

BARRE GAZETTE

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A child prepared their cow for showing

Turley Photos by Mary Whitelaw



Jakob LaDue competed in the chainsaw competition.

Planning Board discusses aquifer bylaw

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
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HUBBARDSTON – The Planning Board held a brief meeting on Aug. 5 to discuss the aquifer favorability protection bylaw, which according to the zoning bylaws, are areas on the aquifer map as prepared by Places Associates out of Littleton.

The current bylaw is designed to protect the quality and quantity of groundwater, and limit the development that can be done in areas with a “high degree of potential groundwater yield.”

Building and use permits are reviewed by the Building Commissioner to see if the parcel is connected to or on an aquifer favorability area, and applicants can seek the services of site data from a hydrogeologist if they do not believe the parcel is on an aquifer favorability area.

Some uses are permitted if the applicant gets a special permit, such as golf courses, storage of toxic or hazardous material greater than normal household or on site agricultural use, disposal of sewage and wastewater up to 15,000 gallons per day and package sewage plants up to 15,000 gpd.

Prohibited uses include

See AQUIFER LAW, page 11

Hardwick Community Fair

Tradition continues for 264th year

By Ryan Drago
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HARDWICK – The Hardwick Community Fair took place this past weekend during a historic year of anniversaries.

Before the Declaration of Independence and even before Lexington and Concord, the town started its own annual agricultural fair, with the first dating back to 1762. The annual fair features two days of festivities and highlights locals who make the fair great year after year.

The annual Hardwick Community Fair is made possible by the volunteer run organization, the

Hardwick Community Fair Association. The Fair Board along with numerous volunteers help put the fair together and continue its historic traditions.

Every year, the Fair Board dedicates the Hardwick Community Fair to someone during the opening ceremonies. The 2026 Hardwick Community Fair was dedicated to Pam Hinckley, who was honored by this

incredible recognition.

Hinckley was born in Worcester and came to town for her first teaching job in the elementary school. Though she eventually left her teaching job, Hinckley still found herself in a teaching role.

In the winter months, she still teaches sewing and knitting at the Paige Memorial Library. Hinckley has been involved with knitting and sewing since the age of

5 and she still has the first piece of embroidery she ever worked in her possession.

Her skills in the fiber arts were learned thanks to the teachings of her mother and grandfather. Hinckley was initially surprised by the news that this year’s Hardwick Community Fair was going to be dedicated to her.

See HARDWICK FAIR, page 6

Board interviews town adminstator candidate

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
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HUBBARDSTON – The Select Board interviewed the final interim Town Administrator candidate, Timothy Bragan at its meeting Monday, who will serve a maximum of six months as a search committee seeks out a permanent administrator.

Bragan is retired and has 31 years of town administrator experience, including 17 years in Harvard, 12 years in Sterling and two years in Townsend. Bragan said he would help transition and guide a permanent town administrator once they are found, and would be willing to help with the search committee in the hiring process. Select Board Chair Katie Young described Bragan as knowledgeable, calm and well spoken.

Contracts and policies

Board of Assessors Clerk Leanne Moses presented a recommended contract with permitting software Permitlink. She said this was at the recommendation of Building Inspector Robert Garside, who has used this software in the past.

Moses said the town is currently using a software called Civic Plus Optimize, with the

Optimize part being for the permitting, and the Civic Plus portion being the website.

The town will continue using Civic Plus for the website for about \$5,000, but the Optimize part costing the town over \$23,000.

She said using the new software for permitting is a savings of about \$15,000, but it decreases to \$10,000 if the cost to run the site is considered.

Permitlink will be live on Sept. 9 and the Civic Plus Optimize contract ends in November. Moses said Permitlink also comes with a \$12 fee for building, electrical, plumbing and gas permits. The board approved the new contract unanimously, and approved the new fee schedule 3-1.

Moses also said the senior work-off policy has been done through the Treasurer Collector’s office, after being taken out of the Senior Center purview, but she said in most towns, it is done through the human resources department.

In Hubbardston’s case, this would be Executive Assistant Christina Ellis. The responsibilities of onboarding have been assigned to Ellis.

TA search committee and job posting

The board appointed Bill Mayrose, Kristofer Munroe, Ryan Couture, Elizabeth

See HUBBARDSTON, page 7

Zoning bylaws get approved at STM

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
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HARDWICK – Voters approved six new zoning bylaws at a special town meeting last Wednesday, including accessory dwelling units, earth removal and importation and farm animals.

All articles passed unanimously, and the zoning bylaws were previously presented at a public hearing in May.

The accessory dwelling units article allows these structures to be built by right, as it is now a requirement of the Massachusetts General Laws.

The Hardwick option allows for more than one

unit on a parcel, units of greater size than the state minimum and phased development of ADUs. The article also removes a section from the zoning bylaw about accessory apartments, since it is superseded by the general laws.

A description of ADUs was provided in the warrant. They are separate homes with sleeping, cooking and sanitation on the same lot as a principal dwelling, or a house, and have separate entrances from the principal dwelling.

Protected use ADUs, as governed by the general laws, are no larger than 900 square feet or one half of the gross area of the principal dwelling, and the local option can approve by spe-

cial permit an ADU of up to 1,200 square feet.

Earth removal and importation

This bylaw is designed to regulate the importation, removal and filling of any material to protect health, public safety and the natural biodiversity of the town of Hardwick including aquifers, water bodies and wetlands, per the description in the warrant.

The bylaw requires a special permit to remove or bring in more than 100 cubic yards of material in or out of the town over a one-year period.

The permit would last for two years and come with a fee as decided by the planning board.

The work is subject to inspection by an engineering consultant, and there are exemptions for permits already issued, municipal uses, ecological restoration, normal agriculture and cemeteries.

Farm animals

This article establishes guidelines for the keeping of poultry and waterfowl on parcels of 0.5 acres or more. The bylaw allows structures to quarter up to 16 poultry or waterfowl with setbacks from the property lines of 25 feet in the front, 15 feet in the rear and 10 feet at the sides, and the maximum square footage of the structure is 200 square feet.

The poultry and water-

See HARDWICK, page 7

BOH discusses cease and desist at 358 Coldbrook

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
zachf@turley.com

OAKHAM – The Board of Health met two weeks ago where they discussed an enforcement order at 358 Coldbrook Road, the site of a former junkyard, and where the proposed battery energy storage system is set to be placed.

According to members of the board, the property owner had not responded to requests from the Leicester Regional Public Health Coalition, so the town

acquired an administrative investigative warrant from superior court, and conducted an investigation with a site professional on July 13, followed by two more days of investigation by town officials.

The goal of the cease and desist, per the board, is to attempt to stop any more damage to the land and water supply, and to not allow a “speck of dirt” to be moved without board approval.

There was a slideshow showing pictures of the property, where there

were significant amounts of debris scattered along the 42 acre parcel of land, including tires, canisters, car parts, glass, rubber, metal and even an entire car. One member of the board said there are areas of the property where there is an odor of fumes.

An inspector with the LRPHC said it appeared the owners had a habit of bulldozing, as there were piles of earth above the natural grade, and the inspector was concerned about what could be beneath the surface and not visible to the naked eye

in an inspection.

There will be another phase of inspection where a site professional tests the ground and water, but the board is attempting to shift the burden of pay to the property owner rather than the town.

Health Inspector Mishel Caisapanta with the LRPHC said there is no biodiversity or signs of life on the property, not even good soil.

Board member Barbara Piucci read the results from the site professional who

See OAKHAM, page 11



News of the Towns



ROUND TOWN

by Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

Town Clerk lists election information

The Barre Town Clerk holds in person Early Voting for the Sept. 1, 2026 State Primary Election at the Henry Woods Building located at 40 West St. first floor. on the following days and times. Dates include Saturday, Aug. 22; Tuesday, Aug. 25; Wednesday, Aug. 26 and Thursday, Aug. 27 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., all dates. The last day to Register to Vote for this election is Saturday, Aug. 22 by 5 p.m. at the Town Clerk’s Office, located at 40 West St., basement, will be open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on Aug. 22 for anyone wishing to Register to Vote in person. They can also register to vote online at www.sec.state.ma.us/ele

The last day to apply for an Early or Absentee Vote By Mail Ballot is Tuesday, Aug. 25 by 5 p.m. The last day for people who qualify, to vote In Person by an Absentee Ballot is on Monday Aug. 31 at noon.Additional information on the election is available by visiting www.townofbarre.com and questions should be directed to the Town Clerk’s Office at 978-355-2504, extension 5.

Lions Club Car Show

The Barre Lions Club annual car show takes place Saturday, Sept. 12 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., rain or shine on the Barre Common. All types of vehicles are welcome. The entry fee is \$15 to show and spectators are free. They’ll be a DJ, a huge raffle table, T-shirts, a 50/50 and swag bags for all entrants. People’s Choice plaques will be awarded at the end of the show. For more information, people may email barremalionsclub@aol.com.

Barre Police Department

On Friday, Aug 20 and Saturday, Aug 21, the Barre Police Department hosts a training event at the Quabbin High/Middle School, 800 South St. Multiple agencies will be involved and there will be a heavy police, fire, and EMS presence. This is a training event only to prepare first responders for large scale emergencies.

On Tuesday, Sept. 8, the Barre Police Department will be awarding Life Saving Awards to multiple Barre Police, Barre Fire and a civilian, at the Select Board scheduled for that evening.

Ware River Bridge hike

Ware River Bridge Hike sponsored by the Department of Conservation and Recreation takes place on Saturday, Aug. 22 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Barre Falls Dam, Barre. Participants should park at Barre Falls Overlook parking lot. This easy 2 mile hike starts at an open meadow then follows the Ware River on the North side of Barre Falls Dam along a forested riverside path to a scenic bridge and back. People should wear appropriate footwear, bring water and have tick and insect protection.To register, they should visit <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/019f95134113755aa55a6f1caf4a3225>.

Fr. H. Edward Chalmers

Father H. Edward Chalmers on Monday, Aug. 31 at 6:30 p.m. will offer a reflection on the history of the Franciscans in Medjugorje at St. Francis of Assisi Parish St. Joseph’s Church, 29 South St., Barre. The program is in the church hall and people should use the side door.

Quabbin Community Band receives new Sousaphone



Submitted photo

Quabbin Community Band president Julie Rawson,from left, Rosemary Osann, sousaphone player Ian Wykes. Rick Ossan and band treasurer Judy Schmitz pose in front of the Harding Allen Bandstand on Barre Common. Rosemary and Rick Osann donated the new Sousaphone to the band. Rosemary Osann played her bassoon with the Quabbin Community Band while attending Quabbin Regional High School in the 1970s.

Coffee with the Finns takes place Aug. 23

RUTLAND – The Finnish Heritage Society Sovittaja is celebrating the 100th anniversary of Sovittaja Park, off Pleasantdale Road.

The park and its hall have been home to outdoor games, social events, barbecues and dances on an old world crafted high quality dance floor. The following events are open

to the public and are an opportunity to participate in the Finnish cultural heritage.

On Sunday, Aug. 23 Coffee with the Finns with imported Finnish coffee and Finnish sweets will be offered at 2 p.m. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the guest speaker Lisa Tarkiainen Steele is unable to be present that

day. There is no charge, but donations will be appreciated.

All events are sponsored, in part, by the Cultural Fund of the Finnish Heritage Society Sovittaja to celebrate the park’s 100th anniversary and share the Finnish culture and heritage with the community.

