

BARRE GAZETTE



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BOH/ Planning Board discuss marijuana odors

By Ellenor Downer
Editor
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HUBBARDSTON – Board of Health Chair Cathy Hansgate discussed the joint meeting with the Planning Board held on May 3.

She said at the BOH meeting held Tuesday that a second meeting with the Planning Board will be held on Wednesday, June 7 to discuss the odor issue at the two commercial marijuana grow operations on Gardner Road, Royal Sun and Paper Crane. Members of the public also attended the meeting.

At the May 3 meeting, the operators of the two facilities said they would submit their plans for odor mitigation during this year's harvest season. They also said they would submit the plans to the BOH and Planning Board a week prior to the meeting so members of those boards could review them.

Chair Hansgate said she contacted the Cannabis Control Commission and was told the commission would abide by the town's decision regarding the marijuana odor. The board received complaints about the skunk like odor last year. The issue was most pronounced during the flowering stage through the harvest of the plants.

She also said hemp growing was considered an agricultural endeavor, but growing of marijuana was a commercial business under the control of the CCC. She said hemp has a much lower Tetrahydrocannabinol level than marijuana.

Chair Hansgate said she would like to see the two operations on Gardner Road succeed within the guidelines of their special permits with the Planning Board. She said comments made toward the end of the May 3 meeting were uncalled for and those types of comments would not be tolerated at the upcoming June 7 meeting.

The Board received a copy of an Occupational Safety and Health Administration report where an employee at a marijuana facility had a fatal asthma attack triggered by the marijuana powder.

Water testing variance

Jim Ellis of Seminole Avenue attended the meeting to seek a continuation of a variance on water testing at Cushman Pond beach. He said the board granted a one-year variance from the weekly water testing to allow testing once every two weeks.

He said to obtain a variance the swimming site must have two years of clean testing. He also said the variance could be given for four years. If during that time, there was a one reading above allowed bacteria levels the variance would be automatically revoked. Then there would need to be another two years of clean testing to receive a variance.

He said the association, which has access to the semi-private beach, has a small budget and weekly testing of the water would be costly. He said either he or another volunteer did the testing. It

See BOH/PLANNING BOARD, page 5



Submitted photos

Hartman's Herb Farm will be selling hanging plants, flowers and herbs at the Barre Farmers Market.

BARRE – This Saturday, May 13 from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. the Barre Farmers Market, on the Barre Common, will focus on planting and home gardening.

There will be demonstrations of container planting and gardening questions answered. Children will be planting bean and pumpkin seeds in a cup to take home and watch it grow.

In addition there will be a raffle for a gift basket with something from each vendor. The raffle will go to support Barre's 250th celebration in 2024. The drawing will be pulled at noon at the market.

Hanging plants, window box containers of herbs, maple syrup, honey, dairy products, crafts and more will be available.



Bumpa's Maple Syrup is just one of the many vendors, who will be at the Barre Farmers Market, on Barre Common, this Saturday.

Fobes Memorial Library to have outdoor play area



Photo by Ellenor Downer

Construction is going on at the Fobes Memorial Library in Oakham for an outside play area.

Maggie Ward earns third place in Arbor Day poster contest

By Paula Quimette
Staff Writer
pouimette@turley.com

HARDWICK – Hardwick Elementary School fifth grader Maggie Ward was recently recognized for her artistic ability when she was named the third-place winner of the 2023 Massachusetts Arbor Day Poster Contest.

Ward will soon be honored alongside other winners at a ceremony at the first-place winner's school in Mattapoisett.

When asked how she felt about being named the third-place winner out of all schools from across the commonwealth, Ward said she wasn't expecting it.

"I'm kind of surprised," Ward said. "I hadn't felt very confident about myself."

But Ward knows exactly why contest judges chose her work. "It's because I worked so hard," she said. "To make a tree, I got a shape and I added on to it...I added a bright sun. I took up my free time to work on it every day."

Ward said art is definitely one of her favorite subjects in school and described herself as a creative person.

Ward used mixed media to create her award-winning poster, which is displayed in the entryway of the school. This included watercolor for the sky, tempera paint along with permanent marker.

She created her design by first



Turley Publications Photo by Paula Quimette

Hardwick Elementary School fifth grader Maggie Ward shows her award-winning poster with art teacher Tammra Cook. Ward placed third in the commonwealth for the 2023 Massachusetts Arbor Day poster contest.

sketching it out with pencil.

Ward said she is excited to visit the first-place winner's school where the students will plant a tree in the schoolyard.

The poster contest helped Ward show how important trees are to people, animals and the planet.

"If we didn't have trees, we'd die," she said. "They're also beautiful and calm in a way that makes you feel welcome."

Her favorite tree is the willow. "They're not loud, not static..."

See MAGGIE WARD, page 5

BARRE GAZETTE

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News of the Towns



Round Town
Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

Food pantry to hold distribution

The next two Barre Food Pantry distributions will occur on Wednesday May 10 from 10-11:30 a.m. and on Thursday, May 18 from 5:30-7 p.m. In order to maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients May 10 and 18 will again be "drive-through" style distributions. Clients will line up in their vehicles on Park Street and proceed into the right hand (east) entrance driveway of the Barre Congregational Church. They will remain in their cars. They'll drive up and be checked in by a volunteer, then continue up to the church building where their groceries will be put into the trunk or wayback of their vehicle by volunteers at multiple stations.

Barre Farmers Market

The Barre Farmers Market is held every Saturday from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on the Barre Common. The next market will be Saturday, May 13. The market runs through October and includes farmers, crafters, artists and more.

The Christmas in Barre Committee will hold a craft fair on Saturday, May 13 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Barre Town Hall, Exchange Street. There will be a wheelbarrow raffle, which includes a wheelbarrow full of gardening tools and supplies. Tickets are \$10 each.

Circle of Song Concert

Circle of Song will hold a concert on Saturday, May 20 at 7 p.m. in the Barre Town Hall, Exchange Street. Circle of Song is collaborating with members of the Quabbin Community Band for two numbers, "A West Side Story suite" and "Pilgrim's Chorus" from Tannhauser.

Barre Dining Center

BARRE — Elder Services of Worcester Area Nutrition Program welcomes guests to dine at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road. The following meals will be served for the week of May 15. 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 – Smothered chicken with Swiss cheese and mushrooms, wild rice, roasted broccoli, peaches, marble rye bread

TUESDAY – Burger with chili and cheese, green beans, herb potatoes, fresh fruit, sandwich roll

WEDNESDAY – Lemon pepper fish, butternut quinoa, Brussels sprouts, peach streusel cake, diet = half piece, whole wheat bread

THURSDAY – American chop suey, corn, honey glazed carrots, strawberries, peasant white bread

FRIDAY – Meatloaf with gravy, garlic mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, Oreos, French 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.

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Ospreys make a nest on a light pole in Wilbraham.

Courtesy photo by Bill Platenik



Hubbardston
Ellenor Downer
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Library hosts pastel workshop

Greg Maichack returns to the Hubbardston Public Library, 7 Main St., for a new program pastel workshop on Tuesday, May 23 from 6-8 p.m. People should register for this workshop entitled

Participants will create a rose on either a square or 12" x 18," their choice. Maichack has been asked over the years to offer a rose workshop, the most popular of flowers, and a symbol of love. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Hubbardston cultural council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

West African Drum Workshop

A West African Drum Workshop will be held on Thursday, May 18 from 7-8 p.m. at the Hubbardston Public Library, 7 Main St. Jafar Manselle with his performance group, The Wendell Warriors, will teach the workshop. People will learn to play a traditional rhythm on West African hand drums and all drums and percussion instruments will be provided.

Story Times

Hubbardston Public Library, 7 Main St., holds story time with Miss Tricia on Mondays at 1 p.m. and are not held on Monday holidays. Children will listen to a story and make a craft. No registration is necessary. Miss Tricia holds a story time on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. as well.

Unitarian church plant sale

On Saturday, May 13 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. the First Parish Unitarian Church of Hubbardston, on the Common, will hold its annual spring plant sale. Perennials from early spring flowering to late fall flowering and all season long will be available for purchase. The sale includes edible plants, some annuals like geraniums and woody plants with most grown in local gardens. In addition, to the plants there will be an assortment of homemade fudge and candies for purchase.

