 games against Charlotte inside the Thunderdome, and with the two-game sweep, the T-Birds leaped ahead of Charlotte in the Atlantic Division standings.

Follow Turley Sports on Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching "turleysports." We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Become less intense
6. Variety of pear
10. Religion native to China
14. Type of tooth
15. Fitted out
17. Make every effort
19. Autonomic nervous system
20. Complete
21. Alternate name
22. River in France and Belgium
23. Miami's mascot is one
24. Turfs
26. Most cognizant of reality
29. Broad volcanic crater
31. Canadian surname
32. Satisfaction
34. Traitorous Greek mythological prince
35. Collide
37. Immune response
38. Feline
39. High opinion of one's

- own appearance
40. Thin strip to align parts
41. Containers
43. Convicted American spy
45. Breathe noisily
46. Taxi
47. Pancakes made from buckwheat flour
49. Swiss river
50. I.M., architect
53. Have surgery
57. Formal withdrawal
58. Dutch and German surname
59. Square measures
60. 2,000 lbs.
61. Degrade someone

CLUES DOWN

1. Siberian river
2. Blessing
3. Substitutes (abbr.)
4. Principle underlying the universe
5. Work unit
6. Yellow edible fruits

7. Gemstone
8. A place ships dock (abbr.)
9. Evergreen tropical tree
10. Reality TV star
11. Nonflowering aquatic plant
12. Stakes
13. Antidiuretic hormone
16. Make warm again
18. Light beams
22. Lethal dose
23. Terrorist group
24. Kids love him
25. Naturally occurring solid
27. German surname meaning "man from Saxony"
28. Popular cuisine
29. Partner to cheese
30. Type of horse
31. Diego
33. Defensive nuclear weapon
35. Most shrewd
36. It may be for shopping
37. Midway between south and southeast
39. A stock of foods
42. The bindings of books
43. Swiss river
44. Megabyte
46. Sammy, songwriter
47. Dutch colonist
48. Clare Booth
49. Sun or solar disk
50. Popular type of bread
51. Transfers of money (abbr.)
52. Association of engineering professionals
53. Young women's association
54. City
55. Niger-Congo branch of languages
56. Pointed end of a pen

ANSWERS ON PAGE 10

Education

John and Abigail Adams Scholarship recipients



Submitted photo

These Quabbin Regional High School students are the recipients of the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship. This is a merit based program that provides credit toward tuition for undergraduate education at a Massachusetts state college or university. These students are the recipients of the John and Abigail Adams Scholarships. Front row from left are Sean LaPointe, Vivienne Benoit-Smith, Kylie Casey, Gracie Talbot, Kelsey Marsh, Natalie Marchand, Christian Paydos, and Alena Arnold; middle row from left Principal, Purnima DeMorais, Brianna Whitelaw, Meaghan Doyle, Camryn Orsini, Amy Stauder, Ally Legare, Sophia Januszewski, Natalie Fisher, Colin Harmon, Cole Morrill and Julianna Stanger and back row from left, Jady Gonzalez, Riley Bassett, Jake Leazott, Benjamin Vasseur, Edward Guertin, Nicholas Whitelaw, Michael Tobin, Austin Conti, Kylian Bowles, Gavin Majoy, Grace LaValley and Assistant Principal, Jason Gilmartin. Not shown are Annabelle Magill, Heather Stuart, Lillian Thibeault and Elanor Thompson.

COLLEGE NEWS

QCC announces Dean's and Merit lists

WORCESTER – Quinsigamond Community College announces its fall 2023 Semester Dean and Merit Lists.

Dean's List

Students making the fall 2023 semester Dean's list are: Delanie Kennan of Barre, Riley Bassett of Gilbertville, Bethany Jacques of Gilbertville, Erin Malin of Gilbertville, Amanda Tadros of Hubbardston, Brooke Dennis of Oakham, Sydney Gagne of Oakham, Paige Lindley of Oakham, Annabelle Magill of Oakham, Lily Rice of Oakham, Kaylee Cannon of Rutland, Sophie Jenkins of Rutland, Hadley Kariko of Rutland, Marissa O'Brien of Rutland, Luke Rollins of Rutland, Gil Salzman of Rutland, Caroline Soucy of Rutland, Camden Towns of Rutland, Hayden Tremblay of Rutland, Michael Vinton of Rutland, Zacharias Fragkiadakis of Wheelwright and Benjamin LaFlash of Wheelwright.

Students who earn 12 or more credits in a given semester. All grades must be "C" or higher. No grades of "I" or "X" are permitted. Semester Quality Point Average must be 3.50 or higher, and cumulative QPA

must be 2.00 or higher. All courses must be college-level.

Merit list

Students making the fall 2023 semester Merit list are: Scott Anastasio of Barre, Shari Martel of Hardwick, April Pellegrino of New Braintree, Noah Caouette of North Brookfield, Liam Carlson of North Brookfield, Victoria Davis of North Brookfield, Jeanne Goyette of North Brookfield, Deborah Hill of North Brookfield, Kyle Pagnoni of North Brookfield, Shannon Sisco of North Brookfield, Abigail Baldwin of Rutland, Hayley Blum of Rutland, Jack Borges of Rutland, Kaitlyn Bucci of Rutland, Jackson Burns of Rutland, Joshua Haggerty of Rutland, Kaylee Miller of Rutland, Jason St. Amand of Rutland, Jason Woodsmall of Rutland and Nicholas Hanny of Wheelwright.

