

BARRE GAZETTE

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Fire Chief gives yearly report

By Ellenor Downer
editor
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BARRE – Fire Chief Robert Rogowski gave his yearly report to the Select Board for the Fire Department at the Monday, Feb. 5 meeting.

He said call volume went up mainly on the ambulance side; this was a trend in other Fire Departments as well. Barre Fire Department responded to 1,633 incidents in 2023 and there were 21 fires. He said there were 1,104 ambulance calls and of those calls, 26 were motor vehicle accidents.

He said Emergency Medical Services received 152 Mutual Aid calls and provided 111 Mutual Aid Assists. Chief Rogowski said the town mainly used Rutland for Advance Life Support intercept when Barre ALS was unable to respond. Rutland was on the way to Worcester and one of their paramedics met Barre's ambulance and got on board for the ride to the hospital. He said there were 63 simultaneous calls, which the ambulance service was able to handle.

Select Board member Mark Regienus asked why the ambulance collected only 63% on its billing. Rogowski said Medicaid and Medicare had set amounts they pay for ambulance service, which were lower than the billing amount. He said the town used an ambulance billing service and 63% was about average for receipts collected.

Hotspots

Select Board Chair Maureen Marshall invited Woods Memorial Library Director Joseph Hood to talk about using hotspots for Internet service. He said the library received a grant to purchase 10 hotspots from T Mobile in 2022. Hotspots used cell towers for a signal and ran multiple devices in a household.

Chair Marshall said she borrowed a hotspot from the library and gave it to a family member, who had no cable service. The hotspot worked well and the member purchased a hotspot at T Mobile. She said these devices would be an alternative solution to cable connection, which was estimated at \$750,000 for about 50 houses in town not served by Spectrum.

Marshall asked for a motion to use American Rescue Plan Act Funds to purchase an additional 10 hotspots for the library. The Board unanimously approved the purchase. Homeowners on not served roads would be able to take the devices out and try them. If the devices met their Internet needs, they could in turn purchase a hotspot for their home at a cost far less than cable hookup.

Springhill Road update

Matrix, the Internet provider in Petersham, was waiting on pole approval from Verizon to run their cable on the poles. Service would come from Petersham to Springhill Road residents.

Ware River Advisory Committee

Several representatives of the Ware River Advisory Committee attended the Select Board meeting about the installation of a pedestrian activated crossing at the intersection on Hubbardston Road, Route 62, and Granger and Gilbert Road. The Committee were concerned where trails crossed heavy traffic roads. They applied for a Mass Trail grant. The Select Board voted to support their endeavor to install a flashing crossing lot at the

See BARRE BOS, page 6

Town Hall serves up indoor pickleball

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

NEW BRAINTREE – Pickleball sessions are now being offered at the Town Hall.

This pickleball club has recently found a temporary home at the Town Hall. The club provides paddles and sessions for newcomers and regular pickleball players from the area.

Regular members of the pickleball club also provide helpful instructions for those who have never played before.

Running the pickleball club is pickleball player, Tom Clough.

Getting into pickleball this past summer, Clough wanted to provide a location for players in the town of New Braintree.

Clough first started playing at the pickleball courts at Grenville Park in Ware.

On a regular basis, about 10 pickleball players show up every open play session. Playing times are offered and scheduled to help accommodate the players who want to squeeze in some playtime during the week.

During the winter, Clough wanted to find an indoor location to play pickleball. After receiving

See PICKLEBALL, page 7



Deb Morrison, right, plays alongside friend Donna in a pickleball match.

Turley Photos by Ryan Drago



Tom Clough gives instructions to players prior to a game of pickleball. He runs the pickleball club at the Town Hall and enjoys seeing players having fun every week.

North Brookfield School Committee hears proposed FY 25 budget

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Superintendent Timothy McCormick presented the proposed fiscal year 2025 school budget to the School Committee.

McCormick also shared the school district's newly adopted mission statement, which states that the mission is to "empower every student to reach their full potential by providing a dynamic and inclusive learning environment that fosters creativity, critical thinking, and a sense of belonging. We are committed to continuous improvement, innovation, and the celebration of diversity, ensuring the delivery of high-quality education to all. We prepare our students for success in a global society by instilling qualities and skills to be contributing and effective citizens."

He said the mission statement frames the discussion they will have regarding the proposed budget.

At the School Committee's Jan. 22 meeting, McCormick said the entire administrative team was involved in the budget process, getting feedback from teachers and staff.

They looked at "what do we need, what do we have, and where do we want to be not only

next year, but years down the road," McCormick said.

Preservation of resources is a top priority for the FY 25 budget, but growth and improvement are also very important.

McCormick said the recommended budget with offsets for FY 25 is \$9,822,021.95, an increase of 8.5% over last year's approved budget. Offsets have also increased this year.

"We're looking at a much smaller increase," McCormick said. "It's obviously more than where we want to be." McCormick said the budget increase from FY 23 to FY 24 was initially 17%.

McCormick said there are three major budget drivers, including salaries which account for 64% of the total budget and 28% of the total increase. Salaries are expected to increase by \$220,764.31 or 4.7% over last year.

Special education will increase by \$97,761.32 or 6%. Three additional students will require out-of-district placements.

McCormick said there was a "huge spike" in out-of-district tuition costs last year, increasing by 14%; this year, the state allowed a 6% tuition increase.

Transportation is the third major driver for the FY 25

budget, seeing an increase of \$203,652.87 or 20.7% over the last fiscal year.

"Together, the increases to special education tuition, transportation and salaries from the FY 25 budget total \$522,177 which accounts for 82% of the total budget increase of 8.85%," he said. "In the absence of these three uncontrollable budget drivers, the budget increase would have been 1.6%."

McCormick said the budget process is still in the early stages prior to town meeting approval in the spring.

Career pathways

McCormick said there is a student population that doesn't have a clear plan for their future when they leave high school. He said the school district will be partnering with Vibram to give seniors a work-based learning experience.

"So that they can learn the soft skills they need to be successful in the workforce and then actually put some hours of work at Vibram," he said. "We had a great meeting with Vibram last week...we are just working on the details now."

McCormick said he and others feel this is the "next step"

See SCHOOL COMMITTEE, page 8

North Chester Farm to Nuremberg, part 1

Harriet Kelso Gilman recalls life on the farm

Editor's note: This is the first part of a two part story. The second part will appear in the Feb. 15 edition.

By Kathryn Koegel
Correspondent

NORTH CHESTER – To speak with Harriet Kelso Gilman is to wonder at a life well and complexly lived.

She will be 103 this year, but places, dates and people trip off her tongue. She lived through extraordinary times in world history – the Great Depression, WWII, the Cold War – yet her touchstone was always a farm on Bromley Road in North Chester.

Every year her descendants, two sons, now nearing their 80s and assorted grandchildren come back to help prune, mulch and fertilize the blueberries that burst forth juicy and sweetly tart in the summer sun. The Gilman family were pioneers in both taming the wilderness of the Hilltowns of Western Massachusetts and participants in one of the most pivotal reckonings in human history: the Nuremberg Trials.



Photo by Kathryn Koegel

Harriet Kelso Gilman will turn 103 this year.

I met Mrs. Gilman at the encouragement of her son, Lee. I had happened upon the Kelso farm in North Chester on a hot July day when blueberries seem as if they are already half jam. Lee Gilman offered me the unsaleable blueberry seconds as he discerned that anyone, who had picked 20 pounds of them must have a very specific task in mind. I sat and had tea with Mrs. Gilman and found her utterly present and positive about her life both past and present.

As Mrs. Kelso Gilman recounts it, the first Kelsos were Scottish Presbyterians, seekers of religious freedom who came to the US in 1780 by way of Ireland. They landed in Boston, and her first U.S. ancestor, Hugh, went to Worcester

See GILMAN, page 8



News of the Towns



Round Town
Ellenor Downer
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Food Pantry to hold distribution
The Barre Food Pantry will hold a distribution on Thursday evening, Feb. 15 from 5:30-7 p.m. To maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients the Feb. 15 distribution will again be "drive-through" style. 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.

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

The Annual Town Election will be held on Monday, April 1 from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. The last day to register to vote in the annual town election will be on Friday, March 22 at 5 p.m.

Fridays with friends
Fridays with Friends will be held on Friday, Feb. 16 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. at the Woods Memorial Library, 19 Pleasant St., Barre in the multipurpose room for school age children. Different activities are held each week ranging from arts and crafts to Science Technology Engineering Arts and Mathematics based challenges all meant to bring the community closer together. The program is held Fridays during January, February and March and is recommended for ages five plus.

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. 19. 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 meals served

TUESDAY – Chicken Pesto, Delmonico potatoes, Scandinavian vegetables, fresh fruit, pumpernickel bread

WEDNESDAY – Roast pork loin with gravy, apple cornbread stuffing, cabbage and carrots, peaches, marble rye bread

THURSDAY – American chop suey, broccoli and red peppers, corn, birthday cake, diet = small piece French bread

FRIDAY – Potato crunch fish, potatoes au gratin, peas and carrots, apple crisps, diet = applesauce, tarts sauce, sandwich roll

*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.

Editorial deadline reminder

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



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Lions Clubs holds blood drives

PETERSHAM - The Petersham Lions Club in partnership with the Grafton Lions Club sponsored the Massachusetts General Hospital Bloodmobile recently.

In response to a nationwide shortage and a constant need for blood, on a beautiful sunny February day, generous donors registered and arrived to donate blood at the Grafton Lions Club. Forty-one adult donors and one teen donor became lifesavers from their donations.

MGH's bloodmobile is a self-contained bus that has four recliners for those donating and wonderful friendly highly experienced staff of registered nurses and phlebotomists. Drinks and snacks were offered afterward.

The entire process takes 30-45 minutes including completing paperwork, a prescreening by a Bloodmobile staff member and the actual donation, which itself takes only 7 to 10 minutes. Donors are able to book appointments on line through the MGH Bloodmobile website by visiting <https://blooddonor.massgeneral.org/donor/schedules/geo> and each time slot has between two and four donation openings. The exclusion criteria are also listed on the website and with the advancements in blood testing, processing and medical care, there are very few exceptions.

A member of the Petersham Lions Club donated at Montachusett Regional Technical High School several years ago and as a medical professional was highly impressed with the efficiency, safety and professionalism of the event. This prompted her to reach out to Massachusetts General Hospital to sponsor a drive by the Petersham Lions.

Due to a national blood safety regulation, the bloodmobile has a defined time and mileage requirement to be able to get the bus and staff to the location and the donated blood back to the MGH blood bank for processing.

This eliminated Petersham as a location for the bloodmobile, so the Club reached out to other Lions Clubs in the district and both Grafton Lions and Harvard Lions stepped up to partner with Petersham. In addition, Petersham contacted Monty Tech and was warmly welcomed by the Principal and two seniors in the National Honor Society to also



Submitted photos

A Lions Club mascot lays in one of the four recliners or those donating blood in the Massachusetts General Hospital Bloodmobile.

sponsor a drive as their senior project.

Blood cannot be manufactured or created. Only a person can donate blood. One pint can serve up to three adults and even more children and babies. Blood is needed for those with medical conditions needing regular transfusions, surgery patients and trauma victims.

It could go to a newborn just fighting to stay alive, a young child battling leukemia, a teen in a car accident, a young woman with anemia, a middle-aged man with a bleeding ulcer or an elderly woman having a heart operation.

According to facts from the MGH Blood Center, about a pint of blood is taken and adults have between 9 and 12 pints. Your body will replace the blood within 24 hours. Donors need only wait eight weeks between donations, so they can give often, up to six times a year.

Less than 3% of the population donates, yet 80% will need a transfusion of one or more units in their lifetime. In less than an hour, people can save up to three lives.

The Petersham/Harvard Lions Club drive will be Saturday March 30 at the Clear Path for Veterans Building at Devens and



The Petersham Lions Club in partnership with the Grafton Lions Club sponsored the Massachusetts General Hospital Bloodmobile recently.

on Saturday, May 4 at Monty Tech High School in partnership with the Petersham Lions Club. As arrangements are finalized, the locations and sign-ups will appear on the MGH Blood Center Upcoming Blood Drives web page, people may visit <https://blooddonor.massgeneral.org/donor/schedules/geo>.

The Lions hope to see you at one of the blood drives.

Hubbardston

Ellenor Downer
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Scholarship Dinner

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

Country Hen Scholarship

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

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

Hubbardston Community Theatre

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

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

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

Dog licenses

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

Senior center events

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

EQLT announces plans for Rutland Road property

OAKHAM – Cynthia Henshaw, Executive Director of East Quabbin Land Trust, said plans are for the former Eva Grimes property to remain a farm.

Eva Grimes was a cornerstone in the Oakham farming community, having run the Youth Fair for decades and mowed many of the town's hay fields over the years to feed her cattle. Her wish was to see her land on Rutland Road remain a farm, growing food and not houses. The East Quabbin Land Trust recently started that process by taking down the farmhouse. Eva's trailer was removed last year.

The barn will remain and is a good structure for a future farming operation despite needing repairs.

The vision is to sell the parcel with the barn and a building envelope, providing a future farmer with the space to start their business in a house and farmstead of their own. A request for proposal bid will be released soon, seeking a farmer or farm family wanting to grow vegetables, berries, fruit or raise small animals in ways that improve soil health. The fields south of Rutland Road will be available for lease to the farmer too.

The hiking trail off Ware Corner Road will continue to be available for walking, bird watching and nature study, known as Eva's Woods and one of the East Quabbin Land Trust's twenty-four preserves found throughout the region open to the public.

Town Clerk lists town election information

BARRE – Town Clerk Ellen Glidden said there is only one contest on the Annual Town Election ballot, a three-year term to the Select Board.

Candidates for the Select Board seat are Maureen M. Marshall, candidate for re-election and Richard C. Stevens. The last day and time for candidates to withdraw their name from the ballot is Wednesday, Feb. 28 at 5 p.m.

Other candidates on the Monday, April 1 ballot are Robert W. A. Leroux, Board of Assessors for three-years and candidate for re-election; Michael B. Radesky, Board of Health for three-years, candidate for re-election; James Edward Caruso, Water Commissioner; John J. Chase, Sewer Commissioner for three years and candidate for re-election; Paul M. Cranston, Felton Field Commissioner for three years; David A. Deschamps,

Library Trustee for three-years, candidate for re-election and Cherie E. Benoit, Library Trustee for three-years and candidate for re-election - votes elect two Library Trustees; Dylan S. Clark, Library Trustee for two years; Edward Floyd Kelley, Planning Board for five-years and candidate for re-election; Karen Keegan, Planning Board for one-year; Michael A. LaRose, Planning Board Associate Member for one-year and two positions for Quabbin Regional School District three years; Stanley John "Lee" Wolanin, candidate for re-election and David A. Deschamps, candidate for re-election.

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

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

The last day to register to vote for the Annual Town Election election is Friday, March 22 at 5 p.m.

Election, candidate, voting or voter registration questions should be emailed to Town Clerk, Ellen Glidden at clerk@townofbarre.com or by calling 978-355-2504 extension 5.

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Corrections

Several of the photos in the Established Edition pages, which were in the Feb. 8 edition, had the wrong outlines.

On page 12 Ewells Spa is the white house with the pillars on Brigham Street and not the Jonas G. Clark house that is on Main Street. Brekka and Brekka is the white house on the corner of Elm Street and Worcester Road and not the Jonas G. Clark house. It is across from Wheelers Store.

On page 13 the picture of the Jacob Waite Brekka and Brekka house is not the tea room and pool room and barbershop that is the house on Main Street that Jonas G. Clark built.

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News of the Towns

PUBLIC MEETINGS

BARRE.

