

BARRE GAZETTE

USPS 044560

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

February 8, 2024 | Vol. 189, No. 44 | \$1.00

www.barregazette.turley.com

Fundraising event benefited Stone Church Cultural Center

By Paula Ouimette
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HARDWICK – The day Kat McCrohon drove by the Trinitarian Congregational Church in Gilbertville; it was love at first sight.

With its breathtaking stonework and architecture, she knew preserving this building was essential not only to the village where it is located, but to the region as a whole.

McCrohon has been part of the Friends of the Stone Church for several years now, helping to create fundraising events to continue the group's mission to preserve the church and its character, but also to breathe new life into it as it becomes a mecca for arts and culture.

Although it is not their first gala event, this was the first year the Friends decided to host a Valentine themed gala, and this time at Hardwick's newest restaurant, Hardwick Crossing Country Club on Feb. 3.

Housed in the club's large banquet hall overlooking the snow-covered greens, supporters of the Stone Church enjoyed a social hour and appetizers before a buffet dinner, while they browsed the countless silent auction items that spanned the length of the hall.

Donated by businesses, artisans and community members, the silent auction items ranged from gift certificates for services, to wood-turned bowls and pottery, to one-of-a-kind pieces of art.

The live auction, led by Barre's own Paul Varney, included chances to get away both locally and somewhere tropical. Lucky bidders will be able to take their loved ones for a two-night stay to the Sugar Maple Trailside Inn along the rail trail in Florence, to Great Wolf Lodge indoor water park in Fitchburg or to Villa Camilla on Grace Bay Beach in Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands.

Varney revealed that the gala just happened to fall on his birthday and that he "couldn't get a bigger party than this."

The purpose of the gala was to continue to raise funds for the Stone Church's preservation work that began in 2019.

"We felt like a lot of people would come to this event," McCrohon said. "It's important to save this historical place."

Stonemason Ken Hall of the Joseph Gnazzo Company, Inc. has



Dozens of silent auction items spanned the banquet hall, including this dried flower wreath provided by Hartman's Herb Farm.

Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette



Auctioneer Paul Varney started the live auction at the Friends of the Stone Church's Valentine Gala held at Hardwick Crossing Country Club on Feb. 3.



Paul Varney handed an auction item to the winning bidder.

been at the Stone Church since the start of the project to secure the steeple, which is now in phase four.

Built using Monson granite, this Tudor Gothic style church was designed by noted Worcester architect Elbridge Boyden; who also designed Mechanics Hall in Worcester, the Hubbardston Public Library and the Congregational Church in Brookfield. The Stone

Church's tower is the only one of three such towers of Boyden's still standing.

Hall has been a stone mason for 16 years, and primarily works to restore churches and military forts.

"It truly never ends," Hall said of the preservation work. "The scope of the project is to stabilize the steeple."

To do this, Hall and crew are installing 32 anchors that will

secure the exterior to interior steel plates, sealing cracks and reconstructing the interior floor.

"It's designed to be strong, but also allow for a little bit of movement," Hall said.

Phillip Warbasse, the project architect for the Friends, said work on the steeple will resume in warmer weather.

See FUNDRAISER, page 5

QRSD subcommittee begins budget process

By Ellenor Downer
Editor
edowner@turley.com

BARRE – The Quabbin Regional School District budget subcommittee met Thursday, Feb. 1 to begin the FY 25 budget process.

Cheryl Duval, Director of Administrative Services, gave the subcommittee a budget presentation. She said a preliminary FY 25 budget was \$41.5 million and at this time the budget was \$40.8 million.

One of the largest budget increases was school transportation at 12%. Two companies bid for the three year contract and the low bidder was J.P. McCarthy & Sons, LLC, the current contract holder. The other bidder was Lizak Bus Service of Warren.

She said tuition for charter schools and school choice had a 10.39% increase. However, less students were going to charter schools this year than previous years.

She also said overall debt

went up as three of the five-member towns, Barre, Hardwick and Hubbardston, borrowed money for their share of the chiller for Quabbin Regional Middle High School.

Duval said the Governor released her budget and said, "[It] was not good at all." Although the Governor supported free breakfast and lunch for all students, her budget did not fully fund it. The Governor's budget funded school transportation at 80%, which Duval said was "not enough."

In her report, Duval said all of the five-member towns were not at target share. Vocational technical tuition increased. Barre pays \$7,795 per student for Montachusett Regional Technical High School and Hubbardston pays \$10,637. Hardwick, New Braintree and Oakham belong to Pathfinder Regional Vocational High School. Hardwick pays \$8,630 per student, New Braintree \$14,300 and Oakham \$12,000.

See QRSD BUDGET, page 5

Selectmen recognized two local Eagle Scouts

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Board of Selectmen recognized two Eagle Scouts, Joseph Standrowicz and Daniel Daige, for their service and contribution to the town.

At the Jan. 30 meeting, Board of Selectmen Chair Jason Petraitis said he recently served on the Board of Review for the two Scouts, and said it was "an impressive thing to do."

"Getting to meet and know these two outstanding individuals was quite an honor," Petraitis said. "They've attained a degree that a lot of people don't get to do and don't try to do. It's quite an honor to be an Eagle Scout...it's a fantastic thing to go through."

Only about 6% of all Scouts BSA earn the rank of Eagle.

The highest rank in Scouting, many colleges, businesses and even the military consider this to be a mark of distinction among candidates. Eagle Scouts that enlist in the military start two ranks higher than others.

Petraitis said the board wanted to recognize Standrowicz and Daige and have them share information about their projects and how they will benefit the community.

Standrowicz built a gaga ball pit at North Brookfield Public Schools to be enjoyed by students. He said gaga ball is a sport almost exclusive to Scouting, and he thought it would be a great game to be enjoyed by the community.

Daige built an American flag retirement box which is located at the North Brookfield Recycling Center. Old and worn flags can be deposited there, to then be properly retired on Flag Day.

He said donations to build the box came from the Lions Club, American Legion, Country Auto, as well as his school, Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School.

"The town of North Brookfield recognizes your efforts, and thanks you for the work that you do," Petraitis said to the Eagle Scouts.

See NORTH BROOKFIELD, page 5

Brothers share Bigfoot encounters in presentation at library

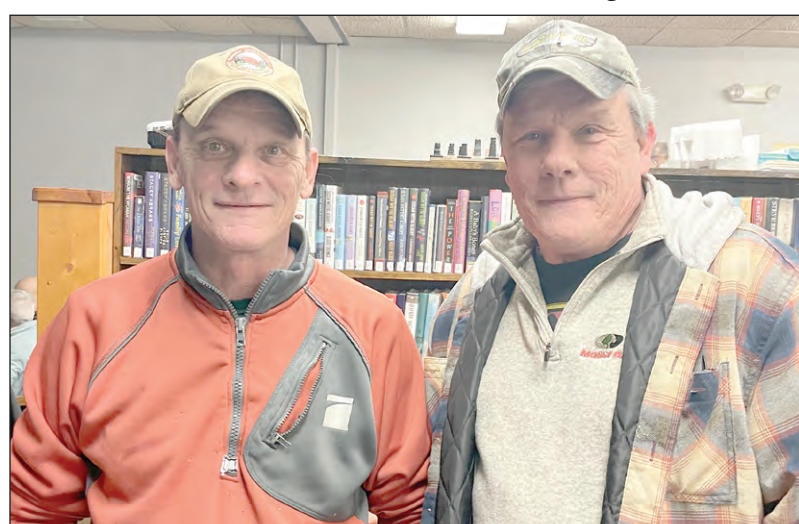
By Wendy Long
Correspondent

HUNTINGTON – About 20 people gathered at the Huntington Public Library on Jan. 30 to consider the possible existence of Bigfoot or Sasquatch—large, hairy animals who walk on two feet.

Brothers Eric and Tim Vogel gave a "Bigfoot 413" presentation, where they shared their investigations and encounters with the shy and elusive creatures.

Encounters often include loud whoops, "wood knocks" and objects such as pebbles, sticks or rocks being thrown at them.

Their interest harkens back to 1976, when the teenage brothers found themselves talking with Bigfoot investigators from around the country, who had come to Western Massachusetts to examine tracks found in Agawam. While



Tim and Eric Vogel are investigators, who lead excursions to areas where Bigfoot has been spotted or encountered.

the incident was eventually discovered to be a hoax, perpetrated by a child, who fashioned plywood "feet" to create them, the stories shared by the investigators sparked an interest that would be renewed years later.

In the 1990s and again in 2004

the outdoor enthusiasts were leading camping tours with their business, Tekoa Mountain Outdoor Programs. Several times, they experienced odd noises on their trips that they could not explain.

See BIGFOOT, page 10

Watching with eagle eyes



These bald eagles perched in a pine tree at Forest Lake in Palmer.

Photo by Kyle Tourville



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News of the Towns



Round Town
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Hubbardston
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Chicken Parmigiana dinner to be held Feb. 10

A Drive Thru chicken Parmigiana dinner will be held at the Barre Congregational Church, 30 Park St., Saturday, Feb. 10 from 5-5:30 p.m.. Cost us \$14 per adult and \$5 per child. The menu besides the chicken parmigiana includes pasta, salad and dessert. For reservations, people may call Lisa Holloway or the church once at 978-355-4041.

Barre Taxpayers Association

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

Barre Food Pantry

Once or twice a year a month begins on a Thursday. This makes the third Thursday of the month the day right after the second Wednesday. February 2024 is such a month. As a result, the Barre Food Pantry's two distributions in February will occur on successive days, Wednesday morning Feb.14 from 10-11:30 a.m. and Thursday evening, Feb. 15 from 5:30-7 p.m. Clients are invited to pick up groceries from the food pantry either in the morning on Wednesday, Feb. 14 or in the evening on Thursday, Feb. 15, whichever is the more convenient for them. To maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients Feb. 14 and 15 will again be "drive-through" style distributions. Clients will line up in their vehicles on Park Street and proceed into the right hand (east) entrance driveway of the Barre Congregational Church. They will remain in their cars. They'll drive up and be checked in by a volunteer, then continue up to the church building where their groceries will be put into the trunk or wayback of their vehicle by volunteers at multiple stations.

Make a Valentine

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

Nomination papers

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

Rutland Road house faces 'wrecking ball'



Turley photo by Ellenor Downer

As of Monday, Feb. 5 this was all that remained of the Grimes home on Rutland Road. East Quabbin Land Trust owns the property.

Barre Food Pantry to hold distributions

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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 respiratory 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 considered changing how the pantry currently operates, but with the continued prevalence of ultra-contagious viruses the Board decided that the most responsible path forward is to continue to operate as we have since March of 2020.

To maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients Feb. 14 and 15 will again be "drive-through" style distributions. Clients will line up in their vehicles on Park Street and proceed into the right hand (east) entrance driveway of the Barre Congregational Church.

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

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 everyone well.

The Barre Food Pantry needs volunteers. On Tuesday night, Feb. 13 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 Feb. 13, they should call Sonja Blaney at 978-355-6921.

People should not arrive to volunteer on Feb. 14 and 15 without first contacting Sonja, Mary Beschta at 978-355-4212.

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

Town Clerk lists town election information

BARRE – Town Clerk Ellen Glidden announces last day to take out nomination papers is Thursdays, Feb. 8 at 5 p.m.

The last day to return papers is Monday, Feb. 12 at 5 p.m. The Town Clerk's Office will be open on Feb. 8 and Feb. 12 until 5 p.m. The last day and time for candidates to withdraw their name from the ballot is Wednesday, Feb. 28 at 5 p.m.

The following candidates so far took out nomination papers: Maureen M. Marshall, Select Board for three-years and candidate for re-election and Richard C. Stevens, papers returned; Robert William Arthur Leroux, Board of Assessors for three-years and candidate for re-election; Michael B. Radesky, Board of Health for three-years, candidate for re-election and nomination papers returned; John

J. Chase, Sewer Commissioner for three years and candidate for re-election; David A. Deschamps, Library Trustee for three-years, candidate for re-election and nomination papers returned and Cherie E. Benoit, Library Trustee for three-years and candidate for re-election - votes elect two Library Trustees: Karen Keegan, Planning Board for one-year; Edward Floyd Kelley, Planning Board for five-years and candidate for re-election, nomination papers returned; Michael A. LaRose, Planning Board Associate Member for one-year, nomination papers returned and two positions for Quabbin Regional School District three years— Stanley John Wolanin, candidate for re-election and David A. Deschamps, candidate for re-election and nomination papers returned.

To date, no one took out nomination papers for the following positions: Water Commissioner for three-years, Felton Filed Commissioner for three-years and Library Trustee for two years.

The Presidential Primary will be held Tuesday, March 5 with polls open from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Early voting will be held in person at the Henry Woods Building, 40 West St., first floor on Saturday, Feb. 24 from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 27 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 28 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 29 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and Friday, March 1 from 10 a.m.-noon.

The Town Clerk reminds residents census forms were mailed in January and should be filled out and returned. Dog licenses are due Monday, April 1.

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. 12. 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 – Stuffed pepper casserole, mashed potatoes, carrots, Lorna Done cookies, marble rye bread

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

WEDNESDAY – Happy Valentine's Day, salmon with primavera sauce, wild rice, roasted California blend vegetables, cheesecake mousse, whole wheat bread

THURSDAY – Chicken cacciatore, gemelli pasta, spinach, pear crisp, diet = pears, Italian bread

FRIDAY – Egg Frittata, stewed tomatoes, green beans, fresh fruit, corn muffin

*Higher sodium entree Meal includes milk and margarine. Menus are subject to change. All meals are served at about 11:45 a.m. each week-day. 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.

Country Hen Scholarship applications available

The Hubbardston Select Board is now accepting 2024 Country Hen Scholarship applications. The deadline to apply is Monday, April 22. The Country Hen Scholarship was established to provide one or more scholarships to Hubbardston students graduating from high school and planning to attend an accredited college or university. Applicants must have resided in the Town of Hubbardston for at least three years and should be able to demonstrate significant community involvement.

Completed applications along with any additional documentation should be returned to Hubbardston Select Board, 7 Main St. Unit #3, Hubbardston, MA 01452 or by email to bos@hubbardstonma.us.

Valentine woods hike

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

Scholarship Dinner

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

Hubbardston Community Theatre

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

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

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

Dog licenses

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

Senior center events

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

Paige Memorial Library lists upcoming events

HARDWICK – The Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, announces upcoming programs. RSVP, s'il vous plait, to the Paige Memorial Library for a French Café experience on Thursday, Feb. 15 at 3 p.m.

People will share les petits gateaux and conversation in the Activity Room transformed for the event into a French Café. Anne Van Arsdell will guide participants in her armchair travel to France to challenge the winter blues. People may practice their French vocabulary or just come for coffee, tea, treats, and chat. People may register or for more information by emailing the Paige Library at director.paigelibrary@gmail.com or calling 413-477-6704.

Paige Writers, an enjoyable social experience dedicated to stress-free writing and sharing ideas and memories meet at the library on Tuesdays at 3 p.m. They may email the Paige Library for more information at director.paigelibrary@gmail.com or by calling 413-477-6704.

The first meeting of the Cookbook Club will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 20 at 3 p.m. This will be an organizational meeting. In the future, participants will select recipes and share them.

Saturday, Feb. 10 at 1:30 p.m. in the Town House, 32 Common St., Julie Rawson and Jack Kitteridge of Many Hands Organic Farm, Barre, will discuss their book "Many Hands Make a Farm." They will discuss shareholding, living and farming in Barre and their connection with the Northeast Organic Farming Association. Organic farming respects the balance of natural cycles and works as much as possible within those cycles. For more information, people may email director.paigelibrary@gmail.com or call 413-477-6704.

Library staff asks patrons if they would be interested in a workshop for artists and craftsmen of all abilities or a computer class, or another topic. They may call 413-477-6704, email director.paigelibrary@gmail.com or stop at the library to share their ideas or suggest a presenter they would like to have visit the library.

Corrections policy

The Barre Gazette will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will 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.

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Please contact **Pat James 413-726-8661.**

countrybank

LEGAL NOTICE

The Annual Meeting of Corporators of Country Bank for Savings will be held on Monday, March 11, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at 420 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA for the election of Corporators, Trustees and any other business as required by law or the Bylaws of Country Bank for Savings.

