

BARRE GAZETTE

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Select Board approves conduit/pole petitions

By Ellenor Downer
Editor
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BARRE – The Select Board approved a conduit petition and two pole petitions at their Monday, Feb. 2 meeting.

A representative from National Grid said the first petition was for underground conduit on South Barre Road to upgrade their substation. The next petition was for Williamsville Road. The National Grid representative said the pole would serve a house on 1136 Williamsville Road. The wires are currently on a tree. A Williamsville Road resident spoke in favor of the new pole. The final petition was to serve a new dwelling at 40 Jackson Lane. This new pole to be placed between two existing poles, was the only way to serve the new house.

Town Administrator update

Town Administrator Melanie Jackson responded to some recent comments posted on social media. She referred to comments regarding a vote by the Select Board to pay the Department of Public Works Superintendent Timothy Batchelor over-time for snow and ice removal and sewer

See BARRE, page 6

Ice fishing derby at held South Barre Club

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

HARDWICK – The cold didn't stop the South Barre Rod & Gun Club from hosting an ice fishing derby this past Sunday.

Several groups made their way to the pond with their fishing gear to set up for ice fishing. It was spur-of-the-moment kind of plan made by the South Barre Rod & Gun Club to put on a trout derby with an entry fee and prizes on the line.

Running the ice fishing derby was club member Paul Morrison, who has been a member for 25 years. Morrison said ice fishing is an activity the club has put on for years.

With having a mild winter the last several years, the South Barre Rod & Gun Club has not hosted ice fishing, until this year.

It was a cold Sunday morning, but that didn't stop some fisherman of all ages to get out on the pond and catch some trout.

"The true diehards are out on the ice," Morrison said.

Inside the club were refreshments and hot dogs for fisherman to enjoy while they go ice fishing.

Morrison has been fishing his whole life and loves to fish. When it comes to fishing, it can be a hit or miss, but always a good time.

There are different



David Rogowski is shown with his son Callen enjoying a day of ice fishing.

Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

methods to ice fishing, such as flag tip ups and jigging. In Morrison's opinion, jigging works the best.

Out on the ice was one group all set up using a combination of flag tip ups and jigging.

Part of this group was David Rogowski and his 10-year-old son Callen.

catch some trout.

The pond had rainbow, brook, and golden trout swimming around and Rogowski used a drill to make several holes in the ice to set up some flag pull ups.

Joining Rogowski was fellow club member Tom Johnson, who has been a member since 1975. Johnson said the club used to have ice fishing every year.

Rogowski says it's always great to support the support the sportsmen's club that does a lot of activities throughout the year.

When it comes to any kind of fishing, Rogowski said it takes consistency, patience, and sometimes "praying to the fish gods" to have a good catch. With ice fishing, you have an advantage of being on the water.

In another fishing group was 14-year-old Tyler Mathieson, who had a good day on the pond with several fish, mostly rainbow trout. Mathieson has been fishing his whole life and shows interest in continuing to fish when he can.

Another diehard fisherman on the cold pond was Pete Sanborn, who has been ice fishing for nearly 50 years. Although Sunday morning's temperature had a real-feel of 18 below zero, Sanborn still made

See ICE FISHING DERBY, page 6

Board hears updates from Healthcare Task Force

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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HARDWICK – The Select Board listened to an update from the Healthcare Task Force during its Feb. 9 meeting.

Representing the task force was Judi Korzec and Neil Halin. Korzec described this subject as being a long journey as this process started a couple years ago to help bring some form of healthcare to the community.

Korzec talked about the former Mary Lane Hospital, Baystate Health and use of the Gilbert Trust.

Korzec said new legislation was coming out regarding a rural health transformation program. These consist of grants to the state, which include a lot of rules and regulations.

The legislation mapped out the area into what they call "clusters," which are a cluster of towns. Hardwick falls into one cluster and is considered a rural area.

Halin says the Task Force is aiming to reach out to small towns that surround Hardwick, who have low resources for healthcare. They're trying to build a consensus to come up with what the needs are.

The Task Force is current-

See HARDWICK, page 6

Tuition proposals from Quaboag and Quabbin schools analyzed

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The School Committee held a special meeting to review proposed tuition agreements from the Quaboag Regional and Quabbin Regional school districts for the town's middle and high school students.

At the Feb. 4 meeting, School Committee member and chair of the Tuition Task Force, Matt Grant, said the purpose of the meeting was to have an open discussion about the future of the North Brookfield Public Schools.

"We do have a lot to be proud of here at North Brookfield," Grant said. "But we do also have to acknowledge that there are real challenges that we face with our size, particularly in terms of limited programming and the state funding formulas that work against districts with low enrollment and a high choice-out rate."

Grant said the School Committee is responsible for offering a high-quality public education that meets the needs of all students.

"We deeply care about our students and their future," he said. "I am very hopeful that we can all come together as a community to make a decision that is fiscally responsible to taxpayers and also sup-

ports the needs of all students in town."

Grant said while ideally, the town would continue to have a "thriving K-12 district in town," it is not unusual for small towns to not have a middle/high school. He said currently, there are over 200 North Brookfield students attending schools out of district.

Grant said the two proposals were analyzed independently by David Verdolino, a 40-year Certified Public Accountant with 25 years experience as a school business administrator.

"It's an analysis," Verdolino said. "There won't be conclusions, and there won't be a recommendation from me as part of this analysis."

Verdolino said he compared the "status quo," against the two tuition agreement proposals for fiscal year 2027. He said his data only looks at one year, as there are too many variables to create a long term view.

His analysis also does not include non-financial factors, such as curriculum, educational programming, logistics, etc.

"There are pros and cons, aside from finances, to considering an undertaking of this nature but I don't feel it's appropriate for me to present my thoughts – I'm dealing with the financial analysis," Verdolino said.

The 'status quo'

Verdolino said if the sta-

tus quo were maintained and the middle/high school was to remain open, the FY 27 net budget request would be \$7,317,454 after offsets.

"In addition, there are costs that are borne by the town to run the school department," he said.

These costs include other non-employee insurance, Medicare and the Worcester County Retirement System assessment, and health insurance for active employees and retirees (and related administrative fees), which total \$2,348,854.

"Those are town costs that support the North Brookfield Public School district next year if there's no change in operation," Verdolino said.

Tuition agreements
Verdolino said if the school district were to enter into a tuition agreement with another school district, it would not change chapter 70 aid, Circuit Breaker, net school spending and compliance with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education requirements.

"But there would be changes that would significantly effect the funding of the education of those students if they were tuitioned out," he said.

Verdolino said entering into a tuition agreement would save some costs for the town, and also add some costs.

See SCHOOL COMMITTEE, page 7



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

Members of Hayden Masonic Lodge prepared the meals in the North Brookfield Elementary School cafeteria.

Spaghetti dinner fundraiser held to support Hearts for Heat

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The 18th annual North Brookfield Hearts for Heat Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser took place on Jan. 31.

The dinner was held at the North Brookfield Elementary School cafeteria and was done to help provide emergency fuel assistance for qualified North Brookfield residents. All the donations and funds raised will be used to meet the home heating needs of residents affected by a fixed income, COVID, job loss, injury, or illness.

Sue Lewandowski is the founder, president, and sec-



Two signed Boston Celtics basketballs were raffled at the Hearts for Heat spaghetti dinner fundraiser.

retary of North Brookfield Hearts for Heat and shared that this cause is made possible thanks to a helpful community. Though they missed one year of hosting a

supper due to the pandemic, North Brookfield Hearts for Heat came back even stron-

See HEARTS FOR HEAT, page 7



News of the Towns



ROUND TOWN

by Ellenor Downer
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Fruit tree pruning Happens Feb. 14

The Barre Historical Society will hold a fruit tree pruning demonstration by local resident, Karl Erickson, on Saturday, Feb. 14 at 2 p.m. on the grounds of Felton Field, Old Coldbrook Road. Right now, in the middle of winter season is the proper time to perform these tasks. This period is the window, from late winter to just before spring growth starts, to remove dead, damaged or diseased branches and to thin the rest. He will demonstrate where to make the cuts by removing unnecessary branches at the collar, which improves air circulation and sunlight penetration. Participants will learn about water sprouts and how to maintain the structural balance of the tree while never removing more than 1/4 to 1/3 of the canopy in a single year. People may call Kay Potter Flick at 978-257-0890, call the Barre Historical Society and Museum at 978-355-4978 to leave a voicemail or email at barrehistory@gmail.com for more information.

Lions Club fundraiser

The Barre Lions Club invites the community to an afternoon of fun, raffles, prizes and great deals at its first-ever Quarter Auction, taking place Saturday, Feb. 28 at the Barre Town Hall, Exchange Street.

The doors open at noon and the auction begins at 1 p.m. Local vendors will be on hand offering a variety of items, along with exciting raffle prizes and a super raffle for a 58-inch Hisense Roku TV.

A quarter auction is a unique and affordable way to win great items. Upon entry, attendees purchase numbered paddles, one for \$3 or two for \$5. As the auction begins, each vendor presents an item and bidding is done using quarters. Each quarter represents a \$10 value. For example, a \$20 item requires two quarters and a \$30 item can be won for just 75 cents. Paddle numbers are drawn at random and the matching numbered paddle wins the item. In addition to the auction, attendees can shop with local vendors, purchase raffle tickets and enter the super raffle. Snacks and beverages will be available for purchase. People should bring their quarters and come join the fun. All proceeds support Barre Lions Club community projects in 2026, all of them local.

Food Pantry

The next Barre Food Pantry distribution will occur on Thursday, Feb. 19 from 5:30-7 p.m. In order to maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients Feb. 19 will again be "drive-through" style distributions. Clients will line up in their vehicles on Park Street and proceed into the right hand (east) entrance driveway of the Barre Congregational Church. They will remain in their cars. They'll drive up and be checked in by a volunteer, then continue up to the church building where their groceries will be put into the trunk or wayback of their vehicle by volunteers at multiple stations.

Editorial deadline reminder

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

Corrections policy

The Barre Gazette will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2. To request a correction, send information to Editor Ellenor Downer at edowner@turley.com or call 413-283-8393. Corrections may also be requested in writing at Barre Gazette, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

Bluebirds in winter



A pair of eastern bluebirds perched on a dead tree in Gilbertville. Several eastern bluebirds spend the winter in this location every year. According to Mass Audubon, eastern bluebirds are increasingly becoming a more common winter sight.



A male eastern bluebird enjoyed the warmth of the sun one day after the groundhog predicted six more weeks of winter.

Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette



OAKHAM

by Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

Library reopens historic room

The Fobes Memorial Library, 4 Maple St., will hold a reception celebrating the reopening of the library's recently completed Historic Room on Thursday, Feb. 26 from 6-8 p.m. In addition to the repairs, library staff has been working to reinvent the space. They hope the improvements have made the room more inviting and useful, while making the vast historic collection more accessible to patrons and the community. This event is open to all.

Lenten study

Oakham Congregational Church lay minister, Carissa Rodriguez, will lead a Lenten study from the book "Turning Over Tables" by Kathy Escobar. Anyone wishing to attend should come to the church starting Thursday, Feb. 12 from 7-8 p.m. Other dates include Thursdays, Feb. 19, Feb. 26, March 5, March 12, March 19 and March 26. The book has a short reading for each day.

Church breakfast

The Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, will hold a benefit breakfast on Saturday, Feb. 14 from 8-9:30 a.m. The menu includes pancakes, eggs, sausage, strawberries, homemade doughnut holes, orange juice, coffee, tea and hot chocolate. All are welcome. There will be a free will donation for the furnace fund for the church.

Regional school agreement

The Quabbin Regional Agreement Working Group is holding listening sessions in each of the five member towns as they share the approved revisions to the Regional Agreement that will be voted on at upcoming town meetings. People unable to attend the meeting in their town may attend any of the following meetings. Other dates still remaining are Monday, Feb. 17 at 6:30 p.m. in the Hubbardston Town Offices, 48 Gardner Road, Hubbardston; Monday, Feb. 23 at 6 p.m. in the New Braintree Town Hall, 20 Memorial Drive, New Braintree and March 2 at 6:30 p.m. in the Henry Woods Building, 40 West St., Barre.

Assessors office hour change

The Oakham Board of Assessors have new office hours on Tuesdays from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Previously the office hours were on Thursdays.

Oakham COA events

On Friday Feb. 13 at noon the Council on Aging meets in the Senior Center on the lower level of the Town Hall. Lunch Bunch meets the third Friday, Feb. 20 at 12:30 p.m. in the Hitchcock Tavern, Route 9, West Brookfield. People may sign up at Senior Center sign up in the main room of the Senior Center.

On Monday, Feb. 23 podiatry takes place from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Reservations are required. On Tuesday, Feb. 12 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. there will be a blood pressure/glucose clinic. On going activities include Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m.-noon puzzling; Monday through Thursday at 9 a.m. walking group (meet at Senior Center); Tuesday through Thursdays at 11 a.m. walking group (meet at Senior Center); Tuesdays yoga \$40 for eight classes in Senior Center multi-purpose room, registration required; Wednesdays at 8:45 a.m. Zumba Gold in New Braintree Town Hall - \$3 donation per class; Thursdays at noon Weigh in at the Senior Center support weight loss group and Fridays at 10:30 a.m. Functional Fitness at the New Braintree Town Hall - \$3 donation per class. For walking groups, people may ask to be added to the text MSG group by calling the Senior Center at 508-882-4073 and leave their name and cell phone number.

Hot lunches

Hot lunches are offered at the Senior Center dining area Monday through Thursday at 11:30 a.m. Reservations are needed at least two days in advance and can be made through the Congregate Meal

Coordinator from 9 a.m.-noon by calling 508-882-4072.

