

BARRE GAZETTE

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Town administrator applies for Block Grant

By Ellenor Downer
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BARRE – At the Monday, Feb. 3 Select Board meeting, Town Administrator Tammy Martin said she was applying for a Community Development Block Grant through the United States Department of Housing and Development.

She said the previous Block Grant the town received was shared with Leicester. This grant was for Barre only and focused on South Barre. The deadline to file will be April 1.

Recently, she met with Department of Public Works Superintendent Timothy Batchelor and Senior Center Director Betty-Jo O'Brien to discuss possible grants for South Barre. One of the possible uses would be American Disability Act designs for Fir Street.

Town Administrator Martin said an income survey was part of the grant requirement. Information about this would be put on the town website. Select Board Chair Maureen Marshall said the lower the income assessment, the better chance for the town to receive a CDBG. She said a lot of the property in South Barre was rental and the owners were often of higher incomes.

Water Commission update

Select Board Chair Marshall said an outside firm continued to run the Water Department. The town has a possible candidate for one of the water positions, who has all the licenses. If hired, the outside firm would continue to monitor the water department for some time after.

See BARRE, page 6



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

The event committee is honored for their work to organize the successful fundraiser.

Valentine's gala shares love for Stone Church

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

HARDWICK – The Friends of the Stone Church and their supporters shared their love for the iconic Gilbertville landmark this past Saturday, with the return of the Valentine-themed gala celebration at Hardwick Crossing Country Club.

The sold out event featured a cocktail hour and buffet meal, music provided by the Mason Tyler Duo, a silent auction and a live auction with Barre's most famous auctioneer Paul Varney. Flowers arranged by Lynn Hartman of Hartman's Herb Farm adorned every table.

This event is a fundraiser to continue efforts to restore the Stone Church Cultural Center, the former Trinitarian Congregational Church. Built using Monson granite, this Tudor Gothic style church was designed by noted Worcester architect Elbridge Boyden; who also designed Mechanics Hall in



Worcester, the Hubbardston Public Library and the Congregational Church in Brookfield.

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

Phillip Warbasse, the project architect for the Friends, said the group is close to completing its goal to repair and stabilize the church's tower.

"We've gotten all the way up

to the inside of the dormer level," Warbasse said.

The multi-phase project includes filling the joints, which have expanded over the years since the church was constructed over 150 years ago. All masonry restoration has been completed up to the top of the belfry and part of

See VALENTINE'S GALA, page 7

Select Board adopts PILOT policy

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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HARDWICK – The Select Board met on Feb. 10 and had a discussion and anticipated vote on adopting a Payment In Lieu of Taxes policy.

The PILOT policy is being considered to better monitor the payments of nonprofit organizations that owns tax-exempt property in the town. There is a total of 33.43% of land in Hardwick that is owned by nonprofits.

Select Board Chair Kelly Kemp read the policy out loud for the residents in attendance to explain how the policy will be enforced and reviewed. As part of the policy there will be a bi-annual review of the PILOT policy to see what the contributions are from each nonprofit.

According to the policy the board is considering to adopt is that each nonprofit in Hardwick will be looked at individually. Prior to reading the board agreed that all property owners should give a fair share of services.

The policy reminds the town of the critical role nonprofits play in partnerships, collaborative relationships, and finding way that benefits both the nonprofit and the town. Select Board member William Tinker believes it is essential to have a PILOT policy in place for better structure and seeing annual fees to reduce the financial burden on the town's taxpayers.

"This policy is designed to ensure that nonprofits contribute their fair share to the services they rely on, ultimately reducing the financial burden on taxpayers," Tinker said. "Our duty is to act in the best interest of the citizens of Hardwick, ensuring that taxpayer

See HARDWICK, page 8

Board hears discussion about water/sewer invoices

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Board of Selectmen heard from Sewer Department Superintendent Eric Cardenas and Water Department Superintendent Jamie Flamand, about the possibility of combining the two utilities on the same invoice in order to help collect sewer fees.

At the Jan. 28 meeting, Board of Selectmen Chair Jason Petraitis said it may be easier for residents if they received both water and sewer invoices together and in quarterly statements.

"Having the sewer tied to the water, would give you means for collecting the sewer costs," Petraitis said.

Cardenas said he needs to discuss this with Flamand, but he believes this may help the Sewer Department receive payments from users.

"I think that will help enforce people having to actually pay their sewer bill," he said. "Kind of put some repercussions in place if they don't...I think it makes sense for many reasons."

Cardenas said many area towns do quarterly or even monthly billing, rather than semiannual as the department currently does.

"I don't think a lot of people budget six months out in advance... it allows customers to better manage their household budget," Cardenas said.

Cardenas said the last billing cycle, about 25% or more of sewer users did not pay their bills. He said looking forward to fiscal year 2026, they will need to start paying back the wastewater treatment plant upgrade loan, which is an added cost to users.

"I'm anticipating probably having more people not pay, just from an affordability standpoint," he said. "We've got to find a way to bring in the money we need to operate."

Flamand said he will discuss this option with Cardenas and organize a meeting between both departments' boards.

Cardenas also talked about the need to have a person on the Sewer Department staff with the required licensing and credentials at the wastewater treatment plant. He recommended the town post the job and list its salary to try and bring in qualified candidates.

Kittredge Road property

Brandon Avery read a letter from the Conservation Commission which stated that the town-owned property located at 19 Kittredge Road falls under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 97. Due to this, the commission requested a halt to past practices, including gravel removal.

See NORTH BROOKFIELD, page 6

Knights hosted Valentine's Dinner at St. Joseph's Church

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The St. Joseph's Church Hall was busy as the Knights of Columbus made a delicious spaghetti dinner this past weekend.

The theme behind the dinner was all Valentine's Day as many churchgoers and residents arrived after the 4 p.m. Mass at St. Joseph Parish.

This St. Valentine's Dinner was made by members of the Knights of Columbus Council 2381. Several members kept busy preparing a delicious spaghetti meal featuring meatballs, sausage, salad and a dessert. The dessert options were cheesecake or chocolate mousse cake.

Chris Caputo of the Knights of Columbus said the council used to provide dinners on a regular basis prior to the pandemic. According to Caputo, "these dinners are what get people together."

There are over 70 members of the Knights of Columbus Council 2381 and Caputo describes them as "one big happy family." Several members kept busy and helped prepare a delicious meal for residents and guests who attended the afternoon Mass.

The meals were \$15 per person and proceeds were going to support charitable causes that the Knights of Columbus support as well. One of the charitable causes



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

St. Joseph's Church Hall was the site of a St. Valentine's spaghetti dinner that was put together by Knights of Columbus Council 2381. Guests lined up and prepared to receive their meals.

the Knights of Columbus puts together is a coat drive for those in need of warm clothing.

Caputo would brainstorm ideas with his fellow Knights on what events they can do to provide fundraisers. After the pandemic, it was a good idea to provide meals again at the church. The Knights cook anywhere from 120 to 150 meals. The spaghetti dinner was available for dining in and takeout.

In addition to the meal, folks who arrived and purchased a meal could participate in a door



Door prizes were available for guests who purchased a meal during the St. Valentine's dinner at St. Joseph's Church.

See VALENTINE'S DINNER page 11



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News of the Towns

Market Spotlight

A maple farm and an abundance of jams from the same town

Editor's note: The Quabog Current will regularly feature a spotlight story on different farmers market vendors. Learn about the people that bring food and locally sourced items to your community.

By Richard Murphy
Correspondent

WEST BROOKFIELD – We have transited the winter half way mark and are going downhill, sort of. It was a lovely Wednesday, Feb. 5, but we proceeded to the West Brookfield Winter Farmers' Market full in the knowledge that the practitioners of the science of meteorology had predicted the next day would not be pleasant.

Oh well, all of humanity knows that tomorrow is not promised, so enjoy today.

And we did. It was back to The First Congregational Church, 36 North Main St., at 3 p.m., where the warmth is more than temperature, but also in the spirit of the vendors and the shoppers who were glad to be there.

This week we are featuring two vendors. Thompson's Maple Farm and Lucky Me Farm & Kitchen

A longtime regular at the West Brookfield Summer Market and at the Winter Market since its inception is Thompson's Maple Farm. John Thompson could be called a market fixture as he is always at the table.

Based at their New Braintree land since 2000, it is a true local operation, as local as it gets.

In 2003 the Thompsons tapped a few of their own trees to learn and provide for their own needs. They



John Thompson is shown with his maple coated pecans.

tapped neighbors' trees in trade for syrup. Then came an evaporator and next, a vacuum pump, to draw sap through the hoses from the trees. With around 1,200 taps, some mechanization is necessary.

It is not just maple products; The Thompsons have an ice cream maker. As the farm is not a dairy operation, it relies on milk products from Cooper's Hilltop Farm in Leicester.

That said, just about all the other ice cream ingredients rely on inputs grown on farm. Raspberries, strawberries, blackberries, and peaches are from family bushes, plants or trees. Other ingredients are traded for with neighbors, bartering ice cream or maple products.

Around 2014, the Thompsons started showing up at farmers markets and other events. There are the above-mentioned West Brookfield venues, but you can find Thompson's Maple at Sturbridge and Brimfield.

You can also run into them at the West Brookfield Asparagus Festival and the Sturbridge



Turley Photos by Richard Murphy
Sara Doubleday displays jams from Lucky Me Farm & Kitchen.

Harvest Festival and at other holiday fairs. Thompson's has also been up at Farmer Matt's for some evening events.

This year, saw something new mentioned in a previous week, Bourbon Barrel Aged Maple Syrup, but there is also Maple Coated Nuts. The coated nuts are pecans.

Time marches on and we are heading toward maple tapping time in the next couple of weeks. With 40-degree days and around 20-degree nights the sap flows. If it's bit off, it might take longer, but no matter.

We shall see the Thompson's Maple Farm back again everywhere next year.

You can visit them on Facebook.

Lucky Me Farm & Kitchen

Lucky Me Farm & Kitchen has been absent several markets. There has been a reason. It may not have been a good reason, but it cannot be argued that it was not a sufficient

See SPOTLIGHT, page 6

HUBBARDSTON

by Ellenor Downer
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Tuesday Soup Day returns

Tuesday Soup Day will be held Feb. 21 at the Hubbardston Senior Center. People may stop in at the Senior Center anytime after 11 a.m. for a bowl of soup and companionship. Donations are gratefully appreciated to help defray the cost of the ingredients.

Book Club

The next meeting of the Book Club is Wednesday, Feb. 26 at 11 a.m. This month's book is "Night Fall" by Nelson DeMille. All are welcome to come for some lively conversation. People may call the Hubbardston Public Library at 978-928-4775 to get a copy of the book.

Online dog licenses

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

Burning permits

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

Agricultural Commission workshop

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

Senior Center

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

New Braintree Library holds story time Feb. 17

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

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

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



ROUND TOWN

by Ellenor Downer
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QRHS holds blood drive

A blood drive will take place on Thursday, Feb. 27 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Quabbin Regional Middle High School, 800 South St., in the high school gymnasium. Ellie Frost, a senior at Quabbin Regional High School, is putting on a blood drive at the high school in partnership with the Rhode Island Blood Center. The blood drive is in partnership with the Rhode Island Blood Center, on February 27th from 10 am-Walk-ins are welcome if space permits, but they ask people to sign up at rbc.org/drives and use sponsor code M102. Sixteen year old donors need parent/guardian permission. Permission slips are available at rbc.org/permission. Appointments are preferred however walk-in will be welcome if space permits. Donors should eat, drink and bring ID with their name and photo. Donation takes about an hour to give blood. People may also call 800-283-8385.

Designer pancake breakfast

Cradle Rock Order of Eastern Star will hold a designer pancake breakfast on Saturday, March 1 from 7:30-10:30 a.m. at Mt. Zion Lodge Hall, 71 Pleasant St. Cost is \$9 per adult and \$5 per child age 6 and under. People may create their own designer pancake with chips, fruit, nuts and more. The complete breakfast includes designer pancakes, waffles, sausage gravy with biscuits, bacon, sausage, juice and coffee. All are welcome.

Food Pantry distribution

The next Barre Food Pantry distribution is Thursday, Feb. 20 from 5:30-7 p.m. In order to maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients Feb. 20 will again be "drive-through" style distributions. Clients will line up in their vehicles on Park Street and proceed into the right hand (east) entrance driveway of the Barre Congregational Church. They will remain in their cars. They'll drive up and be checked in by a volunteer, then continue up to the church building where their groceries will be put into the trunk or wayback of their vehicle by volunteers at multiple stations. People should not arrive to volunteer on Feb. 20 without first contacting Sonja Blaney at 978-355-6921 or Chuck Radlo at 978-355-6463. Because conditions have been changing rapidly, please continue to check for updates on the Barre Food Pantry website by visiting <http://www.barrefoodbank.org/index.htm> and the Barre Food Pantry Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Barre-Food-Pantry-100156068300314/>.

Cradle Rock OES to hold designer pancake breakfast

BARRE – Cradle Rock Order of Eastern Star will hold a designer pancake breakfast on Saturday, March 1 from 7:30-10:30 a.m. at Mt. Zion Lodge Hall, 71 Pleasant St. Cost is \$9 per adult and \$5 per child age 6 and under. People may create their own designer pancake with chips, fruit, nuts and more. The complete breakfast includes designer pancakes, waffles, sausage gravy with biscuits, bacon, sausage, juice and coffee. All are welcome.

Editorial deadline reminder

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

Barre Food Pantry holds Feb. 20 distribution

BARRE – The next Barre Food Pantry distribution is Thursday, Feb. 20 from 5:30-7 p.m.

The Barre Food Pantry volunteers strive to continue to fulfill their mission to get food to hungry and food insecure clients. The pantry must also continue to protect clients, volunteers and the larger community from the spread of disease viruses.

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

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

In order to maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients Feb. 20 will again be "drive-through" style distributions. Clients will line up in their vehicles on Park Street and proceed into the right hand (east) entrance driveway of the Barre Congregational Church. They will remain in their cars. They'll drive up and be checked in by a volunteer, then continue up to the church building where their groceries will be put into the trunk or wayback of their vehicle by volunteers at multiple stations.

Based on the success of

distributions so far, the Food Pantry volunteers believe this "drive-through" style is the safest possible way to get food to clients and to help keep everyone well.

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

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

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News of the Towns

PUBLIC MEETINGS

BARRE

QRSD School Committee – Feb. 13 at 6:30 p.m.
 DPW Commission – Feb. 13 and March 10 at 7 p.m.
 Board of Registrars – Feb. 18 at 4:15 p.m.
 Select Board – Feb. 18 at 6 p.m.
 Board of Assessors – Feb. 18 at 6 p.m.
 Planning Board – Feb. 18 at 7 p.m.
 Barre Housing Authority – Feb. 20 at 1 p.m.
 Cemetery Commission – Feb. 27 at 11 a.m.
 Insurance Advisory Committee – Feb. 27 at 1:30 p.m.
 Felton Field Commission – March 4 at 6:30 p.m.
 Council on Aging – March 5 at 12:30 p.m.
 Water Commission March 10 at 6:30 p.m.
 Election Day – April 7 from 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

HARDWICK

Master Plan Steering Committee – Feb. 13 at 6:30 p.m.
 Paige Library Trustees – Feb. 13 and March 6 at 7 p.m.
 Gilbertville Water District – Feb. 18 at 5:30 p.m.
 Council on Aging – March 5 at 12:30 p.m.

HUBBARDSTON

Council on Aging – Feb. 18 at 4 p.m.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

Post Owner/Architect/Contractor Meeting – Feb. 16, Feb. 13, Feb. 20 and Feb. 27 and March 6 at 3 p.m.
 Planning Board – Feb. 19 and March 19 at 6 p.m.
 Board of Selectmen – Feb. 25, March 11 and March 25 at 6 p.m.

OAKHAM

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

PETERSHAM

Zoning Board of Appeals – Feb. 13 at 5 p.m., and Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. Select Board – Feb. 13, Feb. 20, Feb. 27, March 6, March 13, March 27, April 3, April 10 and April 24 at 5:30 p.m.

