

BARRE GAZETTE

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Towns list unofficial Primary results

Democrat Biden and Republican Trump top vote getters

By Ellenor Downer
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Tuesday, March 5 residents of Massachusetts went to the polls to elect candidates for the Presidential election in November.

In Barre, a total of 1,224 (311 precinct 1 and 316 precinct 2) of the 4,199 (2,085 precinct 1 and 2,114 precinct 2) registered voters cast ballots for just under 30% turnout. Six hundred twenty seven are registered Democrats (311 precinct 1 and 316 precinct 2), 515 Republicans (255 precinct 1 and 260 precinct 2), 11 Libertarians (6 precinct 1 and 5 precinct 2) and 3,011 unenrolled (1,491 precinct 1 and 1,520 precinct 2).

Unofficial results for Barre, 467 cast Democrat ballots, 749 Republican and 13 Libertarian. On the Democrat ballot 360 voted for Joseph R. Biden (264 precinct 1 and 199 precinct 2 and 3 hand count precinct 1 and 1 hand count precinct 2), 39 for Dean Phillips and 23 for Marianne Williamson (7 precinct 1 and 16 precinct 2).

On the Republican side 538 voted for Donald J. Trump (279 precinct 1 and 257 precinct 2 and 2 hand count precinct 1 and 200 for Nikki Haley (105 precinct 1 and 91 precinct 2 and 2 hand count precinct 1 and 2 hand count precinct 2) with various others candidates receiving one to three votes.

In Hubbardston, the unofficial results were 302 for Biden and 534 for Trump and 210 for Haley. One thousand one hundred thirty nine of the 3,600 registered voters went to the polls for a 31.6% turnout.

Unofficial results in New Braintree on the Democrat ballot were Biden 71, Phillips 3 and Williamson 6. On the Republican side, 107 voted for Trump and 51 for Haley.

Unofficial results in Oakham had 127 Democrats vote for Biden, 9 for Phillips and 10 for Williamson. On the Republican side, 273 voted for Trump and 101 for Haley.

Voters also cast ballots for State Committee Man, State Committee Woman and Town Committee.

Rev. Richard and Gail Pryce House opens in Oakham



The Reverend Richard and Gail Pryce House located on New Braintree and Oakham officially opened last Friday. The building owned by Dismas is similar to the other houses the non-profit owns in Worcester. They also own Dismas Farm located on New Braintree Road in Oakham.



Turley photos by Ellenor Downer
Joanne Bedard of Rutland, daughter of the Pryces, attended the open house and ribbon cutting along with her daughter, Abigail Bedard and Joanne's two brothers, John and Mark Pryce and family.

By Ellenor Downer
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OAKHAM – When Rev. Richard Pryce retired from the ministry, he and his wife, Gail, began attending the Oakham Congregational Church.

Thus began the Rutland couples association with the Oakham community and Dismas Farm, located on Lincoln Road. Chris Drolet, who was bringing a meal on Wednesday, to those living at Dismas Farm, asked the couple if they would like to prepare a dish and come with her to supper with the clients at the farm. They said yes and there long time relationship with those living at the farm began.

They not only brought a meal to the clients, who were in recovery, but offered their support. The Dismas motto is “we are family.” The Pryce’s are a second set of parents, grandparents and of course, friends to the Dismas family.

On Friday, March 1 the



Richard and Gail Pryce talk to some of the many attendees to the open house and ribbon cutting ceremony at the Reverend Richard and Gail Pryce House, located on 158 New Braintree Road in Oakham on Friday, March 1.

Dismas family honored the couple by dedicating its newest building in town, a home for those who “graduated” so to speak from the farm to apartment living by naming the place the Reverend Richard and Gail

See PRYCE HOUSE
page 6

Select Board hears about library’s chimney repair

By Ellenor Downer
Editor
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Note: The discussion regarding playgrounds at High Plains and Rice Park will appear in a separate article.

BARRE – Two members of the Barre Library Association, Ann Meilus and Lucy Allen, told the Select Board at the Monday, March 4 meeting of the need for chimney repair at the Woods Memorial Library.

Meilus said the chimney was in “horrible state of repair” and the library boiler functions off it. The bricks were falling inside the chimney. If the bricks blocked the chimney, fumes would be dangerous to people inside the building.

Allen said the chimney was 137 years old. Mortar repair was done in the past, but not correctly, which

added to the problem.

The BLA, which owns the library building, had an inspection of the chimney using a camera that showed the problem. Fire Safe Chimney Service did the inspection and gave a quote of \$38,000 for the chimney repair. The quote dated Feb. 16 was good for 60 days.

The BLA sought quotes from other companies. When they found out the building was three stories high, they no longer were interested due to the need for scaffolding and did not submit quotes.

The agreement between the town and the BLA holds the BLA responsible for the first \$5,000 on capital expenditures and the town for the remainder. Select Board Chair said the BLA was responsible to obtain quotes and manage the project. The town would make a donation for the remaining cost

See BARRE, page 6



Turley Photo by Nick Boonstra

Eagle Hill School performed “Horse Girls”, featuring an all-female cast.

Area students participate in Drama Festival

By Nick Boonstra
Staff Writer
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Students from Quabbin Regional Middle High School and Eagle Hill School participated in the Massachusetts Educational Theatre Guild’s annual High School Drama Festival on March 2, putting on exceptional performances that demonstrated a remarkable ability and maturity from the youth participating.

For the Festival’s preliminary round on Saturday, Quabbin performed “Silenced on Barbour Street” at Leominster High School, while Eagle Hill took their produc-

tion of “Horse Girls” to Westford Academy. Unfortunately, neither school moved on to the competition’s semi-final round, but a number of students from both schools were recognized for their efforts in shaping their respective productions.

The METG High School Drama Festival is an annual competitive one-act play festival, with preliminary, semi-final, and State Final rounds, the latter of which occurs over the course of three days in Boston. The history of Festival traces back almost 100 years to

See DRAMA FESTIVAL,
page 7

Board gets resident input on playgrounds

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

BARRE – This past Monday, a group of parents and residents came to the Board of Selectmen with input for new playgrounds for the town’s children.

The Select Board sought resident input on the types of equipment they wanted at playground upgrades at High Plains and Rice Park. The March 4 meeting was led by Chair Dr. Maureen Marshall and she was joined by Vice Chair John Dixon, Clerk Mark Regienus, Town Administrator Tammy Martin and Administrative Assistant Sandy Hood.

The meeting began first with a run-down of three potential playground plans by Child Scapes

representative Nick McGuffie. “The biggest thing is community involvement,” McGuffie said as he explained the plans to the room. A splash pad proposed for High Plains got scrapped from the plan as too costly and only having one season use.

Rice Park and High Plains, two parks, will be getting new playground sets with American Rescue Plan Act funding and will feature accessible play with a handicap and wheelchair accessible play equipment.

“Ideally what we would want to do is change the shape of the playground,” Regienus explained.

“What we’re concerned about is safety, handicap accessibility, and then making it available to kids ages 3-5 and all other ages,” Marshall said. “We want to do this for the children, not just the kids here now, but those children’s children.”

Rice Park was donated to the town by the family that bears its name and the town wants to make sure that it is used and cherished by children. There is a deed stip-

See PLAYGROUND,
page 8

Stephen Brewer talks on Abraham Lincoln at Historical Society

By Eric Goodhart
Correspondent

RUTLAND – Fortunately, 52 lovers of history came to celebrate Lincoln’s 215-year anniversary of his birth at the Rutland Historical Society.

The frigid windy night did not stop them from coming to listen to Stephen Brewer, former Massachusetts state Senator. He began researching Lincoln’s life path when he was a six-grade student in Barre, where he still resides.

On Feb. 12, 1809 a boy was born in a single-room log cabin on Sinking Spring Farm in LaRue County, Kentucky. It has been said, that we are all here for a reason. In a world that is much more complex than it was in the early 19th century, some may take their individual life journeys never knowing what their purpose of existing is.

Understanding the era that Lincoln was born into could reveal hints of what Lincoln knew and thought about his own destiny and purpose in life. He had more than his share of sorrows and challenges even before he became President.

Brewer’s talk that evening focused on Lincoln’s life leading up to his Presidency and what helped in the forming of his char-



Submitted photo

President Abraham Lincoln is shown reading to his youngest son, Tad. Former state Senator Stephen Brewer spoke about the 16th President to mark the 215 year anniversary of Lincoln's birth.

acter. He did not get along with his stern illiterate laborer father, who struggled as a farmer and carpenter. But he was close to his mother. He learned to read by itinerant teachers, common in the day, but mostly was self-taught, reading anything he could get his hands on. His younger brother, Thomas, died

in infancy before the family lost the farm they had and had to move to rural frontier Indiana.

There his mother died of an intestinal poisoning from a toxic plant. Abe was nine and deeply affected by her passing. One day, his father came home with Sarah Johnston, a widow with two children of her own. She was his step-

mother and treated Abe and his sister, Sarah equally. He later referred to her as his “angel mother.”

She and Abe bonded quickly. She encouraged his reading and dealt with the demands his father put on him regularly regarding balancing labor and learning tolerably well.

Times were not easy for anyone in rural western frontier of the new Union. England had already failed in their attempt in 1812 to take control of the country they lost in 1776. Meanwhile, the country was moving westward. The Louisiana Purchase of 1803 more than doubled the size of the country. It was called Manifest Destiny.

Lincoln was growing taller; and stronger. He later became quite adept at taking on all challengers in bouts of wrestling. He was remembered for that in later campaigning days along with his eloquent oratory.

At age seventeen, he found work on a ferryboat. He found joy on the river, he built a flatboat two

See HISTORICAL SOCIETY,
page 8



News of the Towns



Round Town

Ellenor Downer
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Post 2 to hold annual corned beef dinner

American Legion Barre Post 2, 450 South Barre Road will hold its annual corned beef and cabbage supper on Saturday, March 16 from 5-6:30 p.m. Cost is \$15 per person for either eat in or take out. Only 120 tickets are available.

To reserve tickets, people may call 978-355-2730, Tony Musnicki at 978-337-2351 or Scott Tourtellot at 508-320-9899.

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 2

The March meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 2 will be held on Monday, March 11 at American Legion Post 2, 450 South Barre Road. The refreshment committee consists of Kara Franciosi, Jean Reed and Barbara Rossi. The Auxiliary hopes to see members at the meeting.

Easter flowers

Anyone interested in providing flowers or plants for a Sunday service at the Barre Congregational church should email Ann Clark at annie01005@gmail.com, Beth Richard at elizabeth richard1956@gmail.com and Sue Musnicki at smusnicki@hotmail.com. Easter lilies \$13.50 single, \$28.00 double, and \$42.00 triple; tulips 8" \$18 and 10" \$22, daffodils 8" \$18 and 10" \$22, minis \$15 and hyacinths 8" \$18 and 4" \$7.

Drive thru church dinner

The Barre Congregational Church, 30 Park St., cancelled the drive thru roast pork dinner on Saturday, March 9 due to low number of reservations. Community Friendship supper

Community Friendship drive thru supper will be held Thursday, March 21 with pick up from 5:30-6:30 p.m. The meal is a hot turkey sandwich, stuffing, beverage and dessert.

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 8 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.

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New Braintree Library to hold Story Time

NEW BRAintree – The New Braintree Public Library, 45 Memorial Drive, offers their next Story Time program on Monday, March 18 at 9 a.m.

The focus will be spring weather and will feature "Little Cloud" by Eric Carle, "It Looked Like Spilt Milk" by Charles G. Shaw and "Rain!" by Linda Ashman. This reading and crafts program for preschool children is held twice a month on Mondays at the library.

Parental supervision is required.

People may call the library at 508-867-7650 during regular business for more information.

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Community Theatre presents 'The SpongeBob Musical'



This photo shows the cast of "The SpongeBob Musical."

HUBBARDSTON – The Hubbardston Community Theatre presents "The SpongeBob Musical" on Friday, March 15 at 7 p.m.; Saturday, March 16 at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. and Sunday, March 17 at 1 p.m. in the Hubbardston Center School Gymnasium, 8 Elm St.

Tickets are now on sale for \$15 per adult, age 12 and up, \$10 for children, age 3 to 11 and seniors and free for children age 2 and under. To reserve tickets, people should email: hubbtheatre123@gmail.com. Tickets also available at any rehearsal and will be sold at the door. Payment accepted is cash, check to HCT or Venmo. No Venmo payments will be accepted at the door.

Directors are Donna Farrell and Michele Johnston. Music Director is Lisa Utzig and Choreographer, Amanda Hakala Shuster.

When the citizens of Bikini Bottom discover that a volcano will soon erupt and destroy their humble home, SpongeBob and his friends must come together to save the fate of their undersea



Submitted photos

Madisyn Shotwell, Emma Lindsey, Erin Blackstone, Mia Gleason, and Drew Romanski as the Shrimp.

world. With lives hanging in the balance and all hope lost, a most unexpected hero rises up. The power of optimism really can save the world.

"The SpongeBob Musical" is based on the beloved animated series created by Stephen Hillenburg and features a book by Kyle Jarrow, with original songs by Yolanda Adams, Steven Tyler and Joe Perry of Aerosmith, Sara Bareilles, Jonathan Coulton,

Alexander Ebert of Edward Sharpe and The Magnetic Zeros, The Flaming Lips, Lady A, Cyndi Lauper, John Legend, Panic! At the Disco, Plain White T's, They Might Be Giants and T.I. and songs by David Bowie, Tom Kenny and Andy Paley. Additional lyrics are by Jonathan Coulton, with additional music by Tom Kitt. The musical production was conceived by Tina Landau.

An exciting new musical featuring irresistible characters and magical music, this deep-sea pearl of a show is set to make a splash with audiences young and old. The future is bright, the future is bold, the future is The SpongeBob Musical.

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"The SpongeBob Musical" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals.



Audry Lavenski demonstrates dance moves to Charlie Hebert, Colton Butterfield, Nathan Kearcher and Joshua Caranci in "Bikini Bottom Boogie."

Purple for Prevention Week

Chris Herren to speak at free presentation March 7

BARRE – Purple for Prevention Week, March 4-8, is dedicated to healthy choices and safe decisions in the Quabbin region, for people of all ages.

For anyone who is wondering how purple began as the color of prevention in our region, join Purple for Prevention Week Coordinators Quabbin Regional Middle/High School Administration on Thursday, March 7 at 6 p.m. for a free presentation by Chris Herren at the school, 800 South St.

His talk in 2013 was the start of all the work of Q-DRUG in the

community, when students and community members connected with his message of support and caring being at the center of prevention. Herren will be speaking about mental health, substance use, healthy choices, and how to support your children, yourself and your peers through difficult decisions.

There are a number of ways you might be seeing purple in our community this week:

All elementary students in the Quabbin Regional School District have been given a purple ribbon to take home to decorate their homes in support of healthy choices. Healthy choices at the elementary age includes healthy eating, safe friendships, kindness to peers, active lifestyles, and connections with caring adults.

Q-DRUG has decorated a number of our local community municipal spaces, town commons, police and fire departments, roadways, and schools. This is the 10th year that Q-DRUG has decorated these spaces, in support of all youth making healthy choices.

This is the second annual community decorating contest, where local families and businesses decorate their space as a part of a contest sponsored by Q-DRUG. To cast your vote for the best decorated, please visit QDrug.org for the voting ballot.

All are welcome to join Q-DRUG in supporting healthy choices for all in the district by sharing a purple ribbon on your home or business. For more information, visit QDrug.org.

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Hubbardston

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Library holds spring bunny fundraiser

The Hubbardston Public Library, 7 Main St., invites families to hop on over for a special springtime Story time fundraiser on Wednesday, March 20 at 10 a.m. For a suggested \$15 donation per family, children can meet and take photos with live bunnies as part of the regular morning story time program.

All proceeds will go towards supporting and enhancing the story time program at Hubbardston Public Library with new books, craft supplies, visiting performers and more throughout the year. With spring right around the corner, this cute bunny event promises fun for the whole family and helps the library continue offering quality story time programs for free.

Country Hen Scholarship

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

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

Hubbardston Community Theatre

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

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

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

Dog licenses

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

Senior center events

The Hubbardston Senior Center, 7A Main St., events include: Bingo from 12:30-3 p.m. on Mondays; Knitting Group at 10 a.m. every Tuesday at 10 a.m. and WiiBowling beginning at 8:30 a.m. every Monday and Wednesday beginning at 8:30 a.m. Eggs may be picked up on Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. in the Senior Center. Cribbage is played on Thursdays from 1:30-3 p.m. Pitch is played the first and third Friday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Art group 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 11. 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 – Chicken Picatta, wild rice, roasted broccoli, cookies, pumpernickel bread
TUESDAY – Meatballs with onion gravy, bowtie pasta, Scandinavian vegetables, fresh fruit, French bread

WEDNESDAY – Roast pork with gravy, cranberry stuffing, California vegetables, apple crisp, diet = applesauce, marble rye bread

THURSDAY – Corned beef, boiled potatoes, cabbage and carrots, vanilla mousse, whole wheat bread

FRIDAY – Macaroni and cheese, stewed tomatoes, green beans, fruited ambrosia, pumpernickel 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.

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News of the Towns

PUBLIC MEETINGS

BARRE.

