BARRESGAZETTE

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Town election takes place April 3

By Ellenor Downer

Editor

edowner@turlev.com

BARRE – The Annual Town Election will be held on Monday, April 3 with the polls open from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Precinct one is located at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road and Precinct 2 at American Legion Post 2, 450 South Barre Road.

There are two contests on the ballot with two candidates for one three-year term to the Select Board and four candidates for two positions as Library Trustee. Incumbent Gregory P. O'Sullivan, 27 School St. North and Mark A. Regienus, 300 Springhill Road seek a seat on the Select Board.

Catherine Chase, 120 Hardwick Road, a candidate for re-election; Heather Rene Bernard, 1629 West St.; Charlotte A. Gareau, 20 Oakham Road and Allison Nicole Laundis, 127 Root Road all seek the two positions for three-year terms as Library Trustee.

All other positions on the ballot are uncontested. Michael G. Landry, 463 West St., seeks another three-year term to the Board of Assessors. Christopher J. Jenkins, 788 Dana Road, is running for a two-year term to the Board of Assessors.

Karen Keegan, 168 Main St. and a candidate for re-election, seeks a three-year term on the Board of Health. Incumbent John J. Pimental Jr., 785 Williamsville Road, is running for a three-year term as Water Commissioner.

Glen C. Alt, 53 Summer

See TOWN ELECTION, page 5

Gilbert Players present 'Chicago';

opening Friday

By Paula Ouimette

Editor

pouimette@turley.com

HARDWICK – The Gilbert Players are getting ready to put on the old "razzle dazzle" in preparation of what is sure to be their best show ever, the vaudeville musical "Chicago."

"Chicago" is one of the longest running shows on Broadway, logging almost three decades of crime, corruption, dark humor, sex appeal and of course, dance.

"It's been a dream of ours," Artistic Director and Producer Linda Klem Tomasi said of performing the show on The Center at Eagle Hill's stage. "This theater lends itself to cabaret."

The Gilbert Players have waited eight years to secure the rights to perform the incredibly popular musical, and the timing just couldn't be better.

With an all-star cast of Gilbert Players regulars as well as many newcomers, Tomasi said each actor is perfectly cast in their roles.

"It ["Chicago"] was always done with young girls, but I was hoping to get that middle-aged woman," Tomasi said.

The reason for this, is many of the women in the Cook County Jail have been there for many years, serving lengthy sentences for murder.

"When we're at this age, we don't get to perform a lot," Tomasi said. "If we didn't get these women, we wouldn't have done it...I want women who fit the role."

One of those women is Julie Bouchard, who many will recognize for her iconic portrayal



Turley Publications Photos by Paula Ouimette

Julie Bouchard (center) performs as Velma Kelly.

of the villain in many of Gilbert Players productions.

Bouchard first performed "Chicago" at Theatre at the Mount 23 years ago, and said this was her last shot to play lead Velma Kelly.

"It's my favorite musical of all time," she said. "I'm used to playing the villain, but I love that Velma and Roxie are able to connect at the end."

This is Bouchard's first time working with Rutland resident Kaitlin Ekstrom-Doig, who plays Roxie Hart.

Together, Bouchard and Ekstrom-Doig also led the choreography.

While many of the cast members are not trained dancers,

See CHICAGO, page 7



Billy Flynn is played by James Lamoureux, who many may recognize from his role as Gaston in "Beauty and the Beast".

Select Board sets STM for April 25

Warrant to close Monday, March 27

By Ellenor Downer

Editor

edowner@turley.com

BARRE – The Select Board during their regular business on Monday, March 20 voted to set the Special Town Meeting for Tuesday, April 25.

They also voted to open the warrant that night and close it on Monday, March 27 at 5 p.m. This would give Town Administrator Jessica Sizer time to complete the warrant before she leaves for her new position.

The Board asked the 250th Anniversary Committee to present a warrant article for the STM in writing. Select Board Chair Maureen Marshall said the article did not need to contain the actual amount requested at this time.

They voted to appoint Amanda Clapman to fill her late mother's position on the 250th Anniversary Committee. Clapman was not a resident of Barre, but she grew up in Barre. The Town Administrator said the charge to the committee did not include a resident requirement.

Town Administrator report

The Town Administrator in her report offered information for a smooth transition to an Interim Town Administrator. She included a list of all projects currently in the works, budget information including the latest revenue projections and information about the

See BARRE STM, page 5

Select board selects interim town administrator

By Ellenor Downer

Editor

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BARRE – Select Board Chair Maureen Marshall and member John Dixson interviewed two candidates for the position of interim town administrator.

Vice-chair Greg O'Sullivan arrived after the interviews.

Chair Marshall said to both candidates, Robert Reed and Greg Balukonis, Town Administrator Jessica Sizer would be leaving the end of next week for a position with the state. The interim town administrator would fill in during the busy budget and town meeting season. The board planned on making a quick decision on the interim position and would notify the candidates within 24 hours.

She said the board would begin the search for a full-time Town Administrator after the Annual Town Meeting.

The two candidates were both



retired Town Administrators, who currently filled in as interim town administrators. Both candidates said they were not interested in the full-time position.

Reed, the first to be interviewed, said he served recently as interim for Rutland and Sturbridge.

He said the fundamental job as an interim was to ensure all deadlines were met and the town moved smoothly.

Reed said when he was Town Administrator in Leicester he did a "lot of regional work" and said the town received grants for regional cooperation. He said regional agreements were the "way to go for small towns."

Balukonis said he started his career in Orange and most recently he was interim in Webster and before that Blackstone. He said the interim was an "opportunity to put things in good condition for the new Town Administrator." Balukonis said his budget approach was conservative. He said while he was at Blackstone he negotiated five collective bargaining contracts.

Neither candidate had procurement officer certification.

See SELECT BOARD, page 7

Chamber's Legislative Breakfast looks at region's needs

By Richard Murphy Correspondent

WARE – Last Thursday morning, people gathered in the dining room Cedarbrook Village at Ware to enjoy a hearty breakfast buffet while socializing.

The repast, however pleasant, was not the reason for attendance. Guests and members of the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce were there for a Legislative Breakfast, hosted by the Chamber.

Andrew Surprise, Chief Executive Officer of the Chamber took the podium to introduce the event. He spoke about the purpose of the day and mentioned the next QHCC event is to be held April 19 at Diamond Junction Lanes in Palmer and will combine bowling and cider tasting, as well as Chamber business.

The first legislative speaker would be state Sen. Ryan Fattman from Webster who represents towns in Hampden and Worcester counties in the state senate.

He addressed the East-West Passenger Rail, a project that has been a long time coming. The other members would also speak about the initiative to restore rail



Turley Publications Photos by Paula Ouimette
State Sen. Anne Gobi spoke about the EastWest Rail project, and issues employers face
recruiting and retaining employees.

service west of Worcester.
Fattman would be back at the

podium later, but next up would be state Rep. Todd Smola,

Smola of Warren serves towns in Hampshire, Hampden and Worcester Counties. He spoke about the aforementioned East-West Rail project, and noted it is picking up momentum.

Smola addressed the problems the state is experiencing regarding employment. It is a different world with the rise of remote hiring vermployers face live ees. has sus brick and mortar.

the state potential hires flock to, but we need them. Regulation and policy need to be balanced.

He said we are not necessarily

Smola characterized the Healy administration's budget as solid.

Long-serving legislator, Spencer's state Sen. Anne Gobi, representing towns in Worcester and Hampden County, came up to speak. Pledging herself to brevity, she kept her word.

Gobi is well aware of the East-



Massachusetts is an expensive place to live, with average housing costs nearing half a million dollars.

ber of the commission, and spoke about the two more hearings coming up regarding the issue. She also spoke about the extremely difficult issue of recruitment and retention of employees.

West Rail question, being a mem-

Fattman returned to the podium to address issues in more depth.

The senator addressed how many people are leaving the

See CHAMBER BREAKFAST, page 7





Do you have a story to tell, let us know 413.283.8393

News of the Towns



Round Town Ellenor Downer 413-967-3505

Quabbin NJROTC holds spaghetti dinner

The Quabbin High School Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps will hold its Spring Fling Spaghetti Dinner on Thursday, March 30 from 5-7 p.m. in the cafeteria at the Quabbin High School/Middle School, 800 South St. It's an all you can eat spaghetti festival including pasta, meatballs, salad, rolls and choice upon choice of homemade desserts. Tickets may be purchased in advanced from any Cadet or at the door of the community entrance to the high school

Adult tickets are \$9; child tickets are \$5 and, children under 2 eat free. During the dinner, there will be several raffle items of interest including a Fire TV and a Red Sox game package worth nearly \$1,000. All proceeds will defray the cost of numerous NJROTC educational activities and initiatives to enable all Cadets to take advantage of every opportunity of the program. Cradle Rock pancake breakfast

The next designer pancake breakfast sponsored by Cradle Rock Chapter Order of Eastern Star will be held Saturday, April 1 from 7:30-10:30 a.m. at Mt. Zion Masonic Hall, 71 Pleasant St. Cost is \$9 per person for adults and \$5 for children age 10 and under. All are welcome. People can design their favorite pancakes, maybe apple, blueberry, banana, nuts, choc chips and more. Complete breakfast includes; pancakes, waffles, sausage biscuits with gravy, bacon, sausage, juice and coffee and "real" maple syrup.

Food pantry distributions

The next two Barre Food Pantry distributions will occur on Wednesday April 12 from 10-11:30 am and on Thursday, April 20 from 5:30-7 p.m. Clients are invited to pick up groceries from the food pantry either in the morning on Wednesday, April 20 or the evening on Thursday, April 20, whichever is more convenient for them. In order to maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients April 12 and April 20 will again be "drive-through" style distributions. Clients will line up in their vehicles on Park Street and proceed into the right hand (east) entrance driveway of the Barre Congregational Church. They will remain in

See ROUND TOWN, page 11

Gunner's Mate 2nd Class Tianna Hester on board USS Nimitz



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Caitlin Flynn U.S. Navy Machinist's Mate 1st Class Jordan Hailey from Winston-Salem, North Carolina, from left and Gunner's Mate 2nd Class Tianna Hester, from Barre, Massachusetts, inspect maintenance documents aboard the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68).

is in U.S. 7th Fleet conducting routine operations. 7th Fleet is the U.S. Navy's largest

PHILIPPINE SEA – Nimitz forward-deployed numbered fleet, and routinely interacts and operates with Allies and partners in preserving a free

and open Indo-Pacific region. Gunner's Mate 2nd Class Tianna Hester from Barre is aboard the USS Nimitz.

New Braintree Library to hold story time

NEW BRAINTREE -Monday, April 3 at the New Braintree Public Library, 45 Memorial Drive.

The two readings will be twice a month on Mondays at information.

"The Night Before Easter" Easter and bunnies will be by Natasha Wing and "The the focus of Story Time on Bunny of Bluebell Hill" by Tim Preston. Story Time is a reading and crafts program for preschool children held

the library and begins at 9:30

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

Hubbardston Ellenor Downer edowner@turley.com



C.A.S.H Scholarship applications due **April 15**

The Hubbardston Civic Association has been awarding scholarships since 1967.

The organization awards three \$1000 scholarships to any Hubbardston resident, who will be attending college or trade school full time. The deadline to apply is Saturday, April 15. The winners are responsible, after their fall semester of the award, to forward their semester grades and proof of attending their spring semester and then the \$1,000 check will be mailed to them.

Applications are available by visiting the town website at hubbardstonma.us and clicking on Civic Association Scholarship for Hubbardston. They should be mailed to: Civic Association Scholarship of Hubbardston, Scholarship Selection Committee, P.O. Box 375, Hubbardston, MA 01452 or through the student's guidance department.

Rabies clinic

Gardner Animal Control Facility, 899 Broadway, Gardner, will be holding a rabies clinic on Sunday, April 2, from 9 a.m.-noon. Pre-registration is required. The registration form is available by visiting the Hubbardston website at www.hubbardstonma.us. People will receive a call with their appointment time. Only exact cash will be accepted.

Senior center events

The Hubbardston Senior Center, 7A Main St., events include: Coffee with Friends Monday through Thursday at 9:45 a.m.; 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. Cribbage will be played on Thursday, March 30 from 1:30-3 p.m.

Post 2 to hold Easter Egg Hunt April 8

BARRE - Veterans at American Legion Post 2 will host a family oriented Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 8 at 1 p.m. at Post 2, 450 South Barre Road.

Cost is \$10 per family for ages 7 and under. Participants, who bring a non-perishable canned good, get \$5 off. The Easter Bunny will be in attendance so bring a camera.

BARRE — Elder Services of Worcester Area **Barre Food Pantry** to hold distributions

BARRE - The next two Barre Food Pantry dis tributions will occur on Wednesday April 12 from 10-11:30 am and on Thursday, April 20 from 5:30-7

Clients are invited to pick up groceries from the food pantry either in the morning on Wednesday, April 20 or the evening on Thursday, April 20, 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 sub variant viruses, the influenza virus and the respiratory syncytial virus. 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 with the prevalence of all three viruses this winter the board decided that the most responsible path forward is to continue to operate as we have since March of 2020.

In order to maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients April 12 and April 20 will again be "drivethrough" 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.

While the pantry typically used to have an "all hands on deck" approach to welcoming volunteers, in April they will once again be working with just a very small crew. Volunteers should not arrive without first contacting Dave Petrovick at 978-852-1696 or Chuck Radlo at 978-355-6463.

Because conditions have been changing rapidly, people should visit the Barre Food Pantry website at http://www.barrefoodbank.org/index. htm and the Barre Food Pantry Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/Barre-Food-Pantry-100156068300314/.

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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Barre Dining Center

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 April 3. 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 Fajitas, Spanish rice, black beans and corn, sour cream, pita bread, pineapple

TUESDAY - Lasagna with meatballs and Marinara sauce, roast broccoli and carrots, mixed fruit, Italian bread

WEDNESDAY - Roast pork with gravy, cranberry stuffing, winter blend vegetables, apple crisp, diet = applesauce, marble rye bread THURSDAY - Baked ham, sour cream with chive

mashed potatoes, glazed carrots, cream puff, French FRIDAY - Fish with crumb topping, rice pilaf,

roasted California vegetables, chocolate pudding, diet = diet chocolate pudding, pumpernickel bread

*Diabetic friendly dessert **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 \$2.50 per meal helps keep the program running.



978-632-0241

NOTICE

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

REMINDER: APRIL 30TH IS THE **DEADLINE TO REMOVE STUDDED TIRES**

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News of the Towns

PUBLIC MEETINGS

BARRE

Superintendent Search/Screening Subcommittee – March 30 at 6 p.m. Select Board – April 3 at 6:30 p.m. Board of Assessors – April 4 at 6 p.m. Annual Town Election – April 3 from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Felton Field Commission – April 4 at 6:30 p.m. Planning Board – April 4 at 7 p.m. Council on Aging – April 5 at 1 p.m. Barre Housing Authority – April 6 at 3 p.m. CMRPC Barre Master Plan Steering Committee -April 6 at 5:30 p.m.

Board of Health – April 10 at 5 p.m. Water Commission – April 10 at 6:30 p.m. DPW Commission – April 10 at 7 p.m. Cable Advisory Committee – April 11 at 7 p.m. Library Trustees – April 12 at 6:30 p.m. Sewer Commission – April 20 at 7 p.m. Cemetery Commission – April 27 at 11 a.m.

HARDWICK

Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee -March 31 at 9 a.m. Recycling Commission – April 4 at 6:30 p.m. Council on Aging – April 5 at 9 a.m. Board of Health - April 6 at 6:30 p.m. Paige Library Trustees – April 6 at 7 p.m. Wheelwright Water District – April 10 at 7 p.m. Gilbertville Public Library – April 12 at 4 p.m.

Gilbertville Water District – April 19 at 6:30 p.m. HUBBARDSTON

Conservation Commission – April 12 at 6:30 p.m.

Agricultural Advisory Committee – March 30 at 5

Historical Commission – April 1 at 10 a.m. Conservation Commission – April 4 at 7 p.m. Planning Board – April 5 and April 20 at 6:30 p.m. Memorial Day Committee – April 10 at 5 p.m. Board of Health – April 11 and April 25 at 7 p.m. MassDOT Public Information Hearing -

April 13 at 7 p.m. Council on Aging – April 19 at 6:30 p.m. Planning Board – April 20 at 6:30 p.m. Finance Committee Public Budget Hearing -April 20 at 6:30 p.m.

NEW BRAINTREE

Planning Board – April 3 at 7 p.m.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

Library Board of Trustees – April 3 at 6 p.m. Downtown Development Committee – April 3 at 6:30 p.m.

Town House Committee Meeting – April 12

Friends of the North Brookfield Town House -

April 12 at 7:10 p.m. Planning Board – April 19 at 6 p.m.

OAKHAM

Board of Health - April 19 and May 17 at 5 p.m..

PETERSHAM

Conservation Commission – April 4 at 6 p.m. Open Space & Recreation Committee – April 4

Board of Health – April 6 at 6 p.m. Board of Assessors – April / at 9 a.m. Council on Aging – April 10 at 10 a.m. Cemetery Commission – April 11 at 10 a.m. Petersham Historic District – April 20 at 6 p.m. Planning Board – April 27 at 7 p.m.

RUTLAND

Board of Health – March 30 at 5 p.m. Finance Committee – March 30 at 6:15 p.m. Select Board Public Hearing – April 3 at 6 p.m. Ad Hoc By-Law Committee – April 4, April 11 and April 18 at 1 p.m

Community Outreach – April 6 at 6 p.m.

Paige Memorial Library to hold Pysanky workshop

HARDWICK - The Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, will host a Pysanky Workshop, April 4 at 6 p.m.

