

BARRE GAZETTE

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Board to use ARPA funds for school emergency lighting

By Ellenor Downer
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BARRE – Cheryl Duval, Director of Administrative Services and Kevin Clark, Building, Grounds and Security Director for Quabbin Regional School District attended the Tuesday, Feb. 20 meeting to discuss emergency lighting replacement at the elementary school.

Clark said the district got two estimates for the cost to replace emergency lighting and battery packs at the Ruggles Lane Elementary School. The first estimate was \$14,000. A second estimate was \$9,950, which falls under the \$10,000 procurement law threshold.

The estimate would replace all emergency lights with LED lighting and include individual battery backup for the lights.

Select Board Chair Maureen Marshall said American Rescue Plan Act Funds would be used to cover the cost. She told the school officials, the Select Board would add this project to the list of ARPA funded projects, which will be voted at their next meeting.

Barre Dam update

A resident asked the two Select Board members present, Marshall and Mark Regienus, if the Board would be holding another informational meeting on the Barre Dam. Chair Marshall said yes and state officials would be present to give an update on repairs to the dam and explain what the town's required maintenance of the dam would require. She said the state said a cost estimate for maintenance was about \$10,000 every two years.

Chair Marshall also said the town would get a "courtesy" easement from property owner or owners to conduct the maintenance. She said the state did not need an easement to repair the dam. She also wanted the public to have access to the area for recreational use.

Select Board member Regienus said he visited the dam following a significant rainfall and there was no increase in the water level. The dam spillway was breached years ago and it keeps the level of the pond to within one or two feet at the dam. The deepest area is about eight feet and in the middle of the pond.

Town Administrator

Town Administrator Tammy Martin said she would be meeting tomorrow with the Finance Committee, Treasurer, Town Accountant and Collector to work on this year's budget. They will be meeting monthly through the budget season.

She said she attended a workshop on MassDOT complete streets grants recently and found it informative.

Select Board report

Select Board member Regienus said at some point the Board needed to look into possible regionalization of the Fire and Police Departments to help keep costs down.

Select Board Chair Marshall said the Board needed to take a walk through town buildings with the Building Inspector to come up with a list of repairs needed. She said the locks needed to be changed on the Barre Senior Center and clean up of buildings to

See BARRE, page 5

Get to Crafting at Woods Memorial Library

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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BARRE – The Woods Memorial Library will keep your children busy afterschool with a series of crafts to offer.

Recently, one of the new craft activities added to the experience of Woods Memorial Library was Fortune Teller Making led by Assistant Youth Services Librarian, Katie Murray.

After doing some research, Murray learned about what it takes to craft a fortune telling object similar to a Magic 8 ball, and designed an activity for children ages 12 and up.

Materials were provided by the Woods Memorial Library for this well-attended program, including air dry clay, mason jars, styrofoam balls, floral foam and paper.

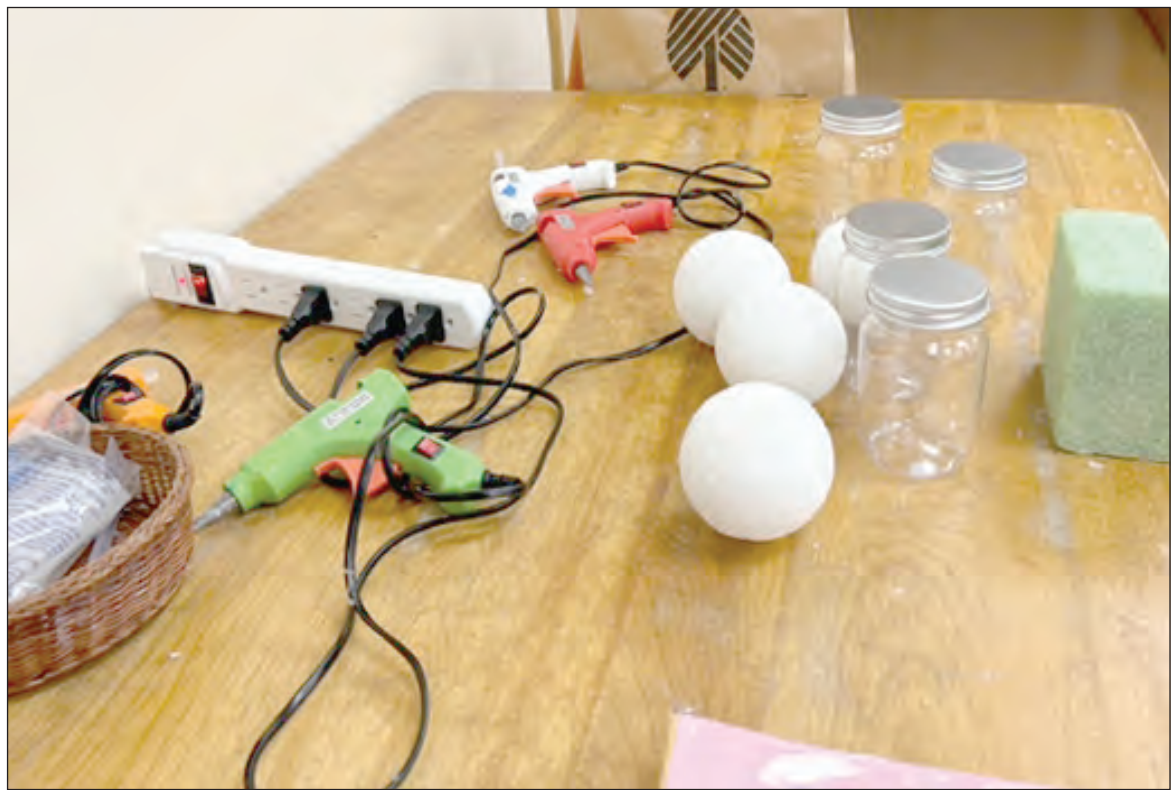
"We want to offer more programs where kids get to take their crafts home," said Murray of the Fortune Teller Making activity.

Most activities for tweens and teens at Woods Memorial Library require registration and some allow walk-ins as well. The library is planning to offer this activity again in the near future.

Every Friday at 3:30 p.m. children can drop in "Friday with Friends" during the winter months to have some fun and start new friendships. A new activity is featured every week ranging from arts and crafts and STEAM-based challenges.

A unique craft is coming soon during the month of March for

See CRAFTING, page 5



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

Supplies were provided by the Woods Memorial Library including mason jars, clay and more.



A sample of a fortune teller designed by Assistant Youth Services Librarian Katie Murray.



What is your fortune? Look through the glass of your own fortune teller.

Residents hear update on Hazard Mitigation Plan

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

HARDWICK – Representatives from Jamie Caplan Consulting, LLC hosted an information session about the status of the town's Hazard Mitigation Plan update.

At the Feb. 26 meeting, Project Manager Jamie Caplan said her firm has been contracted to work with many communities throughout the commonwealth to update their Hazard Mitigation Plans, including Hardwick.

"Our experience is pretty vast," Caplan said. The firm also works on these plans nationally.

She explained that Hazard Mitigation is a sustained action to reduce or eliminate risk to people and property from natural hazards and their effects. One dollar invested in mitigation equals \$6 saved in future costs.

"We're trying to understand all of the different natural hazards and what their impact may be, and then based on that, what we can do about it so that you don't have a disaster," Caplan said.

Hazard Mitigation can also save lives, in addition to reducing future expenses.

Caplan asked residents in attendance whether they would rather be hot or cold. Two residents said they would prefer to be cold, since it is easier to wear extra layers and warm up, than it is to cool down.

Caplan said the town's elementary school, which could serve as an emergency shelter or heating and cooling center, has back-up power, but does not have air conditioning.

"That's the kind of thing that we look for when we're writing our Hazard Mitigation Plan, is sort of what is the town's capacity to mitigate risk, and if you're

too hot or too cold, that is a risk, especially to vulnerable populations," she said. Vulnerable populations include elderly and disabled residents.

Caplan said input from the community is essential to developing the plan, which would need to be approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and adopted by the town. The approved plan is good for five years, and makes the town eligible for pre-disaster mitigation funding.

"We're trying to understand all of the different natural hazards and what their impact may be, and then based on that, what we can do about it so that you don't have a disaster."

- Jamie Caplan

"So that's the big motivation for people writing these plans, or town's having these plans, is that without them, you're not eligible for a significant amount of grant funding," she said.

The process to update the Hazard Mitigation Plan started this past September, with the first public meeting held in December. A public review of the draft plan will be held in March and the plan will be submitted to the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency in April.

Caplan said the town's last Hazard Mitigation Plan was

See HAZARD MITIGATION, page 6

Area fire chiefs stress importance of smoke/CO detectors



Turley photo by Dalton Zbierski

State Fire Marshal Jon Davine takes to the podium at the East Longmeadow Fire Department on Feb. 22 to talk about the importance of having working smoke and CO detectors and alarms.

By Dalton Zbierski
Editor
dzbierski@turley.com

EAST LONGMEADOW – Led by State Fire Marshal Jon Davine, fire personnel from across the state gathered at the East Longmeadow Fire Department on the morning of Feb. 22 to emphasize the significance of maintaining working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

"We have carefully reviewed the recent data from fatal fires and have noticed some trends," Davine said. "A total of 45 people lost their lives from fire in Massachusetts last year, and nearly 70% of those deaths took place in the home. Two-thirds of those fire victims were older adults ages 65 and up. Tragically, more than half of those homes that had fatal fires did not have working smoke alarms."

There was a time in the state's history where a single fire could take the lives of 492 people, as



Wilbraham Fire Chief Michael Andrews, shown speaking in East Longmeadow.

occurred during the Coconut Grove nightclub fire in Boston in 1942, so 45 fire fatalities statewide in 2023 represents generational progress, but more progress could be made if all residents installed working detectors.

Westfield Fire Chief Patrick Egloff noted that 30% of the state's residential fire deaths last year occurred in Western Massachusetts. Egloff is vice president of the Western Massachusetts Fire Chiefs Association, which represents more than 100 communities west of Worcester, ranging from larger urban centers to small rural towns and everything in between.

"No matter where we work, we all agree on one thing: working smoke and CO alarms are vital, lifesaving tools that belong in every home, apartment, moving house and dorm," Egloff said.

Egloff relayed that fire personnel are realistic and know fires will occur as long as people are cooking, heating their homes, smoking and using electricity. However, almost every fire death can be prevented if residents install, test and maintain their smoke detectors and alarms.

"Smoke alarms alert you to the
See FIRE CHIEFS, page 9



News of the Towns



Round Town
Ellenor Downer
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OES to hold pancake breakfast

The Cradle Rock Chapter Order of Eastern Star will hold a designer pancake breakfast on

Saturday, March 2 from 7:30-10:30 a.m. at the Masonic Hall, 71 Pleasant St. Cost is \$9 per adult and \$5 for children 10 and under. Complete breakfast includes: design your own pancakes, waffles, sausage gravy and biscuits, bacon, sausage, juice and coffee and 100% real maple syrup. This is an all you can eat breakfast. All are welcome.

Quabbin High one act play

On Friday, March 1 at 7 p.m. the Quabbin Performing Arts presents a one-act play, "Silenced on Barbour Street" at Quabbin Regional High School, 800 South St., in the auditorium. This play explores the factors that led to the 1944 circus fire that claimed the lives of 144 spectators in Hartford, Connecticut so content is suitable for middle and high school age students and adults. People are invited to attend for this performance as students prepare to compete at the Massachusetts Educational Theater Guild State Drama Festival. Tickets are \$7 in advance and \$9 at the door. Tickets can be purchased on online by visiting our show/quabbindrama.

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 Thursday, Feb. 29 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and Friday, March 1 from 10 a.m.-noon.

Annual Town Election

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, March 1 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.

Cradle Rock OES to hold pancake breakfast

BARRE – The Cradle Rock Chapter Order of Eastern Star will hold a designer pancake breakfast on Saturday, March 2 from 7:30-10:30 a.m. at the Masonic Hall, 71 Pleasant St.

Cost is \$9 per adult and \$5 for children 10 and under. Complete breakfast includes: design your own pancakes, waffles, sausage gravy and biscuits, bacon, sausage, juice and coffee and 100% real maple syrup. This is an all you can eat breakfast. All are welcome

Rutland Historical Society hosts Hospital Day

RUTLAND – The Rutland Historical Society hosts Hospital Day, on Sunday, March 10 from 1-4 p.m. at the Wood House, 232 Main St.,

Displays from the VA Hospital, Rutland Heights, Prison Camp Hospital and the State Sanatorium will be available for viewing. Former employees of the institutions are invited to participate and share their stories and reunite with each other. Refreshments will be available.

Second public forum set for March 2



Submitted photo

A second public forum will be held on Saturday, March 2 from 2:30-4:30 p.m. at the Petersham Center School to update the Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan with the planning team from the Conway School.

PETERSHAM – Residents will meet at a second Public Engagement Forum at the Petersham Center School, 31 Spring St. on Saturday, March 2 from 2:30-4:30 p.m. to further discuss the town's update of its seven-year Open Space and Recreation Plan.

The public can also attend the forum remotely on Zoom at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87315723394>. Meeting ID: 873 1572 3394.

"We were thrilled by the turnout at the first public forum in February in Lower Town Hall when 82 people attended either in person or by Zoom" said Anne Cavanaugh of the Open Space and Recreation

Committee. "This will be our second and final engagement session with our planning team from the Conway School," she said. After the second forum, the Conway team will prepare an initial draft of the OSRP for review by the Open Space & Recreation Committee. The Conway team will then revise the draft as needed and provide a final draft of the plan to the Town in April. The Open Space and Recreation Committee will host and facilitate a third public forum to review the final draft. The draft will also be posted online at the Town of Petersham's website for public comments.

