

BARRE GAZETTE

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Finance committee reorganizes

Town administrator discusses 2 ½ override

By Ellenor Downer
Editor
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HUBBARDSTON – The Finance Committee reorganized at their July 13 meeting.

Town Administrator Nate Boudreau presided over the meeting to accept nominations as chair. The committee voted Susan Rayne as chair. She then took over the meeting and sought nominations for vice-chair and secretary.

The committee elected Charles Reed, vice-chair and Susan Rayne, secretary. At present, there are only three members on the committee, Rayne, Reed and Amit Kaul.

Town Administrator report

Town Administrator Boudreau said he and the finance team are doing the budget close-outs for Fiscal Year 2024. He said he is also thinking about the FY 25 budget.

He said a Special Town Meeting would be held either in late September or early October. He said one of the articles would be to fund the additional Quabbin Regional School District assessment as voters at the Annual Town Meeting approved a lower amount than requested by the school district.

He said there possibly would

be other articles on the warrant and he hoped free cash would be certified for the STM.

Since the other four Quabbin District member towns approved the school budget, Hubbardston has to pay up. He said most likely it would be funded using free cash and money from the Stabilization Fund.

Proposition 2 ½ override

Town Administrator Boudreau said he was looking into a proposition 2 ½ override. He said in the past Hubbardston sought proposition 2 ½ overrides and they failed at ballot elections.

He said if there was a proposition 2 ½ override election, he would like to see the ballot be on a larger election rather than the annual town election where voter turnout was low.

The Town Administrator said communication to the voters about the override was important and he was working on a communication plan. He said he considered forming a study committee on an override. However, since it was difficult to fill positions on many town committees and board, he did not think it was the best solution.

He said he reached out to Winchester, Shrewsbury,

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ROBOTS BATTLE at Pathfinder's summer program



First place winners (from left) Ethan Bunnell and Caiden White show off the remains of their robots.



Finalists (from left) Noah Hansen and Louis Beauregard hold the robots they used in the finals.

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
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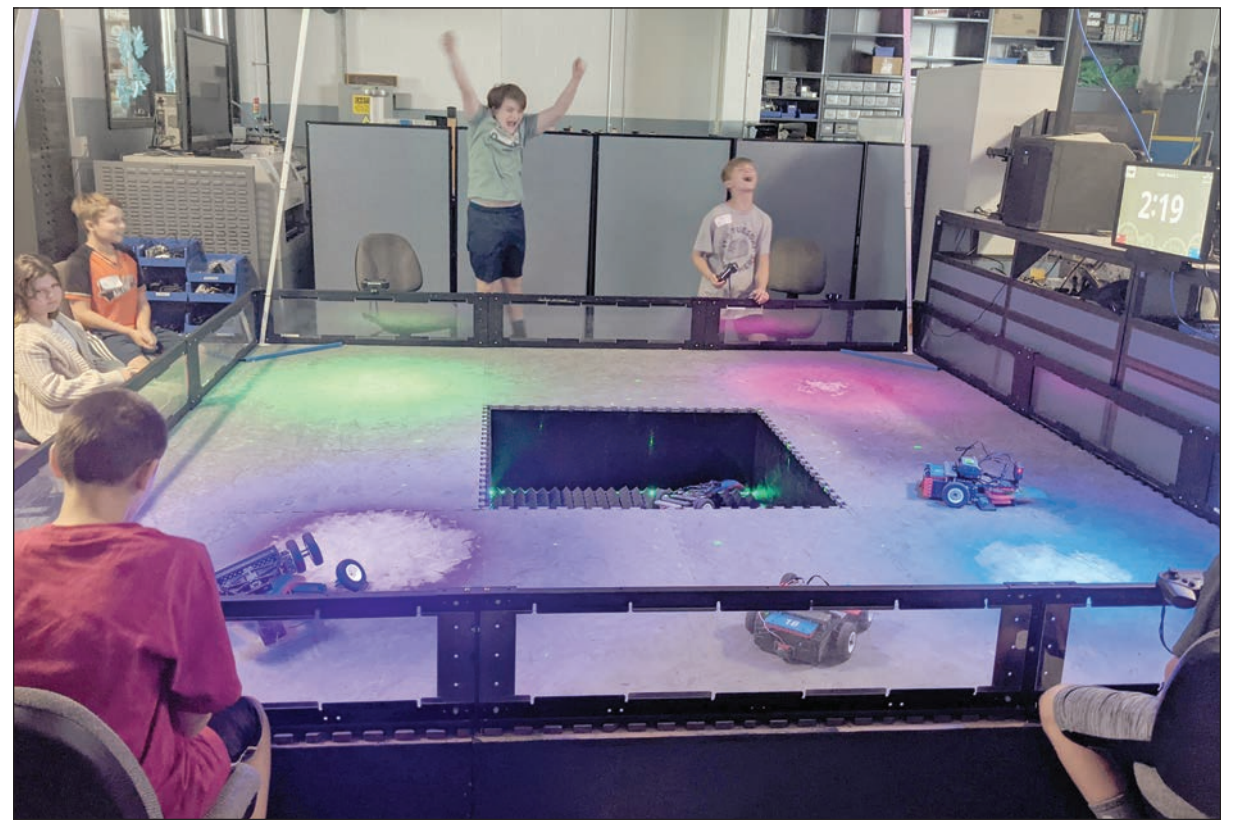
PALMER – Pathfinder's Summer Youth Enrichment Program held a tournament for its Robotics class last week, which saw students pit robots against each other in a brawl that served as a testament to a week of engineering practice.

"The Robotics Battleshop has been a successful and engaging program with the Summer Youth Enrichment Program for five years now," said Kyle Lussier. "It immerses students into a STEM-based environment of team-oriented competition, coupled with design, assembly, imagination, and strategy skills."

The class was split into two sides, the Blue Team and the Red Team, with two students from each team competing against each other for each elimination round. The final match came down to Ethan Bunnell and Caiden White on the Blue Team, against Louis Beauregard and Noah Hansen on the Red Team, with the Blue Team taking home the grand prize.