Sewer Commission – Feb. 15 at 7 p.m.
 Board of Assessors – Feb. 20 at 6 p.m.
 Select Board – Feb. 20 at 6 p.m.
 Planning Board – Feb. 20 at 7 p.m.
 Cemetery Commission – Feb. 22 at 11 a.m.
 Finance Committee – Feb. 27 at 6:30 p.m.
 Conservation Committee – Feb. 27 at 7 p.m.
 250th Anniversary Committee – Feb. 28 at 6:30 p.m.
 Primary Election Day – March 5 from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.
 Felton Field Commission – March 5 at 6:30 p.m.
 Council on Aging – March 6 at 12:30 p.m.
 Insurance Advisory Committee – March 7 at 1:30 p.m.
 Board of Health – March 11 at 5 p.m.
 Water Commission – March 11 at 6:30 p.m.
 DPW Commission – March 11 at 7 p.m.
 Barre Housing Authority – March 14 at 3 p.m.
 Town Election Day – April 1 from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

HARDWICK

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

HUBBARDSTON

Board of Health – Feb. 15 at 7 p.m.
 Emergency Management Committee – Feb. 20 at 3:30 p.m.
 Council on Aging – Feb. 20 at 4 p.m.
 Conservation Commission Public Hearing – March 5 at 7 p.m.
 Community Preservation Committee – March 5 at 7 p.m.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

Town Administrator Search Committee – Feb. 15 and Feb. 22 at 6:30 p.m.
 Green Gold Group Community Outreach – Feb. 20 at 5 p.m.
 Planning Board – Feb. 21 and March 20 at 6 p.m.
 Board of Selectmen – Feb. 27, March 12 and March 26 at 6 p.m.
 Downtown Development Committee – March 4 at 6:30 p.m.
 Presidential Primary – March 5 from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

OAKHAM.

Select Board – Feb. 20, Feb. 26, March 4, 11, 18 and 25 at 6 p.m.
 Planning Board Public Hearing – Feb. 27 at 7:15 p.m.
 Presidential Primary – March 5 from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

PETERSHAM

Board of Health – Feb. 15 at 6 p.m.
 Petersham Historic District – Feb. 15 at 6 p.m.
 Core Planning Team – Feb. 19, Feb. 22, Feb. 26, March 4, March 11, March 18 and March 25 at 1:30 p.m.
 Planning Board – Feb. 22 at 7 p.m.
 Broadband Municipal Light Plant Board – Feb. 28 at 7 p.m.
 Board of Assessors – March 5 and March 12 at 5:30 p.m.
 Open Space and Recreation Committee – March 5 at 6 p.m.
 Conservation Commission – March 5 at 7:30 p.m.
 Council on Aging – March 11 at 10 a.m.

RUTLAND

Finance Committee – Feb. 15 at 5:30 p.m.
 Planning Board – Feb. 15 at 5:30 p.m.
 Select Board – Feb. 15 at 5:30 p.m.
 Special Winter Town Meeting – Feb. 15 at 6 p.m.
 Planning Board Public Hearing – Feb. 27 at 6:30 p.m.

Historical Society holds ‘What is this?’ event Feb. 25

PETERSHAM – The Petersham Historical Society, 10 North Main St., Route 32, will open its doors on Sunday, Feb. 25 from 2-4 p.m. for a “What is This?” mystery reception.

Refreshments and warm good cheer will be served to brighten up the winter’s day. The public may drop in to see the current historical displays and give their guesses or knowledge about what mystery objects have been found in the collection.

“We’d like to share the fascination and fun of looking at these items, so we’re inviting everyone to come by, bring ideas and share their own mystery objects, if they’d like to,” says Petersham Historical Society Vice President, Barbara Hanno. “We’ve been working through the collections to identify and catalog objects, so we’d

love to see other people’s mystery items and have some hints, to know more about our own,” she said.

Some of the objects may not be familiar to modern times or their origins and history may have become obscure. One mystery item that was identified is a fluting machine. The small machine from the late

1800s has a hand crank to turn and ribbons and cloth can be rolled through it to create a fluted effect, for the trim on a dress or sleeve.

“When a group has unanswered history questions, it’s great to come together to talk and share ideas,” says Larry Buell, Historical Society Program Director and Historian. “And remember, there are more questions than answers.”

If anyone has questions, they may email petershamhistorical@gmail.com.



Submitted photo

The Petersham Historical Society offers a “What is This?” event on Sunday, Feb. 25 from 2-4 p.m. This is a fluting machine.

Q-DRUG celebrates 10th anniversary

BARRE – Quabbin Drug Response Unifying Group celebrates the 10 year anniversary of their work in the community in 2024.

It has been 10 years of changing the perceptions of youth substance use to know it is not inevitable. Most youths are making really healthy choices.

Perceptions they hope to change include the ways people respond to those using substances and being more compassionate and understanding while not allowing it to be a norm or acceptable. Other perceptions to change are the ways people view substance use disorder/addiction and to understand that it is a health concern just like any other disease and the ways the community views youth in the region to be more optimistic.

Q-DRUG made a lot of great changes over the past 10 years, but they have work that they still need to do. On Saturday March 23, Q-DRUG will be holding their 10th Anniversary Celebration. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased by emailing quabbin.drug@gmail.com or contacting any board or staff member of Q-DRUG (Kathy Inman, Greg Devine, Tracy or Jeff LaRosa, Janice

Handrahan, Mary Whitelaw, or Nehr Jenkins). RSVPs are requested by Friday, March 1. To donate items for the silent auction, people may contact Tracy LaRosa or email at quabbin.drug@gmail.com.

Q-DRUG is also excited to have the return of inspirational speaker, Chris Herren on Thursday, March 7 at 6 p.m. Chris was a galvanizing factor in the creation of Q-DRUG when he spoke 10 years ago. His message of being proud of yourself, and supporting each other has been the driving idea behind all of our work. Chris has spoken to millions of people since he first spoke at Quabbin and his message is just as powerful and important today as it was when we first heard it.

Q-DRUG is also holding their second annual decorating contest. They invite all of local businesses and families to decorate their space in support of the local community. They invite all to show their support for youth and community members choosing to be substance free as well as any community member, young or old, in the Quabbin District working hard to recover from substance use disorder.

Everyone’s support really

does make a difference in the choices that local youth are making. Knowing that the entire community cares about them and they are not alone in the decisions they are facing, makes a difference. Often teens feel very alone and isolated, this is an opportunity for all to show children in this community that no one struggles alone, that they are all here to help and support them.

It is also a great annual conversation starter for families in the region. It is a reminder that talking to children, nieces and nephews, grandchildren, students, athletes, neighbors or however they are connected to youth, about the potential harm of substance use and that they care about the choices they are making.

If people are unsure of how to hold those conversations, there is great information on the Q-DRUG website. Registration is required to participate in the contest and to win one of the numerous prizes. Registration deadline is Wednesday, Feb 28.

If people are unable to attend, but want to support the efforts, donations are always appreciated, as are social media support and shares.

Oakham

Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com



Dog licenses due March 31

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

Open house

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

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

Church breakfast

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

Senior center activities

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

Nature Club to meet Feb. 25

PETERSHAM – Ware River Nature Club Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, Feb. 5 from noon-5 p.m. at Harvard Forest, Route 32.

A catered meal will be served and the meeting will feature two guest speakers who will talk about different aspects of animal migration, Dr. Cory Elowe and Dr. Alex Haro. Attendees will have an opportunity to bid on a selection of silent auction items.

Participants need not be members to attend the meeting or take part in the auction. Meeting reservations may be made by visiting the Club’s website at www.warivernatureclub.org. For more information, people may call 413-967-4737 or email warivernatureclub@yahoo.com.

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HUBBARDSTON SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
Valentine’s Day Roast Beef Dinner
 FEB. 17, 2024
 HUBBARDSTON ROD & GUN CLUB
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 Adults \$15 • Kids \$8
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Opinion

Guest Column



By Russell Gloor

How is my Social Security benefit calculated?

Dear Rusty

I appreciate your recent article dispelling the myth that politicians have stolen Social Security money.

As a Certified Public Accountant, I dispel this myth repeatedly to clients, who falsely claim SS funds have been raided. But another thing I deal with often is how SS benefits are calculated. I know the formula for determining each person's benefit amount is complex, but I have had to explain numerous times that those, who put the most into Social Security get the lowest rate of return and those who put the least in get the highest return based on the way the benefit formula is structured.

I get tired of people complaining that monthly Social Security payments are higher for retired doctors and other highly paid individuals. Can you please explain how Social Security is weighted in favor of lower income workers?

Signed Tired of the Misunderstandings

Dear Tired

Please don't be frustrated. Because of the program's complexity, Social Security is prone to misunderstanding and educating the misinformed is an important professional duty we share. Here's how each person's SS benefit is determined:

The first thing to know is that each person's SS retirement benefit is not based on their financial contributions to the program. Social Security's purpose is to provide a benefit, which replaces a portion of the person's pre-retirement income, so the SS benefit is based on actual lifetime earnings, not on the payroll taxes withheld from those earnings.

Social Security has your lifetime earnings record, obtained annually from the IRS and that record determines your "Primary Insurance Amount." Your "PIA" is initially determined in your eligibility year usually age 62 and is the amount you will get if you claim for benefits to start exactly at your Full Retirement Age.

To develop your PIA, Social Security first adjusts (indexes) each year of your lifetime earnings up to the annual payroll tax cap to account for inflation. They then select the 35 inflation-adjusted years in which you earned the most, from which they compute your average monthly earnings over your lifetime, this is called your Average Indexed Monthly Earnings. They then break your AIME into three segments, the first of which includes a majority of and possibly all of your AIME.

They then take a percentage of each segment and total those three amounts to determine your PIA. The first segment is the largest and 90% of that first segment contributes most of your PIA. Smaller percentages of the other two segments (32% and 15% respectively if your AIME is higher), are then added to the first computation to arrive at your full PIA - the amount you get if you start benefits in the month you reach your FRA. Note that since most of the PIA comes from the first large segment of each person's AIME, lower income workers get a higher percentage of their lifetime average monthly amount.

Since benefits are based on earnings, those with lower lifetime earnings do, indeed, get a smaller benefit than those with higher average lifetime earnings, but the percentage of pre-retirement replacement income lower income workers receive is higher than for those with higher monthly average lifetime earnings. The Social Security benefit for lower income workers is typically about 40% of their pre-retirement average monthly income, while those with higher lifetime average earnings may get a benefit as little as 20% of their average monthly pre-retirement earnings.

In that sense, the Social Security benefit formula is progressive and weighted in favor of lower income workers. Nevertheless, albeit a smaller replacement percentage, higher income workers receive a higher monthly SS benefit because of their higher lifetime earnings. Even so, those higher earners did, indeed, contribute more payroll taxes from their higher earnings.

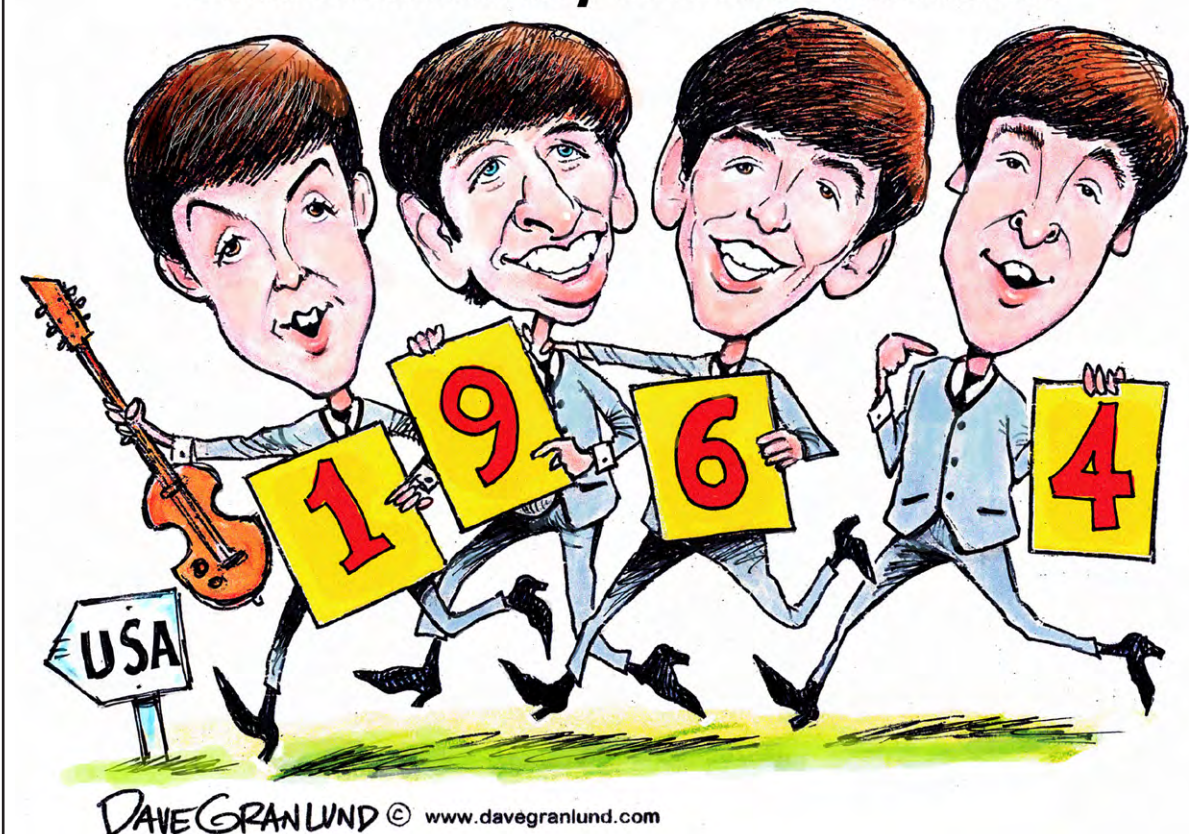
See SOCIAL SECURITY, page 6

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.

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60th Anniversary of Beatles invasion



In Past Pages

5 years (Feb. 21, 2019)

Andrea Colyer and her husband, Tom, have lived in Hubbardston for 34 years and or nearly all of those years attending the annual Valentine's Day roast beef dinner sponsored by the Hubbardston Scholarship Committee is an event they never miss. "We come every year," Andrea Colyer said. "We come to support the cause and we like to come to community events. The Colyers along with close to 140 other diners, attended the annual event last Saturday night, held at the Hubbardston Rod and Gun Club. "We always have this event around Valentine's Day," president of the Scholarship Committee, Flo Pervier said.

Barre Selectmen discussed Stetson School security protocol with Police Chief John Carbone. The protocol includes sending two officers and asking for an ambulance on standby when notified of an "elopement" during dangerous weather conditions. The Chief said he would like to be noted immediately when the staff knows a student let campus. Seven Hills/Stetson School said they ind most of the students within 20 minutes. The Police Chief also said he would like to receive via email a photo of the student if available and given a description. Chief Carbone said the Stetson student that left campus ad stole a car had two outstanding warrants for similar incidents in Connecticut. Connecticut was moving for extradition. The student is currently in the Massachusetts House of Correction.

A letter from the New Braintree Selectmen said the letter notifying them of the Quabbin Regional School District Committee voted did not get sent to them within the seven days. In the letter, the board said it was not going to schedule a Town Meeting. At the time o the vote to begin the school closure process as outlined in the regional agreement for the New Braintree Grade School, there was a concern of whether it was a weighted vote or a numerical vote. The weighted voted did not meet the 23 needed. Later, the school's legal counsel discovered there was an error in the weighted vote calculation due to a spreadsheet error, which did not calculate a vote. The QRSD Committee then sent a letter to the New Braintree Town Clerk notifying her o the results It was 31 days later.