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. 24. 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 – Frittata, stewed tomatoes, O’Brien potatoes, yogurt, pumpernickel bread

TUESDAY – Teriyaki beef, steamed rice, roasted broccoli, pineapple, fortune cookie, whole wheat bread

WEDNESDAY – Ham and cheese

chicken bake, red bliss potatoes, Scandinavia vegetables, fresh fruit, dinner roll

THURSDAY – Salisbury steak with gravy, garlic mashed potatoes, herbed carrots, birthday cake, diet = half piece, sandwich roll

FRIDAY – Lemon pepper fish, rice pilaf, mixed vegetables, mixed fruit, marble rye bread, tartar sauce

*Higher sodium entree Meal includes milk and margarine. Menus are subject to change. All meals are served at about 11:45 a.m. each week-day. Reservations should be made the day before by calling 978-355-5027 before 10:30 a.m. The donation of \$3.00 per meal helps keep the program running.

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 edowner@turley.com or call 413-283-8393. Corrections may also be requested in writing at Barre Gazette, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.



OAKHAM

by Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

Final concert features The Otters

The final concert of the summer concert series features The Otters on Thursday, Aug. 20 at 6:30-8 p.m. Popcorn and cold drinks will be sold.

Election information

The State Primary Election will be held Tuesday, Sept. 1 with the polls open from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Early voting and the last day to register to vote is Saturday, Aug. 22 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Early voting also will take place Monday, Aug. 24 from 2-7 p.m. at the Oakham Town Hall.

COA cookout

The COA will be hosting a Labor Day cookout on Friday, Sept. 4 at 12:30 p.m. People should call the Senior Center at 508-882-4073 to sign up for an accurate head count.

Town wide yard sale

The town wide yard sale sponsored by the Oakham Historical Association will be held Saturday, Aug. 22 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m.. To be on the map, people should send \$15 to Oakham Historical Association. P.O. Box 236, Oakham, MA 00168. Checks must be received by Monday, Aug. 17 to be placed on the map. People may call Kathy Young at 508–882–3137 with any questions.

Church news

The Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, will participate in the Annual Oakham Town Wide Yard sale on Aug. 22 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. People may pick-up maps at the church. They will also sell hotdogs, sandwiches, chips, soda and bottled water. People wishing to donate items to the yard sale may drop them off in the side hallway, marked yard sale. The outside door is always open. Household items, small appliances, books, puzzles, children’s toys are welcome. No electronics or clothes will be accepted.

Senior Center news

Podiatry clinic meets Monday Aug. 25,from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. by appointment only. People should call 508-882-4073 to schedule an appointment. Lunch Bunch is meeting at The Flight Deck at Southbridge Airport on Friday, Aug. 21 at 12:30 p.m. People should call 508-882-4073 to sign up and make reservations. Blood pressure/glucose screening clinic takes place Tuesday Aug. 25 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. no appointment is required.

Ongoing activities include puzzling Monday through Thursday at 9 a.m., regularly scheduled yoga Tuesdays at 1 p.m., Zumba Gold in New Braintree Town Hall Wednesdays at 8:45 a.m. \$3 per class and Functional fitness class Fridays in New Braintree Town Hall at 10:30 a.m., \$3 per class Walking groups and weigh in on Thursdays at noon.

Congregate hot meals

Congregate hot meals are held Monday through Thursday at 11:15 a.m. Reservations are needed at least two days in advance and can be made through the Congregate Meal Coordinator from 9 a.m.-12.15 p.m. by calling 508-882-4072.

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Please contact **Pat James 413-726-8661**.

SUBMISSIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME - Send stories and photos to edowner@turley.com



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News of the Towns

PUBLIC MEETINGS

BARRE

Early Voting – Aug. 20, 22, 25 and 26 at 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Conservation Committee – Aug 25 at 7 p.m.
Cemetery Commission – Aug. 27 at 11 a.m.
Election Day – Sept. 1 from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.
Felton Field Commission – Sept. 1 at 6:30 p.m.
Council on Aging – Sept. 2 at 12:30 p.m.
Select Board – Sept. 8 at 5 p.m.
Library Trustees – Sept. 9 at 6:30 p.m.
Barre Housing Authority – Sept. 10 at 1 p.m.
Board of Health – Sept. 14 at 5 p.m.
Water Commission – Sept. 14 at 5:30 p.m.
DPW Commission – Sept. 14 at 6 p.m.
Cable Advisory Committee – Oct. 13 at 7 p.m.

HARDWICK

Board of Registers – Aug. 22 at 9 a.m.
Select Board – Aug. 24 at 6:30 p.m.
Planning Board – Aug. 25 at 6:30 p.m.
Master Plan Steering Committee – Aug. 27 at 6:30 p.m.
Capital Planning Committee – Aug. 31 and Sept. 21 at 3 p.m.
Paige Library Trustees – Sept. 1 at 6:30 p.m. and Sept. 3 at 7 p.m.
Council on Aging – Sept. 2 at 12:30 p.m.
Gilbertville Public Library –Sept. 9 at 3 p.m.

HUBBARDSTON

Planning Board – Aug. 20 and Sept. 2 at 6:30 p.m.
Board of Health – Aug. 25 at 7 p.m.
Conservation Commission – Aug. 26 at 7 p.m.
Board of Library Trustees – Sept. 3 at 7 p.m.
First Meeting House Preservation Committee – Sept. 15 all day

NORTH BROOKFIELD

Parks and Rec – Aug. 20 at 6 p.m.
State Primary last day to register to vote and early voting – Aug. 22 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
State Primary early voting – Aug. 24 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Zoning Board of Appeals – Aug. 24 at 6 p.m.
State Primary early voting – Aug 25 fro 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
State Primary early voting – Aug. 26 form 9 a.m.-noon
State Primary early voting – Aug. 27 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Election Day – Sept. 1 from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.
Rep. Donnie Berthiaume Office Hours – Sept. 8 at 1:30 p.m.

OAKHAM

State Primary Early Voting and last day to register – Aug. 22 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
State Primary Early Voting – Aug. 24 form 2-7 p.m.
Board of Health – Sept. 10 at 6 p.m.

PETERSHAM

Select Board – Aug. 20 at 5:30 p.m., Aug. 27 at 5:30 p.m. and Sept. 12 at 9 a.m.
Zoning Board of Appeals – Aug. 27 at 7 p.m.
Open Space and Recreation Committee – Sept. 1 at 6 p.m.
Conservation Commission – Sept. 1 at 7 p.m.
Cemetery Commission – Sept. 1 at 7 p.m.
Council on Aging – Sept. 14 at 10:30 a.m.
Board of Assessors – Oct. 2 at 9 a.m.

RUTLAND

Historical Commission – Aug. 20 at 6:30 p.m.
State Primary Early Voting – Aug. 22 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Aug. 23 and Aug. 24 from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Last Day to Register to Vote for Primary or Change Party– Aug. 22 at 5 p.m.
State Primary – Sept. 1 from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

Editorial deadline reminder

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

Students receive band scholarships

ORANGE – The Orange Community Band completed its 2026 summer season recently with a concert themed “Characters” and featured many selections with a person’s name as the title or with collections of an artist’s work.

Conductor Stephanie Parker explained the choices and told why they were selected. Just before intermission she introduced band treasurer Susan TandySonger, who awarded two scholarships in memory of her late husband John Tandy, band president for many years.

Before she awarded the scholarships, Susan TandySonger gave a brief history of the band tradition in Orange, naming the Orange Brass Band, Mechanics Band, New Home Sewing Machine Company Band and the Minute Tapioca Band, before it became the Orange Community Band in the 1970s.

She mentioned that some band members were in the band when it was still called the Minute Tapioca Band and asked band members to stand if they had played in the band ten years or more. Almost all stood.

She then asked those playing 20, 30 or 40 years to sit. At fifty years there were still quite a few stand-



Submitted photos

Susan TandySonger, right, presents a John R. Tandy Memorial Scholarship to Charlie Gagne, left.

ing. Maureen Riendeau, Band secretary since 1971, has played with the band since 1965, giving her 61 years with the band. Tandy estimated that there was over a thousand years of experience on the band-stand.

Next, she went on to present the scholarships that have become a tradition since 2002. Both recipients, repeat recipients of the scholarship, are members of the UMass Marching Band and both were present on the band-stand, as they are members of the Orange Community Band, and performed here

all summer. In her presentation, TandySonger explained that applicants were asked how music affected their lives.

Michael Ploof, who sits next to his grandfather Tim Ploof in the trumpet section of the Community Band, credits his grandfather, the Orange Band and other bands, for the inspiration and valuable musical experiences he has enjoyed in his life.

Charlie Gagne plays flute in the Orange Band but plays trumpet in the UMass Band. She stated that music relaxes her, makes her happy and allows her to express herself.

Also during the evening, sponsors, patrons and donors were thanked, as Parker explained that the Band would no be able to present its concert series without community support, and the audience was thanked as well, especially for bringing youngsters to njoy the music that has such a long history in Orange.

Michael Ploof, from left, receives a John R. Tandy Memorial Scholarship from Susan TandySonger .

Town Clerk lists election information

NEW BRAINTREE – The Town Clerk announces New Braintree voters, who wish to vote early, in person for the Sept. 1 State Primary will have the opportunity to do so at the New Braintree Town Hall,

20 Memorial Drive, on the following dates and times: Saturday, Aug. 22 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and Monday, Aug. 24 from 7-9 p.m.

The last day to register to vote will be Saturday, Aug. 22 from 10a.m.-5

p.m. in the New Braintree Town Hall.

Those wishing to vote by mail must have their application filed with Town Clerk on Tuesday, Aug. 25 no later than 5 p.m.

Kids’ Corner workshop explores nature

WARE – The next Kids’ Corner workshop at Ware Grange will be the “Enchanted Forest Nature Party” and will take place during the Grange Fair on Saturday, Aug. 29 at 10 a.m. at the Grange Hall at 297 Belchertown Road.

Kids’ Corner workshops are led by preschool teacher, Jen McNally, and teach children about nature and the environment through stories, songs and fun activities. This workshop will explore the great outdoors in conjunction with the

Ware Grange Fair.

Children will take a guided nature walk to learn about the outdoor world and look for natural items to use in making crafts.

Visit Ware Grange on Facebook or at waregrange.org for more information.

Annual Ware Grange Fair returns’ Aug. 28-29

WARE – The Ware Grange Fair will be held on Friday, Aug. 28 and Saturday, Aug. 29 at the Grange Hall on Route 9, 297 Belchertown Road.

This year’s fair will feature a fun dog show, Kids’ Corner workshop, children’s field events, games, raffles, b a k e sale, live music, a barbecue dinner and an auction. Exhibits may be entered on Thursday, Aug. 27 from 5-7 p.m. or Friday, Aug. 28 from 9-11 a.m.

T h e exhibit hall opens

to the public Friday evening from 5-7 p.m., and there will be a bake sale, raffles and penny sale. The fair continues on Saturday with exhibit hours from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., and various events throughout the day.

An auction of fruits, vegetables, baked items, etc.,

will begin at 6 p.m. Raffle and penny sale winners will be drawn after

A barbecue dinner will be held from 4-5:30 p.m.

For more information, details on exhibiting, or to make reservations for the barbecue, call 413-284-1135 or visit waregrange.org.

HUBBARDSTON

by Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

Field Day takes place Sept. 19

The Annual Field Day sponsored by the Hubbardston Lions Club takes place on Saturday, Sept. 19 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Curtis Field, 20 Gardner Road, Hubbardston. Rain date is Sunday, Sept. 20. There will be food, games, live music and vendors. For more information or to reserve a space, people may email sue.hubblions@gmail.com or text 603-361-1217.