Lussier said that one good thing about the course is seeing the younger students learn from their older classmates, including students with engineering experience, often able to defeat them by the end of the week.

"Each student starts off with learning basic hands-on skills to assemble a modest, unadorned robot," Lussier said. "Once complete, they learn how to effectively drive their robot, along with learning driving strategies to improve success. As the week progresses, these students are encouraged to



Turley Photos by Marcelo Gusmão

Blue Team whooped and cheered as they defeated Red Team in the final battle.

make modifications to their design based on conclusions they have made from their peers' driving styles and self-perceived strategies. Nearing the end of the week, students are teamed up and pitted against other teams through random match alignment."

Liam Sasur, one of the students competing, shared how his design for a ramp on the front of the robot caught on with the other students.

"My brother suggested it," Sasur said, and demonstrated how the ramp would slip under oncoming robots to push them back.

The tournament was put on with the help of Rebecca Eckert

and Cody Scrivener, who are seniors in Pathfinder's Electronics Technology program, as well as Ethan Griswold, a Pathfinder graduate who was called in after one student could not make the tournament.

"He's off college, so he figured, 'What do I want to do on my day off? Come hang out here,'" laughed Lussier.

"[Eckert and Scrivener's] dedication, motivation, and drive are what help make this not only possible but exciting and engaging for all ages," Lussier said.

"It takes a lot to put on a really exciting show for the kids, but

all these guys are outstanding," Lussier said. "I just love how I've had a lot of students from the past come back and say, 'hey, I've got nothing going on, can I just come here, hang around, and help out?' Like, absolutely, come on in. The more the merrier!"

Lussier himself provided commentary on matches, as well as musical accompaniment that included classics like Journey, with Europe's "Final Countdown" playing on a loop for the final match.

For more information about Pathfinder's Robotics and Engineering programs, visit their website at pathfindertech.org.

Living on the edge



Photo by Diane Dufault

A red-tailed hawk landed on the side of the photographer's pool. She said it stared at her for about five minutes, which was plenty of time to take some photos.

Food policy council drafts vision/mission statements

By Paula Ouimette
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WARE – Members of the Quaboag Valley Food Policy Council continued discussion about the nutritional needs of the communities it serves.

At the July 19 meeting, members of the QVFPC talked about

how flooding from heavy rainfalls, as well as a recent tornado in North Brookfield could affect crops; possibly limiting future access to fresh local produce.

Homelessness continues to be a concern, as well as the inability to both prepare and preserve food received from food pantries.

Members suggested having a soup kitchen, where people could receive a hot, nutritious meal without needing a kitchen or cooking utensils. Another suggestion was having a mobile food truck that

could act as a soup kitchen to address homeless hunger and food insecurities.

The QVFPC is also working to compile a list of food pantries across the region.

Vision and mission statements

The members also continued to develop the Council's vision and mission statements.

Council Coordinator Caitlin Geaghan explained that the Council's vision statement is what they would like to achieve in a

"perfect world," adding that it is usually very ambitious and broad.

Geaghan said the vision statement would be broad enough to include a diverse variety of local perspectives, be easy to communicate, and be understood and shared by members of the community. The vision statement would also be inspiring and uplifting to all involved in the Council's efforts.

The vision statement the Council discussed was: "Quaboag Valley Food Policy Council will make healthy local food easily accessible

for all community members."

Quabbin Public Health Nurse Kirsten Krieger said this vision encompasses many of the things members were talking about in a broad way.

Geaghan said the mission statement is the "why" the Council exists, and is more concise than the vision statement.

"They explain the fundamental outcomes your organization is trying to achieve. A good mission statement is not limiting in the strategies or sectors of the community

that may become involved in the project," she said.

The mission statement suggested to members was: "Quaboag Valley Food Policy Council's mission is to connect local resources, provide education surrounding food, promote local food availability, and improve the local food system for everyone."

Krieger and Project Coordinator for Community Health Emily Coderre suggested adding language

See POLICY, page 5



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News of the Towns



Round Town
Ellenor Downer
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Food Pantry to hold distributions

The next two Barre Food Pantry distributions will occur on Wednesday Aug. 9 from 10-11:30 a.m. and on Thursday, Aug. 17 from 5:30-7 p.m. Clients are invited to pick up groceries from the food pantry either in the morning or in the evening. In order to maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients Aug. 9 and Aug. 17 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.

Farmers Market

The Barre Farmers Market is held every Saturday from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on the Barre Common, Barre. Fruits and vegetables in season, maple syrup, dairy products, plants, crafts and a lot more will be available for purchase.

Painted rock caterpillar

The painted rock caterpillar family project for all ages takes place now through Tuesday, Aug. 1. People should find a rock in their yard about the size of their open hand and paint it with acrylic paints, permanent markers or house paint. They should write their name on the bottom of the rock and may pick it up at the August party, date to be announced. They should find the location of the Rock Caterpillar with these clues: You can hear music playing here on some weekends. It is in the South, not the North. There are railroad tracks nearby. It is a beautiful place. Once they find the location, they should put their painted rock next in line at the caterpillar end. They may look at the rocks, but please do not touch them. For more information, people may email Karen Dulude at photokid17@gmail.com.

Flea Market on Aug. 26

WEST BROOKFIELD – The First Congregational Church, 36 North Main St., has been hosting their Flea Market on the town Common for more than 50 years.

This year the Flea Market on the Common will be held on Saturday, Aug. 26 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.



John H. Hansen, founding director of the Quabbin Community Band, leads the group in rehearsal during the summer of 1976 inside the former Barre Boys Club building in South Barre, The Quabbin Community Band Auxiliary Inc. purchased the building in 1975 hoping to turn it into a community music center.

Quabbin Community Band presents ‘Homecoming on the Barre Bandstand’

BARRE – The Quabbin Community Band invites band alumni to come back and join the band for a concert next week to mark the 50th Anniversary of this wonderful community organization.

The history of a community band in the Barre area is a rich one, reaching back to the first band stand being erected in North Park in 1859. Many of us know that the Barre Wool Band eventually became important to the fabric of the community, and when the group dissolved, a small number of musicians continued as the Gilbertville Community Band under the

leadership of Severino “Skip” D’Annolfo of South Barre.