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.

250th Anniversary Committee lists events

BARRE – Barre's 250th Anniversary Committee announce a calendar photo contest.

The committee is now accepting submissions from 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. Photographers should review the rules and regulations below before submitting their photos by visiting 250anniversary@townofbarre.com.

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

Parade participants needed

Barre's 250th Anniversary Committee is looking for parade participants for their Grand Parade scheduled for Sept. 21, 2024. Anyone interested in signing their business, family, group, or organization up for a spot in the parade should email the committee at 250anniversary@townofbarre.com.

Dancing in the Streets

Barre's 250th Anniversary Committee will host on Friday, Aug. 4 from 6:30-10 p.m. first ever, "Dancing in the Streets Fundraiser" on the Barre

Common. Proceeds from this fundraiser will aid the committee in hosting its 2024 events, including the Grand Parade and fireworks show.

The fundraiser will take place on Barre Common where the main thoroughway will be closed for literal dancing in Barre's streets. The night will include a D.J., food trucks, and beer and wine from local brewers and vintners. The committee promises a night that will be unique and memorable for the community. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at Barre Family Pharmacy or online at bit.ly/barrefundraiser. This is an age 21 plus event.

Barre's Autumn Fair

For the third year in a row, Barre's 250th Anniversary Committee will be hosting its Autumn craft fair on the common on Saturday, Sept. 16 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The fair boasts close to 100 vendors which include the Barre Farmers Market as well as local food trucks, music and activities for children.

Food pantry to hold distribution

BARRE – The Barre Food Pantry distributions will occur on Thursday, May 18 from 5:30-7 p.m.

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

to continue to operate as they have since March of 2020.

In order to maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and clients May 18 will again be "drive-through" style distributions. Clients will line up in their vehicles on Park Street and proceed into the right hand (east) entrance driveway of the Barre Congregational Church. They will remain in their cars. They'll drive up and be checked in by a volunteer, then continue up to the church

building where their groceries will be put into the trunk or wayback of their vehicle by volunteers at multiple stations.

Please do not arrive to volunteer on May 18 without first calling Dave Petrovick at 978-852-1696 or Chuck Radlo at 978-355-6463.

Because conditions have been changing rapidly, please continue to visit <http://www.barrefoodbank.org/index.htm> and the Barre Food Pantry Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Barre-Food-Pantry-100156068300314/>.

Select Board is accepting ATM articles

BARRE – The Annual Town Meeting warrant is open until Monday, May 15 at 5 p.m.

Warrant articles should be submitted electronically whenever possible. For more information, people may call the Town Administrator's office at 978-355-2504, extension 135 or email townadmin@townofbarre.com.

Circle of Song to hold concert May 20

BARRE – Circle of Song, under the direction of Julie Rawson and Mark Doyle, will perform a show tunes concert on Saturday, May 20 at 7 p.m. at the Barre Town Hall, corner of Exchange and Mechanic streets.

Completely comprised of selections from Broadway Musicals and Operas, the program is wide ranging. The program includes "Singin' in the Rain" from the 1952 musical of the same title, "Corner of the Sky from Pippin" (1972), "The Impossible Dream from Man of LaMancha" (1965), "Memory" from Cats.

Cats was based on a 1939 poem cycle by T.S. Eliot and first hit Broadway in 1982. "Sabbath Prayer" comes from the famous "Fiddler on the Roof" (1964). "You Will Be Found" is a song from the contemporary Dear Evan Hanson (2016).

The second half of the concert will be directed by Margaret Reidy and will be supported by a number of musicians playing musical instruments. "Pilgrim's Chorus" comes from Wagner's 1845 opera Tannhauser. Finally, the chorus and band will perform a "West Side Story Suite" of ten songs from the beloved musical of that name that hit Broadway in 1961

Vocal solos will be performed by Mark Doyle, Anne Kneeland, Phil Lovett, Ben Wells-Tolley, Lois Wells, Jack Kittredge, Danny LeBlanc, Joan Bevers, Julie Rawson and Karen Guertin.

The supporting musicians include Ben Vasseur on tuba, Sean Kelly on guitar, Toni Musnicki and Judy Schmitz on clarinet, Meredith Lord on flute, Jamie Mailloux on percussion, Cailan McClure on piano, Laura Guilbault on bassoon and Tom Doyle on trumpet.

After that, there will be wonderful refreshments served. And all of this is free, though Circle of Song gratefully accepts donations to keep paying their very talented pianist, Cailan McClure and for sporadic use of the Town Hall.

People may email Julie Rawson at julie@mhof.net or call 978-257-1192 with any questions or if they would like to join.

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News of the Towns

PUBLIC MEETINGS

BARRE

Barre Housing Authority – May 11 at 3 p.m.
 Board of Health – May 15 and June 12 at 5 p.m.
 Select Board – May 15 and May 24 at 6 p.m.
 Board of Assessors – May 16 at 6 p.m.
 Planning Board – May 16, June 6 and June 20 at 7 p.m.
 Sewer Commission – May 18 at 7 p.m.
 250th Anniversary Committee – May 17 and June 14 at 6:30 p.m.
 Conservation Committee – May 23 at 7 p.m.
 Cemetery Commission – May 25 at 11 a.m.
 Felton Field Commission – June 6 at 6:30 p.m.
 Council on Aging – June 7 at 1 p.m.
 Water Commission – June 12 at 7 p.m.
 DPW Commission – June 12 at 7 p.m.
 Cable Advisory Committee – June 13 at 7 p.m.
 Insurance Advisory Committee – Nov. 2 at 1 p.m.

HARDWICK

Wheelwright Water District – May 15 at 7 p.m.
 Gilbertville Water District – May 16 at 5:30 p.m.
 Master Plan Steering Committee – May 16 at 6:30 p.m.
 Conservation Commission – May 17 at 6:30 p.m.
 Board of Health – June 1 at 6:30 p.m.
 Paige Library Trustees – June 1 at 7 p.m.
 Recycling Commission – June 6 at 6:30 p.m.

HUBBARDSTON

Finance Committee – May 11 at 6:30 p.m.
 Council on Aging – May 17 at 6:30 p.m.
 Planning Board – May 18, June 7 and June 15 at 6:30 p.m.
 Memorial Day Committee – May 22 at 5 p.m.
 Board of Health – May 23, June 13 and June 27 at 7 p.m.
 Historic Commission – June 3 at 10 a.m.
 Conservation Commission – June 7 at 7 p.m.
 Town Center Committee – June 15 at 7 p.m.

NEW BRAINTREE

Select Board – May 22 at 7 p.m.
 Finance Committee – May 23 at 6 p.m.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

Planning Board – May 17 at 6 p.m.
 Select Board – May 23, June 6 and June 20 at 6 p.m.
 Downtown Development Committee – June 5 at 6:30 p.m.
 Planning Board – June 24 at 6 p.m.

OAKHAM

Board of Health – May 17, June 21 and July 19 at 5 p.m.

PETERSHAM

Select Board – May 11 at 5:30 p.m.
 Advisory Finance Committee – May 11 at 6 p.m.
 Board of Health – May 18 at 6 p.m.
 Petersham Historic District – May 18 at 6 p.m.
 Planning Board – May 25 at 7 p.m.
 Board of Assessors – June 1 at 9 a.m.
 Conservation Committee – June 6 at 6 p.m.
 Open Space and Recreation Committee – June 6 at 7 p.m.
 Council on Aging – Aug. 14 at 10 a.m.

RUTLAND

Planning Board Hearings May 23 at 6:45 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Barre Post 2 to hold Memorial Day chicken barbecue May 29

BARRE – The Barre Post 2, American Legion will host the annual chicken barbecue on Memorial Day, Monday, May 29 at 1:15 p.m.

Tickets are \$18 and only 120 tickets will be available. For tickets, people may call Tony Musnicki at 978-337-2351, Charlie Fullam at 978-688-7730, Scott Tourtellot at 508-320-9899 or call the Post at 978-355-2730 and leave a message. The meal will be prepared by the Masons of Mt. Zion Lodge.