Participants will learn about the art, history and lore of the ancient Eastern European art of egg decorating, a wax process like batik. Legend has it that there is a huge evil creature chained to a hillside. Every year when Easter Eggs are decorated, the creature's bonds are tightened and its evil is kept in check. Spaces are limited, so registration is required. To register, people may visit the library, call 413-477-6704 or email director.paigelibrary@gmail.com. A \$5 donation to the Friends of the Paige Memorial Library for supplies is appreciated.

The Friends of the Paige Memorial Library seed library and raffle basket is back. People can choose some seeds, record what thye take, plant and nurture the seeds, borrow a book and buy some raffle tickets. The raffle basket is full of valuable gardening items including a \$50 gift certificate given by the Hardwick Farmers Coop. Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5. The drawing will be Sunday, May 21. For more information, people may email director.paigelibrary@gmail.com or call 413-477-6704.

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

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 orrection, 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.

Hardwick seeks grant funding for boiler replacement

By Dallas Gagnon Staff Writer dgagnon@turley.com

HARDWICK - Town Administrator Nicole Parker said because of more water damage caused by the heating system, all of the walls had to come down in the Board of Health/Conservation Office as well as the entire wood floor of the playgroup room.

There was also a small amount of mold found in the treasurer and collector's office.

"It's all encapsulated right now and there is this fan going [but] it's really disruptive for them," Parker said at the Monday night

She added, "They had a floating floor and then a sub floor and then the hardwood underneath and even the hardwood may have to come up...It's not ideal, but we're making the best of it."

To replace the boiler, it would cost "approximately a million

The Green Community grant Parker was hoping to use for a boiler is at \$200,000. Parker said she is, "looking for other grants and funding sources" and has reached out for repairs in the

"Green energy came out and they were the ones that I requested to give us a quote so I could write a Green Community grant for a new boiler," said Parker. However, as there is a \$200,000 cap, "we pivoted a little bit."

The grant could potentially be used to replace doors and add insulation on municipal buildings including the highway and fire department in an effort to save energy as they "consume the most" energy.

Superintendent's report

Water Pollution Control Facilities Superintendent Scott Potter said they are experiencing "a lot of alarms at the Wheelwright pump station," that "hopefully the warmer weather will put a stop to."

A motor was changed out of one of the aeration tank mixers in Gilbertville. The change was

PALMER – The Chicopee

4 Rivers Watershed Council

invites everyone to a spring

kick-off event on Thursday,

April 20 from 7-8 p.m. (doors

open at 6:30 p.m.) at Palmer

Historical Cultural Center,

who they are, what they have

done and what they plan to do

ers, caring for them and enjoy-

Trails to enjoy and care for,

they monitor water quality,

restore places, and they hope

to do more. They are look-

ing to build a stronger group

of local river folk to connect

more people to our local rivers

C4R will talk about pad-

and to strengthen their work.

Friends of the Paige Memorial

Library's Seed Library

and raffle is back at the

Paige Memorial Library, 87

All are welcome to choose

in 2023 for our local rivers.

ing them.

Join C4R and catch up on

As we all get back to "normal" let's get back to the riv-

C4R created four Blue

2072 Main St., Three Rivers.

completed in house.

A gearbox was rebuilt by Mike Dougan of Environmental Equipment Repair Services, who did not charge for labor, but completed the project and only charged for parts.

Potter said Dougan has helped "quite a few times-both in Wheelwright and in Gilbertville... changing our pumps, changing our motors."

"It's really incredible," said

Preconstruction meeting

A preconstruction meeting for the Hardwick Road pump station took place March 22 at the Town House. Parker said the meeting included DPC Engineering, Richardi, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Potter, Highway Superintendent Marty Gryszowka and herself.

"Groundbreaking was supposed to take place in September but DPC was requesting that Richardi return some... testing soon to understand what kind of rock and ledge they are looking at. Richardi stated he can get some machinery to the location and perform some testing in May," said Parker.

Lead time for a generator was also discussed at the preconstruction meeting with a potential ship date of April 2024 with rental options as another possibility as the project "needs to be done by June of 2024."

There was discussion of the legal budget which is "running really high," due to the "location change and all of the extra legal work that needed to be done,"

said Parker. Parker said, "It was a good meeting overall, I think. We are moving forward, and the project

is moving forward." Personnel policy

The Board unanimously voted in favor to accept and adopt the personnel policy that is dated March 2023 "with the understanding that any financial impacts do not take effect until a new fiscal year or July 1 of 2023."

Chair Julie Quink said the personnel policy revisions have

C4R spring kick-off event April 20

been being discussed for over two years now, and it is "basically a complete overhaul of the personnel policy to make sure it's appropriate with current laws and that we are doing what we want to do for the town employees."

Appointments and approvals

The board motioned to accept the Mayflower evaluation quote for fiscal year 2024 state recertification in the amount of \$13,500.

John Petrgli was appointed to the Historical Commission with the approval of commission members including Emily Bancroft who spoke with Nicole Parker regarding his appointment.

He is appointed for a two-year term ending in June 2025.

Email domain

A quote from a company called "liftoff" was presented at the meeting to change the town employee emails from a ".com" domain to a ".gov."

"To do this for the annual... for the licenses, it's \$8,460 and a

\$3,500 one-time fee," said Parker. Formerly, a company called "net holsters" charged \$4,000 annually for the ".com" domain.

The fee also applies to Office 365, Plan G 3, Plan G 1 and exchange.

While the town website will remain ".gov," the board is unsure if they will transition to ".gov" emails in lieu of the \$4,000

ARPA spending

The Board approved the use of American Rescue Plan Act funding in the amount of \$3,859.31 for an emergency repair for a fire line break at the intersection by Upper Church Street and Church Street

Rural policy

Parker said she will be attending a meeting with Governor Healy and lieutenant governor Kim Driscoll in Deerfield to discuss the announcement of the creation of director of rural affairs.

"This is the first time that a staff is dedicated to rural policy... Hopefully we'll have some sort of liaison for rural policy," said

Oakham Ellenor Downer edowner@turley.com



Sunrise breakfast benefits Mississippi tornado victims

The Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, will hold an Easter breakfast following the Sunrise Service on Sunday, April 9 at 6:30 a.m. A free will offering will be taken to benefit Mississippi tornado victims. The breakfast menu includes scrambled eggs, pancakes with maple syrup, sausages, orange juice, coffee, tea and hot chocolate. As an Easter treat, homemade doughnut holes will also be served. The sunrise service is held behind the church.

Library events

Read and Play is held Wednesdays from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the Fobes Memorial Library, 4 Maple St.

All preschool children are invited. The next Read and Play is Wednesday, April 5. The Book Club will meet Wednesday, April 5 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at the library. The book is "Alas Babylon" by Pat Frank. No registration is required. Family paint night will be held Thursday, April 20 from 5:30-7 p.m. at the library. This free event is lead by Samantha Kirkland and is for ages 6 plus. Registration is required.

Church news

The Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, will observe Palm Sunday, April 2 at 10 a.m. A Maundy Thursday Service will be held on Thursday, April 6 at 7 p.m. On Easter Sunday, there will be a Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m. followed by a breakfast in Fellowship Hall and the regular Easter Sunday service at 10 a.m. There will be no Sunday School on Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday.

Couple celebrates 75th wedding anniversary



NORTH BROOKFIELD - Edmund J. Decoteau, age 98 and Jean M. (Baltrus) Decoteau, age 95, were married on April 2, 1948, at St. Stephen's Church in Worcester. The couple will celebrate their 75th anniversary and their life together this month with family and friends.

Poet John Brand presents at library April 4

WEST BROOKFIELD - The Merriam-Gilbert Public Library will be hosting local poet, John Brand, Professor Emeritus at Quinsigamond College and author of "Things I Might Have Said", for an evening of poetry on Tuesday, April 4 at 6:30

All are welcome to enjoy an entertaining session of personal storytelling that will make you laugh, think and feel, and hopefully entice you to continue exploring poetry with a newfound appreciation.

Please stop by or call the Library to register or call 508-867-1410.

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Sunday, May 21.

For more information,

email chicopeewatershed@

Hardwick Farmers Co-op.

Tickets are \$1 each or six

for \$5. The drawing will be

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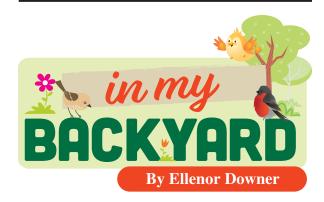
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TO ADVERTISE IN THE BARRE GAZETTE, CALL TIM MARA AT 978-355-2254

Opinion

Column



Snow Goose



Photo by Kyle Tourville

A Palmer resident and bird photographer sent an email this week. He said there was a snow goose in Palmer and it was his first time seeing the bird in this area. He shared this photo he took of the snow

Snow geese are about 29 inches long and are mostly white with black wing tips, which are prominent in flight. Immature snow geese are either light or dark gray with dark legs and bill.

Snow geese winter along the Atlantic and Pacific coast and summer in the tundra where they nest. They are highly colonial and winter in huge flocks, which can number in the tens of thousands. The female snow goose lays three to five white eggs in a nest of grasses and down placed near the water.

They dig up roots and tubers of aquatic plants and also feed on waste grain and tender shoots of grass. They make a high pitched honking.

Years ago, Ricky Adams in New Braintree called me to come see a flock of snow geese, which had landed in his field. It was a first time sighting for me and a thrill. Another Oakham resident was also there to see the geese.

Blue heron rookery

I received an email from a Hardwick resident. He said, "There is a great blue heron rookery at a beaver pond not far from my home in Hardwick. My wife and I often walk there. Last week my son and daughter in-law counted 20 blue herons." He said there were approximately 13 heron nests and one osprey nest. They are keeping an eye out for the return of the osprey

Purple finch and more

An Oakham couple recently saw a purple finch at their feeder. They also have lots of goldfinches and the males are sporting their spring yellow feathers.

Bears and more

I rsaid in a previous column about bears being out of hibernation and the loss of my suet feeder. An Oakham resident reported in an email he saw a bear crossing my road on two different occasions. He said, "I actually saw it twice. The first time was on Saturday, March 11 around 7:15 p.m. crossing between your home and your daughters, heading into the woods across from your residences. The following evening, I saw it again at 8 p.m. crossing at the same spot heading in the same direction. It wasn't a big bear and I couldn't tell if it was collared or not.'

He also said he was at work Monday night during the recent heavy snowstorm. While walking outside he noticed a bird, slightly smaller than a cardinal, flying under the light, then landing on the ground, then flying again. He was not sure what kind of bird it was, but it seemed confused by the bright, exterior lighting.

More blackbirds

I now have over a dozen red-winged blackbirds coming to my feeders. Since the bears are out of hibernation, I only put a small amount of seed out in the morning for the birds. I no longer have suet cakes hanging outside.

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

PEOPLE/MILESTONE NEWS

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

For more information, or to submit people or milestone news for the Barre Gazette, please email edowner@turley. com.

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@DAVEGRANLUND.COM

In Past Pages

5 years ago (March 2018)

More residents, 201, responded to a survey conducted by Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission than the 11 that attended a town public meeting last Wednesday. The Quabbin Educational and Municipal Partnership, formerly a task force changed with looking at school closing and consolidations such as shared and consolidated services. David Deschamps, member of QEMP, commented the five Quabbin district member towns were not in favor of closing or consolidating schools. According to the Quabbin Regional School District the town must vote to close a school, not the school committee.

Although Massachusetts voters approved the use of recreation marijuana at the November 2016 election, the town of Barre said no at this Monday's town election. Voters said yes to the first question on the ballot with 272 for and 242 opposed to prohibiting the establishment of marijuana retailer, store front within the town of Barre. They voted in the affirmative to prohibit the establishment of marijuana retailer, delivery only with the town of Barre. They voted yes on the final question to prohibit the establishment of marijuana retailer, marijuana social consumption establishment within the town of

Resident Robert Kane discussed the need to update the town's Open Space and Recreation Plan that expired in October 2017. He recommended that the board re-form the Open Space and Recreation Committee for the epurpose of updating the plan. He commented that having an expired plan might cause the town to lose out on grant oppor-

10 years ago (April 4, 2013)

The Oakham Board of Selectmen decided to make Deacon Allen Drive one-way from 7:30-8:30 a.m. and from 2-4 p.m. on days school is in session. People using Dewacon Allen Drive have been driving past the school buses when the bus lights are flashing. For safety reasons, people must enter Deacon Allen Drive from Coldbrook Road instead of Barre Road during those hours when students are dropped off or picked up.

The Petersham Board of Selectmen and the Advisory Finance Committee spent about two hours discussig the Petersham Center School budget with Superintendent Mike Bladassarre and School Committee member Chuck Berube. Tempers flared at times over the \$1,686,620 proposed budget for the coming year. A bone of contention was the budgeting process itself. Baldassarre explained that a zero-based process was used, where every line item is reviewed and all request must be justified.

In recognition for its commit-

LOOK BACK Petersham Antique Show - 1997



table full of tinware at the Petersham antiq was attractively arranged.

ment to safety and controlling costs, the town of Hardwick was awarded a \$5,000 loss control grant to install closed circuit camera security system at Hardwick Elementary School. Hardwick received the grant from the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association, which provides propery and casualty insurance to the town.

25 years (April 2, 1998)

The Oakham Town Accountant informed selectmen Monday night the town has unpaid legal expenses of \$16,300. The budget for the legal account was depleted several months ago and it will be necessary to hold a Special Town Meeting to ask voters to transfer money from Stabilization Fund to the legal account to pay the bill. According to the Town Accountant most of the money is for the Oakham Sand and Gravel case that was heard in land court in February. The judge has six months to make a decision.

More than 50 Oakham children recently participated in a bookmark design contest held in conjunction with the Robert Wile Children's Art Festival at Fobes Memorial Library. The children competed in four age groups. In the age four and under group first place winner was Erin Young. In the five to seven year old division, Kelley Young placed first. For the eight to ten year olds, Jeffrey Wells placed first. Jessica Katz received first place in the 11 to 12 year old division.

The Parent Teacher Organization at Ruggles Lane School will hold an Easter egg hunt on Saturday, April 4 at the school. The hunt is for Barre children ages 12 and under. The PTO is grateful to the Barre Business Association for its \$200 donation to support the event. The rain date is Saturday, April 11.

38 years (April 4, 1985)

James E. Sullivan, director of the Woods Memorial Library, announces the establishment with the Barre Library Association of the George S. Benouski Memorial Fund, the interest from which will be used for the purchase of books primarily in the are of adventure and fantasy. The fund was established by an initial contribution from Mr. and Mrs. George J. Benouski of Worcester Road and a gift form Mr. and Mrs. Karl J. Sladek III of Westford. John E. Benouski of Worcester Road has also contributed to the fund to which the Benouski family have indicated they plan to add from time to

The Barre Players announces that its spring production, "Sunrise at Campobello," will be presented on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening April 11-13 in the Barre Town Hall. This historical drama takes place between the years of 1921 and 1924 and chronicles the ascent of Franklin Delano Roosevelt from is diagnosis of crippling polio to his address at the Democratic National Convention. James Sullivan, Barre librarian and poet, leads the cast as FDR. His wife, the devoted Eleanor Roosevelt, is portrayed by JoLee Rengo.

Barre Selectmen are following upon sewerage overflow violation by Barre Wool. They are in receipt of a letter addressed to Walter Flister for the Barre Wool Combing Company from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The letter indicated that the overflows from the septic tanks at Barre Wool discharge directly into the Ware River, which is a direct violation of the Clean Water Act.

Guest column

Adventures of Gertrude the Cat

By Ruth Robinson

Dear Folks,

I am not sure Missy is speaking to me today after what I did yesterday.

In fact, I didn't get my nice buttered toast this morning. I was a little late going into the dining room while Missy was having her breakfast and she didn't even offer me any toast bits. I guess that is the breaks.



But you know folks, I enjoyed my caper and I simply couldn't resist. The dining room chair has been pushed next to the window and there hung Missy's new Christmas wind chimes. I jumped up and batted the chimes. They made such a pretty noise so I hit them a little harder to make them move faster.

That was my mistake. Down they came off the window lock and hit the floor. I don't think there was any damage, but it was a no no.

I decided to hide somewhere so Missy wouldn't find me right away. She had put a big box that held the strips for her rag rugs up on the bed in the spare room out of sight when the family came to visit last weekend. I had not trouble getting to the box, which was fairly deep, so you could not see me.

When Missy called and couldn't find me anywhere she looked all over the house and even went downstairs thinking I was in trouble. I heard Missy calling, but I was so comfortable there in the box I hated to get out.

I had no trouble getting in the box, but getting out with my arthritic legs was a problem. I finally made it and didn't tip the box over, which was a miracle as it

"Oh, there you are Gertrude. I was worried when I couldn't fine you. The wind chimes are just fine, but don't mess with them again because the glass top might break. Okay?'

I didn't know what to do so I purred loudly and rubbed agains her legs. I better be good the next few days and forget about messing up the papers.

Have a good week folks.

Love, Gertrude

Channeling **Thomas Paine**

Lawsuits and lawsuits galore, but no courage to speak inside the courtroom door

Raising greenbacks and greenbacks for counsel and more, grasping for power even more than before

Bashing Lady Justice - demanding immunity, no respect for the law - a life of impunity

Are you beginning to see all these patterns and flaws? Then remember: The law should be king and we have no king to be law!

> **Matt Castriotta** Hubbardston

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

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Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

I'm glad to see March go.

It has been a very hard winter. Spring has got to come. Some areas of the yard are bare so I have been out raking and mainly picking up pine branches.

The day I am writing this my daughter and son-inlaw are coming up to help with some things. I have a long list for each of them. I plan to have spaghetti and meatballs and sausage for lunch and made a pumpkin pie, which I will serve whipped cream on.

Each day I get ready to go down the driveway I wonder if there will be a tree or branch across the driveway, but so far it has been clear. We were lucky not to loose our power the last big snowstorm, but people won't believe that we had 36 inches of snow.

