

BARRE GAZETTE

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Select Board approves contracts for Assessors

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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HARDWICK – The Select Board reviewed new business regarding contracts for the Board of Assessors.

The Select Board had two discussions and possible votes on Q Properties LLC contract for the Board of Assessors and a CAI Maintenance contract for the Board of Assessors. Town Administrator Justine Caggiano said these were requests from the Board of Assessors who sent out recommendations and letters for their GIS services and CLE inspections.

The Select Board accepted both contracts.

Gift acceptance

The Select Board would move forward and vote to accept \$900 gift from the East Quabbin Land Trust. The Select Board appreciated the generous gift and decided to allocate the funds to the Parks & Recreation Department.

Easement

The Select Board had a vote and approved an easement for 17 Maple St. This project is a sewer project taking place in Wheelwright.

Committee vacancies

Caggiano spoke with the Select Board to remind them about committee vacancies. There are currently several committee vacancies on the Youth Commission, Open Space Committee, and Parks & Recreation Committee. This was an announcement for the Select Board and Caggiano mentioned these vacancies are listed on the town website, www.hardwick-ma.gov. These three commissions and committees are looking for members.

Town Administrator Report

Caggiano shared her report with the Select Board and began by mentioning new phones being installed in the municipal building. There will be a department meeting for department members to attend a demonstration on the new phone system.

Caggiano also mentioned the

See **HARDWICK**, page 5

A sweet introduction to maple sugaring



The Julian Family are the proud operators of Deer Meadow Farm in Warren and brought samples of their maple syrup during the workshop.

Co-Op welcomes Deer Meadow Farm

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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HARDWICK – The Hardwick Farmers Co-Op Exchange hosted a maple syrup workshop this past weekend.

Presenting an introduction to maple sugaring is the Julian Family, the operators of Deer Meadow Farm in Warren. Richard, Debra and Kylee Julian were at the Co-Op as it was their farm's second year providing a workshop.

Richard Julian began the workshop by sharing the history of maple sugaring.

The process of maple sugaring was not new to Massachusetts when the Pilgrims landed in

1620. Native American have been making sugar from the sweet sap of maple trees for years.

One of the most popular stories about the origin of maple sugaring is an Iroquois legend about Chief Woksis' tomahawk. Another known historical fact is the sweetness was discovered by eating "sapicles," icicles of frozen sap from the end of a broken twig.

Richard Julian also explained the reasoning behind why the process is known as "sugaring" and not "syruping."

Cane sugar was produced in the British Caribbean using slave labor and taxes were high on the sugar. In the late 18th century, Quakers began to promote maple sugar as an alternative to slave-produced can sugar.

See **MAPLE SUGARING**, page 7



Kylee Julian handed out samples of their maple syrup made at Deer Meadow Farm in Warren.

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FY 26 school budget proposed

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Superintendent Timothy McCormick presented the proposed fiscal year 2026 operating budget to the School Committee.

"This is the first draft," McCormick said at the Jan. 27 meeting. "This is a like a draft budget that will evolve."

To develop the proposed budget, McCormick said he followed three guiding principles, including budget accuracy and transparency, inclusive planning and resource management.

"This is a starting point... we have several months to go," he said, prior to the budget being approved at town meeting.

McCormick outlined the school district's strategic objectives to build the budget: curriculum and instruction enhancement, meeting the needs of all students and fostering a sense of belonging.

McCormick said he is recommending an \$8,227,837.31 FY 26 budget, which is a 17% increase over the prior year's approved budget. The three major drivers of the budget continue to be special education increases, salary increases and additional costs for all transportation.

Salaries are projected to account for 69.4% of the total FY 26 budget and 29.9% of the total increase.

"You can see that salaries are the bulk of our entire budget here," he said.

Special education costs, which account for \$1,747,887.69 of the FY 26 budget, are expected to

See **SCHOOL COMMITTEE**, page 5

Quaboag Hills chamber hosted Baystate CEO at breakfast

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – Last Tuesday morning, the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce hosted its Chamber Breakfast at Christopher Heights of Belchertown, with guest speaker Peter Banko, president and CEO of Baystate Health.

Chamber CEO James Przypek opened the event by acknowledging and thanking the event's presenting sponsor, Superior Plus Propane, and underwriters Country Bank, J. Stolar Insurance Agency, Monson Savings Bank, Behavioral Health Network, Christopher Heights of Belchertown and Westfield Bank.

Przypek also welcomed state Rep. Todd Smola to speak at the breakfast, sharing an update about the climate of state and local government, and the importance of having access to healthcare and how the closure of Mary Lane Hospital in Ware has affected the region.

"We're very much impacted by the closure of that facility,"

Smola said.

Smola also spoke about the importance of the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce and its support of local businesses.

"The chamber is strong," Smola said, crediting Przypek for the chamber's continued growth.

Przypek then welcomed Banko, who recently pledged to identify a space in Ware to house a Convenient Care facility, staffed with up to three physicians.

"We think about healthcare a lot," Przypek said, referencing staff shortages, the COVID-19 pandemic, rising prescription costs and hospital closures. "It's a statewide and national condition."

Banko, who is the fourth CEO for Baystate Health and the first to be hired from the outside, spoke about Baystate Health's role as an academic medical center and its affiliation with the UMass Chen Medical School. He said Baystate Health also invests about \$50 million in research.

"We've got a lot of great physicians," Banko said, adding that Baystate Health provides a "community safety net" through behavioral health services and more.

"If you can't get it at Baystate, you're likely going to Boston," he said.

Banko spoke about some of the changes that have occurred at Baystate Health since he took over its leadership in June of 2024, including the decision to keep its not-for-profit health insurer Health New England, after its \$165 million sale to Point32Health was announced in February of 2024.

Bank said Baystate Health is planning to invest in Health New England.

"The intent is to grow it," Banko said of Health New England.

Banko noted the "intense pride and loyalty" found within Baystate Health, but how it has faced many challenges including financial strains and meeting the needs of an aging and declining population.

"Massachusetts is a tough state to operate in," he said. "We've had our financial challenges here over the last three years."

Banko said the 65+ community is growing, and more so the 75+ and 85+, all of which presents unique challenges to healthcare.

"The older you get, the more likely you are to have a chronic condition," he said.

Banko touched on some of the areas where Baystate Health needs



Baystate Health President and CEO Peter Banko was the guest speaker at the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce's breakfast held at Christopher Heights of Belchertown on Jan. 28.

to improve, including increasing outpatient services and keeping current with the digital age of healthcare.

Baystate Health has also embarked on a financial journey, which Banko said is "causing us to make a lot of tough decisions."

He said this includes selling assets, such as Baystate Health's laboratory to Labcorp in 2024,

and the now reversed decision to sell Health New England.

Banko said Baystate Health is looking at fixing its financial situation to the tune of \$225-250 million over the next few years, adding that two-thirds of its expenses are its staffing. He said part of the plan is to look at corporate overhead.

The closure of Mary Lane

Hospital in Ware was "an unfortunate situation," Banko said, with about 30% of small hospitals at risk of closing nationwide.

"We've been working since August or September to try and get healthcare back [in Ware], Banko said.

Banko said while Baystate Health is looking at possible sites in Ware, there may also be some opportunity to do something with the Wetherby building on the Mary Lane Hospital campus.

"The primary focus is we're looking for a site that doesn't take a lot of work to get in," he said.

Opposition to Baystate Health's presence in town from the Friends of Mary Lane Hospital has resulted in a cease and desist being served to that organization's leadership, Banko said.

"We should be working together," he said.

Banko said Baystate Health has work to do within its hospitals and clinics, with strategic planning ongoing since this past October.

"Access is our biggest opportunity," Banko said. "Access and coordinating care. We've got access issues...there aren't

See **QUABOAG HILLS CHAMBER**, page 6



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News of the Towns



Round Town
Ellenor Downer
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Winter Market takes place Feb. 8

On Saturday, Feb. 8 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. the Barre Winter Market located in the Barre Town Hall, 2 Exchange St., Barre will take place. Other dates are Saturday, March 8 and Saturday, April 12, all from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. This is the third year of the market. Local crafters and farmers sell their crafts and products. For more information, people may call Celia at 978-355-0139 or email rebellbathandbeyond@gmail.

Food Pantry distributions

The next two Barre Food Pantry distributions will occur on Wednesday, Feb. 12 from 10-11:30 a.m. and on Thursday, Feb. 20 from 5:30-7 p.m. Clients are invited to pick up groceries from the food pantry either in the morning on Wednesday, Feb. 12 or in the evening on Thursday, Feb. 20 whichever is more convenient for them. In order to maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients Feb. 12 and Feb. 20 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.

Barre Food Pantry holds distributions on Feb. 12

BARRE – The next two Barre Food Pantry distributions will occur on Wednesday, Feb. 12 from 10-11:30 a.m. and on Thursday, Feb. 20 from 5:30-7 p.m.

Clients are invited to pick up groceries from the food pantry either in the morning on Wednesday, Feb. 12 or in the evening on Thursday, Feb. 20 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. The pantry must also continue to protect clients, volunteers and the larger community from the spread of disease viruses.

Many clients and volunteers are classified as high-risk due to their age and/or underlying health conditions. The Barre Food Pantry Board of Directors has considered changing how the pantry currently operates, but has decided that the most

responsible path forward is to continue to operate as they have since March of 2020.

In order to maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients Feb. 12 and Feb. 20 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.

Based on the success of distributions so far, the Food Pantry volunteers believe this "drive-through" style is the safest possible way to get food to clients and to help keep every-

On Tuesday night, Feb. 11 at 5 p.m. the Barre Food Pantry will be gathering volunteers at the Barre Congregational Church to unload incoming groceries from their truck, to sort through donated groceries, to pre-fill grocery bags and in other ways to prepare for the distribution the following morning. If people can help pitch in for an hour on the Feb. 7, they should call Sonja Blaney at 978-355-6921.

People should not arrive to volunteer on Feb. 11, 12 or 20 without first contacting Sonja Blaney at 978-355-6921 or Chuck Radlo at 978-355-6463.

Because conditions have been changing rapidly, please continue to check for updates on the Barre Food Pantry website by visiting <http://www.barrefoodbank.org/index.htm> and the Barre Food Pantry Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Barre-Food-Pantry-100156068300314/>.

Hubbardston

Ellenor Downer
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Dog licenses, burn permits and census will be online

Over the next few months, the town of Hubbardston will be rolling out permits and other applications online. The first license roll-out will be embarking on is the licensing of The town's dogs. Dog license applications are available online by visiting <https://www.hubbardstonma.gov/town-clerk/pages/dog-licenses>. From within the online dog license application, people will need to upload a photo of their dog's rabies certification as well as having the added bonus of being able to pay online from within the application, rather than going to a separate site and having to create a separate account. There will still be an additional \$1 fee for postage. If residents choose to mail in a check (made out to Town of Hubbardston), they should provide an addressed, stamped envelope for the office to mail their dog's tag. Licenses will be emailed to the email address people provide during the application process. Dogs must be licensed by April 1. Dogs not licensed by May 1 will face a \$25 late fee. Residents 70 plus years of age are exempt from payment.

Open-air burning permits will not be mailed out to residents this year. They are available online by visiting <https://hfd15.burnpermits.com/> or people can pick up a paper copy at the Town Clerk's office. Please mail permit application and check (made out to Town of Hubbardston) to Fire Department, 7 Main Street, Unit 5, or drop off at 48 Gardner Road Fire Station.

The Town Clerk's office will be closed all day Thursday, Feb. 6. People may still pick up a burn permit during the town clerk's closure, as the Assessor's Clerk will still be in-office.

The town municipal census will have been mailed out to all residents by Monday, Feb. 3.

Agricultural Commission workshop

The Hubbardston Agricultural Commission will hold a workshop on "Raising Chickens: Everything You Want to Know" on Wednesday, Feb. 19 from 6:30-8 p.m. in the Hubbardston Senior Center, 7 Main St. Light refreshments will be available. People planning on attending should email Cathy Hansgate at ladybugfarmproduce@gmail.com.

Senior Center

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 Wii Bowling 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.

Person injured in early morning house fire

HARDWICK – On Tuesday, Feb. 4 at 12:20 a.m. New Braintree Regional Dispatch center received a 911 call from 8-10 Lower Road in Gilbertville reporting a fully involved house fire with a person trapped on the second floor.

New Braintree Dispatch dispatched Hardwick Fire, Hardwick-New Braintree Police along with mutual aid New Braintree Fire and West Brookfield Ambulance. With the known information dispatch automatically started a second alarm fire response bringing mutual aid to the scene.

Hardwick-New Braintree Police Officer Andrew Ronnau arrived in under two minutes of dispatch confirming the working structure fire and that the house was fully engulfed. Ronnau forced entry in a back door but was unable to make entry because of the heavy smoke and fire. Finding an adult female trapped on the second floor of the house by a window Ronnau was able to get the female to jump out of the window to him. Ronnau then dragged the victim away from the back of the house, up an embankment to the roadway where he began rendering first aid.

Officer Kendall Perrault of the West Brookfield Police arrived and began assisting in medical aid.

Hardwick Fire Deputy Chief Nicholas Gaumont arrived and requested a third alarm assignment with Hardwick Fire Chief Josh Pease arriving shortly after him. Aggressive defensive fire attack was started by Hardwick and New Braintree Fire units waiting on their mutual aid partners.

West Brookfield Ambulance arrived taking patient care from the police officers. The victim was transported to a local landing zone where LifeStar Helicopter transported her to Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston for treatment.

Her current condition is currently unknown. Hardwick Fire and mutual aid companies remained on scene until 11 a.m. The building collapsed during the start of the fire; Hardwick Highway responded with heavy equipment to assist the fire departments on scene.

This fire is under investigation by Troopers assigned to the State Fire Marshals Office, Hardwick Fire and Hardwick-New Braintree Police. No cause has been determined.

Hardwick-New Braintree Police were also assisted by Massachusetts State Police as Route 32 was closed until 5 a.m.

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.

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. 10. 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 – Meatloaf and gravy, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, fresh fruit, pumpernickel bread

TUESDAY – Hot dog on bun, baked beans, coleslaw, baked apples, mustard

WEDNESDAY – Shepherd's pie, carrots, peas, chocolate pudding, diet = sugar free chocolate pudding, marble rye bread

THURSDAY – Lemon pepper haddock, O'Brien potatoes, summer corn, Mandarin oranges, apple cinnamon muffin

FRIDAY – Valentine's Day Chicken Picatta, wild rice, roasted Brussels sprouts, cheesecake mousse, 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.

New Braintree Library holds story time Feb. 17

NEW BRAINTREE – The New Braintree Public Library, 45 Memorial Drive, is offering a story time program for preschoolers on Monday, Feb. 17 beginning at 9 a.m.

The program's focus is on President's Day. The readings will include "I am George Washington" and "I am Abraham Lincoln," both by Brad Meltzer and part of the Ordinary People Change the World series. This is a reading and crafts program.

Parental supervision is required. People may call the library at 508-867-7650 during regular business hours for more information.

Trustees introduce new library director

It may have taken us a while, but we're delighted to have hired a capable, energetic, and well-rounded Library Director, Lia Tulip.

Lia grew up in Somerville, a city 4-5 miles northwest of Boston.

As a young girl, she was an avid reader. She was particularly drawn to children's historical fiction. As little kids often do, Lia thought about what she wanted to be when she grew up.

Her first thought was that she would like to be a paleontologist. She had a really nice dinosaur collection, headlined by "Steggy," her pet stegosaurus. Then, after a visit to a local museum with mummies, tombs, and pyramids, Lia decided to be an Egyptologist so she could study everything related with Egypt.