On Friday, Sept. 25 at 7 p.m. the Hubbardston Historical Society offers a History at Play presentation with Deborah Sampson, entitled “A Revolution of Her Own” at the Williamsville Chapel 4 Burnshirt Road. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the program starts at 7 p.m.. People may RSVP to hubbhistory1767@gmail.com. This program is partially funded by the Hubbardston Cultural Council.

Dinghy Dash

The ninth annual Dinghy Dash takes place on Saturday, Aug. 22 on Brigham Pond at 10 a.m. This year, there are three categories to choose from: single occupant adult, single occupant youth and group vessel.

Game night

First Meeting House, 2 Main St., holds a game night fundraiser on Friday, Aug. 28 from 5-8 p.m. Suggested donation \$20 a family, \$5 a single person, People can unplug, reconnect with board games and card games. This is family fun and a chance to meet fellow towns people. play an old favorite or learn a new game. This is a great way to finish the summer before school starts Light refreshments are available.

Fall boutique and yard sale

Hubbardston Seniors are collecting items for their fall boutique and yard sale. Items may be dropped off at the Hubbardston Senior Center, 7A Main St. is now collecting items from now through Sept. 25 for their fall boutique to be held Sept. 25, 26 and 27. Gently used, clean clothing, shoes, pocket-books, and other items are welcomed. The seniors remind donors that the items should be in good condition; items they would buy for themselves. Key times to drop off items are Wednesday and Thursday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. This annual fundraiser has been a big success and all the profits go toward upgrading and keeping the Senior Center in great condition. Some of the proceeds go toward special events for the town’s seniors; many programs are free of charge.Also, on these dates there will be a huge Yard Sale that will include a bake sale, luncheon and other items for all ages such as toys, gifts, household goods and games. Electronics and large or fabric furniture will not be accepted.

Hubbardston Art Show

The Cultural Council of Hubbardston is holding an Art Show at the Meeting House, on the Common, on Saturday, Sept. 26 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. The show will focus on local artisans and sponsors are the Council on Aging and the Cultural Council, both of Hubbardston. The theme is based on historical barns of Hubbardston. Those who wish to exhibit should call Cindy at 978-928-5526 for information or to reserve a spot at the event. All are welcome.

Senior Center news

All artists are welcome to attend the art group at the Hubbardston Senior Center every Friday from 9-11 a.m. A new activity at the Senior Center is the Creative Needle and Thread activity every Friday from 9 a.m.-noon. All are invited to bring projects, such as embroidery, cross stitch, sewing and quilting. Questions may be directed to Michelle at 508-450-4476. Yarn-It-All group meets from 10 a.m.-noon. Knitting and crocheting projects will be worked on, and those who have questions will get help from others who attend. Games of Pitch are held the second and fourth Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. and the first and third Fridays at 6:30 p.m. Cribbage is played every Thursday at 12:30 p.m., Bingo is every Monday at 12:30 p.m. and Wii Bowling is every Monday and Thursday at 9 a.m. Functional Exercise Classes are held at the Senior Center Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30-10:30 a.m.

FOR RENT

Quabbin Estates

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Opinion

**in my
BACKYARD**

By Ellenor Downer

I received an email from a Hampden resident, who sent two photos of Eastern bluebirds – one adult male and a fledgling.

She states, “I live in Hampden, for the past several years we have been blessed to have a pair of bluebird’s nest in our yard. They have had three broods of babies each year including this year.”



This adult male Eastern bluebird is seen at the entrance of a bluebird house checking on his brood.



The fledgling male Eastern bluebird blends in with the ground cover. Blue feathers are visible.

The fledgling in the above photo is a male. The photo was taken shortly after fledging. Wing feathers, wing coverts and tail feathers are essential in determining the sex of young bluebirds.

By day ten to eleven days after hatching, feather colors are noticeable. The blue tail in males and gray in females become apparent. In the male, the short tail at fledging is bright blue. Times may vary but by day 13 the tail color is apparent.

Both sexes have a gray spotted back and chest. They also have a white eye ring.

By the time a bluebird is 19 to 24 days old, the male has blue wing coverts and the female gray ones.

At five weeks old the young male has blue wing feathers and a bright blue tail. The female’s primary wing feathers are blue, but concealed. The base of her tail is blue and the rest bluish gray. Spots are still present on back and breast.

Young bluebirds continue to depend on their parents for food until six weeks old. Siblings tend to forage nearby until they join flocks of young birds. Some first brood birds even help raise their parents next brood if their parents have a double brood season.

Between July and October young birds begin to replace their juvenile plumage. Blue and brick red feathers begin to appear. By mid to late October all juveniles finish molting into

their first adult plumage.

Leucistic crow

I met a New Braintree resident at the Oakham Post Office this week. He said he saw a crow with one white wing. Leucistic birds are birds that have abnormal plumage coloration due to a genetic mutation that causes a partial loss of pigmentation.

They may have washed out feathers or blotches of white feathers. While rare, they are found in many bird species around the world.

Whippoorwills

A Brimfield resident emailed, “I thought you’d be interested to learn that I still have several whippoorwills calling at dusk in the lower Haynes Hill/Paige Hill area of Brimfield.”

She stated, “I’ve only lived here four years, but they are here every year!. They start calling about 8:30 p.m.”

She stated, “My grandparents owned a house that bordered Reedy Meadow in Lynnfield. We heard Whippoorwills there. So cool to have them calling from my front and back yards at the same time.”

While on vacation as a child on Lake Winnisquam, my dad, brother and I would hear them calling while fishing for horn pout at night. I used to hear them in Oakham, but I not heard one in years.

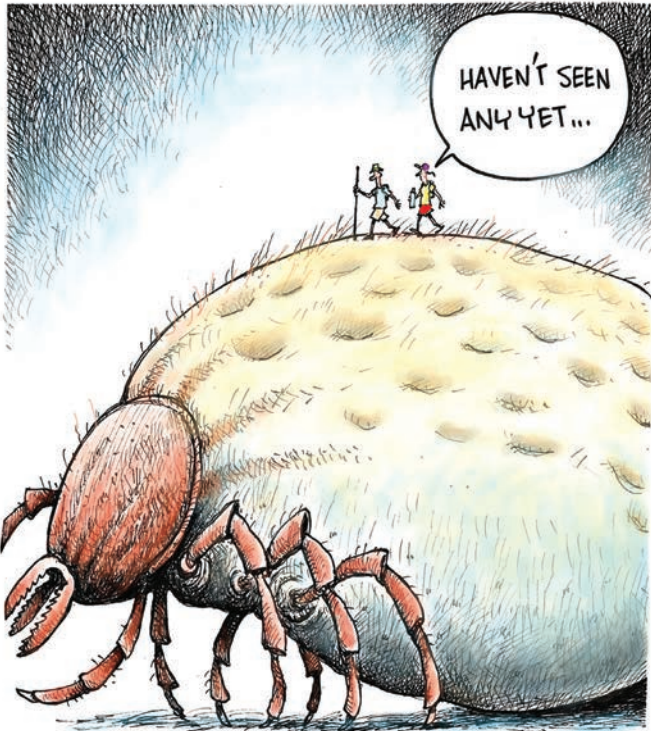
Owls hooting

I do hear barred owls hooting back and forth at night. Sometimes they are quite loud and can be heard even with the windows closed.

Juvenile red-tailed hawk

I received an email from a reader who saw a juvenile red-tailed hawk in her front yard. She stated, “It was quite beautiful. It had a small rodent for its dinner. It was really close to my front door, I’ve never seen a hawk so close to me.”

People may report a bird sighting by emailing edowner@turley.com or calling or texting 774-262-5882.



In Past Pages

5 years (Aug. 26, 2021)

Not Available

10 years (Aug. 25, 2016)

Steven Boudreau, chairman of the Barre Police Chief Search Committee, said the committee received 19 candidates, interviewed eight and recommended four: John Charbone, Erik Demetropoulos, James Sabourin and Thomas Ralph. Boudreau said each of the eight interviewed were asked 15 questions and ranked the candidate’s answers on a scale of 1 to 3. The two alternates on the committee did not vote.

Committee member, Lester Paquin, speaking as an individual member and not the committee, explained that the committee took the charge to recommend candidates for police chief very seriously and spent many hours. He urged the selectmen to take a full measure of time before making a decision.

The Board of Selectmen Chairman Charles Chase thanked the committee for their work. Selectman Matthew Urban asked the committee if they felt that the four candidates presented are the best. Member Kathy Howard said the vote was not unanimous and she did not feel they had the four best.

The Quabbin Regional School Committee voted unanimously to lower the Fiscal Year 17 budget from \$33,058,485 to \$32,939,638 by utilizing \$118,847

Look Back

Horse a star at local farm – 1997



File photo

These visitors to Stevens Farm Bed and Breakfast in Barre were charmed by the gentle horse.

in its Regional School Transportation Fund.

This action was in accordance with Chapter 71, section 16C, as amended by Chapter 233 of the Acts of 2014 and the school committee vote of June 25, 2015. The budget subcommittee unanimously made the decision to use the \$118,847 to lower assessments to the five-member towns at its Aug. 8 meeting.

Cheryl Duval, director of administrative services, explained that the

other choice was to leave the \$118,847 in the general fund. The money would then go into the excess and deficiency fund and not be available until the Department of Revenue certified free cash.

The Barre Board of Selectmen approved the request by the Barre Farmer’s Market to be held on South Common for the rest of the season. The market had been using the Barre

See PAST PAGES, page 5

I worked for my ex-husband but wasn’t paid and now have little Social Security.What are my options?

Author note: This is article number 500 in the AMAC Foundation’s “Ask Rusty” series of Social Security articles, which have been published nationwide every week since February 2017. “Ask Rusty” is provided free of charge as an integral part of the AMAC Foundation’s mission to “support and educate America’s seniors.” If you would like to help the AMAC Foundation fulfill its mission, charitable donations are graciously accepted at <https://amacfoundation.org/donate/>.

Dear Rusty:

Sadly, I was in business with my ex-husband.

I’m a nurse and he was a chiropractor. He refused to pay me “on the books” and now, at age 73, after divorcing him due to his financial

irresponsibility. (I don’t want to burden you with the thefts that he perpetrated), I am stuck with a small \$773 Social Security payment each month.

At age 73 I am now faced with having to go back into the workforce. Is there anything I can do to prove that I worked 40 years for my husband, but wasn’t paid?

Signed: Distressed Divorcee

Dear Distressed:

We are so sorry to hear of your unfortunate circumstances. Assuming your ex-husband is now collecting Social Security retirement benefits or is at least eligible to if you are divorced at least two years, you should be able to collect an ex-spouse ben-

efit as his former wife.

In that case, you would be entitled to receive 50% of the Social Security benefit he was

entitled to at his own Full Retirement Age because he and you were married for over 10 years.

The way that will work is that you would continue to receive your personally-earned \$773 monthly Social Security retirement amount earned from other employment, but you would also be entitled to a supplemental “spousal boost” to bring your payment up to half of the SS payment amount your ex-husband is entitled to at his SS Full Retirement Age.

In other words, because you were married to your

See SOCIAL SECURITY, page 11

BARRE GAZETTE

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NEWS & FEATURES

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

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

Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

The weather was very nice this week with cool mornings and warmer afternoons.

Only trouble is the mosquitoes like it also. They had not been bad because of the dryness and heat.

I have been working in the garage sorting papers and filing them in the notebooks and filing cabinets and came across the Murdock Muse newsletters that Robert Murdock used to send me.

He has passed now. but was quite the genealogist as was his brother Eugene. Among the newsletters was an article by several local people about the ice storm of December of 2008.

