

BARRE GAZETTE

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QUILTS OF VALOR

Local veterans honored for answering call to service

By Paula Ouimette
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WARE – Over 359,000 quilts have been gifted to veterans thanks to the efforts of the Quilts of Valor Foundation, which was started 20 years ago by founder Catherine Roberts.

This past Veterans Day, five area veterans received quilts during HomeFront Strong's Military Appreciation Breakfast, held at the Senior Center. The quilts were lovingly made by quilters of the Pro Style Graphics Chapter of Quilts of Valor in Springfield.

After the National Anthem was performed on violin by 13-year-old Graciella Baublitz, those in attendance joined in the Pledge of Allegiance led by brothers Ron and Bobby Rucki.

Presenting the quilts were Kate Blanchard and Connie Barnes.

Blanchard said the quilters in the Springfield chapter started making Quilts of Valor 10 years ago, traveling to the Charlton Sewing Center before starting their own chapter closer to home. Together, they've made over 150 quilts.

Veterans can receive a lot of awards and recognition for their acts of service and bravery when protecting their country and freedom, she said, but these quilts are really to honor their willingness to serve.

"Quilts of Valor are honoring those who served and went where they were told to go," Blanchard said. "You did it, you served."

Blanchard shared a story she heard from a Korean War veteran, who had enlisted when he was just 16 years old. By the time he was 19, he was the "old man" of his unit, with the rank of sergeant.

One day, as this veteran was being driven past another servicemember handling artillery, he noticed something wasn't right with the gun that was about to be



U.S. Air Force veteran and retired HomeFront Strong board member Belinda Morrone receives a Quilt of Valor from Kate Blanchard and Connie Barnes during HomeFront Strong's Military Appreciation Breakfast held at the Ware Senior Center this past Saturday.

fired. He jumped out of the Jeep, and threw a hammer at the gun.

His quick actions saved five lives that day. There wasn't even a notation about this heroic action in his military files, Blanchard said.

This is the life of a veteran, she said.

"In many times, this isn't even acknowledged," Blanchard said. "We are grateful for that service."

The quilts were presented to William Griswold, a U.S. Army veteran from Palmer, Belinda Morrone, a U.S. Air Force veteran from Worcester, William "Billy" Byrnes, a U.S. Army veteran from Palmer and Willie Lemieux, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran from Belchertown. Gerald Flynn, a U.S. Army veteran, also received a quilt but was unable to attend the ceremony.

Morrone, a retired HomeFront

Strong board member, is part of a smaller group of veterans recognized for their service, Blanchard said.

"We're in a minority being female, but we are veterans," said Blanchard, who is also a veteran.

Blanchard and Barnes wrapped each quilt around its recipient, thanking them individually for their service.

"We truly hope they provide warmth and comfort to you," Blanchard said of the quilts.

This is the third year HomeFront Strong, formerly the Brookfield Institute, has hosted its Military Appreciation Breakfast on Veterans Day. The breakfast is always free, and open to all veterans, servicemembers, and their families.

"We had a veterans breakfast prior to the pandemic," Jennifer Baublitz, executive director for

HomeFront Strong said, seeing it return as an annual event last year.

This breakfast is just one of the ways HomeFront Strong continues its mission to build resiliency in veterans and military families through targeted programs and resources. The organization also hosts a drop-in Morning Coffee program on the fourth Thursday of each month from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Palmer Public Library, offering snacks, coffee and camaraderie.

"We remember those who serve the people," Baublitz said. "We remember our comrades."

While almost every seat in the dining room of the Senior Center was filled on Saturday, one chair at a small table remained empty the entire time.

The table, which was draped in a white table cloth, was set to

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Select Board discuss 5% match for fire truck grant

By Ellenor Downer
Editor
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BARRE – The Barre Select Board discussed the federal grant the fire chief received for a tanker fire truck.

At the time of the Annual Town Meeting, Fire Chief Rob Rogowski said he applied for a federal grant, but he had not received word if the town received the grant. The Chief said it was a grant he applied for every year and had not received.

Following town meeting he received word, the town of Barre received the grant. The town's share was 5% or about \$23,000. In looking through records, Select Board member Mark Regienus did not find either a signed contract or any record of a vote on how the town would fund its share of the grant.

Richard Stevens, a former Fire

Chief in other towns, questioned whether the procurement process was followed and said once the federal government awarded a grant, notification from the town on how it would fund their share was a requirement.

The truck in question was not the \$700,000 for a fire truck approved at the June Annual Town Meeting. The Chief said the \$700,000 dollar truck did not qualify for the grant funding as it did not meet federal guidelines. Both the \$700,000 truck approved at town meeting and the \$500,000 tanker using grant funds have been ordered. It takes two or two and a half years for the vehicles to be built and delivered.

Select Board Chairman Maureen Marshall said the town's share of the grant could be funded with American Rescue Plan Act funds. Interim Town Administrator Greg Balukonis said it could also

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Fire Department discusses need for new fire engine

By Paula Ouimette
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HARDWICK – Deputy Fire Chief Joshua Pease approached the Select Board about the need to replace the Fire Department's Engine 1.

Engine 1 is a 1987 Pierce Arrow, which is technically "out-of-service" by national standards, being over 25 years old.

"Over the last few years, we've put probably about \$30,000 into it," Pease said. "It still has some outstanding repairs that need to be done...which outweighs the cost of the vehicle."

At the Nov. 13 meeting, Pease said he has talked with a representative from Allegiance Fire and Rescue in Walpole about transitioning to a Pierce Ascendant Quint, which is a ladder truck with

a pump and tank.

He said the new truck will still fit in the Fire Station.

Pease said the cost for the new engine is \$1,643,364, and that price is expected to increase by about 5% in January.

Town Administrator Nicole Parker said the only way to afford this expense would be to have a debt exclusion, which would need to be approved at a town meeting.

Select Board Chair Eric Vollheim said replacing Engine 1, is "long overdue."

Tax classification hearing Board of Assessors Clerk Jennifer Kolenda said the Assessors recommend staying with a single tax rate for all classes of property.

She said the small benefit that a

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Chamber of Commerce hosts annual dinner meeting

Ruggeiro takes place as new Board of Directors chairperson

By Paula Ouimette
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WEST BROOKFIELD – The Quabog Hills Chamber of Commerce welcomed incoming Board of Directors Chairperson Josh Ruggiero of Smith Brothers Insurance during its annual meeting and dinner held at Salem Cross Inn last week.

On Nov. 5, outgoing Chairperson Lena Buteau of Monson Savings Bank spoke about the changes the Chamber has seen in the past few years, and where it stands now.

"We've come such a long way this year," Buteau said. "From 2020 to 2022 we were driven to survive. In 2023 we were driven to thrive."

Buteau credited the Chamber's newest Chief Executive Officer, Robert Lavoie, with strengthening ties with businesses in the region, as shown by the dinner's sold out attendance.

"He's doing such a great job being the welcoming face of the

Chamber in four short months," she said. "He's invested in being involved and building lasting relationships."

In the coming year, the Chamber is gearing up to do more, Buteau said, including the return of its annual community awards, as well as increased marketing for Chamber members.

Buteau also credited the Chamber's Board of Directors for their team effort to work together; Ruggiero, Treasurer Julie Quink of Burkhart Pizzanelli P.C., Assistant Treasurer Renee Niedziela of J. Stolar Insurance Agency, Clerk Amy Scribner of River East School-to-Career and past Chairperson Tanya Bullock of Life's Memories & More.

Buteau said the Chamber welcomed a number of new businesses to its membership this year, including the Chamber's youngest member, Bill Partelo of Wicked Woodworking, who just celebrated his 18th birthday.

As Ruggiero took over the meeting from Buteau, he thanked the underwriters and Salem Cross Inn for hosting the night's event.

He said the small businesses that make up the Chamber are the "lifeblood of the area," and they're helping the Chamber to overcome changes and challenges.

"This really is an amazing organization...now we are perfectly poised to help you, our members," Ruggiero said. "This

Chamber is one of the best resources we have."

Chamber members thanked Buteau for her dedication to its members, and Monson Savings Bank's Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Michael Rouette noted her long career in community banking.

"Lena is passionate about her job, her employees...she is a strong advocate for customer service," Rouette said. "We're here tonight to celebrate her role in the Chamber. It wasn't an easy role she walked into. She devoted countless hours to the Chamber."

Lavoie and Scribner presented Buteau with an elegant black wooden chair, made by Standard Chair of Gardner. Buteau's name is engraved on the chair, along with the Chamber's newly designed logo.

Featured speaker for the evening was state Rep. Todd Smola, who was joined by newly elected state Sen. Peter Durant.

Smola touched on several issues before the State House and in his role as a ranking member of the Ways & Means Committee.

"We have our finger on the pulse strings of Massachusetts," he said.

Smola said a lot has changed since the COVID pandemic, including the issue of portability. Remote accessibility has given people the ability to do a number

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Barre honors veterans



The Quabbin Regional High School Naval Junior Reserve Officers Training Corp cadets participated in the Barre Veterans Ceremony held last Saturday on Barre Common.

BARRE – The sun shone on Barre Common for the Annual Veterans Day Ceremony held on Saturday, Nov. 11.

The Quabbin Regional High School Naval Junior Reserve Officers Training Corp cadets took part in the ceremony and their color guard. The event sponsored by American Legion Post #2 included a moment of silence as the Town Hall clock struck 11 a.m. This commemorates the Armistice of World War I, which went into effect on the 11th hour, the 11 day of the 11th month.

Newly elected state Senator Peter Durant (R-Spencer) attended the ceremony and spoke to the large group gathered in Veterans Park on North Common. State Representative Donald Berthiaume (R-Spencer) attended and also spoke.

Following the firing of guns by the Post 2 Firing Squad, Paul Varney played "Taps."



Newly elected state Senator Peter Durant (R-Spencer) attended the Barre Veterans Day ceremony on Saturday, Nov. 11 and spoke briefly.



The 911 Monument representing the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center is a new addition to Veterans Park on North Common in Barre.



News of the Towns



Round Town
Ellenor Downer
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Woman's Guild to hold Christmas Open House

A Christmas Open House sponsored by the Woman's Guild of St. Francis of Assisi Parish will take place Saturday, Dec. 2 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at St. Joseph's Chapel, 29 South St., Barre in the church hall. There will be a luncheon, cemetery baskets, poinsettias, raffles, bake shoppe, hot cocoa bar and games and prizes for children. People can make an Advent Calendar.

OES Christmas cookie sale

Cradle Rock Chapter Order of Eastern Star will hold their annual Christmas Cookie Sale and Gift Tables on Saturday, Dec. 2 from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Mount Zion Masonic Lodge, 71 Pleasant St. Cookies are \$7 per pound. There will be over 100 pounds of cookies to choose from. People should come early for the best selection.

Christmas in Barre Holiday Craft Fair

This year the Christmas in Barre Holiday Craft Fair will be held the Saturday before the Christmas in Barre events. The Craft Fair will be held on Saturday, Nov. 25 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Quabbin Regional Middle High School, 800 South St., in the cafeteria. The craft fair is a chance for shoppers to support local for the holidays and buy gifts early from over 50 vendors. Items include knitted and crocheted items, candies, baked items, jewelry, stained glass pieces, candles and more.

English Social Tea

The first event of the 250th anniversary year will be a free English Social Tea on Sunday, Jan. 14, 2024 from 2-4 p.m. at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road. Reservations are required and may be made by email at 250anniversary@townofbarre.com. People may also sign up at the Barre Senior Center or at Grand View Terrace by Friday, Jan. 5, 2024.

Historical Society hosts Festival of Trees

RUTLAND – On Friday, Dec. 1 the 22nd Annual Festival of Trees sponsored by the Rutland Historical Society begins today with a concert by the Merrimack Valley Bell Ringers at 7:30 p.m. and a brownie social following the concert at the First Congregational Church of Rutland, 264 Main St.

On Saturday, Dec. 2 from 4-8 p.m. at the Rutland Library, 280 Main St., there will be activities for all to enjoy, including decorated trees, gingerbread houses, a basket drawing, a visit with Santa and Santa's Sweet Shoppe. Also on Dec. 2 at the First Congregational Church of Rutland at 6 p.m. there will be holiday music and a reading of names in remembrance and celebration of loved ones, followed by the 33rd Annual Tree Lighting at 6:30 p.m. with a Fireworks Display immediately following.

On Sunday, Dec. 3 from 1-4 p.m. at the Rutland Library the festival will include a visit with Santa, train rides, children's craft activity and a magician. Food trucks will be on site for attendees to purchase food. All are welcome to this fun filled holiday kickoff.

Holiday church and craft fairs

SATURDAY, NOV. 18

OAKHAM

HARVEST AND HOLLY FAIR will be held today from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, Oakham. The church will have a bake table, craft table, raffles, quilt raffle, snack bar and White Elephant Table. The Cookie Walk returns this year. There will also be local crafters and vendors.

RUTLAND

YULETIDE CRAFT FAIR sponsored by the Rutland Friends of the Council on Aging will be held today from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Senior/Community Center, on 53 Glenwood Road, Rutland. There will be vendors, lunch and bake sale at affordable prices.

WILBRAHAM

14TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR sponsored by the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors will be held today from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at St. Cecilia Church, 42 Main St., Wilbraham. This bazaar is a full day of shopping with over 25 exhibitors, offering handmade soaps, greeting cards, Christmas ornaments, doggie goodies, and more. Their famous huge Raffle offers many chances to bring home a lovely gift basket or other gifts. Lunch prepared by the folks at Loomis Lakeside at Reeds Landing in Springfield cook up meatball grinders, or pick a sweet treat from the bake sale of muffins, cookies and more. Hot coffee will be available. Santa Claus will be riding into town at 11 a.m. and will stay until 2 p.m. for visits with children of all ages, who can get their picture taken. All children receive a free gift. This year's event proceeds will support Recognition Programs of Friends Volunteers. For more information, people may call AnnMarie at 413-599-4803.

SATURDAY, NOV. 25

BARRE

CHRISTMAS IN BARRE HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR will be held the Saturday before the Christmas in Barre events. The Craft Fair will be held today from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Quabbin Regional Middle High School, 800 South St., Barre in the cafeteria. The craft fair is a chance for shoppers to support local for the holidays and buy gifts early from over 50 vendors. Items include knitted and crocheted items, candies, baked items, jewelry, stained glass pieces, candles and more.

SUNDAY, NOV. 26

HARDWICK

CLASSIC CHRISTMAS ON THE COMMON will be held today from 3-7 p.m. on the town common, Hardwick. There will be holiday fun with a visit from Santa, games and activities, ten plus vendors, annual tree lighting, touch a truck, hay rides, gingerbread house competition, holiday parade, dinner and bonfire at Mimi's. Purchase your Hardwick winter hat and 2024 calendar featuring photos taken by residents. A cookie walk will be held in the Town House with proceeds to benefit Hardwick's Christmas for Kids.

FRIDAY, DEC. 1

PRINCETON

SMALL WORKS AND HOLIDAY MARKETPLACE will be held today and Friday, Dec. 8 from 6-8 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 2; Sunday, Dec. 3; Saturday, Dec. 9 and Sunday, Dec. 10 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Princeton Senior and Community Center, 206 Worcester Road, Princeton. People may browse, shop and enjoy hundreds of fine art and artisan-made, affordable holiday gift items made by members of the Princeton Arts Society. There will be wonderful small wall art in many media available

and tables will overflow with jewelry, cards, prints, ornaments, fabric items, original books, bags, ceramics, woodworking, and much, much more. Your holiday shopping will be made all the more meaningful by supporting local artists. The Princeton Arts Society is a nonprofit organization promoting the arts in Central Massachusetts through programs, events and shows.

SATURDAY, DEC. 2

BARRE

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE sponsored by the Woman's Guild of St. Francis of Assisi Parish will take place today from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at St. Joseph's Chapel, 29 South St., Barre in the church hall. There will be a luncheon, cemetery baskets, poinsettias, raffles, bake shoppe, hot cocoa bar and games and prizes for children. People can make an Advent Calendar.

CHRISTMAS COOKIE AND GIFT TABLES sponsored by Cradle Rock Chapter Order of Eastern Star will be held today from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Mt. Zion Masonic Lodge, 71 Pleasant St., Barre. They are sold by the pound at \$7 per pound. They will have over 100 pounds of cookies to choose from. People should come early for the best selection. There will be gift tables as well.

HUBBARDSTON

GINGERBREAD FAIR will be held today from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the First Parish Unitarian Church, on the Common. Hubbardston There will be spices, candy, home baked goods, crafts, knitting, raffles, fresh laurel wreaths and baskets evergreen.

OLD FASHION COUNTRY CHRISTMAS FAIR is coming to the Hubbardston Senior Center, 7 Main St., Hubbardston today from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. This event features handmade crafts by many talented local artisans. It's the perfect place to find unique gifts for the holidays. Browse an assortment of lovely homemade items like knitted goods, baked treats, jams, soaps and more. There will also be fun activities like a Chinese auction, lottery tree and other games. There will be home-cooked food like soups and fresh bread available for dining in or taking home. Special guests Mr. and Mrs. Claus will be stopping by from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. so bring the children for photos and some holiday magic.

SUNDAY, DEC. 3

WEST BROOKFIELD

WHITE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION will take place today from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. in West Brookfield. There will be fun for folks of all ages going on throughout the day. Activities include touring the historic town, strolling the downtown district, exploring local businesses and open houses, decorating gingerbread houses in Great Hall, meeting Santa for a quick picture, as well dropping off those letters headed directly to the North Pole. There will be horse drawn carriage rides throughout the day as well as shopping with dozens of vendors set up throughout town. A puppet show, an elf hunt and ice carvings are sure to keep everyone's spirits high. People may see Father Christmas strolling the streets and greeting visitors. Stick around to close the day with West Brookfield's annual tradition of gathering around the largest evergreen in town, located on the town common, while it illuminates for the first time this holiday season. This is a free event sponsored by local businesses and town supporters. Maps of town open houses and vendors can be picked up in various local business, by accessing our Facebook page 31st Annual White Christmas in West Brookfield or by emailing whitechristmas-wb@gmail.com.



Hubbardston

Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com



Tree lighting takes place Nov. 26

On Sunday, Nov. 26 beginning at 5 p.m. on the Town Common, is the annual tree lighting. People will enjoy cookies, cocoa and caroling starting at 5 p.m. At 5:30 p.m. the lights will be turned on the Common. Santa will make a special guest appearance.

