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Council on Aging requests upstairs office for outreach coordinator

By Ellenor Downer
Editor
edowner@turley.com

BARRE – Council on Aging Director Betty Jo O'Brien and several members of the Council on Aging asked Select Board for approval to create an upstairs office for their Outreach Coordinator at their Monday, Sept. 21 meeting.

The current office was on the lower level and the COA said the coordinator should be upstairs to be more accessible to the clients, who use the senior center and those needing assistance from the outreach coordinator.

O'Brien said the library was an underutilized space and she and the COA members proposed walling off a section of that space and add a door to create an officer for the new Outreach Coordinator.

O'Brien said there was money for the renovations in the building improvement fund for building an office. She said the old office downstairs would be repurposed.

The Select Board approved the hiring of the new Outreach Coordinator, Gina Pedersen and supported the construction of an office for her on the main level of the building.

Surplus Water Department equipment

A Water Department operator said there was another town who was looking for a piece of equipment his department was no longer able to use. He said the chlorine analyzer was too near the well to be used. Water could not be discharged within 500 feet of the well per state regulations and was not in use. He said the town needing the equipment has the ability to discharge the flush water into its sewer system. Barre did not have that capability.

See BARRE page 6

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Pathfinder celebrates expansion with ribbon cutting

By Kevin Flanders
Staff Writer
kflanders@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – The Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School celebrated a major milestone, with a ribbon cutting ceremony at the district's new extension campus.

On Sept. 18, local officials joined school leaders at the ribbon cutting for Pathfinder Tech at Cold Spring, the district's new extension campus located at 57 South Main St.

Massachusetts Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education Pedro Martinez joined Pathfinder Tech Superintendent Eric Duda and local legislators at the ceremony. Additional guests included state Sen. Jake Oliveira and state Reps. Aaron Saunders and Todd Smola.

"Pathfinder Tech is turning opportunity into action," Smola told Turley Publications. "This expansion means more students can get the practical education they need to build careers, meet critical workforce needs, and give back to their communities."



Submitted Photo

Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School leaders celebrated a major accomplishment with local officials.

Martinez praised the collaboration among school leaders necessary to convert the former elementary school into a vocational technical campus in only two months.

The result is an expansion of Career Technical Education opportunities for students throughout the region.

"This is a tremendous day for Pathfinder Tech, for our nine member communities, and, most importantly, for the students who want access to high-quality Career Technical Education," Duda said. "What was accomplished here demonstrates what is possible when people come together around a common goal. We took an elementary school that was still serving students in June and, in just eight weeks, transformed it into a fully operational vocational technical campus that welcomed Pathfinder Tech students on Sept. 1."

The former Cold Spring School remained an active Belchertown elementary school through June 2026. The building was turned over to Pathfinder Tech on July 1, leaving district officials with a short window to repurpose the facility.

The project included extensive renovations and modernization upgrades

See PATHFINDER page 6

SB votes to reduce early voting hours

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
zachf@turley.com

HARDWICK – The Select Board held a public hearing at their Monday meeting to hear a request from Town Clerk Ryan J. Witkos to reduce the number of early in-person voting hours for the Nov. 3 state election to 44 hours from 74 hours.

Early voting runs from Oct. 17-30 and Witkos said the municipal building will be open for four hours on Oct. 17, 16 hours the week of Oct. 19-23 and Oct. 26-30 and for eight hours on Oct. 24, which is the last day to register to vote.

Witkos said in 2024, the town had 10% in-person turnout, and he also said that he recommends voters come out early because there are nine ballot questions.

Witkos said certain weekdays, the building will be open until 7 p.m. to allow for voters coming home from work to have an opportunity to vote.

The Select Board approved this request, and signed the warrant for the election.

179 Main St.

The board reviewed a bid for 179 Main St., the former senior center and school. Town Administrator Justine Caggiano said the town went out to bid a second time because the first round did not produce any bids.

This round produced a single bid.

See HARDWICK page 7

Town receives risk management grant

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
zachf@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Board of Selectmen heard about a risk management grant that the town received during a meeting last Tuesday.

Executive Assistant Mary Beth Kularski said this grant is done through the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association, and they offer a $10,000 no-match grant every year. She said the town applied for, and received just over $8,000.

During the Sept. 22 meeting, Kularski said $3,500 will be used for heating ventilation and air conditioning duct work at the police station to improve air quality since there has not been prior routine maintenance on it, and a condition of the grant was to set up a regular maintenance schedule for the system.

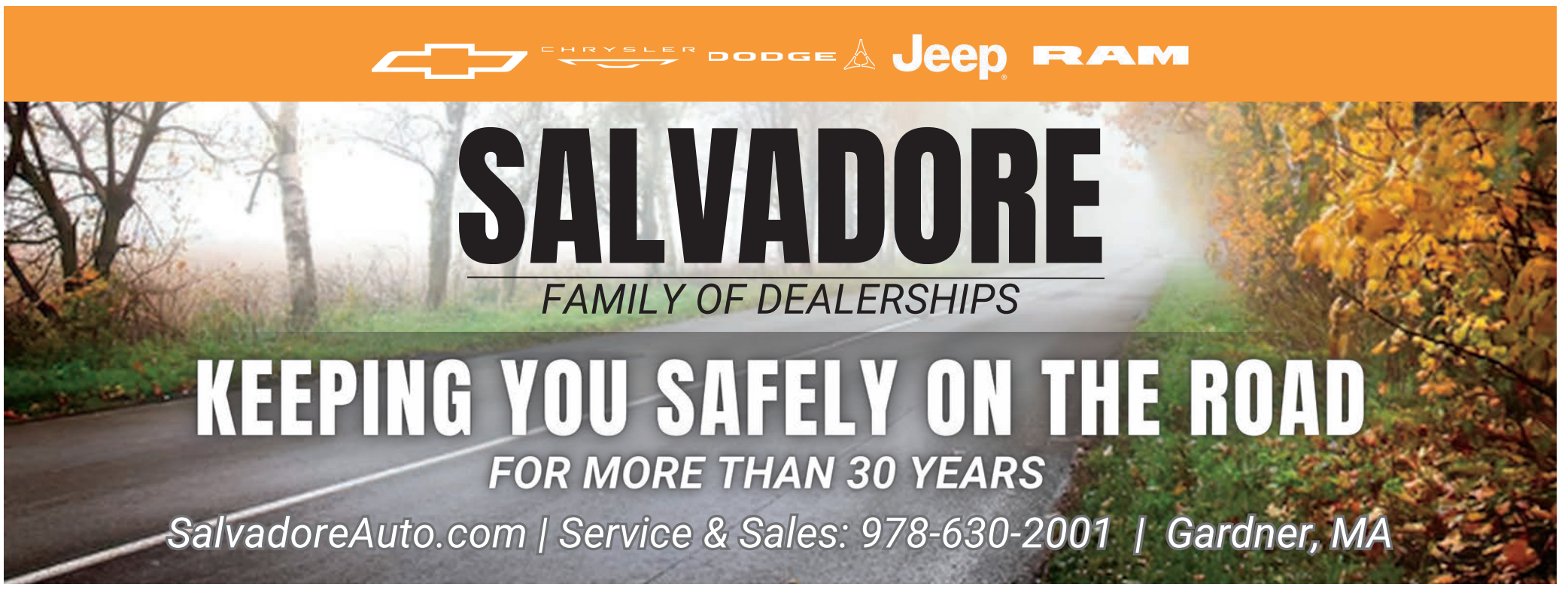
She said $767 will be used for two-way radios for the Sewer Department. Kularski said $1,098 will also be used for the Sewer Department for reflective cones, warning signs, support kits, drums and barricades to establish a visible work zone.

The Water Department will get a multi-gas detector to monitor air conditions for $2,690 according to Kularski.

Fire chief search

The board gave an update on the search for a new fire chief, saying there were nine applications received, and the Fire Chief

See N BROOKFIELD page 10



News of the Towns



ROUND TOWN

by Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

Senior center has new outreach coordinator

Barre/Hardwick Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road, announces Gina Pedersen is their new Outreach Coordinator.

Pedersen helps older adults and their families find services and resources including transportation, fuel assistance, food programs, housing resources and caregiver support. She can help people figure out where to start and connect with the right agency or program. "We're excited to have Gina in this role," said Senior Center Director Betty-Jo O'Brien. "We want people to know they can reach out when they need help finding resources. If you're not sure where to start, Gina's your gal." Pedersen office hours are Monday from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and Tuesday through Thursday from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. To reach her, they may call the Barre/Hardwick Senior Center at 978-355-5031.

Barre Historical Society

On this Saturday, Oct. 3 along with the Barre's Town Wide Yard Sale event, the Barre Historical Society will be hosting again a yard sale, weather permitting. Tracy LaRosa Realty who will be sponsoring the lunch event for the workers. Helpers are needed for sunrise moving crew-from 6-8 a.m., table host-from 7:30-?, breath-of-fresh-air midday supporters from 11 a.m.-? and clean up Crew at 3:30 p.m.

Designer Pancake Breakfast

The next Designer Pancake Breakfast sponsored by Cradle Rock Chapter of Eastern Star takes place on Saturday, Oct. 10 from 7:30-10:30 a.m. at Mt. Zion Lodge Hall, 71 Pleasant St. People may create their favorite pancake with chips, nuts, fruit and more. The complete breakfast includes designer pancakes, waffles, sausage gravy and biscuits, bacon, sausage, juice, coffee and always real maple syrup. Cost is adults $10 and children 6 and under $5. All are welcome.

Church yard sale

On Saturday, Oct. 3 the Barre Congregational Church, 30 Park St., Barre participates in the Town Wide Yard Sale from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. The church offers table space for anyone wishing to participate. People must donate their profit to the church and take home any items they do not sell. The yard sale happens rain or shine. In case of rain, tables will be set up in Fellowship Hall. The Supper Committee will sell hamburgers and hotdogs the day of the yard sale.

Town wide yard sale

The Town Wide Yard Sale sponsored by the South Barre Common Committee, takes place Saturday, Oct. 3 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. It will be held rain or shine. To reserve a spot at Nornay Park, Main Street, South Barre or to have their address placed on the town wide map, people should send $10 per participant payable to the South Barre Common Committee. It should be mailed to South Barre Common Committee, P.O. Box 103, South Barre, MA 01074. They should include their name, telephone number, residential address and location of the yard sale if different from the resident address. Town maps may be picked up at Nornay Park the day of the yard sale at 8:45 a.m. People may email mgendron3331@gmail.com with any questions.

Congregational church to hold turkey supper

RUTLAND – A turkey supper hosted by the First Congregational Church of Rutland, 264 Main St., Rutland Saturday, Nov. 7 with serving from 5:30-6:15 p.m.

Menu includes turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, squash, rolls and apple crisp. Cost is $15 per adult, $7 per children age 5-12 and free children under 5.

People may make a reservation by calling the church office at 508-886-4453. Take out dinners are available.

New Outreach Coordinator at Barre/Hardwick Senior Center

BARRE –The Barre/Hardwick Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road, announces Gina Pedersen is their new Outreach Coordinator.

She helps older adults and their families find services and resources including transportation, fuel assistance, food programs, housing resources and caregiver support. She can help people figure out where to start and connect with the right agency or program.



Gina Pedersen

"We're excited to have Gina in this role," said Senior Center Director Betty-Jo O'Brien. "We want people to know they can reach out when they need help finding resources. If you're not sure where to start, Gina's your gal."

The outreach coordinator's office hours are Monday from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and Tuesday through Thursday from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

To reach Gina, people may call the Barre/Hardwick Senior Center at 978-355-5031.

Back Roads Studio Tour is Oct. 3-4

The Back Roads Studio Tour will be held Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 3 and 4 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and includes studios in Barre, Gilbertville, North Brookfield, Petersham, Spencer and Ware.

Studios include Pieceful Primitives, Lou Meyerdierks, 36 Donnelly Cross Road, Spencer; Buck Hill Studio, Russell Buzzell, 25 Tucker Road, North Brookfield; Brookfield Paperworks, Elisabeth Hyder, 23 High St., North Brookfield; Jeff Palmer Designs, 14 Mill Road, North Brookfield; John Collins Studio, 29 Beach Road, Ware; Dragonbelly Ceramics, Lisa Cohen, 183 Mechanic St., Gilbertville; Sheldon Farm Baskets, Sue Morello, 587 Sheldon Road, Barre; and Petersham Leathers, Sylvia Brown, 202 Popple Camp Road, Petersham.

For more information about the Back Roads Studio Tour and the featured artists and crafters, visit backroadsstudiotour.org.

Barre Food Pantry makes changes

Once or twice a year a month begins on a Thursday.

This makes the third Thursday of the month the day right after the second Wednesday. October 2026 is such a month.

As a result, the Barre Food Pantry's two distributions in October will occur on successive days, Wednesday, Oct. 14 from 10-11:30 a.m. and Thursday, Oct. 15 from 5:30-7 p.m.

Clients are invited to pick up groceries from the food pantry either in the morning on Wednesday, Oct. 14 or in the evening on Thursday, Oct. 15, whichever is the more convenient for them.

The Barre Food Pantry volunteers strive to continue to fulfill their mission to get food to hungry and food insecure clients. The pantry must also continue to protect clients, volunteers and the larger community from the spread of respiratory viruses

Many clients and volunteers are classified as high-risk due to their age and/or underlying health conditions. The Barre Food Pantry Board of Directors considered changing how the pantry currently operates, but with the continued prevalence of ultra-contagious viruses the Board decided that the most responsible path forward is to continue to operate as they have since March of 2020.

To maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients Oct. 14 and 15 will again be "drive-through" style distributions. Clients will line up in their vehicles on Park Street and proceed into the right hand (east) entrance driveway of the Barre Congregational Church.

They will remain in their cars. They'll drive up and be checked in by a volunteer, then continue up to the church building where their groceries will be put into the trunk or wayback of their vehicle by volunteers at multiple stations.

Based on the success of distributions so far, the Food Pantry volunteers believe this "drive-through" style is the safest possible way to get food to clients and to help keep everyone well.

On Tuesday night, Oct. 13 at 5 p.m. the Barre Food Pantry will be gathering volunteers at the Barre Congregational Church to unload incoming groceries from their truck, to sort through donated groceries, to pre-fill grocery bags and in other ways to prepare for the distribution the following morning. If people can help pitch in for an hour on the Oct. 13, they should call Sonja Blaney at 978-355-6921.

People should not arrive to volunteer on Oct. 14 and 15 without first contacting Sonja Blaney at 978-355-4212, Mary Beschta at 978-355-4212 or Dave Petrovick at 978-852-1696.

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

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 Oct. 5. Lunches are back at the senior center, but require a pre-sign up. Volunteers are needed at the Barre dining site. Volunteers are needed for Meals on Wheels (mileage reimbursement) and in the kitchen. People should contact 978-355-5027.

MONDAY – Teriyaki beef, vegetable fried rice, broccoli, pineapple, whole wheat bread, fortune cookie

TUESDAY – Meatloaf with gravy, garlic mashed potatoes, Scandinavian vegetables, fresh fruit, marble rye bread

WEDNESDAY – Roast turkey and gravy, mashed sweet potatoes, peas and mushrooms, apple crisp, diet applesauce, dinner roll

THURSDAY – Macaroni and cheese, stewed tomatoes, green beans, tapioca pudding, diet = tapioca pudding, Italian bread

FRIDAY – Chicken Tiki Masala, couscous, roasted California vegetables, Lorna Doones, pumpernickel bread

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



OAKHAM

by Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

Church holds breakfast

The Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, hosts a breakfast to benefit local food pantries on Saturday, Oct. 10 from 8 a.m.-9:30 p.m. The menu includes pancakes (plain, blueberry and chocolate chip), sausage, scrambled eggs, strawberries, orange juice, coffee, tea and hot chocolate. There will be a free will donation to benefit the local food pantries.

ACORNS

Advocates for Conservation of Oakham's Rural Nature and Safety volunteers are hosting several upcoming community-based events such as a fundraiser Holiday Market on Oct. 3 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at Lake Dean, two walks to the Coldbrook DCR illegal dump site on Sundays, Oct. 11 and Nov. 8 from noon-1 p.m. and a No Battery Energy Storage System rally Sunday, Nov. 11 from noon-2 p.m. at the Ware River picnic area on Route 122. ACORNS meets on Wednesday, Oct. 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the Oakham Congregational Church.

BSER bagged shavings

Bay State Equine Rescue holds their bagged shavings sale with pickup on Tuesday, Oct. 13 from 8:30-11 a.m. at Camp Marshall, 92 McCormick Road, Spencer. Minimum order is ten bags. Cost is $6.50 per bag for quantities up to 149, $6.25 per bag for quantities of 150 – 299 and $6.00 per bag for quantities 300 and up/. Shavings are plastic wrapped 3.25 cubic feet compressed /7.5 cubic feet loose).