There is still about eight inches on the backyard. Ragged Hill Road has been very good, but it is narrow with bankings of snow on both sides. A few branches are hanging in the road so when you drive you have to be careful. I guess the highway department will have to come and cut the branches.

Several years ago I went to the Fitzwilliam Inn and had this dessert. It was published in the Heywood Wakefield family recipe book. It is an easy quick dessert to make

FITZWILLIAM INN ICE CREAM **CRUNCH BARS**

- 2 cups corn flakes
- 1 cup coconut
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup walnuts
- 1 cup melted butter

Blend all ingredients well. Drop balls of ice cream into mixture and roll until well coated. Top with your favorite fudge sauce or caramel sauce.

This and That

Not much is going on at Serenity Hill, but when the weather is above freezing I go out and rake the areas that can be raked. There are some daffodils coming up

in certain areas.

The dahlias and tuberous begonias I planted in the cellar in pots are coming up so I placed them in the cellar windows to grow slowly. I will bring them up to the living room later. Some of the hollyhock seeds have sprouted also.

I received a lovely letter from a former resident of Hubbardston, maiden name Sheila Poules, who lives in California recently. She lived on Brigham Street and her father was a member of the barbershop quartet that sang at the Blue Jacket dances during intermission. He was active in the CASH Scholarship Committee also. Sheila is a retired nurse.

I have been working on a lot of watercolor cards and full size 5 by 7 inches and 9 by 12 inch paintings. I have the paint table set up at all times in my craft room and paint when there is a quiet time. I also like to play CDs for music.

I went down to the senior center to get eggs on Thursday and got potatoes and lettuce. Went inside to borrow a couple of books to read and was surprised to find out that Hannaford Store had sent over two tables full of pastries that included breads, muffins, cookies, cakes and cupcakes. I brought home some delicious

It was also nice visiting with some of the seniors, who were having coffee there. We were discussing the 1976 snow storm that brought memories back to us. One of the men there was on the highway department at that time and mentioned they had to use the grader to get through Hale Road and Holden Road as there was so much snow.

Ken recalls going to work at Heald Machine Co. in Worcester and finding out it was closed and they had declared an emergency and he was not supposed to be on the road. He had a big station wagon that went through most anything and he had to come back home.

I hope spring comes soon.

Annual Easter egg hunt is April 1

HARDWICK - The Parks and Recreation Committee will hold their second annual Easter egg hunt at Gilbertville Memorial Park, Prospect Street, Gilbertville on Saturday, April 1 from 11 a.m.-1

The rain date is Sunday, April 2. The Easter Bunny will be available for photo opportunities.

'Spring Fling' craft and vendor fair April 1

WEST BROOKFIELD - The "Spring Fling" craft and vendor fair will be held at George Whitefield United Methodist Church, 33 West Main St., on Saturday, April 1 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Local crafts include fabric bags, pillows, toys, doll clothes, girls' dresses, paper boxes, spring décor, jewelry and more. The Church will host a bake sale and Grandma's Attic.

Spaghetti and meatballs will be served with salad and bread, eat-in or take-out, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

TOWN ELECTION,

continued from page 1

St., seeks a three-year term as Sewer Commissioner. Lawrence F. Marshall, 840 Pleasant St., is a candidate for re-election to a three-year term as Felton Field Commissioner.

dates are Karen Keegan, 168 Main St., for a one-year Planning Board Associate Member; Anthony F. Mobilio, 414 North Brookfield Road, for a five-year term as a Planning Board Member and incumbent, David Henry Marsh, 9 Butterworth Road, for a three-year term as a Quabbin Regional School Committee member.

The election ballot has one debt exclusion as provided by General Law c59§ 21C(k). The question reads, "Shall the Town of Barre be allowed to exempt Rounding off the ballot candi- from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued in order to purchase Fire Department Self Contained Breathing Apparatus; Fire Department Engine One;

Fire Department Engine Four; Ambulance; Highway Pick Up Truck With Plow; Highway 1 Ton Dump Truck With Plow; Solar Array?

A debt exclusion is a two part process, which requires not only approval of the ballot question at an election, but approval at town meeting as well. A majority vote must approve at the election and town meeting to be enacted.

Unlike a yes for a Proposition 2 ½ vote, which is forever, a debt exclusion lasts only for the term of

BARRE STM, continued from page 1

upcoming Special Town Meeting on Tuesday, April 25.

She said she would meet with the Interim Town Administrator next week. The two board members present at the time, Marshall and John Dixson, interviewed two candidates for the position, Greg Balukonis and Robert Reed, at the beginning of this meeting. Select Board Vice-Chair Greg O'Sullivan arrived after the interviews.

The Town Administrator said the contractor for the new sign at the Henry Woods Building needed to pull a permit to install the sign. She said the new elevator door contractor would provide a date of installation by the end of this

She said the town voted \$50,000

for a generator at Ruggles Lane School at a previous town meeting, but the amount was not enough. She also included a generator for the Barre Senior Center and hoped to get a better price quote for purchasing two generators rather than just the one for the school.

She recommended a sewer water rate study. Vice-chair O'Sullivan said currently town buildings do not pay for sewer and water use. Chair Marshall said Ruggles Lane School, Quabbin Regional High School and the Woods

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saw their ad in the

Barre Gazette

Memorial Library do pay for their sewer and water use, the other town buildings do not.

She also recommended the Board consider a home rule charter. She said the charter was a plan of government, which would clarify and strengthen the Town Administrator role.

She said she included a spreadsheet of American Rescue Plan Act money already expended. She said a survey of how ARPA funds should be used had cable access the top priority followed by a play-

She also said the Select Board had two choices for the Town Administrator search - hire a search firm or handle it "in house."

Quabbin School District

request

lective bargaining representative for the Quabbin Regional School District as per the regional agreement. Vice-chair O'Sullivan said he was the representative for the five-member select boards previously. He said, "[He] found it a waste of time" as the decision and discussion was already done by the collective bargaining subcommittee.

Other business

The Board appointed Richard Whippee and James Caruso to the Master Plan Steering Committee. Select Board member Dixson abstained as he was on that committee. The other two members of the Select Board appointed Dixson as Public Infrastructure Representative with Dixson abstaining.

The Board also approved the seasonal licenses for Coldbrook

The Select Board voted to par-RV Resort. ticipate in the naming of a col-

SPECIAL RIVER RAT RACE HOURS Saturday, April 8 – Open at 7:00 a.m. SPECIAL FOOD MENU

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Rice and Beans OMELETTE MEXICANO - Egg Tortilla Filled with Vegetables, Served with Rice and Beans.

CHORIZO WRAP BURRITO - Soft Flour Tortilla Filled with Mexican Sausage, Potatoes,

Scrambled Eggs, Rice and Beans Inside. CHICKEN TENDER WRAP BURRITO - Soft Flour Tortilla Filled with Chicken Tender, Lettuce, Cheese Pico De Gallo, Avocado and House Dressing.

AND MORE! STEAK AND EGGS - Grilled Skirt Steak Served with Rice,

Pico De Gallo.

Beans, Scrambled Eggs, Sauteed with Onions, Tomatoes and Bell Peppers. NACHO FRIES - French Fries Served with Your Choice of Chicken, Ground Beef or Picadillo, Cheese Sauce and

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A refresher on pruning your favorite flowering shrubs

Oh my goodness! Recently a friend shared with me the proud fact that she pruned her lilacs.

I didn't quite know what to say. It's not the right time of year to prune lilacs, but she was happy, so I congratulated her on her efforts.

While it's doubtful that the plant will suffer any harm from her untimely pruning, some blooms will be sacrificed. I thought it might be a good time to re-run this column, in case you too are tempted to head outdoors with the loppers in hand!

Some shrubs can be pruned this time of year; others are best left until after they've flowered. Read on to learn which can be pruned when.

Forsythia (Forsythia X intermedia) in full bloom is considered by many to be a true sign that spring has arrived. Bright yellow flowers should pop into action over the next couple of weeks.

Once flowering is complete, take loppers rather than shears to this bush and prune out the oldest canes right down to the ground. Severely overgrown stands can be cut back completely to the base, although don't expect recovery to take place for a

The forsythia looks most natural and has the most flowers if allowed to arch. For this reason, site the forsythia not along your foundation but in a shrub border or in groups on a banking for a truly striking effect each April.

One little known fact about this shrub is that its flower buds are less hardy than the shrub itself. If we have colder than average winters, exposed flower buds may be killed whereas those below the snowline will stay insulated and bloom just fine!

Azaleas, rhododendrons (Rhododendron sp.) and mountain laurels (Kalmia latifolia) set their flower buds the summer before bloom. Prune these bushes now and you will sacrifice those flowers!

Once blooming is through, go around and gently break off seed pods that have formed. This will send more energy back to the plant and encourage healthy

Dense plantings can be rejuvenated by cutting "windows" into the bush to encourage interior sprouting. Once enough stems have sprouted, taller branches can be cut back to a lower juncture.

Common lilacs (Syringa vulgaris) also bloom on the previous season's wood. While multi-stemmed shrubs are easier to prune without leaves in the way, don't touch the lilac now or you'll miss out on your full potential of fragrant flowers a month from now! Advice for lilac pruning is a combination of the above two.

First, deadhead lilacs once they've passed their prime. Then, remove the oldest, largest branches right down to the ground.

Don't remove more than one-third of the bush at a time, however, or your lilac may be stunted for several years. By encouraging a healthy stand of youthful stems, lilacs will rarely get taller than sniffing height.

Butterfly bushes (Buddleia davidii) seem to take forever to green up in the spring. Depending on the winter we've had, growth may sprout within inches of the ground or several feet up.

If you wish to contain your butterfly bush and encourage healthy new branches to form, cut it back low to the ground despite the fact buds may break higher up. If overall height is your goal, you can wait and see- perhaps buds may break three or four feet off the ground.

Cut dead stems back to that point. Since flowers form on new growth, they won't be sacrificed no matter what method you employ.

One job I have to accomplish over the next couple of weeks is pruning my Rose of Sharon (Hibiscus syriacus). Unfortunately, I never did get to that job last year and now I have a very tall and very wide plant to contend with.

Like the butterfly bush, flowers are formed on new growth; pruning now won't harm blooms, in fact, it may make for an even more impressive presentation come August and September.

First, cut well into an overgrown plant to bring down its height and width. Then, prune back stems to just two or three buds to encourage large flowers.

I hope this guide will help you get a head start (or not) on pruning your flowering shrubs this spring.

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

DCR offers upcoming hikes

BELCHERTOWN - The ing approximately 1.5 miles round Department of Conservation and Recreation Quabbin Visitor Center will offer several free programs

All ages are welcome. People may email QuabbinVisitor. Center@mass.gov with questions or to be added to the mailing list. Participants should dress appropriately for the weather and bring water and snacks. Dogs are not allowed anywhere at the Quabbin. Space is limited.

On Thursday, April 6 from 11 a.m.12:30 p.m. there will be a 1.5 easy wetlands walk. It will begin at the parking area for Goodnough Dike in Quabbin Park.

They may visit https://goo.gl/ maps/GaqukdAv17TA2wRj7 for

This habitat hike will visit two different types of wetlands. along the Dike Road and back, cover-

trip. Participants should dress appropriately for the weather and be prepared for wet/muddy conditions so wear appropriate footwear. They may register by visiting https://www.mass.gov/locations/ quabbin-reservoir/events?_page=1. On Saturday, April 15 from

11a.m.-1 p.m. a four-mile moderate hike will explore the North Side of the Quabbin Watershed via Gate 22. Participants will be walking down to the water on a dirt road through the forest. Walking to the water, the hike covers 2-miles and drops 180 ft. in elevation. They will then backtrack and head back uphill the way they came. The parking area for Gate 22 is located at the end of Shutesbury Road in the town of New Salem. People should not block the gate.

They may visit https://goo. gl/maps/SPqd6Si9ixuCQtt18 for

location and to register visit https://www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events?_ page=1.

On Saturday, April 22 from 10 a.m.-noon a one-mile moderate hike will investigate forest health: How are various agents

(invasive insects and plants, diseases etc,) impacting trees in the Quabbin and Ware River forests? Curious how active manage-

ment of a forest can increase diversity and maintain forest health? Join us to gain a better understanding of how active forest manage ment leads to healthier environment for our region. Participants should meet at Quabbin Park East

They may visit https://goo.gl/ maps/sW1wiHe4DnRPJL9a7 for location and https://www.mass. gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/ events?_page=1 to register.

Cornerstone Bank donates \$15,000 to **Big Brothers Big Sisters**

WORCESTER – Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with 10 locations throughout South Central Massachusetts, has donated \$15,000 to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Mass and Metrowest.

The funds support the organization's 60th Anniversary Big Celebration on Saturday, April 1 at the AC Hotel by Marriot in Worcester and its Golf Fore Kids event on Monday, June 12 at Framingham Country Club.

"We are proud to celebrate the

important work of Big Brothers Big Sisters and its impact on our communities over the past 60 years," said Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman. "Like Big Brothers Big Sisters, we believe in the potential of every child and are committed to helping them realize it."

Proceeds from the Big Brothers Big Sisters 60th Anniversary Celebration and the Golf Fore Kids event will support the organization's growing programs in the 87 towns and cities it serves throughout the region. People may visit bbbscm.org for tickets or to support these events. Founded in 1963,

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Mass and Metrowest helps children through individualized mentoring programs. Volunteers serve as mentors (Bigs) to children (Littles) who face adversity, offering quality time on a weekly basis between a reliable, caring mentor and a child in need of additional adult support.

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FOSC presents silent film with organ accompaniment

GILBERTVILLE - Friends of the Stone Belmont and he recently Church are delighted to offer organist Peter Edwin Krasinski presenting The Hunchback of Notre Dame, the 1923 dramatic silent film starring Lon Chaney, with live improvised accompaniment on the historic 1874 Johnson organ at the Stone Church Cultural Center, 283 Main Street, on Saturday, April 19 at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$20 at the door or at https://buytickets.at/friendsofthestonechurch/738357. Youth under 18 are admitted free. Group tickets for families of more than three will be capped at \$60 for

Peter Krasinski holds a Bachelor of Music Degree in music education and organ performance and the Master of Music Degree from Boston University. He is internationally known for his art of live improvised silent film accompaniment. His unique performances take the audience on a captivating journey through "vintage video." To achieve such artistic integration, Krasinski memorizes each film. His spontaneous performances seamlessly reflect characters' actions and states of mind, bringing century-old productions to life with relevance and compassion. In recognition of his talent and creativity, he received the First Prize in Improvisation from the American Guild of Organists National

A native New Englander, Krasinski is broadly recognized as a motivating consultant for the pipe organ community and as a conductor, organist, and music educator. He is currently House Organist of the Providence Performing Arts Center and was recently named the official House Organist at Mechanics Hall, Worcester. A past Dean of the Boston Chapter AGO, Krasinski is active as Organist at First Church of Christ Scientist in Providence, accompanist at Beth El Temple Center in

presented Master Classes at the Sibelius Academy, Helsinki, Finland.

American actor Lon Chaney was 41 when he made his legendary performance as Quasimodo, the deaf, half-blind hunchbacked bell-ringer who falls in love. The role brings out Chaney's ability to convey a basic decency beneath a grotesque exterior. As a child of deaf parents, he had learned to communicate through facial expressions, sign language and pantomime.

Gilbertville viewers will enjoy "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" on a theater-sized movie screen provided by Cape Anne Community Cinema. Concerts at the Stone Church through September 2023 are supported by grants from the Mass Cultural Council and from Local Cultural Councils of Hardwick-New Braintree, North Brookfield, Oakham and Petersham. Local Cultural Councils are local agencies supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state

FOSC participates in the Card to Culture program of the Mass Cultural

Council, by extending discounts to EBT, WIC and ConnectorCare health plan insurance cardholders. Eligible participants may



Peter Krasinski will offer live, improvised accompaniment on the historic 1874 Johnson organ for the silent film, "The Hunchback of Notre Dame."

> request up to two free tickets at the box office on the day of the event. They should bring EBT, WIC or ConnectroCare health

Fidelity Bank appoints Murray to Senior Vice President

LEOMINSTER -Fidelity Bank announces the appointment of Lesly Murray to Senior Vice President, Director of Business Banking Services.

In this role, she will oversee the strategic development and growth of the bank's cash management and commercial deposit portfolios.

She comes to Fidelity Bank from People's United Bank, where she served as Senior Vice President, Head of Commercial Deposit Product Management. She also previously worked at Citizens Bank as Senior Vice President, Liquidity Product Segment Head.

'We understand there are new challenges for business owners every day, and we know every decision matters in business, especially when it comes to making smart financial decisions," said Murray. "I am looking forward to helping businesses confidently move forward, to take their business to the next level.'

She earned a bachelor's degree in finance from Bentley University and a master's degree in business administration from the F.W. Olin Graduate



Lesly Murray

School of Business at Babson College. A resident of Needham, she has earned the Certified Treasury Professional (CTP) Designation from the Association for Financial Professionals.

Great Falls Discovery Center list upcoming events

TURNER FALLS – All programs at Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, are free and open to the public.

An adult must accompany children. Inclement weather cancels outdoor pro-

Visitor center hours are open six days a week. Hours are Tuesdays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Wednesdays through Sundays from 10 a..-6 p.m. and open Monday, April 17 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

A Great Hall Exhibit is ongoing and is an exploration of being through the eyes of local young people now through Wednesday, April 26.

Nice and easy walks will take place Fridays, April 7, 14, 21 and 28 fro 1-2 p.m. This an easy-paced, 1 to 2-mile guided walk, along the Canalside Rail Trail or downtown Turners Falls, geared for seniors, but open to all ages. A DCR Park interpreter highlights natural and local history along the way. Participants should wear appropriate clothing for the weather and sturdy boots and meet outside the main entrance.