Hubbardston Light Fight

Hubbardston Light Fight takes place the first three weekends in December. On Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights participating households will turn on their light displays from 5-9 p.m. Participants in the house decorating costs should sign up by Monday, Nov. 27. People may get a map of participating homes at One Stop Shop. Voting closes Monday, Dec. 18. For more information, people may visit <https://www.hubbardstonma.us/special-events/pages/hubbardston-light-fight>.

Gingerbread Fair

The First Parish Unitarian Church, on the Common, will hold their annual Gingerbread Fair on Saturday, Dec. 2 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. There will be spices, candy, home baked goods, crafts, knitting, raffles, fresh laurel wreaths and baskets evergreen.

Old Fashion Country Christmas Fair

The annual Old Fashion Country Christmas Fair is coming to the Hubbardston Senior Center, 7 Main St., on Saturday, Dec. 2 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. This event features handmade crafts by many talented local artisans. It's the perfect place to find unique gifts for the holidays. Browse an assortment of lovely homemade items like knitted goods, baked treats, jams, soaps and more. There will also be fun activities like a Chinese auction, lottery tree and other games. There will be home-cooked food like soups and fresh bread available for dining in or taking home. Special guests Mr. and Mrs. Claus will be stopping by from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. so bring the children for photos and some holiday magic.

Senior center events

The Hubbardston Senior Center, 7A Main St., events include: Coffee with Friends Monday through Thursday at 9:45 a.m.; Bingo from 12:30-3 p.m. on Mondays; Knitting Group at 10 a.m. every Tuesday at 10 a.m. and WiiBowling beginning at 8:30 a.m. every Monday and Wednesday beginning at 8:30 a.m.. It's renewal time for health insurance. This is an opportunity to ask questions.

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 Nov. 20. 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 – Pork Rib-i-que, macaroni and cheese, mixed vegetables, cinnamon pears, sandwich roll

TUESDAY – Holiday Meal Roast turkey and gravy, stuffing, butternut squash, dinner roll, cream puff

WEDNESDAY – Chicken cacciatore, Gemelli pasta, broccoli, apple crisp, diet = applesauce, Italian bread

THURSDAY – Thanksgiving Day no meal served.

FRIDAY – Fish with crumb topping, rice pilaf, Tuscan style vegetables, fresh fruit, whole wheat 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 \$2.50 per meal helps keep the program running.

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*(from 4-7pm must be over 21)

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Barre Players presents 'The Nutcracker'

BARRE – The Barre Players Theater, 64 Common St. will present "The Nutcracker on Friday, Dec. 8 and Saturday, Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 9 at 2 p.m. and Sunday Dec. 10 at 2 p.m. General admission is \$17 and tickets are available by visiting onthestage.tickets.

Farmer Matt is open all year round.

NEW: Steak and Cheese Sub

FARMER MATT'S WINTER MENU IS HERE

Warm up those taste buds with some new additions this winter.

Steak and Cheese Sub made with real Farmer Matt beef, onions, & peppers.

Crispy Chicken Sandwich with choice of cheese and sauce.

Sloppy Joe on a brioche bun.

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News of the Towns

PUBLIC MEETINGS

BARRE.

QRSD Central Office Subcommittee – Nov. 16 at 5:30 p.m.
 QRSD Committee – Nov. 16 at 6:30 p.m.
 Sewer Commission – Nov. 16 at 7 p.m.
 Select Board – Nov. 20 at 6 p.m.
 Board of Assessors – Nov. 21 at 6 p.m.
 Planning Board – Nov. 21 and Dec. 5 at 7 p.m.
 250th Anniversary Committee – Nov. 28 at 6:30 p.m.
 Special Town Meeting – Nov. 29 at 6:30 p.m.
 Felton Field Commission – Dec. 5 at 6:30 p.m.
 Council on Aging – Dec. 6 at 1 p.m.
 Zoning Board of Appeals – Dec. 7 at 7 p.m.
 Board of Health – Dec. 11 at 5 p.m.
 Water Commission – Dec. 11 at 6:30 p.m.
 DPW Commission – Dec. 11 at 7 p.m.
 Cable Advisory Committee – Dec. 12 at 7 p.m.
 Library Trustees – Dec. 13 at 6:30 p.m.
 Cemetery Commission – Dec. 28 at 11 a.m.
 Barre Housing Authority – Jan. 11, 2024 at 3 p.m.

HARDWICK

Conservation Commission – Nov. 15 at 6:30 p.m.
 Historical Commission – Nov. 15 at 6:30 p.m.
 Capital Planning Committee – Nov. 20 at 3 p.m.
 Gilbertville Water District – Nov. 21 at 5:30 p.m.
 Master Plan Steering Committee – Nov. 21 at 6:30 p.m.
 Fiance Committee – Nov. 21 at 6:30 p.m.
 Board of Selectmen – Nov. 27 at 6 p.m.
 Recycling Commission – Dec. 5 at 6:30 p.m.
 Zoning Board of Appeals – Dec. 6 at 5:30 p.m.
 Board of Health – Dec. 7 at 6:30 p.m.
 Paige Library Trustees – Dec. 7 at 7 p.m.
 Council on Aging – Dec. 13 at 9 a.m.
 Gilbertville Public Library – Dec. 13 at 4 p.m.

HUBBARDSTON

Planning Board – Nov. 16, Dec. 6 and Dec. 21 at 6:30 p.m.
 Cultural Council – Nov. 28 and Dec. 5 at 7 p.m.
 Board of Health – Nov. 28, Dec. 12 and Dec. 26 at 7 p.m.
 Conservation Commission – Dec. 6 at 6 p.m.
 Planning Board – Dec. 6 and Dec. 21 at 6:30 p.m.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

Parks and Recreation – Nov. 16 at 6 p.m.
 Select Board Special Meeting/Interviews – Nov. 17 at noon
 Select Board Special Meeting/Fire Truck Bond – Nov. 20 at 4 p.m.
 Select Board – Nov. 27, Dec. 11 and Dec. 26 at 6 p.m.
 Special Town Meeting – Dec. 11 at 6 p.m.
 Board of Health – Dec. 20 at 5:30 p.m.
 Planning Board – Dec. 27 at 6 p.m.

OAKHAM

Select Board – Nov. 27, Dec. 11 and Dec. 26 at 6 p.m.
 Special Town Meeting – Dec. 4 at 7 p.m.
 Board of Health – Dec. 20 at 5 p.m.

PETERSHAM

Board of Health – Nov. 16 at 6 p.m.
 Board of Assessors – Nov. 28 at 5:30 p.m.
 Select Board – Nov. 30 at 5:30 p.m.
 Open Space and Recreation – Dec. 5 at 6 p.m.
 Conservation Commission – Dec. 5 at 7 p.m.
 Council on Aging – Dec. 11 at 10 a.m.
 Petersham Historic District – Dec. 14 at 6 p.m.
 Planning Board – Dec. 28 at 7 p.m.

RUTLAND

Select Board – Nov. 16 at 6:30 p.m., Select Board Public Hearings at 6 p.m., 6:15 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
 Finance Committee – Nov. 16 at 6:30 p.m.
 Special Town Meeting – Nov. 16 at 7 p.m.
 Ad Hoc By-law Committee – Nov. 28 at 1:30 p.m.
 Ad Hoc By-law Committee and Select Board Joint Meeting – Nov. 30 and Dec. 4 at 6 p.m.
 Cultural Council – Dec. 5 at 6 p.m.

Mesa Farm hosts Living Nativity

RUTLAND – A Living Nativity will be held at Mesa Farm in Rutland, 67 Muschopauge Road, on Saturday, Dec. 9 and Sunday, Dec. 10 with two performances each evening at 4 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

The forty minute shows will consist of carol singing and a narration and re-enactment of the nativity story in a barn with live animals. There will be no charge although attendees are requested to bring a plate of cookies to share and will have the opportunity to give donations to support equestrian programs at Mesa Farm through the non-profit City to Saddle organization.

Hot chocolate and coffee will be provided. The Sunday performances will have sign language interpretation. Directions and more information may be found by visiting www.mesafarmrutland.com or calling 508-886-6898.

Country Roads Holiday tour returns



Submitted photo

Hartman's Herb Farm in Barre is one of the 19 shops and farms participating in the Country Roads 2023 Holiday tour.

The 18th Annual Country Roads 2023 Holiday Tour returns now through Sunday, Dec. 10.

There are 19 shops participating. Shoppers can participate in a grand prize contest to collect all 19 stamps to be eligible to win a \$50 gift certificate from each shop. There will be 19 second prizes. Shoppers, who collect

three or more stamps, will be eligible for drawings for a \$50 gift certificate to an individual shop.

New this year to the tour are The Good Earth and Sheldon Farm Baskets. Other participants are Smith's Country Cheese, the Kitchen Garden, Country Bumpkin' Antiques, KROs on the Common, Valley View Farm, Valley Florist and

Greenhouse, Plain View Farm, A Thyme and A place, Giacomo's Gourmet Foods, Dandelions, Harman's Herb Farm, Valcourt Sugar Shack, The Country Store, Petersham Art Center, Petersham Leathers, Red Apple Farm and Brew Barn and Back in Thyme.

People may visit countryroad-schρισtmas.com for more information on all the shops.

Troop 144 wins best overall at Spook-O-Ree



Senior patrol leader RJ Tucker receives the best overall trophy from Maggie Riani of Pack 158 from Shrewsbury. Troop 144 of Oakham set up a rope bridge for Cub Scouts to go through during the Spook-O-Ree at Treasure Valley Scout Reservation held last month.

Submitted Photo

Historical Society hold farmers' market and bake sale Nov. 19

HUBBARDSTON – The Hubbardston Historical Society will hold a thanksgiving farmers' market and bake sale on Sunday, Nov. 19 from noon-3 p.m. at the Williamsville Chapel, 4 Burnshirt Road.

The market includes food from local farmers and will be held rain or shine. There will be organic vegetables – potatoes, squashes, greens and eggs from Still Life Farm; local frozen lamb and Merino wool from Greenwood Hill Farm, jams,

jellies, organic squashes, eggs, herbal vinegars, pumpkin cookies, sourdough breads, hot mine-stone soup and butternut squash soup by the bowl from Ladybug Farm; maple syrup products from Rich Brodmerkle's Farm; Giacomo's granolas; honey and honey sticks from Bee Nice Farm; crafted gourds, thunder drums, vases, birdhouses and wreaths by Gourdeous Creations; goat milk soaps from Elzire's Acres; Westfields Farm Capri goat cheeses, Curious

Cravings Bakery with breads and a variety of cookies and Hubbardston Historical Society bake sale with pies and rolls.

Participants can enjoy hot apple cider or coffee while standing by the wood burning stove. This is a way to support the Historical Society and people may take a chance to win a basket of items provided by the vendors. For more information, people may call Cathy Hansgate, market manager, at 978-928-3731.

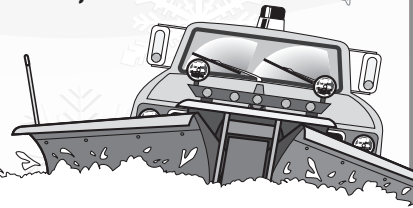
Support the local businesses that support your local newspaper. Let them know you saw their ad in the Barre Gazette

POSITION OPENING: Winter Plow Drivers-Laborer

Town of New Braintree (pop. 998) is seeking winter Plow Drivers both non-CDL and CDL to plow and treat roadways with our trucks. Salary dependent upon experience.

Further position details and job applications are available at the Board of Selectmen's Office, 20 Memorial Drive, New Braintree, MA 01531.

You can also contact the New Braintree Highway Superintendent by calling 508-847-2628.



Oakham

Ellenor Downer
 edowner@turley.com



Senior Center lists events

On Wednesday, Nov. 29 at 10:30 a.m., there will be a workshop to make 2024 Wall Calendars at the Oakham Senior Center. The film "Home for the Holidays" will be shown at 1 p.m.

Ongoing activities include Zumba Gold Mondays from 10:30-11:15 a.m., Corn Hole Tuesdays from 10-11 a.m. and Cards and Cribbage Tuesdays at 1 p.m.

Other activities are Coffee Wednesdays from 9- 10 a.m. and BBC Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. People may bring a craft or project to work on while they enjoy a BBC series.

FUNctional Fitness is held Fridays at 10:30 a.m. in the New Braintree Town Hall.

OHA annual lottery

The Oakham Historical Association will be selling tickets for their Annual Lottery at the Oakham Congregational Church fair on Saturday, Nov. 18. There are 20 chances to win \$50 with each ticket. It runs from Tuesday, Jan. 9 to Thursday, March 14, 2024. Every Tuesday and Thursday during that time the middle two numbers of the evening drawing of the Mass Lottery Game is the winning number. A check for \$50 will be sent. People can also purchase a ticket through December by sending a check for \$20 made out to Oakham Historical Association, P.O. Box 236, Oakham, MA 01068. There are only 100 tickets and they go fast. If people have any questions, they may call Kathy Young at 508-882-3137 or Linda Housman at 508-882-3990. They should leave a message if there is no answer and they will get back to them.

SHINE counselor

A Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone counselor will be at the Oakham Senior Center, located in the lower level of Town Hall on Thursdays, Nov. 16 at 10 a.m. and Nov. 30 at 1 p.m.

Church fair

The Harvest and Holly Fair sponsored by the Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, will be held Saturday, Nov. 18 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. The Fair Committee seeks crafters and vendors for the day of the fair. Cost is \$20. Anyone interested in having a table should call Ellie Downer at 774-262-5882 or email mybackyard88@aol.com. The church will have a baked table, cookie walk, snack bar, craft table, raffles, quilt raffle and white elephant room.

Circle of Song rehearsals

BARRE - Circle of Song rehearsals are held every Thursday night, at the Barre Town Hall, Exchange Street, Barre. The choral group of 23 years sings in four-part harmony and often in other languages.

People may email julie@mhof.net or call 978-257-1192 for more information.

Ware High School craft fair is Dec. 2

WARE – The Ware High School craft fair will be held Saturday, Dec. 2 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in the gymnasium.

There will be a 50/50 raffle and a lottery tree and a raffle table. A concession stand will be run by the Student Council.

Crafters will have an assortment of wood crafts, jewelry, holiday items, pottery, chocolate, paintings, ornaments, candles, maple products, signs, jams and jellies, crochet items and much more.

Are you having difficulty communicating with your partner, struggling with boundaries, and healthy relationships?

We invite you to join us Friday afternoons from 1-2:30 pm to explore these topics and more.

This group will be held in zoom, is educational, confidential, and free.

Please contact Pat James 413-726-8661.

Get Ready For Winter! It's Almost Here!



Studded Snows Can Go On November 1st

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POSITION OPENING: Winter Plow Drivers-Laborer
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Opinion

Guest Column

State Auditor's monthly update

Reforms sorely needed at the Sex Offender Registry Board

By Diana DiZoglio,
Massachusetts State Auditor



Serving as Massachusetts State Auditor doesn't just mean reviewing finances.

A big part of my role, as I often speak about with folks across the state, is reviewing the performance and efficacy of the Commonwealth's agencies and entities. A great example of the responsibility to look beyond number crunching is our office's recently released audit of the Sex Offender Registry Board.

People are familiar with the concept that Massachusetts registers convicted sex offenders, maintaining a database of where such people live and work in an effort to maintain public safety. This system of public safety is maintained by SORB, a seven-member board appointed by the Governor and staffed by more than 70 individuals.

Our recent audit looked at SORB's operations from July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2021. Covering that two-year period, my team honed in on whether SORB classified sex offenders at least 10 days before they were released from custody, thus ensuring they were assigned an appropriate level.

Further, we looked at whether SORB used all the resources at their disposal to accurately identify sex offenders who were in violation of maintaining their registration.

I was disappointed to find that SORB underperformed in a way that could have a negative impact upon the public.

While incarcerated sex offenders are supposed to be assigned a classification at least 10 days prior to their release, per state law, SORB failed to do so with approximately 1/3 of those released during our two-year review window. More concerning, 77 offenders didn't receive their classification until after they were released.

This lax approach to the law meant those sex offenders' names, addresses, offenses, and registration statuses were not appropriately posted to SORB's website for level 2 and 3 sex offenders and were not otherwise available to the public.

Our audit team also identified other vulnerabilities regarding how SORB tracked offenders who have been released from incarceration. Namely, SORB's database was not kept up to date in all situations, with approximately one out of five offenders showing incorrect addresses when compared against records maintained by other state departments (such as the addresses the Department of Transitional Assistance records).

Part of the benefit of SORB is that it tracks the location of high level offenders. By not ensuring that it has the current addresses of sex offenders considered in violation, SORB is not able to consistently communicate information about sex offenders' whereabouts, their offenses, and their classifications to local law enforcement agencies and the general public.

What's disturbing is that some of these issues were identified the last time my predecessor audited SORB. These issues must be immediately addressed.

Our office has recommended that SORB increase their collaboration with correctional facilities to establish more reliable procedures for providing anticipated release dates for incarcerated offenders. We've also recommended the implementation of a tracking process that identifies any delays or issues that may arise, to ensure that all sex offenders are assigned final classifications prior to each offender's release.

For ensuring residential address accuracy, SORB needs to not only work more closely with other state agencies to verify addresses – SORB must also make a point of updating those addresses in their system when they are found.

We will continue to work with SORB and encourage their adoption of practices that maximize public safety.

As always, please feel free to contact my office at any time for more information at auditor@sao.state.ma.us and 617-727-2075.

The Office of State Auditor Diana DiZoglio conducts audits, investigations, and studies to promote accountability and transparency, improve performance, and make government work better. DiZoglio is the 26th Auditor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, sworn into her first term on Jan. 18, 2023. She is committed to help move Massachusetts forward by working to increase transparency and accountability in state government.



In Past Pages

5 years (Nov. 22, 2018)

They came from near and far, a total of 913 high school student musicians making the trek to Quabbin Regional High School in Barre this past Saturday to audition for spots in the coveted CDMMEA Senior High School Festival. Add in music teachers, chaperones, bus drivers, adjudicators and administrative staff to the festival and the Quabbin building proved to be one of the busiest places in Barre that day. "Having Quabbin as host this year was excellent," James Joinville, a member of the CDMMEA committee said. It has been well over a decade since the Quabbin Music Department attempted to do on such a huge project hosting, but the music staff felt they were ready and thought it could be a great opportunity for the school.

"I think the inspection was the best we have ever had," Quabbin Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps instructor, Captain Daniel Brennock said. "I say that even though we had some moments during the ceremony that didn't go exactly as planned." The Annual Inspection is an all-day event the Quabbin Cadets prepare three months in advance for. A portion includes having each of the 83 cadets in the current Quabbin unit evaluated on appearance, knowledge and bearing. "The ceremony is an opportunity and requirement to show the inspector and those in attendance the progress and capability of the unit," said Brennock.