Next, she considered becoming a cardiologist. She loved looking at books that showed how the human body worked. This may have been encouraged by Lia's accompanying her grandmother to many medical appointments.

Once Lia began her high school years, she was drawn to theater. Her love of theater still burns brightly today.

She participated in track and field events, specializing in run-

ning sprints and throwing the javelin. Despite her busy schedule, Lia worked at the Somerville Public Library as a new book processor. She discovered that she enjoyed working with young adults, in particular.

Perhaps this job kindled a keen interest in public libraries that would grow over the next several years.

Lia began her undergraduate education at Emmanuel College in Boston. At first, she was unsure about what she wanted to pursue. She began to study journalism, but soon decided that wasn't for her.

Lia knew that she loved theater and books, so she switched her focus to writing and literature with a concentration in theater arts. Lia flourished. She participated in acting and costume design while on campus. As a senior, she directed the college play, "The Importance of Being Earnest".

For the past 15 years, Lia and her three children have lived in North Brookfield. She homeschooled all three throughout



Submitted Photo
Lia Tulip is the new Library Director at the Haston Free Public Library.

their elementary years. They are now attending North Brookfield Junior-Senior High School.

Her oldest will graduate in June. Her middle child plays basketball. Her youngest has a lot of interests, especially dancing.

With such a busy schedule, it's hard to imagine that Lia can find time for her own interests, but she does. She loves to bake. Gluten-free is her specialty. She loves outdoor activities such as kayaking and fishing in nearby lakes. She enjoys hiking, foraging for mushrooms, and tending her vegetable garden.

Lia is very excited about becoming our new Director. She states, "I love the idea about creating a space where everyone feels welcome and supported... This feels like a great opportunity to make a difference in a place I truly care about."

We feel so too, Lia. Welcome aboard!

Peg Bodine, Chair
Haston Library Trustees

Medicare 101 educational event to be held

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The North Brookfield Senior Center will be hosting an educational presentation on Thursday, March 13 at 11 a.m. at the senior center located at 29 Forest St., for current beneficiaries and for those who will soon be eligible for Medicare.

The information is specific to Massachusetts. The session

will run approximately one hour, including time for questions.

The presentation will be conducted by Ed Spater, a licensed Insurance agent, who will explain the basics of Medicare including:

- Why it's important to evaluate your current Medicare coverage each year
- The pros and cons of each of

your Medicare coverage options

- What to consider when deciding which Medicare coverage option is right for you
- Ways to save money and get better Medicare coverage in 2024

For accommodations of persons with special needs at meetings call 774-271-5199 or 711 for TTY callers.

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News of the Towns

PUBLIC MEETINGS

BARRE

Board of Health – Feb. 10 at 5 p.m.
 Water Commission – Feb. 10 at 6:30 p.m.
 DPW Commission – Feb. 10 at 7 p.m.
 Cable Advisory Council – Feb. 11 at 7 p.m.
 Conservation Committee – Feb. 11 at 7 p.m.
 Insurance Advisory Committee – Feb. 12 at 4 p.m. and Feb. 27 at 1:30 p.m.
 250th Anniversary Committee – Feb. 12 at 6:30 p.m.
 Library Trustees – Feb. 12 at 6:30 p.m.
 Barre Housing Authority – Feb. 13 at 1 p.m.
 Board of Registrars – Feb. 18 at 4:15 p.m.
 Select Board – Feb. 18 at 6 p.m.
 Cemetery Commission – Feb. 27 at 11 a.m.
 Election Day – April 7 from 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

HARDWICK

Paige Library Trustees – Feb. 6 at 7 p.m.
 Parks and Recreation Committee – Feb. 10 at 10 a.m.
 Planning Board – Feb. 11 at 6:30 p.m.
 Board of Health – Feb. 11 at 6:45 p.m.
 Gilbertville Public Library – Feb. 12 at 4 p.m.
 Conservation Commission – Feb. 12 at 6:30 p.m.
 Master Plan Steering Committee – Feb. 13 at 6:30 p.m.
 Gilbertville Water District – Feb. 18 at 5:30 p.m.

HUBBARDSTON

Board of Library Trustees Feb. 6 at 7 p.m.
 2024-2025 Policy Subcommittee – Feb. 10 at 4:30 p.m.
 Council on Aging – Feb. 18 at 4 p.m.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

Post Owner/Architect/Contractor Meeting – Feb. 16, Feb. 13, Feb. 20 and Feb. 27 at 3 p.m.
 Finance Committee – Feb. 6 at 6 p.m.
 Board of Assessors – Feb. 10 at 9:30 a.m.
 Council on Aging – Feb. 10 at 2 p.m.
 Board of Selectmen – Feb. 11 and 25 at 6 p.m.
 Planning Board – Feb. 19 at 6 p.m.

OAKHAM

Board of Health – Feb. 11 at 7 p.m.
 Council on Aging – Feb. 14 and March 14 at noon
 Planning Board – March 18 at 7 p.m.

PETERSHAM

Select Board – Feb. 6 at 5:45 p.m., Feb. 13, Feb. 20, Feb. 27, March 6, March 13 and March 27 at 5:30 p.m.
 Advisory Finance Committee – Feb. 6 at 6 p.m.
 Board of Health – Feb. 6 at 6 p.m.
 Council on Aging – Feb. 10 at 10 a.m.
 Cemetery Commission – Feb. 11 at 10 a.m.
 Petersham Historic District – Feb. 20 at 6 p.m.
 Board of Assessors – Feb. 28 at 9 a.m.

RUTLAND

Finance Committee – Feb. 6 at 6:30 p.m.
 Planning Board – Feb. 6 at 6:30 p.m.
 Select Board – Feb. 6 at 6:30 p.m.
 Special Town Meeting – Feb. 6 at 7 p.m.
 Planning Board Hearing – Feb. 11 and Feb. 25 at 6:30 p.m.

Lions Club partners with Monty Tech students for blood drive

FITCHBURG – The Petersham Lions Club in partnership with the Montachusett Regional Technological High School in Fitchburg sponsored a blood drive with Massachusetts General Hospital Bloodmobile on Saturday, Jan. 25.

It was a chilly day, but the drive was a huge success. Fifty units of blood were collected with 11 students being among those who became life savers with their donations.

This is the third year that the Petersham Lions Club and Monty Tech have collaborated in offering the blood drive. Lynne Shaw RN, from the Petersham Lions Club, serves to coordinate the event with the Massachusetts General Hospital Blood Center and Principal Dayna Carlson works with the students in the National Honor Society to spread the word and encourage donors to sign up.

The January event was led by NHS students Isabella Demar, Bridget Divoll and Evan McGrath. They were joined by their fellow students: Grace Williams, Joe Zelly, Olivia Michaud, Lily McEvoy, Kharielle Gasqui, Ivan Barnard, Kim Chinha, Vendelle Nkrumah, Kayli Arsenault, Joelle Ablaza, and Sophia Carlson. The next Blood Drive will be Saturday, May 3 and Sophia Carlson will be the Monty Tech lead for the event.

MGH is the only mobile blood drive in the state. MGH's bloodmobile is a self-contained bus that has four recliners for those donating, wonderful friendly and highly experienced staff of registered nurses and phlebotomists. They offer drinks and

snacks afterwards for donors.

The entire process takes 30-45 minutes including completing paperwork, a prescreening by a Bloodmobile staff member and the actual donation, which itself takes only about 10 minutes. Donors are able to book appointments on line through the MGH Bloodmobile website https://blooddonor.massgeneral.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/6173. Each time slot has between two and four donation openings.

The exclusion criteria are also listed on the website and with the advancements in blood testing, processing and medical care, there are very few exceptions. If you thought you were not eligible to donate, please check the new guidelines as you may now qualify.

A member of the Petersham Lions Club donated at Montachusett Regional Technical High School (Monty Tech) several years ago and as a medical professional was highly impressed with the efficiency, safety and professionalism of the event. This prompted the Petersham Lions Club to sponsor a drive.

Due to national blood safety regulations, the Bloodmobile has defined time and mileage requirements to be able to get the bus and staff to the location and the donated blood back to the MGH blood bank for processing. This eliminated Petersham as a location for the bloodmobile, so the Club contacted Monty Tech to be the co-sponsor. The idea was embraced by the Principal and the Honor Society as their Senior Class project and this has become an annual event, with

two drives now planned each school year, one on the spring and one in the fall.

Blood cannot be manufactured or created. Only a person can donate blood. One pint can serve up to three adults and even more children and babies. Blood is needed for those with medical conditions needing regular transfusions, surgery patients, and trauma victims. It could go to a newborn just fighting to stay alive, a young child battling leukemia, a teen in a car accident, a young woman with anemia, a middle-aged man with a bleeding ulcer or an elderly woman having a heart operation. You just never know who it may be. But what you do know, is that your blood will go to help someone in need. Your blood can be made available to someone in need within 24-48 hours after donating. According to facts from the MGH Blood Center, about a pint of blood is taken and adults have between 9 and 12 pints. Your body will replace the blood within 24 hours. You need only wait eight weeks between donations, so you can give often, up to six times a year. Less than 3% of the population donates, yet 80% will need a transfusion of one or more units in their lifetime. In less than an hour you can save up to three lives.

The next Petersham Lions Club/Monty Tech drive will be Saturday, May 3 at Montachusett Technical High School. Sign up is on the MGH Blood donor website by visiting https://blooddonor.massgeneral.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/6173. The Lions and Monty Tech hope to see you at the blood drive.

Oakham

Ellenor Downer
 edowner@turley.com



Fire Department to hold senior lunch

The Oakham Fire Department invites senior citizens to join them at the Fire Station on Friday, March 21 at 12:30 p.m. for lunch. Seniors should let the Council on Aging know if they can attend either by e-mailing COA@Oakham-Ma.gov or calling the Senior Center at 508-882-4073.

Podiatry clinic

Oakham Podiatry 2025 Clinics are by appointment only. Seniors may call Oakham Senior Center at 508-882-4073 and their call will be returned by a podiatry clinic volunteer. All clinics at Oakham Senior Center from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Schedule for February, March and April are: Mondays, Feb. 10 and Feb. 24; Monday, March 17 and Mondays, April 14 and 21.

Sand for seniors

The Oakham Fire Department is offering to deliver salt and sand buckets to their door to help seniors during this cold and icy weather. To take up the Fire Department on this generous offer, seniors may call the Oakham Fire Department at 508-882-5218.

Church breakfast

The Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, will hold a benefit breakfast on Saturday, Feb. 8 from 8 to 9:30 a.m. The menu will include pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, strawberries, orange juice, coffee, tea and hot chocolate. Donations will go to benefit the fire victims in California.

Senior Center activities

Oakham Senior Center activities in February include: Monday, Feb. 10 and Feb. 24 podiatry from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m., reservations required; Monday through Thursdays at 9 a.m. walking group, meet at Senior Center and on Tuesdays through Thursdays at 11 a.m. walking group meet at Senior Center. On cold days, the walking groups will walk to tapes inside the Senior Center. Other activities are Tuesdays from Feb. 4 to March 4 Yoga at 12:30 p.m.; Tuesday, Feb. 18 Blood Pressure/Glucose Testing from 11 a.m. -noon; Wednesdays Zumba Gold 9 a.m. in the Rutland Senior Center - \$2 donation per class; Thursday, Feb. 13 blood pressure 11 a.m.; Thursday, Feb. 20 SHINE from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. reservations are required; Thursdays at noon Weigh in support weight loss group and Fridays Functional Fitness 10:30 a.m. at the New Braintree Town Hall - \$2 donation per class.

Friday, Feb. 7 at 12:30 p.m. lasagna potluck lunch at Senior Center. Lasagna provided, salads, bread, and desserts welcome. Seniors may sign up for the potluck in the main room of the Senior Center.

Hot Lunches are offered at the Senior Center dining area Monday through Thursday at 11:30 a.m. Reservations are needed at least two days in advance and can be made through the Congregate Meal Coordinator from 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. by calling 508-882-4072.

New this month is SNAP benefit information and sign up on Feb. 18 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. This is open to all Oakham Citizens and not limited to seniors. If those who can't get to the Senior Center to sign up for the potluck lunch or to make reservations required for some offerings or for more information on offerings, seniors may call the Senior Center 508-882-4073 and leave a message or email COA@Oakham-MA.gov.

EQLT hosts 'Kids' Wonder Workshop'

HARDWICK – The East Quabbin Land Trust will host a Kids' Wonder Workshop during school vacation week, on Thursday, Feb. 20 from 1-3 p.m. at EQLT's office, 120 Ridge Road.

Open to children of all ages, activities will be held indoors and outside and include:

Sap to Syrup, a demonstration of a small-scale "backwoods approach" to selecting and tapping a tree, drawing sap and creating syrup.

Exploring the Forest Play Trail, the Forest Play Trail, created for elementary-aged chil-

dren, is a discovery trail near the EQLT office that children can visit anytime, year-round.

Rock Painting after discovering and gaining inspiration from the Kindness Rocks along the Forest Play Trail, children will have the opportunity to paint their own Kindness Rocks to take home.

Animal Tracks and Wildlife Sign see and learn about various animal tracks and specimens indoors, then head outside to look for animal tracks and other wildlife sign.

S'mores Making, creating these timeless treats over

an open, outdoor fire. Other healthy snacks will also be available.

The outdoor activities will be held on the hillside next to the EQLT office in both wooded and open grassy areas. Children should have sturdy, warm footwear, be dressed for the weather and bring their curiosity.

They should RSVP via email atrevett@eqlt.org if they would like to attend. In the event of inclement weather, the Kids' Wonder Workshop will be moved to the following day, Friday, Feb. 21 from 1-3 p.m.

Birds on the Range offered Feb. 15

AMHERST – Birds on the Range will be held on Saturday, Feb. 15 at 1 p.m. at The Notch Visitor Center, Holyoke Range State Park, 1500 West St., Route 116.

Get a close-up look at owls and other birds of prey with Tom Ricardi, a licensed rehabilitator and wildlife biologist, and learn about the great work being done at the Massachusetts Birds of Prey Rehabilitation Center, which cares for injured birds.

Come and see what birds can be found here on the Range.

Friends of Library present finding William Lewis

NEW BRAINTREE – On Sunday, Feb. 16 at 2 p.m. the Friends of the New Braintree Library will present Finding William Lewis in the New Braintree Town Hall, 20 Memorial Drive.

Bruce Craven and Christie Higginbottom will relate how they found the William Lewis

documents. They will introduce William through an examination of his writings: his daily journal entries and accounts, including tanning and currying accounts, book sales records, accounts of wife Abby's work sewing bed ticks and the records of daily work on the farm.

This program is funded by

the Hardwick/New Braintree Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a State agency. This program is free and open to the public. If it snows, this program will be held on Sunday, May 18. If people have any questions, they may call Deb Morrison at 508-867-3324.

Congregational church to hold pancake supper

RUTLAND – A Mardi Gras pancake supper will be held at the Rutland Congregational Church, 264 Main St., on Saturday, March 1 at 5:30 p.m.

People will enjoy all you can eat pancakes along with bacon, sausage and fruit. Gluten free pancakes will be available. Music will be provided by The Rutland Jazz Band and the Church Bell Choir. There will be raffles and games.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 ages 3-12 and free under 3. People should call the church at 508-886-4453 to reserve tickets.

Editorial deadline reminder

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

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Opinion

in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer



Male and female hooded merganser

My daughter saw a pair of hooded mergansers on the Ware River River on two different occasions.