Dawn Piechota
Clerk of the Corporation

This paper publishes birth, engagement, wedding and significant anniversary announcements free of charge. Simply log on to our web site, choose the paper you want the announcement to appear in, then use our SUBMISSION link to email your information.

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News of the Towns

PUBLIC MEETINGS

BARRE

QRSD Technology Subcommittee – Feb. 8 at 6 p.m.
 QRSD Committee – Feb. 8 at 6:30 p.m.
 Board of Health – Feb. 12 at 5 p.m.
 Water Commission – Feb. 12 at 6:30 p.m.
 DPW Commission – Feb. 12 at 7 p.m.
 Finance Committee – Feb. 13 at 6:30 p.m.
 Cable Advisory Committee – Feb. 13 at 7 p.m.
 Conservation Committee – Feb. 13 and Feb. 27 at 7 p.m.
 Library Trustees – Feb. 14 at 6:30 p.m.
 Sewer Commission – Feb. 15 at 7 p.m.
 Planning Board – Feb. 20 at 7 p.m.
 Cemetery Commission – Feb. 22 at 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.
 250th Anniversary Committee – Feb. 28 at Primary Election Day – March 5 from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.
 Council on Aging – March 6 at 12:30 p.m.
 Insurance Advisory Committee – March 7 at 1:30 p.m.
 Town Election Day – April 1 from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

HARDWICK

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

HUBBARDSTON

Cable Advisory Committee – Feb. 8 at 1:30 p.m.
 Council on Aging – Feb. 20 at 4 p.m.
 Community Preservation Committee – March 5 at 7 p.m.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

Town Administrator Search Committee – Feb. 8, Feb. 15 and Feb. 22 at 6:30 p.m.
 Council on Aging – Feb. 12 at 2 p.m.
 Board of Selectmen – Feb. 13, Feb. 27, March 12 and March 26 at 6 p.m.
 Conservation Committee – Feb. 13 at 7 p.m.
 Planning Board – Feb. 21 and March 20 at 6 p.m.
 Downtown Development Committee – March 4 at 6:30 p.m.

OAKHAM.

Board of Assessors – Feb. 12 at 6:30 p.m.
 Select Board – Feb. 20 at 6 p.m.
 Presidential Primary – March 5 from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

PETERSHAM

Core Planning Team – Feb. 12, Feb. 19, Feb. 26, March 4, March 11, March 18 and March 25 at 1:30 p.m.
 Council on Aging – Feb. 12 at 10 a.m.
 Cemetery Commission – Feb. 13 at 10 a.m.
 Board of Health – Feb. 15 at 6 p.m.
 Petersham Historic District – Feb. 15 at 6 p.m.
 Planning Board – Feb. 22 at 7 p.m.
 Broadband Municipal Light Plant Board – Feb. 28 at 7 p.m.

RUTLAND

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

Historical Commission continues discussion about Mary Lane

By Ryan Drago
 Staff Writer
 rdragot@turley.com

WARE – At a meeting on Monday evening, the Ware Historical Commission continued reviewing the location, buildings and reuse of the former Mary Lane Hospital site.

Prior to Monday's meeting, the Ware Historical Commission had voted to delay the demolition of the buildings at the property on South Street. The delay could last up to nine months, and in that time, the commission along with the Hospital Review Committee, are taking all ideas into consideration of what can be done with the property.

The purpose of the delay is for the Historical Commission and the property owner, Baystate Health, to work together to consider alternatives to demolition of the buildings.

A representative of Baystate Health, Attorney Ryan Barry attended the meeting. Barry engaged in conversations with the commission and residents who had a series of questions in regard to what is going to be the future plan for the buildings and the Mary Lane Hospital property.

Barry started off by sharing the input from other parties who had expressed interest and reviewed the property. When it comes to buildings of the former Mary Lane Hospital, many are wondering if the buildings are salvageable for uses.

One of the parties interested in development is the Westmass Area Development Corporation.

Westmass shapes and manages large-scale development projects, prepares district development strategies, and has successfully developed financing and incentive packages. Some Westmass projects in the area include the Palmer Industrial Park and the Ludlow Mills.

Westmass staff have extensive experience in site planning and analysis, green infrastructure and low impact development, and historic preservation projects.

According to Barry, Westmass stated that it would

be too costly and difficult to preserve the buildings based on the level of contamination in the buildings. Barry also stated that there has been a "lack of referrals from the town of Ware" regarding what to do with the property.

According to Chairperson Lynn Lak, the Ware Historical Commission is responsible for identifying, evaluating and protecting the historic, architectural and archaeological assets within the town. The commission also seeks to document the historic value of locations in the town of Ware.

"We've always valued Mary Lane Hospital," said Lak.

There are several buildings located on the property including the Gilbert house that was once owned by Lewis Gilbert prior to the development and opening of Mary Lane Hospital. The hospital was named after Gilbert's late wife.

Commission member Wanda Mysona mentioned that the Gilbert house property could potentially be sold as a one-off.

During a Jan. 3 commission meeting, Westmass President and CEO Jeff Daley said Westmass was "willing to work with the town of Ware to redevelop the property." Daley later said that Westmass would not be able to participate in the review during the nine month delay.

Barry mentioned that certain building preservations may not be financially possible to happen when it comes to certain buildings on the Mary Lane property.

"All buildings are different buildings," said Barry.

The commission asked about the Gilbert Trust fund and how the money is used. The trust is consistent with Gilbert's expressed wishes to provide health services to the residents of Ware and Gilbertville.

The property is currently fenced in and there have been reports from residents living near the property that the buildings are slowly deteriorating over the last couple of months. Windows are open, broken and not boarded up.

The commission asked that the building commissioner

determine if the buildings can be checked for better protection and undetected deterioration.

Members of the Hospital Review Committee shared some input during the commission meeting. It is still being determined what the site is most useful for in serving the community.

The idea of having senior housing was briefly mentioned by a member of the public and this is one of the amenities wanted by the town of Ware. The town is interested in having medical services, economic development and housing.

The commission will gather data to assist with its review of the buildings.

"It's just the numbers that help close this gap," said Lak. "To figure out the process."

As of now, Baystate will be paying for the demolition. Westmass may be taking over the property once it is demolished.

As part of their next steps moving forward with this Mary Lane Hospital discussion, the Ware Historical Commission wants to keep a measure of good will and bridge this gap between Baystate and help get to a resolution of what the Mary Lane property can become.

Mary Lane Hospital has served the community of Ware and neighboring communities for over a century and means a lot to many residents.

Resident Stephen Granlund proposed posting a banner on the property fence to memorialize Mary Lane Hospital. The idea is to place the banner somewhere between South Street and Marjorie Street in Ware and it could say "Mary Lane Hospital. For all who were born here. For all who received care here. For all who worked here. In memory of all who died."

The banner idea will be taken under advisement by Baystate Health, according to Barry. In addition, the next step for the commission is to discuss building data with their architect and other interested parties.

The next Historical Commission meeting will be held on Monday, Feb. 26.

Oakham

Ellenor Downer
 edowner@turley.com



Dismas Farm to hold open house

An open house and a ribbon cutting ceremony will be held for the Reverend Richard and Gail Pryce House, 158 New Braintree Road, on Friday, March 1 from 1:30-4 p.m.

Refreshments will be provided. RSVP is appreciated by not necessary by emailing davemcmahon@dismasfamily.org.

Church breakfast

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

COA health fair

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

Dog licenses

Dog licenses are due by Sunday, March 31. All dogs six months of age or older must be licensed each year. In order to license a dog the following items must be presented to the Town Clerk, a copy of a valid rabies certificate, a spayed/neutered certificate if applicable for first time licensing the dog and a check made out to the Town of Oakham for the correct amount. No cash will be accepted.

The license fee is \$11 for a male or female and \$7 for a neutered or spayed dog. People may mail the information and check to Town Clerk, 2 Coldbrook Road, Unit 4, Oakham, MA 01068 and include a stamped self-addressed stamped envelope. The information also may be dropped off at the Oakham Town Hal blue box located to the left of the Town Hall's side entrance. Town Clerk office hours are Monday from 6:15-7:30 p.m. and Fridays 10 a.m.-noon.

Senior center activities

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

Editorial deadline reminder

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

Places to go... Things to do...

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Opinion

Guest Column



Will my WEP reduction go away if I continue working?

Dear Rusty

I'm 63 years old and have not yet started my Social Security.

I now work for the State of Illinois and will draw a pension from that state's university system. I don't pay into Social Security from this position and, as a result, my Social Security payment will be reduced. But I have also worked elsewhere and contributed to Social Security for 26 years.

If I retire from the state university and begin drawing my reduced Social Security payment and then work in a different job, which does contribute to SS, will the reduction to my Social Security payment ever be eliminated? Or will I be permanently stuck with the smaller Social Security payment?

Signed Curious Educator

Dear Curious

A rule called the Windfall Elimination Provision will apply to your Social Security benefit because your Illinois state pension was earned without paying into the Social Security program. The basic rule is that anyone with a pension earned without contributing to Social Security and who is also entitled to Social Security benefits, is subject to WEP, which reduces that person's Social Security retirement benefit. It's a law enacted many years ago to equalize how SS benefits are paid to all Social Security beneficiaries.

However, the WEP rules also provide relief for those who have only a small non-covered pension and for those who have separately contributed to Social Security for a lot of years. For example:

The WEP reduction to your SS benefit cannot be more than 50% of your non-covered (IL) pension

The WEP reduction is smaller for each year over 20 years contributing to Social Security from substantial earnings

WEP does not apply to those who have at least 30 years contributing to SS from substantial earnings

Although you could retire at 63 and collect your pension from the university and also collect your WEP-reduced Social Security, you have something else to consider if you take another job, which pays into Social Security.

Social Security has an annual "earnings test" for those who collect benefits before their Full Retirement Age. The earnings test limits how much you can earn while collecting early SS before they take away some of your benefits. The earnings limit for 2024 is \$22,320 and, if that is exceeded, you will lose \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit.

If your work earnings substantially exceed the earnings limit, you would likely be temporarily ineligible to receive Social Security benefits. FYI, the earnings test no longer applies once you reach your full retirement age, which for you is 67.

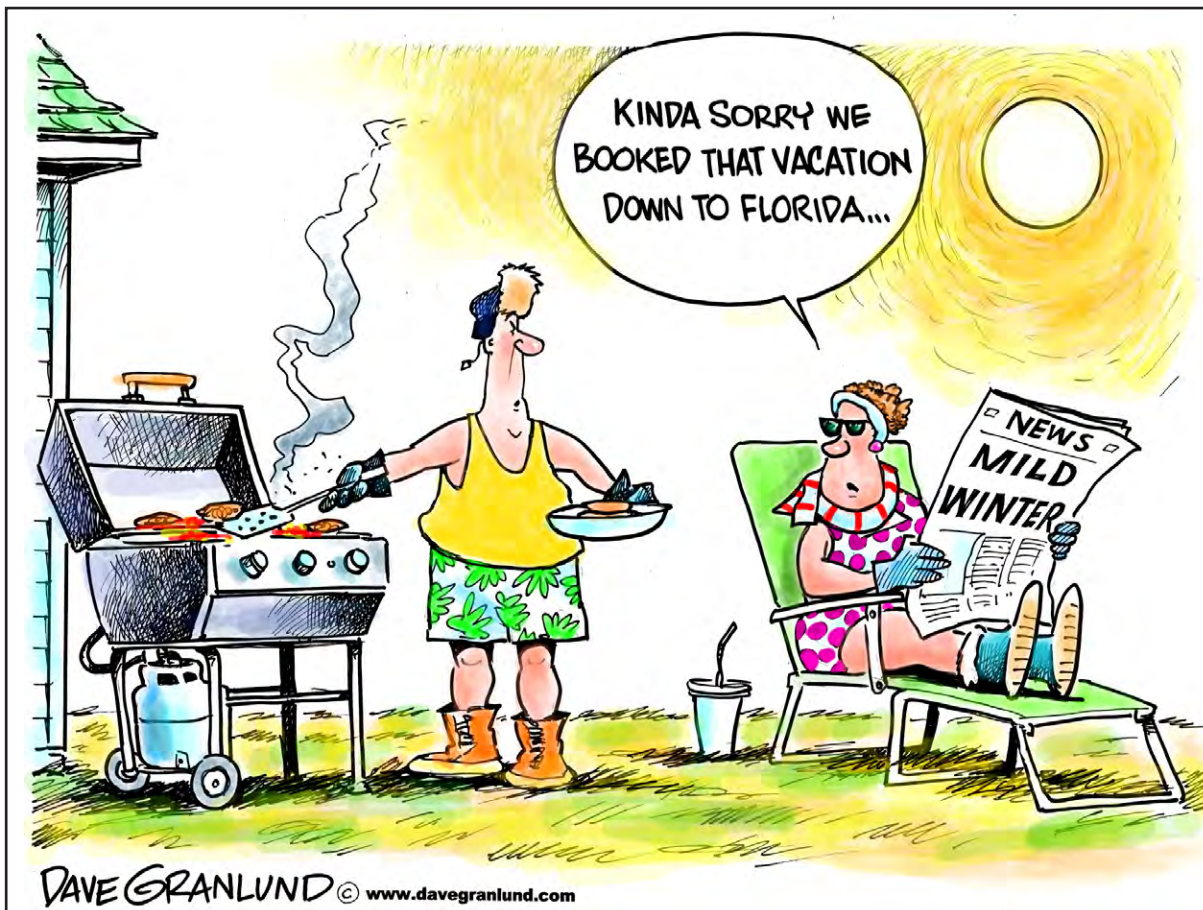
Without knowing your expected income from a new job, I can't say how much of your SS you would be able to receive, but you can use this as a guide: Social Security will take away benefits equal to half of what you exceed the annual earnings limit by and they typically recover by withholding future benefits.

If 12 months or more of benefits are withheld, you will be temporarily ineligible to receive benefits until your earnings are less or you reach your full retirement age, the earnings test no longer applies once you reach your FRA. So, depending on your expected annual work earnings, you may wish to defer claiming your Social Security until you either earn less or reach 67 years of age.

If you already have 26 years contributing to Social Security from "substantial earnings," your WEP reduction will already be mitigated and any additional years of substantial earnings from which SS payroll taxes are deducted will result in an even smaller WEP reduction.

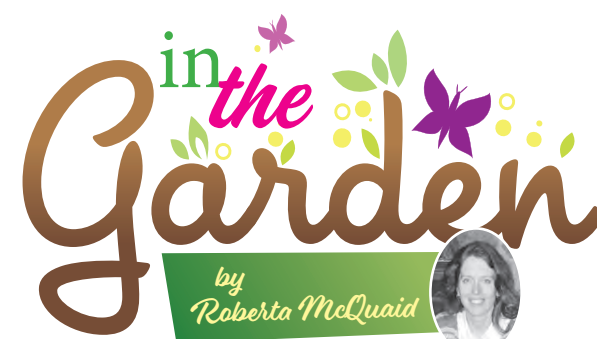
If you can achieve 30 years of SS contributions from substantial work earnings, WEP will no longer apply. So, you may not be "stuck with" the WEP reduction permanently, but you will need to contact Social Security to request that your WEP reduction amount be reviewed in light of any additional years of SS-covered earnings. This should be done after you submit your income taxes each year you have additional SS-covered earnings.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for informational purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisior@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

Guest Column



Spare the vase this Valentine's Day

My husband gave me a bouquet of roses on the first Valentine's Day we spent together.

They were beautiful in the vase, but I felt bad that he had spent the money he did for the gift. Being in the business, I told him how much roses are marked up because of the holiday.

It's a supply and demand thing mostly, and tradition to give them of course, but wouldn't it be nice if we received a gift that kept on giving? One solution would be to preorder your sweetheart a rose bush through a mail-order nursery.

What excitement it will bring when it arrives in springtime, and then imagine the delight when it blooms year after year. If your interest is piqued, then read on to learn about proper planting techniques and basic rose culture, so that you (or your sweetheart!) will be a successful rose grower.

Rose bushes will be shipped once it is deemed safe from freezing temperatures. In my experience, mail-order roses can arrive anywhere from the end of April through the end of May.