The Barre assessor's office announced the Massachusetts Department of Revenue approved the Fiscal 2019 tax rate at \$18.12 per \$1,000 valuation, which is a decrease of 68 cents from the Fiscal 2018 tax rate. Based upon recent valid sales within the town of Barre, the Fiscal 20'8 average single family home valuation of \$195,252 has increased by approximately \$14,913 to the recent approved Fiscal 2019 average single family home valuation of \$210,165 with the expected increase in valuations along with town spending at town meeting the average single family home owner could see an actual tax increase of approximately \$137.45 for Fiscal 2019.

10 years (Nov. 21, 2013)

About 120 voters attended a special town meeting at the Hubbardston Center School on Tuesday evening. They approved all six articles on the warrant in about 45 minutes. Bill Murray of the Senior Center Study Committee spoke to residents regarding the Senior Center and a land swap with the Department of Conservation and Recreation. He explained the town owns 17 acres of land on Mile Road, located on the edge of town. The land due to its remote location would not be suitable to build a senior center or other municipal buildings. The DCR wants the Mile Road land for water shed protection and offered to swap a 12-acre parcel they own in the center of town on Route 68.

On the advice of the Policy

LOOK BACK Election - 2004



File photo

The third time was the charm as Bill Phelan reacts to the cheers as his third ballot is accepted by the machine being run by poll works, Ray Castriotta. Apparently the first two ballots got rolled up on the way to the machine, which promptly spat them out at the Nov. 9, 2004 election.

Review/Reform Subcommittee, the Quabbin Regional School District Committee voted to remove from the table Policy DN that addressed collection of school related fees and charges and Policy EFA that concerned school meal charges. The committee then voted to approve both policies. Policy DN set in place a policy to collect outstanding fees. Policy EFA gave the administration authority to collect lunch charges. The new swipe cards would go into effect at the Quabbin Regional Middle High School on Tuesday, Dec. 10. The card system would allow parents to pay online for lunches. Lunches may still be paid daily in cash or purchase tickets in advance with a check.

Barre selectmen held a tax classification hearing at their Monday night meeting. The Board of Assessors recommended the town continue with a single residential factor of one. Assessor Michael Landry said the small amount of commercial and industrial property did not warrant splitting the tax rate. He also recommended the town not adopt a small commercial exemption or a residential exemption. He said the town has never approved the small business exemption and that if a small business received an exemption that the remaining businesses would shoulder the cost of tax exemption.

25 years (Nov. 19, 1998)

It was three years ago that the commercial landfill in Barre received a site assignment for expansion on 19 acres of a 32-acre parcel adjacent to the current landfill on Barre Depot Road. In August United Waste Inc. began accepting trash in the new cell and that means tipping fees will again be filling the town coffers. Richard Stevens, landfill monitor and member of the Barre Board of Health, said the town will probably receive about a half million dollars a year in tipping fees. The town receives a \$5 a ton now. The contract is scheduled to be renegotiated

in 2001. Stevens said because the town receives so much revenue from the landfill, it is likely the opening of the new cell was a factor in the recent tax reduction.

The Oakham Board of Selectmen signed a contract extension for the municipal building complex at the Monday, Nov. 16 meeting form Construction Dynamics of Fitchburg. The new completion dates are Dec. 7 for phase one which is the new highway/fire building and Jan. 18, 1999 for phase two which is the police station renovation. This is a 63-day extension from the original dates of Sept. 14 for phase one and Nov. 2 for phase tow completion.

The Barre Board of Selectmen set its taxi cab license fee at \$25 at the Nov. 16 meeting. An application for a license was received from White Valley Auto Center for a taxi-courier-shuttle service at the Nov. 2 meeting, but the selectmen did not set at that time, preferring to get information from other towns first. Town Administrator Lorraine Leno at the request of the board, surveyed several other towns to find out how much they charged for similar licenses. The amounts were as varied as the towns themselves, running from as low as \$1 in Ware to as high as high as \$50 in Athol.

38 years (Nov. 21, 1985)

Barre is being sued for \$6,500 by a bicyclist, who says he was injured in 1982 while riding on the Burnshirt River Bridge a.k.a. "the Singing Bridge. Douglas Pond, who has brought the suit in Superior Court against the town, is represented by Attorney James L. Clifford of Worcester. Pond is asking for \$5,000 for medical expenses and \$1,500 for other damages for alleged injuries to his leg. The accident was to have occurred on Oct. 9, 1982. Police have checked their records and found that Pond never filed a report of the incident.

See PAST PAGES, page 10

Guest Column



Dear Rusty
I retired from working in June but will not sign up for Social Security until age 70 and, to do that, I plan to draw from my IRA for the next three years. My wife is receiving Social Security disability benefits and will reach her full retirement age in March of next year.

I know that my wife simply reaching her full retirement age will not mean an increase to her benefit except for Cost Of Living Allowance. What I'm wondering is, can my wife get spousal benefits of any sort based on my Social Security benefits either before I draw or after I am drawing apart from her benefits at my death? Her Social Security disability amount is only a fraction of my maximum benefit. Signed
Baffled Husband

Dear Baffled

Looks like you're confused about your wife's Social Security disability benefits, retirement benefits, spousal benefits, and survivor benefits. Here's what you need to know:

When your wife reaches her Full Retirement Age next year, her current Social Security Disability Insurance benefit will automatically convert to become her regular SS retirement benefit at the same amount she was receiving on SSDI (disability). The amount stays the same because your wife's SSDI amount is based on her FRA entitlement.

Your wife cannot get any spousal benefits from you until you claim your own Social Security retirement benefit. Since you plan to delay claiming until you are 70 several years from now, after your wife's SSDI converts to become her regular retirement benefit at her FRA next year, she will continue to receive her own SS retirement benefit until you claim. At that point your wife will get a "spousal boost" added to her own SS retirement benefit. The amount of her spousal boost will be the difference between her FRA entitlement (same as her SSDI amount) and 50% of your FRA entitlement (not half of your age 70 amount - spouse benefits are always calculated using FRA amounts, regardless of when Social Security is actually claimed).

Your wife cannot get a spousal benefit from you until you start your Social Security, but after you claim she will receive her higher spousal benefit, her own SS retirement benefit plus a spousal boost, for the rest of her life or until you predecease her. If you die first, your wife will get 100% of the amount you were receiving at your death (e.g., your age 70 amount), instead of the smaller amount she was receiving as your spouse while you are both living.

Regarding COLA, after becoming eligible for benefits, everyone gets the annually awarded COLA increase whether they are already collecting SS benefits or not. The next annual COLA increase will be added to your wife's SSDI at the end of this year and added to her SS retirement amount each year thereafter, and then to her higher amount as your spouse after you claim.

And even though you are waiting until age 70 to claim, the annual COLA will still be added to your Primary Insurance Amount each year, and you will receive that past COLA in your monthly payments after you later claim.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the

See SOCIAL SECURITY, page X

Turley Publications Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the editor should be 350 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources. Send letters to: Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005 or via email to edowner@turley.com. The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

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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.

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Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

There is a chill in the air and frost is on the windshield for a couple of mornings.

It is time to put the car in the garage if it will fit. I have a tendency to store a lot of things in the back of the garage and on the sides as we have no attic.

Ken has a bad cold so I have tried to stay away from him. It is not easy as I have to feed him and take care of him.

I made a meat loaf with baked potatoes and had the meat loaf the second day as a sandwich. I made a pie shell, put vanilla pudding in it and topped it with peaches and whipped cream for dessert.

My working room is a mess as I have several projects started, but I will try to finish them this week. I have two penny rugs started and some favors for Thanksgiving. I need to get candy to finish those.

I did get out to rake some leaves and the handyman moved the crabapple tree branches so I am now able to get to the laurel and rhododendrons to pick some greens to make Christmas wreaths. I do this project in the basement and I have cones and the wire rings ready to go.

I did bring up a load of Christmas items from the basement and brought down some fall things. I have two buckets of artificial greens with cones and a dough bowl with gingerbread boys and girls and some gingerbread lambs that my friend Cyndee made for me.

I have the Thanksgiving mantel still up and I will take that down after Thanksgiving and put up a Noahs Ark display with all the animals. I will put out the Old Sturbridge Village on the sofa table at the stair landing as I usually do each year.

I was looking at a Christmas magazines and noticed

they were using a lot of tall skinny trees this year. I may get one for my kitchen to put my kitchen ornaments on.

With all the activities, it is nice to have a recipe that is easy to do in a hurry. This is such a recipe. I usually keep a bag of the frozen fully cooked Italian meatballs in my refrigerator freezer and that saves time.

SLOW COOKER MEATBALL SANDWICHES

- 1 package fully cooked meatballs
- 2 jars marinara sauce
- 8 hoagie buns, split
- 8 slices of Provolone cheese
- Sliced pepperoncini, optional

You may half this recipe and not use a slow cooker. Place meatballs and sauce in a slow cooker and cover on low for 3 to 4 hours. On each bun bottom, layer the cheese, meatballs and if desired pepperoncini. Replace top. Makes 8 servings.

This and That
I was sorry to read the passing of Evelyn M. Halkola of Ragged Hill Road, age 75 on Nov. 6.

It is nice to see the second coat of asphalt on Main Street. It sure is easier to travel down Main Street now, but I still miss all the nice shade trees that had to be taken down.

I still wonder how it will be once snow falls and the roads are covered and how the sidewalks and bicycle trails will be plowed.

Work continues on the new walking trails on Lombard Road. They are looking for suggestions of trail names.

Have a good week and make sure you are ready for winter as it soon will be here.

DCR Visitor Center hosts group hike of watershed on Nov. 19

RUTLAND – The Department of Conservation and Recreation’s Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center is hosting a free group hike to explore the Ware River Watershed in Rutland.

On Saturday, Nov. 18, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., explore the Ware River Watershed on a 4.4 mile lollipop loop moderate group hike near Rutland State Park. The route climbs/descends roughly 200 feet in elevation.

Meet at the Ware River Watershed, Mass Central Rail Trail (MCRT)/Mid State Trail Parking Area, Route 122, Rutland.(https://maps.app.goo.gl/dgzSozmffyz7NFJ7)

The hike begins/ends on the

MCRT with a loop in the middle consisting of Camel’s Hump, Long Meadow Road, and Prison Camp Road. Visit the following website for additional information on the route: https://www.trailforks.com/route/4-mi-inner-loop-near-rutland-state-park/.

Ticks are still active, so protection is advised, as is wearing orange during hunting season. Please dress appropriately for the weather and bring water and snacks.

About the Visitor Center

The Quabbin Interpretive Services program operates the Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center, offering public and school education programs, teach-

er workshops, and general information about DCR’s water supply resources and watershed management, the history of the Quabbin Valley and wildlife of the area.

Staff members are available to assist with visitor information and services. An automated telephone system, 413-323-7221, provides 24 hour access to current information on fishing, hunting, programs, rules and regulations, and public access.

All ages are welcome to these events. Email QuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov with questions or to be added to the mailing list. To register for any of these events, visit www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events.

Paige Library host cookie walk, raffle and centerpiece workshop

HARDWICK – On Sunday, Nov. 26 come to Hardwick’s Christmas on the Common celebration where people can purchase delicious homemade cookies just in time for the holidays.

The Friends of the Paige Memorial Library present their Annual Cookie Walk from 3:30-5:30 p.m. at the Town House, 32 Common St. Proceeds go to the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Christmas for Kids program. If people would like to bake for the cookie walk, they should let the Friends Group know what they will be baking. They are keeping a list so that they can offer a good variety. Also, people should package cookies in plastic bags: two if large and more if small.

On sale now at the library are tickets for the Anne of Green Gables raffle basket to delight the collector and the young person in everyone or as a treasured gift.

The raffle basket includes a limited-edition porcelain Anne Shirley doll, Anne of Green Gables cookbook, graphic novel, novel by Lucy Maud Montgomery, coloring book, crayons and colored pencils. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. The drawing will be on Sunday, Nov. 26 at 5:30 p.m. Proceeds from the raffle will be donated to the Hardwick Food Pantry.

On Wednesday, Nov 29, the Friends of the Paige Memorial Library host a boxwood centerpiece workshop at 7 p.m at the

Town House 32 Common St. Participants may come to the Town House to make their centerpiece or order “a take out” kit. They use premium boxwood tips, berries, birds and decorations supplied by Bemis Nursery or bring their own to add a personal touch. Final size is 14-16 inches.

The price is \$35 people must register by Tuesday, Nov. 21. If they register and pay by Saturday, Nov. 18 the price is \$30. Cash or checks payable to the Friends of the Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, Hardwick, MA 01037.

For more information, people may call 413-477-6704 or email director.paigelibrary@gmail.com.



Thanksgiving thoughts

My dad has been gone a long time.

I sometimes feel badly that he is not in my thoughts as much as he used to be. A lot has happened since his death - marriage and children, a new (old) house.

Sometimes it’s easy to get caught up in the day to day, but today, as I write, I think of him. Holidays at my childhood home were always a lot of fun.

I reflect on that now, as we make plans for our Thanksgiving and Christmas gatherings. I can still picture him standing at the counter by the sink, carving the turkey and later in the day enjoying a whopping piece of apple pie (with American cheese?) from his recliner.

My mom still keeps some of the traditions alive as do other family members. Read on to learn about some of the favorite vegetables, fruits and even herbs that make an appearance at the table.

I am not exactly sure where my mom’s stuffing recipe originally came from, but it is always a big hit. My Illinois based brother loves it so much that my sister-in-law asked for a copy and now makes it for him on Thanksgiving.

I guess if you can’t be at home, having mom’s stuffing is the next best thing! Her recipe wouldn’t be the same without sage and I doubt yours would either.

Common garden sage (Salvia officinalis) is a shrub by perennial plant native to the Mediterranean.

Its leaves start out lime-green in color, but at maturity end up more grey than green. They are somewhat “pebbly” in texture and are very aromatic.

For the most pungency, sage leaves should be harvested just prior to flowering. Hang the leaves and stem tips in loose bunches upside down in an airy, dark place to dry.

Once completely dry (crispy to the touch), leaves can be stripped from their stems and stored in an airtight container.

Remember, as with any herb, drying concentrates the oils in the foliage. Use only half the amount of dried herbs if you have to substitute them for fresh in any recipe.

Because sage is nearly evergreen (actually, “ever-greay”) I rarely dry any, but harvest it for immediate use even through the winter months - it is freeze-dried but still tasty! Cut back the plant hard in early spring- you will sacrifice a few flowers, but will be rewarded with

a lush bushy plant, rather than one that is woody and sparse.

Another one of mom’s cherished contributions to Thanksgiving dinner is her apple cranberry relish. This is a simple recipe in which fresh cranberries and peeled apples are chopped fine and mixed together with a little sugar.

So easy yet incredibly yummy! I tried growing cranberries only to be disappointed that voles chewed the roots and killed the plants.

Maybe I’ll try again sometime in the future. They don’t need a bog, but the water does help with harvesting.

My mom always bought a small turnip for my Dad to enjoy at Thanksgiving dinner. I have to say that I don’t recall any other members of the family eagerly anticipating it, not the way he did anyway.

I remember mom carefully cutting away the hard outer skin and then cubing the flesh. It was then boiled and mashed as you would potatoes, with lots of butter.

Turnip must be one of those foods that you acquire a taste for, and as of yet I have not.

To produce the best-tasting, largest turnips time your plantings to grow and mature in cool weather. For Thanksgiving turnips sow seeds 90 days before the first fall frost is expected.

Simply make a shallow trench one-quarter to one-half inch deep and position seeds one to one and a half inches apart. Once germination occurs and plants have developed their first set of true leaves, thin seedlings to three inches apart.

Deep, loose soil is best for root vegetables of any kind. Turnips benefit from extra water during droughty periods.

If an early frost threatens and your roots aren’t yet mature you can cover turnip plants with a sheet or blanket on chilly nights to get through the cold spell and sneak out some additional growing time. Do watch out for frigid temps, however, since mercury that measures below the twenty-five degree mark can damage the crown of the plant.

This type of injury can make turnips more susceptible to rot and reduce storage capabilities. Turnips are best stored at temperatures around thirty-five degrees.

They can be packed in damp sand or leaves in a cold cellar and should keep for at least two or three months. Some books recommend wrapping individual roots in plastic wrap to hold in moisture as well as prevent the strong turnip odor from permeating other vegetables.

Commercial turnip growers use a food grade wax for this purpose, which makes cutting away the outer flesh all the more challenging.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 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.

PAST PAGES, continued from page 4

Selectmen were informed of the suit last week when the town was served a summons. The suit was filed two days prior to the end of the three-year statute of limitations on such suits. Town Counsel, Susan Landry is planning to respond on the town’s behalf.

The Barre Office of Shawmut Worcester County Bank will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony

to mark the opening of the new 24-hour drive-up Automatic Teller Machine on Nov. 22. Representatives from the town will be present along with Shawmut staff as Selectwoman Ruth Trifilo performs the ribbon cutting. The new drive up ATM is the first of its kind in Barre and was added in the Barre office to meet the need of Shawmut customers. Customers can make withdrawals or deposits, check balances, transfer money and even pay bill at their convenience 24

hours a day.

A used clothing shop will open at Christ Episcopal Church in South Barre on Saturday, Nov 30 at 10 a.m. It will be open until 4 p.m. Claudia Lacerte and Beth Wysik are in charge of this new venture called “Closet Collectibles.” The purpose is to serve the community just as their Food Bank does. Prices will be the lowest anywhere and there will be varied selection of sizes. Proceeds will benefit the Christ Church Women’s Guild.

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Church News

Local pastors offer sermons

Isaiah 6 Part 2

Last week we noted that Isaiah had the following encounter with God amidst a season of national change.

Isaiah 6:1-8 (NIV)

1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. 3 And they were calling to one another:

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."

4 At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

5 "Woe to me," I cried. "I am ruined. For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty."

6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. 7 With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."

8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"

And I said, "Here am I. Send me."

Once again, what did Isaiah experience as a result of this divine encounter?

1) His Eyes Were Opened to the Holiness of God. Isaiah came to realize purity, majesty and supremacy divine. Regardless of what was happening amidst Judah and its king, God reigned unrivaled, unchallenged, unmatched and undeterred in heavenly places (v. 1-4).

2) His Eyes Were Opened to Personal Spiritual Defilement. Isaiah came to recognize not only the uncleanness of wayward Judah, but his own sinfulness in the presence of a holy God (v. 5).