I had written about our time with the week we were without power. Dorothy Salminen and Pauline Howlett Joubert also wrote about it in their area.

People still talk about the ice storm of 2008 and hopefully we never have one like that again. The major problem was no one could get a generator or gas for it.

I remember we had one, but the gas station did not have power to pump the gas. The other thing I lacked was a can opener that was not electric so I immediately went out and bought a couple of them. At the time we had a wood stove and a camping stove, which we could cook on. I made an emergency center on the dining room

table and put all the flashlights, candles and supplies we needed on that table. We used the wood stove in the cellar for heat and also for cooking stews.

We put several coolers out on the deck and got snow for ice and kept our food in them. The Selectmen were very good about informing the public what was going on.

Also, a kind neighbor with a tractor kept going up and down Ragged Hill Road to clear the branches off in case anyone had an emergency. The Senior Center was open with a generator for anyone, who needed to eat or keep warm.

It was interesting to read how different families reacted. Hopefully we never have to go through that again.

Here is a recipe I made recently that is easy to make.

Hamburg and veggies

Put some sliced onions in a fry pan with olive oil. Fry up some green peppers and mushrooms. Put in a half pound of hamburger and fry it.

Meanwhile cook some pasta and put that in after it is cooked. Sprinkle cheese on top and serve it warm.

Note: It is good warmed over the next day as I usually make too much for one day.

This and That

I have problems with my

printer again as I got a paper stuck in it so I can't print from my computer. I do have a printer that I can print from, but it is not attached to the computer.

I had a nice visit from a friend this week. He always comes to check on a plant that we both have.

It is called a Wood Hyacinth. It has a lily like bloom that blooms in early fall and the bulb stays in the ground all year long and makes more bulbs.

We both got the bulbs from Dorothy Salminen from a garden in the woods. I often wonder if there are still some bulbs at the old Jalonen farm?

What else have I been doing this week? My handyman came and did quite a few things on the list of things that needed to be done. He also got our groceries for us as our helper has quit. The agency is going to get us another helper this week.

It is hard to believe that they are talking about students going back to school. Where did the summer go?

I have put out many of the fall wall hangings and artificial bittersweet and gourds and pumpkins. I will wait for October to put out the Halloween decorations.

I love fall but hate the winter as I am not a skier and never was. Have a nice week.

PAST PAGES from page 4

Congregational Church, but found the common a more central location with more customer traffic. The market will be at the common location beginning this Saturday for the rest of the season that ends in October. It is open 9 a.m. to noon. Maple syrup, honey, flowers, plants, eggs, meat, milk and other dairy products, corn tomatoes, vegetables, crafts and baked goods are available for purchase.

25 years (Aug. 23, 2001)

Turley Publications honored Eugene "Gene" Kennedy with a retirement party on Friday, Aug. 17 at Hartman's Herb Farm, Old Dana road. Those attending included the publisher, Pat Turley; two past editors, Marilyn Haynes and Mark McCulloch; the present editor, Ellenor Downer; advertising manager, Tim Mara; photographer, Brian Miner;; State Sen. Stephen Brewer; correspondents, Ruth Bassingthwaite and Bonnie Cunningham; staff writer, Mary Kelley; Jane McCauley, Serenity Hill columnist; Jim Sullivan, poet; Madeline Willey and Paula Downer, present staff; Julio and Josephine Mansueti, former staff and of course, Gene Kennedy and his wife Young-Soon and son, Kim Kennedy. Everyone enjoyed a wonderful meal that included hot homemade biscuits, fresh vegetables, garden salad, chicken or haddock and raspberry tort for dessert.

A public hearing at 8 p.m. on a liquor license transfer from John O'Grady DBA Quabbin IV to Harry Kyaniauskas was held. Barre Selectmen approved the transfer and now it needs approval from the Alcoholic Beverage Commission, a state agency. Selectman Richard Stevens cautioned the new owner, who was present, "to be very careful who you're selling the liquor to." Selectman Charles Chase added "We get complaints about noise. We do expect there will be noise control."

Five directors from Public Inebriate Program Foundation attended the Oakham Board

of Selectmen's meeting Monday night to answer questions from residents and Selectmen. To accommodate the large number of over 70 residents in attendance the meeting moved to another room, the voting room. Executive director Buddy Brousseau, explained the program that is planned at the 687 Lincoln Road property. The PIP Foundation searched for some time in a rural setting for a sober living unit. This sober unit in a rural setting would be the first for PIP Foundation. They do run three sober living units in Worcester: the Aurora House, 660 Main St., the Lincoln House, 653 Lincoln St. and Wallace House, 17 Ethan Allen Drive. He stressed the sober housing program is not the same program as PIP Shelter on 701 Main St., Worcester. The sober housing program has an 85% success rate with residents returning to the work force and getting their own home or apartment. He stressed that in nine years police have not responded to any calls at these three sober housing units.

48 years (Aug. 27, 1988)

Former Spencer Selectman William R. Shemeth III announced his candidacy for the Democratic nomination for state representative for the 5th Worcester District. The primary election will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 15. If elected, Shemeth said he would combine a background of extensive public service with a solid commitment and determination to advocate strongly on behalf of working people, their families and the communities in which they live. Shemeth,

32, a local attorney, passed the bar exam on his first try, served tow terms on the Spencer Board of Selectmen including a year and a half as chairman.

After listening to a panel of experts and watching a dog from the State Police Canine Unit find marijuana in a locker, the Quabbin Regional School Committee is one step closer to adopting revised drug policies for the school district. School Board members, school administrators, police chiefs from the five member towns, teachers and parents met in the Quabbin Regional High School cafeteria Tuesday night. They listened to Robert Fraser, legal representative of the school district, who talked about what school officials could legally do to achieves a zero tolerance on substance abuse. He cited case TLO vs. New Jersey as a typical example of what could happen in an average high school.

Selectmen read a letter of resignation from Town Clerk Elizabeth Neylon at the Monday, Aug. 24 meeting. She wrote, "It has been a joy and a privilege to serve as Town Clerk, however with my recent personal problems and some untrue allegations, I find it necessary to resign as Town Clerk effective immediately. With the primary election taking place on Tuesday, Sept. 15, Selectmen had to fill this position immediately. Selectmen appointed Ellenor Downer as Town Clerk until the town election contingent on approval from the Ethics Commission.

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Weeds and seeds

I came back from vacation and was shocked as to how much the garden had grown.

Crops were ready to be harvested and weeds that were merely inches tall had grown by leaps and bounds! Of course, we did have nearly a half foot of rain that week, and this probably played a part in such exuberant growth.

Read on to learn how indiscriminate watering by Mother Nature can mean weeds, weeds and more weeds.

Why such a growth spurt? Because just like other seeds, those of our least favorite weedy plants need both sunlight and water in order to germinate and grow well.

When we water on purpose, we can direct the rain where we'd like – usually at the base of the plant. Unfortunately, rainfall that lands on a brick path, the garden aisle, and also in between plants within the row can cause a lot of weeds to sprout.

Hand weeding and hoeing are both great exercise, and the best option for otherwise bare areas of young weeds.

Many gardeners make the mistake, however, of hoeing too deeply and exposing more weed seeds to sunlight. Try to just scrape the surface of the soil.

Stirrup hoes are particularly effective, skimming

across the soil and severing the stems of weeds at the root line as they go. Very tall weeds can be cut down by use of garden shears, scissors or a week whacker, depending on the size of the area.

Once cut back, you can cover the whole area with a tarp, or black plastic to fry what was underneath, killing weed seed.

In the future you can use mulch to reduce the amount a weeding you have to do – it will also help to conserve soil moisture in years that rainfall isn't so plentiful. Mulch doesn't have to be expensive – it can be as simple as a "biscuit" of spent hay, a few sheets of newspaper secured with stones, pine needles or grass clippings – as long as these materials are applied thick enough to exclude light, weed seeds should not sprout.

Sometimes I will put a layer of corrugated cardboard down first, wet it then add the mulch on top. It really seems to make a difference having that preliminary layer to keep light out.

This may be an unlikely pairing for this column, but there are plants that we desire to grow this time of year, and they are cover crops. Cover crops add lots of organic matter to the soil when incorporated in during the spring or summer months.

While winter rye is the standard, you can grow oats,

too. If sown right now, oats will germinate but die back as soon as frost hits.

Leave the plants in place, though, and they will prevent erosion by holding onto the soil with their roots. Plant parts can be incorporated come spring time.

In preparation for sowing cover crop seed, the soil surface should be scuffed up so that the seeds will make good contact with earth. Once prep is complete I rake the soil smooth and broadcast the grain, first throwing the seed in one direction and then the other.

It's a good idea to divide the seed in half and try to cover all the area you have once, then go back and fill in the light spots with the rest. After the seed has been sown I'll drag the flat end of a steel rake over the soil surface to bury it ever so slightly.

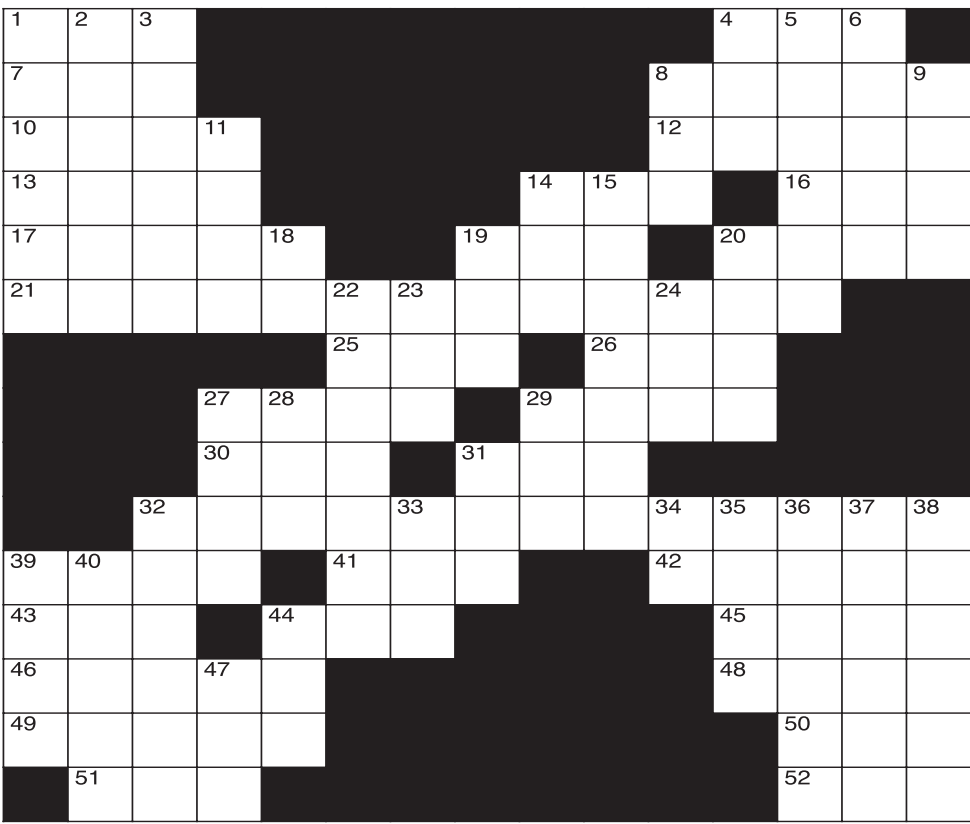
My goal is to have the seed sprout now, so that its roots will hold the soil and its nutrients in place over the off season.

Winter rye will put on an amazing amount of top growth by spring – weed whack or mow it first to make incorporating easier.