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.
 Quabbin Regional School District Committee – March 12 at 6:30 p.m.
 Conservation Committee – March 12 at 7 p.m.
 Library Trustees – March 13 at 6:30 p.m.
 250th Anniversary Committee – March 13 at 6:30 p.m.
 Barre Housing Authority – March 14 at 3 p.m.
 Sewer Commission – March 21 at 7 p.m.
 Select Board – March 18 at 6 p.m.
 Town Election Day – April 1 from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

HARDWICK

Board of Health – March 7 at 6:30 p.m.
 Paige Library Trustees – March 7 at 7 p.m.
 Finance Committee – March 11 at 6:30 p.m., March 18 and March 25 at 6 p.m., April 1 at 7 p.m. and April 8, April 22 and May 6 at 6 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.
 Planning Board – March 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.
 Gilbertville Water District – March 19 at 5:30 p.m.
 Conservation Commission – March 20 at 6:30 p.m.

HUBBARDSTON

Agricultural Commission – March 7 at 6:30 p.m.
 Library Trustees – March 7 at 7 p.m.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

Fire and Highway Building Committee – March 7 at 4
 Board of Selectmen – March 7 at 5:30 p.m. and March 26 at 6 p.m.
 Library Board of Trustees – March 7 at 5:30 p.m.
 Parks and Recreation – March 7 at 5:30 p.m.
 Council on Aging – March 11 at 2 p.m.
 Planning Board – March 20 at 6 p.m.

OAKHAM.

Cemetery Commission – March 7 at 6 p.m.
 Select Board – March 11, 18 and 25 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

Petersham School Committee – March 7 at 5 p.m.
 Select Board – March 7 at 5:30 p.m.
 Board of Health – March 7 at 6 p.m.
 Advisory Finance Committee – March 7 at 6 p.m.
 Council on Aging – March 11 at 10 a.m.
 Core Planning Team – March 11, March 18 and March 25 at 1:30 p.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

Agricultural Commission – March 7 at 6 p.m.
 Conservation Commission – March 7 at 6 p.m.
 Select Board – March 7, March 14 and March 18 at 6 p.m.
 Economic Development Commission – March 7 and 13 at 6 p.m.
 Rutland Development and Industrial Commission – March 7 at 6 p.m.
 Finance Committee – March 14 at 6 p.m. and March 21 at 6:15 p.m.

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 respon-

sible 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/>.

Oakham

Ellenor Downer
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Church to hold Easter breakfast

Following the Easter Sunrise Service held behind the Oakham Congregational Church, a breakfast will be held in Fellowship Hall. The menu includes scrambled eggs, pancakes with maple syrup, sausages, homemade doughnut holes, fruit, coffee, tea, hot cocoa and orange juice.

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 up at 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.

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. 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.”

Many Hands to hold educational workshops

BARRE – The Many Hands Sustainability Center, 411 Sheldon Road, will be holding a series of seven educational workshops in 2024.

A more specific press release on each workshop will be sent two weeks in advance of each workshop. People may visit <https://mhof.net/events-workshops/> for workshop, email For more information, people may email Julie Rawson at julie@mhof.net or call 978-257-1192.

Educational workshops are Saturday, March 23 Natural and Low-cost Homestead Design; Saturday, March 30 Ayurveda, Yoga, and Seasonal Cooking; Saturday, May 11 Navigating the new normal- power equipment and implements on the farm and homestead; Saturday, May 25 Starting Seeds and Seedlings; Saturday, June 1 Keeping the soil covered: tarps, cover crops, mulch; Saturday, June 15 Homestead Carpentry and Sept. 14 Food preservation

St. Joseph’s to hold Lenten fish fry March 22

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Saint Joseph’s Church will hold their annual Lenten fish fry on Friday, March 22 serving from 5-7 p.m.

The Knights o Columbus 2381 host the event. The menu includes traditional battered haddock, hand cut French fries and coleslaw. Take out will be from church parking lot. Tickets are \$15 and available in advance by Monday, March 18 by calling the Parish Office 508-867-6489, after Mass and from a Knight. Proceeds benefit the Scholarship Fund.

Tree falls on ambulance

HARDWICK – A tree fell on the roof and windshield of West Brookfield Rescue Squad’s ambulance 15A1 last Thursday afternoon, striking the vehicle as it traveled along Main Street in Gilbertville, heading south.

High winds the day before and earlier that day caused trees and limbs to come down along roadways, and multiple power outages were reported throughout the area.

Witnesses saw the tree fall and strike the ambulance as it passed by the Myron E. Richardson Municipal Building, as it was returning to its station in West Brookfield with two rescue staff on board. There were no patients on board at the time of the accident.

The staff had minor injuries from the accident and were treated at a local hospital, according to a social media post by West Brookfield Rescue Squad.



Submitted Photo by Ryan J. Wittkos

A tree fell on West Brookfield Rescue Squad’s ambulance last Thursday afternoon, damaging the windshield. Minor injuries were reported.

Paige Memorial Library lists upcoming events

HARDWICK – On Saturday, April 13 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. the Friends of the Paige Memorial Library will launch their 2024 Seed Library.

Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, offered one of the very first Seed Libraries and they will do it again with a bake sale, a book sale and a garden themed raffle basket. If people would like to donate to the bake sale or raffle or have any questions, they may email director.paigelibrary@gmail.com, call 413-477-6704 or stop in.

On Thursdays, March 14, 21, and 28 from 4-5 p.m. the Paige Memorial Library will offer an open-ended free-building Lego

program for children over five. No registration is required. Anyone under the age of nine must have a grown-up with them. They will be able to build whatever they want on the beautiful Lego table purchased by the Friends of the Paige Memorial Library. Constructions will be displayed for one week until they are completed or disassembled. For more information, people may email director.paigelibrary@gmail.com, call 413-477-6704 or stop at the library.

On Saturday, March 16 Brianna Lamb will run two needle felting workshops sponsored by the Friends of the Paige Memorial Library. People should

hurry to sign up for the one spot left at 1:30 p.m. by emailing director.paigelibrary@gmail.com, calling 413-477-6704 or stopping at the library.

On going activities include the Paige Writing group on Tuesdays at 3 p.m., Knitting on Saturday mornings, the Paige Book Club at 2 p.m. on the last Wednesday of the month, the Cookbook Club at 5:30 p.m. on the last Wednesday of the month.

People are invited to join the Friends, suggest a new program or present a new workshop. The library is open Tuesday and Thursdays 2-7 p.m., Wednesdays 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

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



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Opinion

Guest Column



Why must I pay into Social Security when I'm collecting benefits?

Dear Rusty
I am collecting full Social Security benefits at age 72 and also working full time.
Why is the Federal Government still taking money from my paycheck? I have written to Social Security experts on this issue and they tell me "It's the law." That is not a good answer for me. Approximately \$4,400 was taken from my pay in 2023 for Social Security and, yes, I get a pittance of a Cost Of Living Allowance increase, but not equal to what I pay. No one has been able to fully explain the Federal Government's thought process on taxing me for Social Security when I am getting full Social Security benefits. Can you?

Signed: Working Senior

Dear Working Senior
Far be it from me to try to explain the federal government's thought process on anything, but I can explain why those already collecting Social Security benefits must continue to pay Social Security payroll taxes while working.

It actually goes back to 1935 and the panel commissioned by President Roosevelt to create America's Social Security program. Said panel determined how the program would be financed, Congress approved it and FDR signed it.

That methodology was essentially this:
Workers who earn and their employers must contribute to Social Security via payroll taxes to fund the program (we now know this as FICA for employees and SECA for the self-employed). When the program first started, certain employees and their employers were required to each contribute 1% of the employee's first \$3,000 of earnings. Obviously, those amounts have risen over the decades. And, for clarity, only certain workers originally participated in Social Security, which has also changed over the decades so that now nearly everyone, who works must pay Social Security payroll taxes.

Starting in 1937 and still today, SS payroll taxes paid by those now working are used by the federal government to pay benefits to those who are currently receiving. Said another way, Social Security is a "pay as you go" program where income from those working and their employer is used to pay benefits to those receiving.

Payroll taxes collected aren't put into a personal account for the worker; rather they are used to meet current SS payment obligations. Any excess money collected is invested in special issue government bonds as reserves for future use, although current annual SS income is less than annual program costs – an entirely different topic.

So, the financing method enacted in 1935 and started in 1937 still applies – those who work and earn and their employers must pay into the system to fund benefit payments to those, who are now receiving and that includes those workers who are already collecting their Social Security. FYI, there was a time when, if someone worked after starting their SS benefits, they lost all of their benefits. Fortunately, that rule no longer exists, so those, who are collecting SS benefits can now continue to get benefits if they work, but they must also still pay into the program from their work earnings to help pay benefits to SS recipients.

I hope this provides some insight for why you must continue to contribute to Social Security even after you have started collecting your benefits. It is a result of how the program is financed predominantly by workers through payroll taxes on their earnings and to a lesser extent from interest on Trust Fund reserves and income tax on Social Security benefits. With very few exceptions, everyone who works helps pay benefits to those now receiving.

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

Editorial deadline reminder

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

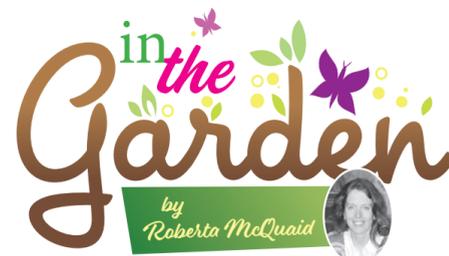
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Local fishing holes...



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

Guest Column



Blueberry pruning 101

My blueberry bushes came to me as full grown plants uprooted from an acquaintance's yard.

He needed the space for something else, so I happily agreed to take the eight bushes off of his hands. They struggled a lot the first few years of being in their new home, I think because the move was a stressful one.

Over the last couple of seasons we've seen more fruit production, thankfully, but I know there should be more. I think I may need to improve my pruning practices.

We are nearing the end of the dormant season, but if I get right to it, the job can still be accomplished this year.

There are many good reasons to prune in the dormant season. Because there are no leaves on the bushes, you can really take a good look at what you have to work with. You can notice off-colors, bent branches and the like when there is no leaf cover.

Late February into early March is perfect timing because theoretically the coldest part of the winter has passed. Sometimes pruning reduces cold hardiness, but like I mentioned, we should be OK since we are nearing winter's end.

Some rules transfer from pruning one type of plant to another; in other words, you'd make these same type of considerations for pruning roses or other woody plants. Let's call these the obvious cuts.

First concentrate on dead wood. Prune away any entirely dead branches all the way to the ground.

If parts of branches are dead, make a cut to the next living part of the branch. If you see anything that looks diseased or a little "off," cut that section or branch away too.

Sometimes branches get damaged from animals or ice storms. Likewise, cut damaged branches back to a section that shows no signs of damage.

Now it gets a little more tricky, but it still should be straightforward and it applies to mature blueberry plants, not new plantings or super old neglected bushes.

Look at the base of your plant. Is it wider than 18 inches in any direction from the center? If so, cut away these stems at ground level or try to dig them up, roots and all in the coming weeks, then move them to a new spot, preferably a nursery bed where they can grow up a bit. I'm into a whole new topic, so let's get back to the task at hand.

Once the plant has been cut back to within its limits, look for growth coming from the base that is on an angle or crossing over other branches. Cut that away too, so that we encourage upright growth instead.

Okay, with that behind us, let's dive into more difficult territory. Here is when you begin to rejuvenate the plant (listen carefully, self).

Old canes will be gray in appearance and thick. You probably don't want to cut away every one, but perhaps removing one-third of these stems would be a good plan.

Cut them back to ground level. Your next cuts will be what I can "fine tuning," or making cuts that thin

See GARDEN, page 5

In Past Pages

5 years (March 14, 2019)

To avoid the extra cost of holding a Special Town Meeting, Selectman Matthew Broderick asked Phil Warbasse the Planning Board to hold another hearing regarding a moratorium on commercial solar projects in town. The Planning Board held a public hearing in November regarding a six-month moratorium. From the date of the hearing, there was a six-month window to hold a Town Meeting for voters to decide for or against the moratorium. The meeting would need to happen in May and the town's Annual Meeting is scheduled for June. When asked to hold a second hearing so the matter could be voted at the June Annual Meeting he agreed that the second hearing would be a less expensive method for the town.

Close to eighty people braved the unpleasant weather conditions of last Sunday afternoon and ventured out to see the Creator Teachers, an education traveling animal program, held at the New Braintree Town Hall and sponsored by the Friends of New Braintree Library. Things might have been cancelled all around the area; however the animals didn't care as children were delighted to see over a half dozen interesting and in some cases, exotic critters. From cockatoos to snake to a big oversized rabbit, the show had something for every kind of animal, bird and reptile lover.

A grand night was had by all last Friday evening at the first ever Policeman's Ball held at the beautiful Harding Allen Estate. "It's nice to have an event like this in Barre," Dr. Sheila Muir, Superintendent of the Quabbin School District said. "I'm here to support the Police Department." The ball sponsored by the Barre Police Department was the die of Barre Police Chief John Carbone, as a way to offer a special and elegant night to the citizens of Barre. With close to 150 in attendance, it was an evening of glamour as the home looked fabulous in a variety of semi-formal dresses and gowns, while the men went to extra lights to dust off the tuxes, pull out the sport coats and in the Police Department case, show off their sharp new dress uniforms.

10 years (March 6, 2019)

The Petersham annual election had two contests on the ballot. Nancy Allen and Dana Kennan vied for a two-year term to the Board of Selectmen. Nancy Allen got the nod for the two-year term with 197 votes to 174 for Dana Kennan. Fredrik A. Marsh got re-elected to a three-year term as selectmen with 250 votes. A last minute write-in candidate, Marcia Shaw, had 64 votes. Three hundred ninety-eight of the 903 voters went to the polls for a 44% turnout.

Superintendent Maureen Marshall told the Quabbin Regional School District Committee that she hopes for no more snot days. The district already used four snow days this year and one more would mean going more days in June. Evan Barringer, a member of the Teacher Advisory Council, said teach-

LOOK BACK Horse Show Felton Field - 1956



File photo
Donald Knopp of Petersham received second in junior Western novice class and Carolyn Robinson of Barre got Reserve Champion Equitation Rider Junior at a horse show at Felton Field in August 1956.

ers also were wishing for no more snow days. He said weather caused the postponement of the interested based training for teacher contract negotiations.

Only a few residents from the five-member Quabbin Regional School District towns attended a public hearing on the school budget last Thursday. The majority of people in attendance represented school staff and school committee. At the meeting of the QRSD Committee held just before the hearing, the committee approved a \$33,583,439 preliminary budget. The budget was a 6.4% increase over last year.

25 years (March 11, 1999)

Hubbardston Police Chief Larry Barrett met with selectmen on March 1 and presented the three candidates he had chosen as part-time dispatchers to be appointed by the board. Joseph Fucile of Barre Road had 20 years of dispatching experience for the State Police in Holden and Assumption College. Amy Gross o Rutland has five years of experience and works in Paxton dispatching full-time. She will be working weekends. Mark Bissonnette of Gardner Road has four years of experience with the Job Corps in Marlboro as security coordinator and has some dispatch experience. The Selectmen approved all three individuals effective March 2.

Residents attended the Monday, March 8 Oakham Selectmen's meeting to voice concerns about road conditions during the Thursday, March 4 snowstorm. Charles and Deborah Dena of East Hill Road said the unpaved section of East Hill Road was unplowed. Deborah Dean works nights and called the dispatch office about 2:30 a.m. to request plowing of her road as she could not make the hill on her road to get home. She waited for a plow and when no plow showed up, she went searching for one. She found a plow and spoke to the driver. He plowed her out about 3:30 a.m. Earlier in the day, she had to leave her car at the bottom of the road and walk home with her two children. One child has special needs and walking is difficult

for him. Highway Superintendent C. Kevin Currier said the storm on March 4 had a total snow accumulation of four inches. He said his workers stopped plowing about 8 p.m. and resumed plowing at 2 p.m.

The Quabbin Regional High School Jazz Ensemble under the direction of Ashley Howard won a gold medal at the International Association of Jazz Educators District Competition held Tuesday, Feb. 28 at Algonquin Regional High School in Northboro. The young musicians were still recovering from a seven-day trip to Disney World in Orlando, Florida during February vacation with members of the Symphonic Winds and school choruses. Howard said the members of the jazz group were tired and convinced they had not played their best. But the judges saw it differently. As a result of their outstanding performance, the Jazz Ensemble was awarded a gold medal, the highest placement the group could receive.

38 years (March 13, 1986)

The Barre Board of Selectmen received a letter from Michael P. Angelini of Bowditch and Dewey legal counsel for Ivy Enterprise, Inc, a holding company for the Barre Wool Combing Company Ltd. Offering the property to the town of Barre to "take in satisfaction of its outstanding taxes" at the Monday, March 10 meeting of the board. According to informed sources, the town is not required to take the property in lieu of taxes owed. However, there are still many questions regarding the property and the lagoon clean up.

The Oakham selectmen met with the Board of Health Monday, March 3 to discuss further the future of a solid waste disposal in Oakham. It appears the landfill should be closed about July 1987 and that a transfer station should be built in cooperation with the town of New Braintree. Rough calculations indicate it will cost about \$50,000 to close the landfill, so it was suggested \$25,000 be budgeted for FY 87 and a like amount for FY88.

See PAST PAGES, page 5

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BARRE GAZETTE



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Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

I am writing this on Sunday. It was a beautiful day and I spent most of the day outside raking and trimming brush. It was so nice with no wind or mosquitos. I wish I could have more energy though. There are a load of small pebbles on the lawns from the plowing to be raked up.

