

BARRE GAZETTE

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Board approves single tax rate

By Ellenor Downer
Editor
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BARRE – The Select Board held the annual Fiscal Year 2025 Tax Classification Hearing at their Monday, Nov. 18 meeting.

As in previous years, the Board of Assessors recommended the Select Board adopt a single tax rate and vote not to adopt the residential exemption, open space exemption and the small commercial exemption. The Select Board unanimously approved the single tax rate and voted not to adopt the three exemptions. Jesse Warren from the Assessors office, said Barre properties were 89.8% residential, 3.7% commercial, 1.4% industrial and 5.1% personal property.

He said the residential exemption offered up to a 35% discount to residents and shifted the burden to vacation homes and rentals. Barre did not have that. As far as the open space exemption, Barre lacked land designated as open space. Chapter 61a and 61b provided tax reductions to farm and forest land. The third exemption small commercial, the owner of the property not the business owner, received the discount. The Select Board signed the necessary paperwork for the Board of Assessors to move forward in the process of setting the tax rate.

Water issues

Select Board Chair Maureen Marshall said there were some complaints about customers tasting chlorine in the water. Tom George of the DPW said water samples taken mandated continued chlorinating of the town's water supply. At present, the town lacked a licensed water operator and hired an outside service, Blue Heron, to do the water monitoring.

Select Board Chair Marshall said Blue Heron announced their service to the town would end after January 2025 due to their busy schedule. The town advertised a position for a licensed water operator, but to date had not filled the position. She said licensed water operators were hard to find. Chair Marshall said one well was no longer used due to high iron content. The situation could be remediated through a filtration system for the well so it could be returned to service.

Select Board member Mark Regienus said the Water Commission should broadcast their meetings for video viewing since the public water supply was so important to the citizens. He also said the fraud audit was available on the town website for residents to look at.

Town Administrator

Town Administrator Tammy Martin said she sought three bids for the removal of accumulated discarded furniture and equipment as requested by the Building Inspector. She received a response from two refuse removal companies. She recommended hiring Warmtown Services, the low bidder at \$2,900 to remove the discarded furniture and equipment at the Henry Woods Building. The other bid was for \$4,255.

Playground Consultant

The Select Board voted to hire Site Specifics as the consultant for the playground at High Plain Parks. They were the consultant, who presented a playground that included a train, during a presentation from several playground consultants. The total cost for the playground was \$189,919. The town received a grant, which can't be spent until

See BARRE, page 5

Senior Center celebrates 20th anniversary

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

BARRE – The Barre/Hardwick Senior Center celebrated 20 years of operation during a special anniversary party held last week.

The 20th anniversary party took place on Nov. 19 and the turnout was spectacular.

Dozens of residents from Barre and Hardwick came together for a special celebration featuring delicious 20th anniversary themed cupcakes. These desserts were highlighting the Barre blue and white, and light refreshments were available thanks to the dedicated staff of the Barre/Hardwick Senior Center.

In attendance was Betty-Jo O'Brien, director of the Senior Center. O'Brien was excited to see all the seniors come together for this special anniversary celebration.

"This anniversary is good for the Senior Center," O'Brien said. "It brings us together, giving us a better connection."

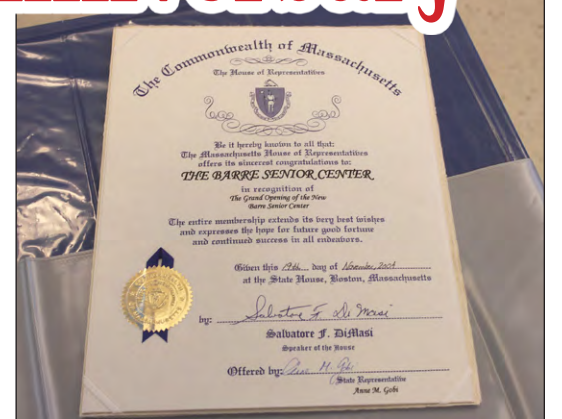
O'Brien took the role of director



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

See SENIOR CENTER, page 5

The Barre/Hardwick Senior Center had a 20th anniversary celebration on Nov. 19. The celebration had light refreshments and cupcakes.



The recognition certificate awarded to the Senior Center back in 2004 was displayed during the 20th anniversary celebration.



A front page article of the Barre Gazette recorded the grand opening of the Senior Center back in 2004.

Board signs CR for land near Patrill Hollow

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

HARDWICK – The Select Board continued discussion about the acceptance of a conservation restriction on 90 acres of land adjacent to East Quabbin Land Trust's Patrill Hollow Preserve.

At the Nov. 12 meeting, Town Administrator Justine Caggiano said the town's attorney and the land trust's attorney reviewed the board's proposed changes to the language in the conservation restriction, as discussed at a previous meeting. This included removing language permitting agrotourism and green energy structures.

The question about whether or not the town would be held liable in the event someone were hurt or injured on the town's open space was raised by Select Board Chair Kelly Kemp and Clerk William Tinker at the prior meeting.

Caggiano said she also contacted the town's insurance provider regarding concerns the Select Board members had about liability for open space properties. She said it appears that coverage of the town's open space would be a minimal increase to the town's policy at approximately \$1,000 a year.

Tinker asked EQLT's Executive Director Cynthia Henshaw how the land trust had contributed financially to the town's emergency services to cover the cost of any responses, and he referenced a 911 call from lost hikers in 2020. He said seven different agencies responded to the call and that the services weren't free.

Tinker said the police have requested electric mountain bikes to be funded by the land trust, in order to respond to calls in remote areas. He said the bikes would be used to access trails that could not be reached with emergency vehicles.

Henshaw said she was not made aware of the incident Tinker referenced, and said emergency personnel have passcodes to unlock bollards on the rail trails. She said the land trust has not received a formal request to provide electric mountain bikes to emergency personnel.

Henshaw said the land trust properties are open to the public and meet state standards for being posted. Detailed maps of the trails are available online and posted on kiosks at trailheads.

Henshaw noted that the town is featuring the land trust's trails

See PATRILL HOLLOW, page 5

Board discusses PILOT policy for nonprofits

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

HARDWICK – Select Board members reviewed a draft Payment In Lieu of Taxes policy presented by Clerk William Tinker, that would allow the town to enter into financial agreements with nonprofit organizations.

At the Nov. 12 meeting, Chair Kelly Kemp said some of her concerns about the policy include the percentage rate being high at the base rate, and the "catch-up" surcharge. She said some of the language in the policy is redundant.

"I don't think it's a bad idea to try to put something in place," she said. "I think other towns have benefited from it...I think 5% is a lot and I don't know if I'm comfortable with a 'catch-up' surcharge."

The base rate, Tinker said, is based off of 5% of the nonprofits' annual gross revenues, including tuition, donations, grants and other income sources. This PILOT program would be voluntary.

Board members agreed to change the language in the policy from 5% to "up to 5%."

Vice-Chair Eric Vollheim said it's a great idea to negotiate with the town's nonprofits for a PILOT agreement, but he urged the Select Board members to have other boards and committees weigh in on it, as it was more similar to a proposed bylaw rather than a policy.

He said having more input would

help to avoid future problems.

Tinker said the board should first adopt the policy, then bring it to other boards and committees.

"I see this as just dragging the feet," Tinker said.

Kemp agreed with Vollheim about discussing it with other boards and committees, including the Board of Assessors, Planning Board, Finance Committee and the town's financial team. Conservation Commission Chair Bill Zinni requested that the Conservation Commission be included in this discussion.

The Select Board will continue this discussion after getting feedback from other boards and committees.

Tax classification hearing

The Board of Assessors recommended the Select Board retain a single tax rate for all classes of property.

Board of Assessors Chair Lucinda Childs said having a split tax rate (where a greater tax burden is placed on commercial, industrial and personal property taxpayers) was not warranted and would only have a "relatively small benefit" for residential taxpayers.

The single tax rate is estimated to be \$13.50 per \$1,000 valuation. If the town had opted to have a split tax rate, residential taxpayers would have a rate of \$12.552 and commercial, industrial and personal property taxpayers would have a rate of \$19.73.

"There wouldn't be enough income from the commercial," Vollheim said of the split tax rate. "Because there's not that much."

Board of Assessors Clerk Jennifer Kolenda said the commercial properties only make up 8.72% of the town's tax base, versus residential at 91.27%.

"So predominantly residential, very little commercial, industrial and personal property," Kolenda said.

She said the neighboring towns of Ware and Palmer have retained single tax rates, even though they have a larger commercial base than Hardwick does.

Kolenda said the Board of Assessors does not recommend a split tax rate as it would be an unfair burden on nonresidential taxpayers. The Select Board voted to retain a single tax rate.

Mapping project

Meg Haight updated the board about an ongoing ecotourism mapping project the town is participating in. Using a grant from Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission, the town has begun developing phase one of a "story map."

She said the map will be available both in print and digitally, and will highlight areas of interest including nature preserves, trails and more. After reviewing community input, CMRPC will finalize the

See HARDWICK, page 9

Selectmen appoint Highway Department superintendent

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Board of Selectmen unanimously voted to appoint Randy Morgan as the town's permanent Highway Superintendent.

Morgan has been acting as superintendent since the departure of former Superintendent Jason Benoit.

"I think Randy's been doing a fantastic job running things down there in the meantime since we haven't had a superintendent," Board of Selectmen Clerk Vaughn Schlegel said at the Nov. 19 meeting. "He's been there for quite a while now, he knows the ins and outs, he knows everybody that works there, and he's really been getting a lot of projects rolling and I'm happy to see that and I know a lot of people in town are too."

Board of Selectmen Chair Jason

Petratis said Morgan went into the interim position with "quite a lot of enthusiasm," and has done an excellent job.

Morgan thanked the board for the opportunity and accepted the permanent position.

STM warrant

A special town meeting will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 4 at 6 p.m. at the North Brookfield Senior Center, 29 Forest St.

There are four articles on the warrant: Article 1, to see if the town will vote to rescind a portion of the vote of the Nov. 15, 2024, special town meeting, Article 1, that raised and appropriated \$66,564 to Group Health; Article 2, to see if the town will vote to transfer the sum of \$7,180 from Fire Assistant Chief Salary to Fire Supplies; Article 3, to see if the town will vote to transfer the sum of \$7,000 from Police Career Incentive to Police Overtime;

and Article 4, to see if the town will vote to transfer the sum of \$100,000 from Stabilization to Capital Stabilization.

Administrative Assistant Ashley Barre said the Capital Improvement Planning Committee made the request to include Article 4 on the warrant, but that it is up to the board to include it now or wait until the spring town meeting.

Schlegel moved to approve the warrant without Article 4, and wait until the spring town meeting when the town would have a better idea of what the fiscal year 2026 budget will look like.

Jamie Gilman, chair of the Capital Improvement Planning Committee, said its members are trying to get ahead of any capital spending requests that may come before them in the future. He said they have not received any requests at this time.

"It's not a matter of 'if,' it's of

matter of 'when,'" Gilman said.

Barre said there is slightly over \$1 million in the town's Stabilization account. The Capital Stabilization account has just over \$100,000 in it currently.

Schlegel's motion failed to pass and after further discussion, Canada moved to approve Article 4, but reduced the amount requested to \$50,000.

The board voted unanimously to approve the special town meeting warrant with the amended article.

First Night event

Parks and Recreation Committee Chair Brandon Avery said they did not have enough time to organize the Thanksgiving 5K run/walk this year, but they are focusing on First Night activities to be held on Tuesday, Dec. 31 in the early afternoon or evening.

The First Night event will be held in the downtown area and will offer family-friendly activities.

"We'll have more details when we see who we can get involved," he said. "We certainly look for involvement from the community...or anybody who wants to jump in and make suggestions to have some sort of activity and help out."

Tax classification hearing

Board of Assessors Chair Sheila Buzzell said the town's residential taxpayers make up 87% of the town's tax base and she recommended the board keep its single tax rate. She said the commercial and industrial taxpayers would pay a much higher rate if the town adopted a split tax rate.

The board voted to retain a single tax rate for the coming year.

Buzzell said the tax rate will be determined in the coming weeks.

Resignation

The board accepted Patrick

See NORTH BROOKFIELD, page 6



News of the Towns

Round Town
Ellenor Downer
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Barre Lions Club delivers supplies and snack to area schools



Submitted photo

Lion Ke McCarthy, top row left, delivered several boxes filled with snacks, school supplies and assorted items requested in a letter written in late spring.

BARRE – In late October, the Barre Lions Club made a surprise delivery of needed supplies and goodies to four schools in the Quabbin Regional School District.

Lion Ken McCarthy delivered several boxes filled with snacks, school supplies, and assorted items that had been requested in a letter written last spring. The Barre Lions Club whose motto is “We Serve” receives dozens of inquiries for support each year. The BLC, which is 19 members strong, discussed some of last year’s

requests and voted to help out.