10 years (Feb. 13, 2014)

The Oakham Finance Committee decided to hold of on a request from Highway Superintendent C. Kevin Currier to deficit spend on the snow and ice accounts until they could meet with Currier, Finance Chair Paul Rochette explained the both the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committe must approve the request for deficit spending. Selectmen approved the Highway Superintendent's request for deficit spending at their Feb. 3 meeting. The vote was two to one.

The Hubbardston Board of Selectmen received a letter of resignation from board member Christopher Norcross. He said that he was moving out of town. The three selectmen present Dr. Michael Stauder, Daniel Galante and Jeffery

LOOK BACK Barre Arts Association - 1997



File photo
Jeff Demarest, a carver, was one of the artists displaying his works at the Barre Town Hall. The event was sponsored by the Barre Arts Association.

Williams, accepted his resignation with regret. Both Norcross and Matthew Castriotta were not present.

It was recently brought to the Barre Water Department's attention tha the Barre Water Department's 2012 Consumer Confidence Report did not comply with all of the content requirements of 300 CMR 22.16A of the Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulations. The notice is to inform residents tha an ammended verson of the 2012 CCR will be provided to them along with the new 2013 CCRk on or beore June 20. There is no issue with the drinking water at this time.

25 years (Feb. 18, 1999)

The New Lie Assembly of God Church and the Barre Mill Restaurant in South Barre were

reportedly broken into the early morning hours of Saturday, Feb. 13. Nick Coppolino of the Barre Mill Restuarant said doors were borken at his establishment and cash and lottery tickets were taken. At the church, the building was reportedly ransacked and some equipment was stolen. Coppolino said this is the second time this has happened at his restaurant. Last time it was the week of Christmas and the culprits were never found. This year, Coppolino and the Rev. Kenneth Valardi of the church are offering a \$200 reward for any informationn leading to an arrest in the thefts.

About a dozen town town employees attended the selectmen's meeting Tuesday night to request that the town pay 75% of their health insurance premiums rather than the 51% percent paid now. Richard Janskauskas, spokesman for the group said other towns pay up to 90% of employees health insurance premiums and he feels the town's share should be increased in

Barre. Town Administrator Lorraine Leno will calculate what it will cost the town to raise the percentage and she will give the information to the town's finance committee or a recommendation before selectmen act on the request.

Each of the ive towns in the Quabbin Regioal School District recently completed elementary building projects and the addition-renovation project at the middle-high school is so ew hthat finishing work is still in progress. Already one of the schools, the Hubbardston Elementary is nearing capacity. At a meeting eb. 11 of the Quabbin Regional School District Committee, a committee was established to study school building needs in tht town. The committee will include Principal Joan Paula, the Superintendent's designee; current Selectmen and school board members; Mark Dyek, town Finance Committee member and residents, Eileen Aldrich and Lynn Wilkerson.

38 years (Feb. 20, 1986)

Over \$50,000 in damages were claimed in a fire tht swept through a large Prentiss Hill Road home on Sunday afternoon. Even though firefighters were hampered by difficulty in getting water, they responded quickly and were able to save the structure. John Prentiss and his family occupied the home, which is owned by Kenneth Preniss. John's three children were there at the time of the fire. According to fire chief, Roger Knipe, a creosote build-up in the ireplace was the cause of the fire. The heat in the chimney built up causing the liner to crack and the fire to spread across the mantle and through the partitions.

Quabbin Regional High School

See PAST PAGES, page 7

Guest Column



Gardening questions that pose a challenge

A recent visit to mom's house prompted the following question about poinsettias.

Now, don't worry, I haven't forgotten what the date is. Sure, the poinsettia hasn't been in it's glory for a few weeks now, but that doesn't mean she is going to give up on it.

You see, my mother likes a challenge, especially when it comes to plants. She wanted some advice on how to encourage new healthy growth before trying to coax it into re-bloom next fall.

Read on to learn how it's done:

In early April cut back the plant to eight inches. Fertilize with an all-purpose houseplant fertilizer once a month. New growth should appear by the end of May.

After the danger of frost has passed, move the plant outdoors. Continue to water but increase fertilization to every two weeks.

Pinch plants in late June or early July to promote bushy growth. At this time you may also wish to report the poinsettia. Select a pot one size larger, filling around the root ball with a good potting soil.

Bring the plant indoors as temperatures fall in late summer.

The poinsettia is photoperiodic, and long nights of uninterrupted darkness encourage it to bloom. In greenhouses, growers go to great lengths to withhold light, as even small amounts can delay or stop the plant from setting bud.

At home, putting the plant in the closet for 14 hours each night is your best bet. Setting a reminder alarm or making a note helps to keep on track.

Most people get on a 5 p.m.-8 a.m. schedule beginning Oct. 1 and continue it for eight-10 weeks until color shows on the bracts. Night temperatures should be no higher than 70 degrees or flowering may be delayed.

This all sounds fairly straight forward. I think the biggest frustration for her over the years has been missing a night of darkness, especially near the end of the routine.

Sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't. Still fun to try, however.

A friend of mine recently asked what I thought of the cloth grow bags that are all the rage right now. Although I haven't used them myself, another friend, Chris, has been gardening up a storm the last few years using these bags.

She has an amazing flower border that you would think is growing in the ground, but it is a collection of dozens of bags in various sizes, holding everything from cannas to dahlias, zinnias and marigolds. She has great success with potatoes and other vegetables, too.

Read on to learn about the benefits of these bags.

I guess the one benefit that I never thought of is breathability. Because the fabric is permeable there is good air exchange, the roots grow to the edge, are air-pruned and branch out.

See GARDEN, page 7

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

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Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

MEXICAN CRINKLES

- 3/4 cup shortening
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/4 cup corn syrup
- 1 3/4 cups flour sifted
- 2 one ounce squares of melted chocolate
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 cup sugar for rolling

Cream shortening, egg and sugar. Stir in syrup and chocolate. Stir in flour, baking soda, salt and cinnamon. Stir to make dough balls and roll in sugar. Place balls on ungreased baking sheet three inches apart. Bake 350 degrees oven for 15 minutes. Makes three dozen of three inch cookies.

This and That

There is not much happening on Serenity Hill this week. I have been trying to pick over papers and filing them where they belong. The income taxes are completed so that is one more thing off my mind.

I made a meat loaf and will use the rest for sandwiches for the second day. It is one of my favorite sandwiches made with mayonnaise.

I bought a can of salmon and will have salmon wriggle instead of shrimp wriggle. My friend Nancy said she does that. I will make it with a white sauce and canned peas and serve it on saltines.

February is usually the month gardeners start their tomato and pepper plants. I guess the only garden we will have this year is in the planter boxes on the deck.

Once the snow goes away and spring comes, there will be a lot of leaves to rake as we did not rake the back lawn in the fall.

The daffodils and hostas will come right up through the leaves. I can't wait until spring to come. Keep healthy.

Saturday sure felt like spring, but the weather man is predicting snow for Tuesday so I guess we are not over winter yet.

I shoveled off the rest of the snow on the deck on Saturday to make room for more, I found a couple of guessing games that we used to play at the Historical Society Christmas parties. I gave one of the quizzes to the handyman to see how many tools he could identify. I have another one with pictures of silverware items for him to guess.

I have been rereading Eric Sloane's barn and tool books. It is interesting to learn the names of tools that are no longer used. Eric Sloane used to visit the Morgan Farm and he painted a scene of the farm on an old iron fry pan, which was originally in the Dana House at Morgan Farm. I wonder where it went now that the Morgans have left the area?

I love to go into the eBay site on the computer and look at old vintage items to find out what the value of things I may have.

I was given a lot of upholstery fabric and have made bags to store many of my items. Recently, I stored away the artificial greens and berries I had out for the winter season in some of those bags I made. I am still rooting some house plants and planted some coleus and cactus in pots that rooted.

Here is a recipe for cookies that I have enjoyed making over the years. In fact, I won first prize for this recipe at the Nonesuch Street Fair several years ago.

For several years this fair was held on the Town Common sponsored by the First Parish Unitarian Church. Many booths were set up there and contests held. Also, the Historical Society used to hold a yard sale there each year and charged so much for people to have a booth.

Library hosts Valentine's Day cardmaking event

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

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Hoston Free Public Library hosted a valentine making event last Thursday evening for the community.

It was filled with conversations and plans of who to give these beautifully crafted cards to. Amy Vessella hosts monthly adult craft nights for the community to enjoy a relaxing and creative time.

"I feel like it's a good way for people to connect with their inner child," Vessella said. "It gives adults a time to escape and do some crafts."

The group gathered included Linda and her caretaker Jenn as well as Ellen and Laura, friends who enjoy coming to the craft nights the library hosts.

The holiday of Valentine's Day is usually a time for couples, but it can also be a time to express love for one's friends and family.

Linda's favorite part about Valentine's Day is simply "love", and Jenn agreed with her. "I love the general spirit of comradeship," Jenn said. "Everyone is thinking about love, romantic or otherwise."



Turley Photo by Emily-Rose Pappas

Laura and Ellen are shown standing with their cards behind Linda and Jenn, ready to give their beautifully made cards to their valentines.

Ellen talked about her favorite parts of Valentine's Day including making cookies for her grandchildren as she made a card for her

husband. "I like to celebrate loved ones, too," Laura said. "My husband, who is my number-one Valentine,



By Ellenor Downer

American Goldfinch winter plumage



I received an email from a Brimfield resident who counted 36 plus American goldfinch in his yard during a snow storm. The next day he saw about a dozen.

I also had about 20 plus goldfinch eating on the ground under my feeder. I had seen two or three mixed in with juncos and sparrows from time to time, but not this many. In winter, they are found in flocks that wander in search of food.

The American goldfinch is five inches long. The male during breeding season has a bright yellow body and black cap, wings and tail. The wings also have white bars. The female is yellowish, green overall with black wings and tail.

In winter, the male looks more like the female with a yellowish brown, yellowish wash on the face and chin and black wings with white wing bars. The female in winter is grayish brown with a little yellow and dark brown wings with white wing bars.

Goldfinch feed on the ground, on weed stalks, thistles and foliage. At feeders, they prefer hulled sunflowers and thistle (Niger) seeds.

The female lays three to seven light, blue eggs in a nest of strands from weeds and vines, downy elements from wind-dispersed seeds such as thistles bound with caterpillar webbing placed in a shrub or tree.

Bluebirds

A flock of about eight male and female bluebirds continue to come to my raisin suet cake and the feeder with mealworms. I fill it once or twice during the day as I enjoy watching them as I work at my desk. During the snow on Tuesday, they visited the mealworm feeder and suet feeder frequently. The blue against the white snow was almost as striking as the red of the cardinal against fresh snow.

Bald eagles

I received a photo of a pair of bald eagles taken by a Palmer resident at Forest Lake in Palmer. They were in the top of a pine tree by the lake.

Brimfield birds

A Brimfield resident sends emails of the birds in his yard on a regular basis. He said, "One day last week a Carolina wren showed up for a day. The warm brown coloration of the bird caught my eye when I glanced out at the feeders. It was feeding on the suet cakes and the 'log' made of suet, berries and mealworms."

He counted 36 plus goldfinch in the yard during a snow storm. The next day there were over a dozen still about. Usually it is three or four goldfinch that show up.

He shared an email from a friend in Belchertown, "We had a female redwing at the seed trays today. It's unusual to get one here this early. We also had four bluebirds show up and munch on the suet. They seem to make a visit when the weather is crappy."

The Belchertown resident also said, "We're inundated with goldfinch. The thistle seed bag is covered with them. I had to fill the hearts feeder three times today due to the numbers of goldfinch around."

The Brimfield resident reported a large number of juncos, four white-throated sparrows and come house finch. He said, "A pileated woodpecker did a fly by the other day. That is how we most often see them although a few years ago a male was coming to our suet feeders. The female came close to the feeders but never feed that I saw." His wife drove past Wheeler Pond in town and was surprised to see the pond was not completely frozen and that there were two pair of hooded mergansers on the pond.

Birds on Feb. 13

The Brimfield resident observed ten species of birds in his yard during the snow on Tuesday, Feb. 13. He counted five mourning doves, one downy woodpecker, one hairy woodpecker, two black-capped chickadees, three tufted titmice, two house finches, one American goldfish and 80 dark-eyed juncos.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette,

Paige Memorial Library lists upcoming events

HARDWICK – The Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, offers books, newspapers, movies, books on CD, puzzles, games, museum passes, story hour, computers, printers, wifi, books for sale and support for whatever they need to know.

If the library staff can't find it, they will try their best to find someone who can. The library has a writing group, Paige Writers, which is an enjoyable social experience dedicated to stress-free writing and sharing ideas and memories. People can build confidence in their abilities at the Paige

Memorial Library on Tuesdays at 3 p.m. for an adventure in creativity. People may either email for more information at director.paigelibrary@gmail.com or call 413-477-6704.

The library staff is developing a Cooking Club at the library. The first meeting is on Wednesday, Feb. 28 at 4 p.m. There will be beef barley soup and an open agenda to collect ideas and set the time and days to meet. The idea is to choose, test and share recipes but how often and when is up to the participants. They should let staff know their preferences. People may email the

Paige Library for more information at director.paigelibrary@gmail.com or calling 413-477-6704 or just come Wednesday, Feb. 28 at 4 p.m.

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

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

Nomination papers available for May 4 election

HARDWICK – Nomination papers for the May 4 annual town election are now available.

The last day to obtain and submit nomination papers to the Board of Registrars for certification is Friday, March 15 by 5 p.m.; the last day to file nomination papers with the Town Clerk is Friday, March 29 by 5 p.m.; the last day to object or withdraw nomination papers is Tuesday, April 2, by 5 p.m.; the last day to register voters for the annual town election is Wednesday, April 24 by 5 p.m.; and the last day to apply to vote by mail is Monday, April 29 by 5 p.m.

Voter registration

Voter registration is available at

the Myron E. Richardson Building, 307 Main St. on Wednesday, April 24 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. This is the last day and hour to register voters who wish to vote at the annual town election. Mail-in voter registrations will be accepted if postmarked no later than the April 24 deadline.

Financial statements

Financial statements must be filed by all candidates for election by the following dates even if the candidate has no financial activity to report: pre-election report, eight days prior to election, Friday, April 26; and post-election report, 30 days after election, Monday, June 3.

Offices for election

Offices up for election and

those currently holding office are as follows: Selectman, H. Robert Ruggles, three-year term; Assessor, Kathryn W. Hosley, three-year term; Board of Health, Judith Berg Kohn, three-year term; Paige Agricultural Fund Trustee, Halley T. Stillman, five-year term; Paige Memorial Library Trustee (three positions), Christopher M. Buelow, three-year term, Jennifer E. Garvey, three-year term, unexpired term, one-year term; K-12 Quabbin Regional School Committee Member, Kristyl B. Kelly, three-year term; Planning Board (two positions), Erik L. Fleming, three-year term; and William R. Cole, three-year term.

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Obituaries

DEATH NOTICE

Harold A. Gushue, Jr., 80

WARREN – Harold A. Gushue, Jr., 80, of Warren, died on Sunday, Feb. 4, 2024.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, Feb. 17, 2024 at 11am in the First

Congregational Church of West Brookfield, 36 North Main St., in West Brookfield. Guests are invited to attend a luncheon at the church following the service.

Varnum Funeral Home, Inc., 43 East Main St., in West Brookfield is assisting his family with arrangements. varnum-funeralhome.com

Congregational Church to hold couples games night Feb. 16

PETERSHAM – Orthodox Congregational Church of Petersham, 21 North Main St., Route 32, will be holding a couples-themed games night on Friday, Feb. 16 starting at 7 p.m. at

the church's Andrew Hall.