We had just two snow storms that had to have the driveway plowed. Saturday night we had a very hard rain and it washed away what snow piles were left.

I heard there was a good group of about 14 volunteers to help burn brush on Hidden Meadow trails off Lombard Road on Saturday. They also had a hot dog roast. This was sponsored by East Quabbin Land Trust.

A Memorial was held at the Rod and Gun Club on Saturday for Richard Michaud. It was well attended.

This and That

My late cousin, Dorothy Richard's husband Ernest from Petersham, celebrated his 100th birthday at the Gardner Legion Hall on Sunday. I was not able to attend but I wished him well. He used to play in a country western band and was known as Smiling Ernie. He was also very active with the Veterans and was a Veteran himself.

I planted some dahlia tubers in big pots. My favorite orchid in a beautiful shade of pink fell over and broke the flower stem. I waited all year for this to blossom and this happened. I took the blossoms and put them in a vase. What happens is you stake them when they are blossoming and it gets top heavy.

I have started several coleus and geraniums so I can put them in pots out on the decks.

In between raking and other chores I hope to dye some white wool for penny rugs this week. I love to hang the fabric pieces out on clotheslines to dry. It is so colorful.

Here is a recipe, I thought the readers may enjoy making. I usually buy boxed pancake mix and make a double batch to put in the freezer, but this is a recipe for homemade mix. It would be nice kept in canning jars for up to a year, but it won't last that long I am sure.

PANCAKE MIX

- 4 cups all purpose flour
- 3 tablespoons baking powder
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- 3 teaspoons cinnamon

Combine all six ingredients in a large bowl and whisk together. Store in a canning jar or large jar for up to one year.

To make a batch of pancakes mix one large egg and 3/4 cup milk in a medium bowl until combined. Add one cup of pancake mix and just stir to moisten. It will be lumpy. Let sit for 5 to 10 minutes and then fry as you usually do pancakes.

I like to pour the mix in a measuring cup as it is easier to pour. I also like to make a double batch and freeze some between waxed paper so they don't stick together. Serve with maple syrup.

I hope the Handyman gives me some more. I notice our two neighbors are collecting sap also. Sap should be running good today.

Local seniors are starting up the Nonesuch Garden Club. The first meeting will be held Thursday, March 14 at 7 p.m. in the Senior Center. Winter sowing will be the program. I would like to attend as I enjoyed our last group, but I do not attend evening meetings any more.

Have a good week.

Paige library kicks off a Cookbook Club



Turley Photos by Emily-Rose Pappas

The Paige Memorial Library held its first meeting of the new Cookbook Club last Wednesday.

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

HARDWICK – Everyone has a favorite food or a recipe that is a staple to their family and traditions, and it is through food that we can find community.

"Food is always a good way to get together with people," Julie Bullock, the director of the Paige Memorial Library, said. And so, the Cookbook Club was born.

Bullock held an interest meeting last week to open the

club out to the community, and several people attended with a delicious meal to kick off the club.

There were cheese and crackers and a homemade beef and barley stew with a salad, bread, butter and a sweet dessert.

The group will meet on the last Wednesday of the month at the library at 5:30 p.m., and each month will feature a new topic or theme for the recipes that will be tried out.

"I want this to be a good way for people to meet new people, to have a pleasant experience



Justine Grant shows her enthusiasm for more delicious soup.

(which food often provides), and to share knowledge, experiences, and conversations with others," Bullock said.

She wants all who come to feel inspired and enjoy what the club has to offer and be able to take home some wonderful new recipes and learn something new about food.

The group is a fun-loving bunch who share a passion for learning to cook, and eating good food. The next theme will be "savory pies," and will meet on Wednesday, March 27 at 5:30 p.m.

Guest Column

Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance

Drug Free Communities project work

By Rebecca Edwards,

Director, Drug Free Communities Grant, Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance

My name is Rebecca Edwards, and I recently joined the Town of Ware and Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance's prevention team to direct their Drug Free Communities grant.

Because this work is a community effort, I am taking this opportunity to introduce myself and share a bit about the work on which I hope we will partner.

The Drug Free Communities Support Program is a 10-year, federal grant managed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. While the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance works across the spectrum of prevention, treatment and recovery in 18 towns in the region, our grant specifically focuses on teen substance use prevention in Ware, Warren, and West Brookfield.

What I mean by prevention is using evidence-based strategies and activities to help young people make healthier decisions by avoiding substances or by delaying first use for as long as possible.

We ideally want young people to delay using substances because research tells us that the longer they wait, the less likely they are to develop a dependent relationship with substances. If someone can wait until their brain is fully developed, around the age of 25, then they significantly reduce their chance of becoming addicted.

This is because the brain is like a puzzle, and from birth until 25 years old, puzzle pieces in the brain are coming together. When a substance such as alcohol, nicotine or cannabis is introduced during that brain development timeframe, the chemicals of that substance becomes part of the puzzle, making that puzzle piece harder to remove.

Once the brain is fully developed and its puzzle pieces are all in place, substances can be introduced with less risk. That said, using substances at any time of life is risky, and the type of substance, the frequency of use and potency of the substance all factor into how risky something is.

To make progress in reducing teen substance use, we implement evidence-based strategies. Gone are the days of "Just Say No."

We have much more nuanced and science-based approaches now; for example, we know that teens listen to their caregivers, even if it seems like they don't. Therefore, talking about substances regularly at home and setting clear boundaries and expectations does have a positive impact.

Another example of an evidence-based strategy is something called the positive social norms approach. This basically means that a lot more young people are choosing not to use substances than people think; teens and adults tend to overestimate how many youth are using substances.

We collect data and then share back some of the good news. If a teen realizes how many of their peers are actually making good choices, it's easier for that person to jump on the positive bandwagon and make a good choice, too.

Youth mental health is another critical aspect of our work. Again, we implement evidence-based strategies to support teens' sense of belonging, inclusion, and safety in their communities.

We support programs and experiences that give teens hope for their future adulthood, as that also encourages healthy choices and mental wellness while

being a teenager. It is a large task, but one we know is a pressing need in today's world.

Teen substance use prevention is not just youth work. Sure, we love working with teens and hope to do a lot of it! But this is truly communitywide work, because everyone in the community can play an important role.

Everyone can reduce access to harmful substances by safely storing medications and substances in their homes in a locking medicine box or by storing them up and out of sight. Limiting access is a proven strategy.

The community can host town-wide events which are substance-free. Store owners can post clear signs about carding practices and follow those rules steadfastly.

Adults can make the choice not to provide underage people with alcohol, nicotine or cannabis products or other substances. Everyone can educate themselves about the current substance landscape in order to be a source of knowledge and model healthy choices.

The Drug Free Communities team, along with the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance, is here to support individuals, families, schools, and the community at large. We are happy to organize trainings on a wide variety of topics, including parenting, cannabis and the developing brain, nicotine cessation, Youth Mental Health First Aid, how to reverse an opioid overdose, etc.

We take topic requests because we are here to meet your needs. We also can offer TIPS trainings to bars and restaurants who want their servers trained in responsible serving practices. We provide free naloxone, also known as Narcan, to anyone who wants it.

We are looking to grow our network and find more parents/caregivers, teens, and community members to partner with. If anything above interests you or you would like to talk more, please reach out to me, Rebecca Edwards, at redwards@townofware.com.

About QHSUA

The Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance is celebrating its 10th year anniversary as a coalition in 2024.

The Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance (<https://qhsua.org/>); a regional coalition serving local communities located in Hampshire, Hampden, and Worcester Counties – the towns of Barre, Belchertown, Brimfield, Brookfield, Hardwick, Hubbardston, Holland, Monson, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Oakham, Palmer, Spencer, Wales, Ware, Warren, and West Brookfield. Join them by going to their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/QHSUA/> or website, www.qhsua.org.

If you or a loved one needs help for substance abuse, call the statewide helpline at 1-800-327-5050 (TTY: 1-800-439-2370); the phoneline is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week; you can also go to the website at: <https://hub.helpline.org/findhelp>. The 988 Lifeline (call or text) provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals in the United States.

GARDEN, continued from page 4

out older twiggy growth in the upper part of the plant by cutting back stems to a younger, upright branch.

Go by color here. Younger growth is reddish in appearance. Hand pruners are your desired tool of choice, while bypass loppers or a hand saw is essential for the bigger cuts I mentioned first.

You'll be surprised by how great your blueberry bushes will look and just how productive they will be with this type of maintenance pruning accomplished annually. I think there is just enough daylight for me to get to my own pruning.

I can almost taste the blueberry pie come July. Yum.

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

Diana Fanning works 'Piano Magic'

Acclaimed pianist shares her gifts at Stone Church



Submitted Photo

Pianist Diana Fanning will perform at the Stone Church Cultural Center on Saturday, March 9.

HARDWICK – Friends of the Stone Church invites the public to hear gifted pianist Diana Fanning presenting an inspiring program of Romantic music by Maurice Ravel, Lili Boulanger, Frederic Chopin and Franz Schubert, at 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 9, at the Stone Church Cultural Center, 283 Main St., Gilbertville.

Tickets: \$25 at the door or through www.tickettailor.com/events/friendsofthestonechurch/943173. Youth under 18 and holders of the Mass Cultural Council "Card to Culture" will be admitted at no charge. A public reception will follow the concert.

Fanning has toured extensively as a solo performer and chamber musician throughout the U.S. and in England, France, Austria, Switzerland, Holland, the Czech Republic, Canada and Germany. In recent years she has performed at the "Sound of Music" castle in Salzburg, and in Prague at the invitation of the International Dvorak Society.

After a solo recital in Munich, a critic wrote "Diana Fanning stunned her listeners with the rich spectrum of subtle colors and tonal nuances she revealed. Her recital seized the audience with a veritable deep magic."

Fanning's principal teacher was Ruth Geiger of New York City. She also studied with Marcelle Heuclin at the Paris Conservatory. Now an Affiliate Artist at Middlebury College in Vermont, Fanning has performed on numerous occasions as a concerto soloist with the Vermont Symphony Orchestra.

She was featured as soloist in

a performance of Beethoven's "Piano Concerto No. 3" in the debut concert of the Champlain Philharmonic Orchestra and was invited back for performances of Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue". She appears regularly on Vermont public radio, has been a featured soloist on Vermont Public Television, and has appeared live on public radio in Boston and New York.

As a chamber musician, Fanning has performed with the Takacs, the Schumann, the Jupiter and the Alexander String Quartets, and with ensembles from Point Counterpoint Music Camp, which she owned and directed for 10 years with her husband Emory Fanning. As a member of the Davydov-Fanning Duo with the outstanding cellist Dieuweke Davydov, she has performed widely in the U.S., and completed eight concert tours of Europe.

Her recordings with Davydov and as a piano soloist have received enthusiastic reviews.

Although an international performer, Fanning is no stranger to Hardwick and Gilbertville. Her husband Emory Fanning appeared at the Stone Church in Don Boothman's "FOGO" (Friends of the Gilbertville Organ) series in 2004 and in 2011, its last year, to celebrate the inspiration of Gwen and David Huntress in promoting beautiful music in this venue. Barbara Boothman Grofic and Laura Boothman Stamm, Boothman's daughters, are sponsoring this special appearance.

Fanning's concert is also sponsored by a grant from Boston Financial Management.

Additional funding for our series comes from the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency; and by grants from the Local Cultural Councils of Barre, Oakham and Petersham, which receive support from the Mass Cultural Council.

About FOSC

Friends of the Stone Church, Inc. is a public charitable corporation and community group organized in 2015 and open to all. Its mission is to preserve and protect the Gilbertville Stone Church Cultural Center and to make it available as a place of community enrichment.

The Friends are currently in Phase 4 of stabilizing the stone tower, with funding, in part, from the Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund, a program of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, administered through a collaborative agreement between MassDevelopment and the Mass Cultural Council.

The Friends welcome donations toward the ongoing preservation project and programs at FriendsoftheStoneChurch.org, or by mail to FOSC, P.O. Box 347, Gilbertville, MA 01031.

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PAST PAGES, continued from page 4

John Buelow of Hardwick Road, Petersham, son of Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Buelow was named to the high honors at Brown University for the third consecutive marking period. A sophomore at the college, he is pursuing studies leaning toward law. A graduate of Notre Dame Preparatory School in Fitchburg, he was on the honor roll there, as well as receiving a letter in just about every sport.

Joint meeting discusses Mary Lane Hospital property

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – The Hospital Review Committee and the Historical Commission held a joint meeting to discuss updates to the Baystate Mary Lane Hospital property, and the steps going forward during the nine-month demolition delay.

At the Feb. 21 meeting, Town Manager Stuart Beckley gave an overview of the demolition delay that was enacted by the Historical Commission back in January.

The delay applies to the hospital and one house. The delay does not prevent the demolition of a house on Marjorie Street.

During the demolition delay hearing, Baystate Health representatives said they would not be providing information to the Historical Commission about any potential buyers they had contact with, due to nondisclosure agreements. Baystate Health's Attorney Ryan Barry has been assigned to act as a liaison.

Westmass Area Development Corporation, which has been working with Baystate Health to find potential reuse or development of the property, has removed itself from the project for the duration of the demolition delay.

"It's supposed to be a symbiotic relationship," Hospital Review Committee Chair Howard Trietsch said of Westmass Development's involvement with a town.

Beckley said Baystate Health indicated that the phase two study had been completed, including the environmental assessment. He said the environmental assessment showed there was "nothing major on site," aside from underground storage tanks.

Representing Baystate Health at the joint meeting was Attorney Peter Barry, who was filling in on behalf of Attorney Ryan Barry. Barry said Baystate Health will provide a copy of the phase two study to the town.

Beckley said residents have

expressed concern about the condition of the hospital, with many noting that windows have been left open, exposing the building to the elements. He said the windows of the hospital were opened to remove contaminants.

A crane was recently seen on the property to remove Verizon Wireless equipment from the top of the building. The dirt on site is fill for future demolition.

Building Commissioner Anna Marques said Baystate Health answered all of the questions she had, but said she was unable to go inside the buildings due to the contaminants.

"No permits have been issued for demolition of the buildings," Marques said.

Janet Slemenda and Amy Dunlap of HKT Architects Inc. have been working with the town to find possible uses for the site and they spoke about the challenges the site faced.

Slemenda and Dunlap said Baystate Health has been doing minimal maintenance at this point and that without care, the buildings have started to deteriorate.

Both agreed that the hospital could continue to be used for health care purposes, but another reuse would be difficult. A new health care facility could, "adapt it to their use" and abate the asbestos, Dunlap said.

Dunlap said some of the buildings were in worse condition than others when she completed her walk through last year, but that some areas were still occupied and in use.

During a visioning session in the fall of last year, Dunlap and Slemenda determined that health care was the top need outlined by residents.

"We're open to helping the town in any way we can," Dunlap said.

Hospital Review Committee member Cathy Cascio said she wants to make sure that the two committees did everything within

their power to try to bring health care to the region and preserve the buildings.

"We just want to make sure we did everything we could here, and should here," Cascio said.

Barry said Baystate Health wanted to get an idea of what the priorities were for the community, which is why they approached Westmass Development.

"They have a lot of expertise," he said. "Westmass has withdrawn until the delay is over...as of now, they are still interested in developing this project."

Historical Commission Chair Lynn Lak said communication with Baystate Health has been challenging, and filtered through attorneys.

"So far, my feeling is that the cooperation has been all on our side," Lak said. "I thought there was going to be give and take."

Residents attending the meeting said that health care is a major issue in the region.

"The state reps. need to get involved," one resident said. "We don't want to lose sight!"

Hardwick resident Stephen Granlund said that Baystate Health operates "pretty much in darkness."

"We need to understand that no matter what we do, they're going to resist," he said.

Granlund said his numerous attempts to contact Gov. Maura Healey have gone unanswered.

Beckley said local representatives are "well aware" of the situation involving Baystate Mary Lane Hospital, and that a meeting between them, Director of Rural Affairs Anne Gobi and Baystate Health, will be attended by himself and Hospital Review Committee member Nancy Talbot.

Trietsch said Baystate Health has committed to providing an integrated model of rural health care to the region, but will not commit to brick and mortar.

"I'm going to keep fighting for health care access," Trietsch said.

Public hearing discusses FY 24 CDBG application

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Project Planner Joe Ferguson of Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission spoke about the fiscal year 2024 Community Development Block Grant application during a public hearing at the Board of Selectmen's meeting.

At the Feb. 27 meeting, Ferguson said the grant is capped at \$950,000 and the due date for the application is March 25.

"There's no guarantee that submitting the application will result in an award, however, the state has approved a threshold waiver for North Brookfield," Ferguson said. This waiver allows the town to apply for funding, despite having a FY 20 grant open.

Ferguson said due to the funding cap, this grant round will only include one project, the continuation of a FY 21 project that funded the comprehensive design and phase one construction of infrastructure improvements on Mount Pleasant Street. The FY 24 grant would pay for phase two construction.

Phase one construction is slated to start this spring.

"This project came out of FY 19 West Side Infrastructure Study and Mount Pleasant was identified in that study," Ferguson said.

The board moved to support and approved the FY 24 CDBG application.

Fire Department donations
Fire Chief Darin Anderson said the department was asked to donate their old self-contained breathing apparatus bot-

tlers and packs to Sturbridge Fire Department for training and educational purposes during the emergency services course offered to students at Tantasqua Regional High School.

