

BARRE GAZETTE

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Locals complete 100 Mile Ruck

Annual event
benefits
Why Me
& Sherry's
House

WORCESTER – Area residents recently completed the annual 100 Mile Ruck March to benefit Why Me & Sherry's House in Worcester.

Over the course of four days, 50 athletes rucked 25 miles each day to reach 100 miles.

This event has raised over \$1 million over the past six years to benefit local families facing childhood cancer. To donate, visit https://whyme.org/campaign_event/ruck-march-2026/.

See more photos on page 6.



Becki Hamel of Barre finished day one of the 100 Mile Ruck March for Why Me & Sherry's House at Lilac Hedge Farm in Rutland.

Turley Photo by Mary Whitelaw

RMV offers training for older drivers

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
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BARRE – The Barre Senior Center hosted Michele Ellicks, who is the community outreach coordinator at the Registry of Motor Vehicles to give training for older drivers.

The training focused on health issues that can affect older drivers, how to combat those issues and how to apply for disability placards.

Ellicks started the program by highlighting that drivers between ages 55-74 actually have the lowest rate of collisions, as they often impose limits on themselves like not driving in bad weather or at night, or scheduling appointments during times of day where there is less traffic.

Ellicks said this statistic is

supported by a two decades study from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

Ellicks said newer technologies like safer seatbelts and airbags along with lane departure warning and adaptive cruise control are factors in less collisions. She said at one time, seatbelts only covered the lap of the driver, but they now go over the shoulder.

She said drivers should not put the seatbelt under their arm or behind them.

"Number one, always wear your seatbelt," she said.

Ellicks said adaptive cruise control is able to detect cars in front of the driver, and keep a safe distance from it, but said cruise control is only to be used in perfect conditions, not

See OLDER DRIVERS, page 6

Municipal Complex Committee sends questions to architect

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
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HUBBARDSTON – The Hubbardston Municipal Complex Building Committee met last Tuesday to discuss what progress has been made on schematic designs for the building project at 48 Gardner Road, which is set to include town

offices, and a police and fire station.

The committee has been working with Derek Rubinoff out of West Roxbury for schematic designs and cost estimates as of the July 28 meeting.

Committee chair Kari Sacramone started the meeting looking for a motion to pay \$2,000 for schematic work. They had already paid

\$2,000 at a previous meeting. Sacramone said as of July 28, \$41,000 has been paid to Rubinoff. She said there is still about \$200,000 left in the budget that could go to Rubinoff for additional work.

The committee also reviewed cost estimates for the project, and members

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Teddy Bear Picnic

Annual event
celebrates
25th year

BARRE – The Woods Memorial Library hosted the 25th annual Teddy Bear Picnic this past Saturday, with a Teddy Bear Hospital staffed by EMTs and paramedics.

Members of the Fire and Police departments were on hand to give tours of their vehicles and demonstrate their equipment and gear.

Activities were offered by Making Opportunity Count CFCE & ParentChild+ and students from Next Step Studio of the Performing Arts gave a dance performance. The library also set up giant lawn games for families to enjoy. This annual event gives children and families the opportunity to meet public safety personnel in a non-emergency setting, and connect with community organizations.



Barre Police Officer Mark Sawyer showed Eleanor Pike some of his safety equipment at the 25th annual Teddy Bear Picnic hosted by the Woods Memorial Library. More photos on page 7.

Turley Photos by Camren Robertson



Submitted Photo

Dennis Letendre capped off the pavilion with the ridge cap using the heavy duty ladder from the old fire truck.

New Braintree pavilion project completed

A community
achievement

By Joe Salvatore
Guest Contributor

NEW BRAINTREE – The COVID-19 pandemic in 2019 put a halt to community gatherings and events that provided activities for the people and helped build a sense of community.

When it was finally deemed safe to return to school and resume public gatherings, the typical town events and gatherings seemed to have fallen to the wayside and proved difficult to restart. That's why some community leaders in the town of New Braintree decided to create a

Revitalization Committee to restart some of these community events to get people together once again.

The group consisted of Dennis Letendre, Joe Salvatore, Mike McQueston, Joe Chenevert, Andrea Letendre, Ryan Thompson, Jessica Monahan, Rory Fitzgerald, Jennifer Pollard and Debra Morrison. The group met monthly for two years and reestablished town events such as the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, Trunk or Treat, The Easter Egg Hunt, and Paint Night.