I am also contemplating "tarping" it to solarize the soil at the same time, then working in the dead plants by hand.

Either way, if you do this for a few years in a row you'll watch the organic matter content of your soil soar, reportedly at a rate of three to four thousand pounds per acre!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Microgram
4. Fixed charge
7. Each
8. Feeling of humiliation
10. Coat with sticky substance
12. Powerful "Severance" family
13. Japanese city
14. "Pulp Fiction" actress Thurman
16. Hat
17. Place where rockers work
19. Psyche
20. Snakelike fishes
21. Where people live
25. Body part
26. Old towel
27. One's essential being

29. Japanese alcoholic beverage
30. Boxing's GOAT
31. Wet muddy ground
32. Christian Laettner is one
39. A place to store lawn tools
41. Large tub for liquid
42. Old World lizard
43. One-time European member group
44. Healing student
45. Nuclear weapon
46. "Kiss of the Spider Woman" actress Sonia
48. Silk garment
49. About some Norse poems
50. Woman religious community member
51. Congressman (abbr.)

52. Two-year-old sheep

CLUES DOWN

1. An insane person
2. "Homeland" actress Danes
3. Buttock muscles
4. US federal agency
5. Birds of prey
6. Electronic communication
8. Ocean
9. Terminates from a bell
11. Low-pitched sound
14. Exclamation: yuck!
15. A place to attach a boat
18. Exclamation of surprise
19. Make a mistake
20. Border line
22. Have religious faith

23. Klutz
24. Large tree
27. House of ___ rulers
28. Red deer
29. Small coin (French)
31. Popular sandwich
32. 10-year period
33. Not good
34. Government lawyer
35. Egypt's intelligence agency
36. Without an occupant or incumbent
37. Stain with one's hands
38. Clipping
39. One point east of southeast
40. Large, united groups
44. ___ and cheese
47. Alcoholic beverage

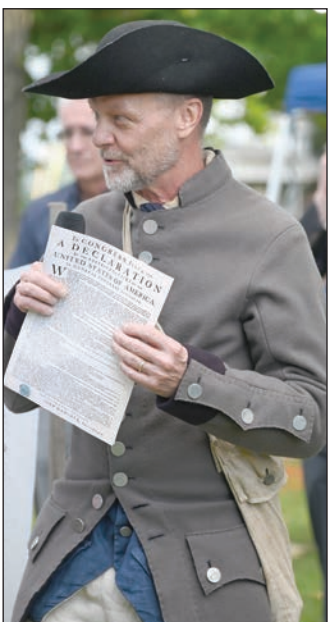
ANSWERS ON PAGE 10



Deb Deschamps practiced chest compressions.



State and town officials joined members of the Hardwick Community Fair Association members and volunteers for a group photo.



An actor portrayed Deacon Joseph Allen during the opening ceremony of the Hardwick Community Fair this past Friday night.

Hardwick Community Fair

HARDWICK FAIR from page 1

The announcement came to her in the spring when she found a note by President of the Fair Board Fay Butler. Many people volunteer their time to make the Fair possible and Hinckley was honored to be recognized.

“I’ve just been doing what I’ve always done,” Hinckley said.

Her area of work is in the fiber arts category for the Hardwick Community Fair. Hinckley coordinates the judges and sets tables.

Hinckley has been involved with the fair for about 35 years. According to her daughter, Kate, Hinckley has been attending the fair since 1979.

For Hinckley, this honor is

special to her as the town has become like her family.

“A very touching recognition,” Hinckley said. “Hardwick feels like a really large family.”

Butler had asked all attendees to gather at the flagpole on the common for the fair’s opening ceremony on Friday evening. The Pascale family of Barre performed the National Anthem during the opening ceremony and the American flag was also raised.

Butler was joined by his fellow Fair Board members, Select Board members Jeffrey Schaaf and William Tinker, Town Administrator Justine Caggiano, and Town Clerk Ryan J. Witkos. The ceremony also welcomed Congressman James McGovern, state Sen. Peter Durant, and state Rep. Donnie Berthiaume.

Former state Sen. Stephen Brewer attended the Hardwick Community Fair this past weekend and has been coming to the fair ever since he was a kid.

According to Brewer, the fair is an example of “Americana at its very best.”

Butler announced that the 264th year of the Hardwick Community Fair has fallen on a special year, which marks the 250th anniversary of the U.S. To highlight the history of both the nation and the Town of Hardwick, the ceremony featured an actor portraying Deacon Joseph Allen of Hardwick, who was a town founder.

Allen served on the first Select Board alongside Benjamin Ruggles and also built the meeting house. Allen also witnessed the very first agricultural fair in Hardwick in 1762. He was also part of the alarm company in Hardwick during the Revolutionary War. In 1776, Allen also read the text of the declaration to the citizens of Hardwick.

“These were revolutionary words,” Allen said.

Butler and the Board officially dedicated this year’s Hardwick Community Fair to Pam Hinckley, someone Butler described as someone with “great skill and intelligence.” Hinckley raised her family in Hardwick and is an active community member ever since she came to Hardwick.

According to Butler, part of Hinckley’s purpose “has



Hardwick Community Fair Association President Fay Butler, left, dedicated this year’s fair to Pam Hinckley, right.

always been to build community through crafts.”

McGovern said it takes a continuous effort to keep the tradition of the Hardwick Community Fair going, an event that has happened even before the birth of the U.S.

McGovern shared some history with the town on how 75 minutemen from Hardwick went to go fight the British as a war had started.

“A story of ordinary people,” McGovern said.

Durant came up to speak and noted that 264 years is a long time for something to last. Many people over the course of those 264 years made sure the Fair stayed this long.

Berthiaume spoke next and presented the town with a copy of the Declaration of Independence, printed in a manner similar to how Salem printer Ezekiel Russell did it back in 1776. This replica of American history was accepted by the Witkos.

“I receive this on behalf of the town,” Witkos said.

The history of Hardwick and its notable people were highlighted in the cemetery next to the Town House. One of the posters highlighted Timothy Ruggles, the founder of the Hardwick Community Fair back in 1762.

This year’s quilt was displayed at the booth of the Gilbertville Public Library. The quilt was made by Erin Roy, Patsy Buck, Pam Hinckley, Jenn Mott, Laura Grunwerg, Kate Morreale and Colleen Tovan. This group spent several months putting this gorgeous quilt together with everyone quilt-



David Larson rode in the Mountain Bike race.



Brody Faucher of Barre finished fourth overall in the road race with a time of 39:18:27.



Abigayle Goudreau of Ware was the second female overall with a time of 44:18:31.



Four generations of the Flamand family of Ware attended the Lumberjack Contest.



Friends gathered for a photo on one of the tractors at the fair.

ing a square for the quilt.

The quilt was being raffled off to support the Gilbertville Public Library. The idea came from Morreale to bring people together to make a quilt.



Scarecrows were displayed in the cemetery



Dylan Mace competed in the crosscut saw competition.



Children enjoyed swinging on the rope swing, with help from Isabelle Wentworth.

HARDWICK from page 1

fowl have to be quartered from dusk to dawn, and must be fenced in unless they are foraging while being supervised, and cannot leave their property. The bylaw allows for up to four geese, one rooster and prohibits guinea fowl and peafowl.

Other zoning bylaws
An associate Planning

Board member was established, and they will be appointed by a joint meeting of the Planning Board and Select Board, and could serve on a special permit application or in the case of absences, vacancies or conflicts of interest on the Planning Board. A gender-neutral terminology bylaw was passed which simply changes some wording throughout the bylaw. There was also an

article to change the definitions of ADU protected use and ADU local in order to implement the ADU bylaw.

Other articles

The STM approved the amendments to the Quabbin Regional School District agreement and rescinded an appropriation of \$13,000 to the sewer enterprise budget that was approved at the annual town meeting.

‘Concerts on the Common’ final performance Aug. 29

NORTH BROOKFIELD – North Brookfield Parks and Recreation, in conjunction with North Brookfield Cultural Council, will be hosting Concerts on the Common this summer season.

A Mass Cultural Council grant is making these concerts possible for all residents

to enjoy.

The final concert will be held on Saturday, Aug. 29 from 3-5 p.m. with the Superchargers, a fun rock and roll band.

This concert is free and food will be available for purchase, but folks are welcome to bring their own.

Feel free to bring chairs,

blankets, bug spray and sunscreen – whatever makes you comfortable.

The playground is right on the common, located on Grove Street in town. There will also be games for families to enjoy and some surprise craft tables during some concerts.

HUBBARDSTON from page 1

Clemence, Kari Sacramone, Lee Perron and Maria Tourigny to the town administrator search committee.

Select Board member Kris Pareago had applied, but after discussion about the salary, resigned. The board voted on a committee because it allows for executive session interviews, and the positions were reduced to seven because members of the last committee said nine was too many.

The job posting has a salary of between \$130,000-

\$150,000, which Pareago said is too much, suggesting between \$90,000-\$110,000. Young said that would be too little, as it would be even less than some department heads.

Young also said they might not get qualified candidates if they post too low, to which Pareago suggested trying, and seeing what applicants they get. Select Board member Terry Tyler said the town needs the same caliber as the previous interim Town Administrator, Sean Fitzgerald.

The board approved the job posting 3-1, to be posted on

Sept. 8 until Sept. 25.

STM

Ellis requested a special town meeting date of Tuesday, Oct. 27 at 7 p.m. The board voted to open the warrant at the Aug. 17 meeting, and Ellis suggested a closing date of Sept. 17 to give the Finance Committee and town counsel time to review articles.

State primary

The board signed the warrant for the state primary of Sept. 1, polling hours 7 a.m.-8 p.m. at the Hubbardston Center School. Early voting

hours were also approved including Aug. 22 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Aug. 24, 25, and 27 from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and Aug. 26 from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. at the town offices at 48 Gardner Road.

Consent agenda

The board unanimously approved a consent agenda of the resignations of John DeMalia Jr. from the Planning Board and Edward Gallant as cemetery worker, the promotion of Nicholas Malnati to a full-time sergeant and a wage authorization form for Police Officer Zakary Wright.

Dispatch update

Select Board member Peter Walker, who also sits on the Central Mass Emergency Communication Center board of directors said four of five towns in the district paid their full assessments up front, but Hubbardston stuck with the contract, paying the 25%.

Walker and members of the board showed concern that the board of directors, mostly unelected other than Walker, broke the contract that has quarterly payments written in for cash flow reasons.

Public comment

Christine Barbera, the director of the Hubbardston Public Library alleged that there was an employee in town working part-time hours but getting benefits, and asked if that would be implemented for her workers. She alleged that the previous town administrator gave the employee benefits, and the board will continue investigating the matter.

The Select Board is scheduled to meet next on Aug. 31.



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Calendar of Events

THURSDAY, AUG. 20
UNDERSTANDING DROUGHT AND WATER SUPPLIES, free public presentation with UMass Amherst Professor Konstantinos (Kostas) Andreadis takes place today at 6:30 p.m. in the Belchertown Town Hall Auditorium hosted by the Belchertown Conservation Department. Professor Andreadis research focuses on hydrology, water resources, drought and climate impacts. Designed for homeowners, residents and anyone interested in understanding where their water comes from, the presentation will explain the science behind drought in clear, practical terms. Topics will include how Massachusetts defines the different stages of drought, why droughts have become more frequent in recent years, and what scientists expect as the climate continues to change. He will also discuss the differences between surface water and groundwater systems, why each responds differently to drought and how water managers evaluate long-term and short-term impacts on water supplies. Additional topics will include aquifers, seasonal groundwater recharge from rainfall and snowmelt, well fields, deep and shallow wells, artesian wells, and how public water supply systems collect, store, and distribute drinking water. The presentation is free and open to the public. Questions from attendees will be welcomed following the presentation.