First off, unpack the rose and soak its roots in room temperature water for at least one hour (and up to twelve). This is necessary to rehydrate roots that may have dried out in the shipping process.

Once rehydrated, the rose is ready for a quick pruning. Carefully snip back any broken or crossing canes.

A rose bush 8-12" tall at planting will start out nice and bushy. If you need to trim back canes that are longer than that, prune back to an out-facing bud, that way growth will be directed out and not towards the plant's center.

Consider placement carefully. To bloom their best, roses need, at the very least, six hours of sunshine.

Morning sun is preferred, so that dewy foliage will dry quickly, diminishing the chances of foliar disease such as black spot or powdery mildew. Soil should drain well and be rich in nutrients or amended to that end.

The planting hole should be prepared while the rose bush is soaking. Dig a hole about twice the diameter of the plant's roots, roughly one and a half feet by one and a half feet.

As long as the soil removed from the hole is decent, in other words, not all sand or clay, 50% of it can be mixed with well-rotted manure (fresh will burn!) or cured compost, and used as back fill. First, take a small amount of the mixture and make a mound in the hole for the plant to sit on and the roots to spread down.

In our locale, and anywhere that temperatures dip below 0°F, the graft union (the bump at the plants base), if there is one, should be planted two inches below the soil surface. With that in mind, position the rose on the mound at the proper depth and begin to refill the hole with soil, a third of the hole at a time, firming as you go.

Once the rose bush has been planted, water it well at the base of the plant (a couple gallons at least). If you

In Past Pages

5 years (Feb. 14, 2019)

The annual Fire and Ice Festival will be held even if there is no ice or snow. Gretchen Nahkala, Ambulance Director and member of the Oakham Fire Association, says even without snow or ice there will be plenty of fire. The Fire Association will set up fire pits or the common for roasting marshmallows or s'mores and there will be hot cocoa to help keep participants warm. Fire and Ice will be held Friday, Feb. 22 from 6-8 p.m. in the center of Oakham. If there is snow on the ground, there will be snowman building and sledding on the hill behind the Fobes Memorial Library. If the ice on the skating rink is frozen, there will be ice skating too.

Ten year old Raella Wyszynski of West Brookfield dreams of someday being a nurse and helping children. It seemed like the perfect fit when her class at St. Aloysius Catholic School in Gilbertville took on its first ever Passion Project and Wyszynski stepped up to help Shriner's Hospital for Children. Involving all students from grade five through eight, the "Passion Project" was meant to incorporate an element of community service, according to teacher Kolby Lafayette.

The third annual "All Things Irish" night will be held Saturday, March 2 at the American Legion Post 2 at 450 South Barre Road from 4:30-10 p.m. with live Irish music, step dancing, Irish theme raffles, Irish Stew dinner and a cash bar. "All Things Irish" is a fundraiser for the Polus Center for Social and Economic Development, Inc. a Petersham based 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization that supports people with disabilities. Former state Senator Steve Brewer and state Senator Ann Gobi will present Shillelagh Awards to local residents.

10 years (Feb. 6, 2014)

Department heads met with Barre Selectmen Monday night to discuss issues with regional dispatch. Selectmen sought input from ambulance, fire, highway and police departments before meeting with Rutland Regional Dispatch officials later this month. Selectman Richard Jankauskas brought up the dispatch issue at the board's last meeting. Due to the show, he was out plowing and was unable to attend.

The Hardwick Youth Center teamed up with MOC Community Partnership to offer a shadow puppet program at the youth center last Saturday. The Hardwick Youth Center will begin offering an after school program for elementary to middle school children on Wednesday, Feb. 5. Every child attending the program went home with a free book compliments of the Read and Rise program. Massachusetts

LOOK BACK Solar Eclipse - 2017



File photo

Robin Kelley of Barre, Alice Paradis of Gilbertville and Kathy Lam of Barre watch the solar eclipse outside the Barre Senior Center Monday, Aug. 21, 2017. There will be a solar eclipse across North America on Monday, April 8 of this year.

Department of Early Childhood Education and Care provides funding for this literacy program.

The Petersham Board of Selectmen and the Petersham Advisory Finance Committee began budget talks with town committees. Ross France, now Chairman of the finance committee, introduced new members, Clarisse Hart, Harvard Forest Outreach Manager and Christine Durgin, former member of the Petersham Board of Selectmen. Petersham Memorial Library Director, Jane Arata, was unable to attend the meeting due to weather conditions. The library budget she submitted totaled \$8,993, which is the amount the town is obligated to pay in order for the library to continue to receive state funding. Also unable to attend the meeting was Northeast Quabbin Veterans District Agent, Bill Purple. The assessment and benefit payments for Petersham this year totals \$7588.50.

25 years (Feb. 11, 1999)

On the recommendation of Police Chief David Galena, Oakham Selectmen appointed Michael Sweet to the position of part-time sergeant at the Monday, Feb. 8 meeting. Galena told Selectmen that four police officers took the written exam and all four passed. Sweet got the top score on the 100 question exam. The three highest scorers then went through an oral interview that was conducted by the Rutland Police Chief, a lieutenant from the Shrewsbury Police Force and Chief Galena. Again, Sweet received the highest score.

Richard "Dick" Fiske is head of a group that has planned a variety show to help Mark A. Gorham, a 25-year old North Brookfield resident, who is battling cancer. The show will be held Saturday, Feb. 27 at 7:30 p.m. at North Brookfield

Elementary School. About 40 acts are scheduled, one being Nicole Borelli of Barre, who will dance to the theme from "Titanic." She is also scheduled to sing and dance in another act with a partner. Big Al Downing, who has recorded several country music albums and has performed at many local events and fairs, will be featured.

A public Red Cross Blood Drive will be held Saturday, Feb. 20 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Mt. Zion Lodge of Masons, Pleasant Street, Barre. It is being sponsored by the Lodge as a community service. Donors are needed in order to maintain blood supplies for area hospital patients. Because of illness and inclement weather, donations often drop during the winter months. Anyone who is in good health, who weighs 110 pounds or more, who is age 17 or older and who has not given blood in the last 56 days may donate.

38 years (Feb. 13, 1986)

Copies of a budget proposal or the Quabbin Regional School District or Fiscal 1987 indicate an increase of \$1,319,952 over the budget for FY 86. Oakham's proposed assessment is \$436,111, a decrease of \$12,491 from FY 86. This is based on anticipated receipts of \$1,604,499 from the state. The Quabbin Regional School District Budget Committee will hold another meeting Thursday, Feb. 20, to which Finance Committee members and Selectmen of the member towns are invited.

The deadline for taking out nomination papers for the Oakham Town Election is Feb. 13, with their return with at least 20 signatures of registered voters due Feb. 20. Last Thursday, Feb. 6, Bruce La Blanc and Denis delaGorgendiere took out nomination papers

See PAST PAGES, page 5

See GARDEN, page 5

Turley Publications Letters to the Editor Policy

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

BARRE GAZETTE

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

Barre Gazette
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PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT BARRE, MA
The Barre Gazette is a weekly newspaper published every Thursday by Barre Gazette, Inc., with offices located at 5 Exchange St., Barre, MA 01005 and at 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069. Telephone at 978-355-4000 or FAX at 978-355-6274. USPS number is 044-560. Postmaster: Send address changes to: Barre Gazette, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 \$1.00 per copy Subscription rate: \$33 for one year, \$44 for two years Out of State: \$38 for one year, \$54 for two years

Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

At least, we finally saw the sun for a couple of days, but it still is too cold to melt the snow on Serenity Hill.

It did melt off the trees, which looked like a winter wonderland for several days. We had to get oil so we had to have the handyman sand the driveway so the truck could get up. It is always a relief when you get your oil for the winter even though the price is so high now.

I had to have the driveway plowed by our neighbor as our plow man's plow broke down. Finally, I was able to get my groceries after two weeks, but I wish I had some help bringing them into the house. I joked with a man at Walmart, who was taking care of the grocery carts. I said I would like to bring him home with me to help bring in the groceries and he said, "I don't think my wife would appreciate it." We each got a good laugh at that one.

I understand you can get groceries delivered, but it is hard to make a list of the brands that I like. I usually buy the store brands as they are cheaper, but sometimes I need to see the items.

I was looking over the recipes I had for the Morning Glory Muffins and each recipe had different ingredients. Some had pineapple, some used butter, some used salad oil and some used more flour and sugar. I settled on this recipe as it makes a large amount.

MORNING GLORY MUFFINS

- 4 cups flour
- 2 1/2 cups sugar
- 4 teaspoons baking soda
- 4 teaspoons cinnamon
- pinch salt
- 4 cups grated carrots
- 1 cup raisins
- 1 cup shredded coconut
- 2 apples, peeled and grated
- 6 eggs
- 2 cups vegetable oil
- 4 teaspoons vanilla extract

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Mix together flour, sugar, baking soda, cinnamon and salt. Stir in the carrots, raisins, coconut and apples. In a separate bowl, beat the eggs with the oil and vanilla. Add to the flour mixture and combine well.

Spoon the batter into greased or muffin tin lined with muffin papers and bake 35 minutes. Note: I am

not sure how many this will make because it depends on the size of the tins and how full you fill them. It is a large recipe so be prepared.

This and That

This week I was completely out of sweet things so I decided to make a batch of cow pies. I took two cups of chocolate chips and one tablespoon of salad oil and melted them in a double boiler. I had ready 1 cup of walnuts and 1 cup of raisins and a 1/2 cup of coconut and stirred them into the melted chocolate really quick so it would not harden. Have a cookie sheet ready with waxed paper on it and put tablespoons of the chocolate on the wax paper to harden. Just let them harden on the cookie sheet and then put them into a plastic container.

Another thing I like to do is make a double batch of pancakes and put them between wax paper and freeze them for use later.

I'm still working on the 9 by 12 inch watercolor pictures of wildflowers. I have done 58 of them to date. I am also crocheting Granny Squares for either an afghan or head bands.

Finally, I got all the materials needed to send to the tax accountant for the income taxes. That is always a relief to get completed.

Gary Kangas is working on his second book called "Images of Hubbardston." Anyone with suggestions may contact him with ideas that were not in his first book. He likes to have photographs with the stories.

I have been making some new plants of the coleus and cactus from slips so I bought some soil for them once they root. The soil at Walmart was frozen so I am thawing it out. The coleus have rooted so I need to pot them.

I have kept them several years by taking cuttings and rooting them. I also am doing it with a cactus that I started from a cutting Carol Fielding gave me. I have a good supply of aloe plants as they continue to make babies. I always keep some plants on the kitchen window shelf as the liquid from the leaves is very good for burns.

My dear friend, Dot Cohn, gave me a seed starting fixture, which I am using. It has three vases that hang on a wooden frame that you put the cuttings in. Because the vases are clear you can see when the roots start to grow.

Who said there are not things to do when it is snowy and cold outside. Have a good week and keep busy and healthy.

Students celebrate Catholic Schools Week at St. Aloysius

HARDWICK – St. Aloysius Catholic School in Gilbertville observed Catholic Schools Week Jan. 28-Feb. 3 by participating in different themed activities for each day of the week.

On Monday, the community was celebrated, and school officials delivered goodie trays to town offices, thanking them for all the hard work they do in the community.

Students enjoyed a pizza lunch on Tuesday and had the chance to showcase their collections. It was interesting to see what they brought in and learn why they collect what they do.

On Nation Day, flag etiquette was shared in each classroom by three resident Boy Scouts. The entire school participated in making sensory blankets for the Holyoke Soldiers Home, thanking our veterans for their service to our nation.

Thursday was vocation day; it was honored by inviting guests to talk about religious life. Students had many questions for Sister Madonna, Sister Susan and Father Derek.

Parents also visited and talked about their professions. It was great to see all of the varied jobs students can aspire to.

On Friday, in celebration of staff, students left their uniforms behind and got to dress like a teacher. Staff enjoyed a special lunch and other treats from parents.

Bingo wrapped up the week on Saturday with a first ever family bingo tournament. "Here at St. Aloysius, we celebrate our Catholic faith every day, but Catholic Schools Week is a chance to highlight what we do by focusing on these daily themes. We had a wonderful week full of special outreach, great visitors, and many activities for the students. We know we are blessed beyond measure!" said Dawn Rudnansky, Head of School, in a



Submitted Photos

Students at St. Aloysius Catholic School made sensory blankets for veterans at the Holyoke Soldiers Home.

press release. St. Aloysius Catholic School serves students from preschool through grade eight. The school day runs from 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. with an after-school program through 5:30 p.m.

Applications are now being accepted for the 2024/2025 school year. Visit www.staloyuscs.com for more information and all the necessary enrollment paperwork.

For more information email Roberta McQuaid, Enrollment Coordinator, at rmcquaid@staloyuscs.com or call the school at 413-477-1268. Private tours and shadow days are great opportunities for prospective families to experience St. Aloysius Catholic School on a typical school day.



Parents visit the school to talk about their professions during Catholic Schools Week.

FUNDRAISER, continued from page 1

"It's a fascinating process," Warbasse said.

Emcee of the gala was Friends Vice-President Cheryl Wolfe, who gave a recap of the group's progress since its formation, when pieces of the steeple were actually falling off.

"Today, we are well over half-way done," Wolfe said.

The Friends now own the church, following a deed transfer early last year, and the addition of a handicapped accessible ramp has opened the church's doors to all.

Wolfe thanked the gala committee, along with musician Paul Provost, who performed throughout the event, and Hardwick Crossing's staff. She also thanked Mary and Phillip Warbasse for their expertise in grant writing and architecture, respectively.

Thanks to Mary, the Friends offer a "robust music program" and have received over \$200,000 in grant funding, Wolfe said.

Wolfe then addressed those in attendance and thanked them for their continued support over the years.

Upcoming events

The Friends of the Stone Church will be hosting a number of events throughout the upcoming year, including "Piano Magic" with pianist Diana Fanning on Saturday, March 9 at 3 p.m. This event is sponsored by Barbara Boothman



The silent auction contained items that would make any Valentine's Day celebration memorable.

Grofic and Laura Boothman Stamm.

On Saturday, April 6 at 7 p.m. organist Peter Krasinski returns to accompany the silent film comedy, "Speedy" from 1928, starring Harold Lloyd with appearances by Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig.

Pianist and Avery-Fisher prize

winner Mackenzie Melemed will also return with "My Two Homes" on Saturday, April 20 at 7 p.m.

The Friends will also host two free Sunday concerts on the lawn with the Weir River Concert Band and the Weir River Jazz Ensemble in June.



Paul Provost provided musical entertainment for the Valentine Gala.

For more information about the Friends, or to help support their preservation work, visit www.friendsofthestonechurch.org or mail donations to Friends of the Stone Church, Inc., 283 Main St., P.O. Box 347, Gilbertville, MA 01031.

QRSD BUDGET, continued from page 1

Enrollment declined in four of the member towns with only Hubbardston having an increase of 20 students. This year the district faces a \$93,000 loss in state aid. The towns must make up the loss with an increase in their assessments.

Assessment numbers were 12.75% Barre, 11.31% Hardwick, 15.93% Hubbardston, 5.68% New Braintree and 9.19% Oakham. Duval said a cut of

\$1 million in the \$40.8 million budget would lower assessments to 6.9% Barre, 5.8% Hardwick, 11% Hubbardston, 1.78% New Braintree and 4.07% Oakham. A cut of \$1.5 million would result in the loss of programs like athletics, student clubs, etc.

Duval said state funding favored the Gateway cities. Some of those cities receive funding in excess of their budget, which they can't spend and are putting money away to use at a later date.

The Budget Subcommittee set the public hearing for Tuesday,

March 12 at 6:30 p.m. They opted to hold the public hearing on a different day than the monthly QRSD Committee meeting as it makes for a long evening. The regular school committee meeting with their regular agenda will be on Thursday, March 14.

The school committee will meet after the public hearing on March 12 with just one item on the agenda, the approval of the presented budget at the hearing. The next meeting of the Budget Subcommittee will be Thursday, Feb. 29 at 6 p.m.

NORTH BROOKFIELD, continued from page 1

Resignation

Petratis said at a previous meeting on Jan. 9, the board regretfully accepted the resignation of Vice-Chair John Tripp.