Payment is by cash or check made payable to Bay State Equine Rescue at time of pickup. People may order shavings by calling Sharon at 508-221-8474 or email sah@baystterescue.org. People should include a phone number they can be reached at on the day of the sale when they place their order. Orders will be filled directly from the supplier's trailer. People should have their own people to the load their truck or trailer they are using to transport the shavings.

Senior news

The Council on Aging monthly meeting takes place Friday, Oct. 9 at noon in the voting room Town Hall. Proposition 2 1/2 informational presentations takes place Tuesday, Oct. 13 at 12:30 p.m. and Thursday, Oct. 15 at 6:30 p.m. in the Senior Center.

Seniors should meet at the Senior Center on Saturday, Oct. 17 at 9 a.m. to carpool to AppleFest at Wachusett Mountain, Princeton. Admission will be paid by COA. People should call 508-882-4073 to sign up.

Podiatry clinics meet Mondays, Oct. 19 and Oct. 26 from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. by appointment only. They should call 508-882-4073 to request an appointment.

A Harvest Potluck luncheon takes place Friday, Oct. 30 at 12:30 p.m. in the Oakham Congregational Church. People should call 508-882-4073 to sign up.

Also the COA is still looking for those interested in attending the Healthcare Options informational presentation to be held on Wednesday, Nov. 4 at noon in the Senior Center.

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 9 a.m. *note change of time, $3 per class and Functional fitness class Fridays in New Braintree Town Hall at 10:30 a.m. an additional $1 will be collected separately for use of the building at both these classes. A separate sign in will be kept by the town at each class as well. Walking groups and weigh in are 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.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

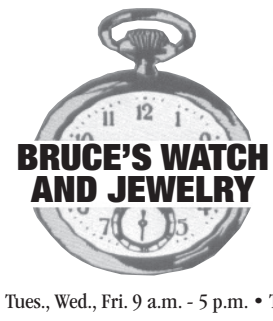
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Editorial deadline reminder

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

Corrections policy

The Barre Gazette will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2. To request a correction, send information to Editor Ellenor Downer at edowner@turley.com or call 413-283-8393. Corrections may also be requested in writing at Barre Gazette, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

News of the Towns

PUBLIC MEETINGS

BARRE

Select Board – Oct. 5 at 5 p.m.
Board of Assessors – Oct. 6 at 6 p.m.
Felton Field Commission – Oct. 6 at 6:30 p.m.
Planning Board – Oct. 6 at 7 p.m. and Nov. 3 at 7 p.m.
Barre Housing Authority – Oct. 8 at 1 p.m.
Water Commission – Oct. 13 at 5 p.m.
DPW Commission – Oct. 13 at 6 p.m.
Cable Advisory Committee – Oct. 13 at 7 p.m.
Conservation Committee – Oct. 13 at 7 p.m.
Library Trustees – Oct. 14 at 6:30 p.m.
Cemetery Commission – Oct. 22 at 11 a.m.
Government Structure and Cost Advisory Committee – Oct. 26, Nov. 30 and Dec. 28 and Jan. 25, 2027 at 1 p.m.
Finance Committee – Oct. 27 at 6 p.m. and Jan. 5, 2027 and Jan. 19, 2027 at 6:30 p.m.
Board of Health – Nov. 9 at 5 p.m.

HARDWICK

Paige Library Trustees – Oct. 1 at 7 p.m.
Planning Board – Oct. 2 at 10 a.m. and Oct. 13 at 6:30 p.m.
Board of Health – Oct. 8 at 6 p.m.
Gilbertville Public Library – Oct. 14 at 3 p.m.
Hardwick New Braintree Cultural Council – Oct. 14 at 6:30 p.m.
Capital Planning Committee – Oct. 19 at 3 p.m.
Gilbertville Water District – Oct. 20 at 5:30 p.m.
Conservation Commission – Oct. 21 at 6:30 p.m.

HUBBARDSTON

Board of Library Trustees – Oct. 1 at 7 p.m.
Open Space Committee – Oct. 1 at 7 p.m.
Select Board – Oct. 5 at 6:30 p.m., Oct. 7 at 6 p.m.and Oct. 19 at 6:30 p.m.
Conservation Commission – Oct. 6 at 7 p.m.
Planning Board – Oct. 7, Oct. 15 and Oct. 22 at 6:30 p.m.
Hubbardston Cultural Council – Oct. 7 at 7 p.m.
Candidate's Night for upcoming State Election – Oct. 14 at 6 p.m.
Council on Aging – Oct. 15 at 4 p.m.
First Meeting House Preservation Committee – Oct. 20 at 6:30 p.m.
Board of Assessors – Oct. 21 at 6 p.m.
Board of Health – Oct. 27 at 7 p.m.
Special Town Meeting – Oct. 27 at 7 p.m.

See PUBLIC MEETINGS page 7

CNEER to hold fall fundraiser benefit dinner on Oct. 24

HARDWICK – Central New England Equine Rescue, Inc. will hold a fall fundraiser benefit dinner at Hardwick Crossing Country Club, 262 Lower Road, on Saturday, Oct. 24.

Doors open at 5 p.m. and a buffet dinner will be served at 6 p.m.

Tickets are $100 each or bundle two tickets for $175. Payment must be received by Oct. 10.

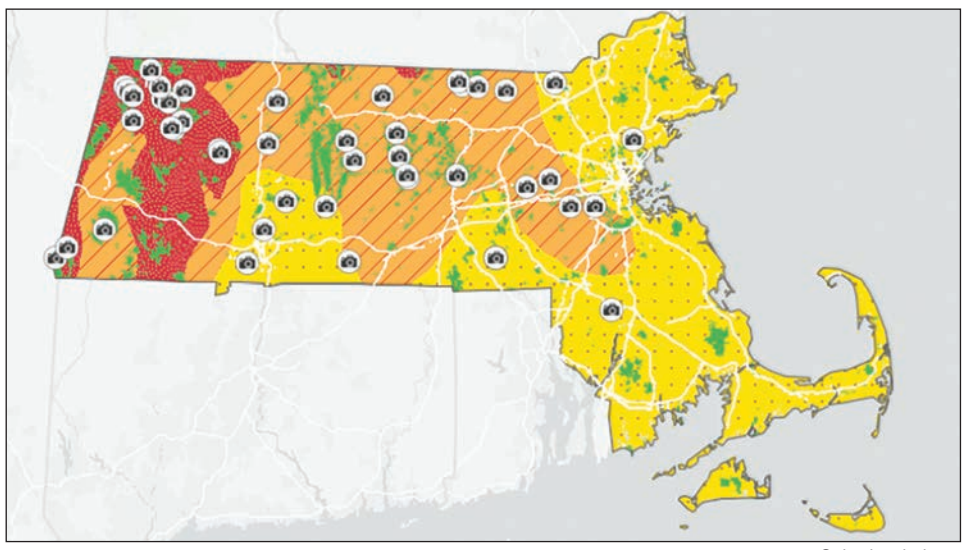
To purchase tickets online, use the QR code or visit www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/fall-fundraiser-banquet. Checks made payable to CNEER can also be mailed to 96 New Braintree Road, West Brookfield, MA 01585.

About CNEER

CNEER is a grassroots rescue located in West Brookfield. Its mission is to rescue, heal and restore the spirit of the horse when it has been damaged through abuse, neglect and abandonment.

CNEER is committed to making a difference – one horse at a time.

For more information about CNEER, people may visit CNEER.com or follow the rescue on Facebook.



Submitted photo

This Interactive Fall Foliage Map shows where and when leaves are most likely to start changing colors. Foliage activity is expected to peak in mid-October this year. As with previous years, Western Massachusetts is expected to reach peak colors before the rest of the state.

Fall foliage reaches peak mid-month

BOSTON – Continuing its efforts to ensure Massachusetts residents and visitors get the most out of fall in New England, the Department of Conservation and Recreation announces the return of its Interactive Fall Foliage Map, which has been updated for the 2026 season.

The map depicts foliage conditions across the state, showing where leaves have begun to change, as well as how far they are in the process.

"We take fall very seriously in Massachusetts, and we want everyone to be able to enjoy the best New England has to offer," said DCR Commissioner Nicole LaChapelle "DCR properties are home to beautiful forests that come to life with the colors of fall. Each year, our Foliage Map helps guide thousands of people to where the leaves are most colorful so that they can experience all the magic of the fall season."

DCR's Interactive Fall Foliage Map enables users to prepare for leaf peeping by searching based on geography and calendar dates. The map can also search for foliage activity at specific DCR properties so that visitors can plan their trip around when colors will be most vibrant.

The map also features photos taken by DCR staff, allowing visitors to see current conditions before setting out to a park.

Through a combined analysis of forestry records from past falls and data on current weather patterns, DCR is able to map where and when leaves are most likely to start changing colors. Foliage activity is expected to peak in mid-October this year. As with previous years, Western Massachusetts is expected to reach peak colors before the rest of the state.

The Interactive Fall Foliage Map is easily accessible on both desktop and mobile devices and can be found online at DCR's Fall Foliage webpage. Agency social media channels will also share foliage content throughout the season.

DCR's Fall Foliage webpage also highlights recommended ideal foliage viewing spots in the state park system, along with hiking trails, picnic areas, and scenic overlooks at the location.

HUBBARDSTON

by Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

BOH holds vaccine clinic

The Hubbardston Board of Health contracted with Walgreen Pharmacy to hold a vaccine clinic for ages 6 and up on Saturday, Oct. 17 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Senior Center, Main Street. Vaccines offered include flu, COVID, shingles, measles, pneumonia, tetanus and others. People may sign up for vaccines at the senior center or call the Town Clerk at 978-928-1400, extension 202. People should include their name and what vaccine and how many. This helps that the right amount of vaccines are available at the clinic.

Postponed programs

Due to the weather last weekend, the Yard Sale and Boutique will be held Friday, Oct. 2; Saturday, Oct. 3 and Sunday, Oct. 4 from 8 a.m.-3 p.m in the Senior Center on Main Street. The Art Show sponsored by the Council of Aging and the Massachusetts Cultural Council, both of Hubbardston, will be held Saturday, Oct. 3 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Meeting House on the Town Common.

Cultural Council seeks applications

The Hubbardston Cultural Council, part of the Massachusetts Local Cultural Council network, will be accepting grant applications for the 2026–2027 cycle until Thursday, Oct. 15 at 11:59 p.m. The HCC will begin reviewing applications in November. The Council invites individuals, nonprofits, schools and other local organizations to submit proposals for creative, educational and community-based cultural programming. People may visit the hubbardstonma.gov/170/Cultural-Council for more information and to apply for a grant. For further information or to arrange an interview with representatives of the Hubbardston Cultural Council, people should email Laura Foley at laura@lauramfoley.com or call 978-820-0046.

Senior 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.

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- ✓ Earned a perfect voting record of protecting taxpayers from tax increases
- ✓ 100% rating in standing up for local small businesses
- ✓ Fully funding our schools
- ✓ Sponsored legislation for Crumbling Foundations

SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES
- ✓ Fighting for increases to Chapter 70 Education Funding and Rural School Aid
- ✓ Fighting for increases to Local Municipal State Funding
- ✓ Securing Budget Earmarks for Local Police and Fire Departments

PROTECTING OUR RIGHTS
- ✓ Supporting our sportsman and protecting their rights
- ✓ Support small business

GETTING THE JOB DONE FOR US

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO RE-ELECT PETER DURANT

Opinion

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

Mother worries her daughter making bad Social Security decision

Dear Rusty:

My question is not for me, but for my daughter who is 62 years old.

She does not want to take her Social Security now. Her husband was a doctor and passed away recently. She had been married to him for more than 10 years and, in the meantime, he married someone else.

I thought the President erased taxes on earned money so that people could collect what was due them no matter what they earned.

My daughter keeps telling me she has already earned too much this year and cannot collect her widow's benefits until next year. I don't understand what no tax on Social Security means then.

Also, she wants to wait until she is 67 before she collects her own money. She has been a nurse and believes her own benefits may be larger than her widow's benefits. Is she correct to wait for that long?

Signed: Worried Mom

Dear Worried Mom:

Your daughter is likely correct. There are two factors which come into play in your daughter's circumstance – one is the Annual Earnings Test (for those collecting early SS benefits), and the other relates to Federal income tax on SS benefits received. I'll try to clarify both of these for you:

If your daughter claims her widow's benefit at age 62, her benefit will be significantly reduced by approximately 20+% from what she would get at her SS full retirement age, and that would be a permanent reduction.

And, if she works, which you imply she does, she would also be subject to Social Security's Annual Earnings Test which limits how much she can earn by working prior to reaching her SS Full Retirement Age, which is age 67).

The earnings limit for 2026 is $24,480 (changes yearly) and, if her annual 2026 earnings exceed that amount, Social Security will take away $1 of benefits for every $2 she is over the annual limit.

For example, if she is $25,000 over the limit, SS would take way benefits equal to $12,500. That would mean she wouldn't get any SS benefits for the remainder of this year and likely some of next year also. And, if her earnings are significantly more than the annual limit, she may even be temporarily ineligible to receive a widow's benefit (until she either reaches her FRA or earns less money).

FYI, the Annual Earnings Test will go away when your daughter reaches age 67 but, until then, the AET will likely restrict her ability to receive Social Security benefits if she continues to work full time.

The next factor to be aware of is the so-called "One Big Beautiful Bill," which the President claimed means "no tax on Social Security." This is an entirely different factor than the Annual Earnings Test described above.

The above AET discussion dealt with SS earnings limits while taking benefits before FRA, whereas the OBBB deals with income tax on Social Security benefits actually received.

The OBBB (enacted last year) provides an extra $6,000 deduction per person on the tax return filed with the IRS for those 65 years of age or older. That extra IRS deduction is designed to offset either totally or partially any income tax which is levied on Social Security benefits received by those age 65 or older. It's also important to know that the OBBB only provides temporary income tax relief, because the law expires after the 2028 income tax year.

All of which leads me to conclude that your daughter's decision to wait longer to claim her widow's benefit from her deceased ex-husband is a prudent choice. As long as she is working and earning more than the annual earnings limit before age 67, the AET will restrict how much Social Security she is able to receive. If she later stops working or goes to part-time employment, she can revisit her decision at that time. And, depending on her own personally earned Social Security benefit amount at age 67 (vs. her widow's benefit), she

See SECURITY, page 5



In Past Pages

5 years (Oct. 7, 2021)
Not Available

10 years (Oct. 8, 2016)
Not Available

25 years (Oct. 4, 2001)

Part of Hubbardston's historical assets will be soon a fond memory in the minds of early residents. Contents of the Wheeler Brothers Country Store will be put on the auction block at a time to be announced. Items from the store may be viewed on a web site. Having lived across the street from the store for over 18 years and visiting it many times before the closing in 1968. I [Jane McCauley] went there almost daily ent there by my parents to seek daily bread or things the family had ran out of. During World War II many residents had their groceries delivered by the delivery truck with the shades that went up and down. This 1937 Chevrolet delivery truck will also be on the auction block.

A house that was under construction burned to just a few charred remnants in the early hours of Sept. 19. The builder, Liberty Builders of Spencer, invested about $60,000 into the building. The owners building insurance will cover the material and equipment costs, but not the labor costs. Liberty Builders constructed three homes on Grove Street and owned two lots with frontage on South Barre Road. Those two lots were originally part of a 13 acre parcel owned by D.A. Robinson of Hardwick. Barre Fire Chief Joseph Rogowski said that a few people were interviewed and the investigation is continuing. The state fire marshal's office posted a $3,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of those involved.

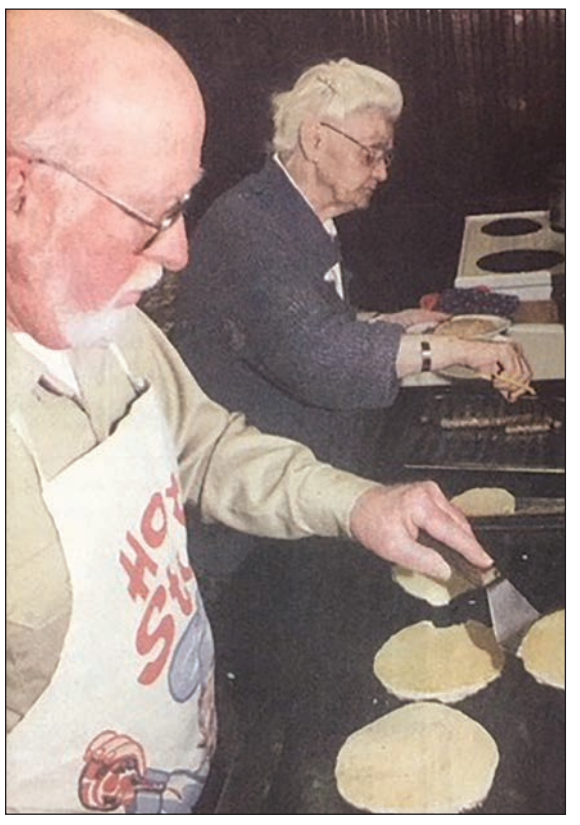
Wes Dwelly of Old Turnpike Road, Oakham, recently won first place in the all New England giant pumpkin. Growing of these pumpkins required a lot of care and his wife, Marcia, said that he just about lived in the pumpkin patch all season. The gardening began in the fall with preparing the soil well for the next season pumpkin crop. Good seed from a good background was also important and Wes added he was fortunate to get good seed this season.