Library offers program about bees June 3

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Join local beekeeper John Hedly at the Haston Free Public Library, 161 North Main St., as he presents artifacts and information about beekeeping on Saturday, June 3 at 10 a.m.

He will discuss topics such as starting a beehive, collecting honey, the physical structure of a beehive, the bee colony and how it's organized, bee chores in and out of the hive, and the importance of pollination.

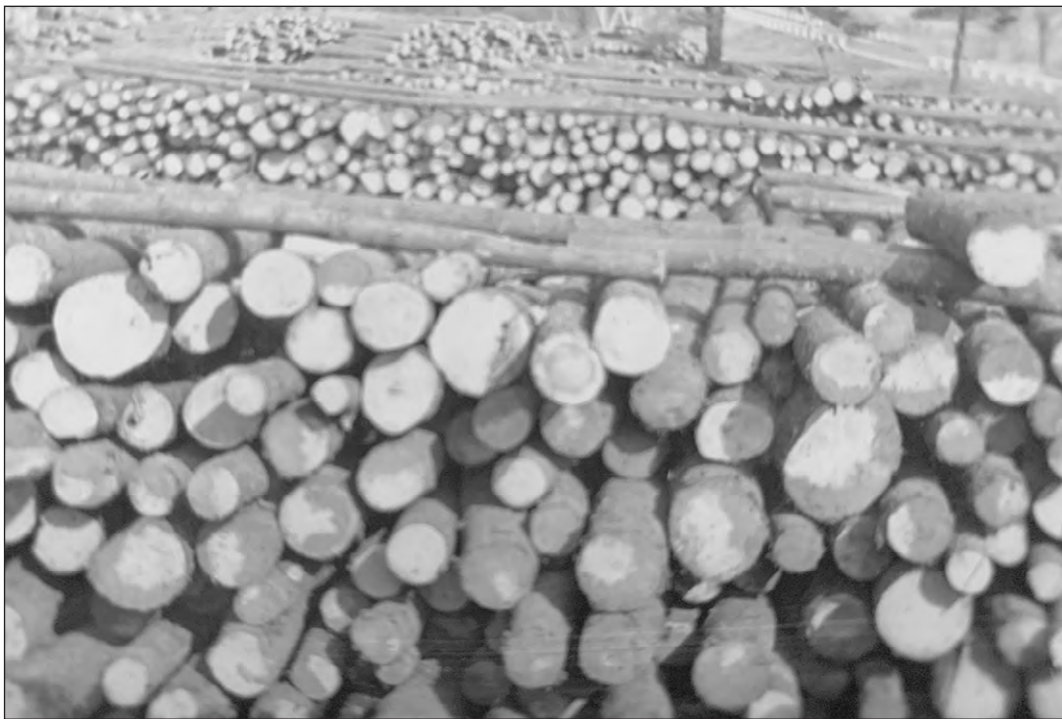
People should register by calling the library at 508-867-0208 or emailing hastonfreepubliclibrary@gmail.com.

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Talking History comes to Petersham



Submitted photo

Petersham events like the 1938 Hurricane and the moving of the West Road Inn to a new location will be the subjects of "The Talking History Corner" at the Petersham Memorial Library on Wednesday, May 17 from 5-7 p.m.

PETERSHAM – The communities surrounding the Quabbin Reservoir have remarkable histories and it is important that the stories of the region and memories be recalled and preserved for present and future generations.

To this end, the Petersham Historical Society has initiated "Talking History Corner" at the Petersham Memorial Library, 23 Common St., near the Petersham Common. It is a time for anyone, who would like to come by and "talk history" to drop in, on Wednesday, May 17, any time between 5-7 p.m. to share their interests.

This is the first of a series of monthly gatherings. The first topic will be oral histories. Often people wonder how

to share their memories and oral histories can be one way to preserve memories of families and of communities.

Larry Buell, area historian, will use a wide range of historic photographs and videos, so that attendees will be able to recall and share their own understandings and memories of events that happened in the town of Petersham. The Hurricane of 1938 and the tornado of 1953; major community events like Petersham Agricultural Fairs in the middle 1900's; and famous and infamous residents and guests like Dorothy Eaton, artist and John Fiske, internationally known historian will be presented. The informal and interactive conversations will be achieved through

the Oral History Project of the "People's History of Petersham."

The creator of the program Barbara Hanno, vice president of the Petersham Historical Society, said, "I have lived in Petersham for a number of years and do know there are many amazing stories held by residents which must be told. I look forward to learning more history from those who lived it." Hanno will be on hand to present some information on how to compose oral history or to learn how to perform oral history interviews.

The program co-sponsored by the Petersham Historical Society and the Petersham Memorial Library is free and open to Petersham and friends from other communities.

International Prize-winning pianist performs at the Stone Church May 20

GILBERTVILLE – Ivan Gusev will perform solo piano sonatas by W. A. Mozart and Franz Schubert in his return appearance at the Stone Church Cultural Center, 283 Main St., by popular demand, on Saturday, May 20 at 4 p.m.

A reception with the artist will follow the concert. Tickets are \$25 at the door or online by visiting <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/friendsofthestonechurch/742984>

Those under 18 are admitted free. Holders of current EBT, WIC and ConnectorCare insurance cards may request two free tickets at the box office on the day of the event, under the Mass Cultural Council's Card to Culture program.

Allan Evans, Arbiter of Cultural Traditions calls Gusev "a profound, genuine musician who makes each note live, and who transports you to another existence." Gilbertville audiences who heard Mr. Gusev play at the Stone Church, most recently in October, 2022, agree that his performances are mesmerizing and transformative.

Originally from Kazakhstan, Gusev earned Bachelor's, Master's and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees with highest honors from the Moscow State Conservatory, then completed a Master's of Music program at Mannes School of Music in

New York. He performed at Carnegie Hall, and has won the 3rd Gershwin International Music Competition (2017), was a prize winner at the Chopin International Piano Competition (2018) and has earned other awards including the Steinway award for outstanding Mannes graduates. Still a young man, he lives and teaches in the Boston area and performs frequently, especially requested by those who have heard him play.

The program of three solo piano sonatas by two great and prolific Viennese musician/composers, each at the height of his career, will reveal Gusev's artistic maturity. Moving from the Classical period in the first half of the program to the Romantic period in the second half, Gusev's complex repertoire illustrates melodic techniques informed equally by the composers' knowledge of the violin as well as the piano keyboard, and their inspiration by passion as well as reason.

Gusev will begin with Piano Sonatas No. 12 in F major by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, followed by Piano Sonata No. 13 in B-flat major. Both works were published in 1784 when the composer was 28. A child prodigy,



Ivan Gusev

Mozart produced his first compositions at age seven. He was prolific in many genres including opera, piano concertos, piano sonatas, symphonies, string quartets, and other chamber music. He composed masses and other religious music, as well as lighter works such as divertimentos, serenades and dances. Although he was well paid and extremely popular during his life, Mozart struggled with life's excesses and experienced financial difficulties. At the time of his death from an illness in December, 1791, at age 35, he was regarded the greatest composer of all time.

In the second half of the program, the audience will hear Franz Schubert's Piano Sonata No. 21 in B Flat, D960, the composer's last major work for solo piano, unpublished until about ten years after his death. "I have looked forward to performing this complete Schubert Sonata since I was in high school," Gusev confesses. It is widely described as one of Schubert's greatest works. Like Mozart, Schubert also died very young, in 1828 at only 29, and also from a disease. The beauty and com-

See IVAN GUSEV, page 9

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Oakham
 Ellenor Downer
 edowner@turley.com

BOH to hold clean up and recycling day

The Oakham Board of Health sponsors a clean up and recycling day on Saturday, June 3 from

9 a.m.-noon behind the Fire and Highway Building, Barre Road. It will be held rain or shine.

Volunteers are needed to help accept items for recycling and/or disposal.

Scout units, community groups and residents may help by cleaning up the roads around town by selecting a road and collecting a bag of trash. Trash bags will be provided.

Get rid of specific allowable unwanted junk around the house? Allowable items to be provided, which include televisions, air conditioners, computers, and more.