Kidleidoscope Story Hour for ages 3-6 accompanied by an adult will be held Friday, April 7 frogs, April 14 chipmunks, April 21 beavers and April 28 trees from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Program includes a story, activities and a craft. Activities are indoors and outdoors, weather permitting. Siblings and friends welcome. They should meet in

Great Falls Coffeehouse presents Unity Park.

Alive & Pickin' on Friday, April 14 from 7-9 p.m. in Great Hall.

Alive & Pickin' plays an eclectic mix of country, bluegrass, blues, and Americana. Refreshments available. Sliding scale suggested donations, all in support of educational programming at the Center.

StoryWalk® "We Planted A Tree" Friday, April 14 through Sunday, April 30. This StoryWalk® is provided by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Interpretive Services.

On Saturday, April 15 from 10:30 a.m.-noon. There will be a free art naturally program for adults, teens and children ages 6 and up, accompanied by an adult. All materials are free and people should meet in the Great Hall.

Earth Week from April 15 to April 23 there will be Investigation Station:

during school vacation week in activities to inspire taking care of where we live, with a special focus on trees, including scavenger hunts.

On Sunday, April 16 from 2-4 p.m. people will celebrate mud season with an exploration of rare Jurassicage rocks found only in Turners Fallsarmored mud balls Family friendly activities for all ages. People should meet in the Great Hall. Weather permitting, they will hunt for Jurassic armored mud balls on an easy walk to nearby

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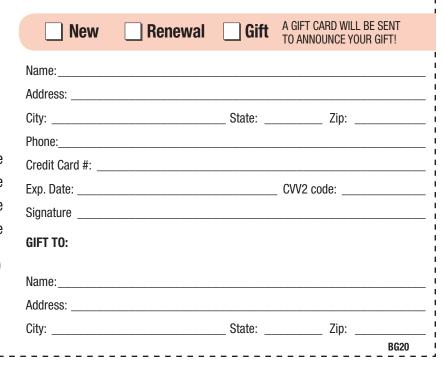
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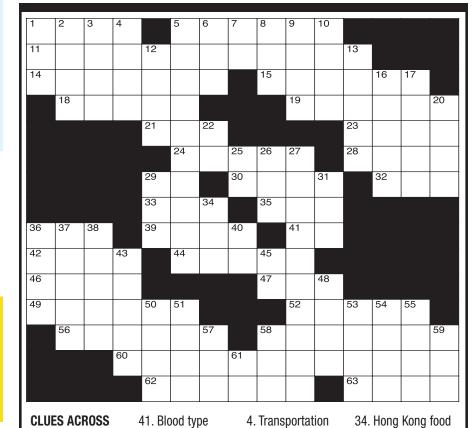
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15. Popular 70s rock	armadillo
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52. Large, stocky

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1. Woman (French) Pakistan 3. This (Spanish)

4. Transportation device 5. Greater in importance or priority 6. The human foot

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poser 17. Wooded tract 20. Tall, slender-leaved plant 55. Clusters of fern

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43. Wilt

37. Species that

38. Former MLB

catcher Ed

40. Northern U.S.

45. Commercial

48. Bolivian river

51. A car needs four

50. Nursemaid

53. Guns (slang)

fronds

54. American state

includes reed-

31. Bar bill

ANSWERS ON PAGE 12

CHICAGO, continued from page 1

the audience would never know

that. "They are the most driven, hardworking group I've ever seen," Bouchard said.

Ekstrom-Doig has been performing her whole life and is joined in this production by her real-life husband, Nick Doig, who plays Fred.

Doig said he met his wife during a performance of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show," in which he played Rocky and she played Magenta.

He was grateful for the opportunity to perform on stage together

"We're always doing opposite shows," Doig said.

Playing Roxie's husband on stage is Barre actor Larry Johnson, who began performing about 30 years ago with the Barre Players.

A respiratory therapist, Johnson didn't originally audition for the role of Amos Hart, but decided to jump in when the first actor had to drop out.

"It's been a blast," he said.

In his second performance with the Gilbert Players, James Lamoureux of Worcester will play defense attorney Billy Flynn.

"He's such a suave, sly character," Lamoureux said. "He's almost an antihero.'

Lamoureux became involved



Turley Publications Photos by Paula Ouimette Kaitlyn Ekstrom-Doig plays the role of Roxie Hart.

direction of the stage.

Now a nurse, Lamoureux still finds time to pursue his love of per-

'We have a lot of great talent in

Larry Johnson plays Roxie's devoted husband Amos Hart.

Choreography is one of the biggest challenges for performers in "Chicago", which features Robert Louis Fosse's distinctive style of dance.

this show," he said.

Fosse was known for using many signature moves, including turned-in knees and jazz hands, as well as the use of hats, canes and chairs as props.

One of the dancers, Pattie Rich of Ware, received extensive dance training from the late Margaret

Dymon of Barre, but this is her first time performing in a musi-

With her background in ballet, pointe and modern, Rich said she has "always loved Fosse," and decided to audition when a friend had mentioned it.

Several of the dancers are also dance teachers themselves, including Sarah Nydam and Caitlin Cunningham of Gilbertville's Get Up and Dance Studio, along with Alice Rainka and Gloria St.

George of Alice's Fitness and Dance in Sturbridge.

A lot of the issues facing women a century ago when "Chicago" is set, are still prevalent today, Tomasi said.

"We have the same things going on in our world today as back then," she said.

This performance, Tomasi said, will be one-of-a-kind, going from the fringe and feathers of the 1920s

to modern day punk. "We go from era to era. We end up completely different from where

we started," Tomasi said. Tomasi said she first fell in love with "Chicago" 25 years ago when she starred as imprisoned vaudeville performer Velma, on Martha's

Vineyard. Her love for "Chicago" is shared by many, with close to 40 people auditioning for this cast of 15 performers.

'The end result is so masterful," Tomasi said of the production. "We've just brought Broadway

About "Chicago"

The Gilbert Players will perform "Chicago" at The Center at Eagle Hill, 242 Old Petersham Road, March 31, April 1, 7 and 8 at 7 p.m. and April 2 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$16 adults and \$14 seniors and students.

Reservations are highly recommended, and tickets are available at www.thecenterateaglehill.org or by calling the Box Office at 413-

SELECT BOARD, continued from page 1

Balukonis did have that certification, but let it lapse when he retired.

Following the interviews, the board held its regular meeting. At the end of the meeting, Chair Marshall said both candidates were qualified for the position. She said Greg Balukonis would be a good fit for the position. Board member Dixson said he rated both candidates and his top choice was Balukonis, also. They voted to appoint Balukonis interim administrator and instructed Town Administrator Sizer to check his references. She would meet with him and then the Select Board would hold contract negotiations with him in executive session.

CHAMBER BREAKFAST, continued from page 1

in community theater nine years

ago, when he was looking for a

hobby to supplement his career as

a welder. His sister-in-law, who is

an opera singer, pointed him in the

state due to tax policy. The Commonwealth is an expensive place to reside, not to mention die

Housing prices average over half a million dollars. Frugal couples might have saved over a lifetime and unless one has an estate plan in place, much less will go to

The super-rich will be fine, but the economic middle strata of the state will be up against it.

Fattman spoke to the need to develop ecotourism and how QHCC was part of that.

Next to the podium was Ludlow's own state Sen. Jake Oliveira who serves towns in Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester Counties.

Oliveira was, like the other members, supportive of the East-West Rail service. He spoke of it differently, that we should be thinking of it as West-East.

He noted that it is easier to get to three other state capital cities than our own and he was supporting a Palmer stop.

Oliveira cited a need to reinvest in community colleges that are underfunded relative to many other states. He is working for regional equity as the new administration has signaled its interest in agriculture and Western Massachusetts.

Oliveira is looking to see the formula for highway funding to be revised to take into account the local situation

Surprise and the Chamber organized the day well as people will be able to see when the video, recorded by M-Pact.TV of Palmer, is on local cable access. Bruce Marshall of The Valley's Classic Hits 97.7 FM and 1250 AM in Ware, recorded audio.

Cedarbrook staff should also be complimented for a well-organized affair.

Sponsors of the Legislative Breakfast were Country Bank, who also co-hosted, as well as Superior Plus Propane, Nesco Sales of Bondsville along with the aforementioned Valley's Classic

Turley Publications Photo by Paula Ouimette Quaboag Hills Chamber of **Commerce Chief Executive** Officer Andrew Surprise introduced the speakers at the Legislative Breakfast.





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Calendar of Events



THURSDAY, MARCH 30

CALENDAR PHOTO CONTEST sponsored by the 250th Anniversary Committee is accepting submission local photographers to be used in a commemorative 2024 calendar titled, "Celebrate Barre's past, inspire Barre's future." Photographers are invited to send the committee their photographs of Barre. The committee will select twelve images to be featured in the calendar. Submissions are being accepted now through Monday, May 15. Photographers of all ages are invited to apply. The commemorative calendars will be available for purchase starting in October 2023, all proceeds from the calendar sales will benefit the 250th Anniversary Committee. All photos must be of Barre. Each photograph submitted must be the photographer's own original work and must have not been previously published in any commercial publication. The photo must be in its original state and cannot be altered, including but not limited to removing, adding, reversing or distorting subjects within the frame. All photos must be submitted in color, 8"x11," 300 dpi and landscape format. A maximum of five photos may be submitted per photographer.

CRAFTER APPLICATIONS for the GFWC Northboro Junior Woman's Club 46th Annual Harvest Craft Fair are being accepted. The fair is Saturday, Nov. 4 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Robert E. Mexican Middle School, 145 Lincoln St., Northboro. This is a juried show requiring that all items are handmade. Crafters should visit NJWC'S website for applications and more show details at www.northborojuniors.org/craft-fair.html .The Northboro Junior Woman's Club is a non-profit organization that has been active in Northboro for over 40 years. They support community projects in Northboro as well as internationally. The Harvest Fair is the club's major fundraiser.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP POTLUCK & BARRE LIBRARY PRESENTATION hosted by the Barre Congregational church, 30 Park St., Barre, Women's Fellowship will be held today in the church at 5 p.m. Participants should bring a favorite dish to share and then the group will be going to the Woods Memorial Library, 19 Pleasant St., Barre, to see the presentation on the Women of '76. The presentation will be from 6-7:30 p.m. The program will be given in celebration of Women's History Month. Rita Parisi will be portraying Baroness von Riedesal, Prudence Wright and Nancy Hart. All members and friends are Invited to come and enjoy dinner and a show.

SATURDAY, APRIL 1

DESIGNER PANCAKE BREAKFAST sponsored by Cradle Rock Chapter Order of Eastern Star will be held today from 7:30-10:30 a.m. at Mt. Zion Masonic

Where is this?



Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer

This week's mystery photo is from Barre. If any readers know where this photo was taken, they may email edowner@turley.com or call the Barre Gazette at 413-967-3505, extension 100 with their answer by noon on Monday, April 3. The names of those that correctly guessed the location will appear in next week's edition. Bill Bowles, Gary Brigham, Paul Carlson, Stephen Craven, Elizabeth Laramee, James Laramee, Marianne Meyer, Evelyn Luukko, Gretta Scully and Carolyn Semon correctly identified the photo. Last week's photo was the Rail Trail on Route 122, in Rutland.

Hall, 71 Pleasant St., Barre. Cost is \$9 per person for adults and \$5 for children age 10 and under. All are welcome. People can design their favorite pancakes, maybe apple, blueberry, banana, nuts, choc chips and more. Complete breakfast includes; pancakes, waffles, sausage biscuits with gravy, bacon, sausage, juice and coffee and "real" maple syrup.

SPRING FLING CRAFT AND VENDOR FAIR will be held today from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at George Whitefield United Methodist Church, 33 W. Main St., West Brookfield. Local crafters and vendors will be featured along with Gramma's Attic, bake sale and eat-in or take out luncheon of spaghetti and meatballs. Vendor space is available by either emailing Heidi Jeldres at heidi.jeldres@gmail.com or call-

ing 978-989-5736.

SUNDAY, APRIL 2

MANY VOICES MECHANICS HALL YOUTH SINGERS CONCERT will be held today at 4 p.m. in Mechanics Hall, 321 Main St., Worcester. The concert "Cover Me in Sunshine is free. Door open at 3:30 p.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 3

EASTER AND BUNNIES will be the focus of Story Time today at 9:30 a.m. at the New Braintree Public Library, 45 Memorial Drive, New Braintree. he two readings will be "The Night Before Easter" by Natasha Wing and "The Bunny of Bluebell Hill"

by Tim Preston. Story Time is a reading and crafts program for preschool children held twice a month on Mondays at the library. Parental supervision is required. People may call the library at 508-867-7650 during regular hours for more information.

TUESDAY, APRIL 4

PYSANKY WORKSHOP sponsored by the The Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, Hardwick will take place today at 6 p.m. Participants will learn about the art, history and lore of the ancient Eastern European art of egg decorating, a wax process like batik. Legend has it that there is a huge evil creature chained to a hillside. Every year when Easter Eggs are decorated, the creature's bonds are tightened and its evil is kept in check. Spaces are limited, so registration is required. To register, people may visit the library, call 413-477-6704 or email director.paigelibrary@gmail.com. A \$5 donation to the Friends of the Paige Memorial Library for supplies is appreciated.

THURSDAY, APRIL 6

EASTER BAKE AND BOOK SALE will take place today from noon-3 p.m. at the Gilbertville Public Library, 259 Main St., Route 32, Gilbertville. There will be pies, breads, squares, cakes, cookies and more. There also will be a festive basket raffle.

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

EASTER EGG HUNT sponsored by the veterans at American Legion Post 2 will host a family oriented Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 8 at 1 p.m. at Post 2, 450 South Barre Road.

Cost is \$10 per family for ages 7 and under. Participants, who bring a non-perishable canned good, get \$5 off. The Easter Bunny will be in attendance so bring a camera.

THURSDAY, APRIL 13

IN PERSON CAREGIVER WORKSHOP begins today and runs for a total of six Thursdays, April 13, 20, 27, May 4, May 11 and May 18 from 2-3:30 p.m. at the Millbury Senior Center, 1 River Road, Millbury. Powerful Tools for Caregivers is a class designed to provide the family caregiver with the skills they need to take care of themselves. The will learn to: reduce stress, improve self-confidence

balance their life, better communicate their feelings, increase ability to make tough decisions and locate helpful resources. Cost of attendance is free and financial assistance for respite is available. People may call Debbie Dowd-Foley at Elder Services of Worcester Area, Inc. at 508-756-1545 extension 390 or

See CALENDAR, page 13

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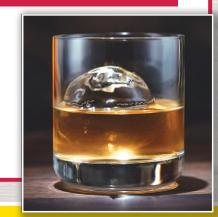
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Unified track to return for second season



The Quabbin Unified Track team and athletes, partners, coaches and administrative staff pose for a group photo after a meet last season. The program will be returning this spring.

BARRE – Capping off the massive success of last year's team as well as a great league meet, Quabbin Regional High School Athletic Director Mark Miville confirmed this week there will be a Unified Track team for a second season.

Miville was very excited for Quabbin to host the program last year and the school hosted a few meets, including the final league meet in late May

Miville said the team will have a meet schedule and Quabbin will once again be the host school for the league meet at the end of the season. The meet will gather unified track teams from all over the region to participate in the various events offered.

Miville also said coach Rich Zalneraitis would be returning this season to coach the team.

The Unified Track program is the second unified team to participate in Quabbin athletics. Unified Basketball is offered in the fall.

"We've wanted to be involved and talked about it for a while now, but it didn't run the last two spring seasons because of COVID-19," Miville, who intro-



Quabbin's Chad Plouffe leads the way as he competes with his Unified Track team.

duced the basketball program for the first time last fall. "The program has been wonderfully rewarding to both our athletes with intellectual disabilities and their partner athletes without. We



Quabbin's Javier Patterson leaps in the long jump event during a Unified Track meet last season.

have a number of one and two sport athletes who decided to be partners since they don't play a spring sport at Quabbin. Unified Sports are recognized as varsity sports by the MIAA."



Quabbin Coach Rich Zalneraitis (right) keeps stats and gives direction to the track athletes on the Unified Track team.

Athletes practice twice a week and events held at meets include shot put, long jump, turbo javelin, 100M, 400M and 880M dashes, the 4 x 100M and the 4 x 400M

Lacrosse preseason

SOUTH HADLEY - Last week, Monson High School boys lacrosse, which now has a co-op program with Pathfinder, got its season jumpstarted with a scrimmage at South Hadley. The Mustangs are set to open the season April 4 against Smith Vocational.





Monson boys lacrosse has its first scrimmage at South Hadley last Friday.



Photos by David Henry

Monson lacrosse will open the season next week.



The co-op proved successful last year with the Mustangs earning a state tournament

No individual state tournament for tennis

By Gregory A. Scibelli gscibelli@turley.com

FRANKLIN - There have been a lot of adjustments made as schools, especially Western and Central Massachusetts schools get used to the state tournament format after being used to regional competitions for so many years.

But for logistical reasons, certain regional tournaments have remained due to the nature of the sport and narrowing down competitors for higher level competition. Examples include golf, track, cross country, and wrestling.

Another sport that will be seeing a change, for at least year this year, is tennis.

In an update on March 23, the executive director's office of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Conference confirmed there would be no individual tennis tournament held at the state level this year. It has been ruled out for 2023, but MIAA committees are still working on the issue. "At the fall Tennis Committee

meeting the members discussed the Individual Tennis Tournament and appointed a subcommittee to meet with TMC representatives to consider the structure and future direction of that tournament," a report from the MIAA stated. "The group met to discuss parameters and aspects of the Individual Tournament and how it fits into Association goals for the entire membership. For this spring 2023 there will only be a MIAA

Committee." When the Western Mass. tournament sponsored by the MIAA was removed, the PVIAC in Western Mass., and the Central Mass. Athletic Directors Association began holding their own tournaments the week prior to

Team Tournament. The subcom-

mittee will continue to dialogue

and report back to the Tennis

the start of state tournaments. Western Mass., in particular,

held individual tennis tournaments during the season and should again this season.