The group in Gilbertville struggled with membership and exposure until in 1971 when they played six concerts on the Barre Common, which were very well received. With the passing of D’Annolfo, the leadership of the band was offered to their new tuba player, John H. Hansen, recently named band director at the newly built Quabbin Regional Jr-Sr High School.

After the 1972 season, the group formally moved to Barre and Hansen changed the name to “The Quabbin Community

Band.” The band will play several songs from the past including “Moon River,” “Begin the Beguine,” “Bugler’s Holiday” and “First Suite in Eb for Military Band.”

Margaret Reidy is the current musical director of QCB, who encourages musicians of all ages to join the band each Monday night through Aug. 7 at 6:30 p.m. in the Barre Town Hall for weekly practice. Be sure to follow us on Facebook @ Quabbin Community Band. In the case of inclement weather, concerts will move to the Barre Town Hall, Exchange Street.



Hubbardston
Ellenor Downer
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Building and BOH change office hours

The Hubbardston Building and Board of Health Office updated their operational hours for August and September. During this period, the office will be open to serve residents as follows:

Mondays from 1-6 p.m., Tuesdays from 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Thursdays from 8-11 a.m. every second and fourth Thursday and from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. every first and third Thursday. Inspections will be done outside of these hours per inspector schedules

Residents can still take advantage of convenient digital solutions by visiting www.hubbardstonma.us, enhancing accessibility and transparency in our operations. The town website offers online permit applications, ensuring hassle-free processes for building permits, health-related approvals and other permits, accessible 24/7. Additionally, the new Laserfiche web portal provides cloud-based access to a wealth of historical department documents.

Open committees

The Select Board seeks individuals to fill positions on the Quabbin Regional School Committee, Monty Tech School Committee, and the newly created General Bylaw Review Committee. The Select Board will consider applications for these positions at their meeting on Monday, Aug. 7. To apply, people should fill out either the Appointment Request Webform or the hardcopy paper form and return it to the Office of the Select Board.

Concert

The next summer concert is Saturday, Aug. 5 from 5-8 p.m. at Curtis Recreation Field, Route 68. A final concert will be held on Saturday, Aug. 19. All concerts are held at Curtis Recreation Field, Route 68 from 5-8 p.m. Food will be available to purchase and there will be activities for the children.

Dinghy Dash

The annual Dinghy Dash at Brigham Pond will be held Saturday, Aug. 26 at 10 a.m. Applications are now being accepted. There are three categories: single youth, single adult and group two to four. Thursday, Aug. 21 is the deadline to enter. All boats must be constructed of cardboard and duct tape only.

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.

MA Legislature passes \$375 million transportation bill

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Legislature on Thursday passed a bill that includes \$375 million in bond authorizations for transportation needs across the state, including \$200 million for the state’s Chapter 90 program, which provides municipalities with a reliable funding source for transportation-related improvements, including road and bridge repairs.

“Ensuring that people in every region of Massachusetts have safe and dependable transportation options is fundamental to creating a com-

petitive and equitable commonwealth,” said Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland). “This funding invests in our infrastructure and transit systems everywhere, allocating much-needed funds to local roads and bridges, regional transit, EV infrastructure, and parts of the MBTA. I want to thank Senator Crighton for making this a priority, my Senate colleagues for their support, and Speaker Mariano and the House for agreeing on these critical investments in our infrastructure.”

This legislation also authorizes \$175 million in programs that will support various transportation-related projects. This includes \$25 million for each of the following: the municipal small bridge program; the complete streets program; a bus transit infrastructure program; grants to increase access to mass transit and commuter rail stations; grants for municipalities and regional transit authorities to purchase electric vehicles and the infrastructure needed to support them; funding for pavement and surface improvements on

state and municipal roadways; and new funding dedicated to additional transportation support based on road mileage, which is particularly helpful for rural communities.

Senator Jake Oliveira (Hampden, Hampshire & Worcester District) was glad to see the new funding dedicated to additional transportation support based on road mileage, “Western Mass has considerably more rural communities than other areas of the state, so I’m glad to see the Legislature prioritize regional equity by tak-

ing more factors into account beyond just population and other socioeconomic factors. Addressing regional equity is about acknowledging and understanding that Western Mass has different challenges than other parts of the state. I’m grateful to Senate President Spilka, Speaker Mariano, and my colleagues in the Legislature for considering that,” said Oliveira.

The bill having passed both the Senate and the House of Representatives, it will now be sent to the Governor for her consideration.



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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 Aug. 7. Lunches are back at the senior center, but require a pre-sign up. Volunteers are needed at the Barre dining site. Volunteers are needed for Meals on Wheels (mileage reimbursement) and in the kitchen. People should contact 978-355-5027.

MONDAY – Teriyaki beef, steamed brown rice, broccoli, pineapple, fortune cookie, whole wheat bread

TUESDAY – Vegetable cheese bake, seasoned potatoes, green beans, cookie, Italian bread

WEDNESDAY – Hot god, baked beans, coleslaw, fresh fruit, hot dog bun, mustard

THURSDAY – Salisbury steak with gravy, garlic mashed potatoes, Capri vegetables, brownie, diet = half piece, sandwich roll

FRIDAY – Potato crunch fish, rice pilaf, mixed vegetables, apple crisp, applesauce, marble rye bread, tartar sauce

*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.

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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CHECK OUT ALL THE

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Education



Program attendees gather around the helicopter to listen to a lecture by flight nurse, Stacy.



Youth attending the program answered questions about the fundamentals of wiring.



Culinary students learn to make pasta from Pathfinder's Nutrition Director Anthony Bishop.

Turley Photos by Marcelo Gusmao

Youths find enrichment at Pathfinder's Summer Program

By Marcelo Gusmao
Staff Writer
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PALMER – This week, Pathfinder concludes its Summer Enrichment program, a three-week long program that offers five-day

courses on fundamentals of the various vocational programs that Pathfinder has to offer.