Using some of the proceeds from the Sept. 7 Car Show held on the Barre Common, the BLC went on a shopping spree at some of the area businesses and filled some of the requests made by students from the Quabbin SOAR Program and the Q-Munity Closet Student Interns at the Quabbin Regional Middle/High School.

Lion McCarthy was warmly greeted by students and advisors and was assured that the donated items would be used and distributed in the spirit in

which it was given. The Barre Lions and the Quabbin School District have had an open relationship and the hope is that it will continue in the future. Everyone knows that there is a never ending need for aid and help in the community.

The Barre Lions are there and are ready to serve. The BLC meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Congregational Church, 30 Park St. The public and any interested persons are more than welcome to join in and see what they are doing.

Holden Grange honors Veterans

HOLDEN – Veterans from Holden and Rutland were special guests of Holden Grange on Veterans Day.

Following a dinner, each military branch was highlighted one at a time with a brief history, the service song and veterans introducing themselves along with the years served. All eighteen veterans in attendance were presented certificates of appreciation.

Grange Secretary Janet Segur spoke about the origin and mission of the Quilts of Valor Foundation. Quilts, made by Grange members, Cindy Mason and Carol Ann Keegan, were awarded to Army veterans Albert Dumas (1962-1965) of Holden, Alan Judkins (1968-1971) of Rutland and Philip Cannell (1967-1970) of Rutland and Marine Corps veteran Ray Sherbourne (1960-1964) of Holden.

When Catherine Roberts



Submitted photo

Seated from left are Ray Sherbourne and Alan Judkins and standing, from left are Albert Dumas and Philip Cannell.

started the QoV Foundation in 2003, she set high standards for the quilts to be awarded which “would say unequivocally ‘Thank you for your service, sac-

rifice, and valor in serving our nation.” Since its first presentation in 2019, Holden Grange has carried on this tradition through the 21 quilts awarded.

Hubbardston
Ellenor Downer
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Pioneer Valley Brass to perform

A free public program of holiday music by the Pioneer Valley Brass Quintet will be presented Saturday, Dec. 7 at 5:30 p.m. at the Federated Church of Hubbardston, on the Common, extending a 30 year history of a Christmas performance here. The program is the 810th sponsored by the First Universalist Parish of North Dana, funded by a trust set up almost one hundred years ago before the town of North Dana was flooded to construct the Quabbin Reservoir. Sisters Catherine Mason and Mary Hale started a trust fund to ensure that the memory of the First Universalist Parish of North Dana would continue. Several descendants of the Parish have kept the Parish alive, with a small group meeting annually or as needed to conduct the business of the Parish. Sunday’s service is number 809 in the series of memorial vesper programs.

Senior tax work-off program

The town of Hubbardston announces the opening of the Senior Tax Work-Off Program for eligible senior residents. This program allows seniors to earn a property tax reduction of up to \$1,500 annually by volunteering their time to assist various town departments. Participants will earn \$15 per hour, directly reducing their property tax bill. To be eligible residents must be aged 60 and above and own and occupy a home in Hubbardston. The work period is Oct. 1 through Sept. 30, 2025. Opportunities are available in departments such as Town Offices, Senior Center, Police Department, Library, and DPW. Applications are available at the Treasurer Collector’s Office, 7 Main St. or by email request at taxcoll@hubbardstonma.us. For assistance or questions, people may call Sara Rish at 978-928-1400, extension 205. The town encourages eligible seniors to participate in this program to stay engaged with the community and enjoy a tax benefit.

Senior Center

The Hubbardston Senior Center, 7A Main St., events include: 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. Eggs may be picked up on Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. in the Senior Center. Cribbage is played on Thursdays from 1:30-3 p.m. Pitch is played the first and third Friday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Art group meets every Friday at 9 a.m.

No. 4 Schoolhouse holds winter raffle

No. 4 Schoolhouse will hold their winter raffle fundraiser. Raffle items include gift cards and certificates from local businesses, gift baskets, handmade items, lottery tree, a three hour cruise for two, Old Sturbridge Village admission for four and more. One hundred percent of proceeds go directly to No.4 Schoolhouse. Proceeds are used to maintain the schoolhouse and grounds and to continue functioning as a community club bringing quality events and programs. No. 4 Schoolhouse volunteers will be at the Christmas in Barre Craft Fair on Saturday, Nov. 30 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Quabbin Regional High School, 800 South St. selling raffle tickets. They also will be at the No. 4 Schoolhouse Christmas Party on Sunday, Dec. 15 at the No. 4 Schoolhouse, 209 Farrington Road.

People may also use Venmo to purchase tickets. Tickets are one for \$5, five for \$10 and ten for \$20.

Sales will run now through Monday, Dec 16. Drawing will be Tuesday, Dec 17. Winners will be contacted by phone that day. Winners may pick up prizes on Dec 17 at the No. 4 Schoolhouse Dessert Social from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Donations of an item, craft or money helps support this non-profit organization.

OES cookie sale and gift table

Cradle Rock Chapter Order of Eastern Star will hold their annual Christmas cookie sale and gift tables on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Mt. Zion Masonic Lodge Hall, 71 Pleasant St. There will be hundreds of cookies and cost is \$8 per pound. Cookies sell out fast so come early.

250th Masquerade Ball

Barre’s 250th Anniversary Committee is hosting a New Year’s Eve Masquerade Ball at the stunning Harding Allen Estate in Barre. This special event is the perfect way to end an amazing year of celebrations marking Barre’s 250th anniversary. The event is black tie preferred and is being held from on New Year’s Eve, Dec. 31 from 8 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Tickets are \$45 a person and include dinner, dancing, champagne toast at midnight and a fun-filled night with live music and a D.J. Tickets for this event are available now in limited quantities by visiting www.hardingallenestate.com. The evening promises an unforgettable celebration.

Church Fairs

Both the Barre Congregational church and St. Francis of Assisi Parish will hold their holiday fairs during Christmas in Barre. The Women’s Fellowship Christmas Fair will be held Saturday, Dec. 7 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. during the annual Christmas in Barre at the Barre Congregational church, 30 Park St. St. Francis of Assisi Parish Holiday Fair will be held on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at St. Joseph’s Church, 29 South St.

Barre BOH to host Shred Day Dec. 7

BARRE The Barre Board of Health will be hosting a shred event open to Barre town offices, residents and town businesses on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 10 a.m.-noon in the parking lot of the Henry Woods Building, 40 West St.

The event is free; there is a limit of two banker boxes (24x12x10) per household or business. For further information, people may call the Board of Health at 978-355-2504, extension 117 or email boardofhealth@townofbarre.com.

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Barre Dining Center

BARRE — Elder Services of Worcester Area Nutrition Program welcomes guests to dine at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road. The following meals will be served for the week of Dec. 2. 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 – Shepherd’s pie, carrots, peas, cookies, marble rye bread

TUESDAY – Greek chicken, steamed white rice, roasted broccoli, peaches, pumpernickel bread

WEDNESDAY – Meatloaf with gravy, garlic mashed potatoes, chuckwagon corn, fresh fruit, whole wheat bread

THURSDAY – Turkey supreme, cornbread stuffing, Brussels sprouts, baked cinnamon pears, Italian bread

FRIDAY – Lemon pepper haddock, rice pilaf, roasted broccoli and carrots, chocolate mousse, pumpernickel bread

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

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News of the Towns

PUBLIC MEETINGS

BARRE

Board of Health – Dec. 2 at 5 p.m.
 Select Board – Dec. 2 at 6 p.m.
 Board of Assessors – Dec. 3 at 6 p.m.
 Felton Field Commission – Dec. 3 at 6:30 p.m.
 Planning Board – Dec. 3 and Dec. 17 at 7 p.m.
 Council on Aging – Dec. 4 at 12:30 p.m.
 Water Commission – Dec. 9 at 6:30 p.m.
 DPW Commission – Dec. 9 at 7 p.m.
 Cable Advisory Committee – Dec. 10 at 7 p.m.
 250th Anniversary Committee – Dec. 11 at 6:30 p.m.
 Library Trustees – Dec. 11 at 6:30 p.m.
 Barre Housing Authority – Dec. 12 and Jan. 9, 2025 at 1 p.m.
 Sewer Commission – Dec. 19 at 7 p.m.
 Cemetery Commission – Dec. 26 at 11 a.m.

HARDWICK

Council on Aging – Dec. 4 at 12:30 p.m.
 Paige Library Trustees – Dec. 5 at 7 p.m.
 Hardwick New Braintree Cultural Council – Dec. 9 at 6:30 p.m.
 Gilbertville Public Library – Dec. 11 at 4 p.m.
 Master Plan Steering Committee – Dec. 12 at 6:30 p.m.
 Board of Health – Dec. 12 at 6:45 p.m.
 Capital Planning Committee – Dec. 16 at 3 p.m.
 Gilbertville Water District – Dec. 17 at 5:30 p.m.
 Conservation Commission – Dec. 18 at 6:30 p.m.
 Recycling Commission – Jan. 7, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

Parks and Recreation ° Dec. 2 at 5 p.m.
 Downtown Development Committee – Dec. 2 at 6:30 p.m.
 Board of Selectmen – Dec. 3, Dec. 17 and Dec. 31 at 6 p.m.
 Finance Committee – Dec. 5 at 6 p.m.
 Planning Board – Dec. 18 at 6 p.m.

OAKHAM

Board of Assessors – Dec. 2 at 6 p.m.
 Conservation Commission Hearing – Dec. 3 at 6 p.m.
 Select Board – Dec. 9 and Dec. 23 at 6 p.m.
 Council on Aging – Dec. 13 at noon
 Planning Board – Dec. 17 at 7 p.m.

PETERSHAM

Open Space and Recreation Committee – Dec. 3 at 6 p.m.
 Conservation Commission – Dec. 3 at 7 p.m.
 Select Board – Dec. 5, Dec. 19 and Jan. 2, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.
 Board of Health – Dec. 5 at 6 p.m.
 Council on Aging – Dec. 9 at 10 a.m.
 Cemetery Commission – Dec. 10 at 10 a.m.
 Cultural Council – Dec. 11 at noon
 Board of Assessors – Dec. 13 at 9 a.m.
 Petersham Historic District – Dec. 19 at 6 p.m.

Festival of Trees takes place Dec. 6 to Dec. 8

RUTLAND – The Rutland Historical Society will host its 24th Annual Festival of Trees, Friday Dec. 6 through Sunday, Dec. 8 at the Rutland Public Library, 280 Main St.

Kicking off the event, on Friday Dec. 6 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. will be a concert featuring Booty and the Jett at Lilac Hedge Farm, 216 Wachusett St. There will be food available, fire pits and S'mores to be made. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$20 for a family and free for children under 5. Tickets will be available at the door or by calling or texting Ben at 774-535-1295 or email, rutlandmafotl@gmail.com to reserve a ticket.

Saturday, Dec. 7 from 4-8 p.m., there will be activities for all to enjoy including decorated trees, gingerbread houses, a basket drawing, visit with Santa and his elves, Santa's Sweet Shoppe, S'mores, hot cocoa, food provided by the Boy Scouts, holiday music and more. Also on Dec. 7 at 5 p.m. the CTMS Chorus will perform at the library. At 6 p.m. gather in the Congregational Church for holiday music and a reading of names in remembrance and celebration of loved ones. At 6:30 p.m. the Annual Tree Lighting ceremony will take place on the Town Common immediately followed by a Fantastic Fireworks display.

On Sunday, Dec. 8, the festival will be held from 1-4 p.m.. From 1:30-2:30 p.m. a Hand Bell Concert with Hans Betancourt and students will fill the air with Holiday Spirit.

Steve Charette's Magic Strolling Entertainment will be on hand as well as children's craft activities, visit with Santa and his elves, food truck on site and more. Saturday and Sunday the festival will be held at the Rutland Library.

Pioneer Valley Brass to perform Dec. 7

HUBBARDSTON – A free public program of holiday music by the Pioneer Valley Brass Quintet will be presented Saturday, Dec. 7 at 5:30 p.m. at the Federated Church of Hubbardston, on the Common, extending a 30 plus year history of a Christmas performance here.

The program is the 810th sponsored by the First Universalist Parish of North Dana, funded by a trust set up almost one hundred years ago before the town of North Dana was flooded to construct the Quabbin Reservoir. Sisters Catherine Mason and Mary Hale started a trust fund to ensure that the memory of the First Universalist Parish of North Dana would continue. Several descendants of the Parish have kept the Parish alive, with a small group meeting annually or as needed to conduct the business of the Parish. Sunday's service is number 809 in the series of memorial vesper programs.

The Pioneer Valley Brass, founded by Cedric and Jeri Bannister, is composed of talented area musicians and has been providing music to the North Quabbin area since the 1970's. Current members include Dick Tandy and Steve Babineau on trumpet, Tabitha Greenlees on horn, Dana Tandy on trombone and Susan Lemei on tuba.