"Right now, we're eager

to draw in as many youth and families as we can to the Conway team's second engagement forum on Saturday, March 2 at the Petersham Center School," said Cavanaugh. "One way to do this is by visiting the students at the school the day before the forum to get their input on outdoor recreation and what they imagine for the town in the next seven years. Their feedback and comments will inform our public forum the next day," she added.

For more information, people may email the Open Space and Recreation Committee at petershamosr@gmail.com.

Food Pantry holds monthly distributions

BARRE – The next two Barre Food Pantry distributions will occur on Wednesday March 13 from 10-11:30 a.m. and on Thursday, March 21 from 5:30-7 p.m.

Clients are invited to pick up groceries from the food pantry either in the morning on Wednesday, March 13 or in the evening on Thursday, March 21, whichever is more convenient for them.

The Barre Food Pantry volunteers strive to continue to fulfill their mission to get food to hungry and food insecure clients. The pantry must also continue to protect clients, volunteers and the larger community from the spread of the COVID-19 subvariant viruses.

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

to operate as they have since March of 2020.

In order to maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients March 13 and March 21 will again be "drive-through" style distributions. Clients will line up in their vehicles on Park Street and proceed into the right hand (east) entrance driveway of the Barre Congregational Church. They will remain in their cars. They'll drive up and be checked in by a volunteer, then continue up to the church building where their groceries will be put into the trunk or wayback of their vehicle by volunteers at multiple stations.

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

Volunteers

On Tuesday, March 12 at 5:30 p.m. the Barre

Food Pantry will be gathering volunteers at the Barre Congregational Church to unload incoming groceries from their truck, to sort through donated groceries, to pre-fill grocery bags and in other ways to prepare for the distribution the following morning. If people can help pitch in for an hour on the March 12, they should call Sonja Blaney at 978-355-6921.

People should not arrive to volunteer on March 12, 13 or 21 without first contacting Sonja Blaney at 978-355-6921, Dave Petrovick at 978-852-1696 or Chuck Radlo at 978-355-6463.

Because conditions have been changing rapidly, people should continue to check for updates on the Barre Food Pantry by visiting: <http://www.barrefoodbank.org/index.htm> or the Barre Food Pantry

Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Barre-Food-Pantry-100156068300314/>.

Hubbardston

Ellenor Downer
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Volunteers to reclaim Hidden Meadow

On Saturday, March 2 beginning at 9 a.m. throughout the afternoon, volunteer will be burning brush at Hidden Meadow, 71 Lombard Road. The Hidden Meadow preserve stewards, Mike, Krista and Kathy, started cutting the invasive honeysuckle bushes. To prepare for spring, they need to burn the cut stems so the grass can grow. All ages are welcome to reclaim this meadow. The walk to the meadow is approximately 12 - 15 minutes from the parking area on Lombard Road. Volunteers should bring gloves and water. East Quabbin Land Trust staff will provide snacks, hot dogs and s'mores and maybe even grilled cheese fixings.

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 Wii Bowling beginning at 8:30 a.m. every Monday and Wednesday beginning at 8:30 a.m. Eggs may be picked up on Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. in the Senior Center. Cribbage is played on Thursdays from 1:30-3 p.m. Pitch is played the first and third Friday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Art group meets every Friday at 9 a.m.

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 March 4. 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 – Teriyaki beef, steamed rice, broccoli, fresh fruit, fortune cookie, whole wheat bread

TUESDAY – Marinated pork loin, herbed stuffing, peas, cinnamon pears, pumpernickel bread

WEDNESDAY – Chicken vegetable stir fry, brown rice, green peas, fruited ambrosia, Italian bread

THURSDAY – Salisbury steak with gravy, garlic mashed potatoes, herb carrots and broccoli, brownie, diet = cookies, sandwich roll

FRIDAY – Vegetable cheese bake, seasoned potatoes, green beans, Rice Krispy Treat, Italian bread

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

Petersham Democrats to hold caucus March 10

PETERSHAM – Democrats in Petersham will hold a caucus on Sunday, March 10 at 4 pm in person at the Petersham Town Hall, lower level, 1 South Main St., to elect delegates and an alternate to attend the 2024 Massachusetts Democratic Convention. The caucus is open to all registered and pre-registered 16 years old by Thursday Feb. 15 Democrats in Petersham. Petersham can elect two delegates and one alternate to the Convention.

Youth (age 16 to 35), people with disabilities, people of color, veterans and members of the LGBTQ community not elected as a delegate or alternate may apply to be an add-on delegate at the caucus or by visiting www.massdems.org/massdems-convention. This year's Mass Dems Convention is scheduled to take place on Saturday, June 1 at the DCU Center in Worcester.

For more information about the Petersham Democratic Town Committee, people may call Henry Woolsey at 978-771-2173 or email at henrywoolsey@gmail.com.

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News of the Towns

PUBLIC MEETINGS

BARRE.

QRSD Central Office/Audit/Administrative Review Subcommittee – Feb. 29 at 5 p.m.
 QRSD Budget Subcommittee – Feb. 29 at 6 p.m.
 Select Board — March 4 at 6 p.m.
 Primary Election Day – March 5 from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.
 Board of Assessors – March 5 at 6 p.m.
 Felton Field Commission – March 5 at 6:30 p.m.
 Planning Board – March 5 at 7 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.
 Library Trustees – March 13 at 6:30 p.m.
 Barre Housing Authority – March 14 at 3 p.m.
 Sewer Commission – March 21 at 7 p.m.
 9/11 Memorial Development Committee – March 27 at 5 p.m.
 Cemetery Commission – March 28 at 11 a.m.
 Town Election Day – April 1 from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

HARDWICK

Finance Committee – March 4, March 18 and March 25 at 6 p.m. and April 1 at 7 p.m.
 Master Plan Steering Committee – March 5 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.
 Board of Selectmen – March 11 and March 25 at 6:30 p.m.
 Hardwick New Braintree Cultural Council – March 11, May 13, June 10, July 8 and August 12 at 6:30 p.m.
 Council on Aging – March 13 at 9 a.m.
 Gilbertville Public Library – March 13 at 4 p.m.
 Zoning Board of Appeals – March 13 at 5:30 p.m.
 Capital Planning Committee – March 18 at 3 p.m.
 Conservation Commission – March 20 at 6:30 p.m.

HUBBARDSTON

Open Space Committee – Feb. 29 at 7 p.m.
 Presidential Primary – March 5 from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.
 Emergency Management Committee – March 5 at 1 p.m.
 Conservation Commission Public Hearing – March 5 at 7 p.m.
 Community Preservation Committee – March 5 at 7 p.m.
 Planning Board – March 6 at 6:30 p.m.
 Agricultural Commission – March 7 at 6:30 p.m.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

Downtown Development Committee – March 4 at 6:30 p.m.
 Presidential Primary – March 5 from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.
 Board of Selectmen – March 12 and March 26 at 6 p.m.
 Planning Board – March 20 at 6 p.m.

OAKHAM.

Board of Health – Feb. 29 at 5:30 p.m.
 Select Board – March 4, 11, 18 and 25 at 6 p.m.
 Presidential Primary – March 5 from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.
 Finance Committee – March 6 at 6 p.m.
 Planning Board – March 19 at 7 p.m.
 Senator Durant and Rep. Berthiaume Office Hours – March 27 from 1-2 p.m.

PETERSHAM

Open Space and Recreation Committee – March 2 at 2:30 p.m. and March 5 at 6 p.m.
 Core Planning Team – March 4, March 11, March 18 and March 25 at 1:30 p.m.
 Open Space & Recreation Committee – March 5 at 6 p.m.
 Board of Health – March 7 at 6 p.m.
 Conservation Commission – March 5 at 7:30 p.m.
 Council on Aging – March 11 at 10 a.m.
 Cemetery Commission – March 12 at 10 a.m.
 Board of Assessors – March 12 at 5:30 p.m.
 Petersham Historic District – March 21 at 6 p.m.

RUTLAND

Budget Meeting Wachusett Regional School District – Feb. 29 at 6:30 p.m.
 Select Board Budget Meeting Wachusett Regional School District – Feb. 29 at 6:30 p.m.

Oakham Democratic Town Committee to hold caucus March 5

OAKHAM – The Oakham Democratic Town Committee will hold a virtual caucus on Tuesday, March 5 at 5:30 p.m. to elect delegates for the 2024 state Democratic Convention.

Any registered Democrat is welcome to attend. This will be a virtual meeting. To receive a meeting invitation, registered Democrats should send an email to OakhamDTC@gmail.com and provide their full name and Oakham address.

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

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

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

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

Sheriff's Office inspiring kindness in Worcester County one community at a time



Submitted photo
Staff from the Worcester County Sheriff's Office deliver Random Acts of Kindness goody bags to the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department.

"Wherever there is a human being, there is an opportunity for a kindness,"
Lucas Annaeus Seneca

NEW BRAINTREE – For their third year, Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis and Worcester County Sheriff's Office staff celebrated the nationally recognized Random Acts of Kindness Week, this year during the week of Feb. 12.

The goal of this week is to inspire acts of kindness throughout the county. To spread joy and inspire kindness, Sheriff's Office staff successfully executed their mission to visit every community in Worcester County during the Random Acts of Kindness week. Staff distributed over 3,500 goody bags filled with donated items to lucky individuals they met at various public places. The bags serve as a symbol of support and care from local law enforcement.

Sheriff's Office staff made a stop at the Hardwick and New Braintree Police Department in New Braintree as well as a handful of other locations throughout the town.

With its motto, "Make Kindness the Norm," the Random Acts of Kindness Foundation was founded during a mid-1990s summer when violence was at an all-time high on the West Coast. Inspiration to start the organization came from a television reporter who noted that people should stop reporting on "random acts of violence" and start "practicing random acts of kindness and senseless acts of beauty." This foundation is now the driving force behind Random Acts of Kindness Week in the United States.

This year, Tito's Handmade Vodka and Polar Beverages were the bag sponsors of the initiative. With the support of the two organizations, the Sheriff's

Office, and the Worcester County Reserve Deputy Sheriff Association were able to acquire the 3,500 goody bags at no cost.

"Our duty as a law enforcement agency is to build bridges and strengthen the bond between our department and the communities we serve," commented Sheriff Evangelidis. "Our team takes immense pride in contributing towards the betterment of Worcester County and always looks for ways to spread positivity. We understand the significance of ensuring public safety and are committed to reinforcing that message. Let us all strive to make positivity the focus of this week."

The Sheriff's Office hosts community events year-round to engage the residents that they serve. To learn more about the Sheriff's Office, people may visit their website at www.WorcesterCountySheriff.com or follow along on social media for consistent updates.

Harvard Forest to host presentation March 5 on solar energy

PETERSHAM – Massachusetts state energy policy encouraged the clearing of 4,800 acres of forest, an area larger than Cambridge, for ground-mount solar infrastructure since 2010.

In response, Harvard Forest Research Director Jonathan Thompson will lead a talk on solar energy development in Massachusetts on the evening of Tuesday, March 5 from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Harvard Forest Fisher Museum, 324 North Main St. The event is free and open to the public and will be hybrid, hosted in person in the Harvard Forest Fisher Museum and also streamed online via Zoom. For more information and to register, people may visit <https://harvard-forest.fas.harvard.edu/solar-event>. Those without the ability to register via the internet but who would like to attend in person may also call Clarisse Hart, Director of Education, at 978-756-6157 to register with their name and number of attendees. The Harvard Forest welcomes individuals with disabilities to participate in its programs and events. The Fisher Museum is a universally accessible building. If people require additional visitor accommodations or assistance, they should note this in their registration.

In a 2023 research report, Growing Solar, Protecting Nature, Thompson and co-authors from Mass Audubon identify a path for Massachusetts to build the solar energy it needs and protect the nature it has. Thompson will be joined by co-author and Mass Audubon Vice President for Policy and Advocacy Michelle Manion to outline policy recommendations from the report that



Photo by Lucas Faria

Solar energy will be the subject of a hybrid presentation at the Harvard Forest Fisher Museum, 324 North Main St., Petersham on Tuesday, March 5 from 6-7:30 p.m.

would be cheaper for society as a whole when compared to the current pattern of solar development.

Following on the heels of UMass Clean Energy Extension's Western Massachusetts Solar Forum last fall, Growing Solar, Protecting Nature was developed in response to statewide greenhouse gas goals that continue to fall short of protecting the existing carbon storage afforded by Massachusetts forests.

The presentation on March 5 will focus on key report recommendations that are specifically relevant to central and western Massachusetts municipalities, which have been key stakeholders in response to developer proposals that have often challenged the capacity of small-town governments statewide.

Harvard Forest, founded in 1907 and located in Petersham, is Harvard University's outdoor lab-

oratory and classroom for ecology and conservation and a Long-Term Ecological Research site funded by the National Science Foundation. Its 4,000-acre property is one of the oldest and most intensively studied research forests in the U.S. Harvard Forest research is central to models of global change and regularly informs state and federal policy on land use and management.

Open to the public year-round, the site includes educational and research facilities, the Fisher Museum and miles of recreational trails. The Forest hosts educational programs for thousands of K-12 and university students each year and also works closely with the Nipmuc people to ensure that this land and its benefits are mutually accessible and sustaining. People may learn more at harvardforest.fas.harvard.edu.

Oakham

Ellenor Downer
 edowner@turley.com



Democratic Town Committee to caucus

The Oakham Democratic Town Committee will be holding its annual caucus on Tuesday, March 5 at 5:30 p.m. to elect delegates for the 2024 state Democratic Convention. Any registered Democrat is welcome to attend. This will be a virtual meeting. To receive a meeting invitation, registered Democrats should send an email to OakhamDTC@gmail.com and provide their full name and Oakham address.