Board of Health – Feb. 20 at 6 p.m.
 Petersham Historic District – Feb. 20 at 6 p.m.

Board of Assessors – Feb. 28 at 9 a.m.
 Conservation Commission – March 4 at 7 p.m.

Council on Aging – March 10 at 10 a.m.

RUTLAND

Select Board joint meeting with Finance Committee – Feb. 13 at 6 p.m.
 Bylaw Committee – Feb. 13 at 7 p.m.
 Town Charter Committee – Feb. 13 at 6:30 p.m.

Bylaw Committee and Conservation Commission Joint Meeting – Feb. 18 at 6 p.m.

Library Board of Trustees – Feb. 18 at 7 p.m.

Planning Board Hearing – Feb. 25 at 6:30 p.m.

Polus Center and Monty Tech receive grants

On Tuesday, Feb. 4, the Healey-Driscoll Administration announced more than \$850,000 to help young adults with disabilities across the commonwealth prepare for employment.

The grant funding will support five organizations in providing job training, employment placement, and post placement services for 119 young adults with disabilities.

Two organizations based in the North Central region were awarded grant funding, including Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District in Fitchburg, which received

\$132,900 to prepare 20 young adults with disabilities with skills relevant to jobs identified by Monty Tech's employer partners.

Additionally, Polus Center for Social and Economic Development, Inc. in Athol was awarded \$199,991 to provide 24 young adults with disabilities opportunities to gain customer service and job readiness skills in the grocery and retail industries.

Labor and Workforce Development Secretary Lauren Jones made the announcement at Polus Center for Social and

Economic Development in Athol. The Polus Center will partner with Price Chopper, CVS Health, Shaw's Supermarket and Mass Hire North Central Workforce Boards/Career Centers.

All five awarded grants are led by community-based organizations with demonstrated success and expertise in preparing young adults with disabilities for employment, job placement and post-placement support.

"We are building a strong workforce in Massachusetts, and this includes providing opportunities and training for individuals who face barriers to employment," said Governor Healey. "These grants will help develop and fulfill the immense potential of this segment of our workforce as we create an economy for today and tomorrow."

"Addressing barriers to employment and ensuring that individuals with disabilities have equal access to opportunities and resources is an economic priority for our administration," said Lieutenant Governor Driscoll. "These grants will help young adults with disabilities learn the skills they need

to thrive."

The grant program, funded by the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development (EOLWD) and administered by Commonwealth Corporation, engages community-based organizations dedicated to training young adults with disabilities.

Besides Monty Tech and the Polus Center Community Work Services of Boston received \$200,000, Employment Options, Inc. of Marlborough, \$200,000 and Partners for Youth with Disabilities, Inc., Boston, \$120,000.

Dr. Theresa E. Kane, Executive Director, Polus Center for Social and Economic Development, Inc., said, "We appreciate having the ability to provide training for young adults with disabilities to help them obtain their first jobs in a grocery or retail setting, and to support our employer partners in finding the talent they need to strengthen their workforce. We believe this strong foundation of workplace skill development and job search support will carry them through the rest of their careers."

Nature Club holds wildlife tracking walk Feb. 15

HARDWICK – Ware River Nature Club will host a wildlife tracking for beginners at Quabbin Gate 43 Hardwick with Mike Carrier and friends on Saturday, Feb. 15 from 9 a.m.-noon.

Participants will learn some of the basics of detecting and interpreting animal tracks and sign on the winter landscape. They'll explore an area of Quabbin that should yield interesting signs of various animals that make this their home, whether or not there has been a recent snowfall.

It's ideal if there is some

snow on the landscape, the better to see prints and discuss their patterns, but

animals leave other kinds of clues behind, too. Mike has been wildlife tracking for about 8-9 years and

has taken part in many cyber tracker evaluations.

In his own words: "I like wildlife tracking because it brings me closer to the natural world. It makes me slow down and be more in the moment when I am outside, to notice what is around me. It fascinates me how animals in the wild go about

their day and survive in the winter."

Participants are advised to dress in layers for warmth and wear sturdy foot gear. They should be prepared to stop for periods of time to examine and study what's found.

They should bring snacks and/or beverages if they wish. They should meet-up is at the Quabbin Gate 43, Fishing Area 3, parking lot. Pre-registration is not required but is helpful in case of any change of plans by emailing warrivernatureclub@yahoo.com.

EQLT host estate planning webinars

HARDWICK – East Quabbin Land Trust will hold three online webinars on "Protecting Your Legacy through Conservation-based Estate Planning" on Tuesdays, Feb. 25, March 25 and April 22 from 6:30-8 p.m.

People may register at <https://MassWoods.org/> webinars. Land provides tremendous benefit to the owners and the public. UMass Extension's MassWoods program pres-

ents a free webinar series that will help people decide the future of their land and take steps to formalize a conservation-based estate plan to achieve their personal and financial goals.

The webinar series is divided into three topics: Webinar 1 "Deciding Your Land's Future" Feb. 25 speaker Paul Catanzaro of University of Massachusetts. Webinar 2 "Reducing Your Property Taxes and Stewarding

Your Land" March 25 Chris Capone of Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and Gabrielle Hardyn of Longview Forest. Webinar 3 "Choosing a Conservation Tool" on April 22 speaker Olivia Lukacic of The Trustees of Reservations. All webinars are from 6:30-8 p.m.

Birds on the Range offered Feb. 15

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

Get a close-up look at owls and other birds of prey with Tom

Ricardi, a licensed rehabilitator and wildlife biologist, and learn about the great work being done at the Massachusetts Birds of Prey Rehabilitation Center, which cares for injured birds.

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



OAKHAM

by Ellenor Downer
 edowner@turley.com

Fire Department offers delivery of sand for seniors

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

Fire Department senior lunch

The Oakham Fire Department invites senior citizens to join them at the Fire Station on Friday, March 21 at 12.30 p.m. for lunch. Seniors should let the Council on Aging know if they can attend either by e-mailing COA@Oakham-Ma.gov or calling the Senior Center at 508-882-4073.

Podiatry clinic

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

Senior Center activities

Oakham Senior Center activities in February include:

Monday, Feb. 24 podiatry from 9 a.m.-2.30 p.m., reservations required; Monday through Thursdays at 9 a.m. walking group, meet at Senior Center and on Tuesdays through Thursdays at 11 a.m. walking group meet at Senior Center. On cold days, the walking groups will walk to tapes inside the Senior Center. Other activities are Tuesdays from Feb. 4 to March 4 Yoga at 12.30 p.m.; Tuesday, Feb. 18 Blood Pressure/Glucose Testing from 11 a.m. -noon; Wednesdays Zumba Gold 9 a.m. in the Rutland Senior Center - \$2 donation per class; Thursday, Feb. 13 blood pressure 11 a.m.; Thursday, Feb. 20 SHINE from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. reservations are required; Thursdays at noon Weigh in support weight loss group and Fridays Functional Fitness 10.30 a.m. at the New Braintree Town Hall - \$2 donation per class.

Hot lunches are offered at the Senior Center dining area Monday through Thursday at 11.30 a.m. Reservations are needed at least two days in advance and can be made through the Congregate Meal Coordinator from 9 a.m. to 12.15 p.m. by calling 508-882-4072.

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

Corrections policy

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

Barre Dining Center

BARRE — Elder Services of Worcester Area Nutrition Program welcomes guests to dine at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road. The following meals will be served for the week of Feb. 17. 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 – Barbecue chicken, potatoes au gratin, Scandinavian vegetables, fresh fruit, marble rye bread

WEDNESDAY – Macaroni and cheese, stewed tomatoes, green beans, brownie, diet = small piece, white bread

THURSDAY – Teriyaki beef, steamed rice, broccoli, pineapple, fortune cookie, whole wheat bread

FRIDAY – Marinated pork loin, herb potatoes, honey glazed carrots, peach crisp, diet = peaches, marble rye 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.

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



Why was Social Security money moved to the General Treasury?

Dear Rusty:

Why were the Social Security funds moved from the Social Security account to the General Fund with the government?

Is it not then called a tax making it an entitlement? That then gives the government control of our retirement. Most of us feel that someone should be in charge and use the Social Security fund with investments that grow our savings.

I invested my 401,000 and savings and the original amount made me money during the Trump years and I'm now trying to catch up. I make this statement because I draw more from my investments than I receive from Social Security.

Signed: Questioning Senior Citizen

Dear Questioning Senior:

I'm afraid I must inform you that no Social Security funds have ever been moved from the Social Security account to the government's General Fund; this is a pervasive myth which we have refuted many times over the years. For information, here is one of many articles I have published on this topic, which I hope you find interesting: <https://socialsecurityreport.org/ask-rusty-about-repaying-social-security-money-taken-by-politicians/>.

Someone actually is charged with monitoring our Social Security funds, a board of Social Security Trustees consisting of the Secretaries of Treasury, Labor, and Health and Human Services, as well as the Commissioner of Social Security plus two Public Trustees. Each year the Social Security Trustees do a complete analysis of the Social Security program, especially its financial status and outlook for the future. If you have interest in the Trustee's latest annual report, here is a link to the 2024 analysis: <https://socialsecurityreport.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/tr24summary.pdf>.

What you will find in the Trustees' report is that Social Security will run out of reserved funds in about 2033, necessitating an across the board cut of about 21% for everyone, unless Congress acts soon to reform the program and restore it to fiscal solvency. The Trustees have warned Congress about this problem for many years, but Congress has yet to find the bipartisan cooperation needed to fix the problem.

Association of Mature American Citizens has steadfastly offered proposals to Congress, which would restore Social Security to solvency and will continue to do so with the new 119th Congress, which convened on Jan. 3, 2025.

Please know that we appreciate your feedback and commend you for the wise use of your 401k investments, something that many of our members find necessary to supplement their Social Security. Remember, Social Security was never intended to provide all your retirement income, so earlier saving to supplement your retirement financial needs was a very wise move on your part.

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 ssadviser@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

District News from Pathfinder's Superintendent: Remembering Dr. Gerald L. Paist

By Eric Duda

It is with sadness that I share the news of the passing of our longtime superintendent, Dr. Gerald L. Paist, who passed away on the evening of Friday, Jan. 24.

Dr. Paist served as superintendent of Pathfinder Tech from shortly after the school opened in 1973 until 2021, when I had the honor of taking over the role. Throughout his tenure, countless changes unfolded locally, regionally, and nationally, and Dr. Paist's leadership was pivotal in navigating these challenges and ensuring our school remained a strong and thriving institution.

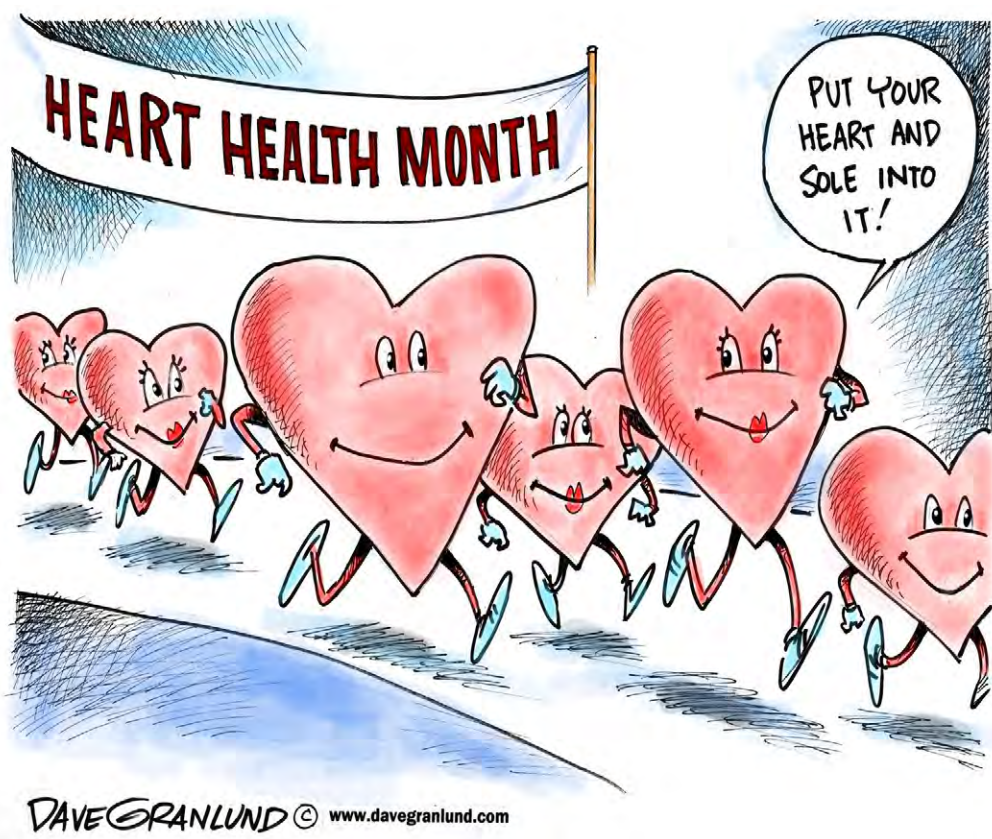
I was fortunate to have had Dr. Paist as my superintendent when I was a student here in the late '90s, and he even handed me my diploma at graduation. Over the years, I developed a close relationship with him, and I appreciated all he did for students, our school, and our communities.

In 2006, Dr. Paist hired me as a teacher, and 18 years later, I still reflect on his guidance and support throughout my journey. He also played a key role in my development as a leader.

As I advanced through roles as Vocational Director, Cooperative Education Director, and later as Assistant Superintendent and Principal, Dr. Paist mentored me and helped me grow as a leader. He encouraged me to pursue graduate studies and leadership training opportunities, always offering his wisdom and guidance along the way.

As an administrator for more than a decade, including as his Assistant Superintendent, I had the privilege of working side-by-side with him for many years before his retirement. Together, we navigated many town meetings and worked through political and economic challenges, always ensuring the school's budget was approved and our students received the resources they needed.

See PAIST, page 5



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

In Past Pages

Look Back – Fireworks – 2022



File photo

Fireworks light up over the Rutland Congregational Church in Rutland Sunday, July 3.

5 years (Feb. 20, 2020)

A beloved holiday tradition continued last Saturday night when the Hubbardston Scholarship Committee sponsored their annual Valentine's Day roast beef dinner at the Hubbardston Rod and Gun Club last Saturday night. We've been coming here for years," said Hubbardston resident Fred Flood, who was accompanied by his lovely wife, Joyce. "I like to support the local causes. At this event we get to see friends we don't see throughout the year. I've been in town for over 50 years and we have the best people in the world in Hubbardston." Serving to a packed house, no one was more thrilled than Scholarship Committee President and organizer of the event, Flo Pervier.

The Department of Recreation and Conservation plans to close off all roads within the Ware River Watershed to public vehicle traffic for most of the year. The roads would be open October to November to accommodate hunting. Rutland Selectman Jeffery stillings Tuesday night Selectmen's meetings to discuss the matter with Barre Selectmen and ask the Barre Board to sign a letter to the DCR. The area in question included land in Barre, Hubbardston, Oakham and Rutland. In Rutland, the land was part of the old prison camps. He said it was "important for Select Boards to speak that they are not in favor of locking up this area of the Ware River Watershed.

Purple will once again be making a statement throughout local communities as numerous volunteers have begun to gear up for the sixth annual Purple for Prevention Week, happening March 2 through March 7. "Purple for Prevention Week is an annual celebration of youth in our community choosing to remain substance free," said Neke Jenkins, chairper-

son of Q-DRUG, the sponsoring organization of the event. "Beginning with elementary students learning to make healthy choices in their own best interest, all the way through high school, reinforcing the message that they are good enough to never need substances to be better, different or other than exactly who they are."

10 years (Feb. 19, 2015)

On one side of the table last week were state senators, several of whom were from the Boston area and were unfamiliar with some of the issues facing towns in the region. They had come along with state Sen. Anne Gobi (D-Spencer) in her "Commonwealth Conversations" tour, which included stops in Monson, Worcester and other points in Central and Western Massachusetts.