The group also installed trees around the common and fixed and repaired park benches.

In planning these events it became clear that the town lacked an outdoor shelter

that could be used for concerts and gatherings. The idea of the pavilion took shape and the group created a sketch of a 20 foot by 40 foot pavilion in the style of an open red barn to fit with the farming character of the town.

The plan was sent out to an architect and blue prints were created and all necessary permission and permits were obtained to start the project.

Coming up with an idea and then actually making it become a reality are two different things. With no money to buy building supplies or to hire a builder, the pavilion project could have just been wishful thinking.

The community was very

See PAVILION, page 6

Interdepartmental communication meeting held by Select Board and COA

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
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RUTLAND – The Select Board met Monday where they held a scheduled interdepartmental communication meeting with the Council on

Aging, where the council updated the board on activities they have been working on, and communicated their needs for future success.

Members of the COA present at the Aug. 3 meeting included Senior Center Director Nancy Nichols, and COA members Michael Dvareckas, Karen Juliano and Jessica Flaherty.

The council gave an update on an Americans with

Disabilities Act compliant bathroom at the community center, which is still in progress, but should be finished soon.

There was also an update on room two of the building, which was damaged by an ice dam. Council members said at one point, a former building inspector stopped the project, but demolition is now complete.

The roof is set to be

repaired before the inside of the room.

According to the report in the meeting packet, there are concerns about it getting done, since it is utilized for activities including a November craft fair. One member of the COA asked if there could be a better protocol for when there is damage, such as streamlining whose job it is to make a claim with the insurance company.

Another update from the COA is that they received a service incentives grant of \$20,000, which is helping with the loss of an outreach coordinator. There is a plan to include a self resource center in the community center building with a computer and phone for residents to use.

The COA also received an earmark from state Sen. Peter Durant's office for renovations and updates to the center.

Members of the COA noted that there is more than just social activities at the senior center, as some people come in because they have no food to eat, no heat in the winter, no electricity or are having trouble securing a health plan.

Members said the elder-

See RUTLAND, page 7



SPORTS



Matt Wade looks to feed teammates Brady Patchen in the post and a cutting Jacoby Dilling on his way to the basket. Wade found Dilling for an easy score.



Junior guard Aiden Crane strips the ball away from a Fitchburg player during summer league play. The Quabbinians are in first place with a 5-0 record.

Quabbin boys basketball takes summer action to Fitchburg



FITCHBURG – With the Auburn Summer Basketball League shut down for this year, Quabbin has been participating in a summer league held at GameOn in Fitchburg. Quabbin is currently 5-0 heading into the playoffs.

Quabbin center Matt Wade delivers the opening tap to his teammate in an opening win over Old Colony of Rochester during summer tournament action.

Coach Alan Crane gathers his team for a time out during a summer league win over Nashoba securing his Quabbin Cagers first place finish.



Valley Wheel regular season concludes

WILBRAHAM – The regular season has concluded for the Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League, one of several adult baseball leagues that plays in the region. This year, with play concluding this past Sunday, the Angels were able to finish the regular season with the top record, going 11-4. The Angels matched the Twins with the same record, but won two out of three head-to-head for the tiebreaker advantage in the playoffs. The Orioles finished third and the Cubs overcame the A's by tiebreaker for the final of four playoff spots. The semifinals for the league are set for this Sunday at Spec Pond in Wilbraham. In the first matchup, the No. 2 Twins host the No. 3 Orioles at 2:30 p.m. Then, the top-seeded Angels face No. 4 Cubs at 6 p.m. The championship game will be held on Sunday, Aug. 16 at Spec Pond at 3 p.m.



Adam Strain fields a grounder.



Pitcher Mike Bielen fires to the plate.



Mike Burgos pitches in a game for the Orioles on July 26.



Nate Woodland makes a catch for the A's during regular season action in the Valley Wheel league.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Owen Dieterle heads up the field.



Ryan Sunshine socks a free kick away.

CF Arbor reaches semifinals

SOUTH HADLEY – In last week's PVSSL summer playoffs, the CF Arbor Men's soccer team, which was the No. 4 seed in the playoffs, was able to advance into the semifinals and took on Mt. Carmel, which defeated CF by a score a 2-0, ending CF Arbor's chances of reaching the championship game this year. Mt. Carmel would capture this year's men's championship.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Tyler Lewis advances up the field.