The team tournament will go on this season, with teams battling out essentially in a best of five matches. There are three singles matches and two doubles matches. Whichever teams wins at least three of those matches, wins the overall team match.

Prior to instituting the state tournament format, Western Mass. held both team and individual regional tournaments. The individual tournament allowed a place for talented competitors that were not part of qualifying teams a place to play for a championship, much like wrestling, which does not have a team tournamaent in the playoffs. Team scores are kept, but there are not dual meet competitions where teams go head-to-head like in tennis.

Spring tennis is set to get underway late this week and early next week for most teams.

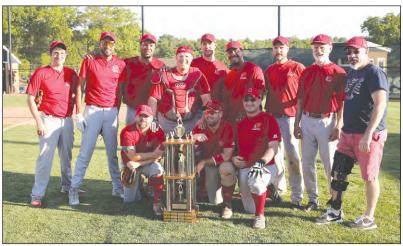
Valley Wheel tryouts this weekend

Remember how much fun baseball was when you were a kid? There's an adult recreational baseball league that's an answer to a

prayer you never gave words to. That's right, baseball. It's the real deal, live pitching, nine innings, 90 ft. bases, umpires, fastballs, curveballs, uniforms, stealing, rounding third, and scoring. The Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League is going into its 18th season. They are a 28+ league where players need to be 28 by June 1. Players are not able to pitch unless they are 30 by June 1.

Practice is held in April and a 15 games schedule is played on Sunday afternoons from the end of April thru mid-August. There are two board certified umpires each game. Full uniforms. There are six teams with each team having a 15-man roster. Every year the league seeks to fill open roster spots with 15 to 20 players.

Tryouts are scheduled for April 2, 8, and 16. Contact the league



The 2022 Valley Wheel Champion Angels. Valley Wheel baseball tryouts are set to begin this weekend.

for further details on the times and locations of the tryouts for new players.

It is a recreational baseball league for players of all ability levels and the play is pretty good. Players range in experience from former college players to players who never played organized ball. Everyone else is somewhere in between and age is a great equalizer. Inexperienced players really improve in a competitive but friendly environment. You can

See VALLEY WHEEL, page 10



\$33/Year | \$38 Out-of-State

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Sports

Quabbin 2023 spring varsity schedule

ı								
	BASEBALL				Wednesday, May 3	Home	Groton-Dunstable	4 p.m.
1	Wednesday, April 5	Home	Clinton	3:30 p.m.	Wednesday, May 10	Away	Oakmont	3:30 p.m.
	Friday, April 7	Home	Groton-Dunstable	4 p.m.	Wednesday, May 17	Away	Quad Meet	3 p.m.
	Wednesday, April 12	Home	Littleton	4 p.m.	GIRLS TRACk			
	Friday, April 14	Away	Tyngsborough	4 p.m.	Wednesday, April 5	Home	Hudson	4 p.m.
	Wednesday, April 19	Away	Ayer Shirley	3:30 p.m.	Thursday, April 13	Away	Lunenburg	4 p.m.
	Friday, April 21	Away	Oakmont	11 a.m.	Wednesday, April 26	Home	Narragansett	3:30 p.m.
	Monday, April 24	Away	North Middlesex	3:30 p.m.	Wednesday, May 3	Home	Groton-Dunstable	4 p.m.
	Wednesday, April 26	Home	Lunenburg	4 p.m.	Wednesday, May 10	Away	Oakmont	3:30 p.m.
	Friday, April 28	Away	Clinton	3:30 p.m.	Wednesday, May 17	Away	Quad Meet	3 p.m.
	Monday, May 1	Home	North	3:30 p.m.	GIRLS TENNIS	-		
	Thursday, May 4	Away	Quaboag	3:30 p.m.	Tuesday, April 4	Away	Clinton	3:30 p.m.
	Friday, May 5	Away	Littleton	4 p.m.	Thursday, April 6	Home	North Middlesex	4 p.m.
	Saturday, May 6	Away	Ware	7 p.m.	Tuesday, April 11	Away	Leominster	3:30 p.m.
	Wednesdya, May 10	Home	Tyngsborough	4 p.m.	Wednesday, April 12	Away	Gardner	3:30 p.m.
	Monday, May 15	Home	Oakmont	3:30 p.m.	Thursday, April 13	Home	Hudson	4 p.m.
	Wednesday, May 17	Away	Lunenburg	4 p.m.	Monday, April 24	Home	Gardner	3:30 p.m.
	SOFTBALL				Tuesday, April 25	Away	Bromfield	4 p.m.
	Wednesday, April 5	Home	Clinton	3:30 p.m.	Thursday, April 27	Away	North Middlesex	4 p.m.
	Friday, April 7	Away	Montachusett	3:45 p.m.	Monday, May 1	Home	South	3:30 p.m.
	Wednesday, April 12	Home	Littleton	4 p.m.	Thursday, May 4	Away	Hudson	4 p.m.
	Friday, April 14	Away	Tyngsborough	4 p.m.	Friday, May 5	Away	Quaboag	3:30 p.m.
	Friday, April 21	Away	Oakmont	11 a.m.	Monday, May 8	Away	Doherty	3:30 p.m.
	Monday, April 24	Home	Notre Dame Academy	3:30 p.m.	Thursday, May 11	Home	Bromfield	4 p.m.
	Wednesday, April 26	Home	Lunenburg	4 p.m.	Monday, May 15	Home	Clinton	3:30 p.m.
	Friday, April 28	Away	Clinton	3:30 p.m.	GIRLS GOLF			
	Monday, May 1	Away	Bay Path	3:30 p.m.	Friday, March 31	Home	Hopkinton	3:15 p.m.
	Tuesday, May 2	Away	Gardner	3:30 p.m.	Thursday, April 6	Away	Auburn	3:30 p.m.
	Friday, May 5	Away	Littleton	4 p.m.	Monday, April 10	Home	Notre Dame Academy	- 1
	Monday, May 8	Home	West Boylston	4 p.m.	Wednesday, April 12	Away	Wachusett	3:30 p.m.
	Wednesday, May 10	Home	Tyngsborough	4 p.m.	Friday, April 14	Home	Burncoat	3:15 p.m.
	Monday, May 15	Home	Oakmont	3:30 p.m.	Monday, April 24	Home	Ayer Shirley	3 p.m.
	Wednesday, May 17	Away	Lunenburg	4 p.m.	Wednesday, April 26	Away	Hopkinton	3 p.m.
	Thursday, May 18	Home	Gardner	3:30 p.m.	Monday, May 1	Home	Auburn	3 p.m.
	BOYS TRACK				Wednesday, May 10	Away	Ayer Shirley	3:30 p.m.
	Wednesday, April 5	Home	Hudson	4 p.m.	Monday, May 15	Home	Wachusett	3 p.m.
	Thursday, April 13	Away	Lunenburg	4 p.m.	Tuesday, May 16	Away	Burncoat	3:15 p.m.
	Wednesday, April 26	Home	Narragansett	3:30 p.m.	Thursday, May 18	Away	Westborough	3:30 p.m.
-								

North Brookfield 2023 spring varsity schedule

SOFTBALL Thursday, March 30 Monday, April 3 Wednesday, April 5	Away Home Away	Murdock 4 p.m. Hopedale 3:30 p.m. Blackstone-Millville	4 p.m.	Monday, May 1 Tuesday, May 2 Saturday, May 6 Wednesday, May 10	Away Home Home Home	Lunenberg 4 p.m. Bromfield 3:30 p.m. North Middlesex Parker Charter	2 p.m. 3:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 6 Monday, April 10	Home Away Home	Granby 3:30 p.m. Lunenberg 4 p.m. North Middlesex	3:30 p.m.	Thursday, May 11 Friday, May 12 Tuesday, May 16	Home Home Home	Southbridge Oxford 3:30 p.m. Quaboaq 3:30 p.m.	3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 11 Thursday, April 13 Friday, April 21	Away Home	Pathfinder 3:30 p.m. Quaboag 3:30 p.m.	3.30 p.iii.	Friday, May 19	Away	Blackstone-Millville	3:30 p.m.

Railers tipped by Thunder

GLENS FALLS, NY -The Worcester Railers HC (32-30-3-0, 67pts) lost to the Adirondack Thunder (27-26-8-2, 64pts) on Saturday night by the final score of 2-1 in front of a crowd of 5,029 at Cool Insuring Arena in Glens Falls, NY. The Railers are back in Worcester, MA at the DCU Center this Wednesday, March 29th to take on the Trois-Rivieres Lions at

The two teams drew to an even utes. 0-0 score after the first period, with Worcester outshooting the Thunder 13-9. The Railers had the only power play opportunity of the period thanks to a delay of game call against Adirondack's Matt Slick, but nothing came of it. Patrick Grasso (1-0-1) broke the stalemate 1:41 into the second before Reece Newkirk (1-0-1) would tie the game 11:31 later. Shawn Weller (1-0-1) scored the game-winner 1:01 into the third period on the power play, as Adirondack held off Worcester for the rest of the game to win

Worcester played their best period of hockey all week long to open the final game of a threegame set between the Railers and Thunder. Worcester took the first nine shots of the game before Adirondack finally got one off on Railers goaltender Ken Appleby. Jake Theut was making his third start in net on the week against Worcester, having gone 2-0 already through Wednesday & Friday. Both goalies stood tall for the opening period of play as Worcester and Adirondack were tied after one, 0-0. Shots favored Worcester 13-9 through 20 min- up as Worcester continued to

ken on Adirondack's first shot of the second period. Patrick Grasso (31st) got in the way of a Worcester slapshot from the point and ran in the other direction with the puck unopposed. Grasso, who had netted a hat-trick the night prior in the Thunder's 4-1 win over Worcester, struck again as he beat Appleby and opened the scoring 1-0, 1:41 into the second period. It was the third game that week in which Adirondack had scored the first goal. Worcester would retaliate thanks to the efforts of Reece Newkirk (17th), who is now in his second stint with the Railers this season after being called up to Bridgeport mid-way through the month of February. The play started with Jared Brandt flipping the puck into the Adirondack zone off glass. Worcester captain Bobby Butler charged in and reached the puck first, then flipped it to a patient Newkirk in the slot. Newkirk unloaded on Theut who couldn't stop it, and it became a tie game 11:31 after the Thunder had jumped in front, 1-1. The second came to an end all tied outshoot Adirondack 13-8 in the

The Thunder would once again score on their first shot of the period come the third. On the power-play thanks to an early tripping call against Worcester, Adirondack's Shawn Weller (11th) was parked out in front as he helped to move the puck past Appleby off a shot from the center point to make it a 2-1 Thunder lead just 61 seconds into the third period. Worcester continued to pour on offensive chances late into the game, including a flurry of opportunity with Appleby pulled with 1:48 remaining, but the Thunder kept the door shut as they beat the Railers in regulation 2-1 on Saturday evening.

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ture samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and share with your friends and loved to your local paper or picking up ones. We will be featuring photos a copy in your community.

from all 11 of our sports sections. but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing

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Barre Gazette

Pathfinder 2023 spring varsity schedule

BASEBALL				Wednesday, April 26	Home	McCann Tech	4 p.m.
Monday, April 3	Home	Westfield Tech	4 p.m.	Friday, April 28	Away	Smith Vocational	4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 5	Away	Commerce	4 p.m.	Monday, May 1	Home	Granby	4 p.m.
Thursday, April 6	Away	St. Mary's	4 p.m.	Wednesday, May 3	Home	Hoosac	4 p.m.
Wednesday, April 12	Away	Smith Vocational	4 p.m.	Saturday, May 6	Home	Central	11 a.m.
Friday, April 14	Away	Gateway	4 p.m.	Monday, May 8	Away	Lenox	4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 18	Home	Putnam	11 a.m.	Friday, May 12	Away	McCann Tech	4 p.m.
Thursday, April 20	Home	Sci-Tech	11 a.m.	Monday, May 15	Away	St. Mary's	4 p.m.
Saturday, April 22	Away	Ware	7 p.m.	Wednesday, May 17	Home	Pittsfield	4 p.m.
Monday, April 24	Home	Commerce	4 p.m.	SOFTBALL			
Wednesday, April 26	Away	Monson	4 p.m.	Thursday, April 6	Away	Hampden Charter	4 p.m.
Friday, April 28	Away	Sci-Tech	4 p.m.	Monday, April 10	Home	Amherst	4 p.m.
Monday, May 1	Home	SICS	7 p.m.	Tuesday, April 11	Away	North Brookfield	3:30 p.m.
Friday, May 5	Away	Westfield Tech	4 p.m.	Thursday, April 13	Away	Pope Francis	4 p.m.
Monday, May 8	Home	St. Mary's	7 p.m.	Monday, April 17	Away	Commerce	11 a.m.
Friday, May 12	Home	Smith Vocational	7 p.m.	Tuesday, April 18	Home	Duggan	11 a.m.
Monday, May 15	Home	Gateway	7 p.m.	Monday, April 24	Home	TBD	4 p.m.
Thursday, May 18	Away	Franklin Tech	4 p.m.	Wednesday, April 26	Home	Renaissance	4 p.m.
BOYS LACROSSE (CO	O-OP WITH	MONSON)		Friday, April 28	Home	Hampden Charter	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 4	Home	Smith Vocational	4 p.m.	Monday, May 1	Away	Amherst	4:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 6	Away	Granby	4 p.m.	Wednesday, May 3	Home	Pope Francis	4 p.m.
Monday, April 10	Away	Hoosac	4:30 p.m.	Friday, May 5	Away	Duggan	4 p.m.
Wednesday, April 12	Away	Central	7 p.m.	Monday, May 8	Home	Smith Vocational	4 p.m.
Friday, April 14	Home	Lenox	4 p.m.	Tuesday, May 9	Home	Commerce	7 p.m.
Thursday, April 20	Home	St. Mary's	4 p.m.	Monday, May 15	Away	Renaissance	4 p.m.
Monday, April 24	Away	Pittsfield	7 p.m.	Thursday, May 18	Away	Franklin Tech	4 p.m.

T-Birds look for playoff berth

HARTFORD - The Springfield Thunderbirds (33-23-2-5) responded magnificently to get the better of the Hartford Wolf Pack (27-25-4-7) on Saturday night in a 4-0 win at the XL Center.

For the first time in five games, the T-Birds were able to find the scoreboard in the opening 20 minutes, as Scott Perunovich made a smart read to jump into a rush in the neutral zone, creating a 2-on-1. From there, Perunovich feathered a perfectly placed saucer pass to the backhand of Nikita Alexandrov, who ramped the feed over the arm of Dylan Garand and into the top shelf to make it 1-0 at 14:14.

Making his second start as a T-Bird, Garret Sparks held the fort in a busy first period in the Springfield goal, denying 10 Hartford shots to keep the Wolf Pack off the scoresheet following the Pack's four-goal explosion in the final period on Friday.

The two squads played penalty-free hockey through the opening period and for much of period two. After both teams rang the goalpost on multiple occasions, Springfield finally found twine to extend the lead. On a 2-on-1 rush, Mathias Laferriere elected to shoot from the left circle. While Garand made the first save, he left a rebound in the blue paint, where a crashing Adam Gaudette backhanded the puck into a gaping net at 10:32 to make it

Hartford then put Springfield's explosive power play to work for the first time less than a minute later, and Laferriere cashed in on a diagonal feed from the left corner to the front of the net by Matthew Highmore. Laferriere's second point in a 66-second stretch made it 3-0 at 11:38. The T-Birds outshot Hartford 11-5 in the middle frame, scoring chances Hartford produced.

Sparks made sure the Wolf Pack never would get a taste of the scoreboard, making two fantastic glove saves off of Turner Elson and Tanner Fritz in the opening stages of the third. Then the offense rewarded him with another 2-on-1 tally, as Hugh McGing labeled a shot into the top shelf on a setup from Bitten at 14:44 to round out the scoring.

Sparks completed the T-Birds' fifth shutout as a team behind a 21-save night. It was the veteran's 99th career AHL win and his 18th AHL shutout.

Springfield's magic number to clinch a playoff berth now rests at 10, and the T-Birds next fly down to Charlotte for three straight matchups at Bojangles' Coliseum against the Checkers on Wednesday, March 29 (7 p.m.); Friday, March 31 (7 but Sparks was there for the scarce p.m.); and Saturday, April 1 (6

Registration open for 2023 Bay State Games

for the 41st annual Bay State Summer Games is now open. The 2023 Summer Games will include thirty sports with competitions from June 3 to July 29 at venues throughout eastern and central On in Fitchburg, Boston Sports Institute in Wellesley, Union Point Sports Complex in Weymouth, and New England Sports Center in Marlborough. Bay State Games participants range in age from 5 to over age 75 and represent more than 300 Massachusetts communities as well as surrounding New England States in some sports. From grassroots participants to accomplished amateur athletes, the Bay State Games provide opportunities for the athlete in all of us.

Eight high school showcase sports will take place for a variety of sports, including baseball, basketball, field hockey, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball, and volleyball. Athletes currently in grade 8-11 who live or go to school in Massachusetts are eligible to attend regional tryouts during the month of June. These tryouts will determine teams repthe Commonwealth that will compete against each other in July. Check each sport page for specific eligibility requirements.