She said, "They were riding those rapids to the bridge and looked like they were having a blast. Then they just hung out under the bridge."

The hooded merganser is the smallest of the mergansers at 18 inches long. It has a short thin bill and crested head. The male has a black head, white fan shaped patch within the crest, which is only visible when the crest is raised. The flanks are brown and the back black. It also has black vertical lines on its white breast. The female is plain brown with a darker back and red brown crest. The immature female looks like the adult female and the immature male similar to the female, but they some white in the crest.

Hooded mergansers dive underwater and eat small fish, frogs, crustaceans, mollusks and aquatic insects. Courtship begins in mid winter. Females do head bobbing and pumping. Most male displays involve crest raising. The male makes a frog like note and the female makes a hoarse "gak."

The female lays six to eight white eggs in a nest of grasses and down placed in a tree cavity or nest box. Mergansers summer on wooded rivers and lakes and winters on similar locations as well as along the coast.

Ludlow birds

On Saturday, Jan. 25 a Ludlow resident emailed about the birds in her backyard. She said, "The usual visitors are purple finches, white-throated sparrows, juncos, titmice, nuthatches, bluejays, mourning doves, cardinals and red bellied woodpeckers. Yesterday Jan. 24, we had a cowbird at the feeder. We haven't had any visit us in the five years we've fed the birds in winter. Just wondering if others in the area have seen a cowbird this early."

Bluebirds and northern flicker

I received an email on Sunday, Jan 26 from a North Brookfield resident. She said, "I live in North Brookfield, down on Lake Lashaway. I had five blue birds and a northern flicker on my feeders this morning along with the usual birds. Early Spring?"

Brimfield birds

I received an email from a Brimfield resident on Jan. 21. He said, "Today in the yard all the usual birds were about however the junco flock has increased to about 65 birds. Other not so commonly seen birds were a Carolina wren, and a white-throated and a tree sparrows."

In another email he wrote, "Yes the blue jays sure do like the peanuts. The titmice also get their share. And once in awhile a red-bellied woodpecker with show up and take a peanut. When I walk around the yard there are a couple of places under a tree or shrub where the ground is littered with empty peanut shells."

Birds in my yard

I continue to have the usual birds at my feeders and suet feeder such as black capped chickadees, titmice, white breasted nuthatches, downy woodpeckers, mourning doves and blue jays. Now that it is February, I expect to see male red-winged blackbirds.

I received a state of the art bird feeder equipped with a camera for my birthday. I have not set it up yet. I will take it down once bears come out of hibernation because I would not want it destroyed.

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.

NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for the Barre Gazette, please email edowner@turley.com.

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In Past Pages

5 years (Feb. 13, 2020)

Not available

10 years (Feb. 12, 2015)

For many students at Ruggles Lane Elementary School in Barre, peer pressure and substance abuse are only words they hear about and perhaps see examples in the media, but for other local students it can be very real and very present in their everyday lives. The Project Purple Initiative devoted considerable time and effort over the last few weeks.

The Barre Board of Selectmen voted to deficit spend the snow and ice accountants. Numerous snowstorms put the line items even budget. Snow and ice are the only accounts allowed to deficit spend. The measure requires approval by Selectmen and the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee met jointly with Selectmen on Tuesday and it also approved deficit spending for the Department of Public Works account.

The Woods Memorial Library, a lively cultural center in the heart of Barre, is now efficiently air sealed with urethane foam and insulated with cellulose. The library, dedicated to public education and community support, has been a focus for the Barre Energy Advisory Committee in fulfilling some requirements for a state grant for Green Communities.

25 years (Feb. 17, 2000)

Most Petersham voters were in a generous mood on Valentines day, approving a debt exclusion to fund a new elementary school in town 179 to 93. Only 34% of the town's 79 registered voters cast ballots, disappointing for officials who had hoped that at least half the voters would turn out. Town Clerk Diane Cooley said she had expected a larger turnout, as voters were told a yes vote would mean an increase in property taxes.

Whether it was an issue with the building or the students, Quabbin's Middle School was a major topic of discussion at last Thursday's School Committee meeting held at Ruggles Lane School. Superintendent Maureen Marshall informed the school committee that the "phantom odor" had struck once again at Quabbin Regional Middle School. The odor, which was first noticed as a faint smell in the building's library, is apparently so bad the students have to be dismissed early when it strikes.

LOOK BACK Boston Post Cane recipient – 2022



Turley Publications File photo

James Farina, 97, of Rutland received the Boston Post Cane for being the oldest citizen in town. Shiela Judkins, Rutland Historical Society President and Chair of the Rutland 300th Anniversary Committee presented the cane to him.

Marshall stressed that while the odor is extremely unpleasant, there is no health threat to the students.

First Congregational Parish Unitarian of Petersham will welcome new member son Sunday, Feb. 20 at 10 a.m. Rev. Adele Smith-Penniman will speak on "Iraq: A human Face," the first in a three-part series on peace and conflict issues globally, nationally and in the local community.

38 years (Feb. 19, 1987)

Conserve Our Small Town is preparing to confront the state Department of Human Services over proposed legislation that would make receipt of infrastructure grant money dependent upon a town's willingness to accept a prison. A public hearing on proposed legislation will be held from 7-10 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 26 in the Gardner Auditorium of the State House in Boston. In order for a town to get money to offset the burden of having a prison in their town, under the proposed regulations, the community would have to "let the prison proceed with-

out interference" and "pledge the town's approval and support of the prison," said COST.

"Do we want to keep county government the same as it is now? Should we reform it or should we abolish it?" asked Dana Putnam. Barre's representative for the Charter Commission, as he appeared before the Barre Board of Selectmen on Monday, Feb. 12. Putnam came before the board to gain input on the present way the county government operates. Selectman Chair Earl Sample voiced his preference for reformation.

Marine Pvt. William B. Thomas, son of Bernard and Ethailinda Thomas of Hubbardston and Marine Pfc. Arthur G. Sheldon Jr. of Stetson Road, Barre completed recruit training at the Marine Corp Recruit Depot at Parris Island, South Carolina. During the 11 week training cycle, Thomas and Sheldon were taught the basics of battlefield survival. They were introduced to the typical daily routine that they will experience during their enlistment.

Election letters to the editor welcome

The Barre Gazette welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to the Barre Gazette care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to edowner@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call the editor at 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in the Barre Gazette.

Guest Column



'Spring' into action with these tasks

The groundhog determined we would have six more weeks of winter. Is that really a surprise to anyone?

I mean, as I write, it is only Feb. 2. But we gardeners are an impatient lot, and we so want to get our hands back into the soft earth.

There are many tasks, albeit those that are behind the scenes, that can be done now, so that when warmer weather does arrive, we can "spring" into action.

Take inventory

Last month I talked a lot about prepping for indoor seed starting, first by taking inventory of our seeds and then gathering the necessary supplies that go along with that task. But what about our outdoor ventures?

I have been busy shopping around for new IRT mulch, greenhouse supplies and amendments. How are you set on lime, grass seed, and fertilizers?

Plan to take advantage of pre-season sales by knowing what you need ahead of time. Also, assess the condition of your tools. Is your rototiller working its best? Mine needs to be serviced.

By taking it to the repairman now, I'll beat the spring rush and avoid having to turn the garden over by hand! The same goes for lawn mower blades. Have these sharpened yearly for the healthiest possible turf.

Practice good garden hygiene

Regularly inspect summer bulbs that have been stored away for the winter. Throw away any that are rotten or moldy.

If you find a lot of these, consider moving what is left to a drier location. On the other hand, dahlia tubers will shrivel when conditions get too dry, mist them with clean water to rehydrate.

It is also a good idea to take a close look at vegetables in storage. Squash with signs of rot can be cooked and the flesh frozen for later use. Sprouts that appear on potatoes should be rubbed off and used before they soften.

Experiment with onions that have sprouted by planting them outside once the ground thaws. This vegetable is a biennial and will produce seed during its second season.

If the sprouts come from an heirloom or open pollinated variety, save a few seeds come July and start them this time next year! In the seedling stage, onions thrive on ample nitrogen to develop thick tops that will feed what we hope are big bulbs.

Perform appropriate garden chores

I am usually negligent in cutting down asparagus foliage in the fall. Weather permitting I will get out there and cut it back to its base soon, then haul off the branches to prevent any bugs that overwintered there from infesting this year's spears.

It is also time to prune blueberries, apples and grapes. Pruning can vary depending on the age and health of your specimens. If you are not experienced at it, consult any number of good books on the subject before you head outdoors with your pruning shears and loppers.

See GARDEN, page 6

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 TEAM



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Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

What are you making for your sweetheart for Valentine's Day.

Have you got your Valentine chocolate boxes for years past to remind him of Valentine's day? I have them under a Christmas tree that is decorated with Valentines and birds.

I'm starting to get the forms for the income taxes so that is the next thing I have to finish up. We have an accountant do our taxes, but I have to gather the material for him.

The handyman has been very helpful with the several storms we have had. It is very icy on our long driveway to our house on Serenity Hill.

I told the plow man we did not need it plowed until we got 4 inches of snow and most of the storms have been three inches or less, but ice has added up on the driveway. We do have sand barrels along the driveway with shovels in them in case anyone gets stuck.

I made a pot roast dinner in the crock pot and made a mincemeat pie. I had not made one for years, but we found some good mincemeat at a store that was going out of business. I didn't realize they don't put meat in mincemeat any more. I remember my former neighbor Mrs. Meagher used to make her mincemeat with green tomatoes and apples. I will have to dig out that recipe.

I made a batch of milk chocolate brownies this week from a mix. I found it was easy to cut them if you run your knife around the edge of the baking dish when the brownies are done and then turn them out on a cutting board and then cut them into squares. I also like to add walnuts or pecans to the batter before baking.

I received some bread and pastries from the Hubbardston Senior Center. The bread I got was garlic bread which you baked for 10 minutes in a 350 degree oven.

We get some nice recipes from the Hubbardston Senior Times newsletter. Here is the one for February.

ASPARAGUS AND SHRIMP WITH PASTA

- 3 ounces of uncooked angel hair pasta
- 1/2 lb. uncooked shrimp
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 8 fresh asparagus spears, trimmed and cut into 2-inch pieces
- 1/2 cup sliced fresh mushrooms
- 1/4 cup chopped seeded tomatoes, peeled
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 teaspoon chopped green onion
- 1/2 cup white wine or chicken broth
- 1 and 1/2 teaspoon minced fresh basil
- 1 and 1/2 teaspoon minced fresh oregano
- 1 and 1/2 teaspoon minced fresh parsley
- 1 and 1/2 teaspoon minced fresh thyme
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- Lemon wedges

Cook pasta according to package directions. Sprinkle shrimp with salt and pepper flakes. In a large skillet heat 1 tablespoon of oil over medium high heat. Add shrimp, stir until pink, two to three minutes. Remove and keep warm. Stir fry the next five ingredients until vegetables are crisp tender, about 5 minutes. Add wine and seasonings. Return shrimp to pan. Drain pasta add shrimp and toss gently. Cook and stir until heated through, one to two minutes. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese. Serve with a lemon wedge.

Note: I am sure if you do not have fresh herbs you may use dried. This time of year most do not have a fresh herb garden. I know I can't even grow herbs on the window sill.

This and That

I have been going threw some old issues of Birds and Bloom and cutting out pictures of birds and flowers I can paint. I need to get rid of the many magazines I have so I cut out the articles I want to save.

Happy Valentines Day. I hope it warms up.

Trombone ensemble performs benefit concert for S.O.N.G.



Submitted Photo

The Jazz Bones will perform a free concert at Trinity Episcopal Church on Sunday, Feb. 23.

WARE – The Jazz Bones will present a music concert on Sunday, Feb. 23 at 4 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church, 17 Park St.

This concert is open and free to the public. This concert will benefit S.O.N.G. (Supporting Orphans, Nationally & Globally).

The trombone ensemble has a powerful five-part harmony whether they are playing a hard swing, fast jazz or a sweet ballad and backed by a first class rhythm section to drive the beat.

Music you may hear: "Eleanor Rigby", "All of Me", "On A Clear Day", "Don't Get Around Anymore", "Bad Bad Leory Brown", "Here's That Rainy Day", "Bye Bye Blackbird", "Polka", "Fly Me to the Moon", "Battle of Jericho", "Old Devil Moon", "Bill Bailey", "Satin Doll", "California Dreaming", "Indiana", "Tie A Yellow Ribbon" and "America The Beautiful".

Please visit the Jazz Bones web site to listen to the group: www.Premierentertains.com. For more information about the Jazz Bones contact David Neill by calling 413-686-5027 or emailing tbn8@aol.com.

The program is supported in part by the Ware Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

HARDWICK continued from page 1

purchasing process for a new firetruck for the fire department. The process is currently in progress and hoping to be completed soon.

Caggiano said she attended a Zoom meeting regarding the solar field project. The Town Administrator will be receiving a lease from the company.

Select Board Chair Kelly Kemp recalled the project going on prior

to joining the Select Board.

"This has been a long process," Kemp said.

Caggiano also mentioned that there is a vacant truck driver laborer position posted.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE continued from page 1

decrease by just over \$50,000 over last year's figures. Transportation is expected to increase by 11% over last year.

"This process is just the beginning," McCormick said. "The work we've outlined today serves as the foundation for a collaborative, ongoing effort. Together we'll refine, adapt, and build upon these ideas to meet the evolving needs of our students, staff and community."

The School Committee members encouraged any residents interested or concerned with the school district's budget to attend upcoming meetings or to email them.

Administrators' reports

High School Principal John Diorio said following the holiday break, students have participated in Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports lessons, which are tied to the high school's "portrait of a graduate" which was developed by staff last year.

"We're focusing on positive

behaviors in classrooms, hallways and lunchroom," Diorio said. "Each week, the grades will compete to be the PBIS champions for the week as voted on by our staff."

He said on Feb. 6, juniors and seniors will tour Flexcon in Spencer as part of the school district's Innovative Pathways program. He said this is the second year of the program, which provides students with the opportunity to complete a paid internship with the manufacturer and set them up for full-time employment after graduation.

On March 11, the high school will have over 25 different companies speak with students during a career day. On March 25 at 6 p.m., the school will host its first ever STEAM night.

Director of Student Services Amy Emory said preschool teachers participated in an early literacy training session, which is designed for young children.

"It's a great opportunity for our youngest students to be exposed to literacy and build those foundational skills," she said.

Student Council update

Student Representative Dante Giangrande said Unity Week

will take place the week prior to February break.

"This event will be used to enhance our sense of community as a school, and show support for all different types of people from members of the LGBTQ+ community to the people with special needs," he said.

Giangrande said the Student Council is preparing for the annual spring conference in Hyannis March 4-7.

Recognitions

McCormick recognized Sue Lewandowski and Hearts for Heat, along with school staff, for their efforts to hold a successful fundraiser dinner at the elementary school over the weekend.

"Very nice night, good fundraiser for those who need support with fuel assistance for the winter," he said.

1937 yearbook

McCormick said he received a yearbook in the mail for North Brookfield High School's Class of 1937. He asked the School Committee members where they would like to display the yearbook.

"It's a nice piece of North Brookfield history," he said.

A starlit hike in the White Mountains

By Julie Midura
Correspondent

This was our final hike of 2024. It was 5:15 a.m., and we were lying on our backs staring up at the stars, cocooned in our bright green two-person down sleeping bag atop several feet of snow on the wide open summit of Mount Jackson in New Hampshire.

The sun was still two hours from cresting the distant horizon. It was dead calm, but bitterly cold.

In spite of donning every layer in my winter arsenal, I shivered and snuggled closer to Tom as I gathered the excess fabric of the bag as close to my body as I could.