The Oakham Board of Selectmen heard a proposal from Resolution Solar regarding a program offered to municipalities and commercial businesses. The town would receive solar credits and then be billed 20% less than the National Grid general service (G 1) rate for electricity. Don Stevens of Resolution Solar explained that a 50-acre site would be online in about five months and it needs out takers. The power produced goes to the "grid," the solar farm would give solar credits based on current usage. The town then would be billed at a rate of 20% less than the G 1 rate. The town would need to sign a 20-year contract for a specific amount of electricity, a figure that would be near to what it is currently using. He agreed to provide the Selectmen with more information.

Quabbin Regional School District Superintendent Maureen Marshall said that the district schools used six snow days to date. With no more snow days, school

would close on June 23. She referred to the weather this year as "extraordinary." She complimented the highway departments in the five member towns for keeping the roads cleared. She praised the bus drivers for safely transporting. Superintendent Marshall told the school committee last Thursday that she couldn't be happier that school vacation was next week with more snow predicted

25 years (Feb. 24, 2000)

The Barre Library Association will host a Chocolate Extravaganza fundraiser on Saturday, Feb. 26 at 7:30 p.m. at the Barre Town Hall. Chocolate desserts and speciality items from area restaurants, caterers, businesses and the creative gourmet will be featured. Attendees will have the opportunity to vote on their favorite chocolate items in four categories: Best Restaurant Dessert, Best Caterer's Creation, Best Business Speciality Item and Best Individual Concoction.

Teacher David Deschamps of Barre has earned the teaching profession's highest standard National Board Certification. Deschamps is a teacher at Hardwick Elementary School. He is the only teacher in the Quabbin School District to have passed this examination and is one of only 73 teachers in Massachusetts, who are national board certified. Principal Catherine Breandon said she is proud of Deschamps' accomplishment. She said she was notified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards that 2,965 primary and secondary school teachers from 48 states and the District of Columbia achieved this prestigious certification during the 1998-

See PAST PAGES, page 10

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Opinion

Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

Happy Valentine's day to all our readers.

I got two boxes of chocolates from my husband ahead of time so my hint boxes worked. They were delicious. I did take down my Valentine tree and put up a St. Patrick's Day wall-hanging.

This week has been a challenge with so many snowstorms and especially ice on the driveway. The Handyman sanded it several times and that allowed my helper to make it up the driveway.

The plowman only plows when there is four inches or more of snow so Sunday he plowed. As I am writing this on Sunday, it is still snowing off and on, but the main storm is over. We have about five inches to date and it is a nice light fluffy snow.

The Handyman got our groceries this week so we will be eating well. I can't go out and risk a fall as I have to take care of Ken.

Here is a recipe I use quite often and zucchini seems to be in the grocery store year round.

MOCK CRAB CAKES
2 cups grated zucchini
2 large eggs, lightly beaten

1 cup fine dry bread crumbs

3 scallions, chopped
2 to 3 teaspoons Old Bay Seasoning

1 teaspoon mayonnaise
vegetable oil

Combine well drained zucchini and remaining ingredients except oil, in a large bowl. Make about 8 patties. Pour oil to a depth of about 1/2 inch in a fry pan. Fry patties each side for about two minutes. Drain on paper towels. Serve with tartar sauce.

Note: To make your own tartar sauce, mix 1 cup mayonnaise with 1/4 cup pickle relish.

You can leave out the scallions if you don't have them and add a little chopped up onion. These are nice served with coleslaw.

This and That

I spent my spare time watercoloring and sorting out papers and filing them. I placed a new table in my sewing room where I do my craft projects. I made a St. Patrick Day wall hanging. If you see my handyman, ask him what happened to my ironing board.

Have a nice week and be careful shoveling.



Roses or carnations, you chose!

tried it in the bathtub and have been successful.

How about those carnations? They aren't as fussy as their more expensive counterparts, but here are a few helpful hints. Recut their stems to just above a node (the bump where leaves come from) and place in floral preservative.

If you don't have floral preservative, you can make your own.

Here is a recipe that, just like the professional blends, contain the three necessary components for fresh flower health and longevity: carbohydrates, a biocide and pH adjuster.

1t sugar
1t bleach
2t lemon or lime juice (strained)
1 quart water

Alternate version:
1-12 ounce can decaf lemon/lime soda
3 cans water
1T bleach
Mix and stir to flatten

Each of these preservatives should be stored in the refrigerator with contents labeled.

Sometimes, carnations come very tightly budded. If you want them to open quickly, without waiting days,

you can up the sugar content in the preservative to force bloom.

Do expect that you won't get to enjoy them as long in the vase if you do this, though, since their energy will be spent.

Cut flowers are sensitive to ethylene gas, and carnations are especially sensitive. Rotting foliage, ripening fruit, cigarette smoke and exhaust all release ethylene gas, which acts like a hormone that triggers maturation and death. For that reason we avoid storing flowers in the household fridge.

I had my own firsthand experience. I had arrangements to make at work, but had jury duty the day they were needed. I made them a day early and cleared out one of the coolers. Wouldn't you know it that someone put an apple inside without my knowing. Sure enough everything was ruined.

Whether you are a rose lover or a carnation lover, or enjoy any flower in between, I hope that you either treat yourself, or are treated by someone else, either on St. Valentine's Day or sometime soon!

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



With St. Valentine's Day coming up, my thoughts turn to flowers.

I am not a "rose girl" so to speak. It is probably because I am frugal and roses cost an arm and a leg this time of year.

Get me a carnation and I am happy. They don't bend at the neck or pick you with thorns. They even smell nice, to me the fragrance is that of cloves.

So this will be a combo column. First, it will give our rose lovers out there the best chance of keeping their admirer's big investment healthy for the longest possible time. Then, I will do the same for the humble carnation.

Perhaps you will be the lucky recipient of roses on Friday. I have a couple tricks up my sleeve to help you increase their vase-life. First, remove the roses from their box and give each one a fresh cut on a forty-five degree angle.

If you can do this under water, all the better to prevent what I call "bent head" or "limp neck" syndrome- an air bubble clogging the stem.

You should also remove any foliage that will be underwater - it will rot and make the water stinky and full of bacteria. Leaves on the top third of the stem can

remain as long as they look pretty; unbeknownst to me, these will continue to photosynthesize, making food to help the rose color up to its full potential.

We all have had a few "bent heads" or "limp necks" in our day - a shame, considering how expensive roses are, especially when purchased on a holiday. If you catch this situation early there is a way to remedy it: recut the stem of the rose or roses in question and soak them horizontally, under water for a half-hour or so.

This technique is contrary to what one might think is good for a many-petaled flower. I would argue that water trapped within the petals would breed fungi and shorten vase-life, but I guess if the rose is doomed to the fate of a bent head, it's worth a shot. Regular folks have

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PAIST continued from page 4

The lessons I learned from Dr. Paist in leadership, school finance, and relationship-building continue to guide my work today.

For many of you on staff, I'm sure you have your own memories and stories of Dr. Paist. Although he slowed down in his final years, he remained a steadfast and dedicated leader for decades, overseeing Pathfinder Tech through significant growth.

When he began his tenure, our district included just four towns; by the end of his career, it had grown to nine. Under his leadership, Pathfinder Tech underwent a building expansion in the late 1980s that

we now know as the Math Wing and West Wing, which enabled enrollment to double in the late 1980s. Prior to these expansions, many of our technical programs were housed in rented spaces across multiple towns.

Dr. Paist was also deeply involved in many local, state, and national organizations, and I was fortunate to observe his leadership beyond the walls of our school. Through him, I learned invaluable lessons about the political process, school funding, and the importance of relationships with local leaders.

Dr. Paist had a unique sense of humor that those who knew him well truly appreciated. He had a quiet, dry wit that could catch you off guard, often followed by

a thoughtful pause before delivering a response. He would say things that, at first, might seem simple or even puzzling, but if you understood his style, they would always make you smile.

A few of his signature sayings that I'll always remember include, "I have this to say about that" and "'Tis a puzzlement." Of course, each of these would be followed by wisdom and guidance. His humor was one of the many qualities that made him so memorable.

I also remember him telling me many stories about his past, his love for music, the shows and performances he had seen, and many other experiences from his life. Some of these stories

were shared when we went out for breakfast or lunch together at our local restaurants, moments I always cherished.

I also remember him reflecting on challenging times and telling me stories about events from his past.

One story that stood out to me was when he shared where he was when he heard that JFK was assassinated. He told me he was getting off the Massachusetts Turnpike at the Palmer exit and remembered sitting at the tollbooth when the toll collector asked him, "Is the president still alive?"

The toll collector had assumed he was listening to his car radio - long before cell phones and other methods of communication. He

said he started crying as he spoke to the toll collector. He told me that he had never felt the same way again after that day, until Sept. 11. On 9/11, he said he felt that same profound sense of loss and shock, and he cried again.

He also shared many other significant memories from his personal experiences throughout history. There are so many things I reflect on from what I heard him share that had a profound effect on me.

Dr. Paist's nearly 50-year career as a superintendent is impossible to fully summarize. What I can say is this: he devoted his entire life to Pathfinder Tech and made it his mission to serve this school community. He didn't view his role as just a

job; it was a calling, and we were incredibly fortunate to have him for so many years.

I have lost a friend, a mentor, and a guiding light in my career, and we, as a school district, have lost someone whose legacy will continue to shape us for years to come.

In his final years, Dr. Paist lived in an assisted living facility in Pennsylvania, near his only living relative, Susan Hubbell-Whyte. My thoughts and prayers are with her during this difficult time, and I would like to express my gratitude to her for being by his side in his final years.

Please join me in keeping Dr. Paist's memory alive as we honor the incredible impact he had on Pathfinder Tech and on all of us.

PEOPLE/ MILESTONE NEWS

As a free service for our readers, we will print all births, weddings, engagements, milestone anniversaries, major birthdays, military achievements, honors and awards. We have a "people news" form available for you to submit these listings. This material is provided to us by our readers and local institutions and we do not charge to print this content.

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NORTH BROOKFIELD
continued from page 1

Avery said in 1962 this parcel was voted at a town meeting to be accepted as town forest along with several other parcels.

"As such, its uses don't include gravel and soil removal or any other mining activities or to be used as a dump site," Avery read from the letter addressed to the Selectmen. "In addition, in North Brookfield's Open Space and Recreation Plan, the Kittredge Road parcel is recommended that be restored to forest."

Petratis said the board will take this letter under advisement, and look into the matter.

Petratis and Flamand said the town has been using it as a gravel pit for decades. Avery said in 1982, gravel was starting to be removed from the parcel, but he found no records that indicate that this was authorized.

Public comment

Resident Karen Farrington requested a public apology, after she was investigated for a complaint alleging that she was taking donated food.

Farrington has volunteered her time with the North Brookfield Community Food Collaborative, and the Senior Center. She said she has lived in town for almost 25 years, and enjoys giving back to her community.

She said she was asked by the director of the Senior Center to pick up vegetables from a local farm, and bring bread from Hannaford Supermarket to the Senior Center.

She said later the director told her that the North Brookfield Community Food Collaborative and the Senior Center were "too intertwined." Farrington said she then heard from senior citizens, Hannaford's management and the housing authority that town employees were saying she stole vegetables.

Farrington said she has tried since the middle of October to meet with town officials to resolve this issue, but nobody would meet with her. She said Town Administrator Michael Szlosek filed a criminal complaint against her with the police department.

"I've been cleared of any wrongdoing by the police, only because I kept every text between the director

and I," Farrington said. "I was put through hell for three months and I bring this to your attention to clear my name, and hope that this doesn't happen to anybody else."

Szlosek said he did not file criminal charges, but he requested that the Police Department investigate the matter after being notified that food donations did not reach the Senior Center.

Joining Farrington was resident and collaborative volunteer Nancy Waldron, who spoke about how the nonprofit works with organizations and businesses to provide food for residents experiencing food insecurity.

"We support the food pantries in our schools. We have approximately 15 volunteers in our community who help secure and distribute food to approximately 125 families weekly," Waldron said. "None of our volunteers are paid. They freely give their time, their vehicle wear and tear, and gas to serve our community."

Waldron said the collaborative will continue to support those in need and the community.

Personnel policies

Petratis said the board is reviewing several person-

nel policies to determine a way to address the need for nonunion employee raises and a proposal to combine two positions on the Board of Health.

"We're going to go over those and come up with an equitable pay scale for nonunion personnel based on their responsibilities, their hours, their job level," he said. "We will be having a meeting within the next couple weeks with all the managers of nonunion personnel to discuss what those are going to be."

Spending request

The Board of Selectmen approved a request from the Senior Center to spend \$300 to have a premium service for broadcasting by telephone. The current phone number shows up as spam, with many senior citizens rejecting these incoming notifying calls.

School Committee appointment

The board appointed Ralph Kay, a resident and retired teacher, to fill a vacancy on the School Committee until the annual town election.

"I like to give back to my town, so I want to get involved," he said.

Senior Center position hours

Senior Center Director

Courtenay Rivera said she would like to reduce the hours of the Coordinator Position from 18 hours down to 15. She said she would like to post the position soon in order to fill the position.

Chapter 90 projects

Highway Superintendent Randy Morgan said some of the upcoming Chapter 90 funded projects include work on part of Donovan Road, finishing Town Farm Road, part of Fullam Hill Road and Brickyard Road. He said there is also shoulder work that needs to be completed on roads that had been recently paved.

These projects total about \$400,000, leaving over \$500,000 in Chapter 90 funds.

Earth removal bylaw

The board voted to send a proposed earth removal bylaw to town counsel for review.

Employee evaluations

The board approved the employee evaluation guidelines as submitted.

Board of Selectmen Vice-Chair Elizabeth "Brooke" Canada recommended that new employees be evaluated at 90 days, six months, and then annually after that. Current employees would be evaluated annually.

SPOTLIGHT
continued from page 2

reason.

Sara Doubleday has a beloved pet Brown Swiss cow, now retired, that stepped on her hand. Ouch!

No matter, Sara is now back and should be every other Wednesday for the duration.

The farm itself has a lot going on. There is raw milk. They raise hay and silage and beef, but Sara is definitely into making jam with over 30 varieties with interesting names such as Pina Colada Jam, Blue Mule, Fig Jam, and more.

If you're a jam fan, it would be hard not to find one you like.

Lucky Me spends a lot of time on the road going to markets from Springfield to Boston, so we are lucky to have her here.

Like Thompson's, she has a Facebook page to keep abreast of what Lucky Me is up to.

The market continues Wednesdays through March 12 during the mid-afternoon. Come and feel the warmth inside the church.

Happy Valentine's Day

Don't Forget Valentine's Day is Friday, February 14th

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BARRE
continued from page 1

She said the town has a well that was shut down due to high iron content. This well could be made available with an on site system so the town would have a back up well.

Contract extension with Charter Spectrum

The two members of the Select Board present Chair Marshall and Mark Regienus voted to execute a license extension with Charter Spectrum, the town's cable provider. The Select Board

hired an attorney, who specialized in cable contracts.

Select Board report

Select Board member Regienus said DPW Superintendent Batchelor and he were looking at equipment and what was needed and what could be declared surplus equipment to either sell by auction or bid. The Board voted to identify surplus equipment and move with liquidation per state statute.

COA resignations

The Select Board received the resignation of three members of the Council on Aging. They accepted the

resignations of Arthur Raiche (Chairman), Brenda Rich and Alfred Hamel. The Board will send letters to them thanking them for serving on the COA. Anyone interested in filling one of these vacancies on the COA should contact the Select Board office.

Town property approval

The Select Board approved the use of South Common by Kate Hall for an Earth Day event on Saturday, April 26 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. They also approved the annual use of South Common for the Barre Farmer's Market, submitted by Hall, for Saturdays from the beginning

of May to the end of October from 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Wage authorizations

The Select Board approved the wage authorization for Wendy Gryszowka, administrative assistant to the Town Clerk to Class 3 Step 1 for \$19.33 per hour. This is an increase from \$18.50 per hour. They also approved the on call staff fire fighter/EMT FD-3 Step 4 rate of \$21.57 for David Morin.