Music for Saturdays program will include "Carol of the Bells" arranged by Price, "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent/Tantum Ergo" arranged by Price, "The Christmas Hymn" by Grant, "When Santa Got



Submitted photo

Pioneer Valley Brass members Steve Babineau, Tabitha Greenlees, Susan Lemei, Dana Tandy and Dick Tandy will be performing a free public concert of holiday music at the Federated Church of Hubbardston, on the Common Saturday, Dec. 7 at 5:30 p.m. sponsored by the First Universalist Parish of North Dana, in memory of that church, which was forced to leave North Dana for the creation of the Quabbin Reservoir nearly 100 years ago.

Stuck Up the Chimney" by Grafton, "Sleigh Ride" by Anderson, "Still, Still, Still" arranged by Marlatt, "Mozart's Sleigh Ride" by Mozart, "Wassail" arranged by Snell, "Santa's Sleigh Ride" by North, "Secret Agent Sugar Plum" arranged by Greenlees, "Troika" by Prokofiev, "Let it Snow" arranged by Frackepohl, "Deck the Hall" arranged by Marlatt and "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas" arranged by Tandy. The program is always subject to change.

Several services throughout the year are presented throughout the North Quabbin area as memorial tributes to the First Universalist Parish of North Dana. Other services this month include Sunday, Dec. 15 at 4 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Winchendon; Saturday, Dec. 21 at 4 p.m. at the Orthodox Congregational Church of Petersham; Sunday Dec. 22 at 4 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Greenfield and The Pioneer Valley Brass will be providing music for all of these programs.

East Brookfield fatal fire under investigation

EAST BROOKFIELD – A house fire on West Main Street claimed the life of a resident early Oct. 31 morning, said East Brookfield Fire Chief David Messier, East Brookfield Police Chief Joseph Lazarick, State Fire Marshal Jon Davine, and Worcester County District Attorney Joseph D. Early, Jr.

"On behalf of the East Brookfield Fire Department, I want to offer our condolences to the man's family," said Messier in a press release. "This is a very sad day for them and the community."

The East Brookfield Fire Department and East Brookfield Police were dispatched to 234 West Main St. at about 3:35 that morning after 9-1-1 calls reporting a structure fire with flames through the roof. Firefighters observed smoke and flames on arrival and struck a second alarm. The first company on scene immediately made entry to attack the fire and locate a resident they believed to be inside. That resident, an adult who used a wheelchair, was located and removed from the home; sadly, he had suffered fatal injuries. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner will determine the cause and manner of his death and conduct a formal identification process.

The fire grew quickly, and the single-family home was soon fully involved. Firefighters



Submitted Photo

An Oct. 31 house fire that claimed the life of an East Brookfield resident is under investigation.

knocked down the bulk of the fire in about 20 minutes, but the structure will be a total loss.

The origin and cause of the fire remain under investigation by the East Brookfield Fire Department, East Brookfield Police Department, District 7 fire investigators, State Police fire investigators assigned to the State Fire Marshal's office, and State Police Detectives assigned to the Worcester County District Attorney's office. They are supported by the Department of Fire Services' Code Compliance &

Enforcement Unit. "The exact cause of the fire is still under investigation, but we didn't find any working smoke alarms at the scene," said Davine. "Please, take a few minutes today to be sure you and your loved ones are protected by working smoke alarms on every level of your home."

The fire departments of Spencer, North Brookfield, Brookfield, and West Brookfield provided mutual aid at the scene. The Charlton Fire Department provided station coverage.

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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COA lists upcoming events

The following are the Senior Center activities for December: Podiatry from 9 a.m.-2.30 p.m. Call for appointment. Fourth Tuesday of the month blood pressure/glucose testing from 11 a.m.-noon. At the Rutland Senior Center activities are Wednesday Zumba Gold at 9 a.m. \$2 donation per class.

Wednesday Zumba Gold at 9 a.m. in the Rutland; second Thursday of the month blood pressure at 11 a.m. and third Thursday of the month SHINE from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. reservations are required. At the New Braintree Town Hall on Fridays, Functional Fitness takes place at 10.30 a.m., \$2 donation per class. Lunch Bunch, a group lunch at a local restaurant, will meet on Thursday, Dec. 19 at 12:30 p.m. for December only. Sign up is required. Sign up sheets are in the main room of the Oakham Senior

Center. Lunch Bunch for December will be at Barber's Crossing. People should bring cash to make settling their bill easier as the restaurant will not issue individual bills.

For sign ups that can't be made at the Senior Center or for required reservations or for more information on offerings, people may call the Senior Center 508-882-4073 and leave a message or email COA@Oakham-MA.gov. The COA is interested in starting a yoga class with eight sessions after the new year. People should all the Senior Center if they are interested, leave their phone number or email at COA@Oakham-MA.gov and the COA will notify them when they have cost and schedule details. Hot lunches are offered at the Senior Center dining area Monday through Thursday at 11.30 a.m. Reservations are needed at least two days in advance and can be made through the Congregate Meal Coordinator from 9 a.m.-12.15p.m. by calling 508-882-4072.

Christmas trees and wreaths

Dismas Farm, 687 Lincoln Road, will be selling Christmas trees and wreaths on Saturdays and Sundays, Nov. 30, Dec. 1, Dec. 7 and 8 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. There will be homemade Christmas crafts, cookies, cocoa and hayrides.

OHA lottery tickets

The 20/20 lottery tickets, sponsored by the Oakham Historical Association, will start Tuesday, Jan. 7. Tickets are \$20 apiece, if their number is drawn, participants will receive a check for \$50 from the OHA. There are two drawings per week starting Tuesday, Jan 7 through Thursday, March 13. There is no limit to the number of times people can win. People can send a check to the Oakham Historical Association, P.O. Box 236, Oakham, MA 01068. They should include a SASE with the check. For questions, people may call Kathy Young at 508-882-3137.

Festivals of Lessons and Carols

On Sunday, Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. the Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, will hold their annual Festival of Lessons and Carols. A choir and community choir accompanied by a community orchestra will perform "Glory in the Highest" by Marty Parks. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

Holiday Festival and tree lighting this Sunday

NEW BRAINTREE – The New Braintree Holiday Festival will be held on Sunday, Dec. 1 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at 20 Memorial Drive.

There will be activities, wagon rides, hot chocolate, tree lighting, visit with Santa, an open house at the Historical Society and more.

Annual Stuff a Cruiser toy drive is Dec. 8

HARDWICK – The South Barre Rod and Gun Club, 2626 Barre Road (Route 32), will host the annual Stuff a Cruiser event to benefit the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department's Christmas for Kids Program on Sunday, Dec. 8 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

This event helps give kids in the Hardwick and New Braintree communities a wonderful Christmas holiday.

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Opinion

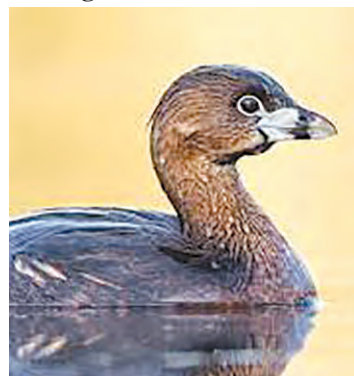
Guest Column



By Ellenor Downer

Pied-bill grebe

A Brimfield resident, who frequently emails about bird sighting saw a pied bill grebe in Warren on Nov. 6.



The pied-bill grebe is about 12 inches long. It is stocky and brown with a short stout bill. During the summer months, the grebe has a black ring around a white bill with a black chin. In winter the bill either shows a faint ring or no ring at all and the chin is light.

This grebe feeds by diving underwater and catching fish, aquatic insects, frogs and crayfish. The pied-bill grebe is one of the earliest migrant grebes to return and often arrives on ponds before the ice is all melted. They summer on lakes and ponds and winter in sheltered saltwater bays.

The female lays six to seven bluish green eggs in a platform nest of decaying vegetation, attached to growing vegetation in shallow water. In territorial skirmishes, males come together and tilt their heads up while calling. Parents may do a distraction display of flapping their wings between dives when their young are in danger. Their white rear feathers may be flashed when alarmed.

During breeding, calls are a "cow cow cow cow," a loud "keck keck" in alarm and a softer "cuk cuk cuk." The grebe generally remains quiet in winter.

Wild turkeys

I continue to see either one to three Tom turkeys or larger flocks of hens in my travels around Central Massachusetts. Although wild turkeys are now a common site, I never tire of spotting them.

Low flying geese

A few days a low flying flock of geese flew over my yard just above tree top level. They honked as they went. I assume they landed in one of the beaver ponds near my home.

Birds at feeders

I put out shelled peanuts and sunflower mix seeds in the morning in my tray feeders. I have black-capped chickadees, tufted titmice, white breasted nuthatches, an occasional downy woodpecker, mourning doves and squawking blue jays.

I have not put out suet cakes yet as I want to be sure the black bears are hibernating. Last year, I bought a new suet holder for this winter. I don't want to put it out to early in case a bear shows up and walks off with it. Somewhere in the woods around my home, there must be a large pile of suet feeders taken by bears. If I was lucky enough to find them, I think most would be smashed and unusable.

Common raven

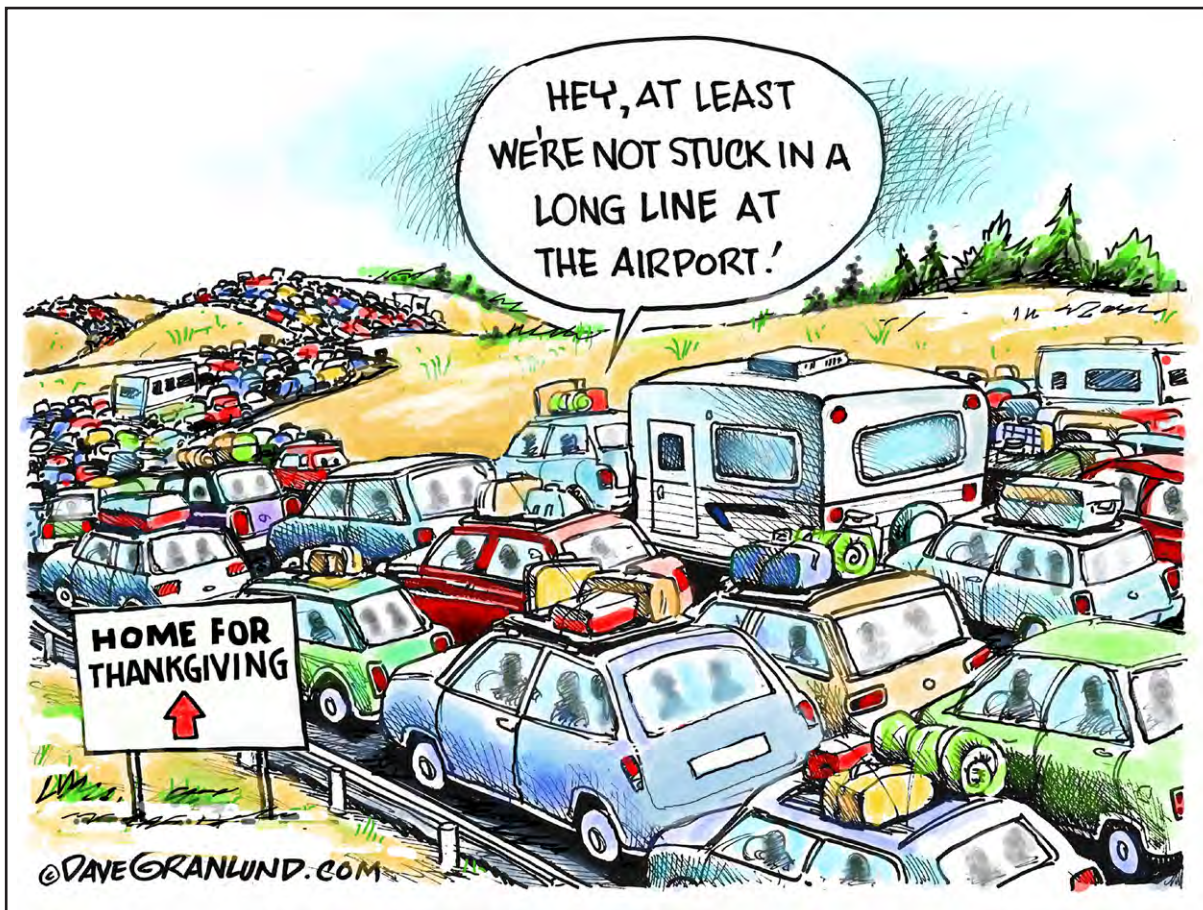
I continue to hear the common raven and sometimes see them flying overhead. They are much larger than the crow and make a low gronking sound.