3) He Experienced Cleansing Via God's Mercy and Provision. His willingness to confess his iniquity led to pardon (v. 6-7).

4) He Sensed the Call of God Unto Service. It was in this moment of spiritual revelation that Isaiah sensed the heart of God for those who were lost (Isa. 6:8): "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me.'"

Why am I sharing this ancient story? Simply put, I believe we are similarly in the midst of a season of change. Like the days of Isaiah, we live in tumultuous times and seemingly everything is in flux. Can you feel it? Having watched recent happenings overseas in particular, a great many feel as though things will never be the same! What am I praying for in such times? Consider:

1) For Our Eyes to Be Opened to the Holiness of God. May we come to realize the purity, majesty and supremacy of our divine King. Regardless of what is taking place in Washington D.C., Ukraine, Russia, China, or Israel and Gaza, the Lord reigns unrivaled, unchallenged, unmatched and undeterred in heavenly places.

2) For Our Eyes to Be Opened to Personal Spiritual Defilement. To what degree do you recognize the rampant immorality in our nation? To what degree are you and I aware of our own?

3) For Us to Experience God's

Mercy and Provision in Christ. Those who are willing to confess their sin will come to see that God is yet able and willing to forgive. In fact, note the following promise (1 John 1:9): "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

4) For the People of God to Sense His Call Unto Service. If the Church of Christ is ever going to take the Great Commission of Christ seriously (cf. Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16), let it be now! For too long believers have slept while the world waxes worse and worse. Draw near to God, sense His heart for those who know Him not, and make Him known!

Thank you for taking the time to read this edition. Should you have any questions, please reach out to me using the information below. Moreover, we would love to see you in person in the days to come.

Feel free to attend any of our upcoming services. Check us out online at www.NewLifeBarre.org for more information.

Pastor James Foley

New Life Assembly of God
60 Main St. South Barre
jamesfoley@newlifebarre.org
978-355-6407

Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

"We do not know when the time comes."

Our services can be found on our website at www.barrechurch.com

Scripture Reading: Matthew 25 v 1-13

1. Introduction:

Many of us have been traveling by car, train, bus, or air, and we are aware that when we must catch that bus or train, or plane, we need to be there on time. We must be ready to go, or they won't wait for us. To be ready is not everyone's gift in life. Some are a little more relaxed and others are rather rigid when it comes to preparing for something.

Yet others are somewhat in-between. To be ready for that trip, it involves various activities, from getting the tickets, packing, ensuring the house is taken care of, whilst away, and so forth. There are numerous things in life that we must be prepared for. In some cases, there can be some flexibility, or something that cannot be anticipated, but for the most part it is expected that we be ready to go somewhere or do something.

2. The Bridegroom and the Ten Women:

In our passage we read about a bridegroom and ten women whose role it was to usher the bridegroom into the wedding banquet as he was arriving. They carried their torches, which were lit, and they also had extra oil, just in case the torch holder was empty. In this case, we see ten women, five of them fully prepared with their torches and enough oil, and five women who were not as prepared.

Meanwhile the bridegroom was delayed, and the women all fell asleep before the bridegroom's arrival. After they woke up, the five went to purchase more oil, and upon their return they were too late to enter the wedding banquet hall. The door was closed, and the bridegroom told them he did not know them!

3. The Coming of Christ and the Kingdom of Heaven

Jesus is telling this parable, to illustrate the second coming of Christ, the Parousia. He says the Kingdom of Heaven is like this story of the ten women and

the bridegroom. Its real focus is on the day and hour of His return that is unknown to the disciples, the angels and even Himself.

This parable ends with the words, "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour (of My return)." Only God knows the time of the Parousia. What they, the disciples need to do, though, is to keep watch, like these women were doing, while waiting for the groom. But more, they need to be ready, like the five women were while they were keeping watch.

These five women seem to be selfish, not sharing their oil with the other five, but they came prepared for this very special ceremonial event. They must have spent days thinking about this and investigated everything they had to do, while the other five may have been a little too careless and not fully prepared for the upcoming event.

The long delay of the bridegroom was not expected, but he did not stay away. He came, but he came at an unexpected time. And this is what Jesus is illustrating in His parable, that His coming will happen certainly, but there may be delays along the way, and therefore everyone needs to wait for it, prepare for it, and be ready for it, because it will happen at an unexpected time.

The five prepared women point to the spiritual preparedness the disciples and all followers of Christ need to have as we are waiting for His second coming. The spiritual preparedness, says R.T. France, is not what someone else can give you. No family member, loved one, colleague, or neighbor can give this for us. It is our personal response to our God, and each individual needs to work on that preparedness. Only those who are prepared will then be allowed into the Kingdom of Heaven, like this wedding banquet. The Parousia will come at a time we do not expect and the door will be closed to the ones who are not ready.

4. Conclusion

The Kingdom of Heaven is on the one hand, a mystery, because it involves the deepest secrets and thoughts of God. But it is also transparent about the conditions of the environment created by God where everything is good, kind loving, and peaceful. It is the place where God waits for all of us to enter.

While we do not know the exact place and when all of this will happen, what is expected from us is not really that complicated, because the voice of God speaks through the pages of the Biblical text about what God desires from all of us, which is justice, righteousness, mercy, and humility, and loving God and neighbor as oneself. We will come to that place at the end of our earthly journey.

To be in the presence of God will be an awesome moment of grace and glory. May God help each one of us and more of us in this world to get ready, in the same way we prepare to go on that trip. May God help us to let go of things and ways that are counter to what God expects from us, and embrace a life pleasing to God.

It is a beautiful journey to be with God. It is a journey not to be feared, but in our surrender to God, we will and are already experiencing the blessings from God's heart. Amen.

Pastor Margaret Keyser
Barre Congregational Church
30 Park St., Barre

NBEMA donates trauma bags to emergency responders

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Anne Adams, director for the North Brookfield Emergency Management Agency, said the town received \$2,700 in Emergency Management Performance Grant funds.

At the Nov. 7 Board of Selectmen meeting, Adams said the NBEMA was originally going to use the grant to purchase radios for emergency management use, but instead decided to use the funding to purchase items for the Police and Fire departments to use in active shooter situations.

Adams said NBEMA purchased two trauma bags to use in these situations.

NBEMA member Shaun Adams said the trauma bags are equipped with tourniquets, trauma bandaging, splints and more.

"Hopefully they'll never get used," he said.

Fire Chief Joseph Holway thanked NBEMA for these trauma bags, which will help protect the town's emergency responders and citizens in active shooter situations.

Police Department needs
Police Chief Mark Smith submitted a request to the Board for \$2,600 from Holden Funds to purchase new replacement batteries for the portable two-way radios.

"We currently have no replacement batteries and several of the batteries are failing, obviously causing the potential officer safety issue of not having reliable communications with dispatch and other officers," Smith wrote in his request.

Smith also requested \$3,840 be reserved to purchase replacement batteries for the Department's drone. The batteries have not been replaced in over four years and the batteries are no longer holding a

full charge.

Smith said the Department has used the drone for search and rescue missions, as well as at fire scenes. The drone has infrared which helped find a missing person at nighttime.

"It gets used quite a bit," Smith said.

The Board approved both purchase requests.

Highway Department needs

The Highway Department requested approval to spend \$3,000-4,000 to replace the main hydraulic pump for the Department's 1995 John Deere loader.

The Department also requested approval to pay \$1,400 to McNeeley Tree Service, along with a request to spend \$300 in order to apply fluid film to the underside of the Department's trucks.

The Board approved all of the requests.

No parking signs

Brandon Avery, chair of the Parks and Recreation Committee requested permission to put up a "No Parking" sign at Town Forest Park, by the triangle area. The ruts caused by the tires of parked cars are making mowing the grass difficult.

Avery said the Committee would also like to install a sign at the main entrance to the common before the center crosswalk, creating space to improve visibility of pedestrians crossing the road.

"It's really creating a dangerous situation," Avery said, especially during busy events.

Administrative Assistant Ashley Barre said the Safety Committee had previously recommended prohibiting parking on either side of that crosswalk.

The Board approved the request to install the signs.

Library HVAC repairs

Thomas Skowron, Board of

Trustees member at the Hoston Free Public Library said the building's HVAC system had a circulating pump fail.

"It's 16 years old and it failed," he said. The Library is using a backup pump to keep the system operating, but the backup is just as old.

To replace the pump, it would cost \$9,700. Skowron asked if American Rescue Plan Act funds were available to cover this cost.

Board of Selectmen Chair Jason Petraitis asked Skowron to submit a formal request to the ARPA Committee.

The Board of Trustees will also prepare an article for the special town meeting warrant, in the event ARPA funds are not approved. If the ARPA funds are approved, the article will be passed over at special town meeting.

Request for resources

Representatives from the Rural Justice Network requested permission to use the common for its annual Small Town Pride event on June 29, 2024.

Petraitis asked if drag performers would still be included in next year's event, and if so, would a tent be provided for drag performers to perform in. The representatives said yes, drag performers would still be included.

A motion to approve the event was not seconded.

Board of Selectmen Vice-Chair John Tripp said the town's 4th of July celebration is normally held the Saturday prior to the holiday, and asked if it would cause a conflict.

Representatives from the Rural Justice Network said they were flexible with dates for their event, to accommodate the town's celebration.

Special town meeting

A special town meeting will be held Friday, Dec. 8 at 7 p.m.

NB Police Association is seeking donations for Toys-For-Joy

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The North Brookfield Police Association Toys-For-Joy program is asking for donations of new, unwrapped, toys, games, crafts and sporting equipment for children of all ages.

Cash and check donations (made out to North Brookfield Police Association) are also

welcomed. These toys are distributed to families in need within the community.

The "Stuff-the-Bus" event will be held Saturday, Nov. 25, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Hannaford parking lot.

AA transportation will provide a school bus and driver so that members of the community can come and stuff it full of

their toy donations. This event is an overwhelming success every year as citizens come out in droves to show their support and generosity.

As always, gift donations will also be accepted in the North Brookfield Police Station lobby, Dollar General and North Brookfield Savings Bank (Gilbert Street location).

White Christmas returns on Sunday, Dec. 3

WEST BROOKFIELD – All are welcome to join the town on Sunday, Dec. 3 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. for the 31st Annual White Christmas celebration.

There will be fun for folks of all ages going on throughout the day. Kick-off of the holiday season by touring the historic town, strolling the downtown district, exploring local businesses and open houses, decorating gingerbread houses in the Great Hall, meeting Santa for a quick picture, as well dropping off those letters headed directly to the North Pole.

There will be horse drawn carriage rides throughout the day as

well as shopping with dozens of vendors set up throughout town. A puppet show, an elf hunt and ice carvings are sure to keep everyone's spirits high.

There will be plenty for the entire family to come and enjoy. If you are lucky, you may just see Father Christmas strolling the streets and greeting visitors in town.

Stick around to close the day with West Brookfield's annual tradition of gathering around the largest evergreen in town (located on the town common) while it illuminates for the first time this holiday season.

West Brookfield's White Christmas Committee 2023 is excited to be able to share this fun-filled day with both residents and non-residents alike. This is a free event brought to you courtesy of local businesses and town supporters.

Maps of town open houses and vendors can be picked up in various local business, by accessing the 31st Annual White Christmas in West Brookfield Facebook page or by emailing whitechristmaswb@gmail.com.

Parking is available free throughout town.

Classic Christmas on the Common is set for Nov. 26

HARDWICK – Classic Christmas on the Common will be held Sunday, Nov. 26 from 3-7 p.m. on the town common.

There will be holiday fun with a visit from Santa, games and

activities, 10+ vendors, annual tree lighting, touch a truck, hay rides, gingerbread house competition, holiday parade, dinner and bonfire at Mimi's.

Purchase your Hardwick winter

hat and 2024 calendar featuring photos taken by residents.

A cookie walk will be held in the Town House with proceeds to benefit Hardwick's Christmas for Kids.

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Barre Gazette
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

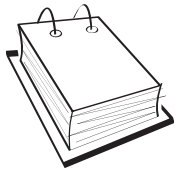
One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

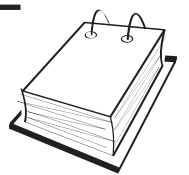
Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.



Calendar of Events



THURSDAY, NOV. 16

CIRCLE OF SONG REHEARSALS are held every Thursday night, at the Barre Town Hall, Exchange Street, Barre. The choral group of 23 years sings in four-part harmony and often in other languages. People may email julie@mhof.net or call 978-257-1192 for more information. They perform several concerts during the year. New members are always welcome. Membership dues are sliding scale from \$25 per year for students and \$40 - \$70 for adults according to ability to pay.

TRIP TO IWO JIMA IN 2013 will be recounted by Bill Shea, owner of Ruptured Duck, today from 6-8 p.m. at the Hubbardston Public Library, 7 Main St. He is a collector, appraiser, consultant and longtime Hubbardston resident. He will tell of his three-year delay to get there, a grueling travel schedule and the final success on reaching the summit of Mount Suribachi. The Battle for Iwo Jima echoes through history, come listen to Bill Shea's journey.

FRIDAY, NOV. 17

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

SATURDAY, NOV. 18

YULETIDE CRAFT FAIR sponsored by the Rutland Friends of the Council on Aging will be held today from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Senior/Community Center, on 53 Glenwood Road, Rutland. There will be vendors, lunch and bake sale at affordable prices.

HARVEST AND HOLLY FAIR will be held today from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, Oakham. The church will have a bake table, craft table, raffles, quilt raffle, snack bar and White Elephant Table. The Cookie Walk returns this year. There will also be local crafters and vendors.

WINTER GRIEF SEMINAR, "Embracing loss during the holidays," will be held today from 1-2:30 p.m. at the Holden Senior Center, 1130 Main St., Holden. This seminar offers practical ways to honor grief when people find it hard to celebrate. The seminar is free, open to everyone, and each attendee will receive lunch and a free book. People may call 508-829-4434 to register. For more information, they may visit www.milesfuneralhome.com.

14TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR sponsored by the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors will be held today from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at St. Cecilia Church, 42 Main St., Wilbraham. This bazaar is a full day of shopping with over 25 exhibitors, offering handmade soaps, greeting cards, Christmas ornaments, doggie goodies, and more. Their famous huge Raffle offers many chances to bring home a lovely gift basket or other gifts. Lunch prepared by the folks at Loomis Lakeside at Reeds Landing in Springfield cook up meatball grinders, or pick a sweet treat from the bake sale of muffins, cookies and more. Hot coffee will be available. Santa Claus will be riding into town at 11 a.m. and will stay until 2 p.m. for visits with children of all ages, who can get their picture taken. All children receive a free gift. This year's event proceeds will support Recognition Programs of Friends Volunteers. For more information, people may call AnnMarie at 413-599-4803.

Where is this?



Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer

This week's mystery photo is from Hardwick. If any readers know where this photo was taken, they may email edowner@turley.com or call the Barre Gazette at 413-967-3505, extension 100 with their answer by noon on Monday, Nov. 20. The names of those that correctly guessed the location will appear in the following edition. Bill Bowles, Stephen Craven, Bridget Lachance and Evelyn Luukko correctly identified the photo. The photo last week was of Rice Park, School Street North in Barre.

EXPLORING WARE RIVER WATERSHED GROUP HIKE will take place today from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. This is a 4.4 mile, moderate hike near Rutland State Park. Participants should meet at Massachusetts Central Rail Trail Mid State Trail parking area, Route 122, Rutland. The route climbs/descends roughly 200 ft. in elevation. The hike begins/ends on the MCRT with a loop in the middle consisting of Camel's Hump, Long Meadow Road and Prison Camp Road. People may visit the following website for additional information on the route: <https://www.trailforks.com/route/4-mi-inner-loop-near-rutland-state-park/>. Ticks are still active so protection is advised, as is wearing orange during hunting season. People should dress appropriately for the weather and bring water and snacks.

People may email Maria.beiter@mass.gov to register or visit www.mass.gov/dcr/quabbineducation for more education.

SUNDAY, NOV. 19

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE will be held today at 3 p.m. in the First Congregational Parish, Unitarian, on the Petersham Common, with the three church communities, First Congregational Parish Unitarian, the Orthodox Congregational Church, and St. Peter's Church, participating in the service. The Reverend John Pastor, who is well-known in the community as parish minister, supply preacher, and chaplain will be offering the homily. Congregants from the three parishes will be participating. Refreshments will be served at a community gathering directly after the service. All are welcome. For more information, people may call 978-724-3401.

FRIDAY, DEC. 1

SMALL WORKS AND HOLIDAY MARKETPLACE will be held today and Friday, Dec. 8 from 6-8 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 2; Sunday,

Dec. 3; Saturday, Dec. 9 and Sunday, Dec. 10 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Princeton Senior and Community Center, 206 Worcester Road, Princeton. People may browse, shop and enjoy hundreds of fine art and artisan-made, affordable holiday gift items made by members of the Princeton Arts Society. There will be wonderful small wall art in many media available and tables will overflow with jewelry, cards, prints, ornaments, fabric items, original books, bags, ceramics, woodworking, and much, much more. Your holiday shopping will be made all the more meaningful by supporting local artists. The Princeton Arts Society is a nonprofit organization promoting the arts in Central Massachusetts through programs, events and shows.

22ND ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF TREES sponsored by the Rutland Historical Society begins today with a concert by the Merrimack Valley Bell Ringers at 7:30 p.m. and a brownie social following the concert at the First Congregational Church of Rutland, 264 Main St., Rutland. On Saturday, Dec. 2 from 4-8 p.m. at the Rutland Library, 280 Main St., Rutland there will be activities for all to enjoy, including decorated Trees, gingerbread houses, a basket drawing, a visit with Santa and Santa's Sweet Shoppe. At the First Congregational Church of Rutland at 6 p.m. there will be holiday music and a reading of names in remembrance and celebration of loved ones, followed by the 33rd Annual Tree Lighting at 6:30 p.m. with a Fireworks Display immediately following. On Sunday, Dec. 3 from 1-4 p.m. at the Rutland Library the festival will include a visit with Santa, train rides, children's craft activity and a magician. Food trucks will be on site for attendees to purchase food. All are welcome to this fun filled holiday kickoff.

SATURDAY, DEC. 2

LIVING NATIVITY will be held at Our Savior

Lutheran Church, 1 Hager Park Road, Westminster, located at the junction of Routes 2 and 140 today and tomorrow, Sunday, Dec. 3 from 6-8 p.m. Admission and parking are free. For more information, people may email office@oursaviorlcms.com, call 978-874-2479 or visit www.livingnativity.net.