Elizabeth "Brooke" Canada thanked Tripp for his service to the town and his hard work.

"He really did put a lot into this town," she said with Petratis agreeing.

Tree work bid

The board received one bid

from Rusty's Tree Experts in West Brookfield for fiscal year 2024 tree work. The daily rate for the chipper is \$650; bucket truck, \$1,200; lift, \$1,200; stump grinder, \$1,100 and \$1,800 with the log truck.

The board approved granting the tree service bid to Rusty's Tree Experts.

Public comment

A resident said the stop sign is missing from the end of Smith Hanson Road, heading toward Waite Corner Road. He said there used to be a stop sign at the intersection, and he has called the

Police and Highway departments to notify them as well.

Brandon Avery shared concerns about trash on the Common and its surround, as well as at Town Forest Park. He said he is picking up countless bottles and cans, along with bags of food, including open containers of food, which could attract rodents.

"It's a little discouraging to have to constantly pick that kind of stuff up," he said.

Petratis said those caught littering can receive a \$300 fine according to town bylaws.

PAST PAGES, continued from page 4

for the five-year term on the Planning Board. Paul Lussier took out papers for constable and Robert Leary for the three-year term on the Board of Selectmen.

Hubbardston selectmen have been meeting with the heads

of the police, highway and fire departments to discuss budgets and what articles they would like placed on the Annual Town Meeting warrant. Police Chief James Wagner said the department needs a new cruiser as the old one has over 75,000 miles on it. He requested the purchase of two police portable radios, which should be put on the warrant. Highway Superintendent

Charles Richardson wants a new truck sander for his department. The 1977 GMC is badly worn out. He was instructed to seek bids for a new truck. Fire Chief Roger Knipe discussed his department's needs. More money is needed in the budget because of the huge amount spent during the hurricane, a mutual aid call to Westminster and recent fire.

GARDEN, continued from page 4

find that the water isn't sinking in, but running away, dam up a couple inches of soil about a foot away from the base of the plant to act like a basin.

Water is crucial at this stage; never let a newly planted rose dry out. A three inch layer of bark mulch or cocoa bean hulls can be applied around the rose to reduce moisture loss and discourage weed competition.

Avoid fertilizing until the rose has broken dormancy and is growing vigorously. Use half strength fertilizer and only do so until mid-July so that succulent growth will have a chance to harden before

cold weather hits.

This way your rose will be less prone to winter kill. I do not provide any winter cover for my roses.

There will likely be a few branch tips that suffer winter kill regardless. Those I prune back in spring-time when the roses start to leaf out.

I prune just past the damage, at a leaf bud. Besides that, and general shaping, the only other pruning I do is deadheading.

Spent blooms should be removed from rose bushes to direct energy away from seed production and back to flower production. Where the cut is made depends on the type of rose that you have.

Over the last decade, tremendous gains have been made in rose breeding, resulting rose bushes that

blend well into landscape plantings and require less maintenance for the homeowner. I still enjoy my heirlooms, and grow the Rugosa to remind me of the beach.

Still others prefer climbers or hybrid teas. Whatever your sweet-heart may fancy, indulge this Valentine's Day in a gift that will keep on giving!

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

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Obituaries

DEATH NOTICES

Mennard (Dahart), Sylvia
Died Jan. 29, 2024
Celebration of Life in spring

Wright (Burgess), Firne
Died Jan. 29, 2024
Calling hours Feb. 9 from 5-7 p.m.
Funeral service Feb. 10 at 10 a.m.
Pillsbury Funeral Home

Sylvia (Dahart) Mennard, 87

BARRE – Sylvia (Dahart) Mennard, 87, of Barre, passed away peacefully at home on Monday, Jan. 29, 2024 surrounded by family, after a courageous battle with cancer.



She was born on July 9, 1936 to Edgar and Alice (Moore) Dahart. Sylvia was a lifelong resident of Barre and a graduate of Barre High School. Sylvia was a paraprofessional, dedicating over 20 years of service to the Quabbin Regional School District. She worked at the former Roger F Langley School and Ruggles Lane Elementary School in the kindergarten classrooms, retiring in 2001.

Sylvia served as a Girl Scout troop leader and a Cub Scout den mother. She was very active in the Christ Episcopal Church in South Barre, serving the church in many capacities. Sylvia was a long time president of the Grandview Tenants Association, loved doing Tai Chi, taking painting classes and playing card games.

She leaves three daughters: Sheryl and her husband Dennis Davis of Barre, Janet Mennard and Scott Atchue of Barre, Julie and her husband Charlie Payne of Oakham; two sons: Thomas Mennard and his wife

Cindy of Chicopee and Paul Mennard of Raleigh North Carolina; grandchildren, Shawna Davis, Seth Davis, C.J. Sabine and wife Amanda, Becky Mennard, Nicholas Mennard and Andrew Goodsell; a great-grandson Cainen Davis; a sister, Jean Saari of Gardner; a brother, Reid Dahart of New Bern, North Carolina; many nieces and nephews.

Our family expresses a big thank you to Beacon Hospice, for their excellent staff of caring professionals. Sylvia and family would like to extend a special thank you for the kindness and love shown to her by wonderful and very special neighbors at Grandview Terrace.

Burial will be in Glen Valley Cemetery in Barre. A celebration of life will be held at Grandview Terrace in the spring.

In lieu of flowers, Sylvia has asked for people to go out and extend an act of kindness to a family member, friend, neighbor or stranger, each and every day. Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home, 96 South Barre Road, Barre. For an online tribute please visit: Pillsburyfuneralhome.com.

Firne Arlene (Burgess) Wright, 95

BARRE – Firne Arlene (Burgess) Wright, 95, of Barre, passed away peacefully on Monday, Jan. 29, 2024 with her loving family by her side.



Firne was born in Little Ridge, New Brunswick, Canada in the same room, in the same house where her father, Harry Burgess, was born. She spent most of the early years of her life in Robbinston, Maine until her parents, Harry and Ruth (Sharman) Burgess, settled their young family in Barre in 1940.

Firne remained in Barre for the fullness of her life, graduating from Barre High School in 1946 and working in the office of the Charles G. Allen company until her marriage to the love of her life, Frederick Ellsworth Wright, in 1952.

Firne leaves behind her devoted children: Linda (Wright) Grant, and her husband Lawrence of Wrentham; Patti (Wright) Gamache and husband Robert of Barre; Janice (Wright) Ducharme and husband, Michael of Barre; Joann (Wright) Vieira and husband John of Princeton; Daniel Wright and his wife Paula of Northbridge and Tim Wright and former wife Mary of Millbury.

Firne's heart swelled with joy at the mention of her fifteen grandchildren: Lawrence Grant, James Grant and Jennifer Grant; Nicolas Gamache and Michelle (Gamache) Treffi; Amanda Ducharme, Carissa Sabellico, Pamela Prouty, Georgia Ducharme, Stephanie Noonan, and

Julia Ducharme; Ally Wright and Bethany Wright; and Nicole Wright, Levi Wright and Nolan Wright.

She was equally proud of her great-grandchildren: Mackenzie and Issac Prouty; Lucas and Rylee Gamache; Fern Rylee Ducharme, Ayson Capuano and Oliver Przypek; Grace Grant, Lawrence Grant IV and Kallie Kunkel and was anxious to celebrate the arrival of two great-granddaughters on the way.

Firne also leaves a beloved sister, Claire (Burgess) Lind of Framingham, and her two sons, Eric and Chris. She was predeceased by her older brother, Keene, his wife Dorothy and their son Gary, and is survived by their remaining sons, Wayne, Stephen and Brian. She is also survived by many, many treasured nieces and nephews on the Wright side of the family.

Firne was a quiet, loving person with an optimistic view of the world, a firm sense of right and wrong and a surprisingly silly sense of humor. As a mother, her tender arms and gentle guidance were always available no matter your age. She was quick to break into song, humming or whistling through daily tasks and teaching herself to play the piano by ear.

As her family expanded, she welcomed each new addition without reservation, just as she did with her children's friends over the years. She will be sorely missed by the family to whom she was the center of the universe.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend calling hours on Friday, Feb. 9, 2024 from 5-7 p.m. in Pillsbury Funeral Home, 96 South Barre Road, Barre. Firne's funeral will be held at 10am on Saturday, February 10, 2024 at 10 a.m. in the funeral home. Burial will follow at Worcester County Memorial Park in Paxton.

For an online tribute please visit: Pillsburyfuneralhome.com.

Church News

Local pastors offer sermons

Spiritual Frustration Part 2

Every relationship comes with its share of frustrations.

This is true of our earthly connections. This is true also of our heavenly connection with the Lord! At varying points we will have to overcome the irritation, disappointment and offense that comes with being followers of Christ Jesus. In this edition, let us note the frustration of unmet spiritual expectations.

How many begin to serve Jesus well, impassioned and even excited about being His follower, yet somewhere along the way they become disillusioned or embittered because He fails to operate according to their preconceptions.

Have you ever had expectations of God or preset ideas concerning how He should operate? Have you ever felt disappointed when He chose not to work according to your anticipations? It hurts, doesn't it! In some ways, the greatest pain we can know is the misery of unmet expectations. In such moments, we will either progress or regress in relation to Christ. Choose wisely!

Would you like a biblical example of this?

John the Baptist is an interesting figure who appears in the pages of the New Testament. Likely he would not have passed many pastoral search committee meetings-as he was known to wear clothes made of camel hair and dined upon locusts and wild honey (Matt. 3:4)-yet Christ designated him the greatest figure of the Old Covenant era (Matt. 11:11). After all, John served as the herald of the Messiah (Mark 1:1-4; John 1:29-34), baptized Jesus Himself (Mark 1:4-8), embodied humility amidst suffering (John 3:30) and more! Truly, John was a marvel of whom the world was not worthy, and remains among the most laudable examples of devotion in sacred history.

Yet even John wavered at times. In fact, the Gospel of Matthew records the following: Matthew 11:2-3 (NIV)

2 When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah [i.e., preaching and teaching among the towns of Israel and sending forth His apostolic team to do the same], he sent his disciples 3 to ask him [Jesus], "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"

It would appear that John, who was now imprisoned for his ministry, was beginning to waver. After all, like most Jews of his era, John likely expected the Messiah to serve as a conquering king-a king who would punish the reviled Romans and establish justice for national Israel; not some itinerant preacher who

labored to raise up even more preachers! John was apparently so disturbed by the reports he was hearing, he sent his followers to confirm the identity of Jesus as the Christ.

What was the reply of the Lord in kind?

Matthew 11:4-6

4 Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: 5 The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. 6 Blessed is anyone who does not stumble [i.e., fall away or take offense] on account of me."

With these words, John was forced to navigate unmet spiritual expectations-even as the personal envoy of the Lord. John nearly stumbled in his faith when Jesus failed to act according to his pre-set wishes and desires. Was this easy? No! Was it essential? Jesus deemed it so, affording blessing to all who overcome moments of such offense (Matt. 11:6): "Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."

I close with these words from Max Lucado: "Unmet expectations are tough when it's your wife or your husband, but it's really tough when it's God. And yet, it can be a time of growth and a time of faith, a time of understanding who God is." The Baptist navigated his moment of frustration and came away with deepened insight into the work of Christ. May our moments of unmet expectation serve as opportunities for us to grow in our faith, understanding and obedience

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

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

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany and Communion Sunday

"He went to a deserted place to pray."

Our services can be found on our website at www.barrechurch.com

Scripture Reading: Mark 1 v 29 - 39

I. Introduction
Having a good night's rest, consuming a balanced diet, and

regular exercise is essential for our bodies, our minds, and our general well-being.

We feel so much better when we are taking care of our bodies and also when we have the care we need when we feel sick, so we can be restored to good health. Many of us also need time to be on our own, away from the busyness of life, to breathe, rest and restore our minds and spiritual well-being. We may find some quiet space with a cup of tea, a good book to read, and for some, meditation and prayer are wonderful ways to center the self and find inner peace.

Others may find their inner peace through an activity that might be a bit more vigorous. It is, however, so beneficial to have those moments where we can find our inner selves, be restored and strengthened for the journey ahead and the things we need to do in life. While all of this is true, it is also true that many in this world do not have the luxury of having this kind of time or opportunity to find that inner peace. Many are suffering because of circumstances out of their control. This is where it is important to be reminded that Christ knows all of this and cares for all of us.

II. Our Christ hard at work

In Mark Chapter One, we find Jesus extremely busy healing people and casting out demons. We saw Him casting out the evil spirits from the man at the synagogue in Capernaum, and so we still find Him there in the city of Capernaum, where many have been following Him and came for healing, but others were attracted to Him because of His fame and popularity for performing miracles.

It was an exhausting time for Him because He was working right into the night, because so many people needed healing. He still made time to go to Simon's mother-in-law's house where He healed her from her fever. With Him were Simon, James and John and Andrew, the initial four disciples He called to be in His inner circle.

III. He went to a deserted place to pray

We cannot comprehend the enormity of the needs people had, and how He felt the weight of their needs when they came to Him for healing and delivering from evil forces. He was a mortal being with His own physical limitations, but during the evening and during the night He was still performing these miracles.

It is wonderful though, to see the example of Christ, as He got up in the morning, probably still physically and spiritually exhausted, and mentally drained, left the house of Simon's mother-in-law, and went to find a deserted place to pray. He went to pray to God, His source of strength and guidance. He needed to be renewed, and the connection with

God, who would give Him what He needed in order to continue his mission on earth.

When the disciples came to urgently search for Him, because the crowd needed Him, He told them He needed to go to the other smaller villages in the surrounding areas, the ones who probably would not get the attention the urban settings received. He could have stayed in Capernaum, and let people come to Him, but He made it a point to go to them.

He had just spent time with God and must have received His message from God about this next part of His mission, where to go and whom to see and what to say. In John 5 v 30, Mark Strauss in his commentary on Mark reminds us that Jesus never did anything out of His own initiative, only what He was told to by God.

So, going to these other villages was God's idea for Him to continue the mission of proclaiming the word of God, calling them to repentance and speaking about the Kingdom of God. Spread the Good News! Do not keep it in one place! Go into the villages further along the Jordan River and further inland into the region of Galilee! And that is what He did. He preached in their synagogues and drove out evil spirits. All this because He spent time with God away from everyone and everything.

IV. Conclusion

We all do the work of God here at our church, and we all have different calls and responsibilities. And we all get tired and exhausted and weary sometimes, from all the meetings and activities. But we keep on coming back, because we love our church, and we feel the fulfillment of what we have been called to do. The example of Christ here in Mark is crucial for us, to remember to go home, or some other place of solitude, where we can restore ourselves physically, mentally, but also spiritually.

It reminds us to make time with God, the One who gives us what we need, so that when we return to our place of service, we know we are in the right place inside ourselves and where God wants us to be, to love and to serve. May the example of Christ who prayed and cried sometimes in His prayers, be an inspiration for us to know our strength comes not from ourselves, but from God through prayer and meditation on God's word. May God strengthen us all today and give us what we need for tomorrow and the day after as we love and serve God and one another.

Amen.

Pastor Margaret Keyser
Barre Congregational Church
30 Park St., Barre

First Universalist Parish in Orange to host vespers concert

ORANGE – The First Universalist Parish of North Dana, through a trust fund established almost 100 years ago, will provide a free public concert of piano music performed by Zhen Tu at the First Universalist Parish on North Main Street on Sunday, Feb 11 at 3 p.m.

There will be a brief reception after the concert. This program will be the 807th such vespers program provided through the

trust fund, which is administered through the Parish, which includes descendants of the original parish.

Pianist Zhen Tu is a second-year graduate student at University of Massachusetts-Amherst, where she studies with Gilles Vonsattel. She began studying the piano at the age of four. Her previous teachers include Lydia Artymiw and Wei-Yi Yang. She has soloed with

the Minnesota Orchestra, the La Crosse Symphony Orchestra and the UMass Symphony Orchestra. She graduated from Yale University with a BA in history in 2022.

Her program at the Universalist Church will include Schubert's Wanderer Fantasy, Beethoven's Sonata No. 30 Op. 109 and Chopin's Fantasy.