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. 16. 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 — President's Day no meal served

TUESDAY — Jambalaya, rice pilaf, peas, pineapple, marble rye bread

WEDNESDAY — Fish with crumb topping, lemon seasoned potatoes, country

blend vegetables, apple crisp, diet = baked apples, pumpernickel bread, tartar sauce

THURSDAY — Garlic herb chicken, cranberry herb stuffing, broccoli and carrots, chocolate mousse, whole wheat bread

FRIDAY — Macaroni and cheese, stewed tomatoes, green beans, fresh fruit, Italian bread

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

Town Clerk lists election information

BARRE — Town Clerk Ellen Glidden announced this Thursday, Feb. 12 by 5 p.m. is the last day to take out nomination papers for the Annual Town Election on Monday, April 6.

All papers must be returned to the Town Clerk's office for certification of signatures on Tuesday, Feb. 17 by 5 p.m.

Candidates taking out nomination papers include Mark A. Regienus, 300 Spring Hill Road, Select Board for three years — candidate for re-election; Michael Collins, 55 Eagle Drive, Board of Health for three years, papers returned; John J. Pimental, Jr., 785 Williamsville Road, Water Commissioner for three years — candidate for

re-election, papers returned; Raymond Robert Beaudoin, 460 Wheelwright Road, papers returned and Shad Dereck Wells, 211 Everett Road, papers returned; Glen C. Alt, 53 Summer St., Sewer Commissioner for three years — candidate for re-election, papers returned; Catherine P. Chase, 120 Hardwick Road, Library Trustee for three years — candidate for re-election, papers returned and Dylan S. Clark, 218 Walnut Hill Road, Library Trustee for three years — candidate for re-election (two positions); Jane M. Lynds, 872 Wauwinet Road, Felton Field Commissioner for two years and Frank E. Whitney, 148 Hancock Road, Felton Field Commissioner for

one year; Raymond Robert Beaudoin, 460 Wheelwright Road, Planning Board Member for five years, papers returned; Anthony F. Mobilio, 414 North Brookfield Road and Gregory J. Devine, 541 Woods Road, Quabbin Regional School Committee Member for three years, papers returned

No papers have been taken out for the following positions at this time: Board of Assessors for three years, Barre Housing Authority for five years, Felton Field Commissioner for three years and Planning Board Associate Member for one year. Michael G. Landry withdrew his nomination papers for the Board of Assessors for three years.

Barre Lions Club to hold quarter auction

BARRE — The Barre Lions Club invites the community to an afternoon of fun, raffles, prizes and great deals at its first-ever Quarter Auction, taking place Saturday, Feb. 28 at the Barre Town Hall, Exchange Street.

The doors open at noon and the auction begins at 1 p.m. Local vendors will be on hand

offering a variety of items, along with exciting raffle prizes and a super raffle for a 58-inch Hisense Roku TV.

A quarter auction is a unique and affordable way to win great items. Upon entry, attendees purchase numbered paddles, one for \$3 or two for \$5. As the auction begins, each vendor presents an item and bidding is done using quarters. Each quarter represents a \$10 value. For example, a \$20 item requires two quarters and a \$30 item can be

won for just 75 cents. Paddle numbers are drawn at random and the matching numbered paddle wins the item.

In addition to the auction, attendees can shop with local vendors, purchase raffle tickets and enter the super raffle. Snacks and beverages will be available for purchase.

People should bring their quarters and come join the fun. All proceeds support Barre Lions Club community projects in 2026, all of them local.

Submissions are always welcome

Send your stories and photos to edowner@turley.com

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News of the Towns

PUBLIC MEETINGS

BARRE

Historical Commission – Feb. 12 at 2 p.m.
 Barre Common Oversight Committee – Feb. 12 at 5 p.m.
 Quabbin Regional School District Committee – Feb. 12 at 6:30 p.m.
 Master Plan Steering Committee – Feb. 12 at 5:30 p.m.
 Select Board – Feb. 12 at 6:30 p.m. and Feb. 17 at 5 p.m.
 Board of Assessors – Feb. 17 at 6 p.m.
 Planning Board – Feb. 17 and Feb. 19 at 7 p.m.
 DPW Commission – Feb. 18 and March 9 at 6 p.m.
 Finance Committee – Feb. 24, March 3, March 17 and March 31 at 6:30 p.m.
 Cemetery Commission – Feb. 26 at 11 a.m.
 Felton Field Commission – March 3 at 6:30 p.m.
 Council on Aging – March 4 at 12:30 p.m.
 Board of Health – March 9 at 5 p.m.
 Water Commission – March 9 at 5:30 p.m.
 Master Plan Steering Committee – March 12 at 5:30 p.m.
 Town Election Day – April 6 from 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

HARDWICK

Select Board – Feb. 12 at 5 p.m.
 Master Plan Steering Committee – Feb. 12 at 6:30 p.m.
 Gilbertville Water District – Feb. 17 at 5:30 p.m.
 Council on Aging – March 4 at 12:30 p.m.
 Paige Library Trustees – March 5 at 7 p.m.
 Capital Planning Committee – March 16 at 3 p.m.

HUBBARDSTON

Conservation Commission – Feb. 17 at 7 p.m.
 Board of Assessors – Feb. 18 at 6 p.m.
 Planning Board – Feb. 19 and March 4 at 6:30 p.m.
 Board of Library Trustees – March 5 at 7 p.m.
 Board of Health – March 10 at 7 p.m.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

Planning Board – March 18 at 6 p.m.

OAKHAM

Council on Aging – Feb. 13 at noon

PETERSHAM

Select Board – Feb. 12, Feb. 19, Feb. 26, March 5, March 12 at 5:30 p.m. and March 19 at 5:20 p.m.
 Advisory Finance Committee – Feb. 12 at 5:45 p.m., and Feb. 19, Feb. 26, March 5, March 12 and March 19 at 6 p.m.
 Petersham Historic District – Feb. 19 at 6 p.m.

RUTLAND

Finance Committee and Select Board Joint Meeting – Feb. 12, Feb. 19 at 6 p.m.

Workshop helps residents access SNAP and HIP benefits

BARRE – The Barre/Hardwick Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road, will host a free informational program on Tuesday, March 17 at 11 a.m. focused on helping residents learn about food assistance programs and how to access healthy, affordable food.

Representatives from Stillman's Farm will present information about Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and Healthy Incentives Program benefits, including how participants can stretch their food budgets while purchasing fresh, locally grown produce. Members of the Leicester Regional Public Health Coalition will also be on-site to provide confidential SNAP pre-screenings and answer questions about eligibility and enrollment.

The event will be especially helpful for seniors, families and anyone interested in reducing grocery costs and improving nutrition. To register, people may call 978-355-5031.

Food Pantry distribution on Feb. 19

BARRE – The next Barre Food Pantry distribution will occur on Thursday, Feb. 19 from 5:30-7 pm.

The Barre Food Pantry volunteers strive to continue to fulfill their mission to get food to hungry and food insecure clients. The pantry must also continue to protect clients, volunteers and the larger community from the spread of disease viruses. Many clients and volunteers are classified as high-risk due to their age and/or underlying health conditions. The Barre Food Pantry Board of Directors has considered changing how the pantry currently operates, but has decided that the most responsible

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

In order to maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and clients Feb. 19 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.

They should not volunteer on Feb. 19 without first calling Sonja Blaney at 978-355-6921 or Chuck Radlo at 978-355-6463. Because conditions have been changing rapidly, people may visit check for updates on the Barre Food Pantry website <http://www.barrefoodbank.org/index.htm> and the Barre Food Pantry Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Barre-Food-Pantry-100156068300314/>.



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago
The Julian family (Debbie, Kylee and Richard), owners of Deer Meadow Farm in Warren, presented a workshop on basic maple sugaring at the Hardwick Farmers Co-Op Exchange.

Co-Op offered maple sugaring workshop

By Ryan Drago
 Staff Writer
 rdragot@turley.com

HARDWICK – The Hardwick Farmers Co-Op Exchange welcomed Deer Meadow Farm of Warren to present a maple sugaring workshop.

Despite the snow this past weekend, several people arrived to get some tips on how to do some basic maple sugaring.

Deer Meadow Farm in Warren is owned and operated by the Julian family, who brought some helpful tips and delicious maple syrup to the Co-Op.

Between their farm in Warren and some land in Brimfield, Deer Meadow Farm has about 800 trees in total to tap with the upcoming maple season approaching. Richard Julian shared at Deer Meadow Farm they tap every tree that is maple. The trees are marked with dots and should be marked ahead of time.

Julian also talked about how the amount of sap you get depends on different factors. These factors include sweetness of sap, size of trees, and depends on sugar content.

Maple sugaring also requires tools, and Julians reminded their guests of any antique tools used in the old days are not the best to use today. Tapping into trees involves a drill, and a drill bit. A mallet can also be used

to tap into trees.

Julian suggests it's good to have good tapping practices when considering if trees look harmed. Deer Meadow Farm is looking to try out new tapping methods this coming maple season.

Other tools include spouts, and the Julians brought some samples of spouts. There are seasonal spouts maple producers can get and are good for one year. Stainless steel spouts are also good to use.

Sap collectors come in various forms and Deer Meadow Farm mentioned food-grade buckets. Sap sacks are also an option to collect sap.

Some guests had questions regarding concerns about animals, maybe interfering in the sap collecting process. Julian did mention that squirrels can sometimes be attracted to the lines attached to the trees and sometimes chew on the lines.

Storing sap was also talked about and Deer Meadow Farm shared some good options. There are tanks, food-grade drums, and totes that are considered appropriate for storing sap. Julian mentioned getting stainless steel tanks, but they are more expensive.

When it is time to cook the sap, it is important to keep sap leveled. According to Julian, "the more

surface area the better."

It was recommended by Julian to get some defoamer to help prevent any boilovers. Deer Meadow Farm always sources out new equipment and works hard to being energy efficient. Last year, Deer Meadow Farm produced about 80 gallons of maple syrup.

Throughout the year, the Julians give wood walk tours of their maple farm and bring guests inside their sugar shack. Richard, Deb, and Kylee Julian shared various stories about working on the family maple farm.

One of their stories is about a friendly bear nicknamed Chunks, who wanders around Deer Meadow Farm. This bear doesn't go after the sap lines but tends to get into the bird feeders. One time, Chunks got a bit too close to the house and Deb yelled and surprised him and he quickly walked away.

There are various fuel sources for maple syrup such as oil, evaporators, propane, and firewood. If using firewood, it does require maple producers to feed constantly to keep the heat maintained.

Testing is an important step in the maple syrup

See MAPLE SUGARING , page 5

HUBBARDSTON

by Ellenor Downer
 edowner@turley.com

Library hosts tea party

The Hubbardston Public Library, 7 Main St., will hold a Teddy Bear Tea Party on Saturday, Feb. 14 at noon. All ages are welcome. No registration is necessary. Extra parking is available at First Meeting House.

Pie for Breakfast

Pie for Breakfast will be held at Hubbardston Senior Center, 7 Main St., on Saturday, Feb. 14 from 9-11:30 a.m. Cost is \$10 per person and free for children under 5. Tickets are available at the Senior Center. There will be a Valentine Day raffle, a value of \$230, sponsored by the Friends of the Hubbardston Senior Center. Tickets are \$2 each, three for \$5 and six for \$10.

Listening session

The Quabbin Regional Agreement Working Group is holding listening sessions in each of the five member towns as they share the approved revisions to the Regional Agreement that will be voted on at upcoming town meetings. The meeting in Hubbardston will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 17 at 6:30 p.m. in the Hubbardston Town Offices, 48 Gardner Road. People unable to attend a meeting in their town may attend a meeting in another Quabbin District town. Other dates are Monday, Feb. 9 at 6 p.m. at the Hardwick Town Hall, 307 Main St., Gilbertville; Monday, Feb. 23 at 6 p.m. in the New Braintree Town Hall, 20 Memorial Drive, New Braintree and March 2 at 6:30 p.m. in the Henry Woods Building, 40 West St., Barre. The meeting in Oakham already took place on Monday, Feb. 2.

Senior Center events

All artists are welcome to attend the art group at the Hubbardston Senior Center every Friday from 9-11 a.m. A new activity at the Senior Center is the Creative Needle and Thread activity every Friday from 9 a.m.-noon. All are invited to bring projects, such as embroidery, cross stitch, sewing and quilting. Questions may be directed to Michelle at 508-450-4476. Yarn-It-All group meets from 10 a.m.-noon. Knitting and crocheting projects will be worked on, and those who have questions will get help from others who attend. Games of Pitch are held the second and fourth Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. and the first and third Fridays at 6:30 p.m. Cribbage is played every Thursday at 12:30 p.m., Bingo is every Monday at 12:30 p.m. and Wii Bowling is every Monday and Thursday at 9 a.m. Functional Exercise Classes are held at the Senior Center Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Paige Memorial Library celebrates community

HARDWICK – The Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, will host on Saturday, Feb. 14 at 10:30 a.m. an All-entire Tea Party, a party for everyone.

Participants will enjoy a variety of tea flavors, cookies and games with their favorite person or people. On Saturdays, Feb. 21, Feb. 28 and March 7 from 10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m., Pam Hinkley's adult handcraft group will meet.

Ongoing activities at the Paige include the Wednesday morning children's story hour with activities, the Paige Book Club, the Cookbook Club, Celebrate Hardwick, the ongoing book sale, the Paige Writers and the Movie Festival Committee. People are invited to join a group or suggest a new one.

More events are coming.

People may visit the library Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/paigelibrary/> or visit their website at <http://www.paigelibrary.com/>. The library is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2-7 p.m., Wednesdays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

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

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

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

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



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Opinion

Onion culture, continued

This morning, after reading last week's column, my mom commented, "Boy, I didn't realize onions are so challenging to grow."

Oh no, I truly hope that the column did not convey that message. I've been growing onions for years, and find them no more challenging than any other vegetable that you start indoors.