The board approved the donation of the old equipment to Sturbridge Fire Department.

NBEMA grant contract
Administrative Assistant Ashley Barre said North Brookfield Emergency Management Agency received \$2,700 through Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, which will be used purchase two medical bags for the Fire Department and safety gear for NBEMA members, such as jackets and shirts.

Anderson said the medical bags will contain first aid equipment to respond to medical calls when the ambulance is out of town.

Mad Brook bridge
Representatives from BSC Group said the application has been submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation for the Mad Brook bridge project, and it has been returned with comments. BSC Group has addressed the comments and is preparing to resubmit the application to MassDOT.

The cost of the project is estimated at around \$1.5 million. The town could apply for grants to help cover the cost.

A representative from BSC Groups said he hopes to have the project fully funded by grants. He said sometimes if there is a shortfall, MassDOT will help provide additional funds.

Appointments
Jason Benoit, Brian Hayes and

Paul Benoit were appointed to the Fire/Highway Committee, bringing its membership up to five people.

Andrew Wiewel was appointed to the Parks and Recreation Committee.

ARPA recommendation
The American Rescue Plan Act Committee submitted a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen, to pay \$18,242.51 for the repair and replacement of digital security cameras and associated systems at North Brookfield Public Schools. The board approved the recommendation.

Annual town election

The annual town election will be held on May 6. There are open seats including one seat, Board of Selectmen (three-year term); two seats, School Committee (three-year terms); one seat, Water Commissioner (three-year term); one seat, Board of Assessors (three-year term); one seat, Board of Health (three-year term); one seat, Cemetery Commissioner (three-year term); three seats, Library Trustees (three-year terms); one seat, Housing Authority (five-year term); and one seat, Southern Worcester County Regional Vocational School Committee – Bay Path (three-year term).

If you are interested in running for any of these positions, please contact the Town Clerk for nomination papers.

Correspondence
The board received a letter from the town of Hardwick, thanking the Fire Department for providing mutual aid to a structure fire on Feb. 9.

PRYCE HOUSE, continued from page 1

Pryce House.

The couple made the ribbon cutting a family affair. Their daughter, Joanne Bedard and her daughter, Abigail were there in support. The couples two sons, John and Mark Pryce and two grandsons travelled from out of state to attend the event.

Oakham residents also came out in large numbers. Dismas staff made sure there was plenty of food and even made cookie

replicas of the new Pryce House. Clients and staff made postcards and each visitor received a packet of those to take home. The postcards depicted scenes at the farm such as the tractor, the hoop house for growing plants, crops, a view of the farm and more.

In wholesome relationships, both sides benefit. Not only have members of the Dismas family benefitted from the Pryce's ministry at Dismas Farm, the people at Dismas Farm ministered to them as well. When the Pryce's lost their beloved dog, they

received comfort and concern from their new "family."

The next day after the ribbon cutting, the Reverend Richard and Gail Pryce House had six occupants move into their new home.

Dismas purchased the duplex and added two more bedrooms, one on each side of the house. They also added new windows, doors, siding, stairs and deck. The two units are identical and have a downstairs kitchen, one bedroom, bathroom and living room. The upstairs has two bedrooms and a bathroom.

OSV offers free child admission now through April 28

STURBRIDGE – Old Sturbridge Village is gearing up to kick off its highly anticipated Kids Free March and April promotion, running now through Sunday, April 28.

During this exciting offer, families and friends are invited to discover the rich past of 19th century New England, with complimentary admission for up to two children aged 17 years or younger with each adult standard full-price daytime admission ticket.

Visitors can engage in the following immersive experiences: interactive demonstrations, hands-

on learning and captivating conversations with costumed historians; meeting beloved heritage breed animals; being outside and exploring trails and pathways throughout the 200 acre museum campus; celebrating special events and programming such as Maple Days through March 17, Celtic Celebration on March 16 and 17, Women's History Days March 23 and 30 and more.

Visitors are encouraged to purchase tickets online in advance to save even more. In addition to Kids Free March and April, tickets purchased online include a \$3 savings compared to tickets purchased at

the door.

People may visit <https://www.osv.org/event/kids-free-march-april/> for full details, restrictions and to purchase tickets.

The Kids Free promotion for March and April is applicable only to standard daytime admission only.

Old Sturbridge Village is open in March Wednesday through Sunday from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Beginning April 1, the Village is open Wednesday through Sunday from 9:30 a.m.5 p.m. For a full list of events, people may visit: <https://www.osv.org/events-experiences/>.

BARRE, continued from page 1

as the building was not owned by the town.

Select Board Chair Marshall said in the agreement, the town did not pay rent to the BLA. The town's share of capital projects was for the use of the building.

Select Board member Mark Regienus and Vice Chair John Dixon both had concerns about only having one bid. They said the BLA should try to obtain additional quotes. Town Administrator Tammy Martin asked if the BLA had written documentation of the other vendors refusing to give them quotes. Under procurement law, the threshold was \$50,000 with three quotes rather than going out to bid.

Allen said due to the age of the chimney, the building was built in 1886, there would be only a limited warranty on the work. She said the BLA would try to obtain additional quotes by calling other masons. If they were not interested, she would try to obtain written notification of their refusal.

Select Board Chair Marshall reminded them of the 60 day window in which to accept or reject the sole bid they had so far. She also discussed using American Rescue Plan Act funds to cover the town's share of the cost for the repairs. Select Board Vice Chair Dixon said he was agreeable to add this to

the ARPA list. He said looking at the list, the library had not received any funds from ARPA.

ARPA list
Town Administrator Tammy Martin provided the Select Board with a list of ARPA fund expenditures to date. The town received \$1,667,847 in funds from the Federal government and expended \$623,838 so far. It has a remainder of about \$1,044,000. The funds must be allocated by December of this year and spent by the end of the following year. Any left over funds must be returned to the Federal government.

Town Administrator report
Town Administrator Martin said she needed some dates from the Board for Jennifer Green from Department of Conservation and Recreation to attend a meeting regarding the repairs to the old Barre Reservoir Dam and information on maintenance to the dam. The Board chair suggested either March 18 or March 25.

The Select Board rescinded their vote to remove the dam and opted to either due a partial breach or repair to the dam following residents protest at complete dam removal. The town would be responsible for biannual maintenance to the dam. They also would need a right of way to do the maintenance, but also for the public to have access for recreational use.

The Town Administrator said

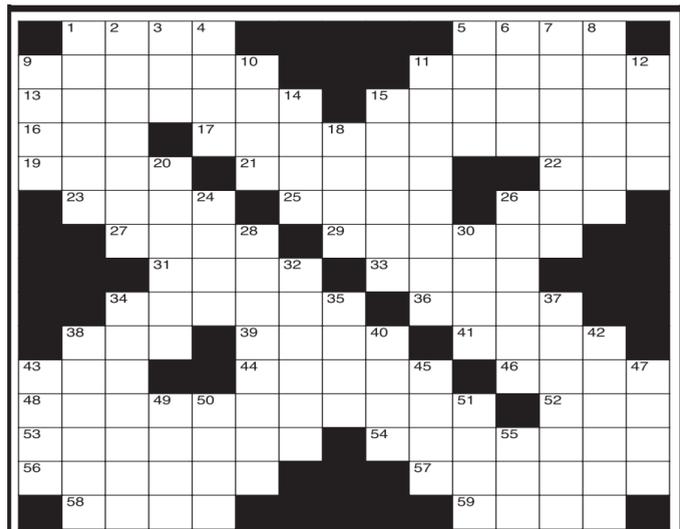
the locks had been changed at the Senior Center as requested by the Board. She said she would be looking into the painting of the Town Hall and repairs to the fire escapes at both the Henry Woods Building and the Town Hall. The Building Department declared them unfit to use.

911 memorials
Dennis Fleming of the 911 Memorial Development Committee said the committee spent the \$15,000 it raised along with a grant from the Barre Savings Bank Foundation. The committee need \$35,000 more to complete the memorials. They made another request to the Barre Savings Bank Foundation and possibly a request for ARPA funds.

Other business
The Select Board received the resignation of Eileen Clarkson as Council on Aging Director effective March 1. The Board voted to accept her resignation. They also approved the COA Director position description. They will post the position right away.

They also voted to amend the time set for the Annual Town Meeting on Tuesday, June 11 from 6 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Ruggles Lane School.

They approved the appointment of Bruce Veloza and Dennis Fleming to the Council on Aging. They accepted the resignation of Margaret Leahy Marc-Aurele.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Chaps
5. Currently fashionable
9. Collision
11. More slim
13. European city
15. Implicitly
16. The side of something that is sheltered from the wind
17. The Mount Rushmore State
19. Gold or silver wire cord
21. Muscles along insects' diaphragm
22. Trent Reznor's band
23. Sweet juicy gritty-textured fruit
25. Broken branch
26. Indicates ten
27. Expression of

- annoyance
29. Brings together
31. Ancient city in Thrace
33. Sailors' spirit
34. Looked into
36. Muckraking woman
- journalist Rheta
38. A type of cast
39. One's responsibility
41. Where golfers begin
43. Make a mistake
44. Semitic Sun god
46. Ancient Italian-Greek colony
48. Beheaded
52. A place to stay
53. Unwise
54. Most supernatural
56. "Dennis" is a famous one

57. Ointments
 58. Exam
 59. Leaked blood
- CLUES DOWN**
1. Baseball managers assemble it
 2. Revised
 3. Mountain is a popular kind
 4. Takes to civil court
 5. Pouches
 6. A type of veil
 7. Chants
 8. Boston hoopster
 9. Elongated appendage
 10. Sailboat
 11. 2017 Oscar-winning film
 12. Actor Gosling
 14. Monetary units
 15. Assembly
 18. Russian pop duo

20. Embellished with expressions
24. Infrequent unit
26. Temperature
28. Hydrophilic amino acid
30. Honk
32. Legislative body
34. Swinish
35. Russian assembly
37. Take over for
38. Put in advance
40. Satisfy
42. Felt
43. Dutch cheese
45. Witnesses
47. Strong insects
49. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
50. Ancient people of Scotland
51. Cheerless
55. Sick

ANSWERS ON PAGE 13

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“Silenced on Barbour Street” revolves around the true story of a fatal circus fire in Hartford, Connecticut on July 6, 1944.

DRAMA CLUB, continued from page 1

1928, according to the METG website. This year, a total of 94 schools participated at 13 different host schools in the preliminary round. Most sites had seven performances on the day, three of which moved on to the semi-final round, while three schools had eight shows performed and four moving on. Ultimately, 14 schools will participate in the State Finals at the end of this month.

Eagle Hill’s show “Horse Girls”, directed by Will Gelinas, told the story of seven equine-obsessed middle schoolers, concerned with fitting in with each other and protecting their beloved horses, who proved they had a dark side when the going got rough.

The all-female cast delivered a performance that was at some points gut-busting and at others heart-wrenching. The performances were accented by a simple, yet beautiful set made to resemble a quintessential teenage girl’s bedroom circa 2014, complete with posters of Taylor Swift and One Direction.

Despite not progressing to semis, the production was recognized with a number of All-Star Awards, which are given by each site’s three judges in acknowledgement of student excellence and must be unanimous among the judges.

The entire cast received All-Star Cast awards for their excellence as an ensemble. On the technical side of things, awards were given to Alec S., Huck R. and Sam J. for excellence in Sound, Lighting Design and Stage Management, respectively.

Quabbin’s production of “Silenced on Barbour Street”, directed by Julia Tuttle and Lisa Payne, revolved around the true story of a circus fire that killed over 100 people in Hartford, Connecticut on July 6, 1944.

The larger ensemble cast was driven forward by Aidan Mahoney in the role of the Ringmaster, a twisted overseer of the show’s purgatory for those who caused and fell victim to the blaze. The backdrop of a minimalistic but artistically compelling set fostered the imaginative setting of the show’s circus, and gave the actors the freedom to inhabit a variety of spaces through their performances.

Mahoney also received an All-Star Cast award for his dedicated performance, as did Irene Stolgitis, who played the role of Mae, a passionate character who refused to let her own secrets stop her from standing up to the menacing Ringmaster and his dark games.

Quabbin was also recognized for the technical aspects of their show, with Student Director and Stage Manager Em Gentile being recognized with an All-Star Award for their significant role in crafting the show.

Both schools were gracious in defeat, recognizing the quality of all of the shows they each got to see performed, and enjoying the opportunity to have participated in the event.

The semi-final round will be held on Saturday, March 9 (snow date March 10), with seven different locations playing host to six schools each. State Finals are scheduled to take place from March 21-23.

Further information about METG and the High School Drama Festival can be found online at <https://metg.org>.



Turley Photos by Nick Boonstra

Aidan Mahoney, right, was recognized for his role as the Ringmaster in Quabbin Regional Middle High School’s production of “Silenced on Barbour Street”.

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MARCH 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
	Program Manager - clapinskas@mocinc.org CFCE Coordinators - rburke@mocinc.org, kford@mocinc.org, qt12683@aol.com				(NO CFCE Programs)	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
March is National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. Visit our MOC CFCE website today to fill out an online Ages and Stages Questionnaire also known as an ASQ. https://www.asqonline.com/family/ac0cfb	10AM Playgroup 16 Em St Baldwinville 10AM Playgroup New Braintree Public Library	10AM Playgroup 7 Exchange St, Barre Fitchburg SNAP ED Cooking Program (Registration Required)	10AM Playgroup 68 Coleman St. Gardner Gardner SNAP ED Cooking Program (Registration Required)	10AM Playgroup 601 River St Fitchburg	10AM Playgroup 307 Main St Gilbertville 10AM Playgroup 601 River St Fitchburg	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Tinker Playgroup (Registration Required) (NO Infant Group)	10AM Playgroup 7 Exchange St, Barre Fitchburg SNAP ED Cooking Program (Registration Required)	10AM Playgroup 68 Coleman St. Gardner Gardner SNAP ED Cooking Program (Registration Required)	10AM Playgroup 601 River St Fitchburg	10AM Playgroup 307 Main St Gilbertville 10AM Playgroup 601 River St Fitchburg	Please check our MOC CFCE and Parent Child Facebook page for updates & cancellations
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Tinker Playgroup (Registration Required)	10AM Karate Playgroup 7 Exchange St, Barre Fitchburg SNAP ED Cooking Program (Registration Required)	10AM Karate Playgroup 68 Coleman St Gardner Gardner SNAP ED Cooking Program (Registration Required)	10AM Karate Playgroup 601 River St Fitchburg 6PM Evening Playgroup 7 Exchange St, Barre	10AM Playgroup 307 Main St Gilbertville 10AM Playgroup 601 River St Fitchburg	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	Tinker Playgroup (Registration Required) (NO Infant Group)	10AM Playgroup 7 Exchange St, Barre Fitchburg SNAP ED Cooking Program (Registration Required)	10AM Playgroup 68 Coleman St. Gardner	10AM Playgroup 601 River St Fitchburg	10AM Playgroup 307 Main St Gilbertville 10AM Playgroup 601 River St Fitchburg	
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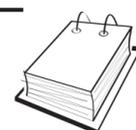
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Calendar of Events



THURSDAY, MARCH 7

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.

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 8

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 9

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

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

Where is this?



Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer

This week's mystery photo is from Hardwick. 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 11. The names of those that correctly guessed the location will appear in the following edition. Robert Augustine, Bill Bowles, Peggy Civilik, Stephen Craven, Karen Dulude, Evelyn Luukko, Cheryl Paul, Jeremy Varnum and Philip Warbasse correctly identified the photo. The photo last week was the exit for the Transfer Station on Barre Depot Road and Vernon Avenue on Barre.

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.

INFORMAL DISCUSSION AND POTLUCK DINNER will be held today at 4 p.m. at East Quabbin Land Trust, 120 Ridge Road, Hardwick. The discussion will be on no-till or low-till gardening and what to do to keep carbon in the soil while improving fertility and growing awesome veggies.

People should RSVP to Cynthia by emailing chenshaw@EQLT.org. Participants should bring their favorite dish to share a light meal during the discussion.

MONDAY, MARCH 11

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 2 will hold its March meetingA today The March meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 2 will be held on Monday, March 11 at American Legion Post 2, 450 South Barre Road. The refreshment committee consists of Kara Franciosi, Jean Reed and Barbara Rossi. The Auxiliary hopes to see members at the meeting.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

BROWN BAG CONCERTS will be held at Mechanics Hall, 321 Main St., Worcester. Brown Bag

Concerts features regional and national artists performing a wide variety of jazz styles from American and Latin to Big Band and Gypsy jazz. Today from noon-1 p.m. (doors open at 11:30 a.m.) Evening Sky Band, a Rhode Island-based jazz quartet. Daniel Bennett Group, led by New York saxophonist Daniel Bennett, will perform on Wednesday, March 20 from noon-1 p.m. (doors open at 11:30 a.m. and Betty's Bounce, performing American and Gypsy jazz performs on Wednesday, March 27. All concerts are free and open to the public; registration is not required. Cabaret-style seating in the Great Hall is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Attendees are invited to bring their own "brown bag" lunch. In addition, food and beverages will be available for purchase. Concerts are subject to change without notice. For more information, people may visit mechanicshall.org or call 508-752-5608. Brown Bag Concert Series is sponsored by Price Chopper/Market 32 and The Fred Harris Daniels Foundation.