Senior center

The Oakham Senior Center, lower level Town Hall, is open Monday through Thursdays until 3 p.m. Fun fitness is held at the New Braintree Town Hall every Friday at 10:30 a.m. On Friday, March 1 12:30 p.m. favorite recipe memory lane will be held. Zumba Gold is held Mondays at 10:30 a.m. at Pine Acres Campground, Bechan Road. Ongoing activities also include Tuesday at 10 a.m. Wii and Tuesday and Thursdays walk away at 11 a.m., and Wednesdays at 9 a.m. coffee with friends. Tuesday, March 12 and Tuesday, March 26 Geeky met at 10:45 a.m.; movie "The Time Machine" Wednesday, March 13 at 12:30 p.m.; Friday, March 15 at 12:30 p.m. lunch brunch at Hitchcock Tavern; Monday, March 18 from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. podiatry clinic; Wednesday, March 20 at noon Brown Bag lunch at Mechanics Hall and Tuesday, March 26 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. blood pressure and glucose clinic and Wednesday, March 27 at 12:30 p.m. movie "Poms."

Primary election

The presidential primary election will be held on Tuesday, March 5 with the poll open from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

Open house

An open house and a ribbon cutting ceremony will be held for the Reverend Richard and Gail Pryce House, 158 New Braintree Road, on Friday, March 1 from 1:30-4 p.m. Refreshments will be provided. RSVP is appreciated by not necessary by emailing davemcmahon@dismasfamily.org.

Annual Town Election

The last day for candidates to obtain nomination papers for the Annual Town Election is Friday, March 29. The last day to submit nomination papers is Monday, April 8. The last day to register to vote for election is Friday, May 10. Positions on the ballot for three year terms are Select Board, Assessor, Board of Health, Library Trustee, Cemetery Commission, School Committee, Moderator, Town Clerk and Tree Warden. There is a one year term for Constable to fill a vacancy and a five year term for Planning Board. Nomination papers may be picked updating regular business hours at the Town Clerk's Office Monday 6-7:30 p.m. and Fridays 10 a.m.-noon. A minimum of 20 signatures are required. People may call town clerk's office at 508-882-5549, extension 4 for more information.

Maple Days underway at Old Sturbridge Village

STURBRIDGE – Old Sturbridge Village is open during the winter months with many seasonal programs and events each weekend with extended hours and the start of Maple Days.

Included with standard daytime admission on select dates in February and March, guests can see the entire sugar-making process, from tapping the trees to sugaring off, and learn why maple sugar was more commonly used than maple syrup in early New England. Costumed historians will also cook period foods made with maple products and the tinner and cooper will make maple-related items.

Maple Days are Friday through Sunday, Feb. 23 through March 17 from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Guests are encouraged to reserve tickets online and in advance for their date of arrival.

Tickets and more information can be found online: <https://www.osv.org/event/maple-days/>.

On Saturdays and Sundays during Maple Days, Ox & Yoke Café is offering a special Waffle Bar, featuring made-to-order waffles and a variety of toppings to create your own delicious masterpiece. The Waffle Bar is open on select days from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

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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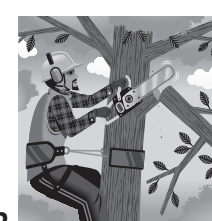
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Opinion

Guest Column



By Russell Gloor

About Medicare's sreaded 'IRMAA' provision

Dear Rusty

My wife is on Medicare and receiving Social Security benefits each month. We built a house and used money from our investments to pay for it. We knew we would pay taxes on that withdrawal, but my wife got a letter from Social Security saying that because the money we withdrew was listed as income, her 2024 Medicare premium went up over \$500. And since Medicare is taken out of her Social Security, that results in a \$6,000 loss to our budget.

Is there anything that can be done about this situation? We sent a letter to Social Security, but they responded that unless her situation was one of only a few categories (loss of house, divorce, etc.) nothing could be done for the year.

The money was used strictly on another investment, our new house. It wasn't like we took it out and spent it wildly. Can you please advise?

Signed: Frustrated Homeowner

Dear Frustrated

Unfortunately, it sounds like your wife is a victim of the Medicare provision known as "Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount." Each person's Medicare Part B premium, coverage for outpatient healthcare, is determined yearly from their income from all sources as reported to the IRS two years prior. IRMAA sets income thresholds, depending on your IRS filing status and if those thresholds are exceeded you must pay a higher Medicare Part B premium and also a higher Part D premium if you have prescription drug coverage.

Assuming you file your taxes as "married/jointly," if your combined 2022 income as a couple was between \$206,000 and \$258,000 your wife's 2024 Part B premium is \$244.60, instead of the standard \$174.70; if your combined 2022 income was between \$258,000 and \$322,000 then your wife's Part B premium for 2024 is \$349.40; if your combined in 2022 was between \$322,000 and \$386,000, her Part B premium is \$454.20; if your combined 2022 income as a married couple was between \$386,000 to \$750,000 then your wife's 2024 Part B premium is \$559 and if your 2022 income as a married couple was over \$750,000 your wife's Part B premium is \$594. If your wife also has private Part D prescription drug coverage, IRMAA also increases those premiums. Note that the IRMAA thresholds are different for other income tax filing statuses.

As the Social Security office has already explained, you could appeal your wife's IRMAA premium increase if she had a "life changing event," but the list of acceptable life changing events is quite small (see form SSA-44). The only good news is that your wife's Medicare premium will be calculated anew for next year, so her Medicare premium for 2025 will, if your 2023 joint income is less than the first IRMAA threshold, revert to the standard 2025 premium.

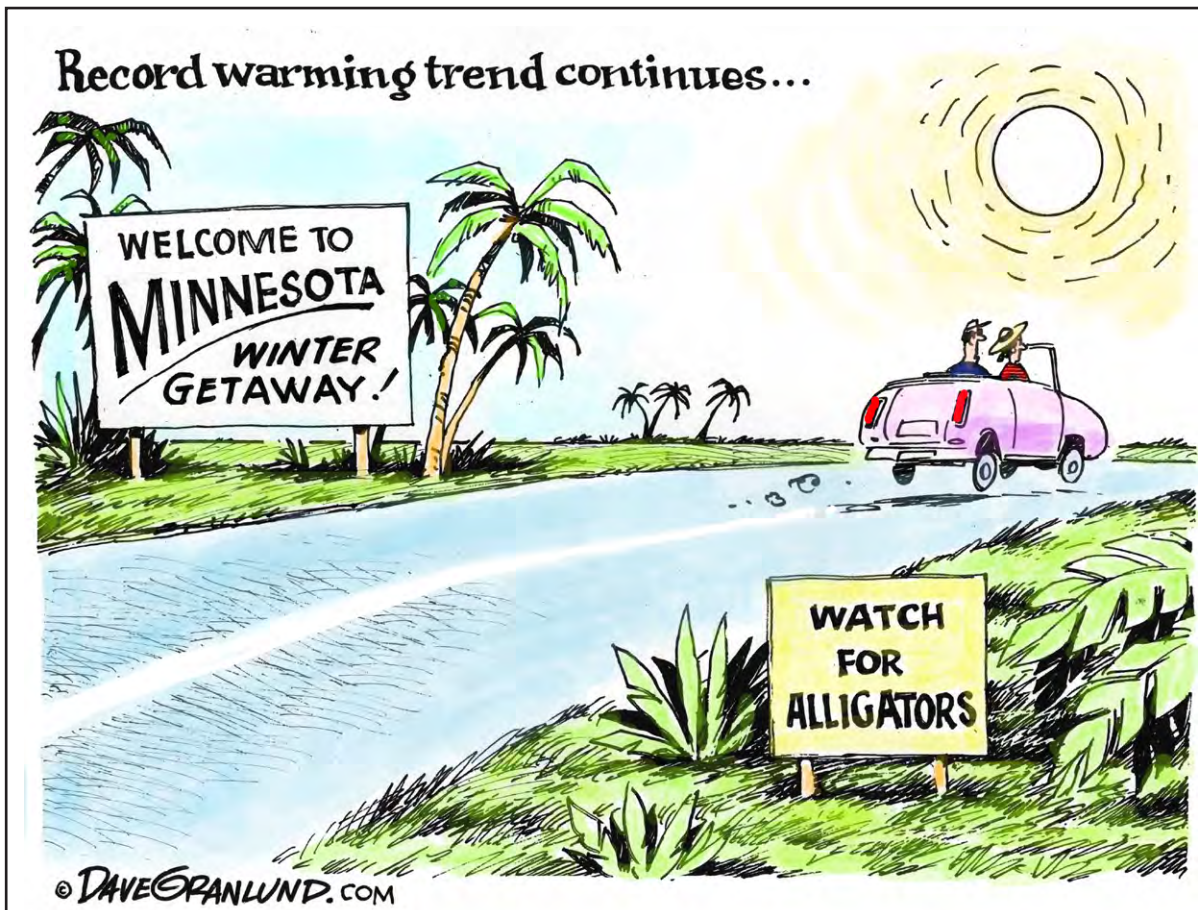
For Your Information, it doesn't matter what you used the money for. Your withdrawal was reported to the IRS as taxable income, which is what caused IRMAA to apply to your wife's Medicare premium for 2024. Many people don't realize that Medicare premiums are higher for those with a higher income, but since your withdrawal was a one-time event, your wife's Medicare Part B premium next year should be much less and her Social Security benefit correspondingly higher.

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

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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5 years (March 7, 2019)

Barre Selectmen received the first request for a Community Host Agreement or outdoor marijuana growing. They already signed a CHA or a medical marijuana indoor growing facility. Tom Egan, CEO of CastleRock Agricultural Enterprises, met with Selectmen and Planning Board to discuss a Community Host Agreement or an outdoor marijuana growing facility. He plans to grow marijuana on a 2.3 acre parcel within his 134 acre property located at 257 Walnut Hill Road. He said the 2.3 acres is in a mostly wooded area that would not be seen from the road. He said since the locations was deep in the woods with lots of tall trees, odor would not be a problem. He added there were ways to mitigate odor such as planting crops with competing odors in the area. He said he was fully prepared to work with the proposed marijuana by law that failed to pass at a Special Town Meeting.

The Quabbin Regional School District budget subcommittee voted to present a \$35,135,804 proposal to the full committee and public hearing on March 14. The FY 20 budget proposal used \$1,104,765 of school choice funds toward the budget. Deductions included \$1,464,480 in regular education transportation, \$1,312,431 in special education transportation and \$128,100 in debt. This proposal included a 50% reduction in athletic fees. The new fees would be \$60 for middle school students and \$110 for high school students. Students on free and reduced meals would not have a fee. Before the change, students on reduced meals paid \$28 and those on free meals paid no fee. The subcommittee voted to reduce athletic fees as recommended and bring it to the full school committee for a vote.

Quabbin Regional School District Committee in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 71, Section 38N, will hold a budget hearing regarding the FY 20 budget on Thursday, March 14 at 7 p.m. in the Educations Support Center, 872 South St., Barre. The public is invited to attend. A copy of the FY20 budget will be available for review on the website at www.qrsd.org or at the Education Support Center, 872 South St., Barre starting on Tuesday, March 12 at noon.

10 years (Feb. 27, 2014)

The Petersham Energy Committee Chairman Linda Paquet and Bart Bales, Senior Engineer at Bales Energy Associates, met with Select Board and department heads regarding Bales's energy analysis of the Petersham Town Hall and office building, Police Department, Fire Department and Highway Department buildings. Also present were Energy Committee members, Police Chief Dana Cooley, Building Inspector Brianna Skowrya, Highway Superintendent Tim Graves and Assistant Fire Chief Bob Legare.

The Barre Board of Selectmen met with Rutland Regional Dispatch officials at their Monday night meeting. The meeting included Rutland Selectmen,

In Past Pages

LOOK BACK Class Officers - 1965



The class officers of Grade 8B at Barre Center School in 1965 were from left, Cindy Mertzic, secretary; Barbara Potter, treasurer; Ellen Finan, vice president and Lewis Paquin, president.

Rutland Dispatchers, Rutland Police Chief Donald Haapakoski, Director of Communications at Rutland Regional Emergency Communication Center Meghan Kellaher, Rutland Fire Chief Bradley Weber, Rutland DPW Superintendent Gary Kellaher, Barre Selectmen, Town Administrator Heather Lemieux, Barre Police Chief Erik Demetropoulos, Barre Fire Chief Joseph Rogowski, Barre DPW Superintendent Jason Pimental, Barre Police Officers and EMS Administrator Charles Fullam, EMT Captain Robert Paradise, ALS Coordinator William Dino and some former Barre Dispatchers.

State Rep. Anne Gobi (D-Spencer) hosted a forum on proposed gun legislation at the South Barre Rod and Gun Club, Route 32, Tuesday evening. State Rep. Hank Naughton (D-Clinton), Chair of the Public Safety Committee, spoke to a standing room only group. State Rep. Denise Andrews (D-Orange), state Sen. Stephen Brewer (D-Barre), Jay Beard and Jim Wallace, executive director of Gun Owners Action League also attended. GOAL has 18,000 member and protects the second amendment in Massachusetts. The Public Safety Committee held five public hearings throughout the Commonwealth in Springfield, Worcester, Wilmington, Boston and on Cape Cod.

25 years (March 4, 1999)

Matthew Bronson, son of David and Jackie Bronson of Barre, was presented the Eagle Scout award during a ceremony held Sunday, Feb. 21 at the Barre Congregational Church hall. Matthew has been in Boy Scouting since he was age 12 and was a Cub Scout before that. Over the years in Scouting, he has received numerous awards including 30 merit badges and the Ad-Altare-Dei religious award. The highlight of Scouting for Matthew was his trip to Philmont Scout Camp in New Mexico where he was a crew leader.