Child Care will be provided on-site. "Couples" do not have to be romantic partners, but can be friends. Games are available for non-couples as well. Some

refreshments will be provided, but anything brought to share will be welcome. For more details and updates, people may visit the event page on Petersham Congregational Church's Facebook page.

BARRE BOS, continued from page 1

above location

Barre Taxpayers Association

Members of the Barre Taxpayers Association asked to be placed on the agenda to discuss recent fire truck purchases. They questioned the need for the purchase of multiple fire trucks instead of one new truck. Select Board Vice Chair John Dixon presented an emergency response vehicle procurement timeline to the group. On December 2021 Fire Chief Rogowski submitted a grant request for \$675,000 for an engine tanker. He applied for the grant each year and received a rejection each time. On June 14, 2022 the town approved funding of \$700,000 for an engine tanker to replace Engine 5 and a new ambulance.

On Sept. 8, 2022 the town received notice of award of a modified version of the grant

of around \$475,000 and had 30 days to accept the grant or if not accepted, they would lose the grant. The Select Board at their Sept 19, 2022 meeting opted to purchase a new tanker, which met the grant requirements rather than try to modify the engine tanker on order to meet the grant vehicle satisfactions

The new Town Counsel required the language for the purchase of a new tanker engine and ambulance approved at Annual Town meeting in 2022 be modified before approving a lease agreement. This was done at a Special Town Meeting on April 25, 2023.

Chair Marshall said in hindsight, the Select Board should have held an informational meeting like this one to inform the residents of why the town purchased two fire trucks and not one.

Appointments and resignations

The Select Board accept-

ed the resignation of Charlotte Gareau as a Library Trustee with regret. They appointed Michael Perkins to the Historical Commission. They also accepted the resignation of Linda Payne from the Council on Aging and appointed Arthur Hamel to the COA.

Other business

The Select Board signed election warrants for the Presidential Primary on Tuesday, March 5 and the Annual Town Election on Monday, April 1.

The Select Board voted unanimously to appoint Town Administrator Tammy Martin as Chief Procurement Officer for the town effective immediately. She has all the required certification. At the Sept. 19, 2022 the Select Board recommended the grant be used to purchase a separate tanker truck rather than try to modify the engine tanker voted at Town Meeting to meet the grant requirements.

Upcoming hearings

Parkers said the Hazard Mitigation hearing will be held on Monday, Feb. 26 at 5:30 p.m., followed by a Community Development Block Grant public hearing at 6:30 p.m. The regular Select Board meeting will follow the hearings.

Pole hearing

National Grid and Verizon requested to replace two poles, #33 and 34, on North Road and Taylor Hill Road and relocate them out of the wetlands and along the roadway.

Poles #95 and 92 are also being replaced, but will not be relocated.

The board approved the request.

Pole fee increase

The Select Board discussed raising the cost of pole fees from \$100 to \$200. This increase would cover the cost of the legal notice for the pole hearing, as well as administrative time spent by town staff notifying abutters by mail.

The board voted to increase the pole fee to \$200, effective immediately.

Alcohol license approval

The board approved the reconsideration of the Whistle Stop Restaurant's all-alcohol license.

HARDWICK, continued from page 1

scene in the rural towns.

Paramedic/ALS Coordinator Kristal Simon from West Brookfield Rescue Squad said Alstrom has been "great supporter" and "tremendous help" assisting EMTs on numerous medical calls.

"High quality CPR and AED is what saves lives," she said. "Without CPR, none of this would be possible."

Simon presented Alstrom with an award and pin for his efforts.

She also presented awards to the ambulance crew that responded to the same call, including EMT Leah Bartholomew and Paramedic Dan McCall.

"This was a huge team effort, without all of them working together the way that they did, none of this would have been possible," she said.

STAM legislative priorities

Town Administrator Nicole Parker asked that the board consider adopting the Small Town Administrators of Massachusetts 2024 legislative priorities.

"We are constantly just trying to fight for the small towns and the imbalance that we have in

funding," she said.

Parker said members of STAM, including herself, have shared their town's priorities to create a streamlined document. She said for the most part, the priorities listed reflect the town's needs.

"The STAM members would like to have this voted on and adopted from the select boards because we think that will hold more weight up on Beacon Hill, if the town's really behind it," Parker said.

Select Board Vice-Chair Kelly Kemp said the list of priorities "hits on a lot of things that are lacking," in funding, and agreed to support it, as did Vollheim.

Appointment

The Select Board voted to appoint Nicholas Gaumont as Deputy Fire Chief.

Vollheim said Gaumont is "remarkably trained," and both he and Kemp voted unanimously in favor of the appointment.

Mutual aid recognition

Vollheim read a letter that will be sent to nine area fire departments that provided mutual aid to a Feb. 9 structure fire on Patrill Hollow Road.

"No one was injured, and the house was saved. Mutual aid is a great thing," he said.

Church News

Local pastors offer sermons

Spiritual Frustration Part 3

Every relationship comes with its share of frustrations.

This is true of our earthly connections. This is true also of our connection with the Lord. At varying times we must contend with the irritation, disappointment and offense that comes with serving Christ. This week, let us address the frustration we experience due to His perceived tardiness.

The timing of Christ often differs from our own. In fact, quite often I feel He tends to run a bit late. How many start to serve Him well, impassioned and excited about being His own, yet somewhere along the way they stumble because He fails to operate in an anticipated timeframe? Thus said, we do well to consider the following account from Jesus' ministry:

John 11:1-3 (NIV)

1 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. 3 So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill."

What did Mary and Martha expect of Christ? Namely that He, their friend, would drop everything at once to come to the aid of Lazarus. After all, He had healed so many throughout His ministry. Certainly He would make the necessary time.

However, consider Jesus' response to the news of dear Lazarus:

John 11:4-7

4 But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." 5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. 6 So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. 7 Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again."

This passage is puzzling. Jesus loved them so much He delayed in coming. How truly bizarre, yet let us continue:

John 11:17-19

17 Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. 18 Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, 19 and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. 20 So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house.

21 Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." 23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

24 Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" 27 She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

Can we not feel the frustration of Martha herein (v. 21)? However, consider her amazing willingness to trust (vs. 22, 27). And what of her sister, Mary?

John 11:28, 32

28 When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." 32 Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

Can we not feel the anguish of her words? They reveal how difficult it can be to trust Jesus when His timing seems so off. Many falter and abandon Him in such moments, taken by the lie that He first abandoned them. Yet to those

who are willing to believe beyond hope, faith avails. Consider that the timing of Christ-His alleged tardiness-worked to set the stage for a glorious display of His power:

John 11:33-44

33 When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. 34 And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see."

35 Jesus wept. 36 So the Jews said, "See how he loved him." 37 But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?" 38 Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave and a stone lay against it. 39 Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days."

40 Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" 41 So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." 43 When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." 44 The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Could it be that Jesus' love for this family (v. 5) caused His delay, that they might witness this marvel? Had He responded immediately, Jesus could have healed Lazarus. Yet His postponement created the context for many to witness His power, even power over death itself.

I posit this is what Christ meant in verse 4: "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Moreover, I posit Christ still knows what He is doing when He is seemingly delayed. He is setting the stage for the display of His power. Christian, learn to wait upon the Lord, for He yet works on the behalf of those who believe.

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

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

Pastor James Foley

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

Transfiguration Sunday

"The veil over Jesus Christ is lifted."

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

Scripture Reading: Mark 9 verses 2-9

I. Introduction

When we experience difficulties in life, an illness, worry about something at work, at home, issues with money, and so forth, we feel so relieved when the light breaks through and we receive good news and things begin to look better.

Sometimes we receive messages in different forms that illuminate our situation or encourage us to keep the faith and hope that things will change. These messages or interventions are moments of light that we desire to hold onto, and wish it could remain for a long time, so we can experience the feeling of joy and peace of mind always.

II. God lifted the veil to glorify the Son

The Transfiguration occurrence at its core shows the true identity of Jesus Christ. The veil over His identity is lifted the moment the voice of God came through the clouds, saying "This is My Son, whom I love. Listen to Him!" If any of the disciples were still in doubt about who Jesus truly was, then their doubts were put at ease through this experience at the top of the mountain.

Mark recounted how Jesus' physical appearance was transformed into a remarkable sight when His face glowed like the sun and His clothes were whiter than any cloth anyone in the world could bleach. This was the unveiling of the Divine Glory of Jesus Christ by God.

In the previous Chapter Peter made his confession to Jesus that He was the Christ, but here he would see more than what he thought he knew. The three disciples would also observe the appearance of Moses and Elijah, who both witnessed the manifestations of God on the mountains in the Old Testament. Moses himself had the incredible experience of being in the clouds on Mount Sinai for six days, after God appeared to him in Exodus 24 v 16 giving him instructions to provide to the people of Israel.

Their work to lead the people was meant to bring them closer to God, but they would also be met with resistance from the people of Israel. However, their experience as leaders of the people was that God always showed up whenever they needed help. Now it appears as if they were granting the baton to the Son of God who would continue the work they and many others began.

However, He would fulfill it in His special capacity as the Son of God, who is now revealed to them by God on the highest mountain. He too would be rejected by the people like they did and He would die in the worst way ever, but He would rise again on the third day, maintaining His glory, which we see here in His Transfiguration.

What an amazing experience for Peter, James and John to witness this amazing event. Not knowing what to say, Peter offered to build them three tents so they could stay there for a while longer. In a flash, Moses and Elijah disappeared, leaving them alone in the presence of Christ, the glorified Son of God who confirmed for them that it is indeed Him, but they were not to talk about it until He had fulfilled His mission on earth.

III. Conclusion

The Transfiguration event reminds us how special the Son of God is, the One who has the power to change the world, who inspires us, encourages us and helps us in our journey in life, and everything we go through. When He calls, and we follow Him, we have the opportunity to learn from Him about how to be and live in this broken world, how to be instruments of change like Him was.

We all go through challenging moments in life, and we need to be reminded that we are not alone, but that God through the glorified Son of God is with us through it all. The Transfiguration also leads us into the period of Lent, when we remember how Jesus prepared Himself for the journey to the cross. It is a period of self-reflection, of sacrifice and prayer, during which we surrender ourselves to the work of the Holy Spirit within us, and to remember How the Son of God gave Himself for the world and its salvation.

It is a time of renewal of the soul and to be connected to God in a very special and intimate way. May God prepare us today and the days ahead during this period of Lent to be closer to God and to hear what God has to say to us.

Amen.

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

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SOCIAL SECURITY, continued from page 4

So, each person's SS retirement benefit amount is a percentage of their pre-retirement income. Coincidentally, those with higher pre-retirement income also contributed more to the Social Security program than did those with lower earnings. But their higher SS benefit amount is based on their high-

er pre-retirement earnings, not on payroll taxes paid from those higher earnings.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal

or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

A player serves the ball to the other team during a pickleball match.

PICKLEBALL, continued from page 1

approval from the Selectman, Clough and many pickleball players got to play a couple times a week at the town hall.

Throughout the month of January, sessions of pickleball have been offered on Monday evenings and Tuesday afternoons. Recently, the pickleball club got approval to have more sessions in the later months of the year.

In other words, more pickleball sessions are available at the Town Hall in the months of February, March and further on. Sessions involve teams of two playing head-to-head.

The club will soon begin charging a playing fee to help support a fund that will go towards investing in a new pickleball court. Clough's plan is to raise enough money to have a pickleball court installed in the town.

One regular pickleball player is Deb Morrison, who according to Clough is a very dedicated supporter of the pickleball club. Morrison started playing pickleball in 2020. She heard of the game when her children brought her a net and pickleball set.

On Jan 30, it was Morrison's third time playing in the pickleball club. For this session she brought her friend Donna to play alongside her in one pickleball round.

To experience a friendly and recreational atmosphere, try out pickleball at the Town Hall at 20 Memorial Drive.

If you don't have equipment, the pickleball club does provide paddles for newcomers. For anyone new to the game of pickleball, Tom Clough is there to give detailed instructions on how to play the game.

Sessions are Monday evenings from 6-8 p.m. and Tuesday afternoons from 1-3 p.m.



A pickleball player gets ready to serve.

PAST PAGES, continued from page 4

to be proud of its wrestling team, as they continued on their winning streak by adding the Western Mass. Tournament to their series of trophies on Saturday at Quabbin. By a score of 229-217, the Quabbin wrestlers beore a cheering crowd, beat Monument Mountain High School of Great Barrington. This tops of their 13 wins for the season. The top four winners in each of the weight classes from the Western Mass. Tournament will complete in the state finals this Saturday at Wayland High School.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has ordered the town of North Brookfield to upgrade its wastewater treatment plant by July 1, 1988. More specifically, the order requires North Brookfield to submit design specifications for the East Brookfield Road overflow and to implement an overflow monitoring program during last summer and early fall. Finally, the order requires the town to seal off a source of raw sewage to the treatment plant's final clarifier and to submit schedules for repairing the plant's trickling filter and operating sludge dewatering equipment year round.

Mahar Alumni donate to Orange Scholarship Foundation

ORANGE – The Mahar 50+ Club holds its annual dinner meeting and fund-raiser the third Saturday of September, and individual members are asked to make donations to Mahar scholarships. The 50+ Alumni are members of Mahar Classes from 1957 to 1974.

Their dinner meeting, held the past few years except "the Covid years," features raffles and other fund-raisers to help raise money for the Orange Scholarship Foundation, to benefit Mahar graduates and post-graduates.

Even though this year's donations have been turned in, other donations may still be made to the Mahar 50+ Club and checks sent to Muriel Holden or individual class representatives.

The 2024 Mahar 50+ meeting is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 16. The committee will begin meetings shortly to plan the event. Class representatives are



Submitted photo

The Orange Scholarship Foundation recently received a check for \$6,675 from the Mahar 50+ Alumni Club. Jeff Cole, is shown receiving the check from Muriel Holden co-chairman of the Alumni Club.

needed for the classes of 1962 and 1970, '71, '73 and '74.

People may call Muriel Holden, Athol, at 978-249-9313 for information, to donate or to volunteer.

GARDEN, continued from page 4

This is altogether different than plastic or glazed ceramic pots that don't breathe and encourage tangles of roots that encircle the pot eventually becoming bound. When a plant is root bound, it suffers until it is repotted; not so with grow bags!

Another pro would be drainage. The grow bags hold only what moisture the soil can hold and the rest of it drains away. Sure, the flip side is that you will need to water often in times of drought, but it's nice to know

that if we have another summer like we did last year, the plants won't rot, either.

Other more obvious benefits include portability, heat resistance and ease of storage. If you purchase bags with handles, you can move them around the yard much easier than you could if the plants were in heavy pots.

The bags weigh next to nothing compared to clay or ceramics. Grow bags also do not heat up the way glazed or plastic pots do; roots are cooler and the plants are happier.