The Summer Games include field, figure skating, pickleball, wrestling, weightlifting, archery, judo, badminton, and more. These sports are open to a wide range of ages and skill levels from youth participants to masters-aged athletes. Adaptive sport divisions in archery, swimming, and track & field are offered, as well. Bay State Games also organizes tournaments for pre-existing teams in girls lacrosse, rugby, and 6v6 field

The 2023 Summer Games will feature Game On in Fitchburg as the host venue for 8 sports. Bay State Games expects 1,500 athletes and their families to attend competitions at Game On during the second week of July. "We are excited to expand the roster of sports being held at Game On this year," said Kevin Cummings, Executive Director of the Bay State Games. "This state-of-the-art

WOBURN - Registration resenting the various regions of facility allows us to enhance the athlete and spectator experience and provide a true Olympic-style multi-sport atmosphere for our participants."

An additional feature in 2023 a wide variety of individual sports is that in over a dozen sports, ath-Massachusetts including Game including swimming, track & letes who win a gold, silver, or pronze medal at the 2023 Bay State Games will qualify to participate in the 2024 State Games of America in San Diego, California. The State Games of America feature more than 8,000 athletes from over 30 different state games programs nationwide. To see the list of qualifying sports, please visit www.stategamesofamerica.com.

In addition to sports programming, Bay State Games offer college scholarships, a sportsmanship initiative, college internship opportunities, and a High School Ambassador program.

For more information on all sports in the 2023 Summer Games, links to online registration, and information on other programs, go to www.baystategames.

For questions, email info@ baystategames.org or call 781-932-6555.

VALLEY WHEEL, continued from page 9

check things out with them during practice to see if this is for you.

"Imagine, I had to wait until I was 44 years old to be opening day starting pitcher," League Founder and Commissioner Jim Nason said. "The emphasis is not on winning, it's more a celebration of just being able to play baseball. It is more fun than you can imagine. It is also great to be part of team and a league of like-minded players.'

The league, which plays its games in Western Massachusetts and Northern Connecticut, makes sure that everyone gets a fair share of the action. Everyone plays a minimum of 4 innings in the field, and everyone bats. The league follows MLB rules with some modified rules adapted with safety in mind.

The Valley Wheel stands apart

from other leagues across the coun-

try for this reason:

Their league charter and one of their main goals, is to work toward having a league with teams of equal strength. It's no fun if teams are 14 - 1 and 1 - 14. That's no fun for anyone

Their ability to achieve a competitive league is what sets them apart from the rest.

2022 Final Standings W L Pct. Twins .667 Athletics 9 6 .600 Angels .533 .533 Orioles .400 Cubs 9 4 11 .267 Tigers

The standings show how close the league is. Teams are so close that every player in every game can make a difference.

Knowing when you wake up on game day, you can make a difference. It is quite an accomplish-

ment, and it sets them apart from

The league is self-funded thru player fees. A recent survey found the average age to be 42. Everyone can catch up to a fastball, but the most successful pitchers mix it up, changing speed and location.

The league is now seeking new players to fill open roster slots. Enjoy the competition and camaraderie with a great group of guys who enjoy the game as much as you do. Stay in shape and make new friends. Be part of something that happens once a year, and with luck, win a championship that might be once in a lifetime. Grab your glove and cleats and join a team for a great adventure. It's not too late don't miss out; opening day is just around the corner. For more information, contact Jim Nason at 413-433-4308 or visit the website www. ValleyWheelBaseball.org

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SPORTS TEAMS

Education

QRSD to hold kindergarten registration

Registration is now open QRSD Educational Support for all children, who reside in the Quabbin towns of Barre, Hardwick, Hubbardston, New Braintree and Oakham and who will be five-years old on or before Thursday, Aug. 31.

Registration forms may be downloaded from the Quabbin Regional School District website by visiting qrsd.org. They should be completed and returned to: Kindergarten Registration,

Center, 872 South St., Barre, MA

Paper copies may also be picked up at the home town school or the Educational Support Center.

All registration forms, including birth certificate and proof of residency must be returned by Friday, May 5. People may call 978-355-4668, extension 8500 with questions.

COLLEGES ANNOUNCE **D**EAN'S AND PRESIDENT'S LISTS

University of Rhode Island announces Dean's List

KINGSTON, R.I. - The University of Rhode Island announce the Fall 2022 Dean's

Local students making the Dean's List are: Emily Mitko of Barre, Sarah Barry of Hubbardston, Hannah Haines of Hubbardston, Rebecca Norcross of Hubbardston, Koichi Ash of Rutland, Conor Looney of Rutland and Grace Marrier of Rutland.

To be included on the Dean's List, full-time students must have completed 12 or more credits for letter grades which are GPA applicable during a semester and achieved at least a 3.30 quality point average. Part-time students qualify with the accumulation of 12 or more credits for letter grades which are GPA

applicable earning at least a 3.30

quality point average.

Henry Foley made Champlain College Dean's List

BURLINGTON, VT - Henry Foley of Hubbardston made the Champlain College Dean's List for the Fall 2022 semester.

Students on the Dean's List achieved a grade point average of 3.5 or higher during the

FSU earns Military Friendly designation

State University announced it has earned the 2023-2024 Military Friendly School desig-

Institutions earning the Military Friendly School designation were evaluated using both public data sources and responses from a proprietary survey. The rankings measure institutions' ability to meet thresholds for retention, graduation, job placement, repayment, persistence, and loan default rates for all students, and specifically for student veterans.

Fitchburg State has been designated a Military Friendly institution every year since 2015.

"We are proud of our continued designation as a Military Friendly institution," Fitchburg State President Richard S. Lapidus said. "The ranking is a reflection of our institutional commitment to serving those who have served our country as they pursue their academic goals. We are honored to serve these students and appreciate

FITCHBURG - Fitchburg how their unique experiences enrich our institutional culture.'

More than 150 student veterans are enrolled at Fitchburg State this semester. For more information about the university's student veteran programs, people may visit fitchburgstate. edu/veterans.

The Military Friendly Schools list is created each year based on extensive research using public data sources from more than 8,800 schools nationwide, input from student veterans and responses to the proprietary, data-driven Military Friendly® Schools survey from participating institutions. The survey questions, methodology, criteria and weighting were developed with the assistance of an independent research firm and an advisory council of educators and employers. The survey is administered for free and is open to all postsecondary schools that wish to participate. Criteria for consideration can be found at www.militaryfriendly.

Quinsigamond Comunity College holds inaugural apprenticeship conference

National Apprenticeship Week, Quinsigamond Community College gathered innovators in the field of apprenticeships, as well as industry professionals for its inaugural Apprenticeship Conference, 'When Old Is New Again: Expanding Apprenticeships in Massachusetts," on Wednesday, Nov. 16 held at the AC Marriot in

Worcester.

The daylong event included speakers U.S. Department of Labor Region 1 Director Bernard Treml, Office of Apprenticeships; Worcester City Manager Eric Batista, State Senator Robyn Kennedy, Worcester Business Journal Editor Brad Kane, and three moderated panels that addressed the importance of apprenticeship programs, and the powerful impact apprenticeships can have on the region and our economy.

Massachusetts Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development Rosalin Acosta. along with Executive Director of 1199 SEIU Training and Employment Funds, Sandi Vito, and Executive Vice President of

WORCESTER - In honor of Competency-Based Education nology are all growing industries especially helpful to underserved Network, Dr. Amber Garrison Duncan spoke on the importance of including wrap-around services with apprenticeship programs.

> They discussed issues such as affordable housing and childcare as essential components to remain competitive in retaining and recruiting a skilled workforce.

Secretary Acosta noted that Massachusetts is expanding its investment into apprenticeship programs.

"Not only have we diversified the industries that participate in apprenticeship programs, but we've also increased black, Latino, and women participants," she said.

Having long been known as a

common way to start a career in a trade such as plumbing or electrical, apprenticeships have evolved into a modern-day employer-driven, "learn-while-you-earn" model that provides apprentices with on-the-job training provided by an employer, coupled with an educational program component. Industries such as advanced manufacturing, hospitality, healthcare, finance services, early childhood education and information techthat are benefitting from apprenticeship programs.

"If there's one word to describe why we should support apprenticeships, it's 'disruption," said Dean of Center for Workforce Development and Continuing Education, Kathie

"Change is the new normal and the traditional model of employment isn't effective anymore. Today's workforce wants more flexibility, and they want to learn new skills and be challenged," said Manning.

QCC President Dr. Luis G. Pedraja, expounded on the disruption that many have experienced over the last few years, in a panel discussion with Bunker Hill Community College President Dr. Pam Eddinger, and Mount Wachusett Community College President Dr. James Vander Hooven.

'The partnership between industry and higher education is more important than ever," Pedraja said, adding, "Apprenticeships allow people to earn wages while they are improving their skills. This is

populations."

During the Apprenticeships in Action panel discussion, panelist Marko Duffy, an employer representative of the manufacturing Industry, addressed the success of employee Jessica González, who is completing an apprenticeship through the Northeast Advanced Manufacturing Consortium.

"It's raised the level of quality in our work and has also been inspirational for other employees. I want to run the kind of company where people stay," Duffy said.

"I've been out of school for a long time, so I was nervous at first, but the format was flexible, and the people were great. I've learned so much," González

"With programs like these we are not just growing our workforce, we are also supporting the continued success of our workforce," said Massachusetts State Senator Elect Robyn Kennedy.

To learn more about education and apprenticeships, people may email QCC's Director of Apprenticeship Expansion, Mari Cooney, at mcooney@qcc.mass.

QCC partners with **CMAA** for free dental care to seniors

WORCESTER Quinsigamond Community College and The Central Massachusetts Agency on Aging partnered to offer free dental care to seniors, finishing off the first year of its partnership with an increase in seniors coming to QCC for dental care.

QCC's Dental Clinic offers culturally sensitive, professional preventative dental services for older adults, as well as a chance for QCC students to gain hands-on, real world experience working with senior patients. Adults must be 55 years of age or older and reside in Central Massachusetts to take advantage of this service.

"A lot of seniors have complicated medical situations, which is good for the students to learn about. It's also great to see the student and the patient develop a relationship. You can see that the patients just love the students," said Dental Clinic Operations and Facilities Manager Sheryl Ficorilli.

QCC has been offering lowcost dental care to seniors for over 20 years; however, now through the collaboration of CMAA there is no cost to patients. The free service covers cleanings and exams, prescription fluoride, as well as

gowns and masks for the stu-

"Dental care is a key part of overall wellness. However, many older adults lack access to dental care due to cost, not having insurance, transportation issues, and other barriers," said Dr. Moses Dixon, president and CEO of Central Massachusetts Agency on Aging, Inc. "We are proud to partner with Quinsigamond Community College to ensure that seniors in the Worcester area and beyond have access to the health resources and services they need. We are committed to improving dental care in our communities. This partnership ensures that is possi-

Due to increased student enrollment in the upcoming fall 2023 semester along with support from the grant, the clinic will be able to increase the number of patients it can accommodate.

This partnership caught the attention of Dr. Joia Stapleton Mukherjee, associate professor of Global Health and Social Medicine and Director, Master of Medical Sciences in Global Health Delivery, HMS in Global Medical Education and Social Change at Harvard.

MWCC receives **Nursing Pathways Expansion Grant**

Wachusett Community has been selected by the Massachusetts Workforce Skills Cabinet Executive Office of Education to receive a Nursing Pathways Expansion Grant with a total grant award of \$525,000. The Nursing Pathways

Expansion Exploration Grant was developed by the Commonwealth to provide resources to public colleges and university nursing programs, including nurse aid training, practical nurse programs, and registered nurse programs to increase the nursing workforce talent pipeline and improve career pathways for the nursing profession. The funds provided may be used to support program planning and implementation of program-related staffing, technology, equipment, and operational costs to increase student enrollment.

MWCC will explore incorporating the Certified Nurse Assistant program into early college/dual enrollment pathways currently operating at multiple local high schools. These students will work towards completing prerequisite and co-requisite courses for the nursing degree programs while also completing the CNA program.

Similarly, the credit bearing nursing programs are looking to explore collaboration with workforce development programs through the MWCC Division of Lifelong Learning. Students in these programs would also complete the CNA certification and may enroll in the CNA to Practical Nurse walkway program to complete the prerequisite and co-requisite coursework. These pre-college programs pro-

GARDNER - Mount vide students with a pathway into the field with an industry-recognized certification, while also preparing students for further education.

"The Nursing Pathway program's stackable credential structure will ensure that students are developing skills critical to a variety of nursing professions," stated MWCC Dean of the School of Nursing, Kimberly Shea. "Students will be able to enter the workforce in well-paid, high-demand roles while they pursue their next credential."

The stackable credentialing begins with the CNA program. Students who complete the CNA program may then enroll in the licensed practical nurse program. Students may leverage their CNA certification to find employment while working towards their LPN, and then as an LPN while working to complete the Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) program.

Through this tiered training process, students may elect to enter any of the three high demand career fields while continuing to pursue the next level of credentials. Further, students may also take advantage of the currently established transfer agreement with Fitchburg State University to earn a bachelor's degree in nursing online after completing the ADN.

The Nursing Pathways Expansion Exploration grant will also enable MWCC to supplement clinical components at regional health care providers with simulation equipment. Nursing simulation equipment allows students to safely practice skills without compromising patient care or safety.

St. Aloysius **Catholic** School to hold open house

HARDWICK - St. Aloysius Catholic School in Gilbertville is hosting an open house at the school on Monday, April 3 from 3-5:30 p.m.

Prospective parents are cordially invited to visit the classrooms and meet the faculty of the growing school. The administration is also happy to tour families during the school day and provide shadow days for students presently in kindergarten through grade seven.

People can call the school at 413-477-1268 or reach out to the director, Roberta McQuaid at director@staloysiuscs.com to set up an appointment to visit. Enrollment information and all the necessary paperwork is available on the website www.staloysiuscs.com under the "Join our Family" tab.

Please note that preschool is full for the 2023-2024 school year, but they are accepting additions to their waitlist as well as touring families who wish to get a head start for the 2024-2025 school year.

Second Chance performs 70,000th spay/neuter

Second Chance Animal Services is proud to announce that last month they performed their 70,000th low-cost spay and neuter surgery. This milestone is a significant achievement in the organization's mission to reduce pet overpopulation and improve the welfare of animals in the community.

Spaying and neutering pets not only helps to control the population of stray and unwanted animals, but it also has numerous health benefits for the pets themselves. These procedures can prevent certain cancers and other serious health issues and can also improve pets' behavior by reducing aggression and roaming.

Second Chance is dedicated to making these life-saving

NORTH BROOKFIELD - procedures accessible to all pet owners, regardless of their financial situation. The nonprofit began their low-cost spay and neuter program in 2005 at the East Brookfield shelter to help stem pet homelessness in the surrounding community. Today, hundreds of pets come to the nonprofit's hospitals each month for spay and neuter services in state-of-the-art surgical suites made possible by grants and generous donors. The nonprofit offers low-cost spay and neuter services at the North Brookfield, Springfield, and Worcester Community Veterinary Hospitals.

"We are so proud of the impact that we have made through these 70,000 surgeries," said Sheryl Blancato, CEO and founder of Second Chance.

"There is more work to be done. Our goal is to continue expanding our efforts to help as many pets as possible."

Blancato encourages all pet owners to spay and neuter their pets to help address the issue of pet overpopulation and improve their pet's health. "Many of the emergency surgeries we see are female pets suffering from pyometra, a potentially deadly infection of the uterus. Routine spays and neuters can help protect pets from many life-threatening conditions including pyometra and testicular cancer.

Pet owners who would like to take advantage of this program for their pet can visit www.secondchanceanimals.org and fill out a S.P.O.T application under the Vet Care tab.

ROUND TOWN, continued from page 2

their cars. They'll drive up and be checked in by a volunteer, then continue up to the church building where their groceries will

Easter flowers

Once again, this year the Flower Committee at the Barre Congregational Church, 30 Park St., is going to decorate the sanctuary with beautiful flowers for the Easter Sunday Service, April

9. If anyone would like to place an order, they must do so by Friday, March 31.

People should call the church at 978-355-4041 and leave a message on the church's answering machine with their order. They have the following choices: lilies single - \$13.50, double -\$28 or triple - \$42; tulips small - \$18 or large - \$22; daffodils small \$18 or large - \$22 and hyacinths – 8" pot \$18 or single

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www.turley.com

Church News

Local pastors offer sermons

Easter Musings Part 1

The Easter Season is upon us, wherein we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. However, what if Jesus never rose from the dead and was yet in the grave?

This is not a trivial question, but one deserving of prayerful consideration. In fact, Scripture speaks clearly to this issue in the following text, penned by the apostle Paul to the ancient church at Corinth:

1 Corinthians 15:12-19 (NIV)

12 But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. 14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. 15 More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not

16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. 19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

What are the ramifications of a still-dead Jesus? Note the

1) Verse 14a – If Christ has not been raised, the preaching of the gospel is useless (i.e., empty, futile or pointless). The hallmark message of the Church of Christ since its inception has been Christ Crucified and Resurrected. We proclaim a living, not a dead, Savior. However, this message comes to nothing if the Savior Himself is truly gone.

2) Verse 14b – If Christ has not been raised, our faith is also useless. Consider the various things we trust Jesus for (e.g., salvation, healing, provision, guidance, etc.). Each of these things is contingent upon His being both alive and well. Remove a living Christ and what exactly are we trusting in? Who, precisely, are we praying to and through?

3) Verse 15a – If Christ has not been raised, the Church must contend with some serious credibility issues. The apostles and early disciples of Christ claimed that He was

If the Resurrection did not occur, this would put everything they taught into dispute. They must, rightfully, be deemed false witnesses! Moreover, every believer throughout space and time who proclaimed the Risen Christ must also be deemed an unreliable witness.