Non binding ballot question

The Select Board approved the placing of a non-binding ballot question on the Monday,

April 7 town election regarding the dam at the Old Barre Reservoir as approved by Town Counsel and the Town Clerk. The question asks the town to direct the Select Board to issue an opinion to Massachusetts Dam Safety the town intends to take possession of the old reservoir dam and to maintain the dam to hold the current level of the reservoir. Mass. Dam Safety determined the dam to be in need of either repair, breaching or removal to return to its state before the dam was built. They could not find any

descendants of the previous known owners, who were all deceased.

Chair Marshall said the ballot vote would not determine how the Select Board voted on the matter, but would give them an indication of how the townspeople felt about the situation.

Other business

The Select Board received a Letter of Commendation for the Police Department from Drug Enforcement Administration for their work in an arrest in a drug trafficking operation. Brown's Trucking donated a plow for the town loader.

VALENTINE'S GALA
continued from page 1

the lantern level. "All the original joints were about half an inch wide," Warbasse said. "Some have opened up to an inch and a half."

To date, the Friends have invested over \$500,000 into the tower since 2014, through grant awards and fundraising efforts. Another \$390,000 is needed to complete repairs to the lantern level exterior and spire.

"The work now is to raise enough money to do the outside and the spire," Warbasse said.

This work is essential to protect the tower from the effects of the elements. In every rain event, water still leaks into the lantern level, and every winter the freeze-thaw cycle moves stones in unrepaired areas microscopically.

FOSC President Judy Edington welcomed those in attendance at the gala dinner and thanked them for their continued support.

"Seeing a full room is really quite energizing," Edington said. "It's galvanizing. It gives us heart for what we still have to do."

Edington said the Friends need to finish work on the tower and that there's still more to do.

"You all help us push forward," she told the attendees.



Auctioneer Paul Varney starts the bidding.

Edington thanked the members of the gala committee, Kat McCrohon, Clare Hendra, Paula Roberts, Mary Warbasse, Michelle Webb and Cheryl Wolfe, along with event volunteers Ruth Baker, Frank Hanson, Judy Knight, Joanne Meegan, David Salvatore and Phillip Warbasse.

As attendees finished their meals and enjoyed dessert and coffee, Varney



Lou Falcone sings while performing at the Friends of the Stone Church event.

started the live auction, first offering people a chance to bid on a seemingly empty 12-liter wine bottle, which was revealed to have an unknown amount of cash stashed in it.

Hardwick resident Judy Kohn was the lucky winner of the "conversational piece" that also came with a story as related by Varney.

Varney said the bottle was donated to the live auction by a friend of David Salvatore and that it had been emptied of its original contents during a weeklong camping trip to Vermont.

The live auction also featured a new individual or family membership to the Baglio Center at Eagle Hill School donated by Eagle Hill School; a \$250 gift certificate to see the Boston Symphony Orchestra at one of three locations donated by Edington; a two-night weekend stay for two couples or a family of four to the Sugar Maple Trailside Inn in historic Florence donated by Kathy and Craig Della Penna; 75 gallons of heating oil from R.J. McDonald Heating Oil donated by Bruce McDonald; and a seven night stay at the Villa Camilla on Grace Bay Beach in Turks & Caicos.

Almost 100 individuals and businesses donated items to both the silent and live auctions.

Upcoming events

The Friends of the Stone Church will be hosting a number of events throughout the upcoming year, including "Old, New, Borrowed and Blue" featuring the works of Bach, Robert Schumann and Ravel, as well as Indonesian music and blues with pianist Cicilia Yudha on Sunday, March 9 at 3 p.m.

A book signing by local



Mark Fontaine plays the keyboard as part of the Mason Tyler Duo.



Tables of donated items were available during the silent auction, including this wood-turned lamp made by Harry Comerford.

author Lisa J. Cohen will celebrate the release of her new book, "Litany for a Broken World" on Sunday, March 16 from 4-5:30 p.m.

On Sunday, April 6 at 3 p.m. Emi Ferguson, flutes and Michael Poll, classical guitar, will perform

Dowland, Bach, Telemann, Schubert, Takemitsu and Schubert.

On Saturday, May 3 at 7 p.m., organist Peter Krasinski returns to accompany the silent film, "The Last Command" from 1928, starring Emil Janning. He



Abbie Joy Vanilla Cupcake joined Steve Olivo at the Valentine Celebration fundraising event hosted by the Friends of the Stone Church at Hardwick Crossing Country Club this past Saturday.



This map shows the town of Hardwick as it appeared on June 30, 2006, identifying every owner of a home on every street and road on that date, as prepared by the late Emily M. Bancroft.

will provide original accompaniment on the Stone Church's Johnson & Son organ.

The Friends will also host two free Sunday concerts on the lawn with the Weir River Jazz Ensemble on June 8 at 2 p.m. and the Weir River Concert Band on June 22 at

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



This homemade quilt was donated to the silent auction by the Stukuls family in memory of Susan Stukuls, who made the quilt.

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Carl Lindley

very good terms here that works to help solve our client's problems," Lindley said. Lindley has a background in insurance defense work and personal injury experience including auto accidents, dog bites and slips or falls. "I represent clients and I oversee the other attorneys in the firm and provide them with guidance on the cases, as well as running the day-to-day business of the firm," Lindley explained. The firm is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and there you can speak to a representative and find the help you need. "It's fun to advocate for your clients," Lindley said. "I want the community to know that here in Barre we provide quality advice and counsel for businesses, personal injury victims and landlords. We are here to serve them in those capacities."

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Calendar of Events

FRIDAY, FEB. 14

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

SUNDAY, FEB. 16

FINDING WILLIAM LEWIS (1819-1897) sponsored by the Friends of the New Braintree Library will take place today at 2 p.m. in the New Braintree Town Hall, 20 Memorial Drive, New Braintree. Bruce Craven and Christie Higginbottom will relate how they found the William Lewis documents. They will introduce William through an examination of his writings: his daily journal entries and accounts, including tanning and currying accounts, book sales records, accounts of wife Abby's work sewing bed ticks and the records of daily work on the farm. This program is funded by the Hardwick/New Braintree Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. This program is free and open to the public. If it snows, this program will be held on Sunday, May 18. If people have any questions, they may call Deb Morrison at 508-867-3324.

MONDAY, FEB. 17

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

FRIDAY, FEB. 19

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

FRIDAY, FEB. 21

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

MONDAY, FEB. 24

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

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 26

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

A CAPELLA GROUP "Ball in the House" will perform today from 12:30-1:30 p.m. in the South Cafe at Mount Wachusett Community College, 444 Green St., Gardner in celebration of Black History Month. This performance titled "And Now I See: Racism, and American Music" in honor of Black History Month, promises to be a highlight of MWCC's cultural calendar this year. The performance will delve into the rich tapestry of African American music, spanning Spirituals, Gospel, Jazz, Soul, Hip Hop and R&B. The event is open to the public, welcoming community members, students, and music enthusiasts alike to join in this festive occasion. The event will be held from 12:30 to 1:30 pm in the South Cafe on the MWCC Gardner campus.

THURSDAY, FEB. 27

A BLOOD DRIVE will take place today from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Quabbin Regional Middle High School, 800 South St., in the high school gymnasium. Ellie Frost, a senior at Quabbin Regional High School, is putting on a blood drive at the high school in partnership with the Rhode Island Blood Center. The blood drive is in partnership with the Rhode Island Blood Center, on February 27th

Where is this?



Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer

This week's mystery photo is from Hubbardston. 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. 17. Bill Bowles, Peggy Civilik, Stephan Craven, Evelyn Luukko and Phillip Warbasse correctly identified the photo. The photo last week was taken on Mechanics Street looking at the Cumberland Farms in Gilbertville.

from 10 am- Walk-ins are welcome if space permits, but they ask people to sign up at ribc.org/drives and use sponsor code M102. Sixteen year old donors need parent/guardian permission. Permission slips are available at ribc.org/permission. Appointments are preferred however walk-in will be welcome if space permits. Donors should eat, drink and bring ID with their name and photo. Donation takes about an hour to give blood. People may also call 800-283-8385.

WORCESTER CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY presents "Voices Rising" today at 7:30 p.m. will perform at Worcester Center for Crafts, 25 Sagamore Road, Worcester. There will be a pre-concert talk at 7 p.m. Worcester Chamber Music Society musicians are Tracy Kraus, flute; Krista Buckland Resiner, violin; Rohan Gregory, violin; Mark Berger, viola and Joshua Gordon, cello. Tickets are available by visiting <https://worchesterchambermusic.org/voices-rising/> or by calling the WCMS office at 508-926-8624.

FRIDAY, FEB. 28

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 1

MARDI GRAS PANCAKE SUPPER will be held at the Rutland Congregational Church, 264 Main St., Rutland, today at 5:30 p.m. People will enjoy all you can eat pancakes, along with bacon, sausage and fruit. Gluten free pancakes will be available. Music will be provided by The Rutland Jazz Band and the Church Bell Choir. There will be

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

DESIGNER PANCAKE BREAKFAST sponsored by Cradle Rock Chapter Order of Eastern Star will be held today from 7:30-10:30 a.m. at Mt. Zion Lodge Hall, 71 Pleasant St., Barre. Cost is \$9 per adult and \$5 per child age 6 and under. People may create their own designer pancake with chips, fruit, nuts and more. The complete breakfast includes designer pancakes, waffles, sausage gravy with biscuits, bacon, sausage, juice and coffee. All are welcome.

SUNDAY, MARCH 2

AMERICAN STEP DANCERS will perform today at 2 p.m. at Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical High School, 1050 Westminster St., Fitchburg in the auditorium. Admission is \$10 per person and \$5 per senior.

SATURDAY, MARCH 8

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 8

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9

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

Calendar Policy

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

Paige Memorial Library lists February events

HARDWICK – This is part of a year of fun celebrating Hardwick.

Hardwick is 286 years old, the Paige Memorial Library building, 87 Petersham Road, is 120 years old, Hardwick's libraries came before the Paige building.

This celebration will include the history of all the libraries, the Hardwick villages, those who lived here (a human library) and events over the years that impacted Hardwick residents. Perhaps we can even recreate events held in the past. To join the fun and the planning, people are invited to come to a meeting on Saturday, Feb. 15 at 12:15 p.m. at the Paige Library or call 413-477-6704 or email director.paigelibrary@gmail.com.

Saturday, Feb. 22 at 11 a.m. the Paige Library will present "Cattle as Global Heroes; Why large herbi-

vores can build soil and help prevent droughts and floods when grazed correctly" by Hardwick's own Ridge Shinn. Shinn is Executive Director of the Northeast Grass-fed Beef Initiative, co-founder and CEO of Big Picture Beef, has developed markets and distribution systems throughout the northeast and has consulted all over the U.S. and for the Argentine government on the production and marketing of grass-fed beef. His work has been recognized in Time Magazine, Atlantic Monthly, New York Times, Wine Spectator and Smithsonian. Ridge is also the co-author of "Grass-fed Beef for the Post Pandemic World: How Regenerative Grazing Can Restore Soils and Stabilize the Climate." People should register at 413-477-6704 or email director.paigelibrary@gmail.com.

HARDWICK continued from page 1

dollars are used responsibly and equitably. The pressure from nonprofit entities should not outweigh our obligation to the residents who fund and rely on town services."

Contributions will be different for each nonprofit as they will be reviewed individually. When asked by a resident about fairness in this policy, Kemp stated "there is no fairness being looked at in the contract."

Kemp looks at the policy as a guideline for the town to follow and have some form of structure needed without financial burdens that could arise in the future. Members of the board agreed that there is a need for the policy and they should speak with nonprofit organizations to negotiate an appropriate contribution.

However, it was noted that some town services are hard to put a value on, regarding public safety, infrastructure, water, sewer, etc.

"We need a guideline," Tinker said. "And we agreed on impact fees."

After reading the entire policy for the public to hear, Kemp moved to a vote on the adoption of the PILOT policy. The vote was unanimous, and the Select Board approved and adopted the PILOT policy.

Capital Planning Committee

Mark Korzec, the chair of the Capital Planning Committee, spoke with the Select Board regarding items to discuss and bring to the Annual Town Meeting. The first item Korzec spoke about was the Gilbertville hydrant system.

There are several in the village of Gilbertville that don't work. Korzec said the Fire Chief knows of the hydrants that don't work.

The second item was about the police station. For years, the Hardwick Police have shared a space with the New Braintree Police Station, and Korzec thought would it be beneficial to form an advisory group to deter-

mine the new location of the Police Department.

Korzec said, "What does the Police Department look like five years from now" when considering the proposed item of putting together a committee.

Town Administrator Justine Caggiano asked if there is a benefit of adding another committee. The board thinks they should bring in members of the Police Department to get their input on a new police station location. The board thinks a subcommittee might be a good idea to put together.

The third item was about tree removal behind the Municipal Building. Town Administrator Justine Caggiano brought up that the town received quotes already for the tree removal project and the project is to be done in the spring.

Korzec also recommended to have engineering and project management be sought out for the roof of the Hardwick Elementary School.

"Roof needs repair and replacement in the next two years," Korzec said.

The final item Korzec spoke about was fireproofing town records. The Select Board will look into these items and determine what can be done for all of them and figure out how Capital Planning can be involved.

Town Administrator's report

Caggiano shared her report with the Select Board, starting with the new phone system training. Staff were trained on the new phone system at the municipal building.

As mentioned earlier in the meeting, Caggiano talked about the quotes the town got for the removal of trees that are currently behind the Myron E. Richardson Municipal Building. The project is looking to be completed in the spring.

Caggiano wanted to acknowledge the fire departments of Hardwick and Ware who worked together in handling a structure fire that took place on Church Street.

SPORTS

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Quabbin girls suffer loss to host B-Town

BELCHERTOWN – Last Wednesday night, in the second matchup of a boys-girls double-header, Belchertown girls basketball defeated Quabbin 61-30. Playing on its Senior Night, Belchertown got 20 points from Aubrey Klingensmith while Morghan Litz sunk 19 points and Chloe LaRoche added 17 points. Quabbin's Mia Ducos scored 13 points and Abby Rogowski added seven points in the defeat. Quabbin is 5-11 while Belchertown is 10-8 and has secured its spot in the state tournament.

Mia Ducos makes a quick pass heading down the court.



Christian Dunn eyes an open teammate.



Brooke Austin takes the free throw.



Lianna Leger tries to get around a Belchertown guard.



Bella Smith drives into the arc.



Abby Rogowski goes for the put-back.

Panthers defeat Orioles in action

BELCHERTOWN – Last Wednesday night, Quabbin Regional basketball faced off with Belchertown on the road. The Panthers, which continue to have a strong season, came away with a 59-52 win, while the Orioles fell to 8-8 on the season. The two teams

began holding meetings against one another last year, which took place at Quabbin. The boys teams have also met in the state tournament a couple of years ago, which took place in Belchertown. Both teams now look toward the final week of the season and tournament.



Quinn Geary hustles down the court.



Kyle Clark passes after making a rebound.



Jaxon Warburton shuffles a pass away.



Zeke Santoro drives to the hoop



Brady Patchen looks to score in traffic.



Cayden Bousquet looks for a pass around an opponent.



Mason Baer takes a free throw.



Cassian Kowalik gets to the foul line.

Pioneers fall to rival Panthers

PALMER – In a battle of the Palmer boys basketball squads, Palmer High beat Pathfinder last Wednesday night 55-42. Stephen Fredette led all scorers with 18 points. Dylan Doherty added 14 points for the Panthers. Cayden Bousquet had a big game for the Pioneers with 15 points. Cassian Kowalik had 10 points. The Panthers improved to 12-4 while the Pioneers are 2-14.



Aiden Girard is closely guarded.