Mass Audubon bird sightings

Cape Cod weekly wildlife sightings are sponsored by the Bird Watchers General Store in Orleans and Mass Audubon's Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary. The following sightings were reported between Nov. 13 and Nov. 19. Cape Cod's second-ever record of a spotted towhee was found at the Provincetown Airport on Nov. 16. A very rare pine grosbeak, two white-winged crossbills and a late prairie warbler were also seen there. A snowy owl was seen in Provincetown. Along Race Point Road a western tanager and two evening grosbeaks were seen.

Birds from Race Point in Provincetown this week included a pacific loon, 400 long-tailed ducks, 1,300 white-winged scoters, 1,500 red-breasted mergansers, 500 sanderlings, 400 dunlin, five Pomarine jaegers, 1,080 razorbills, a common murre, two dovekies, 85 black-legged kittiwakes, 70 Cory's shearwater, 215 great shearwaters, four sooty shearwaters, two Manx shearwaters, 3,200 northern gannets, two Lapland longspurs and 24 snow buntings.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.



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Guest Column



When should my wife claim Social Security benefits?

Dear Rusty

I turned 64 in July and my wife turned 62 in August. My wife has not worked for approximately 15 years, but does qualify for Social Security on her prior work record. My wife is having some physical issues and would like to not return to work. Since she is eligible to collect Social Security, that would be an option to provide additional income, so she doesn't have to work. My question is how would it affect her future SS spousal benefits based on my record if she begins collecting her own benefit now? I plan to work until at least my full retirement age, 67 and maybe longer, but plan to start collecting SS at 67 even if I continue working.

Signed: Working Husband

Dear Working

If your wife has the required 40 SS quarter credits, she is eligible to collect reduced retirement benefits at 62 for that needed extra income, but her age 62 benefit will be about 70% of what it would be if she waited until her SS Full Retirement Age to claim. That reduction would, in turn, carry over to her spousal benefit when you eventually claim your SS benefit.

Here's why: Your wife's spousal amount when you claim will be a combination of her own SS retirement benefit, plus an auxiliary amount, a "spousal boost" that she is entitled to as your spouse. At age 62, her own benefit will be cut by 30% and she can collect that reduced amount until you claim, at which point her spousal boost will be added to make her benefit equal her spousal entitlement. So, her total benefit as your spouse when you claim will consist of her reduced age 62 amount, plus an additional amount as your spouse.

If you claim at 67, your wife will be about two years short of her own FRA, which means that her spousal boost amount will also be reduced for early claiming. That reduced spousal boost will be added to her already reduced age 62 SS retirement benefit, which will make her total benefit less than 50% of your FRA benefit amount.

So, your wife claiming her own reduced SS retirement benefit at 62 also means her spousal benefit amount will be affected and taking her spousal boost before her FRA means that the boost amount will also be reduced for early claiming. The only way your wife can get the full 50% of your FRA entitlement is to wait until she reaches her own FRA, 67, to claim Social Security benefits.

Having said all of that, if your wife's physical issues suggest that she claims her benefits early and she is comfortable with the smaller benefit she will get, then that may be the right choice. For reference, the reduction to your wife's spousal boost amount, if you claim at your FRA, will be about 17%, and that reduced spousal boost will be added to her reduced age 62 SS retirement amount. The end benefit for your wife, if you claim at age 67, will likely be about 42% of your FRA entitlement instead of 50%.

FYI, you can further delay your own SS retirement benefit, up to age 70, for a higher benefit yourself, but

See SOCIAL SECURITY, page 9

In Past Pages

5 years (Dec. 5, 2019)

It looks like it will be a white Christmas in Barre this year. Lots of snow fell the beginning of the week to add a special touch to Christmas in Barre this Saturday, Dec. 7. "This is something we never anticipated and we will just have to let it play out and do the best we can on Saturday. We have Kids Christmas Obstacle Course and Horse Drawn Wagon Rides and now are not sure if those can still happen," said Sandy Hood, a member of the Christmas in Barre Committee. She said, "The 14 yrs we've been doing this we've never had a major snow storm before Christmas in Barre Day."

The South Barre Road and Gun Club along with the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department are holding a stuff a cruiser toy drive Saturday, Dec. 7 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the South Barre Rod and Gun Club, located at the Barre/Hardwick line. The members of the club held a spaghetti dinner fundraiser for this event, which raised over \$1,200 to purchase toys to make this as successful as possible.

It may be a blessing or a curse, however for three out the last four years Quabbin Middle School teacher, Evan Barringer, has reigned supreme with his title as the champion of the No Shave November challenge. This is the fourth year," said Barringer of this contest. "I have done it all of the years and this is my third time winning. I proudly have the trophy in my classroom displayed."

10 years (Dec. 4, 2014)

Barre Selectmen held two different dog hearings on Monday night. The first hearing involved two dogs that resided out of state, but were visiting the Allen family on Kendall Street. The visitor was caring for dogs whose owner was in a rehab hospital. Phyllis Dwelly of South Street was walking her elderly Beagle on a leash on Kendall Street when a bulldog and a Mastiff came from the Allen home and attacked her dog. Dwelly received several bites on her hand as she tried to ward off the dogs. Her dog managed to slip his collar and for its home on nearby South Street. The dogs pursued her dog home. A passerby let her dog in a side door. Neighbors also came to her aid. Dwelly required stitches and had to have a drain inserted in her leg. Animal Control Officer Laura Pease recommended that since the attack was unprovoked and vicious that the dogs be deemed a nuisance and never be allowed in town again. Selectmen approved the ACO's recommendation.

Oakham Highway Superintendent C. Kevin Currier recommended Harold Black of Oakham to fill a full-time vacancy to his department. Currier said Black was the only candidate, who had all the required licenses. Currier received four applicants, one from Barre, one from Hardwick and one from North Brookfield and Black from Oakham.

This Saturday, Dec. 6 Christmas in Barre, an event with a long-standing tradition in Barre. Volunteers are the backbone of the popular activity. Originally, decorating Barre for the Christmas holiday fell to the Christmas Decorating Committee that dates back to the 1980s or earlier. For many years the Barre Dispatchers formed a volunteer core that decorated the town commons.

LOOK BACK Michael J. Ryder Scholarship Fund -1995



Police Chief James Thompson holds a check for \$5,005.98, the proceeds from the boxing match held Nov. 4 to benefit the Michael J. Ryder Scholarship Fund at Quabbin Regional High School on March 7, 1995.

bone of the popular activity. Originally, decorating Barre for the Christmas holiday fell to the Christmas Decorating Committee that dates back to the 1980s or earlier. For many years the Barre Dispatchers formed a volunteer core that decorated the town commons.

25 years (Dec. 2, 1999)

Oakham Selectmen Leo McCaffrey and Robert Leary made two appointments at the Monday night meeting. Selectman Clayton Rice was unable to attend the meeting. The Board appointed Joseph Sansoucy of Oakham as Building Inspector and Zoning Enforcement Officer. Sansoucy presently does not hold certification, but he is willing to go for licensing. He replaces Ralph Dwelly, who resigned from the position. Selectmen appointed Raymond Duffy of Oakham as tree warden until the May election.

Barre Selectmen gave permission for the Barre Commons Advisory Committee to go ahead with the first implementation of the Barre Commons project at a meeting held last month. Sarah Dyer, Chairwoman of the Barre Commons Advisory Committee, said by starting to do something it will encourage the project and give the town and the committee momentum. She

said the town has about \$31,000 to spend on this project, \$15,000 from a grant and \$16,000 from the town. To meet the specifications of the Department of Environmental Management grant, the \$15,000 must be spent by June 30, 2000.

A Senior Center building is needed in Barre according to a town committee studying such a project. Selectman Charles Chase, who was the Selectman representative on the committee, said the committee met several times, conducted a survey and met with Bill Scanlon of the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning committee. "The conclusion is that we need a facility for our seniors," Chase said at a recent Selectmen's meeting. "The nutrition site at Post 2 is just not adequate."

38 years (Dec. 4, 1986)

Passage of a \$325 million prison construction and renovation bill by the Massachusetts Senate Monday included an amendment offered by Senator Robert D. Wetmore of Barre, which would make it very difficult, in not impossible to place 500-bed medium security prison in New Braintree. Senator Wetmore said that his amendment was not designed to stop any prison, but

See PAST PAGES, page 5

Election letters to the editor welcome

The Barre Gazette welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to the Barre Gazette care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to edowner@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call the editor at 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in the Barre Gazette.

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.

BARRE GAZETTE

TEAM



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Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

Some welcomed rain came and saturated the ground, but we also got some chilly weather.

I spent Sunday taking out some Christmas decorations and putting away more fall things. I have a gingerbread theme in my kitchen so I took out most of those. I won't put the tree up until the middle of December.

Each time I go down cellar I bring up a box of decorations. I did do the dining room table with the Christmas runner and a wooden trencher full of artificial greens, cones and a red candle.

I will put the up the Old Sturbridge Village collection on the sofa table at the landing of the stairs as that is a tradition.

I got this recipe from my friend Nancy from New Hampshire. It sounded like something I would make for the Christmas buffet.

SPECIAL CREAMED CORN

- 1/3 cup butter
- 1/3 cup flour
- 1 cup heavy whipping cream
- 1 cup whole milk
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 5 cups frozen corn, thawed
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese

In a saucepan, melt butter over medium heat. Stir in flour until smooth. Gradually add cream, milk, sugar and salt, stirring all the while. Bring to a boil and stir at a slow boil for two minutes. Add corn, heat through. Transfer to an ungreased 1- 1/2 quart broiler-proof dish. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese. Broil 5 inches from heat for 3-5 minutes, until lightly browned and bubbly.

This and That

By the time most of you are reading this, you would of had a nice Thanksgiving dinner with a family or friends. Once Thanksgiving is over it seems Christmas comes up very fast. Have you started your Christmas shopping? It is always a challenge for me to pick out gifts for the family. One daughter is very good about giving me a list of what her family would like.

We also have a Yankee Swap of a ten dollar gift so I have to think of two gifts to bring for that. Then there is the decision of what to bring for the meal.

I have been watercoloring my Christmas cards and I usually put a family letter in each. This year I will include a family picture we took at Ken's birthday party for those relatives, who have not visited lately.

Another chore I have been doing is picking over our clothes. Ken has put on a little too much weight around the middle so I have decided to give away the too small clothes. Things seem to accumulate so I have decided I need to downsize.

I'm putting away the warm weather clothes and taking out the winter clothes. I finally got the garage arranged so I can put the vehicle in for the winter months. I have to remember to fold the side mirrors back so it will fit in the one car garage. Then I need to remember to fold them out again when I drive the car. Someone told me the new modern cars mirrors fold in when the vehicle is stopped. Ours do not.

Another chore I plan to do is shred some old receipts. Why do we need to keep them?

I had a nice visit from a friend and she picked up several containers of gift items to sell at the Senior Center Christmas fair.

I was not able to attend the Thanksgiving Market at the Williamsville Chapel on Sunday, but I hope the Historical Society had a good sale. The members work hard to keep up the Williamsville Chapel. Several members are working at the museum to catalog things on the computer. Anyone having donations for the museum may contact Joyce Green. Items related to Hubbardston are always welcomed. Quite often displays of special interest are showcased in cases at the Chapel.

I keep up the scrapbooks of items from the newspapers for each year and they are kept in the museum for later research. The last history book was written by searching many of the articles. There have been two Hubbardston History books one of 1880 and one of 1963. There is also two Hubbardston Illustrators. Maybe a new one is needed now.

Have a good week and keep warm.

BARRE, continued from page 1

July 1, 2025.

License renewals

The Select Board approved the renewal of alcohol licenses for 15 Exchange Inc.; Wholesome Farmers Market; Barre Post 2 Building Association, Inc.; Pie Town LLC and Hartman's Herb Farm. Pie Town LLC and Hartman's Herb Farm also renewed entertainment licenses.

Other business

The Select Board approved the appointment of Robert Kane to the Open Space Committee. Select Board Vice Chair John Dixon said members the committee would become operational when a majori-

ty membership was reached; members are still needed.

They also approved the wage authorization for Jayson Cole as a Department of Public Works truck driver/laborer at \$25.31 per hour.

The board voted to go into executive session citing MGL 30A § 21(A) "To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares" for Fire Union and DPW Union.

Bill Zinni talked about his commission's role in this process and the benefits open space brings to the community, promoting hiking, biking, fishing and hunting. He said the town currently holds seven conservation restrictions.

"I would like to see the beneficial aspects of these lands credited," he said.

Select Board Vice Chair Eric Vollheim made a motion to sign the amended conservation restriction, which was not seconded.

Resident Bill Cole questioned why the amended conservation restriction would place tighter limitations on how the land was utilized versus the other conservation restrictions. The amended conservation restriction prevents the placement of solar panels on the land for agricultural use.