The program invites kids entering fourth to eighth grade to sign up for individual weeks of Advanced Manufacturing, Art, Auto Body and Automotive

Technology, Biking, Baking and Junior Chef, Beauty School, Biking, Drama and Theatre, Electrical, First Responders, Fishing, Plumbing, Woodworking, and the Robotics Battleship.

"What they do essentially is they spend all the morning up till

lunch in their technical area," said Principal Brenda Turner. "Then in the afternoon there are fun games and activities and crafts...all sorts of things."

Among these games are sports like kickball and obstacle courses.

"The National Guard's been coming every Wednesday with an inflatable obstacle course, so the kids are out on the front lawn doing that," Turner said.

"It's a little bit of a combination for the students, they're getting exposure to that technical area, trying their hand at some of the skills, using some of the tools and equipment," Turner said.

"It's nice, too, because they interact with each other," said Vocational Director Amy Skowrya. "We have a lot of repeat students who come back, so they make friends and they get to see each other and spend time together."

Zac Button, normally the History Teacher and Basketball Coach, has been involved with the Summer Youth Enrichment Program.

"It's been a great summer so far, the kids have been having an awesome time," Button said. "They've been making some really great products and things, they've had a lot of fun."

Button said that the first week of the program had 140 kids, and then 136 for the second week,

and then the last week had 115.

"I would like to think that this job is a bit more relaxed for them, a bit more light-hearted and fun," Button said. "We don't have a curriculum that we're trying to meet, we don't have testing that we're trying to focus on, so it's educational, yet recreational at the same time, which is great. It's more about not only just learning the basic skills in these areas, but also socializing."

"I've seen kids meet people they've never met before and become fast friends, exchanging information, whether it's to play video games online together, or go to the beach with their families," Button said. "So, it's not just educational, but it's also really some great social networking that we see here. Watching young people meet like this and form friendships is fun to see."

On Monday, July 24, the First Responders class was visited by a helicopter from UMass Memorial Medical Center.

"We have life flight, and we have the ambulance crew here, so we'll be talking to them about CPR, Heimlich, stuff they do on a regular basis," explained Officer Rick Wahlers, who Principal Turner described as "a staple" of the school and the program.

Wahlers described how Monday would focus on Emergency Medical Services training, fol-

lowed by police canine training on Tuesday, fire safety training on Wednesday, and then police training for things like fingerprinting and patrol procedures on Thursday, followed by tours on Friday.

"We'll give them a tour of the police station, they can meet people that are in there, get to see the facility, how they work, check everything out there, and then we go to all the fire stations, see the firefighters at their stations, and how that stuff works," Wahlers said.

"We go to the ambulance garage, check that out, so they get a tour of everything," Wahlers said. "We'll include everybody, and then they can interact with the firefighters there and talk to them at their stations, and then we'll van them up, come back, and that's the week."

After landing their helicopter on the lawn in front of the school, the crew told the class about what they do, and what protocols they have to follow, such as the minimum number of staff required to tend to an emergency.

The Summer Youth Enrichment Program serves as a great sampling of the various vocational programs that Pathfinder has to offer, with in-depth courses that, at best, can put a child on the path to a career they'll be passionate about – and at worst, provide some fun activities to try out over the summer.

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MWCC celebrates Leominster Campus renovations

LEOMINSTER – On Tuesday, April 4, Mount Wachusett Community College's Leominster campus welcomed legislators and community leaders to celebrate the completion of an extensive eight-month renovation, which welcomed students and staff for the spring semester in February 2023.

Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll and Congressman Jim McGovern were among the attendees and shared their enthusiasm and support for MWCC and the work done to enhance the educational opportunities available to the North Central community. The event included a ribbon cutting and presentation of the MWCC Service Above Self award to Neddy Latimer.

"Our mission, and the forefront of our strategic plan, is to better serve our students of color. As you walk our halls today, tomorrow, and in the future, this campus will draw a diverse student body of peo-

ple who are trying to improve their lives, and that is our mission," stated MWCC President James Vander Hooven in his opening remarks. "It is so fitting that we are honoring Neddy Latimer for her tireless dedication to marginalized and struggling members of our community with the Service Above Self award as part of this ceremony."

Neddy Latimer has led the Spanish American Center as its Executive Director since 1971 and is known throughout the North Central community for the warmth and compassion she gives to everyone she meets. The Service Above Self award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions within the 29 cities and towns that make up the MWCC service area.

"Mount Wachusett Community College has provided an affordable and accessible education to those living in North Central Massachusetts for decades," said

Congressman James P. McGovern. "I was thrilled to join their students, educators, and local leaders to celebrate the reopening of their Leominster campus and honor my good friend, Neddy Latimer, for her continued service as Executive Director of the Spanish American Center. She's a remarkable leader for our community and our Commonwealth. Through this new campus, MWCC will continue to pair their rigorous coursework with needed social supports, like their campus food pantry, which ensures no student will have to choose between the cost of groceries or school supplies. I'm inspired by their relentless dedication to setting students up for a lifetime of professional and personal success."

"Our community colleges offer incredible opportunities for Massachusetts residents, particularly for those who all too often

See CAMPUS, page 11

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Submitted photos
Quabbin's Anthony Quarterone employs an effective ball fake to get his opponent in the air on his way to the basket during his team's 41-27 win over Tahanto.

Cagers respond with pair of wins

AUBURN – After two close heart-breaking losses last week, the Quabbin Cagers rebounded with two consecutive wins over West Boylston and Tahanto in Auburn Summer Basketball league play.

And rebounded they certainly did, as the E.P. Wine-sponsored team controlled the boards in both games allowing multiple transition baskets in each game for the locals to take advantage.

This has been a work in progress for coaches Tim Hay and Luke Brownell as they are finding ways to increase offensive production. And controlling the boards along with offensive transition opportunities are just two of the expectations.

The losses the previous week by one possession in each game was certainly disappointing to the team and coaches, however, they were not discouraged. Posting a solid 61-41 win over West Boylston saw three players in double digits with guard Chris Prunesti-Leveille leading the way with 21 points followed by combo guard Jacoby Dillon with 12 and power forward Kyle Clark with 10 more.