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT takes place at the Petersham Art Center, 8 North St., Petersham. Photographer Guy Biechele of Athol will display the gallery with his recent photographs now through Sunday, Sept. 6. Regular Art Center hours are Thursday through Sunday noon-to 4 p.m. For more information about the exhibition and the art center, people may call 978-724-3415.

VENDORS FOR CRAFT FAIR are needed for the Rutland Friends of the Council on Aging craft fair on Saturday, Nov. 14 at the Rutland Senior Center, Glenwood Road, Rutland. Those interested can get information at calling 508-886-7945.

CRAFTERS needed for the GFWC Northboro Junior Woman’s Club is now accepting crafters’ applications for the 49th Annual Harvest Craft Fair to be held on Saturday, Nov. 7 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Robert E. Mexican Middle School, 145 Lincoln St., Northboro. This is a juried show requiring that all items are handmade. Please visit NJWC’S website for applications and more show details at www.northborojuniors.org/craft-fair.html. The Northboro Junior Woman’s Club is a non-profit organization that has been active in Northboro for over 40 years. They support community projects in Northboro as well as internationally.



Turley Publications photo by Ellenor Downer

This week’s mystery photo is from Hardwick. If any readers know where this photo was taken, they may email edowner@turley.com with their answer by noon on Monday, Aug. 24. Bill Bowles and Peggy Civilik correctly identified the photo. The photo last week was the new playground in High Plains in Barre.

FRIDAY, AUG. 21
UNIVERSITY OF WILD offers a range of programs starting today with the Earth Writers Retreat where local authors and readers come to share their work. On the weekend of Aug. 21 through Aug. 23 there be an Earthlands/University of the Wild Reunion focused on stories of former participants, followed by the annual Earth Alive Retreat where a range of populations come together to share stories, learn new skills of living with the land and offering activism for the well-being of the Earth and all life.stories,. On Saturday, Sept. 19, there will be a co-sponsored program with the Petersham Historical Society for a day at Walden Pond and the Fruitlands Community as part of the initiative to learn more of the Transcendental Movement, which has a foundation of living lightly on the Earth.

SATURDAY, AUG. 22
WARE RIVER BRIDGE HIKE sponsored by the Department of Conservation and Recreation takes place today from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Barre Falls Dam. Barre. Participants should park at Barre Falls Overlook parking lot. This easy 2 mile hike starts at an open meadow then follows the Ware River on the North side of Barre Falls Dam along a forested riverside path to a scenic bridge and back. People should wear appropriate footwear, bring water and have tick and

insect protection.To register, they should visit <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/019f95134113755aa55a6f1caf4a3225>.

NORNAY PARK SUMMER CONCERT features Alive’n Kickn’ from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Nornay Park, Main Street, South Barre. This is the final concert of the season. The Barre Lions Club will run a concession stand for all Saturday concerts. The concerts are supported in part by the Barre Cultural Council and the Barre Recreation Committee.

SUNDAY, AUG. 23
COFFEE WITH THE FINNS takes place today at 2 p.m at Finnish Heritage Society Sovittajma, Finn Park Road, Rutland. The program includes coffee imported from Finland, traditional Finnish sweets. The guest speaker planned for this event is unable to be present. There is no charge, but donations are appreciated.

TUESDAY, AUG. 25
RESERVATIONS FOR NEW SALEM ACADEMY CLASS REUNION is today for the reunion for all classes (even those who did not graduate)on Saturday, Sept. 12 from 4:30-9 p.m. at the Orange American Legion, 40 Daniel Shays Highway, Orange. To register they should call Chet Lubelczyk at 774-823-0945. Cost is \$20 and includes a catered meal and a few drawings for door prizes. All

who attended, a friend or family member are welcome. New Salem Old Home Day is also on the Sept. 12.

FRIDAY, AUG. 28
GAME NIGHT takes place today from 5-8 p.m. at First Meeting House, 2 Main St., Hubbardston. This is a fundraiser for the First Meeting House. Suggested donation \$20 a family, \$5 a single person. People can unplug, reconnect with board games and card games. This is family fun and a chance to meet fellow towns people. play an old favorite or learn a new game. This is a great way to finish the summer before school starts Light refreshments are available.

MONDAY, AUG. 31
FATHER H. EDWARD CHALMERS today at 6:30 p.m. will offer a reflection on the history of the Franciscans in Medjugorje at St. Francis of Assisi Parish St. Joseph’s Church, 29 South St., Barre. The program is in the hall and they should use the side door.

MONDAY, AUG. 31
FATHER H. EDWARD CHALMERS today at 6:30 p.m. will offer a reflection on the history of the Franciscans in Medjugorje at St. Francis of Assisi Parish St. Joseph’s Church, 29 South St., Barre. The program is in the hall and they should use the side door.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 12
ANNUAL CAR SHOW sponsored by the Barre Lions Club takes place today from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., rain or shine. All types of vehicles are welcome. The entry fee is \$15 to show and spectators are free. They’ll be a D.J., a huge raffle table, tee-shirts, a 50/50 and swag bags for all entrants. People’s Choice plaques will be awarded at the end of the show. For more information, people may email barremalionsclub@aol.com.

Calendar Policy

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

Program books for Ware Grange Fair are available

WARE – The Ware Grange Fair program books are now available online at waregrange.org. Program books are also available by mail by calling 413-284-1135 or emailing waregrange164@gmail.com. Plan your exhibits by checking out the categories of exhibits in the fair program book. Exhibitors may enter in a variety of categories including vegetables, fruits, eggs, cut flowers, baked goods, fancywork, arts and crafts and photography. The Ware Grange Fair will be held Plan your exhibits now for the fair which takes place Aug. 28 -29. See the Ware Grange website for schedule and details.

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Quabbin Soccer Academy has successful session

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN – During the past 15 summers, the Quabbin Soccer Academy has held clinics in Ware and Belchertown.

The two soccer clinics this summer were held at the Chestnut Hill Community School in Belchertown.

“We held our first clinic in Ware in 2011,” said Matt Schiffer, who’s the Director of the Quabbin Soccer Academy. “We moved the clinics to Belchertown in 2014. The clinic has grown substantially since 2021. We had over 100 kids sign up for the clinics that year. I thought it was going to be a one-time thing, but we’ve had between

80 and 100 kids sign up each year since.”

A total of 85 kids, who are between the ages of 4 and 13, attended the second soccer clinic, which took place from August 10-14. Most of the campers were from Belchertown.

“Originally, we only had one clinic each summer,” Schiffer said. “The parents

suggested that we do two clinics each summer and it has worked out very well during the past few years.”

Schiffer described the typical day at the clinic.

“It’s a six-hour camp and we just want to make it fun for the kids,” he said. “We do some skill development, but we also play some fun games. We also play scrimmages.”

The kids are split up into four groups depending on their age.”

The full day soccer clinic went from 9am to 3pm each of the five days. There were also two other time options from 9am to 10:30am and 9am to 12:30pm.

“All of the kids have the options to attend the clinic during the three time peri-

ods,” Schiffer said. “The parents like it very much.

Schiffer was aided at the second soccer clinic by 18 coaches. The members of the coaching staff are Briana Haley, Jill DeBarge, Timmy Haley, Adam Stahl, Amalie Martins, Ashlynn Brunell, Austin Raymer,

See SOCCER ACADEMY, page 10

Forge Baseball Clinic returns to Western Mass.

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WILBRAHAM – One of the last sports camps of the summer of 2026 was held at Spec Pond in Wilbraham from August 10-13.

A total of 57 baseball and softball players between the ages of 6-16 from Wilbraham and the surrounding communities attended the four day clinic.

“This is our fourth year conducting the baseball clinics, and this is probably the best one yet,” said camp director Dustin Brisson “We have almost 60 kids, including a couple of softball players for the first time, this week. It’s the most campers we’ve ever had at this clinic and I’m very pleased.”

Brisson, who is the owner of Forge Athletics, was born in Florida and played college baseball at the University of Central Florida from 1997-2000. The first baseman was drafted by the Boston Red Sox in the 15th round of the 2000 MLB draft.

Brisson, who played 345 minor league games, advanced to Double A Portland. His baseball career came to an end due to an injury.

“I was blessed to have the opportunity to play professional baseball,” Brisson said. “I’m doing what I can to give back to these kids.”

Some of the camp instructors were Lindsay Beer, David Wendt, Ace Adams Chade Shade, who’s the head coach of the Springfield College baseball team, Pat Strange, who’s the pitching coach at Westfield State University, Dan Gomez, who’s the head baseball coach at Western New England University, and Terry Doyle, who’s the the baseball coach at New England College.

“It’s an honor to have these coaches working at our clinic this year,” Brisson



Ryan McLane does a running drill.



Adam Smola swings off a tee.



Campers receive some instructions from one of the coaches in the Forge Baseball Clinic.

said. “They want to help these kids. This is a high level skills clinic. I just want the older kids to have the opportunity to work with the college coaches.”

A couple of the guest

speakers at the clinic were Brandon Seymour, who’s the general manager of the Valley Blue Sox, Nancy Street, who’s a board member of the Miracle League of Western Massachusetts, and

Duke Castiglione Jr who’s a sportscaster at a television station in Boston.

Ray Fagnant, who grew up in Chicopee and is the Boston Red Sox Northeast

See CAMP, page 10

Lusitano keeps the soccer going, hosts collegiate match

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – In what could become an annual tradition, the UConn and UMass women’s soccer teams met in an exhibition match in front of a large crowd at Lusitano Stadium on Aug. 5.

Neither team was able to find the back of the net during the contest, played in three 30-minute intervals, but it was still a memorable evening at the 108-year-old stadium located on Winsor Street in Ludlow.

“It’s very exciting to be hosting a college soccer match here at Lusitano Stadium,” said Joe Ferrara Jr., who’s the Managing Director of the New England Mutiny and the General Manager of the Western Mass. Pioneers. “Both

UConn and UMass have been very supportive of the Mutiny over the years. I also have a personal relationship with both coaching staffs.”

The last time a college soccer match was held at Lusitano Stadium was on October 17, 2018.

On that fall evening, the Worcester State University Lancers squared off against the Western New England University Golden Bears in a non-conference men’s match-up.

Cyrus Raines, a Belchertown High School graduate, delivered his first collegiate goal during the second half, which lifted the Lancers to a 1-0 shut-out victory. Raines, who’s a defender, finished his college soccer career with three goals.

The Worcester State head coach at that time was

Jason Willis, who’s currently an assistant coach for the Western Mass Pioneers. He also coaches a Western United Pioneers team.

Willis graduated from Ludlow High School, and he helped the Lions boys’ soccer team win two state titles and three Western Mass. titles back in the 1990’s.

Ferrara, who also graduated from Ludlow High School in the 1980’s, played many soccer games on the grass stadium field.

“I recall scoring a lot of big goals on this field while I was in high school,” Ferrara said. “I also played for the Lusitano Whites, which won the first ever summer league championship on this field. I hope the college players appreciate the history of this place.”