Maureen Riendeau is the Music Coordinator for the First

Universalist Parish of North Dana. Recent programs of the North Dana Vespers series include holiday performances by the Pioneer Valley Brass in Athol, Petersham, Hubbardston and Greenfield.

Upcoming programs include Sunday April 18 at 2:00 in St. Paul's in Gardner, and a Sunday in July at the Swift River Valley Historical in New Salem.

St. Mary's Church hosts Polish plate dinner

WARE – St. Mary's Church, 57 South St., will be having a pre-order take-out dinner on Saturday, March 9.

The dinner will consist of four pierogi, one golombek, kielbasa, kapusta and rye bread. The cost of the dinner is \$20.

The dinner will be cold and will

need reheating. Place your order by calling Sylvia at 413-436-9268 or Diane at 413-967-5207 from noon-7 p.m. starting Wednesday, Feb. 14 through Saturday, Feb. 24.

Curbside pickup will be available between 11:30 a.m.-noon for anyone with a handicap card. Please let them know when you call in your order.

All other orders will be picked up in the church hall. You will be given a time between noon-2 p.m. for your pick up when you call.

Please put your money in an envelope with your name, number of dinners and pick up number. St. Mary's Church thanks you for your continued patronage.

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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Education

School district offers preschool opportunities for families

Did you know that children who receive early childhood education are 25% more likely to graduate high school and four times more likely to complete a bachelor's degree?

They perform better academically and socially. Engaging your child in early childhood learning experiences helps them to build skills and habits that will serve them well in the future.

However, sometimes it can be challenging for families to have their children engage in these experiences due to limitations of programming, cost, and other factors.

The Quabbin Regional School District believes in the importance of Early Childhood Education and recently added a "full day" preschool option for families that reside within the district.

The full day program runs at Hardwick Elementary School from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Monday through Friday following the school year calendar. We anticipate great interest, and we will use a lottery system for student selection.

Half day preschool programs are available at New Braintree Grade School, Ruggles Lane School, and Hubbardston Center School.



Turley Photos by Paula Oumette

Quabbin Regional School District's Superintendent of Schools Colleen Mucha created bead bracelets with children at Making Opportunity Count Coordinated Family & Community Engagement's playgroup in Hardwick.

Preschool registration is ongoing.

These programs are at "no cost" to families.

One added benefit of having your child attend preschool in the QRSD is that students will become familiar with their school, teachers, and administrators early on. This will ease the transition to kindergarten.

Our early learners fill us with great joy! Other elementary students enjoy being able to "help" our youngest learners as do our adults.

Should you have any questions regarding our preschool programs, you can reach out to our Early Childhood Coordinator, Shelley St. George at [sstgeorge@qrsd.org](mailto:ssstgeorge@qrsd.org).



Superintendent Colleen Mucha read a book about dogs.



Superintendent Colleen Mucha met with parents and played with children at a recent playgroup.

Quabbin Regional High School lists second quarter honor roll

BARRE – Quabbin Regional High School announces the second quarter honor roll.

Grade 9 High Honors

Student in Grade 9 attaining High Honors are: Madeleine Boisselle, Makenzie Casey, James Cook, Benjamin Darcey, Jack Desjean, Isabel Doty, Tess Dunphy, Grace Flamand, Mia Gleason, Anna Hautala, Anna Metcalf and Brendan Welch.

Grade 9 Honors

Student in Grade 9 attaining Honor Roll are: Klavdiya Antonian, Alexa Araujo, Skyler Bard, Jacob Bassett, Halo Bissonnette, Logan Bruley, aKherington Deschenes, Leah Doucette, Sabrina Downs, Katelyn Durant, Brody Faucher, Quinlan Fauteux, Alijah Flint, Jacoby Hartshorn, Violet Kelley, Jillian LaMontagne, Audrey Laursen, Scarlett Merriman, Mia Miville, Jesse Newton, Samantha O'Connor, Charlotte Oliver, Julia Quintal, Ella Reeves, Arianna Riendeau, Abigail Rogowski, Emma Ryan, Kailynn Schuster, Gabriella Totas, Owen Twarog, Grace Vanoudenhove, Ellary White and Leanna Zou.

Grade 10 High Honors

Student in Grade 10 attaining High Honors are: Aaron Bodine, Kalina Dyer, Kenzie Gallagher, Grace Manna, Elizabeth Mattheson and Zoe Orellana Cadenas.

Grade 10 Honors

Student in Grade 10 attaining Honor Roll are: Owen Breuer, Brandon Brooks, Tricia Bruso, Troy Budreau, Micah Cerezo, Kylee Costello, Trace Davin, Mia Ducos, Aiden Fuller, Evelyn Giese, Ava Gilman, Madeleine Hardy, Adelaide Harmon, Emma Kahlau, Jacob LaValley, Collin Lindley, Madison Lyden, Hunter McQuestion, Garrett Pease, Parker Proulx, Aaron Rowell, Allison Sprankle, Madelyn Stauder, Cameran Vega, Samantha Vessair, Andrew Warfield, Farah Wojcik and Jin Xi Zou.

Grade 11 High Honors

Student in Grade 11 attaining High Honors are: Alexander Bedard, Kevin Boles, Matthew Erickson, Samuel Guertin, Isabel LaBelle, Ethan Salvadore, Sydney Slattery, Irene Stolgitis, Richard Tucker and Jaxon Warburton.

Grade 11 Honors

Student in Grade 11 attaining Honor Roll are: Andre Ampong, Benjamin Bibik, Joshua Bibik, Samantha Carlson, Teaghan Earle, Adam Faulha, Angelina Feliciano, Sophia Gagne, Kun Liu, Vincent Marinelli, Veronika Mendrek, Sadie Sheldon, Hannah Shepard, Julia Smith, Vanecia Tarquinio, Abigail Ure and Travis Wells.

Grade 12 High Honors

Student in Grade 12 attaining High Honors are: Baylee Garcia, Kylie Casey, Sophia Januszewski, Gavin Majoy, Julianna Stanger, Eleanor Thompson, Michael Tobin, John Waltz and Brianna Whitelaw.

Grade 12 Honors

Student in Grade 12 attaining Honor Roll are: Annabel Audino, Hannah Baxter, Brianna Caponigro, Samantha Dube, Colin Harmon, Taylor LaRoque, Grace LaValley, Jake Leazott, Kan Lee, Ally Legare, Joshua Marcotte, Jr., Kelsey Marsh, Emma Masser, Cole Morrill, Camryn Orsini, Carlee Rich, Kayla Sherblom, Amy Stauder, Heather Stuart, Lillian Swett, Gracie Talbot, Lillian Thibeault, Seth Twarog and Benjamin Vasseur.

News from the Quabbin Regional School District

From the desk of Colleen Mucha, Superintendent of QRSD

The Quabbin Regional School District offers a Post Grad program that is designed to assist students with gaining necessary skills as they transition from high school to adult life.

Students acquire functional academics and daily living skills both in their school environment and throughout their work in our greater community. Our Post Grad program is housed at New Braintree Grade School.

Students consistently work across multiple learning spaces. They have a more traditional area when they may work on their academics individually or in small groups. Additionally, they have a kitchen and multipurpose area. It is here you can find students practicing daily living skills as they learn how to use a stove, prepare meals and more. However, the students' favorite space is their "chill" zone. This is a large open area outfitted with electronics, exercise equipment and comfortable seating. Students enjoy chatting, listening to music and playing the occasional video game. This is a time they can work on social skills.

If you ask our students what they like best about the program, most would answer their "jobs." In partnership with local community businesses, our students have vast opportunities to spend part of their week engaged in real work experiences. There are two types of jobs that students have, jobs that the whole group participates in and individual jobs. All of the jobs are meant to give our students real life experiences and skills that they will be able to take with them in life beyond school.

As a group, they have worked at locations like the Barn at Wight Farm in Sturbridge, the Harding Allen Estate and the Town of New Braintree. Individually we have students placed at a number of locations in the area, these include J and J Family Restaurant, Hamshaw Lumber, the Quabbin Regional School District and the New Braintree Public Library.

All of these work experiences help our students to develop as productive contributors to our society. We thank all of our community partners for supporting our students and providing opportunities for them. If you or your organization is interested in providing an internship opportunity to our students, please reach out to Greg Devine at gdevine@qrsd.org.

QRSD is also thankful to partner with both the Ashburnham-



Submitted photos

Tyler Gregory enjoys the skate sled.

Westminster and Narragansett School Districts. Students from all three districts spend time together consistently throughout the year and many wonderful friendships have been formed. Recently, I had the opportunity to spend time with the students from all three districts during their annual holiday party. Students enjoyed wonderful food, a photo booth and lots of dancing at the Harding Allen Estate. Whether they were enjoying the cupcakes, dancing to a favorite song, or interacting with their peers - it was done with pure joy.

Should you have the pleasure of seeing one of our Post Grad students at work in the community, be sure to let them know that they are doing a great job and share a smile. I think you'll see their joy first hand.

The Quabbin Post Grad students had a recent outing with their friends from the Ashburnham/Westminster and Narragansett School Districts. Max Mazeika is shown playing hockey.



FSU offers Master's Degree in construction management

FITCHBURG – Fitchburg State University will launch a new Master of Science in Construction Management program next year, building the state's capacity in a critical professional field.

The fully online program will be offered through the university's Engineering Technology Department and the School of Graduate, Online and Continuing Education. The Massachusetts Board of Higher Education approved the new program this fall.

This new graduate program will expand opportunities and streamline pathways in a critical workforce area for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, according to Fitchburg State President Richard S. Lapidus.

"Our program will provide professionals with the comprehensive academic and technical skills necessary for them to meet the needs of regional, national, and global industries," President Lapidus continued. "This innovative program builds upon the strong foundation

of our Engineering Technology Department, which has evolved for more than a century to respond to changing workforce needs."

The online program will prepare students to manage complex construction projects and enhance their decision-making processes; provide pathways to students to advance into the field of construction management from related disciplines and/or prior construction experience; provide employers with a well-educated and skilled workforce, capable of performing valuable construction management services and ready to serve in managerial and leadership positions; and contribute to scholarly activity in the discipline. Students, who may complete the program in as few as three semesters, will graduate ready to meet the workforce needs of the construction industry.

Dr. Nirajan Mani, the Engineering Technology Department Chair and the founding program chair for the M.S. in Construction Management program,

noted that Fitchburg State is the first state university in Massachusetts to offer such a graduate degree.

The Associated General Contractors of Massachusetts, Inc., a statewide trade association representing almost 200 construction managers, general contractors, subcontractors and affiliated service providers, endorsed Fitchburg State's proposal to the Board of Higher Education.

AGC MA Chief Executive Officer John Ferrante described his organization's long history of collaboration with Fitchburg State and said the program will support students as well as the state's commercial construction industry.

People may visit to learn more about this program <https://www.fitchburgstate.edu/academics/programs/construction-management-engineering-technology-ms>.

Fitchburg State also offers an undergraduate degree in construction management through its Engineering Technology Department.



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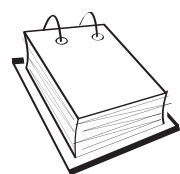
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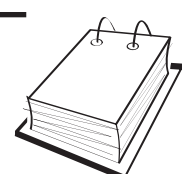
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Calendar of Events



THURSDAY, FEB. 8

CIRCLE OF SONG REHEARSALS take place tonight at 7 p.m. in the Barre Town Hall, Exchange Street, Barre. The choral group of 23 years sings in four-part harmony and often in other languages. People may email julie@mhof.net or call 978-257-1192 for more information. They perform several concerts during the year. The next concert will be Saturday, May 18 at the Barre Town Hall. New members are always welcome. Membership dues are sliding scale from \$25 per year for students and \$40 - \$70 for adults according to ability to pay. If people are interested in joining Circle of Song, they may email Julie Rawson, director, at julie@mhof.net, or call 978-257-1192 or show up at a rehearsal.

VALENTINE STATION at the Gilbertville Public Library, 259 Main St., Gilbertville happens now through Wednesday, Feb. 14 during regular library hours Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 2-6 p.m. and Friday from 4-7 p.m. The library will have a self-guided craft station where they can create a work of art and add it to a cut-out greeting card donated by the library's friend, Lisa at Plymouth Cards. The library will have everything to make a special art piece, which can slide into a card and send to someone special. The card fits into a 5 by 7 inch frame so the recipient can save it and hang on a wall. If the Quabbin Regional School District is closed due to weather, the library will be closed also.

FRIDAY, FEB 9

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

SATURDAY, FEB. 10

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

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

DRIVE THRU CHICKEN PARMIGIANA DINNER will be held at the Barre Congregational

Where is this?



Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer

This week's mystery photo is from Oakham. 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. 12. The names of those that correctly guessed the location will appear in the following edition. Bill Bowles, Peggy Civilik, Stephan Craven and Evelyn Luukko correctly identified the photo. The photo last week shows the entrance to the Hayden Masonic Building in North Brookfield.

church, 30 Park St., Barre today from 5-5:30. Cost us \$14 per adult and \$5 per child. The menu besides the chicken parmigiana includes pasta, salad and dessert. For reservations, people may call Lisa Holloway or the church once at 978-355-4041.

SUNDAY, FEB. 11

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

MONDAY, FEB. 12

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

served following the presentation.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 14

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

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

BARRE TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION will meet at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road, Barre, today at Feb. 14 at 7 p.m. People should bring

their questions and concerns. The BTA will have an on-going regular meeting the second Wednesday of the month, same time and place.

FRIDAY, FEB. 16

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

SATURDAY, FEB. 17

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 1

OPEN HOUSE AND RIBBON CUTTING will be held for the Reverend Richard and Gail Pryce House, 158 New Braintree Road, Oakham today from 1:30-4 p.m. Refreshments will be provided. RSVP is appreciated by not necessary by emailing davemcmahon@dismasfamily.org.

MONDAY, MARCH 4

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

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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Panthers drop matchup to Tyngsborough

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

BARRE—The Quabbin Regional High School boys basketball team gave Tyngsborough High School a hard fought battle in last Friday night's Mid-Wach C match-up. Unfortunately, the Panthers lost the game, 55-38.

This year's squad had a 2-13 overall record, and a 0-11 league record following last Friday night's loss.

"We're a very young basketball team with only one senior, but we played one of our better games of the season tonight. The players from the 1999 championship team provided us with a lot of energy tonight," said Quabbin head coach Dennis Dextradeur. "You lose touch with your former players over time, and it's always nice to reconnect with them."

Dextradeur, who started his varsity basketball coaching career as the Quabbin girls coach in 1980, has been coaching the boys' varsity team since 1992. He has won more than 450 games.

Junior Quinn Geary made a lay-up on the game's opening possession giving the home team a 2-0.

Geary, who scored a team-high 17 points and pulled down nine rebounds, gave his thoughts about the special evening following the game.

Quabbin junior Kyle Clark posted a double-double with 13 points and 10 rebounds. He also had a team-leading five steals.

The Panthers only senior is Nick Whitelaw.

"Our basketball program has a great history," said Whitelaw, who didn't score any points in the game. "I'm really looking for-

See PANTHERS, page 10



Luke Salvatore attempts a three-point shot.



Zeke Santoro fouls in for the lay-up.



Kyle Clark drives to the hoop.



Quinn Geary with a baseline jump shot.



Jaxon Warburton puts up the rebound from under the hoop.

Panthers compete against Leominster



Abe Brown flips his opponent during the 120-pound match.



Jack Fors wrestles his opponent.

Silas Stukulis Barrieau squares up against his opponent.



Cole Wilson with a hold on his opponent.

Turley photos by Ray Duffy

Indians a win away from tournament

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Last Friday night, North Brookfield boys basketball picked up a win over Trivium High School. The Indians doubled up on the Eagles 64-32. In the win Jose Rivera had 20 points while Ryan Roy contributed 16 points in the win. Colin Sukharev had 14 points while Anthony Sheard netted 12 points.

The Indians are now 8-4 on the season. They need just one win to qualify for the state tournament. North Brookfield also has an impressive 6-3 record in the Worcester County League.

Hurricanes qualify for state tournament

AMHERST – The Amherst Regional High School ice hockey team, which co-ops with Pathfinder Regional, defeated Taconic 3-1 last Wednesday night in Pittsfield. The Hurricanes are now 11-4-1 on the season and have already qualified for the state tournament.