Forward Nick Whitelaw contributed 6 points and Jaxon Warburton added 4 as well. Six cagers were in the scoring column as seventh grader Hayston Hay saw action and drained a three-pointer to continue the balanced scoring attack.

Rebounding was a key to the victory and Junior Kyle Clark powered down 10 caroms including six on the offensive boards where the 6'4 forward is beginning to exert himself.

Guards Ricky Janoure and Jaxon Warburton combined for seven loose ball recoveries as the Quabbinians totaled 18 for the game.

On defense, Whitelaw drew two charges and Warburton drew another. Whitelaw leads the team in drawn charges.

The Cagers then went on to

down Tahanto by a score of 41-27 as Kyle Clark, having a break out summer season, paved the way with 16 points followed by Chris Prunesti-Leveille with 11 and Nick Whitelaw with 6 more. Clark has been working on his rebounding technique and post up play with Brownell and he led the team again in this department with 8 caroms. Jacoby Dilling, leading the team this summer season in loose ball recoveries, added seven more to his total while Chris Prunesti-Leveille had four of his own while Bryce Venne tracked down three.

With Brownell working diligently with the bigs this summer, Hay has been working hard with the guards and that effort was evident in this game as the team totaled eleven assists. In the West Boylston game, the team was moving the ball well with less dribbling and finding the open players and this produced a summer season high of fifteen assists.

The Cagers managed to keep turnovers below the 15 mark committing only 12 give-aways. This has been another area that the summer coaches have repeatedly stressed to the team.

The addition of forward Anthony Quarterone, the 6'3 freshman, has been a spark for the team off the bench and Quarterone can run the court and hit the boards. With Hayston Hay picking up minutes and adding to the deep perimeter shooting offense the rotation has been productive.

Bryce Venne and Jacoby Dilling continue to see increased minutes and both have the quickness to play the best guards on the opponents team. Hay noted that each and every game Jaxon Warburton becomes more of a factor at both ends of the court and is now assuming the lead guard role. Hay has commented positively on the 5'11 junior's acumen and court sense.

As a result of the two victories,

See CAGERS, page 8

Locals participate in basketball clinic

Coach John Leonard hosted another advanced skill development clinic at Quabbin on July 12. The event featured more than 30 local players.

Leonard brings a specific plan to

instruct on various skills.

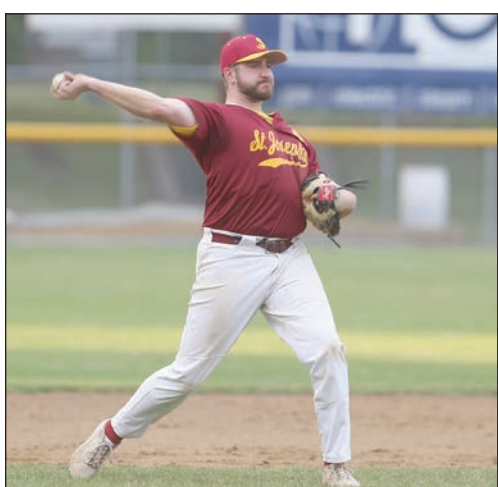
There is another clinic in the works as Leonard is planning on returning for a dedicated post play clinic as well as another advanced skills clinic.



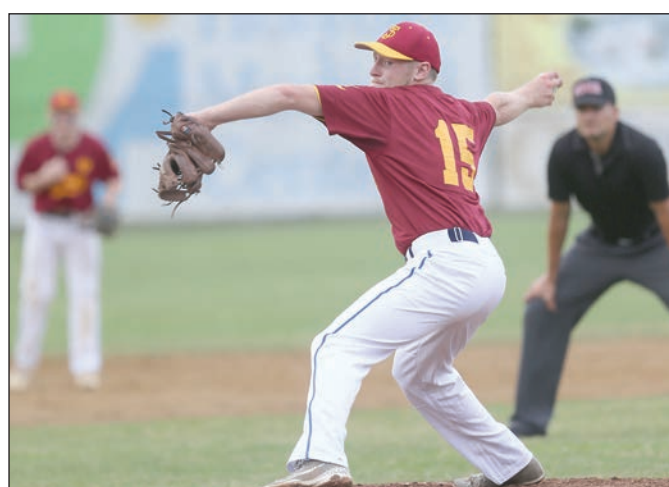
Submitted photos
Coach John Leonard demonstrates with Quabbin eighth grader Aiden Crane during his advanced skill development clinic recently held at the high school gym. Brady Patchen carefully listens to instructions from former Villanova and UMass coach John Leonard during the well-attended skills clinic.



St. Joe's season ends in playoff loss against DiFranco



Brandon Magni makes a play for St. Joe's during the 2023 season.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Sam Schriber delivers a pitch for the Saints.

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

EAST LONGMEADOW – Two days after losing to fifth-seeded DiFranco Reality at home in game one of the Tri-County League playoffs, fourth-seeded St. Joseph's made the trek to the East Longmeadow High School baseball field looking to even the best of three series.

Game two was a very close affair until the fifth inning.

With the score tied, 2-2, entering the bottom of the fifth inning, DiFranco Reality put together a rally. They wound up sweeping

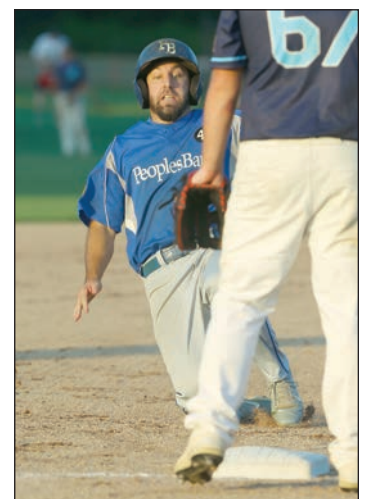
See ST. JOES, page 8



Agawam's Cam Rivest delivers a pitch for DiFranco Realty.