I hope I didn't discourage anyone. In fact, I hope just the opposite happened, whereby everyone purchased some seed to give growing onions a whirl.

Read on to learn more from where we left off last week.

some.

Harvesting

In early fall your onion tops will begin to yellow and bend at the necks.

As mentioned earlier, reduced daylight has signaled the plant to go into dormancy.

When half have bent, bend the rest and allow them to remain in the garden just a few more days. If no rain is in the forecast, pull them up and lay them on edge in place, turning on occasion. This will begin the curing process.

Should rain threaten, they can easily be protected with a tarp or moved under cover.

After three days to a week of sunshine it is time to move them to an airy, dry location such as a shed for an additional two-three weeks. Should this time frame include lots of rain or humidity, sometimes a household fan can help the drying process along.

Dry onions will definitely be the best for long term storage.

Storage

You have a good idea that your onions are ready for storage when the necks have withered away and the outer skin is dry and starts to slip. Nineteenth century gardeners would have braided and hung them in the root cellar, where cool and dry conditions would, fingers crossed, keep them fit for use as needed into the spring months.

Onion braids have modern day appeal—they look pretty and it is easy to simply tug the perfect size onion from the braid as you need it. The key to success is to attach twine or string to at least one of the braiding strands — this will give your braid strength, not to mention a way of hanging it up.

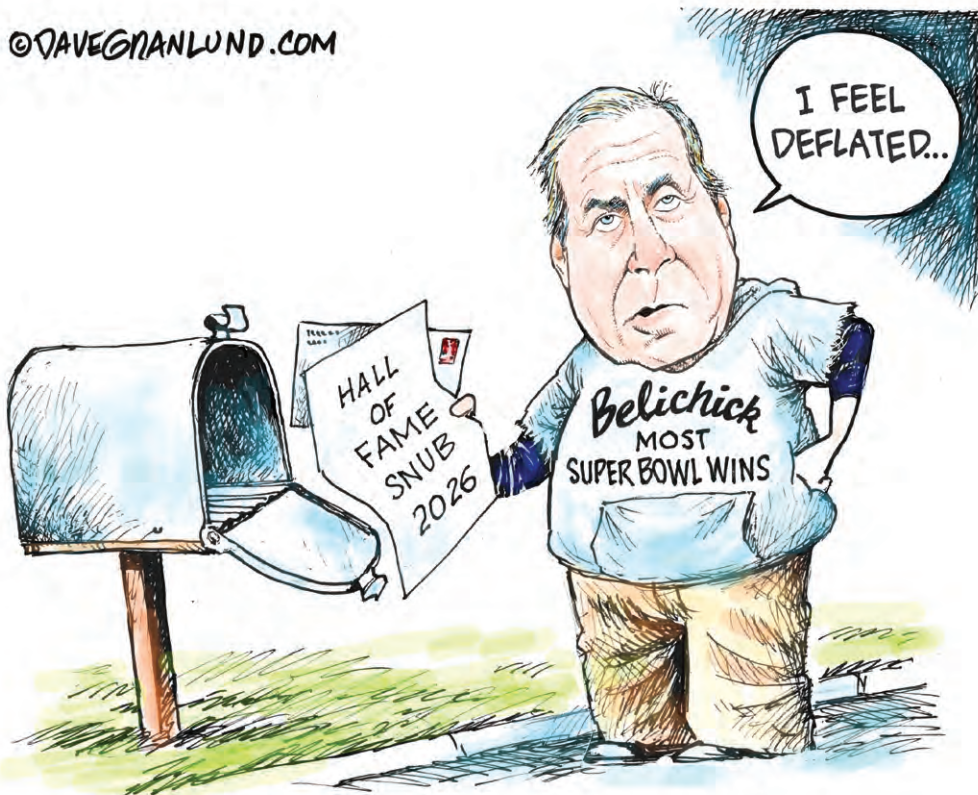
We can also store onions in mesh bags or old hosiery in a household location that remains close to freezing and relatively dry. My unheated mudroom works great.

Here simply cut the tops to one inch prior to bagging up. When you are going through them to cut, or braid, be sure to separate out those with double bulbs, as well as those whose necks remain thick; neither will be good keepers and should be used first.

This is also a great time to think about good traits

See GARDEN, page 5

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In Past Pages

5 years (Feb. 18, 2021)

The North Brookfield Master Plan Committee hosted a public forum on Thursday, Feb. 4, via Zoom, with dozens of residents in attendance. Sheila Orsi opened the forum and introduced herself and the other members of the committee. The Master Plan Committee is comprised of Orsi, Ann Hicks, John Turner, Susan Lyons, Brandon Avery and Robert Locatelli. Committee members Orsi and Hicks hosted the forum. Hicks thanked everyone for attending the online forum and explained the town's first Open Space and Recreation Plan was from 2007, and had expired. They are updating it now, along with the rest of the Master Plan. The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs oversees the plan and dictates what needs to be included. One of the requirements is a survey of residents, which was completed late last October. Hicks said one of the benefits of having an up-to-date Open Space and Recreation Plan, as well as a Master Plan, is it gives the town the ability to apply for grants. Two major grants they can apply for are the park and land grants.

The town of Oakham now has a new electronic sign on the front lawn of Oakham Town Hall. It displays date, time and temperature. The sign replaces a non-electronic covered sign, which used plastic letters and numbers in slots.

Quabbin Regional School District Superintendent Sheila Muir said the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education offered a free six-week pool COVID testing to schools in the Commonwealth.

The QRSD Committee voted to participate in the free, six-week program as of March 1.

She said the purpose of this type of testing was to identify

Look Back Keystone Bridge in winter - 1996



File photo

Barre Gazette photographer Eugene Kennedy said the Keystone Bridge in winter is a popular place for people to enjoy the scenic views and capture them on film. This shot was taken at Gate 30 on Route 122 near the intersection with Route 202.

asymptomatic COVID cases. Permission was needed from parents of students and adults in the pool. The pool system would test a cohort of up to ten individuals, students and a staff member. Students in grade 2 and up would self-administer the gentle nasal swab test and staff would perform the test on younger students. The superintendent said the testing company, Project Beacon, would get results within 24 hours. DESE would provide test kits, the testing and courier service free for the first six weeks. She said if all the individuals came back negative in the pool, then the assumption would be no one in the pool had COVID. If a pool had one or more positive tests, then everyone in the pool would take a rapid test.

10 years (Feb. 18, 2016)

Barre Police Chief Erik Demetropoulos reported that the Public Safety Building Committee met with the architect last week. He asked the board to approve the design and Request for

Proposal. Town Administrator Heather Lemieux said that bids would be due April 6 and that it would take a week to review them. She anticipated breaking ground for the public safety building on South Street in May.

Selectman chair Richard Jankauskas stated the board should name the building after former Senator Stephen Brewer and install a plaque with his name on it. Brewer was instrumental in obtaining over \$3 million in state funds for the complex. Selectmen unanimously approved the motion. Selectman Kathy Inman commented that the safety building design would allow adding of the fire department at a later time. There was only enough money to accommodate ambulance squad and police department.

Members and friends enjoyed getting together recently to research and document the artifacts in the collections of the Oakham

PAST PAGES, page 5



Growing on

How does one achieve lots of top growth so that by seasons' end a big bulb will result? Provide sufficient moisture and nitrogen, and lots of it, but only early in the gardening season.

Amend a 100 square foot area with a bushel of aged manure or finished compost prior to planting, then top dress when plants are six-eight inches high and again for the last time three weeks later. Fish emulsion is a great foliar fertilizer for this purpose.

Because onions have limited top growth and are relatively shallow rooted, it makes it hard for them to compete with more aggressive plants for moisture and nutrients. For that reason, be sure to address enemy #1: weeds!

I have found that a hand held circle hoe is great for getting into the narrow space between plants as well as within the rows. Perform this task once or twice a week and you will be weed-free all summer.

You can also apply grass clippings or chopped up leaves as mulch. It will reduce weeds and conserve moisture, and, as it breaks down add valuable organic matter to the soil.

As the summer solstice draws near, the need for nitrogen drops as the bulb switches from top growth to bulbing up. From this point on, no additional fertilizer is necessary and watering can be cut back

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Barre Gazette

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Why is my Social Security Retirement benefit so small?

Dear Rusty:
Can you help me understand?

I have paid into Social Security since I started working in 1978. I did have a lot of tax deductions, but I don't understand why I only receive \$350 a month from Social Security.

Signed: Befuddled Senior

Dear Befuddled Senior:
Your Social Security benefit is based upon your average monthly earnings for the 35 years over your lifetime that you earned the most while contributing to the Social Security program; however, your benefit isn't based on your contributions to SS. Your

average lifetime earnings amount is called your Average Indexed Monthly Earnings," which are adjusted for inflation for years before you turn 60. Your earnings, your net earnings if self-employed, are provided to the SSA by the IRS.

Your AIME is subjected to a formula which calculates your "Primary Insurance Amount," which is the SS benefit you receive if you start benefits in the month you reach your full retirement age. Your personal Full Retirement Age depends on the year you were born



which, if you were born in 1960 or later, is age 67. However, if you claim Social Security before reaching your FRA, you will get only a percentage of your PIA, reduced from what you would get if you claimed at your FRA.

For example, if you claimed at age 62, you would only get 70% of the amount you would have gotten had you waited until age 67, or if you claimed at age 63 you would get 75% of your age 67 benefit. The

reduction is less as you get closer to your FRA; if you claimed at age 65, you'd get about 87% of your full retirement age amount.

You can see your lifetime Social Security earnings record at your personal "my Social Security" online account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount (you will need to first create that online account), or you can call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 to request an "Earnings Statement" be sent to you. That statement will show your lifetime earnings by year, the 35 highest of which were used to calculate your PIA

(your Social Security benefit at your FRA). Generally, your Social Security FRA benefit will be about 40% or less of your average indexed monthly earnings.

So, to recap, your SS retirement benefit isn't based on your contributions to the program; it's based on your average monthly lifetime earnings. If you had less than 35 years contributing to the program, SS would still use 35 years in the benefit formula by using zero dollars in earnings for some number of years, which would result in a smaller AIME.

Thus, if you claimed

See SOCIAL SECURITY, page 10

Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

As I write this on Sunday, the temperature is 18 below zero.

I am glad I do not have to go out. The Super Bowl is today so a lot of people will be watching that. My grand-daughter is there in person. I hope she has a good time. I personally would not be in that crowd.

We got an additional four to five inches of new snow so my plow man came and tried to find a place to put the new snow. Seeing it has been so cold not much has melted. I do sweep off the front deck at regular times and a little near the slider doors in the living room.

I made brownies and a pumpkin pie this week. Ken likes to have desserts with his meals and so do I.

I always keep ice cream on hand in the freezer so we can have brownie a la mode. Sometimes I make puddings and whip cream for a dessert.

I got some apples so will make an apple pie. Another thing I like to make is to take crescent rolls and fill them with chopped apples and nuts and bake them. It is a good quick dessert.

I got some white onions this week, so I fried some thinly sliced with butter and they were so good.

My gripe of the week: I wish manufacturers would stop making bottles and packages so hard to get into. I have to use a nut cracker to open the tonic and water bottles.

I had to try to open a package of hearing aid batteries for Ken and it was impossible. I decided to see if there was an address to call the company and ask how to open them. Then I found on the package in small print saying cut with scissors each section and they will come out. Hooray it worked.

This and That

I always keep a supply of

apples in the fruit drawer of the refrigerator. There are so many things one can make with apples. You can always sliced them and peel them and put cinnamon and sugar on them.

I remember when I was a little girl my mother used to give me a small dish of them when I told her I needed a snack. Also when she was making an apple pie she would say if you are good I will make some roll ups with the left over dough and bake them and you can have those. They also were made with sugar and cinnamon. We called them dough balls. Did you have those also?

Hopefully spring will come soon. I am tired of the cold and snow. If I was a skier, I would love this weather but I am not. It is good snow shoe weather also with the light fluffy snow. I am glad I don't live in Boston as they are not used of this much snow.

Letter to the Editor

Reader supports constitution

In October 2022 I encountered a republican candidate for state senator to represent the Worcester and Hampshire District. He was campaigning on Barre common at the time.

After the events of Jan. 6, with the insurrection and attempted coup against our free elections, I was curious as to this candidates take on the situation. Needless to say after approaching him to inquire about his position I was not reassured in his beliefs, nor was I convinced our state would be better served by someone of such limited belief in our constitution.

I decided to do something about it. I went home and made a sign, then returned to

the common to protest this candidate. I simply painted the word Fascist on a piece of plywood, attached that to a broomstick and stood across from him in opposition. It was clear to me then that a political party that serves one leader, not our constitution, was a party of fascism. A political party which vowed to "Take back our country" from the citizens and neighbors who voted against it was not interested in compromise or governance. It was only interested in power and retribution.

In 2022 I stood alone on the common trying to warn voters away from an undesirable candidate. Today I take

solace in seeing other, regular people who have made their own signs and stand on the common in opposition to a government they no longer recognize. I want to say thank you to the folks who stand in opposition and are not afraid to speak truth against power. That's what I think America is, regular folks standing in solidarity against injustice. There might be an authoritarian pall over our country in the present, but I am convinced these regular people who are found across the land will help to make it right.

Thank you,
Ben Johnson
Barre

REASON TO EXIST

Sunrise ore the homestead,
snowflake on my tongue.
Recording artist's high note,
could there be another one?

Making of a bird's nest,
springtime's early bloom.
Wind that carries lilac,
rainbows fade too soon.

Boundless inspiration,
with all that Nature gives.
Still nothing can compare,
if your memory.... it still lives.

Patricai Masten

GARDEN from page 4

and the prospect of saving some of your best onions for seed production.