The Board of Selectmen received a letter from Mary Ann Gendron and other residents of the High Plains section of Barre asking them to address the issue of unleashed dogs that are roaming the streets

in the area. Town Administrator Lorraine Leno said the matter had been brought to the attention of Dog Officer Elaine Bosler and two letters had been sent to the owner of one of the dogs, described by Leno as the worst offender. However, each time Bosler has been in the area, she has found the dog in its own yard. The board has scheduled a hearing at its next meeting March 15 at 7:45 p.m. to address the issue.

Larry A. Robinson of Petersham has been named a "Melvin Jonas Fellow" by Lions Club International or his outstanding community and humanitarian service as a member of the Petersham Lions Club. A founding member of the Petersham club, Robinson has been continuously active throughout the club's 23-year existence, having twice served as president. He has also chaired numerous committees and served at the district level during conferences. The Melvin Jones Fellowship - Lions Club International's highest award - was presented to Robinson on Saturday, Feb. 13, at the District 33A Mid-Winter Conference held in Leominster.

38 years (March 6, 1986)

In a well-run and closely matched election James E. Sullivan of Summer Street, came out the winner in the race for selectmen by edging out his nearest opponent, Larry Thibault of Britton road by a mere 23 votes. Sullivan gleaned 388 votes, while Thibault got 365. The vote counters were at the polls, according to Town Clerk Alice Orszulak until early Tuesday morning tallying up the results, which gave Duke Demetropoulos of North Brookfield Road, the third man in the three-way race, 218 votes. Over 978 registered voters out of 2,266, cast their ballot on Monday, March 3, which represented 42.7%.

Richard Clark, Barre Fire Chief, was surprised to find a request for his presence at the Selectmen's meeting Monday, was really a ploy by the Selectmen to honor Clark, with an unexpected visit by Senator Robert D. Wetmore. Senator Wetmore presented Clark with a

Guest Column



Get a head start the old-fashioned way

Just about a week ago I was presenting a Seed Starting Workshop for members at Old Sturbridge Village, and someone asked a question about how seedlings would have been pre-started in the mid-1800s.

It was a logical question considering we have heat cables, supplemental light and greenhouses at our disposal these days. We can grow any number of plants pretty much any time of the year.

How then, did innovative gardeners of old get a head start? Cold frames and hot beds, of course! These season extenders continue to be useful today.

Read on to learn how these are constructed and used successfully.

The easiest way to describe a cold frame is this: a rectangular box fitted with a window sash. It can be as simple as an old storm window on top of hay bales.

Better yet would be to construct your cold frame to capture as much passive solar energy as possible. We achieve this by angling the window sash 35 to 45 degrees to catch the sun.

The window sash you obtain will determine the size of the frame. Keep in mind that you have to be able to reach inside to work; therefore, it is recommended that you make the box no deeper than three feet.

Construct the frame using rot resistant woods like cedar or redwood. Pine is an inexpensive and readily available option, but should be painted with exterior paint prior to assembly to ensure years of use.

White paint will not only make an attractive cold frame, but one that will reflect light to the plants growing in it. The walls should be at least an inch thick, preferably two inches, to further insulate the plants growing inside.

Locate your cold frame in full sun, facing south or southeast. The soil under the cold frame is a "mini plot" that should be enriched as I would any other part of the garden by incorporating an inch or two of compost and a sprinkling of lime and balanced organic fertilizer into the soil prior to use.

The window sash will likely stay shut on over-cast days. On sunny days, however, be sure to prop open the window to ventilate the space - it can get quite hot inside and young seedlings could easily be harmed.

The sash can be opened completely (or removed altogether) on very warm days. Don't forget to provide water within the frame - if it is covered it is exempt from the rain.

The cold frame is a great place to start spring greens. There are other uses as well.

Some plants prefer to germinate at cool temperatures and simply won't grow well inside the house, even off the heat cables. Try growing flats of cole crops like kale, broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower right in the cold frame - they'll be the sturdiest plants you ever grew!

See GARDEN, page 6

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BARRE GAZETTE TEAM



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See PAST PAGES, page 5

Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

It has been a cold week, but some snow has melted. Having snow melt slowly like this is best as it does not get muddy. There is still a lot of snow on the front yard, but the back is clear. It seems to melt faster where there are trees.

I have been working on inventorying and packing things in totes. I decided to take all my quilts that I have made out of the jelly cabinet and put dishes in it. I had to do a lot of packing quilts in totes. I hung a few new spring designs on the balcony.

I went through my cook books and found several recipes I want to try. I like recipes that I have supplies on hand. Onions is one of the things I always have on hand so I plan to try this recipe. I always like onions rings.

ONIONS BEST FRIED

Slice up onions very paper thin. Separate into rings. Heat three inches of salad oil in a large pan on the stove. Put 1/2 cup flour, salt and pepper to taste into a bag. Add thin onion rings and toss to coat with flour. Put one or two handfuls of onions at a time into hot oil. Fry until they suddenly turn golden and quickly turn. Watch that they don't burn. Put on paper towel to drain and keep warm. Put in another batch. This is excellent with burgers.

This and That

I took my tubers of begonias and dahlias out to check on them. I planted one large begonia in soil. The dahlias will be planted later in pots, but some looked all dried out. I put them in paper bags, but I guess I

should of put some peat moss in with them.

I understand the Select Board has chosen the new cover for the town report. I will be anxious to see what they chose to represent Hubbardston.

During school vacation I went with our two daughters for lunch in Holden. We stopped at one restaurant and could not find a place to park so we went to a sandwich restaurant. The only trouble there that all the tables had those high chairs. Don't they realize seniors over the age of 60 can't use those chairs? They finally found a small table with regular chairs that we could use. The meal was very good, I seldom get out to eat so enjoyed it. I had a Reuben sandwich.

I did a little raking of the lawn down by the cellar door, but there still is too much snow. I may have to hire someone to help rake the oak leaves as they never were raked in the fall and there are so many pine cones this year.

I was so sorry to hear of the passing of Richard Michaud. He was so generous in giving the seniors so many vegetables. Our sympathy goes to Janice. his wife.

I roasted chicken and made three meals out of it. I used it hot from the oven the first meal. I made chicken soup the next day and then had a little chicken left so we had sandwiches the third day. With the price of groceries today, you need to make things go further.

School vacation is over so be aware of students walking to school.

Have a good week.

The female lays five to six white eggs with dark spots in a hammock style crescent shaped nest of bark, twigs, mosses and lined with feathers. It constructs the nest behind a loose piece of bark on a dead tree or in a natural cavity about five to 15 feet above the ground.

Brimfield resident

I received an email from a Brimfield resident, who keeps me up to date on his bird sightings.

He said in a recent email, "I did a walk yesterday at Quabbin gate 43. A small group walked to the area where people can rent or launch boats. No much about." He said some folks heard pine siskins and saw a few white-throated sparrows. On the water, there were a few hooded mergansers and black ducks and in the distance some gulls flying about. On the way home he stopped by the ponds in Warren and the water was not open, so no birds.

He also took part in the Great Backyard Bird Count on Feb. 16 and 17. Here are his results: one red-tailed hawk, four mourning doves, two red-bellied woodpeckers, two downy woodpeckers, one hairy woodpecker, three blue jays, two black-capped chickadees, three tufted titmice, two European starlings, two American robins, three house finches, 97 dark-eyed juncos, four white-throated sparrows, one common grackle and three northern cardinals.

He reported his first sighting on Feb. 16 at 1:40 p.m. and watched for 25 minutes and his second sighting on Feb. 16 at 3:30 p.m. was for one hour. On Feb. 17 his sightings were 8:30 a.m. and 10:15 a.m., both for 45 minutes at a time. Missed species, ones he has seen before, included pileated woodpecker, white-breasted nuthatch, brown creeper, American crow and American goldfinch.

Bluebirds

The bluebirds continue to come to my feeder for the mealworms. I am purchasing more mealworms or the bluebirds than when I had chickens. I used to purchase the mealworms as a daily treat to my small flock. One hen would jump up and eat them out of my hand before I could put them in their feeder.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.



Brown creeper

A brown creeper regularly visits an oak tree in my yard. The other day I watched the creeper fly to the bottom of the tree and make his way up the tree. A few minutes later a white-breasted nuthatch made its way down the same tree. I think the creeper also grabs some mealworms, which I have out for the bluebirds and any other birds that want them.



The brown creeper is a small brown bird about 5 1/2 inches long. It has brown streaking above and white underneath and a long, downward, curved bill. Noticeable behavior is creeping up a tree trunk, then dropping down to the base of the same tree or another tree to start the process all over again. It probs bark for insects and larvae. Sometimes it visits feeders for chopped nuts or suet.

The brown creeper blends in with the tree bark. When alarmed it will flatten itself against the tree and remain motionless. Its song is a series of high pitched whistles, "see wee see to wee." The call is a high "tsee."

BARRE continued from page 1

remove stuff no longer needed.

Annual Town Meeting

The Select Board approved June 11 at 6 p.m. for the date and time of the Annual Town Meeting as recommended by Town Clerk Ellen Glidden. The vote was contingent on approval of the Town Moderator.

Use of town property

The Board approved the use of

Felton Field for Greg's Restoration Car Show and Swap on May 4. They approved the use of Town Hall by Making Opportunity Count, Inc. on Tuesday, April 2 and the use of the Town Common and Town Hall by Christmas in Barre on Saturday, Dec. 7.

Dam inspections

The Select Board received notification from the Department of Conservation and Recreation of dam inspections at Gaston Pond and Barre Reservoir dams.

Other business

The Board accepted the resignation of Penelope Dillon from the Council on Aging and thanked her for her service. They also approved a wage authorization of \$18.04 per hour for Wendy Gryszowka, Administrative Assistant Town Clerk.

She said people on the list of not served by cable would be contacted about an informational meeting on the use of hotspots for internet service.

CRAFTING continued from page 1

children ages 7 and up with Hobbit Door mini wreaths. For those who are big fans of "The Lord of the Rings", hobbit door mini wreaths would make a great decorative addition to your room.

Supplies will be provided by the Woods Memorial Library and registration is required by visiting www.

barrelibrary.org.

To tell a story, the library will be offering a Tunnel Book workshop. Create your own three-dimensional storybook where the story starts as a folded down flip book and opens up into a portrait.

It's like a theater play in a book. Tunnel Books will take place on Thursday, March 7 at 6 p.m. The activity is for children ages 10 and up.

For adults, a creative writing

workshop will take place at the Wood Memorial Library. The workshop will be for aspiring writers who want to accelerate their creativity.

Writing prompts and group exercises will be featured and writers will walk away with inspiration, confidence, innovation and writing comrades.

Creative Writing Workshop: Spring Renewal will be on Saturday, March 30 at 10 a.m.

ing with the new Chief in the transition period.

After a full investigation by the National Transportation Safety Board, it has been determined a number of probable causes were behind the Jan. 22, 1984 plane crash that killed pilot Mark H. Provost, 33 of West Brookfield. The report found that inadequate preflight preparations was one of several reasons for the crash. The report said, "It was a cold day and the Certified Flight Instructor and

student (Provost) had trouble starting the air craft even after pre-heat was used. It was felt that the fluid and oil movement was slow and a lack of fluids to the engine caused a failure in a bearing and connecting rod in the engine. Extreme cold, a fire the heating-air conditioning all lead to the major problems that caused the crash. Provost set out for a flight to Concord, N.H. from Barre-Hiller Airport in New Braintree in a Cessna 152 owned by his instructor Stephen J. Grady of New Braintree.

Theatre Guild performs murder mystery dinner theater

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

HARDWICK – The Theatre Guild of North Brookfield performed a murder mystery dinner theater, "Death & Taxes" over two nights at Hardwick Crossing Country Club last weekend.

This comedic mystery featured a mysterious stranger found dead in Carl and Mattie's living room in the quiet town of Hardwick. The cast relied on audience participation as the audience portrayed the townspeople attending a town council meeting and trying to solve the crime.

This was the first show the Theatre Guild of North Brookfield performed at Hardwick Crossing, with a cast of nine talented actors.

The victim was an out-of-town IRS employee doing research on the town. While investigating unusual activities going on, the man was later found dead in the living room of Carl and Mattie Johansen.

Every character was deemed a suspect as they all encountered this IRS employee, and it was up to the audience to help solve this mystery.

"Death & Taxes" was written by Pat Cook in association with Dramatic Publishing and directed by Jay Valencourt. Producer of "Death & Taxes" was Joe Chenevert and Paula Hinerth served as stage manager.

Starring in "Death & Taxes" was Ruth Honthumb portraying Kathleen Lyles, the mayor of Hardwick and one of the Town Council members suspected of murder.

Chenevert played the role of Eddie King, the editor of the Hardwick Herald newspaper. Although deemed a suspect, King is also working on a big story regarding this mysterious murder.

Shelley Ingalls played Lydia Kleft, a sweet old lady who serves as secretary of the Town Hall. The audience will try to find out if Lydia is really a sweet old lady or if she is the culprit behind the mystery.

Derek Ingalls portrayed Wesley Thorne, the sheriff of Hardwick. Thorne can't solve this case alone and must rely on his fellow Town Council members, even though they're all suspects.

Valencourt played Carl Johansen, citizen of Hardwick and a suspect to the murder. The body was found in his living room.

Amber King played Mattie Johansen, Carl's wife.

Missy McDonald played Cora Sedgewick, a nosy neighbor and member of the Town Council who is considered the "eyes and ears" of Hardwick. With a beer in one hand, binoculars in the other, Cora is determined to find the murderer,



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

The Theatre Guild of North Brookfield performed the dinner theatre show, "Death & Taxes" at Hardwick Crossing Country Club.



The scene was set as the characters were in a town council meeting to discuss a mysterious murder that happened in town.

unless she's putting on an act and is the murderer herself.

Greg Afton played Dr. Efreim Bishop, the town doctor of Hardwick. All in good time, the audience will figure out if Bishop is a good doctor or an evil doctor.