38 years (Oct. 8, 1998)

The town through the Barre Commons Advisory Committee will send a grant application this week to the Department of Environmental Management seeking funds to improve the Town Common. Sarah Dyer, chairman of the Commons Committee, said the town

See PAST PAGES page 6

Look Back
Shrove Tuesday – 2003



File photo

Don Rich flips pancakes in the foreground while Jennie Ericson tends to the sausages at the Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner at the Christ Episcopal Church in South Barre.

BARRE GAZETTE

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Garden scurrying

In the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid

The forecast of a September nor'easter certainly had everyone scurrying about.

Instead of running to the grocery store for necessities, I headed straight to the garden to tidy up a few things. With visions of air-borne pots, soggy containers of compost and ruined produce dancing in my head I got right to work.

First to check off my list was digging up the potatoes. The stems had died down on two of my three rows over two weeks ago and I didn't want the spuds sitting in impending mud when they could be curing somewhere safe and sound.

Speaking of curing, it is important to be intentional with this step, so that your potatoes will be edible well into the winter months. Curing potatoes properly will help to prevent rot, premature sprouting, and toxic greening of the skin and flesh.

By waiting a week or more after the plant has died before digging up the tubers, the skins will thicken and be less prone to injury during harvest. Once they are dug, a week spent in a cool and totally dark space will further firm their skin and change sugars to starch, completing the ripening process.

Never wash potatoes prior to storage! Gently brush off dirt and store in a single layer in the darkness at 55-60 degrees.

Darkness will prevent greening, which renders potatoes inedible. Use any pitch-forked or shovel-marked spuds first, as damage to the skin will invite rot.

Once the potatoes were out of the ground, I applied a two-three inch layer of composted manure and lime to the plot, then worked it in to the soil.

I won't be planting potatoes there next year other wise I would have stayed away from both amendments.

After that, I got to task number two, planting a cover crop in the empty ground. I figured with rain coming over the course of three days it would be off to a great start. In the big garden, where I can use my tiller, I sow winter rye.

It will start growing now, hold the soil in place over the winter, then, as spring ensues, it will grow tall and go to seed. Typically you mow it down or incorporate it into the soil before it gets too big.

Winter rye adds so much organic matter to the garden. Be sure to give the grass time to break down before planting into it; chopping it up/in about three weeks to a month before planting is a good plan.

Another thing that occurred to me while I was sowing the rye was seed saving. I purposely left what was left of my first sowing of green beans to go to seed.

I harvested all of the dried pods and will shuck them later, once I am sure that they are fully dry.

Finally, a bit of housekeeping to finish out my scurrying around. I collected my black plastic mulch, row covers and insects netting. I will hose off the black plastic, cinch up holes in the netting, and assess what I can salvage of my aging row covers .

I've smartened up and finally labeled what I use for what crop. For example, my number of cantaloupe/watermelon hills will likely remain the same, so reusing the same plastic mulch in that spot next year is a good plan.

With the storm behind us now, I can go back to a less frantic approach to garden clean up. Enjoy the fall foliage as you embark on your own work.

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.



COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

For our rural way of life in changing times

Plastics and Our Health

By Louisa Knowles

Now that we are aware that microplastics are in the air we breathe, the water we drink and the food we eat, there is a growing concern about how plastics affect our health and that of the all life.

Scientists, doctors, our government agencies and individual citizens are growing increasingly concerned. In 2026, the National Institute of Health has made microplastics a major federal health priority.

The Department of Health and Human Services has been funded to assess the effects of microplastics in the body and possible ways to remove them. The Environmental Protection Agency has also been funded to study, track and ultimately mitigate the damage caused by microplastics in the human body and the environment.

NIH has found in animal models that microplastics cause endocrine disruption, leading to hormone imbalances and fertility issues. They also cause nerve damage and oxidative stress.

At the University of California San Francisco, research in both humans and animals found that exposure to microplastics could harm reproductive, digestive and respiratory health and there is a suggested link to colon and lung cancers.

Yet, in Massachusetts, only 1%-4% of #4 plastic is recycled. This includes shopping bags, bread bags, and plastic film like dry cleaning bags. They end up in our landfills, our oceans, or are incinerated, which causes hazardous pollutants, an increase risk of cancer, respiratory disease, and hormone disruption.

A big reason for this is the fact that Massachusetts does not have the recycling infrastructure to process these plastics. It is estimated that 42-48 million tons of plastic waste are produced per year in the US. It is projected that over 200 million metric tons will be produced in the next four to five years.

As many of you are aware, Community Resilience had arranged with Higgins Energy Alternatives in Barre to have space to collect #4 plastics. A volunteer took them to Home Depot, who had agreed to recycle them. After a few months, a manager at Home Depot said that they were throwing away our recycling. So, collection stopped.

Two stores that I have researched who do take #4 plastic are all Big Y's and all Market Basket's in our state, if there is a recycle bin to receive them at the store location. They take grocery retail and produce bags, bread bags, films such as dry-cleaning bags, case overwraps as on paper towels, wood pellet bags and bubble wrap.

It is essential that the plastic be clean and free of debris. The markets then send the plastic to TREX where they are used in the manufacture of deck boards, railings and deck furniture.

Citizens need to advocate for putting a cap on plastic production and major investment in research for safe plastic replacements. We can support this by joining groups like Beyond Plastics of Greater Boston, MASSPIRG and the Sierra Club, as well as others.

On an individual level, we can limit, as much as possible, single use plastics. We can drink from glass or steel containers when we are out and about, cook with wood or metal implements and use cookware made from stainless steel or cast iron. We can also buy clothes made from natural fibers, rather than from synthetic fibers such as polyester or nylon.

An excellent resource is the book, "How to Give Up Plastic," by William McCallum. The Barre Library now has this book. Two good movies are "The Plastic Detox" available on Netflix, and "Plastic People" on Amazon Prime. An interesting and timely website is PlasticFreeJuly.org.

If you are interested in working on the plastic issue, please feel free to contact me, Louisa Knowles at: communityresiliencebarre.org

THE LAST ROSE OF SUMMER

In the deep and dark cold of winter and the gradual warming of spring,
The greening of nature leaves the doldrums of winter in its wake,
April's spring flowers grace the roadside welcoming the sweet return of life,
And we, its grateful beneficiaries, reach out gladly to partake.

Early on, "Old Garden" varieties get things started with nice color after the long winter's dormancy,
Reminds me of the pale skin of humans after a long, cold winter,
But it heralds a coming of flourishing abundance in the days ahead,
And pricks the urge to soil those gardener's gloves as we dig in there.

In late spring and early summer, "Rambling" varieties start to flourish,
And with them the surging temperatures of nature and a young man's fancy, (or even an old one's),
One with blazing passion, one with rapturous memories,
Both reflecting the pleasures of the heart brought on by all of nature.

Mid-summer's long, hot days, and cooling evenings brings us English and David Austen's varieties, Floribunda's,
Quiet walks along sandy roads at the Cape reveal the incredible array of its climbers on white picket fences everywhere,
Like life itself all around them, a perfect fit with the sea grass and sand and Atlantic sprays floating in on the freshening breeze,
Young lovers linger for a bit of stolen time, and older ones close their eyes and drink in the salt air, remembering when.

As summer wanes and autumn approaches, hybrid teas with deepening colors reflected in the shortening days and cooling temps,
Accompany the flowering of the lovely Rose of Sharon,
Not a True Rose at all, but a hearty Hibiscus with abundant trumpet-style flowers of gentle beauty,
And what I have always thought of as, The Last Rose of Summer.

A.B.SPLAINE

Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

I am sorry about no column last week.

I had cataracts removed and I am unable to see to type. I have been using a magnifying glass to see by. Hope it will get better as the eye drops work.

I made a chicken soup this week. I shredded a cooked chicken and added a can of corn, can of peas, can of carrots, sliced onions and two cans of cream of chicken noodle soup. I added some water and put it all in a crock pot.

It made a large amount so I froze some of it.

This column is short as using a magnifying glass is not easy. Have a good week.

in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer



Common Nighthawk

Bird reported recent sightings of common nighthawks at the Rutland Prison Camps in Rutland and in Worcester.

The common nighthawk is a medium sized (8.7 to 9.8 inches long) nocturnal bird of the nightjar family found in both the Americas. It is typically dark colored: gray, black or brown with intricate patterns providing camouflage and making them difficult to spot during daytime.

They are mostly observed in flight. The slender body, long wings (wing span 20 to 24 inches) and white wing patches on the wings make them easy to identify.

Although they have a small beak, there mouth is large. They have noticeable barring on their sides and abdomen and short legs.

Its life span is about four to five years. The males of this species may roost together, but the bird is primarily solitary.

The common nighthawk is the only nighthawk occurring over the majority of northern North America. During migration common nighthawks may travel 1,600 to 4,200 miles, one of North America's longer migrations.

They migrate by day or night in loose flocks, frequently numbering in the thousands. An aerial insectivore, the migrants will feed en route and congregate in marshes, rivers and lakeshores.

The best time to see them during migration is in late afternoon into the evening.

During flight, their vocalization is a nasal "peent" or "beernt." Peak vocalizations are reported 30 to 45 minutes after sunset. The male makes a croaking "auk auk auk" in the presence of a female during courtship.

Night time feeding is rare. The most common insects in their diets are butterflies and moths. They actively avoid eating flies.

Artificial light sources such as parking lots attracts them in an effort to forage for insects enticed by the light. They even fly extremely low over the surface of water to drink.

Nighthawks preferred breeding and nesting habitat is forested regions with rocky outcrops, clearings, burned areas or spots with small patches of sand gravel.

The female lays six to seven eggs on a bare rock, gravel or even in lichens. Both male and female feed the young are by regurgitation usually before sunrise and after sunset. The male also feeds the female during nesting.

Sandhill crane

After writing about sandhill cranes, in the most recent bird column, I saw a sandhill crane in a field in Hardwick near the New Braintree line by the Ware River.

On my return, I saw a crane in a different location of the same field. I was not sure it was the same one or a different one.

Flocking Canada geese

In my travels, I saw several flocks of Canada geese. There was a small flock in New Braintree and a larger flock in a harvested corn field in Spencer. The large flock were migrating south for the winter. I'm not sure if the smaller group summered here or not.

Wild turkeys

Wild turkeys are a familiar sight. This week I saw a hen turkey with her slightly smaller poults on a lawn in Barre. Last week I saw a small flock of Tom turkeys.

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

SECURITY from page 4

can assess whether to claim her personal SS retirement benefit or to, instead, claim her benefit as her ex-husband's widow if that amount is larger than her own SS retirement. And, unless Congress later extends the OBBB prior to 2029, she will, at that time, likely need to pay income tax on the Social Security benefits she receives.

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.

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BARRE from page 1

Cable Television contract

Town Administrator Melanie Jackson said she and Mike Warren of the Cable Advisory Committee were working on the Charter cable television license renewal. The Select Board held a public hearing. No one from the public or Spectrum attended the hearing. The Town Administrator will work with Town Counsel on the license renewal. The legal costs would come from Public, Education and Government funds charged to the cable subscribers and given to the town to fund cable access.

Guidelines and policies

Police Chief James Sabourin said he was working on the accreditation and certification process. He said the town's pursuit policy was in conflict with state regulations. All policies must comply with Massachusetts General Laws and state regulations as part of that process.

The chief presented the revisions to the Select Board. The Board approved the revisions of all guideline and policies accepted by Chief Sabourin.

Flock cameras

The Police Chief said the town has a contract with Flock camera. They present a privacy issue. The town has two cameras. The town had one camera on South Barre Road. The chief had the Department of Public Works remove that camera. The other one was at Quabbin Regional High School. He requested the town sever the contract with Flock and remove the Flock cameras in town. The board voted to approve his requests.

Trick or Treating

The Police Chief said trick or treating will be on Halloween, Saturday, Oct. 31 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. There also will be Trunk or Treat at the same time on Common Street.

Other business

Select Board Chairman Maureen Marshall said the Town Administrator evaluation will take place in a couple of weeks. Annual reviews were also head for all department employees.

The Town Administrator said there was no need at this time to hold a Special Town Meeting.

The Select Board signed the Nov. 3 election warrant which contains nine ballot questions as well as election of both state and federal officials.

The Board approved the Midstate Trail Ride for Oct. 10 and 11. They also approved the Special Permit for Christmas in Barre for Dec. 4 and 5.

They approved the use of Town Hall for Circle of Song from Jan. 21 to May 13 for Thursday night rehearsals and a spring concert.

They approved the appointment of Arthur Sheldon to the Civilian Traffic Control Unit and his wage authorization.

PAST PAGES from page 4

must follow certain procedures to be eligible for the construction grant. The town has already received a grant of $37,800 to pay for engineers to draw up the plans.The town and DEM must successfully execute a grant agreement that outlines project scope, responsibilities, obligations, protocols and requirements associated with the implementation of the projects. Dyer said it was originally thought that the town's share of the project would be $18,000, but because of increased funding, the town's share is now $16,000. The Village Improvement Society has pledged $8,000 and the town must come up with the $8,000.

Oakham Police Chief and sergeant gave their report Monday to Selectmen regarding the incident a resident brought to the board's attention at the previous meeting. Police Chief David Galena said on Sept. 4, three police officers set up radar near Rutland Road on North Brookfield Road at 5:30 p.m. after reeving several complaints from residents on that road of speeding vehicles early in the morning. About 5:45 a.m. Officer Kevin LeBretton said he clocked a vehicle going 55 miles per hour in a 35 mile and hour zone. Using a flashlight, the officer attempted to wave down the vehicle. Another officer was on the other side of the road with a flashlight. When it appeared the driver wasn't going to stop, the officers got off the road. The officers pursued the vehicle and the drive allegedly increased his speed to 60 miles per hour.

Hubbardston Selectmen approved the renewal of a three year gravel removal permit for Pitcherville Sand and Gravel operation at their Sept. 28 meeting, despite objections of the legal counsel of a rival operation, which abuts it. The Selectmen made no changes to the permit, which was originally issued in 1989. Christopher Dahlstrom, legal counsel for Annie Marinelli and Susan Proulx of the D.J. Palme Nominee Trust, raised objections regarding some perceived inadequacies in the engineering inspection report given to the Selectmen by Bruce Saluk, the town's engineer. Dahlstrom said Saluk's report was too brief and didn't address the parameters of the permit section by section. He also questioned why the Selectmen were issuing the renewal when, according to the town's current bylaws, the Planning Board had jurisdiction.

PATHFINDER page 1

throughout the building. Pathfinder Tech instructors, staff members, and students joined forces with contractors and community partners to renovate classrooms, establish technical learning spaces, move equipment and materials, and prepare the facility for its September opening.

Despite the scope and accelerated timeline of the project, the transformation was completed on time and significantly under budget.

"This extension campus is an investment in students – and in the future workforce of our region," Duda said. "For years, demand for Career Technical Education has exceeded the number of seats we have available. This project is about creating opportunities."

Pathfinder Tech at Cold Spring currently serves approximately 100 students and offers five CTE programs: Health Assisting, Medical Assisting, CAD/Pre-Engineering, Electronics Technology and Hospitality Management.

The Cold Spring extension will ultimately increase Pathfinder Tech's district-wide capacity by 150 student seats, representing the largest expansion in the district's history.

"When we invest in career and technical education, we are building a stronger workforce, creating new pathways for students, and strengthening Massachusetts for the future," Smola added. "Pathfinder Tech is giving students the tools to succeed and Massachusetts a workforce ready to lead."

The project was made possible by a $3.5 million CTE Capacity Expansion Grant awarded through the Healey-Driscoll Administration. The funding supported modernization of the Cold Spring facility, equipment and furnishings, the launch of the Medical Assisting program and additional improvements across the district.

Officials commended school leaders for accomplishing the expansion without seeking a debt exclusion or capital infrastructure requests from member towns.

"We did not go back to our nine communities and ask them to take on debt to make this happen," Duda said. "This is an example of responsible planning, collaboration, and taking advantage of opportunities when they become available. We found a way to substantially expand opportunities for students while protecting our member communities from a major capital expense."

The repurposing of the Cold Spring facility also created employment opportunities across the region.

New and expanded positions associated with the campus include a building administrator, school nurse, school resource officer through the Town of Belchertown, cafeteria employees, additional teaching and support staff and other positions necessary to operate the campus and support students.

Duda also recognized Belchertown Public Schools Superintendent Brian Cameron for his partnership throughout the transition. Cameron was an early supporter of exploring the reuse of the Cold Spring building and worked collaboratively with Pathfinder Tech officials throughout the process.

"This could not have happened without the Town of Belchertown and the Belchertown Public Schools," Duda said. "Superintendent Cameron, Town Manager Steve Williams and the Belchertown Select Board understood very early what this building could become and what it could mean for students throughout the region."