GINGERBREAD FAIR will be held today from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the First Parish Unitarian Church, on the Common. There will be spices, candy, home baked goods, crafts, knitting, raffles, fresh laurel wreaths and baskets evergreen.

CHRISTMAS COOKIE AND GIFT TABLES sponsored by Cradle Rock Chapter Order of Eastern Star will be held today from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Mt. Zion Masonic Lodge, 71 Pleasant St., Barre. They are sold by the pound at \$7 per pound. They will have over 100 pounds of cookies to choose from. People should come early for the best selection. There will be gift tables as well.

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE sponsored by the Woman's Guild of St. Francis of Assisi Parish will take place Saturday, Dec. 2 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at St. Joseph's Chapel, 29 South St., Barre in the church hall. There will be a luncheon, cemetery baskets, poinsettias, raffles, bake shoppe, hot cocoa bar and games and prizes for children. People can make an Advent Calendar.

SUNDAY, DEC. 3

WEST BROOKFIELD WHITE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION will take place today from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. There will be fun for folks of all ages going on throughout the day. Activities include touring the historic town, strolling the downtown district, exploring local businesses and open houses, decorating gingerbread houses in Great Hall, meeting Santa for a quick picture, as well as dropping off those letters headed directly to the North Pole. There will be horse drawn carriage rides throughout the day as well as shopping with dozens of vendors set up throughout town. A puppet show, an elf hunt and ice carvings are sure to keep everyone's spirits high. People may see Father Christmas strolling the streets and greeting visitors. Stick around to close the day with West Brookfield's annual tradition of gathering around the largest evergreen in town, located on the town common, while it illuminates for the first time this holiday season. This is a free event sponsored by local businesses and town supporters. Maps of town open houses and vendors can be picked up in various local business, by accessing our Facebook page 31st Annual White Christmas in West Brookfield or by emailing whitechristmas-wb@gmail.com.

Calendar Policy

POLICY: Our calendar section is intended to promote "free" events or ones that 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.

BARRE, continued from page 1

be funded with free cash or from the Capital Stabilization Fund.

Select Board Chair Marshall said it was not likely free cash would be certified in time for the Wednesday, Nov. 29 Special Town Meeting. She said once the books are closed, free cash must be certified by the state Department of Revenue.

Interim Town Administrator Balukonis will look for a signed contract for the grant funded truck. Either the Fire Chief or former Town Administrator Jessica Sizer most likely signed it. He would also check to see if

the truck in question was on the state procurement list. The Select Board will put an article on the Special Town Meeting to fund the town's share of the grant.

Historical Society

Select Board Chair Marshall said the Historical Society, who funded the repairs for the town clock, said they heard from the roofer, who replaced a leaking gasket by the flagpole, that they had not been paid. She said she was not sure the town received an invoice from the roofer. The cost was \$540 and there will be an article on the STM warrant to fund the cost of repairs to remedy leaking onto the town clock.

Other articles

There will also be an article to fund the Department of Public Works salary contracts since their union contract was ratified. In addition, there will be a place holder for the police union contract if it is ratified before the STM. Interim Town Administrator said the treasurer/collector also submitted two articles.

Pole hearing

The Select Board held pole petitions for Williamsville and Farrington Road, Hardwick Road, Cutler Road and Pleasant Street. The Williamsville and Farrington Road petition was continued from last month as the Department of

Public Workers Superintendent had not reviewed the pole locations as they were not staked.

The National Grid spokesperson said the DPW Superintendent had some concerns regarding the pole locations and National Grid reconfigured those locations. The Select Board approved the pole locations. The petition called for the removal of the pole on a center island at Farrington Road and the addition of some poles to support the span of the heavier type cable they now use.

The Select Board also approved pole petitions for Hardwick Road, Cutler Road and Pleasant Street. The Hardwick Road pole extended the line another 150 feet for

a new home on the road. The Cutler Road petition extends the pole line as the customer's home was too far from the transformer. The Pleasant Street pole location provides service to a customer on Washburn Street.

Town Administrator contract

Interim Town Administrator said the new Town Administrator Tammy Martin has a three-year contract and her starting salary is \$90,000. She will begin work on Monday, Dec. 11. She will have yearly performance reviews.

He said town counsel reviewed the TA contract. The Select Board approved and signed the contract. Her starting salary was within the amount approved at the Annual

Town Meeting. Some of the extra funds would be used to provide Human Resource support for the Town Administrator.

Public Comment

A resident said due to the heavy rains this year, there has been considerable erosion on Fisher Road off Sunrise Avenue. Large rocks are in danger of damaging the culvert headwall. He was concerned with the rocks falling into the brook.

Select Board Marshall said she will bring the matter before DPW Commission meeting about fixing the issue. She said the DPW was understaffed and possibly the town could use an outside contractor to do the work.

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Second Chance Animal Services seeks support

EAST BROOKFIELD – Second Chance Animal Services, an organization committed to the welfare of pets to help them live better lives, is reaching out to the community with a heartfelt plea for support amidst a growing crisis that threatens the well-being of countless animals.

While the nonprofit is on track for another record-breaking year, celebrating numerous success stories made possible by the community's caring and compassionate support, a dark cloud looms over the joyous achievements. The state of animal welfare is in peril, with pets and pet owners grappling with a trifecta of challenges that demand immediate attention.

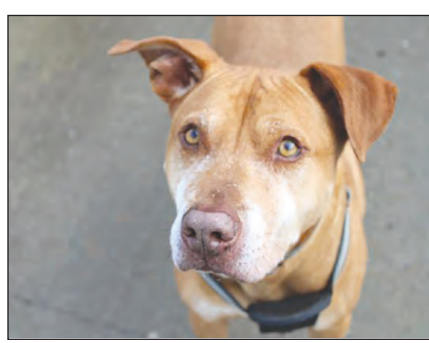
The rising tide of inflation has led to food insecurity for both humans and their furry companions, as the cost of pet care essentials skyrockets. Housing costs are soaring, forcing families to make heartbreaking decisions about their living situations, often resulting in the surrender of beloved pets. Additionally, the veterinary care crisis persists, with burnout among professionals causing a shortage of crucial services.

No longer an issue isolated to the

south, shelters are reaching capacity across the country, forcing many to euthanize perfectly adoptable pets when they are out of space. Second Chance never euthanizes for space and is taking in as many transports as they can to save countless lives, but their space is being limited as they grapple with an increase in surrenders from local pet owners.

As they approach the end of the year, a deep sense of distress envelops the organization for the plight of animals in the community. The economic landscape is taking an unforgiving toll on pets and their devoted owners. Families facing financial challenges are forced into heartbreaking decisions about the well-being of their cherished pets.

"We are being stretched to our limits and I am deeply concerned, but amidst the crisis, there is hope," said Second Chance CEO and Founder Sheryl Blancato. "With our passionate supporters behind us, we remain committed to providing crucial programs and services to address the root causes of pet surrender. We offer a blend of innovative initiatives that focus on illness prevention and intake prevention by providing essential assistance to



Submitted photo

Houston, an 8-year-old lab/boxer mix, at the Second Chance Adoption Center, is waiting to find a new home.

overwhelmed pet owners."

Full-Service Veterinary Hospitals: The demand for assistance at the organization's four full-service veterinary hospitals continues to rise. More pets than ever are receiving care at subsidized rates, ensuring that all animals can access the vital care they need.

Community Outreach: This year Second Chance has been out in the community providing more life-saving vaccine clinics and Homebound to the Rescue visits than in recent years. These programs aim to bridge the gap between pet owners and essen-

tial veterinary services. Homebound to the Rescue works with community resources to bring veterinary care to senior housing communities at no cost. The program is made possible through generous grants and donations to keep pets and seniors together.

Pet Food Pantry: The organization's pet food pantry program is working overtime to meet the increasing demand. Distributions to human food pantries have surged, ensuring that pets and their families do not go hungry. Twice this year, Second Chance ran out of cat food to meet requests from local pantries and reached out to the public for help refilling the supply.

Second Chance Animal Services is calling on the community to join the fight against the pet crisis. With support, more pets can stay in their homes with the people who love them. Together, we can make a difference and ensure that no pet is left behind.

For more information on how to contribute and support Second Chance Animal Services, people may visit secondchanceanimals.org/donate. Check can also be mailed to Second Chance, 111 Young Road, P.O. Box 136, East Brookfield, MA 01515.

Second Chance Animal Services receives award

EAST BROOKFIELD – Second Chance Animal Services announced it has been named a "2023 Top-Rated Nonprofit" by GreatNonprofits, the leading website for community recommendations of charities and nonprofits.

Second Chance offers programs and services that help over 44,000 pets a year to live better lives. "We are honored to be named a 2023 Top-Rated Nonprofit," says Chief Development Officer Lindsay Doray. "We are proud of our accomplishments this year. The importance of our work has never been more pronounced as the economy continues to take a toll on pets in our communities. At our vet hospitals, more pet owners are relying on subsidized rates than ever before to care for their cherished companions. Meanwhile our shelter is taking in local surrenders at a rate not seen in over a decade."

The Top-Rated Nonprofit Award is based on the rating and number of reviews that Second Chance received from volunteers, donors and aid recipients.

"Second Chance is a great example of a nonprofit making a real difference in their community," said Perla Ni, CEO of GreatNonprofits. "Their award is well-deserved recognition not only of their work, but the tremendous support they receive, as shown by the many outstanding reviews they have received from people who have direct experience working with Second Chance."

GreatNonprofits is the largest donation website for nonprofits and where people share stories about their personal experiences on more than 1.6 million charities and nonprofits. The GreatNonprofits Top-Rated Awards are the only awards for nonprofits determined by those who have direct experience with the charities as donors, volunteers and recipients of aid.

HARDWICK, continued from page 1

split tax rate could give residents is not warranted. It would also place a burden on commercial taxpayers, who would pay a higher rate with this type of classification.

A single tax rate would be \$12.62 per \$1,000 valuation.

Kolenda explained that the split rate, would reduce residential taxes to \$12.02 but would increase commercial rates to \$18.93.

The Select Board voted to accept the single tax rate of \$12.62, as recommended by the Board of Assessors.

Liquor license

Kat Riley of the Whistle Stop Restaurant came before the Select Board seeking a new, all-alcohol restaurant license for her Main Street establishment.

Riley said she wants to be able to offer alcoholic beverages in the restaurant, and in an adjacent train car. The Board approved the application.

New position

Select Board members approved the creation of a Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals clerk position.

Resignation

The Select Board accepted two resignation letters from Edward Kelly, one from the Board of Trustees of the Paige Memorial Library and the other from the Council on Aging.

EV charging stations

The Select Board signed a contract to accept a grant from the Electric Vehicle Incentive Program, to cover the replacement of electric vehicle charging stations.

Cultural Council grant

The Select Board accepted \$11,400 on behalf of the Hardwick/New Braintree Cultural Council, through the Local Cultural Council program.

CHAMBER, continued from page 1

of jobs from anywhere in the world.

Now, there is out-migration from the commonwealth, which has dropped 12 spots to being ranked 45th among states for tax incentives. Smola said a tax incentive package was passed to help balance it out.

"We manage our money really well," Smola said of the commonwealth.

Even with the best money management, housing continues to be a top concern for residents of Massachusetts. The housing crisis is impacting people from all income levels.

"Housing, housing, housing...it is our big problem," Smola said, and its another reason people are relocating to other states.

Smola said 400,000 additional housing units will help the problem, but it won't fix it.

Transportation is another issue residents face, Smola said, especially in rural areas where infrastructure is lacking. Retention of workers is also a concern for business owners, especially in western Massachusetts.

"We are losing our young workforce," he said.

Smola said while the commonwealth is facing these issues, its strength lies in the small businesses that continue to grow and serve people across the region.

"The backbone of this region is really the small businesses," Smola said.

About the Chamber

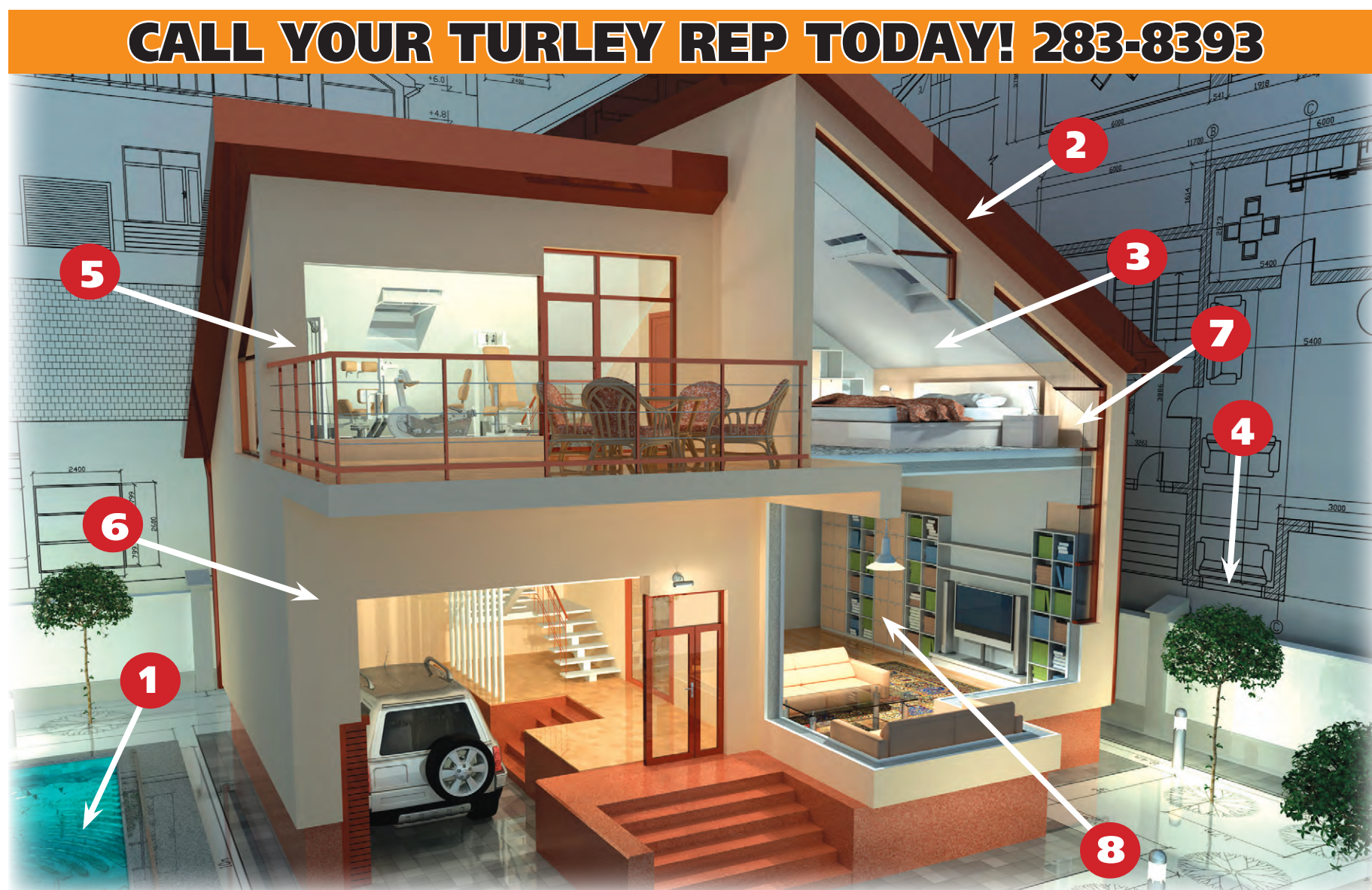
The Quabog Hills Chamber of Commerce was established in 1978 to assist businesses in the Quabog Hills Region, serving the towns of Belchertown, Brimfield, Brookfield, East Brookfield, Hardwick, Holland, Monson, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Palmer, Spencer, Wales, Ware, Warren and West Brookfield.

Its mission is to advance economic growth and tourism in the region, to be an advocate for policies that achieve the development goals of the communities, and to advance the interests of its members.

The Quabog Hills Chamber of Commerce offers more than just networking opportunities. It helps the business community from the smallest entrepreneurs to the largest corporations; through trainings, seminars and more.

Membership fees start at \$245 a year, with the average business paying about \$1 a day for the Chamber's services. Membership fees are only \$100 for nonprofit organizations.

The Quabog Hills Chamber of Commerce is located at 4 Springfield St., Suite 525, Three Rivers. For more information, visit qhma.com, call 413-283-2418 or email info@qhma.com.



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Panthers season ends against Uxbridge

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

UXBRIDGE—Once the sting of losing in the Division 4 state quarterfinals fades away in a couple of weeks, the members of the Quabbin field hockey team will look back on the 2023 season with fond memories.

The ninth-seeded Lady Panthers made the trip to the Blackstone Valley last Saturday looking to upset the top-seeded and two-time Division 4 state champion Uxbridge High School.

Just like they've done in 21 of their 22 games this fall, the Spartans players celebrated a 7-0 victory over the Lady Panthers before a large crowd on their home turf field.

"We were able to win a lot of great games this year," said Shelly Zalneraitis, who completed her 30th season as the Lady Panthers varsity field hockey coach. "I'm really proud of these girls, especially the seniors."

The Lady Panthers senior captains are Kylie Casey, Camryn Orsini, Gracie Talbot, and Julianna Stanger, who was the starting goalkeeper. The other two seniors are Annabelle Magill, and Madylin Breault.

"The seniors were our leaders



Kenzie Casey advances along the sideline.

this year," Zalneraitis said. "It was a very special season."

Quabbin's five returning starters in the fall of 2024 will be junior Sydney Slattery, junior Haley Ayer, sophomore Farrah Wojcik, sophomore Madelyn Stauder, and freshman Makenzie Casey.

After finishing the regular season with an 8-4-3 record, the Lady

Panthers entered the Central Mass. Athletic Directors Association Class B tournament as the fourth seed.

They defeated the fifth-seeded Oakmont Spartans, 4-0, in a CMADA quarterfinal home game. It was the first time that the Lady Panthers defeated their Mid-Wach B rivals since a 1-0 home victory



Abby Rogowski dribbles up the field.

on October 13, 2021.

The Lady Panthers then defeated top-seeded Lunenburg, 2-1, in the semifinals, and second-seeded Clinton, 2-1 in the Class B. finals.

Quabbin, who handed both Lunenburg and Clinton their first

See FIELD HOCKEY, page x



Julianna Stanger makes a save for the Panthers.



Violet Kelley deflects the ball.