Anne Adams played Evelyn Martindale, a drama teacher who takes the responsibility of notetaker and investigator and asks all the interesting questions.

During intermission, the audience enjoyed a chicken parmigiana dinner or rice and veggies as the main course. Salads and bread rolls were the appetizers and chocolate chip cookies were the dessert.

During the dinner portion of the dinner theatre, guests got to tour around the stage area to find clues and determine who might be the murderer. Guests would then ask questions during part two of "Death & Taxes".

Towards the end of the show, guests received ballot cards to vote for who they thought the suspect was. For those who chose the correct guilty party, were entered into a drawing to receive a prize to go see the next show presented by the Theatre Guild of North Brookfield.

The cast really enjoyed their first time performing at Hardwick Crossing Country Club and they always seek new locations to per-

form in.

"We roam wherever the audience expects us," said Valencourt.

The Theatre Guild of North Brookfield usually performs two dinner theatre shows a year and intends to return to Hardwick Crossing.

The most common performance spot for the Theatre Guild of North Brookfield is the auditorium of North Brookfield Elementary School. The school is mostly used for musicals.

The theatre group also performs at Common Ground Ciderworks in North Brookfield and the North Brookfield Sportsman's Club.

According to Valencourt, one of the best parts about performing with the Theatre Guild of North Brookfield is its everlasting bonds of friendships.

"The friendships that are formed over the years is the best," said Valencourt. "We always love welcoming new talent."

The next production from the Theatre Guild of North Brookfield will be the musical, "Mamma Mia" during the first couple weeks of May. Shows will take place at the North Brookfield Elementary School Auditorium on May 3 and 4 at 7:30 p.m.; May 5 at 2 p.m.; May 10 and 11 at 7:30 p.m.; and May 12 at 2 p.m.



The banquet hall of Hardwick Crossing Country Club had a big turnout of guests enjoying the show and a dinner during intermission of "Death & Taxes".

The benefits of local newspapers

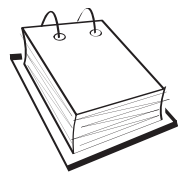
Local newspapers play vital roles in communities across the globe. The Information Age has changed the way many people get their news, but local newspapers continue to serve as valuable resources for readers interested in learning more about and becoming more involved in their communities.

While local publishers continue to adapt to the changes brought about by technology, the following are a handful of benefits unique to local newspapers.

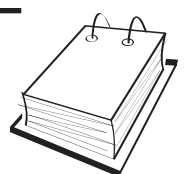
- **Local newspapers keep readers up-to-date on their own communities.** Globalization may be here to stay, but that does not mean local communities are no longer home to newsworthy events. National and international newspapers and 24-hour cable news channels can keep men and women up-to-date on national and world news, but in many instances, local newspapers are the only means people have to learn about what's going on in their own communities. Local politics impact residents' lives every day, and
- **Local newspapers cover local politics extensively.**
- **Local newspapers benefit nearby businesses.** Small business owners often connect with community members via local newspapers. A strong, locally based small business community can improve economies in myriad ways, creating jobs in the community and contributing tax dollars that can be used to strengthen local schools and infrastructure. And local newspapers do their part by providing affordable and effective advertising space to local business owners looking to connect with their communities.
- **Local newspapers can strengthen communities.** Local newspapers are great resources for residents who want to become more active in their communities and learn more about community events. Local newspapers often showcase community events like carnivals, local theater productions and projects like park cleanups. These are great ways for readers to become



more active in their communities and build stronger communities as a result. • **Local newspapers can benefit children.** National newspapers may have little age-appropriate content to offer young children, but local newspapers tend to include more soft news items than national periodicals, and such stories typically are appropriate for young readers. According to Newspapers in Education, students who participated in an NIE group in Florida performed significantly better in spelling and vocabulary than nonreaders. Additional studies have indicated that students who use newspapers in the classroom perform better on standardized reading tests than those who do not use newspapers in class. Many local newspapers have played vital roles in their communities for decades, providing a go-to resource for local readers and business owners.



Calendar of Events



THURSDAY, FEB. 29

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.

FRIDAY, MARCH 1

'THE MUSIC MAN' will be performed at the Theatre at the Mount, located at Mount Wachusett Community College, 444 Green St., Gardner, today at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, March 2 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, March 3 at 2 p.m. For tickets and show information, people call the box office at 978-630-9388 or email box-office@mwcc.mass.edu.

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.

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 dismasfamily.org.

QUABBIN PERFORMING ARTS present *Silenced on Barbour Street*, a one-act play today at 7 p.m. at Quabbin Regional High School, 800 South St., Barre in the auditorium. This play explores the factors that led to the 1944 circus fire that claimed the lives of 144 spectators in Hartford, Connecticut so content is suitable for middle and high school age students and adults. People are invited to attend for this performance as students prepare to compete at the Massachusetts Educational Theater Guild State Drama Festival. Tickets are \$7 in advance and \$9 at the door. Tickets can be purchased online by visiting our show/quabbindrama.

SATURDAY, MARCH 2

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

CASELLA, continued from page 1

in the proposal. "We expect that a Host Community Agreement between Hardwick and Casella would provide substantial revenue to the town. Casella would also continue to provide revenue to the Gilbertville Wastewater Treatment Facility for leachate treatment and disposal...in order to proceed with the landfill project Casella seeks support from the town in the form of certain Town Meeting votes."

The first article would see if voters would approve the amendment of the town's general bylaws under



Where is this?
This week's mystery photo is from Barre. 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, March 4. The names of those that correctly guessed the location will appear in the following edition. Robert Augustine, Bill Bowles, Peggy Civilik, Stephen Craven, James Laramée, Evelyn Luukko, Jeremy Varnum and Phil Warbasse correctly identified the photo. The photo last week was the U.S. Post Office on Maple Street in Rutland.

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.

SECOND PETERSHAM PUBLIC FORUM for the Open Space and Recreation Plan update with Conway School planning team will be held today from 2:30-4:30 p.m. at the Petersham Center School, 31 Spring St., Petersham to further discuss the Town's update of its seven-year Open Space & Recreation Plan. The public can also attend the forum remotely on Zoom at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87315723394>. Meeting ID: 873 1572 3394. or more information, people may email the Open Space and Recreation Committee at petershamosr@gmail.com.

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.

TUESDAY, MARCH 5

OAKHAM DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE CAUCUS will be held today at 5:30 p.m. to elect delegates for the 2024 state Democratic Convention. Any registered Democrat is welcome to attend. This will be a virtual meeting. To receive a meeting invitation, registered Democrats should send an email to OakhamDTC@gmail.com and provide their full name and Oakham address.

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.

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

HOSPITAL DAY hosted by the Rutland Historical Society will be held today from 1-4 p.m. at the Wood House, 232 Main St., Rutland. Displays from the VA Hospital, Rutland Heights, Prison Camp Hospital and the State Sanatorium will be available for viewing. Former employees of the institutions are invited to participate and share their stories and reunite with each other. Refreshments will be available.

PETERSHAM DEMOCRAT CAUCUS will be held today at 4 p.m. in person at the Petersham Town Hall, lower level, 1 South Main St., Petersham. They will elect delegates and an alternate to attend the 2024 Massachusetts Democratic Convention. The caucus is open to all registered and pre-registered 16 years old by Thursday Feb. 15 Democrats in Petersham. Petersham can elect two delegates and one alternate to the Convention. Youth (age 16 to 35), people with disabilities, people of color, veterans and members of the LGBTQ community not elected as a delegate or alternate may apply to be an add-on delegate at the caucus or by visiting www.massdems.org/massdems-convention. This year's Mass Dems Convention is scheduled to take place on Saturday, June 1 at the DCU Center in Worcester. For more information about the Petersham Democratic Town Committee, people may call Henry Woolsey at 978-771-2173 or email at henrywoolsey@gmail.com.

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 ywfrycyoice@sevenhills.org 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 SPONGE BOB 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.

Article XV: "Landfill," Section 2, "Landfill Height Limit" by deleting the number "670" and substituting it with "850."

"The peak elevation of the existing landfill is approximately 610 feet above Mean Sea level. The peak elevation of the future landfill (at final cap) is expected to be approximately 800 feet above Mean Sea level...having the bylaw reflect a maximum height of 850 feet is necessary to allow for changes in height during daily waste placement and stockpiling activities," the proposal stated.

According to the proposal, the total height of the landfill at its highest elevation is expected to be 350

feet from ground level.

The second article starts by asking voters to amend zoning bylaws and maps for seven parcels of land on Patrill Hollow Road; from Agricultural Residential to Industrial. The proposed use of these parcels would be for solid waste landfilling and associated setbacks.

This article also asks voters to change the schedule of land intensity regulations for building, structures and uses (Section 2.3.2 of the town's zoning bylaws), by adding the language "Solid waste landfills and supporting uses are not subject to the limitation on height for the I-40 zoning district." It also seeks to allow solid waste landfilling in the Industrial District.

The third article seeks to terminate or reconfigure a portion of Patrill Hollow Road.

"The conceptual plan is to terminate the road at two points at the northwest and southwest boundaries of land owned by Hardwick Landfill, Inc. on the east side of Patrill Hollow Road...we expect that the roadway modifications and improvements, which would be at no cost to the Town, would not likely take place until 2026 or later," the proposal stated.

Casella's complete proposal and a flow chart of the zoning amendment process are posted on the town's website, hardwick-ma.gov, under "Important Notices."

HAZARD MITIGATION, continued from page 1

written in 2019 and her firm has worked to update any changes that have happened in the town. She said they also look at the state's plan and the town's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan.

A Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee was formed, comprised of 15 residents and town employees, who have provided outreach and support to engage stakeholders. The committee also prioritizes the list of Hazard Mitigation actions and will review the draft plan before its available to the public to review.

Caplan explained risk assessment, which is determined by looking at a list of hazards that could impact the town, and the community.

A list of natural hazards that pose a risk include extreme temperatures, drought, earthquakes, flooding, hurricanes and tropical storms, invasive species, landslides, severe weather, severe winter storms, tornadoes, wildfires and brushfires. Climate change can also impact natural hazards,

Caplan said.

Residents brought emphasis to the impact some of these hazards have on public health, pollinators and groundwater contamination.

The Hazard Mitigation Plan details each hazard including a description, location, previous occurrences, extent, probability of future events and vulnerability assessment.

Critical facilities to protect include the town hall, fire station, highway department, schools, water facilities, wastewater facilities, libraries and fire hydrants.

Caplan said the town can list any facility to its list of critical facilities.

Caplan said there are 23 single-family homes, one industrial building and one municipal building at risk of flood exposure, with a total value estimated at \$3,608,900. Wildfires can also pose a risk to people, buildings and roads.

The greatest hazard risks the town could face aside from flooding and wildfires include average or extreme temperatures, hurricanes and tropical storms and other severe weather. With a "medium" risk ranking are severe winter storms, tornadoes, invasive species and droughts.

"We look at what contributes to risk, and we want to consider changes in population," she said, which is impacted by the growing elderly population and the increased number of people living below the property line. Changes in land use also contribute to risk.

Mitigation actions are also included in the plan, including protecting open space and the surrounding water supply areas, reducing erosion behind beaver dams and tracking beaver activity, designating a town-owned facility as a heating and cooling center, developing a culvert replacement plan, creating a regional tree removal and maintenance program and more.

"This is just an example of what's going to be in your new plan," Caplan said.

Caplan said the plan also recommended that residents take steps for personal preparedness and encouraged them to sign up for CodeRED on the town's website, hardwick-ma.gov.

The draft Hazard Mitigation Plan is expected to be available to residents by mid-March.

For more information, people may email Caplan at jamie@jamiecaplan.com.

GARDEN, continued from page 4

Likewise, start small pots of sweet peas, pansies, forget-me-nots and bachelor's buttons inside of it; they germinate better in cool soil. Many native perennials need to chill for a month before they are able to germinate—"stratify" these seeds in the cold frame and then move them to the border once they are off and growing.

You can also harden off plants that were started indoors inside the cold frame.

What about getting a head start with heat-loving vegetables, such as tomatoes or peppers? Or even herbs like basil or flowers such as celosia, marigold or amaranths? Here is where the hot bed comes in.

If you have access to free, fresh manure, you are all set. The general idea is to build a mound about two feet tall of manure and

bedding materials not older than six weeks and top it with soil you will be growing your seedling in, then top that with one of the frame set-ups described above.

The heat generated from the manure will warm the soil and the surrounding air. Seeds should germinate easily and readily.

It's important not to set up your hot bed too early – mid April to early May is perfect because you will still need to be past the frost free date before planting the seedlings you've grown into the garden. Hot beds take a little trial and error, but are worth the experiment.

When we used them at OSV, the seedlings grown within were always greener and sturdier than those I provided from our fancy greenhouse!

It was fun to think about getting a head start. Soon enough, soon enough!

Over the last decade, tremendous gains

have been made in rose breeding, resulting in rose bushes that blend well into landscape plantings and require less maintenance for the homeowner. I still enjoy my heirlooms, and grow the Rugosa to remind me of the beach.

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

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

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Panthers take Central Mass. title

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WORCESTER—The fans of the Quabbin girls' varsity basketball team who attended last Wednesday night's Central Mass. Athletic Directors Association Class B championship game at Worcester State University witnessed a little bit of history.

The top-seeded Lady Panthers captured the Class B championship title by posting a 35-23 victory over the second-seeded Notre Dame Rebels.

"It took a special group of kids to achieve this championship," said Quabbin head coach Evan Barringer. "Tonight's game is kind of a microcosm of our whole season. It was a very close game until our four seniors and sophomore Mia Ducos, who always plays like a senior, took over. Our senior leadership was probably the biggest difference in tonight's game."