4) Verse 17 – If Christ has not been raised, we are still in our sins. Realize that we are not saved purely through the death of Christ, but also by His Resurrection. His Resurrection was God's validation that His sacrifice was acceptable and sufficient to pay for our sin. Without the Resurrection we have no certainty that God the Father has made a way for us to enter heaven through Christ. Ultimately, if Jesus could not save Himself, what hope is there that He can save us?

not been raised, the dead in Christ are truly lost. This is an especially painful point to consider. We derive comfort from the hope that dead believers are ushered into heavenly glory. We derive joy in knowing that we will see them again when our time comes. Yet if Christ was not raised, this sense of comfort and joy is futile. Dead believers are not with Christ but separated from God for all eternity. There is no grand reunion to take place across death's shores: only the certainty of judgment.

6) Verse 19 – If Christ has not been raised, those who trust in Him are to be most pitied. Believers sacrifice and endure hardship because we believe that Christ will make it worthwhile in the end. Yet, if Christ is dead and there is no reward in store, this is all for nothing! How tragic to place faith in a Christ who, in the end, cannot

Christianity has endured centuries of peril, persecution and more. However, it could not endure a dead Jesus! Remove a Risen Lord and the whole of the faith comes crashing down like a clumsily-built house of cards. If it turned out that Jesus' body was definitively found, I would be among the first to abandon the faith. Yet, if the skeptics would have us wrestle with our opening question (i.e., "What if Jesus never rose from death?"), it is only fair that they consider its corollary. In the next edition, we will address the subject: 'What if Jesus DID rise from

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.orgor 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

Fifth Sunday in Lent "They saw the Glory of God."

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

Scripture Reading: John 11 v 1- 45

1. Introduction Those of us who have lost loved ones, know the incredible feelings of pain and loss. Whatever the circumstances are surrounding the passing of a loved one, death leaves one with mixed emotions such as the agonizing and unbearable pain and grief, the uncertain feeling of how to move forward without that person, and sometimes anger and unresolved feelings that can linger for a long time. When someone dies, there is the need to be comforted, for some it can be to be alone with the immediate loved ones, and for others the need for a larger gathering of loved ones and neighbors and

2. Jesus wept

friends.

This passage is about the death and the resurrection of and Mary, and the one whom Jesus loved. It is a story of the incredible loss and pain that go with it, especially for the sisters of Lazarus.

When Martha called for Jesus to come to their home in Bethany, because her brother was sick. Jesus decided to wait a few days, because He had just arrived in the area across the Jordan River where John the Baptist had baptized Him and others. It was a strange reaction from Jesus, their friend, not to come immediately, because He loved Lazarus so much. For them it was an urgent call, because they needed Him to comfort them and for Jesus, in His mind, there was still time, because everything is in God's hands.

As we continue reading, we see that He already knew that Lazarus had died, even though He told His disciples that Lazarus was asleep. For the disciples this was puzzling, but they knew they were dealing with their Lord, the One who knows what to do. For Jesus to get to Lazarus in Bethany meant He had to return to Judea, where He had stones thrown at Him in Chapter 8 by the Jews for claims He made about Himself that He was the Son of God and the fact that He was born before Abraham. His disciples were concerned about His and their own safety. Jesus knew He had to take this dangerous journey. It was a journey He had to take, not just to see Mary and Martha and Lazarus, but a painful journey to the cross.

Jesus' responses to both Martha and Mary's words, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died," are very interesting. To Martha He sounded confident, saying her brother will be raised again, by which He meant, he will live again. I will raise him from the dead, but I will give him more than just his mortal life back. I am the life, and I am the resurrection. Death is not the end, Martha, by which she acknowledged that He is the Christ, yet not fully understanding what He was saying to her.

His interaction with Martha revealed His divinity. Jesus' response to Mary took a different turn. When Mary spoke to Him, she was weeping, because her brother was already dead for four days, and had been buried. Where were you, Lord?

To Mary, Jesus' full humanity is on display. He was disturbed by what He saw!. The Greek word for His reaction, is embrimaomai, means He was deeply agitated and experienced a deep displeasure at what He heard from Mary. Jesus' visceral reaction, says FF Bruce in his commentary on John, is because of the presence of sickness and death and the havoc they created in human life. Jesus wept at what He saw. He showed how truly human He was, fully incarnated into the human experience. He understood and felt the pain and therefore He wept.

3. They saw the glory of

This story, however, is more than the story about death. After He cried, Jesus acted. He asked that the stone in front of the tomb be removed, and He called for Lazarus to come out, and he came out, alive, still wrapped in the grave cloths. What a miracle. The story is

5) Verse 18 – If Christ has Lazarus, the brother of Martha about life and the One who is the giver of life. It is also about the glory of God, in the words of Jesus in John 11 v 4 after He heard the news about Lazarus, "When he heard this, Jesus said, 'This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it', and verse 40, in response to Martha, 'Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?'

While we know that Lazarus had died, more important was the demonstration of the glory of God in the raising of Lazarus from the dead. This passage shows us how divine He truly is. He speaks with a divine authority, and about the glory of God that is beyond the human understanding, but can be seen with the human eye if we truly believe. It is through the union of the Son with God, that the glory of God will be manifested in this miracle that follows, the resurrection of

However, even though everyone there would see the miracle, Martha's faith will see something more, the glory of God, which is beyond the spectacular miracle. It is through faith in the Living God that reveals to the believer in Christ the divine presence of God and that it is the divine presence that gives birth to the miracles we see in Jesus' ministry, and also in our lives, because our eyes have been opened to the work of the Spirit of Christ, of God. The glory of God which is too much for the human eye to observe, is made manifest in the miracles we can observe and experience. The glory of God and God's miracles are therefore not out of reach for us, when we believe, Christ declares to Martha.

4. Conclusion

In our mortal lives we experience illness and through God's grace and the help of the medical profession, we get well, our surgeries and all the medical interventions out there are incredible. We pray for the sick and we aspire to have faith in God for the healing of ourselves and our loved ones. We also remind God of God's word about the promise of healing and the miracles of Jesus in His ministry on earth.

What stands out for me in this passage is how Jesus sees and listens to the agony of suffering. Because He is fully human, He understands it all. He stands in the situation, and He gets agitated, and He weeps. But then, when He speaks and acts and we see the resurrection of Lazarus, He reveals the glory of God for everyone to see. It is that glory we experience when we worship God in spirit and expect God to show up in ways beyond the comprehension of the human eye, ear and senses.

We know then that God hears our prayers, and that God is with us. That is faith, as Jesus says, when you believe, you will see the Glory of God beyond illness and death. I pray that we all will believe, and see, and recognize the glory of God in the small and the large miracles in our lives. May God brings us comfort in the glorious revelation of God with us.

Pastor Margaret Keyser Barre Congregational Church 30 Park St. Barre

Your leg pain may be due to peripheral arterial disease

Now might be time to see a vascular surgeon for evaluation

SPRINGFIELD - Do you suffer from leg pain?

Although most leg pain/muscle cramps are harmless, some may be related to an underlying medical condition known as peripheral arterial disease, requiring evaluation by a vascular surgeon.

Peripheral arterial disease in the legs or lower extremities is the narrowing or blockage of the vessels that carry blood from the heart to the legs. It is primarily caused by the buildup of fatty plaque in the arteries, which is called atherosclerosis. PAD can happen in any blood vessel, but it is more common in the legs than the

"Vascular surgery is one of the least understood medical specialties because what we do is so varied," said Dr. Hazel Marecki of Baystate Vascular Services.

"We treat diseases of the arteries, veins and lymphatics throughout the body except the brain and heart. We take ownership of the medical aspects of this care as well because it so closely relates to the pathology and to our outcome."

The body's cardiovascular, or circulatory system, is made of the heart, blood, and blood vessels (arteries and veins). In general, arteries carry blood away from the heart and veins carry blood back to the heart. The cardiovascular system delivers oxygen, nutrients, hormones and other important substances to cells and organs in the body.

It plays an important role in helping the body meet the demands of activity, exercise, and stress. It also helps maintain body temperature, among other things.

"Patients commonly see us for issues with arterial blockages such as those in the neck involving the carotid artery which can cause stroke if not treated, or in their legs that can cause pain when they walk or contribute to ulcers that do not heal on their feet," Marecki said.

Additionally vascular surgeons treat aneurysms of the belly and chest, varicose veins, deep vein thrombosis, creation and maintenance of dialysis access, as well as many other conditions affecting the blood vessels.

When it comes to leg pain/PAD, Marecki noted there are many causes of pain in the leg and not all are due to blood vessels.

"If it is more centered around joints or positioning of your leg, then t is likely to be more of a mu skeletal problem," she said.

"If it is related to vascular disease, it is something that only happens when you walk or exercise, for example, if you feel cramping walking up the stairs that is enough to make you stop in your tracks, That is often the first sign of low blood flow to your

Doctors test for low blood flow by performing a blood pressure check of the foot called the ankle-brachial

"By listening to the pulse and hearing when it goes away and comes back, we can tell how much arteri-

al blood flow is getting to the leg," Marecki said.

She noted one of the best treatments for many people with PAD, despite the fact that it hurts, is to actually walk more, and to work with your doctor to develop a structured walking program.

"Consistent walking helps to grow new pathways down to the leg, called collateral arteries, which increase blood flow," Marecki said.

Medications may also be prescribed to protect your heart, since leg pain can be indicative of heart issues, noted the Baystate vascular surgeon. These medications may include antiplatelets such as aspirin to prevent blood clots from forming and narrowing arteries even further, statins to lower cholesterol and certain fats in the blood; and ACE inhibitors or other medicines to lower blood pressure and prevent blood vessels from narrowing.

If the patient is still having serious leg pain after lifestyle changes, an exercise program, and medication, Marecki said surgery is an

"We use an imaging test called an arteriogram which allows us to see inside the blood vessels of the leg to determine if there is a blockage. If there is, we can perform angioplasty, a minimally-invasive procedure, to open narrowed or blocked arteries,"

As part of the procedure, the surgeon may inflate a small balloon in the artery to flatten the plaque. Sometimes the balloon is coated with medicine to help the artery heal. Your doctor may also insert a small mesh tube called a stent to reduce the chances that the artery will narrow

Bypass surgery may be used to treat severe pain, heal wounds, or save a damaged foot or leg when angioplasty is not as likely to work. In this procedure, a piece of another blood vessel from your body or an artificial vessel is used to create a new path around a blocked artery in your leg.

Of the numerous risk factors for PAD, smoking is No. 1 - the risk for smokers and former smokers is 2.5x higher than it is for non-smokers. Other common risk factors include:

Age 50+

Diabetes, especially persons with long-term insulin dependence Chronic kidney disease

Previous heart attack Family history of PVD High blood pressure High cholesterol Blood clotting disorder. Heart-healthy lifestyle chang-

es that are often recommended to treat PAD include quitting smoking, choosing heart-healthy food, aiming for a healthy weight, getting regular physical activity, and managing Baystate Health has the most

experienced team of vascular specialists in western Massachusetts. It is accredited by the Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Vascular Laboratories, meaning it has met high standards for care and qual-

For more information on Baystate Health and its treatment of vascular diseases, visit baystatehealth.org.

WE'RE ALL EARS **Questions? Comments? Story Ideas?** Let us know how we're doing. Your opinion is something we always want to hear. **Contact edowner@turley.com** Barre Gazette, 24 Water St., Palmer • 413-283-8393

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Public Safety

Hubbardston Police Log

Sunday, March 5

12:23 p.m. Recreational Vehicle Complaint, Williamsville Road, Officer Spoke to Party

9:18 p.m. Suspicious Person/ Vehicle, Old Colony Road, Officer Spoke to Party9:18

Monday, March 6

10:51 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gardner Road, Written Warning

Tuesday, March 7

9:44 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gardner Road, Citation Issued

10:20 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gardner Road, Written Warning 10:44 Erratic Operator, Worcester Road, Area Search Negative 6:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle - Disabled,

Wednesday, March 8

Burnshirt Road, Service Rendered

3:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gardner Road, Written Warning 3:51 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gardner Road, Written Warning 4:09 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

Thursday, March 9

9:04 a.m. Court Duty, Gardner District Court, Services Rendered

Friday, March 10

1:42 a.m. Abdominal - Back Pain, Burnshirt Road, Mutual Aid Transport 1:24 p.m. Falls, Grove Street, Public Assist

6:25 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop. Gardner Road Written Warning

Saturday, March 11

2:48 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Gardner Road, Negative Contact

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of March 20-27, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 60 building/property checks, 27 directed/area patrols, four traffic controls, 12 emergency 911 calls, 11 radar assignments, five citizen assists, two assist other agencies, two motor vehicle accidents, one scam, one fire/other, one safety hazard, two investigations, two animal calls and six motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, March 20

10:34 a.m. 911 Elevator Calls/ Alarms, Old Petersham Road, Services Rendered

1:35 p.m. Assist Citizen, Patrill Hollow Road, Spoken To 3:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre

Road, Citation Issued 3:55 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital 4:21 p.m. Scam, Ridge Road,

6:42 p.m. Assist Citizen, East Street, Arrest(s) Made

Tuesday, March 21 11:50 a.m. Fire Alarm, Barre Road,

Investigated

5:45 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Bridge Street, Transported to Hospital 7:44 p.m. 911 Disabled Motor Vehicle, Charity Hill Road, Services Rendered

8:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Barre Road, Investigated

Wednesday, March 22 8:44 a.m. Investigation, Pine Street,

Investigated 9:43 a.m. Assist Citizen, Pine Street,

No Action Required 11:57 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Pine Street, Dispatch Handled 2:54 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street,

Negative Contact 5:04 p.m. 911 Lockout, Church Lane, Officer Handled 5:45 p.m. Investigation, East Street,

Arrest(s) Made 8:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Hardwick Road, Services Rendered

Friday, March 24

11:44 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital 3:19 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Street, Death/Unattended 5 p.m. Assist Citizen, Sullivan Avenue, Officer Handled

6:07 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, School House Drive, Transported to Hospital

p.m. 911 Hang-up/ Abandoned, Patrill Hollow Road, Peace Restored

Saturday, March 25

12:52 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Collins Road, Services Rendered 1:33 p.m. Fire/Other. Pine Street Investigated

7:32 p.m. Safety Hazard, Lower Road, Services Rendered

Sunday, March 26 9:06 a.m. Medical Alarm, Hardwick

Road, Services Rendered 9:29 a.m. 911 Medical Alarm Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital 4:38 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Old Petersham Road, Transported to

9:48 p.m. Welfare Check, Summit Road, Services Rendered

Monday, March 27

7:58 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Route 32. Officer Handled

New Braintree Police Log

During the week of March 20-27. the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 21 building/property checks, 38 directed/area patrols, four traffic controls, 12 radar assignments, one safety hazard, one scam, one investigation, two emergency 911 calls and three motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

Monday, March 20 3:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Ravine Road, Written Warning 3:41 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Ravine Road, Arrest(s) Made

Wednesday, March 22

10:40 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital

Thursday, March 23

9:24 a.m. Safety Hazard, Prouty Road, Removed Hazard

Friday, March 24 9:17 a.m. Investigation, Barre Road,

Spoken To 2:28 p.m. Scam, Moore Road, Officer Handled

Sunday, March 26

11 p.m. 911 Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Scott Road, Negative

Tick season begins in Massachusetts

WORCESTER -The start of spring also heralds the start of tick season in Massachusetts. Tick activity increases once ground temperatures are above 45 degrees Fahrenheit and since ticks carry diseases, most commonly Lyme disease and babesiosis in Massachusetts, prevention and detection are key.

The experts at American Family Care in Worcester offer tips to help residents protect themselves.

"Not all ticks carry disease, but the potential is there," said Dr. Vincent Meoli, AFC's regional medical director for Massachusetts.

"Preventing tick bites is the first protection strategy. When

you will be outside during tick season, use repellents that contain an EPA-registered active ingredient like permethrin or DEET. We also recommend doing a thorough tick check on yourself and your children if you have been outside. Pay close attention to areas under the arms, behind knees and ears, along the hairline, around the groin and between toes," he said.

Other recommendations to prevent tick bites include wearing long sleeves and pants in areas most prone to ticks, such as wooded or grassy settings, and wearing light colors that make ticks easier to spot. Be sure to check pets when they come back inside as well, to prevent them from bringing ticks indoors.

Any embedded ticks should be removed immediately. Use tweezers and grasp the tick firmly; then with steady pressure, pull it straight up without twisting it. Safely kill and dispose of the tick and clean the skin around the bite with soap and water or rubbing alcohol.

"A tick bite in itself is not a reason to panic and does not require medical attention," said Dr. Meoli. "Mark the bite date on your calendar and see a health care provider if you experience a rash or other signs of illness such as fever, headache, fatigue or muscle aches in the weeks following the bite."

RMV offers Class D and M Learner's Permit Exams in additional foreign languages

Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles announces learner's permit exams for passenger car (Class D) and motorcycle (Class M) licenses are available in seven additional foreign languages beginning, Monday, March 20.

The exams are now offered in a total of 35 languages and now include Albanian, Cape Verdean Creole, Hungarian, Kiswahili, Pashto, Turkish, and Ukrainian.

"MassDOT is focused on equitably supporting all communities in Massachusetts," said Transportation Secretary & CEO Gina Fiandaca. "This announcement demonstrates MassDOT's continued focus on identifying ways in which customer service offerings can be improved to be more accessible, inclusive, equitable and convenient for residents across the Commonwealth. I would like to thank the RMV staff, stakeholders, and others who worked collaboratively to translate these important materials to help ensure customers have tools and resources available to support their journeys to successfully secure learner's permits.'

"The RMV is pleased to automate the learner's permit in

The these seven new additional foreign languages," said Registrar of Motor Vehicles Colleen Ogilvie. "The change supports commonly requested languages, supports new residents from Afghanistan and Ukraine and assists the established Cape Verdean community in Southeastern Massachusetts."

Each Class D or M learner's permit exam is comprised of a randomized set of 25 questions intended to gauge the applicant's knowledge of roadway signage and rules of the road, the dangers and penalties related to impaired operation and specific topics about sharing the road with bicyclists and hands-free driving laws. Test questions are developed using the information found in the Massachusetts Driver's Manual: https://www.mass.gov/ doc/drivers-manual/download.