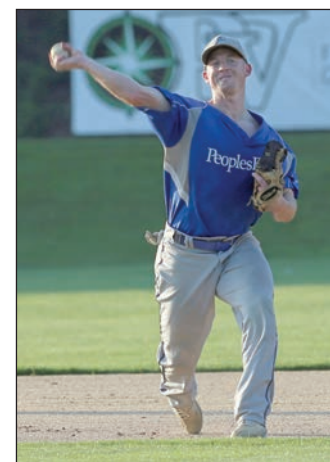
Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Braeden Lamirande gets an out at first for DiFranco.



Joe Ferry, of Palmer, slides into third base safely.



Zach Handzel, of Palmer, pitches for PeoplesBank.



Cam McDonald throws to first.



Ryan Hemenway sizes up a pitch.



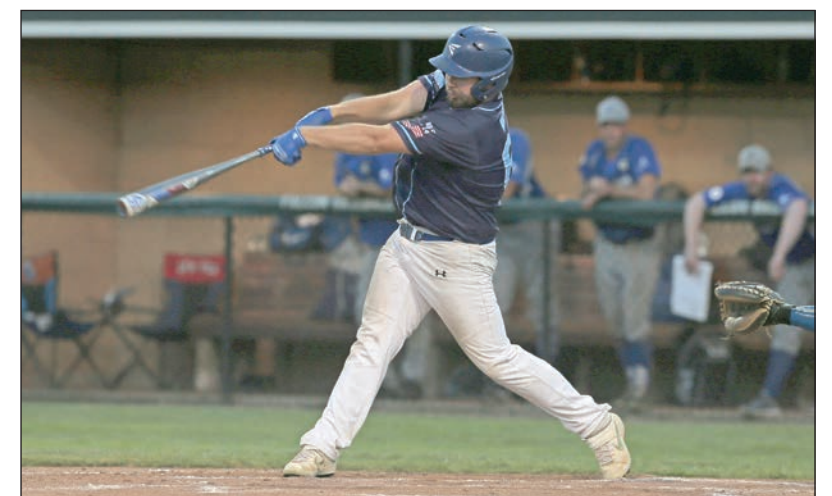
Dave Clark fields a grounder for PeoplesBank.

Bankers cash in for finals

WILBRAHAM – Last Friday night, PeoplesBank Tri-County baseball took down DiFranco in the opener of a best-of-three series 17-0 in five innings. The Bankers are the No. 1 seed in the Tri-County League playoffs.

They would punch their ticket to the finals the following day when DiFranco forfeited the second game of the series, giving the Bankers the finals berth. The finals were scheduled to begin earlier this week.

Send us your news & photos: sports@turley.com



Nicholas Wilken, of Ludlow, swings and connects.

Teams clinch playoff spots as season nears close

WILBRAHAM – Sunday's action in the Valley Wheel Over-28 baseball league got a lot clearer as three teams cemented their spots in the playoffs while the fourth team will be determined by a matchup this week.

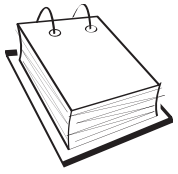
The Twins-Angels game held at Bruce Park in Suffield provided the stage for a preview to the playoffs.

The two teams have met in the last two playoff finals. It will not happen this year. Thanks to a complete game from Todd Bergstrom, as well as a two-run single in the ninth inning he also provided, the Twins prevailed over the Angels 6-4.

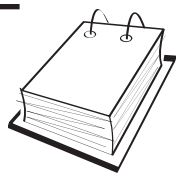
The game was close throughout, with the Angels and Twins trading leads a few times. Down 4-3 in the eighth, Trevor Portlock, of Wilbraham, drove home a run with a single to make the game 4-4. The Angels, unfortunately, could not bring home the go-head runs, which were at second and third with one out. Bergstrom was able to close the game in the ninth.

With the win, the Angels fell to 8-7 and their regular season is finished. The Twins are 8-6, and had a makeup game scheduled with the Tigers on Wednesday at Spec Pond

See PLAYOFFS, page 8



Calendar of Events



THURSDAY, AUG. 3

ORANGE FARMERS MARKET is held every Thursday from 3-6 p.m. now through Thursday, Oct. 19 at the Orange Armory, 135 East Main St., Orange. Vendors offer a full range of Farmers Market products: veggies (in season), flowers, baked goods, annual and perennial plants, herbal remedies, milk and ice cream, soaps, craft items and more. Music entertainment will also take place at the market thanks to an Orange Cultural Council grant. The Salvation Army hosts the concession stand at the park and proceeds are used to send area children to summer camp.

PAINTED ROCK CATERPILLAR FAMILY PROJECT for all ages takes place now through Tuesday, Aug. 1. People should find a rock in their yard about the size of their open hand and paint it with acrylic paints, permanent markers or house paint. They should write their name on the bottom of the rock and may pick it up at the August party, date to be announced. They should find the location of the Rock Caterpillar with these clues: You can hear music playing here on some weekends. It is in the South, not the North. There are railroad tracks nearby. It is a beautiful place. Once they find the location, they should put their painted rock next in line at the caterpillar end. They may look at the rocks, but please do not touch them. For more information, people may email Karen Dulude at photokld17@gmail.com.

CRAFTERNOON: SUN CATCHERS for ages six plus will be held at the Woods Memorial Library, 19 Pleasant St., Barre today at noon. All materials are provided and registration is required.

SATURDAY, AUG. 5

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.

MONDAY, AUG. 7

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.

GABB MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT sponsored by the Oakham Congregational Church, returns after a three-year hiatus under a new name. The new name is in honor of Gretchen Nahkala, Art Gray, Bob Lajoie and Bob Tyck. The Florida style tournament will be held today from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Quail Hollow Golf and Country Club, Old Turnpike Road, Oakham. Cost is \$100 per person and includes 18 holes of golf, cart, "goodie" bag and barbecue buffet. Deadline to register is Friday, July 28. There will be prizes for first through third teams, longest drive, last place, closest to pin an hole in one in addition to raffles and silent auction. People may call Dawn Thistle at 508-882-3982, George Paradis at 508-882-3068 or Brian Laramee at 413-265-5289.

CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERTS will be held today, Aug. 14, Aug. 21 and Aug. 28 from 7-9 p.m. in the Plainfield Congregational Church, Plainfield. These free are concerts with donations gratefully accepted at the door or through their website. For program details, people may visit the Concerts at 7 website <http://www.plainfieldconcertsat7.org/>.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 9

HAND DRUMMING CIRCLE SERIES with Tim

THURSDAY, AUG. 10

SUMMER READING GRAND FINALE for the



Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer

Where is this?
This week's mystery photo is from Hubbardston. 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, Aug. 7. The names of those that correctly guessed the location will appear in next week's edition. Bill Bowles, Roland Carver, Stephen Craven and Evelyn Luukko correctly identified the photo. The photo last week was taken of on the bridge over the Ware River on the Hardwick side of the bridge at the Village of Old Furnace.

and Chris Kane will take place at the Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, Hardwick on today from 4-5 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 15 from 6-7 p.m. and Tuesday, Aug. 22 from 6-7 p.m. No experience is necessary. Participants will discover differences in cultures and techniques on djembes and frame drums. Participants may bring personal percussion, but there will be drums provided for 20 participants. Each week a different cultural focus: Africa, Caribbean Islands, Brazil, Peru, Middle East and Native American rhythms. Research indicates that drumming induces deep relaxation, lowers blood pressure, and reduces stress. Participants should bring tall lawn chairs. Both of these programs are through grants from the Hardwick/New Braintree Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council.

BARRE FOOD PANTRY Distribution will occur on today from 10-11 a.m. at the Barre Congregational church, 30 Park St., Barre and a second distribution will take place on Thursday, Aug. 17 from 5:30-7 p.m. In order to maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients today and Aug. 17 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.

Paige Memorial Library Summer Reading Program will take place at 7 p.m. at the Town House, 32 Common St., Hardwick when special prizes will be awarded and Julie Stepanek will show the fundamentals of playing the ukulele. No experience is necessary. Ukuleles will be provided. This is an all-ages ukulele program. Julie Stepanek is from Western Massachusetts and has been teaching and making music at libraries, schools, and senior centers for 15 years. There will be lots of fun, music and prizes for those who participated in the Find Your Voice Summer Reading Program.

OAKHAM CONCERT SERIES sponsored by the Friends of the Bandstand, Inc. starts today from 6:30-8 p.m. on the Oakham Town Common, corner of Coldbrook Road and Maple Street, Oakham. The band today is Holdin' Back Band. On Aug. 24, the Bad Tickers will perform the last concert of the season.

TUESDAY, AUG. 15

AUDITIONS FOR 'ELF' will be held today at 5:30 p.m. for children and today and tomorrow for teens and adults. All auditions are by appointment only. People should either call 978-630-9388 or email to box-office@mwcc.mass.edu. Adults and teens should prepare a short vocal selection and should bring sheet music if the selection is not from the show. Children will be taught a song and short dance piece at the audition. Performance dates are Nov. 24, 25 and 26 and Dec. 1, 2 and 3.

THURSDAY, AUG. 17

WINE AND CHEESE TASTING/OAKHAM TRIVIA sponsored by the Oakham Historical

Association will take place today at 6:30 p.m. at Agronomy Farm Vineyard, 338 Ware Corner Road, Oakham. Tickets are \$40 per person and there is a limit of 26 people. Tickets may be obtained by visiting Agronomy Farm Vineyard Facebook.

FRIDAY, AUG. 18

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

SATURDAY, AUG. 19

UPPER WARE RIVER PADDLE will take place today with a 9 a.m. start at the Old Furnace Launch to Ware River Park, Gilbertville. It is a 4.5 mile, 1.5 hour scenic paddle and a smooth quick water run. People who will be participating should email Chicopeewatershed@gmail.com.

SATURDAY, AUG. 26

FLEA MARKET sponsored by the First Congregational Church, 36 North Main St., West Brookfield will be held today from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on the West Brookfield Common. Sellers of all kinds are welcome: flea folk, antique sellers, crafters, product vendors and those emptying out basements and attics. No food vendors, please. Spaces are available for \$40 for a 20' x 20' grassy spot. Vendors must bring their own tables and tents. The church will sponsor a food tent with grilled food, cold drinks and sweet treats. Vendors may email Dee at fccofwbfleamarket@gmail.com for an application.

ANNUAL OAKHAM TOWN WIDE YARD SALE will be today from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. People wishing to be placed on the map should send a \$15 check to Oakham Historical Association, P.O. Box 236, Oakham MA 01068 by Tuesday, Aug. 18. Maps may be picked up at the town hall the morning of the sale. For more information, people may call Kathy Young at 508-882-3137.

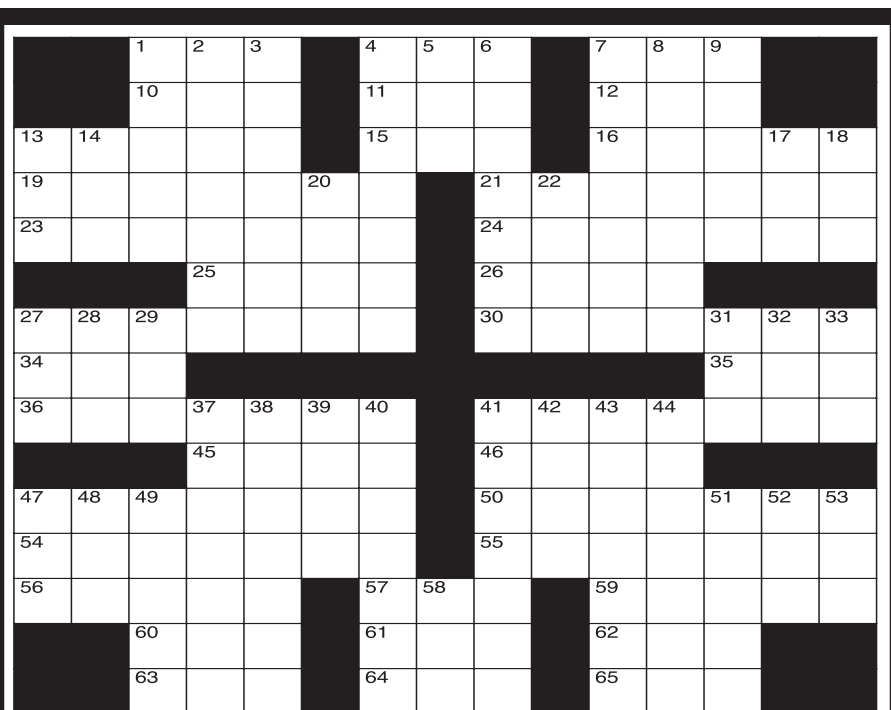
GENEALOGY AND HISTORY FAIR will be held today from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Hope Lodge, Gardner.