There are just three games remaining in the regular season as the Hurricanes both try to be among the top teams in Class B to enter the Western Mass. tournament. Amherst also hopes to raise its ranking in the state tournament so it can host a state tournament game or two.

The Hurricanes remaining games will be against Ludlow, Easthampton, and Suffield, CT.

The playoffs will begin toward the end of the month, beginning with the sectional tournament.

Pathfinder girls close in on tourney spot

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER—Only three of the twelve players listed on the Pathfinder Tech girls' varsity basketball roster have ever experienced playing in a postseason tournament game.

The Lady Pioneers moved a step closer to clinching a berth in the 2024 Division 5 state tournament with a 49-22 home victory over Tri-County North League rival Gateway, last Tuesday night.

"One of our goals every year is to make the postseason tournament. We just need two more wins to qualify for the state tournament," said Pathfinder Tech head coach Kevin Aldrich. "We're also currently sitting in fourth place in the small school vocational tournament standings. This game counted towards that record. We haven't made the vocational tournament since 2019. It would be great if we could qualify for that tournament as well. Anytime that you can play extra games, especially with a younger team, it's invaluable."

Pathfinder Tech, who had an 8-5 overall record following the home victory, were ranked 33rd in the MIAA Division 5 power rankings. They can automatically earn a berth in the Division 5 state tournament for the first time in two years by winning two of their remaining six regular season games. They'll also qualify by finishing in the top 32.

Two years ago, the Lady



Victoria Stephens rushes to the hoop.



Desiree Croteau overcomes a block to shoot.

Pioneers entered the inaugural Division 5 state tournament as the 48th seeded and lost to 17th-seeded Georgetown in a preliminary round road game.

During the past twenty years, they've only played one post-season home game, which took place in 2019. The Lady Pioneers squeaked out a 28-27 home win over St. Mary's of Westfield in a Western Mass. Division 4 tournament game before losing at

top-seeded Monson on the road two days later.

The Lady Pioneers probably won't be one of the eight teams competing in the Western Mass. Class C tournament.

Two of the current Lady Pioneers players, who were members of the 2021-22 varsity squad are seniors Victoria Stephens, who scored a game-high 10 points in the game against the Gateway Gators (4-7), and Brianna Beynor,

who contributed eight points.

"Our two seniors normally play a lot of minutes, but our younger players are learning from them," Aldrich said. "They've been our team leaders this season."

Beynor has been a member of the varsity basketball team since she was a freshman.

Junior Greenly Lagimoniere (9

See PATHFINDER GIRLS, page 10



Taylor Allen heads down the court to start a play.



Greenly Lagimoniere looks to drive to the hoop.



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Sports

Committee seeks Hall of Fame nominations

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

available on the Quabbin Regional Athletic website (www.qrsd.org). All forms are due March 1. Please mail forms to:

Quabbin Regional Athletic Hall of Fame; PO Box 874; Barre, MA 01005 or e-mail to mmville@qrsd.org.

Modifieds champion plans lengthy 2024 schedule

CHELMSFORD – Modified champion Jon McKennedy announced today that he will drive in over 15 Tour-Type Modified races across the New England region in 2024.

Competing for his own team, McKennedy will mix between Outlaw Open Modified Series races at Thompson Speedway, Open Modified races at Stafford Motor Speedway, select NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour events and a few Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series races to make out a robust calendar for 2024.

“We’re excited to get the ball rolling in our FURY race cars and go chase some trophies,” McKennedy said. “I feel this is a great opportunity for me to go out there and continue to show we can win races. We did have some other opportunities for rides, but felt this was the best route for this season. We have picked some of the higher profile events at my favorite tracks for the 2024 season and feel the competition is going to be stout at all of them.”

A full sponsor lineup for the car and paint scheme will be released in the near future.

McKennedy’s season will begin at Thompson Speedway with the Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series during Icebreaker weekend on Saturday, April 7, followed by the Open Modified event at New Hampshire Motor Speedway’s Northeast Classic on April 13.

He will follow that up with seven more Thompson events during the 2024 season (May 27 - Outlaw Mods, June 13 - Outlaw Mods, June 27 - Outlaw Mods, July 25 - Outlaw Mods, August 7 - Outlaw Mods, August 14 - NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour and October 12 - Outlaw Mods). Thompson Speedway will continue to be operated by the

American-Canadian Tour and Pro All Star Series for 2024, keeping short track racing alive at the Connecticut oval.

McKennedy will compete at Stafford Motor Speedway for the NAPA Spring Sizzler (April 27-28), Open Modified Mountain Masters (July 17) and the Fall Final with the Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series on Sept. 28.

His NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour starts will take place at Monadnock Speedway (May 4 and July 20), Seekonk Speedway (June 1) and New Hampshire Motor Speedway (June 22). McKennedy will compete in the Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series at Thompson (April 7), White Mountain Motorsports Park (July 27) and Star Speedway (Sept. 15).

The 2022 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour champion, McKennedy is no stranger to winning races and championships. On top of the 2022 title, McKennedy finished second in the 2020 Tour standings driving for Tommy Baldwin Racing. He also picked up his first career NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour win at Myrtle Beach Speedway in 2018, and has another victory at Claremont Motorsports Park in 2022, which helped lead to his title.

McKennedy is a former ISMA Supermodified champion, 4-time ISMA Star Classic winner, 4-time ISMA Ollie Silva Memorial winner and 4-time Modified Racing Series champion. He has multiple Star Speedway championships to his resume, a North-South Shootout with Tommy Baldwin Racing (2018) and a championship in the Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series (2014), along with many karting titles in his early years and additional race wins in multiple divisions. McKennedy

was also named the 2016 North East Touring Series driver of the year.

For a full tentative schedule for Jon McKennedy’s 2024 season, see below.

2024 Schedule *Subject To Change*

April 7 - Thompson Speedway - Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series

April 13 - New Hampshire Motor Speedway - Open Modifieds

April 27-28 - Stafford Speedway - NAPA Spring Sizzler

May 4 - Monadnock Speedway - NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour

May 27 - Thompson Speedway - Outlaw Open Modified Series

June 1 - Seekonk Speedway - NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour

June 13 - Thompson Speedway - Outlaw Open Modified Series

June 22 - New Hampshire Motor Speedway - NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour

June 27 - Thompson Speedway - Outlaw Open Modified Series

July 17 - Stafford Speedway - Open Modified Mountain Masters

July 20 - Monadnock Speedway - NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour

July 25 - Thompson Speedway - Outlaw Open Modified Series

July 27 - White Mountain Motorsports Park - Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series

Aug. 7 - Thompson Speedway - Outlaw Open Modified Series

Aug. 14 - Thompson Speedway - NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour

Sept. 15 - Star Speedway - Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series

Sept. 28 - Stafford Speedway - Monaco Modified Tri-Track NAPA Fall Final

Oct. 12 - Thompson Speedway - Outlaw Open Modified Series

Disciplined game nets win for T-Birds

HARTFORD, CT – The Springfield Thunderbirds (21-19-3-2) went on two separate runs of three straight goals to defeat the Hartford Wolf Pack (23-13-5-0) by a final score of 6-3 on Saturday night inside the XL Center.

While the scuffling Springfield power play would not get the credit for the game’s opening goal, they were responsible for the offensive possession that led to it. Jakub Vrana found his way to a soft space at the top of the right circle, where Hugh McGing located him for a one-time blast past Dylan Garand’s glove at 9:05. Vrana’s seventh goal of the season made it 1-0, and the T-Birds offense was far from finished.

Just 1:54 after Vrana’s tally, a misplay of the puck in neutral ice sprung Ryan Suzuki on a clean breakaway. Suzuki perfectly picked the lower corner over Garand’s blocker, making it 2-0 at 10:59.

Then it was Vrana’s turn to join the breakaway game, as he, too, beat Garand on the stick side off a stretch pass from Mikhail Abramov, making it 3-0 at 13:59.

Brennan Othmann took it upon himself to give his team a spark, as the Wolf Pack rookie dropped

the mitts with ex-Hartford blueliner Wyatt Kalynuk at 16:40 of the first. Kalynuk, unfortunately, received a game misconduct for removing his elbow pads prior to the fight. Just 24 seconds later, the scrap paid dividends for the Pack as Alex Belzile crashed the paint and cashed in with a backhand poke through Malcolm Subban to make it a 3-1 score after 20 minutes. Subban was flawless in turning aside 14 of 15 Wolf Pack shots in the first.

As the second began, it became evident that Othmann’s fight lit a spark in the Hartford bench. Just 55 seconds into period two, Ryder Korczak found a loose puck in a four-man scrum outside the blue paint and found Brandon Scanlin for a one-time shot through Subban to make it a 3-2 game.

Then at 2:46, Korczak was in the middle of things again, driving a puck to the net, where towering Matt Rempe rammed home the rebound, getting Hartford back to even in not even six minutes of game action.

Springfield utilized its timeout and was able to stabilize defensively. With just under seven minutes left in the period, rookie Zach Dean came up with his

signature play of the season. The rookie centerman beautifully toe-dragged the puck from the left circle to walk around a defender before elevating a backhand shot over Garand’s glove at 13:47, giving Springfield the lead back at 4-3 on his first goal in 13 games.

Springfield’s well-disciplined night carried through all 60 minutes, as the T-Birds did not allow Hartford’s fourth-ranked power play any chances all evening. At 7:54 of the third period, captain Matthew Peca added to the lead again with a wrist shot that ricocheted off Garand high into the air and bounced over the goal line to make it 5-3.

The insurance goal proved to be more than enough, as the Wolf Pack could not find a way to get one through Subban and the defensive front of the T-Birds. Will Bitten added his 10th of the season into an empty net at 18:08 with McGing tallying a third assist on the game’s final goal.

The T-Birds get the All-Star break to get rest before their next contest on Saturday, Feb. 10 for Ice-O-Topes Night at the MassMutual Center against the Hershey Bears. Puck drop is set for 7:05 p.m.

BIGFOOT, continued from page 1

But in 2013, Tim said, they “had an experience and it’s one we can’t un-have.” The two were on a wilderness canoe trip to a remote area in the Adirondacks near Saranac Lake. It was September, they had set up camp on an island and went out fishing for bass.

They had paddled up a stream that fed the lake when two trees on shore started shaking and they heard a scream that vibrated into their chests, described as “like being at a Ted Nugent concert.” They returned to their campsite but slept little that night.

“We didn’t talk about it for a while,” Tim said. Tim, who is a ranger at the Moses Scout Reservation in Blandford, said he’s had a number of bear encounters in his work. “Bears just run,” he said. “This thing yelled and screamed and threw sticks and rocks at them for 10-15 minutes.” And the footprint casts that they have since acquired after other encounters are clearly not bear tracks. They not only lack claws, but the big toes on bear prints are the reverse of ours, unlike Bigfoot tracks.

A few years later, they heard a recording that was purportedly of a Bigfoot scream and recognized the sound as the one they’d heard in 2013. While Bigfoot are usually thought to be a phenomenon in the Pacific Northwest, the Vogels report that there have been numerous encounters in the Northeast. The first recorded sighting in Massachusetts dates back to 1765, when a hunter in Great Barrington reported seeing one sleeping by a stream. In 1895, a North Adams newspaper printed a town selectman’s account of seeing one.

And in 1958, the term “Bigfoot” was crafted when Jerry Crew of Humboldt County, California made a plaster cast of 16” footprints. Journalist Andrew Genzoli reported on the finding and coined the term “Bigfoot.” Native Americans have a number of different terms for the creatures, but the most commonly known is Sasquatch.

The Vogels have since added Bigfoot investigations or “going Squatching” to their expedition business. There are three types of encounters: Class A, which are actual sightings; Class B, which

are sounds and physical things like rocks being thrown or footprints being discovered and Class C, which are third party stories.

They say there have been 64 such reports in Western Massachusetts since 2000, including 14 Class A sightings in Hampden, Hampshire and Berkshire Counties. Encounters have also been reported in the Worcester and Boston areas, on Cape Cod, and in the “Bridgewater Triangle,” a 200 square mile area in Eastern Massachusetts with numerous reports of paranormal phenomena including Bigfoot sightings. And, of course, many of us have seen the 15 second video footage taken by Roger Patterson and Bob Gimlin in 1967 of a Sasquatch walking; according to the Vogels, still the best proof of a Bigfoot to date as no one has been able to debunk the footage. The Vogels report that there are more sightings in the spring and fall, when the creatures might be foraging and fewer in winter, suggesting that they might even hibernate. Sightings, when they happen, are often very brief and despite loud wood knocks and screams, the creatures can move very quietly through the woods.

The Vogels have become part of Bigfoot Field Research Organization, a network of believers who share data, experiences and connect evidence with experts. There is a linguist, for example, who believes that the vocalizations such as whoops, screams and whistles are a form of communication; that person also rules out recordings of things like owls. There are others who can examine the footprint casts of tracks and determine an estimated height and weight of the creature.

During one rainy encounter, the brothers discovered two solid tracks and covered them with bark to protect them. The next day, they returned with a guy, who had casting equipment. As they approached the track they heard a scream from the top of the mountain. The tracks showed a heel depth of 4 inches prints that are 9 inches wide and 17-1/2 inches in length and about seven feet between the prints.

According to a BFRO investigator, the Bigfoot that made those tracks would have weighed about 900 pounds. The presenters also played a recording made by

a local couple from an encounter in Blandford that was reviewed by the linguist and found to be “in the range.” Although the Vogels admit that the recording was nothing like the scream they heard in the Adirondacks, which they felt was much more aggressive and threatening.

For two hours, participants were spellbound as the Vogels described their additional experiences with Bigfoots. They’ve joined BFRO investigators on seven trips, all of which resulted in Class A or Class B encounters. “We’ve had multiple experiences because we go where they’ve been seen,” Eric said.

One of the odder things reported by witnesses including the Vogels is seeing a blue or white orb, about the size of a softball, hovering near a Bigfoot sighting. “We’ve been told that it’s just energy,” said Eric.

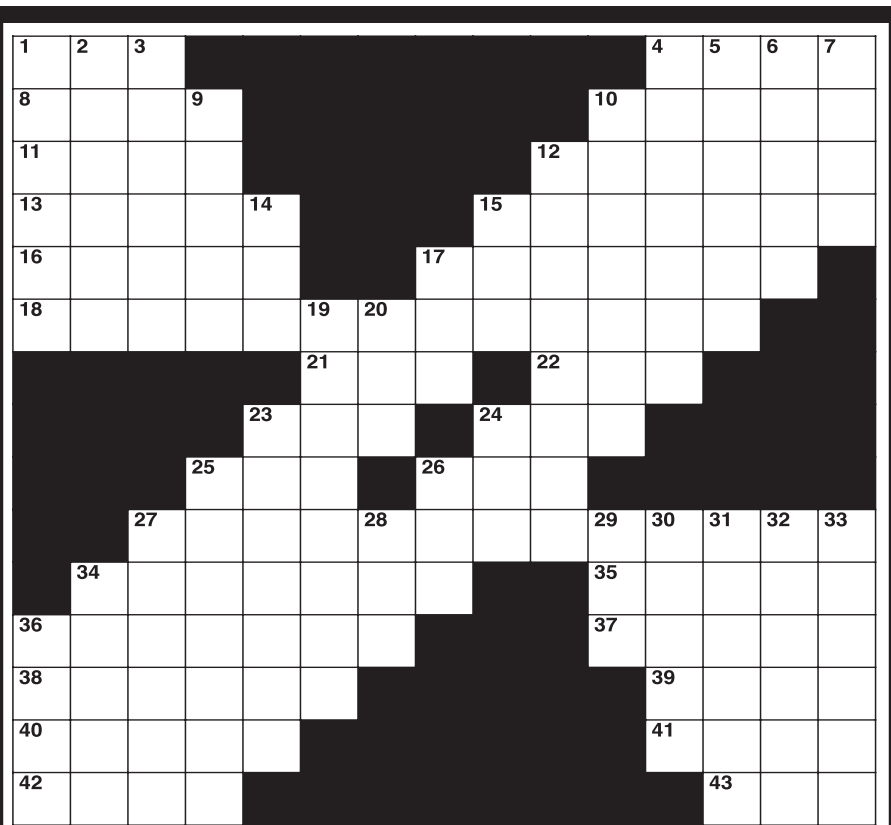
“Weather people call it ball lightning.” And some of the attendees have had their own encounters with Bigfoot. Lisa Haramut of Westfield said that both she and her father have had run-ins. “When they scream, they can interrupt your internal organs and cause vomiting or blood in your urine,” she said, adding that her father had experienced this. The Vogels had also heard similar reports, but had not experienced it themselves. Haramut also reported being chased by an orb while driving in an area where she believes she had also encountered one or more juvenile Bigfoots and was subjected to them throwing small rocks at her and whooping.