They may donate redeemable bottles and cans to the Oakham Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. There will be free disposal of medical sharps in a safe way as well as free disposal of unwanted medications. It is illegal and unsafe to dispose of sharps in the trash.

Accepted items and fees for disposal are: tires \$8-\$25; TVs, monitors, computers, laptops and gaming systems \$15; AC's/dehumidifiers \$10; VCR/micro-wave \$5 and propane tank \$8. Checks should be made payable to the Town of Oakham. For questions, people may email boh@oakham-ma.gov or call 508-882-4069.

Church benefit breakfast

The Oakham Congregational church, 4 Coldbrook Road, will hold on Saturday, May 20 from 8-9:30 a.m. a benefit breakfast for the Barre Food Pantry and the Rutland Food Pantry. People may also bring non-perishable food items for the food pantries. The menu includes scrambled eggs, pancakes, sausages, strawberries, orange juice, coffee, tea and hot chocolate.

Pen Pal

Oakham senior pen pals will be receiving an invitation to the annual ice cream social at the Oakham Center School where the seniors meet their fourth grade pen pals. They corresponded via letters during the school year. The invitations will be available for the seniors to pick up in the box outside the Fobes Memorial Library rear entrance on Thursday, May 11. The social will be held sometime in June.

Dismas Farm wish list

The Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, during the month of May will be collecting items for clients at Dismas Farm, located on Lincoln Road. Items include: new twin-sized sheets and blankets, new pillows and bath towels, new men's sweat-shirts, sweatpants and t-shirts, sized large to XXXL. Other items include laundry detergent, toilet paper and other cleaning supplies and fuel gift cards to help with transportation costs. People may drop off items on Sunday mornings from 8:30 a.m.-noon or leave in the hallway at the side entrance to the church, marked for Dismas Farm, anytime as the outside door is always open.

Election information

The Annual Town Election will be held on Monday, May 15 in the voting room at the Oakham Town Hall, 2 Coldbrook Road. The poll will be open 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

Church news

Sunday worship at the Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, is at 10 a.m. Sunday school is held downstairs. Donations for the Barre and Rutland Food Pantries may be dropped off either Sunday morning or left in the side hall during the week.

Tickets available for Strawberry Festival

NEW BRAINTREE – Anyone wishing to purchase tickets to the New Braintree Congregational Church's Strawberry Festival should call either 508-410-7424 or 508-867-9910.

This year's dinner will be take-out only and will be held on Saturday, June 10. Tickets are \$15 each.

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

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Opinion

Guest Column



Comments on
CONGRESS

By Lee Hamilton

Survivor benefits and spousal benefits are not the same

Dear Rusty: I will be 70 in August and will file my application for benefits in May. I know I'll get my maximum possible amount at age 70, but I need you to clarify things I have read. Per an award-winning TV host, author, and host of a money podcast "if the higher-earning spouse delays until age 70 to claim Social Security, that guarantees the survivor the biggest possible benefit." But then I read in a different article that if a person delays beyond their full retirement age to obtain a higher personal benefit like I have, my spouse's benefit would still be based on my FRA benefit amount. I am confused about which statement is the correct version.

Signed: Confused About My Spouse's Benefit

Dear Confused: I'm not surprised that you are confused about these seemingly contradictory statements. It is, indeed, quite logical and common for a widow or widower to think they must apply for a "spousal benefit" from their deceased spouse. And while that's technically true, those of us who live in this often confusing world of Social Security jargon would say the widow or widower is applying for a survivor benefit, not a spousal benefit. What's the difference? Well, when you're speaking with a Social Security representative or an advisor, the term "spousal benefit" means something entirely different than the term "survivor benefit."

The two articles you mention are, I believe, referring to two different types of Social Security benefit. The term "survivor benefit" is typically used to describe benefits available to a surviving spouse when the higher earner dies, but the term "spousal benefit" is typically used to denote benefits available to a lower earning spouse when both partners are still living. I agree this is confusing and that distinction was apparently not clear in the articles you read. Therefore, to clear your confusion:

If the higher earning spouse dies and has delayed claiming until age 70, that does, indeed, "guarantee the surviving spouse the biggest possible benefit." The survivor's benefit is based on the full amount the deceased was receiving at death.

If both spouses are living and the higher-earning spouse delayed until age 70 to claim, their living spouse's benefit, when the higher-earning spouse claims, will be a maximum of 50% of the higher-earning spouse's Full Retirement Age amount. A living spouse's benefit is based on their partner's FRA amount, regardless of when their partner actually claimed.

So, in your case, your wife's spousal benefit from you while you are both living will be based on your FRA entitlement, even though you waited longer to claim. But if you die first, your wife's survivor benefit as your widow will be based on 100% of the amount you were receiving at your death. In effect, both statements you referred to in your question are true considering that they refer to two different benefit types. It is a terminology distinction which frequently causes misunderstanding.

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

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

Editorial deadline reminder

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

Corrections policy

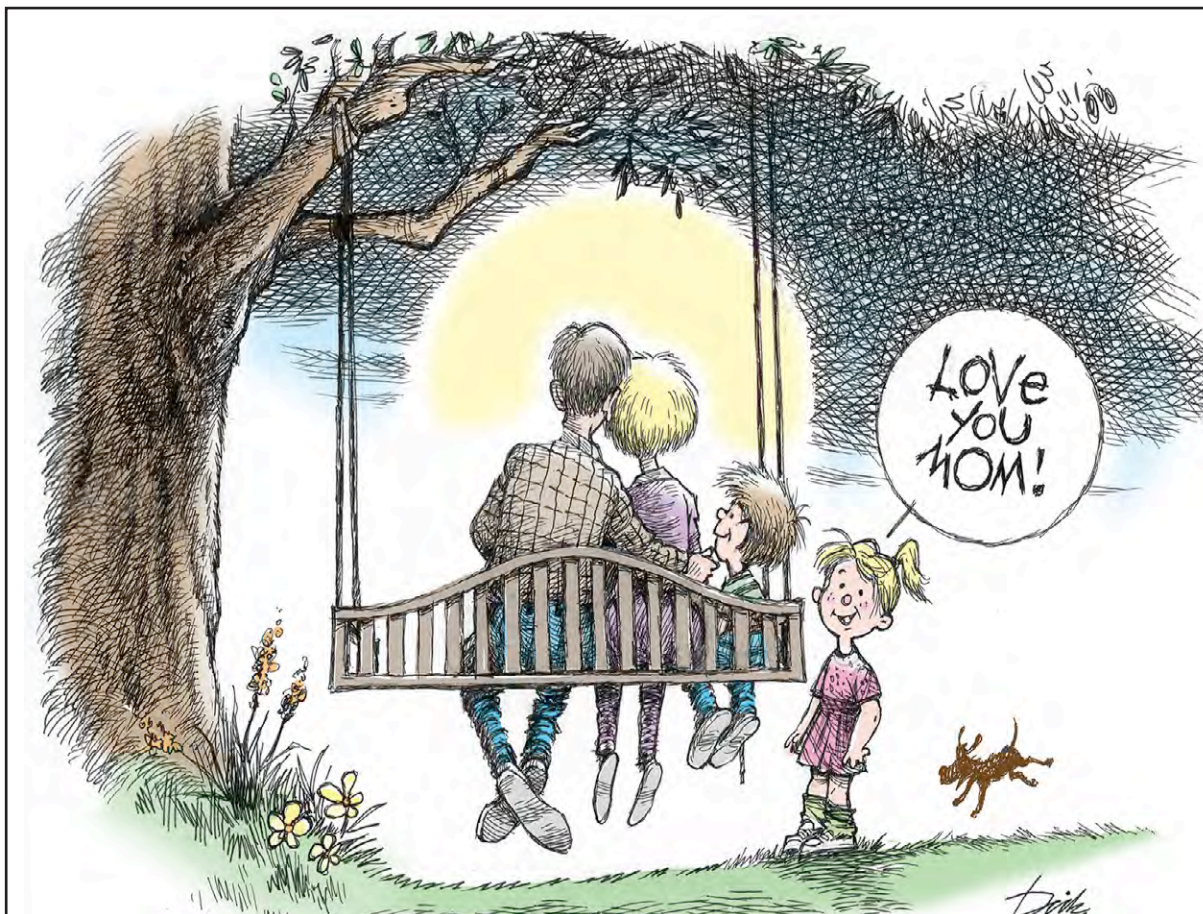
The Barre Gazette will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2. To request a correction, send information to Editor Ellenor Downer at barrenews@turley.com or call 978-355-4000. Corrections may also be requested in writing at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

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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Guest Column

Adventures of Gertrude the Cat

By Ruth Robinson

Dear Folks,
I am feeling much better this week after catching cold last week and sneezing all the time.