The last time that the Quabbin girls' basketball team won a sectional title was during the 1975-76 season when they were the District 3 small schools champions.

"Winning this championship game is extremely special and it goes beyond just putting a banner on the wall in our gym," said Quabbin senior co-captain Hannah Baxter, who scored nine points in the Class B. Finals. "The four seniors have changed the culture of this basketball team for the better during the past couple of years. We've come so far, and we've worked so hard to achieve this championship. I hope this is something that our younger basketball players can strive for in the coming years."

The other three Quabbin senior co-captains are Meg Doyle (9 points), Riley Bassett (6 points), and Brianna Whitelaw.

"We did start off the game slowly because we hadn't played a game in this type of atmosphere before," said Doyle, who was the Lady Panthers leading scorer during the regular season. "We played much better during the second half, especially in the third quarter. We just



Mia Ducos faces off with an opponent as she looks for a path to the hoop.



Meaghan Doyle goes for a jump shot in traffic.

played the game at our pace."

Ducos scored nine of her team leading 11 points during the second half.

"All of our points were spread out between several different players," Barringer said. "Everyone did their job and that's why we're champions."

The Lady Panthers, who had a 16-4 overall record, advanced into the CMADA championship game following a 53-41 semifinal home victory over fourth-seeded Blackstone Valley Tech on February

16. Quabbin also defeated Notre Dame, 50-44, in a non-league road game at the beginning of February. Ducos scored a team-high 21 points while the four Lady Panthers seniors combined to score the other 29 points in that contest.

Just like she has done before home games this season, Quabbin junior Leanna Leger sang the National Anthem prior to the opening tipoff of the Class B finals.

Playing under the bright lights of a college size basketball court for



Riley Bassett goes for a layup.



Brooke Austin circles the perimeter.

the first time did take the Quabbin players a little while to get used to.

"We were a little bit nervous at the start of the game," Ducos said. "Our main goal was to win tonight's game and we executed a lot better in the second half."

The Rebels (7-13), who lost to

See PANTHERS, page 8



Richie Gula heads for the layup.

Pioneers fall in finale before playoffs



Hunter Griswold one-hands a pass under pressure.

PALMER – Last week, Pathfinder boys basketball participated in nonplayoff action, hosting Mt. Greylock. The Pioneers would be tied at halftime, but ultimately were edged by the Mountie 60-57 last Wednesday night. In the loss, Richie Gula had 27 points while Hunter Griswold scored 17 points. Adam Slonka added 10 points. The Pioneers drew a local matchup for the Division 5 state tournament, and played at Palmer High School earlier this week.



Adrien Moskovitz angles toward the left side of the court as Pathfinder takes over on offense.



Cayden Bousquet tries to get around a Mt. Greylock guard.



Seth Mitchell drives into the paint.

Pathfinder girls lose in finale

PALMER – Last Saturday evening, Pathfinder girls basketball was defeated by Franklin Tech 50-28 in the finale for both teams prior to the start of the state tournament.

Pathfinder qualified for the state tournament this year with an overall record of 11-6. It was one of the best records Pathfinder girls basketball has attained in recent years.

The Pioneers drew a local opponent for not just the first round, but the second round as well. Pathfinder was scheduled to travel to neighbor Ware for a preliminary round matchup in the State Division 5 Tournament.

If Pathfinder wins, their next game would be up the street at Palmer High School in the Round of 32. Go to miaa.net for updated brackets.

Mahar girls basketball falls to Palmer

PALMER – Last Monday night, Mahar Regional High School girls basketball, which includes Petersham in its region, lost to Palmer in the Western Mass. quarterfinals 46-35.

In the loss Nevaeh Scribner had 17 points to lead the

Senators. Mahar finished the season 9-11, but was ranked No. 16 in the Division 5 power rankings.

The Senators were scheduled to open the state tournaments against No. 17 Lee, another Western Mass. teams.



Mahar girls basketball was in action against Palmer last week.



Mahar was set to take part in the state tournament earlier this week.



The girls came up short in the quarterfinals against the Panthers.



The Senators were looking to advance in the Western Mass. tournament.

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Sports

T-Birds suffer loss at Bridgeport

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. – The Springfield Thunderbirds (24-22-3-2) fell to the Bridgeport Islanders (16-28-6-1) on Sunday afternoon at Total Mortgage Arena by a final score of 5-3.

Things appeared to be starting well for the T-Birds on this day, as Sam Bitten cashed in for his first career AHL goal at the 8:19 mark of the first period when he arrived at the top of the crease and jammed a Drew Callin centering pass through Henrik Tikkanen's legs to make it 1-0 for the visitors.

Springfield increased the lead to 2-0 at 12:54 when Ryan Suzuki sent an alley-oop through the neutral zone that landed inside the Islander blue line. Jakub Vrana accelerated to beat the Bridgeport defender to the puck and then slid a backhand shot through Tikkanen to extend the lead on his ninth goal of the season.

55 seconds after the Vrana tally, though, the Islanders made their way to the score-sheet as Tyce Thompson got a step behind the defense and lifted a perfect backhand shot over Colten Ellis to cut the lead to 2-1 heading into the first intermission.

The second period began uneventfully, but Suzuki changed matters when he powered down the right wing, protecting the puck before elevating a forehand chip shot over Tikkanen to make it a 3-1 game at 6:34 of the period.

Ellis remained busy but strong as the period entered

its final three minutes en route to a career-high 49 saves. Unfortunately for the T-Birds, Bridgeport All-Star Ruslan Iskhakov snapped a goal drought dating back to Jan. 15 to singlehandedly pull the

Isles even. First, the crafty centerman made his way to the edge of the crease near the right circle, beating Ellis on a second chance after the T-Bird goalie made a strong reactionary save on the first attempt. That tally cut the score to 3-2 at 17:08.

Not even two minutes later, now with under a minute to go in the period, Iskhakov delivered the equalizer with a one-time rocket off a circle-to-circle pass from Matt Maggio, and Bridgeport headed into the dressing room with new life in the 3-3 game.

The Islanders were relentless in the final 20 minutes, managing 22 shots on the T-Birds net. Ellis and the Springfield defense held the fort as long as they could before a Sam Bolduc point wrister glanced off traffic and skipped past Ellis to give Bridgeport the lead for good at 11:34 of the third. Hudson Fasching rounded out the scoring with a power-play marker into an empty net in the closing seconds.

The T-Birds' busy stretch continues next Friday in Providence as they tangle with the Bruins at Amica Mutual Pavilion. Springfield returns home on Saturday when they host the Laval Rocket at 7:05 p.m. at the MassMutual Center.



Registration now open for Quabbin Valley baseball

The Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League is looking to infuse new talent into its league for the 2024 season.

Registration for the 2024 season is now open and any interested players can go to www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org to get registered, or to seek more information or make inquiries about the league. The league website will also be updated over the next month with information about the upcoming season.

There are many open roster spots available in the league for the 2024 season, which is tentatively scheduled to begin on Sunday, April 21. The league plays most Sunday from late April through late August with playoffs following that. The league plays a 15-game schedule and typically fields six teams each year. Games are usually played at 10 a.m. with fields in Easthampton and South Hadley normally used.

The Quabbin Valley league is an all-abilities league and all are welcome to join. Eligibility is players who are age 28 and over. You must be 30 to be eligible to pitch in the league. Your age for eligibility is whatever age you will turn in 2024. The league is also able to entertain taking in an entire group as a team to add to the league. Please email the league board for to inquire about entering a team.

The league is currently in the process of preparing for the 2024 season and held a meeting on Feb. 18 to discuss plans for the upcoming season. The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday March 24 at 11:40 a.m. at the Hangar Pub & Grill in South Hadley. All are welcome to attend the meeting, ask questions and express interest in joining.

Church News

Local pastor offers sermon

Spiritual Frustration Part 5

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 overcome the irritation, disappointment and offense that comes with serving Christ. In this edition, let us explore the frustration we experience as a consequence of misaligned priorities and unchecked toxic influences.

Three of the Gospels present a poignant scene from the life of Christ, in proximity to His ultimate Crucifixion and death: a) Matt. 26:6-13; b) Mark 14:3-9; and John 12:1-8. I would like to consider select portions of each in kind. Let us begin with the following:

Matthew 26:6-7

6 While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of Simon the Leper, 7 a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on his head as he was reclining at the table.

The Gospel of John adds a few details worthy of note. Firstly, this event happened about one week before the Crucifixion (12:1). Secondly, Jesus was attending a celebratory dinner following the raising of Lazarus, served by Martha (12:1-2). Thirdly, the woman who poured perfume upon Jesus was Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus (12:3). Fourthly, John provides this detail concerning Mary's act of worship: John 12:3

3 Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

What a beautiful response following the raising of Lazarus. How might you have responded to Christ if He raised your loved one from the dead? Thus said, what was the response of the disciples who witnessed the worship of One most worthy?

How did those who personally

witnessed this touching tribute-not to mention the raising of Lazarus itself-react herein? Consider what Matthew and Mark present in reply: **Matthew 26:8-9**

8 When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. "Why this waste?" they asked. 9 "This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor."

Mark 14:4-5

4 Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, "Why this waste of perfume? 5 It could have been sold for more than a year's wages and the money given to the poor." And they rebuked her harshly.

How did Jesus respond to His followers?

Matthew 26:10-13

10 Aware of this, Jesus said to them, "Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me. 11 The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me. 12 When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial. 13 Truly I tell you, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her."

What do we see herein? Namely, frustrated disciples operating out of a misplaced sense of priority. Whereas He happily received the costly worship of a beloved friend, His disciples were agitated that such "waste" would be tolerated.

What a tragedy that those closest to Jesus deemed His worship a waste. I can only wonder how often they chided themselves following His Ascension for such a misplaced sense of priority, wishing they had joined Mary in the adoration of their Lord. What a missed opportunity. Be wary of misaligned priority amidst life and living. You may be missing the things of God when your goals do not conform to His.

Delving deeper, the Gospel of John adds this interesting detail and secondary source of potential offense:

John 12:1-6

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where

Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. 2 Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. 3 Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

4 But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, 5 "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages." 6 He did not say this because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

Did you catch how this account differs from Matthew and Mark? Whereas Matthew and Mark present an agitated band of disciples, John notes only Judas. How are we to reconcile this alleged discrepancy? It would seem that Judas, whose desires differed from those of Christ, proved toxic to the group. Thus, one who was offended at the Lord catalyzed offense in the hearts of others.

We must learn from this. We must beware of toxic voices. A great many who feel aggrieved by Christ would make their pain yours. There is always a Judas waiting to whisper in your ear concerning the injustice of God and His ways. If it could influence unsuspecting figures like Peter, James and John, do not think it could not influence you. Remember, health is not infectious "but disease is" (J. C. Ryle).

Thank you for taking the time to read this publication. Should you have any comments or questions, feel free to contact me at your convenience using the information below. Also, feel free to check us out online at www.NewLifeBarre.org. or visit us each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. We hope to see you soon.

Pastor James Foley

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60 Main St. South Barre
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978-355-6407

Worcester wraps up road trip with loss to Florida

ESTERO, FL – The Worcester Railers HC (22-22-4-2, 50pts) lost to the Florida Everblades (27-15-7-2, 63pts) on Saturday night by the final score of 5-3 in front of a crowd of 7,650 at Hertz Arena. The Railers have wrapped up their six-game southern road trip and return to the DCU Center against the Trois-Rivieres Lions on Saturday, March 2nd at 7:05pm.

The Everblades opened the scoring with goals from Sean Josling (1-2-3) and Joe Pendenza (1-1-2) just 2:43 apart to grab a 2-0 lead. Worcester responded 27 seconds later as Jack Quinlivan (1-0-1) wrapped a backhand

behind the net past Johnson to make it 2-1 going into the second. Worcester kept the pressure on the Everblades in the second as they added on two more from Zsombor Garat (1-1-2) and Andrei Bakanov (1-0-1) to take their first lead of the night going into the third at 3-2. Florida

took the lead in the third thanks to goals from Will Reilly (1-0-1), Mark Senden (1-0-1) and an empty netter from Brett Davis (1-0-1) to take the game 5-3.

Florida controlled the pace of play across the first fourteen min-

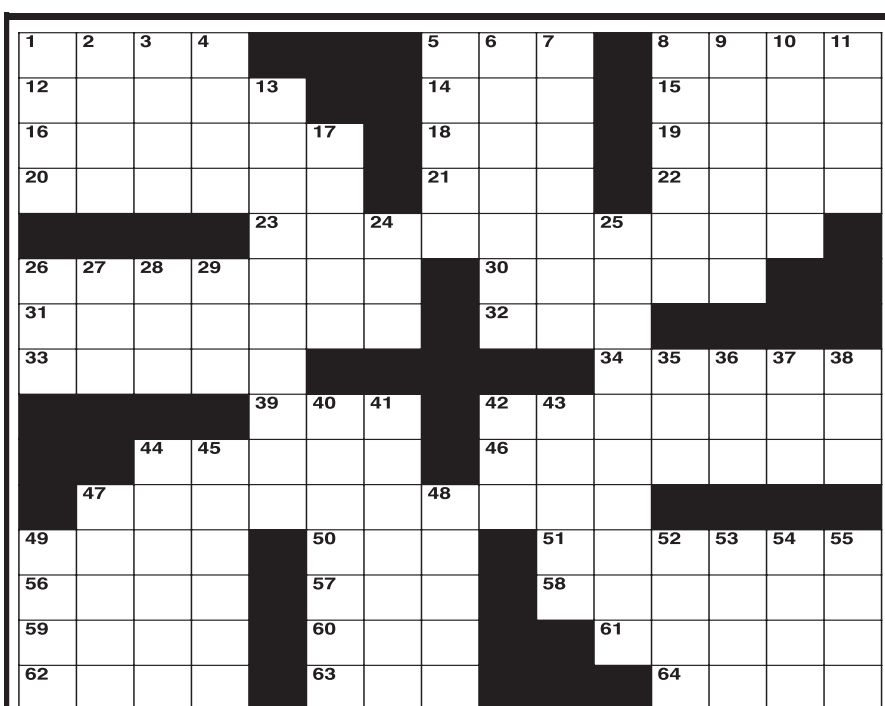
utes in the first, culminating in the game's first goal. Sean Josling (14th) received a backdoor pass from Oliver Chau who received

the puck from Pendenza below the goal line to bury it past Cole Ceci in net for Worcester to put the Everblades ahead 1-0. With Florida on the power play 2:43 later in

the period, Joe Pendenza turned on a one-timer and sent it past Ceci as Florida led 2-0 late in the period. Jack Quinlivan (4th) responded for Worcester just 27 seconds later. He took the puck off the stick of Zsombor Garat and wrapped it with his backhand inside the near post from beneath the net to get Worcester to within one heading into the second.