Shared stories had some common denominators. Many happened in steep, rugged terrain and often when it was raining. In addition to screams, wood knocks and thrown objects, sightings can sometimes be accompanied by a terrible “musk” smell.

The brothers feel it is important not to assign human characteristics to Bigfoot. “I try not to humanize Bigfoot because it’s in the animal world,” Tim said. His brother concurred.

If people had a similar experience, the Vogels invite them to contact them by emailing wildguide1@yahoo.com or calling 413-454-1296 or Tim or emailing wildguide2@yahoo.com or calling 413-207-1154 for Eric.

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SPORTS TEAMS



CLUES ACROSS

- One point south of due east
- Coagulated blood
- Fortifying ditch
- Devotee of Hinduism
- Trunk of a tree
- Bank note
- Capital of Guam
- Study again
- Covered with hoarfrost
- Opening
- Legendary Rolling Stone
- Stray
- Computer storing system
- Signal
- Pitching

CLUES DOWN

- Human being
- Malaysian isthmus
- The “Blonde Bombshell”
- A gland
- Bluish greens
- Endangered
- Three-dimensional
- In a way, precipitated
- God associated with dissolution
- Blemished
- Flow or leak slowly
- Disco legends
- The Bee —
- Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN

- A way to board
- Get down
- Highly seasoned sausage
- First day of month
- Eurasian shrubs
- The organ that bears the ovules of a flower
- Small lake
- Belief
- Sunrooms
- Metric weight unit
- Vasopressin
- Bravo! Bravo!
- One-time family room staple
- Got back together
- Anger
- Sang merrily
- Sea eagle
- Military men
- Kilo yard (abbr.)
- Found in the sea
- Protects from weather
- Type of medicine
- City along the Rhine
- Animal disease
- Martini ingredients
- Get away
- Lack of disunity
- One-time European Commission officer



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Palmer, MA 01069

PANTHERS, continued from page 9

ward to coming back and watching the returning players play basketball next year. They’ve been great teammates.”

The Tigers (9-7, 7-5) outscored the Panthers, 15-4, during the rest of the opening quarter.

The second and third quarters were evenly played, as the Panthers entered the final eight minutes trailing by 10 points (37-27).

The Tigers outscored the Panthers, 18-11, during the fourth quarter.

Support the local businesses that support your local newspaper.
Let them know you saw their ad in the **Barre Gazette**

PATHFINDER GIRLS, continued from page 9

points) was also a member of the team two years ago.

One of the Lady Pioneers younger players is junior Addison Doktor, who scored all six of her points before halftime. She also pulled down a team-leading 11 rebounds.

Another underclassman is sophomore Desiree Croteau, who hit a jumper from the right corner making the score 9-0 with five minutes left in the first quarter. It was her only points of the contest, but she was credited with five steals.

“Desiree has a very high basketball IQ,” Aldrich said. “She played very well defensively in tonight’s game.”

The Lady Pioneers were leading 16-2 at the end of the first quarter and they never looked back after that.

Freshman Ciara Green (4 points) and Doktor combined to score eight points during the second quarter, as the Lady Pioneers built a commanding 30-7 half-time lead.

Pathfinder Tech scored the first ten points of the third quarter and led by as many as 35 points during the second half.

The other Pathfinder girls’ basketball players are freshman Megan Clark (8 points), freshman Taylor Allen (2 points), sophomore Cassandra Nykiel, junior Althea Jewell, and sophomore Jinx Ripley.

Freshman Hannah Mellor is also a member of the girls’ basketball team, but she’s sidelined with an injury.

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.

Hubbardston businesses range from groceries to ice cream to back hoes



This shows an ad for the Wain Roy/Sherman power digger. The digger or backhoe attached to a tractor and operated with hydraulics.

By Ellenor Downer
Editor
edowner@turley.com

HUBBARDSTON – Many businesses in Hubbardston were on Main Street in town.

Today, many of these buildings not destroyed by fire are private residents.

One such building is the former Wheeler Brothers Store on the corner of Main and Elm streets. Across the street also on the corner of Worcester Road and Elm Street is Brekka & Brekka, Attorneys at Law. It was the formerly the Jacob Waite Inn, then a residence and currently a law firm.

Another home on Main Street used to be a tea room, barber-shop and pool room in the early 1900s. The great fire of 1929 destroyed the W.M. Clark groceries and dry goods store,

located on Main Street, A pillared home on Brigham Street used to be Ewell's Spa during the fifties and sixties. They served all kinds of ice cream treats. In more recent times, Calico and Creme, located on Williamsville Road, was a popular ice cream and restaurant stop for many years until the owners Don and Elaine

McKay retired.

Hubbardston is also known for the backhoe developed by Hubbardston business, Wain-Roy Corporation, located on Old Boston Turnpike, Route 62. A large commemorative monument sits on a piece of land next to the Hubbardston Fire Station on Main Street.

Shortly after WW II in 1947, Wain-Roy Corporation developed and tested the first actual backhoe. The company sold its first all hydraulic backhoe mounted on a Ford Model 9N tractor to the Connecticut Light and Power Company for the sum of \$1,090.

The invention, which Hubbardston became famous for, was the creation by Waino J. Holopainen and Roy E. Handy Jr. They patented their backhoe.

The backhoe operated off the back of a tractor, hence its name. It dug and dumped materials and it also had the ability to swing the load side to side without having to move the tractor.

Over the years, the Wain-Roy improved on the original design. Some of those designs included the tractor-loader-backhoe concept and the hydraulic thumb, still in

use today world wide. Credit for the invention of the backhoe is often given to larger outfits like J.I. Case or J.C. Bamford in England. Although Wain-Roy patented their machine first, competitors copied. Since Halopainen and the Wain-Roy company didn't sue smaller Massachusetts based companies, who took their ideas, it became impossible to defend the patent from theft in the coming years.

A recent book, "The Wain-Roy and Invention of the Backhoe" written by Lee Horton of Jefferson and Dave Wilens of Paxton, both engineers, tells the story of this Hubbardston invention.



Courtesy photos
This is a Wain Roy backhoe attached to a Ford tractor.

ESTABLISHED 1896

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444 Lower Rd, Hardwick, MA • 413.477.6913
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Check out our website www.HardwickFarmers.net

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CRAIG BROBERG, VICE-PRESIDENT

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L.P., Gas & Appliances

Richard P. Wine, Jr. President
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978-355-6406

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EXCAVATION AND SEPTIC SYSTEMS
STONE AND SAND

978-355-6649

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www.rjmenenergy.com

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- Cemetery Lettering
- Civic & Public Monuments
- Custom Designs & Styles
- Boulders & Irregular Shapes
- Bronze Memorial Plaques
- Laser Etching
- Granite Statuary
- Monument Cleaning & Maintenance
- Benches & Urns
- Commercial Granite Signs
- Veterans War Memorials

199 Petersham Road (Route 32), Athol
978-249-2206
www.MannMemorials.com

Open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. • Sat. 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. • Closed Sun.

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CRANSTON & CRANSTON, P. C.

Francis J. Cranston, Esq. (1929-2009) Paul M. Cranston, Esq.
Joel S. Cranston, Esq.

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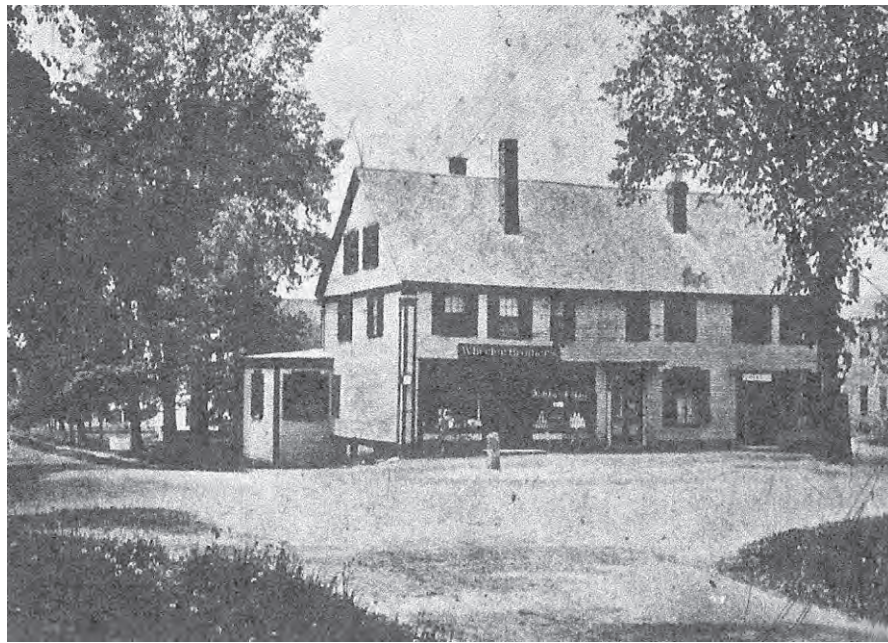


ESTABLISHED EDITION

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



This house on Main Street was built by Jonas G. Clark about 1847. Fred A. McWilliams had a barbershop and pool hall inside from 1908 to 1918. Bill Viggiana and Bill Jarvis also ran barbershops there. Mrs. Clarence Forgerty and her daughter, Mrs. Mildred Hamilton, ran a tea room there in the 1920s.



The former Wheeler Brothers Store is now a private home.



W.M. Clark was proprietor of a groceries and dry goods store on Main Street. It was destroyed in the great fire of 1929.

Photos courtesy of Jane McCauley



Abijah S. Clark first owned the store on Main Street in 1845. Later owners included William Bennet, William M. Morse and Walter E. Howe. Brothers William and Edwin Wheeler began the general merchandise business in 1875 as "Wheeler Brothers."



Brekka & Brekka, Attorneys at Law occupy this house on the corner of Worcester Road and Elm Street now and it was formerly the Jacob Waite Inn.

ESTABLISHED 1957

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508-882-0102 508-358-5281

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Sally Harrington, Proprietor

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Herbs & Spices
Small Amounts Available

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Tel. 978-355-6999

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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.

Rick Caron (L), John Caron (R)

ESTABLISHED 1990

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42 W. Main St., Brookfield, MA
Hours: Mon-Thurs 9-6 • Fri 9-5 • Sat 10-3

Dave, Rick and John Caron, 1983.

ESTABLISHED 1986

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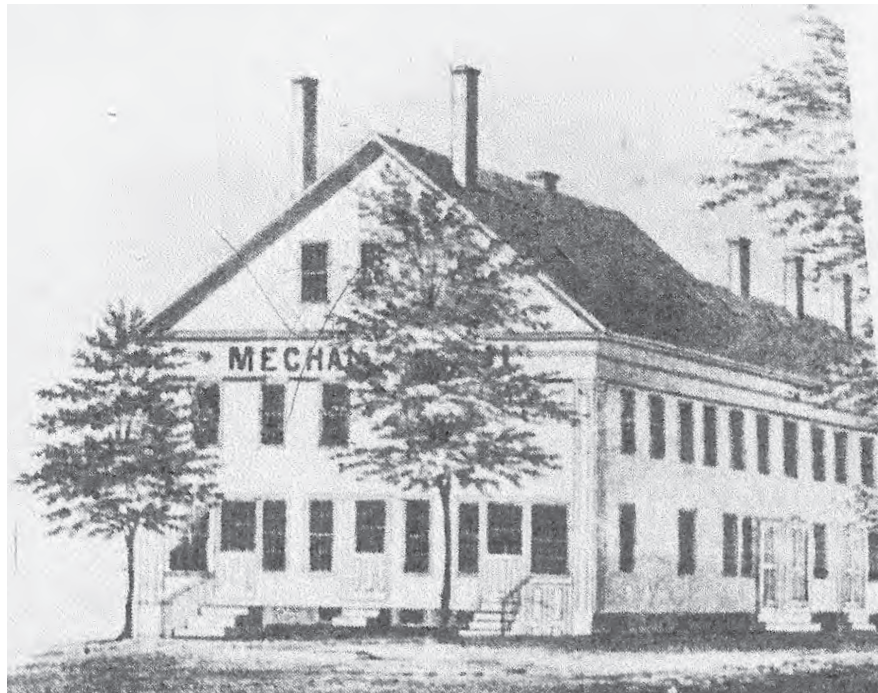
ESTABLISHED EDITION

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



Photos courtesy of Jane McCauley

Howe Mill Lumber Co. was located near Brigham Pond on what is now Brigham Street. Many local residents made chairs there.



Mechanics Hall was formerly located on Main Street where the former Farmers Cooperative Market was located.



This pillared house on Brigham Street used to be Ewell's Spa during the fifties and sixties. They served all kinds of ice cream treats. It is now a home.



Formerly a tea room, barbershop and pool room from 1908 to 1918, it is now a private home on Main Street.

ESTABLISHED 2021

590 Summer Street, Barre
jthorpe@downrangesports.com

978-257-8090
JESSE THORPE, OWNER

ESTABLISHED 2022

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OPEN 6 DAYS
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Clipper, Razor & Precision Cutting
Coloring, Foiling, Texture Services & Styling
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Saturday Night Special
2 Dinners for \$24
Includes Drink, Dinner & Dessert

Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
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Slip and Fall

www.farberandlindley.com

ESTABLISHED 2003

White Valley Motors
&
Dave's Tow & Transport

MASSACHUSETTS
VEHICLE CHECK
Cleaner Air • Safer Roads

843 Worcester Road, Barre
978-355-2200

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@amanda_makes_magic_travel
@the_magicmouse_mama
Barre, MA

Public Safety

Barre Police Log

Sunday, Jan. 21
 8:17 a.m. Notification, Gilbert Road, Information Taken
 10:08 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Out Of Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 10:47 a.m. Notification, Gilbert Road, Information Taken

Monday, Jan. 22
 5:59 a.m. Safety Concern, Worcester Road, Remove Hazard
 8:27 p.m. Serve Warrant, North Brookfield Road, Arrest(s) Made
 Arrest: Castonguay, Randall D., 56, Barre
 Charges: Warrant
 9:37 a.m. Road Condition Notification, Williamsville Road, Message Delivered
 8:57 p.m. Animal – Wildlife, Williamsville Road, Information Taken

Tuesday, Jan. 23
 4:35 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Shaking, Numbness, School South Street, Transported to Hospital
 9:52 a.m. Emergency Medical

Services – Seizures, Ruggles Lane, Transported to Hospital
 2:08 p.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Worcester Road, Message Delivered
 4:31 p.m. Trespasser or Prowler, Old Dana Road, Officer Took Call

Wednesday, Jan. 24
 12:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle – No Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service Response, Worcester Road, Report Filed
 1:31 p.m. Erratic Operator, Worcester Road, Negative Contact
 9:01 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Welfare Check, Old Dana Road, Officer Spoke to Party

Thursday, Jan. 25
 9:45 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Wheelwright Road, Message Delivered
 5:33 p.m. Assault and Battery, South Street, Investigated

Friday, Jan. 26
 7:41 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle

Collision, Common Street, Report Filed
 5:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Williamsville Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 8:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Williamsville Road, Officer Advised
 10:40 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Wheelwright Road, Transported to Hospital

Saturday, Jan. 27
 10:28 a.m. Public Assist, Worcester Road, Officer Took Call
 10:50 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Gauthier Road, Information Given
 11:37 a.m. Road Condition Notification, Walnut Hill Road, Message Delivered
 11:55 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Phillipston Road, Information Given
 2:19 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Burns, Hubbardston Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 7:30 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Breathing Difficulty, Hancock Road, Transported to Hospital