Additionally, Duda thanked the Pathfinder Tech School Committee for its support throughout the project.

"I am incredibly fortunate to have a forward-thinking and supportive School Committee," Duda said. "They understood the vision, they understood the need, and they were steadfast in their support as we worked through an ambitious timeline."

The ceremony concluded with the cutting of the ribbon in front of Pathfinder Tech at Cold Spring. Officials were surrounded by current Pathfinder Tech students who will benefit from the repurposed facility.

The entire building acquisition process, grant program and renovation project took less than a year to complete. Pathfinder Tech officials first announced plans for the expansion in October 2025, then finalized an agreement with the Town of Belchertown in January 2026.

The state grant was awarded in April, just before Pathfinder officials took possession of the building on July 1.

"This building represents much more than renovated classrooms and technical labs," Duda said. "It represents opportunity. It represents partnership. Most importantly, it represents what can happen when state government, local communities, educators, elected officials, students, and staff work together with a shared purpose."

The Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School District serves students from Belchertown, Granby, Hardwick, Monson, New Braintree, Oakham, Palmer, Ware and Warren.

The district provides academic and CTE opportunities to students in grades nine-12.

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What does financial fulfillment actually feel like?

Feeling financially fulfilled means so much more than just the number in your bank account. It's about being able to take your family out to dinner without calculating whether you can afford it. It means sleeping soundly on a Sunday night, knowing that if the water heater gives out tomorrow, you can handle it. And it's saying yes to a vacation because you planned ahead and the money is there.

In short, financial fulfillment is the feeling that your money is supporting the life you want.

Yet true fulfillment is surprisingly rare. Only 16% of Americans are financially fulfilled, according to a 2026 study by Edward Jones and Gallup, *"Money and Meaning: Understanding Financial Fulfillment."* Those at the other end of the spectrum, the financially stressed (32%), often say that money regularly controls their daily decisions. Most Americans (51%), however, fall in the middle — the financially conflicted. They manage to get by but often carry a persistent undercurrent of worry.

Notably, where you land on this spectrum has less to do with your income than you might expect. More than half of households earning $175,000 or more are still financially conflicted.

Building the foundation

So, the question becomes, "What do financially fulfilled people do differently?" Simply put, they tend to have foundational planning structures in place. Five behaviors show up consistently among the financially fulfilled, and they're simple steps you can take, too.

- **Build an emergency fund** (98% of fulfilled have this). Aim for saving three to six months of living expenses in a liquid, easily accessible account. When you know you can handle the unexpected, you stop bracing for it, and lower stress gives you a higher quality of life.
- **Create a financial plan for retirement** (91% of financially fulfilled have one). It's hard to feel in control if you don't know where you're going. A retirement plan puts a real number on what you'll need and lays out a clear path to get there, with built-in protection against life's unexpected curveballs.
- **Save intentionally for major milestones** (87% of financially fulfilled do). A home renovation, a new vehicle or a child's education don't have to feel disruptive. Setting money aside deliberately for the milestones you anticipate means you can say yes without scrambling.
- **Put an estate plan in place** (66% of financially fulfilled have). Estate plans are not just for the wealthy. A will and basic estate plan help ensure what you've worked for still reflects your wishes after you're gone.
- **Work with a financial advisor** (60% of financially fulfilled who sought any guidance have used an advisor in the past year). The internet is great, but real guidance comes from a credentialed person who knows you and your family and what you want your money to do for you.

Knowing that your money is working toward the life you want doesn't happen by accident. Feeling financially fulfilled is worth the effort and may be more achievable than you realize.

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HARDWICK from page 1

Select Board Vice-Chair William Tinker asked some questions to be sent to town counsel, including the bidder's request to rescind a payment performance bond, and how the town would be protected if the bidder takes title of the property but does not follow through with renovations.

He also asked about enforceable development milestones that could be put in the agreement so any renovations don't stall. The board members tabled a decision on the RFP until they receive answers from counsel.

Eagle Hill sewer connection

The Select Board, acting as the Sewer Commission as well, discussed a new dormitory at the Eagle Hill School. Caggiano said an application hasn't been received yet.

Tinker asked several questions that he said need to be looked at before they approve a new connection, including whether they have hired licensed engineers to look at design flow, determined the capacity of the main and pumping station and what percentage of capacity for future development in Hardwick will this project take up.

Tinker said the town's regulations call for licensed engineers and a permitting process.

Bill Cole, chair of the Planning Board, said during the application process, the applicant said there would not be higher flow because of the dorm, as there will not be any new users, and the toilets would actually be more efficient.

YouTube/cable access

The board continued discussion on the owner of the town's YouTube channel, and who has ownership of the raw video should the town terminate the current vendor operating it.

Tinker also asked why there was a $3,700 invoice on July 1, since the vendor is paid quarterly.

According to Caggiano, that bill would have been for the last quarter of fiscal year 2026 and the law allows the town to encumber bills from the prior fiscal year between July 1-15. Caggiano also said the new information technology vendor is working to get all of their materials onto a cloud backup so they have access in the future.

Town Administrator's contract

The board voted to place an item on a future agenda regarding the contract with the Town Administrator, particularly section 19, which states that the town has to give the Town Administrator six months of notice if they intend to terminate the contract, and the Town Administrator also has to give six months notice to the town if they plan to terminate it.

Open meeting complaint

The board discussed a response to an open meeting law complaint, which was submitted by resident Jeffery Smith, regarding missing meeting minutes. Smith alleged that since the board voted to remediate the missing minutes, they have actually gotten worse.

Tinker said there are still several meeting minutes outstanding that have not been approved, or in some cases, have been approved but not posted to mytowngovernment.org.

According to Caggiano, since this complaint regards meeting minutes from outside of 30 days ago, the town is not required by law to give a response.

Select Board roundtable

Tinker sought permission to speak to town counsel on certain topics regarding the construction and cost of a sewer line, and was granted that permission by Chair Jeffrey Schaaf. He also mentioned the new building at Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School which makes room for 150 more students.

Schaaf noted that the railroad crossing on Lower Road in Wheelwright has been repaired.

PUBLIC MEETINGS from page 3

NORTH BROOKFIELD

Cultural Council – Oct. 1 at 6 p.m.
Fire Department Meeting – Oct. 5 at 6 p.m.
Library Trustee – Oct. 5 at 6 p.m.

OAKHAM

Board of Health – Oct. 8 at 6 p.m.
Library Trustees – Oct. 22 at 5 p.m.

PETERSHAM

Select Board – Oct. 1 at 5:30 p.m.
Petersham Historic District – Oct. 1 and Oct. 15 at 6 p.m.
Zoning Board of Appeals – Oct. 1 and Oct. 8 at 7 p.m.
Board of Assessors – Oct. 2 at 9 a.m.
Council on Aging – Oct. 5 at 4 p.m. and Nov. 9 at 1 p.m.
Open Space and Recreation Committee – Oct. 6 at 6 p.m.
Conservation Commission – Oct. 6 at 7 p.m.
Cemetery Commission – Oct. 13 at 11 a.m.
Petersham School Committee – Oct. 13 at 4 p.m.
Board of Health – Oct. 13 at 6:30 p.m.

RUTLAND

ADA Commission – Oct. 1 at 4 p.m.
Select Board and Finance Committee Joint Meeting – Oct. 1 at 6 p.m.

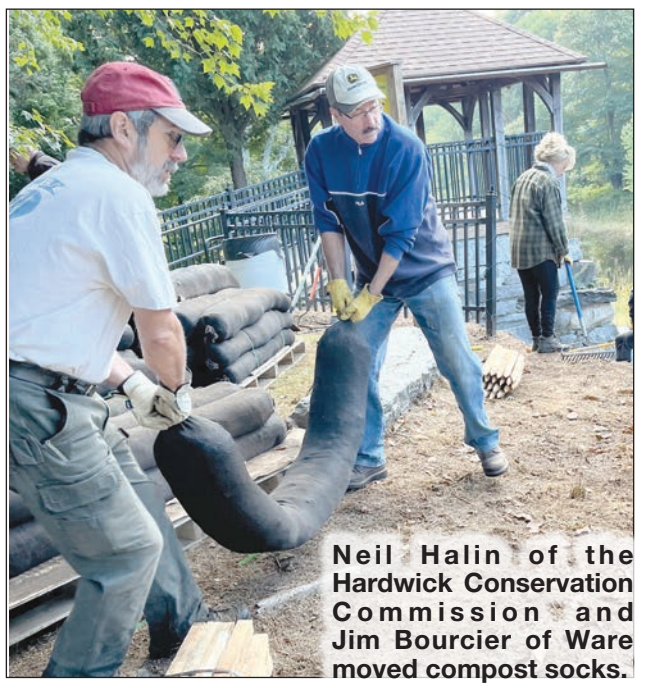


Submitted Photos

Volunteers prepared the gazebo area of Ware River Park in Gilbertville for a planting day.

Planting day at the Ware River Park gazebo

HARDWICK – The Hardwick Conservation Commission has been working on a restoration project on the slope of the Ware River next to the gazebo in Gilbertville. The commission has been working on removing invasive plants in Ware River Park. The gazebo area was surrounded by a large stand of Japanese knotweed, which has been removed.



Neil Halin of the Hardwick Conservation Commission and Jim Bourcier of Ware moved compost socks.

The invasive Japanese knotweed grows quickly and aggressively which thrives in disturbed areas along riverbanks and roadsides. The knotweed forms dense thickets that pose a significant ecological threat to riparian areas.

Recently, ten volunteers helped install compost socks along the river bank next to the gazebo. The compost socks will help stabilize the slope and help control erosion.

The volunteers laid out and staked six rows of compost socks along the river bank. The next step in restoration is to plant some native trees, shrubs and herbaceous pollinator plants in the compost socks.

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Quabbin Regional School District News

From the desk of Quabbin Regional School District Superintendent Colleen Mucha

The first days of school are always filled with so much excitement and enthusiasm from students, staff, and families.

This year was no exception. Upon walking into each of our school buildings, you can't help but notice the "shine" of a new school year. Literally, floors are so glossy you can see a reflection of yourself. Students and staff have carefully chosen their "first day" attire so that it is a reflection of their individuality and a statement of who they are.

Bulletin boards are created to welcome students and to let them know a little bit about what it will be like to be a part of the classroom and school community. Everything feels like possibility and opportunity.

All of our schools recently held Open House Nights to welcome students and families to the new school year. For some, they may have been asked to engage in a scavenger hunt to find where classroom resources were located and for others, they may have been asked to share something unique and personal about their child to help teachers get to know and understand each student.

There was one thing that all the Open Houses had in common and that was a palpable sense of excitement for a new school year and an eagerness to work together both school and home to support student success.

Now that we are a few weeks into the school year though, some of that "shine" may feel like it is wearing off. Learners may be coming home tired and laden with complaints. As a parent, you may not know or understand what has happened and you may be worried that your child's school experience isn't as you had hoped. Before you panic or think something is awry, stop and pause.

Remember just a few short weeks ago, students did not have such jam packed days and full schedules. The adjustment to the return to school usually begins with lots of excitement and positivity and then as students continue to participate in full days of learning without the breaks of summer, they may begin to feel tired and cranky.

Here are some tips to help your learners adjust:

Set Predictable Home Routines: establish clear expectations around routines, workspaces for homework, bedtime and screen time. This will help create order, minimize distraction, and ensure time for rest and rejuvenation.

Encourage Self-Regulation: talk with your child(ren) about recognizing their own body cues when they feel frustrated, excited, or overwhelmed. Help them to learn to manage their emotions and encourage them to take a short break or move to reset themselves.

Promote Resilience and Growth Mindset: Remind students that learning is about making progress rather than being "good" or "bad" at something, encouraging self-kindness when they encounter challenges.

Praise for Effort: Focus feedback on specific progress, strategies used, and effort put into work rather than just grades

Connect Interests to Learning: Help make connections between challenging subjects or content to your child's interests, activities, or hobbies.

Teach Self-Advocacy: Encourage children to express their needs, ask questions, and to seek help from their teachers.

Partner with your child's school, teacher, administrator: Communicate throughout the year, if you feel something is going well- reach out! If you have a worry- reach out! Attend school events, show your connection and investment to school and your child's learning. Talk about school at home, discuss themes of kindness, goal setting, work habits and more.

Ribbon cutting held at The Whistlestop



Turley Staff Photo

The Whistlestop's new owner Dillon Sherwood cut the ribbon at a ceremony held at the restaurant, located at 248 Main St., Gilbertville. Shown from left are Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond member Jan McCoy; state Rep. Donnie Berthiaume; WBCA President Dan Flynn; Hardwick Town Administrator Justine Caggiano; Dillon Sherwood; WBCA members Dan Collette and Blair Robidoux; state Sen. Peter Durant; and WBCA member Dustin Pennington.

Paige Memorial Library October activities

HARDWICK – The Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, presents "Ghosts of New England" with Jonah Knight at the Town House, 40 Common St., on Tuesday, Oct. 6 at 6 p.m.

This program of history and unusual tales is brought to you by the Hardwick-New Braintree Cultural Council.

Knight presents real unexplainable phenomena awith a sprinkle of interactive fun, historical details, and magical effects to enhance the funny, spooky, and emotional stories. New England Ghosts explores local history through the lens of spirits and unexplained phenomena. Make sure to attend if you are fascinated by ghost stories and history.

Costume swap

A Halloween costume swap will be held on Saturdays, Oct. 10 and 17 from 11 a.m.-noon. Bring in a costume and take home a costume.

Jewelry making

Think Pink on Tuesday, Oct. 13 at 6 p.m. with jewelry making in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Grouch Day

Grouch day will be held on Thursday, Oct. 15 from 2-7 p.m. Come moan, sulk, and complain among friends and leave a vinegar message for all to read.

Ed the Wizard

Ed the Wizard presents magic and fun on Saturday, Oct. 17 at 2:30 p.m. brought to you by the Hardwick-New Braintree Cultural Council and the Libraries of Hardwick at the Town House, 40 Common St.

Needle felting

Needle felt a mushroom on Tuesday, Oct. 20 at 6 p.m.

Halloween tattoos

Come in for a Halloween tattoo during library hours on Oct. 27, 28 and 29.

Face painting

Face painting will be held at the library on Saturday, Oct. 31 from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. A donation will help cover material costs. Sign up for a spot ahead of time by emailing or calling. Appointments every 10 minutes.

Trail of Treats

Trail of Treats will be held on the Common on Saturday, Oct. 31 starting at 5:30 p.m.

Ongoing programs

Join the Paige Memorial Library for Wednesday morning Story Hour and activities beginning with "getting to know you time" at 10:30 a.m. and story and activities at 11 a.m. Homeschoolers are welcome and can access books and materials through our library and through Interlibrary Loan.

The Friends' Book Sale is ongoing. The Book Club and the Cookbook Club meet monthly.

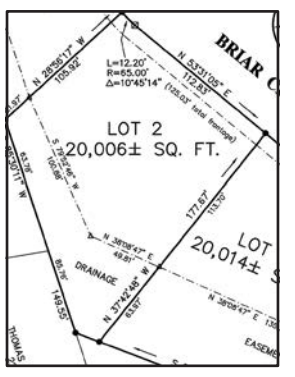
The Paige Writers meet every other week. Friends of the Paige Memorial Library, the Movie Committee, the new Hardwick Gardening Club, and the PML Volunteers are open to new members.

The library staff would like to start a teen group where creative teens can come together and make art, discuss music and culture, and relax. Anyone interested should let the library staff know.

Share ideas for books, the library of things, programs, speakers, or more. Please email, call or stop in.

For more information, visit www.paigelibrary.com, find the Paige Memorial Library on Facebook, email paigelibrary.hardwick@gmail.com or call 413-477-6704. See the full calendar of activities at www.paigelibrary.com/calendar-of-events/.





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The other is a **Paid Obituary,** costing $275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.



Submitted photo

From left, Sister Marie Isabelle, Mother Mary Elizabeth and Sister Christine donate blood at the Petersham Lions Club blood drive on Sept. 19. The Rhode Island Blood Center staff from left to right are Alexis, Elliescia and Karen.

Petersham Lions Club hold blood drive

PETERSHAM – The Petersham Lions Club hosted a blood drive with the Rhode Island Blood Center on Saturday, Sept. 19.

It was a beautiful crisp day and the drive was a huge success. A total of 27 units of blood were collected with 28 sign ups.

This number of units translates into possibly helping 81 people depending on how they process and utilize the blood. There was one first time donor and three people who have started donating again after an absence of 20 plus years with the changes in limitations.

This is the second blood drive held with the Rhode Island Blood Center. Lynne Shaw RN, from the Petersham Lions Club, serves to coordinate the event with the RIBC.

RIBC is user friendly as it comes out to the location and sets up their donation stations and privacy intake areas, so folks can donate locally and not have to drive into one of the cities. The phlebotomy staff is friendly and engaging and highly experienced.