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 yivfrye@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 16

WINE TASTING FUNDRAISER sponsored by the Friends of Ware Town Hall will host this event to benefit the Ware Town Hall Clock Restoration at "It's Wine O'Clock," located at 164 D West Street, Ware today from 1-4 p.m. Admission to the tasting is free, with light refreshments served and a nice selection of wines for tasting, which will also be available for purchase. A percentage of wine sales during the event will be donated to Friends of Ware Town Hall. Raffle tickets will be sold during the event with gift card prizes to "It's Wine O'Clock." Lotto Calendars will also be available for sale, with the drawing for the calendars beginning April 1 and continuing through the entire month of April.

MONDAY, MARCH 18

STORY TIME at the New Braintree Public Library, 45 Memorial Drive, New Braintree will be held today at 9 a.m. The focus will be spring weather and will feature "Little Cloud" by Eric Carle, "It Looked Like Spilt Milk" by Charles G. Shaw and "Rain!" by Linda Ashman. This reading and crafts program for preschool children is held twice a month on Mondays at the library. Parental supervision is required. People may call the library at 508-867-7650 during regular business for more information.

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

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

Calendar Policy

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

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

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

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

Please contact Pat James 413-726-8661.

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Barre Gazette

PLAYGROUND continued from page 1

ulation that requires the property remain a park for public use.

Resident input included adding more infant swings and swings in general. Several parents said there was a need for fencing around the playgrounds to contain children especially at Rice Park that has high traffic

and is near the road and municipal parking lot.

The Board and the parents present discussed possible options to increase safety and security for the children and teens, who will be utilizing these parks with the play equipment and the basketball courts.

"We need to take pride in these parks," Regienus said to the people's remarks about the problems of vandalism. To combat this, discussions of adding in cameras or having

police presence was discussed.

Those in attendance voiced approval for a self-build or at least volunteers removing the old equipment. They wanted to be involved and this allowed just that.

The board will continue to take input from the community in order to make sure that the playgrounds of Barre are accessible to all and provide a place of security and fun for years to come.



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HISTORICAL SOCIETY continued from page 1

years later and ran a load of farm produce down the Mississippi River to New Orleans. But he dutifully, but resentfully, giving most of his earnings to his father.

It was in Louisiana that Lincoln witnessed widespread slavery for the first time. Though he remained consistent in his belief that slavery was morally wrong, when he became involved in politics as a lawyer and in the Illinois legislature, he did not hold slave holding Southerners at fault.

They faced particular economic circumstances. Cotton became a much-desired product in England and Europe. Not so much the northern states. They were not responsible for bringing Africans to the new, but not yet divided Union. England had entered the industrial age before the US did. It had sparked growth of the British empire and they wanted what the slave states were able to provide.

When Abraham was twenty-one, the family again moved, this time near Decatur, Illinois. He and his father built another log cabin not much bigger than the one they had lived in before. But once settled, he made more runs down the Mississippi river,

but this time as an independent operator. After that he lived on his own, moving to the town of New Salem, Illinois in 1831.

By this time, Senator Brewer had fully captured everyone's undivided attention. He was once a high school teacher and there is no doubt in this reporter's mind that his former students must fondly and appreciatively remember the style and enthusiasm in the class room. He is a very enigmatic and gifted speaker. Perhaps, just as Lincoln was.

Meanwhile, the former senator said it was not all work and book learning for Lincoln. He was not yet 24. There were two women in Abe's life prior to his meeting Mary Ann Todd, in Springfield, Illinois in 1839.

The first was Ann Rutledge, in New Salem in 1832. Sadly, Miss Rutledge died in late summer, 1835. The cause is said to have been typhoid fever. Abraham, 26 years old at the time, fell into deep depression.

In the early 1830s, Lincoln, now living on his own in New Salem, had met a Mary Owens in Kentucky. He asked Miss Owens in late 1836 if she would move to New Salem. She did; arriving in November. After a while, they both had second thoughts. Almost exactly two years after Miss Rutledge's death, he penned Miss Owens a letter saying he would not blame her if she ended the

relationship. She never replied.

Lincoln soon became very active in politics and elected to the Illinois Legislature. We all may remember the many Lincoln - Douglas debates. In the lead-up to the 1860 election there were many memorable debates between them.

Douglas was a Democrat and Lincoln a Republican. They do not mean the same today. The reader can ask any high school Advance Placement American history student or college student majoring in political Science, for a full description of the different political parties in mid-nineteenth century US.

In any case, soon after Lincoln won the Presidency, Fort Sumter was attacked on April 1, 1861. The war between the North and the South ignited. Many were of the consensus that the war would last less than one year. In fact, the first major battle of the war was only 34 miles south of Washington, D.C. The date was July 21, 1861.

It was just north of Manassas, Virginia. It was later called the Battle of Bull Run. The Union army was totally unprepared for the confrontation and lost to the Confederate army. Believe it or not with communication being what it was at that time, citizens, thinking this battle would be interesting to witness, packed food and traveled toward

Manassas in carriages, on horses and walked to see the spectacle. Most never got close enough to actually witness it.

But the war that was thought to be short, lasted four more years. More than 620,000 American soldiers were killed over this war that was primarily to save the Union, not over slavery. Lincoln has been documented to saying that. Even though he believed slavery was abhorrent, he felt a county divided would never survive. It is a good thing to remember that.

The military fatalities, not including civilians and crippled soldiers, were more than the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Mexican War, World War I, World War II and the Korean War, combined.

Finally, a book Senator Brewer recommends high school students to read was first published in 1947. There are many good books written but Paul Angle's "Lincoln Reader" is a good place to start learning about Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President of the United States.

The Rutland Historical Society is a great resource. I have rarely seen such a complete collection of historical information and records in any town of Rutland's size. Check out their website and upcoming programs by visiting <https://rutlandmahistorical.org>.

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North Brookfield gets win to start states

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Last Tuesday night, North Brookfield girls basketball was able to pull out a win in the preliminary round of the Division 5 state tournament. The Indians defeated Edward Kennedy Academy 49-43 to start the tournament season. North Brookfield was scheduled to face Renaissance of Western Mass. in the next round.



Angie Fritze makes her way down the court, eyeing a teammate to pass to.



Sophia Dufresne is pressured toward the sideline.



Olivia Holmes goes after a rebound.



Milcalia Ayala tries to shoot in traffic.



Lola Sukharev takes a three-point shot.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Panthers suffer loss in first state tourney game

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

EAST BRIDGEWATER—When the MIAA announced the pairings for the girls' basketball tournament pairings on February 24, there were 40 teams trying to capture the Division 3 state championship title. One of those teams was Quabbin Regional.

Since losing back-to-back games at the beginning of January, the Lady Panthers entered the state tournament having won nine of their previous ten games.

The Lady Panthers, who entered the state tournament as the 18th-seeded team, season came to an end following a 43-31 road loss to 15th-seeded East Bridgewater in a round of 32 contest, last Wednesday night.

"I thought if we could hold them around 40 points, we would have a very good chance of winning the game," said Quabbin head coach Evan Barringer. "We played very well defensively, but we just didn't make a lot of our shots. We also missed a lot of free throws. If we faced them five times, the series would probably be tied 2-2 entering the fifth game. I really wish that we could play them again."

The Lady Panthers, who'll be losing four outstanding players, finished the 2023-24 campaign

with a 16-5 overall record. It's also the third time that Quabbin lost in the round of 32 since the postseason format was changed in 2021.

A year ago, Quabbin celebrated a 62-49 home win over Lowell Catholic in a preliminary round home game before losing at third-seeded Bishop Fenwick in the round of 32.

The Lady Panthers lost to ninth-seeded Old Rochester on the road in the round of 32 in the 2022 state tournament.

"This was probably the first winnable round of 32 game that we've played in the state tournament," Barringer said. "You just have to give East Bridgewater a lot of credit because they made the plays. This loss doesn't take away anything that we've accomplished this year. I'm proud of my kids."

The Lady Panthers probably wouldn't have won 16 games or the Central Mass. Athletic Directors Association Class B championship without the services of Meg Doyle, Brianna Whitlaw, Riley Bassett, or Hannah Baxter. The foursome were starters and team captains this winter.

"The four seniors are incredibly special people to me," Barringer said. "They changed

See PANTHERS, page 9



Victoria Stephens splits the Lady Indians' defense.

Turley photos by Jack Cascio NEAP:smugmug.com



The rebounders, Addison Doktor, Megan Clark, and Greenly Lagimoniere gang up under the net.

Pathfinder ousted from tournament by Ware

WARE – Last Tuesday night, Ware girls basketball scored a win in the opener of the Division 5 state tournament over neighbor Pathfinder 41-22. The Pioneers would struggle on offense, falling behind 13-0 before finally scoring in the second quarter. Ware had no trouble keeping its lead from that point. Amelia Orszulak and Reese McKeever had eight points each to lead Ware. Megan Clark and Greenly Lagimoniere led Pathfinder with seven points each. Pathfinder's season finished at 11-8 while Ware moved on to play Palmer in the Round of 32.



Taylor Allen fires up a bank shot.



Desiree Croteau drives to midcourt.



Clara Green brings the ball down court.

Lawsuit changes brackets in basketball tournament

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

FRANKLIN – Over the years, there have been issues with ineligible player use or other rule-breaking that has led to high school teams being left out of sectional or state tournaments.

This year, however, a school took action and it ended up halting the state tournament and changed opponents for several

teams involved.

Oliver Ames High School, which competes in Division 2 in many sports, appealed it being left out of the State Division 2 Boys Basketball tournament due to a paperwork.

According to a representative from the MIAA, schools are required to submit certain paperwork for entrance into the tournament, and Oliver Ames failed to meet the requirement. They were

thusly removed from the tournament and did not have a spot when seeds were released on Saturday, Feb. 24.

Some preliminary games in the tournament, of which Oliver Ames would have been a part of due to their projected lower seed, were scheduled to start on Monday, Feb. 26, but the tournament had to be halted due to an injunction being filed by Oliver Ames in a court. The injunction went through and

the MIAA was ordered by a judge to include the ousted school in this year's tournament.

"One team from Eastern Mass. was headed for Amherst and had to be turned around because of this," Eric Castonguay, athletic director at South Hadley High School said. "It stopped the whole thing."

While it only affected a handful of teams in Western Mass. Division 2, Amherst and Agawam were among the teams that were

locally affected.

Karen Gomez, athletic director at Agawam High School, had to wait until a new opponent was announced in order to schedule her game.

She was originally scheduled to play Tuesday, Feb. 27 and host Bay Path Vocational Technical. That opponent changed when Oliver Ames was inserted into the tournament. Masaconomet ended up visiting Agawam, and luckily,

at short notice, agreed to come to Agawam and played at the same time the Bay Path-Agawam game was scheduled for.

Amherst was forced to postpone its game from Monday. One team unaffected was Chicopee Comprehensive, which did not see an opponent change and traveled to Scituate in the Round of 32.

The rest of the tournament went on as scheduled and was in the quarterfinals as of press time.

Sports

Baldwin gets modified win as he prepares for New England return

FLORENCE, S.C. – Tommy Baldwin Racing drivers Jack Baldwin and Luke Baldwin both had success Saturday night at Florence Motor Speedway.

Jack sealed the night by capturing the victory in the opener of the Carolina Crate Modified Series, driving the No. 7NY in a final lap dash battle to the finish. Luke made his Tour-Type Modified debut in the SMART Modified Tour Peanut Patch 99 with Sadler-Stanley Racing and scored a top-five finish.

Jack qualified on the pole earlier in the day, inverting to fourth and running inside the top-five for the whole 62-lap Crate Modified race, before making the move for the win in the final corner.

Luke posted the fastest lap time in his first official Tour Modified practice in the PSR No. 7VA for the Sadler-Stanley Racing group. The team, owned by former NASCAR driver Hermie Sadler and Attorney and Virginia State Senator Bill Stanley, is Luke's official home

for the full SMART Modified Tour season in 2024. He also qualified the car in third spot in time trials and started second after the redraw.

"Excited to win another Crate Modified race, especially being able to get to Victory Lane at Florence," Jack Baldwin said. "Slate (Myers) had a fast car tonight. I hate that it came down to him spinning, but I was as low as I could possibly go without hitting the inside wall. Florence is a fun track. We were able to ride a bit early then close a large gap over the final 30 laps to be in position to win. I can't thank everyone on the TBR team and PSR enough."

Both Baldwin brothers attended Florence events with the help of their respective team members and PSR Chassis members, with Tommy Baldwin Jr. at Las Vegas Motor Speedway with Rick Ware Racing.

"Super proud of everybody involved with this team for what we accomplished at Florence,"

Luke Baldwin said. "We showed race winning speed all the way through the day, and if a few things went my way, we may have had a shot at winning it. We had a solid second-place run going until a late race restart where I made some mistakes and fell to fifth. Nothing to hang our heads about. Huge thanks to all the guys at Sadler-Stanley Racing, Bill Stanley, Hermie Sadler and PSR Products. The car was a rocket ship and they made my job easy. Also, thanks to Pace-O-Matic, The Stanley Law Group, and Mohawk Northeast for making it happen. Congrats to Carson Loftin on his first career win."

Next up for the Tommy Baldwin Racing team will be for Luke driving the No. 7VA for Sadler-Stanley Racing in the second SMART Modified Tour race of the season next Sunday, March 10 at Caraway Speedway. Jack Baldwin is currently slated to return to the seat during the summer in the SK Modifieds at Stafford Motor Speedway.

Railers lead early, but fall to Lions

WORCESTER – With 21st Century technology being what it is there are letters, numbers and abbreviations for almost everything that happens in hockey.

Almost everything, anyway. There is nothing on the stat sheets for an M.O. That is what the Railers would have registered here Sunday afternoon, a Missed Opportunity.

Worcester led the Trois-Rivieres Lions, 2-0, after the first period then gave up five straight goals over the final 40 minutes and was beaten, 5-2.

The Railers remain in fourth place in the North Division, both in terms of points and winning percentage. They have no cushion, though, and will play at Maine Tuesday morning with a one-point lead on Reading and a two-point edge on the Mariners.

Trois-Rivieres is four points out, not eight, thanks to its victory Sunday.

Worcester got goals from Zach White and Reece Newkirk. It also

got 41 saves from John Muse, third most for a Railers goaltender this season.

Nolan Yaremko led the Lions with a hat trick, the second of the season against Worcester. He scored two goals 1:24 apart in the second period then converted a 5 on 3 power play chance at 19:01 of the third period. Jakov Novak and Nicolas Lariviere had the other goals for the visitors.

Joe Vrbetic made 25 saves for Trois-Rivieres in posting his first win in four starts against the Railers this season.

The four Trois-Rivieres goals in the second were scored by, in order:

Novak at 3:18, Lariviere at 4:17, and Yaremko at 11:26 and 12:50. Yaremko's first goal was on a power play.

The Lions had the better of play in the game's early going as the Railers were careless in their own zone. With the first period nine minutes old, Trois-Rivieres had an 11-3 edge in shots on goal.

Muse kept it scoreless.

Worcester finally broke through at 17:35 with White scoring his seventh goal of the season. He had been flying throughout the period and outbattled a Lions defenseman in the left corner, then skated into the circle and beat Vrbetic along the ice.

It was White's first point after an eight-game scoreless drought.

With 1:47 to go in the period, the Lions' Anthony Beauregard was called for interference by referee Hunter Mottinger. Teammate Brycen Martin was apparently uncivil in his remarks to Mottinger and wound up with an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty.

Newkirk made it 2-0 with 21 seconds left in the period, 34 seconds left on the 5-on-3. It was just the Railers' second 5-on-3 goal of the season.

Worcester was held to nine shots the rest of the way and wound up with a game, and opportunity, lost.

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 about entertaining 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.

Education

WPI announces Dean's list

WORCESTER – Worcester Polytechnic Institute announces the fall 2023 Dean's list.

Local students making the fall 2023 Dean's list are: Emmy Allyn of Rutland, class of 2027 majoring in biomedical engineering; Gavin Burkhardt of North Brookfield, class of 2025 majoring in biology and biotechnology and environmental and sustainability studies; Tyler Clark of Barre, class of 2027 majoring in environmental engineering; Sophia DiBara of Rutland, class of 2025 majoring in biology

and biotechnology; Jordan Gaspar of Oakham, class of 2027 majoring in mechanical engineering; Benjamin Hood of Hardwick, class of 2025 majoring in civil engineering; Ashley Hutchings of Rutland, class of 2025 majoring in chemical engineering; Yasmin Issa of Rutland, class of 2027 majoring in biology and biotechnology; Taylor Meier of Rutland, class of 2027 majoring in data science; Joseph Miele of Rutland, class of 2027 majoring in mathematical sciences; Vinam Nguyen of Rutland, class

of 2027 majoring in computer science; Hannah Pelouquin of Rutland, class of 2025 majoring in biomedical engineering and Frederick Smith of New Braintree, class of 2026, majoring in civil engineering.

The criteria for the WPI Dean's List differs from that of most other universities as WPI does not compute a grade point average (GPA). Instead, WPI defines the Dean's List by the amount of work completed at the A level in courses and projects.

Nichols College offers VITA program

DUDLEY – Nichols College is hosting a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program during tax season this year, offering free tax preparation to those in the community whose gross income is \$60,000 or less.

The VITA program is sponsored by the IRS. The Nichols VITA/TCE staff currently consists of Nichols accounting faculty and students. An expert in the intersection of law, accounting and tax and a former active litigator and municipal court judge, Assistant Professor of Accounting Mike Forte, D.B.A., J.D., created and now leads the VITA/TCE programs at Nichols.