Rutland Police Log

Sunday, Jan. 21
 3:24 p.m. Lockout (Home or Vehicle), Main Street, Entry Gained
 3:34 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Stroke (CVA), North Brookfield, Transported to Hospital
 3:40 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Glenwood Road, Report Filed
 3:54 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Falls, Joanna Drive, Transported to Hospital
 4 p.m. Fire – Broken Water Pipe, Main Street, Investigated
 4:44 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Falls, Johnson Way, Transported to Hospital
 4:44 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Falls, River Road, Mutual Aid Transported
 7:33 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Holden, Mutual Aid Assist

Monday, Jan. 22
 7:22 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogusset Road, Written Warning
 8:25 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Citation Issued
 8:38 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale, Citation Issued
 9:07 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Written Warning
 9:09 a.m. Court Duty, East Brookfield District Court, Court Duty
 12:25 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Edema, Spencer Road, Transported to Hospital
 1:12 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Juniper Lane, Report Filed
 2:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 2:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning
 3 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Written Warning
 4:31 p.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Pleasantdale Road, Negative Contact
 6:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle Hit and Run, Main Street, Officer Took Call
 6:52 p.m. Identity Theft, East County Road, Investigation On-going
 6:55 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, East County Road, Investigation On-going
 Tuesday, Jan. 23
 10:39 a.m. Animal – Wildlife, Beechwood Drive, Referred to Other

Agency
 11:14 a.m. Public Assist, Main Street, Public Assist
 12:57 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Breathing Difficulty, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 1:25 p.m. Notification, Charnock Hill Road, Information Given
 4:24 p.m. Harassment, Irish Lane, Officer Spoke to Party
 4:34 p.m. Erratic Operator, Main Street, Written Warning
 10:22 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Town wide, Message Delivered

Wednesday, Jan. 24
 5:15 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Breathing Difficulty, Sycamore Drive, Public Assist
 4:24 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Citation Issued
 8:41 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, East Hill Road, No Fire Service Necessary
 8:56 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Town wide, Information Given

Thursday, Jan. 25
 11:10 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Main Street, Public Assist
 3:02 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning
 3:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Wachusett Street, Citation Issued
 4:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Citation Issued

Friday, Jan. 26
 12:06 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Written Warning
 9:41 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Juniper Lane, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 11:54 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 1:52 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Bleeding (No-Traumatic), Maple Avenue, Transported to Hospital
 2:50 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 2:58 p.m. Property Damage, Pleasantdale Road, Report Filed
 3:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main

Street, Criminal Complaint
 Summons: Peterson, Brandy Lynne, 26, Rutland
 Charges: Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle, Inspection/Sticker, No 5:12 p.m. Sex Offender Registry, Main Street, Arrest(s) Made
 Arrest: Resendes, Jeffrey Leandres, 42, Hudson
 Charges: Sex Offender Fail to Register, Subsequent Offense, Level 2 or 3
 8:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Citation Issued
 10:32 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, No Action Required
 11:15 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Falls, Main Street, Public Assist

Saturday, Jan. 27
 9:26 a.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, Main Street, Message Delivered
 11:03 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Falls, East County Road, Public Assist
 11:19 a.m. Animal – Wildlife, Carlson Way, Information Given
 11:32 a.m. Animal – Wildlife, Sunnyside Avenue, Referred to Other Agency
 11:41 a.m. Recovered/Confiscated Property, Anthony Drive, Officer Advised
 Summons: Miller, Sara L., 43, Northbridge
 Charges: Assault and Battery with Dangerous Weapon, Assault
 11:45 a.m. Motor Vehicle stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 4:57 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Barre Paxton Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 6:01 p.m. Lockout (Home or Vehicle), Marjorie Lane, Entry Gained
 6:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Maple Avenue, Officer Advised
 7:32 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 9:24 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Citation Issued
 10:24 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Falls, Crestview Drive, Transported to Hospital

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of Jan. 29-Feb. 5, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 78 building/property checks, 41 directed/area patrols, nine traffic controls, eight emergency 911 calls, eight radar assignments, one assist other agency, eight complaints, one safety hazard, two investigations, two animal calls and 13 motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, Jan. 29
 11:28 a.m. Safety Hazard, Fiske Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 11:51 a.m. Investigation, Out of Town, Officer Handled
 1 p.m. Investigation, Main Street, Officer Handled
 2:52 p.m. 911 Animal Call, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled

Tuesday, Jan. 30
 10:28 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Fiske Road, Officer Handled
 11:11 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency,

Barre Road, Transported to Hospital

Wednesday, Jan. 31
 5:47 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Turkey Street, Transported to Hospital
 6:01 a.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Lower Road, Taken/ Referred to Other Agency
 8:06 a.m. 911 Welfare Check, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital
 2:09 p.m. 911 Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Church Street, Arrest(s) Made
 7:49 p.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Ware, Negative Contact

Thursday, Feb. 1
 2:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Church Lane, Written Warning
 3:25 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Church Street, Citation Issued
 3:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Citation Issued
 5:49 p.m. Complaint, Barre Road, Officer Handled

Saturday, Feb. 3
 3:18 p.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Rail Trail, Unfounded
 3:51 p.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Joslyn Road, Spoken To
 4:55 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Church Street, Vehicle Towed
 5:02 p.m. Complaint, Joslyn Road, Officer Handled
 9:06 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Citation Issued
 10:01 p.m. 911 Stolen Motor Vehicle, Short Road, Could Not Locate

Sunday, Feb. 4
 5:22 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital
 11:01 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital
 3:36 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 5:41 p.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Broad Street, Officer Handled

Public Notices

BARRE PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
 The Barre Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.**, Henry Woods Building, 40 West Street, Boards' Office, 3rd Floor, requested by Shawn Robertson for the installation of an interconnected ground mounted PV system, 20 (405w) panels, 8.100 kcdc located at 173 Old Coldbrook Road, Assessors Map EA, Parcel 10 and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds Book 64682, Page 163.
 Anyone wishing to comment on this matter should attend the hearing or submit comments in writing prior to the hearing to the Planning Board.
 Floyd Kelley
 Chairman
 02/08, 02/15/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508)831-2200 Docket No. WO24C0036CA
 In the matter of: **Kristin Michelle Ayotte Lapierre**
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME
 A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Kristin Michelle Ayotte Lapierre of New Braintree, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing her name to: **Kristin Michelle Woodis**

IMPORTANT NOTICE
 Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Worcester Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 02/27/2024.**
 This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
 WITNESS, Hon. **Leilah A Keamy**, First Justice of this Court.
 Date: January 25, 2024
Stephanie K Fattman
 Register of Probate
 02/08/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508)831-2200 Docket No. WO24P0244EA
 Estate of: **Donald L Rich**
 Date of Death: 03/31/2022
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
 To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by **Virginia A Rich of Barre, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
 The Petitioner requests that: **Virginia A Rich of**

Barre, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**
IMPORTANT NOTICE
 You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/05/2024.**
 This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
 A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any

matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
 WITNESS, Hon. **Leilah A Keamy**, First Justice of this Court.
 Date: January 25, 2024
Stephanie K. Fattman
 Register of Probate
 02/08/2024

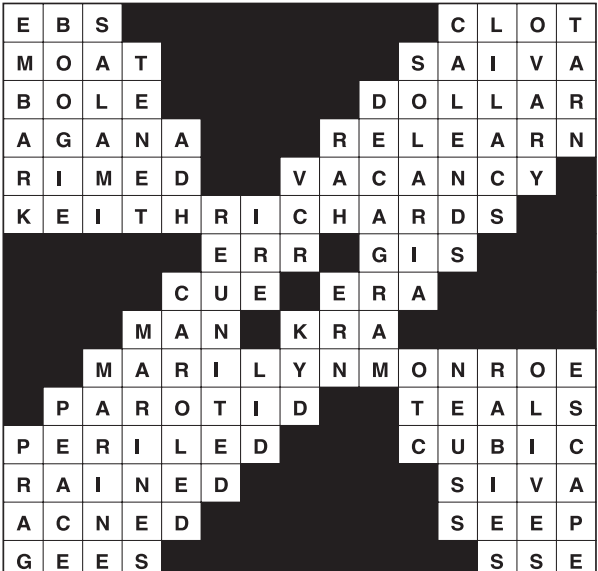
NOTICE OF SALE NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
 Premises: 160 Chapman Road, Barre, Massachusetts 01005
 By virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Martin E. Tremblay and Noreen B. Tremblay to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for First Magnus Financial Corporation, dated April 23, 2007, and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 41038 at Page 313, as affected by an assignment of mortgage to Federal National Mortgage Association, dated March 8, 2017, and recorded with said Registry in Book 56930 at Page 378, as affected by an assignment of mortgage to U.S. Bank Trust, N.A., as Trustee for LSF11 Master Participation Trust, dated February 19, 2019, and recorded with said Registry in Book 60061 at Page 206, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder by assignment, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the

same will be sold by Public Auction at **12:00 o'clock P.M. on the 29th day of February, 2024** at the mortgaged premises located at 160 Chapman Road, Barre, MA 01005, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,
 To wit: Three parcels of land on the westerly side of Chapman Road in Barre, Worcester County, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows:
PARCEL 1: The land with the buildings thereon on the west side of Chapman Road in said Barre shown as Lot 1 on a Plan of Land on Chapman Road in Barre owned by Ruth Trifilo, dated November 10, 1986 by Thomasian Engineering, recorded in Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 570, Plan 101 and more specifically described as follows:
Beginning: at a point in a stone wall in the westerly line of Chapman Road at the northeast corner of land now or formerly of R. Derry et ux;
Thence: S. 63 deg 39' 02" W. along said Derry land 613.40 feet to a point at the beginning of a stone wall;
Thence: S. 63 deg 20' 49" W. along said stone wall, 79.59 feet to a gun barrel set at the corner of stone walls;
Thence: N. 66 deg 33' 23" W. along land now or formerly of Trifilo, 313.00 feet to a point;
Thence: N 10 deg 03'23" W. along said Trifilo land, 103.00 feet to a point;
Thence: N. 68 deg 41' 37" E., 177 feet to a point in a stone wall.
Thence: N.79 deg 11' 07"

E., 785.08 feet to a point in a stone wall in the westerly line of Chapman Road, the last 2 courses being along said land of Trifilo;
Thence: S. 04 deg 27' 02" W. along said stone wall and the westerly line of Chapman Road, 130.00 feet to the point of beginning.
Containing 4.65 acres.
PARCEL 2: The land on the westerly side of Chapman Road, Barre, Massachusetts, being shown as Lot No. 7 on plan entitled "Plan of Land on Chapman Road and Oak Hills Drive Located in the Town of Barre, MA 01005 Plan Prepared For: Ruth Trifilo Chapman Road, Box 421 Barre, MA 01005" dated August 5, 1988 by DeFalco Engineering, Incorporated, and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 605, Plan 2.
Containing: 105486 square feet, according to said plan.
PARCEL 3: The land on the westerly side of Chapman Road, Barre, Massachusetts, being shown as Lot No. 8 on plan entitled "Plan of Land on Chapman Road and Oak Hills Drive located in the Town of Barre, MA 01005 Plan Prepared For: Ruth Trifilo Chapman Road, Box 421 Barre, MA 01005" dated August 5, 1988 by DeFalco Engineering, Incorporated, and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 605, Plan 2.
CONTAINING: 143136 square feet, according to said plan. Subject to a 30' wide utility and drainage easement running along the westerly side of said lot as shown on said plan, and being a portion

of the premises described in a deed from Martin F. Harrity, Deputy Sheriff to Ruth M. Trifilo dated July 14, 1980 and recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 7035, 212.
 For Mortgagee's title, see deed dated December 27, 1996, and recorded in Book 18504, at Page 64 in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds.
 Premises to be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.
TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. High bidder to sign written memorandum of sale upon acceptance of the high bid. The balance of the purchase price is to be paid by certified or bank check at Friedman Vartolo LLP, 85 Broad Street, Suite 501, New York, NY 10004, within thirty (30) days from the date of the sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price.
 In the event of an error in this publication, the description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control.
Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.
 U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Trustee of LSF11 Master Participation Trust, Present holder of said mortgage by its Attorneys,
Friedman Vartolo LLP
 85 Broad Street, Suite 501, New York, New York 10004 02/08, 02/15, 02/22/2024

Town of Oakham PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
 The Oakham Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at 7:15 p.m.**, at the Town Hall, to consider the special permit application of BHT Oakham LLC for outdoor storage of used, operable and inoperable automobiles, trucks and other vehicles, for wholesale online auction.
 A copy of the application may be reviewed at the office of the Town Clerk during normal business hours. Anyone who wishes to be heard on the proposed special permit should attend the hearing, or submit comments in writing to the Planning Board before the hearing.
 The public is invited to attend Board/Committee meetings in person or via Zoom technology by clicking on the link below.
Join Zoom Meeting: https://zoom.us/j/6907987749 Meeting ID: 690 798 7749
 Phillip Warbasse, Chairman.
 02/08, 02/15/2024



PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
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- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

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

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Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

BUSINESS

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

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

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

A TURLEY PUBLICATION
www.turley.com

Public Safety

Hubbardston Police Log

Sunday, Jan. 21
12:59 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Vomiting, Madison Way, Transported to Hospital
2:49 p.m. Complaint, Pitcherville Road, Negative Contact
8:28 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Williamsville Road, Report Filed

Monday, Jan. 22
6:13 a.m. Emergency Medical Service, Sick/Unknown, Chippewa Street, Transported to Hospital
10:25 a.m. Property – Lost and Found, Unknown, Information Taken
6:25 p.m. Property – Lost and Found, Athol Police Department, Information Taken

Tuesday, Jan. 23
8:47 a.m. Court Duty, Gardner District Court, Court Duty
5:14 p.m. Emergency Medical

Services – Stroke (CVA), Mayo Road, Transported to Hospital
9:37 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Town Wide, Notification Given
10:09 p.m. Motor Vehicle – No Fire Department/EMS Response, Mt. Jefferson Road, Report Filed

Wednesday, Jan. 24
2:13 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, New Templeton Road, Report Filed
Summons: Stawarz, Daniel P., 29, Worcester
Charges: License Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With
9:08 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Old Boston Turnpike, No Fire Service Necessary
3:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Elm Street, Public Assist
5:04 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Krause Road, Information

Given
7:01 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Old Princeton Cutoff, Public Assist

Thursday, Jan. 25
8:49 a.m. Court Duty, Gardner District Court, Court Duty
12:36 p.m. Property Damage, Morgan Road, Message Delivered
5:40 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Elm Street, Referred to Other Agency
7:51 p.m. Fraud/Burglary, Ragged Hill Road, Report Filed

Friday, Jan. 26
2:13 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Old Princeton Cut Off Road, Transported to Hospital
10:01 p.m. Property – Lost and Found, New Westminster Road, Information Taken

Oakham Police Log

Sunday, Jan. 21
3:24 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Stroke (CVA), North Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital

Monday, Jan. 22
12:25 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Edema, Spencer Road, Transported to Hospital

Tuesday, Jan. 23
6:33 a.m. Property Damage, East Hill Road, Officer Spoke to Party
5:40 p.m. Erratic Operator, Worcester Road, Investigated
6:49 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Scott Road, Animal Returned to Owner

Wednesday, Jan. 24
7:34 a.m. Complaint, East Hill Road,

Report Filed
8:41 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, East Hill Road, No Fire Service Necessary

Thursday, Jan. 25
7:24 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Crocker Nye Road, Investigated

Saturday, Feb. 3
5:44 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Barre Road, Transported to Hospital
7:21 p.m. 911 Fire/Other, West Road, Services Rendered

Sunday, Feb. 4
4:58 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Unitas Road, Services Rendered

New Braintree Police Log

During the week of Jan. 29-Feb. 5, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 19 building/property checks, 49 directed/area patrols, six traffic controls, one radar assignment, five emergency 911 calls, one citizen assist and two animal calls in the town of New Braintree.

Monday, Jan. 29
3:49 p.m. Disabled Motor Vehicle,

Ravine Road, Vehicle Towed

Tuesday, Jan. 30
4:47 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, West Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital

Thursday, Feb. 1
2:47 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Dispatch Handled
6:59 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned,

Ravine Road, Officer Handled

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