They offer drinks and snacks afterwards for donors. The entire process takes 30-40 minutes including completing paperwork, a prescreening by a RIBC staff member and the actual donation, which itself takes only about ten minutes.

Donors are able to book appointments on line through the RIBC website. Anyone can donate every 56 days. This means you can donate up to six times a year.

The exclusion criteria is listed on the website and with the advancements in blood testing, processing and medical care, there are very few absolute exceptions. If you thought you were not eligible to donate, please check the new guidelines as you may now qualify.

Many updates such as wait times for surgery, tattoos, out of country travel have been changed. This is also true for medications and medical conditions. Even those on blood thinners and have a cancer history are eligible.

The biggest factor for being deferred is the hemoglobin level that they test in your blood. It is important to eat a high iron diet a week or so ahead of time and be well hydrated. A one -time deferral does not impact your ability to donate in the future.

Blood cannot be manufactured or created. Only a person can donate blood.

One unit can serve up to three adults and even more children and babies. Blood is needed for those with medical conditions needing regular transfusions, surgery patients and trauma victims.

It could go to a newborn just fighting to stay alive, a young child battling leukemia, a teen in a car accident, a young woman with anemia, a middle-aged man with a bleeding ulcer or an elderly woman having a heart operation.

Your blood can be made available to someone in need within 24-48 hours after donating. Less than 3% of the population donates, yet 80% will need a transfusion of one or more units in their lifetime. In less than an hour you can save up to three lives.

The RIBC is a member of New York Blood Center Enterprises which recently expanded into Massachusetts with the opening of a donor center in Chelsea. They are dedicated to blood donation, research, cure of blood-borne diseases and a leader in hematology and transfusion therapies. They have locations in 16 states. They opened more than 60 years ago, delivering over 1 million blood products to over 400 hospitals and healthcare partners annually.

The Petersham Lions Club has scheduled four tentative dates with the goal of this becoming a quarterly offering in Petersham every year. The tentative dates of the future drives in 2027 are: Jan. 9, May 1, Aug. 28 and Oct. 30.

More information will be shared, especially on the Petersham Alert Network as the dates get closer.

Thank you to all who donated on Sept. 19 and hope to see you at the next Petersham Lions Blood Drive.

EQLT to host talk and presentation on invasive insects on Oct. 4

HARDWICK – The East Quabbin Land Trust will host an informational talk and presentation on invasive insects on Sunday, Oct. 4 at 1 p.m. at EQLT's office located at 120 Ridge Road.

Elizabeth Barnes, Ph.D., Forest Pest Outreach Coordinator, Crop & Pest Services at the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, will be the guest speaker and will share information on monitoring, managing, removing, and projected impacts of, existing and emerging invasive insects in Central Massachusetts, including spotted lanternfly, emerald ash borer, and wooly adelgid, among others. Barnes will discuss the conditions under which these invasive insects have arrived in Massachusetts, the crops, trees, vegetation and other conditions that are enabling them to thrive in this region, the impacts that they can have on farming, native landscapes and wildlife, and human systems. Barnes will share what steps homeowners, municipalities and organizations can take to help control or mitigate their impact and spread.

This educational public awareness event is open to everyone, though due to space limitations, RSVPs are required. Please email Amy Trevvett at atrevvett@eqlt.org by Oct. 1 to RSVP.

About EQLT

The East Quabbin Land Trust fosters a meaningful relationship with the natural world by conserving, connecting with, and caring for the farmlands, woodlands, and waters in the East Quabbin region of Massachusetts. EQLT works closely with community members to foster vibrant communities through engagement with the outdoors.

EQLT was formed in 1994 out of concern for the loss of farmland and wildlife habitat in and around Hardwick. Since 1998, EQLT has expanded its land protection efforts to include Barre, Petersham, New Braintree, North Brookfield, West Brookfield, Hubbardston, Ware and other nearby towns.

By working cooperatively with property owners, government agencies, conservation groups, and other land trust organizations, EQLT has been able to protect over 7,000 acres in the region; purchased and leases the historic Country Store in Petersham, revitalizing the heart of the town; and has purchased and opened eight miles of former railroad corridor as part of the Mass. Central Rail Trail in Hardwick, New Braintree, Ware and Barre.

For more information about EQLT, visit www.eqlt.org.

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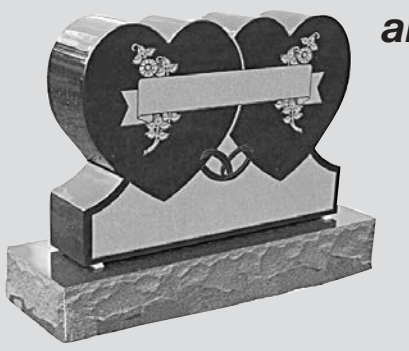
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Renowned author presents lecture on King Philip's War

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

WEST BROOKFIELD – New York Times Bestselling Author Michael J. Tougias will present a free slide lecture about King Philip's War at the West Brookfield Senior Center, 73 Central St., on Sunday, Oct. 4 at 1 p.m.

This lecture is sponsored by the Quaboag Historical Society.

Named after "King Philip," who was also known as Metacom, a Wampanoag chief, the war was fought between the colonies and many of the Native American tribes from 1675-1676.

"Per capita basis, it had the highest casualty rate of any war America was involved in," Tougias said. "It was a major, major event."

One of the most brutal battles that occurred during King Philip's War took place at a Native American village along the Ware River, in the area now known as the Winnimusset Wildlife Management Area, near the Hardwick/New Braintree line.

"The action there is known as Wheeler's Surprise," Tougias said.

Captain Thomas Wheeler was instructed to go and meet with the local Nipmuck tribe and force them to sign a peace treaty, where he was met with an ambush.

"Wheeler was shot off his horse, but rescued by his son and taken back to the garrison at Foster Hill Road in West Brookfield," he said. "He survived and wrote an account of it."

Tougias said after the ambush, the Native Americans followed Wheeler and his men back to the garrison and burned all of Brookfield down. He said they could not get the garrison to burn, because as noted in Wheeler's memoir, "God made it rain," and it wouldn't ignite.

Wheeler later died as a result of his injuries received during the battle of Brookfield.

Tougias has written two books about King Philip's War; "Until I Have No Country" and "King Philip's War: The History and Legacy of America's Forgotten Conflict", which he co-authored with Eric Schultz.

Growing up in Longmeadow, Tougias developed an interest in King Philip's War, and he learned a lot about it from his father, who was a history buff.

"Where I grew up there's a King Philip's stockade," he said. "Once you know a little bit, you just start craving more and more."

Tougias said meeting fellow author Schultz was a blessing and that they shared the same passion.

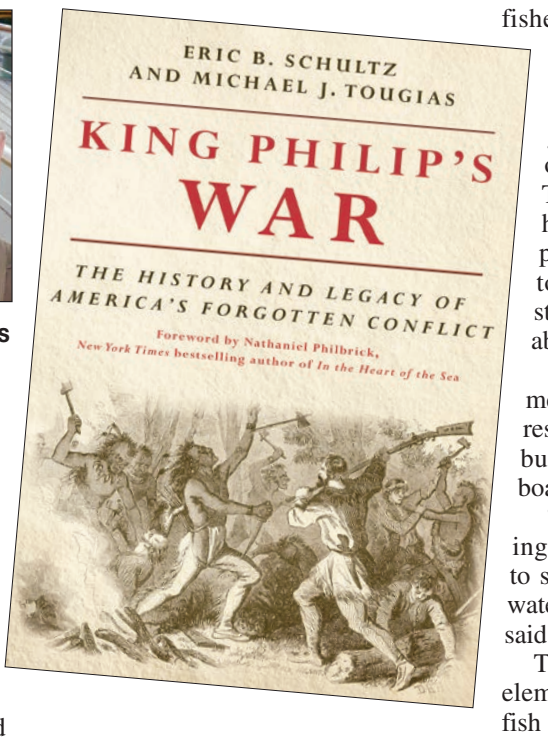
"He went to all the sites across New England," Tougias said.

King Philip's War is known as America's Forgotten Conflict, as it is something that few people know about.

"I've spoken at almost every town in Massachusetts. People don't know much about this war," Tougias said.



Michael J. Tougias



During the lecture on Oct. 4, Tougias will share maps and show where the battles happened, and what they look like today. He said his lecture will be like watching a documentary and will captivate audience members of any age; even children.

"If people want to bring their kids, they're welcome as well," he said. "Kids are fascinated by it all."

Tougias has authored a total of 38 books over the course of his career, including "The Finest Hours", which was made into a Disney movie starring Chris Pine and Casey Affleck.

His latest book, "In Deep Water: A Story of Sharks, Survival, and Courage" tells the story of three recreation fishermen whose boat sinks off New Orleans in the Gulf of Mexico.

"The Coast Guard gave them a 1% chance of ever being found," Tougias said. "All they had time to grab is a couple coolers to hang on to. They make a vow to stay together and not talk about why the boat sank."

Tougias said the fishermen thought they would be rescued within a few hours, but there were no other boats on the water.

"Instead of just surviving three hours, they have to survive 28 hours treading water through the night," he said.

The fishermen faced the elements, dehydration, jellyfish stings and a shark attack.

"They wanted the story to be told," Tougias said. "It's an absolute off-the-charts survival story and rescue too. They should not be alive."

For more information about Tougias and his books, visit www.michaeltougias.com.

N BROOKFIELD from page 1

Search Committee said only one of the applicants met all of the standards in the posting.

The board deliberated whether to ease qualifications to get more finalists, or to simply continue with the one applicant.

According to Police Chief Ryan Daley, who sits on the search committee, some of the applicants did not formally put their Industrial Control Systems certifications in their applications, but he said they are basic and it's likely they do have them, but the committee bypassed anyone who did not complete the application correctly. Selectman Peter Orsi said one of the requirements on the application called Fire Prevention 1 certification was no longer required by the state.

Jamie Gilman, the chair of the board, said since there was an error, it is possible the town would have to repost the job, to which Daley requested reaching out to legal counsel if the board chooses that option, saying there is a possibility they could run into a legal problem since one applicant met all of the original requirements. Selectman Ralph Kay said he would not be in favor of cutting back the requirements since the chief should set the standard for the rest of the department.

Kularski said since the posting did not instruct applicants to send proof of their certifications, she could send out a blanket email to all of the applicants to give them a chance to produce those documents, and the board approved of that option.

Senior Center facilities

The board discussed a change of facilities request at the Senior Center, essentially to re-label all of the restrooms to be gender neutral, which according to Kularski stems from a building code requirement. She said since the current configuration has a restroom for women but not one for men, it has to be changed because the code doesn't allow for one but not the other.

Currently, there is a restroom designated for employees, women and a gender neutral handicapped restroom.

Kularski said part of the reasoning for this stems from a Board of Health inspection last year, where they determined the center had to stop cleaning the mop in a regular sink; they need to do it in a separate one specifically for that purpose. Kularski read a general law that stated the mop sinks are not supposed to be in a public facing room, so that's why it's in the employees restroom.

The restroom that was a women's room that will now be labeled as gender neutral also has multiple stalls, which raised some concerns with the board.

Part of the request, according to the board, was to remove the urinal in the restroom currently designated for employees since there are only a couple employees there. According to the request, it is leaking and backing up.

Gilman questioned why they would not fix the leak instead of removing it.

Gilman also had concerns that these changes were already done by the time the request came into the board, since the Selectmen are supposed to oversee and approve major changes.

Council on Aging Director Courtenay Rivera was present, and said they have been communicating with at least one member of the board, that being Kay. Rivera said when the center did not pass inspection last year, that information was sent to the former town administrator and the board, so she thought they already knew.

In other updates to the center, Rivera said they can now prepare meals in the kitchen because they installed a vegetable preparation sink as required by the Board of Health, but they still cannot cook with grease until the hood systems are upgraded.

She also said the ovens will have to be replaced with commercial ovens in the future.

Project updates

The board gave updates on projects including North Main Street parking and the Mad Brook bridge project. According to the board, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation has not signed off on the municipal paving project yet for the parking, and signs will not be ordered until that happens.

There has been some corrective action being done in the past couple weeks according to the board.

Kularski said the Mad Brook bridge project is part of the Massachusetts municipal bridge program, and the first step is getting easements, so it is currently stuck with lawyers, and a town meeting article is being drafted for it.

Kularski said the Shared Streets program is going through paperwork issues, and once it's done, a contract can be awarded.

Spending requests

The board approved two spending requests from the Highway Department including $881 for backing plate assembly to a Ford F450 to vendor Nate Ballard and $994 for cable and bracket work on a 1999 dump body to vendor Harvey Services from Holland.

Upcoming events

Trunk or treating will be held Saturday, Oct. 31 on the common from 5:30-7:30 p.m. by Parks and Recreation and the Cultural Council.

There is a Decorate Our Town event scheduled for Nov. 28 including a tree lighting and parade from 5 p.m. until about 8 p.m. being put on by the church and library.

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Panthers field hockey continues to win

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

BARRE – During her three-plus decades at the helm of the Quabbin Regional varsity field hockey program, Shelly Zalneraitis has coached countless talented players. None of Zalneraitis' players had reached 100 career points (goals and assists) prior to this season.

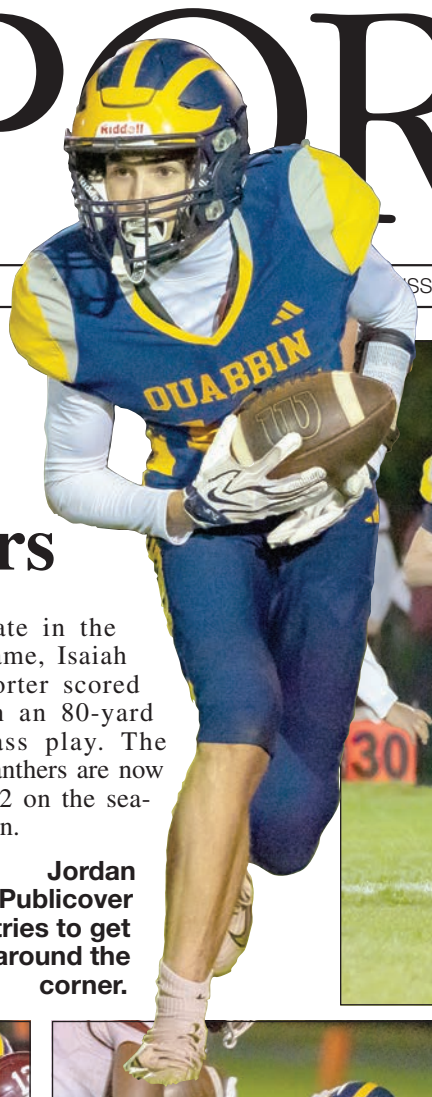
Senior co-captain Makenzie Casey entered last Monday's home contest against Narragansett Regional with 96 career points. She came agonizingly close to reaching the elite milestone in front of her home supporters.

Casey recorded her second hat trick of the 2026 regular season, which helped the

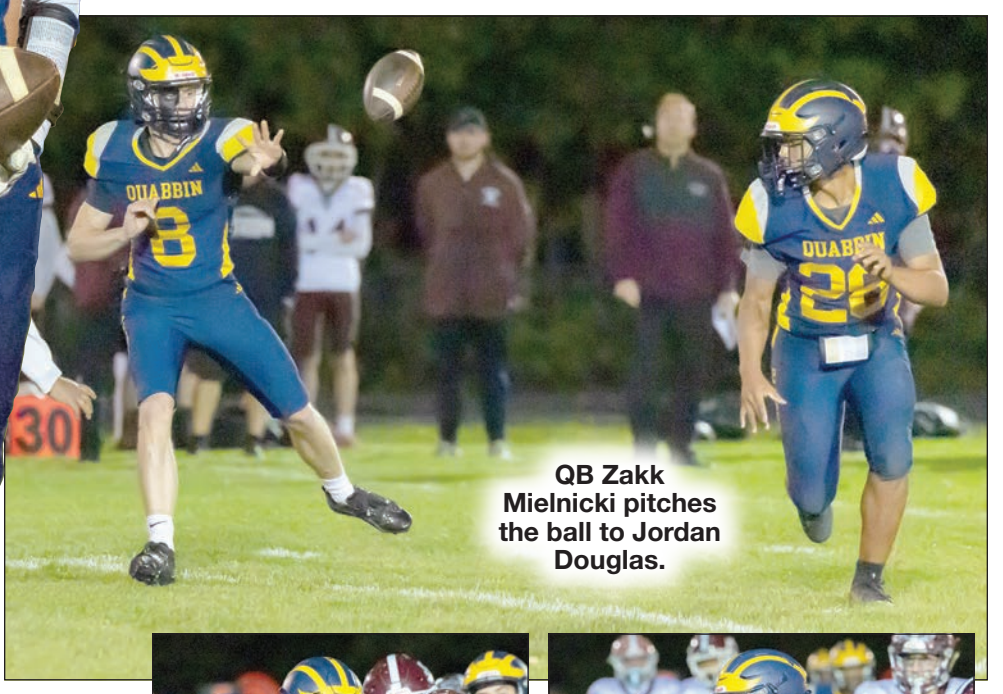
See PANTHERS, page 12

Leicester too much for Panthers

BARRE – Last Friday night, Quabbin Regional High School football had a couple of early scores, but Leicester came roaring back with four touchdowns in the second quarter and powered to a 56-20 win over Quabbin. The Panthers got a touchdown from Zakk Mielnicki with a 67-yard run and Jordan Douglas had a 21-yard for a score. Late in the game, Isaiah Porter scored on an 80-yard pass play. The Panthers are now 1-2 on the season.