Save the seeds

Saving the seeds of your open-pollinated, non-hybrid onions is the next frontier for allium aficionados. In the north, we employ what is called the "bulb to seed" method.

Our bulbs are harvested normally and stored over the winter, and when the

Senior Center hosts property, probate and fraud protection program

BARRE – The Barre/Hardwick Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road, will host a free public educational program on Thursday, March 5 at noon to help residents better understand how property ownership, probate and estate planning impact their homes and families.

The presentation

will feature Kathryn A. Toomey, Worcester Registry of Deeds and Stephanie Fattman, Register of Probate Courts, who will explain how the Registry of Deeds and Probate Court work together in Massachusetts. Attendees will learn about deeds, the Homestead Act, trusts, estates and how pro-

bate issues can affect property ownership.

The program will also include guidance on protecting homeowners from deed fraud and information about the Consumer Notification Service. Attendees are encouraged to bring questions. To register, people may call 978-355-5031.

Town Clerk lists annual election information

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The North Brookfield Annual Town Election will be held on Monday, May 4.

The last day to submit nomination papers is Monday, March 16, 2026, at 5 p.m.

The following offices are up for election: Board of Selectmen – one seat, three-year term; Board of Assessors – one seat, three-year term; Board of Assessors – one seat, two-year term (to fill a vacancy); Board of Assessors – one seat, one-year term

(to fill a vacancy); School Committee – two seats, three-year terms; School Committee – one seat, one-year term (to fill a vacancy); Water Commissioner – one seat, three-year term; Water Commissioner – one seat, two-year term (to fill a vacancy); Board of Health – one seat, three-year term; Cemetery Commissioner – one seat, three-year term; Library Trustees – two seats, three-year terms; Planning Board – one seat, five-year term; Planning Board – one seat, four-year

term (to fill a vacancy); Housing Authority – one seat, five-year term; and Southern Worcester County Regional Vocational School District (Bay Path) – one seat, three-year term.

It is strongly encouraged that anyone interested in serving to become familiar with the work and responsibilities of these boards, committees, and commissions.

Nomination papers are available from the Town Clerk's Office.

MAPLE SUGARING from page 3

making process. Testing involves checking the syrup's density. Richard Julian had examples of a thermometer, hydrometer, and a sample cup to place the syrup. The correct temperature for maple syrup is 219 degrees Fahrenheit. Getting the density right is very important in maple syrup production.

The Julians have taken various classes on maple syrup production, including classes on how to grade syrup. The Massachusetts Maple Producers Association has some good resources as does the University of Vermont, which is in one of the biggest maple producing states

in the country.

"There is way more to maple syrup than I thought," said one guest who attended the workshop.

Deer Meadow Farm has gone to sell their maple syrup products in various farmers markets, including Grafton, Sturbridge, Millbury, and more recently the markets in the center of Warren. One of their popular items is their Bourbon Barrel aged maple syrup, which sold out fast.

Deer Meadow Farm has also supplied maple syrup to Deep Roots Distillery, which uses their syrup to make specialty drinks. Deer Meadow Farm is the first farm recognized by the Massachusetts Audubon Society as a bird friendly

maple producer.

Deer Meadow Farm will be tapping trees soon as the maple season approaches. At the end of the presentation, the Julians took more questions from the crowd and gave out samples of their delicious maple syrup and maple cream. Some guests stuck around to purchase some maple syrup. Deer Meadow Farm had during their time at the Hardwick Farmers Co-Op Exchange.

Massachusetts Maple Weekend is Saturday, March 7 and Sunday, March 8. For more information, visit www.massmaple.org. For more information on Deer Meadow Farm, follow them on Facebook or contact them at 413-321-9763.

PAST PAGES from page 4

Historical Museum. A small professional color photo, full description and provenance (if known) of each item or set of items, are entered onto a two-page inventory worksheet form which will be kept in three-ring binders. With the number of artifacts in the museum's holdings estimated to be more than one thousand, this historically-important documentation project will take many "work mornings." The Oakham Historical Association has been awarded a cultural council grant to help with photographic and paper expenses and the association is now putting out a call for more volunteers to help with this vital undertaking.

The Rutland Police, Fire/EMS responded on Tuesday Feb. 16 at 8:02 a.m. to Rt. 68 at the Holden line to investigate a one-car motor vehicle crash. Upon their arrival, they observed that a 2013 Subaru had left the slushy road and struck a tree. The vehicle was smoking and flames then raced through the vehicle. The 34 year old female operator from Rutland and her passenger had exited the vehicle and were taken to UMass Medical Center in Worcester for treatment of their injuries. Officer Brent Carpenter is investigating with the assistance of the

Mass State Police.

25 years (Feb. 15, 2001)

State Rep. David H. Tuttle, the three-term Republican from Barre, downplayed speculation he may be in line for a regional post in President George W. Bush's new administration. Tuttle said Wednesday he has not been offered a position and no one has asked him for information in order to begin the vetting process federal appointments typically undergo. Tuttle's focus he said is here. "I'm on my way to Boston right now to testify on behalf of a bill for Warren and that is where my focus is right now," Tuttle said. Speculation about a regional post, he said, may have started a few weeks back when information about him along with several other people, was sent to Washington.

Area talent is abundant and the Harvesters, a non-profit group focuses on raising funds for local charities, is ready to prove that case. This Saturday night, Feb. 17 at 7 p.m., the group will be featuring local performing artists, including Barre's 11 year old sweetheart Maegan Sherblom, during the Amateur Talent Show in the David Prouty High School in Spencer.

The Barre Business

Association held their annual holiday party at the Harding Allen Estate on Jan. 12. Entitled the "True Millennium Party" the 30 plus members and friends enjoyed a delightful buffet style dinner and a time of fellowship and reflection in the accomplishments of the past year, Chief among the new endeavors was the creation of a brochure by the tourism subcommittee for use in educating potential visitors to the many virtues of Barre and surrounding towns. Literally, hundreds of hours were invested in this project by Irene Stevens, Joyce Russell, Leslie Kelly and Martha Varnot as well as students from Quabbin Regional High School and many others.

38 years (Feb. 18, 1988)

One of the most generous sources of funds for enhancing the programs in the Barre Elementary Schools is in serious danger of dissolving says John Cirelli, principal of Barre's elementary schools. For the past six years, this small group of dedicated individuals, the Parent Teachers' Organization has provided Barre's schools with resources, which allowed them to present cultural programs to the children. The efforts of the P.T.O. have enabled students to share and experience

ground is ready for planting, three or four of your best onions are replanted three inches apart. Soon a flower stalk will form. It can get quite tall (three-five feet!) so place a stake for support early on and tie it off as you need to.

After the flower head has formed be on watch for the black seeds to ripen and loosen up- you want to catch them before they shatter. This can be accomplished by clipping a few sections of the head at a

time.

Dry in an airy spot for a few days before storing in paper envelopes in a cool, dry location for use the following spring. Be advised that to avoid cross pollination, only one variety of onion can be in flower at a time; it is fine, however, to have first year onions in the garden.

Onion seeds are viable for one-two years.

Now that you know the ins and outs of onion culture, embrace the challenge

and try growing onions from seed this year.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 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.

the same high quality cultural events as are generally available only to pupils living closer to the metropolitan areas, said Cirelli.

The Barre Selectmen have received a letter addressed to the state secretary of Environmental Affairs requesting a chemical analysis of the contents of the Barre Wool Company lagoons be included in the current study of possible contamination sites to the

Quabbin Reservoir. The letter written by South Barre resident Genevieve Fraser and dated Feb. 10 was written to Secretary of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, James Hoyte. Fraser provided that letter and a detailed map to the Barre Gazette, which shows that the lagoons are in close proximity to the Quabbin Aquaduct, which supplies water to and from the Quabbin Reservoir.

Eugene "Gene" Kennedy,

the Barre Gazette photographer, has been hospitalized the past three weeks and is presently at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Brighton, where he will be undergoing a heart bypass operation. The Barre Gazette staff miss Gene and are hoping for a speedy recovery. He is more valuable to them as a person and his photography is just a nice benefit they are lucky to have.

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Pete Sanborn is shown with a brook trout he caught this past weekend during the ice fishing derby.



Fourteen-year-old Tyler Mathieson is shown with a rainbow trout he caught during the ice fishing derby at the South Barre Rod & Gun Club.

ICE FISHING DERBY from page 1

his way to the South Barre Rod & Gun Club for the ice fishing derby.

Sanborn fishes all year long and enjoys all styles of fishing. Sanborn caught a couple of brook trout while

on the pond.

The South Barre Rod & Gun Club is hosting a kid's fishing derby on April 25, starting at 8 a.m. This event is open to the public.

For more information, follow the South Barre Rod & Gun Club on Facebook or call them at 413-477-6879.



Plenty of rainbow trout were swimming in the pond of the South Barre Rod & Gun Club.



David Rogowski is shown with his son Callen enjoying a day of ice fishing.



It was a cold Sunday morning, but the diehards of ice fishing arrived.

BARRE from page 1

and water emergencies. She said the Inspector General ordered the town to eliminate paying comp time to employees after their review of the DPW Department and conduct of its then superintendent and administrative assistant. Superintendent Batchelor forfeited 400 hours of comp time due to the Inspector General's ruling.

Select Board member Richard Stevens said the DPW was short two workers and that was the reason for the over-time pay decision. He said when the DPW had a full staff, the over-time would end. He commended the DPW workers for keeping the roads clear and safe during storm and ice events. Select Board Maureen Marshall said most of the snow storms have been on weekends. She said during the last storm, three of the sanders were not operating.

The Town Administrator also said the rumor the state would take away the Water Enterprise Fund if the town did not vote a certain individual as water commissioner, was not true.

Citizen's Committee

The Board approved the creation of a three person Citizen's Committee for right of first refusal for property available for 61A or 61B. A request for members would be posted on the town website. Anyone wishing to serve may fill out an application form. The Select Board hoped to fill the committee soon as "time was of the essence."

If the owners of land under either Chapters 61A (agriculture) or 61B (woodland) seek a change of use, the town has the right of first refusal of purchase or the town may designate a land trust to purchase the land instead. Property owners with land in Chapter 61A and 61B, get a tax break.

Native pollinator garden request

Several people attended the Select Board meeting seeking permission to build

a native pollinator garden on the South Common in the center of Barre. They hope to build a 10 foot diameter garden, which will have native plants with various blooming times to attract pollinators like bees, butterflies and bats.

One of the women said they had about seven volunteers, who would plant the garden, maintain it and weed it. They plan to have labels for each plant and fence in the area to avoid damage from mowing, animals, etc. She said the group hoped this would educate people and encourage them to plant native species to attract pollinators in their own yards. The Select Board unanimously approved the garden at the South Common location and for it to be under the oversight of the Barre Common Committee.

Snow and ice deficit

Town Administrator Jackson said as of Jan. 8, the snow and ice account spent a few cents over \$123,303. The town budgeted \$128,651. The Select Board approved deficit spending for snow and ice. This was a typical procedure every year.

Other business

Both the Barre and Hardwick Select Boards voted to continue their relationship of shared senior center services at Barre Senior Center. The Select Boards and Town Administrators will meet on Thursday, Feb. 26 to update the agreement from 2017.

The Select Board approved for Jared Markowski a Step 1 (call) 42 hour per week firefighter/emergency medical technician for the Barre Fire Department.

The Select Board voted to go into Executive Session citing Massachusetts General Law Chapter 30A § 21(A) (3) "to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares."

HARDWICK from page 1

ly speaking with representatives from UMASS, who are a potential outlet to provide some needed services. UMASS could ask for these said grants.

Halin said the town could ask for funds to renovate an office for a control center or for nurse navigator for any communication needs.

The Healthcare Task Force is looking to meet with Boards of Health and Select Boards of surrounding towns to get community support and how UMASS can

support. There is a time limit on when to apply for these grants.

With a focus on the communities, the Healthcare Task Force finds it important for all involved parties and towns to work together and get rural health care. Halin and Korzec said they hope the Select Board will support this venture.

The board members expressed their support for the ongoing efforts of the Healthcare Task Force.

QRSD Regional Agreement presentation

The Select Board heard a

presentation on the Quabbin Regional School District Regional Agreement that was given by Superintendent Colleen Mucha.

Mucha said the regional agreement was 20 years old and a task force was formed to discuss updates and changes.

One of the big improvements the school district has seen is the expansion of the preschool program, and there is now a preschool in every one of the school buildings. There was also an acknowledgement of the transitional programming and life skills

in the district.

There is also language required by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, that a municipality can't just pull out of a regional agreement, unless they submitted a long-range claim that has to be improved by DESE on how that municipality will educate their students.

Mucha said the school population has decreased over the most recent years.

The next step for this regional agreement is to bring it forward to a town meeting and then be submitted to DESE for final approval.

Much said there had been discussions with the Massachusetts School Building Authority about roof upgrades for the elementary school. The district will vote on a schematic design.

Select Board Chair Eric Vollheim mentioned that the town had submitted a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant application to help with this sort of project.

Visitor's comments

The Select Board heard from Barre Council on Aging board member, David Flick, who was joined by Senior Center Director Betty-Jo O'Brien. Flick wanted to discuss the relationship between Barre and Hardwick when it comes to having a shared senior center.

There seemed to be some

form of miscommunication about how the relationship is between Barre and Hardwick and the towns wanted to possibly cancel the agreement. Flick made it clear that the board feels the relationship should be sustained and continued as is.

Both boards want to come together and see how the agreement is administered and possibly might want to update the agreement and understand what got them to this point.

Vice Chair William Tinker said he reached out to a Barre Select Board member and from his understanding it is not their intent to want to cancel the agreement.

For funds for service, there is a formula grant that comes from the state that is based on the number of seniors in each town.

Pole hearing

A public hearing was held to consider a request to give permission to National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc, to locate poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the public ways of Barre Road and Cleveland Road.