This past spring, Ferrara approached UMass head

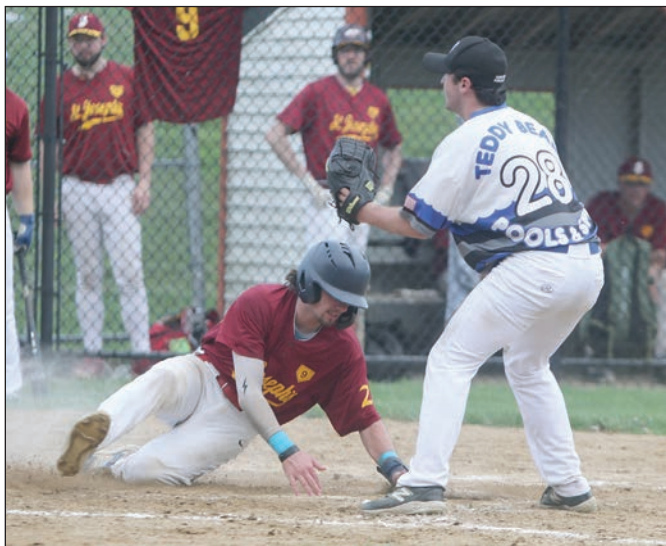
coach Jason Dowiak about playing the exhibition match against UConn at Lusitano Stadium.

“Because it was UMass turn to host the exhibition, I asked coach Dowiak if he would be interested in playing the game here this year,” Ferrara said. “He thought it was a very good idea.”

It was something that Dowiak, who was hired as the UMass women’s soccer coach in 2017, had always wanted to do.

“I’m beginning my ninth season as the UMass women’s soccer coach and this is something that I’ve always wanted to do,” said Dowiak following the scoreless draw. “I’ve watched several Mutiny games here in the past and this was really a very special night for us.

See LUSITANO, page 10



Turley photo by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Nate Carrill slides safely home.

Tri-County finals forced to a deciding game three

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY— Third-seeded Teddy Bear Pools & Spas had a golden opportunity to sweep the top-seeded St. Joseph’s Saints in the Tri-County League championship series.

Teddy Bear held a 1-0 lead entering the top of the third inning in game two.

St. Joe’s rallied for three runs in the third and fourth innings and they evened the best-of-three series at 1-1 following a 6-3 victory at South Hadley High School Friday, Aug. 7.

The game came to an end after five innings due to darkness, which didn’t please the Teddy Bear players and their supporters.

“It’s a very frustrating situation,” said Teddy Bear player/manager Ryan Magni. “I think we should’ve been able to finish the final two innings of tonight’s game at St. Joe’s Park before playing the deciding game tomorrow night.”

The baseball field at South Hadley High School doesn’t have any lights and the first pitch of game two was thrown by Teddy Bear righthander Sean Rosemond at 5:55p.m. The three umpires made the decision to end the game at 7:45 p.m.

“The pace of tonight’s game was very slow,” said St. Joe’s manager Paul Marcinek. “We were very



Greg Vouros fires a throw to first base.



Ray Toth makes a throw on the run.

See TRI-COUNTY, page 10



Ramon Jimenez takes a swing.

Sports

Railers become affiliate of St. Louis Blues

WORCESTER – The Worcester Railers Hockey Club (@RailersHC) and Chief Operating Officer Michael G. Myers announced the team has reached an affiliation agreement with the St. Louis Blues of the National Hockey League and the Springfield Thunderbirds of the American Hockey League through the 2030-31 season, starting with the 2026-27 campaign.

“When we were assessing affiliation opportunities, we looked at a number of factors,” said Michael G. Myers, Worcester Railers Chief Operating Officer. “We took into account proximity, resources, and track record. Seeing what the Blues and their affiliates have done in recent history, excites us as an organization for what the future with St. Louis may hold. We look forward to welcoming St. Louis



back into our Central Massachusetts hockey culture.”

This is the first change in affiliation in Worcester Railers history following an eight-season partnership with the New York Islanders. The agreement establishes Worcester as a resource for each the Springfield Thunderbirds and St. Louis Blues’ developmental needs.

“For the development of St. Louis Blues prospects, Worcester truly is an ideal location for our ECHL affiliate and we look forward to launching this partnership with their orga-

nization and community,” said Tim Taylor, St. Louis Blues Assistant General Manager and Co-General Manager of the Springfield Thunderbirds. “Having Springfield and Worcester located within 50 miles of each other will maximize the competitive opportunities for our young players and introduce some unique efficiencies for our player development and pro scouting teams.”

Worcester has had players assigned to the Railers from the St. Louis Blues organization in the past, including Colten Ellis, who became the fourth Railer to make his NHL debut after having played for the Railers during the 2021-22 season. The agreement marks St. Louis’ return to the Central Massachusetts hockey scene, as Worcester was once home to the Blues’ top AHL affiliate, the Worcester IceCats from 1994-2005.

SOCCKER from page 9

Gianna Boisjolie, Jacob Rose, Kylie Rose, Lily Mann, Mackenzie Bowers, Mason Pobieglo, Matthew Almeida, Reese Avgoustakis, Reid Fortier, Ryan Longe, Ellie Mazzaferro, Aubrey Klingensmith, Jake Thurber, Emily Durham and Sawyer Thurber.

“We have 18 coaches and most of the coaches are former campers. They’re an outstanding group,” Schiffer said. “The ratio between campers and coaches is 5 to 1, which is very good. Many of the coaches played soccer at Belchertown High School. The campers love learning

the different skills from the coaches.”

Halley has been working at the clinic for the past six years.

“I never came to this clinic when I was younger, but I do love working here,” said Haley, who graduated from Belchertown High School in 2024. “I always look forward to coming back and working at this camp each year.”

Schiffer, who graduated from Belchertown High School in 2000, was a member of the Orioles boys’ soccer team.

“I’ve always loved soccer. I’ve been a soccer coach and referee for many years,” Schiffer said. “My

dad, Tilo, was my first soccer coach. My dad and Ron Constantino began the Belchertown youth soccer program in 1988.”

Matt’s son, Nathan, was a member of the Orioles 2019 squad, which defeated Medway High School, 1-0, in overtime in the Division 3 State championship match.

“I didn’t win a state title in high school, but it was a lot of fun watching my son win it,” Schiffer said. “Belchertown is one of the top soccer communities in the area, along with Monson and Ludlow.

It was another successful summer for the Quabbin Soccer Academy.

CAMP from page 9

Regional Scouting Supervisor, also spent a day at the clinic.

A few of the different stations were hitting, fielding, and throwing.

“My main goal is to teach the players the basic

fundamentals of the game,” Brisson said. “I also want to keep the kids active at this clinic. I really don’t want them standing around doing nothing.”

Brisson was aided at the clinic by his wife, Kasey.

“My wife is the backbone of the organization,” Brisson

said. “She keeps everything in order. I appreciate all the support from many different people that I’ve received running this camp.”

Brisson and his staff is already looking forward to holding the baseball clinic at Spec Pond again next summer.



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In the Classroom

Colleges and universities lists graduates

Belmont University Nashville, Tennessee Bachelor of Science in audio engineering technology Layth Shehadeh of Hardwick	Ashley Ottman of North Brookfield, Master Degree in business administration Joseph Collard of Rutland, Bachelor of Science in business administration Sean Looney of Rutland, Bachelor of Science in business administration	Dominic Mogavero of Rutland Saint Anselm College Manchester, New Hampshire Bachelors in nursing and pinning ceremony Anna Paulson of Rutland
Nichols College Dudley Jessica Tower of Barre, Bachelor of Science in business administration Colin Wallace of North Brookfield, Bachelor of Science in business administration	Roger Williams University Bristol, Rhode Island Bachelor's Degree Benjamin Auger of Rutland	University of Tampa Tampa, Florida Bachelor of Science cybersecurity and management information systems Declan Cady of Rutland

TRI-COUNTY from page 9

lucky to finish five innings which made it an official game.”

Had the game ended before the bottom of the fifth inning, it would’ve resumed at South Hadley High School the following day. If the score would’ve been tied, game two would’ve been replayed from the beginning, which has been a TCL rule for many years.

Teddy Bear won game one of the championship series, which was an old fashion pitcher’s duel, 3-1, at St. Joe’s Park, last Thursday night.

Righthander Matt Drobiak, who graduated from South Hadley High School in 2024, went the distance for Teddy Bear. He allowed a run on six hits and three strikeouts without issuing a walk.

Drobiak outdueled St. Joe’s mighty Trey Yesu, who graduated from Monson High School in 2022.

Yesu also went seven innings allowing three runs (two earned) on six hits with

six strikeouts and two walks.

Teddy Bear took a 1-0 lead in game against lefthander Jackson Hayes with two outs in the bottom of the first inning following a run scoring double by second baseman Ramon Jimenez.

St. Joe’s took the lead against Rosemond in the top of the third inning.

Catcher Nate Carillon and second baseman Greg Vourros began the St. Joe’s rally with back-to-back singles. After Drobiak retired the next batter on a pop-up, before Carillon scored the tying run following a wild pitch. Then right fielder Brian Hayes drew a walk before centerfielder Pat Fitzgibbons hit a two run single into right field giving St. Joe’s a 3-1 lead.

With one-out in the bottom of the third inning, Drobiak, who started at first base, launched a solo home run over the left field fence.

Holding a slim 3-2 lead, St. Joe’s scored three more runs in the fourth inning.

The first two runs crossed the plate following a two-run single down the right field

line by Vourros.

At that point, Rosemond was replaced on the mound by righthander Mason Barcomb.

Shortstop Jacob Hayes greeted the relief pitcher with an RBI single into left field giving the visiting team a commanding 6-2 lead.

After Jackson Hayes retired the first two batters in the bottom of the fourth on flyballs to center, consecutive walks by third baseman Alex Gochinski, right fielder Ty Evans, and catcher Eric Robert loaded the bases. Another walk by Ryan Magni plated Teddy Bear’s second run.

Relief pitcher Matt Irzyk, who wound up as the winning pitcher in game two, retired the only batter he faced in the fourth on a pop-up caught by Jacob Hayes.

Irzyk allowed a single to shortstop Ray Toth in the bottom of the fifth inning before the umpires halted to game.

Photos and highlights from the deciding game three will be in next week’s edition.

LUSITANO from page 9

I’m very glad that the soccer community came out and supported us. This was an electric atmosphere for an exhibition game.”

A year ago, UMass posted a 5-8-4 overall record and went 3-6-2 against their Mid-American Conference foes.

“I thought my team played very well against a fantastic UConn team, and this is a positive step for us,” Dowiak added. “I feel like we can go into tough environments and still be successful.”

One of the three graduated students listed on the UMass women’s roster is Bianca Cardano, who’s from Monson. She attended Minnechaug Regional where she played soccer for Nundi Goncalves, who’s another Ludlow High graduate.

“I’ve played a lot of games at this stadium,” Cardano said. “My family and friends were here tonight. It was a very special night.”

Cardano, who’s a management major, fell in love with the UMass campus when she made her official visit.

“UMass was always my top choice,” she said. “The girls on the soccer team are like members of my own family. We’re hoping to finish first in the Mid-American Conference.”

Cardano, who’s a starting defender, played in 16 games as a freshman before missing her entire sophomore season recovering from a right knee injury. She was limited to just three matches (two starts) in 2024.

A year ago, Cardano was a starter in ten of the 14 matches that she played in.

“We’re really hoping that Bianca is able to play the whole season for us this year,” Dowiak said. “She’s a fantastic leader on and off the field.”

Cardano isn’t the only Minnechaug girls’ soccer player to play soccer at UMass.

Jess Howe, who was a member of the Lady Falcons 2005 Western Mass championship team and the 2008 state title team, was a defender at UMass from 2009-2012.

UConn head coach Margaret Rodriguez played soccer at Lusitano Stadium for a couple of seasons as a member of the Western Mass. Lady Pioneers. She

also played for the Mutiny for one year when they played their home matches at Agawam High School.