Hurricanes edge out Pacers for win

HOLYOKE – Last Wednesday evening, Amherst ice hockey, which co-ops with Pathfinder, defeated the Chicopee five-team co-op 3-2 at Fitzpatrick Rink. Nate Desbien, Alex Marlin, and Pathfinder's Ethan Mooney all scored the goals for the Hurricanes. Chicopee got goals from Nate Robitaille and Tyler Denison. Spencer McDonald made 21 saves in goal. Amherst 9-4-1 and is headed for tournament, while Chicopee is 3-8-2.



Brach Applegate angles for a shot on goal.



Ethan Mooney looks for a path to the Chicopee goal.



Noah Latulippe works the puck away from the wall.



Eric Chen looks to get past an opponent.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Sports

Railers drop finale to Atlanta

WORCESTER – The Worcester Railers HC (20-20-2-4 46pts) lost to the Atlanta Gladiators (20-22-4-2, 46pts), on Saturday night by the final score of 4-2 in front of a crowd of 7,094 at the DCU Center. The Railers are back on the ice next at the Credit Union of Texas Event Center taking on the Allen Americans on Friday, February 14th at 8:10 p.m. EST.

It was Atlanta who scored first tonight as Cody Sylvester (2-0-2) put the Gladiators up 1-0 19:26 into the first period. Just 31 seconds later Andrew Jarvis extended the Atlanta lead to 2-0 heading into the second period. Worcester got their first on the night off the stick of Matias Rajaniemi (1-0-1) 2:34 into the third period. Atlanta scored back-to-back empty-net goals in the

third period from Cody Sylvester and Ryan Cranford (1-0-1). The Railers then made it 4-2 with a goal from Matt Ustaski (1-0-1) 18:41 into the third to finish off the night's scoring.

It took nearly the entire first period for either team to score until Atlanta took the 1-0 lead. It was Cody Sylvester (17th) who put the Gladiators up 1-0. With just three seconds remaining in the first period Andrew Jarvis (4th) extended the Atlanta lead to 2-0 with a low slap shot to beat Bullion down low. Shots favored Worcester 12-10 in the first period.

Despite power play chances for both sides neither team was able to net one in the second period. The Railers went to the power play twice in the period, first at the 10:02

mark into the second followed by another chance at the 13:38 mark. Atlanta got their power play opportunity 16:17 into second frame, but the Worcester penalty kill held strong keeping Atlanta from jumping out to a three-goal lead. Shots favored Worcester 14-7 in the second.

Worcester made it a 2-1 game early in the third following a goal from Matias Rajaniemi (3rd) 2:34 into the third period. The Railers went to the empty net in an effort to tie the game late, but Atlanta scored twice on the empty net, the first was Cody Sylvester (18th) followed by Ryan Cranford (9th). The Railers then got one back scored by Matt Ustaski (3rd) leading to a 4-2 final. Shots favored Worcester 15-5 in the third and 41-22 in the game.

'Ice-O-Topes' score win over Bruins

SPRINGFIELD — The Springfield Ice-O-Topes, née Thunderbirds, (22-17-2-3) rode a four-goal flourish in the final period to a 5-2 victory on Saturday night over the Providence Bruins (25-15-4-1) before a sellout crowd of 6,793 inside the MassMutual Center. Springfield has still never lost as the Ice-O-Topes, improving to a perfect 5-0 record as their alter ego, while the team also extended its point streak to seven straight games.

It became evident in the early stages that goals would be scarce on this night, as Bruins All-Star netminder Michael DiPietro and Springfield stalwart Colten Ellis showed no signs of blinking in the opening 20 minutes. Matt Luff had two of the better chances for Springfield, but the iron rang on the veteran winger on one attempt, while DiPietro flashed terrific lateral agility to stonewall the Ice-O-Topes forward on another offering.

Not to be outdone, Ellis was timely in his own right, making his brightest save of the frame when he denied a breakaway backhand attempt from Max Jones.

The first three power plays of the night proved unsuccessful, but on their second attempt in the closing minutes of the middle period, the Bruins finally solved Ellis as Jones hit Riley Tufto on a slap feed in the right circle, where the big centerman lifted a shot under the crossbar to make it 1-0 Providence at 18:14 of period two.

In desperate need of a response, the 'Topes got just that in the final seconds of the stanza, as MacKenzie MacEachern and Dalibor Dvorsky combined to work

the puck to the edge of the blue paint on a 3-on-2 rush, with Nikita Alexandrov cashing in with just eight seconds separating the teams from the dressing room.

Alexandrov was far from finished, and at 4:01 of the third, with Leo Loof holding the puck at the left point, Alexandrov dashed to the blue paint, where he deflected Loof's pass in behind DiPietro to hand Springfield the 2-1 lead.

Just 1:41 later, the lead got a boost as Otto Stenberg filled the center lane, receiving a pass from Luff and firing it through DiPietro to make it a 3-1 game at 5:42. The tally snapped Stenberg's eight-game goal drought and also doubled as his first goal on home ice.

The Bruins would not go down easily, and Vinni Lettieri stepped in front from behind the goal line to lift a backhander home before Ellis could get across, shrinking the Topes' lead to 3-2 at 7:45.

Unlike the night before, the T-Birds would not let the Bruins get even this time around, killing off a Providence power play before adding onto their lead once again at 17:48 when Alexandrov fielded a pass out of his feed at the bottom of the right circle before slipping it into the blue paint. Before DiPietro could smother it, Matthew Peca arrived to jam it across the line for his team-leading 17th of the season, giving Springfield a 4-2 advantage.

Dvorsky joined Alexandrov with three-point nights when he threw a puck from center ice into an empty net with 1:29 to polish off a four-goal final period and earn Springfield three of a possible four points on the weekend.

Candlepin League New

By Ryan Drago

Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Tuesday Night
Commercial Elks League

PALMER – The Commercial Elks have concluded their second round of the candlepin league season.

Going into the final week, the standings had Team BK in the first-place position with a record of 22.5-13.5. The Daft Kings are in second place at 20.5-15.5. Daft Kings would have to win at least three points to win the round as long as BK doesn't win any points in the final week of round two. The remaining four teams are mathematically eliminated from winning the second round.

The winner of this round will join Gutter Mouths in the championship roll off at the end of the season. First round winners, Gutter Mouths, bowled against Last in Line. In game one, Gutter Mouths were victorious over Last in Line 340-325.

In game two, Gutter Mouths won again by a score of 361-335.

Stephen Manolakis bowled a 108 in game two to go with his teammate Dino Tessicini's 105. The third and final game was close but Gutter Mouths won again 343-339 for a three-game sweep.

The final score was 1044-999 in favor of Gutter Mouths.

The top seed Team BK bowled against Compression in the final week of round two. In game one, Compression defeated BK by a score of 382-366. Jeff Whyte of BK bowled an excellent game of 113 in a losing effort. David Bowman of Compression bowled a 105.

In game two, Compression was victorious again, taking another win from BK 375-345. In the third and final game, Team BK won the last game, 376-361, to give themselves one point in the final week. Mark Fitzpatrick ended the match with a 108.

The final score was 1118-1087 in favor of Compression.

The pressure was on for Daft Kings who are two points out of first place as they bowled against the Mailmen. In game one, Daft Kings got a victory by a score of 377-371. Ken Trudel of Daft

Kings lead his team to victory by bowling a 112. Bryan Surprise of Mailmen bowled a 119 in a losing effort.

In game two, Daft Kings won another close game by a score of 393-392. Matt Bertelli of Daft Kings had the high single score of game two with a 116. Bryan Surprise has a 111 in game two.

In game three, it was another game with a single digit difference as Daft Kings won again 392-385. Dave Cobleigh of Daft Kings was the hero of game three with a 116. Bryan Surprise had the high series on his team with a 325. Matt Bertelli had the high series on his team with a 317.

The final score was 1162-1148 in favor of Daft Kings who won all four points in the final week. As a result, the Daft Kings pull ahead of Team BK and win the second round. Daft Kings will be competing in the championship roll off at the end of the season.

With one final round to go, the Commercial Elks League at Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes will crown one more winning team to join Gutter Mouths and Daft Kings in the playoffs.

Basketball Hall of Fame unveils schedule for 2025 enshrinement

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame has unveiled its Enshrinement Weekend schedule for the Class of 2025. The celebratory weekend will culminate with the Enshrinement Ceremony on Saturday, Sept. 6, in Springfield—the Birthplace of Basketball. Finalists, as well as select award winners, will be announced on Friday, Feb. 14, during NBA All-Star Weekend in San Francisco, and the Class of 2025 will be revealed on Saturday, April 5, at the Final Four in San Antonio.

Enshrinement Weekend will begin at Mohegan Sun on Friday, Sept. 5, with the Tip-Off Celebration and Awards Gala. The Class of 2025 and returning Hall of Famers will then travel to Springfield, Mass., where they will participate in the weekend's tra-

ditional events taking place at the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame and Springfield's Symphony Hall.

First-time candidates for the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame Class of 2025 include **Carmelo Anthony, Sue Bird, Maya Moore, Dwight Howard, Doc Rivers, Billy Donovan, Sylvia Fowles, Chamique Holdsclaw, Mark Few, Lisa Bluder, Marc Gasol, and Micky Arison.**

A limited number of VIP Packages for the 2025 Enshrinement Ceremony will go on sale on Friday, Feb. 14, at 6 p.m. at hoophall.com on the Hall of Fame's Enshrinement Ticket page or by calling the Basketball Hall of Fame at (413) 231-5513.

Individual tickets for the events will go on sale tentatively on Saturday, April 5, at 12 noon.

Details of the current schedule

of events for Enshrinement 2025 are as follows:

Friday, September 5, at Mohegan Sun (Uncasville, Conn.)
Enshrinement 2025 Autograph Session

An opportunity to meet the Class of 2025 at their first public Enshrinement Weekend event. A ticket to this event will give fans the opportunity to receive one autograph per class member.

Enshrinement 2025 Press Conference

The official media availability for the Hall of Fame Class of 2025. This availability is only open to credentialed members of the media, along with VIP Package ticket holders, and will be held at Mohegan Sun. The media credential application will open on Monday, July 21, at hoophall.com/media.

Enshrinement Tip-Off Celebration and Awards Gala

The Class of 2025, along with the Hall's prestigious annual award winners, will be celebrated at this televised Enshrinement event at Mohegan Sun. During the event, the Class of 2025 will receive their Hall of Fame rings, courtesy of Baron Championship Rings, and their official Hall of Fame jackets, provided by Reveal Suits. The program will additionally highlight the presentation of the Hall's annual John Bunn Lifetime Achievement Award and the Curt Gowdy Media Awards.

Saturday, Sept. 6, in Springfield
Enshrinement Ceremony VIP Reception at Springfield Marriott

Toast the incoming Hall of Fame Class of 2025 at the official VIP Reception prior to the sport's ulti-

mate recognition. The party is limited to select ticket holders for the Enshrinement Ceremony. Shuttle service between the host location and Symphony Hall will be provided if needed. This exclusive party will set the stage for a memorable night on the Red Carpet and at the Ceremony.

Enshrinement Ceremony Red Carpet Show at Symphony Hall

The Class of 2025, legendary Hall of Famers, and some of basketball's biggest icons take center stage on the red carpet in a live TV broadcast outside Symphony Hall.

Enshrinement Ceremony at Symphony Hall

One of the most elite nights on the basketball calendar each year, the Hall of Fame Class of 2025 will be formally enshrined into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in a nationally televised ceremony.

PAST PAGES continued from page 1

1999 school year.

Linda Hardy of Barre has joined the prestigious ranks of board certified school nurses after passing a tough four-hour test at Wentworth Institute in Boston. Harding is the school nurse in Hardwick, a position she has held for 10 years. "I absolutely love being a school nurse," she said. "The test was quite challenging, but it's such an honor to be recognized in a field I really enjoy." Although it is not mandatory for school nurses to be board certified, Harding decided she wanted to take the test to assure herself she could pass it. Those administering the test said those nurses, who pass the test are considered experts in their field.

38 years (Feb. 26, 1987)
Barre residents may be

getting cable TV according to the discussion that took place between the Barre Board of Selectmen and representatives of Amrack Telecommunications at the Monday, Feb. 23 meeting. Sid Whitney and Brain McDermitt, general partners of Amrack Telecommunications discussed with the Selectmen the feasibility of a cable system in Barre. There are many steps involved with the process including bid hearings for rezoning purposes as well as checking out the reputation of the proposed company, according to Selectman Chair Earl Sample.

New Braintree Selectman Stephen Cronin asked people at a Special Town Meeting last Monday to oppose the state's proposed legislations on aid to towns obtaining new prison at tonight's Feb. 26 public hearing sched-

uled for 7-10 p.m. at the Gardner Auditorium of the Statehouse in Boston. A free bus will be leaving the New Braintree Town Hall at 4:45 p.m. to transport people to the hearing and back. The state seeks to refuse relief of burden aid to towns that oppose the state's efforts to put a prison in their town.

It was a great day for "Aunt Louise" Sunday at the Petersham Town Hall was s crowded with well wishers on the occasion of a double celebration in her log and well lived life. Actually, we mean Mrs. Severin (Louise) Anderson, but most of us have just climbed onto a branch of the family tree and called her Aunt Louise. Nine decades ago Mrs. Anderson was born in Athol, but deserted there at the tender age of two to establish a life-long residence in Petersham, a decision she never regretted.



Team Mass Boys & Girls AAU Basketball Tryouts

Cost: \$30 Covers both tryouts (players get t-shirt)
AAU card \$25 (purchase on our website, we'll pull them)

Tryout # 1: February 22, 2025

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

- Boys Grades 4th-6th 8:30 a.m. - 9:40 a.m.
- Boys Grades 7th & 8th 9:45 a.m. - 10:55 a.m.
- Boys Grades 9th-12th 11 a.m. - 12:10 p.m.
- Girls Grades 4th-6th 12:15 p.m. - 1:25 p.m.
- Girls Grades 7th-8th 1:30 p.m. - 2:40 p.m.
- Girls Grades 9th-12th 2:45 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Tryout # 2: March 1, 2025

Location: Oxford High School (100 Caruncle Drive, Oxford, MA)

- Boys Grades & Girls Grades 4th-6th (9 a.m. - 10:25 a.m.)
- Boys & Girls Grades 7th & 8th (10:30 a.m. - 11:55 a.m.)
- Boys and Girls Grades 9th-12th (12 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.)

Pre Register/pay on website: teammassbasketball.com

Questions Email: teammassbasketball@gmail.com or call 413-539-1548

AAU affiliated club for over 25 years!



In the Classroom

QRHS lists National Honor Society members



Submitted photo

On Jan. 15, 2025 the newest members of Quabbin Regional High School National Honor Society, Excelsior Chapter were inducted. This special event recognizes students for their outstanding Scholarship, Service, Leadership, and Character. Pictured from left are front row, Andrew Warfield, Abigail Ure, Emma Kahlau, Luke Salvadore, Vanecia Tarquinio, Ruby Gatulis, Sophia Gagne, Elizabeth Matheson, Grace Manna, Hunter McQuestion and Hannah Zereski and back row from left are Jin Xi Jou, Garrett Erickson, Collin Lindley, Richard Tucker, Rylee-Ann Harty, Adelaide Harmon, Micah Cerezo, Mia Ducos, Kalina Dyer, Owen Brewer and Brianca Wilder.



Submitted photo

Project 351 Ambassadors are from left, Robert Tobin, Aiden Pagan, Jacob Rosario, Chloe Richardson, Zoey Salvadore and Isabelle Wentworth.