Town Administrator Justine Caggiano informed the Select Board that all the abutters were notified about this project.

This is a three-phase project, which was explained by the representatives. The Select Board voted to approve the placement of the new poles along Barre Road and Cleveland Road.

QRSD collective bargaining representative

Tinker was appointed to serve as the board's collective bargaining representative for the Quabbin Regional School District. He has previously served in this role.

Independent counsel

Jenna Garvey of the Paige

Library Board of Trustees talked about the possibility of the two libraries, Paige Library and Gilbertville Library, merging. The Trustees are seeking permission from the Select Board to hire an independent attorney so the trustees can do their due diligence to explore potentials risks in the merger.

The board approved the Trustees' request.

FY 27 budget update

A draft of the fiscal year 2027 budget was presented to the Select Board, and Caggiano presented updates as of Feb. 9. Some of the numbers in the draft are still pending and not 100% confirmed. The Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School assessment is still being looked at and so is insurance.

Meetings with the town's department heads will be happening soon.

Old business

Under old business the Select Board revisited public records requests. The board members disagreed on where the Select Board lands on this subject.

From Select Board Clerk Jeffrey SchAAF's standpoint the board has no authority.

Tinker believes the Select Board does have some form of authority and there were claims from the citizen that no records were produced, even though the citizen had paid a total of \$650 for these record requests.

The board members could talk more with the Town Clerk to get some form of ruling on this business.

Vollheim will look into who takes authority on handling public records requests by contacting the state and get their opinions on it. Vollheim will contact the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Team Mass Boys & Girls AAU Basketball Tryouts

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Tryout # 1: Saturday, February 21, 2026

Location: Tantasqua Jr High School
(320 Brookfield Rd., Fiskdale, MA)

- Boys Grades 4th-6th 8:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.
- Boys Grades 7th & 8th 9:45 a.m. - 11 a.m.
- Boys Grades 9th-12th 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
- Varsity players sign up if still playing with school**
- Girls Grades 4th-6th 12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
- Girls Grades 7th-8th 1:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.
- Girls Grades 9th-12th 2:45 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Tryout # 2: Sunday March 1, 2026

Location: Oxford High School
(100 Carbuncle Dr., Oxford, MA)

- Boys Grades 4th-6th 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Girls Grades 4th-6th 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
- Boys & Girls Grades 7th & 8th 5:45 - 7 p.m.
- Boys and Girls Grades 9th-12th 7:15 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- Varsity players sign up if still playing with school**

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HEARTS FOR HEAT
from page 1

ger and has now reached its 18th year hosting this annual supper to support a good cause.

North Brookfield Hearts for Heat is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that helps residents in need of emergency home heating assistance for oil, propane, natural gas, electric, pellets, or cordwood. Hearts for Heat has helped hundreds of families since it was first founded.

The meals were prepared by members of the Hayden Masonic Lodge in North Brookfield. The meal came with spaghetti, meatballs, tomato sauce, salad and dinner rolls. There were desserts available such as cookies as well as hot and cold beverages.

Popular local band The Otters performed a variety of toe-tapping songs during the meal.

Local author Jack McClintock was at the elementary school helping during the spaghetti supper



Sue Lewandowski made announcements during the 18th annual North Brookfield Hearts for Heat Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser.

and was on coffee and soda duty.

This event was sponsored with the Hayden Masonic Lodge and was also supported by Hannaford's Supermarket. The spaghetti supper was assisted by the North Brookfield High School National Honor Society

and Valley View School. Students walked around the cafeteria trying to sell raffle tickets to guests who attended the spaghetti dinner.

A 50/50 raffle was held to help support the fundraiser, and guests could buy tickets to win some neat raffle prizes. Some of the prizes included two signed

Boston Celtics basketballs, a WooSox family package, and a Boston Bruins hockey puck.

Gift certificates could also be won and were donated by dozens of local businesses. The certificates came from Angel Nails, Bike House Brewery, Bogey Lanes, City of Smoke,



Jack McClintock was on soda and coffee duty during the Hearts for Heat Spaghetti dinner fundraiser.

Connect Restaurant, Dragon Stones, JARS Café, Jim's Pizza, Inishowen Farms, Joy of Beans, Spencer Greenery, Shaman's Closet, Strandz, and Subway. Over 30 prizes in total were donated to benefit North Brookfield Hearts for Heat.

Lewandowski thanked North Brookfield Savings Bank, who matched the first \$3,000 raised. She also thanked Monson Savings

Bank for their \$2,000 support.

Donations can be mailed to North Brookfield Hearts for Heat, P.O. Box 44, North Brookfield, MA 01535.

More information about North Brookfield Hearts for Heat can be found at this link, nbcare2help.org/hearts_for_heat_fuel_assistance.



Raffle prizes were available and were generously donated by various local businesses.



The Otters returned to perform music during the 18th annual North Brookfield Hearts for Heat Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE
from page 1

A tuition agreement would reduce the gross budget by an estimated \$2,829,822. He said it would also reduce the offsets received, resulting in a net budget reduction of \$2,608,992 if tuitioning out to Quabbin and \$2,641,918 to Quaboag.

Verdolino said the added costs of the agreements include a base cost of \$2,182,875 to Quabbin (125 non-choice students at \$17,463 per student) as well as \$240,000 for current school choice students (48 students at \$5,000 per student), and \$130,000 in transportation. This results in total estimated incremental costs of tuition for Quabbin at \$2,560,875.

He said there are other costs that cannot be quantified at this time.

Verdolino said Quaboag's base cost is less, at \$1,541,000 (134 non-choice students at \$11,500 per student) as well as a tuition surcharge (grade seven school choice students at \$5,000 per student) at \$32,500 and transportation at \$130,000. Additional special education services are estimated to cost between \$500,000 and \$1,270,612.

This brings the total estimated incremental costs of tuition for Quaboag between \$2,211,500-2,982,112, depending on the actual special education costs.

He said his opinion is that Quabbin's proposal is a "break-even" proposal and that Quaboag is either a money saver or a money loser, depending on the true costs of special education services.

"But there are some other considerations to take into account," Verdolino said.

Verdolino said if the middle/high school was to be closed, the "staff isn't going to go quietly" and there will be separation costs involved. This includes unemployment compensation, sick time buy-back, retirement and other negotiated results.

"That could be a very significant amount of money,"

he said.

These additional costs cannot be easily estimated, he said, but could be significant.

Verdolino said his opinion is that the projection for FY 27 is "the best it's going to be" from a financial standpoint.

He said there are many questions that need to be answered prior to the decision to enter into a tuition agreement is made.

Input from community

Rich Rigney, president of the North Brookfield Teachers Association, spoke about the difference of becoming a partner with a neighboring school district, versus becoming a customer. He said the School Committee seems to be looking at only two options - keeping the middle/high school open, or tuitioning out to another school district.

He said if North

Brookfield became part of a regional agreement, it would have more stability than it would if it entered into a tuition agreement.

"We could have two districts really kind of balancing their budget on North Brookfield's back and we have no say in it," Rigney said of tuitioning out. "I think we should really kind of think about staying away from this really binary choice system and look at all the options available."

Rigney also noted the impact the school's staff has on the local economy.

"The teachers here in town buy gas in town, buy groceries in town," he said. "We pump some money into this town and so that would be lost for local businesses and that would have impact also."

Rigney said the recent three-year regionalization study to join Quaboag had "a

serious impact" on the town's school district.

Several teachers and parents spoke in support of the school district's middle/high school, and how it's small size was beneficial to learning and individual student growth.

Former School Committee member Deb Arnold urged residents to create a vision for the school and to work together to make it better.

"Because what we have, is good here," she said.

Student Dante Giangrande spoke about the academic and athletic opportunities he received as a student in the district.

"The opportunities here are enough, and I feel like we're not highlighting them enough," he said. "If we highlight those opportunities enough and showcase them, we will get those children back."

Others noted the rising costs of education (including health insurance), especially in rural areas, and how it is has become increasingly unaffordable for small towns.

Resident and Selectman Jamie Gilman said he didn't expect to see a huge savings for the town with the tuition agreements, but that the world is a competitive place, and there has been less offered to the students at the middle/high school over time due to this.

"If we could do something to turn this around, then I don't think there would be anyone in town who would be opposed to that," he said. "I think everybody would be behind that."

Gilman asked "how far is too far" and questioned what would be left for the students if trends continued as they are.

"There's a finite amount

of money...that's the reality," he said. "The more kids that leave, the less money that there is left here. If we talk about the future of North Brookfield, then it is the kids. The question we need to be asking ourselves, is what are we doing for them? And what's going to be there for them? If we haven't turned it around by now...then we need to think seriously about doing something different."

Continued discussion The School Committee will continue discussing the proposals at its next meeting to be held on Wednesday, Feb. 18 at 6 p.m.

The committee members will also hold office hours in the high school kiva on Friday, Feb. 13 from noon-2 p.m. to hear from the community. People can also email Grant at mgrant@nbschools.org.

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Calendar of Events

THURSDAY, FEB. 12

35TH ANNIVERSARY ART SHOW sponsored by the Princeton Arts Society at the Gallery at Briarwood, 65 Briarwood Circle, Worcester. Art work will be on display now through March 5. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. The show is open to all Princeton Arts members. Artist can become a member anytime by visiting www.princetonarts.org. For detailed information about the show, people may visit www.princetonarts.org.

CIRCLE OF SONG REHEARSALS are today from 7-8:30 p.m. at Barre Town Hall, 2 Exchange St. Rehearsal are every Thursday between now and Thursday, May 14 with the concert on Saturday, May 16 at 7 p.m. at the Barre Town Hall. Circle of song is particularly in need of altos this session. Singers of all ages and experience are welcome. The chorus sings in four-part harmony and there is a modest sliding scale membership fee with deep discounts for students. People may email director Julie Rawson at julie@mhof.net or call 978-257-1192.

Q-MUNITY CLOSET, located at the New Braintree Grade School, 15 Memorial Drive, New Braintree has expanded their hours. Hours are Mondays and Thursdays from 8:30-11:30 a.m. and the second Saturday of the month from 9-11 a.m. One night a week will be added in March. More information with time and day will be announced soon. The Q-Munity Closet at New Braintree caters to adults and young children and currently has a great inventory of winter clothing in stock.

SATURDAY, FEB. 14

BENEFIT BREAKFAST will be held at the Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, Oakham from 8-9:30 a.m. The menu includes pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, homemade doughnut holes, strawberries, orange juice, coffee, tea and hot chocolate. The breakfast will benefit the church's new furnace fund.

EQLT WELLNESS WALKS will be held today at 9 a.m. around the center of West Brookfield, meet at Congregational Church

Where is this?



Turley Publications photo by Ellenor Downer

This week's mystery photo is from Petersham. 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. 23. Bill Bowles, Claire Bechan-Norberg, Peggy Civilik and James Laramee correctly identified the photo. The photo last week was of the playground at Veterans Memorial on the Common in Oakham.

parking lot, West Brookfield; Tuesday, Feb. 24 at 11:45 a.m. at Grenville Park to Church Street via Mass. Central Rail Trail meet at Grenville Park parking lot, 73 Church St., Ware; Sunday, March 8 at 9:30 a.m. at Deer Park Preserve and Coxhall Kitchen Garden, 481 Barre Road, Hardwick; Wednesday, March 18 at 2:30 p.m. at Patrill Hollow Preserve, 1015 Hardwick Road, Hardwick. RSVP to East Quabbin Land Trust is requested, but not required by emailing atrevvett@eqlt.org.

ALL-ENTINE TEA PARTY, a party for everyone happens Saturday, Feb. 14 at 10:30 a.m. at the Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, Hardwick. This is a drop in event. People will enjoy a variety of tea

flavors, cookies and games with their favorite person or people.

FRUIT TREE PRUNING DEMONSTRATION by local resident, Karl Erickson, will take place today at 2 p.m. on the grounds of Felton Field, Old Coldbrook Road, Barre. Right now, in the middle of winter season is the proper time to perform these tasks. This period is the window, from late winter to just before spring growth starts, to remove dead, damaged or diseased branches and to thin the rest. He will demonstrate where to make the cuts by removing unnecessary branches at the collar, which improves air circulation and sunlight penetration. Participants will learn about water sprouts and how to

maintain the structural balance of the tree while never removing more than 1/4 to 1/3 of the canopy in a single year. People may call Kay Potter Flick at 978-257-0890, call the Barre Historical Society and Museum at 978-355-4978 to leave a voicemail or email at barrehistory@gmail.com for more information.

SUNDAY, FEB. 15

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY presents, "All Roads Lead to Rutland" today from 1-3 p.m. at the Rutland Historical Society, 232 Main St., Rutland. Transportation in Rutland evolved from 18th century colonial roads connecting rural farms to 20th century motorized transit including trains and later bus services. People may browse through the various pictures, news articles and artifacts in the museum of this evolution. Light refreshments will be available.

MONDAY, FEB. 17

QUABBIN REGIONAL AGREEMENT WORKING GROUP is holding listening sessions in the five member towns as they share the approved revisions to the Regional Agreement that will be voted on at upcoming town meetings. Today at 6:30 p.m. they will meet in the Hubbardston Town Offices, 48 Gardner Road, Hubbardston. People unable to attend the meeting in their town may attend any of the following meetings. Other dates are Monday, Feb. 23 at 6 p.m. in the New Braintree Town Hall, 20 Memorial Drive, New Braintree and March 2 at 6:30 p.m. in the Henry Woods Building, 40 West St., Barre.

FRIDAY, FEB. 20

NATIVE ANIMALS PROGRAM will be held today at 1 p.m. in the East Quabbin Land Trust Office, 120 Ridge Road, Hardwick. Wild life expert Bethany Boucher will talk about native North American animals. Participants will also meet some of these animals courtesy of Amazing Animal Ambassadors. Sign up is required as the event is limited to the first 40 guest, who register. Registration deadline is Saturday, Feb. 14. People may email Ellie at eshea@eqlt.org to register. They should include name and age in the email.