“We’ve led the Big East in fan support during the past several years,” Rodriguez said. “This was a good year for my players to get used to playing in this type of a setting under the lights.”

The Huskies, who finished the 2025 campaign with an 11-4-3 overall record and a 7-1-2 conference record, were picked to finish second behind Georgetown in the BIG EAST Preseason Women’s Soccer Coaches’ Poll.

Redshirt sophomore Se-Hanna Mars, who plays for the Mutiny, was selected to the preseason All-Big East team, along with senior Anaya Johnson.

There is a very good chance that the UConn and UMass women’s soccer teams will be meeting at Lusitano Stadium again next August.

Western Mass. soccer fans will get another chance to take in collegiate action at Lusitano Stadium, as the Western New England University men’s team hosts Wesleyan University on September 22 at 7 p.m.

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Public Notices

Barre Conservation Commission
Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 131, Section 40, The Wetlands Protection Act, that a public hearing will be held on a **Notice of Intent** to raise grade of backyard and

replace retaining wall for property located at 839 South Street, Assessors Map E, Lots 37, 37A, 37B and recorded with the District Registry of Deeds Book 70392, Page 302.
From: Tyler Croteau
839 South Street
Barre, MA 01005

To be held on **Tuesday, August 25, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Conservation Commission Office on the 3rd floor of the Henry Woods Building, 40 West Street, Barre, MA 01005.
Ronald Rich, Chairman
08/20/2026

Giant mushrooms found in backyard

NEW BRAINTREE – Dean and Darlene Gildert recently found giant puffball mushrooms growing in their backyard.

This large fungus can range from softball to beach ball sized, and can be found growing in lawns and fields during late summer into early fall.



Submitted Photos
These giant puffball mushrooms were found by Dean and Darlene Gildert of New Braintree.

This giant puffball mushroom measured over nine inches tall. Its size is compared to a tennis ball.

AQUIFER LAW from page 1

motor repair like auto body shops, car washes, chemical labs, dry cleaners, snow dumping from outside the district, hotels, junk yards, municipal sewage treatment and storage of liquid petroleum.

According to Planning Board Chair Kristofer Munroe, there are plans to

modernize the bylaw and aquifer map, since they are over a decade old, and the science around groundwater and aquifers have improved over the years. He said it should be scientifically grounded and not necessarily pro or anti-development.

A qualified engineer will have to do the mapping, and Munroe said he has reached out to Places Associates to recommend somebody.

Munroe also noted the study has to be funded, and the board only has a revolving account of about \$3,500 and a line item of \$1,500 for professional services, but there is the potential of some grants coming through, though they are not guaranteed.

The board will continue to discuss the bylaw at future meetings.

OAKHAM from page 1

performed reconnaissance, visual and environmental inspections, looking for reportable conditions prior to any future development of the property.

They found an asbestos pipe exposed, brake pads, engine parts like shocks, potential petroleum storage, all of this near wetlands and vernal pools. There were fluorescent lights, possibly containing mercury found, and an automotive battery potentially beyond the property

line.
The report said multiple Massachusetts environmental laws may have been violated, along with a federal law. Next steps are below surface testing.
Jim Stevens, an abutter to the property, said the asbestos is fine right now as it is not disturbed, but if developers start moving it around, it can spread, and his household's lives depend on testing before development. Another resident who abuts the property was concerned about elevation differences, and the

potential of chemical flow in the groundwater towards wells.

The Board of Health order calls for no additional materials to be brought on the property without permission, no excavation or digging without permission, no heavy machinery on unpaved surfaces without permission and no waste removal without permission. The board will set a public hearing for this matter in the future, and the property owner has the right to an appeal.

SOCIAL SECURITY from page 4

ex for more than 10 years, you are entitled to the same Social Security benefits as though you were still married. That is true, even if he has remarried and his new wife is also getting a spouse benefit from his record.

You will still be entitled to an ex-spouse benefit from your ex-husband as his former wife. And if he dies before you, as a surviving ex-spouse you will get the same Social Security benefit he was receiving at his death, instead of the smaller amount your will get while you are both living.

Regarding rejoining the workforce, while you can certainly go back to work at age 73 without it negatively affecting your Social Security benefits, if you are struggling financially, I sug-

gest you visit this website sponsored by the National Council on Aging: www.benefitscheckup.org.

At this website, you can enter your zip code and find much information about other supplemental assistance you may be entitled to where you live, including healthcare and medication assistance, housing, nutritional assistance, etc.

Regarding your question: "Is there anything I can do to prove that I worked 40 years and wasn't paid?" Social Security determines benefits based solely on your personal earnings as reported to the Internal Revenue Service, which is, in turn, dependent on how your joint income taxes were filed over the years you worked in your husband's business.

Social Security is unable to assist you with IRS matters. I'm afraid yours is more

of a legal matter you would need to pursue by discussing your situation directly with the IRS or engaging an attorney for assistance.

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

Public Safety

Barre Police Log

Sunday, July 12
1:34 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Trauma, West Street, Transport to Hospital
3:53 p.m. Unwanted Party, Barre Road, Report Filed
4:54 p.m. Keep the Peace, Elm South Street, Area Patrolled
5:30 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Ambulance Signed Refusal
5:40 p.m. Erratic Operator, Barre Paxton Road, Arrest(s) Made
Arrest Fogue Souop, Jules Bertrand, 55, South Barre Road
Charges Operating Under Influence – Liquor OR .08%, Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle, Marked Lanes Violation
6:36 p.m. Abandoned Vehicles/Parking Issues, School North Street, Removed from Scene
6:41 p.m. Prisoner Watch or Meal, Barre Police Headquarter, Prisoner Bailed
Arrest Arrest Fogue Souop, Jules Bertrand, 55, South Barre Road
Charges Operating Under Influence – Liquor OR .08%, Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle, Marked Lanes Violation
7:51 p.m. Property – Lost/Found/Surrender, Kendall Street, Officer/Chief Advised
8:45 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Cutler Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal

Monday, July 13
10:33 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Wauwinet Road, Citation Issued
10:48 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Wauwinet Road, Citation Issued
1:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Citation Issued

Tuesday, July 14
12:26 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Barre Road, No Transport Required
10:23 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, West Street, Mutual Aid Transport
11:13 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Barre Road, Citation Issued
11:50 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Mechanic Street, Citation Issued
12:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Common Street, Citation Issued
12:32 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Wildwood Drive, Transported to Hospital
4:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Citation Issued
4:45 p.m. Animal – Wildlife, Cathy Lane, Negative Contact

Oakham Police Log

Sunday, July 12
1:02 p.m. Larceny or Theft, North Brookfield Road, report Filed
5:40 p.m. Erratic Operator, Barre Paxton Road, Arrest(s) Made
Arrest Fogue Souop, Jules Bertrand, 55, South Barre Road
Charges Operating Under Influence – Liquor OR .08%, Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle, Marked Lanes Violation

Monday, July 13
4:56 p.m. Lockout (Home or Vehicle), Bechan Road, Entry Gained
6:26 p.m. Fire – Power Lines/Wires, North Brookfield Road, Investigated
6:53 p.m. Harassment, Adams Road, Report Filed

Wednesday, July 15
11:50a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hubbardston Road, Citation Issued
12:41 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Hancock Road, Transported to Hospital
1:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Barre Road, Citation Issued
1:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Barre Road, Citation Issued
1:43 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
2:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
3:27 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Gauthier Road, No Transport Required
4:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Criminal Complaint
Summons Curran, Neil P., 27, Barre
Charges License Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle with
5:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Written Warning
6:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Vernon Avenue, Written Warning
8:27 p.m. Missing Person, Mechanic Street, Officer Spoke to Party
10:29 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Ruggles Lane, Officer Spoke of Party

Thursday, July 16
7:10 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Headache, Hale Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
10:11 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Barre Road, Citation Issued
10:25 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Barre Road, Citation Issued
10:30 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
Summons Wilson, Tarique K., 39, Worcester
Charges Uninsured Motor Vehicle, Inspection/Sticker, No
11:09 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Mechanic Street, Investigated
11:29 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hubbardston Road, Citation Issued
5:01 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, State Police, No Action Required
5:29 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Station Road, Mutual Aid Transport
7:14 p.m. Property – Lost/Found/Surrender, Moulton Street, Information Taken
8:19 p.m. Disturbance/

Disorderly, Common Street, Officer Spoke to Party
8:28 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Rutland Road, Transported to Hospital

Friday, July 17
5:20 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Twin Hill Road, Transported to Hospital
8:28 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Stroke (CVA), Hale Road, Transported to Hospital
9:29 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hubbardston Road, Citation Issued
10:18 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Washburn Road, Citation Issued
12:27 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Barre Police Headquarters, Officer Spoke to Party
2:40 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Dehydrated, Williamsville Road, Mutual Aid Transport
3:58 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Gauthier Road, Transported to Hospital
5:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Vernon Avenue, Written Warning

Saturday, July 18
12:04 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Valley Road, Officer Spoke to Party
12:42 a.m. Fire – Structure Fire, Memorial Drive, Fire Extinguished
1:14 a.m. Lockout (Home or Vehicle), South Street, Entry Gained
3:56 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Ruggles Lane, Officer Spoke to Party
12:42 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Trauma, Winter Street, Transported to Hospital
1:24 p.m. Property – Lost/Found/Surrender, West Street, Dispatch Handled
2:25 p.m. Assist Other Agency/Non-Police, Barre Police Headquarters, No Action Required
5:06 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Valley Road, Criminal Complaint
Summons Carpenter, Julia Elizabeth, 33, South Barre Road
Charges Uninsured Motor Vehicle, Unregistered Motor Vehicle, Inspection/Sticker, No
5:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Barre Road, Written Warning
6:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Written Warning
6:49 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Main Street, Transported to Hospital

Stop, Worcester Road, Written Warning
8:26 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Rutland Road, Transported to Hospital

Friday, July 17
10:24 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, East Hill Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal

Saturday, July 18
12:42 a.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Memorial Drive, Fire Extinguished
11:39 a.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Crocker Nye Road, Referred to Other Agency

See more police logs on page 12

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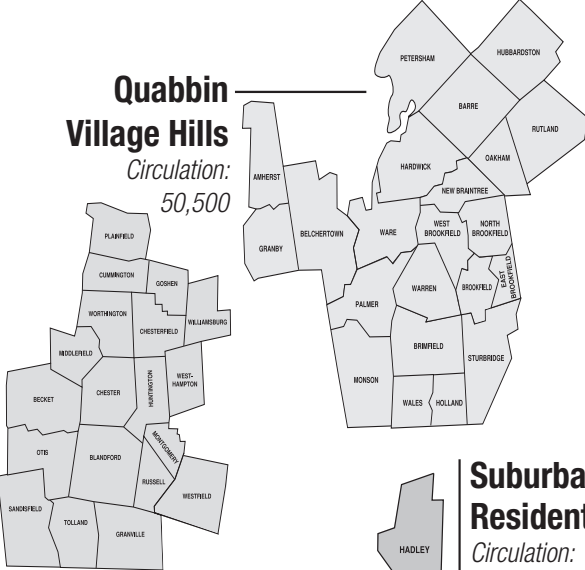
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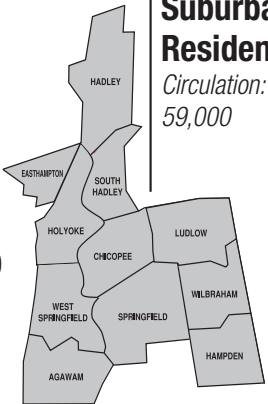
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