When the season is over, you can wash the bags and flatten to

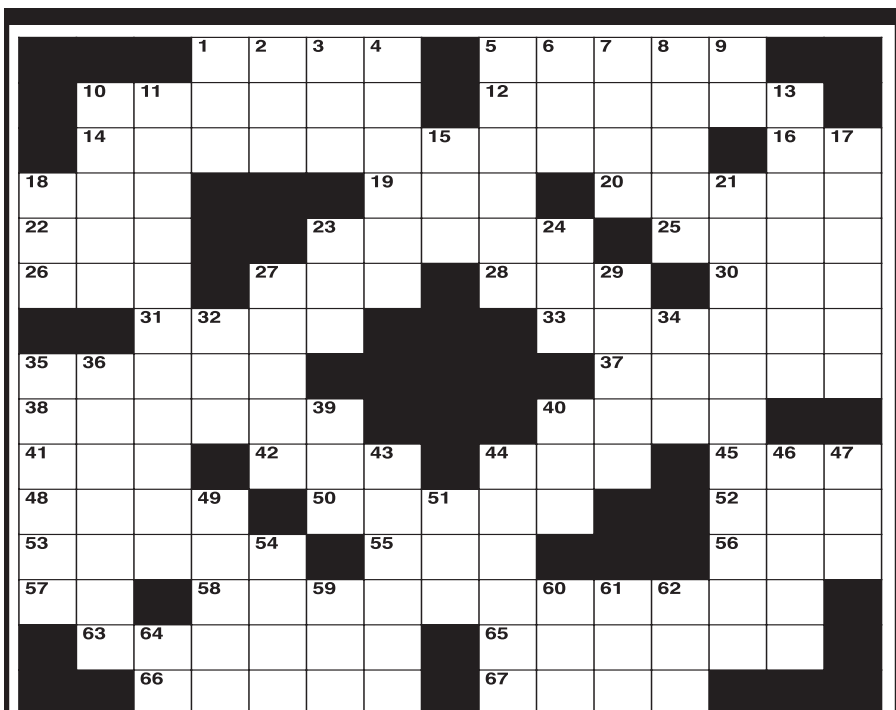
store. Most brands say that they last for four-five seasons or longer with good care.

Do some research to pair the size bag you use with the plants you are growing. A quick check gleaned that 10 gallon bags are good for three seed potatoes or a single indeterminate tomato plant. Bush type tomatoes would grow well in a seven gallon pot.

Also research the best potting soil or compost mixes to use; there are many out there. Chris uses a blend and uses organic fertilizers, crediting that to her success.

The apple may not fall far from the tree. Mom likes her challenges, and I like mine. I think trying out grow bags is in my near (gardening) future.

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.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Gene type
- 5. Persian male given name
- 10. Type of protection
- 12. Cloud
- 14. One who returns to life
- 16. Gym class
- 18. General's assistant (abbr.)
- 19. Baby's dining accessory
- 20. Enchantress
- 22. Prefix denoting "in a"
- 23. Spiritual leader
- 25. Cavities
- 26. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- 27. Foot (Latin)
- 28. Sweet potato
- 30. Pharaoh of Lower Egypt
- 31. Land
- 33. More inquisitive
- 35. Dog breed: __ Apso

CLUES DOWN

- 1. DC Comics superhero
- 3. Play
- 4. Single-celled animals
- 5. Rough to the touch
- 6. Small island (British)
- 7. Often noted alongside cons
- 8. Preparation of rootstock
- 9. Atomic #44
- 10. Egyptian unit of capacity
- 11. About secretary
- 13. Particular groups
- 15. Poke fun at
- 17. Make certain that something occurs
- 18. Financial term
- 21. Justify
- 23. Arbitrator
- 24. 007's creato
- 27. Czech name for Prague

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Direct and uninhibited
- 4. Authorless
- 41. Blocking type of drug (abbr.)
- 42. Retrospective analysis (abbr.)
- 44. Root mean square (abbr.)
- 45. Macaws
- 48. Actress Remini
- 50. Polynesian wrapped skirt
- 52. City of Angels hoops team (abbr.)
- 53. Fitzgerald and Baker are two
- 55. Bowling alley must-have
- 56. A way to cool down
- 57. Ethnic group in Asia
- 58. A way to alter
- 63. Set of five
- 65. Removes from the record
- 66. Dummies

- 29. Groans
- 32. American time
- 34. No seats available
- 35. __ Stahl, journalist
- 36. Cleft lip
- 39. Talk incessantly
- 40. Expresses atomic and molecular weights (abbr.)
- 43. A part of a river where the current is very fast
- 44. Curdled milk
- 46. Running competitions
- 47. A team's best pitcher
- 49. Carthaginian explorer
- 51. World-renowned city
- 54. Most common Japanese surname
- 59. The bill in a restaurant
- 60. They __
- 61. City of Angels football team (abbr.)
- 62. Distinctive practice
- 64. One quintillion bytes

ANSWERS ON PAGE 10

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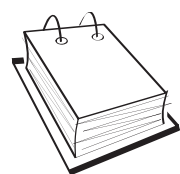
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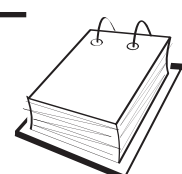
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Calendar of Events



THURSDAY, FEB. 15

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

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

FRIDAY, FEB 16

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

SATURDAY, FEB. 17

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

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

SUNDAY, FEB. 25

A **BOOK DISCUSSION** on "Regenerating your Yard" by Camille T. Dungy will take place today at 4

Where is this?



Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer

This week's mystery photo is from Petersham. If any readers know where this photo was taken, they may email edowner@turley.com or call the Barre Gazette at 413-967-3505, extension 100 with their answer by noon on Monday, Feb. 19. The names of those that correctly guessed the location will appear in the following edition. Peggy Civilik, Barbara Crawford, Stephen Craven, Elizabeth Laramee, James Laramee, Evelyn Luukko, William Mucha, Jeremy Varnum and Phil Warbasse correctly identified the photo. The photo last week shows the former Eva Grimes farm on Rutland Road, Oakham.

p.m. at the East Quabbin Land Trust, 120 Ridge Road, Hardwick. Dungy's book a seminal work that expands how we talk about the natural world and the environment as Camille T. Dungy diversifies her garden to reflect her heritage. Participants should bring a favorite dish to share a light meal during the discussion. Book copies can be requested through the library. People who need a copy may email agrandinetti@eqlt.org as well as RSVP.

WARE RIVER NATURE CLUB ANNUAL MEETING will be held today from noon-5 p.m. at Harvard Forest, Petersham. Besides providing guests with a hot catered meal and the opportunity to gather with fellow nature and wildlife enthusiasts, the meeting will feature two guest speakers who will talk about different aspects of animal migration. Speakers are Dr. Cory Elowe and Dr. Alex Haro. Attendees will have an opportunity to bid on a selection of nature and science books, original wildlife art work, and many other unique items by taking part in the ongoing fundraiser silent auction. Participants need not be members to attend the meeting (entire meeting or speakers only)

or take part in the auction. Information about the Club, meeting reservations and the auction may be found on the Club's website by visiting www.warivernatureclub.org. For more information, people may call 413-967-4737 or emailing warivernatureclub@yahoo.com.

FRIDAY, MARCH 1

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

MONDAY, MARCH 4

WINTER PLAY GROUP offered by Making Opportunities Count will be offered the first Monday of the month in place of Story Time. The play group will be held today at 10 a.m. in the New Braintree Public Library, 45 Memorial Drive, New Braintree.

MOC offers Coordinated Family and Community Engagement programs and is funded by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care. Parental supervision is required. People may call the library at 508-867-7650 during regular business for more information.

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

INSPIRATIONAL SPEAKER CHRIS HERREN will be at Quabbin Regional High School today at 6 p.m. for a free program sponsored by Quabbin Drug Response Unifying Group.

FRIDAY, MARCH 15

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

GENEALOGICAL PRESENTATION by Dan Hamilton and sponsored by the New Braintree Historical Society will be held today from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the New Braintree Historical Society Museum, 10 Utley Road, New Braintree. Hamilton spent the last 25 years exploring the genealogy and history of his own family and that of friends and clients. All are welcome. Masking is optional.

THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL sponsored by the Hubbardston Community Theater will be held today, Saturday, March 16 and Sunday, March 17 at the Hubbardston Center School gym, 8 Elm St., Hubbardston. Directors are Donna Farrell and Michelle Johnston.

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

Q-DRUG 10TH ANNIVERSARY will be held today from 5:30-9:30 p.m. at the Harding Allen Estate, 59 Allen Drive, Barre. There will be a silent auction awards, dinner and dessert. Tickets are \$50 per person or \$400 per table. Additional donations greatly appreciated. People should RSVP for tickets by Friday, March 1 by emailing quabbin.drug@gmail.com.

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.

GILMAN, continued from page 1

and then came to North Chester in search of cheap land. This was by no means easy farming as anyone can see from the boulders and rock walls everywhere that attest to Colonial era persistence.

"There was land available," she says. "He cleared it and hoped to have lots of sons. Oxen were the only way to use land and get rid of rocks." The family grew potatoes and apples but still it was hard. "This was not even subsistence farming. The family always did something else for cash money."

That something else also tied into the history of work in the region. Her mother's family, the aptly named Millers, ran a mill on one of the branches of the Westfield River. "There's a little bit of the dam left," she says.

"My great grandfather made rolling pins and potato mashers out of local wood. He even made buggy whip handles and delivered them to Westfield, which at that point had twelve whip making factories."

Back at the farm on Bromley Road, her parents grew potatoes, apples and made maple syrup and regularly brought eggs to the store. Her parents made the three mile trip to the general store in Huntington, which was where the Comfort Kitchen restaurant now operates. She remembers a shoe store, drug store and a butcher with sawdust on the floor. You had to ask for everything in the general store and even cornflakes did not yet come in a box, but were measured out by the grocer.

Her parents got their first car in 1925 and her father became Chester's superintendent of streets in the 1930s and oversaw the conversion of dirt roads to paved ones. She learned to drive on the ear-

er incarnation of Bromley Road which was even steeper than the present one. "Oh, to have to shift in the middle of the hill to get up that road."

Though her father had only an eighth grade education from the one room schoolhouse that still stands in North Chester, her parents encouraged her educational pursuits. "A car would take those of us who lived up here to Chester Factory Village where the high school was. I was top of my class, but of course the class only had 20 people in it. The principal convinced my parents that I was smart and should go to college."

College for her was in what was then the very far away Massachusetts State College in Amherst, the precursor to UMASS. She lived in the Chi Omega sorority house and studied what was considered suitable for young ladies, home economics. She started in 1939 and by December of 1941,

when Pearl Harbor was bombed, "the men were gone. My graduating class had 300 people."

Her goal pre-war was to do what her mother had done and become an Extension Service worker. The U.S. Department of Agriculture trained legions of women to go into homes or in her mother's case, use her own to teach women about nutrition, managing a household and cooking economically. "We helped farm people come up to date on cooking and nutrition." She doesn't remember the Great Depression being all that bad in the Hilltowns as so many people raised their own food and knew how to preserve it.

While at college, she made a decision that would take her far from the Hilltowns and make her a part of the biggest event of the 20th century - W.W. II. She married James Gilman, who was in ROTC. "Jim was at the top of his class and got an honorary appointment to the



This is a recent photo of the Kelso farm, which has been in the same family since 1780.

Army. It was like he went to West Point and he started his military career as Second Lieutenant." He would end his career working for the Pentagon where he had risen to the rank of Colonel.

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Deadlines:
The deadline for all print classified ads in the Quabbin and Suburban Zones is Friday at noon for publication the following week. The deadline for the Hill Towns Zone is Monday at noon. All online ads will be published for 7 days including the corresponding print editions.

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SCHOOL COMMITTEE, continued from page 1

for students leaving high school to enter a specialized career path with more opportunities for earning.

"I think this is an exciting opportunity for our school," McCormick said.

This opportunity will lead to an Innovative Pathway designation for the school district in advanced manufacturing.

Recognitions

McCormick commended staff and the Highway Department for clearing snow from sidewalks and parking lots.

"Without their efforts, we would have been looking at a day off of school," he said, following a week-end storm.

McCormick also welcomed new special education Administrative Assistant Katelinde Grenevich, who will also serve as the School Committee recording secretary.

Student Council update

Student Representative Olivia Giangrande said the Student Council is working on its Excellence Book and other award submissions. They are planning on submitting a nomination for a Top 10 Project award and a National Council of Excellence award.

Giangrande said Unity Week will be held Feb. 12-16 and will enhance a sense of community for the school, and show support for different types of people, including LGBTQ and those with special needs.

The MASC Spring Conference will be held March 5-8 in Hyannis and another spring conference will be held in April.

Giangrande said the public is always welcome at Student Council meetings and encouraged people in the community to follow them on Facebook and Instagram.

Communications

School Committee Chair Ron Ryel said Richard Rigney, union representative, had previously sent a letter to the School Committee asking to open negotiations with

North Brookfield Educational Support Professionals. Ryel said the committee will need to set up meetings with the negotiation team.

Ryel said the School Committee received a draft agreement earlier that day, and he will propose some dates in February for meetings to discuss the contract.

Regionalization update

Ryel said he has no update from the Regional Agreement Amendment Committee and the committee has not met since June. Ryel said he has reached out to their state representative for assistance.

Staffing updates

In addition to Grenevich, McCormick announced new staff in the district include Kailyn Lachapelle, district-wide English Language Learner teacher; Elijah Babcock, second-shift high school custodian; and Tasha Thomasian, preschool teacher.

School Committee members asked to be updated when staff leave the district in addition to any new hires.

SPORTS

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Championship team celebrated



Turley photos by Ray Duffy

The 1998-1999 championship boys basketball team was celebrated at Quabbin Regional High School on Feb. 2.

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

BARRE—Several members of the 1998-99 Quabbin boys' championship basketball team attended a Feb. 2 game at Quabbin Regional High School as the 25th anniversary of the team was celebrated.

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

The 1998-99 squad compiled a 21-4 overall record. They lost to Marlborough High School twice during the regular season. Their other regular season loss was at Oakmont Regional.

The Panthers began their post-

season journey by winning the Clark Tournament Large School title. They then beat Mid Wach rival Algonquin Regional in the Central Mass. Division 2 championship game at Harrington Auditorium located on the W.P.I. campus. After defeating Northampton High School in the Division 2 state semifinal game at the UMass Mullins Center, Quabbin lost to East Boston, 62-57 in the state finals at the DCU Center in Worcester.

"That was a very special season, and it was a close-knit team," Dextrateur said. "They played very well together on the court, and they did a lot of things together off the court."

The seven seniors listed on the 1998-99 Quabbin varsity basketball roster are Tom Baker, Jason Granlund, Jehan Jourson, Larry

McGee, Josh Perez, Rob Skowrya, and Ben Wallace.

"Our basketball team always worked very hard, and we pushed each other on the court," Skowrya said. "Our three goals that season were to win the Clark Tournament title, the Central Mass. title, and the state title."

Skowrya currently lives in Hudson, New Hampshire with his wife, (Rebecca), and two children, (Trey and Gigi).

"We were able to bring our families here tonight and show them what we did many years ago," Skowrya said. "It's a very special day for me and my family."

Skowrya also played basketball at Clark University in Worcester for legendary head coach Paul Phillips.

"Playing basketball for the Clark men's basketball team was

a pretty cool experience," Skowrya said. "It brought back a lot of wonderful memories from playing on that same court in high school. My college basketball team also had a lot of success. Coach Dex and coach Phillips are very similar coaches. They always held you accountable."

Wallace was one of the leading rebounders and he shined on the baseball diamond as a left-hand pitcher.

"When I was in high school, I actually played more basketball than I did baseball," said Wallace, who now lives in Wisconsin. "During my junior season, I had a lot of strikeout games, and I was invited to attend a showcase just outside of New York City in the summer before my senior season."

See CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM, page 10

Ducos free throw wins it for Quabbin

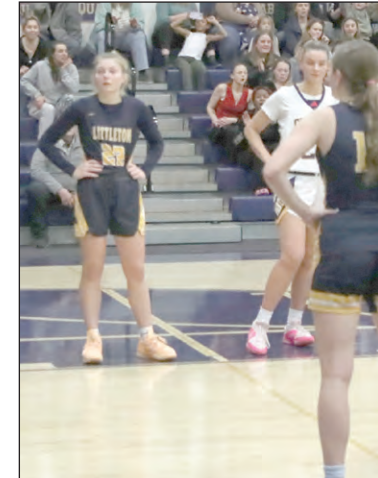
BARRE – Last Friday night, Mia Ducos hit a free throw in the waning seconds of the game and Quabbin defeated Littleton 42-41 for the 13th win of the season for the Panthers. Ducos had 12 points to lead all scorers and Brianna Whitelaw added 11 points while Hannah Baxter had 10 points.