Valentine's Day is Saturday, February 14th

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Panthers face Ayer Shirley

BARRE – Last Tuesday afternoon, Quabbin Regional Middle School boys basketball faced off against Ayer Shirley.



Lane Fagnoli dribbles through traffic.



John Cook looks to make an inbound pass.



Preston D'Amato is pressured near the top of the arc.



Adrian Wahl holds the back after picking it up.



Cameron Charpentier sends a pass into the paint.



Bryce Pariseau tries to get around an opponent.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Middle School girls action

BARRE – Last Tuesday afternoon, Quabbin Regional Middle School girls basketball hosted Ayer Shirley's middle school squad.



Charley Chauvin brings in a rebound.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Julia Montague heads across the court.



Waverly Rivard shoots ahead of pressure.



Juliana Nickson tries to bring in a long pass.



Dustyn Cook rushes for the hoop.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Maddox Baer holds the ball just inside the arc.

Pioneers fall at home to rival Panthers

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER— The Palmer Panthers won their previous five encounters on the hardwood with the

Pathfinder Tech Pioneers by more than ten points.

The sole meeting of the 2025-26 regular season between the cross-town rivals was a tightly contested battle until the middle of the fourth quarter. The Panthers closed out the non-league game with a 10-1 run leading to a 52-41 victory before a large and enthusiastic crowd inside the Pathfinder Tech gym, last Monday night (Feb.2).

"We were finally able to pull away late in the game and it was a very gritty win for us," said Palmer boys' varsity basketball coach Missy Rocker. "It was a very aggressive game, and the referees allowed the players to play without calling many fouls. This is a rivalry game, and I was a little bit worried that it was going to get out of hand."

Following the 11-point road win, Palmer had a 9-7 overall record.

The Panthers, who

slipped to 35th place in the MIAA Division 5 power rankings, needed one more victory to qualify for the state tournament for the third consecutive year.

"We do have a very difficult regular season schedule," Rocker said. "This is another tough week for us starting with tonight's game against Pathfinder. We just need to find a way to win one more game."

Palmer was scheduled to wrap-up the regular season by hosting Chicopee Comp in another non-league game last Wednesday night and Bi-County East rival High School of Commerce last Friday night. It was also the Panthers senior night game.

Their six seniors are Matt Santos, Dylan Doherty, Chris Stapleton, Adonis Dupre, Gavin Smola, and Stephen



Ian Squi Nieves attempts the layup under pressure.

See PIONEERS , page 10

Sports

New look for sectional hockey tournament this year

By **Tim Peterson**
Sports Correspondent

WEST SPRINGFIELD — The 2026 Western Massachusetts high school hockey tournament is scheduled to take place from Feb. 16-19.

Six of the seven Berry Division teams will qualify for the Class A tournament.

The Berry Division teams, who are looking to qualify for the Class A tournament, are Westfield, East Longmeadow, Greenfield, Minnechaug Regional, Longmeadow, Ludlow, and West Springfield.

The Westfield Bombers

are the two-time defending Class A champions. They defeated the Greenfield Green Wave, 7-3, in last year's championship match.

All six of the teams in the Fay-Wright Division will be competing in this year's Class B tournament.

Those six teams are Easthampton, McCann Tech, Amherst, Taconic, Agawam, and Chicopee High School.

Agawam defeated Taconic, 6-1, in last year's Class B championship match.

The top two teams in Class A & B will automati-

cally advance into the semifinals.

Prior to playing the semifinals, the top-seeded team in Class A will be facing the second-seeded team in Class B. The top-seeded team in Class B will also play the second-seeded Class A team.

Those games will boost the team's state power rankings.

The other four teams in each of the classes will be playing in the quarterfinals on February 16.

The higher-seeded teams will be hosting the quarter-

Registration open for QVBL

SOUTH HADLEY — Registration has opened for the Quabbin Valley Baseball League, an over-28 recreational league, held its first meeting of 2026 to prepare for the upcoming season.

For the 2026 season, the cost will be \$215 and will include a 16th game added to the regular season schedule.

During the 2025 season, the league experimented with playing on Mother's Day Saturday as well as a weeknight game to allow players an opportunity to play under the lights. While the night games were very successful, the Mother's Day Saturday games were rained out.

Those elements will return along with a 16th

game with an opponent to be determined as the league's board explores possibilities for interleague matchups with another league in the region.

For returning players to the league, the deadline is Mar. 22 at 12 noon to be registered for the 2026 season in order to be guaranteed a roster spot. There will be open practices for all players but specifically targeted at new players scheduled for March 29 and April 4 at times and locations to be announced. The draft is currently scheduled to take place on April 4 following that practice.

The season is currently slated to start on Sunday, April 19 and following the success of the six-team fall

league last year, the league will also have a fall league in September and October this season.

The registration is live at www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org. Players must register and then pay the league dues via Venmo or contact the league leadership if an alternate form of payment is needed.

Aside from the weeknight and Mother's Day games, other games take place Sundays at 10 a.m. outside of Mother's Day, Memorial Day and July 4 weekends. Playoffs will be in August.

This is the 30th season for the league and league officials are looking to celebrate the anniversary with a couple of events.

Railers fall to Lions in overtime

TROIS-RIVIÈRES, QC — The Worcester Railers HC (21-17-4-1, 47 pts) fell in overtime to the Trois-Rivières Lions (18-20-1-3, 40 pts) in front of a crowd of 2,793 on Saturday, February 7th, with a final score of 2-3 at the Colisée Vidéotron. The Railers will play Trois-Rivières next in Worcester on Friday, February 13th, with a 7:05 p.m. puck drop.

The Lions nabbed the first goal for the afternoon, as Anthony Beaugard (1-0-1) took advantage of the heavy traffic in front of the Railers net. Worcester answered Trois-Rivières' goal in the third period with two back-to-back goals from Anthony Callin (1-0-1) to tie the game and Ryan Miotto (1-0-1) to take the lead (2-1). Egor Gorionov (1-0-1) claimed the second Lions goal with a slapshot to re-tie the game. This tally pushed the game into overtime. The final goal of the afternoon came from Lions' captain Morgan Adams-Moisán (1-0-1) for a final score of 3-2 in favor of Trois-Rivières.

Trois-Rivières secured the initial lead of the afternoon at 16:47 in the first.

While Worcester saw a power play turned 5-on-3 chance in the midst of the period, the two-and-a-half-minute advantage would go unfulfilled. Worcester then went on the penalty kill and successfully barred the Lions from capitalizing. As the game neared the 17-minute mark, Trois-Rivières bested the Railers amidst ongoing traffic along Parker Gahagen's crease. While Gahagen remained tied up one side of the net, Anthony Beaugard (9th) played an opportune rebound off of a Railers' skate to score. Shots on goal were 11-8 in favor of Trois-Rivières. The Railers went 0-for-2 on the power play, while the Lions went 0-for-1.

The Lions held on to their 1-0 lead from the first through the second twenty minutes of action. The Railers received the only power play of the period at the 19-minute mark, as Trois-Rivières' Cédric Deruisseaux headed to the box for slashing. Worcester outshot Trois-Rivières 11-10, while the Lions added another infraction to their count for a total of three.

Worcester's scoreless

streak ended in the third period. Anthony Callin (15th) broke the clean slate with a breakaway goal at 4:54. Callin charged the Lions' net, where Lavallière could not stop the momentum and pushed himself over the goal line. Just thirty-nine seconds later, Ryan Miotto (10th) capitalized on an attempted clear of the Lions' net by Charles Martin. Martin pushed the puck with a backhanded pass into the awaiting Miotto for another Railers goal. The Lions tied the match with a one-timer from Egor Gorionov (2nd) at 16:44. The tally pushed the game into overtime, the third appearance for the Railers in their past four games. Trois-Rivières ended up with the 3-2 OT win, the final goal a tip on the doorstep from captain Morgan Adams-Moisán (8th), the initial shot from Darick Louis-Jean. Final shots were 39 for Trois-Rivières and 25 for Worcester. The Railers and the Lions each earned one penalty in the third, which brought final totals up to two for Worcester and four for Trois-Rivières.

Public Notices

PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN PURSUANT

TO THE PROVISIONS OF M.L.C. 225 SEC.39A THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD ON February 28, 2026.

AT A SALE TO SATISFY OUR GARAGE LIEN THEREON FOR TOWING & STORAGE CHARGES AND EXPENSES OF SALE AND NOTICE:

2016 Mercedes-Benz C-Class VIN 55SWF4JB7GU140041
2015 Subaru Forester VIN JF2SJABC1FH437794
2006 Honda Civic VIN 1HGFA16896L042833
2011 Chrysler 300 VIN 2C3CA5CG6BH545980
2009 Volkswagen Tiguan VIN WVGBV75N09W529770
2019 Jeep Compass VIN 3C4NJDD87KT733089
2008 Audi A6 VIN WAUDV74F68N013776
2000 BMW 7 Series VIN WBAGH8341YDP14855
The sale will be held at

Early's on Park Avenue
536 Park Avenue,
Worcester, MA 01603
02/12, 02/19, 02/26/2026

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. WO25P3313EA
Estate of:
Kevin R Kenary
Date of Death: 03/19/2025
CITATION ON PETITION FOR SALE OF REAL ESTATE BY A PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Sale of Real Estate has been filed by: **Ann E Meilus of Barre, MA** requesting that the court authorize the Personal Representative to sell the decedent's real estate at a private sale.
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 03/03/2026.

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.

Witness, **Kathryn M. Bailey**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: February 04, 2026
Stephanie Fattman, Register of Probate
02/12/2026

PIONEERS from page 9

Fredette.

"The seniors are very special players and they're going to be very difficult to replace next year," Rucker said. "They're outstanding young men."

Palmer should be able to qualify for the Western Mass. Class C tournament, which starts this week.

Depending on the results of the Class C quarterfinal game, the Panthers will either advance to the semifinals or play a non-playoff game. Regardless of which path they take, those games will also contribute to their overall state power ranking.

Pathfinder Tech (6-7) entered the home contest against Palmer riding a five game winning streak. They were ranked 78th in the Division 5 power rankings

"I don't think that we've ever beaten Palmer in the past, but I was expecting my guys to give them a hard fought battle in tonight's game," said first-year Pathfinder Tech head coach Jeff Kularski. "I'm looking to build a culture here. I think we'll be a dangerous basketball team in a couple of years."

The Pioneers seniors are Aiden Girard (1 point), Dustyn Cook (2 points), and Angelo Rentas, who didn't play in the Palmer game.

Because they probably won't be one of the top 32 teams in the power rankings, the Pioneers will need to finish the regular season with a .500 record to clinch a berth in the state tournament for the first time in two years.

The mood of the varsity game was a little bit somber after Palmer freshman Abees Castillo suffered a serious leg injury during the second quarter of the junior varsity game. That game was delayed for about 30 minutes as Castillo was taken by ambulance to Wing Hospital.

"The varsity and J.V teams normally practice together," Rucker said. "The



Cayden Bousquet takes a free throw.

players were very emotional when Abees was injured because the other players really care about their teammate. Abees is a swing player for us and it's an unfortunate injury."

Because of the long delay, the j.v. game ended at halftime, which allowed the varsity contest to start on time.

Rucker decided to make a couple of changes to the starting lineup.

Stapleton, along with sophomore Liam McKee, and eighth grader T.J. Smola made their first career starts in a varsity game.

"Chris is a senior and I wanted to give him the opportunity to start a game," Rucker said. "I've also seen some good things from Liam and T.J. at practice. I wanted to see what they could do at the start of the game."

Doherty and junior Taydem Haley, who are normally starters for the Panthers led the way offensively.

Doherty scored 14 of his

game-high 18 points during the second half. Haley scored 14 points, which gave him a total of 937 career points.

Sophomore Cassian Kowalik (16 points) and junior Cayden Bousquet (16 points) combined to score 32 of the Pioneers 41 points. No other Pathfinder player scored more than four points.

A Haley foul-line jumper gave Palmer a 3-0 lead with 6:30 left in the opening quarter before the Pioneers put together an impressive 14-2 run.

Kowalik and Bousquet scored five points apiece during that span. Sophomore Grayson Griswold (4 points) added a lay-up and sophomore Maddox Baer buried a jumper, which was his only points of the game.

Santos, Fredette (9 points), and Gavin Smola (5 points), who are the Panthers other three normal starters, were on the court at the start of the second quarter, along with Haley and Doherty.

The Panthers outscored the Pioneers, 18-9, during the second stanza and the contest was tied 23-23 at halftime.

After outscoring Pathfinder, 10-6, in a low scoring third quarter, Palmer entered the final eight minutes with a slim 33-29 lead.

A Bousquet lay-up closed the gap to 33-31 with 7:35 left in regulation.

With 4:28 remaining on the scoreboard clock, the Panthers built a 42-36 lead following a Doherty old fashion three point play.

The home team responded with a lay-up and put-back hoop by Kowalik making it a two point game again.

A minute later, Fredette made an inside hoop, and Doherty hit a short jumper, which helped the Panthers pull away down the stretch. They sealed the victory by making four of six shots from the free throw line.

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 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.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

SOCIAL SECURITY from page 4

before your full retirement age of 67, your SS benefit was reduced because you claimed early. And if you had less than 35 years of SS-covered employment, your AIME was less, resulting in a smaller PIA. And that is likely why your monthly Social Security retirement benefit is low.

One other thought to consider: if you are married and your spouse's monthly SS benefit is considerably more than yours (e.g., more than twice as much as yours), you may want to explore your options for

spouse benefits.