"We are excited to host a VITA/TCE program at Nichols and provide free tax help to community members this year," said Forte. "There could be people who are struggling to do their taxes themselves or not filing at all and thereby not able to gain from the credits that they are eligible for. The VITA/TCE program provides them with the ability to do so by offering tax help."

There are many advantages to hosting the program at Nichols, noted Forte. "It provides a service to the community while also offering participating students with an experiential learning opportunity. It also provides other professionals in the community with volunteer hours to help them maintain their certifications."

Forte said additional volunteers are welcomed. Accountants and lawyers, who have continuing professional education requirements, are eligible to get them satisfied or partially satisfied by volunteering for the program. Graduate students may also be interested in volunteering for the program.

Kristian Macris Class of 2025, a double major in accounting and finance at Nichols College, who was a student in Forte's tax class, is participating as a volunteer this year and is looking forward to the experiential learning opportunity and perspective that he hopes to gain from the experience.

"I'm interested in getting my Master of Business and Taxation

after Nichols and I am eager to get practical experience in tax. So when Professor Forte approached me about the VITA/TCE opportunity, I was excited to take it on. There's really no better way of learning accounting, especially with tax, other than just getting in your reps," said Macris.

VITA/TCE program staff can meet clients on campus, virtually or by phone. Volunteers helping to complete tax returns are certified by the IRS, and reviewers will ensure the accuracy of each completed tax return.

Appointments can be made for anyone whose income meets requirements for the Nichols College VITA/TCE program. Appointments are available on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings and can be scheduled via phone 508-213-2260 or email vita@nichols.edu.

For more information on the VITA/TCE programs, people may visit <https://www.nichols.edu/vita>. Potential volunteers may email Michael Forte at vita@nichols.edu or call 508-213-2260.

UMass offers Community College Advantage Scholarship

WORCESTER – The University of Massachusetts announced that the top 10% of the Commonwealth's future community college graduates will receive a minimum of \$5,000 per year above federal and private financial aid if they enroll at one of the four nationally ranked UMass campuses in Amherst, Boston, Dartmouth and Lowell.

The Community College Advantage Scholarship is designed to incentivize highly talented community college students to finish their associate degree at one of the Commonwealth's 15 community colleges and then complete their bachelor's degree at UMass.

The CCAS also seeks to address two challenges facing public higher education in Massachusetts:

Providing equitable access to historically underrepresented groups of students in light of the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision on race-based admissions, and

Strengthening the Commonwealth's talent pipeline as the number of high school graduates in Massachusetts is projected to decline in the coming years, the existing population is aging out of the workforce, and more young people are leaving the state.

"We want to send a clear message that UMass welcomes highly talented community college graduates to continue their pursuit of a college degree on our nationally ranked Amherst, Boston, Dartmouth and Lowell campuses," UMass President Marty Meehan said. "We believe this initiative

will lead to more community college graduates choosing to finish their four-year degree at UMass, which will accelerate their upward economic trajectory and strengthen the Commonwealth's workforce."

"At Quinsigamond Community College, we are an inclusive institution that works to offer everyone the opportunity to achieve their dreams of obtaining a higher education. The Community College Advantage Scholarship is exciting news for our community college students and the Commonwealth," said QCC President Dr. Luis G. Pedraja. "Ensuring our top tier students have the financial ability to advance in their higher education within the state is not only a win for them, but also for their families and our economy."

Starting in fall 2024, the CCAS will help develop and retain diverse talent in Massachusetts by guaranteeing students in the top 10 percent of their community college graduating class automatic admission to a University of Massachusetts campus and a minimum of \$2,500 per semester (\$5,000 annually) for a total of at least \$10,000 for the students' final two years of college.

Students remain eligible for additional aid based on individual circumstances.

The CCAS will supplement federal and private grants awarded to the student.

To be eligible for the Fall 2024 CCAS, students must:

Complete their degree in the top 10% of their graduating class at their college. This will be calculated as of the end of the semester prior to the UMass financial aid priority deadline. Students applying for fall admission must have been in the top 10 percent of their class as of the end of the Fall 2023 semester.

Complete the 2024-25 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or equivalent state financial aid application.

Be eligible for in-state tuition. Have earned 45+ credits that are transferable to UMass.

Be on track to complete their associate degree prior to the fall 2024 semester.

The CCAS is the latest in a series of state and UMass initiatives aimed at expanding access to a four-year college degree, which data shows significantly enhances a person's lifetime income.

The University has increased annual institutional financial aid by 67% to \$395 million since 2015 and has launched an early college program that allows high school students in urban centers to earn UMass course credit while still in high school, thereby saving them tuition costs once they get to college.

The state has recently made community college tuition free for students 25 years of age and older and has expanded the MassGrant Plus program by \$62 million to make public higher education more affordable for lower- and middle-income students.

T-Birds suffer loss to Isles

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (25-24-3-2) could not overcome a 3-0 hole in the opening period as the Bridgeport Islanders (18-29-6-1) skated off as 4-1 winners at the MassMutual Center on Sunday before a seventh straight sellout crowd of 6,793.

Not even a minute into the festivities, both Sam Bitten & Will Bitten got the Thunderdome engaged in the game with a pair of fighting majors in bouts against Seth Helgeson and Eetu Liukas respectively. However, the Islanders held a sizable edge in offensive zone time, and that translated into an early lead for the visitors.

At the 9:10 mark, Ruslan Iskhakov artfully slipped the puck to Matt Maggio in the left-wing circle, where the rookie swiftly moved the puck from backhand to forehand and uncorked a perfect wrist shot under the crossbar past Colten Ellis to make it 1-0 for Bridgeport.

The penalty parade continued as two separate Springfield players were whistled for penalties just 45 seconds apart, opening the door for Bridgeport's power play. On the ensuing two-man advantage, Ellis made a save on an initial try by William Dufour, but Carsen Twarynski was positioned perfectly to slide the rebound home to make it a 2-0

score at 11:18.

In the final minute of the period, Brian Pinho further bolstered the Islander lead when he sidestepped a hit attempt before beating Ellis between the legs with a snapper at 19:23.

After being outshot 18-5 in the first, the T-Birds responded with some pushback in the second, but rookie Bridgeport goalie Henrik Tikkanen was steady in the crease. Mikhail Abramov finally dented the young goaltender at 12:11 when he deposited a loose puck in the blue paint after a Jakub Vrana slapper squeaked through Tikkanen's equipment. Abramov's second goal in as many days cut the margin to 3-1.

The T-Birds' best chance to get closer came in the middle portions of the third period, when back-to-back Bridgeport penalties handed Springfield a 5-on-3 advantage. However, Tikkanen and the gutsy Isles' PK unit stood up to the challenge, and a Springfield penalty would then nullify the advantage.

Karson Kuhlman put the game away at 16:48 with an empty-net goal to seal the visitors' seventh win in 11 tries this season against the T-Birds.

The T-Birds and Islanders complete their season series on Friday night for one final installment between the rivals inside the MassMutual Center. Puck drop is set for 7:05 p.m. at the Thunderdome.



SEND US YOUR SPORTS PHOTOS

Have you taken photos at a local sports event and want to see them published in this paper? Email your image(s) with description to: sports@turley.com

PANTHERS, continued from page 9

the culture of the Quabbin girls' basketball team. It's not only about the victories, which are awesome, but it's about the way that we do things now. I really don't want to think about next year yet, but you can't replace players like them."

Doyle, who'll be wrapping up her high school athletic career on the softball diamond this spring, scored seven points in her final basketball game. Whitelaw and Baxter scored six points each, while Bassett finished with three points.

The Lady Panthers other starter was sophomore Mia Ducos, who scored seven points in the round of 32 contest.

"This was an amazing season and I'm sad that it has come to an end," Ducos said. "I've been playing basketball with the four seniors for a very long time and I'm going miss them a lot. I hope we're able to qualify for the state tournament

again next year."

Almost half of the East Bridgewater High School gymnasium was filled with Quabbin supporters.

About 40 students, along with the cheerleading squad, made the two hour trip from Barre by bus.

"It was incredible to have that many of our fans come watch us play a road game," Barringer said. "The entire school community has supported these kids this year. We really appreciate their support."

A Bassett put-back hoop gave the Lady Panthers the lead for the first time at 6-5 with 3:20 left in the first quarter.

After the Lady Vikings retook the lead, Doyle, who scored more than 200 points as a senior, hit a baseline jumper giving the visiting team the lead back for the final time.

It did remain a close game for the first four minutes of the second stanza.

A Ducos jumper from the left side tied the score, 12-12, with 4:05 remaining in the first half.

The Lady Vikings (15-8), who

were scheduled to face second-seeded Norwell in the round of 16, scored the final seven points of the second quarter. Eighth grader Jackie Pohl scored five of her seven points during that span.

East Bridgewater, who held a 19-12 lead at the break, leading scorer was senior Shania Gardner (16 points). Freshman Jenna Oman contributed with ten points.

With 5:50 left in the third quarter, Whitelaw buried a 3-pointer from the right corner closing the gap to 21-17.

The Lady Vikings responded with an 11-4 run and entered the final eight minutes of the round of 32 contest holding a 32-21 lead.

The Lady Panthers, who only made two field goals during the final quarter, couldn't make a comeback.

The other members of the 2023-24 Quabbin girls' varsity basketball team were junior Brooke Austin (2 points), Leanna Leger, junior MK Kingbury, junior Ana Dunn, sophomore Aubrey Thorpe, and freshman Abby Rogowski.

Second Chance receives \$1.1 million grant

EAST BROOKFIELD – Fifty million pets in the U.S. experience a lack of access to even basic veterinary care.

Rising costs and other barriers mean these pets struggle to access services such as spay/neuter procedures, vaccinations and critical medical and preventative care. With as many as 70% of households now including pets, this issue affects families in nearly every community.

PetSmart Charities has committed \$100 million over the next five years toward improving access to veterinary care. The “Accelerator” low-cost veterinary care grant program is a key part of this effort. These grants support

the expansion of low-cost veterinary care by funding growth and operations for up to four years for nonprofit clinics looking to expand their services, serve their communities better and inspire other veterinary providers by sharing their experiences.

The grant made to Second Chance Animal Services in the amount of \$1,100,000 will support the expansion over the next three years at the nonprofit’s surgical center that provides lifesaving surgeries for animals. The anticipated impact on local pets and families includes saving the lives of more pets in need of urgent or emergency care who have nowhere else to turn.

“We are so grateful to PetSmart Charities for their continued support of our work to keep pets in their homes with the people they love,” said Sheryl Blancato, Second Chance CEO and founder. “Second Chance is a place that many turn to for lifesaving surgeries to save their pets, and to keep them together with the families that love them.”

Second Chance offers a two-tiered system of subsidized rates for pet owners at their four Community Veterinary Hospitals in North Brookfield, Southbridge, Springfield, and Worcester. Pet owners, who are 150% of the poverty level, received a subsidized rate lower than Second Chance’s

standard rates. Those that do not fit in this category pay the standard low-cost rate. This helps to ensure access to care for all pets.

Overwhelmingly, people consider their pets important members of the family. Pets make a significant impact on the health and wellness of the people they love. This grant will enable more families to get the preventative and standard care that ensures their pets thrive at home and stay out of shelters.

“Our veterinary system is in crisis,” said Kate Atema, director of community grants and initiatives at PetSmart Charities. “Rising costs are putting standard veterinary care out of reach for

as much as 50% of pet-owning families. We need innovative solutions that make veterinary care affordable for the families in every community who want the best for their four-legged companions but struggle to meet the cost of vet care. We’re inspired by the incredible work Second Chance is doing to create solutions that will build strong families and a healthy community.”

Last year, Second Chance helped over 48,000 pets including a beautiful black long-haired cat named Onyx who got into Christmas decorations. Her owner had seen Onyx chewing on tinsel and noticed that Onyx had not felt well for many days and was show-

ing signs of being in much pain. She was seen at an emergency veterinary hospital, but her owner couldn’t afford the price they quoted for surgery. Her family was grateful to learn that Second Chance veterinarians could perform the surgery at a reduced rate, allowing them to save their beloved pet. Onyx showed signs of feeling better as soon as the surgery was completed and home to celebrate the holidays with her loving family.

For more information Second Chance Animal Service’s Community Veterinary Hospitals, people may visit www.secondchanceanimals.org/vetcare.



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 schedule.** 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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Obituaries

Joanne M. Brutus, 82

CHICOPEE – Joanne (Vaillencourt) (Rich) Brutus of Chicopee, passed away peacefully Friday, Feb. 16, 2024 surrounded by her husband and three children.

Born on Nov. 7, 1941 in Athol, Joanne grew up in Orange where she attended and graduated from Mahar Regional High School. While living most of her life in Barre with her family, she was employed by Dr. Aspen and Dr. Kaplan and worked many years at the Barre Family Health Center. After relocating to Perkinsville, Vermont, she worked for Claremont Family Practice and Dartmouth Hitchcock Hospital until retirement.

Joanne was an avid floral gardener and artist. She had rows and rows of bountiful lily gardens at her Vermont homes, especially in Hyde Park, Vermont. As an artist, she gained a skillful eye to



perfectly paint landscapes and still life paintings. She also enjoyed interior design which reflected in her homes. Skiing and traveling were two of her hobbies while living in Vermont. She also loved spending time on Long Island,

Maine visiting the summer home of her sister.

Throughout the years, much joy was brought to her by her cats, Max and Fifi and her Shih Tzu's Fritzzy and Chester. Joanne enjoyed visits with her family, many hunting weekends were spent in her Vermont homes gathered around the dinner table sharing hunting stories.

Joanne is survived by her husband, Martin Brutus of Chicopee; a son, Ronald W. Rich Jr. and his wife Brenda and their children, Hayley and Daniel of Barre; a son, Quentin Rich and his wife

Cindy of Charlton Depot and their daughters, Emily, Cheryl and Jessica; a devoted daughter Suanne Fischer and her husband Jim of Southampton and their children, Rachel and Benjamin; her sisters, Charlene Jardine and her husband Russell of Athol and Paulette Cornwell and her husband Donald of Cape Coral, Florida; also four nieces and eight great-grandchildren. Joanne was predeceased by her parents, Ernest and Marie Cecile Vaillencourt. Joanne will be greatly missed.

A graveside ceremony will be scheduled at a later date.

DEATH NOTICE

Brutus, Joanne M. (Vaillencourt)
Died Feb. 16, 2024
Graveside ceremony at a later date

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.



District Attorney's Office receives state grant

WORCESTER – Worcester County District Attorney Joseph D. Early, Jr. announced his office received a \$100,000 state grant from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security to fight gang-related crime, with a portion of the funds going directly into the community to support programming at the Boys & Girls Club of Worcester.

"The key mission of our office is to prevent crime," said Early. "Gangs are one of the main drivers of violence and drugs in our communities. We want to support our at-risk youth, preventing their introduction to gang life and the inevitability of ending up in the criminal justice system. By supporting these kids, we can prevent crime, keep the numbers down in the jails, and guide our youth to brighter, happier futures."

The grant funding was award-

ed to the Worcester County District Attorney's Office through the EOPSS' Project Safe Neighborhood Program to support the prosecution of gang crimes. This is the third time the state has awarded funds to this office to support gang intervention.

As part of the grant, a portion of the funds are designated to support prevention and intervention programming through a community organization. The office began partnering with the Boys & Girls Club with these grant funds last year.

"The Boys & Girls Club is doing such amazing work on prevention and intervention in the community, they are a great partner for this grant," Early said.

The Boys & Girls Club offered programming to 250 kids in 2023 thanks to this funding. The funding supported 122 boys participating in a program called Passport to Manhood and 128 girls participating in a program called S.M.A.R.T Girls.

"This grant supported our gender-specific programs that address violence prevention, the building of self-esteem and anti-bullying techniques," said Liz Hamilton, Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Club of Worcester. "The curriculum was facilitated by pro-

fessional Club mentors, which allows our kids to be their authentic selves and discuss issues they may not feel comfortable sharing outside of our safe space. The post-evaluations indicated that kids who participated in this funded program were better prepared for the future and had the tools they need to make healthy and safe choices."

In the coming year, the Boys & Girls Club plans to offer drivers' education and job training courses with the funding.

The Healey-Driscoll Administration awarded \$1.9 million statewide through the Project Safe Neighborhood Program this year to District Attorney's Offices and State Police to address gun crimes, gang violence and narcotic offenses.

"This new grant program fosters the partnerships and supports the collaborative solutions that make a meaningful difference in our communities," said Governor Maura Healey. "By investing in these efforts, we're empowering community partners to deliver vital services to at-risk youth while promoting safe, thriving communities across Massachusetts. We're grateful to the Legislature for their partnership in making this critical funding available."

Church News

Local pastors offer sermons

Christian Growth Part 1

Those who would walk with the Lord do well to consider this seminal text on the matters of Christian growth and renewal:

Galatians 5:16b-17, 19-25(NIV)

16 . . . I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.