Hannah Baxter get fouled while putting up a shot.



Riley Bassett blocks the shot.



Mia Ducos hits the game winning free throw.



Brooke Austin passes into Hannah Baxter.



Meg Doyle hits for a three-point basket.

Offense struggles for Pathfinder

PALMER – Last Tuesday night, the Pathfinder Regional girls basketball team suffered a tough defeat against St. Mary's 39-30. The Pioneers struggled in the middle of the game, limited to just 10 points in the second and third quarters. The defense did a good job holding St. Mary's to under 40 points, but the offense could not catch up. Addison Doktor had 11 points and Greenly Lagimoniere had 10 points in the loss. Pathfinder is 8-7 and needs at least one more win to qualify for the state tournament.



Greenly Lagimoniere passes on the run.



Megan Clark approaches the hoop from the side.



Desiree Croteau is pushed out of bounds.



Addison Doktor makes a rebound and looks for another approach to the hoop.



Victoria Stephens looks for a teammate to make a pass.

Indians qualify for state tournament

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The North Brookfield High School boys basketball team is headed for the Division 5 state tournament and is continuing to improve its position in that field. The Indians defeated Sizer School 59-41 last Friday evening. In the victory, Jose Rivera had another big game, leading all scorers with 24 points. Colin Sukharev had 14 points and Ryan Roy added 11 points in the match-up. The Indians are 11-4 with a 7-3 league record heading into the final week of the regular season.

Committee seeks HOF nominations

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

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

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Sports

T-Birds wins on 'Ice-O-Topes' Night

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Ice-O-Topes (22-19-3-2) rebounded from a 1-0 deficit to knock off the Hershey Bears (37-9-0-2) by a 6-3 score before a sold-out MassMutual Center crowd of 6,793 on Saturday night.

Neither team could find a firm offensive footing in the opening half of the first period, with both squads going 0-for-2 on their first two power play chances. 20 seconds after Hershey's second man-advantage expired, the visitors finally got the game's opening goal as veteran Garrett Roe crashed the top of the crease to jam a rebound through Malcolm Subban at 14:02 to make it 1-0 for the Bears.

The Ice-O-Topes' second power play came and went, but like the Bears, continuous offensive pressure paid off less than 30 seconds after the advantage concluded. Adam Gaudette made a quick change of direction at the top of the slot area before funneling a shot toward the goal. Zach Bolduc made himself available for a deflection at the edge of the crease, and the rookie executed to perfection, squeezing it past Clay Stevenson to tie the score at 17:48.

With the game tied at 1 after 20 minutes, the 'Topes parlayed

Bolduc's goal into a firestorm of offense in the middle frame. It began just 2:55 into the second, as Mathias Laferrriere dropped a pass in the left circle for Kean Washkurak, who curled the puck to a better shooting lane and snapped a wrist through Stevenson's five-hole to make it a 2-1 game.

1:35 later, Gaudette was in the middle of the action once again. After Hunter Skinner whipped a pass off Gaudette's foot deep in the left-wing corner, Matthew Peca pushed a second-chance shot wide of the goal. With Stevenson still trying to recover back in front of the net, Gaudette used the opportunity to bank it off Stevenson's pants and into the twine to extend the lead to 3-1. With the tally, Gaudette vaulted himself back to the top of the AHL goal-scoring race with his 25th of the season.

After a quiet stretch of play yielded nothing on the score-board, Hugh McGing changed things with a determined rush deep in the Hershey zone. McGing's pressure caused a mishandle between Stevenson and Dylan McIlrath, and McGing was there to jab a backhand through Stevenson, making it a 4-1 game at 15:24. The pesky winger now

has seven points over his last seven games.

Former T-Bird Jake Massie gave Hershey a much-needed reply with a one-time shorthanded goal at 17:42, set up by Jimmy Huntington, and the defending champs were back within two heading into the third.

Chances heavily favored the Bears in the third to the tune of an 18-5 shot discrepancy, but Subban and the defense bent without breaking, and Will Bitten added some extra insurance, beating Stevenson on a breakaway backhand through the wickets at 10:54 to make it 5-2.

The Bears' power play would not allow the game to end quietly, as Alex Limoges redirected a Mike Vecchione shot through Subban at 13:30 to cut the lead to 5-3. However, in the end, the visitors ran out of time, and Dylan Coghlan snapped a 15-game goal drought by drilling an empty net with 48.6 seconds to play to make it four consecutive wins on Ice-O-Topes Night for Springfield.

Springfield next takes its game down to Charlotte for a two-game set against the Checkers inside Bojangles' Coliseum next Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 17-18. Puck drop for both games is set for 4 p.m. in North Carolina.

Bonsignore opens season with second-place finish

NEW SMYRNA, FL – Justin Bonsignore drove the No. 51 Phoenix Communications modified to a second-place finish in Saturday's NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour opener at New Smyrna Speedway.

Bonsignore qualified fourth and ran inside the top-five for the duration of the race. After a pit stop in the final 20 laps, Bonsignore raced from fifth up to second, trying to chase down Ron Silk in the final laps. Although he closed in, he had to settle for

second.

The run opened the 2024 season for Bonsignore, who will chase his fourth NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour title in the Ken Massa Motorsports machine this season.

"We were just a little bit too snug on both sets of change tires," Bonsignore said. "All in all, it was a really good night to start the year. We have to thank Phoenix Communications for everything they do for our team and Ryan Stone and the pit crew for a great

job with a brand new car they built over the winter. It takes a lot to come down here to Florida to open the season. We will try and build off this and get better with this new car."

Justin Bonsignore will return to the track driving the No. 30 for Rette Jones Racing in the ARCA Menards Series season opener at Daytona International Speedway on Saturday, February 17. The NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour is back on track at Richmond Raceway on Friday, March 29.

Railers pick up win over Mariners

WORCESTER – This season's Railers have been imperfect, but indefatigable.

Twenty-fours after squandering a three-goal lead and losing in overtime to the Maine Mariners, 5-4, Worcester bounced back Saturday night with a strong effort and a 3-2 victory that was not easy.

Games with Maine never are.

The Railers took a 2-0 lead late into the third period on goals by Artyom Kulakov and Anthony Repaci, then Maine closed the gap on William Provost's goal at 12:57. Given the unhappy endings of Worcester's two previous games with the Mariners, things looked shaky; even shakier when Trevor Cosgrove was called for high sticking at 17:50.

However, Jake Pivonka hit an empty net at 18:54. Sigh of relief?

Not quite. With goalie Shane Starrett on the bench and Cosgrove still in the box, Ethan Ritchie made it 3-2 with 37 seconds left. The Railers kept Maine bottled up in its own zone for the

duration, however, and came away with two pure points.

Coach Jordan Smotherman was not surprised with the way his team responded.

"We love our room," he said. "You could tell (Friday) night, even after the game before they left, that the guys were ready to go. That's one of the biggest differences between last year's team and this year's — these guys really want to be here."

The victory extended Worcester's points streak to four games. The Railers have earned seven of eight points in that time and have 48 points overall. That is five more than both Maine and Trois-Rivieres, tied for fifth.

Kulakov gave the Railers a 1-0 lead at 5:52 of the second period as he fired a 35-foot wrist shot past Starrett through a screen. Ashton Calder set him up with a great pass from the right side. Repaci scored shorthanded at 15:04 on a deflection in close.

John Muse improved his record to 9-3-1 with the win. He stopped

26 of Maine's 28 shots. Worcester has earned 19 of a possible 26 points with Muse in goal, a .731 winning percentage.

The triumph sent the Railers off on the longest road trip, time-wise, in franchise history. They will play six games in Florida, three in Orlando against the Solar Bears, then three in Fort Myers against the Florida Everblades. Worcester will be gone for 14 days and does not play another home game this month.

Florida in February — almost every New Englander's dream. Smotherman was asked if he was concerned that the Railers will look at this as a vacation, not a work assignment.

"One hundred percent," he said. "I've been the guy on the Florida trip before. I know how that works, but we trust our group, and that's the other part of it. They are professionals. They need to be professionals. Everything that we've seen so far is that they've bought in and they want to win hockey games."

Education

Quabbin Regional Middle School lists second quarter honor roll

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

Seventh graders making High Honors are: Olivia Abbas-Peck, Kalina J. Bassett, Hazel R. Carter, Lauren E. Colleton, Adalyn B. Cranston, Jeremy R. DeMoranville, Fiona M. Derr, Nathan W. Gingras, Olivia T. Gregory, Sarah S. Jean-Francois, Carson R. McConnaughey, Gemma A. Mullins, Greyson A. Mullins, Whitney P. Reeves, Zoey M. Salvatore, Madisyn L. Shotwell, Robert Q. Tobin, Launa E. Tran, John T. Tyler and Jack A. Wynne.

Seventh graders making Honors are: Joshua D. Caranci, Joseph H. Cook, Alexandra C. Cullen, Madison S. Cyr, Landon R. Devine, Brynn E. Dunphy, Ryder R. Eagan, Maya E. Faucher, Silas L. Flint, Juliana C. Guilderson, Sawyer D. Harmon, Hayston J. Hay, Madisyn E. Hill,

Reese O. Jamieson, Aubrey M. Lawson, Allie T. Lipiec, Brandon L. Molina, Lunabelle A. Moore, Amelia E. Morrill, Olivia M. O'Connor, William P. O'Neill, Joseph E. Perrone, Lukas J. Pottier, Chloe A. Richardson, Kimberly A. Riendeau, Jillian M. Rigney, Ava M. Rogowski, Madison E. Scanlon, Deven J. Skinner, Rosalie M. Stark, Addison C. Surprenant, Tucker Talbot, Maxwell W. Wade and Gareth R. White.

Eighth graders Making High Honors are: Brent J. Benoit, Abraham A. Brown, Josephine M. Buck, Vivien D. Burch, Alanna M. Casey, Kaylee M. Correia, Chloe L. Howarth, Alison A. LaRoche, Lynn Diarrah S. Michel, Angelina N. Orr, Zion R. Parks, Stella M. Pears, Ellie L. Poulin, Benjamin D. Thompson, Erin J. Trotter and Catherine E. Tucker.

Eighth graders making Honors are: Nicolas G. Antonio, Mackenzie J. Black, Carlmorisia

K. Campbell, Eleanor L. Carroll, Justen S. Chriss, Wyatt E. Clark, Brian R. Colleton, Kayla L. Curran, Adrien H. Cyr, Simeon L. Davis, Lilliana R. Doyle, Olivia L. Drake, Aliyah B. Edouard, Maya B. Edouard, Andrew P. Erickson, Audrey J. Faucher, Samuel S. Feldman, Alaina E. Flynn, Maya R. Fontaine, Sydney C. Freeman, Daniella N. Gaudreault, Callahan C. Hardy, Ally G. Harrington, Adrian J. Hein, Samuel E. Jamieson, Ava H. Kinney, Spencer T. Kokoski, Matthew C. Labrousse, Dylan C. Lantignie, Collin T. Leclair, Emma R. Lindsey, Kingston R. McKenzie, Max B. Melad, John A. Orsini, Aubrie L. Phelps, Moira M. Powers, Juliet K. Priestley, Lucas D. Proctor, Gwendolyn B. Ruis, Kristen A. Schur, Ava G. Sobol, Hailey A. Stoll, Noah D. Toupenise, Akhai D. Tran, Matthew J. VanScoy, Caleb P. Wnek and Shane T. Woodruff.

Pathfinder Tech welcomes Scout to school community

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – Pathfinder Technical Vocational School is excited to introduce Scout, the English Golden Retriever who is promoting mental health among students and staff alike.

Scout was adopted by the school through support of the School Committee and a health-care grant from the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association. This grant paid for the purchase of the dog, as well as training, veterinary services and supplies like toys and a cage.

"What we're finding is it's a nice icebreaker for those students that have a hard time expressing their feelings and talking about what's going on," said Principal Brenda Turner. "If he's in the room, it breaks down a lot of barriers."

Turner said that in addition to improving students' mental health, Scout will also serve to address the absenteeism that has increased at many schools and workplaces since the pandemic.

Director of Student Services, Marina Latourelle, has been charged with taking care of Scout after the school is closed, a responsibility that the rest of the staff has lined up to share, should Latourelle be unavailable.

"The recommendation was that he comes to work right away," Latourelle said. "So he puts his little harness on and he comes to work, and he loves it."

A poll was held to name the puppy, with Scout beating out the suggestions of Petey (for PT) or Techie.

Superintendent Eric Duda named the adoption of Scout as one of his proudest accomplish-



Turley Photo by Marcelo Gusmão

Georgia Bousquet, Mackenzie Peterson, Addison Doktor and Julianna Lovejoy stopped to pose for a picture with Scout.

ments of the year, along with introducing the Yonder pouches to help cut down on phone use.

"This was done through a unanimous vote from our School Committee to adopt a new school policy," said Duda. "It allowed us to move forward with the dog."

Duda said that in the first week, Scout had already been called on to help students with various mental health challenges.

"You can have the best school psychologists and three guidance counselors and two adjustment counselors, a powerful admin team and a wonderful teaching staff, and we can all work to do something to help this student," Duda said. "I saw this firsthand: you may or may not get there quickly, but with a puppy, you get there immediately."

Walking through the halls with Scout, students immediately lit up as soon as they saw him. Turner said that the staff coordinates a schedule for Scout to visit different classrooms at different times

of day, in between his training and daily care.

"The positive impact that he's already had has blown everyone's mind," Duda said. "By the end of the first day, you can't walk throughout this building without having smiles and interactions."

"We brought the puppy to our School Committee meeting last week," Duda said. "We introduced the dog in public session, and everybody smiled, and people pet the dog, and everything else. The whole tone changes from there, you can feel the positive energy."

Pathfinder is the first school out of the nine towns it services to have a dog on-campus and said that he hopes other towns will follow their example.

"Myself and the team are happy to work with anyone who's interested in doing what we're doing," Duda said, mentioning that police and fire departments could also benefit from a dog onsite.

CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM, continued from page 9

There were about 300 players there. They only picked me and Brian Wilson, who wound up being a closer for the San Francisco Giants in the World Series. I played a lot of baseball games up and down the east coast that summer. The competition was high, and it was a lot of fun."

Wallace was selected by the Milwaukee Brewers in the 21st round of the 1999 MLB Draft. He advanced as far as Single A before retiring in 2001.

"It was a great experience being

drafted and playing minor league baseball," Wallace said. "It's been over twenty years since I've been back here and it's an amazing feeling seeing my teammates again."

During his senior season, Granlund scored 45 points in a win at Westborough, which is still the school record for points in a game.

The five juniors on the championship team were Adam Kotsopoulos, Ryan Lichwell, Adam Thompson, Rob Ward, and James Zalneraitis.

The assistant coach was Jason Ayer, who's still sitting on the Panthers bench during games.

"You always know when a team is special when you have to turn

out the gymnasium lights on your players after practice," Dextradeur said. "Those guys would've stayed in the gym all night if I didn't turn out the lights on them."

Ted Gumula, who became the Athletic Director at Quabbin in 2004, was the academic advisor for the 1999 boys' basketball team.

"Each week

the players on the boys' basketball team gave me a progress report," said Gumula, who was also the Dean of Students/Assistant Principle at that time. "All of the players did very well in the classroom, and nobody flunked off the team. We do have a higher standard here at Quabbin than the MIAA does. It was an awesome basketball season."