I hope this explains how your SS benefit is calculated, but if you still question your monthly SS retirement amount, I suggest you first obtain your "Earnings Statement" to review the lifetime earnings SS has on file for you. If there are any discrepancies in your Social Security's earnings record, there are correction remedies available to you. If that is the case, please feel free to contact us again for more information.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with

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

Church News

Local pastors offer sermons

Promises of Christ Part 1

Let us operate from the premise that a promise is only as good as the one making it.

Do you not agree? A promise from an unreliable individual cannot be counted upon with any degree of certainty. Yet the pledge made by one who is reliable can be trusted; such a one will work to fulfill their word.

Thus said, a promise from the Lord both can and should be trusted! Is He not faithful and true? Will He not diligently work to execute His word? As Scripture declares (Num. 23:19, NIV): God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?" As we delve deeper into 2026 we do well to direct our faith to sure and certain promises.

What has Christ promised in His Word? What has He obligated Himself to do in the pages of Scripture? Great questions! This series will touch upon four promises of the Lord. Let us turn our attention to this timeless selection from the Gospel according to Matthew (containing that which will be the first pledge and object of our attention):

Matthew 11:28 (NIV)

28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

1) Come. This opening word speaks to invitation. Herein, Christ has extended His hand and opened His heart, in the hope that you and I might come to know repose. Of course, an invitation can be rejected. Have you spurned the call of the Lord to come to Him? If so, you forfeit His peace in kind.

2) To Me. Herein Jesus presents Himself as the singular source of rest for the weary and burdened. Notice that He does not direct such men and women to anyone or anything but Himself. If rest is to be known in this world, it will only be done so as individuals take hold of the extended hand of Jesus!

3) All. This term implies that the invitation of Jesus is both universal and unconditional in nature. It is extended, genuinely, to all. If you are weary and burdened, and who has not been in this life, you have been invited to find rest in and by Him regardless of your race, age, sex or social standing. All may come.

4) Weary and Burdened. To whom is this call of Jesus extended? Firstly, to the weary: to those who are worn out, depleted and exhausted amid life and living. Secondly, to the burdened: those who are carrying a load beyond their ability to bear. Does this describe you? If so, run to Him and find Him true to His word.

5) I Will Give You Rest. Rest is something that Christ alone can provide. Yet what is it? The underlying term for "rest" speaks to refreshment and relief; an abiding spiritual condition of tranquility and satisfaction. I would call you to abandon the false promises of this world for such elements. Let us look to the Lord alone.

Thus said, you might well ask at this point: "If this is the case, why does it seem like many believers exemplify everything but restfulness? Has He somehow failed to deliver?" I think that the answer to these legitimate questions is found in the subsequent passage. Let us note this promise of the Lord in the totality of its context:

Matthew 11:28-29

28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gen-

tle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

Note that we are not invited to simply come to secure rest. Rather, we are invited to take His yoke upon us and learn from Him in order to appropriate the peace He has promised to provide. Is this the issue? How many come to the Lord for peace, yet fail to follow through on heeding Him and His ways, utterly hindering their reception of meaningful repose in kind?

Those who would know peace must not only come, but be bound to the Lord in a posture of submission and surrender. Only then, as we are under His direction and connected with His divine power, can we truly know a transcendent peace. Let today be the day you respond to the gracious call of Christ Jesus and know the wonder of what He alone can provide.

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

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

Pastor James Foley

New Life Assembly of God
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978-355-6407

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

"The Blessings of the Kingdom of Heaven."

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5 v 1-12 and Micah 6 v 6-8

I. Introduction

I will always cherish my years in seminary, as they were an important and formative period in my life.

Our academic program at the university encompassed comprehensive studies in Old and New Testament scholarship, biblical interpretation, church history, missions, as well as instruction in Hebrew and Greek languages, along with additional coursework relevant to our field. We learned how to preach and were being critiqued by our classmates.

We did hospital chaplaincy, and all other pastoral functions, including visitations and more. As the only woman among 60 plus men for most of those six years, I felt the pressures of having to prove myself. During that time, participating in my local congregation played a key role in helping me gain a deeper insight into pastoral ministry. I appreciate those formative years, as they gave me insight and understanding of the scope of the church and its many dimensions.

Although establishing a strong foundation was essential, as students we recognized that central to our efforts was gaining an understanding of the values taught by Christ and applying His teachings on discipleship in our daily lives. We discussed how, as pastors in collaboration with our congregations, we can conceptualize the church as an environment that fosters both the enhancement of our services and the embodiment of Christ's core values.

The essence of this core is reflected in Christ's emphasis on love for God and one's neighbor. Additionally, the Beatitudes represent what can be considered Christ's manifesto or statement of mission and values, providing guiding principles for followers to uphold.

II. The Blessings of the

Kingdom of Heaven

We see Jesus here in Matthew once again leaving the crowds behind, and went into the hills, so He could address His disciples on what it meant to be a disciple of Christ. R.T. France refers to the Sermon on the Mount as a "Discourse on Discipleship" in his commentary on Matthew. It is a description I value, as I can picture what it must have been like to be with Christ, the Teacher, and feel part of such a profound conversation about discipleship.

Jesus chose to not speak to the whole crowd, because this teaching was intended for those close to Him, who were committed to the requirements of the Kingdom of Heaven, and who would be commissioned to go and spread the Gospel and grow the church. The Kingdom of Heaven He outlined in these Beatitudes, were contrary to the norms of society at the time. Jesus must have known that these disciples would find the strength to teach and live out these values in the face of difficult challenges.

The Greek word for blessings is macarisms, or Makarios, which means being blessed. It also means that a person is enlightened, and in a good place, because they found the true way of living according to Christ. To be poor in spirit, to be meek, to have a merciful attitude and being pure of heart, and peaceful, are the qualities of the disciples of Christ.

To follow Christ in this way, means to actively seeking this life with and not against others, that sees the good for all, and not for some, a life that is dependent on God, not arrogant because "I have everything I need" Christ gives promises to each one of these qualities, promises of Gods comfort and blessings, and fulfillment in this life and beyond.

These values of Discipleship strengthen the resolve in every disciple as they face persecutions, insults, lies talked about them and other challenges. To follow Christ in this way will result in the great reward in Heaven, says Matthew. The same values we find in Micah Chapter 6.

III. Conclusion

I am grateful for my time in seminary and my training in my local congregation, where I learned about the meaning of discipleship and to be church. I enjoyed the Bible Studies, the prayer meetings, music in all its forms and I enjoyed being shaped into a leader in the church.

Barre Congregational Church has become the place for me where we come to learn about these values of Christ. As Christians we are called to follow Christ's example as He laid it out for us. It is about love, kindness, humility, justice and peace. We are called to uphold this Christ Manifesto in whatever we do and we are called to uphold our own Mission and grow our church in all its many parts to become strong and visible.

We are not perfect disciples, but we are called to be in discourse with one another, praying together and receiving the blessings from God and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to be a vibrant church with the gifts of God we all received. May God help us as we continue to follow Christ's teachings, live out His values in our world, and look forward to inheriting God's Kingdom.

Amen

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

Obituaries

June Flora Ferguson, 97

1928-2026

June Ferguson, age 97, died peacefully in her sleep at home on January 20, 2026.

Born June Flora Swindell to the late Edwin and Edith Swindell of Worcester County, MA, June was the beloved wife of the late Robert H. Ferguson, loving mother of Harold, Colleen and Richard, cherished grandmother of Rachael, Samuel and Emily, great-grandmother of Eleanor, loving aunt, and friend to many.

June grew up in Barre, MA, earned a Bachelor of Science in Home Economics and Education from the University of Massachusetts, and taught in the Boston area until she and her sister Evelyn embarked upon a cross-country trip to California. June enjoyed dancing throughout her life. She met the man she would later marry at a Bay Area dance class. June and Robert Ferguson married in 1958, started their life together in Cordelia, then moved to Vacaville, Brisbane, Arroyo Grande and Yuba City before settling in Petaluma in 1970. June and Robert, with their three children, could be found polka dancing most Sunday afternoons at Little Switzerland, outside of Sonoma.

June Flora had a passion for flowers, which she loved to grow and arrange. In 2024, June celebrated 50 years of membership in the Petaluma Garden Club where she served as President in

1984-85. She was also a member of the Petaluma Area Pilots Association (PAPA), president of the local chapter of the International Toastmistress Club (ITC) and an officer for the Accordion Club of the Redwoods. June supported her husband in his astron-



omy interests and was an active member of the Sonoma County Astronomical Society (SCAS). She was founding Secretary of the Valley of the Moon Observatory Association (VMOA), which constructed and operates the Robert Ferguson Observatory (RFO) in Sugarloaf State Park. June was an active supporter of the observatory, with a shovel in her hands for groundbreaking in 1996. She contributed to observatory operations and encouraged observatory volunteers to the end of her life.

June moved to an independent living apartment in a senior community in her later years. She remained active arranging flowers for the community, assisting with the in-house library, and participating in the book-club. The family thanks the residents and staff of Cogir Rohnert Park for providing such a welcoming community, and the staff at Sequoia Senior Solutions for delivering needed care during June's last days.

A celebration of June's life will be held Sunday, Feb. 22, 2026, 2 to 4 p.m. at the Petaluma Woman's Club.

DEATH NOTICES

Ferguson, June Flora
Died Jan. 20, 2026
Celebration of Life
Feb. 22 at Petaluma
Women's Club

Batra, Ajay Kumar
Died Jan. 21, 2026
Miles Funeral Home

Barre Gazette OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

Ajay Kumar Batra, 55

OAKHAM – Ajay Kumar Batra, 55, died tragically

in a house fire in Oakham on Jan. 21, 2026. He was the beloved son of Carol (Welch) Batra. Ajay is survived by his father Narendra, his uncle Colin Welch and wife Lynda, cousins Laura and Paul Welch and Vivek Batra and his best friends, Brian Hall and David Meyers. He will be missed by his extended family and friends.

Ajay was born on Nov. 19, 1970, in Windsor, Ontario. When he was six months old, he moved to the United States with his parents, where he lived for the remainder of his life.

Ajay graduated from Clarence High School in Clarence, New York. His friends describe him as one of the smartest in his class, with the mind of an engineer

and the soul of an artist. He was actively involved in soccer, the swim team and the chess club. He was an avid skateboarder and skier and loved spending the winter with his tight group of friends and visiting ski resorts, both locally and all over the northeast.

Ajay achieved the highest SAT score in his high school and that achievement, combined with a great GPA, helped gain him entry into Columbia University where, in 1993, he graduated with a degree in electrical engineering with a minor in music engineering. After graduating, he remained in the Akron area where his passion for music led to him becoming the DJ at the Continental Night Club, where he could spin his favorite tunes. He later purchased a Picasso's Pizza franchise and ran that

business for several years.

In 2012, serious medical issues resulted in several brain surgeries and a multi-week coma that left Ajay with a traumatic brain injury, from which he never fully recovered. He moved to Oakham, Massachusetts to be near his father and lived there until his death.

Ajay is best remembered by those who loved him for his kindness, unwavering loyalty and his exuberance for life and trying new things.

Ajay's ashes will be interred next to his maternal grandparents in Canada, which gives his mother great comfort. A celebration of life will be held in the spring.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Massachusetts Association for Mental Health would be appreciated by his family. Arrangements are under the care of Miles Funeral Home, 1158 Main St., Holden. www.milesfuneralhome.com

Country Bank announces Stonier graduates

Certificate.

"Over the last three years, I've gained meaningful insight into leadership, strategy, and collaboration that will stay with me throughout my career. This experience allowed me to grow both personally and professionally, while building relationships with peers from across the country. I'm thankful to Country Bank for supporting my development and for investing in the future of its leaders," expressed Jodie Gerulaitis.

"This journey challenged me to think differently, lead more effectively, and expand my perspective on the evolving banking landscape. The knowledge and connections I've gained will continue to shape my leadership approach and benefit our teams and customers. I'm grateful to Country Bank for its continued com-

mitment to leadership development," expressed Jennifer Bujneviciu.

"We congratulate Jodie and Jennifer on their completion of the American Bankers Association Stonier School of Banking. We're incredibly proud of the dedication and commitment they have demonstrated to get here; working hard over the course of this three-year program designed to enhance their leadership skills as Bankers and thought leaders for Country Bank. Jodie and Jennifer have always been enthusiastic about the variety of learning & development opportunities offered by the Bank throughout their careers at Country Bank and we applaud and support their continued commitment to their growth and excellence," said Miriam Siegel, Chief Culture and Development Officer.