Worcester picked up the only goals in the second. Zsombor Garat (1st) hammered a heavy one-timer on the power-play from Trevor Cosgrove for his first professional North American goal. His marker tied the game at the 7:29 mark of the second. Later in the period with 4:51 left in the second, Andrei Bakanov (7th) ripped a wrist past the blocker of Cam Johnson following a perfect drop pass from Anthony Callin to give Worcester the 3-2 lead entering the third.

The Everblades would be the only team to score in the third period. First it was Will Reilly (6th) on a wrist from the point that beat Ceci blocker side to tie the game 3-3 just 7:49 into the frame. From there, Mark Senden (9th) found the puck barreling down the left wing and buried it through the legs of Ceci to make it 4-3 Florida. Brett Davis (3rd) sealed the deal for Florida with an empty netter with just 1:31 remaining in the game to give Florida the win and the final score of 5-3.



CLUES ACROSS

- Home of Iowa State University
- ___-fi (slang)
- Mottled green and yellow fruit
- Capable of thinking and expressing oneself clearly
- Sports broadcaster Eagle
- Midday
- Kinsmen
- Cable network
- Simpleton
- Brunch beverage
- Fed
- European capital
- Native inhabitants
- Mechanical device
- Rare geese native to Hawaii
- Bedroom furnishing
- The products of human creativity

CLUES DOWN

- One who graduated
- An inspired holy person
- Electronic counter-measures
- A place to store things
- Indian instrument
- Spanish saloon
- Whole number
- Not fastened
- Gives a boost
- Lounges about
- Interested in
- Remove salt
- Type of sword
- Naturally occurring solid material
- Gets involved without being invited
- Feline
- Bobby ___, NHL champ

CLUES DOWN

- "Kill Bill" actress Thurman
- Hawaiian dish
- Moroccan coastal region
- Baseball statistic
- Long period of time
- Moved earth
- Central Netherlands city
- Take stock of
- Central processing unit
- Distinctive qualities one generates
- Getting stuck
- Loss of bodily movements
- Veranda
- Abrupt
- What cats do
- Expresses pleasure
- Type of cheese
- Professional STEM organization
- Automatic data processing systems

ANSWERS ON PAGE 10

In the Classroom

Holden Grange announces scholarship

HOLDEN – The Holden Grange is offering its W. Sumner and Howard L. Jordan Scholarship to a graduating high school senior or to a student in attendance at any recognized institution of learning beyond high school, who has not received this scholarship previously.

Scholarships are offered for a degree-granting program and a full-time or part-time non-degree granting vocational education program designed to prepare students for work in a trade or a specific field. Scholarship awards range from \$300 to \$1,000, depending upon type of program and enrollment status.

An applicant who does not belong to Holden Grange must reside in Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland or Sterling and be pursuing a course of study in agriculture/horticulture, veterinary science, or conservation/environment. A Holden Grange member in good standing for at least one year preceding the date of application is eligible to pursue any course of study.

The scholarship recipients will be named in June, and funds will be awarded to the applicant upon successful completion of the first semester with at least a 3.0 grade point average for a degree-granting program or evidence of suc-

cessful completion for vocational courses.

An application in the form of a letter of intent, stating future educational goals and a description of three community activities or three Grange activities in which the applicant is involved, must be accompanied by a transcript and a letter of recommendation.

All parts of the application must be emailed or postmarked by Wednesday, May 1 to Holden Grange, 26 Glenwood Place, Rutland, MA 01543. For more information on this scholarship or the Grange in general, people may call 508-886-2341 or email holden-grange78@gmail.com.

PANTHERS, continued from page 7

Tyngsborough, 54-47, in last year's Class B finals on the same court, held the lead for almost the first three quarters.

Maddie Dugan, who's the only senior listed on the Rebels varsity basketball roster, scored seven points in the opening quarter, which helped her team build an 11-6 lead entering the second quarter.

Dugan finished the game with 11 points and was the Rebels only player to reach double digits.

Notre Dame junior Addison Pong, who entered the Class B championship game as the second-leading girls' scorer in Central Mass. was held to a season low of five points.

"Addison Pong is a great basketball player, but we stepped into the lanes and drew several charges in tonight's game," Barringer said. "We also switched from 3-2 to a 2-3 zone in the second half and we didn't let her have very many shot attempts. We always try to shut down the other team's leading scorer in every game that we play."

A Doyle 3-pointer from the left side and a Baxter base-line jumper, which were Quabin's only field goals of the second quarter, tied the score for the first time at 11-11 with 3:05 remaining in the opening half.

half, eighth grad-

er Julianne Kelly (5 points) made a free throw sending the Rebels into the locker room holding a slim 12-11 half-time lead.

The turning point of the game took place during the final three minutes of the third quarter and the first three minutes of the final quarter, as the Lady Panthers put together an 11-0 run.

After receiving a pass from Bassett, Baxter made an inside basket closing the gap to 17-15.

Then the score was tied for the second time following a fastbreak lay-up by Doyle.

Ducos also made back-to-back lay-ups giving Quabbin a 21-17 lead with 1:55 left in the third quarter.

Baxter scored the final three points of the Lady Panthers run early in the fourth quarter.

NDA couldn't get any closer than five points the rest of the way.



Hannah Baxter tries to get out of the paint after making a rebound.

With 42.9 seconds left on the scoreboard clock, Ducos made a pair of free throws pushing the Lady Panthers advantage to twelve points (35-23), which was

their largest lead of the ballgame. Following a turnover, Ducos dribbled the ball as the final seconds ticked off the scoreboard clock before celebrating with her teammates.

"I knew that we could win this game," Ducos said. "Once we took the lead in the second half, we played with a lot more energy and we executed a lot better."

Quabbin, who won their fifth consecutive game, had a week off before beginning their journey in the Division 3 state tournament. The 18th-seeded Lady Panthers were scheduled to play a road game against the 15th-seeded East Bridgewater Vikings (14-8) in a round of 32 contest on Wednesday night.

FIRE CHIEFS,
continued from page 1

danger and give you time to escape safely, especially in the overnight hours while you're sleeping," Egloff said. "The sooner you know about the danger, the faster you can escape, and the sooner we're notified, the faster we can be there to help."

Davine, formerly the Northampton fire chief, said that in the case of several dozen fatal fire incidents last year, investigators found smoke alarms disabled, outdated or altogether missing.

Springfield Fire Commissioner B.J. Calvi spoke of a tragedy that occurred in the city on March 30, 2023, during a structure fire. Multiple people were trapped in the residence and couldn't escape.

"When (firefighters) made

entry and knocked down the fire, they found two elderly adults who never made it out of their bed. The subsequent investigation showed that there were no smoke detectors present in the house," Calvi said.

Calvi noted that there were five fire fatalities in Springfield last year, of which four had no smoke detectors present.

"These are tragedies that could have been averted and need to stop," Calvi said, noting that all the fatal fires in Springfield last year occurred between midnight and 8 a.m.

"Please don't spend a single night in your home without a working smoke detector," he said.

Easthampton Fire Chief Christopher Norris encourages residents to check their detectors and alarms when they change their clocks, as the devices don't last

forever. If you don't remember when you installed your smoke detector, the manufacturing date is printed on the back.

"Smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years. If your alarm was made before February of 2014, or if there's no date at all, it's time to replace it," Norris said. "We recommend alarms made by well-known, national brands. You should be able to find most of these at your local hardware stores."

Chicopee Fire Chief Dan Stamborski said smoke detectors and alarms are the first line of defense against a fire in your home and that everyone should know what to do when the alarm goes off.

"That's where your home escape plan comes in," Stamborski said. "First and foremost, take a

look around your house on a daily basis, be sure to keep furniture and clutter away from your doors, windows and stairways because you don't want anything blocking your way out during an emergency. And, when we respond to your home, you certainly don't want to impede our access to get to you."

Stamborski encourages families to practice their escape routes and choose two or more ways to leave the building, which can include windows if you are on a lower floor. Pick a meeting place outside; it should be a safe distance away where everyone can gather.

"Once you're at the meeting place, never go back inside, not for anything. Call 911 and let the firefighters enter with their protective equipment," Stamborski said.

Once you create your escape route, practice it often, both

during the day and at night until it becomes muscle memory. Also, sleeping with your bedroom door closed is the simplest way to keep fire, smoke and carbon monoxide out.

"You'd be amazed how much protection a simple closed door offers," Stamborski said.

Wilbraham Fire Chief Michael Andrews spoke about CO, a poisonous gas created by burning fuels that is often produced by home heating equipment. CO is harmful and potentially fatal, especially for young children or older adults.

"What makes CO so dangerous is that you can't see it, smell it or taste it. Carbon monoxide is a silent, invisible killer," Andrews said. "Carbon monoxide poisoning is one of the leading causes of accidental poisoning deaths in the

country. Here in Massachusetts, more than 350 people end up in the emergency room each year because of CO poisoning."

Last year, in Massachusetts, there were more than 5,000 calls reporting carbon monoxide, and the vast majority ended safely because people had working alarms.

Andrews said be sure to have CO alarms in every level of your home, test them every month and replace the batteries twice a year. The alarms themselves need to be replaced every five, seven to 10 years; one can check the manufacturer's instructions or look up the make and model online to find out.

"Finally, if you hear it going off, get outside and dial 911. Don't disable them our write it off as a malfunction. Let us check to see if it's safe," Andrews said.



How to find the right fit for summer camp

Many adults fondly recall their days at summer camp. The increase in households with two working parents has made it more important than ever to find a camp to accommodate youngsters who need to remain engaged and entertained throughout over summer vacation. That reality has led to more summer camp options, but it's not always so easy finding one that's the right fit for a child.

No two children are the same and kids change quite a bit as they grow up. So a camp that worked for an older child or even one that accommodated a younger camper may not make the perfect fit this summer. With that in mind, parents can consider these tips to find the right summer camp for their children.

• **Ask around.** Even if no two campers are the same, it can benefit parents to ask around when shopping for a summer camp. Summer camp spots are limited and it's not uncommon for competition for available spaces to develop, which

can make it more difficult to gather information. However, ask neighbors whose children have outgrown summer camp if there's one they might recommend (or would not recommend).

• **Pursue a package deal.** Though package deals might not result in lower rates, approaching a camp with the parents of your child's friend or friends may work in your favor. Kids undoubtedly

will be more excited about camp if their friends will be there as well. Camp officials may see these quasi-package deals as beneficial and a quick and easy way to fill spots.

• **Ask kids how they want to spend summer.** Specialized camps run the gamut from sports camps focusing on a particular sport to general outdoor recreation camps to camps that cater to young musicians. More general camps offer a wide range of activities throughout the summer, and that might appeal to children less interested in specialized camps. Ask youngsters for their input before making a final decision. Involve kids in the search by showing them websites of prospective camps and asking them what they think of each one. If attending an in-person consultation, bring kids along so they can form their own impression.

• **Make sure the camp suits your sched-**

ule. Kids' preferences are not the only opinions to consider. In households with two working parents, moms and dads must find a camp that aligns with their work schedule. Many camps offer half-day sessions and/or full-day sessions, but some offer just one or the other. If parents need full-day sessions, they might need to begin their search early to ensure they can secure a spot before they fill up.

• **Identify what you can afford.** Camp costs vary significantly, so parents should identify how much they can afford before they begin their search. Doing so may

eliminate various camps right off the bat, saving parents precious time as they try to find a camp for their children before spots fill up. Many towns offer local camps at schools, and these may be an affordable option. Parents also should know that many camps allow them to pick certain weeks or days of the week a child will attend rather than insisting kids attend camp for the duration of the summer.

Summer camp season is right around the corner. Parents and children can work together to identify a camp that will ensure this summer is filled with fun.