We had arrived at the trailhead parking lot almost three hours before. It was 0 degrees when we stepped out of our SUV and opened the back hatch to retrieve our backpacks.

In a split second of hesitation, I questioned our sanity. "Who in their right mind climbs a mountain in the pitch black of night in these ungodly temperatures just to see the sun rise?" Then I immediately thought, "Too late now. We dropped the motel key in the drop box a half hour ago in the dead of night, so we'll be climbing this mountain whether I want to or not."

As we moved upward along the snaking path, the beams of light from our headlamps danced between the snow covered trees, creating an aura of mystery as the long shadows stretched deep into the blackened forest. Our headlamps ignited the untouched snow on the sides of the trail, giving the illusion of walking on a smooth white carpet of infinite shimmering diamonds.

When we finally broke tree line, the crescent moon and twinkling stars welcomed us to a dark and windless summit. I stood, unmoving, serenaded by the whisper of starlight in the heavens above me.

Eight years of hiking in every season. Numerous hiking lists. Thousands of miles. Climbing the second tallest mountain in the continental United States. Section hiking the Appalachian Trail.

Every hike. Every backpacking trip. Every footprint left on every mountain.

Each one propelling us forward to the next...eventually leading us to this singular unforgettable moment.

A moment of being suspended in time, somewhere between our very first hike and what will someday be our very last. Suspended between the val-

Submitted photos

A visit from the infamous Grey Jays, with Mount Washington in the distance.



Watching the sunrise from the summit of Mount Jackson, New Hampshire.

ley below and the heavens above while basking under the brilliance of a million twinkling stars against the backdrop of a black velvet sky, while waiting for the sun to awaken the earth in a blaze of fiery brilliance.

And although we hope that we'll have the opportunity to experience a moment like this again, we've learned the hard way that there are no guarantees in this life.

So we settle in for however long it takes. We inhale the clean mountain air. We feel the cold kiss our cheeks and the silence fill our ears. We wait for the sun to silence the stars and breathe life onto the earth.

We remain snuggled in our lofty bright green sleeping bag on a snowy perch atop a 4,000-foot mountain for over four hours, unwilling to leave lest we miss one single minute of the magic that is unfolding in front of us.

And as we watch the black of night turn into the blazing red of dawn, we know that for the rest of our lives, for as long as there is breath in our lungs and blood running through our veins...we will never forget this moment.

See you in the wild places, my friends!

To read more about our hiking adventures, follow us on Instagram @morethanthemountain.



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- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. "The Las Vegas of the East"
 - 6. Cook
 - 10. Manning and Wallach are two
 - 14. Chameleon
 - 15. A way to fill up
 - 17. What MLBers hope to play in
 - 19. Unhappy
 - 20. Indefinite period of time
 - 21. Excites
 - 22. Males
 - 23. Mongol leader
 - 24. Turfs
 - 26. Soda comes in them
 - 29. Not nice
 - 31. Professional organization
 - 32. Part of a play
 - 34. Sea eagle
 - 35. Emily Blunt's character in "Sicario"
 - 37. Beige
 - 38. Mental sharpness
 - 39. Valley
 - 40. Alcyone's husband
 - 41. A place to gamble
 - 43. Flightless Australian birds
 - 45. Call out somebody's name over a P.A. system
 - 46. US spy group
 - 47. Pancakes from buckwheat flour
 - 49. Swiss river
 - 50. Disfigure
 - 53. Have surgery
 - 57. Formal withdrawal
 - 58. Early English council
 - 59. Square measures
 - 60. 2,000 lbs.
 - 61. Siskel and __, critics
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Mouths
 - 2. Buffalo
 - 3. You plug it in
 - 4. Each
 - 5. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
 - 6. King of Thebes
 - 7. English name meaning "mythical hunter"
 - 8. Indicates near
 - 9. More herbaceous
 - 10. Gas-powered cars need one
 - 11. Dishonest individual
 - 12. Systems, doctrines, theories
 - 13. The woman
 - 16. The whole of one's holdings
 - 18. Witnesses
 - 22. Doctor
 - 23. Paul __, Swiss painter
 - 24. Kids look for him on December 24
 - 25. Single
 - 27. Competitions
 - 28. Predict the future
 - 29. Cage for trained hawks
 - 30. Musician Clapton
 - 31. Frozen water
 - 33. Semiformal men's evening attire
 - 35. Most worn
 - 36. Common soap ingredient
 - 37. Former EU monetary unit
 - 39. Provisions
 - 42. Book parts
 - 43. Republic of Ireland
 - 44. Partner to "Pa"
 - 46. Sammy __, songwriter
 - 47. Dutch colonist
 - 48. Clare Booth __, American writer
 - 49. Solar disk in Egyptian mythology
 - 50. Minute arachnid
 - 51. From a distance
 - 52. Monthly apartment cost
 - 53. Young women's association
 - 54. Tourist destination
 - 55. "Woman" in Ojibwe language
 - 56. Pointed end of a pen

ANSWERS ON PAGE 15

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Church News

Local pastors offer sermons

Got Resolutions? Part 5

We are in the midst of an extended series on 1 Thessalonians 5:12-24.

I posit that the mandates put forth in this passage make wonderful resolutions to live for in the New Year. Let us continue to explore this text, penned by the apostle Paul, which touches upon the theme of thankfulness:

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)
18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

What should we be grateful for? Consider this quotation, penned by theologian Albert Barnes, in reply:

"In everything give thanks . . . for all temporal good things; for our beings, the preservation of them; for food and raiment, and all the mercies of life; for the means of grace, the word and ordinances, and the ministers of the Gospel; for spiritual blessings, for electing, redeeming, regenerating, adopting, pardoning, justifying, and persevering grace: for a meetness for heaven, a right unto it, and a good hope of it; and especially for Jesus Christ, for such an husband, such an head, such a surety and Saviour, and advocate with the Father, as he is; and for life, peace, joy, comfort, righteousness, and salvation in him: and thanks should be given to God in every circumstance of life; in adversity, as Job did; when not in so comfortable and agreeable a frame of soul as to be wished for, since it might be worse, and is not black despair; even under the temptations of Satan, since they might be greater and heavier, and since the grace of God is sufficient to bear up under them, and deliver out of them, and since there is such a sympathizing high priest and Savior; and in afflictions of every kind, since they are all for good, temporal, or spiritual, or eternal."

How can we learn to give thanks in all circumstances, fulfilling the good purpose of God for our lives? In my experience, much of thanksgiving has to do with proper perspective, and remembering scriptural truth even in the darkest of seasons.

When I find myself in a time of crisis and the offering of thanks seems to be the last thing I want to do, I take time to consider passages like the following:
John 16:33 (Christ Speaking)
33 "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart. I have overcome the world."
Romans 8:28 (Paul Speaking)
28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.
Romans 8:35, 37-39 (Paul Speaking)
35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? . . . 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any

powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2 Corinthians 12:7b-10 (Paul Speaking)
7 . . . in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. 10 That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Next time you find it difficult to give thanks in all things, spend some time with such passages and more. I have found that they foster much-needed perspective and a spirit of gratitude that transcends the bleakest moments of life and living! Until next week, give thanks to the Lord and continue to review 1 Thessalonians 5:12-24! Should you have any comments or questions, feel free to contact me at your leisure using the information below.

Also, feel free to check us out online at www.NewLifeBarre.org or join us each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. 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

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
"The Love of Christ is not from this World"

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 13 v 1 - 13

I. Introduction:
In December 2013, my husband Jim and I traveled to South Africa to visit my family.

This visit included a bittersweet journey when we as a family drove to my birthplace, Kenhardt, to bury my father's ashes. My father passed away the year before, the day after Christmas. We spent time mourning, but it was also a time of bonding and appreciating each other. One person was absent on this trip, who we had hoped would join us. It was our beautiful niece, Elzette, who had to work and could not take time off. When we arrived in Cape Town that December, Elzette and her husband welcomed us at the airport and she, overcome with joy, immediately told us that they were expecting their first baby. Her happiness was written all over her face! We arranged to visit them during our vacation. It was awesome!

Jim and I returned to the United States on Jan. 20, 2014. Two weeks later, on Feb. 3, we received the devastating news that Elzette had passed away in a car accident. We were thrown into an awful hole of grief and sadness. Elzette was widely regarded as a loving, caring, kind, sweet, and humble individual. We were deeply saddened by the loss of such an amazing human being.

While reading this passage from Paul regarding love, I began to contemplate where I have encountered such a beautiful and selfless form of love. Elzette's face came to mind, and on this 11th anniversary of her death, I thought

it appropriate to tell you about her, the young woman whom we all loved and wept over, who left a hole in our lives and who was like an angel among us.

II. The Love of Christ is not from this world

Paul talks to the Christians in Corinth about love as the excellent way, that even if he himself had all the spiritual gifts and talents and faith, and speak in tongues, and give to the poor and more, but does not have love, he would be like a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal, or would be nothing or gain nothing.

And so, none of the things they have or do would matter if they did not have love. He then describes in verses 4-7 what this love is. Love is patient and kind, it does not envy or boast, it is not self-seeking or easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongdoings.

It does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. This kind of love, says Paul D. Gardner in his commentary on 1 Corinthians, "is a Biblical path that will bring the Christian to a proper maturity as a spiritual person."

This kind of love is therefore deeply spiritual. It is the love our Lord Jesus Christ lived out during His earthly journey and tried to explain to those who wanted to know what the commandment of loving God and neighbor meant, and what they needed to do to inherit eternal life. He would tell them parables like the Good Samaritan who showed unconditional and caring love in the face of danger helping the wounded man on the road.

That man gave of himself and more, and Jesus told the lawyer who asked the question to go and do the same. Christ's love for humanity was not a love from this world. It was a perfect love filled with patience and kindness and humility, a love He wants us to live out, as we serve with our spiritual gifts.

III. Conclusion:
The love Christ talks about is a love that must be part of our being, thinking, acting and living, says Gardner. Some would say, God came to take God's angel, Elzette, because of the beautiful and loving human being she was, but for those of us who knew her so well, we wished we could have learned more from her how to be, how to love, how to give of ourselves, and to see how she would have raised her children the same way.

Elzette was a follower of Christ and a worship leader in her church. She inspired many with her love for God and her fellow human beings. And yes, we believe she is with God and that she dwells among the angels. Each one of you has your own stories of this kind of love you may have encountered. You yourself may be that kind of loving person.

God calls us all to be filled with the love of God and Christ and the Holy Spirit as we serve and care for one another. Therefore, let us not waste time to not forgive and not show the patience and kindness that the love of Christ is about. Life is short as we see and know, in the story of my niece, the ones in your own lives you lost, and this week and this year...too many lives that have been lost. Let's go forth and be the loving people Christ wants us to be.

Amen.

Pastor Margaret Keyser
Barre Congregational Church
30 Park St. Barre

Oakham Conservation Commission
There will be an NOI hearing at the Oakham Town Hall, 2 Coldbrook Rd., Oakham on **Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 6:25p.m.** The applicant, Michael Toomey of Brookfield, MA proposes to construct a home on lot 11 Crawford Rd., Oakham, MA. This work may fall under the jurisdiction of the WPA.
Lucy Tessnau, Clerk
Oakham Conservation Commission
02/06/2025

Oakham Conservation Commission
There will be a NOI hearing at the Oakham Town Hall, 2 Coldbrook Rd., Oakham on **Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 6:10p.m.** The applicant, Heart of New England BSA, Goddard Consulting, LLC, filed the NOI for an ecological restoration at Browning Pond to remediate to previous conditions by the use of selective herbicide treatment. This work is within the resource areas of Land Under Waterways and Waterbodies.
Lucy Tessnau, Clerk
Oakham Conservation Commission
02/06/2025

PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF M.L.C. 225 SEC.39A THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD ON
February 15, 2025
AT A SALE TO SATISFY OUR GARAGE LIEN THEREON FOR TOWING & STORAGE CHARGES AND EXPENSES OF SALE AND NOTICE:
1998 Toyota Camry Beige VIN 4T1BG22K3WU257410
2012 Hyundai TUCSON VIN KM8JUCAC6C533840
2014 Maserati Ghibli VIN ZAM57RTA4E1090339
2007 Mazda Mazda 6 VIN 1YVHP80C475M59840
2009 Honda CR-V VIN SJ6RE48509L19590
1983 Mercedes-Benz 300-Class VIN WDBCB20A2DB051536
2006 Hummer H3 VIN 5GTDN136368158134

2013 Nissan Pathfinder VIN 5N1AR2MMXDC612516
2009 Nissan Rogue VIN JN8AS58V49W176592
2005 Honda Accord VIN 1HGCM56495A118401
2011 Ford Fusion VIN 3FAHP0JA3BR254381
2005 Dodge Ram 2500 VIN 3D7KR28C95G722892
2010 Honda Civic VIN 2HGFA1F55AH539986
2011 Honda Civic VIN 2HGFA1F5XKBH53179

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 160 Bentley Road, Barre, MA 01005 and Assessor's Parcel E-136

By virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Brian August Gentile to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Norwich Commercial Group, Inc. d/b/a Norcom Mortgage, and now held by Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC, said mortgage dated June 22, 2020 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 62641, Page 174, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Norwich Commercial Group, Inc., d/b/a Norcom Mortgage to Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC by assignment dated February 27, 2023 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 68864, Page 169; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on March 6, 2025 at 1:00 PM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

PARCEL 1
A certain tract of land situated on the easterly side of Bentley Street in said Barre, being Lot #2 on a "Plan of Lots owned by Leonard J. Bentley and Marion S. Bentley" drawn by R. H. Lonergan, C. E., bounded and described as follows, viz:
BEGINNING at the southwesterly corner thereof, at a point in a stone wall in the easterly line of said street, at the northwesterly corner of Lot designated as #1 on the aforementioned plan;
THENCE North 59° 46' east along the northerly line of said Lot #1, 123.3 feet to

described as follows:
PARCEL 1
A certain tract of land situated on the easterly side of Bentley Street in said Barre, being Lot #1 on a "Plan of Lots Owned by Leonard J. Bentley and Marion S. Bentley", drawn by R. H. Lonergan, C. E., bounded and described as follows, viz:
BEGINNING at the southwesterly corner thereof, at a corner of stone walls and in the easterly line of Bentley Street;
THENCE N. 59° 46' E. along a stone wall and other land of said Bentleys 125 feet to a corner;
THENCE N. 18° 45' W. Along other land of said Bentley designated as Lot #8 on said Plan, 115 feet to a corner;
THENCE S. 59° 46' W. along other land of said Bentley designated as Lot #2 on said Plan 125.3 feet to a point in a stone wall on the easterly line of Bentley Street;
THENCE S. 19° 05' E. along the line of said Street 115 feet to the place of beginning.
Said premises are to be used for residential purposes only, and are conveyed subject to the restriction that no dwelling house or portion thereof shall be erected or maintained within 40 feet of the easterly line of Bentley Street.
Subject to all rights, restrictions, covenants and easements of record, insofar as the same may be in force and applicable.

particularly bounded and

described as follows:
PARCEL 1
A certain tract of land situated on the easterly side of Bentley Street in said Barre, being Lot #1 on a "Plan of Lots Owned by Leonard J. Bentley and Marion S. Bentley", drawn by R. H. Lonergan, C. E., bounded and described as follows, viz:
BEGINNING at the southwesterly corner thereof, at a corner of stone walls and in the easterly line of Bentley Street;
THENCE N. 59° 46' E. along a stone wall and other land of said Bentleys 125 feet to a corner;
THENCE N. 18° 45' W. Along other land of said Bentley designated as Lot #8 on said Plan, 115 feet to a corner;
THENCE S. 59° 46' W. along other land of said Bentley designated as Lot #2 on said Plan 125.3 feet to a point in a stone wall on the easterly line of Bentley Street;
THENCE S. 19° 05' E. along the line of said Street 115 feet to the place of beginning.
Said premises are to be used for residential purposes only, and are conveyed subject to the restriction that no dwelling house or portion thereof shall be erected or maintained within 40 feet of the easterly line of Bentley Street.
Subject to all rights, restrictions, covenants and easements of record, insofar as the same may be in force and applicable.