Tinker said by allowing agrotourism on conservation restricted land, the land trust is getting an "unfair advantage" over taxpayers.

"They're not paying property taxes; they're not contributing," he said.

Resident Erik Fleming questioned why the board was prohibiting the acceptance of the amended conservation restriction after the land trust worked to resolve the board's concerns about language in

the agreement.

"They've done what you've asked them to do, and now you're not acknowledging them through a vote," he said.

Vollheim said he would make another motion to accept the conservation restriction and Kemp said she didn't feel he should, as he had potential financial gain from another conservation restriction that was anticipated to come before the board in the future.

"I don't have any financial gain about this conservation restriction," Vollheim said. "I've stayed away from this conversation, but I have an interest in the town."

He questioned if he would need to resign from his seat on the Select Board in order for conservation restrictions to be accepted going forward.

"I'm in a brutal situation here," Vollheim said.

Resident Jerry Reilly said he agreed with Fleming about the land trust having addressed the board's concerns.

"You've had your objections withdrawn," he said. "So why can't you vote on it?"

Vollheim made his motion again and Tinker seconded it. The vote passed with Vollheim and Kemp in favor and Tinker opposing.

portable in an area considered low in industry and business.

The Barre winter parking ban goes into effect with the first snow/ice storm until March 15 or later, according to town officials. During storms there will be no all night parking on the following streets and areas: Exchange Street, Elm Street, Union Street, Kendall Street, South Street, Pleasant

Street, Grove Street, James Street, Winter Street, Broad Street, High Street, Common Street from the corner of Common and South Streets to the corner of Common Street and Route 122, the west side of the roadway only.

PATRILL HOLLOW, continued from page 1

and properties in its ecotourism mapping.

"The trails that are on East Quabbin Land Trust properties are a key component of that, so the town is promoting the use of the trails and of course the rail trail," she said.

Henshaw said the land trust worked with the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to create the language for liability which was also reviewed by town counsel.

She said the landowner that is donating this land has a deadline of Dec. 31 in order to qualify for the state's Conservation Tax Credit program. This donation, along with two others that are being reviewed by EEA, would be added to existing land trust properties if accepted by the Select Board.

"All of these are being donated by the landowner to promote conservation within the community," she said.

She said the land trust has worked closely with the town's Conservation Commission in preparing these conservation restrictions.

Conservation Commission Chair

PAST PAGES, continued from page 4

would require a siting procedure, which would insure that requirements of sewage and solid waste disposal, an adequate highway system and water supply in any community selected would be met.

A packed house of Petersham voters turned down the proposal of the Ralph C. Mahar School Building Committee to be partners in a \$32 million bond issue for rebuilding and improvement. As a member of the school district since its inception in 1947, Petersham had to vote in favor, as did the other three towns, to give the go ahead. Wendall and New Salem had previously voted to approve the bond. Orange, voting later than Petersham, declined, feeling that the considerable jump in taxes was un-

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Senior Center celebrates 20th anniversary



The 20th anniversary party had a spectacular turnout as guests enjoyed cupcakes and light refreshments.



This photograph showed the Barre Golden Age Chorus from 1980-1982.



A story of Bill Robinson hitting the ski slopes in Barre.



Photos and memories were displayed during the Senior Center's 20th anniversary celebration.

SENIOR CENTER, continued from page 1

seven months ago and has enjoyed her role strongly. O'Brien feels the participation and events that have been going on at the Senior Center have really "ramped up" as the community has reconnected during the 20th anniversary celebration.

O'Brien said the experience at the Senior Center has been great with everyone working great together, seniors are having fun with their activities, and everyone is always collaborating. O'Brien and the Senior Center are appreciative of the continuous support from town officials and Council on Aging board.

To highlight the special occasion, the Senior Center displayed certificates and vintage newspaper articles highlighting the history of the Senior Center over the last 20 years. What many of the seniors enjoyed reviewing were all the photographs and portfolios of all the memories formed at the Barre/Hardwick Senior Center.

Many of the seniors were scrolling through all the binders to find some old friends and family members. The two pool tables were covered up for a display of all the highlights and events that have occurred at the Senior Center or highlights of members of the Senior Center and the two communities.

One of the group photos was a group of the Barre Golden Age Chorus back in the early 1980s. There was also a newspaper article on Bill Robinson going skiing in Barre.

Another article featured in one of the binders was about the Council on Aging sponsoring the walking club. This club featured seniors taking walks at Quabbin Regional High School.

Nov. 19, 2004, was the grand opening of the Barre/Hardwick Senior Center and it was only appropriate for the center to host its 20th anniversary on the very day in 2024. Twenty years later the Barre/Hardwick Senior Center is going strong and has a lot in store moving forward.

The Senior Center is getting ready to host its



The Barre/Hardwick Senior Center had binders of photos and articles highlighting all the many years of events and memories that many seniors today remember.

Thanksgiving meal on Nov. 26 and there will also be a Christmas party on Dec. 3.

The Barre/Hardwick Senior Center provides services to senior citizens from the towns of Barre and Hardwick. Recently, the Senior Center has added a new health & wellness room.

The Barre/Hardwick Senior Center is located at 557 South Barre Road in Barre. The senior center can be contacted by calling 978-355-5004 or emailing coa@townofbarre.com.



Scarlett Legasey

January 25, 2023

Parents: Thomas & Jessica Legasey, Rutland
 Grandparents: Donald & MaryAnn Dunbar, Ware
 Thomas & Sharon Legasey, Spencer

Turley Publications would like to help you show off the newest member of your family this Christmas,

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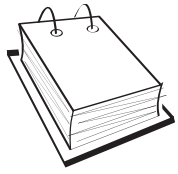
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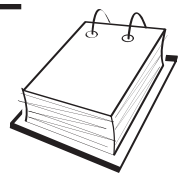
Please check the newspaper you would like your announcement to appear.

- Agawam Advertiser
- Quaboag Current
- Barre Gazette
- The Register
- Chicopee Register
- Sentinel
- Country Journal
- Town Reminder
- The Holyoke Sun
- Ware River News
- Journal Register
- The Wilbraham-Hampden Times

Deadline for photos and forms is Monday, December 16, 2024



Calendar of Events



THURSDAY, NOV. 28

HOLDEN TURKEY TROT will take place Thanksgiving morning from Seven Saws Brewery, 112 Industrial Drive, in Holden with a start time of 8 a.m. This is a family friend run, walk or wobble. Strollers are allowed as well as dogs on leashes. The fees is \$35 through Wednesday, Nov. 27 and \$40 the day of the race. Last year there were over 1,200 participants. Food insecurity is a serious issue, affecting millions globally, including right here in the community. In Haiti, nearly half the population, 4.4 million people, needs immediate food assistance. This year, in addition to supporting the Be Like Brit Foundation's work in Haiti, the Holden Turkey Trot will again help local food pantries like St. John's Food for the Poor, Rutland Food Pantry and Wachusett Food Pantry. The 5K race will start and end at Seven Saws Brewery. For more information, people may visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/MA/Holden/HoldenTurkeyTrot>.

SATURDAY, NOV. 30

CHRISTMAS TREE AND WREATH SALE will take place at Dismas Farm, 687 Lincoln Road, Oakham today; Sunday, Dec. 1; Saturday, Dec. 7 and Sunday, Dec. 8 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. There will be homemade Christmas crafts, cookies, cocoa and hayrides.

SATURDAY, NOV. 30

NO. 4 SCHOOLHOUSE WINTER RAFFLE will be at the Christmas in Barre Craft Fair today at Quabbin Regional High School, 400 South St., Barre from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and at the No. 4 Schoolhouse Christmas Party on Sunday, Dec. 15 at the schoolhouse, 209 Farrington Road, Barre. Raffle items include gift cards and certificates from local businesses, gift baskets, handmade items, lottery tree, a three hour cruise for two, Old Sturbridge Village admission for four and more. One hundred percent of proceeds go directly to No.4 Schoolhouse. Proceeds are used to maintain the schoolhouse and grounds and to continue functioning as a community club bringing quality events and programs. Tickets are one for \$5, five for \$10 and ten for \$20. Sales will run now through Monday, Dec 16. Drawing will be Tuesday, Dec 17. Winners will be contacted by phone that day. Winners may pick up prizes on Dec 17 at the No. 4 Schoolhouse Dessert Social from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Donations of an item, craft or money helps support this non-profit organization.

SUNDAY, DEC. 1

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE will be held today from 4:30-6:30 p.m. in conjunction with the New Braintree Historical Society and the New Braintree Revitalization Committee. at the Historical Society Museum (1939 Grade School Building), 10 Utley Road. There will be seasonal refreshments and an opportunity to view recent displays. Santa's Elf will have a gift from under the Christmas Tree for children 10 years and younger. At Town Hall, 20 Memorial Drive at 5:30 p.m. there will be crafts and movies for the children. The New Braintree Library will offer cocoa and cookies, family photo opts, Letters to Santa

Where is this?

This week's mystery photo is from Rutland. 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, Dec. 2. The names of those that correctly guessed the location will appear in the following edition. Peggy Civilik, Stephan Craven, Evelyn Luukko, Bill Bowles, Doreen Elliot and Philip Warbasse and Cheryl Paul correctly identified the photo. The photo last week was of the Town Hall, Main Street, Petersham.



Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer

and a book sale from 4:40-6:30 p.m. This event will be held regardless of the weather. Families and all ages are welcome. For more information, people may visit newbraintreehistoricalsociety.org for more information.

FREE CHRISTMAS CONCERT by the Weir River Jazz Band will be held today at 2 p.m. in the Stone Church Cultural Center, 283 Main St., Gilbertville.

FRIDAY, DEC. 6

SMALL WORKS AND HOLIDAY MARKETPLACE by members of the Princeton Arts Society will be held today from 6-8 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 7 and Sunday, Dec. 8 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Friday, Dec 13 from 6-8 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 14 and Sunday, Dec. 15 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Princeton Senior and Community Center, 206 Worcester Road, Princeton. The marketplace features fine, artisan made items such as jewelry, cards, prints, ornaments, fabric items, original books, bags, ceramics, wood-working and more. The Princeton Arts Society is a nonprofit organization promoting the arts in Central Massachusetts through programs, events and shows.

24TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF TREES sponsored by the Rutland Historical Society today through Sunday, Dec. 8 at the Rutland Public Library, 280 Main St. Kicking off the event, today from 6:30-8:30 p.m. will be a concert featuring Booty and the Jett at Lilac Hedge Farm, 216 Wachusett St. There will be food available, fire pits and S'mores to be made. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$20 for a family and free for children under 5. Tickets will be available at the door or by calling or texting Ben at 774-535-1295 or email, rutlandmafot1@gmail.com to reserve a ticket. Saturday, Dec.

7 from 4-8 p.m., there will be activities for all to enjoy including decorated trees, gingerbread houses, a basket drawing, visit with Santa and his elves, Santa's Sweet Shoppe, S'mores, hot cocoa, food provided by the Boy Scouts, holiday music and more. At 5 p.m. the CTMS Chorus will perform at the library. At 6 p.m. gather in the Congregational Church for holiday music and a reading of names in remembrance and celebration of loved ones. At 6:30 p.m. the Annual Tree Lighting ceremony will take place on the Town Common immediately followed by a Fantastic Fireworks display. On Sunday, Dec. 8, the festival will be held from 1-4 p.m.. From 1:30-2:30 p.m. a Hand Bell Concert with Hans Betancourth and students will fill the air with Holiday Spirit. Steve Charette's Magic Strolling Entertainment will be on hand as well as children's craft activities, visit with Santa and his elves, food truck on site and more.

SATURDAY, DEC. 7

CHRISTMAS IN BARRE will be held today on and around the Barre Common. Highlights include the second annual festival of trees and craft fair on Friday, Dec. 6 and today at the Barre Town Hall, 2 Exchange St., Barre, the Santa parade today with a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus and many other activities throughout the day.

WOMAN'S FELLOWSHIP HOLIDAY FAIR will be held today from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Barre Congregational church, 30 Park St., Barre. There will be basket raffles, baked goods and candy table, vendors, greens table and luncheon to include homemade corn chowder, finger sandwiches, homemade apple crisp and hot drinks.

HOLIDAY FAIR for St. Francis of Assisi Parish will be held today from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at St. Joseph's

Church, 29 South St., Barre.

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

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE AND GIFT TABLES will take place today from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Mt. Zion Masonic Lodge, 71 Pleasant St. sponsored by Cradle Rock Chapter of Eastern Star. Cookies are sold \$8 per pound.

SHRED DAY hosted by the Barre Board of Health is open to Barre town offices, residents and town businesses and will be held today from 10 a.m.-noon in the parking lot of the Henry Woods Building, 40 West St., Barre. The event is free; there is a limit of two banker boxes (24x12x10) per household or business. For further information, people may call the Board of Health at 978-355-2504, extension 117 or email boardofhealth@townofbarre.com.