Missy was worried, but we didn't have to go to the vets, thank goodness. He is very nice you understand, but I hate the ride down and back.

Missy had to have the Verizon man here to fix some wiring. He left the block under the clothes hamper out on the floor and I have had a lot of fun hitting it around the computer room.

Now, it is behind the door and stuck between the legs of the small clothes dryer. It doesn't want to come loose.

I see Missy has some newspapers in the living room I could mess up, but I think I better be good.

What is that thing that is on the floor in the kitchen? Missy has just come back from the store and it looks like a bag. Yep, and I can get right into it and roll around. Wow, this is fun.

Whoops, what happened? My head seems to be stuck through the handle of the bag and I can't shake it off. Missy went downstairs to get her clothes from the dryer and left the cellar door open.

I'll struggle down the stair and look at her for help. When she sees me she exclaims, "Oh, you poor thing. Come here Gertrude and I will take it off."

I was so glad to have it off I rubbed her legs and purred loudly for her. I know she wanted to pick me up and cuddle me, but she respects my wishes not to be picked up.

All I can think of when I am picked up is being put in that awful cage at the abusive home. Then, Missy said, "Come on Gertrude, we will go upstairs and have a treat."

I love that woman. She understands cat feelings.
Love,
Gertrude



In Past Pages

5 years (May 17, 2018)

Residents attended an informational meeting on a proposal for a wireless internet service. About 60 people came to hear a proposal by Stan White of Hardwick for high speed internet in a town without a cable provider and where residents internet choice included dial up, satellite or Digital Subscriber Link. Selectmen received two proposals, one from Crocker Communications and the other from the wireless internet service based out of Hardwick.

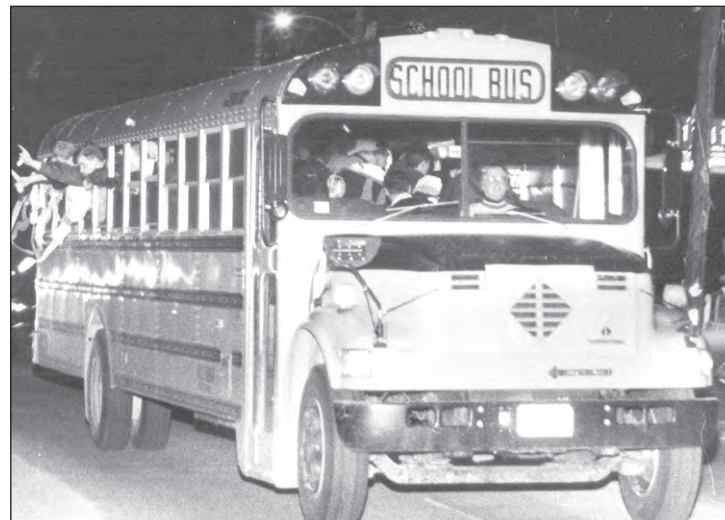
First the Collins Center and then Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission looked at alternate uses for school buildings in the Quabbin district. Quabbin Superintendent Maureen Marshall along with superintendent elect, Dr. Sheila Muir and Oakham/New Braintree principal, Patricia Worthington, came to the New Braintree Grade School. Superintendent Marshall said she had preliminary conversations with Center of Hope, an agency in the Sturbridge area that serves disabled adults by offering life skills and other programs. She told the Select Board she did not want to continue conversations with the agency regarding possibly renting the New Braintree Grade School without talking with the Select Board.

It was an unexpected, but welcome surprise for Quabbin Regional Middle School seventh grader, Andrea Zereski, when she not only got invited to the honors breakfast last Saturday morning, but was acknowledged for achieving all A's throughout the school year. One hundred seventy middle school students along with their parents, were invited to the annual honor's breakfast, held in the Quabbin Regional Middle High School cafeteria. "The breakfast gives us a chance to recognize students, who have excelled academically as well as in the arts and community service," Quabbin Middle School principal, Sue Musician said.

10 years (May 16, 2013)

Only 428 voters of the 5,670 or 8% of registered voters turned out for the annual town election on Monday. There were no contests on the ballot. There was only one candidate each on the ballot for library trustee and Wachusett Regional School District Committee, but both positions had write-ins for the second member. Voters approved only one of the four ballot questions they voted in favor of making the treasurer/collector an appointed rather than elected position. They said no to all capital exclusion questions that totaled \$172,000 for a police cruiser turnout gear for firefighters and a second ambulance.

LOOK BACK Quabbin basketball champion team - March 11, 1995



Champion basketball players from Quabbin wave out the bus windows got fans along the roadway. The team won the district championship last Saturday and police cruisers and fire trucks, sirens wailing, escorted them into town after the game.

Once again the Barre Players Theater, 64 Common St., Barre cast delivers another great performance and it came soon after the last production, "Jesus Christ Superstar." This play, "Night Must Fall" by Emyln Williams in 1935 was a psychological thriller that looked at a pathological killer. Diane Canterbury directed the production and Jeanne Hanson was the producer.

The Oakham Annual Town Election will be held Monday, May 20 with the polls open from 10 a.m.-8 p.m. This Monday night meeting was the last selectmen's meeting for Dennis Bergin. He served two terms on the board and decided not to seek re-election. Selectmen Bill Storie and Eliot Starbard told him it was a pleasure working with him and they were going to miss him.

25 years (May 14, 1998)

On April 3, 1973, the Barre Family Health Center opened in the carriage house of the Harding Allen Estate as an outreach of Holden Hospital. The center therefore became part of the America Board of Family Practice's effort to restore the medical specialty called "general practice." According to Dr. Stephen T Earls, current medical director at Barre Family Health Center, family practice "is the only speciality that works in small rural towns that could never keep a number of specialists busy." The second director and one of the most influential on the health center was Dr. Samuel Pickens.

Barre resident Tim Parse, a senior soccer player at Colby-

Sawyer College has been selected as one of four recipients of the 1998 Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference Award of Valor. The award honors conference athletes whose courage, motivation and relentless determination serve as an inspiration to all. The recipient of the award, which has been given annually since 1985, exemplifies strength of character, perseverance and most importantly triumphant accomplishments.

On Sunday, May 21 Barre senior citizens and their guests are invited to celebrate spring at a concert by the Band of Voices at 2 p.m. in the Barre Town Hall. The program will include songs from Africa, South America, Europe and North America. Refreshments will be served following the program

38 years (May 16, 1985)

Theodore H. Curtis was re-elected Hubbardston Selectmen with a vote of 260 against Walter E. Kauppinen with 168. The only other contest was incumbent Gary Mater with 212 on the Board of Health against Elizabeth Heald with 190. In a surprise sticker campaign Dene Carson got 112 votes for tax collector, but last against incumbent Susan C.M. Flagg with 270.

Evelyn Shepard of Brigham Street retired as postmaster in Hubbardston after serving six years as postmaster and 21 years in additional postal service. She was appointed postmaster May 19, 1979 to take the place of Joseph Homans, who retired. Her last official day with the postal service was May 2.

Barre Selectmen joined the ranks of other Massachusetts towns like Sterling and voted to suspend the granting of temporary alcoholic beverage permits on town property. According to Selectman Earl Sample, "Being the licensing board and being libel for any accidents or incidents has been a concern. We want to absolve the town from any responsibility."

Tell Us What You Think

Share your thoughts and suggestions with our staff and your fellow readers. Participate in our opinion pages, or contact us anytime with your feedback!

Barre Gazette
Your Community Newspaper

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Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

Mother's Day is coming this Sunday. I hope if you are a mother your family takes you out to eat. It is always a surprise where we are going and it usually is a new place each year. I seldom get to go out to eat so it is a treat.