PARCEL 2
A certain tract of land situated on the easterly side of Bentley Street in said Barre, being Lot #2 on a "Plan of Lots owned by Leonard J. Bentley and Marion S. Bentley" drawn by R. H. Lonergan, C. E., bounded and described as follows, viz:
BEGINNING at the southwesterly corner thereof, at a point in a stone wall in the easterly line of said street, at the northwesterly corner of Lot designated as #1 on the aforementioned plan;
THENCE North 59° 46' east along the northerly line of said Lot #1, 123.3 feet to

a corner;
THENCE North 18° 45' west along other land of said Bentleys, being the westerly line of lot designated as #7 on said plan, 115 feet to a corner;
THENCE South 59° 46' west along other land of said Bentleys, being designated as Lot #3 on said plan, 125.6 feet to a point in a stone wall in the easterly line of Bentley Street;
THENCE South 19° 05' east along the easterly line of said Street 115 feet to the place of beginning.
For title reference see Deed record herewith.

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated June 15, 2020 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 62641, Page 170.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC
23 Messenger Street
2nd Floor
Plainville, MA 02762
Attorney for Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC
Present Holder of the Mortgage
(401) 217-8701
02/06, 02/13, 02/20/2025



QUABOAG HILLS CHAMBER, continued from page 1

enough providers."

Banko talked about the wait time to see a provider, including an average of eight months for a primary care physician, nine months for a dermatologist and one year for a procedure such as a colonoscopy.

Because of these waits, Baystate Health is losing a lot of commercial insurance patients to medical facilities in Boston.

"We need to make sure you don't have to leave the community to get care," he said.

Banko also addressed Baystate Medical Center's "D" rating from The Leapfrog Group.

"We want to be a great place for our physicians and staff to work," he said.

Banko said Baystate Health is also focusing on growing its specialty care, including oncology, cardiovascular care, neurosciences, orthopedics and rehabilitation. This includes moving many of these specialties from Baystate Medical Center back to the community hospitals.

"The intent is, we've got capacity at Wing [hospital] that we need to be utilizing," he said.

Banko also talked about improving ties with local school districts to train students for gateway positions in the healthcare field.

"We're going to have to grow our own workforce, and we've got that opportunity," he said.

About QHMA

The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce was established in 1978 to assist businesses in the Quaboag Hills Region, serving the towns of Belchertown, Brimfield,

Brookfield, East Brookfield, Hardwick, Holland, Monson, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Palmer, Spencer, Wales, Ware, Warren, and West Brookfield.

Its mission is to advance economic growth and tourism in the region, to be an advocate for policies that achieve the development goals of the communities, and to advance the interests of its members.

The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce offers more than just networking opportunities. It helps the business community from the smallest entrepreneurs to the largest corporations; through trainings, seminars, and more.

The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce is located at 4 Springfield St., Suite 525, Three Rivers. For more information, visit qhma.com, call 413-283-2418 or email info@qhma.com.

GARDEN, continued from page 4

Do make sure your tools are sharp, and if there is any hint of disease, be sure to disinfect in between cuts or at least in between specimens. If any of your fruit trees

have old fruit, called "mummies" hanging from the branches, be sure to get rid of them for fear of overwintering pests.

Hang tight

Winter will be gone soon enough. Come out of hibernation and accomplish pre-season gardening tasks now, before the spring rush but also remember that this is a season of rest and taking

care of yourself is a good thing too.

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

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 \$275, 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.

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A very sincere
Thank You
to everyone and anyone who in any way contributed to making the loss of our son,
Bill Robinson, Jr.,
more bearable.
The floral arrangements, money donations, the tributes and the masses said for him daily are so much appreciated.
He is now in heaven with our Lord and he is now at peace.
Thank you and God Bless, The Robinson Family.

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com



The Julian Family, Kylee (left), Debra and Richard ran a Maple Syrup Workshop at the Hardwick Farmers Co-Op Exchange this past weekend.

MAPLE SUGARING, continued from page 1

Around 1880, the cane and maple sugar became almost equal in price.

Pure maple syrup is made by concentrating the slightly sweet sap of the maple trees. Julian said there is no set time when a sugar maker must tap the trees. In Massachusetts, the time is usually around the months of February and March.

The types of trees to tap are maple trees, but there are numerous types of maple trees that are used to collect sap. Sugar maples, for example produce the best sap for sugaring because the sap has a higher concentration of sugar than other maple species. Typically, around 2% according to the research by Deer Meadow Farm.

Other maple trees to tap include red maple, silver maple, striped maple and mountain maple. There is also Norway maple, however the sap from it is not commonly used to produce maple syrup.

Some of the tips provided by Deer Meadow Farm are general tips when looking for maples that could be tapped. These include keeping an eye out for opposite branches and the bark texture on the trees. Another helpful tip involves the leaves. According to

Julian, the leaves are the easiest way to identify maple trees.

"We tap everything that is a maple," Julian said.

The sap flow from sugar maples is entirely temperature dependent. There were samples of tools shared during the workshop and were passed around for guests to see. Julian had some spits passed around and these come in all forms from plastic, aluminum and stainless steel.

Bags or "sap sacks" are used and are gaining in popularity. These bags can be easily replaced each year and take up less space in the off season. These bags are useful tools for sap collecting.

For sap storage, Deer Meadow Farm suggests using clean plastic, metal tubs, pots, large pails or food-grade tanks. Other tools needed include metal pans and an evaporator.

Deer Meadow Farm also shared ways maple syrup makers can improve as they increase production.

The Julian family was very specific on all their suggestions in their presentation. For them, it was a learning experience when getting involved with maple sugaring. The Julian family shared a story about going to a course that featured multiple maple sugar producers. The family was blown away on how

many trees some of the other producers had.

Deer Meadow Farm was a smaller operation at the time, and they had a sample of dark syrup and it was the only sample that got a perfect score.

Though they have a lot of competitors in the maple syrup making business, the Julian Family said they have met a lot of people who were helpful and gave them advice on how to improve their maple syrup production.

At these gatherings, "everybody is willing to help each other out," Richard Julian said.

Deer Meadow Farm got started in sugaring when both Debra and Richard's fathers tinkered with making syrup on a very small scale. In 2015, the Julian family purchased one of the woodlots next to their farm. After developing a forestry plan for managing the forest, the family had several acres featuring sugar maples.

The family showed Deer Meadow Farm's growth timelines. In 2016, the farm had 11 taps and 2,625 gallons made. As time went by the production of maple syrup grew. In 2024, Deer Meadow Farm had 500 taps and is the first Massachusetts farm to be certified as a "Bird Friendly" maple producer by Massachusetts Audubon.

The family made 85 gallons last



Guests who attended the workshop lined up to purchase some of Deer Meadow Farms' delicious maple syrup.

year, which is a new record.

Deer Meadow Farm is located at 60 Reed St. in Warren. In addition to 100% pure maple syrup the farm also offers feed hay. Many local stores sell maple syrup that is made by Deer Meadow Farm and is adored by their customers.

The Julian family had samples

available for guests to try out and also got to try maple cream, which is a new product Deer Meadow Farm made this year. Richard and Debra's daughter Kylee Julian makes cupcakes with maple syrup.

Many guests lined up after the workshop and purchased some items from Deer Meadow Farm.

There were brochures available featuring recipes.

Deer Meadow Farm can be followed on Facebook and are currently working on their website. The farm can be reached by calling 413-436-0088.



Richard Julian spoke during the workshop and exchanged helpful tips for those who may be interested in producing their own maple syrup.

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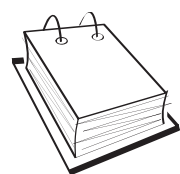
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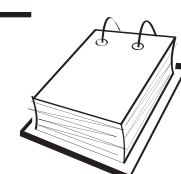
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Calendar of Events



FRIDAY, FEB. 7

FREE ICE SKATING sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts will take place at the Oval Ice Skating Rink in Downtown Worcester today from 5-9 p.m.; Friday, Feb. 14 from 5-9 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 15 from 1-9 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 16 from 1-6 p.m. Children age 12 and under can also enjoy complimentary skate rentals. The Oval Ice Skating Rink offers skate rentals, concessions and a limited number of free parking spaces on a first-come, first-served basis in the garage under Worcester City Hall. For more information, including weather-related closings, people may visit The Oval Ice Skating Rink's Facebook and Instagram pages or call the Oval Ice Skating Rink Weather Hotline sponsored by Cornerstone Bank at 508-929-0777.

SATURDAY, FEB. 8

BENEFIT BREAKFAST will be held today from 8-9:30 a.m. at the Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, Oakham for the fire victims in California. A free will donation will be taken and all proceeds go to the cause. The menu is pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, strawberries, orange juice, coffee, tea and hot chocolate.

BARRE WINTER MARKET located in the Barre Town Hall, 2 Exchange St., Barre will take place today from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Other dates are Saturday, March 8 and Saturday, April 12 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. This is the third year of the market. Local crafters and farmers sell their crafts and products. For more information, people may email rebellbathandbeyond@gmail.com or call Celia at 978-355-0139.

SUNDAY, FEB. 9

'MOTOWN TOM' INGRASSIA comes to the Rutland Free Public Library, 280 Main St., Rutland and will lecture on "Girl Power: The Supremes as cultural icons" today at 2 p.m. This is a free multimedia lecture and open to the public. The program is a celebration of Black History Month as well as the 64th anniversary of The Supremes signing their first Motown recording contract on Jan. 15, 1961.

MONDAY, FEB. 10

PROGRAM ON AQUACULTURE sponsored by the Holden Grange will be held today at 7 p.m. at the Holden Senior Center, 1130 Main St., Holden. The program entitled "Aquaculture: Pros and Cons for Fisheries Sustainability" will be given by Ted Purcell of Rutland, a naturalist, fisherman, advocate for conservation of Striped Bass, and author of the Wachusett Outdoor Window column in the Holden Landmark. Fish are the last wild organisms that are "market hunted," meaning wild organisms are harvested and sold to consumers. Efforts have been made and will continue to be made to "farm" fresh and saltwater organisms ranging from fin fish to shellfish and seaweed. The presentation will give a brief history of fishing, review current practices, and overview aquaculture methods, options, challenges and opportunities. This event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. For more information,

Where is this?



Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer

This week's mystery photo is from Hardwick. 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. 9. The names of those that correctly guessed the location will appear in the following edition. Robert Augustine, Paul, Carlson, Peggy Civilik, Stephen Craven, Quinn Geary, Evelyn Luukko and Cheryl Paul correctly identified the photo. The photo last week was of the skating rink on Barre Common next to the bandstand, Barre.

people may email holdengrange78@gmail.com or call 508-886-2341. This event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. For more information, email holdengrange78@gmail.com or call 508-886-2341.

SUNDAY, FEB. 16

FINDING WILLIAM LEWIS (1819-1897) sponsored by the Friends of the New Braintree Library will take place today at 2 p.m. in the New Braintree Town Hall, 20 Memorial Drive, New Braintree. Bruce Craven and Christie Higginbottom will relate how they found the William Lewis documents. They will introduce William through an examination of his writings: his daily journal entries and accounts, including tanning and currying accounts, book sales records, accounts of wife Abby's work sewing bed ticks and the records of daily work on the farm. This program is funded by the Hardwick/New Braintree Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. This program is free and open

to the public. If it snows, this program will be held on Sunday, May 18. If people have any questions, they may call Deb Morrison at 508-867-3324.

MONDAY, FEB. 17

STORY TIME FOR PRESCHOOLERS will be held at the New Braintree Public Library, 45 Memorial Drive, New Braintree today beginning at 9 a.m. The program's focus is on President's Day. The readings will include "I am George Washington" and "I am Abraham Lincoln," both by Brad Meltzer and part of the Ordinary People Change the World series. This is a reading and crafts program. Parental supervision is required. People may call the library at 508-867-7650 during regular business hours for more information.

FRIDAY, FEB. 19

GRANDPARENTS AND KINSHIP CARE SUPPORT GROUP meets today from 9:30-11 a.m. at the Worcester Family Resource Center, 20 Cedar St., Worcester. The group meets in person for breakfast the third Friday of the month. For questions or to register, people may call Debbie at 508-796-6118 and leave their name and contact information.

FRIDAY, FEB. 21

THEATRE AT THE MOUNT, located at Mount Wachusett Community College, 444 Green St., Gardner, presents "Into the Woods" today; Saturday, Feb. 22; Friday, Feb. 28 and Saturday, March 1 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, March 2 at 2 p.m. People may visit box-office@mwc.mass.edu or call 978-630-9388 for tickets or show information.

MONDAY, FEB. 24

GENTLE YOGA FOR OSTEOPOROSIS will begin today from noon-1 p.m. and run for six Mondays in a row at Listening Wellness Center, 35 South St., Barre. Cost is \$72 for six weeks. Discover the power of mindful movement and gentle stretches designed specifically for those living with osteoporosis in a supportive and nurturing environment to help strengthen bones, enhance balance and improve flexibility. No-floor options will be available. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gentle-yoga-for-osteoporosis-6-week-series-with-rhonda-hamer-tickets-1228225819489?aff=oddtcreator> or call Listening Wellness Center at 978-355-3501 for more information.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 26

BONE HEALTH AND NUTRITION LECTURE will take place today from 5:30-7 p.m. at Listening Wellness Center, 35 South St., Barre. Cost is \$35. Discover the importance of nutrition in maintaining bone health, including key nutrients and dietary tips to strengthen bones. Learn what foods are potential bone boosters and what are possible density destructors. This workshop will shed some light on nutrition myths and facts through lecture, discussion, handouts and question and answer. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bone-health-and-nutrition-with-rhonda-hamer-tickets-1228262559379?aff=oddtcreator> or call Listening Wellness Center at 978-355-3501 for more information.

FRIDAY, FEB. 28

DINNER AND SHOW FUNDRAISING GALA benefits the Mount Wachusett Community College Foundation today from 5-10 p.m. at Mount Wachusett Community College, 444 Green St., Gardner. A gourmet dinner prepared by local culinary talents will take place first and then participants will watch the musical "Into the Woods" at the Theatre at the Mount located at the college. All proceeds from the event will benefit the MWCC Foundation, which provides critical support for student scholarships, academic programs and other initiatives that empower students to achieve their educational goals. Tickets are available for purchase by visiting mwcc.edu/giving. Early reservations are encouraged as seating is limited.

SATURDAY, MARCH 1

MARDI GRAS PANCAKE SUPPER will be held at the Rutland Congregational Church, 264 Main St., Rutland, today at 5:30 p.m. People will enjoy all you can eat pancakes, along with bacon, sausage and fruit. Gluten free pancakes will be available. Music will be provided by The Rutland Jazz Band and the Church Bell Choir. There will be raffles and games. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 ages 3-12 and free under 3. People should call the church at 508-886-4453 to reserve tickets.