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Public Safety

Barre Police Log

Sunday, Feb. 11
7:07 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Falls, Washburn Road, Transported to Hospital
7:59 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Written Warning

Monday, Feb. 12
8:40 a.m. Court Duty, East Brookfield District Court, Court Duty
4:34 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Falls, Ruggles Lane, Ambulance Signed Refusal
6:01 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Oakham Police Department, Mutual Aid Assist
9:51 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Written Warning

Tuesday, Feb. 13
10:31 a.m. Public Assist, Valley Road, Officer Spoke to Party

Wednesday, Feb. 14
9:34 a.m. Court Duty, Barre Police Headquarters, Court Duty
11:41 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Burns, North Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital
2:42 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Gardner Police

Department, Officer Spoke to Party
3:04 p.m. Public Assist, Walnut Hill Road, Information Taken
3:05 p.m. Tree Incidents Hubbardston Road, Investigated
4:32 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Ruggles Lane, No Transport Required
8:48 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Animal Bites, South Street, Transported to Hospital

Thursday, Feb. 15
8:08 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, Delaware State Troopers, Officer Took Call
8:58 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, West Street, Transported to Hospital
8:42 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Town Wide, Information Given

Friday, Feb. 16
12:25 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Breathing Difficulty, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
3:14 p.m. Follow-Up Investigation, South Street, Investigation Ongoing
4:20 p.m. Motor Vehicle Hit and Run, Summer Street, Report Filed

6:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Arrest(s) Made
Arrest: Lukert, Jennier E., 30, Petersham
Charges: Warrant
9:03 p.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Cutler Road, Information Taken
9:05 p.m. Escort/Transport, Western MA Women's Correctional Center, Removed to Court/Lockup
Arrest: Lukert, Jennifer E., 30, Petersham
Charges: Warrant
11:26 Emergency Medical Services – Welfare Check, Wauwinet Road, Officer Spoke to Party

Saturday, Feb. 17
11:44 a.m. Public Assist, South Street, Officer Spoke to Party
1:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Criminal Complaint
3:28 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Welfare Check, Pleasant Street, Public Assist
7:26 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle, Valley Road, Unfounded
8:23 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Breathing Difficulty, South Street, Mutual Aid Transported

Rutland Police Log

Sunday, Feb. 11
4:49 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Glenwood Road, Transported to Hospital
8:40 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Bleeding (Non-Traumatic), Morris Lane, Ambulance Signed Refusal
9:36 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Adams Road, Officer Spoke to Party
9:47 a.m. Property – Lost and/or Found, Cheryl Ann Drive, Information Taken
10:09 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Seizures, Barre Paxton Road, Transported to Hospital
10:18 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Michael Drive, Public Assist
12:53 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Seizures, Miles Road, Transported to Hospital
1:01 p.m. Follow-Up Investigation, Pommogussett Road, Officer Spoke to Party
3:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
4:59 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Written Warning
5:12 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Main Street, Public Assist
5:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Written Warning
9:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
10:31 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problems, Nancy Drive, Transported to Hospital
10:50 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Spencer Road, Mutual Aid Transport
11:24 p.m. Erratic Operator, Main Street, Negative Contact

3:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Written Warning
4:41 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
5:27 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

Tuesday, Feb. 13
12:24 a.m. Suspicious Person – Vehicle Activity, Highland Park Road, Officer Spoke to Party
10:36 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Welch Avenue, No Fire Service Necessary
11:12 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Philips Avenue, Transported to Hospital
11:35 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Stroke (CVA), East County Road, Transported to Hospital
2:47 p.m. Suspicious Person – Vehicle Activity, Glenwood Road, Officer Spoke to Party
3:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
3:27 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Written Warning
4:48 p.m. Erratic Operator, Main Street, Gone on Arrival

Glenwood Road, Criminal Complaint
Summons: Ribeiro Rezende, Eliomir C., 40, Worcester
Charges: Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle
10:37 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Written Warning
10:47 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stoop, East County Road, Written Warning
11:46 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Settlers Lane, Information Given
2:24 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Muschapouge Road, Vehicle Removed
6:02 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Memorial Drive, Officer Spoke to Party

Friday, Feb. 16
1:46 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Oakridge Drive, Transported to Hospital
11:41 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Neck Pain, Maple Avenue, Transported to Hospital
3:59 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Exposure, Main Street, Report Filed
4:02 p.m. Public Assist, Oakridge Drive, Report Filed
4:50 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning
5:06 p.m. Follow-Up Investigation, Oakridge Drive, Investigated
5:13 p.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, Pommogussett Road, Referred to Other Agency
8:18 p.m. Disorderly Conduct, Barre Paxton Road, Arrest(s) Made
Arrest: Hesson, Kimberly Michelle, 30, Peabody
Charges: Disorderly Conduct, Disturbing the Peace, Larceny Under \$1200, Assault, Assault and Battery on Police Officer, Assault, Resist Arrest, Deface Property

Oakham Police Log

Sunday, Feb. 11
9:36 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Welfare Check, Adams Road, Officer Spoke to Party
10:50 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Breathing Difficulty, Spencer Road, Mutual Aid Transport

Monday, Feb. 12
3:56 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning

Wednesday, Feb. 14
9:01 a.m. Court Duty, East Brookfield District Court, Administration Complete
4:43 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued

Friday, Feb. 16
4:36 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning
5:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old Turnpike Road, Citation Issued

5:57 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Worcester Road, Public Assist

Saturday, Feb. 17
12:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, North Brookfield Road, Secured
5:40 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Checking, South Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
7:40 Suspicious Person – Vehicle, Robinson Road, Negative Contact

Hubbardston Police Log

Sunday, Feb. 11
6:28 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Seizures, Old Princeton Road, Mutual Aid Transport
12:20 p.m. Be on the Lookout, Westminster – Wachusett Mountain, Negative Contact
1:26 p.m. Vandalism, Seminole Avenue, Report Filed

Monday, Feb. 12
1:18 p.m. Dizzy, Old Westminster Road, Transported to Hospital
4:45 p.m. Public Assist, Plum Tree Lane, Public Assist

Tuesday, Feb. 13
5:26 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle

Activity, Old Princeton Road, Report Filed
6:46 p.m. Public Assist, Main Street, Report Filed

Wednesday, Feb. 14
11:51 a.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Gardner Road, Investigated
2:16 p.m. Notification, Old Westminster Road, Referred to Other Agency
3:41 p.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), New Templeton Road, Remove Hazard
8:08 p.m. Follow-Up Investigation, Plum Tree Lane, Investigated

Tuesday, Feb. 15
8:39 p.m. Road Condition

Notification, Town Wide, Information Given
8:57 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Gardner Road, Public Assist

Friday, Feb. 16
5:06 p.m. Property Damage, Main Street, Report Filed
11:36 p.m. Emergency Medical Service, Old Princeton Road, No Action Required

Saturday, Feb. 17
6:54 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Abdominal/Back Pain, Hill Road, Transported to Hospital

Public Notices

PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING
Quabbin Regional School District
QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING: In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 71, Section 38N, the Quabbin Regional School District School Committee will hold a Public Hearing regarding the FY25 Budget on **Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Educational Support Center, 872 South Street, Barre, MA 01005. The public is invited to attend in person or via Zoom at 6:30 p.m. Please use the link below to join the presentation directly through Zoom.
Join Zoom Meeting: bit.ly/QuabbinRSDSC Meeting ID: 840 3950 2276
Passcode: qNR6R0
A copy of the FY25 budget will be available for review on our website at www.qrsd.org or at the Educational Support Center, 872 South Street, Barre, MA 01005 after 12:00 p.m. on Friday, March 8, 2024.
**Pursuant to Section

13 of Chapter 4 (enacted by Chapter 174 of the Acts of 2015, entitled An Act Relative to Electronic Publication of Certain Legal Notices), it is stated that the newspaper is to post on their website and on the MNPA website: masspub licnotices.org
02/29, 03/07/2024

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
By virtue and in execution 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, LLC, 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 descrip-

tion. 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,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.
150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458
(617)558-0500
22145
02/15, 02/22, 02/29/2024

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT DOCKET NO. 24 SM 000754 ORDER OF NOTICE TO: Stephan K. Norling Eleanor A. Norling
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. C. 50 §3901 (et seq):
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. as Trustee for Option One Mortgage Loan Trust 2007-2, Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2007-2 claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Barre, numbered 63 Lane Road, given by **Stephan K. Norling and Eleanor A. Norling to H&R Block Mortgage Corporation**, dated November 13, 2006, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 40326, Page 173, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/

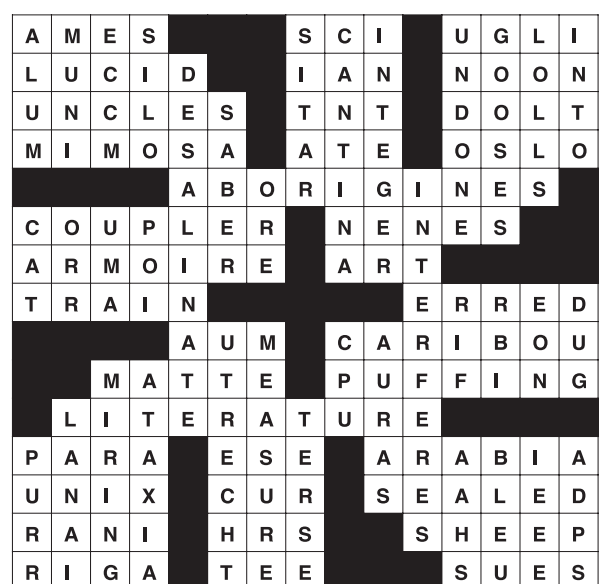
have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.
If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before 4/8/2024 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.
Witness, **GORDON H. PIPER** Chief Justice of this Court on 2/21/2024.
Attest: **Deborah J. Patterson, Recorder**
02/29/24

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508)831-2200 Docket No. WO24P0521EA Estate of: Richard J McDonald, Jr. Also known as: Richard J McDonald Date of Death: 02/28/2023 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal

Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by **Bonny L McDonald of Barre, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that: **Bonny L McDonald of Barre, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised** administration.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/19/2024.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal

Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, **Hon. Leilah A Keamy**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 19, 2024
Stephanie Fattman
Register of Probate
02/29/24

Sale of Motor Vehicles Under MGL Ch 255 Sec 39A
Notice is hereby given by: Dave's Tow & Transport, Inc pursuant to the provisions of MGL C.255 sec 39a, that on **March 8, 2024** at 843 Worcester Rd, Barre, MA the following motor vehicle will be sold by private sale to satisfy the garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges and other expenses incurred, including sales costs.
2011 Chevrolet HHR VIN: 3GNB8BFW8BS620076 Robert L Goodman 111 Perseverance Mine Ct Nevada City, CA 95959 02/22, 02/29, 03/07/2024
See more legals on page 11



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

Public Notices

NOTICE OF SALE NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 160 Chapman Road, Barre, Massachusetts 01005
By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Martin E. Tremblay and Noreen B. Tremblay to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for First Magnus Financial Corporation, dated April 23, 2007, and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 41038 at Page 313, as affected by an assignment of mortgage to Federal National Mortgage Association, dated March 8, 2017, and recorded with said Registry in Book 56930 at Page 378, as affected by an assignment

of mortgage to U.S. Bank Trust, N.A., as Trustee for LSF11 Master Participation Trust, dated February 19, 2019, and recorded with said Registry in Book 60061 at Page 206, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder by assignment, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold by Public Auction at **1:00 o'clock P.M. on the 15th day of March, 2024** at the mortgaged premises located at 160 Chapman Road, Barre, MA 01005, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage.
To wit: Three parcels of land on the westerly side of Chapman Road in Barre, Worcester County, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows:

PARCEL 1:

The land with the buildings thereon on the west side of Chapman Road in said Barre shown as Lot 1 on a Plan of Land on Chapman Road in Barre owned by Ruth Trifilo, dated November 10, 1986 by Thomasian Engineering, recorded in Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 570, Plan 101 and more specifically described as follows:
Beginning: at a point in a stone wall in the westerly line of Chapman Road at the northeast corner of land now or formerly of R. Derry et ux;
Thence: S. 63 deg 39' 02" W. along said Derry land 613.40 feet to a point at the beginning of a stone wall;
Thence: S. 63 deg 20' 49" W. along said stone wall, 79.59 feet to a gun barrel set at the corner of stone walls;

Thence: N. 66 deg 33' 23" W. along land now or formerly of Trifilo, 313.00 feet to a point;
Thence: N 10 deg 03' 23" W. along said Trifilo land, 103.00 feet to a point;
Thence: N. 68 deg 41' 37" E., 177 feet to a point in a stone wall.
Thence: N.79 deg 11' 07" E., 785.08 feet to a point in a stone wall in the westerly line of Chapman Road, the last 2 courses being along said land of Trifilo;
Thence: S. 04 deg 27' 02" W. along said stone wall and the westerly line of Chapman Road, 130.00 feet to the point of beginning. Containing 4.65 acres.
PARCEL 2:
The land on the westerly side of Chapman Road, Barre, Massachusetts, being shown as Lot No. 7 on plan entitled "Plan of Land on

Chapman Road and Oak Hills Drive Located in the Town of Barre, MA 01005 Plan Prepared For: Ruth Trifilo Chapman Road, Box 421 Barre, MA 01005" dated August 5, 1988 by DeFalco Engineering, Incorporated, and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 605, Plan 2. **Containing:** 105486 square feet, according to said plan.
PARCEL 3:
The land on the westerly side of Chapman Road, Barre, Massachusetts, being shown as Lot No. 8 on plan entitled "Plan of Land on Chapman Road and Oak Hills Drive located in the Town of Barre, MA 01005 Plan Prepared For: Ruth Trifilo Chapman Road, Box 421 Barre, MA 01005" dated August 5, 1988 by DeFalco Engineering, Incorporated,

and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 605, Plan 2. **Containing:** 143136 square feet, according to said plan. Subject to a 30' wide utility and drainage easement running along the westerly side of said lot as shown on said plan, and being a portion of the premises described in a deed from Martin F. Harray, Deputy Sheriff to Ruth M. Trifilo dated July 14, 1980 and recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 7035, 212.
For Mortgagor's title, see deed dated December 27, 1996, and recorded in Book 18504, at Page 64 in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds.
Premises to be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions,

easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.
TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. High bidder to sign written memorandum of sale upon acceptance of the high bid. The balance of the purchase price is to be paid

by certified or bank check at Friedman Vartolo LLP, 85 Broad Street, Suite 501, New York, NY 10004, within thirty (30) days from the date of the sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. In the event of an error in this publication, the description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control.
Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.
U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Trustee of LSF11 Master Participation Trust, Present holder of said mortgage by its Attorneys,
Friedman Vartolo LLP
85 Broad Street,
Suite 501,
New York, New York 10004
02/22, 02/29, 03/07/2024

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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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