I went to the Rietta Ranch flea market Sunday and only spent \$4. I was only able to go down two rows.

The field was full and the parking lot was full when I left. It was fun talking to all the proprietors at the flea market. They all love to joke. I know quite a few of them and they always give me good advice.

The day before I went to look for lady slippers behind my perennial garden and of course, I tripped and fell so I had to creep on my bum to get to a blueberry bush where I was able to pull myself up. Guess it is time for an alert system. When one falls it is not the fall that hurts, it is the pulled muscles that is used to get up.

Asparagus is good in the markets now so I decided to have a recipe to use it.

ASPARAGUS LOAF

- 1/2 cup cracker crumbs
- 2 cups cooked asparagus, drained
- 1 cup milk
- 2 eggs, slightly beaten
- 2 tablespoons margarine
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon grated onion

Roll cracker crumbs until finely crushed. Cut asparagus into one inch long pieces. Mix all ingredients together. Turn into buttered baking dish and

bake in moderate oven 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Serve with 2 cups of white sauce, mixed with 1/2 cup parsley. Makes 6 servings. Note: With the price of butter at \$7 a pound, I am starting to use margarine again.

Someone suggested I get a cow. The grain would be too costly and when I was growing up my father had a cow that he milked, but I was in charge of churning the cream into butter and making whipped cream. The boys helped take care of the cow when my father couldn't. Each night they brought her into the barn from the pasture.

We had a strainer that we strained off the cream from the milk. Those were the days.

This and That

I worked in the gardens when the bugs were not too bad. That is usually early morning. Things are really growing and changing everyday. The leaves have come out on the trees. The crab apple tree and the sand cherry are in bloom and the hostas are almost at their fullest.

I still need to do some more cleaning up of the lawns. The ice storm really did a lot of damage all over town. Many branches are hanging from the trees along Ragged Hill Road and I am afraid someone is going to get injured. The Highway Department needs to do some branch trimming.

I was sorry to read of the passing of Dennis O'Donnell. He was a Selectman when we had the bad ice storm a few years ago and he was so helpful to the town. He also served on many other boards.



Ovenbird



The ovenbird gets its name from the type of nest it builds, which looks like a Dutch oven.

They place the nest on the ground and it has a domed roof over the nest of grasses and rootlets. The entrance is a small slit.

The female lays three to six white eggs with brown and gray marks. They inhabit mature deciduous or mixed forests. They eat insects, worms and spiders. They walk on the ground and fallen branches and poke under leaves looking for food.

An Oakham resident has ovenbirds in her yard. She hears them making a sharp "chip" call.

The ovenbird is six inches long and has an olive-brown back. Its breast and belly with white with heavy dark stripes. The ovenbird crown is orange bordered by two dark brown stripes.

Barred owl

An Oakham resident saw a barred owl in her yard on April 28. She said in an email, "I had a surprise visitor this evening, a beautiful barred owl sat on my deck railing for quite a while. He looked all around before flying up to a maple tree. He sat in the tree for several minutes before going into the woods at the edge of my yard. I finally saw what he was after. He was tracking a squirrel." The owl and squirrel went tree to tree.

Other birds

The same resident sent me an email on May 3 to say she got her first hummingbird on May 2. A friend in Barre told her that her neighbors already had hummingbirds so the Oakham resident put out feeders.

She was glad she already had her feeder up when the first hummingbird appeared.

She said, "For the first time in 31 years of living here, I got my first bluebirds. I bought mealworms and set up my first tray feeder ever. I cannot get over all the birds who have gone to the tray feeder who have been ground eaters, morning doves, juncos and even a robin.

Leucistic rose breasted grosbeak

A Palmer resident sent a photo of a Leucistic rose breasted grosbeak at her feeder. The grosbeak, a male had a lot of white feathers, but it did have the rose colored splash on its breast. This phenomenon causes the partial loss of all types of pigmentation and causes white coloration, white patches, spots or splotches.

Baltimore orioles

An Oakham couple had Baltimore orioles at their suet feeder this week. They were going to get some oranges to put out for the orioles as well. I put out an orange this week.

The next morning I found one half of the orange on the ground and another on a rock about ten feet from the holder where I put the orange halves. I think it was the work of a grey squirrel or squirrels as I have lots of them.

Wood stork

I received a note in the mail from a Palmer resident, who saw a wood stork. She wrote, "Two mornings in a row, I saw a wood stork fly and land in some bushes on the cove at Lake Thompson in Palmer. Imagine my surprise - white bird with black wing tips - wood stock is from Florida." She said she opened her "Journal" to she who the bird person was and there was a picture of a heron and my address.

Other birds

The Oakham resident, who has the oven birds, saw two hooded mergansers on Long Pond a few weeks ago.

Originally, I planed to put out my hummingbird feeder the weekend of April 29 and 30, but it was so cold I decided to wait. Instead, I put the feeder out this past Saturday and I spotted hummingbirds on Sunday.

This Monday I saw a catbird. I also have not seen any dark-eyed juncos lately. I think they have all headed north to their nesting grounds.

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.

Library starts movie discussion group

NORTH BROOKFIELD - The Haston Free Publica Library, 161 North Main St., is starting a movie discussion group on Monday, May 22 at 6 p.m.

The featured movie is "Dead Poet's Society" (1989, rated PG) and is available to check out with your library card two weeks before the discussion. Watch it from the comfort of your home anytime before the group meets.

To register, people call the library at 508-867-0208 or email hastonfreepubliclibrary@gmail.com.

BOH/PLANNING BOARD, continued from page 1

requires following guidelines for the tester to show-er before conducting the test and wadding into the water to a depth of three feet. The sample also must be taken one foot below the surface of the water.

The BOH voted to grant a four-year variance.

Other business

The Board reviewed and approved two plans for septic systems. The first was for repairs to a septic system at 55 Bemis Road and the other was for a new construction at 142 New Westminster Road. The second approval required a check with the Conservation Commission that they approved the engineering plans.

HUBBARDSTON, continued from page 1

Representatives budget came out. The 9% was still higher than the 6% increase projected in the town's preliminary budget.

The Town Administrator said the police budget did not increase much despite including new taser equipment. This was due in part to a decrease in the budget with the appointment of Police Chief Ryan Couture from Sergeant.

He said there were substantial cost increases in retirement and unemployment. He said, "The budget doesn't have much fat - increases were what departments need not want."

The Select Board voted unanimously to endorse the FY 24 budget.

Other business

The Board accepted the resignation of Peter Russell from Finance Committee and appointed him as Planning Board Alternate until June 30 of this year. They appointed Edward Cronin to the Cultural Council until June 3 as well.

They voted to enter into Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining.

Paige Memorial Library to hold book sale

HARDWICK - The Friends of the Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, are having a book sale downstairs at the Library on Saturday, May 20 and Sunday, May 21 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

There will be a selection of books and puzzles and this is held the same days as the Tri-Parish plant, bake, craft and tag sale. On Sunday, May 21 at 11

a.m. Matt York, longtime New England musician/author, will perform songs of Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson, Kris Kristofferson and Waylon Jennings and tell stories of their careers. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Hardwick-New Braintree Local Cultural Council, a local agency that is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

NBSB hosts community shred days

NORTH BROOKFIELD - In partnership with PROSHRED Security, North Brookfield Savings Bank announces its 2023 Free Community Shred Days.

NBSB's free community shred days are the perfect opportunity to safely dispose of all sensitive documents you no longer need, such as tax forms or other documents that include personal information and get spring cleaning off to a great start.

Each event will be operated as a drive-thru service.

When attending, people are asked to limit shred items to five boxes or bags per household. They should drive up alongside the member center or designated area where a team member will take their documents to the shred truck on site. Documents will be shredded on site.

The 2023 Free Community Shred Day schedule is: Friday, June 2 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at NBSB, 128 West Main St., West Brookfield and Friday, June 9 at NBSB, 9 Gilbert St., North Brookfield.

MAGGIE WARD, continued from page 1

you sit under them and feel like you're in a story," she said.

Entering her poster in the contest gave Ward a boost to her confidence and she encourages other students to enter next year.

"You can do this. You just have to try," she said.