Colleges and universities announce Dean's list

DEAN'S LIST

Anna Maria College Paxton

Julianna Stanger of New Braintree, Angelina Botelho Fritze of North Brookfield, Natalie Bogard of Rutland, Regan Chuplis of Rutland, Emma Jeffrey of Rutland, Alex Toomey of Rutland and Deziree Goodrow of South Barre

Assumption University Worcester

Jack Devlin of Rutland, Class of 2026; Julia Forest of Rutland, Class of 2026; Gemma Gabrielli of Barre, Class of 2025; Jamison Howland of New Braintree, Class of 2027; Katelyn O'Connell of Rutland, Class of 2028 and Hannah Stevenson of Hubbardston, Class of 2025

Endicott College Beverly

Lily Dion of Barre, nursing major and daughter of Joie Dion and Christopher Dion; Hector Johnson of Barre, finance major and son of Esther Miller; Hayley Steeves of Barre, interior architecture major and daughter of Shelley Steeves and Wesley Steeves; Riley Rischitelli of North

Brookfield, nursing major and daughter of Juliana Rischitelli and Jonathan Rischitelli; Gwyneth Femino of Oakham, education major and daughter of Sheryl Femino and Stephen Femino; Abigail Berthiaume of Rutland, education major and daughter of Jennifer Berthiaume and Christopher Berthiaume; Sierra Boyd of Rutland, nursing major and daughter of Lynn Sherblom and Robert Boyd; Alison Chouinard of Rutland, nursing major and daughter of Melissa Chouinard and Scott Chouinard; Eliot Josti of Rutland, Communication, Samantha Josti and Robert Josti; Ella Perry of Rutland, nursing major and daughter of Lindsay Perry and Brendan Perry and Emma Rutkiewicz of Rutland, events management major and daughter of MarEllen Rutkiewicz and Joseph Rutkiewicz

Franklin Pierce University Rindge, New Hampshire

Gavin Majoy of New Braintree

Norwich University Northfield, Vermont

Liam Dearden of Rutland

Quinnipiac University Hamden, Connecticut

Olivia Sands of Oakham

Russell Sage College Troy, New York

Emma Vander Bean of Barre

Springfield College Springfield

Natalia Marchand of Hubbardston, exercise science and applied exercise science major, Kyle Nastasi of Hardwick, movement and sport studies; Kayleigh Patch of New Braintree, education major and Seth Twarog of Hubbardston, finance major

Worcester Polytechnic Institute Worcester

Emerson Allyn of Rutland, class of 2027 majoring in biomedical engineering and mechanical engineering; Matthew Brown of Rutland, class of 2025 majoring in computer science; Tyler Clark of Barre, class of 2027 majoring in environmental engineering; Caleb Corpuz of Rutland, class of 2027 majoring in robotics engineering; Sophia DiBara of Rutland, class of 2025 majoring in biology and biotechnology;

Jordan Gaspar of Oakham, class of 2027 majoring in mechanical engineering; Samantha Houle of Hubbardston, class of 2028 majoring in environmental engineering; Yasmin Issa of Rutland, class of 2027 majoring in biology and biotechnology and environmental and sustainability studies; Annabelle Magill of Oakham, class of 2028 majoring in civil engineering; Taylor Meier of Rutland, Massachusetts, class of 2027 majoring in data science; Vinam Nguyen of Rutland, Massachusetts, class of 2027 majoring in computer science; Hannah Peloquin of Rutland, class of 2025 majoring in biomedical engineering; Frederick Smith of New Braintree, class of 2026 majoring in civil engineering; Micaela Tourtelot of Oakham, class of 2025 majoring in electrical and computer engineering; Benjamin Vasseur of Hubbardston, class of 2028 majoring in chemistry and science to be declared undergraduate and Emmet Wright of Hardwick, class of 2026, majoring in mechanical engineering.

Quabbin students selected for Project 351 Ambassadors

Each year, eighth grade students from the communities are selected to participate in Project 351. Project 351 shares.

"We are a youth-led, school-based movement for positive change. We believe inside every young person is a brave, bold leader with dreams of a better world

and the skill, passion, and creativity to achieve their vision.

The program is designed to meet the demand for high quality, enriching service opportunities that respect and reflect the unique gifts and world changing aspirations of young people."

Blood drive to take place at QRHS Feb. 27

BARRE – A blood drive will take place on Thursday, Feb. 27 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Quabbin Regional Middle High School, 800 South St., in the high school gymnasium.

Ellie Frost, a senior at Quabbin Regional High School, is putting on a blood drive at the high school in partnership with the Rhode Island Blood Center.

The blood drive is in partnership with the Rhode Island Blood Center, on February 27th from 10 am-Walk-ins are welcome if

space permits, but they ask people to sign up at ribc.org/drives and use sponsor code M102.

Sixteen year old donors need parent/guardian permission. Permission slips are available at ribc.org/permission. Appointments are preferred however walk-in will be welcome if space permits.

Donors should eat, drink and bring ID with their name and photo. Donation takes about an hour to give blood. People may also all 800-283-8385.

Seamus Higgins graduates from Elms College

CHICOPEE – Seamus Higgins of Rutland received a Master of Business Administration from Elms College follow-

ing the conclusion of the fall 2024 semester.

Higgins was among 79 students who received their degrees in December.

QCC's Dental Clinic offers free services to seniors and veterans

WORCESTER – Quinsigamond Community College's Dental Hygiene Clinic is continuing to offer free preventative dental services to anyone aged 55 or older, as well as active military members and veterans.

The clinic, located at QCC's 670 West Boylston St. campus, offers dental assessments, teeth cleaning, x-rays and fluoride treatments. For patients who are not in the aforementioned categories, rates are \$25 for adults and \$20 for children.

"We currently have a relationship with Senior Connection, formerly Central Massachusetts Agency on Aging, through a grant that gives our senior patients free services in the dental clinic," said Dental Clinic Operations and

Facilities Manager Sheryl Ficorilli.

The grant, which began in January of 2022, has supported over 750 senior patients. The program also provides transportation to and from the dental hygiene clinic.

QCC's dental hygiene students are required to spend a certain number of hours in direct patient care and the patients from this program provide that valuable interaction. "This helps our students gain the necessary skills to graduate and become active in the area dental community," Ficorilli added.

To make an appointment or for more information, people may call 508-854-4306 or visit www.QCC.edu/dental-hygiene-clinic.

VALENTINE'S DINNER

continued from page 1

raffle. The prizes included a handmade pillow made by one of the parishioners of St. Joseph Parish. The other prize was a Yankee Candle package.

There was also a dinner raffle taking place surrounded by Valentine-themed gift bags and hearts. Prizes included a gift card to Hannaford's with a stuffed animal and chocolates. There was also a gift package from Gulf featuring a gift card, washer fluid and additional car maintenance supplies.

The other prize was a gift card to the Hardwick Crossing Country Club with a bottle of wine included. Music was featured during the meal inside the church



The spaghetti meal came with meatballs, sausages, a dinner roll, salad and a dessert.

hall with DJ Tabby LeBlanc. Love and support were truly expressed during the

St. Valentine's Dinner at St. Joseph Parish. The Knights made a delicious spaghetti

dinner and guests had a good time connecting over dinner.



A bottle of wine and a Hardwick Crossing Country Club gift card could be won by a lucky diner during the Valentine's Dinner.



A Hannaford gift card along with a stuffed animal was one of the prizes guests could win at the dinner raffle.

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Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

Church News

Local pastors offer sermons

Got Resolutions? Part 6

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

I posit that the mandates put forth in this passage make wonderful resolutions to live for in the New Year. Let us continue to explore this text, penned by the apostle Paul as he was inspired by the Holy Spirit of God.

1) Concerning the Spirit
The apostle Paul shared the following in 1 Thessalonians 5:19 (NIV): "Do not quench the Spirit." The term quench applies to the putting out of a flame of some sort, as that of a fire or lamp. The Bible frequently likens the work of the Spirit to a flame, warming the heart, quickening the mind and enabling the spirit of man. In this text, Paul warns against hindering the operation of God's Spirit, as His fire can be diminished or snuffed out.

How do we quench the Spirit? To begin, we can quench the Spirit of the Lord through sin. As John MacArthur articulates, "The fire of God's Spirit is not to be doused with sin." Moreover, and as another commentator notes, "We can quench the fire of the Spirit by our doubt, our indifference, our rejection of Him, or by the distraction of others. When people start to draw attention to themselves, it is a sure quench to the Spirit" (Guzik).

Paul adds this corresponding call in his Epistle to the Ephesians:

Ephesians 4:30

30 . . . do not grieve [lit. distress or cause to sorrow] the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

What is our appropriate response to the person and work of the Spirit? As John MacArthur adds, "Believers

are . . . instructed not to grieve the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:30), but to be controlled by the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18) . . . and to walk by the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:16)." Ultimately, God is looking for men and women who are resolved to treat the Spirit with both warmth and welcome.

2) Concerning Prophecy
The apostle Paul shared the following in 1 Thessalonians 5:20: "Do not treat prophecies with contempt." Herein, Paul was more precise concerning the apparent quenching of the Spirit in ancient Thessalonica. Specifically, the Christians there, by logical inference, were guilty of treating prophecies with contempt.

Prophecy is a spiritual gift whereby believers both receive and communicate timely words from the Lord. Sometimes these words concern future events (Acts 11:28) or present realities (Acts 13:2). Always, prophecy is characterized by edification, exhortation and comfort (1 Cor. 14:3).

It is sacred and must be both properly esteemed and utilized in the Church of Christ. Clearly this was not happening in Thessalonica, for the people were guilty of treating this gift with contempt (i.e., scorn or irreverence). To so treat this working of the Spirit was to quench His operation, grieving Him in the assembly. This would have disastrous consequences if left unchecked.

Why had the Thessalonian believers come to despise prophecy? In this we are left only to conjecture. Had they been turned off by the mishandling of this gift? Had they suffered some abuse by some self-styled prophet. Had they become proud, believing they no longer had need for the guidance of God?

Had they come to question to doubt this aspect of the Spirit's work? Had they needlessly come to fear the elevation of prophecy over the gospel message and the Word of God? How many modern churches spurn prophecy and the workings of the Spirit for such reasons! Whatever the reason, the Church universal is clearly prohibited from treating the sacred with contempt. However, we are called to test prophecies.

3) Concerning Testing
Paul declares this in 1 Thessalonians 5:20-22: "20 Do not treat prophecies with contempt 21 but test them all; hold on to what is good, 22 reject every kind of evil." It was the call of the apostle for the ancient-and modern-Church to test prophetic messages. Rather than spurn prophecies, the people of God are called to carefully consider or examine them, ensuring that they are genuinely of the Lord; being in sync with His revealed character, gospel and Word. You see, God is looking for His people to properly handle the operation of His good and gracious gifts!

Consider that Paul ordered that we hold on to what is good, rejecting every form of evil (v. 22). This is an interesting text, for it can be read as the outflow of what came before (v. 20), as a new set of commands, or both. I say why not both? Might it be that Paul herein is ordering us to cling to those words from the Lord which are tested and found to be authentic, resisting prophetic messages which are contrary? Yes, Might it also be that Paul is generally calling us to forsake sinfulness, prioritizing holiness in the fear of the Lord? Yes! Let us embrace both, learning to cling to the good while rejecting all evil.

See SERMONS, page 14

Obituaries

Barbara (Bowers) Armstrong, 81

PETERSHAM – Barbara Armstrong, age 81, of 53 Shaw Road, Petersham, passed away on Jan. 31, 2025 after a brief illness.

Born in New Hampshire on June 28, 1943, she was the daughter of Arthur and Helen (Morton) Bowers. Barbara graduated from high school (1961) and went on to Burdett College where she graduated with a degree in business administration. Barbara retired in 2013 from the Highlands Nursing Home in Fitchburg where she was happily employed for 20+ years. Barbara married David

Armstrong Sr. in 1963. Barbara and David were blessed with two sons, David, Jr. and Derek. David adopted Barbara's daughter, Darlene from a prior marriage. Barbara and David divorced in 1979.

In 2003, Barbara moved to Petersham, where she spent the last chapter of her life, surrounded by the beauty and tranquility of her home and close to her son, David and his family. Barbara was predeceased by her parents, Arthur and Helen Bowers and brother Arthur Bowers

Jr. She is survived and dearly missed by her daughter, Darlene (John and children Ryan, Whitney, and Haley); her son, David Jr. (Susan and grandsons Alex and Benjamin); and her son, Derek (Lisa and her daughters Marisa and Haley).

Barbara will be remembered for her warmth, her kindness, and the love she shared with her family and friends. She will be deeply missed and forever cherished in the hearts of those who knew her. There will not be any public services.

To leave an online condolence, please visit www.mackfamilyfh.com. Mack Family Funeral Home, 105 Central St., Gardner, MA is assisting the family.



Rosemary P. Heyes, 95

GARDNER – It is with a broken heart that we share the passing of Rosemary P. Heyes on Jan. 31, 2025 at UMMC. Her family was at her side and her Irish music was playing.

Born Dec. 7, 1929 in Largo, Florida to Leroy and Doris Sullivan, she was raised in Petersham and resided in Barre; North Port, Florida and Gardner.

She was a medical receptionist for the original Barre Family Health Center and then the UMM Health Center. In her retirement, she worked at Hartman's Herb Farm in Barre. She loved the work and its owners.

She enjoyed gardening, bird watching, trips to Maine, shopping, the Red Sox, reading and everything Irish. She celebrated her Irish

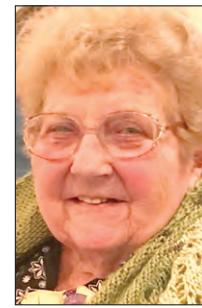
heritage the month of March with her large party for family and friends on her favorite holiday St. Patrick's Day.

She was proud of her family and happiest when she was with them. She leaves behind her daughter, Darcy Hallock;

her daughter-in-law, Sandra Heyes; her grandchildren, Heather Heyes, Seth Heyes (April) and Adam Hallock. Great-grandchildren, Celeste, Isabelle, Gabriella, Dominic, Lilly, Nathan, Max and Adalyn. Great-great granddaughters, Aubrey, Brynlee, Cailee and Piper.

She was predeceased by her husband of 68 years, Samuel W. Heyes and her son, Samuel W. Heyes Jr.

A celebration of life will



DEATH NOTICES

Armstrong, Barbara (Bowers)
Died Jan. 31, 2025
No public service

Heyes, Rosemary P. (Sullivan)
Died Jan. 31, 2025
Celebration of Life
Feb. 15 at 11 a.m.
Hartman's Herb Farm,
1026 Old Dana Road,
Barre

Watson, Maryann (Panaccione)
Died Feb. 2, 2025
Funeral Feb. 15 at 11 a.m.
in St Joseph's Church
in Barre.
Pillsbury Funeral Home,
96 South Barre Road,
Barre

take place at Hartman's Herb Farm, 1026 Old Dana Road, Barre on Feb. 15, 2025 at 11 a.m.

QHMA invites public to Bingo Night fundraiser

PALMER – The Quabog Hills Chamber of Commerce, the non-profit organization that promotes business and development within surrounding communities of Hampden, Hampshire, and Worcester counties, has announced its Handbag & Hand Tool Bingo Night fundraiser.

The event will take place on Friday, March 21 at

AMVETS Post 74 in Three Rivers. The Chamber will produce 10 exciting bingo rounds, each with a grand prize featuring one of seven designer handbags or one of three premium tools up for grabs.

Tickets can be purchased on QHMA.com. The registration fee is \$40 per person and includes 10 bingo cards, bingo dauber, delicious snack

platters, bonus raffle ticket and a cash bar.

Proceeds from the bingo event will benefit the Quabog Hills Chamber of Commerce and its on-going mission to assist its more than two-hundred member businesses succeed and grow with programs and initiatives throughout the year.

Cornerstone Bank to open new branch in spring

WORCESTER – Banking is about to become even more convenient in Worcester.

Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with locations throughout Central Massachusetts, is excited to be expanding its reach to more customers with a new branch set to open in the

Tatnuck neighborhood of Worcester this spring.

"We're excited for this opportunity to meet more customers where they are," said Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman. "We're confident this new location will make banking easier and faster for those who live and work in

the Tatnuck area." The property at 1125 Pleasant St. has been under renovation since Cornerstone purchased it last year. It is expected to open to the public in the spring of 2025 with services including a state-of-the-art drive-up video teller and ATM.