Public Safety

Barre Police Log

Sunday, Jan. 18
 2:08 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Old Dana Road, Officer/Chief Advised
 5:44 p.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, Valley Road, Peace Restored
 6:57 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Ruggles Lane, Transported to Hospital
 8:33 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Walnut Hill Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
Monday, Jan. 19
 9:37 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Allergic Reaction, Hubbardston Road, Transported to Hospital
 9:46 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, West Street, Mutual Aid Transport
 10:04 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident – No Fire Department/EMS Response, Hubbardston Road, Report Filed
 11:31 a.m. Animal – Wildlife, Hubbardston Road, Officer/Chief Advised
 6:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
Tuesday, Jan. 20
 12:15 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, Clinton, Negative Contact
 8:57 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Fruitland Road, Transported to Hospital
 9:23 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Gauthier Road, Negative Contact
 10:46 a.m. Property – Lost/Found/Surrender, School North Street, Information Taken
 2:38 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Ruggles Lane, Negative Contact
 4:13 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Varney Lane, Call Transferred
 5:37 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Allergic Reaction, Nourse Lane, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 9:14 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Barre Depot Road, Transported to Hospital
Wednesday, Jan. 21
 12:43 a.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Skyline Drive, Fire Extinguished
 7 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Citation Issued
 7:24 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Town Wide, Information Given
 9:46 p.m. Larceny or Theft, Main Street, Report Filed
Thursday, Jan. 22
 1:08 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Ruggles Lane, Transported to Hospital
 12:44 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Exchange Street, Vehicle Towed
 1:14 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Ruggles Lane, Investigated
 3:26 p.m. Animal – Wildlife, School North Street, Investigated
 6:32 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Written Warning
 6:53 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Written Warning
 6:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Wheelwright Road, Citation Issued
 9:49 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Ruggles Lane, No Transport Required
 11:27 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Ruggles Lane, No Transport Required

Friday, Jan. 23
 1:24 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Ruggles Lane, Transported to Hospital
 11:27 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Ruggles Lane, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 12:04 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Walnut Hill Road, Unfounded
 12:53 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Stroke (CVA), Pine Tree Terrace, Transported to Hospital
 3:19 p.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Summer Street, Fire Extinguished
 4:32 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, South Street, Vehicle Towed
 5:21 p.m. Erratic Operator, Worcester Road, Arrest(s) Made
 Arrest Jason, Melissa Jean, 51, Barre
 Charges Operating Under the Influence – Liquor OR.08%, Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle, Marked Lane Violation
Saturday, Jan. 24
 10:17 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Church Lane, Officer/Chief Advised
 4:50 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Citation Issued
 5:45 p.m. Fire – Vehicle Fires, Williamsville Road, Fire Extinguished
 6:30 p.m. Larceny or Theft, Maple Lane, Call Transferred
 7:17 p.m. Landlord Tenant/Neighbor Dispute, Maple Lane, Officer Spoke to Party
 8:32 p.m. Be On the Look Out Notification, Wheelwright Road, Negative Contact
 9:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Written Warning

Rutland Police Log

Sunday, Jan. 18
 3:45 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Beechwood Drive, Transported to Hospital
 9:29 a.m. Road Condition Notification, Town Wide, Information Given
 9:41 a.m. Animal – Wildlife, Maple Avenue, Referred to Other Agency
 9:49 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Central Tree Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 11:22 a.m. Property – Lost/Found/Surrender, Main Street, Returned
 2:45 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Pleasantdale Road, Negative Contact
 3:40 p.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issues, Watson Lane, Officer Spoke to Party
 4:45 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Maple Avenue, Report Filed
 6:47 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Whole Town, Information Given
 10:39 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Seizures, Miles Road, Transported to Hospital
 11:05 p.m. Noise Complaint, Maple Avenue, Officer Spoke to Party
Monday, Jan. 19
 3:48 a.m. Fire – Smoke Investigation, Irish Lane, Investigated
 10:21 a.m. Landlord Tenant/Neighbor/Dispute, Main Street, Investigated
 12:04 p.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issues, Pleasantdale, Officer Spoke to Party
 2:17 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Whitehall Road, Officer/Chief Advised
 2:59 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Glenwood Road, Report Filed
 4:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 4:26 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Muschopauge Road, Written Warning
Tuesday, Jan. 20
 3:51 a.m. Safety Concern, Barre Paxton Road, Investigated
 4:22 a.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, Barre Paxton Road, Area Patrolled
 4:44 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Paddock Road, Transported to Hospital
 8:15 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 8:43 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 10:59 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written

Warning
 11:51 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Autumn Wood Drive, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 11:52 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Pleasantdale Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 2:50 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Maple Avenue, Negative Contact
 3:18 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Main Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 4:15 p.m. Erratic Operator, Campbell Street, Negative Contact
 4:50 p.m. Property Dispute or Exchange, Brunelle Drive, Returned
Wednesday, Jan. 21
 12:43 a.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Skyline Drive, Fire Extinguished
 11:26 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Anthony Drive, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 3:43 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, North Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital
 5:56 p.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issues, Brunelle Drive, Officer/Chief Advised
 7:21 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Town Wide, Information Given
Thursday, Jan. 22
 12:54 a.m. Road Condition Notification, Bushy Lane, Information Taken
 6:20 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Old Turnpike Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 8:30 a.m. Fire – Fuel Spill, Main Street, Investigated
 10:25 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Turkey Hill Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 10:52 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Transported to Hospital
 11:51 a.m. Fraud or Forgery, East County Road, Report Filed
 3:38 p.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, Brintnal Drive, Officer Spoke to Party
 4:39 p.m. Traffic or Radar Enforcement, Maple Avenue, Written Warning
 4:41 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 4:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 5:06 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 5:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning
 5:36 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop,

Fairview Avenue, Citation Issued
 5:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident – No Fire Department/EMS Response, Maple Avenue, Report Filed
 7:04 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
Friday, Jan. 23
 12:20 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Main Street, Information Given
 8:37 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Bleeding (Non-Traumatic), Juniper Lane, Transported to Hospital
 11:43 a.m. Fraud or Forgery, Jamie Ann Drive, Report Filed
 3:19 p.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Summer Street, Fire Extinguished
 5:30 p.m. Erratic Operator, P o m m o g u s s e t t R o a d, Investigated
 5:51 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, North Brookfield Road, Report Filed
 6:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Written Warning
 9:52 p.m. Safety Concern, Clealand Circle, Officer Spoke to Party
 10:08 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Kenwood Drive, Prisoner Bailed
 Arrest Finnegan, James Joseph, 26, Rutland
 Charges Operating Under the Influence – Liquor OR.08%, Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle
Saturday, Jan. 24
 4:03 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Stroke (CVA), Maple Brook Drive, Transported to Hospital
 7:54 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Barre Paxton Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 10:47 a.m. Road Condition Notification, Kenwood Drive, Investigated
 3:26 p.m. Erratic Operator, Main Street, Negative Contact
 4:24 p.m. Follow-Up Investigation, Eastern Lane, Report Filed
 Summons Paulsen, Robert E. Jr., 64, Rutland
 Charges Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle, Leave Scene of Property Damage
 5:45 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Fires, Williamsville Road, Fire Extinguished
 11:10 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Main Street, Ambulance Signed refusal

Oakham Police Log

Monday, Jan. 19
 7:43 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Written Warning
Tuesday, Jan. 20
 3:16 p.m. Harassment, Barre Road, Report Filed
Wednesday, Jan. 21
 12:43 p.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Skyline Drive, Fire Extinguished
 3:43 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, North Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital
Thursday, Jan. 22
 6:20 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Old Turnpike Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 2:14 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Leominster, Officer/Chief Advised
Friday, Jan. 23
 3:19 p.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Summer Street, Fire Extinguished
 4:21 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Parmenter Road, Officer/Chief Advised
 5:33 p.m. Erratic Operator, Old Turnpike Road, Officer/Chief

Advised
 5:51 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, North Brookfield Road, Report Filed
Saturday, Jan. 24
 6:40 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Worcester Road, Information Taken
 11:49 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Old Turnpike Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 8:32 p.m. Be On the Look Out Notification, Wheelwright Road, Negative Contact

Job Connection

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The Town of Warren has immediate openings for the following Full & Part-Time positions...

Assistant Assessor: The Warren Board of Assessors is seeking to fill this full-time, Town benefited position of Assistant Assessor. The successful candidate will perform administrative work, provide excellent customer service, maintain detailed records of property assessments, maps, new growth, and assist with setting the annual tax rate under the general direction of the Board of Assessors. One of the Town's goals is to transition this position to a Principal Assessor in the future.

Hourly wage range: \$30.44 - \$37.08
Monday to Thursday, 32 hours per week
\$1,000.00 annual stipend offered with MAA certification

Executive Assistant: This position is responsible for providing administrative and clerical support to the Town Administrator's Office and Board of Selectmen. This is a full-time, Town benefited position. Candidate should be able to demonstrate excellent customer service skills, being proficient with Microsoft Suite and have superior writing skills. Attendance at evening meetings is required.

Hourly wage range: \$24.78 - \$26.69
Monday to Friday, 40 hours per week

Sewer Plant Operator / Mechanic: This position is responsible for operating, maintaining, and cleaning machinery, equipment, and generators. Performs building and grounds maintenance. This is a full-time, Town benefited position, with required on-call and overtime hours. Candidate must possess a Grade 4 or higher Wastewater Treatment Plant License within the first six months of employment.

Hourly wage range: \$24.78 - \$26.69
Monday to Friday, 40 hours per week

Full-Time Police Officer: Applicants are preferred to be academy trained and must be willing to work weekends, nights, and holidays. It is also preferred that applicants currently possess valid certification as a Police Officer. The Patrolmen's contract provides for an education incentive. Please send resumes and cover letters to the attention of Lt. Kyle Whitcomb, WPD PO Box 606, Warren, MA 01083 or whitcomb@warren-ma.gov.

Hourly wage range: \$28.64 - \$34.24 Overtime Available
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Part-Time COA Custodian: This position is responsible for all aspects of cleaning, light maintenance of the building and Senior Center grounds. Must have scheduling flexibility to meet the daily operational needs of the Senior Center. Prior custodial experience preferred.
 Hourly wage range: \$17.70 - \$18.05
 Monday to Friday, 15 hours per week

Please email or mail your resume and cover letter to the
 Town Administrator, Jim Ferrera, townadministrator@warren-ma.gov
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For a complete job description of any of these positions please visit the Town's website
www.warren-ma.gov.

All positions will be open until filled.
 Town of Warren is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Hubbardston Police Log

Sunday, Jan. 18
 10:15 a.m. Road Condition Notification, Town Wide, Information Taken
 6:47 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Town Wide, Information Taken
Monday, Jan. 19
 5:47 a.m. Notification, Old Princeton Cutoff Road, Information Taken
Tuesday, Jan. 20
 11:12 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Ed Clark Road, Investigated
 6:30 p.m. Fire – Power Lines/Wires, Seminole Avenue, No Action Required
Wednesday, Jan. 21
 12:43 a.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Skyline Drive, Fire Extinguished
 7:02 a.m. Motor Vehicle

Accident – No Fire Department/EMS Response, New Templeton Road, Report Filed
 7:28 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Whole Town, Referred to Other
Thursday, Jan. 22
 10:21 a.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Ragged Hill Road, Fire Extinguished
 1:59 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Gardner Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 3:49 p.m. Identity Theft, Twin Hill Road, Report Filed
Friday, Jan. 23
 9:50 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problems, High Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 3:55 p.m. Erratic Operator, Gardner Road, Verbal Warning
 5:13 p.m. Emergency Medical

Service – Falls, Burnshirt Road, No Transport Required
 11:16 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Trauma, Gardner Road, Mutual Aid Transport
Saturday, Jan. 24
 2:01 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Abdominal/Back Pain, Ragged Hill Road, Mutual Aid Transport
 12:33 p.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, Burnshirt Road, Peace Restored
 12:50 p.m. Safety Concern, Mt. Jefferson Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 3:26 p.m. Erratic Operator, Main Street, Negative Contact
 5:45 p.m. Fire – Vehicle Fires, Williamsville Road, Fire Extinguished

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of Feb. 2-9, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 71 building/property checks, 49 directed/area patrols, 12 radar assignments, one traffic control, eight emergency 911 calls, one citizen assist, two assist other agencies, four complaints, three safety hazards, one investigation, one motor vehicle investigation, one scam, three property damages, one harassment, three animal calls and six motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.
Monday, Feb. 2
 8:30 a.m. 911 Parking Complaint, Main Street, Investigated
 8:56 a.m. Safety Hazard, North Road, Referred to Other Agency
 9:32 a.m. 911 Suspicious

Activity, Petersham Road, Spoken To
 11:14 a.m. Parking Complaint, Bridge Street, Vehicle Towed
 6:02 p.m. Welfare Check, Collins Road, Report Taken
Tuesday, Feb. 3
 9:01 a.m. Safety Hazard, River Run, Dispatch Handled
Wednesday, Feb. 4
 10:26 a.m. Investigation, Lower Road, Officer Handled
 2:07 p.m. Assist Citizen, Church Street, Officer Handled
 4:38 p.m. Property Damage, Greenwich Road, Spoken To
 5:23 p.m. 911 Misdial, Barre Road, Services Rendered
 5:29 p.m. 911 Harassment, Church Street, Peace Restored
Thursday, Feb. 5
 3:29 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Main Street, Officer

Handled
 7:41 a.m. Property Damage, Barre Road, Officer Handled
 9:22 a.m. 911 Safety Hazard, Pine Street, Referred to Other Agency
 4:05 p.m. Property Damage, Main Street, Report Taken
 5:23 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital
 5:40 p.m. Scam, Collins Road, Officer Handled
Friday, Feb. 6
 11:43 a.m. Assist Other Agency, North Road, Services Rendered
 2:52 p.m. Assault, Main Street, Officer Handled
 3:57 p.m. Medical Alarm, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital
 6:32 p.m. Officer Initiated, Jackson Road, Officer Handled
Saturday, Feb. 7
 12:48 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Officer Handled
 10:59 p.m. Parking Complaint, Bridge Street, Officer Handled
Sunday, Feb. 8
 12:37 p.m. Parking Complaint, Bridge Street, Negative Contact
 4:18 p.m. Fire/Alarm, Hardwick Road, Services Rendered
Monday, Feb. 9
 2:46 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital

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Mobile Home located in Waterwheel Village at 31 Edward Lane, Barre, MA 01005. This is a 55 and better community. This home includes a wonderful floor plan with very spacious rooms. Master bedroom includes a walk-in closet. Two full bathrooms. A four-season sunroom is off the kitchen. Includes two large woodsheds and a metal garage you can park under to fend off winter weather. Asking \$288,000. See listing on MLS # 73433198

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Mobile Home located in Waterwheel Village at 21 Varney Lane, Barre, MA 01005. This is a 55 and Better community. This home includes a wonderful floor plan with spacious rooms. Master bedroom includes a large attached bathroom. Two full bathrooms, large back deck, and two large wood sheds. Asking 245,000. See MLS#73457117.

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