TUESDAY, APRIL 8

SPECIAL PERFORMANCES FOR SCHOOL GROUPS of "Curious George, The Golden Meatball" will be held at Theatre at the Mount, 444 Green St., Gardner today at 10 a.m.; Wednesday, April 9 at 10 a.m. (already sold out); Thursday, April 10 and Friday, April 11 at 9:30 a.m. and noon. All seats are \$10. To book a school group, people should email Paul at box-office@mwcc.mass.edu or call 978-630-9388.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9

FOAM ROLLER AND TRIGGER POINT BALL WORKSHOP will be held today from 6-7:30 p.m. at Listening Wellness Center, 35 South St., Barre. Cost is \$35. Dive into the world of self-myofascial release in this hands-on workshop, perfect for improving muscle recovery, reducing tension and enhancing overall mobility. Participants will learn how to effectively use foam rollers and trigger point balls to release tight muscles and fascia, promoting better movement and potentially alleviating pain. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/foam-roller-trigger-point-ball-workshop-tickets-1228514703549?aff=oddtcreator> or call Listening Wellness Center at 978-355-3501 for more information.



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very good team here that works to help solve our client's problems," Lindley said. Lindley has a background in insurance defense work and personal injury experience including auto accidents, dog bites and slips or falls. "I represent clients and I oversee the other attorneys in the firm and provide them with guidance on the cases, as well as running the day-to-day business of the firm," Lindley explained. The firm is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and there you can speak to a representative and find the help you need.

BARRE - Farber and Lindley LLC has opened a new location on Common Street and there you will find attorneys and partners ready to help and serve the community.

Carl Lindley and his partner, Lawrence Farber, began the business in 2015 and on Jan. 1 of this year, moved to open a location on Common Street in Barre.

"My favorite part about working with the firm is working with the other attorneys and support staff. We've got a

You can find more information by visiting their website farberandlindley.com and request a consultation, read reviews and find an attorney to represent and help you according to what you need.

"It's fun to advocate for your client," Lindley said. "I want the community to know that here in Barre we provide quality advice and counsel for businesses, personal injury victims and landlords. We are here to serve them in those capacities."



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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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One win to make tournament for the Panthers

BARRE – Last Friday night, the Quabbin Regional High School boys basketball team scored its eighth win of the season 64-49. The Panthers are now 8-4 and need just one win in order to automatically qualify for the Division 4 state tournament. The Panthers were at Lunenburg last Friday night and next face Hudson High School on the road Friday, Feb. 7 at 7 p.m.



Jaxon Warburton shoves a pass toward the center of the court



Quinn Geary looks to drive the lane



Kyle Clark takes a free throw.



Anthony Quarterone rears back to make a pass.



Brady Patchen gets through the defense and heads into the lane.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Cullen White heads up the ice for Gardner.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Gardner bests Agawam in independent matchup

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WEST SPRINGFIELD—The non-conference high school hockey game between Gardner and Agawam had as many twists and turns in it as one of the roller coasters at the Six Flags Amusement Park.

Agawam, who trailed by two goals twice, managed to take the lead in the middle of the third period,

but the Brownies didn't keep the lead for very long.

After tying the score for the third time, the visitors from Northern Worcester County netted the go-ahead goal in a power-play with 47 seconds left in regulation, giving them a 6-5 victory at the Olympia Ice Center in West Springfield, Saturday, Jan. 25.

"We didn't play our best game of the season tonight, but we still had a chance to win it in the third period," said Agawam head coach Todd Rowley. "We took the lead before losing our top three scorers."

The Brownies played the final 1:46 of the third period without seniors Landon Ashford, Cole Buffum, and Aiden Pisano. The trio were sent to the locker room after receiving game misconduct penalties from the referees. They were involved in a fight that took place in front of the Gardner goal.

"The three players, who received the game misconduct penalties, would've been on the ice during the Gardner power-play late in the third period," Rowley said. "I thought we held the momentum before the fight."

The Brownies, who are a

Division 2 team, have a 8-5 overall record. They're currently sitting in second place behind Amherst in the Fay-Wright Conference standings with a 7-2 record. After having a week off, the Brownies are scheduled to host McCann Tech in a conference game at 6:30 on Saturday night.

"We need to win two more games to guarantee a spot in the state tournament," Rowley said. "This was a non-league game, so it doesn't affect our standings in the Western Mass. tournament."

The top four teams in the Fay-Wright Conference standings will play in the Western Mass. Class B tournament.

It was the second-ever meeting between the two hockey teams.

Two years ago, Gardner posted a 3-0 victory over Agawam in the championship game of the Chicopee Holiday Tournament.

In last Saturday's match, the Brownies were trailing, 4-2, with eight minutes left in the third period when Buffum and Pisano scored a pair of goals in a span of ten seconds tying the score at 4-4.

A little more than a minute later, Agawam took a 5-4 lead

See HOCKEY, page 10



Aiden Lapointe looks to clear the puck away.

Outstanding regular season continues for Pathfinder girls basketball

PALMER – The Pathfinder Regional girls basketball picked up two more wins, defeating Smith Academy and Gateway Regional on Jan. 23 and 27, respectively. The road trip con-

tinues for the Pioneers, but their road will eventually lead to the state tournament as Pathfinder has reached 11 wins on the season against just two losses. Pathfinder's win over Gateway

was a great defensive effort. The Pioneers held Gateway Regional to just 10 points.

Coming up, the Pioneers will face Hampden Charter School on Feb. 6 at 6:30 p.m.



Desiree Croteau starts a play for the Pioneers.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Greenly Lagimoniere makes a pass toward the corner.



Taylor Allen gets ready to attempt a three-pointer.



Megan Clark enters the paint.



Marshall Ames tries to get around a defender.

Late run leads Mahar boys to a win

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WARREN—Prior to the Jan. 20 non-league boys' basketball game between Mahar Regional and Quaboag Regional, the home team had won the previous five meetings in the series.

The Cougars, who were looking to continue that trend, held a 17-point lead with less than three minutes remaining in the third quarter. The Senators came storming back in the fourth quarter with the help of a 26-6 run, and they headed back to Orange with a 51-48 road victory.

"We just blew a 17-point lead at home which is very frustrating," said longtime Quaboag head coach Chris Reilly. "We played very well during the first three quarters of the game. Then we had a lot of trouble handling their pressure defense and

we had too many turnovers during the fourth quarter."

Quaboag, who had a 4-9 overall record following the home loss, defeated Mahar, 72-40, at home two years ago. They also celebrated a 46-40 home win at the start of the 2019-20 regular season.

The Senators won three home games against the Cougars before winning this year's contest.

"Quaboag has also been a very tough team for us to play against," said Mahar head coach Chad Softic. "They're a scrappy team and Chris Reilly is an outstanding coach. This is the first time that we've been able to win a game in this gym."

Quaboag faced Mahar (7-3) without the services of leading scorer junior forward Isaac Cover, who suffered an injury in their previous game at Uxbridge.

See MAHAR, page 10

Sports

T-Birds get huge weekend sweep

DES MOINES, IA — The Springfield Thunderbirds (21-17-2) got points from 14 of their 18 skaters in a 7-2 drubbing of the Iowa Wild (14-26-2-1) on Saturday night inside Wells Fargo Arena.

The T-Birds wasted little time jumping in front for a second straight night, as Simon Robertsson and Hugh McGing capped a 2-on-0 with McGing cashing in on a one-timer past Jesper Wallstedt just 1:22 into action. Otto Stenberg also picked up an assist as all three players on the line broke point droughts of three or four games.

Sam Bitten, playing in the building his brother Will called home for three seasons, joined the fun at 5:47 with a perfect bar-down wrist shot from the right circle to push the lead to 2-0 off setups from Samuel Johansson and Leo Loof. Johansson has now registered a point in five of his last six games.

Vadim Zherenko drew the starting assignment in net and held his own with 16 stops in the opening period. Johansson provided a helping hand after Zherenko made a mini-breakaway save on Hunter Haight, and the young blueliner successfully kept Mikey Milne from cashing in on a rebound to keep the score deadlocked.

Iowa finally would break through on its 16th shot of the period as Travis Boyd crashed the far post to tap home a 2-on-1 pass from Matthew Sop to get the Wild deficit down to 2-1 heading into the

first intermission.

There were more parallels from Friday's game early in the second period, as McGing unleashed a perfect shot under the crossbar at 2:23, beating Wallstedt for his second of the evening and restoring the two-goal lead, 3-1.

Iowa put together their best push of the night over the next five minutes, culminating in a tally by Luke Toporowski to cut the margin back to a single goal, 3-2, at 7:26.

Just as it appeared the Wild would change the tide of the game, the T-Birds had other plans as Nikita Alexandrov drove the net front from the right circle and beat Wallstedt to the near post to make it 4-2 just 17 seconds after the Toporowski goal.

The Springfield attack poured in on net there. Michael Buchinger announced his presence at 8:49, jumping into a play as a trailer before snapping a wrist shot past Wallstedt to make it 5-2 off a cross-ice setup from Matthew Peca.

Another potential momentum shift came at 13:39 of the second when Dylan Peterson barreled in on net, taking a shot on Wallstedt before colliding with the Iowa netminder. Peterson was given a five-minute charging major, setting the stage for the Wild power play to try to climb back into the game. Wallstedt was forced to leave the game as Samuel Hlavaj came on in relief.

Instead of the moment sparking

the home team, the T-Birds only further added to their lead when Peca intercepted a pass in the neutral zone, skated into the zone on the right wing, and snapped another perfect shot upstairs past Hlavaj for his team-leading 16th goal, making it a 6-2 game heading into the third.

The Wild had no answers for Zherenko in the third, despite Iowa throwing 16 pucks on the T-Birds net and 50 total by the night's conclusion. The third-year goalie finished with a season-high 48 stops to earn the win, and Alek Kaskimaki capped off the offensive onslaught with his second goal in two nights at 17:12 of the third to round out the scoring.

Dalibor Dvorsky will be in action on Sunday and Monday at the AHL All-Star Classic presented by Spotlight 29 Casino in Palm Springs, California. The rookie star will first participate in the AHL All-Star Skills Competition presented by Silvercrest on Sunday, Feb. 2 (9:00 p.m. ET). Then, on Monday, Feb. 3, Dvorsky and the Atlantic Division will look to take home the 3-on-3 crown in the 2025 AHL All-Star Challenge presented by Spotlight 29 Casino at 9:00 p.m. ET. Both events can be seen on NHL Network and AHLTV powered by FloHockey.

Springfield next takes to the ice on Friday, Feb. 7 to begin a home-and-home set against the Providence Bruins at Amica Mutual Pavilion.

Railers score win over Mariners

PORTLAND, ME — The Worcester Railers HC (18-19-2-4 42pts) took down the Maine Mariners (16-23-3-0, 35pts), on Sunday afternoon by the final score of 5-2 in front of a crowd of 4,421 at Cross Insurance Arena. The Railers are back on the ice next at the DCU Center taking on the Atlanta Gladiators on Wednesday, February 5th at 7:05 p.m. EST.

Worcester scored first Sunday afternoon when Matt Ustaski (1-0-1) scored 5:23 into the first. Maine answered back with a goal of their own from Wyllum Deveaux (1-1-2) to tie the score at 1-1 heading into the second. Connor Welsh (1-0-1) was the second period's lone scorer giving the Railers the 2-1 lead. Maine tied it early in the second period with a goal from Lynden McCallum (1-0-1), but shortly after the Railers grabbed the lead right back when Cole Donhauser (1-1-2) scored a shorthanded goal to give the Railers the 3-2 lead. The

Railers finished the third period by scoring two more goals, the first scored by Mark Cheremeta (1-0-1) 15:52 into the third, and the second an empty net goal from Matias Rajaniemi (1-0-1) giving the Railers the 5-2 victory.

The scoring got started by the Railers 5:23 into the first when Matt Ustaski (2nd) found the back of the net off a pass from Jordan Kaplan. Maine tied the score at 1-1 just under ten minutes later off the stick of Wyllum Deveaux (8th). Shots favored Worcester 20-10 in the first period.

It took nearly 17 minutes of second period action for either team to score. It was Connor Welsh (5th) who scored giving the Railers the 2-1 lead. His shot from the left point deflected off of a Maine Mariner and beat Bischel high. Shortly after the Railers goal, they went on the penalty kill following a five-minute major for boarding called on Griffin Loughran.

The Railers successfully killed the first 2:32 of the Maine power play to wrap up the second period. Worcester outshot Maine 31-17 in the second period.

The Railers started the third period by killing the remainder of the Maine power play, but shortly after the penalty expired Maine was able to net one. It was Lynden McCallum (15th) who scored for the Mariners. The Railers did not wait long to regain the lead, as Cole Donhauser (5th) forced a turnover at center ice and took it all the way home and scored the shorthanded goal giving the Railers the 3-2 lead. Mark Cheremeta extended the Worcester lead to 4-2 with his breakaway goal 15:52 into the third period. Matias Rajaniemi (2nd) capped off the Railers five goal night with his empty net goal 17:27 into the third, securing the 5-2 win for Worcester. Shots favored Worcester 8-7 in the third and 40-25 in regulation.

Education

Quabbin High announces John and Abigail Adams Scholarship recipients



Submitted photo

Quabbin Regional High School Class of 2025 John and Abigail Adams Scholarship recipients are first row, from left, Hannah Shepard, Irene Stolgitis, Jahzara Tweedell and Alisyn Bruso; second row from left, Ava Conlee, Samantha Carlson, Summer Young, Kaylee Shaw, Sadie Sheldon, Sydney Slattery, Isabella Smith, Adam Fauhla, Vincent Marinelli, Eamon Arnold and Alexandra Pease and third row from left, Principal Ms. Purnima DeMorais, Alexander Bedard, Richard Tucker, Matthew Erickson, Benjamin Metcalf, Kevin Boles, Quin Geary, Christiana Dunn, Ellie Frost, Samuel Guertin, Ethan Salvatore, Jack Fors and Assistant Principal Mr. Jason Gilmartin. Missing from photo were Isabel Coviello, Rachel Harrington, Nathen Pride, Julia Smith and Jaxon Warburton.

BARRE — These members of the Quabbin Regional High School Class of 2025 received John and Abigail Adams Scholarships.

The John and Abigail Adams

Scholarship is awarded to high school seniors based on their high academic achievement on their MCAS exams.

This is a four-year scholarship to a participating

Massachusetts public institution of higher education, including the four undergraduate campuses of the UMass system, all nine state universities and all fifteen community colleges.

HOCKEY, continued from page 9

following a goal by senior A.J. Robbins, which was assisted by Ashford.

With 4:54 left in regulation, Gardner senior Gavin Richard scored a power-play goal tying the score at 5-5.

Following the fight, Richard's scored another power-play goal, which was unassisted, with 47 seconds left on the scoreboard giving his team a 6-5 lead.



LaPointe is a Quabbin student who is part of the co-op hockey program.

The Brownies had a chance to tie the score, but they couldn't put the puck into the net past Gardner senior goalie Cohen Veilleux (15 saves) before the final buzzer sounded.

Gardner took a 2-0 lead in the middle of the opening period following goals by senior's Josh Crotty and Michael Lucas.

The Brownies cut the deficit in half when Ashford fired a shot into the net with 6:16 left in the opening period. Junior Anthony Barbarini was credited with the assist.

Seven minutes into the second period, a shot attempt by Agawam sophomore Camden Saltmarsh fell out of the Wildcats goalie's glove and the puck bounced into the net which tied the score for the first time.

Gardner retook the lead at 3-2 with 2:40 remaining in the second period following a goal by sophomore Matt Whaley.

Less than four minutes into the third period, a goal by junior Aiden LaPointe gave the visiting team a two goal lead for the second time.