This is free to the public. Central Massachusetts Genealogical Society is celebrating its 30th anniversary and is hosting a the genealogy and history fair to celebrate.

CHICKEN BARBECUE will be held today at 5:15 p.m. at St. John's Parish, 131 Blaine Avenue, East Brookfield. People may eat in the church hall or take out. Adult tickets are \$15 and children under 12 (smaller portion) are \$8. People should call the parish office at 508-867-6469 for tickets.

SUNDAY, AUG. 27

CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT sponsored by the Friends of Wilbraham Senior will be held at Fern Valley Farms, 758 Main St., Wilbraham today with three elimination tournaments at noon, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Cost is \$20 per team and is payable at the event. Each winning team will walk away with a trophy, gift cards and bragging rights. Proceeds from this event will benefit the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors programs and the new senior center Sign up for two person teams are going on now. People should email Kate at katebelsky13@gmail.com to register their team.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Indicates tire pressure
4. Request
7. Clairvoyance
10. 007's creator
11. Adult male
12. Scandinavian god of battle
13. Cloths spread on a coffin
15. Breeze through
16. Ladyfish genus
19. It's good to take them
21. Noble-governed territory
23. Members of U.S. Navy
24. Card game resembling rummy
25. Affected by injury
26. Member of a Semitic people
27. Left
30. Woman's cloak

CLUES DOWN

1. Plant of the nettle family
2. Fit to be sold
3. Rather
4. Collected
5. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
6. Patella
7. Ageless
8. Lists of course requirements
9. Pokes at
13. TV network
14. They ___
17. Cooking hardware
18. U.S. Army title
20. Iron-containing compound
22. Swiss river (alt. spelling)
27. Former French coin
28. Electronic countermeasures
29. Taxi

CLUES DOWN

31. Helps little firms
32. Woeful
33. Midway between northeast and east
37. Glowing
38. Tasks which should be done
39. An informal body of friends
40. Intrinsic nature
41. Neural structures
42. Brews
43. Where ships unload cargo
44. Singer
47. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
48. Southwest Scotland town
49. Most worthless parts
51. Viscous
52. Put to work
53. Old world, new
58. Swiss river

CROSSWORD ANSWERS ON PAGE 11

Send Us Your Autumn Event Information

Turley Publications will print your Autumn event **FREE OF CHARGE** in our **Autumn Fest Supplement** which will be published **September 13, 2023.**

Total circulation of 85,000 reaching over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley.

Deadline for Calendar submissions is August 16.

Community Autumn Events

Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

FREE Calendar Listings Reaching over 200,000 Readers in the Pioneer Valley

Event Name _____

Date/Time _____

Location _____

Description _____

Cost _____

Contact name & phone number for more information _____

MAIL YOUR LISTING INFORMATION TO:

Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or email* them to: jamie@turley.com

*Be sure to indicate "Autumn Event" in the subject line of your email.

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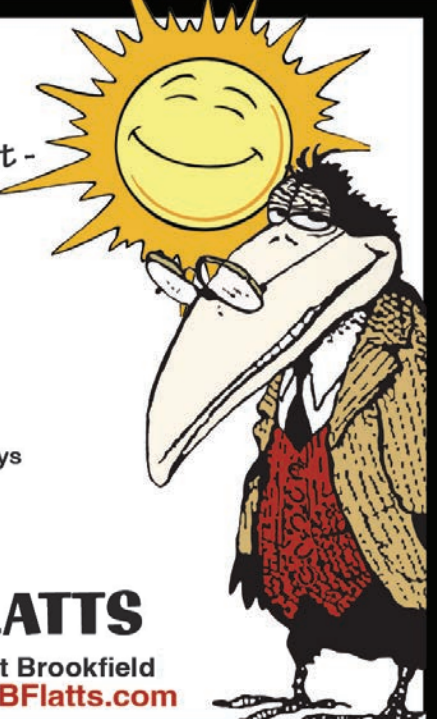
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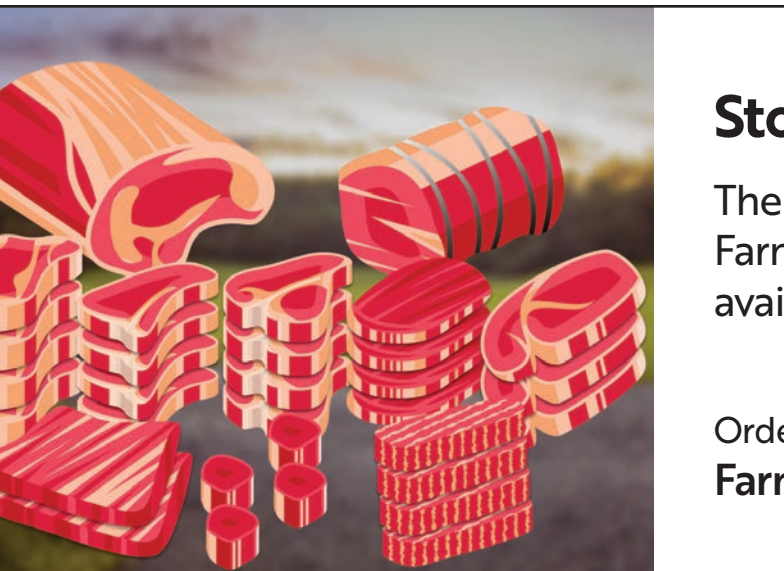
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