SUNDAY, DEC. 8

HOLIDAY CONCERT TICKETS. The 215th Army Band of the MA Army National Guard presents their annual free holiday concert at Symphony Hall, 34 Court St., Springfield on Sunday, Dec. 8 at 2 p.m. Admission is free with ticket. Tickets available at Pride Convenience Stores; One Financial Plaza, 1350 Main St., Springfield (weekdays 8 a.m.-6 p.m.); Springfield Visitors Center, 1319 Main St., Springfield; or send a self-addressed stamped envelop to Spirit of Springfield, 1350 Main St., Springfield, Suite 1004, Springfield, MA 01103. Ticket holders seated first.

32ND ANNUAL WHITE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION will take place today from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. In the town of West Brookfield. People will be able to tour historic town, stroll the downtown district, explore local businesses and open houses, decorate gingerbread houses in the Great Hall and meet 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 people are lucky, they may just see Father Christmas strolling the streets and greeting visitors in town. At the close the day is 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 brought to the public by local businesses and town supporters. Maps of town open houses and vendors can be picked up in various local business, by visiting the Facebook page at "32nd Annual White Christmas in West Brookfield" or by emailing: whitechristmas-wb@gmail.com.

MONDAY, DEC. 9

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 2 MEETING will take place today at 7 p.m. in American Legion Post 2, 450 South Barre Road, Barre.

FY 26 budgeting calendar

The board approved a draft letter detailing the fiscal year 2026 budgeting calendar to be sent to all town departments.

Tree removal bids

Morgan said he received three bids for tree removal on the Water Department property. The low bid for the project was from Jim Rust and will be paid from available American Rescue Plan Act funds.

NORTH BROOKFIELD, continued from page 1

Gustafson's resignation from the Capital Improvement Planning Committee. His position, along with two alternate positions, will be posted and interested residents can submit letters of interest to seek appointments.

PATHFINDER TECH CAREER NIGHT

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We hope this holiday finds you surrounded by those you love and hold dear. Thank you for giving us so much to be grateful for this holiday season and all year; we appreciate your loyal support.

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Deep playoff run for Quabbin ends in quarterfinals

UXBRIDGE – On Saturday, Nov. 9, the Quabbin Regional High School field hockey team traveled to Uxbridge for the quarterfinals of the Division 4 state tournament. Unfortunately, the Panthers were facing the defending three-time state champions. Uxbridge didn't disappoint, winning a 6-0 decision on a sun-splashed morning on their high school turf. Quabbin's season finished with an overall record of 10-9-2.



Audrey Niles tries to make her way up the field.



Ellie Poulin fights to stay in possession.



Maria Hamm passes up the field.



Veanna Salvadore attempts to clear the ball away.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Offense scores big in Week 10 win over North Middlesex

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

BARRE—After falling behind early in a non-playoff loss at Marlborough High School six days earlier, Quabbin football coach Wayne Page certainly didn't want to see a repeat performance in the final home game of the season.

The Panthers, who built a 24-0 halftime lead, coasted to a 48-20 victory over the North Middlesex Patriots in another non-playoff game held at Alumni Field, last Thursday night.

"We didn't start out very well in last week's game at Marlborough and they took it to us," Page said. "We really wanted to start a lot faster in tonight's game. We took control of the game early in the first quarter, and we never took our foot off the gas until late in the fourth quarter."

It was the first meeting on the gridiron between the two teams since the Panthers squeaked out a 40-35 road victory during the 2016 season.

Last Thursday's home win improved the Panthers season record to 7-3, which tied the 2016 squad for the most wins in the history of the football program.

"These kids have worked very hard, and they deserve to have this record," Page said. "I'm very proud of them."

Quabbin senior Bryce Venne set the tone by returning the game's opening kickoff to the Patriots 14-yard line.

Following two short runs by senior Luke Salvadore and junior Chase Talbot, senior quarterback Jaxon Warburton called his own number in the huddle. He scrambled 11 yards up the middle into the end zone less than two minutes into the opening quarter.

Salvadore made the score 8-0 by scoring another rushing touch-



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Jaxon Warburton shovels a pass to Wes Sanderson.



Luke Salvadore attempts a run for the Panthers.

down on the two-point conversion play.

The Panthers offense got the ball right back when Venne recovered a fumble on a lateral pass at the Patriots 36.

Eleven plays later, Salvadore

plowed his way into the endzone on a fourth and goal play from the two with 3:33 left in the opening quarter. Warburton also ran into the endzone on the conversion play.

Quabbin entered the second stanza holding a 16-0 lead.

Following another fumble recovery by senior Ryan Wreschinsky, Talbot scored the Panthers third rushing touchdown of the game following a 68-yard scamper with 11:29 remaining in the first half.

Salvadore scored again on the conversion play.

The Patriots offense did move the ball down to the Panthers six-yard line before back-to-back 15-yard personal foul penalties pushed them back 30 yards. That drive ended following a 34-yard missed field goal.

After Quabbin was forced to punt for the first time, Talbot intercepted a pass, and he returned it about 20 yards to the Panthers 38.

The home team failed to score during that series, and they held a 24-0 halftime lead.

The visitors from Townsend did get on the scoreboard when senior John Kelley returned the second half kickoff 70 yards down the left sideline for a touchdown.

Any hopes that the Patriots might have had about making a comeback didn't last very long.

With 9:30 remaining in the third quarter, the Panthers took a 32-6 lead when Salvadore sprinted into the endzone on a 29-yard run. Warburton scored on the conversion play.

Then Quabbin junior Wes Sanderson intercepted a pass and returned it 25 yards for his team's fifth touchdown of the game. He

See PANTHERS, page 9



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Tyler Rondeau heads on a run.



Brandyn Wilson makes a block for the Pioneers.



Jacob Kokoski goes for a tackle.

Pioneers fall to South Hadley

SOUTH HADLEY – In non-playoff action for Week 10, South Hadley football defeated Pathfinder 27-9. The Pioneers would actually score first with an Anthony Arventos 15-yard run. In between that score and a safety in the third quarter, South Hadley scored 27 points. Julius Hebenth had two touchdown runs for the Tigers. Chase Pecia and Lincoln Belsky also had scores. South Hadley faced Holyoke on Thanksgiving while Pathfinder hosted Belchertown.



Anthony Arventos scrambles around looking for an open teammate.



Jarrett Skowyra heads toward the sideline while carrying the ball.



The offensive line blocks for Quabbin.

Sports

Quabbin inducts tenth Athletic Hall of Fame class



Quabbin Hall of Fame inductees are front row, Kyla Dickson, Hadley Adams, Ann Marie (Midura) Kilpatrick, Melissa (Staiti) Leslie and back row, Ethan Dickson, Bobby Mitus, Rick Wine and Christian Horton.

BARRE – Quabbin Panther Pride was in evidence as eight individuals and two state finalist teams were inducted into the tenth Quabbin Athletic Hall of Fame on Saturday night Nov. 9, in impressive ceremonies at the Hardwick Country Club in Gilbertville.

A record attendance of more than 130 heard the heartfelt speeches which recalled some of the glory days of the regional high school which first opened in 1967. Hall of Fame chairperson Ted Gumula, former Quabbin teacher, dean of students and athletic director, was master of ceremonies. He led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance as well as for a moment of silence in memory of past Quabbin hall of famers, who have passed on.

In addition, Hall of Fame alumni in attendance and introduced were Dennis Davis '74, Mike Richard '74, Joe Sinkewicz '74, Joe Orszulak '80, Bob Richard '81, Wendi (Woodward) Grazzini '86, Todd Stewart '96 and Coach Paul Cilley. Special recognition was also given to Quabbin varsity field hockey coach Shelly Zalneraitis, who recently posted her 400th career victory.

Gumula also introduced the inductee presenters who awarded each honoree with a handsome plaque highlighting their careers. Memories of special teammates,

supportful coaches and teachers, support from parents and a proud sports-minded community were the dominant themes which resonated in speeches offered by the inductees.

The inductees were: Rick Wine (Class of 1977) - An exceptional three-sport all-star and leader on the soccer, basketball and baseball teams, he would go on to play all three sports at Thomas College where he was Athlete of the Year as a senior. Rick later served as a JV basketball coach and varsity assistant at Quabbin from 1981-85. Over the past several decades he's been a tremendous benefactor to Quabbin athletic teams and student athletes with unparalleled contributions to team sponsorships and many scholarships.

Ann Marie (Midura) Kilpatrick - A five-year member of varsity field hockey and basketball teams and a four-year varsity softball player. She led the field hockey team in scoring three straight years scoring over 40 goals, was two-time team captain, Wachusett League All-Star and team most valuable player. In basketball, she was leading scorer and voted MVP her senior year. On the softball diamond she played second base and later shortstop, consistently among the team's top hitters. In the 1985 state finals run she had a .531 bat-



Members of the 1973 Quabbin State Finalists baseball team inducted into the Quabbin Athletic Hall of Fame. Joe Sinkewicz, Alan Gray, Mike Tomasello, Gerard Spinney.

ting average, leading the team with 25 RBI and ten stolen bases.

Melissa (Staiti) Leslie (Class of 2000) - the best pole vaulter and high jumper in school history and team MVP in indoor and outdoor track during her sophomore, junior and senior years. She was a multiple league All-Star in outdoor track, as well as MVP and league all-star of the field hockey team. She twice captured the league championship in the pole vault, competing in the New England meet. She was also the district high jump champion setting the district record as a junior. In addition, she was chosen to play in the Best of 60 Senior Field Hockey All-Star game.

Hadley Adams (Class of 2004) - the first female athlete in Quabbin history to receive an athletic scholarship to a Division 1 college at Boston University. As a senior captain she was the Central Mass. Division 1 Player of the Year, led the team in scoring and was selected Mid-Wach League MVP. A National Field Hockey Coaches Association All-American in 2002 and 2003, she competed in the U.S. Field Hockey Futures National tournament. She also set the indoor track record in the 55-meter dash (7.5 seconds) and also played on the basketball and golf teams.

Bobby Mitus (Class of 2004) - One of the winningest golf-

ers in Quabbin history, he led the 2003 Panthers to the Division 1 Central Mass. championship - the only title in school history. Over a four-year varsity career, he posted a 71-5 individual record as well as being medalist 21 times. A four-time Mid-Wach League All-Star, team MVP all four years and Mid-Wach MVP his senior year. He was Division 1 medalist in the Central Mass. tournament in 2003 and competed in the state tournament three times, finishing second during his senior year.

Ethan Dickson (Class of 2007) - from Quabbin's large stable of state wrestling champions, he was a two-time sectional champion, a four-time sectional finalist, as well as a four-time Mid-Wach League All-Star. He captured the state championship his senior year, where he was also named the Division 2 State Most Valuable Wrestler. He achieved automatic induction into the Massachusetts State Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2012.

Kyla Dickson (Class of 2009) - A four-year member of the varsity field hockey team consistently among the teams high scorers. She concluded her career with 53 goals, 36 assists and 89 points, lead her team to a league championship each year. She was selected team Rookie of the Year as a freshman and was a three-time Mid-Wach



Members of the 1985 Quabbin State Finalists softball team inducted into the Quabbin Athletic Hall of Fame are front from left, Jamie (Messier) Farrell, Janis Barringer, Wendi (Woodward) Grazzini, Paula (Bellofatto) Bolger and Chrissy (Femino) Brown and back row, Assistant Coach Mike Richard, Kellianne (Shea) Iacaboni, Head Coach Paul Cilley, Ann Marie (Midura) Kilpatrick and Carol (Orszulak) DeAngelis.

All-Star. Selected captain and team MVP as a junior and senior, named the Mid-Wach League MVP as a senior and also the Division 1 Player of the Year in 2008. In addition, she was named the Best of 60 Senior All-Star team.

Christian Horton (Class of 2012) - A four-year starter on the boys varsity basketball team, he was the sixth Panther player to achieve the coveted 1,000-point club finishing with 1,208 points - good for fourth all-time. He was twice named a Mid-Wach B All-Star and a Mass. Basketball Coaches Association All-Star. In helping to lead the Panthers to the 2012 Clark Tournament championship, he was Clark Tournament MVP and was a member of three Quabbin teams that advanced to the district tournament, including the district title game in 2012.

The 1973 State Finalist Baseball Team - In coach Mike Dymon's second varsity season this team became Quabbin's first to make it to a state title game. They won a school-record 18 consecutive games, were undefeated Wachusett League champions and finished with a 19-1 regular season record; 22-2 overall. Over the course of the season, Quabbin posted eight shutouts and outscored their opponents, 133-24. They came within one run of winning the 1973 Division 2 State title, suffering a heartbreak-

ing 1-0 loss in the championship game to Lynn Tech.