Turley photos by Ray Duffy
Luke Salvatore catches a pass in the first quarter during last year's Thanksgiving game.

Panthers look for third straight holiday win

BARRE – Quabbin Regional High School football will close out its football season with a holiday eve matchup on Wednesday, Nov. 22 against Gardner High School.

Last year, for the second straight time, Quabbin defeated Gardner in their annual Thanksgiving holiday matchup. This year, it was a 34-21 victory on the turf of Gardner High School last Thursday morning. Nick Warburton scored four touchdowns to lead the Panthers. Jaxon Warburton had the other score. Nick Warburton scored on runs of 8, 13, 33, and 45 yards. He finished with 332 on an impressive 37 carries. His total captured the single-season rushing record for Quabbin. The game concludes the fall season for Quabbin with winter practices starting this week.

This year could prove a little more difficult as Gardner improved and has a 31-0 win over Quabbin in Week 1 of this year.

Kickoff is set for 6 p.m.



Nick Warburton celebrates after scoring a touchdown.



Nick Warburton crosses the goal line in his first touchdown run.



Bryce Venne catches a Gardner punt.



Cole Austin with a leading block to help Nick Warburton carry into the endzone.

Pioneers, Orioles set to matchup on Thanksgiving



Staff photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Brandon Hnitecki makes a tackle for the Pioneers.

PALMER – Last Thanksgiving, the Pathfinder High School football team scored early and often, utilizing the pass game to their advantage en route to a win over Belchertown. It was the first Thanksgiving win in a few years for the Pioneers, which finished the season above .500 for the first time in several years.

This year, both teams are coming off pretty successful seasons,

setting up for a very good matchup on Thanksgiving morning, next Thursday.

This year's game will be held at Belchertown High School and the kickoff will take place a little early, at 9 a.m. Belchertown utilized the early kickoff two years ago for the first time.

Belchertown made the state tournament for the first time with a 7-1 record and a 4-1 conference record, losing only to Hoosac on Oct. 1.

The Orioles would be defeated by Shawsheen Valley Vocational 49-8 on Nov. 3 and then faced Ware in nonplayoff action in Week 10. The Orioles were defeated in that matchup, entering the Thanksgiving matchup with a 7-3 record overall.

Pathfinder enters this year's matchup at 4-6, though their team has had a much better season than their record reflects.

Even in defeat, Pathfinder always was in competitive matchups, and they were successful in Tri-County action, going 3-2, including a win over Smith Vocational on Oct. 27.

Smith Vocational got a bit of revenge, defeating Pathfinder in nonplayoff action on Nov. 10. Pathfinder also lost to Lee in Week 9.



Hunter Griswold makes a throw for Pathfinder.



Austin Lagimoniere ranges to make a catch.

COLLEGE

Mahar's Parker scores in conference semifinal win

WESTFIELD - Westfield State junior forward Delaney Parker (Orange, Mass./Mahar) scored a pair of goals and Kiana Muratsuka (Mililani, Hawaii) handed out three assists as Westfield State held off Worcester State, 3-2 in the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference semifinals at Alumni Field on Nov. 2.

With the win, Westfield advances to Sunday's championship game to play the winner of tonight's other semifinal round game, as top seed Bridgewater hosts Fitchburg State at 7:00 p.m. tonight. Sunday's title game time and site will be determined following tonight's second semifinal.

Westfield will be seeking their third straight conference tournament title an it's 10th under 18th year head coach Todd Ditmar.

Second-seeded Westfield is now 12-6-1 overall in the season, while third-seed Worcester State's year comes to a close at 6-9-2.

Westfield took command early in the match as Parker launched a left-footed blast from the top left corner of the 18 just 6:10 into the match. Owls' goalkeeper Julia Robak's (Chicopee, Mass./Comp) punt sailed to midfield where Muratsuka tapped the ball to Morgan Berthiaume (Webster, Mass./Douglas), who slotted a long through ball to Parker to set up the goal.

Westfield grabbed a 2-0 lead in the 23rd minute as the Owls took advantage when a pair of Worcester State defenders collided while going after a header, that let Muratsuka tap a back pass to Berthiaume, who loaded up a blast from 25 yards out on the left side to the far post for the goal.

Westfield outshot the Lancers 10-4 in the first half.

Worcester trimmed the lead to 2-1 in the 54th minute when Abby Bond (Bolton, Mass./Nashoba) slotted a long through ball to Erin Condon (E. Bridgewater, Mass.), who fired through traffic and beat Robak to her right for the goal.

Westfield regained the two-goal cushion midway through the second half, getting good buildup from the midfield as Muratsuka sent the ball ahead on the left side to Tia Tollis (E. Longmeadow, Mass.), who found Parked alone on the right side, where

See COLLEGE, page 10

Sports

T-Birds fall in overtime

BRIDGEPORT, CT – The Springfield Thunderbirds (7-6-1-0) got a terrific netminding performance, but the offense went cold in a 2-1 overtime loss to the Bridgeport Islanders (4-6-1-0) on Saturday night at Total Mortgage Arena in Bridgeport.

The starting goaltenders were the best performers in the opening period. Malcolm Subban got the nod for the T-Birds after a strong relief effort in Providence on Friday and helped Springfield kill off a pair of Islander power plays in the first, denying nine shots in the period. At the other end, Ken Appleby was far busier than he was last Sunday when he needed to make just 17 saves in 60 minutes against the T-Birds. He had an answer for all 11 Springfield shots in the first frame.

The scoreless affair was broken at the 5:54 mark in the second period. After Springfield failed to generate a chance on an odd-man rush, it sprung the Islanders into the T-Birds

zone on a 3-on-1, and Ruslan Iskhakov elected to take the shot himself from the right circle, slipping it between Subban's legs to give Bridgeport the 1-0 advantage and snap a streak of more than 75 minutes without a goal for the Isles.

Despite some shaky moments in the stanza, the T-Birds fought back to even the score at 15:28. Near the end of a shift, Will Bitten entered the offensive zone on the left wing, dropping a pass at the top of the left circle for Joey Duzak. After stumbling slightly, Duzak regathered his footing and surprised Appleby with a low shot along the ice that sneaked home, equaling things at 1-1. Bitten picked up his first assist of the year, while Duzak's tally was his first goal as a Thunderbird.

Subban remained stout in between the pipes, as he shut down each of the other 13 shots he faced in the period, allowing just the Iskhakov wrister to beat him, taking the 1-1 tie into the

final 20 minutes. Shots and chances heavily favored the Islanders in the third period, as Springfield just a single shot on goal in the final 20 minutes. Subban, though, maintained his poise and nearly singlehandedly earned a standings point for the T-Birds, forcing the 1-1 tie into overtime.

After winning their first two overtime games of the season, Springfield could not make it three straight, as Iskhakov stormed up the ice to create a 2-on-1 with Sam Asselin with under a minute left in overtime. Asselin hit Iskhakov in stride, and the skilled winger made no mistake in beating Subban on the stick side to seal the victory at 4:08 of extra time.

The T-Birds come back home next Friday, Nov. 17 for another Deuces Wild Friday at the Thunderdome, where the T-Birds will take on the Utica Comets for their first of four matchups on the season, with puck drop at 7:05 p.m.

Education

News from the Quabbin Regional School District

From the desk of Colleen Mucha Interim Superintendent of QRSD

At the start of the school year, second grade teachers from Hubbardston Center School, Jess Berner and Jen Churchill, invited me to be a Mystery Reader in their classroom.

It was with great excitement that I eagerly responded to their invitation and shared three clues about myself that they asked me to provide. These clues were presented to the class prior to my arrival and students were asked to guess, who the mystery reader may be. I thought my clues were pretty helpful but would not necessarily give my identity away too easily.

It was the morning of my big reveal and I was genuinely nervous. I wondered, "How would the students respond to the book that I had chosen?" "Would I be able to capture their attention, get them engaged and keep them focused on the story?" "Would they understand that the book was written from the perspective of dogs?" "Would they have their own dog stories that they'd want to share?" If they did, how would I manage that?"

These are the questions that our teachers ask themselves multiple times every day when they plan their lessons. They have to center the curriculum and content around the students. They work hard to form strong relationships with students and are committed to knowing them on a personal level. They think about students who may need more movement or students who might benefit from visuals paired with language and vocabulary.

They know which students will connect with stories and they understand which students may not. They use all this information to create



Interim Superintendent Colleen Mucha was a Mystery Reader in the second grade classroom at Hubbardston Center School.

lessons that are differentiated to fit the needs and interests of each learner, and I am here to say it is no easy task.

My only job as Mystery Reader was to read aloud a story to the students. However, there were so many "teachable moments" that I chose to stop briefly and ask questions to try to make sure students were learning important information and understanding the story that I was reading to them. The book that we read was "Once I Ate A Pie."

It is a fun collection of poems told from the perspective of dogs. At the end of the lesson, the students helped me to create a graph about our favorite pies, as we are thinking about the upcoming holiday, Thanksgiving.

I'm pretty certain that I had more fun than the students and that I learned more from them than they

did from me. However, I found out who had dogs and heard some pretty memorable dog tales. I also learned, who understood adding tens while we did our graphing activity and I noticed some students who would have benefited from a movement break during my lesson.

At the end of the day, I left with an immense sense of pride. Our teachers understand the importance of establishing relationships with students and families early in the year so they can provide the best educational experiences for their students.

They lean on this information to ensure safe and supportive classrooms for all, and I am truly in awe of their abilities to navigate all the complexities of school and am so proud that they have chosen the Quabbin Regional School District to call "home."

Sign up for the Wilbraham Turkey Trot

WILBRAHAM – Please join us on Thanksgiving morning, Nov. 23 for the Wilbraham Turkey Trot - a five-mile road race up Monson Road now in its 44th year. The annual tradition, started in 1980, has grown in recent years selling out at 500 runners the past several years. This year, the maximum has been increased to 550 participants.

The race returned successfully returned last Thanksgiving morning for the annual tradition benefitting the Community Survival Center. There is no vaccination requirement this year. The course starts in Woodland Dell Cemetery just up from race headquarters at the Wilbraham United Church. Runners then make a left onto Main St. and head up

Monson Road. Once summited, runners turn left and enjoy scenic views of the valley from atop Ridge Road and enjoy the downhill along Mountain Road before turning back on Main Street to the church. The race starts at 8:30 a.m. with bib pick-up beginning at 7:30 a.m. at the church.

The race focuses on providing a classic New England Turkey Trot with chip timing, race swag, and one big hill. Awards will be given for the first male and female runners to the top of Monson Road.

Registration is only \$20 and available online at www.RunReg.com/wilbrahamturkeytrot

Residents are asked not to park on Woodland Dell or Main Street on Thanksgiving morning and to avoid driving on the route

until after the race has concluded at 10 a.m. Any traffic will be detoured downhill from Monson Road to Main along Ridge and Mountain Roads.

Expected road closures are as follows:

Main Street: From Monson to Woodland Dell: 8:30-8:35 a.m.

Monson Road: Closed to downhill traffic from Ridge Road to Main Street: 8:30-8:50 a.m. (Traffic detoured down ridge road)

Ridge Road: Closed to uphill traffic from Mountain to Monson: 8:35-9:10 a.m.

(Traffic detoured down Mountain Road)

Mountain Road: Closed to uphill traffic from Main to Ridge: 8:40-9:25 a.m.

(Traffic can travel uphill via Monson Road)

UMass hosting Pioneer Valley Tip-Off

AMHERST – The Pioneer Valley Tip-Off is a student-run high school basketball showcase featuring some of the best talent in Central and Western Massachusetts. The PVTO was started in 2011 by Scott Moses and Pat Salle, both students at the University of Massachusetts-

Amherst and it continues to be entirely student-run by the McCormack Student Leaders Club today.

The PVTO is held each December on the University of Massachusetts Amherst campus, where we strive to create a professional environment for fans

and players alike. This year's event will be held on Dec. 9 and 10 and will feature teams from throughout the region.

A schedule is online at www.pioneervalleytip-off.com. All games will be held at the Mullins Center on the UMass-Amherst campus.

Alumni game at Chicopee Comp

CHICOPEE – All Chicopee Comprehensive High School football alumni are invited to participate in the 6th annual CCHS Alumni Football Game. The game will be taking place on Wednesday, Nov. 22 at 6 p.m. at Chicopee Comp High School, 617 Montgomery Street, Chicopee. All proceeds will benefit the Chicopee Comprehensive football team.

For more information, please contact Tammy Martin-Griffin at tmg811@yahoo.com.



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FIELD HOCKEY, continued from page 9

loses of the season, captured the sectional title for the first time since 1991.

The Lady Panthers began the Division 4 state tournament with an exciting 1-0 victory over 24th-seeded Saint Paul Diocesan of Worcester in the round of 32, which was played at Alumni Field.

Breault scored the only goal in that contest on a penalty corner, which was assisted by Makenzie Casey. It was also the Lady Panthers final home game of the season.

Five days later, Quabbin squeaked out a 2-1 road victory over eighth-seeded Cohasset in round of 16.

Trailing 1-0, Magill scored the tying goal against Cohasset in the second quarter, which was assisted by Breault. The Casey sisters combined for the go-ahead goal. Makenzie put the ball into the cage while her older sister assisted.

"We beat Clinton and Lunenburg, who were previously undefeated in the Central Mass. Tournament," Zalneraitis said. "Cohasset was another big win because they were seeded ahead of us. We did a lot of great things to get here this year."

Quabbin entered the Division 4 quarterfinal match riding a seven game winning streak.

Uxbridge had won 67 games in a row before losing, 2-0, at Andover, who's the defending Division 1 state champions, on October 16. The Spartans, who outscored their opponents, 115-13 during the regular season, won their eighth consecutive game against the Lady Panthers.

"Uxbridge is a powerhouse team, and they move the ball unbelievably well," Zalneraitis said. "It's like a high school team playing against a college team. Even if

a team plays a perfect game against them, I'm not sure you would beat them. The turf field also makes a huge difference."

The Lady Panthers practiced on the turf field at Gardner High School a couple of times.

"The Gardner AD (Dan Forte) has been great allowing us to use their turf field for practice," Zalneraitis said. "I wish that we had our own turf field."

Stanger, who made five of her 21 saves during the first quarter, managed to keep the Spartans off the scoreboard for the first twelve minutes.

"Julianna played a phenomenal game today," Zalneraitis said. "She should hold her head up high leaving here."

Uxbridge head coach Kelly Rosborough was also impressed with Stanger's outstanding performance.

"I thought the Quabbin goalie did a heck of a job," said Rosborough, who was inducted into the Uxbridge High School Athletic Hall of Fame last Saturday night. "She's one of the best goalies that we've faced this season. She stopped a lot of hard shots. It took us more than ten minutes to score our first goal of the game."

With 2:51 left in the opening quarter, Uxbridge junior Ellie Bouchard pushed a shot into the cage for her first of four goals.

Sophomore Kendall Gilmore, who assisted on the Spartans first goal, scored a goal with eight seconds remaining in the quarter, which was assisted by sophomore Amelia Blood.



Gracie Talbot clears the ball away on defense.

The Lady Panthers had two penalty corners during the first five minutes of the second quarter, but they couldn't take a shot on goal.

The home team held a 5-0 half-time lead following one goal by sophomore Julianna Casucci and two more from Bouchard during the second quarter.

Uxbridge's lone goal of the third quarter was scored on a penalty corner by Blood with nine minutes remaining on the scoreboard clock.

Less than 40 seconds into the final quarter, Bouchard capped off the scoring with her fourth goal.

Down at the other end of the field, Uxbridge sophomore goalie Julia Okenquist didn't have to make any saves in posting her 14th shutout of the season.

While the Lady Panthers end their season with a 13-5-3 overall record, the Spartans (21-1) were scheduled to face fourth-seeded Sutton in the Division 4 state semifinals.

COLLEGE, continued from page 9

she beat Worcester goalkeeper Ella Gumienny (Douglas, Mass./Blackstone Valley) with a high shot to make the Owls lead 3-1.

Parker leads the MASCAC with 17 goals and 10 assists for 44 points this season. Her 17 goals and 44 points are both the sixth-best single season totals in program history.

The Lancers never surrendered.

After a restart that an Owls' header failed to clear, Emma Jacob (BillERICA, Mass.) centered a pass from the left side to Condon, unmarked on the penalty spot, and she slid a shot into the left side of the net to cut the lead back to 3-2 with just over 12 minutes left in the match.

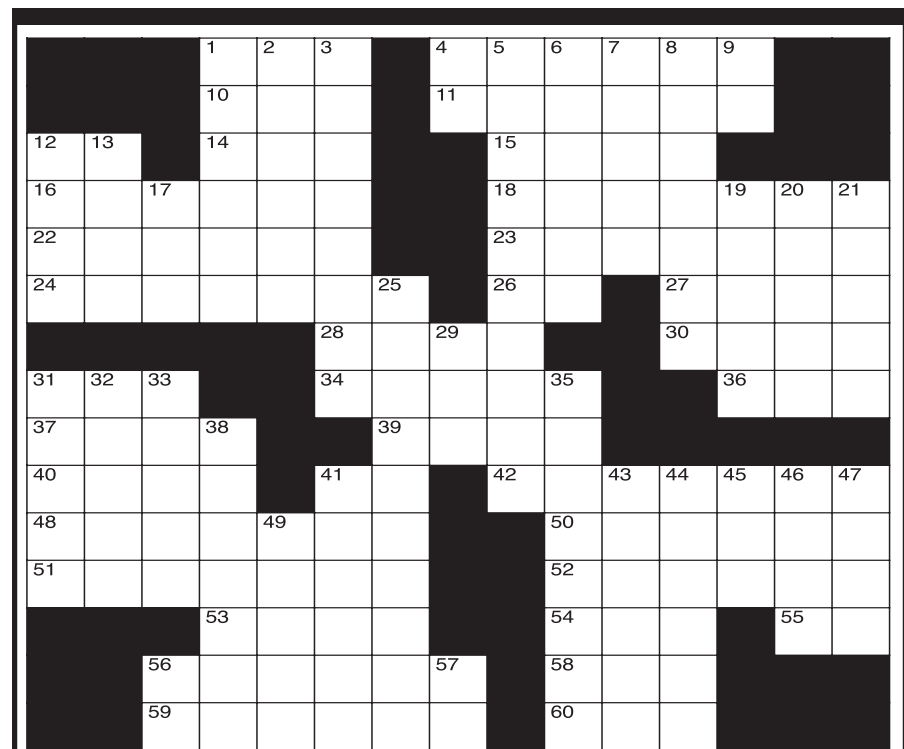
Worcester pressed late to try to equalize but couldn't get a tying goal.