Hardwick Elementary School art teacher Tammra Cook said this is her first-year teaching in the Quabbin Regional School District, where she divides her time between Hardwick and Ruggles Lane in Barre.

Cook said she is so proud of Ward for entering the contest.

"I wanted students to participate in the Arbor Day poster contest because I think it's important for our school to look beyond the school walls and participate in the community. This state sponsored poster contest was something big that they could see would help support Arbor Day," she said.

Arbor Day has been celebrated in the U.S. since 1872 and the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Urban and Community Forest Program hosts a poster contest each year with a different theme. This year's them was, "It's time for trees!"

"Through art, I am so pleased my fifth-grade students could show our love for trees and help promote the importance of trees statewide," Cook said.



Turley Publications Photo by Paula Ouirmette

Maggie Ward used a mix of watercolors, tempera paints and permanent markers to make her third-place poster.

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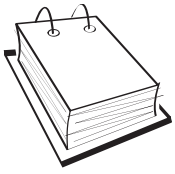
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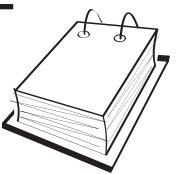
We are so very proud of you and your accomplishments. Good luck at Springfield College.

Love Dad, Mom & John

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Calendar of Events



THURSDAY, MAY 11

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.

'WILLIE WONKA' presented by the Theatre Guild of North Brookfield will take place today: Friday, May 12; Saturday, May 13; Friday, May 19 and Saturday, May 20 at 7:30 p.m and Sunday, May 21 at 2 p.m. The performances will be held in the auditorium at the North Brookfield Elementary School, Oakham Road (Route 148), North Brookfield. Tickets are \$16 for adults and \$11 for seniors and students under the age of twelve. One dollar for each ticket sold will benefit The Friends of the North Brookfield Town House for the restoration of the Town House. Tickets are available by calling 508-331-9031 or at the door. The performance is supported in part by a grant from the North Brookfield Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

SATURDAY, MAY 13

BARRE FARMERS MARKET is held every Saturday from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on the Barre Common, Barre. The market runs through October and includes farmers, crafters, artisans and more.

CHRISTMAS IN BARRE SPRING CRAFT FAIR will be held today from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Barre Town Hall, Exchange Street, Barre. There will be a wheelbarrow raffle, which includes a wheelbarrow full

Where is this?

This week's mystery photo is from Petersham. If any readers know where this photo was taken, they may email edowner@turley.com or call the Barre Gazette at 413-967-3505, extension 100 with their answer by noon on Monday, May 15. The names of those that correctly guessed the location will appear in next week's edition. **Bill Bowles, Gary Brigham, Stephen Craven, James Laramee, Evelyn Luukko and Phil Warbasse correctly identified the photo. Last week's photo was the War Memorial and flagpole on the Common in Oakham.**

Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer



of gardening tools and supplies. Tickets are \$10 each. Vendors interested in participating may email christmasinbarre@gmail.com.

ANNUAL SPRING PLANT SALE will be held today from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the First Parish Unitarian Church of Hubbardston, on the Common, Hubbardston. Perennials from early spring flowering to late fall flowering and all season long will be available for purchase. The sale includes edible plants, some annuals like geraniums and woody plants with most grown in local gardens. In addition, to the plants there will be an assortment of homemade fudge and candies for purchase.

MONDAY, MAY 15

QUABBIN COMMUNITY BAND REHEARSALS are held tonight from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Barre Town Hall, Exchange Street, Barre and will be held every Monday night. People may email Julie at julie@mhof.net or call 978-257-1192 or just show up at rehearsals. Margaret Reidy is the director.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17

TALKING HISTORY CORNER will take place today from 5-7 p.m. at the Petersham Memorial Library, Petersham. Using a wide range of historic photographs and videos, attendees will be able to recall and share their own understandings and memories of events that happened in the town of Petersham.

THURSDAY, MAY 18

WEST AFRICAN DRUM WORKSHOP will be held on Thursday, May 18 from 7-8 p.m. at the Hubbardston Public Library, 7 Main St. Jafar Manselle with his performance group, The Wendell Warriors, will teach the workshop. People will learn to play a traditional rhythm on West African hand drums and all drums and percussion instruments will be provided.

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.

SATURDAY, MAY 20

TRI-PARISH CHURCH PLANT AND BAKE SALE will be held today and tomorrow, Sunday, May 21 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., both days, on the Hardwick Common, Hardwick. This popular East Quabbin area event will feature traditional, favorite and connoisseur perennials, plus selected annuals, heirloom vegetable plants and herbs in time for spring planting. There is a wonderful variety in plants offered through Inishowen Farms of North Brookfield, Stillman's Farm of New Braintree, Chicken Feather Farm of New Braintree, as well as Howe's Farm of New Braintree, Tracie's Greenhouse of Ware, the Hardwick Farmers Co-op of Hardwick and private gardens. The popular baked potato buffet is returning and a delicious assortment of home-baked desserts and breads will also be sold. The event is held rain or shine.

CIRCLE OF SONG CONCERT will be held tonight at 7 p.m. in the Barre Town Hall, Exchange Street, Barre. Circle of Song is collaborating with members of the Quabbin Community Band for two numbers, "A West Side Story suite" and "Pilgrim's Chorus" from Tannhauser.

SUNDAY, MAY 21

23RD ANNUAL WALKATHON CELEBRATION by the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Western Massachusetts will be held today at 11 a.m. in the Stanley Park's Beveridge Pavilion Annex in Agawam. Registration begins at 10 a.m. The event is suitable for all ages and abilities and will directly benefit NAMI Western Massachusetts' continuing efforts to help improve the lives of those individuals living with mental health conditions and their families. For further information, people may call their office at 413-786-9139 or visit us at www.namiwm.org/events for pledge and sponsorship forms. Volunteers are needed.

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Indians offense comes through to beat Quabbin

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WARE—For only the fourth time this spring, the members of the Ware varsity baseball team didn't have to get on a bus to play a game.

Playing a home game for the first time in two weeks, the Indians celebrated a 14-3 victory over the Quabbin Panthers before a good size crowd at Memorial Field, last Saturday night.

"We just love playing games, especially at night, on our home field," said longtime Ware varsity baseball coach Scott Slattery. "The atmosphere here makes it a very difficult place for our opponents to play. Our style of play also puts a lot of pressure on the opposing teams."

The non-league contest ended after 4 1/3 innings due to the ten run mercy rule.

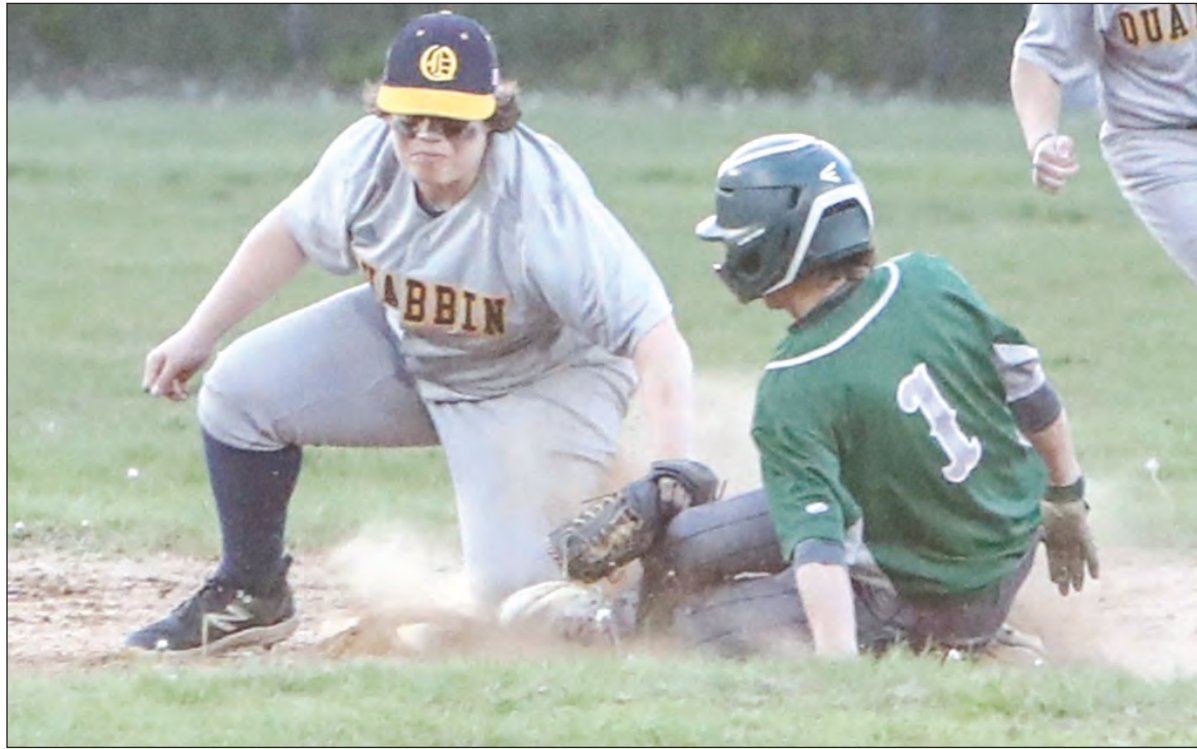
Ware, who had an 8-4 overall record following the home win, also defeated Quabbin, 10-0, a year ago at Memorial Field, which is in very poor condition.