Jordan Publicover tries to get around the corner.



QB Zakk Mielnicki pitches the ball to Jordan Douglas.



Brady Dennis, left and Jordan Douglas wrap up the runner.



Leo Bates attempts to make a touchdown-saving tackle.



Zakk Mielnicki looks for a hole to run through.



Turley photos by Jeffrey Haynes

Jordan Douglas breaks a big run.



Turley photos by Jeffrey Haynes

Brent Benoit fends off the opponent as he works the ball upfield.



Joseph Cook steels himself as he makes the block.



Greyson Mullins battles for possession.



Matthew Labrousse boots the ball forward.



Goalie Silas Stukuls Barrieau makes a diving effort to stop the shot.

Quabbin boys fall to Clinton

BARRE – Last Thursday afternoon, Quabbin Regional High School boys soccer was defeated for just the second time this season, losing to Clinton 4-0.

The Panthers are 3-2-1 on the season, having shown some good offense in their first three wins this year.

Coming up, the Panthers will travel out to Tahanto Regional High School on Thursday, Oct. 1 at 4 p.m.

They are back home on Tuesday, Oct. 6 at 3:30 p.m. against West Boylston.

Pioneers take down Ware

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WARE – Three of the previous four meetings between the Pathfinder Tech and Ware boys' soccer teams ended in draws. Unlike their recent clashes, the first meeting of the 2026 campaign between the Bi-County East foes was far less suspenseful.

The Pathfinder Tech Pioneers held a 7-0 halftime lead and cruised to a 10-0 victory over the Ware Indians on a cool night at Veteran's Field in Ware, last Tuesday.

"We're hoping to challenge for the league title this year, so this is a very big-league win for us," said Pathfinder Tech head coach David Wilson. "Winning the league title is our first goal. We also want to qualify for both the Western Mass. and state tournaments."

Pathfinder Tech entered this week's action with a 5-1-1 overall record and a 3-0-1 mark against league opponents. The last time they captured the league title was in 2022.

See PIONEERS, page 12



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Madison Boulrice punts the ball away.



Ellyana Lavalley sends a shot away.

Pioneers split a pair

PALMER – The Pathfinder Regional High School girls soccer team remains at .500 after scoring a win and a loss during the past week. Last Monday afternoon on the grass behind Pathfinder, the Pioneers edged Putnam 2-1. Lee would defeat Pathfinder last Tuesday 4-0 for a 2-2 overall record.

The Pioneers will travel to Gateway for a Friday evening game on Oct. 3 at 6 p.m. The Pioneers are back home to face Commerce at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 6.



Josephine Boyko chases down a loose ball.



Evelyn Wood looks to cut the ball off on defense.

Sports

PANTHERS from page 11

Lady Panthers remain undefeated with a commanding 5-0 victory over the Lady Warriors.

"I really wish I could've accomplished the milestone on my home field," said Casey, who has been a member of the varsity field hockey team since the seventh grade. "We're going to be playing a night game at Oakmont on Wednesday. I'm hoping to do it there because they're one of our biggest rivals. We've always had competitive games with them, so I'm really looking forward to it."

Casey did put her name in the history books by scoring a goal and adding an assist in the Lady Panthers' 3-0 shutout victory at Oakmont in a Mid-Wach B match-up.

"Makenzie is the first player that I've coached to reach 100 career points, which is very special," Zalneraitis said. "Only two other Quabbin field hockey players have accomplished the milestone."

The other two Lady Panthers field hockey players who reached the 100 point plateau are Lisa Valardi in 1982, and Christine Hardaker in 1991. They're also members of the Quabbin Athletic Hall of Fame.

One of Casey's teammates during the first three seasons that she played for the varsity field hockey team was her older sister, Kylie, who played college field hockey at Worcester State University.

Makenzie Casey, who has helped the Lady Panthers win more than 60 games during the past six seasons, is also planning to play college field hockey. She has verbally committed to join the field hockey team at Franklin Pierce University, which is in Rindge New Hampshire.

"Franklin Pierce is a beautiful school and it's only 40 minutes from my house," said Casey, who lives in Hubbardston. "When I spoke with the Franklin Pierce field hockey coach (Marissa Butler), she told me that I would fit in very well. I felt very good after she told me that and I'm very excited about going there."

During last Monday's home game, it took the Lady Panthers 12 minutes to score their first goal.

With three minutes remaining in the opening quarter, a shot attempt from Quabbin freshman Olivia Vanhoudenhove deflected off the pads of Narragansett freshman goalie Savanah Orcutt (10 saves).

Casey was in the right spot to knock home the rebound shot for an unassisted goal.

A little more than a minute later, a shot attempt taken by Quabbin 8th grader Charley Chauvin rolled into the cage for her first varsity goal, which was also unassisted.

Casey scored her second goal on her team's first penalty corner 38 seconds into the second quarter. The ball was inserted from the left side of the cage by junior co-captain Ellie Poulin to Casey.

The Lady Panthers' other co-captains are seniors Violet Kelley and Abby Rogowski.

Kailynn Schuster and Aubrey Thorpe, who's the Lady Panthers starting goalie, are the other seniors listed on the Lady Panthers roster.

"Our five seniors are all great kids, and they always work very hard," Zalneraitis said. "They're our leaders and they work very well with our younger players."





Turley photos by Jeffrey Haynes

Makenzie Casey takes a shot on goal through traffic.

Olivia Vanhoudenhove fights her way through white jerseys.

Thorpe, who finished the home game against the Lady Warriors (2-2-1) with three saves, received plenty of support from her defense, which is led by sophomore Addison Surprenant, junior Kayla Curran, and Kelley.

Quabbin held a 3-0 halftime lead.

The Lady Panthers had five penalty corners during the third quarter, but the score was still 3-0 entering the final quarter.

Rogowski netted an unassisted goal less than two minutes into the final quarter.

With 2:52 left on the scoreboard clock, Rogowski delivered a pass to Casey, who capped off the scoring in the game with her third goal.

"On my last goal, Abby shot the ball from outside of the circle and I deflected it in," said Casey, who also posted a hat-trick in a 5-0 home win over North Middlesex on September 14. "It was my third goal of the game, and it got me a little bit closer to 100."

The Lady Panthers ended last week with a perfect 7-0 overall record, and they improved to 4-0 against Mid-Wach B foes after pulling out a 2-1 home win versus Marlborough last Friday afternoon. Vanhoudenhove and Casey scored the Lady Panthers goals during the second half.

Quabbin entered this week's action having outscored their opponents, 24-3, in the first seven regular season games.



Violet Kelly takes the ball away from the opponent.



Kailynn Schuster gains a step in the race for the ball.



Abby Rogowski scoops the ball forward.

HAKIM MEDICAL

Michael H. Hakim, MD



Front row: Janet Stadnicki, FNP, Michael Hakim, MD and Angela Nurek, DNP. Second row: Kirsten Apraham, Cheri Couture, Caitlyn Garceau, RMA, Practice Manager, Kalise Salzarulo, Trista Labier, MA Back row: Charlene Gryszowka, Phlebotomy, Lisa Hresko and Susan Piche. Missing from the photo: Crystal Best, RMA.

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PIONEERS from page 11

The first meeting of last season between the two squads ended in a 2-2 draw.

It was their first meeting on the soccer pitch since playing a pair of ties in 2022.

Pathfinder Tech, who posted a 4-0 home shutout victory over Ware in the second meeting of last season, was scheduled to host Southwick at Legion Field on Monday night. The winner of that contest took over sole possession of first place in the Bi-County East standings.

The Indians had a 1-4 overall record and a 1-3 league record following last Tuesday's home loss.

"We're a young team this year," said Ware head coach Charlene Vallee. "I just want my players to keep getting better in every game that we play."

The last time that the Indians defeated the Pioneers on the soccer pitch was a 4-3 win during the 2015 regular season.

Two of the players listed on the Pathfinder Tech soccer roster are from Ware. They are freshman Noah Lane and junior Ian LaPete. The duo are reserve defenders, and they saw some action during the second half.

"This was a home coming game for both Noah and Ian," Wilson said. "They enjoyed playing in front of their family and friends."

The Pathfinder Tech boys' soccer team has maintained a co-op with Palmer High School for the past several years. The three players from Palmer High are sophomore Abees Castillo-Clotter, senior captain Owen Pear, and senior Dylan Holbrook, who's a first-year member of the team.

During the past three years, Holbrook was a member of the Palmer football team.

The Panthers football team celebrated a 21-6 home victory over Ware last year.

Because the Panthers only fielded a j.v. football team this fall, Holbrook decided to join the soccer team.

"I was disappointed when I found out that we weren't going to have a varsity football team this year," said Holbrook, who's a starting defender. "I decided to try something new, and these guys have welcomed me in. It feels very nice to win another game against Ware."

Holbrook also plays basketball and baseball for Palmer High School.

"It's going to be a lot of fun playing basketball and baseball against Pathfinder," Holbrook said. "I'm really looking forward to it."

During the fourth minute of last Tuesday's match, the Pioneers scored a free kick goal.

The kick was taken from the right sideline by Pear and Holbrook headed the ball into the left corner of the net past Ware freshman goalie Mason Gagne (23 saves).

It was Holbrook's first goal of the season.

"Dylan is a very coachable kid," Wilson said. "He plays defense, which seems to be a good fit for him. He's back there with his buddy Owen Pear."

The other two Pioneers starting defenders are senior captain Ian Sauri-Nieves and senior William 'Carl' Wright.

Pathfinder Tech sophomore goalie Elijah Hodge made eight saves in posting his third consecutive shutout.

The visitors from Palmer took a 2-0 lead five minutes later when senior captain Cayden Bousquet bounced a shot into the left corner for an unassisted goal.

Bousquet, who lives in Belchertown, has accounted for 16 of the Pioneers' first 25 goals this season.

He scored two more goals during the first half and recorded his fourth hat-trick.

"We've been playing very well as a team so far this year," said Bousquet, who finished the match with a season-high five goals. "I've been on a roll offensively and I'm hoping to keep it going. We've never lost against Ware."

The Indians closed out the opening half with two goals by Pear and another one from sophomore Weston Letendre.

Bousquet added two second half goals before a goal from Christian Ribeiro in the 72nd minute gave the Pioneers a double digit lead.

The two rivals are scheduled to play another night game at historic Legion Field in Palmer on October 15.

Calendar of Events

THURSDAY, OCT. 1

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.

CIRCLE OF SONG REHEARSALS take place today from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Barre Town Hall, Exchange Street, Barre. This four part chorus is always looking for singers who enjoy a good time and don't mind working hard for a beautiful blend. This season's picks are: "A Doc" arranged Christmas medley; "Come to the Woods" by Jake Runestad; "Feels Like Home;" "Carol of the Bells;" "Down in the River to Pray;" "Hallelujah Chorus" and Sign No More, Ladies," an original from Tom Martin.

FREE PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP takes place today at 6:30 p.m. in the New Salem Public Library, 23 South Main St., New Salem. No specialized camera equipment is necessary to participate in the workshop or to explore photography during Quabbin Days. More information can be found at the New Salem Library website www.NewSalem.cwmars.org.

QUABBIN DAYS MONTH LONG PHOTO CONTEST takes place during the month of October. Residents of Athol, Belchertown, New Salem and Pelham are invited to grab their cameras or smartphones and capture what makes the Quabbin Region so special as part of this month-long photography event being held in conjunction with Quabbin Days. The contest is being conducted in partnership with four libraries – the Athol Public Library, Clapp Memorial Library in Belchertown, New Salem Public Library, and Pelham Library, and is open to residents of those communities. Photographs entered in the contest must be taken during the month of October 2026 and may be taken in any of the 12 towns that make up the Quabbin Region. The deadline for submitting photographs is on Saturday, Oct. 31 at midnight.

FRIDAY, OCT. 2

IRISH COMEDY SHOW sponsored by the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors takes place today with the doors opening at 6:30 p.m. at the Wilbraham Senior Center, 250 Springfield St., Wilbraham. All tickets must be purchased in advance at the senior center. Tickets are $20. All proceeds to support multiple programs and services for Wilbraham Seniors. For more information people may call Matt Villamaino 413-896-2206 or visit the Wilbraham Senior Center.

SATURDAY, OCT. 3

BARRE TOWN WIDE YARD SALE takes place today from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The yard sale is held rain or shine. There is a $10 sign-up fee. Checks are payable to Town of Barre, 40 West St.,Suite

5, Barre, MA 01005. The address of yard sale is required. Maps may be picked up at Nornay Park, Main Street, South Barre at 8:45 a.m. the day of the yard sale.

Where is this?



Turley Publications photo by Ellenor Downer

This week's mystery photo is from Rutland. If any readers know where this photo was taken, they may email edowner@turley.com with their answer by noon on Monday, Oct. 5. Bill Bowles, Peggy Civilik, Karrie (Modzeleski) Hammond and James Laramee correctly identified the photo. The photo last week was a view of First Congregational Parish Unitarian Church, on the Common, Petersham

SOUPER FLANNEL SUPPER takes place today from 5:30-7 p.m. at the First Congregational Church of Rutland, 264 Main St., Rutland. People are invited to dress in their favorite flannel shirt and enjoy a hearty, homemade fall meal of soup;, chowder and chili. There will be bread and sweet treats: gluten free options will be available. They will be collecting new or gently used men's and women's flannel shirts to donate to a Veterans organization. There is no charge for the supper and reservations are not required. Donations will be gratefully accepted. All are welcome.

PROGRAM ON SHAKERS sponsored by the Petersham Historical Society and the Shaker Study Group from the New England area takes place today at 1 p.m. in the lower level of Petersham Town Hall, 1 South Main St., Petersham. The program entitled "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Shakers and the Perils of Mother Ann Lee," is presented by Stephen Paterwic. The program is free and all are welcome.

BARRE TOWN WIDE YARD SALE takes place today from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. The Barre Congregational Church, 30 Park St., Barre offers table space for anyone wishing to participate. People must donate their profit to the church and take home any items they do not sell. The yard sale happens rain or shine. In case of rain, tables will be set up in Fellowship Hall. The Supper Committee will sell hamburgers and hotdogs the day of the yard sale.

FAMILY FALL FESTIVAL takes place today from noon-2:30 p.m. at the First Congregational Church of North Brookfield, 144 Main St., North Brookfield. This family event has activities for all members of the family. There will also be free hamburgers/cheeseburgers, chips, lemonade and apple cider (served hot and cold) for all. There will be a silent auction and cake/pie sale. There is a bouncy house, cotton candy machine, popcorn and games for the whole family, including the famous (or infamous) tug of war between the adults and the children. Other activities include horse rides, corn hole, Zumba with Melanie and the North Brookfield Fire Department Fire Prevention team. This event is free and open to all. People may call the church office with any questions at 508-867-8428.

HARVEST DINNER AND AUCTION sponsored by the Holden Grange takes place today at 5:30 p.m. at the Holden Senior Center, 1130 Main St., Holden. The menu includes meatloaf, mashed potatoes, butternut squash, green beans, bread and homemade apple crisp with ice-cream. Tickets are $20 for adults and $10.00 for children under 12. For reservations, people may either call 508-829-6293 or email holdengrange78@gmail.com. An auction of home-grown produce, flowers, homemade baked goods, handiwork and more will round out the evening. Competitive bidding creates great entertainment and benefits those in need as all proceeds will benefit the Wachusett Food Pantry.

OLD HOME DAY takes place today from 1-8 p.m., rain or shine, to mark the town of New Braintree's celebration of its 275th anniversary. A fun filled day will begin with a parade at 1 p.m. from Barre Cut-Off Road travel down Hardwick Road to Utley and Memorial Drive. There will be children's games, a farmer's market with local growers and artisans, a beer and wine tent featuring Lost Town Brewing and Agronomy, food trucks, line dancing, music from Over the Hump and Disco Lemonade, contests and a bonfire at 20 Memorial Drive. For more information, people may visit the Town of New Braintree website or contact event organizers at newbraintree275th@gmail.com This program is funded by the Hardwick/New Braintree Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a State Agency.