19 The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Note the mandate of the apostle Paul in this selection (v. 16): "I say, walk by the Spirit." What is the meaning of this call? Simply put, to walk by the Spirit of God is to live both under His authority and reliant upon His transforming power. Therefore, there is a twofold aspect herein: a) submission to His dominion; and b) dependence upon His energizing work. The following excerpt, penned by English theologian and commentator Joseph Benson, speaks vividly to such a lifestyle: To walk by the Spirit is to "follow his guidance, exercise his graces, and bring forth his fruits: at all times endeavour[ing] to conduct yourselves as under his influence, and in a way agreeable to the new nature he hath given you. We walk by the Spirit, when we are led, that is, directed and governed by him as a Spirit of truth and grace, of wisdom and holiness. And we walk in the Spirit when, being united to him, or, rather, inhabited by him, we walk in faith, hope, and love, and in the other graces, mentioned."

Why should we follow this mandate?

Firstly, living under the dominion of the Spirit and according to His power is the only way to transcend our fallen nature, that we might live for God. Note again the words of Paul in verse 16: "I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh." Left to our own devices, we are broken, carnal beings who work to bring forth truly ruinous works (e.g., sexual immorality, hatred, selfish ambition, etc.). There is a very real part of us that wants to do that which is evil. Even those who seek to honor God must contend with abiding sinful urges that work counter to the influence of the Spirit:

Galatians 5:17b

17 . . . the flesh [i.e., our sinful nature] desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.

The only way to consistently overcome the inclination to sin and genuinely serve the Lord is to daily walk by the Holy Spirit.

Secondly, failure to walk by the Spirit results in divine penal-

ty. Those who would succumb to their fleshly desires will lead lives characterized by sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery, idolatry and witchcraft, hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy, drunkenness, orgies and beyond (v. 19-21a). Why is this so bad? Such a life merits judgment. Consider what Paul proclaims, as inspired by the Spirit, concerning those who live this way (21b): "I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God." We live in an era that downplays the reality of judgment: Scripture never does! Thus said, let us heed the wisdom of Christian author J. C. Ryle: "It would have been well for the church of Christ, if the warnings of the Gospel had been as much studied as its promises."

Christian, walk by the Spirit and learn to put away the misdeeds of the flesh. Allow God to transform you, that you might bear the fruit He desires for time and eternity! We will continue with this passage next week. Until then, thank you for taking the time to read this publication. Should you have any comments or questions, feel free to contact me at your convenience using the information below.

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

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

Third Sunday of Lent

"The Body of Christ as the Temple of God."

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

Scripture Reading: John 2 v 13 -22 I. Introduction

The body we possess as human beings is the body we need in this earthly existence, to do what we need to do. It is the body that others perceive and how they recognize us. It is the body we know when it is performing well, and not so well sometimes. I

It is also the body we have when we come here to worship God. It is through our body, mind, and soul that we are able to serve God and our community. What does this scripture about the Body of Christ then convey to us this morning?

II. The Body of Christ as the Temple of God

To understand this passage of Jesus' reaction to the merchants in the Temple, we must understand His own history and relationship with the Temple and its practices. Jesus was like other young Jewish boys, circumcised on the eighth day and His parents brought with them two young pigeons as a sacrifice, according to the Laws of the Old Testament.

They were familiar with what was happening on the outer courts of the Temple where the sacrifices took place. In Luke 2 v 41 – 52 we read how Jesus at twelve years joined His parents for the annual Passover at the Temple, and sat among the teachers and Rabbis, learning from them, and asking questions. It states that He grew up in wisdom and stature, due to His knowledge of the Torah and

experiences with those who taught in the Temple.

So, He too was familiar with all the practices, and saw the Temple in Jerusalem as a Holy place, where God was. When His parents were looking for Him, because He did not return with them back to Nazareth, He asked them, "Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house?" They did not understand what He was saying to them then.

Jesus understood that many people from different places and cultures came to the Temple to offer their sacrifices and could not travel with their slaughtered animals, because of the distances they traveled, and so it was convenient for them to have the animals available right there at the Temple. They also came with their foreign currency and needed the money changers to change their own money into local currency. It is just what people did! So, why was He so upset?

The key in this passage lies in His own realization that He is now the Messiah and the Temple was more than just the place where sacrifices were offered. He, therefore, as He drove the merchants out of the Temple court, uttered these words, "How dare you turn my Father's house into a market?" His disciples began to realize who He truly was as they remembered the prophetic words in Psalm 69 v 9,

"The Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews were upset and challenged Him, demanding a miraculous sign from Him to prove His authority for doing what He just did. Instead of giving them a sign, He answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."

Thinking He was talking about this very temple which had been built by Herod and was still under construction for forty-six years, they asked Him, how do you think you would restore it? John then revealed He was talking about His own body, the Temple of God, which would be crucified and raised again on the third day. His disciples would remember and believe these words later after His death and resurrection. They all needed to grapple with this dual message about the Messiah among them, and the importance of the Temple as the place of worship, more than just a place of sacrifice.

III. Conclusion

While the Jews questioned Him, and His disciples did not fully understand the developments at the time, we do, and we remember Him as His Body became the fulfillment of the Temple of the Living God. In the Body of Christ who died and was risen on the third day, God would be victorious over all other gods and sacrifices and all powers that be. God through the Body of Christ is still active in our own lives to fulfill God's purpose in us as well.

We are called to respond as His disciples did in their own awakening, to say, yes, Lord, we believe in You, and we are the Body of Christ, with You dwelling among us, ministering to us, healing us, and bringing us closer to You.

May God help us during this period of Lent to surrender our own bodies and minds and souls so that God's will be done through us, transforming us and using us as instruments of God's love and peace. Amen

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

Barre Gazette OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

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

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



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Director



Ricky Mansfield
Director



St. John the Baptist Church to hold 'A Walk with Jesus'

EAST BROOKFIELD – St. John the Baptist Church, 131 Blaine Avenue, will hold a unique Good Friday experience, "A Walk with Jesus" on Friday, March 29 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

This individually guided experience will open at 9 a.m.

and close at 3 p.m. People can arrive at any time and walk through the different activities at

their own pace. They should try to arrive by 2 p.m. to give themselves enough time.

It generally takes between thirty minutes to an hour depending on one's time frame.

People should enter through the front doors, unless they require the handicapped entrance, which is in the back of the church.

Trinity Episcopal hosts St. Patrick's Day dinner

WARE – Trinity Episcopal Church, 17 Park St., will host a St. Patrick's Day corned beef and cabbage dinner on Sunday, March 17 from 5-6:30 p.m.

The cost is \$15 per meal, and is available drive-up or take-out. The menu includes corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots, bread and dessert.

For reservations, please call 413-967-6100 and leave your name, phone number and the number of meals you'd like to order.

All proceeds from the dinner benefit parish mission and ministries serving the community.

TO ADVERTISE IN THE BARRE GAZETTE,
CALL TIM MARA AT 978-355-2254

Historical Commission continues to work on Mary Lane plan

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – The Historical Commission meeting on Feb. 26 focused on figuring out a plan for reviewing the reuse of the Baystate Mary Lane Hospital property during the current demolition delay period.

Mary Lane Hospital, which served the community of Ware and neighboring communities for nearly a century, is currently under a nine-month demolition delay. In this nine-month period, the Historical Commission is to collaborate with Baystate Health to consider alternatives to demolition of the buildings and uses that would be most beneficial for the redevelopment of the site.

Baystate Health plans to demolish the property and possibly sell it to Westmass Development. Westmass manages large-scale development projects, prepares district development strategies, and has successfully developed financing and incentive packages.

Based on company information, Westmass Development has experience in site planning and analysis, green infrastructure and low impact development and historic preservation projects.

The Historical Commission was informed that Baystate Health was planning to sell the Mary Lane Hospital property to Westmass Development for \$1 to redevelop the property for uses beneficial to the community. The Historical Commission questioned if other companies were offered a similar opportunity.

Representing Baystate Health



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

Baystate Mary Lane Hospital has been closed since the fall of 2023 and the site is currently under a nine-month demolition delay. This view of the site is from its entrance off Marjorie Street.

on Monday was Attorney Peter Barry of Bulkley, Richardson & Gelinas, LLP alongside President of Baystate Regional Hospitals, Ronald Bryant. In regard to selling the property for a low price, Barry suggested it is part of Baystate's willingness to sell the property for less than the property's fair market value with the intent of it being used to benefit the town of Ware.

"Baystate's purpose is to redevelop the properties for the better of the community," said Barry.

According to residents and Commission members in atten-

dance, while Mary Lane Hospital was operational in 2016, the town of Ware was under the understanding that the hospital was still going to remain open for a good while. Baystate Health would make its initial announcement about the closure of Mary Lane Outpatient Center in January of 2021.

The Historical Commission has a plan in progress during the demolition delay.

"The intention is to save the historic building," said Chair Lynn Lak.

The Historical Commission wants to meet with the Hospital

Review Committee and architects to help devise a plan. The commission is looking to craft a letter to send to potential healthcare companies who may express an interest in the property.

The Historical Commission is still unsure of Baystate's intentions and if they are truly willing to work with the town on the future of the 21-acre property.

Barry said that Baystate Health does want to work with the town of Ware and would consider a plan they'd present.

"Baystate wants what's best for the community," said Barry.

"Provide a plan that makes sense, we'll consider it."

According to the Historical Commission, the front Wetherbee building of Mary Lane Hospital should be saved and as it was stated in previous meetings, the Historical Commission does value the hospital as historically significant.

"We want something great for the town", said Wanda Mysona, Vice-Chair of the Historical Commission.

There is a disagreement between Baystate Health and the Historical Commission in regard to the layout of the buildings. After going over the ages of each part of the building, Barry found out that three building parts are under the age of 75 years and are not considered eligible for demolition delay.

Members of the Historical Commission believe that the buildings are one whole building, since all systems are intertwined making the building one connected entity.

The ownership and use of the Gilbert Trust is also a factor in the discussion and is being reviewed by a local resident. More information about the continued use of the trust will be reviewed by the Historical Commission and the Hospital Review Committee.

Memorializing options are still under advisement and Baystate Health said they would be willing to memorialize the building in some way if it is not preserved.

The Historical Commission also wants to stay in contact with state officials on all aspects of the Baystate Mary Lane work.

Additional meetings will take place between the Historical Commission, the Building Inspector, the Hospital Review Committee and HKT Architects.

Town Hall

The Historical Commission met with the Friends of Ware Town Hall to go over future repairs of the town hall. Sitting in with the Commission were Friends Treasurer Jane Desjardins and President Pat Skutnik.

The Friends of Ware Town Hall and the Historical Commission agreed to make window repairs the main priority. The two parties discussed how some windows and areas in the Great Hall are in need of updates. The railing on the balcony needs an upgrade as well in order for people to use the balcony space.

Inventory project

In order to update the Town's inventory of historic homes in the town of Ware, the Historic Commission wants to collect photographs of homes. The streets being reviewed include Church Street, Chestnut Street and South Street.

The Historical Commission is going to start with taking photos of their homes first before beginning photo shoots of other residents' homes. For community outreach, the Commission is asking residents to donate a picture if they live in a historic house.

Book Hunt

The Historical Commission's annual Book Hunt will occur on May 6. More details will be released after the Commission's March meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 25 at 6 p.m.

Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts has new CEO

HOLYOKE/WORCESTER – Following an extensive and thorough search process, Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts announces the appointment of Theresa Lynn as its new Chief Executive Officer.

Lynn brings with her a wealth of experience in non-profit leadership, having most recently served as Senior Vice President of the United Way of Central Massachusetts where she focused on fundraising, communications and some large grant making opportunities. Her dedication to community engagement is evident through her roles as the executive director for Back on My Feet, addressing homelessness and job insecurity in Boston, and as the executive director for ReadBoston for an impressive 14 years. She currently serves as a board member for the Worcester Education Collaborative and BioBuilder Education Foundation.

"I've long been a fan of Girl Scouts' legacy experiences from our outdoor adventure to the iconic

cookie program and an admirer of the cutting-edge STEM initiatives that create one-of-a-kind experiences," said Ms. Lynn. "I'm thrilled for the opportunity to join Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts and work alongside the staff, adult volunteers and community supporters who are deeply committed to serving today's members in exciting, future-focused ways because the need for female leadership has never been greater."

Theresa Lynn holds a Master in Public Administration from the Harvard Kennedy School, a Master in Business Administration from Boston University and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the College of Holy Cross. Her contributions in the community have been recognized by the Boston Celtics, who presented her with a Heroes Among Us award, and by the Boston Business Journal, which acknowledged her as a Top 40 Under 40 leader in Boston.

Nicole Messier, Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts

Board Chair, expressed the organization's excitement, stating, "We are so proud to welcome Theresa to the Girl Scouts family. Her proven leadership, innovative vision, and unwavering commitment to empowering young people align seamlessly with the values that define our organization. We are confident that under her guidance, GSCWM will continue to thrive and inspire the next generation of leaders. We're thankful to the search committee for their diligence in selecting a leader who shares our commitment to fostering a supportive and empowering environment for the members we serve. We look forward to the positive impact Theresa will undoubtedly make as she leads us in fulfilling our mission of developing girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place."

With Theresa Lynn at the helm, Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts is poised to embark on a new chapter of growth, innovation and positive influence in the 186 communities it serves.

Sustainable agriculture grant funding

Two Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education grant programs are calling for 2024 proposals.

Northeast SARE's Administrative Council has allocated \$750,000 for Partnership Grants and \$500,000 for Graduate Student Research Grants.

Partnership Grants fund researchers, educators and agricultural service providers working in direct partnership with farmers in the Northeast. Funded projects will design and implement innovative solutions to agricultural sustainability challenges, and strengthen connections between farmers and agricultural service providers.

Partnership Grant proposals are capped at \$30,000; about 30 projects will be awarded. Proposals are due April 9 at 5 p.m.

Graduate Student Research

Grants fund students conducting research under the supervision of a faculty advisor on sustainable agriculture topics of importance to Northeast farmers, agricultural researchers, and farm support professionals.

Graduate Student Research Grant proposals are capped at \$15,000; about 30 projects will be awarded. Proposals are due April 16 at 5 p.m.

Northeast SARE – including funding decisions – is guided by its outcome statement:

"Northeast agricultural communities honor the holistic connection among land, water, air, and all living beings. Agriculture in the Northeast is accessible, sustainable, and just, addressing historic and current inequities so all farmers and farm employees can steward resources to ensure sustainability, resilience, econom-

ic viability, and a high quality of life."

Live question and answer sessions for both grant programs will take place throughout March and into April. These sessions are a great opportunity for potential applicants to learn if a Northeast SARE Grant is right for them.

They are also a chance to build understanding around how to successfully write and manage Northeast SARE grants.

Partnership Grant Q&A sessions will take place March 5, 13, 19, and 27 from noon-1 p.m. To register, visit <https://northeast.sare.org/2024PartnershipGrantQA>.

Graduate Student Research Grant Q&A sessions will take place March 12, 20, 26, and April 3 from noon-1 p.m. To register, visit <https://northeast.sare.org/2024GraduateStudentGrantQA>.

Public Notices

PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING

Quabbin Regional School District

QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 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.licenotices.org 02/29, 03/07/2024

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: 3GNBABFW8BS620076 Robert L Goodman 111 Perseverance Mine Ct Nevada City, CA 95959 02/22, 02/29, 03/07/2024

Town of Barre Public Hearing Notice

Transfer of Liquor License

Change of Manager

TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Selectmen will conduct a Public Hearing on **Monday, March 18, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Select Board Meeting Room, Henry

Woods Building, 40 West Street, Barre, MA on the following proposed amendments of a Wines & Malt Retail License from Tisha, Inc. DBA Red Tomato Pizza to RHEA, Inc. for premises located at 11 Exchange Street, Barre, MA, and Change of Manager to Anastasios Kyris. Persons wishing to comment may do so at that time. The Board will also consider written comments received prior to the hearing.

For the Select Board: Tammy Martin Town Administrator 03/07, 03/14/2024



Country Bank announces promotions

Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serving Central and Western Massachusetts announces recent promotions of several key team members, who have demonstrated exceptional dedication and expertise in their respective roles.

These promotions reflect the bank's commitment to recognizing and developing talent within the organization.

Shane Elder has been promoted to First Vice President, Business Banking Team Lead. With over 11 years of experience in commercial lending and eight years in commercial lending management, Elder has proven himself as a valuable asset to the Business Banking Department. In addition to his role as Team Leader, he also oversees the Cash Management Sales Department.

Brett LoCicero has been promoted to First Vice President, Facilities and Security. With seven years of service to the bank, LoCicero's expertise in managing facilities and security operations. He holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Nichols College and is pursuing his Project Management Professional certification.

Justin Calheno has been pro-

moted to Vice President, Retail Lending Business Development Officer. With an impressive 20 years of lending experience, including the last seven years with Country Bank, Calheno brings a wealth of knowledge to his role. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in business management from Westfield State University and is currently attending the American Banker Association – Stonier Graduate School of Banking.

Antonio Palano has been promoted to Vice President, Retail Lending. Tony's 15-year tenure at Country Bank showcases his commitment and dedication to the organization. Having progressed through various roles, he currently manages the Retail Lending Servicing and Operations Departments. Palano holds an Associate's Degree in business administration from Springfield Technical Community College and is a 2023 graduate from the New England School of Financial Studies.

Cuc Nguyen has been promoted to Retail Banking Officer of the Paxton Banking Center. With over 16 years of banking experience, Cuc brings a wealth of knowledge to her new role. Her previous experience at Commerce Bank, Berkshire Bank and DCU has

equipped her with a deep understanding of frontline management and customer satisfaction. Nguyen holds a Bachelor's Degree in business administration and inance from Southern New Hampshire University.