Westfield's Muratsuka lofted a high shot from 40 yards out that

ricocheted off the top of the cross bar with about 5 minutes left that could have put the game away. Worcester played a long through ball that Robak smothered at the top of the penalty area in final 20 seconds to preserve the win for Westfield.

Robak finished with three saves for the Owls, while Gumienny stopped five shots for the Lancers.

Westfield held a 17-9 edge in total shots, while corner kicks were even at three each.



CLUES ACROSS

- Beats per minute
- Hindu deity
- Polynesian garland of flowers
- Not chained to
- Metric ton
- Tall, rounded vase
- Musical composition
- St. Francis of
- Discover the location of
- Compact group of mountains
- Mend
- Not current
- Atomic #64
- Young hawk
- Or
- Pouches
- Southern Thailand isthmus
- Mends with yarn

CLUES DOWN

- Similar to the color of a clear unclouded sky
- Former name of Iran
- Made smaller
- Type of meter
- Revolt
- Killed with rocks
- Gregory __, US dancer
- Nullifies
- Home to the Flyers
- Female parent
- Pre-1917
- Russian emperor
- Outsourcing
- Line
- Hermann __, author of "Siddhartha"

CLUES ACROSS

- Downwinds
- One of two equal parts of a divisible whole
- Italian archaeological site
- Cold appetizer
- Yes
- Peninsula
- Of that
- A way to divide
- Relating to the physical senses
- One who makes money
- Spumante (Italian wine)
- Inconvenience
- South Dakota
- Snow sport
- The products of human creativity
- Change mind
- Born of

CLUES DOWN

- No seats available
- Leaves of an Arabian shrub
- Groove in organ or tissue
- Not of this world
- Cooking device
- Forget
- Operational flight
- Actress Danes
- Poke holes in
- A way to discolor
- Shouts of welcome or farewell
- Pharrell's group
- Red fluorescent dye
- Jr.'s dad
- Electronics firm

ANSWERS ON PAGE 14



VETERANS DAY

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Town erects memorial honoring veterans

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer

RUTLAND – The Police Department hosted a special ceremony on the town common to commemorate a new panel of veterans who earned the Honor Roll.

The panel highlights those who fought in the War on Terror and beyond, and features many men and women who served, honoring their service and sacrifice.

Eagle Scout Liam Dearden worked to refurbish the monument alongside the American Legion Post 310, for his Eagle Scout project.

Among the many men and women on the Honor Roll, Stephen Winters was at the commemoration. He served for 32 years and was a part of the 58th Aerial Port Squadron during 9/11.

"I hope [those in attendance] get the understanding of the sacrifice of all veterans," Winters said. "It's really pleasing to see all the people here today. Veterans Day is very important to me."

There were many more veterans in attendance, and there were a few in active service.

At the beginning of the service, Arya Monaco stunned the audience with her beautiful voice as she sang the National Anthem.

Pastor David Fish of First Congregational Church gave a touching prayer and message, and many members of the town board were present to share messages of thanks for the service of these brave men and women.

U.S. Army Colonel Corey Critchley and U.S. Army Lt. Colonel Jon "Ed" Novak gave speeches about what their service meant to them, and thanked family and friends for their unwavering support.

The memorial stands proudly on the town common outside the church and anyone can go and read the names of all who received an Honor Roll from many wars. The brave men and women who served our country are valuable and deserve to be remembered for all time.



The new panel of the monument commemorates those who fought in the War on Terror.



American Legion Post 310 gathered for the ending benediction.

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VETERANS DAY

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

VETERAN'S SPOTLIGHT: Phil Hamel

Ware veteran looks back on life of service

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – In 1954 at just 17 years old, Townsend resident Phil Hamel boarded the USS General George M. Randall, setting a course to Korea.

Hamel had made the decision to join the U.S. Army months prior, after his parents received a Western Union telegram saying his next to oldest brother was missing in action during the Korean War.

"I signed up," Hamel said. "I joined the Army in Springfield and ended up on a bus to Fort Dix, New Jersey."

Luckily, Hamel's family was notified that his brother had been located and was safe before Hamel made his way to basic training. After completing his eight weeks of basic training, Hamel was sent to Fort Lee in Virginia for another eight weeks of advanced training.

"They found him, he was okay, but by that time I was already signed up," Hamel said. "It was tough times, but overall, I'm glad I did it. I think it's a good place for all young people to go to for a couple of years, you either make it or you don't...I smartened up real fast."

For two weeks, Hamel was able to return home before he reported back to Virginia in order to make his way by plane to Fort Lewis in Washington, where the ship to Korea awaited.

Hamel's ship never made it to Korea.

"We were supposed to be heading to Korea, but halfway over, they changed our orders to Japan," Hamel said.

He stayed in Japan for two years, nine months and four days, as a member of the National Defense Forces.

During this time, Hamel was again called to Korea, and this time he was airborne when for some reason, the plane turned back and returned to Japan.

While overseas, Hamel drove a truck, carrying ammunitions over the mountains to Mount Oshima Air Force base, and working his way up as a non-commissioned officer in charge of base camp at the training area.

"I was really amazed I had that position," Hamel said.

Hamel was placed as NCO after a master sergeant was caught stealing gas and selling it to the Japanese. As NCO, Hamel had a shower built, handled water supply, mess hall and communications.

"I had two generators, almost as big as half this room, that I had to maintain," he said.

Living in Japan was a far cry from his hometown life, and the winters were exceedingly harsh, sometimes accumulating snow seven-to-eight feet deep.

"It was different. It was a lot of getting used to, driving on the left side of the road was tough," Hamel said. "There roads were mostly dirt, very narrow. If you met another vehicle coming the other way, it was very challenging."

After serving three years in the U.S. Army, Hamel came home in 1957, returning to Fort Dix before he was assigned to the 94th Military Police Company in Boston where he served for a couple years.

"Every Tuesday night we had to go to Boston for our training meetings...from Townsend to Boston. Then I went to Camp Drum for two weeks training," Hamel said.

Hamel said he and his fellow MPs could go anywhere, as long as they stayed on base.

In his hometown of Townsend, Hamel was a call member of the Fire Department, and had the emergency alarm center in his house.

He worked for his dad's oil company, Hamel Oil Co. before taking over a Pyrofax Gas distributor and creating Hamel Bottled Gas.

"I had to do the school of hard knocks," Hamel said with a laugh. "I took it on, ran that for quite a while."

Hamel soon expanded his busi-

ness, opening a Whirlpool appliance store, and eventually taking on a business partner to help with the appliance operation.

"Never go into business with a partner," Hamel said, describing how the partnership soured and reached a breaking point. "We had a not so pleasant discussion. I said I'll make you and offer to buy me out. He bought me out, and three months later he's out of business."

Hamel's bottled gas company continued to thrive until the arrival of natural gas, which he knew would drive him out of business.

Hamel approached the natural gas company, and asked to have someone contact him. To his surprise, the president of the company called him and set up an interview.

"They offered to make me manager at a branch in Manchester, New Hampshire...I bought a house in Merrimack, and I took over the branch," Hamel said. "I was the manager there for three or four years."

While living in Merrimack, Hamel was recruited by the Police Department to join the Department as a special police officer, which quickly turned into a full-time job.

Hamel left his job with the natural gas company, and worked his way through the Police Department, earning the rank of



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette
Phil Hamel, U.S. Army veteran

sergeant, as well as acting police chief.

Hamel decided to return to the natural gas business, and his former employer hired him back, making him manager of the Salem, New Hampshire branch.

"I stayed in that district for almost a year," Hamel said. That company eventually took over ownership of Ware Bottled Gas, bringing Hamel to Ware, where he has lived ever since.

"I ran that for 35 years...the gas company sold to Petrolane, and I got Barre on top of Ware," he said.

Hamel had a fleet of six tank trucks, two service trucks, and a

pickup truck. He oversaw two office managers and two clerks.

"It kept me busy," he said. Hamel also joined the Army National Guard, was a call firefighter, became a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, was the Rotary Club president for two terms (and a 44 year member). Hamel was also a corporator for Country Bank for over 35 years.

Hamel started as the youngest member of the Rotary Club, eventually ending up as the oldest member.

He also married Sandra Arsenault, and together the couple raised their six children. His wife was a nurse at Baystate Wing Hospital, before transferring to the pharmacy as a technician.

"My wife and I raised five boys and a girl," Hamel said. "Unfortunately, I lost my daughter about four years ago, my youngest child."

Hamel continues to be active in serving his country, as a member of the American Legion, AMVETS, VFW and DAV. He has also been president of the Ware Veterans Council, and emceed the parades for many years.

"All of it's a lot of work," Hamel said. "Between all of these organizations, don't ask me how I did it because I couldn't tell you. It's been quite an adventure. The good Lord was really good to me."

QUILTS, continued from page 1

honor prisoners of war and those missing in action.

"We remember them," Baublitz said, as she read the significance of each item placed on the table. "Remember until the day they come home."

The table is smaller than the other tables in the dining room, symbolizing the frailty of one prisoner alone against their captors. The black napkin represents the emptiness left in the families' hearts.

The table has a red rose, a candle, a bread plate and an inverted wine glass. On the bread plate is a lemon, a bitter reminder of these POW/MIA's fate, and salt to represent the tears of their loved ones.

The glass is overturned, to

remind people that these service-members are not here to raise their glasses.

Baublitz credited a crew of dedicated volunteers for making the breakfast a success, including Senior Center Executive Director John Zienowicz, Chef Alton Davis, Council on Aging members and Senior Center volunteers, along with Country Bank staff, who served and cleared plates.

Morrone presented a medalion coin to each volunteer, as well as to HomeFront Strong staff and volunteers.

She also recognized Town Manager Stuart Beckley, Veterans Service Officer Mark Avis, along with Selectboard members Nancy Talbot and Jack Cascio and Superintendent of Ware Public Schools Michael Lovato, who all attended the breakfast.



Connie Barnes wraps William Griswold in his Quilt of Valor.

For more information about HomeFront Strong and the programs and services it offers, find them on Facebook and

Instagram, visit brookfieldinstitute.org, call 508-499-9589 or email jennifer@brookfieldinstitute.org.



Kate Blanchard thanks Palmer veteran William "Billy" Byrnes for his service.

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William "Billy" Byrnes, a U.S. Army veteran, wears his red, white and blue quilt.

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VETERANS DAY

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

Art show celebrates works of veterans and family members



Ware resident Nancy Harder stands with a piece she made out of pottery and driftwood.



Linda Iorio painted "Morning Fire" from a scene at Fort Devens.



Donald "Donny" Longley's fish is made from new and repurposed metal.

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – For the third year, HomeFront Strong teamed up with Workshop13 to present the Shaped by Service art show at ArtWorks Gallery, 69 Main St.

Featuring 18 artists, the Shaped by Service art show offered servicemembers, veterans and their families a chance to express themselves creatively through various mediums, capturing the true image of what it means to serve.

"There's just so many different types of mediums all coming together to celebrate the military," the show's curator Faith Eileen Ward said. "It's a wonderful mix of people."

Through their shared experiences with the military, the artists have produced a touching, and often gut-wrenching, display rich with colors and textures.

"These are real things that happen," Ward said of these experiences. "They're fighting for our freedom."

Ward said her husband, uncle and aunt have all served in the military, and she knows the sacrifice servicemembers make for their country.

"I just have a lot of respect for people that allow us to live in freedom," she said.

Shaped by Service, just "brings together what they went through, even family members," Ward said.

HomeFront Strong's Executive Director Jennifer Baublitz said this is the first year the art show has filled the entire gallery, and it featured lots of returning artists.

One such returning artist is Anthony Seay of Three Rivers, a U.S. Coast Guard veteran and one of the area's most prolific painters, showcasing eight of his hyper realistic acrylic paintings in this year's show.

Seay has only been painting for

six years, and it's something he's embraced in his sobriety.

Seay is also a volunteer at HomeFront Strong, offering support for fellow veterans for a number of things including substance and alcohol use.

Veterans helping veterans is a model HomeFront Strong uses, allowing those shared experiences to create a lasting bond and trust. Seay said unless you've been in the military, or a substance user, it's very hard to relate to someone who is.

Seay had several paintings in the show based off of photos provided to him by a friend, who is a retired U.S. Marine Corps veteran. One is of a green Humvee that his friend drove in Okinawa, Japan, and another is of a 1942 U.S. Navy Willys Jeep.

His friend had the Willys shipped home after he discovered the U.S. Navy wanted to get rid of it.

"We've rebuilt it twice," Seay said with a laugh. "It still runs."

Another painting featured a truck his friend drove while in Germany.

Nancy Harder of Ware also entered eight pieces into the Shaped by Service art show, featuring pottery, glasswork and more.

"I started as a littler girl, but I didn't pursue more of it until I retired," Harder said of her creative side.

Harder said she and her husband Gregory rent a cottage on the military base in Niceville, Florida, and she took advantage of a gift certificate she received from the local art studio CREATE!

"I just have such wonderful instructors there, it's very therapeutic...they embrace anyone who comes through the door," Harder said.

Gregory is a 20 plus year U.S. Air Force veteran, and while the two both grew up in Ware, they



Maurice and Linda Iorio of Sterling enjoy spending time together painting. Maurice's painting showing the view from a rooftop in Turkey is shown in the background.

didn't know each other until later in life, when Gregory had retired from the military.

Harder said she was living in Chicago, and he was all over the world.

"We were introduced, and our children convinced us we should be a family," Harder said. Together, the couple has four sons.

Making her art brings her joy, Harder said. She makes a lot of pieces that remind her of Gregory and home.

"Gregory walks on the beach and brings me pieces of wood that washed up on shore," she said. One of her pieces in the show features a blue ceramic heart, hanging from a piece of driftwood collected by Gregory.

This was Donald "Donny" Longley's first time exhibiting in the show since he started his job as HomeFront Strong's chief operating officer a little over a year ago.

Longley, a metalworker, served in the U.S. Air Force for six years, stationed at Dyess Air Force Base

in Texas. He was deployed to both Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

For about 20 years, Longley has made sculptures out of a mix of new and repurposed metals.

"I like making abstract stuff," Longley said of his sculptures, which included a fish, a seahorse and even a ball and chain made from old railroad spikes.

The fish is Longley's favorite piece he entered in the show, and it features metal from a number of sources, including old railroad pitchforks, a lawnmower blade and

leaf springs from a car. Longley cut out 100 metal disks from a sheet of metal to resemble the fish's scales.

U.S. Navy veteran Katie Standiford of Longmeadow entered her ceramic sunflower bowl titled, "Shades of Summer". The bowl is layered with seven or eight glazes, washing it in warm tints of pink, yellow, orange and brown.

The base of the bowl, which is the center of the sunflower, remains unglazed to showcase the fish's rich, earthy color.

"It's called 'Shades of Summer' because it was a culmination of everything I learned over the summer about glazing," she said. "How to get different depths in the surface so it wasn't flat...it really looks like a flower."

Standiford started taking a ceramics class as part of her art therapy for post-traumatic stress disorder about a year ago. Making the bowl took her about seven hours, with most of that time committed to layering the glazes.

Husband and wife artists Maurice and Linda Iorio traveled from Sterling to display their paintings in the show.

Maurice has exhibited in Shaped by Service for all three years, and last year, he even sold the painting he entered. It is now displayed at Monson Savings Bank.

Maurice has been painting since 2014 and Linda has been

painting for over 50 years, and is also his teacher.

Linda remembered the first time her husband had expressed a desire to learn how to paint, during a cruise they took following Maurice's retirement, when she had brought her watercolors along.

Maurice served 21 years as U.S. Army intelligence, and two of his paintings in the show are of his military assignments. One is from his first assignment in Windsor Locks, Connecticut and another from his last in Turkey.

"90% of all of my paintings are from pictures I took," Maurice said.

Linda entered a painting of the morning fire at Fort Devens, as well a sunset beach scene from Turkey. The beach scene was painted using a photo one of Maurice's friends from Turkey took.

Linda explores all types of mediums for her paintings, including acrylics, oils, watercolors and Japanese rice inks.

"I got to study with a phenomenal artist, who had his doctorate from Yale," Linda said.

Now the couple has turned a spare bedroom in their home into a studio to display their work, and spend many days together in the dining room, just painting.

"The main thing is I get to spend more time with my wife," Maurice said of his interest in painting.