After retiring several years, Gumula was replaced as A.D. by Mark Millville, who has done an outstanding job.

The players from the 1998-99 championship team were introduced to the crowd by Dextradeur at half-time of the varsity game.

Just as she did as a senior in 1999, Sara McDougall Sherblom sang the National Anthem before the opening tip of the varsity game.

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

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

"We've watched the 1999 championship team's highlight film and we learned a lot about those players. It's a lot of fun learning about the tradition of our basketball program," Geary said. "Even though we lost tonight's game, we played with a lot of energy the entire game. We're hoping to have a much better season next year."



SEND US YOUR SPORTS PHOTOS

Have you taken photos at a local sports event and want to see them published in this paper?

Email your image(s) with description to:

sports@turley.com



Public Safety

Barre Police Log

Sunday, Jan. 28
 10:56 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Wauwinet Road, Report Filed
 5:41 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Seizures, Old Petersham Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 6:42 p.m. Complaint, West Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 7:24 p.m. Complaint, High Plains Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 8:24 p.m. Complaint, High South Street, Vehicle Removed

Monday, Jan. 29
 3:22 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issues, Elm Street South, Vehicle Removed
 4:08 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issues, Moulton Street, Vehicle Towed
 4:39 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Sick/Unknown, Wauwinet Road, Transported to Hospital
 10:59 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issue, Moulton Street, Information Given
 2:32 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Hubbardston Road, Officer Advised
 4:18 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Wauwinet Road, Information Taken
 7:37 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Massachusetts State Police, Mutual Aid Assist

Tuesday, Jan. 30
 1:13 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Written Warning

5:14 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Valley Road, Public Assist
 6:10 a.m. Traffic or Radar Enforcement, Main Street, Citation Issued
 8:47 a.m. Property Damage, Williamsville Road, Officer Took Call
 3:11 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Peach Street, Negative Contact
 3:49 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Peach Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 4:22 p.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Company Farm Road, Message Delivered

Wednesday, Jan. 31
 8:49 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Worcester Road, Report Filed
 10:35 a.m. Fire – Structure Fire, West Street, Investigated
 5:06 p.m. Fire – Fumes, Wheelwright Road, Investigated
 6:35 p.m. Landlord/Tenant Dispute, Old Dana Road, Peace Restored

Thursday, Feb. 1
 12:10 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issue, Summer Street, Vehicle Towed
 Summons: Day, Charles R., 76, Barre
 5:18 a.m. Motor Vehicle – No Fire Department/EMS Response, Worcester Road, Report Filed
 6:29 a.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires) Cut Off Road, Referred to Other Agency

8:44 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Falls, South Street, Transported to Hospital
 10:23 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Vernon Avenue, Report Filed
 2:30 p.m. Property Damage, Oak Street, Investigated
 8:49 p.m. Gunshots, Hubbardston Road, Unfounded

Friday, Feb. 2
 7:54 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Wheelwright Road, Information Taken
 1:33 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Old Dana Road, Peace Restored
 4:02 p.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Williamsville Road, Animal Returned to Owner

Saturday, Feb. 3
 2:25 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Falls, Vernon Avenue, Transported to Hospital
 11:57 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Vernon Avenue, Written Warning
 3:37 p.m. Trespasser or Prowler, Exchange Street, Removed to Court/Lockup
 Arrest: Kean, Robert S., 58, Barre
 Charges: Breaking and Entering for Misdemeanor, Destruction of Property \$1200, Malicious c266 \$127, Trespasser
 7:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle – No Fire Department/EMS Response, West Street, Report Filed

Rutland Police Log

Sunday, Jan. 28
 3:52 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Brunelle Drive, Negative Contact
 10:12 a.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, Town Wide, Message Delivered
 10:38 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Spencer Road, No fire service Necessary
 11:02 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Pommogussett Road, Vehicle Towed
 12:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Pommogussett Road, Report Filed
 12:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Pleasantdale Road, Officer Advised
 12:49 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, East County Road, Report Filed
 3:56 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Pommogussett Road, Report Filed
 9:45 p.m. Complaint, Walnut Street, Negative Contact

Monday, Jan. 29
 12:22 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Glenwood Road, Written Warning
 1:12 a.m. Escort/Transport, River Road, Public Assist
 8:16 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Main Street, Public Assist
 9:44 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 3:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Hit and Run, Main Street, Report Filed
 Summons: Papierski, Ronald Wallace, 78, Rutland
 Charges: Leave Scene of Property Damage, Witness/Juror Police/Court Official, Intimidate
 9:14 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Main Street, No Fire Service Necessary

Tuesday, Jan. 30
 6:14 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Pleasantdale Road, Transported to Hospital
 7:59 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Cleland Circle, Negative Contact
 10:54 a.m. Neighbor Dispute, Maple Avenue, Information Given
 11:25 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Falls, Turkey Hill Trail, Public Assist
 3:59 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, East County Road, Vehicle Removed
 4:26 p.m. Suspicious Person – Vehicle Activity, Maple Avenue, Investigated
 5:24 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, East County Road, Officer Advised
 6:04 p.m. Suspicious Person-Vehicle Activity, Ten Rod Road, Area Search Negative
 7:46 p.m. Abandoned Vehicle

Wednesday, Jan. 31
 11:07 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Seizures, Miles Road, Transported to Hospital
 11:34 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Barre Paxton Road, Report Filed
 12:32 p.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Wachusett Street, Information Given
 12:53 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Criminal Complaint
 Summons: Mekonian, Nairi, 36, Worcester
 Charges: Unregistered Motor Vehicle Registration Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With
 12:53 p.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Orchard Hill Drive, Animal Returned to Owner
 2:42 p.m. Court Duty, Rutland Police Department, Court Duty
 3:14 p.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Main Street, Referred to Other Agency
 3:56 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 4:03 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Pommogussett Road, Vehicle Towed
 9:14 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Lowell Police Department, Message Delivered
 11 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Virginia Sheriff's Office, Negative Contact

Thursday, Feb. 1
 2:14 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Irish Lane, Transported to Hospital
 5:45 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Written Warning
 8:16 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 8:58 a.m. Court Duty, East Brookfield District Court, Court Duty
 10:14 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Citation Issued
 11:09 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street, Citation Issued
 1:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 2:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 2:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 2:36 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Wachusett Street, Written Warning
 3:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Citation Issued
 3:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 3:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning
 3:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Written Warning
 4:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning
 5:23 p.m. Erratic Operator, Morris Lane, Negative Contact
 6:50 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Milford, Mutual Aid Assist
 11:28 p.m. Public Assist, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party

Friday, Feb. 2
 12:31 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 1:03 p.m. Suspicious Person-Vehicle-Activity, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Mary
 1:17 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Pleasantdale Road, Public Assist
 10:16 a.m. Illegal Dumping, Rail Trail, Referred to Other Agency
 11:59 a.m. Larceny or Theft, Barre Paxton Road, Report Filed
 12:49 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Campbell Street, Information Given
 2:56 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Citation Issued
 3:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 3:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 3:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 4:05 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Old Turnpike Road, Transported to Hospital
 7:23 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Breathing Difficulty, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 7:59 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Wilson Way, o Action Required

Saturday, Feb. 3
 12:14 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, Hubbardston, Arrest(s) Made
 Arrest: Martin, Stephen, 35, Bennington, Vermont
 Charges: Stop for Police, Fail, Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle, Marked Lanes Violation, Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle, Warrant, Speeding Rate of Speed Exceeding Posted Limit
 11:59 a.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Pommogussett Road, Animal Returned to Owner
 4:16 p.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Pommogussett Road, Animal Returned to Owner
 4:39 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Trauma/Knee Injury, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 7:49 p.m. Property – Lost and Found, Between Spencer and Rutland, Information Taken

Oakham Police Log

Sunday, Jan. 28
 10:25 a.m. Road Condition Notification, Town Wide, Message Delivered
 10:38 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Spencer Road, No Fire Service Necessary
 7:57 p.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Coldbrook Road, Removed Hazard

Monday, Jan. 29
 7:36 p.m. Road Condition Notification, East Hill Road, Officer Advised
 7:50 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Worcester Road, Information Given

Tuesday, Jan. 30
 7:46 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Worcester Road, Information Given

Wednesday, Jan. 31
 8:52 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, Barre, Mutual Aid Assist
 4:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning
 8:53 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Gray Oaks Lane, Office Spoke to Party

Hubbardston Police Log

Sunday, Jan. 28
 10:24 a.m. Road Condition Notification, Town Wide, Information Taken
 11:24 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Gardner Road, Transported to Hospital
 4:36 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Seizures, Lombard Road, Transported to Hospital
 6:18 p.m. Complaint, Gardner Road, Officer Spoke to Party

Monday, Jan. 29
 5:57 a.m. Complaint, Worcester Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 6:29 a.m. Complaint, Main Street, Officer Advised
 6:39 a.m. Complaint, Main Street, Removed Hazard
 9:06 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Stroke (CVA), Williamsville Road, Transported to Hospital
 10:37 a.m. Complaint, Worcester Road, Negative Contact
 12:52 p.m. Complaint, Gardner Road, Negative Contact
 3:17 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Grimes Road, Officer Advised
 4:21 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Worcester Road, Report Filed

7:44 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Barre Road, Information Given
 7:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Ragged Hill Road, Public Assist

Tuesday, Jan. 30
 3:22 p.m. Assist Other PD, Westminster Police Department, Negative Contact
 7:28 p.m. Fire – Fumes/Gas Leak, Main Street, Investigated

Wednesday, Jan. 31
 10:10 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Animal Bites, Barre Road, Information Given

Thursday, Feb. 1
 9:46 a.m. Court Duty, Gardner District Court, Court Duty
 1:29 p.m. Fire – Power Line Down/ Arcing, Adams Road, Area Patrolled
 3:50 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Grimes Road, No Fire Service Necessary
 6:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gardner Road, Written Warning

Friday, Feb. 2
 8:03 a.m. Log Hanging Wire, Adams Road, Investigated

5:59 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Old Boston Turnpike, Negative Contact

Saturday, Feb. 3
 12:14 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Pursuit, Gardner Road, Arrest(s) Made
 Summons: Martin, Stephen, 35, Bennington, Vermont
 Charges: Speeding, Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle, Stop for Police, Fail, Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle
 1:33 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Bleeding (Non-Traumatic), Gardner Road, Transported to Hospital
 3:22 p.m. Fire – Electrical Fire, Main Street, Fire Extinguished
 4:42 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/ Syncope, Williamsville Road, Transported to Hospital
 5:36 p.m. Motor Vehicle Disabled, New Westminster Road, Vehicle Removed
 6:44 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problems, Kruse Road, Transported to Hospital
 9:49 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Mohawk Drive, Criminal Complaint

MassDOT announces 20 miles of shared use paths

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces approximately 20 miles of shared use paths opened in 2023 for the first time, expanding multimodal connectivity and opportunities for recreation across Massachusetts while enhancing pedestrian and cyclist safety.

Throughout the course of 2023, MassDOT completed dozens of roadway projects that added new bike lanes, sidewalks, shared use paths, and crosswalks. Additionally, MassDOT continued to support improvements in school zones and the expansion of shared paths and trails through programs like Safe Routes to School, Shared Streets and Spaces, Complete Streets, and MassTrails, which have all helped to prioritize investments in municipalities to create safer, multimodal travel.

“I want to commend our dedicated teams at MassDOT for the progress they made over the course of 2023 to give our communities more miles of multimodal connectivity,” said Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbitts-Nutt. “These projects are designed to make our transportation network safer, more practical and more inclusive for all users. We have many achievements to be proud of – and great momentum for 2024.”

The 20 miles of shared paths that opened in 2023 was the result of completed projects, either constructed by MassDOT or jointly funded through the MassTrails program, along 14 different trails across Massachusetts.

Local trails include Mass Central Rail Trail, in Hardwick and Mass Central Rail Trail, in Holden

MassTrails Team officially launched its Priority Trails Network map. By the end of 2024, 25 additional miles of shared paths are expected to open across the state, further expanding multimodal connectivity.

The MassTrails Team consists of MassDOT, the Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. Continuing efforts to support the state’s growing network of trails, in 2023 the Healey-Driscoll Administration announced \$11 million in its fifth annual round of MassTrails Grants to 68 projects across Massachusetts. The grants provide assistance for the construction, maintenance and improvements for a variety of public trails throughout the state trails system, such as hiking trails, bike-ways and shared-use paths.

RMV provides update on implementation of Work and Family Mobility Act

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles provides an update on the first six months of the Work and Family Mobility Act.

Since the law went into effect on July 1, the RMV has issued 91,961 new learner’s permits and 54,952 new, first-time driver’s licenses to Massachusetts residents.

“Since the Work and Family Mobility Act was implemented in July, thousands of Massachusetts residents have been able to get licenses helping provide access to friends, families, and their communities,” said MassDOT Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbitts-Nutt.

“We are especially proud of the language and interpreter assistance provided to applicants, underscoring our commitment to helping all eligible applicants. We’d also like to thank our non-profit and community partners for assisting the Registry with public education about the new law, which helped to enhanced customer service options,” said Tibbitts-Nutt.

The amount of new learner’s permits represents an increase of 244% and new driver’s licenses represents an increase of 120%, when compared to the same time period in 2022. In addition, 33,648 out of state conversions were processed.

To accommodate increased customer volumes, the RMV hired more than 250 front line staff and road test examiners. In addition, the RMV expanded service by extending hours Monday through Friday and offering appointments on Saturdays at many service cen-

ter locations. The RMV opened additional road test locations in Holyoke, Revere, Cambridge, Franklin, Worcester and Brockton, contracted temporary third-party providers to handle increased volume for those newly eligible to obtain a license, and contracted with a driving school company to offer tests at their business locations in West Boylston, Avon and Framingham.

Over the past several months, the RMV has identified and created informational resources specifically to help guide new customers as they begin the process to secure a Standard License. To further support this effort, the RMV has also worked directly with immigration advocacy groups, non-profit organizations and impacted communities to facilitate and coordinate public outreach and to solicit feedback on implementation efforts so that best practices can be adopted.

The RMV also offers a pre-registering system that establishes a proactive process for booking appointments. Rather than checking the RMV website for an appointment, customers will be able to request an appointment online and will receive an email with a unique link when an appointment is available for them to schedule.

The RMV remains committed to providing quality services to all communities and has been working diligently to develop informational resources, which include:

An informational website with helpful information on the WFMA,

details identification requirements and outlines steps which must be undertaken by eligible individuals to get a Standard Class D or Class M driver’s license, including successfully passing a vision screening, and scheduling separate appointments for a learner’s permit and road test. This site was launched in 2023 because the Registry is committed to supporting the needs of newly eligible applicants.

A special informational phone line, 857-368-WFMA (857-368-9362), to hear messaging in multiple languages.

The RMV has also worked on additional ways to support residents by:

Translating materials into 15 languages, permits available in 35 languages and interpreters (phone and in-person) available in 100 plus languages.

Expanding call center staffing by 50 percent and adding a temporary, dedicated WFMA inquiry line operated by a vendor with live customer service representatives.

Expanding staffing at customer service centers by 50 percent and expanding hours of operation at many locations to include Saturdays and some evening hours.

More than doubling the number of road test examiners, adding temporary road test sites, and expanding hours for road test operations at many locations.

For more information, people may visit Mass.gov/WFMA or call 857-368-WFMA (857-368-9362).

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 Ware River News • The Journal Register • The Register • Quabog Current
 Sentinel • The Holyoke Sun • The Wilbraham-Hampden Times • Town Reminder

Public Notices

BARRE PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

The Barre Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.**, Henry Woods Building, 40 West Street, Board's Office, 3rd Floor, requested by Shawn Robertson for the installation of an interconnected ground mounted PV system, 20 (405w) panels, 8.100 kdc located at 173 Old Coldbrook Road, Assessors Map EA, Parcel 10 and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds Book 64682, Page 163.