Members of the team attending the induction were Al Gray, Mike Tomasello, Joe Sinkewicz and Joe Sinkewicz, along with coach Dymon's widow Ute and daughter Rachel.

The 1985 State Finalist Softball Team - The third softball team in Quabbin history to win a District III championship, and the only one to advance to a state championship game coming within one run of winning the 1985 Massachusetts Division 2 State championship. Under coach Paul Cilley the team posted a 22-2 record, began the season with a school-record 16 straight wins, and won four that season by shutout. Over the course of the season, the Panthers outscored their opponents, 460-83, averaging an incredible 19.1 runs per game.

Members of the team attending the induction were Jamie (Messier) Farrell, Cindy (Alger) Colon, Charissa (Femino) Brown, Paula (Bellofatto) Bolger, Ann Marie (Midura) Kilpatrick, Kellianne (Shea) Iacaboni, Wendi (Woodward) Grazzini, Janis Barringer, Carol (Orszulak) DeAngelis, head coach Paul Cilley and assistant coach Mike Richard.

The next induction is being planned for 2026.

MIAA seeks to throw out judge's decision

Minnechaug, Monson unaffected by appeals

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

Minnechaug Regional High School and Monson High School filed injunctions at the beginning of the month with the Hampden Court Superior Court.

The schools were appealing a ruling from the MIAA that forced the schools to take forfeits for

Western Mass. tournament games because of a procedural issue that was not followed by Minnechaug, Monson, Pathfinder Regional, and several other schools in the region.

According to information sent by the MIAA to member schools, they were supposed to input games to their schedule on the Arbiter website used to track results and formulate tournament data.

Those games, which were not yet known due to the how the schedule is structured, were simply supposed to feature the school and opponents TBA (to be

announced). Those fillers in the schedule would eventually be filled with Western Mass. tournament games, or nonplayoff games if teams did not qualify.

Those filler games were supposed to be on team schedules by mid-September. Because the procedure was not followed, the MIAA imposed forfeits on the schools that did not follow the rule. Under the MIAA's ruling, Minnechaug and Monson, which had soccer teams in the Western Mass. tournaments, would have to take losses affecting their

standing for the state tournament. If the schools won, they were still able to advance in the tournaments. Monson girls soccer reached the Western Mass. finals. Pathfinder boys soccer did as well. Minnechaug girls soccer made it to the semifinals.

An injunction was filed by Monson and Minnechaug, seeking to not have the athletes punished for an administrative issue. Judge Tracy Duncan granted the injunction, and both schools had their forfeits changed to whatever their actual results were.

Minnechaug boys soccer benefited the most from the change, securing the No. 5 seed in the Division 2 state tournament. The changes had the ability to affect schools such as Agawam, Ludlow, Holyoke, and Chicopee Comprehensive in Division 2. Monson's injunction affected seedings for schools such as Granby, Quaboag, Palmer, and Pathfinder.

Pathfinder did not appeal to a court, and was defeated on the road in the first round of the tournament.

The injunctions also led to delays in the state tournament starting in the case of field hockey and girls volleyball.

Northampton and Pioneer Valley Regional also won injunctions, though the MIAA is appealing those rulings. They are appealing despite the fact the tournaments have already concluded. The MIAA is not commenting on the court cases.

No schools from Western Massachusetts made it to the state finals in boys soccer, girls soccer, or field hockey.

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Hayston Hay leaves his mark

Hayston Hay, an eighth grader at Quabbin Regional Middle/High School, competed at the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association Meet of Champions on Saturday, Nov. 16.

Hay, who competed for both the middle and high school teams, had a very busy fall. While competing on the middle school team, He won three out of four dual meets for the Panthers and broke the middle school course record at Quabbin.

He also won the Central MA Middle School XC Invitational and finished fifth place at the 14th Massachusetts Middle School XC Invitational. While competing in dual meets on the varsity team, Hay was consistently one of Quabbin's top three finishers. At the MIAA Division 3 Championship, he was Quabbin's top finisher, running a season's best 17:42.48 on the 3.1 mile course. This performance allowed him to punch his ticket to the MIAA Meet of Champions a week later.



Submitted photo

REMEMBER TO SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SPORTS TEAMS

Sports

T-Birds, Blues, announce long-term extension

SPRINGFIELD – Last month, the Springfield Thunderbirds and St. Louis Blues announced the extension of their affiliation agreement through the end of the 2030-31 season. The deal further solidifies the long-term future of the American Hockey League in Springfield, one of the league's charter cities.

"We are thrilled to continue our richly rewarding long-term partnership with the St. Louis Blues," said Thunderbirds President Nathan Costa. "The Blues and Thunderbirds share similar core values regarding player and staff development and maintaining a deep commitment to their communities. Our collaboration has enabled us to grow our franchise both on the ice and throughout the region. We cannot wait to see the next generation of Blues stars hone their talents in Springfield in front of the best fans in the AHL."

In the first three seasons as the Blues' AHL affiliates, the Thunderbirds have experienced tremendous success on and off the ice. In 2022, the team captured the Richard F. Canning Trophy as Eastern Conference Champions, reaching the Calder Cup Finals for the first time in club history. The T-Birds received the AHL President's Award as Team of the Year that same year.

"On behalf of our local ownership group, we are proud to announce an extension of our affiliation agreement with the St. Louis Blues. I want to thank Blues Chairman Tom Stillman, General Manager Doug Armstrong, and the Blues staff, as well as our President Nate Costa and his team, for build-

ing a culture of cooperation and success that is unparalleled within the AHL. This agreement will ensure that AHL hockey has a home in Springfield for many years to come," commented Paul Picknelly, Thunderbirds Managing Owner.

The club built upon their success last season, posting a franchise-record 20 sellout games, including a 14-game sellout streak to end the campaign. 2023-2024 also marked the T-Birds' eighth consecutive season of attendance growth (6,321 fans per game).

"First, I want to thank Springfield Thunderbirds President Nate Costa, the local ownership group under managing partner Paul Picknelly, and the entire team and staff for their continued dedicated efforts and support and belief in our City of Springfield," said Springfield Mayor Domenic J. Sarno. "Special thanks and appreciation to the St. Louis Blues organization for their continued strong commitment to our local T-Birds! Both organizations are class acts that share a strong emphasis on community and fan engagement and putting a quality product and team on the ice."

Since the start of the partnership, the Blues have also promoted several Springfield staff members to the parent club in St. Louis. Most notably, Drew Bannister became the first T-Birds coach to earn a promotion to an NHL bench when he was named the Blues' head coach on May 8.

"Springfield provides a first-class environment for players in the Blues organization to develop

and off the ice and continue their progress toward the NHL in a well-established, supportive market with strong, experienced leadership," said Blues Assistant General Manager Ryan Miller.

In addition to Bannister's rise to the NHL, 26 players have skated in games for both the Thunderbirds and the Blues, including young stars Jake Neighbours, Zack Bolduc, Matthew Kessel, Joel Hofer, Scott Perunovich, and Zach Dean.

"This is an exciting day for both the St. Louis Blues and the Springfield Thunderbirds organizations," said Thunderbirds General Manager Kevin Maxwell. "This agreement provides stability for our players and staff, and it will continue to offer our fans the chance to identify with our prospects and follow their careers as they graduate onto the Blues."

The affiliation extension assures Springfield's continued tenancy in the American Hockey League, which dates back to 1936. The City of Firsts has had an active AHL franchise on the ice every season since 1954.

"The city of Springfield has been a cornerstone of the American Hockey League for more than 80 years," said AHL President and Chief Executive Officer Scott Howson. "Hockey in Springfield has experienced a renaissance since the arrival of the Thunderbirds. Stability with an NHL affiliate is very important for AHL clubs, and we're pleased that Springfield's partnership with the St. Louis Blues will continue to bring excitement and entertainment to the fans of Western Massachusetts."

Late in the third quarter, North Middlesex sophomore QB Colin Taylor completed a 3-yard touchdown pass to senior Brady Reardon. The duo hooked up again for another touchdown late in the fourth quarter.

Quabbin's final touchdown of the game was a 34-yard run by Warburton with 7:27 left in regulation.

Because the Panthers were leading by 34 points at the point, the scoreboard clock was kept running the rest of the game.

The Panthers will be looking to break the school record for wins in a season when they travel to Gardner High School on Thanksgiving morning.

MVP grant

Vollheim said he and Town Administrator Justine Caggiano are applying for a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant in order to hire a grant writer and to install air conditioning and solar panels at Hardwick Elementary School, which is also the town's emergency shelter.

He said expressions of interest have been accepted by the MVP grant program and they will know more about the application process in the spring.

Holiday events

The Police Department will hold a toy drive on Sunday, Dec. 8 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the South Barre Rod & Gun Club, and Christmas on the Common will be held the same day, starting at 3 p.m. with a parade from Korzec's farm on Barre Road to the common.

Poinsettias

Kemp thanked everyone who has donated to purchase poinsettias to be delivered to the town's senior citizens.

org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



Jaxon Warburton launches a long pass attempt.

Recognition of citizen

Haight said there are also a lot of private residences that are of historic significance to the town, that could possibly be included on the map.

Special election date

A special election to vote on the debt exclusion for the purchase of a new firetruck will be held on Saturday, Jan. 18, 2025, with polling hours from noon-6 p.m. at Hardwick Elementary School, 76 School House Drive, Gilbertville.

Appointment

The board appointed George Barroso to the position of working foreman on the Highway Department.

The board appointed George Barroso to the position of working foreman on the Highway Department.

The board appointed George Barroso to the position of working foreman on the Highway Department.

claim is often the best move. But financial need always trumps waiting longer.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org.

PANTHERS, continued from page 7

also caught a shuttle pass on the two-point play for another TD.

"We probably don't win tonight's game without the turnovers. I thought the defense played an awesome game," Page said. "Coach (Mike) Besaw did a very good job of putting together a very good defensive game plan."

While Besaw is the Panthers defensive coordinator, Page, who was a quarterback at Grafton High School, calls the offensive plays.

Another key defensive player for Quabbin is senior Cole Wilson, who has made more than 80 tackles this season which broke the team record.

HARDWICK, continued from page 1

draft of the map.

"By the end of December, we will have this map completed," Haight said.

One thing that came up during phase one was whether or not trails that pass through private property should be included on the story map, including the Dougal Range, also known as the Bugle.

Haight said at this time, indigenous people's sites have not been included on the story map due to the lack of data.

"We don't have enough good information at this point," Haight said. "When we do updates...it think that's an issue that maybe the town would like to acknowledge."

She said the story map will be updated each year, and will include listings for local businesses. Active schools, including Hardwick Elementary School and Eagle Hill School, will not be included on the map due to safety and security measures.

SOCIAL SECURITY, continued from page 4

that would also mean your wife would need to wait longer to get her spousal boost. You could also wait to claim your SS until your wife reaches age 67, her FRA, which would give you a higher personal amount and also ensure your wife gets her maximum spousal boost (but her total will still be less than 50% of yours because she claimed her own SS retirement benefit at 62). When to claim Social Security depends on financial need and life expectancy. If a long life expectancy is anticipated, waiting longer to

Obituaries

Arthur R. Brooks, 79

BARRE – Arthur R. Brooks, 79, of Barre, passed away peacefully at home on Monday, Nov. 11, 2024.

He was born in Spencer, the son of the late Romeo and Beatrice (Mabelle) Brooks.

Arthur is survived by his loving wife of 58 years, Gloria (Salvadore) Brooks; a daughter, Teresa Brooks Benoit and her husband Paul Spaziante of Northborough; two sons, Joseph Brooks and his wife Nicole Brooks of Rutland and Darrin Brooks of Petersham. He was the beloved grandfather of his eight grandchildren: Luke Benoit, Sierra Spaziante, Nicole Spaziante, Aidan Brooks, Addison Brooks, Riley Brooks, Carson Brooks, and Logan Brooks. He also leaves his two sisters, Eleanor Lucier and Shirley Graveline, as well as many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his sister, Patricia Larson and his brother, Dennis Brooks.

Arthur proudly served as a sergeant in the United States Marine Reserves for eight years and was a member of St. Thomas-A-Becket Catholic Church. He enjoyed a long career as a steel worker before he retired from Wyman Gordon Company in Grafton.

In his retirement, Arthur transformed his passion for boat building into a successful business, founding Barre Boats, which he personally handcrafted. He was a past member of the Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School Committee. He was a lifetime member of the South Barre



Barre Community Improvement Association.

Arthur was an avid fisherman, sharing his love of the sport with his grandchildren by teaching them to fish the local streams and rivers as well as the deep sea. He introduced them to the thrill of strip fishing in the Merrimack River. Arthur's greatest joy was spending time with his grandchildren.