LaPointe is also one of the three Gardner players who attend Quabbin Regional High School in Barre.

The other two Quabbin players listed on the Gardner hockey roster are senior Cullan White, who's a captain, and senior Kevin Thompson, who's the back-up goalie.

Agawam starting goalie Frankie DiSanti, who's a senior, made a total of 26 saves.

The Brownies battled back during the third period, and they took the lead, but it quickly slipped away from them.

"This loss hurts right now, but we'll be fine," Rowley said. "At the end of the day, it's only one game out of 20."

The Brownies will be looking to get back into the win column against McCann Tech on Saturday night.

MAHAR, continued from page 9

The Cougars only double-digit scorers against the Senators were senior guard Hart Waz and junior center Jack Stevens.

Waz made five of his team's nine 3-pointers leading to his team-leading 15 points, while Stevens scored seven of his 12 points in the second half.

Junior forward Jacob Toomey checked in with eight points and junior guard Jacoby Labillois added six points. The Cougars other two scorers were sophomore forward's Liam McGrath (4 points) and Christian Rudz (3 points).

McGrath was a starter in a varsity game for the first time.

Just like the weather outside of the Quaboag gymnasium, both teams were ice cold offensively during the first eight minutes of the contest.

With 25 seconds left in the first quarter, Waz made his first 3-pointer from the left side which tied the score at 6-6. Then a put-back hoop by sophomore center Max Kimball gave the visitors a two point lead entering the second stanza.

Mahar held a 12-6 lead a minute into the second quarter before back-to-back McGrath lay-ups sliced the Cougars deficit down to two points.

The home team took their first lead of the game at 18-15 following another Waz 3-pointer from the right side. A minute later, Waz made a trey from the opposite side of the court pushing the lead to 21-15.

The Senators then scored the final three points of the first half, as senior forward Jayden Delgado (11 points) made a fast-break lay-up and



Morgan Softie gets the jumper.

senior guard Morgan Softie added a free throw.

Softie scored 12 of his game-high 17 points during the second half.

The Cougars put together an impressive 21-7 run during the first six minutes of the second half.

The third quarter run began with Toomey hitting a 3-pointer from the top of the key.

Then a pair of inside hoops by Stevens gave the Cougars a double digit lead for the first time at 30-20 with 5:15 left in the third quarter.

Quaboag built a 34-20 advantage a minute later following a Waz 3-pointer. He made another trey and a Toomey put-back hoop gave the Cougars their largest lead, 42-25, with 2:35 remaining in third quarter.

The home team was only leading 42-34 entering the final eight minutes of the contest, as the Senators scored the final nine points of the quarter. Softie scored six of those points.

Mahar also scored the first nine

points of the fourth quarter.

Holding a slim, 42-41, the Cougars managed to hold onto the lead for a little bit longer when Stevens converted an old fashion three-point play with 3:19 showing on the scoreboard clock.

Mahar was able to tie the score at 45-45 with a lay-up and a pair of free throws.

With 1:55 left Labillois buried a 3-pointer from the left side giving the home fans something to cheer about.

A Softie 3-pointer tied the score (48-48) for the final time with 1:20 left in regulation.

The Senators would retake the lead for the first time since the second quarter when Delgado was fouled while making an inside basket with 18.8 seconds left. He also made the bonus free throw.

Quaboag had an opportunity to tie the score for the sixth time, but they missed a three point shot at the buzzer.

The two head coaches are hoping that the series continues next year.

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BARRE GAZETTE

ESTABLISHED EDITION

A SALUTE TO OUR BUSINESSES FOR THEIR YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

The businesses in and around town remain the heartbeat of the community. Some are new, while others date back many generations. Turley Publications Inc. is happy to showcase them in the order of the year they were established. We hope you enjoy this special section.

Longtime real estate professional and auctioneer reflects on community

By Abby McCoy
Correspondent

BARRE – For over 55 years, Paul R. Varney has been a cornerstone of the Barre community.

Known for his warmth, generosity, and steadfast commitment to the well-being of those around him, Varney is not only a successful real estate professional but also a pillar of support for his neighbors and fellow townspeople.

As the owner of Waterwheel Village, a 55+ mobile home community, Varney has made a lasting impact. His work helping seniors downsize into affordable homes has earned him the respect and admiration of the community.

Waterwheel Village, with its 67 plots, is a place where people can find peace and stability in their retirement years. The self-sustained neighborhood, which includes a central pond and well-maintained roads, is a testament to Varney's hands-on approach to ensuring his residents feel at home.

But Varney's influence extends far beyond his business. A licensed auctioneer, he volunteers his time for charitable causes around town. Whether organizing benefit auctions for the Stone Church in Gilbertville or helping out with

local events, Varney is always looking for ways to give back.

He's even planning another charity auction at Hardwick Crossing on Feb. 8.

"Giving back to the community has always been important to me," Varney said. "It's all about helping where you can."

Varney's connection to the town is not just through his business or charity work, but also through personal touches that make him beloved by everyone he meets.

He fondly recalls the days when he ran his office on the other side of town, where he had a 100-foot Christmas tree decorated with 5,500 lights. During the holidays, he hosted Santa Claus for the kids, served hot apple cider, and created a warm, welcoming atmosphere for families.

Though the tree was eventually cut down after he moved his office, Varney holds onto memories of those joyful seasons.

Today, his new office at 12 Nichewaugh Road remains a hub of activity, where family and busi-

ness intertwine. His office features two playful cats, and there's even a playpen for his grandchildren to stay in while the workday goes on.

Varney's family is central to his life and his business; his daughter manages the office, and his son helps with the more physically demanding tasks. Both children are expected to carry on the family business when he retires.

Beyond his work in real estate, Varney's efforts to provide quality water to the community have earned him statewide recognition.

Over four decades ago, he and his business partner, AJ Gauthier, faced a difficult challenge when they drilled a 300-foot artesian well at Waterwheel Village, initially yielding only a small amount of stone dust. Undeterred, they drilled deeper and eventually created a reliable water source that now provides 1.7 million gallons of water per year to the residents.

Varney has maintained a rigor-



Paul Varney has been an integral part of the Barre community for over 55 years.



This sign in the window of Colonel Isaac Barre Restaurant and Meetinghouse Tavern announces the business will be opening in late April or early May 1991. Previously, it was the location of the Barre Restaurant and currently is the location of Red Tomato Pizza and Restaurant.

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A SALUTE TO OUR BUSINESSES FOR THEIR YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY



This is a business card for R.D.S. Mortimer, manager of the Barre Shoe Co., a manufacturer of shoes, in Barre.

The Commonplace Market

New store offers antiques, vintage treasures and handmade crafts

By Abby McCoy
Correspondent



Turley Photos by Abby McCoy
Barre resident Kate Hall is the owner of The Commonplace Market, located at 56 Common St.

BARRE –The charming town of Barre saw an exciting new addition when The Commonplace Market opened its doors on Sept. 4, 2024.

Located in the historic Barre Savings Bank building at 56 Common St., the marketplace quickly became a popular destination for both locals and visitors.

Founded by Barre resident Kate Hall, The Commonplace Market serves as a dynamic space for antiques, vintage treasures, and handmade crafts. The market boasts more than 40 local vendors who offer an eclectic mix of locally made, sustainable goods.

For Hall, the marketplace was more than just a business venture, it was a chance to combine her love for antiques with her commitment to sustainability.

countless hours antiquing with her family, an experience that left a lasting impression. After years of living in Worcester, she and her husband settled in Barre, drawn to its small-town charm and the peace of life in the woods.

“We came here to watch birds in a cabin in the woods,” Hall said with a smile.

The town’s welcoming atmosphere, combined with its rich history, made it the perfect place for Hall to turn her passion into a business.

The market brings together local artisans, vintage collectors, and sustainable makers; many of whom are based in Massachusetts, with several coming from Barre itself. Hall has created a community-driven space where collaboration thrives and small businesses have the opportunity to grow in a local, historic setting.

After years of working in corporate settings, Hall has applied her management skills to run The Commonplace Market largely on her own, with occasional help from the vendors.



The Commonplace Market uses the former vault from the Barre Savings Bank to house and display items from local vendors.

“I love being my own boss and having the flexibility to work on my own schedule,” Hall said. “After spending years in corporate jobs, I’ve learned how to manage a lot of moving parts, but this is where my heart is. It’s about

Continued on next page

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Rick Caron (L), John Caron (R)

Patricia, Rick and John dug their heels into the dirt, joined a buying group with more retail power and built a new larger 7000 square foot facility next door, a location where they have operated comfortably for the past fifteen years.

We would like to thank the local townspeople for their continued support and business over the past 40 years plus. The torch has passed to new co-owners Rick and John Caron, who will continue to aid the local community with the sales of new and reconditioned appliances, as well as supplying in-shop and in-home appliance repairs.



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Dresser, Rogers and Company Straw Hat Works had over 100 employees. The company had the capacity to make over 2,500 dozen hats per day.



Socony Garage in Barre was located near the Unitarian Church on Broad Street.

This is a view of West Street in Barre before the roads were paved.



C.H. Parker and Son General Store was located in the Coldbrook section of Oakham. Parker also owned a sawmill.



The Park View Inn overlooking Oakham Common burned in 1907.

Continued from previous page

fostering a local community and supporting sustainable businesses.”

The market’s location in the former Barre Savings Bank building adds a layer of historical charm, providing a cozy atmosphere that blends Barre’s rich past with its vibrant present. In addition to antiques and handmade goods, the market features two rotating pop-up spots for businesses such as bakeries and florists, ensuring there’s always something new for visitors to enjoy.

Sustainability has been at the forefront of Hall’s vision for the market. She has made it her goal to offer eco-friendly practices and locally made products, providing a refreshing alternative to mass-produced goods.

Hall also plans to further expand the market’s offerings to include classes, allowing the community to deepen its connection to local talent and sustainable shopping.

Since its opening, The Commonplace Market has become part of a growing antiquing scene in Barre. The town is now home to several antique shops, including Village Green Antiques (also known as Sleepy Hauler Antiques) and the upcoming Wachusett Antiques, which have made it a popular destination for antique lovers. Stone Cow Brewery, Insight Meditation Society, and the Harding Allen Estate further contribute to the town’s appeal, making it an excellent location for a day trip.

“There’s a whole antiquing scene here now,” Hall remarked. “People are traveling here just for the antiques. It’s the perfect place for a day trip. You can antique, grab lunch, and enjoy the local history and vibe of the town. My goal is to furnish your home or give a gift that will be something unique that nobody else has.”

Whether visitors are on the hunt for a vintage piece to furnish their home or looking for a unique gift, The Commonplace Market offers a one-of-a-kind shopping experience. With its mix of history, community spirit, and sustainable practices, it’s become a must-visit spot for those seeking to shop local and support small businesses in the heart of Barre.

The Commonplace Market is open Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information, visit the market’s website at www.thecommonplacemarket.com or stop by to explore the treasures within.



Turley Photos by Abby McCoy

Local artists capture a number of stunning scenes.

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Public Safety

Barre Police Log

Sunday, Jan. 19
8:08 a.m. Road Condition Notification, Town Wide, Message Delivered
4:39 p.m. Abandoned Vehicle/Parking Issues, Celona Square, Area Patrolled
10:27 p.m. Landlord Tenant/Neighbor Dispute, West Street, Peace Restored

Monday, Jan. 20
8:15 a.m. Fire – Power Lines Down/Arcing, Worcester Road, Investigated
9:45 a.m. Landlord Tenant/Neighbor Dispute, North Brookfield Road, Officer Spoke to Party
9:51 a.m. ACO Lost and Found/Wildlife, Old Dana Road, Public Assist
12:54 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Transported to Hospital
2:43 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Hubbardston Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
3:39 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Main Street, Vehicle Towed
5:43 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Williamsville Road, Remove Hazard
8:14 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Gauthier Road, Public Assist

Tuesday, Jan. 21
12:26 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issue, South Street, Officer Spoke to Party
6:44 a.m. Erratic Operator, Worcester Road, Area Search Negative
8:39 a.m. Court Duty, East Brookfield District Court, Court Duty
11:31 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Hubbardston Road, Unfounded
8:16 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, North Brookfield Road, Vehicle Towed
8:27 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Wauwinet Road, Officer/Chief Advised
9:47 p.m. Fire – Smoke Investigation, Jackson Lane, Report Field

Wednesday, Jan. 22
6:46 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, South Barre Road, Transported to Hospital
10:23 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, West Street, Negative Contact
5:29 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Abdominal/Back Pain, School North Street, Transported to Hospital
5:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Vernon Avenue, Written Warning

10:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Summer Street, Written Warning

Thursday, Jan. 23
8:18 a.m. Follow-Up Investigation, South Street, Officer Spoke to Party
8:32 a.m. Follow-Up Investigation, South Street, Investigated
9:38 p.m. Fire – Public Service Call, South Street, Investigated

Friday, Jan. 24
10:13 a.m. Complaint, Broad Street, Area Patrolled
7:32 p.m. Safety Concern, Grove North Street, Officer/Chief Advised
11:23 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Ruggles Lane, Transported to Hospital

Saturday, Jan. 25
11:26 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Abdominal/Back Pain, South Barre Road, Transported to Hospital
4:43 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Ruggles Lane, Transported to Hospital
7:52 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Valley Road, No Fire Service Necessary
9:34 p.m. Follow-Up Investigation, Hubbardston Road, Citation Issued

Rutland Police Log

Sunday, Jan 19
12:52 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Glenwood Road, Transported to Hospital
4:27 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Abdominal/Back Pain, Pommogussett Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
5:55 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Abdominal/Back Pain, Pommogussett Road, Transported to Hospital
1:19 p.m. Landlord Tenant/Neighbor Dispute, Stevans Way, Officer/Chief Advised
3:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Criminal Complaint
Summons Brito Saladin, Darian Yelissa, 27, Worcester
Charges: Uninsured Motor Vehicle, Unregistered Motor Vehicle
3:37 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Pleasantdale Road, Transported to Hospital
3:43 p.m. Landlord Tenant/Neighbor Dispute, Maple Avenue, Officer Spoke to Party
3:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Written Warning
4:04 p.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Soucy Drive, Investigated
5:16 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Charnock Hill Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
9:04 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Maple Avenue, No Fire Service Necessary

Monday, Jan. 20
3:16 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle/Parking Issues, Edith Lane, Citation Issued
5:22 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Jackson Avenue, Transported to Hospital
10:13 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party
11 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Vista Circle, Vehicle Towed
11:10 a.m. Identity Theft, Nancy Drive, Report Filed
3:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Wachusett Street, Citation Issued
4:32 p.m. Landlord Tenant/Neighbor Dispute, Walnut Street, Report Filed
5:50 p.m. Follow-Up Investigation, Valley View Circle, Officer Spoke to Party
9:56 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Citation Issued

Tuesday, Jan. 21
7:45 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Main Street, Public Assist
9:04 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Main Street, Officer/Chief Advised
10:38 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Watson Lane, Message Delivered
10:39 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Citation Issued
11:12 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
Summons Blankinship, John B., 49, Rutland
Charges Uninsured Motor Vehicle, Registration Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With, Unregistered Motor Vehicle
12:08 p.m. ACO Lost and Found Wildlife, Athens Avenue, Message Delivered
1 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
1:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Written Warning
1:30 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Written Warning
2:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning
2:57 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
2:59 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street, Written Warning
3:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Citation Issued
3:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Written Warning
3:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
Summons Orcutt, Paula Kay, 71, Spencer
Charges Registration Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With, Uninsured Motor vehicle,, Inspection/ Sticker, No
4:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Written Warning
5:39 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, East County Road, Transported to Hospital
6:04 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Village Way, Ambulance Signed Refusal
7:53 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/ Syncope, Oakridge Drive, Transported to Hospital