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Public Safety

Barre Police Log

Sunday, Oct. 29
3:13 p.m. EMS Breathing Difficulty, Williamsville Road, Mutual Aid Transport

Monday, Oct. 30
11 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Williamsville Road, Transported to Hospital
2:05 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Sick/Unknown, Harty Road, Transported to Hospital
6:37 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Chest Pain/Heart Problems, South Street, Transported to Hospital

Tuesday, Oct. 31
8:21 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Exchange Street, Officer Spoke to Party
Summons: Pacheco, Shasta Ann, 31, Barre
Charges: Disturbing the Peace

Wednesday, Nov. 1
9:26 a.m. Court Duty, Barre Police

Headquarters, Court Duty
1:09 p.m. Police – Erratic Operator, Worcester Road, Officer Spoke to Party
11:31 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Chest Pain/Heart Problems, Peach Street, Transported to Hospital

Thursday, Nov. 2
8:38 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Breathing Difficulty, Ruggles Lane, Transported to Hospital
9:13 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Sick/Unknown, Edward Lane, Mutual Aid Transport
2:14 p.m. Police – Fraud, Forgery, James Street, Officer Advised
3:43 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, South Street, Officer Advised
4:54 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Common Street, Report Filed

Friday, Nov. 3
12:10 p.m. Harassment, South Street, Officer Advised
7:18 p.m. Community Service,

Williamsville Road, Officer Spoke to Party
11:12 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Headache, Peach Street, Transported to Hospital

Saturday, Nov. 4
2:08 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Written Warning
10:49 a.m. Public Assist, Barre Police Headquarters, Officer Spoke to Party
11:20 a.m. Property Dispute, Valley Road, Officer Took Call
1:13 p.m. Property Damage, Pleasant Street, Report Filed
4:28 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Officer Spoke to Party
4:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Vernon Avenue, Written Warning
7:43 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Hubbardston, Mutual Aid Assist

Rutland Police Log

Sunday, Oct. 29
5:20 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Falls, Village Way, Public Assist
9:57 a.m. Road Hazard, Maple Avenue, Referred to Other Agency
11 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Seizures, Miles Road, Transported to Hospital
12:23 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Stroke (CVA), Adams Road, Transported to Hospital
8:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Written Warning
9:33 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Worcester Road, Report Filed
9:36 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Oakham, Mutual Aid Assist

Monday, Oct. 30
8:37 a.m. Animal Wildlife, Main Street, No Action Required
9:14 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Breathing Difficulty, Joanna Drive, Transported to Hospital
10:21 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Seizures, Miles Road, Transported to Hospital
11:57 a.m. Police – Larceny/Theft, Barre Paxton Road, Report Filed
2:17 p.m. Identity Theft, Maple Spring Drive, Report Filed
6:40 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Main Street, Report Filed
8:06 p.m. Fire – Threats, Anthony Drive, Report Filed

Tuesday, Oct. 31
8:20 a.m. Transport Prisoner, West Brookfield Court, Removed to Court/Lockup
8:40 a.m. Emergency Medical Services, Seizures, Miles Road, Transported to Hospital
9:06 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Main Street, Message Delivered
3:20 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Breathing Difficulty, Transported to Hospital
3:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
3:53 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop,

Pommogussett Road, Written Warning
4:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Prouty Lane, Criminal Complaint
Summons: Russ, Jacob A., 23, Rutland
Charges: Uninsured Motor Vehicle, Number Plate Violation to Conceal ID
4:22 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Chest Pain/Heart Problems, Beechwood Drive, Transported to Hospital
4:49 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Leominster, Negative Contact
4:56 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Citation Issued
5:09 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
5:28 p.m. Property – Lost and Found, Memorial Drive, Dispatch Handled
8:07 p.m. Police – Erratic Operator, Main Street, Investigated
9:15 p.m. Police – Larceny/Theft, Glenwood Road, Report Filed
9:28 p.m. Police – Erratic Operator, Barre Paxton Road, Negative Contact

Wednesday, Nov. 1
7:05 a.m. Animal – Barking Dog, Prospect Street, Investigated
12:54 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Pleasantdale Rod, Officer Advised
4:30 p.m. Property – Lost and Found, Carlsons Way, Property Returned
5:41 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
6:30 p.m. Police – Fraud/Forgery, Pleasantdale Road, Report Filed
7:48 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, East County Road, Referred to Other Agency
8:07 p.m. Police – Fraud/Forgery, Pommogussett Road, Officer Spoke to Party

Thursday, Nov. 2
8:34 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Pommogussett Road, Officer Spoke to Party
10:31 a.m. Lookout (Home or Vehicle), Main Street, Entry Gained

1:06 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Citation Issued
1:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
3:24 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
3:30 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Citation Issued

Friday, Nov. 3
4:41 a.m. By-Law Violation, Anthony Drive, Written Warning
4:46 a.m. By-Law Violation, Juniper Lane, Written Warning
4:51 a.m. By-Law Violation, Newman Drive, Written Warning
4:55 a.m. By-Law Violation, Briarwood Road, Written Warning
4:59 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Stroke (CVA), Watson Lane, Transported to Hospital
9:26 a.m. Animal Wildlife, East County Road, Area Patrolled
10 a.m. Animal – Bite, Main Street, Information Taken

Saturday, Nov. 4
12:55 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Wheeler Road, Criminal Complaint
Summons: Montalto, Connor D., 22, Rutland
Charges: License Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With, Inspection/Sticker No
5:15 a.m. Suspicious Activity, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party
8:37 a.m. Emergency Medical Services, Breathing Difficulty, Prison Camp Road, Transported to Hospital
1:56 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Rufus Putnam Drive, Gone on Arrival
2:17 p.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Spencer Road, Transported to Hospital
8:46 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Edson Avenue, Transported to Hospital
11:18 p.m. Assist Other Agency/Non-Police, UMass Hospital, Officer Spoke to Party

Oakham Police Log

Sunday, Oct. 29
12:23 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Stroke CVA, Adams Road, Transported to Hospital
9:33 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Worcester Road, Report Filed

Monday, Oct. 30
12:17 p.m. Police – Threats, North Brookfield Road, Message Delivered
3:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Road, Written Warning
3:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Road, Written Warning

Tuesday, Oct. 31
4:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued

Wednesday, Nov. 1
1:09 p.m. Police – Erratic Operator, Worcester Road, Cancelled
5:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old Turnpike Road, Citation Issued

Thursday, Nov. 2
8:39 a.m. Suspicious Activity, Coldbrook Road, Officer Spoke to Party
5:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old Turnpike Road, Written Warning

Friday, Nov. 3
10:33 a.m. Court Duty, East Brookfield District Court, Court Duty
1:43 p.m. Complaint, North Brookfield Road, Officer Advised
3:08 p.m. Illegal Dumping, Spencer Road, Report Filed

Saturday, Nov. 4
2:17 p.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problems, Spencer Road, Transported to Hospital

Hubbardston Police Log

Sunday, Oct. 29
7 a.m. Unwanted Party, Gardner Road, Gone on Arrival

Monday, Oct. 30
12:25 a.m. Severe Stomach Pain, Ragged Hill Road, Mutual Aid Transport
12:19 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Chest Pain/Heart Problems, Dogwood South Road, Transported to Hospital
1:29 p.m. Medical Alarm, Williamsville Road, Not Transport Required
6:22 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Falls, Madison Way, Public Assist

Tuesday, Oct. 31
12:25 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Headache Disoriented, Transported to Hospital

2:11 p.m. Police – Suspicious Person, Worcester Road, Public Assist
4:42 p.m. Soliciting, Kruse Road, Officer Took Call
7:49 p.m. Animal Wildlife, Williamsville Road, Referred to Other Agency

Wednesday, Nov. 1
2:30 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled Vehicle, Hale Road Extension, Officer Spoke to Party
3:31 p.m. Identity Theft, Mohawk Drive, Report Filed
7:23 p.m. Police – Suspicious Person/Vehicle, Ragged Hill Road, Officer Spoke to Party

Thursday, Nov. 2
7:49 p.m. Property Damage, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party

Friday, Nov. 3
3:04 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Breathing Difficulty, Ragged Hill Road, Transported to Hospital
9:52 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gardner Road, Citation Issued
10:07 a.m. Animal Complaint, Chicopee Drive Message Delivered
10:51 a.m. Confiscated/Seized Property, Main Street, Officer Took Call
5:36 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Falls, High Street, Public Assist

Saturday, Nov. 4
12:19 a.m. Fire – Fire Investigation, Worcester Road, Fire Extinguished
11:50 a.m. Moto Vehicle Disabled, Worcester Road, Vehicle Towed
6:38 p.m. Property Damage, Muskogee Street, Report Filed

New Braintree Police Log

During the week of Nov. 6-13, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 14 building/property checks, 23 directed/area patrols, two traffic controls, five radar assignments, three emergency 911 calls, two citizen assists, one motor vehicle investigation, one safety hazard, one animal call and one motor vehicle stop in the town of New Braintree.

Tuesday, Nov. 7
4:10 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

Wednesday, Nov. 8
3:35 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

Friday, Nov. 10
7:21 a.m. 911 Disabled Motor Vehicle, Gilbertville Road, Checked/Secured

Saturday, Nov. 11
5:10 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency,

Barre Road, Services Rendered

Sunday, Nov. 12
11:46 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Barre Road, Investigation

Monday, Nov. 13
2:43 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Mara Road, Services Rendered
7:27 a.m. Safety Hazard, Gilbertville Road, Dispatch Handled

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of Nov. 6-13, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 65 building/property checks, 37 directed/area patrols, four traffic controls, 14 emergency 911 calls, 13 radar assignments, three complaints, seven motor vehicle investigations, one investigation, three assist other agencies, six citizen assists, one threat, one vandalism, one property damage, four animal calls and 14 motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, Nov. 6
9:20 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Greenwich Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
1:08 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Street, Transported to Hospital
1:57 p.m. Vandalism, Grove Street, Spoken To
6:19 p.m. Assist Citizen, Parker Court, Spoken To
8:18 p.m. 911 Animal Call, Barre Road, Officer Handled
8:20 p.m. Gunshots, Fiske Road, Report Taken
10:20 p.m. Assist Citizen, River Run, Investigated

Tuesday, Nov. 7
1:57 a.m. Medical Emergency, Greenwich Road, Services Rendered
2:35 p.m. Neighbor Dispute, High Street, Summons Issued
2:45 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Prospect Street, Transported to Hospital
4:01 p.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Turkey Street, Vehicle Towed
5:05 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, River Run, Transported to Hospital

Wednesday, Nov. 8
2:30 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Lower Road, Investigated
5:48 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Citation Issued
7:25 a.m. 911 Lockout, Hardwick Road, Services Rendered
9:09 a.m. Investigation, Lower Road, Officer Handled
11:35 a.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
12:36 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled
3:22 p.m. Medical Emergency, Prospect Street, Transported to Hospital
4:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
6:46 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Ridge Road, Officer Handled
6:59 p.m. 911 Misdiagnosed, Upper Church Street, Dispatch Handled
8:02 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital

Thursday, Nov. 9
12:12 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
6:50 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Petersham Road, Arrest(s) Made
11:04 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Grove Street, Officer Handled
2:07 p.m. Property Damage, Church Street, Report Taken
2:58 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, Broad Street, Services Rendered
3:17 p.m. Assist Citizen, Fleming Road, Services Rendered
11:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Main Street, Spoken To

Friday, Nov. 10
2:20 a.m. Motor Vehicle

Investigation, Main Street, Officer Handled
9:36 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Town of Hardwick, Dispatch Handled
12:55 p.m. Threat, Lower Road, Officer Handled
1:22 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Services Rendered
2:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Vehicle Towed
2:49 p.m. Complaint, Hardwick Pond Road, Officer Handled
3:58 p.m. Assist Citizen, Barre Road, Officer Handled
6:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
6:53 p.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Lower Road, Negative Contact

Saturday, Nov. 11
4:56 p.m. 911 Elevator Call/Alarms, Old Petersham Road, Unfounded
7:33 p.m. 911 Disabled Motor Vehicle, Petersham Road, Vehicle Towed

Sunday, Nov. 12
12:27 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Petersham Road, Officer Handled
2:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Lower Road, Investigated
7:25 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Breen Road, Merge
7:27 p.m. 911 Suspicious Activity, Mellon Road, Unfounded

Monday, Nov. 13
2:41 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Lower Road, Services Rendered

Public Notices

Town of Barre PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Tax Classification Hearing
TAKE NOTICE that the Select Board will conduct a Public Hearing on **Monday, November 20, 2023 at 6:00PM** in the Select Board's Meeting Room at the Henry Woods Building, 40 West Street, Barre, MA for the purpose of selecting a residential factor, which will determine the percentages of tax burden to be borne for each class of property for fiscal year 2024. Persons wishing to comment may do so at that time. The Board will also consid-

er written comments received prior to the hearing.
For the Select Board:
Greg Balukonis
Town Administrator
11/09, 11/16/2023

TOWN OF NEW BRAINTREE SEALED BID REQUEST
The Town of New Braintree is seeking sealed bids for the **Project # 23-001, New Braintree Grade School Heating System Boiler Replacement, Removal and Disposal of Existing Boiler**, located at 15 Memorial Drive, New Braintree, Ma 01531. Installation preferred to be on or before December

18, 2023. All sealed bids should be submitted no later than **November 30, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.** Please call 508-867-2071 ext. 100 or email Selectboard@newbraintree.org for details and bid specifications. E-mail submissions will NOT be accepted. The Town of New Braintree reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids. **Please mail or bring in your submissions to: 20 Memorial Drive, New Braintree, MA 01531, Monday 8:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Tuesday 8:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Thursday 8:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Friday 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. (Hours vary on Fridays, please call ahead to confirm someone will**

be present to accept your sealed bid).
11/16/2023

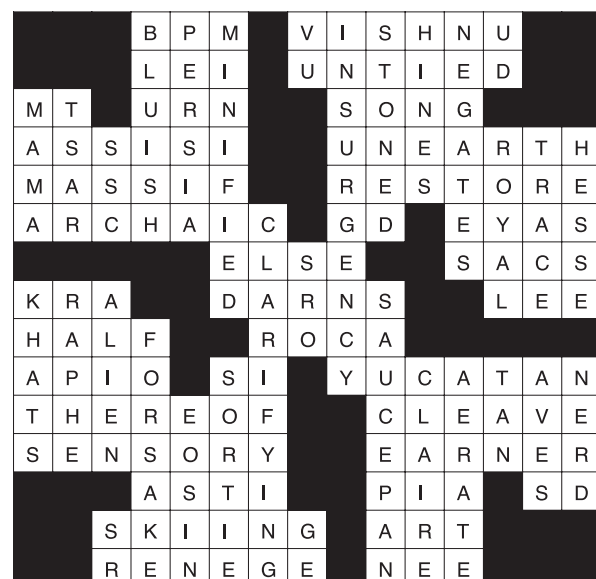
Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com



Marine Toys for Tots announces Child Poverty Day Initiative

Triangle, VA – Across the Nation, 41% of children live at or below the poverty level. These children face obstacles and hardships every day of the year, and their parents struggle to provide even the basic necessities. As the holiday season approaches, parents are feeling the effects of record-high inflation more than ever; they simply don't have the means to buy gifts for their bright-eyed and hopeful children. Marine Toys for Tots believes that no child should ever have to face the challenges associated with

living in poverty and they want to put smiles on their faces and hope in their hearts. That is why they strive to be a year-round force for good and deliver joy to children no matter the time of year. As part of Program's year-round mission, they continue to look for ways to provide comfort and emotional relief to children living in poverty. Support Marine Toys for Tots today to help us expand their horizons and give them the tools they need to learn and grow. Because that's the unparalleled power of

play: its ability to stretch imaginations, spur development, and help America's children dream big. A better, brighter chapter is possible for economically disadvantaged children when supporters contribute in honor of Child Poverty Day. The support people provide today will provide a lifetime of nourishment to the minds of this Nation's children and put joy in their hearts. People may visit <https://secure.toysfortots.org/a/evergreen-news-to donate> to be a force for good today.

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To apply please go to <https://www.communityaction.us/job-openings> for full job description and information regarding benefits.

Community Action is committed to a diverse workforce. AA/EOE/ADA

HELP WANTED
TOWN OF BROOKFIELD HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT
Brookfield is seeking a full-time Highway Superintendent. Full job description and application details at brookfieldma.us. Deadline to apply is November 20th or when position is filled, whichever is longer.

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.
This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

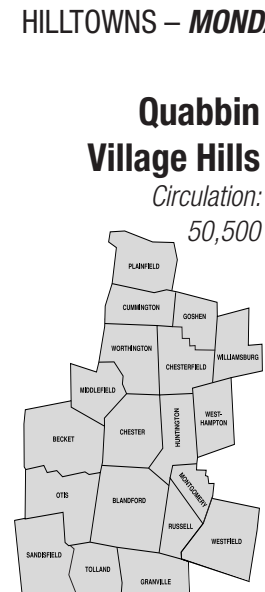
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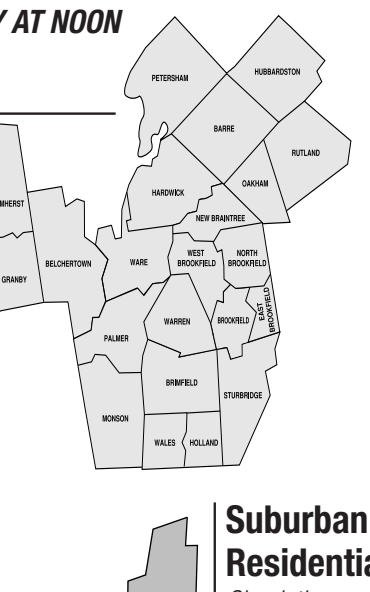
DEADLINES: QUABBIN & SUBURBAN – FRIDAY AT NOON
HILLTOWNS – MONDAY AT NOON

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	Base Price \$26.50	22	Base Price \$27.00
23	Base Price \$27.50	24	Base Price \$28.00
25	Base Price \$28.50	26	Base Price \$29.00
27	Base Price \$29.50	28	Base Price \$30.00
29	Base Price \$30.50	30	Base Price \$31.00
31	Base Price \$31.50	32	Base Price \$32.00
33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base Price \$33.00
35	Base Price \$33.50	36	Base Price \$34.00
37	Base Price \$34.50	38	Base Price \$35.00
39	Base Price \$35.50	40	Base Price \$36.00

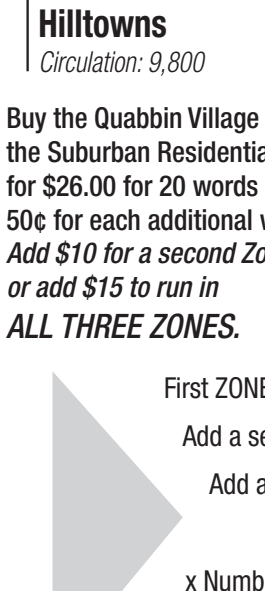
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The benefits of local newspapers

Local newspapers play vital roles in communities across the globe. The Information Age has changed the way many people get their news, but local newspapers continue to serve as valuable resources for readers interested in learning more about and becoming more involved in their communities.

While local publishers continue to adapt to the changes brought about by technology, the following are a handful of benefits unique to local newspapers.

- **Local newspapers keep readers up-to-date on their own communities.** Globalization may be here to stay, but that does not mean local communities are no longer home to newsworthy events. National and international newspapers and 24-hour cable news channels can keep men and women up-to-date on national and world news, but in many instances, local newspapers are the only means people have to learn about what's going on in their own communities. Local politics impact residents' lives every day, and local newspapers cover local politics extensively.
- **Local newspapers benefit nearby businesses.** Small business owners often connect with community members via local newspapers. A strong, locally based small business community can improve economies in myriad ways, creating jobs in the community and contributing tax dollars that can be used to strengthen local schools and infrastructure. And local newspapers do their part by providing affordable and effective advertising space to local business owners looking to connect with their communities.
- **Local newspapers can strengthen communities.** Local newspapers are great resources for residents who want to become more active in their communities and learn more about community events. Local newspapers often showcase community events like carnivals, local theater productions and projects like park cleanups. These are great ways for readers to become more active in their communities and build stronger communities as a result.
- **Local newspapers can benefit children.** National newspapers may have little age-appropriate content to offer young children, but local newspapers tend to include more soft news items than national periodicals, and such stories typically are appropriate for young readers. According to Newspapers in Education, students who participated in an NIE group in Florida performed significantly better in spelling and vocabulary than nonreaders.

Additional studies have indicated that students who use newspapers in the classroom perform better on standardized reading tests than those who do not use newspapers in class.

Many local newspapers have played vital roles in their communities for decades, providing a go-to resource for local readers and business owners.

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