HOLIDAY MARKET sponsored by Advocates for Conservation of Oakham's Rural Nature and Safety takes place today from 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCT. 9

QUABBIN DAYS takes place today through Monday, Oct. 12. The celebration will feature special events, programs, local businesses, history, art, photography and the natural beauty of the 12-town Quabbin Region. The October 9-12 weekend also coincides with what is traditionally one of the prime fall foliage periods in the Quabbin Region, making it an ideal time for visitors to explore its scenic roads, trails, small towns, historic sites, local businesses and cultural attractions. Residents and visitors can find detailed information about Quabbin Days events, participating organizations and activities on the continually updated calendar at www.QuabbinDays.org. Organized by the Friends of Quabbin, Quabbin Days is a regional celebration encompassing the 12 towns that make up the Quabbin Region.

This year's celebration is continuing to grow as businesses, libraries, historical organizations, museums, community groups and

See CALENDAR, page 14

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.

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Long and Short-Term Disability Insurances, Professional Development and Continuing Education,
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DDS is an Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action Employer. Females, minorities, veterans, and persons with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply. Reasonable Accommodation: If you require an ADA accommodation, please contact Ferdousi Faruque, at (857) 301-2416 or email at Ferdousi.Faruque@mass.gov Ferdousi must receive your request for an accommodation no later than two weeks prior to the date of this event. For those who request an accommodation after this date, every effort will be made to provide a reasonable accommodation; however, we may not be able to do so given potential time constraints. COVID Vaccine: As a condition of employment, depending on job assignment and location, employees may be required to have received COVID-19 vaccination and/or other vaccinations, or to have been approved for a vaccination exemption prior to their start date. Finalists for these positions will be provided details about the verification or exemption process. Candidates with questions on vaccination requirements should contact the diversity officer listed on the posting for additional information.

Public Notices

PUBLIC AUCTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF M.L.C. 225 SEC.39A THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD ON **October 17, 2026** AT A SALE TO SATISFY OUR GARAGE LIEN THEREON FOR TOWING & STORAGE CHARGES AND EXPENSES OF SALE AND NOTICE:

2017 Hyundai TUCSON
VIN KM8J3CA4XHU400713
2015 BMW 5 Series
VIN WBA5B3C54FD545903
2012 Nissan Altima
VIN 1N4AL2AP9CN465229
2007 Volvo S40
VIN YV1MS382972275605
2019 Chevrolet Silverado 1500
VIN 3GCUYDED4KG102252
2010 BMW X5
VIN 5UXFE8C56AL311173

The sale will be held at Early's on Park Ave.
536 Park Avenue
Worcester. MA 01603

10/01, 10/08, 10/15/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508)831-2200
Docket No. WO26P1089EA
Estate of:
Dale E Niedt
Date of Death: 12/23/2025
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **S/A - Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Jennifer Dacoda of Los Angeles, CA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **Jennifer C. Dacoda of Los Angeles, CA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/20/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Kathryn M. Bailey**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: September 16, 2026

Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate

10/01/2026

Fire departments earn high emergency response reporting rate

STOW – The Department of Fire Services announced that Massachusetts fire departments have achieved the fourth-highest reporting rate in the country for the National Emergency Response Information System.

Ninety percent of Massachusetts fire departments have reported more than 1.3 million apparatus responses to more than 788,000 incidents.

This achievement reflects the state's commitment to leading the nation in public safety data collection and will help local and state officials make informed decisions about operations, policies, fire prevention messaging, grant applications and budget proposals and updates to fire and life safety codes.

A project of the U.S. Fire Administration and UL's Fire Safety Research Institute, NERIS provides unprecedented public access to incident response data through its newly launched public website. Unlike its 50-year-old predecessor, which required a lengthy data validation process, NERIS allows users to view near-real-time incident data from cities and towns across the country and conduct independent analysis using dozens of data fields.

"Adopting an entirely new data reporting system was a seismic shift for fire departments across the country," said State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine in a press release. "They have done a phenomenal job of adapting to NERIS and bringing Massachusetts to the nation's forefront. I also want to recognize our staff for helping to bring the state's fire service onboard in a matter of months. The data that local fire departments are reporting will support funding requests, effective resource allocation, community risk reduction efforts, and much more."

NERIS rolled out in geographic phases throughout 2025. Most Massachusetts fire departments began transitioning to the new system in October and several volunteered to serve as early adopters, including Belchertown, Beverly, Bourne, Dudley, Gill, Greenfield, Huntington, Pittsfield, Sandisfield, Springfield and Walpole.

The new system replaces the National Fire Incident Reporting System and its Massachusetts-level system, the Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System. Under the former systems, it could take months to obtain reliable incident and response statistics.

NERIS will also help local, state, and regional agencies understand the impact of large-scale events and prepare for increased emergency activity during major celebrations, disasters, and other incidents.

This summer, NERIS implemented a "special incident modifier" to collect information about emergency responses related to World Cup matches, watch parties and other gatherings.

During that event period, Massachusetts fire departments reported 65 related incidents across six cities and towns, including 31 medical calls, 25 service calls and two elevator rescues.

CALENDAR from page 13

state agencies come on board with special programs and activities.

ECOLOGIST will speak today from 11 a.m. in the Harvest Forest Fisher Museum, 324 North Main St., Petersham. The public talk is entitled "Increasing wildfire, ecological legacies, and the future of the Alaskan boreal forest." The event is part of the fifth annual Charles Bullard Lecture series hosted by Harvard Forest and the Harvard University Salata Institute's Center for the Environment. The event is free and the public is welcome. No advanced registration is required. Light refreshments will be served. Harvard Forest welcomes individuals with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If they require accommodations or have questions about the event, they may call Clarisse Hart, Outreach Director, at 978-756-6157 or email hart3@fas.harvard.edu.

SATURDAY, OCT. 10

DESIGNER PANCAKE BREAKFAST sponsored by Cradle Rock Chapter of Eastern Star takes place today from 7:30-10:30 a.m. at Mt. Zion Lodge Hall, 71 Pleasant St., Barre. People may create their favorite pancake with chips, nuts, fruit and more. The complete breakfast includes designer pancakes, waffles, sausage gravy and biscuits, bacon, sausage, juice, coffee and always real maple syrup. Cost is adults $10 and children 6 and under $5. All are welcome.

SUNDAY, OCT. 11

GUIDED WALK sponsored by Advocates for Conservation of Oakham's Rural Nature and Safety takes place today from noon-1 p.m. at the Department of Conservation and Recreation site, located on Coldbrook Road, Oakham and adjacent to the proposed Battery Energy Storage System. Another guided walk to the same location will take place on Sunday, Nov. 8 from noon-1 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCT. 17

BENEFIT DINNER for the Community Survival Center in Indian Orchard sponsored by Wilbraham Knights of Columbus Council 10195 takes place today at 5 p.m. at Saint Cecilia Parish Church, 42 Main St., Wilbraham. The Survival Center helps feed and cloth over 400 individuals each month in Wilbraham, Hampden, Ludlow, Indian Orchard and 16 Acres. The menu contains homemade chicken Parmesan and pasta Italian dinner with salad, bread, coffee and cannoli. The event includes raffles, musical entertainment. Tickets are limited and cost $20. Tickets may be picked up at after Mass in the St. Cecilia rotunda starting on Saturday, Sept. 26.

VACCINE CLINIC sponsored by the Hubbardston Board of Health contracted with Walgreen Pharmacy today from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. to offer vaccines for ages 6 and up in the Senior Center, Main Street. Vaccines offered include flu, COVID, shingles, measles, pneumonia, tetanus and others. People may sign up for vaccines at the senior center or call the Town Clerk at 978-928-1400, extension 202. People should include their name and what vaccine and how many. This helps that the right amount of vaccines are available at the clinic.

SUNDAY, OCT. 18

15TH ANNUAL STATION LOOP RAMBLES takes place today from 9:30 a.m. There is a kids run, five-mile classic and 5K run/walk. All events incorporate part of the Mass. Central Rail Trail and start on Depot Road, at the intersection of West and Hardwick Roads, New Braintree. The 5 mile classic is a hilly road and trail race with a flat fast finish on the Mass. Central Rail Trail. The kids run and 5K run/walk are entirely on a flat course on the Mass. Central Rail Trail. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

Race begins and ends at the site of the former New Braintree Train Station, travels past scenic farmland through deep woods and skirts the Ware River. Start time is 9 a.m. for kids run, 9:40 a.m. 6 to 12 years old (¼ mile), 10 a.m. 5 mile classic and 10:05 a.m. 5K run/walk. Awards ceremony is at 11 a.m. Entry fee is free ages 5 and under, $10 ages 6-12, $25 early bird online registration by Oct. 17, $30 day of adult registration and $35 family registration for up to four members. People may register www.eqlt.org/station-loop-ramble/. People may call 413-477-8229 for more information.

CEMETERY TOUR sponsored by the Lancaster Historical Society takes place today at 2 p.m. People will tour the Old Settlers' Burial Field and the Middle Cemetery. They are among the oldest in Worcester County and are the final resting place for early pioneering families, notable citizens and war veterans. This event is free and open to the public. They should meet at the entrance to the Middle Cemetery along Main Street (Route 70) in South Lancaster. For more information, people may call 978-733-6907.

Job Connection

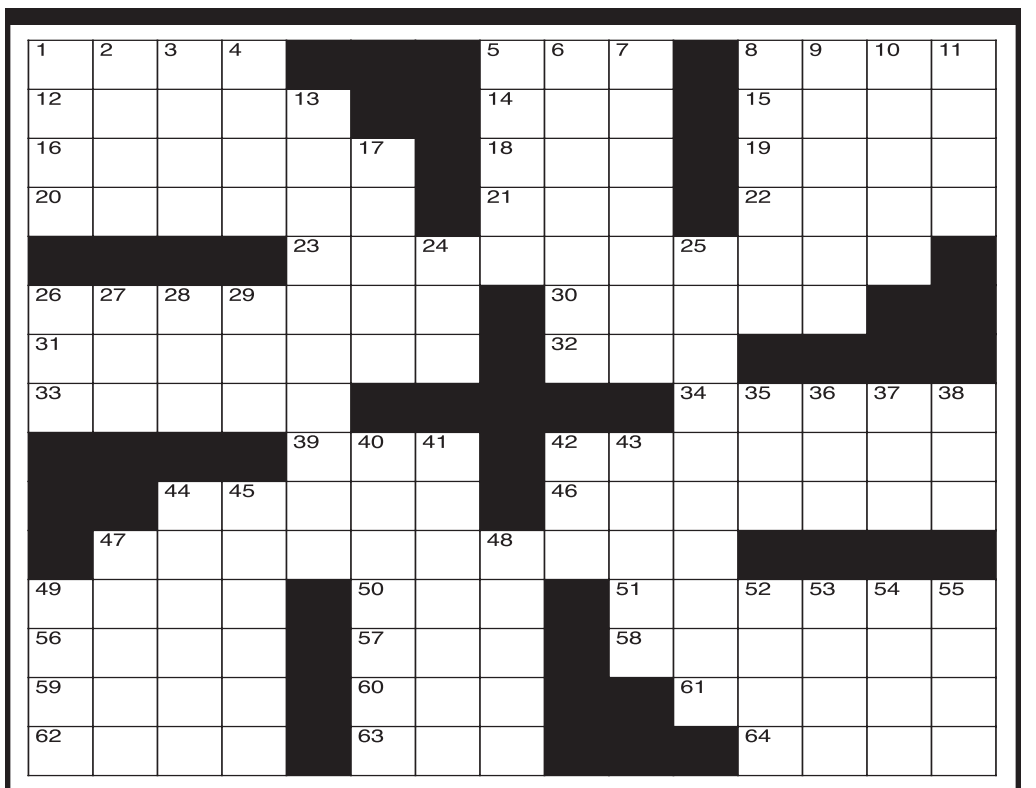
Helping You Find help

TOWN OF OAKHAM SEEKS EXPEREINCED MUNICIPAL ACCOUNTANT

The Town of Oakham
is seeking a part-time experienced
municipal accountant.
15 -19 hours a week.
Salary range 36,500 - 40,000
depending on experience.
Please send resume with cover letter to
admin@oakham-ma.com.

The Town of Hardwick
is seeking applicants for:
Van Driver PT
Accountant PT
Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator FT
Highway Equipment Operator FT

Please see
https://www.hardwick-ma.gov/
for more information



CLUES ACROSS
1. "Wicker Man" actor Nic
5. Protection
8. Cloth worn over a shoulder
12. Ceramic jars
14. Midway between northeast and east
15. South American hummingbird
16. Platforms
18. Taxi
19. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
20. A citizen of Yemen
21. Military mailbox
22. Nuclear near reach weapon
23. Clears
26. Broken
30. Actress Lathan
31. Avid fan
32. One and only
33. Proceeding
34. River in Portugal and Spain
39. Doctor of Education
42. Defeat handily
44. Less complicated
46. Handyman tools
47. Written works
49. Castle dweller's safety net
50. Honorable title (Turkish)
51. Greatest
56. Can do
57. A place to sleep on the road
58. Member of U.S. Navy
59. 24-hour units of time
60. Actor Horsley
61. In a way, sounds off
62. Formerly (archaic)
63. Eye infection
64. Plundered

CLUES DOWN
1. William __, Buffalo Bill
2. Wings
3. Candle or lantern
4. Freedom from difficulty
5. A type of pie
6. Metrical foot
7. __ Kerr, actress
8. Nap
9. Popular singer Bocelli
10. Immune responses
11. "Mad Men" leading man
13. A citizen of Senegal
17. Philly basketball player
24. Not even
25. Measures wind speed
26. Insecticide
27. Jordan glided through it
28. Bird-like dinosaur genus
29. Expression of satisfaction
35. Big Blue
36. One point east (clockwise) of due north
37. Of she
38. Oral rehydration solution
40. Knocks off course
41. Popular cop show of yesteryear
42. Zhou dynasty state
43. Genus of gulls
44. Onion flatbreads
45. Declare as true
47. Of a lobe
48. Missouri county
49. Produced
52. Volcanic crater
53. Off-Broadway theater award
54. KU hoops coach Bill
55. Check for

Public Safety

Barre Police Log

Sunday, Aug. 23

12:25 a.m. Disturbance/ Disorderly, Farm Pond Road, Peace Restored

4:19 a.m. Suspicious Person/ Vehicle Activity, Valley Road, Report Filed

7:17 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Old Hardwick Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal

8 a.m. Harassment, School South Street, Officer Spoke to Party

1:41 p.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Hardwick Road, Information Given

2:55 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Elm North Street, Transported to Hospital

4:46 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Main Street, Transported to Hospital

7:29 p.m. Fire – Structure Fire, Turkey Hill Road, Investigated

Monday, Aug. 24

1:16 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, Grafton, Officer Spoke to Party

10:47 a.m. Animal – Wildlife, Gilbert Road, Referred to Other Agency

12:07 p.m. Property – Lost/ Found/Surrender, Barre Police Headquarters, Information Taken

12:18 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/ Heart Problem, South Street, Information Taken

5:05 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, South Barre Road, Referred to Other Agency

6:19 p.m. Complaint, Station Road, Negative Contact

8:51 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Abdominal/Back Pain, Hardwick Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal

Tuesday, Aug. 25

10:42 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unknown Distress, Ruggles Lane, Transported to Hospital

12:15 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Fir Street, No Transport Required

12:27 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/ Unresponsive/Syncope, Old Stage Road, Public Assist

12:27 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Fall, Mechanic Street, Transported to Hospital

1:18 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, South Street, Information Given

1:35 p.m. Lockout (Home or Vehicle), School North Street, Information Given

4:58 p.m. Assault and Battery, Valley Road, Officer Spoke to Party

5:54 p.m. Burglary/Breaking and Entering, Valley Road, Report Filed

6:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued

8:31 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Worcester Road, Officer Spoke to Party

Wednesday, Aug. 26

9:04 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Fall, Marsh Road, No Transport Required

9:56 a.m. Property Dispute or Exchange, North Brookfield Road, Officer Spoke to Party

1:53 p.m. Suspicious Person/ Vehicle Activity, West Street, Negative Contact

1:57 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, North Brookfield Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal

4:27 p.m. Safety Concern, Farrington Road, Officer/Chief Advised

5:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Vernon Avenue, Written Warning

8:11 p.m. Juvenile Runaway, South Street, Returned

9:02 p.m. Juvenile Runaway, Summer Street, Returned

Thursday, Aug. 27

8:28 a.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Summer Street, Information Given

10:13 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Detox, Kendall Street, Transported to Hospital

2:28 p.m. Safety Concern, South Street, Officer Spoke to Party

4:39 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Spring Hill Road, Officer Spoke to Party

Friday, Aug. 28

10:14 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Peach Street, Removed to Court, Lockup

Arrest Grandone, Emily A., 33, Hubbardston

Charges Warrant

1:05 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, MSPCA, Officer Spoke to Party

2:19 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Elm North Street, Officer Spoke to Party

3:52 p.m. Safety Concern, James Street, Officer Spoke to Party

4:53 p.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issues, Ruggles Lane, Officer Spoke to Party

6:04 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Asthma Attack, Flagg Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal

6:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Vernon Avenue, Written Warning

9:41 Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

Saturday, Aug. 29

4:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Barre Road, Citation Issued

4:46 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Detox, Gauthier Road, Transported to hOspital

5:46 p.m. Safety Concern, Winter Street, Officer Spoke to Party

8:07 p.m. Erratic Operator, Barre Paxton Road, Verbal Warning

8:35 p.m. Juvenile Runaway, South Street, Transported to Hospital

8:48 p.m. Noise Complaint, Wauwinet Road, Officer/Chief Advised

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barregazette.turley.com

Rutland Police Log

Sunday, Sept. 23

12:25 a.m. Disturbance/ Disorderly, Farm Pond Road, Peace Restored

7:54 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, North Brookfield Road, Report Filed

10:30 a.m. Property – Lost/ Found/Surrender, Rutland Police Department, Call Transferred

10:56 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/ Syncope, Bechan Road, Transported to Hospital

12:01 p.m. Landlord Tenant/ Neighbor Dispute, Old Turnpike Road, Report Filed.