BARRE GAZETTE - SERVING THE TOWNS OF BARRE, HARDWICK, HUBBARDSTON, NEW BRAINTREE, NORTH BROOKFIELD, OAKHAM, PETERSHAM & RUTLAND SINCE 1834

Barre Gazette OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

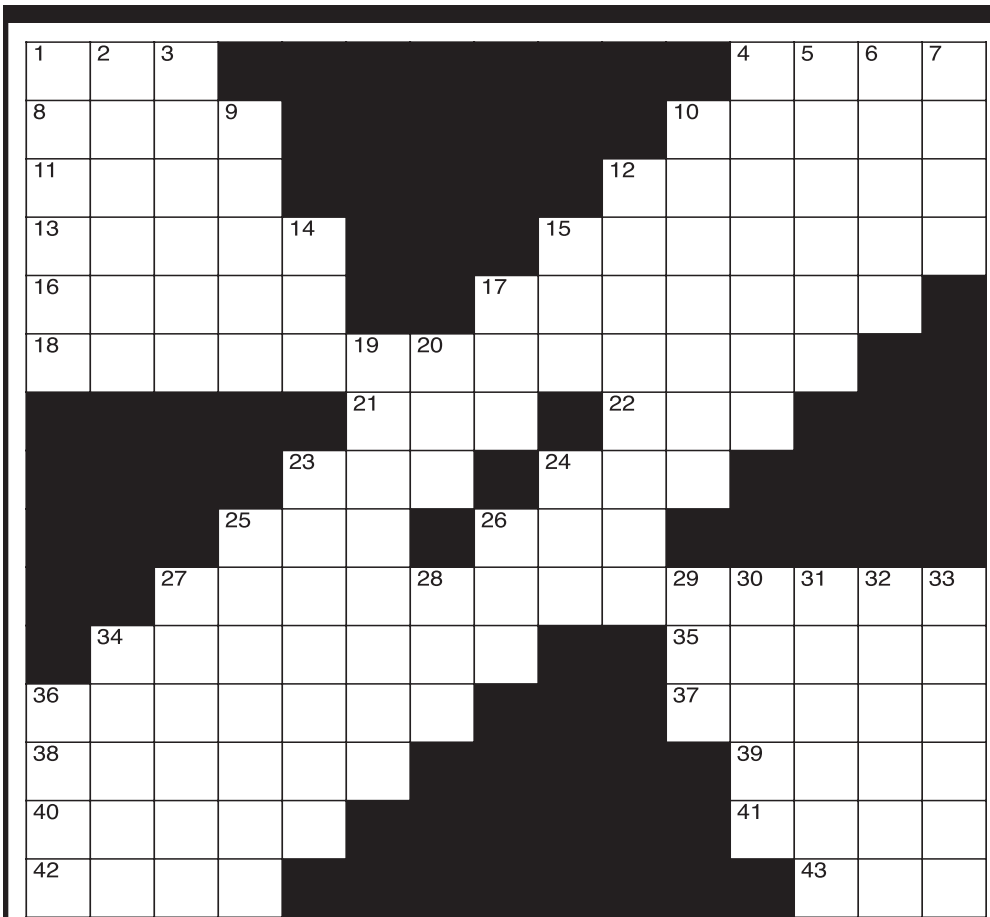
One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

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.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Racquet sport group (abbr.)
4. Norse god of thunder
8. Russian industrial city
10. What's good for the ___
11. Round-ish shape
12. Baltimore MLBer
13. French modernist painter
15. Burned with water
16. Intestinal issue
17. Take the lead
18. Prove oneself worthy
21. None
22. Tax collector

CLUES DOWN

23. Swiss river
24. Gymnast Raisman
25. Baby's dining accessory
26. Canadian beer distributor
27. Iconic American tourist destination
34. More expansive
35. Alert
36. Popular boots
37. Showings
38. Conclusion
39. Share a common boundary
40. Shooting sport
41. Popular side dish
42. Global energy firm
43. Chronicles (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN

1. Type of bomb
2. Polynesian island country
3. Heavenly body
4. Hard workers
5. Covered
6. Johns Hopkins Hospital founder
7. Plant of the grass family
9. Island person of the Bering Sea
10. Storehouse
12. Scarlet-flowered desert shrub
14. A pituitary hormone
15. Female sibling
17. Monetary unit of Afghanistan

19. Empowering
20. Space station
23. Disorder
24. State of fuss
25. Footwear for babies
26. Nuclear reactor (abbr.)
27. Drove
28. Affirmative
29. Male parent
30. Utter obscenities
31. Type of verse
32. Unpleasant person
33. One who settles down
34. Founder of source-based history
36. A way to snarl

ANSWERS ON PAGE 14

Public Safety

Barre Police Log

Sunday, Jan. 26
 9:53 a.m. ACO Lost and Found Wildlife, Old Petersham Road, In Custody of ACO
 1:38 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Root Road, Negative Contact
 6:13 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Old Coldbrook Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 9:27 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Williamsville Road, Vehicle Towed
 9:37 p.m. Stolen Vehicle, Dana Road, Vehicle Towed
 Summons Riley, Dennis M., 48, Barre
 Charges Motor Vehicle, Receive Stolen
 11:33 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Abdominal/Back Pain, Dana Road, Transported to Hospital

Monday, Jan. 27
 10:40 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Headache, Ruggles Lane, Transported to Hospital
 10:45 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Mutual Aid Transport
 2:44 p.m. Larceny or Theft, School North Street, Information Given
 3:43 p.m. Follow Up Investigation, Police Headquarters, Officer Took Call
 5:12 p.m. Serve Warrant, Old Dana Road, Arrest(s) Made
 Arrest Gauthier, Becky Elizabeth, 44, Barre
 Charges Warrant
 6:19 p.m. Landlord/Tenant/Neighbor Dispute, North Brookfield Road, Officer Took Call

Tuesday, Jan. 28
 10:59 a.m. Fire – Power Lines Down/Arcing, High North Street, Information Taken

1:12 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Sturbridge, Message Delivered
 6:13 p.m. Serve Warrant, Peach Street, Arrest(s) Made
 Arrest Brooke, Megan J., 43, South Barre
 Charges Warrant
 7:37 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Ruggles Lane, Ambulance Signed Refusal

Wednesday, Jan. 29
 4:32 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Varney Lane, Transported to Hospital
 8:13 a.m. Follow up Investigation, Police Headquarters, Vehicle Towed
 3:54 p.m. Identity Theft, Old Hardwick Road, Officer Took Call
 4:31 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Worcester Road, Officer Took Call
 4:36 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Trafalgar Square, No Fire Service Necessary
 5:39 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Summer Street, Mutual Aid Transport
 6:01 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Varney Lane, Mutual Aid Transport
 7:02 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Wheelwright Road, Transported to Hospital
 8:32 p.m. Animal – Wildlife, Williamsville Road, Officer/Chief Advised

Thursday, Jan. 30
 7:25 a.m. Animal – Wildlife, West Street, Information Given
 7:49 a.m. Landlord/Tenant/Neighbor Dispute, Wauwinet Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 8:36 a.m. Public Assist, Vernon Avenue, Officer Spoke to Party

10:03 a.m. Follow Up Investigation, Police Headquarters, Investigated
 1:12 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Exchange Street, Message Delivered
 2:46 p.m. Public Assist, Police Headquarters, Officer Spoke to Party
 5:40 p.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Jewett Road, Negative Contact

Friday, Jan. 31
 10:40 a.m. Speak to Chief/Officer, Police Headquarters, Officer Spoke to Party
 2:57 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Ruggles Lane, No Fire Service Necessary
 3:05 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Ruggles Lane, Transported to Hospital
 3:50 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Old Dana Road, Vehicle Towed
 6:31 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Cutler Road, No Fire Service Necessary
 8:36 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Hubbardston Road, Removed Hazard
 9:30 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, South Street, Officer Spoke to Party

Saturday, Feb. 1
 12:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Vehicle Towed
 Summons Mysza, Marlana, 33, Ellington, Connecticut
 Charges Registration Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle with
 3:26 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Church Lane, Officer/Chief Advised
 6:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Barre Road, Criminal Complaint

Rutland Police Log

Sunday, Jan. 26
 12:32 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Citation Issued
 12:47 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Written Warning
 8:50 a.m. Illegal Dumping, Campbell Court, Investigated
 1 p.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Maple Avenue, Information Given
 2:49 p.m. Erratic Operator, Barre Paxton Road, Officer/Chief Advised
 5:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 5:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Citation Issued
 5:41 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Vehicle Towed
 Summons Jean Louis, Melissa, 30, Lauderhill, Florida
 Charges License Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With, Speeding Rate of Speed Exceeding Posted Limit
 6:21 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Campbell Street, Transported to Hospital
 8:33 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Phillips Avenue, Transported to Hospital
 9:24 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Abdominal/Back Pain, Barre Paxton Road, Mutual Aid Transport

Monday, Jan. 27
 3:07 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle/Parking Issues, Briarwood Road, Written Warning
 3:20 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle/Parking Issues, Orchard Hill Drive, Written Warning
 4:34 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Lantern Lane, Transported to Hospital
 6:34 p.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Main Street, Fire Extinguished
 7:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 7:50 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 8:17 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 9:23 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning
 9:33 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Arrowhead Way, No Police Service Necessary
 9:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 12:20 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Maple Avenue, Dispatch Handled
 12:56 p.m. Lockout (Home or Vehicle), Lewis Street, Public Assist
 2:13 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Miles Road, Transported to Hospital
 2:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 3:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Citation Issued
 3:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, written Warning
 3:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Citation Issued
 3:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 3:49 p.m. Erratic Operator, Nancy Drive, Officer Spoke to Party
 4 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 4:57 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Citation Issued
 6:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning
 7:03 p.m. Property – Lost & Found, Main Street, Officer/Chief advised
 7:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Written

Warning
 8 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Written Warning
 8:59 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, East Hill Road, Transported to Hospital

Tuesday, Jan. 28
 12:10 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Stroke (CVA), Peters Avenue, Transported to Hospital
 1:26 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 7:24 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, East County Road, Transported to Hospital
 8:55 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Glenwood Road North, Vehicle Towed
 Summons Mingolla, Edward R., 66, Hubbardston
 Charges Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle, Stop/Yield, Fail To, License Not in Possession
 9:18 a.m. Animal – Wildlife, Pommogussett Road, Information Taken
 10:43 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Criminal Complaint
 Summons Bergeron, Ines Marie, 73, Gardner
 Charges Uninsured Motor Vehicle, Registration Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With, Unregistered Motor Vehicle
 11:45 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 12:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Citation Issued
 12:56 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Written Warning
 1:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Citation Issued
 1:58 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 2:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 2:52 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Juniper Lane, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 3:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 4 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Written Warning
 4:27 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Written Warning
 4:58 p.m. Threats, Miles Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 8:23 p.m. Follow-Up Investigation, Pleasantdale Road, Investigation (On-going)
 10:44 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Juniper Lane, Investigated

6:06 p.m. Escort/Transport, Main Street, Public Assist
 7:01 p.m. Identity Theft, Bushy Lane, Report Filed
 10:45 p.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, Pommogussett Road, Removed Hazard
 10:50 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Barre Paxton Road, party departed without incidents

Thursday, Jan. 30
 3:47 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Abdominal/Back Pain, Maple Avenue, Transported to Hospital
 9:46 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, East County Road, Transported to Hospital
 12:56 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Written Warning
 1:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Criminal Complaint
 Summons Lovett, Erin Elizabeth, 42, Gardner
 Charges Registration Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With, Uninsured Motor Vehicle
 2:25 p.m. Public Assist, Brintnal Drive, Officer/Chief Advised
 4:55 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Vista Circle, Message Delivered
 8:38 p.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, Main Street, Peace Restored
 Friday, Jan. 31
 9:40 a.m. Complaint, East County Road, Chief Took the Call
 11 a.m. Fraud or Forgery, Sunnyside Avenue, Officer Spoke to Party
 11:26 a.m. Be On the Lock Out Notification, Main Street, Message Delivered
 12:39 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Charnock Hill Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 4:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Written Warning
 4:27 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Maple Avenue, Transported to Hospital
 4:59 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Morris Lane, Officer/Chief Advised
 7:56 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Criminal Complaint
 Summons Baire, Kalliah Christine, 31, South Barre Road
 Charges Uninsured Motor Vehicle, Registration Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With
 9:56 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Town Wide, Information Given
 10:06 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Emerald Road, Vehicle Removed

Saturday, Feb. 1
 8:56 a.m. Fire – Power Lines Down/Arcing, Charnock Circle, Investigated
 9:10 a.m. Landlord Tenant/Neighbor Dispute, Maple Avenue, Report Filed
 11:18 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Old Schoolhouse Road, Transported to Hospital
 1:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 3:46 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 4:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 6:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Pleasantdale Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 7:58 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Allergic Reaction, Stevens Way, Transported to Hospital

Saturday, Feb. 1
 6:35 a.m. Lockout (Home or Vehicle), Wheeler Road, Entry Gained
 8:02 a.m. Court Duty, East Brookfield District Court, Court Duty
 8:12 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Written Warning
 10:47 a.m. Fraud or Forgery, Milford, Officer Took Call
 11:13 a.m. Follow-Up Investigation, Glenwood Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 1:20 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, East County Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 4:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 5:11 p.m. Noise Compliant, Phillips Road, Officer Spoke Party

Hubbardston Police Log

Saturday, Jan. 25
 7:52 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Valley Road, No Fire Service Necessary
 Summons Benoit, Robert E. Jr., 59, Barre
 Charges Leave Scene of Property Damage

Sunday, Jan. 26
 12:24 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Bleeding (Non-traumatic), Evergreen Road, Mutual Aid Transport

Monday, Jan. 27
 6:19 a.m. Animal Lost and/or Found, Streeter Road, Returned to Family/Guardian
 7:05 a.m. ACO Lost and/or Found/Wildlife, Streeter Road, Message Delivered
 3:54 p.m. Safety Concern, Kruse Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 6:49 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Allergic Reaction, New Templeton Road, Transported to Hospital
 7:57 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Bleeding (Non-traumatic), Geordie Lane, No Transport Required

Tuesday, Jan. 28
 7:17 a.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, Worcester Road, Investigated
 12:20 p.m. Serve Warrant, Main Street, Arrest(s) Made
 Summons Mailloux, Tierra

Lee, 29, Hubbardston
 Charges Warrant

Wednesday, Jan. 29
 8:08 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Burnshirt Road, Report Filed
 1:49 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Gardner Road, Message Delivered
 2:41 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Criminal Complaint
 Summons Rodriguez Sanchez, Ruben, 31, Hyattsville, Maryland
 Charges Unregistered Motor Vehicle, Uninsured Motor Vehicle
 2:33 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Hale Road, Report Filed

Thursday, Jan. 30
 5:36 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Old Boston Turnpike, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 7:09 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Streeter Road, Information Given
 10:16 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Gardner Road, Vehicle Towed

Friday, Jan. 31
 2:01 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problems, Madison Way, Transported to Hospital
 7:55 a.m. Harassment, Main Street, Report Filed

8:48 a.m. Follow Up Investigation, Streeter Road, Investigation (On-Going)
 11:39 a.m. Landlord Tenant/Neighbor Dispute, Bemis Road, Information Given
 3:16 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Ragged Hill Road, Referred to Other Agency
 8:36 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Hubbardston Road, Removed Hazard
 9:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Disabled, New Templeton Road, Vehicle Towed
 10:02 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Williamsville Road, No Fire Service Needed

Saturday, Feb. 1
 1:38 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle/Parking Issue, Geordie Lane, Vehicle Removed
 2:41 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, Gardner, Negative Contact
 2:06 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Gardner, Message Delivered
 4:21 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Town wide, Officer Spoke to Party
 6:49 p.m. Fire – Brush and Wildland Fires, Gardner Road, Unfounded
 8:04 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, New Templeton Road, Vehicle Towed
 9:12 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Halfrey Road, Officer/Chief Advised