Appointments are required for all learner's permit applications and can be made at Mass.Gov/

The learner's permit is now available in the following 35 languages: Albanian, Arabic, Armenian, Burmese, Cape Verdean Creole, English, Farsi, French, German, Greek, Gujarati, Haitian Creole, Hindi, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Khmer/Cambodian, Kiswahili, Korean, Laotian, Mandarin (Simplified), Mandarin (Traditional), Pashto, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Serbo-Croatian, Somali, Spanish, Tagalog, Thai, Turkish, Ukrainian, Urdu, and Vietnamese. Additionally, the RMV is finishing development on an American Sign Language permit exam to be offered in RMV Service Centers this spring.

The RMV has completed the translation of two critical informational resource documents into 11 languages. These documents will help customers prepare for the Registry's identification document requirements as well as provide details on the road test process to increase the likelihood applicants arrive prepared for their test and with an understanding of the RMV applicant, sponsor, and vehicle requirements. The translated acceptable identification document checklist can be found on Mass.Gov/ID and the translated road test information document can be found on Mass.Gov/ RoadTest.

CALENDAR, continued from page 8

email: ddfoley@eswa.org for more information and to register. Space is limited.

SATURDAY, APRIL 15

\STERLING GRANGE PUBLIC SUPPER will take place today at 5:30 p.m. at the Sterling Senior Center, 36 Muddy Pond Road. The menu includes Swedish meatballs, mashed potatoes, green beans, tossed salad, rolls and cake will be served. Cost is \$15 for adults, \$8 for children 6 to 12, and free for children 5 and under. Proceeds will benefit the Grange Hall Renovation Fund and community service projects. Reservations can be made by calling 508-886-2341 or emailing name and number of tickets to sterlinggrange53@gmail.com. The local chapter in Sterling was established in 1874.

FRIDAY, MAY 5

PRINCETON ARTS SOCIETY presents A Tale of Two in concert today at 7 p.m. in the First Congregational Church, 14, Mountain Road, Princeton. Back by popular demand, A Tale of Two is making their second visit to Princeton. The duo combines the best of Americana and blues melodies with timeless Southern storytelling. The award-winning vocalist Stephanie Adlington and guitarist Aaron Lessard draw influence from the likes of Patsy Cline, Tom Waits and Hank Williams Sr. This Nashville Tennessee duo is making a number of stops here in the northeast. Suggested ticket donation is \$10.

SATURDAY, MAY 13

CHRISTMAS IN BARRE SPRING CRAFT FAIR will be held today from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in the cafeteria at Quabbin Regional High School, 800 South St., Barre. There will be a wheelbarrow raffle, which includes a wheelbarrow full of gardening tools and supplies. Tickets are \$10 each. Vendors interested in participating may email christmasinbarre@gmail.

FRIDAY, MAY 19

PRINCETON ARTS SOCIETY'S ANNUAL SPRING SHOW AND SALE will be held today from 6-8 p.m. with an opening reception and Saturday, May 20 and Sunday, May 21 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Princeton Community Center, 206 Worcester Road, (Post Office Place), Princeton. The show is free and open to the public. All work is by the Society's members, many of whom are award winning artists widely recognized in their fields. The show includes works in oils, acrylics, watercolors, pastels, photography, and more, including three-dimensional works, with subject matter as varied as our artists.

For more information on the Princeton Arts Society, people may visit www.princetonarts.org or Facebook under Princeton Arts Society.

Gas prices decrease two cents last week

WESTWOOD - The average gas price in Massachusetts is down two cents from last week (\$3.27), averaging \$3.25 per gallon.

Today's price is four cents lower than a month ago (\$3.29), and 99 cents lower than March 27, 2022 (\$4.24). Massachusetts' average gas price is 18

cents lower than the national average. Spring has sprung with gas demand

surging last week as motorists took advantage of better driving weather. But fears of a recession caused global oil prices to hover near \$70 a barrel, mitigating a rise in gas prices. The national average for a gallon of regular gasoline drifted lower since last week by three

cents to hit \$3.43. "We may be seeing a return to seasonal trends in demand with warmer

weather and longer days," said Mary Maguire, AAA Northeast Vice President of Public and Government Affairs. "But waffling oil prices could mitigate any increase at the pump for now."

AAA Northeast's March 27 survey of fuel prices found the current national average to be one cent lower than last week (\$3.44), averaging \$3.43 a gallon. Today's national average price is seven

cents higher than a month ago (\$3.36), and is 81 cents lower than this day last year (\$4.24).

AAA Northeast is a not-for-profit auto club with 70 offices in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, New Hampshire and New York, providing more than 6 million local AAA members with travel, insurance, finance and auto-related services.

The benefits of local newspapers

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

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

• Local newspapers keep readers upto-date on their own communities. Globalization may be here to stay, but that does not mean local communities are no longer home to newsworthy events. National and international newspapers and 24-hour cable news channels can keep men and women up-to-date on national and world news, but in many instances, local newspapers are the only means people have to learn about what's going on in their own communities. Local politics impact residents' lives every day, and

local newspapers cover local politics extensively.

• Local newspapers benefit nearby businesses. Small business owners often connect with community members via local newspapers. A strong, locally based small business community can improve economies in myriad ways, creating jobs in the community and contributing tax dollars that can be used to strengthen local schools and infrastructure. And local newspapers do their part by providing affordable and effective advertising space to local business owners looking to connect with their communities.

• Local newspapers can strengthen communities. Local newspapers are great resources for residents who want to become more active in their communities and learn more about community events. Local newspapers often showcase community events like carnivals, local theater productions and projects like park cleanups. These are great ways for readers to become

more active in their communities and build stronger communities as a result.

newspapers can benefit children. National newspapers may have little age-appropriate content to

Local

offer young children, but local newspapers tend to include more soft news items than national periodicals, and such stories typically are appropriate for young readers. According to Newspapers in Education, students who participated in an NIE group in Florida performed significantly better in spelling and vocabulary than nonreaders.



Additional studies have indicated that students who use newspapers in the classroom perform better on standardized reading tests than those who do not use newspapers in class.

Many local newspapers have played vital roles in their communities for decades, providing a go-to resource for local readers and business owners.

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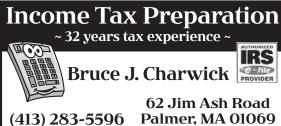




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We are looking for talented writers to join our team, and contribute to our weekly community newspapers.

Award-winning, family-owned Turley Publications, based in Palmer, is seeking a storyteller who is curious about everything, and who understands how town government works to join our team of weekly reporters.

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This is a job for a self-starter who has a vision for growing and connecting with our valued readers, and who thoroughly enjoys community journalism.

Qualifications should include:

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We will feature coverage of local businesses that are new, have a major expansion, moving, closing, under new management or ownership, celebrating a milestone anniversary, or have been thrust into the news realm. Merchants can request that coverage through the editor, or for our existing advertising clients, through their ad

For more information on business coverage for the Barre Gazette, please email edowner@

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Public Notices

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 Ch.255 Sec 39A, that on 4/14/2023 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

2005 Buick LaCrosse V_{IN:}2G4WE537X51192200 Nicole M Ritchotte 39 Burnshirt Rd. Hubbardston, MA 01452-1352 03/30, 04/06, 04/13/2023

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Frank W. LaRange to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Northpoint Mortgage, Inc., dated November 16. 2016 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 56343, Page 90, of which mortgage the

from: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Northpoint Mortgage, Inc., its successors and assigns to PennyMac Loan Services, LLC, recorded on June 28, 2022, in Book No. 67821, at Page 147 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 4:00 **PM on April 28, 2023**, on the mortgaged premises located at 711 South Barre Road, Barre, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

TO WIT: The following described parcel of land, and the improvements and appurtenances thereto in the County of Worcester (Worcester District), Commonwealth of Massachusetts to wit: Commonly known as: 711 South Barre Road, Barre, MA 01005 Parcel No.: Map H, Lot 451

Legal Description: Land with the buildings thereon in that part of Barre, Worcester County, Massachusetts, known as South Barre, on the easterly side of South Barre Road, known as Route 32, being shown as Lot 1 on a Plan entitled "Plan undersigned is the pres- of Land in Barre, MA check will be required to

ent holder, by assignment owned by D.A. Robinson Contracting, Inc., Scale 1 '=50'," dated February 23, 1999, drawn by Donald A. Para, Land Surveyor, Inc., New Braintree, MA and recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 739, Plan 18, to which plan reference is hereby made for a more particular description. Lot 1 contains 0.619 Acres.

For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 52145, Page 219. These premises will be

sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed. TERMS OF **SALE:** A deposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank

be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389. Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale. PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC Present holder of said

> By its Attorneys, HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C. 150 California St. Newton, MA 02458 (617)558-0500 22145

03/30, 04/06, 04/13/2023

LEGAL NOTICE MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Janet J. Macaluso to BNY Mortgage Company LLC, dated December 3, 2003 and recorded in Worcester LLC D/B/A Champion E. by remaining land of all easements, restrictions, County (Worcester Mortgage Company to Mortgage Assets District) Registry of Deeds Management, LLC, its sucin Book 32400, Page 77 (the "Mortgage") of cessors and assigns dated which mortgage Mortgage February 16, 2022 and Assets Management, LLC recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 67737. is the present holder by Page 166, for breach of Assignment from The BNY Mortgage Company conditions of said mort-LLC to Seattle Mortgage gage and for the purpose Company dated December of foreclosing the same, the 3, 2003 and recorded at mortgaged premises located said Registry of Deeds in at 380 Cutler Road, Barre, Book 32400, Page 86, and MA 01005 will be sold at a Public Auction at 4:00 PM Assignment from Seattle Mortgage Company to on April 27, 2023, at the Bank of America, N.A. dated July 9, 2007 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 41536, Page 207, and Corrective Assignment from Seattle Mortgage to Bank of America, N.A. dated March 7, 2012 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 48674, Page 208, and Assignment from Bank of America, N.A. to Nationstar Mortgage LLC dated November

mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit: The land with the buildings thereon located on Cutler Road, Barre, Worcester County, Massachusetts, being Lot 3 shown on a plan entitled "Plan of land in Barre, Massachusetts, dated March 29, 1998 prepared for Ronald C. Higgins by Peter Knowles, Professional Land Surveyor, Barre, Mass." recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 737. Plan 70, bounded and described as follows:

set in the stone wall on the easterly side of Cutler Road at the corner of Cole Road;

Thence S.83° 16' 27"

Beginning at an iron pin

Higgins, 479.01 feet to a point by edge of pond:

Thence southerly by edge of said pond, 297 feet more or less, to a point;

Thence N. 84° 05' 11" W., 419.86 feet to an iron pin set in stone wall along Cutler Road;

Thence N. 13° 08' 34" E., 48.50 feet to a point; Thence N. 01° 22' 33" W., 116.78 feet to a point; Thence N.04° 49' 37"

W., 132.63 feet to a point; Thence 00° 38' 39" E., 6.82 feet to the iron pin at point of beginning the last four courses being by said stone wall along Cutler

Said Lot 3 containing 3.04 acres of land, more or

For Title see Deed dated August 30, 1999, recorded at said Deeds in Book 21806, Page 212.

For mortgagor's title see deed recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 21806, Page 212.

The premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and other municipal assessments and liens, and subject to prior liens or other enforceable encumbrances of record entitled to precedence over this mortgage, and subject to and with the benefit of reservations and conditions of record and subject to all tenancies and/or rights of parties in possession.

Terms of the Sale: Cashier's or certified check in the sum of \$5,000.00 as a deposit must be shown at the time and place of the sale in order to qualify as a bidder (the mortgage holder and its designee(s) are exempt from this requirement); high bidder to sign written Memorandum of Sale upon acceptance of bid; balance of purchase price payable by certified check in thirty (30) days from the date of the sale at the offices of mortgagee's attorney, Korde & Associates, P.C., 900 Chelmsford Street, Suite 3102, Lowell, MA or such other time as may be designated by mortgagee. The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

Other terms to be

announced at the sale. Mortgage Assets Management, LLC Korde & Associates, P.C. 900 Chelmsford Street **Suite 3102** Lowell, MA 01851 (978) 256-1500 Macaluso, Janet, 22-041082 03/30, 04/06, 04/13/2023

Metabolic syndrome can lead to other health risks

SPRINGFIELD – About 1 in 3 adults have it - an unwanted health

The good news is that it is

largely preventable. It's called metabolic syndrome, also called insulin resistance syndrome, which is a group of conditions that together raise your risk for coronary heart disease, diabetes and stroke.

"It is important for everyone to know their risk for heart disease, and the combination of these conditions significantly raise your risk for heart disease. People with metabolic syndrome have 50-60%

those without the syndrome," said Elizabeth Jarry, CNP at Baystate Cardiology in a press release.

Anyone with at least three of the following risk factors is considered to have metabolic syndrome:

A large waistline, also called abdominal obesity or "having an apple shape." Too much fat around the stomach is a greater risk factor for heart disease than too much fat in other parts of the body.

Having a high triglyceride level. Triglycerides are a type of fat found in the blood.

Having a low HDL cholesterol

higher cardiovascular risk than level. HDL is sometimes called the "good" cholesterol because it helps remove cholesterol from your arteries.

> Having high blood pressure. If your blood pressure stays high over time, it can damage your heart and lead to other health prob-

Having a high fasting blood sugar. Mildly high blood sugar may be an early sign of diabetes.

Several causes acting together can lead to metabolic syndrome including being overweight and obese, an inactive lifestyle, insulin resistance, age and genetics.

"The good news is that most heart disease is 80% preventable and adopting a heart-healthy lifestyle can reduce your risk of developing metabolic syndrome and overall cardiovascular disease,"

21, 2012 and recorded at

said Registry of Deeds in

Book 50036, Page 215,

and Assignment from

Nationstar Mortgage LLC

to Nationstar Mortgage

LLC d/b/a Champion

Mortgage Company dated

April 6, 2016 and record-

ed at said Registry of

Deeds in Book 55170,

Page 395, and Assignment

from Nationstar Mortgage

She cited the American Heart Association Life's Essential 8, also supported by the American College of Cardiology, as health behaviors and factors to address heart disease risks and metabolic syndrome.

"The components of Life's Essential 8 include eating better, being more active, quitting smoking (this includes vaping), getting healthy sleep, managing your weight, controlling your cholesterol, managing blood sugar, and keeping your blood pressure in check," Jarry said.

"Losing weight, especially if you are obese, alongside exercise will provide you with the greatest benefit in reducing many of your risks including high blood pressure, high cholesterol and diabetes," she added.

There are times, however, when lifestyle changes need to be augmented with medical interventions such as medications to lower your cholesterol or blood pressure or

even weight-loss surgery.

While your risk for metabolic syndrome goes up as you get older, Jarry said clinicians are starting to see evidence of all five factors in the adolescent population.

"I suspect that this is largely due to the typical teenage diet of pizza, chips, soda and ice cream. Unfortunately, processed foods tend to also be less expensive and are created to be more addictive. As a result, we can expect to see a rise in heart disease over the next few years in younger age groups,"

ob Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP

TOWN OF HARDWICK YOUTH CENTER JOB DESCRIPTION

Hardwick Youth Center is looking for a reliable person 18 and over to provide support and be a role model to young people. We would need this person for about 5 hours per week and the program runs September to June.

Job Responsibilities

Supervise children from ages 5-18. Modeling positive behavior and servicing as a mentor for young people Organize and facilitate recreational activites including games, art and crafts, steam, trips or iust hanging out.

Jobs Skills & Qualification

Attention to detail and ability to solve problems quickly and responsibly. Excellent communication skills. Must have a driver's license and pass a background check.

Preferred Experience

Experience with large groups of kids. If you are interested please email hardwickyouthcenter@gmail.com or Angie @ 413-433-4007.

Health Director Full-Time

The Town of Palmer is accepting applications for the position of full-time Public Health Director.

Applicant must have the ability to perform professional inspections, technical and administrative work related to the enforcement and interpretation of public health, sanitation, and environmental laws and regulations. Applicant must possess a valid motor vehicle license; registration as a Massachusetts Sanitarian and Lead Paint Determinator; ServSafe certification required. Minimum qualifications: bachelor's degree in public health or a related field; two years' experience in public health and environmental health; or any equivalent combination of education and experience.

Salary is up to \$65,000 per year. The Town of Palmer is a lead community in a regional shared services health grant. The grant funding is an additional \$15,000 subject to appropriation.

This is a full-time bargaining unit exempt position. Interested applicants should submit a cover letter, résumé, and application to Town Manager, Town of Palmer, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

The Town of Palmer is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

TOWN OF HARDWICK HELP WANTED

The town of Hardwick is seeking qualified candidates to perform high-level secretarial. clerical, and administrative work assisting the Town Administrator and Select Board.

This is a part-time 19 hours per week position. For full job description. go to www.hardwick-ma.gov.

Qualified applicants should send cover letter and resume to admin@townofhardwick.com or send to PO Box 575 Gilbertville, MA 01031.

TOWN OF HARDWICK HIGHWAY WORKING FOREMAN

Seeking qualified applicants for FT HIGHWAY WORKING FOREMAN.

Provides direct in-field supervision of employees working on all phases of Highway Department construction, maintenance, repair operations and performs all other related work as required. Repairing heavy equipment and large trucks is essential to the position. Responsible for maintaining & improving upon the efficiency and effectiveness of all areas under his/her control as delegated by the Highway Superintendent. Send resume or application to

Hardwick Highway Department, P.O. Box 575, Gilbertville, MA 01031-0575 or by email at highway@townofhardwick.com. For full job description see www.hardwick-ma.gov.

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NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for the Barre Gazette, please email edowner@turley.com.

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