Wednesday, Jan. 22
2:24 a.m. Erratic Operator, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party
8:24 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
8:52 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, East County Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
10:13 a.m. Property Retrieval, Main Street, Message Delivered
Summons Orcutt, Paula Kay, 71, Spencer
Charges Registration Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle Wit, Uninsured Motor Vehicle, Inspection/Sticker, No
12 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Welch Avenue, Report Filed
12:29 p.m. Property – Lost and Found, Main Street, No Action required
4:49 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Thornapple Circle,

Thursday, Jan. 23
8:02 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Falls, Carly Circle, Transported to Hospital
9:54 a.m. Burglary, Kosta Avenue, Report Filed
11:43 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, East County Road, Mutual Aid Transport
12:41 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
1:04 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party
1:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Written Warning
6:21 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Pleasantdale Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal

Friday, Jan. 24
7:11 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party
11:09 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Criminal Complaint
Summons Autry, Ryan Scott, 50, Brattleboro, Vermont
Charges Registration Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle with, Uninsured Motor Vehicle, Inspection/ Sticker, No
12:02 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Citation Issued
12:13 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Scott Road, Transported to Hospital
2:49 p.m. Be On the Look Out Notification, Barre/Oakham/Hubbardston, Information Given
4:26 p.m. Animal – Wildlife, Pleasantdale Road, Referred to Other Agency
6:46 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
7:05 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/ Syncope, Julie Ann Circle, Ambulance Signed Refusal
10:38 p.m. Lockout (Home or Vehicle), Maple Avenue, Entry Gained

Ambulance Signed Refusal
5:44 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Arrowhead Way, Report Filed
6:50 p.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Maple Avenue, Information Taken
8:25 p.m. Property – Lost and Found, Juniper Lane, Dispatch Handled

Saturday, Jan. 25
5:22 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Seizures, Sycamore Drive, Transported to Hospital
2:10 p.m. Erratic Operator, East County Road, Officer Spoke to Party
3:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
7:48 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Choking, Pleasantdale Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of Jan. 20-27, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 52 building/property checks, 37 directed/area patrols, one radar assignment, six traffic controls, nine emergency 911 calls, three citizen assists, one complaint, one motor vehicle accident, one vehicle fire, two investigations, one animal call and three motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Tuesday, Jan. 21
6:56 a.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Barre Road, Negative Contact
9:34 a.m. Medical Emergency, Main Street, Services Rendered
1:22 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Services Rendered

Wednesday, Jan. 22
12:12 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Dispatch Handled
4:18 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, Main Street, Officer Handled

Thursday, Jan. 23
11:40 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
3:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning
4:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning
5:19 p.m. 911 Abandoned, Broad Street, Spoken To

Friday, Jan. 24
9:53 a.m. Assist Citizen, Turkey Street, Officer Handled
12:40 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Services Rendered

Saturday, Jan. 25
4:17 a.m. Disabled Motor Vehicle,

Lower Road, Vehicle Towed
2:31 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital
3:23 p.m. Investigation, Lower Road, Officer Handled
5:12 p.m. Investigation, Out of Town, Officer Handled
5:14 p.m. 911 Misdiagnosed, Broad Street, Officer Handled

Monday, Jan. 27
7:40 a.m. 911 Fire/Auto, Barre Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

During the week of Jan. 27-Feb. 3, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 41 building/property checks, 29 directed/area patrols, five radar assignments, eight traffic controls, 10 emergency 911 calls, three citizen assists, two assist other agencies, one complaint, five safety hazards, one motor vehicle accident, one motor vehicle investigation, one threat and 10 motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, Jan. 27
9:42 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning
9:57 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning
4:32 p.m. Safety Hazard, Petersham Road, Services Rendered

Tuesday, Jan. 28
8:14 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Lower Road, Report Taken
10:01 a.m. Assist Other Agency, North Street, Dispatch Handled
10:42 a.m. Safety Hazard, Delargy Road, Officer Handled
10:58 a.m. Safety Hazard, Ridge Road, Officer Handled
11:25 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned,

Main Street, Report Taken
8:42 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled

Wednesday, Jan. 29
2:02 a.m. Safety Hazard, Main Street, Dispatch Handled
11:56 a.m. Assist Citizen, Gaudet Road, Officer Handled
1:14 p.m. 911 Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Bridge Street, Negative Contact
1:39 p.m. 911 Assist Other Agency, Mill Street, No Action Required
7:12 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Joslyn Road, Transported to Hospital

Thursday, Jan. 30
7:54 a.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Spoken To
9:12 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Simpson Road, Transported to Hospital

Friday, Jan. 31
10:17 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Services Rendered
10:44 a.m. Threat, School House Drive, Officer Handled

Saturday, Feb. 1
3:57 p.m. Safety Hazard, Taylor Hill Road, Dispatch Handled
5:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Written Warning

Sunday, Feb. 2
5:26 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Ruggles Hill Road, Services Rendered
8:51 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Jackson Road, Transported to Hospital
3:06 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Barre Road, Officer Handled
9:11 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital

Sunday, Jan. 19
11:30 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle/Parking Issues, Old Princeton Road Cutoff, Negative Contact
12:31 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Old Princeton Road Cutoff, Transported to Hospital
12:54 p.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issues, Old Princeton Road, Negative Contact
11:06 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Geordie Lane, No Action Required

Monday, Jan. 20
5:41 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Gardner Road, Transported to Hospital
9:04 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Williamsville Road, No Fire Service Necessary
9:22 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Williamsville Road, Officer Spoke to Party

Hubbardston Police Log

Tuesday, Jan. 21
5:03 a.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Old Boston Turnpike, Ambulance Signed Refusal
Wednesday, Jan. 22
11:14 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Plum Tree Lane, Message Delivered
7:37 p.m. Animal – Wildlife, Williamsville Road, Message Delivered

Thursday, Jan. 23
9:32 a.m. Court Duty, Gardner District Court, Court Duty
10:01 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Morgan Road, No Fire Service Necessary
10:47 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Old Princeton Road Cutoff, Public Assist

Friday, Jan. 24
3:18 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Madison Way, Transported to Hospital
12:56 p.m. Safety Concern,

Williamsville Road, Officer Spoke to Party
3:24 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Abdominal/Back Pain, Ragged Hill Road, Transported to Hospital
5:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Old Boston Turnpike, No Police Service Necessary
9:30 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, New Westminster Road, Vehicle Removed

Saturday, Jan. 25
6:14 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Abdominal/Back Pain, Williamsville Road, Transported to Hospital
12:55 p.m. ACO Lost and Found/Wildlife, Gardner Road, Message Delivered
7:52 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Valley Road, No Fire Necessary

Oakham Police Log

Sunday, Jan. 19
9:16 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, East Hill Road, Investigated
1:39 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Rutherford Road, Officer Spoke to Party

Monday, Jan. 20
5:06 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Citation Issued

Tuesday, Jan. 21
10:40 a.m. Fraud or Forgery, Bechan Road, Report Filed
12:22 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Gaffney Road, Negative Contact
8:16 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, North Brookfield Road, Vehicle Towed

Wednesday, Jan. 22
4:23 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Gaffney Road, Officer Spoke to Party

Friday, Jan. 24
12:13 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick Unknown, Scott Road, Transported to Hospital
12:37 p.m. Court Duty, East Brookfield District Court, Court Duty

Saturday, Feb. 1
5:36 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Worcester Road, Transported to Hospital
7:30 a.m. Assist Citizen, Old Common Road, Spoken To
11:42 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning
4:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Ravine Road, Written Warning

Thursday, Jan. 30
1:54 p.m. Assist Citizen, Selectmen's Officer, Services Rendered

Friday, Jan. 31
12:10 a.m. Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital
10:33 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency,

Old Common Road, Transported to Hospital
4:21 p.m. Safety Hazard, Dennis Whitney Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

Wednesday, Jan. 22
4:23 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Gaffney Road, Officer Spoke to Party

Friday, Jan. 24
12:13 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick Unknown, Scott Road, Transported to Hospital
12:37 p.m. Court Duty, East Brookfield District Court, Court Duty

Saturday, Feb. 1
5:36 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Worcester Road, Transported to Hospital
7:30 a.m. Assist Citizen, Old Common Road, Spoken To
11:42 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning
4:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Ravine Road, Written Warning

Thursday, Jan. 30
1:54 p.m. Assist Citizen, Selectmen's Officer, Services Rendered

Friday, Jan. 31
12:10 a.m. Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital
10:33 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency,

New Braintree Police Log

During the week of Jan. 27-Feb. 3, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 10 building/property checks, 19 directed/area patrols, four radar assignments, three traffic controls, four emergency 911 calls, one assist other agency, two citizen assists, one motor vehicle accident, one safety hazard, and 10 motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

Monday, Jan. 27
8:29 a.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, West Road, Vehicle Towed
3:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gilbertville Road, Written Warning
8:32 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop,

Ravine Road, Written Warning
8:41 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Written Warning

Wednesday, Jan. 29
12:24 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Memorial Drive, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

Thursday, Jan. 30
1:54 p.m. Assist Citizen, Selectmen's Officer, Services Rendered

Friday, Jan. 31
12:10 a.m. Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital
10:33 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency,

Gas prices drop a penny

WESTWOOD, – Gasoline prices in the Northeast begin this week a hair lower than the week before as petroleum markets digest the ramifications of a 10% tariff on Canadian oil imposed by President Trump over the weekend.

Nearly 70% of U.S. crude oil imports come from Canada and Mexico, with the bulk coming from Canada. Last week, domestic refiners imported 3.7 million barrels of oil a day from Canada more than half the 6.4 million barrels a day of total imports, according to the Energy Information Administration. While most American made gasoline stays in the U.S. and is used by American consumers, refiners do rely on imports of crude to supplement production of gasoline and other refined products.

Before the tariff announcement on Saturday, oil and gasoline prices were trending down with domestic crude prices falling by 2.85% to

end the week after the EIA reported inventory builds of both crude and gasoline. In the Northeast, supplies of gasoline increased by 1.8 million barrels and similar inventory gains were reported across the rest of the country.

“While tariffs can play a role in gas prices, they are one factor among many,” said Mark Shieldrop, senior spokesperson, AAA Northeast. “Fluctuations in gas prices do depend on the price of crude oil, but also on supply and demand and other global events, so time will tell how much impact will be felt at the pump.”

The average gas price in Massachusetts is down a penny from last week (\$3.03), averaging \$3.02 per gallon. Today's price is a cent higher than a month ago (\$3.01) and 13 cents lower than this day last year (\$3.15). Massachusetts' average gas price is 7 cents lower than the national average.

AAA Northeast's Feb. 3 survey of fuel prices found the current national average down 3 cents from last week (\$3.12), averaging \$3.09 gallon. Today's national average price is 3 cents higher than a month ago (\$3.06) and 6 cents lower than this day last year (\$3.15).

Today, Mississippi and Oklahoma have the lowest prices in the nation at \$2.67 and \$2.68 respectively. Hawaii and California hold the highest prices in the nation this week at \$4.54 and \$4.47, respectively. Massachusetts holds the 22nd place on the list of highest gas prices in the nation.

AAA Northeast is a not-for-profit auto club with offices in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, New Hampshire and New York, providing more than 6.5 million local AAA members with travel, insurance, financial and auto-related services.

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Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest to: Tammy Martin, Town Administrator, 40 West Street, Suite 697, Barre MA 01005 or townadmin@townofbarre.com. For further information, please contact the Board of Selectmen's Office at (978) 355-2504 x135. A.A. / E.O.E.

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State Fire Marshal offers cold snap heating safety tips

STOW – With temperatures expected to dip into the teens overnight this week, Massachusetts State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine reminds residents to stay warm safely and protect their loved ones from some of the most common home heating fires.

“We’re expecting very cold weather in the nights ahead, and home heating appliances will be working overtime,” said State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine. “Heating equipment is the leading cause of carbon monoxide at home and the second leading cause of residential fires. Whether you’re using gas, oil, solid fuel or space heaters to keep warm, be sure you keep safe, too.”

State Fire Marshal Davine said there were nearly 6,000 heating fires in Massachusetts from 2019 to 2023. These fires claimed eight lives, caused 139 injuries to firefighters and residents, and contributed to over \$42 million in damage.

And in 2023 alone, Massachusetts fire departments reported finding carbon monoxide at nearly 5,000 non-fire incidents.

Every household needs working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms on every level of their home. Check the manufacturing date on the back of the alarms so people know when to replace them: smoke alarms should be replaced after ten years and carbon monoxide alarms should be replaced after five to ten years depending on the model. If the alarms take alkaline batteries, put in fresh batteries twice a year when people change their clocks. If it’s time to replace alarms, choose new ones from a well-known, national brand. Select smoke alarms with a sealed, long-life battery and a hush feature.

If people have a furnace, water heater or oil burner, have it professionally checked and serviced each year. This will help it run more

efficiently, which will save money and could save a life. Always keep a three-foot “circle of safety” around the appliance clear of anything that could catch fire. Never store painting supplies, aerosol cans or other flammable items near these appliances. If people smell gas, don’t use any electrical switches or devices: get out, stay out and call 9-1-1 right away.

Residents struggling to pay for heating bills or maintenance may be eligible for assistance through the Massachusetts home energy assistance program, HEAP. No matter what type of heating equipment people use HEAP may be able to help pay their winter heating bills or maintain their heating system. All Massachusetts residents are encouraged to explore eligibility for this free program and apply for assistance.

If people use a fireplace or a stove that burns wood, pellets or

coal always keep the area around it clear for three feet in all directions. This circle of safety should be free of furniture, drapery, rugs, books and papers, fuel and any other flammable items.

To prevent sparks and embers from escaping, use a fireplace screen or keep the stove door closed while burning. Use only dry, seasoned hardwood and don’t use flammable liquids to start the fire. To dispose of ashes, wait until they are cool and shovel them into a metal bucket with a lid and place it outside at least 10 feet away from the building.

People should have their chimney and flue professionally inspected and cleaned each year. Most chimney fires are caused by burning creosote, a tarry substance that builds up as the fireplace, wood stove or pellet stove is used. If burning creosote, sparks, embers, or hot gases escape through cracks

in the flue or chimney, they can cause a fire that spreads to the rest of the structure.

Annual cleaning and inspection can minimize this risk. They may contact the Massachusetts Chimney Sweep Guild or Chimney Safety Institute of America to identify reputable local companies.

Keep space heaters at least three feet from curtains, bedding and anything else that can burn. Plug them directly into a wall socket, not an extension cord or a power strip and remember that they’re for temporary use. Always turn a space heater off, when people leave the room or go to sleep.

When purchasing a space heater, select one that’s been tested and labeled by a nationally recognized testing company, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or Intertek (ETL). Newer space heaters should have an automatic shut-off switch that turns the device off

if it tips over. Unvented kerosene space heaters and portable propane space heaters are not permitted for residential use in Massachusetts, State Fire Marshal Davine said: the risk of fire and carbon monoxide poisoning that they pose is too great.

Everyone should have a home escape plan that accounts for two ways out of every room, and everyone should be able to open the doors and windows along the way. Remember that children, older adults, and people with disabilities may need extra assistance.

The Department of Fire Services offers a wealth of home heating safety information, including the “Keep Warm, Keep Safe” tool kit for local fire departments, caregivers, and service providers, on the DFS web site by visiting <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/winter-home-heating-safety>.

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