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of Feb. 3-10, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 35 building/property checks, 25 directed/area patrols, seven radar assignments, three traffic controls, 14 emergency 911 calls, one citizen assist, two assist other agencies, two complaints, three safety hazards, three motor vehicle accidents, one motor vehicle investigation, one structure fire and eight motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, Feb. 3
 9:28 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 1:35 p.m. Medical Emergency, Collins Road, Transported to Hospital
 2:21 p.m. Parking Complaint, Church Street, Officer Handled
 10:20 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Lower Road, Investigated

Tuesday, Feb. 4
 12:21 a.m. 911 Structure Fire, Lower Road, Transported to Hospital
 12:55 a.m. 911 Assist Citizen, Duhamel Court, Dispatch Handled
 2:02 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Parker Court, Transported to Hospital
 2:45 p.m. Safety Hazard, Main Street, Dispatch Handled
 4:45 p.m. 911 Fire, Lower

Road, Investigated
 6:16 p.m. 911 Fire, Lower Road, Investigated

Wednesday, Feb. 5
 2:15 a.m. Fire, Lower Road, Extinguished
 6:49 a.m. 911 Notification, Church Street, No Action Required
 9:01 a.m. Fire, Lower Road, Services Rendered
 11:17 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Dispatch Handled
 11:55 a.m. Medical Emergency, Church Street, Transported to Hospital
 1:52 p.m. Carbon Monoxide Alarm, Hardwick Road, Investigated
 8:18 p.m. 911 Disturbance, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital

Thursday, Feb. 6
 5:31 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Barre Road, Citation Issued
 7:57 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Jackson Road, Services Rendered
 9:30 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Main Street, Vehicle Towed
 9:35 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Main Street, Dispatch Handled
 10:26 a.m. Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital

12:46 p.m. Suspicious Activity, River Run, Spoken To

Friday, Feb. 7
 12:09 p.m. Fire Alarm, Church Street, Services Rendered
 2:24 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Citation Issued
 3:52 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning
 4:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Written Warning
 4:39 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Maple Street, Transported to Hospital

Saturday, Feb. 8
 7:47 a.m. Complaint, North Road, Transported to Hospital
 10:27 a.m. Safety Hazard, Sullivan Avenue, Officer Handled
 8:11 p.m. Medical Alarm, Muddy Brook Road, Services Rendered
 11:13 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Muddy Brook Road, Transported to Hospital

Sunday, Feb. 9
 11:11 a.m. Safety Hazard, Mill Street, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 12:27 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Pine Street, Transported to Hospital

Monday, Feb. 10
 6:52 a.m. Assist Other Agency, North Road, Officer Handled

Oakham Police Log

Sunday, Jan. 26
 5:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Citation Issued

Monday, Jan. 27
 8:45 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning
 9:01 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Shore Drive, Criminal Complaint
 Summons Michaud, Ronald J., 47, Worcester
 Charges License Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With C90 S23, Speeding Rate of Speed Exceeding Posted Limit
 3:46 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Coldbrook Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 8:59 p.m. Emergency

Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, East Hill Road, Transported to Hospital

Tuesday, Jan. 28
 1:42 p.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), North Brookfield Road, Investigated

Thursday, Jan. 30
 4:20 a.m. Notification, Crocker Nye Road, Officer/Chief Advised
 3:36 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Bullard Road, Negative Contact
 4:30 p.m. Complaint, Crocker Nye Road, Negative Contact

Friday, Jan. 31
 1:41 p.m. Suspicious Person/

Vehicle Activity, New Braintree Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 9:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Crocker Nye Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 9:52 Follow-Up Investigation, Crocker Nye Road, Officer Spoke to Party

Saturday, Feb. 1
 11:18 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Old Schoolhouse Road, Transported to Hospital
 11:37 a.m. Road Condition, Town wide, Information Given
 12:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Written Warning

New Braintree Police Log

During the week of Feb. 3-10, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to eight building/property checks, seven directed/area patrols, six radar assignments, two traffic controls, two emergency 911 calls, one motor vehicle accident, one motor vehicle investigation, two animal calls and six motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

Wednesday, Feb. 5
 2:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, West Brookfield Road, Dispatch Handled
 2:43 p.m. 911 Misdeal, Hardwick Road, Services Rendered
 3:41 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Citation Issued
 4:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Ravine Road, Citation Issued
 7:44 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Worcester Road,

Services Rendered

Friday, Feb. 7
 8:42 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Written Warning
 10:29 a.m. Welfare Check, Skivira Lane, Transported to Hospital

Saturday, Feb. 8
 5:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Gilbertville Road, Services Rendered

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 15, 2025 AT A SALE TO SATISFY OUR GARAGE LIEN THEREON FOR TOWING & STORAGE CHARGES AND EXPENSES OF SALE AND NOTICE:

- 1998 Toyota Camry Beige VIN 4T1BG22K3WU257410
 - 2012 Hyundai TUCSON VIN ZAM57RTA4E1090339
 - 2007 Mazda Mazda 6 VIN 1YVHP80C475M59840
 - 2009 Honda CR-V VIN 5J6RE48509L019590
 - 1983 Mercedes-Benz 300-Class VIN WDBCB20A2DB051536
 - 2006 Hummer H3 VIN 5GTDN136368158134
 - 2013 Nissan Pathfinder VIN 5N1AR2MMXDC612516
 - 2009 Nissan Rogue VIN JN8AS58V49W176592
 - 2005 Honda Accord VIN 1HGCM56495A118401
 - 2011 Ford Fusion VIN 3FAHP0JA3BR254381
 - 2005 Dodge Ram 2500 VIN 3D7KR28C95G722892
 - 2010 Honda Civic VIN 2HGFA1F55AH539986
 - 2011 Honda Civic VIN 2HGFA1F5XBH533179
- The sale will be held at Early's on Park Avenue 536 Park Avenue Worcester, MA 01603 01/30, 02/06, 02/13/2025

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 160 Bentley Road, Barre, MA 01005 and Assessor's Parcel E-136 By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Brian August Gentile to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Norwich Commercial Group, Inc. d/b/a Norcom Mortgage, and now held by Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC, said mortgage dated June 22, 2020 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 62641, Page 174, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage

Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Norwich Commercial Group, Inc., d/b/a Norcom Mortgage to Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC by assignment dated February 27, 2023 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 68864, Page 169; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction on March 6, 2025 at 1:00 PM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

The land with the buildings and improvements thereon situated at 160 Bentley Street, Barre, Massachusetts, more particularly bounded and described as follows:

PARCEL 1

A certain tract of land situated on the easterly side of Bentley Street in said Barre, being Lot #1 on a "Plan of Lots Owned by Leonard J. Bentley and Marion S. Bentley", drawn by R. H. Lonergan, C. E., bounded and described as follows: viz:

BEGINNING at the south-westerly corner thereof, at a corner of stone walls and in the easterly line of Bentley Street;

THENCE N. 59° 46' E. along a stone wall and other land of said Bentleys 125 feet to a corner;

THENCE N. 18° 45' W. Along other land of said Bentley designated as Lot #8 on said Plan, 115 feet to a corner;

THENCE S. 59° 46' W. along other land of said Bentley designated as Lot #2 on said Plan 125.3 feet to a point in a stone wall on the easterly line of Bentley Street;

THENCE S. 19° 05' E. along the line of said Street 115 feet to the place of beginning.

Said premises are to be used for residential purposes only, and are conveyed subject to the restriction that no dwelling house or portion thereof shall be erected or maintained within 40 feet of the easterly fine of Bentley Street.

Subject to all rights, restrictions, covenants and easements of record, insofar as the same may be in force and applicable.

PARCEL 2

A certain tract of land situated on the easterly side of Bentley Street in said Barre, being Lot #2 on a "Plan of Lots owned by Leonard J. Bentley and Marion

S. Bentley" drawn by R. H. Lonergan, C. E., bounded and described as follows, viz:

BEGINNING at the south-westerly corner thereof at a point in a stone wall in the easterly line of said street, at the northwesterly corner of Lot designated as #1 on the aforementioned plan;

THENCE North 59° 46' east along the northerly line of said Lot #1, 123.3 feet to a corner;

THENCE North 18° 45' west along other land of said Bentleys, being the westerly line of lot designated as #7 on said plan, 115 feet to a corner;

THENCE South 59° 46' west along other land of said Bentleys, being designated as Lot #3 on said plan, 125.6 feet to a point in a stone wall in the easterly line of Bentley Street;

THENCE South 19° 05' east along the easterly line of said Street 115 feet to the place of beginning.

For title reference see Deed record herewith.

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

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

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

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

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

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Plainville, MA 02762
Attorney for Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC
Present Holder of the Mortgage (401) 217-8701
02/06, 02/13, 02/20/2025

Cornerstone Bank donates to She's Local

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with locations throughout Central Massachusetts, is donating \$5,000 to She's Local, an organization working to empower women through local events that support, connect and inspire participants.

The money goes toward the group's Central Massachusetts Conference for Women on May 15 at the AC Hotel by Marriott in Worcester.

"Our employees have gained so much insight from the conference in

past years and we look forward to many more," said Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman. "We all rise together, so supporting our female colleagues makes us all better and positions us to best serve our clients."

Every year, She's Local brings as many as 300 women together for what has traditionally been a sold-out event featuring compelling speakers and special guests. The conference connects the region's vendors, sponsors, business owners and community leaders. In addition, the organization works to create

affordable, lasting experiences for women throughout the year.

"At Cornerstone, we know women play a vital role in our economy," said Tallman. "We're grateful for the women in our own workforce and appreciate the resources She's Local offers to support their professional growth and development."

Cornerstone Bank was formed in 2017, born of a long history of supporting the community, and providing a strong foundation to help people and businesses thrive. Serving Worcester County,

SERMONS

continued from page 12

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

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

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

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

"Disciples of Christ through God's Grace"

Scripture Reading: Luke 5 v 1-11

I. Introduction

When we acquire and develop new skills, especially those that were initially challenging but eventually mastered, is highly satisfying.

Bike riding or driving can be scary at first, but it's rewarding once you get past the fear. Similarly, it's delightful to see a child begin to walk after crawling and falling. Learning from and being around others who foster well-being, safety and peace is wonderful. Sometimes new people or experiences can help us progress from facing challenges to overcoming them. Let's have a look what happened when this newcomer, Jesus entered the lives of our fishermen at the Sea of Galilee.

II. When Jesus Appears in a Crisis

Simon and his friends were cleaning their nets after an unsuccessful fishing endeavor the previous night. They must have been extremely disappointed, tired and frustrated. While they were doing that, they received a visit from Jesus, who was at the Lake of Gennesaret (Sea of Galilee),

surrounded by a crowd listening to Him teaching.

Jesus got into Simon's boat and asked to move it slightly offshore, allowing Him to speak to the crowd in a calmer setting. Simon knew who Jesus was, because He, Jesus just miraculously healed his mother-in-law recently from a high fever. He also witnessed Jesus heal others who were the sick, drive out demons and speak about the Kingdom of God, leading him to ponder the mysterious acts of this man from Nazareth.

But, right now, Simon, with his friends, was concerned about food and how to take care of their families. Jesus, knowing what fishermen would have gone through, nudged Simon to push the boat a bit deeper into the waters and to let their nets down. I can envision Simon's frustration as he informs Jesus that they had already spent the entire night attempting to catch fish, but without success. "Master, but because you say so, I will put down the nets," he says. The passage describes how their boats were filled with fish to the point of the nets almost breaking, and even with the help of a second boat, they were close to sinking due to the weight.

III. Disciples of Christ, through the grace of God

What follows is one of the most powerful moments, when Simon fell at Jesus' feet, confessing his sins, and humbled himself before Christ, realizing he was in the presence of the Divine. He even forgot to show gratitude for what just happened, which was the natural thing to do in these circumstances.

The message delivered by Jesus profoundly impacted him and his ordinary life. The incidents with the fish, nearly broken nets, and sinking boats signified to him, James, and John the divine power in Jesus. The call of Jesus marked the transition from their lives as fishermen along the shores of the Sea of Galilee to new

experiences they would always remember. "From now on you will become fishermen of human beings."

You may be used to catching a few fish here and there, but you have now seen how the power of God works. You will become my disciples and many will follow you, because of the good news you will bring to all of them.

IV. Conclusion

Simon, who became Peter, experienced the grace of God in those moments. Seeing Jesus perform other miracles, it made sense to him when Jesus appeared at his time of struggle.

He had to surrender to His call to follow Him. Nothing held him back, not even all the fish they caught. We do not know what their family lives were like after those moments, but they left what they were doing and became Jesus' disciples, on a mission to bring the message of love and peace and compassion to their world.

The call to become disciples comes to all of us, and it can change our life's direction in unexpected ways, because when God shows up in our lives, it disrupts what we're busy with. It humbles us in ways nothing else does, because the Divine who reaches out to us as sinners, forgives us, heals us, and makes us fishers of others.

This... is the call of our church today, to learn new ways, not to exclude, or to stay the same, but to expand and fulfill God's will to multiply the disciples out there from different places and cultures and languages.

As disciples of Christ, each one of us must leave what we're busy with when the call from God comes, and then we must follow. May God show us the way of discipleship and help us see God's grace in our lives. Amen.

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

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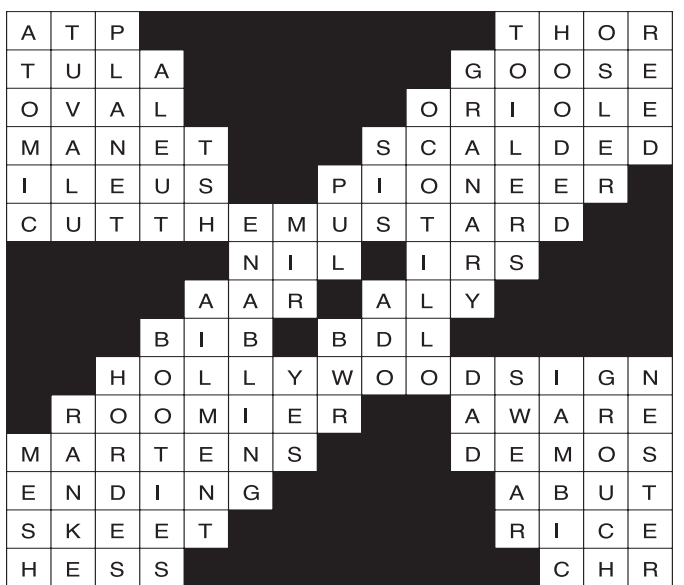
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Gas prices increase by a penny last week

WESTWOOD – The price for a gallon of regular unleaded gasoline across the Northeast is holding steady thanks to falling oil prices and a 12th straight week of rising gasoline inventories.

Regional supplies of gasoline rose by 3.5 million barrels last week as cold, wintry weather kept a lid on gasoline demand, which isn't unusual

for this time of year. Supplies now stand at 700,000 barrels above the 5-year average and 2.2 million barrels higher than the comparable week last year.

The price of crude oil, which accounts for more than half the cost to produce gasoline, fell last week by about 3% after President Donald Trump's 10% tariff on Canadian oil imports was

delayed by 30 days.

While supply and demand helps keep prices in check in the snowy Northeast, early signs of spring are popping up in petroleum markets. Mere weeks remain before U.S. refiners begin to transition to production of summer-blended fuel, which is more expensive to produce than the gasoline served to motorists in the

winter. The higher costs are beginning to appear in futures markets, with prices for March delivery of gasoline climbing last week by about 2.5%.

"Petroleum markets are in the midst of the winter doldrums as Americans drive less than any other time of year," said Mark Schieldrop, senior spokesperson for AAA Northeast. "Production has

held steady all winter, which is keeping supplies up and prices down – for now."

The average gas price in Massachusetts is up a penny from last week (\$3.02), averaging \$3.03 per gallon. Today's price is three cents higher than a month ago (\$3.00) and 13 cents lower than this day last year (\$3.16). Massachusetts' average gas

price is ten cents lower than the national average.

AAA Northeast's Feb. 10 survey of fuel prices found the current national average up four cents from last week (\$3.09), averaging \$3.13 gallon. Today's national average price is seven cents higher than a month ago (\$3.06) and five cents lower than this day last year (\$3.18).

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