4:01 p.m. Property – Lost/ Found/Surrender, Wachusett Street, Information Taken

4:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party

7:29 p.m. Fire – Structure Fire, Turkey Hill Road, Investigated

9:20 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Maple Avenue, Officer Spoke to Party

11:25 p.m. Assault and Battery, Main Street, Report Filed

Monday, Aug. 24

7:13 a.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, Pommogussett Road, Removed from Scene

9:08 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Dizzy, Beechwood Drive, Ambulance Signed Refusal

12:18 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/ Heart Problem, South Street, Transported to Hospital

1:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Criminal Complaint

Summons Reyes Gonzalez, Brayan Antonio, 26, Fitchburg

Charges Registration Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle with C90S23, Uninsured Motor Vehicle C90 S34J

2:05 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Diabetic, Main Street, Transported to Hospital

2:41 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party

3:24 p.m Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Vehicle Towed

4:03 p.m. Property – Lost/ Found/Surrender, Rutland Police Department, Returned

4:04 p.m. Recovered/ Confiscated Property, Birchwood Road, Officer/Chief Advised

4:30 p.m. Animal – Wildlife, Charnock Hill Road, Gone on Arrival

6:51 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Citation Issued

6:54 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Fall, East County Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal

7:43 p.m. Erratic Operator, Main Street, Referred to Other Agency

Tuesday, Aug. 25

9:23 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Fall, Village Way, Ambulance Signed Refusal

10:57 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Abdominal/ Back Pain, Nancy Drive, Transported to Hospital

12:15 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Stroke (CVA), Kenwood Drive, Transported to Hospital

3:05 p.m. Erratic Operator, Barre Paxton Road, Negative Contact

7:48 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/ Heart Problem, Thurston Hill Road, Mutual Aid Transported

Wednesday, Aug. 26

12 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

5:51 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Pleasantdale Road, Officer Spoke to Party

11:19 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Crawford Road, Officer Spoke to Party

11:26 a.m. Fraud or Forgery, Emerald Road, Report Filed

3:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Written Warning

3:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

4:06 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Written Warning

5:16 p.m. Safety Concern, Rutland Police Department, Officer Spoke to Party

6:56 p.m. Animal – Wildlife, Bernard Road, Referred to Other Agency

Thursday, Aug. 27

12:36 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Written Warning

12:54 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Woodside Avenue, Transported to Hospital

4:35 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – G Tube Removal, Maple Avenue, Transported to Hospital

7:17 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Seizure, Irish Lane, Transported to Hospital

8:12 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Fall, Adams Road, Transported to Hospital

2:58 p.m. Landlord Tenant/ Neighbor Dispute, Stevens Way, Negative Contact

3:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued

3:30 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

3:41 p.m. Erratic Operator, Pommogussett Road, Investigated

3:48 p.m. Harassment, Stevens Way, Report Filed

5:37 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Arrowhead Way, Information Given

Friday, Aug. 28

1:09 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/ Syncope, Maple Avenue, Report Filed

7:11 a.m. Landlord Tenant/ Neighbor Dispute, Inwood Road, Report Filed

1:07 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Fall, Maple Avenue, Transported to Hospital

1:36 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, East County Road, Officer Spoke to Party

5:08 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Carlsons Way, Ambulance Signed Refusal

5:49 p.m. Property – Lost/ Found/Surrender, Beechwood Drive, Recovered

8:32 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Barre Paxton Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal

8:57 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Main Street, Report Filed

9:04 p.m. Fire – Power Lines/ Wires, Kenwood Drive, Referred to Other Agency

9:35 p.m. Complaint, Stevens Way, Officer Spoke to Party

11:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning

11:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning

11:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning

Saturday, Aug. 29

12:06 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Barre Paxton Road, Party Departed Without Incident

11:58 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Johnson Way, No Transport Required

1:10 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/ Syncope, Laurelwood Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal

2:18 p.m. Property – Lost/ Found/Surrender, Glenwood Road, Information Taken

3:24 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Skyline Drive, Officer Spoke to Party

4:44 p.m. Fire – Illegal Burn, Skyline Drive, Investigated

8:07 p.m. Erratic Operator, Barre Paxton Road, Verbal Warning

8:19 p.m. Complaint, Grizzly Drive, Officer Spoke to Party

Oakham Police Log

Sunday, Aug. 23

12:25 a.m. Disturbance/ Disorderly, Farm Pond Road, Peace Restored

7:54 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, North Brookfield Road, Report Field

10:56 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/ Syncope, Bechan Road, Transported to Hospital

12:01 p.m. Landlord Tenant/ Neighbor Dispute, Old Turnpike Road, Report Filed

7:29 p.m. Fire – Structure Fire, Turkey Hill Road, Investigated

9:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Worcester Road, Vehicle Towed

Monday, Aug. 24

8:18 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning

8:35 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning

10:15 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Ware Corner Road, Written Warning

10:40 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued

11:21 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued

11:35 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued

11:42 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Citation Issued

11:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning

2:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old Turnpike Road, Written Warning

2:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old Turnpike Road, Written Warning

4:36 p.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, Old Turnpike Road, No Action Required

6:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old Turnpike Road, Citation Issued

7:27 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued

Wednesday, Aug. 26

12:19 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/ Syncope, Forest hill Drive, Mutual Aid Transported

9:02 p.m. Juvenile Runaway, Summer Street, Returned

Thursday, Aug. 27

8:12 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Fall, Adams Road, Transported to Hospital

Friday, Aug. 28

11:45 a.m. Harassment, Old Turnpike Road, Officer Spoke to Party

2:03 a.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Oak Lane, Information Taken

4:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old Turnpike Road, Citation Issued

6:26 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning

Saturday, Aug. 29

12:23 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Gaffney Road, Mutual Aid Transported

7:43 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Gaffney Road, Officer Spoke to Party

Hubbardston Police Log

Sunday, Aug. 23

4:19 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Valley Road, Report Filed

7:29 p.m. Fire – Structure Fire, Turkey Hill Road, Investigated

8:10 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, New Templeton Road, No Transport Required

Monday, Aug. 24

4:29 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/ Unknown, New Templeton Road, Mutual Aid Transport

8 a.m. Property Damage, Williamsville Road, Report Filed

2:09 p.m. Missing Person, Main Street, Call Transferred

2:25 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/ Syncope, Old Westminster Road, Transported to Hospital

Tuesday, Aug. 25

7:50 a.m. Property Dispute or Exchange, Hubbardston Police Department, Recovered

9:10 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/ Heart Problem, Main Street, Transported to Hospital

11:09 a.m. Fraud or Forgery, Chicopee Drive, Officer/Chief Advised

2:16 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Fall, Bemis Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal

3:09 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Old Westminster Road, Removed from Scene

4:48 p.m. Assault and Battery, Valley Road, Officer Spoke to Party

7:48 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/ Heart Problem, Thurston Hill Road, Mutual Aid Transport

Wednesday, Aug. 26

6:10 a.m. Animal – Wildlife, Old Princeton Road, Removed from Scene

9:04 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Fall, Marsh Road, No Transport Required

11:17 a.m. Fraud or Forgery, Madison Way, Report Filed

4:49 p.m. Follow-Up Investigation, Main Street, Call Transferred

Summons Cannan, Jodi, 56, Blue Bell, Pennsylvania

Charges Larceny over $1200 by False Pretense

6:42 p.m. Property Damage, Barre Road, Report Filed

7:15 p.m. Harassment, Hubbardston Police Department, Officer/Chief Advised

Thursday, Aug. 27

12:53 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/ Heart Problem, Twin Hill Road, Transported to Hospital

7:18 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Barre, Mutual Aid Assist

7:58 p.m Animal – ACO Call, Main Street, Information Given

Friday, Aug. 28

6:29 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Old Boston Turnpike, Vehicle Towed

12:21 p.m. Safety Concern, Worcester Road, Information Taken

1:22 p.m. Gunshots, Natty Pond Drive, Investigated

4:18 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Shrewsbury, Report Filed2:0

6:04 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Asthma Attack, Flagg Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal

Saturday, Aug. 29

8:59 a.m. Fire – HAZMAT Incident, Main Street, Investigated

4:07 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Old Boston Turnpike, Report Filed

5:41 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Hale Road, Transported to Hospital

6:04 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Fall, High Bridge Road, Mutual Aid Transport

7:57 p.m. Be On the Look Out Notification, Underwood Road, Area Patrolled

NOTICE

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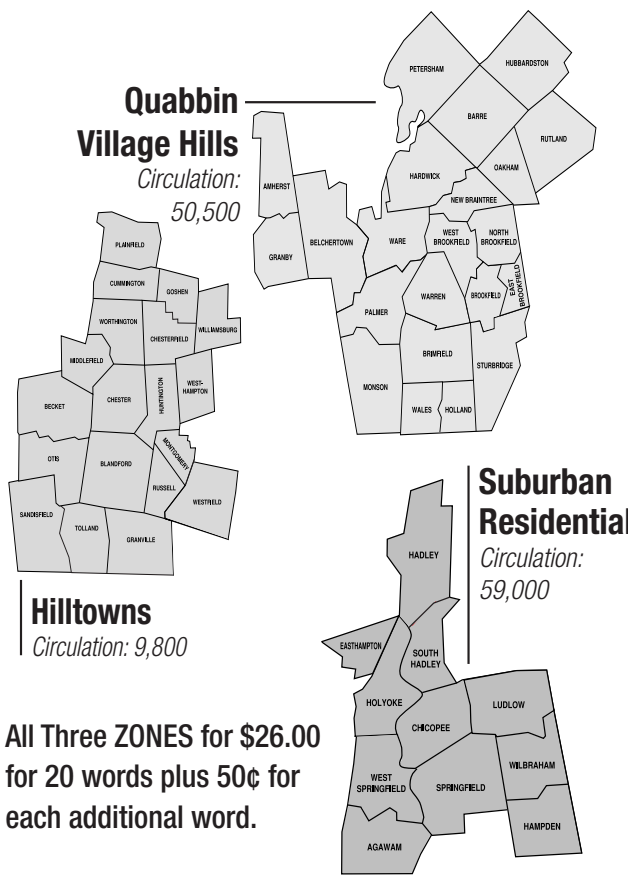
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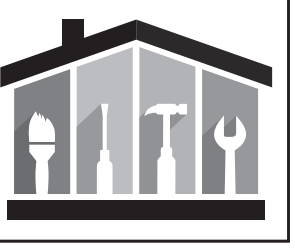
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August 13, 2026 Vol. 191, No. 20 $1.00 www.barregazette.turley.com

Select Board recognize Robert Forte

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
zachf@turley.com

HUBBARDSTON – The Select Board recognized the retirement of Sgt. Robert Forte of the Hubbardston Police Department after 26 years of service.

Forte will continue to serve on a part-time basis.

At the Aug. 3 meeting, Police Chief Ryan Couture said Forte was his field training officer, and touched his career along with the career of others.

"The department certainly would not have been able to run the way it has over the last 26 years without your presence," Couture said.

Forte received citations from the Select Board, state Sen. Peter Durant, state Rep. Donnie Berthiaume and the Office of Gov. Maura Healey and Lieutenant Gov. Kim Driscoll. Berthiaume described his service time as

See BOARD, Page 6

National Night Out

Quabbin hosts 5th annual community event

BARRE – The 5th annual National Night Out was held at Quabbin Regional Middle High School on Aug. 4.

This annual free event was sponsored by Quabbin Community Cares and the Quabbin Regional School District.

National Night Out allows people to meet local police, fire and emergency personnel from all five towns of the district, and explore the trucks, cars and equipment they use every day.

See NNO, Page 7

Turley Photos by Camran Robertson

Finn Burgos took a turn using the fire house at National Night Out, held at Quabbin Regional Middle High School on Aug. 4. Below, Comfort K-9 Barry of the Barre Police Department took a break from greeting people.

Makenzie Casey braced herself for the cold water under the dunk tank.

The U.S. Army National Guard had an information tent.

Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

The Other Guys Band arrived at Nornay Park in South Barre. Left to right stands Craig Brodeur, Steve Putnam, Glenn Carter, and Mike Apple of the Other Guys.

The Other Guys perform at Nornay Park

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

BARRE – The summer concerts at Nornay Park continue with the Other Guys band arriving to Town over the weekend.

The Other Guys is a central Massachusetts-based band who have been performing throughout the region for the last three years. Representing the Other Guys is guitarist and banjo player Mike Apple, drummer Glenn Carter, bassist Steve Putnam, and guitarist and harmonica player Craig Brodeur.

All four members of the Other Guys sing during their shows and play classic rock, country, blues,

See CONCERT, Page 7

CPC continue to discuss first meetinghouse

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
zachf@turley.com

HUBBARDSTON – The Community Preservation Committee met last Wednesday where they continued to discuss the request for funds from the First Meetinghouse Preservation Committee.

Susan Worth, who is on both committees, presented their case last month, asking for $150,000 of Community Preservation Act funds to pursue a grant with the Mass Historical Commission, which would eventually turn into $250,000 as the grant was administered.

The money was planned to be used for major repairs, such as water infiltration fixes.

During the Aug. 5 meeting, there was an update to the application for CPA funds to include an estimate for some repairs from Erickson Foundation Solutions at about $67,000.

Worth also gave an update on what is required from the MHC grant, saying they have a lot of control in these projects, requiring and designating historical consultants to do studies. She said there is an option right now for a study that would cost between $20,000-30,000.

Worth brought up some other avenues the town could explore to get funding, including a group called Preservation Massachusetts.

According to the organization's website (https://www.preservationmass.org/), they are a state-wide education and advocacy program that works with organizations to revitalize communities, including by preserving historic buildings. There is a list of professionals on the site

See CPC, Page 5

Select Board transfers license for Whistle Stop

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
zachf@turley.com

HARDWICK – The Whistle Stop has a new owner, Dillon Sherwood, who announced at the Select Board meeting of Aug. 10, that the restaurant is set to open on August 12.

The Select Board officially transferred a common victualler's license to the restaurant. Town Administrator Justine Caggiano said a liquor license is scheduled to be voted on at the board's Aug. 24 meeting.

Hardwick Community Fair

The Hardwick Community Fair is this coming Friday and Saturday, Aug. 14 and 15, and the board officially signed off on the special event application.

Caggiano said the Police Department, Fire Department, Board of Health and Building Inspector among other departments have signed as well.

West Brookfield ambulance

The board reviewed the contract between the town and West Brookfield Rescue Squad, with Caggiano saying the agreement is for three years after negotiations, with a 4% increase every year based on calls and training.

She said Police Chief Kevin Landine and Fire Chief Nick Gaumond are comfortable with the contract.

Select Board member Zack Spencer also said it does not matter to the state where

See LICENSE, Page 6

Cadets complete Police Dept.'s Youth Academy

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

BARRE – For the fourth year, the Barre Police Department hosted its Youth Academy for students in grades seven through 12.

This year, the academy was held at Quabbin Regional Middle High School, and 30 cadets from the school district and beyond signed up to participate.

Led by instructors

See CADETS, Page 7

Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

Thirty cadets signed up for the Barre Police Department's Youth Academy, held last week at Quabbin Regional High School.

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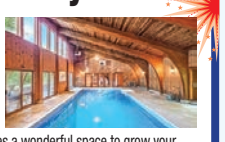
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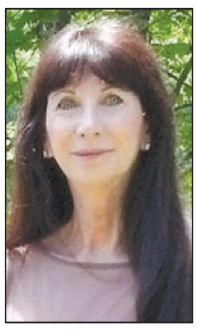
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Every Thursday
$6 Pizza and Polish Night *at 4PM* & Opinionation at 6:30

Every Friday and Saturday
Live Entertainment,
Weekly Specials &
Fried Seafood Favorites



OPEN FOR LUNCH
Wed - Fri at 11:00AM

Dinner served
Saturday from 11am - 10pm
& Sunday from 12pm - 9pm

Function Room Available!
(up to 50 people)
Book Your Event Today!



Prime Rib Dinner

Served Every Saturday 4pm - Close

Includes a generous portion of our slow roasted prime rib served with a baked potato and a seasonal vegetable.
While Supplies Last!