Anyone wishing to comment on this matter should attend the hearing or submit comments in writing prior to the hearing to the Planning Board.

Floyd Kelley
Chairman
02/08, 02/15/2024

Town of Oakham PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Oakham Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday,**

February 27, 2024, at 7:15 p.m., at the Town Hall, to consider the special permit application of BHT Oakham LLC for outdoor storage of used, operable and inoperable automobiles, trucks and other vehicles, for wholesale online auction.

A copy of the application may be reviewed at the office of the Town Clerk during normal business hours. Anyone who wishes to be heard on the proposed special permit should attend the hearing, or submit comments in writing to the Planning Board before the hearing.

The public is invited to attend Board/Committee meetings in person or via Zoom technology by clicking on the link below.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/6907987749> Meeting ID: 690 798 7749
Phillip Warbasse, Chairman.
02/08, 02/15/2024

FY 2025 - REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR AN UPDATE PROGRAM TO MAINTAIN EQUITABLE ASSESSMENTS WITHIN

THE TOWN OF BARRE, MASSACHUSETTS

The Town of Barre invites all interested companies to submit sealed proposals for undertaking a program to update all real and personal property values within the Town of Barre for Fiscal Year 2025.

Specifications for the proposed program may be obtained at the office of the Board of Assessors, Henry Woods Building, 40 West Street, Barre, MA 01005 Mondays through Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Specifications will be available until Wednesday, February 28th, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

Proposals are to be submitted to the Board of Assessors or the Town Administrator, Henry Woods Building, 40 West Street, Barre, MA 01005. Proposals will be accepted Monday through Thursdays between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. until Monday, February 28th, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

It is the specific intent of the Town to contract through its Board of Assessors for a complete update of property

valuations effective January 1, 2024 consistent with Massachusetts Department of Revenue requirements using an in-house CAMA appraisal system. The program is to commence on or about July 2, 2024, and to be completed by October 15, 2024. The program is to result in the approval of property values by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue.

The Town of Barre reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals or any part thereof, or to select a bidder whose proposal is not the lowest, as deemed to be in the best interest of the Town.

The awarding of the contract shall be subject to the availability of funds.
02/15, 02/22/2024

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Frank W. LaRange to Mortgage Electronic Registration

Systems, Inc., as nominee for Northpoint Mortgage, Inc., dated November 16, 2016 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 56343, Page 90, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Northpoint Mortgage, Inc., its successors and assigns to PennyMac Loan Services, L.L.C., recorded on June 28, 2022, in Book No. 67821, at Page 147 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at **4:00 PM on March 15, 2024**, on the mortgaged premises located at 711 South Barre Road, Barre, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

TO WIT: The following described parcel of land, and the improvements and appurtenances thereto in the County of Worcester (Worcester District), Commonwealth of Massachusetts to wit:

Commonly known as: 711 South Barre Road, Barre, MA 01005 Parcel No.: Map H, Lot 451

Legal Description: Land with the buildings thereon in that part of Barre, Worcester County, Massachusetts, known as South Barre, on the easterly side of South Barre Road, known as Route 32, being shown as Lot 1 on a Plan entitled "Plan of Land in Barre, MA owned by D.A. Robinson Contracting, Inc., Scale 1 "50", dated February 23, 1999, drawn by Donald A. Para, Land Surveyor, Inc., New Braintree, MA and recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 739, Plan 18, to which plan reference is hereby made for a more particular description. Lot 1 contains 0.619 Acres. For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District)

Registry of Deeds in Book 52145, Page 219.

These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by

mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC
Present holder of said mortgage

By its Attorneys,
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Newton, MA 02458
(617)558-0500
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02/15, 02/22, 02/29/2024



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MONEY MATTERS

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Trust Beyond Transactions

PV Financial Group takes a refreshing departure from the transactional norms of the financial industry. Instead of focusing solely on transactions, the firm's financial advisors prioritize cultivating strong relationships with their clients. This commitment ensures that every interaction is characterized by a delicate balance of care, skill, diligence, and objectivity.

Communication as the Cornerstone

The firm firmly believes that effective communication is the bedrock of a thriving client-advisor relationship. PV Financial Group's comprehensive process involves open and transparent communication to understand each client's unique financial situation, goals,

and preferences. This commitment to communication extends through every step of developing and managing clients' financial lives.

A Team of Professionals

PV Financial Group boasts a team of trained and courteous financial professionals who collaborate seamlessly to provide clients with the highest level of personalized service. Through continuous training, the team stays well-informed and equipped to navigate the complexities of the financial landscape. The courteous approach reflects the firm's commitment to treating clients with respect and professionalism.

Comprehensive and

Meticulous Approach

The firm's comprehensive process involves a meticulous examination of each client's financial needs and aspirations. Financial advisors exercise balance, care, and skill in crafting personalized financial plans, considering factors such as risk tolerance, financial goals, and market conditions. Diligence is a hallmark of PV Financial Group's

approach, ensuring thorough research, analysis, and ongoing monitoring of clients' portfolios.

Objectivity in Action

Objectivity is a guiding principle in decision-making at PV Financial Group. Financial advisors maintain a clear and objective perspective, always acting in the best interests of the clients. This com-

mitment ensures that recommendations align with each client's unique circumstances and financial objectives, fostering a relationship built on trust and integrity.

PV Financial Group, through its client-centric approach, aims to be a reliable partner on the journey toward financial success for every client. With a focus on trust, effective communication, and a team of dedi-

cated professionals, the firm is making waves in the financial landscape by prioritizing relationships over transactions. As we navigate the intricate world of finance, PV Financial Group stands out as a beacon of personalized and trustworthy financial guidance, dedicated to building a secure and prosperous future for its clients.



Tips to educate young adults to be smart about credit

Credit is a necessary component of doing business in the modern world. The credit reporting agency Experian defines credit as the ability to borrow money or access goods or services with the understanding that a person will pay later. Various creditors grant credit based on their confidence that a borrower will repay what is owed.

Many adults learn about credit through trial and error. Financial literacy is not taught in many schools, although lots of people feel it merits space alongside literature, math, science, and other subjects. A recent NextGen study found only one in six high school students are required to take a personal finance class in the United States. In addition, a survey conducted in 2018 by Chase bank found only one-third of Americans were taught what a credit score is by their parents.

It is essential that guardians share information about credit with young adults to help them be financially solvent and successful later in life. Here are some ways to help young adults learn about credit.

Start with credit basics

Speak generally about credit and how it is used. Then explain credit scores, credit bureaus and credit reports. A credit history and credit score is important information for young adults to have early on and check frequently, as having good credit improves the chances they will qualify for loans and earn acceptable terms in the future.

Help them build credit

Having one or more credit accounts can help a person establish and build credit by making payments on time. Credit card companies often advertise student and secured credit card accounts that come with small or managed credit limits. Making purchases on the cards and paying them in full every month is the

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MONEY MATTERS



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THE ROAD TO Financial Wellness

The Benefits of Using a Financial Planner

In today's complex financial world, many investors seek out financial planners to help them navigate the intricacies of personal finance. The benefits of having expert financial help are manifold, including investment advice, retirement planning, tax strategies and estate planning.

Most financial planners collaborate with their clients to choose an asset allocation that melds the client's risk tolerance with their goals. After investments are chosen, often the advisor plays the role of cheerleader. Keeping clients from making rash decisions and veering off course from their financial plan may be one of the most important roles an advisor plays. All advisors have seen clients panic and try to make changes to portfolios in response to political or economic events that soon pass.

Retirement planning may be one of the most important acts that an advisor can perform. Everyone would love a stress-free retirement. A good planner can help calculate how much you will need to save to retire. He or she will also create a strategy for claiming social security and any pensions in order to meet retirement spending needs.

An often-overlooked benefit of having a good financial expert is tax planning. Should you invest in a traditional 401k or a Roth? When should you begin withdrawing from your taxable accounts? Do you have to pay taxes on social security? When do you need to take Required Minimum Distributions and are you taking the correct amount?

In addition to all the above, proper estate planning is imperative to make sure that your assets end up where you would like them to, with the least amount of hassle. Do you need trust or is your will sufficient? Is your house protected from Medicaid in the future? Hiring a good financial expert can greatly enhance your financial life.

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TIPS from page 13

best way to improve a credit score or maintain a good one, says the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Another way teens can build credit is through their student loans. Making small payments on the principal while in school can help establish a strong credit history.

Check their credit reports

The Federal Trade Commission recommends checking a child's credit score around the age of 16 or 17. This will help families figure out if there are any anomalies that may indicate identity theft or inaccurate credit issues.

Know the formula for good credit

Forbes says there are five categories that add up to good credit:

1. Payment history (35 percent): Always pay bills on time.
2. Amounts owed (30 percent): Borrow a low amount compared to the total lines of credit. This also is known as credit utilization.
3. Length of credit history (15 percent): Keeping accounts open for a long time is a win.
4. New credit (10 percent): Do not apply for too much new credit too often.
5. Credit mix (10 percent): Having a balance of different types of credit, such as car loans, credit cards and other types of debt, is advantageous.

Share your own experiences

Sometimes the best way to teach about credit is to be honest about what a parent or another adult did wrong with his or her finances, and use that as a "what not to do" scenario.

It is important for young adults to learn about credit so they can make smart choices that will positively affect their future. Although talking finances may be uncomfortable, it is vital for families to have these discussions.



MONEY MATTERS

Financial mistakes anyone can avoid

Earnings go a long way toward determining an individual's financial security. However, high wages do not guarantee long-term financial security any more than lower wages ensure a future marked by a lack of financial flexibility. Individuals are a unique variable in any financial equation, and those who can exercise and maintain some fiscal discipline are more likely to secure long-term security than those who cannot.

One way anyone can improve their chances at a secure and flexible financial future is to identify and avoid some common mistakes. Avoiding the following mistakes can increase the chances individuals at various income levels enjoy a secure financial future.

- **Delay saving for retirement:** Conventional wisdom says it's never too early to begin saving for retirement. Despite that, surveys indicate many adults are behind on saving. A 2022 survey from Bankrate found that 55 percent of respondents indicated they were behind on their retirement savings, while 35 percent reported being "significantly behind." Though laws governing retirement contributions have made it easier for people to catch up, it's still better to begin saving once you enter the professional arena, which for most peo-



ple is some time in their early to mid-twenties. The longer you delay saving for retirement, the more precarious your financial future becomes.

- **Spending beyond your means:** The post-pandemic increase in cost-of-living has garnered considerable attention in recent years, when inflation has driven up the cost of just about everything. There's little consumers can do about the rising cost of living, but making a concerted effort to curtail spending is one way to combat the spike. However, surveys indicate many people earning significant salaries are living paycheck-to-paycheck. For example, a 2021 report from LendingClub Corporation found that nearly 40 percent of individuals with annual incomes greater than \$100,000 live paycheck to paycheck, with 12 percent reporting they are struggling to pay their bills. An assortment of variables undoubtedly contribute to that stark reality, and one might be a tendency for consumers to spend beyond their means. Individuals who are struggling to curtail their spending are urged to seek the help of a certified financial planner who can help them devise a budget and alleviate some of the stress and pressure associated with overspending or living paycheck to paycheck.

- **Poor use of credit:** Credit cards can be a financial safety blanket, but that blanket can soon smother consumers who don't know how and when to utilize credit. Reserve credit cards for emergency situations and resist the temptation to use them for daily expenses, such as groceries and gas. Credit card interest rates tend to be in the double digits, so unless card holders can pay their balances in full each month, they're only exacerbating the already high cost of living by using credit for daily expenses.

- **Buying too much house:** Overspending on housing is another financial mistake, and arguably the one that's the most difficult to avoid. It can be hard to walk away from a dream home, but such a decision could secure your financial future. Unfortunately, data indicates far too many individuals are spending more on housing than conventional financial wisdom

Did you know?

Interest rates have been headline news for well over a year. In an effort to tame inflation, the Federal Reserve has increased mortgage interest rates with regularity over the last year-plus. While the cost to borrow money has increased, individuals likely noticed that the reward for saving money has not increased along with it, as interest rates for savings accounts have remained low. In fact, the annual percentage yield (APY) as of February 2023 was 0.24 percent, while the average fixed mortgage rate in September 2023 remained well north of 6 percent. An assortment of variables have combined to lower savings account interest rates, but numerous analysts point to banks having more deposits than they require to issue loans. When that happens, banks do not need to attract additional deposits, which they typically do by offering higher savings account interest rates. Without that incentive, savings account interest rates have remained low, meaning account holders will continue to pay considerably more to borrow money than they will earn when they save it.

recommends. The most recent Consumer Expenditure Survey from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics found that spending on housing accounted for 33 percent of the average household's monthly expenses and that the average household spent 88 percent of its after-tax income each month. That latter figure is especially troubling, as conventional financial wisdom recommends a saving rate of 20 percent. Overspending on housing greatly affects a person's ability to save and invest, so resisting the temptation to buy that expensive dream home could be the difference between a secure or scary financial future.

Avoiding some common mistakes can help individuals be more financially flexible and secure over the long haul.

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A Personal Representative of an estate will have to navigate a daunting list of responsibilities and tasks. For an inexperienced family member, this can result in missed deadlines, increased tax liabilities, and long delays that can draw the ire of other family beneficiaries. In some cases, the situation can end up in costly, wasteful legal battles between family members over the disposition of the estate.

As impartial and independent professionals, our GSB Estate Settlement and Trust Services consultants will make sure that your estate is managed efficiently, according to your wishes without adding to your family's emotional upheaval. Call us today to learn more.

Estate Settlement Tasks

- Entering the Will into probate, and handling other legal requirements.
- Gathering all of the personal property and arranging for support of the family.
- Obtaining appraisals of required property for tax purposes.
- Reviewing real estate records to assure timely payment of taxes and collection of rents.
- Evaluating contracts and leases to comply with all requirements, including giving necessary notices.
- Investigating and handling all claims against the estate.
- Collecting all life insurance, rents, and other amounts due to the estate.
- Preparing and filing estate and inheritance federal and state tax returns.
- Paying related estate and inheritance taxes.
- Preparing a final accounting of the estate.
- Distributing the estate to the beneficiaries as directed by the Will.

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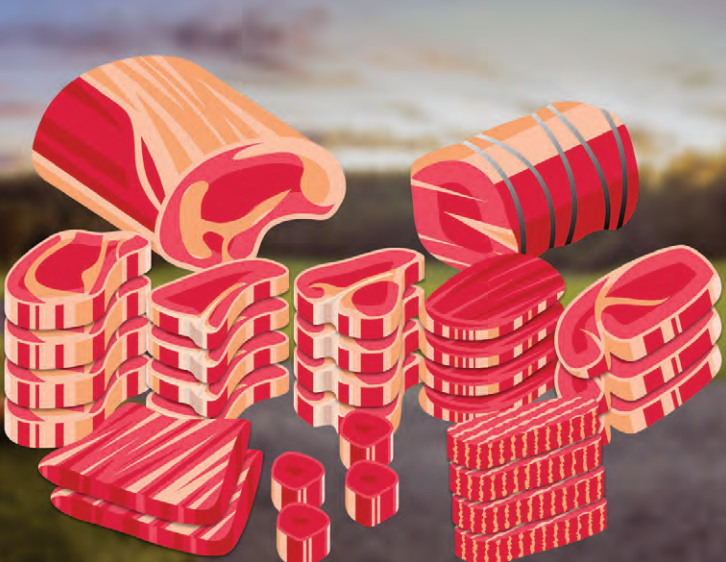
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