"We are excited to announce the promotions of Shane, Brett, Tony, Justin, and Cuc," said Miriam Siegel, First Senior Vice President, Chief Culture and Development Officer of Country Bank. "We are thrilled to be able to recognize their hard work, dedication and contribution to the Bank's success. We are proud to support the commitment of all of our team members to their ongoing professional and personal growth leading them down all of the many career paths in community banking today."

Country Bank congratulates these individuals on their well-deserved promotions and looks forward to their continued success in their new roles.

About Country Bank

Country Bank serves central and western Massachusetts with 14 offices in Ware, Palmer, West Brookfield, Brimfield, Belchertown, Wilbraham, Ludlow, Leicester, Paxton, Charlton and Worcester.

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

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

Public Safety

Barre Police Log

Sunday, Feb. 18
 12:28 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Old Colbrook Road, Transported to Hospital
 3:07 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Trafalgar Square, Officer Spoke to Party
 5:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Vehicle Towed
 Summons: Blair, Kathleen Helen, 53, Worcester
 Charges: Uninsured Motor Vehicle, Unregistered Motor Vehicle

Monday, Feb. 19
 4:55 p.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Kruse Road, Fire Extinguished

Tuesday, Feb. 20
 11:13 a.m. Public Assist, South Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 1:34 p.m. Public Assist, South Street, Information Taken
 3:25 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, School North Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 4:57 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Summer Street, Criminal Complaint
 Summons: Peckham, Samuel A., 30, South Barre
 Charges: Unregistered Motor Vehicle
 6:04 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle

Activity, Summer Street, Officer Advised

Wednesday, Feb. 21
 1:49 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Hardwick Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 8:27 a.m. Road Condition Notification, Town Farm Road, Referred to Other Agency
 10:30 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Worcester Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 3:19 p.m. Erratic Operator, Mechanic Street, Public Assist
 3:50 p.m. Motor Vehicle Hit and Run, Barre Depot Road, Information Given
 4:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Barre Road, Written Warning
 11:11 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Valley Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal

Thursday, Feb. 22
 12:31 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, South Street, Unfounded
 9:34 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Hubbardston Road, Animal Returned to Owner
 3:15 p.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, North Brookfield Road, Negative Contact

5:06 p.m. Larceny or Theft, Summer Street, Report Filed
 Summons: Grandone, Emily, 31, Barre
 Charges: Shoplifting by Asportation
 7:28 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, New Braintree Police Department, Mutual Aid Assist
 10:50 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Whole Town, Message Delivered

Friday, Feb. 23
 5:33 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Abdominal – Back Pain, Harty Road, Transported to Hospital
 7:36 a.m. Fraud or Forgery, Oakham Road, Investigation (On Going)
 10:24 a.m. Road Condition Notification, Barre Depot Road, Report Filed

Saturday, Feb. 24
 1:45 a.m. Be On Alert Notification, North Brookfield, Message Delivered
 11:22 Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Citation Issued
 10:12 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Oakham, Mutual Aid Assist

Rutland Police Log

Sunday, Feb. 18
 4:02 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Written Warning
 8:34 a.m. Complaint, Hillside Road, Investigated
 9:40 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Pleasantdale Road, Transported to Hospital
 9:41 a.m. Public Assist, Main Street, Public Assist
 2:41 p.m. Property – Lost and Found, Main Street, Officer Advised
 2:55 p.m. Property – Lost and Found, Maple Avenue, Property Returned
 5:35 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Bleeding (Non-Traumatic), Barre Road, Transported to Hospital
 9:34 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Oakham, Transported to Hospital
 11:12 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Sedona Circle, Officer Advised
 11:22 p.m. Follow-Up Investigation, Sedona Circle, Area Patrolled

Monday, Feb. 19
 5:35 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Written Warning
 5:54 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Falls, Main Street, Public Assist
 6:46 a.m. Emergency Medical Service, Woodside Avenue, Transported to Hospital
 10:14 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 11:34 a.m. Fraud or Forgery, Forest Hill Drive, Information Given
 11:36 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 11:56 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Maple Avenue, Mutual Aid Transported
 12:21 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Main Street, Mutual Aid Transported
 1:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 4:32 p.m. Follow-Up Investigation, Prospect Street, Officer Took Call
 7:30 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, East County Road, Officer Advised
 8:29 p.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, East County Road, Animal Returned to Owner
 9:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Disabled, Barre Paxton Road, Officer Advised

Service – Falls, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 2:38 p.m. Stolen Vehicle, Barre Paxton Road, Investigated
 3:12 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Turkey Hill Road, Report Filed
 7:09 p.m. Suspicious Person – Vehicle Activity, Barre Paxton Road, Investigated
 9:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Main Street, Officer Advised
 10:18 p.m. Noise Complaint, Wachusett Street, Officer Spoke to Party

Wednesday, Feb. 21
 5:15 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Miles Road, Written Warning
 7:14 a.m. Noise Complaint, Wachusett Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 7:16 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Criminal Complaint
 Summons: Mbarushimana, Ejide, 36, Worcester
 Charges: License Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle with, Speeding Rate of Speed Exceeding Posted Limit
 11:04 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Abdominal – Back Pain, Maple Avenue, Transported to Hospital
 12:59 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 1:32 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 1:56 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Turkey Hill Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 4:14 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Main Street, Report Filed
 4:20 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 4:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Written Warning
 5:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogusset Road, Written Warning
 9:04 p.m. Noise Complaint, Wachusett Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 9:07 p.m. Disorderly Conduct, Wachusett Street, Peace Restored
 11:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Fisherman's Road, Citation Issued

Services – Falls, Miles Road, Transported to Hospital
 10:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Written Warning
 11:36 a.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Main Street, Information Given
 11:43 a.m. Complaint, Main Street, Report Filed
 12:59 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Written Warning
 3:31 p.m. Follow-Up Investigation, Main Street, Officer Took Call
 4:44 p.m. Follow-Up Investigation, Main Street, Report Filed

Friday, Feb. 23
 2:25 a.m. Road Condition Notification, Whole Town, Message Delivered
 3:09 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issues, Maple Avenue, Citation Issued
 5:55 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Hapgood Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 6:46 a.m. Fire – Smoke Investigated, Main Street, Investigated
 7:55 a.m. Property Damage, Depot Road, Report Filed
 1:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Arrest(s) Made
 Arrest: Elias, Hugo, 32, East Hartford, CT
 Charges: License Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle with (Criminal Subsequent Offense), Speeding Rate of Speed Exceeding Posted Limit, Warrant
 1:17 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 3:24 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Barre Road, Transported to Hospital
 4:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Citation Issued
 4:25 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Citation Issued
 6:24 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Citation Issued
 7:09 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 9:09 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
 Summons: Loja, Jose, 36, Leicester
 Charges: Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle

Oakham Police Log

Sunday, Feb. 18
 5:35 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Bleeding (Non-Traumatic), Barre Road, Transported to Hospital
 6:21 p.m. Follow-Up Investigation, Barre Road, Referred to Other Agency
 10:27 p.m. Follow-Up Investigation, Long Pond Boat Ramp, Investigated

Monday, Feb. 19
 12:17 p.m. Animal Lost and/or Found, Old Turnpike Road, Animal Returned to Owner

Tuesday, Feb. 20
 9:55 a.m. Court Duty, East Brookfield District Court, Court Duty
 9:31 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Old Turnpike Road, Message Delivered

Wednesday, Feb. 21
 11:58 a.m. Follow-Up Investigation, Barre Road, Investigated

Thursday, Feb. 22
 10:49 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Whole Town, Message Delivered

Friday, Feb. 23
 5:55 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Hapgood Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 3:24 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Falls, Barre Road, Transported to Hospital

Saturday, Feb. 24
 7 a.m. Road Condition Notification,

Worcester Road, Referred to Other Agency
 6:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Bullard Road, Citation Issued
 10:08 p.m. Assault and Battery, Edson Road, Arrest(s) Made
 Arrest: Chabot, Nicholas S., 37, South Barre Road
 Charges: Assault & Battery with Firearm, Ammunition without FID Card, Possess, Firearm, Carry without License Loaded c269 s.10(n), Firearm Discharge within 500 Feet of Building, Firearm, Intoxicated License Carry c269 §10H, Firearm, Store Improper
 11:39 p.m. Trespasser or Prowler, Bechan Road, Officer Advised

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of Feb. 19-26, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 32 building/property checks, 36 directed/area patrols, eight traffic controls, five radar assignments, nine emergency 911 calls, three assist other agencies, seven citizen assists, one trespass, two motor vehicle investigations, one fire/other, one complaint and 11 motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Tuesday, Feb. 20
 8:20 a.m. Medical Emergency, Lower Road, Transported to Hospital
 3:06 p.m. Trespass, Church Lane, Unfounded
 10:50 p.m. 911 Disturbance, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital

Wednesday, Feb. 21
 7:38 a.m. Assist Citizen, Police Department, Officer Handled
 10:22 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Main Street, Investigated
 1:02 p.m. 911 Unattended Death, Parker Court, Investigated
 1:23 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Unknown Location, Spoken To
 8:17 p.m. Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital

Thursday, Feb. 22
 7:50 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Bridge Street, Services Rendered
 8:28 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 11:50 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Unknown Location, Spoken To
 2:28 p.m. Assist Citizen, Greenwich Road, Officer Handled
 3:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Barre Road, Investigated
 5:27 p.m. Assist Citizen, Bridge Street, Officer Handled

Friday, Feb. 23
 9:21 a.m. Fire/Other, Greenwich Road, Services Rendered
 12:20 p.m. Assist Citizen, Parker Court, Spoken To
 3:16 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Bridge Street, Transported to Hospital
 3:44 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital
 5:27 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Barre Road, Transported to Hospital
 Saturday, Feb. 24
 9:02 a.m. Assist Citizen, North Street, Services Rendered
 1:11 p.m. Assist Citizen, Lower Road, Officer Handled
 6:12 p.m. Parking Complaint, Main Street, Negative Contact
 11:16 p.m. 911 Assault, Patrill Hollow Road, Report Taken

Sunday, Feb. 25
 8:01 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Vehicle Towed
 1:43 p.m. Assist Citizen, Broad Street, Officer Handled

Monday, Feb. 26
 12:09 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Prospect Street, Transported to Hospital
 5:52 a.m. Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital

During the week of Feb. 26-March 4, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 55 building/property checks, 43 directed/area patrols, seven traffic controls, four radar assignments, 15 emergency 911 calls, two assist other agencies, two citizen assists, one harassment, one motor vehicle investigation, one investigation, three complaints, 13 safety hazards, three motor vehicle accidents, one animal call and 10 motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, Feb. 26
 8:45 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Barre Road, Transported to Hospital
 11:03 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Broad Street, Dispatch Handled
 11:20 a.m. 911 Suspicious Activity, High Street, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 3:29 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, Hardwick Road, Report Taken
 7:22 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 11:54 p.m. Medical Emergency, High Street, Transported to Hospital

Tuesday, Feb. 27
 8:23 a.m. Welfare Check, High Street, Transported to Hospital
 10:51 a.m. Assist Citizen, Off Ruggles Street, Spoken To
 12:43 p.m. Complaint, Lyman Road, Spoken To
 2:34 p.m. 911 Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Pine Street, Transported to Hospital
 4 p.m. Fire Alarm, Old Petersham Road, Investigated

Wednesday, Feb. 28
 6:07 a.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, Dow Road, Summons Issued
 5:09 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Pond Road, Transported to Hospital
 8:59 p.m. Fire Alarm, Old Petersham Road, Services Rendered
 11:02 p.m. Safety Hazard, Fiske Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

Thursday, Feb. 29
 1:12 a.m. Safety Hazard, Pine Street, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 3:15 a.m. Safety Hazard, Church Street, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 4:14 a.m. Safety Hazard, Upper Church Street, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 7:29 a.m. Safety Hazard, North Road, No Action Required
 8:36 a.m. Safety Hazard, Fiske Road, No Action Required
 9:12 a.m. 911 Safety Hazard, Chagnon Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 9:44 a.m. Safety Hazard, Breen Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 9:57 a.m. Safety Hazard, Sessions Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 10:25 a.m. Safety Hazard, North Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 10:26 a.m. Safety Hazard, Patrill Hollow Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 12:04 p.m. 911 Safety Hazard, Chagnon Road, No Action Required
 12:50 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Greenwich Road, Services Rendered
 1:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, High Street, Transported to Hospital

Friday, March 1
 9:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Greenwich Road, Officer Handled
 10:07 p.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Unknown, Officer Handled

Saturday, March 2
 2:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Written Warning
 2:30 p.m. Assist Citizen, Lower Road, Officer Handled
 3:30 p.m. Investigation, Church Lane, Officer Handled

Sunday, March 3
 10:26 a.m. Harassment, River Run, Officer Handled
 10:31 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Citation Issued
 10:59 a.m. 911 Misdiagnosis, High Street, Transferred Call to C7
 11:04 a.m. Suspicious Activity, Gilbertville, Services Rendered
 11:28 a.m. Safety Hazard, Joslyn Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 2:31 p.m. 911 Misdiagnosis, Prospect Street, Services Rendered
 4:30 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Joslyn Road, Written Warning
 6:29 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, Lower Road, Report Taken
 9:26 p.m. Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital

Hubbardston Police Log

Sunday, Feb. 18
 2:22 p.m. Property – Lost and Found, Information Taken
 4:16 p.m. Fire – Structure Fire, Main Street, Investigated

Monday, Feb. 19
 9:48 a.m. Fire – Public Service Call, Main Street, Investigated
 4:53 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Williamsville Road, Vehicle Towed
 4:55 p.m. Fire – Structure Fire, Kruse Road, Fire Extinguished
 4:56 p.m. Suspicious Person – Vehicle Activity, New Templeton Road, Area Patrolled
 9:01 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Barre Road, Vehicle Towed

Tuesday, Feb. 20
 1:35 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Gardner Road, Transported to Hospital

1:44 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Worcester Road, Report Filed

Wednesday, Feb. 21
 9:40 a.m. Suspicious Person – Vehicle Activity, Dogwood South Road, Officer Advised
 12:30 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, New Templeton Road, Chief Took the Call
 3:31 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Barre, Mutual Aid Assist
 9:14 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Lombard Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal

Thursday, Feb. 22
 4:19 p.m. Serve Paperwork, Plum Tree Lane, Paperwork Served

Friday, Feb. 23
 3:03 a.m. Road Condition Notification, Whole Town, Message

Delivered
 2 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Written Warning
 3:30 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Williamsville Road, Report Filed
 11:43 p.m. Emergency Medical Service, Overdose/Poisoning Laurel Street, Transported to Hospital

Saturday, Feb. 24
 7:31 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Gardner Road, Transported to Hospital
 10:20 a.m. Fraud or Forgery, Main Street, Report Filed
 11:19 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Evergreen Road, Transported to Hospital
 3:59 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Westminster, Officer Spoke to Party
 6:18 p.m. Lockout (Home or Vehicle), Worcester Road, Entry Gained

New Braintree Police Log

During the week of Feb. 19-26, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to nine building/property checks, 19 directed/area patrols, six traffic controls, one radar assignment, two emergency 911 calls, two citizen assists, two assist other agencies, two animal calls and three motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

Monday, Feb. 19
 5:09 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Cut Off Road, Citation Issued
 6:43 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

Wednesday, Feb. 20
 8:28 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Barre Road, Services Rendered

Thursday, Feb. 21
 7:03 p.m. Welfare Check, Unitas Road, Arrest(s) Made

Friday, Feb. 22
 12:09 p.m. Carbon Monoxide Alarm, North Brookfield Road, Services Rendered
 1:34 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Services Rendered
 6:13 p.m. Assist Other Agency,

Bernard Whitney Road, Officer Handled

Sunday, Feb. 23
 5:03 p.m. Medical Emergency, Tucker Road, Transported to Hospital

During the week of Feb. 26-March 4, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 18 building/property checks, 28 directed/area patrols, eight traffic controls, four emergency 911 calls, two citizen assists, one assist other agency, six safety hazards, two animal calls and six motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

Monday, Feb. 26
 1:22 p.m. 911 Disturbance, Sibley Road, Officer Handled
 1:49 p.m. 911 Welfare Check, Barre Cut Off Road, Investigated
 2:39 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

Wednesday, Feb. 28
 4:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old Turnpike Road, Citation Issued
 4:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Citation Issued
 10:16 p.m. Safety Hazard, Hardwick Road, Removed Hazard

7:31 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Gardner Road, Transported to Hospital
 10:20 a.m. Fraud or Forgery, Main Street, Report Filed
 11:19 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Evergreen Road, Transported to Hospital
 3:59 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Westminster, Officer Spoke to Party
 6:18 p.m. Lockout (Home or Vehicle), Worcester Road, Entry Gained

Thursday, Feb. 29
 2:20 a.m. Safety Hazard, West Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 5:02 a.m. Safety Hazard, Gilbertville Road, Dispatch Handled
 7:17 a.m. Safety Hazard, West Brookfield Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 11:42 a.m. Safety Hazard, Padre Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 1:50 p.m. Safety Hazard, Webb Road, Removed Hazard

Friday, March 1
 7:27 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Services Rendered
 11:04 a.m. Medical Emergency, Memorial Drive, Transported to Hospital
 3:07 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

Saturday, March 2
 7:09 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old Turnpike Road, Citation Issued
 3:31 p.m. Welfare Check, West Road, Transported to Hospital

Sunday, March 3
 4:27 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning

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