After losing their first two home games of the 2023 campaign, the Indians defeated crosstown rival Pathfinder Tech, 13-2, in their first Saturday night home game on April 22.

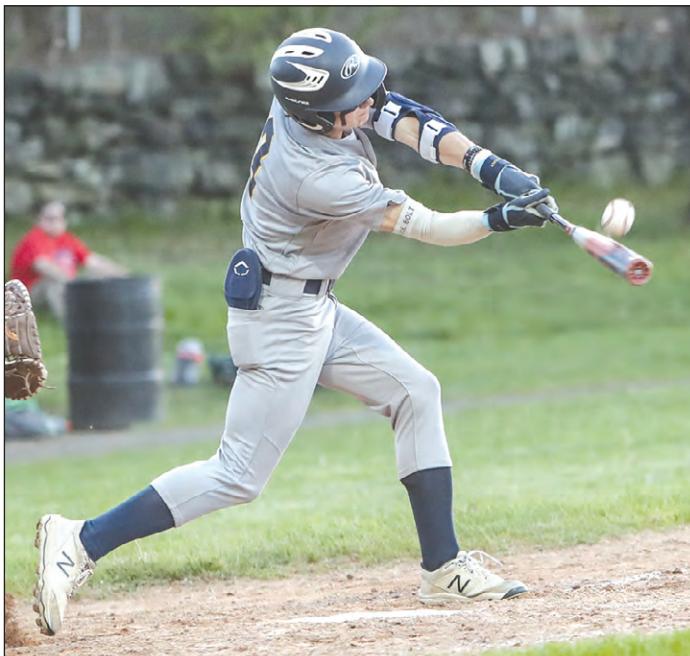
While the Indians, who are scheduled to play their final seven regular season games at home, are preparing for the upcoming Western Mass. Class D and Division 5 state tournaments, the young Panthers (0-11) are hoping to win a game or two before their season comes to an end.

The visitors from Barre haven't won a regular season game since squeaking out a 9-8 home win versus Worcester South last May. They did take an early 1-0 lead against Ware freshman righthander Brady Guimond, who earned his first

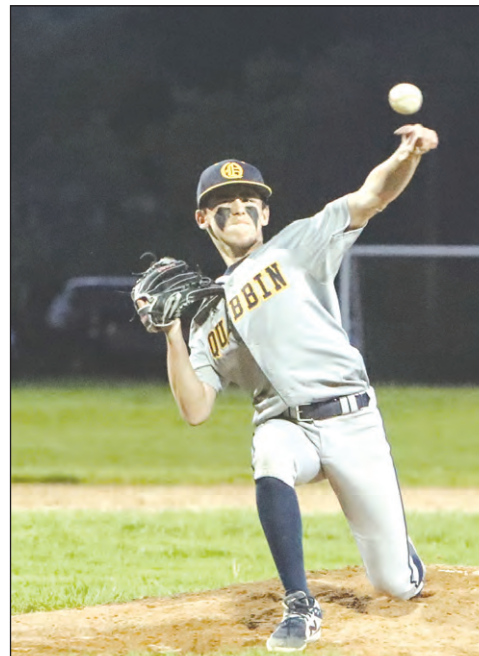
See **BASEBALL**, page 8



Sam Morgan catches the runner at second.



Conner Breeds sends one deep.



Jordan Guilderson fires one in for a strike.

Quabbin boys track picks up win



BARRE – Last Thursday afternoon, Quabbin boys track was victorious with a win over Groton-Dunstable. The Panthers won 75-70 as the team works toward the league, district, and state meets in the upcoming weeks.

Photos by Jack Cascio NEAPsmugmug.com

Will Hood clears 9'6" in the pole vault.



Battle of the big guys as Cole Austin flies across the finish line.



Julio Pagan paces the Quabbin crew in the 1-mile run

Pathfinder handed loss by Pope Francis

PALMER – Last Thursday afternoon, Pope Francis gave Pathfinder another defeat 16-1. Pope beat Pathfinder earlier this sea-

son also. The Pioneers are now 5-3 on the season with a lot of games still remaining on their schedule.



Emma Cehvalier pitches for the Pioneers.



Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Jen Kinney fields a grounder.



Greenly Lagimoniere makes the catch in center.



Olivia Ward squeezes an out in left.



Photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Josiah Lee picks up the loose ball in a lot of traffic.

Mustangs net first win in OT

MONSON – After a 3-3 first half, the teams went to 5-5 in regulation, and an overtime goal sealed the first win of the season for Monson High School boys lacrosse. The Mustangs triumphed 6-5 over Central. Monson, which co-ops with Pathfinder, is now 1-11 this season.



Aiden Colon maneuvers around a defender.



Brayden Pratt sprints up the field after making a recovery.



Players from both teams vie for the ball

Pioneers U19, U15 take part in tournament

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Two girls soccer teams representing the Western United Pioneers had the opportunity to compete in the third annual USL Academy Cup, which was held at the Tournament Sportsplex in Tampa Bay, Florida, from March 30-April 2.

It was the first time that the Western United Pioneers participated in the event.

"The tournament was run very well, and it was a great experience for our girls," said Joe Ferrara, who's the Director of Soccer Operations for the Western United Pioneers. "I've received a lot of positive feedback from both the parents and the players."

The Western United Pioneers U19 and U15 soccer teams took part in this year's Academy Cup matches because the Western Mass. Pioneers, which is a semi-pro men's team, is a member of the USL (United Soccer League).

"The USL Academy is a youth platform for professional teams within in the USL system," said Ferrara, who's also the Pioneers General Manager. "Having the Pioneers gives us the rights to have the USL Academy teams."

Federico Molinari coached both the U19 and the U15 teams at the USL Academy Cup. He has been coaching the Pioneers men's soccer team for the past ten years. He's also the club's Director of Coaching.

"It was a great experience coaching the two soccer teams. The

See **PIONEERS**, page 6

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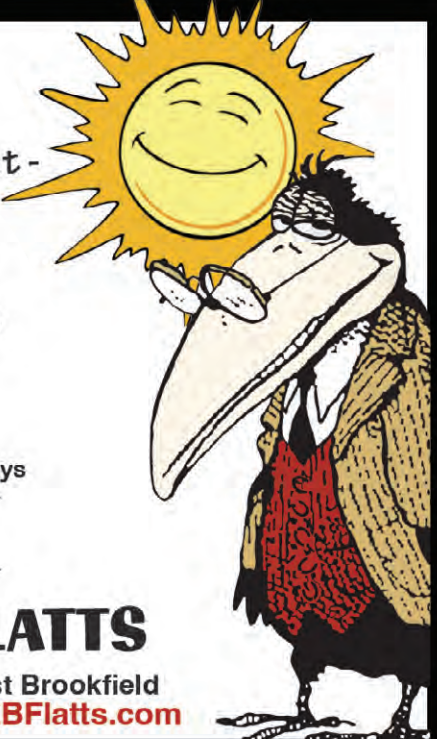
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