Students must earn six or more credits in a given semester, but fewer than 12 credits. All grades must be "C" or higher. No grades of "I" or "X" are permitted. Semester Quality Point Average must be 3.50 or higher, and cumulative QPA must be 2.00 or higher. All courses must be college-level.

Jacob Nadeau makes Dean's List at Saint Anselm College

MANCHESTER, N.H. – Saint Anselm College announces the Dean's List of high academic achievers for the second semester of the 2022-2023 school year.

Jacob Nadeau of Rutland, a business major in the Class of 2024, made the spring 2023 Dean's List.

To be eligible for this honor, a student must have achieved a grade point average of 3.4 or better in the semester with at least 12 credits of study which award a letter grade.

Roger Williams University announces Fall Dean's list

BRISTOL, R.I. – Roger Williams University announces their fall 2023 Dean's list.

Local students making the Dean's list are: Benjamin Auger of Rutland, Patrick McGugan of Rutland, Cameron Ridgewell of Rutland and Susan Yang of Rutland. Full-time students who complete 12 or more credits per semester and earn a GPA of 3.4 or higher are placed on the Dean's List that semester.

PIONEERS, continued from page 7

points against the Pioneers.

"We're not a very big team, but our guards are very fast," Dreher said. "Colin, Jake, and Trey are outstanding athletes."

Senior forward Sebastian Nava and sophomore forward Austin Meacham just missed reaching double digits in the home victory, as they both scored eight points.

Rounding out the scoring column for the Mustangs were sophomore forward Shane Szado (6 points), freshman guard Kyle Beautyry (3 points), and senior guard Osvaldo Nieves (1 point).

It was the first meeting on the hardwood between the two squads since Pathfinder squeaked out a 43-39 home win in a non-playoff game two years ago. That victory gave Pathfinder Tech

a berth in the inaugural Division 5 state tournament. They lost at Minuteman Regional in a preliminary round game.

The Pioneers, who lost at Paulo Freire in the same round a year ago, had a 6-5 overall record following last Friday's game. They were ranked 35th in the Division 5 state power rankings and eighth in the Western Mass. Class C. rankings.

The top 32 teams automatically qualify for the state tournament, along with the other teams who finish the regular season with a .500 or better record.

Pathfinder Tech senior guard Hunter Griswold, who's planning on playing football at Mass Maritime Academy next fall, moved from Palmer to Monson in the sixth grade. He scored a team-high 21 points in his first varsity basketball game at Michael J. Kane gymnasium.

Zonta Club is accepting scholarship applications

The Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley is now accepting applications for Zonta International's Young Women in Public Affairs Award.

This scholarship is open to a young woman (ages 16-19) who has demonstrated leadership skills and commitment to public service and civic causes.

Deadline is March 8. The Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley is also accepting applications for Zonta International's Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship.

Women of any age, pursuing a business program with major

field of specialization in accounting, economics, finance, business management, business technology, information technology, marketing, operations management, human resources management, international business or entrepreneurship at an accredited university/college/institute, who demonstrate outstanding potential in the field and are living or studying in a Zonta district/region, are eligible.

Deadline is June 15.

For details about either of these scholarships, visit the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley's website at www.zontaq.org/scholarships.

PANTHERS, continued from page 7

throw shooting and the turnovers.

The Panthers only made five of their 18 shots from the free throw line.

"We always tell the players that going to the free throw line is free offense," Dextradeur said. "We shot very poorly from the free throw line in tonight's game."

The Panthers made a total of 27 turnovers leading to 35 points.

Most of the Panther's turnovers came in the first quarter.

Clinton scored the first 21 points of the contest before Santoro was fouled while making a lay-up in the final seconds of the opening quarter. He also made the bonus free throw completing the three point play.

The Panthers scored 12 points in the second quarter, but they were trailing 38-15 at halftime.

The home team wouldn't get any closer than that during the second half.

Senior's Axel Ramos and Cam Grady led the Gaels with 12 points apiece.

Clinton's other



Zeke Santoto with a buzzer beater (and gets fouled) putting Quabbin on the scoreboard before the end of the first quarter.

"This is the first time that I've played a basketball game in this gym," Griswold said. "I do know all the Monson players and it was a lot of fun playing against them tonight. I just wish that we could've won the game. They started red hot offensively and we could never catch up. I'm hoping that we can play them again in the state tournament."

Senior forward Richie Gula, who's from Palmer, scored 14 of his 17 points during the second half.

The other Pathfinder Tech players who live in Monson are junior guard Seth Mitchell (6 points), senior forward Adam Slonka (4 points), and senior forward Luke Magnus (2 points).

Monson, who raced out to an 8-0 lead in the first three minutes of the contest, held a 27-10 lead at the end of the opening quarter.

"Monson is a very fast team,

and they shot the ball very well tonight," said Pathfinder head coach Zac Button, who's father, Al, was an assistant girls' basketball coach at Quaboag Regional under legendary head coach Dick Gowen during their glory years. "I wish that it was a closer game, but we should be playing teams like Palmer and Monson more often. Every time that we lose a game, it's an opportunity for us to get better. Our main goal is to qualify for both the Western Mass. and state tournaments."

The Mustangs also held a 17-point (43-26) halftime lead, and they outscored the Pioneers, 41-31, during the second half.

If the two boys' basketball teams don't face each other again in the Division 5 state tournament, Monson is scheduled to make the short trip to Pathfinder Tech during the 2024-25 regular season.

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