Known affectionately as "Pepe," he taught them to play cribbage and enjoyed many highly competitive and spirited evenings playing with them. Wherever his grandchildren were is where he wanted to be, whether it was traveling to the islands, Disney World, celebrating holidays, birthdays or simply having a coffee together. He sat through countless dance competitions, band concerts, baseball, basketball, soccer and volleyball games. His life was guided by his profound love for his wife, his children and grandchildren.

He was a kind, loving, loyal, generous and good-hearted man who loved to laugh and "make memories" as he would say and found joy in reliving them through his captivating stories always filled

Rod and Gun Club, an active member of the Democratic Town Committee of Barre and a former president of the

DEATH NOTICES

Brooks, Arthur R.

Died Nov. 11
Funeral held on Nov. 16

Watson, Christine "Tina"

Died Nov. 16, 2024
Memorial Mass Dec. 2 at 11 a.m.
St. Thomas A Becket Church,
Vernon Avenue, South Barre
Watson, Christine "Tina"
Died Nov. 16, 2024
Memorial Mass Dec. 2
at 11 a.m.

St. Thomas A Becket Church,
Vernon Avenue, South Barre

with laughter. He believed in honesty and doing what was right and embodied and championed the values of forgiveness and kindness. Above all, he loved his family fiercely and treasured togetherness, finding his happiest moments surrounded by his family and those he loved.

Arthur's memory will be a lasting blessing to all who knew him. He leaves behind a family, who will honor his legacy and continue his traditions and cherish his stories and his wish for them to love one another.

Friends and family were invited to attend calling hours on Friday, Nov. 15, 2024 from 3-7 p.m. in Pillsbury Funeral Home, 96 South Barre Road, Barre. The funeral was held on Saturday with a Mass at 11 a.m. in St. Thomas A Becket Church, Vernon Avenue, South Barre. Burial followed in the parish cemetery. Pillsbury Funeral Home, Barre is directing arrangements.

Christine "Tina" Watson, 73

OAKHAM – Christine "Tina" Watson, 73, of East Hill Rd East in Oakham, passed away peacefully at home on Saturday, Nov. 16, 2024.

She leaves her husband of 47 years, Neil Watson; two sons, Travis Watson and Jeremy Watson;

four grandchildren; a brother, Ronald Masulla; nieces and nephews.

Tina was born in Concord and was raised in Maynard before moving to Oakham in 1985. She enjoyed animals and working at Wachusett Mountain with their ski

school.

A memorial Mass will be held on Monday, Dec. 2 at 11 a.m. in St. Thomas A Becket Church, Vernon Avenue, South Barre. Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home, 96 South Barre Road Barre.

Church News

Local pastor offers sermon

Thanksgiving Thoughts

Happy Thanksgiving. May the Lord bless you as we enter the holiday season! Since thanksgiving is a topic that permeates the whole of the Word, I thought it might be of benefit to consider the following principles:

1) Thanksgiving is an Action to be Practiced

Thanksgiving is defined as "the expression of gratitude; the act of showing appreciation; the activity of recognizing one who has shown particular generosity. Thus, it is a deed that we undertake in the midst of life and living. Let us strive to fulfill this biblical call.

Psalms 100 (NIV)

1 Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

2 Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

3 Know that the Lord is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

5 For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

2) Thanksgiving is a Mindset to be Developed

Thanksgiving is also an attitude that we are to cultivate in Christ. As Charles E. Jefferson penned: "Gratitude is born in hearts that take time to count up past mercies." Thus, it would seem that a thankful heart is born of purposeful reflection. When was the last time you considered the manifold mercies of God or reveled in the benefit of being His? Let us consider:

Psalms 103:1-5

1 Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

2 Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits-

3 who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,

4 who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion,

5 who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

3) Thanksgiving is a Lifestyle to be Adopted

It is not fitting to limit the expression of our gratitude to one day or season of the year. Rather, thanksgiving should be a lifestyle. Give ear to this scriptural selection:

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

16 Rejoice always, 17 pray continually, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

You may be thinking, "Pastor,

how can I be expected to offer thanks in 'all circumstances' when you do not know what I have been through?" You are correct-I do not know what it is like to be you in 2024. I do know, however, that short-term affliction does not diminish the enduring grace and goodness of God:

1 Chronicles 16:34

34 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Let go of bitter resentment and complaint as you look to the person, power and promises of Christ. Since He does not change (Heb. 13:8) you have every reason to offer thanks, even in the midst of the most adverse of afflictions. If your lifestyle is not characterized by a spirit of thanksgiving, avail yourself of this opportunity to adjust your spiritual trajectory.

Thank you for taking the time to read this publication. Should you have any comments or questions, feel free to contact me at your leisure using the information below.

Also, feel free to check us out online at www.NewLifeBarre.org or visit us each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. We hope to see you soon.

Pastor James Foley

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

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Ricky Mansfield
Director



Public Safety

Barre Police Log

Sunday, Nov. 10
8:27 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Williamsville Road, Officer Spoke to Party

Monday, Nov. 11
4:47 a.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Williamsville Road, Referred to Other Agency
9:56 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Worcester Road, Report Filed
10:44 a.m. Erratic Operator, Worcester Road, Officer/Chief Advised
1:39 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Petersham, Mutual Aid Assist

1:52 p.m. Public Assist, South Street, Information Taken
2:14 p.m. Follow-Up Investigation, Old Coldbrook Road, Officer Took Call
2:56 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, North Brookfield Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
3:32 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Ruggles Lanes, Transported to Hospital
4:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident – No Fire Department/EMS Response, Hubbardston Road, Report Filed
7:20 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Kendall Street, Transported to Hospital
11:43 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, South Barre Road, Transported to Hospital

Tuesday, Nov. 12
12:20 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, West St., Mutual Aid Transport
1:32 p.m. Animal – Wildlife, Old

Coldbrook Road, Information Taken
2:54 p.m. Fire – HAZMAT Incidents, Lawrence, Mutual Aid Assist

Wednesday, Nov. 13
2:11 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Summer Street, No Action Required
10:23 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Trafalgar Square, Transported to Hospital
5:04 p.m. Erratic Operator, Exchange Street, Negative Contact
5:52 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, James Street, Report Filed
7:56 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Diabetic, Ruggles Lane, Ambulance Signed Refusal
10:13 p.m. Fire – HAZMAT Incidents, Leominster, Investigated
10:49 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Ruggles Lane, Ambulance Signed Refusal

Thursday, Nov. 14
6:54 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Stetson Road, Transported to Hospital
8:45 a.m. Assist Other Agency/Non-Police, South Street, Officer Spoke to Party
10:22 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Written Warning
10:36 a.m. Court Duty, Worcester District/Juvenile Court, Court Duty
10:42 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Ruggles Lane, No Fire Service Necessary
11:44 a.m. Fire – Smoke Investigation, Campbell Street, Fire Extinguished

Friday, Nov. 15
9:26 a.m. Fire – Brush and Wildland Fires, Hunt Road, Fire Extinguished

11:53 a.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Hubbardston Road, Message Delivered
2:43 p.m. Fire – Illegal Burn, Sheldon Road, Referred to Other Agency
4:56 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning
5:46 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Hancock Road, Transported to Hospital
9:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued

Saturday, Nov. 16
9:17 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Bleeding (Non-Traumatic), South Street, Transported to Hospital
6:03 p.m. Fire – Brush and Wildland Fires, Wildwood Drive, Fire Extinguished
9:20 p.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, Worcester Road, Peace Restored
9:25 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Ruggles Lane, Transported to Hospital

SOUTH BARRE

Sunday, Nov. 10
3:09 p.m. Animal – Wildlife, Chapman Road, Officer/Chief Advised

Tuesday, Nov. 12
1 p.m. Harassment, Main Street, Officer Took Call

Friday, Nov. 15
9:36 a.m. Fraud or Forgery, Hinkley Road, Message Delivered

Saturday, Nov. 16
6:02 p.m. Landlord Tenant/Neighbor Dispute, Peach Street, Officer Took Call

Syncope, Healdville Road, Transported to Hospital
11:44 a.m. Fire – Smoke Investigation, Campbell Street, Fire Extinguished

Friday, Nov. 15
9:09 a.m. Trespasser or Prowler, Williamsville Road, Report Filed
9:26 a.m. Fire – Brush and Wildland Fires, Hunt Road, Fire Extinguished
5:38 p.m. Erratic Operator, Main Street, Officer/Chief Advised
6:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Gardner Road, No Action Required
9:23 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Plum Tree Lane, Call Transferred

Saturday, Nov. 16
2:05 p.m. Erratic Operator, Gardner Road, Negative Contact
8:10 p.m. Suspicious Person, Gardner Road, Officer Spoke to Party
9:23 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Lombard Road, Transported to Hospital

Rutland Police Log

Sunday, Nov. 10
7:34 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Main Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
9:06 a.m. ACO Lost and Found Wildlife, Robert Drive, Message Delivered
2:03 p.m. Fire – Illegal Burn, Prescott Street, Officer Spoke to Party
8:30 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Pain, Maple Avenue, Transported to Hospital
9:28 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Mutual Aid Transport

Monday, Nov. 11
2:51 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, Templeton, Report Filed
Summons Sargent, Harold Robert Jr., 60, Rutland
Charges Motor Vehicle Theft, False Report of Witness/Juror/Police/Court Official, Intimidate
8:46 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Criminal Complaint
Summons Andrews, Eric Roswell, 23, Spencer
Charges Uninsured Motor Vehicle, Registration Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With, Unregistered Motor Vehicle
9:46 a.m. Erratic Operator, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party
10:09 a.m. Illegal Dumping, Main Street, Report Filed

11:17 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Abdominal/Back Pain, Spencer Road, Transported to Hospital
11:29 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle/Parking Issues, Main Street, Officer/Chief Advised
12:31 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Main Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
12:37 p.m. Property Dispute or Exchange, Main Street, Property Returned
3:12 p.m. Landlord Tenant/Neighbor Dispute, Finn Park Road, Officer Took Call
4:29 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Paxton, Negative Contact
5:56 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Worcester Road, Report Filed

Tuesday, Nov. 12
7:54 a.m. Court Duty, Worcester District Court, Court Duty
10:42 a.m. Property Damage, Grizzly Drive, Report Filed
11:20 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Campbell Street, Message Delivered
11:45 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Glenwood Road, Area Search Negative
1:11 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Bushy Lane, Transported to Hospital
3:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued

Wednesday, Nov. 13
12:22 a.m. Erratic Operator, Main Street, Negative Contact
4:55 a.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Bigelow Road, Fire Extinguished
11:23 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Pleasantdale Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
12:59 p.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, Prospect Street, Officer Spoke to Party
2:32 p.m. Court Duty, Gardner District Court, Court Duty
4:15 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Walnut Street, Unfounded
4:23 p.m. Fire – Illegal Burn, Hope Way, Fire Extinguished
4:31 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Trauma, Pommogussett Road, Transported to Hospital
5:58 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, East County Road, Transported to Hospital
8 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Stroke (CVA), Julie Ann Circle, Transported to Hospital

Thursday, Nov. 14
9:30 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Pommogussett Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
11:44 a.m. Fire – Smoke Investigation, Campbell Street, Fire Extinguished
12:53 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Peters Avenue, Transported to Hospital
4:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Written Warning
5:08 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, East County Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
7:50 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Stevens Way, Message Delivered

Monday, Nov. 11
5:10 a.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Old Turnpike Road, Removed Hazard
10:41 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Citation Issued
10:57 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Citation Issued
11:17 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Abdominal/Back Pain, Spencer Road, Transported to Hospital
1:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Citation Issued
2:36 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old

Friday, Nov. 15
6:26 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Glenwood Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
6:37 a.m. Animal – Wildlife, Glenwood Road, Officer Spoke to Party
7:37 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
8 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
8:05 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Bushy Lane, Transported to Hospital
9:26 a.m. Fire – Brush and Wildland Fires, Hunt Road, Fire Extinguished
10:56 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Citation Issued
11:05 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning
11:21 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
11:52 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Main Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
12:16 p.m. Assault and Battery, Maple Avenue, Report Filed
12:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
12:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Written Warning
1:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
1:46 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning
1:52 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Edson Avenue, Officer/Chief Advised
2:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning
2:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disable, Main Street, Public Assist
7:17 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Miles Road, Transported to Hospital

Tuesday, Nov. 12
9:23 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
10:55 a.m. Safety Concern, Whitehall Road, Negative Contact
11:22 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Michael Drive, Transported to Hospital
2:55 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Allergic Reaction, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
7:01 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Maple Brook Drive, Ambulance Signed Refusal

Wednesday, Nov. 13
4:55 a.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Bigelow Road, Fire Extinguished

Thursday, Nov. 14
11:44 a.m. Fire – Smoke Investigation, Campbell Street, Fire Extinguished

Friday, Nov. 15
9:26 a.m. Fire – Brush and Wildland Fires, Hunt Road, Fire Extinguished
6:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Disabled, Old Turnpike Road, No Action Required

Hubbardston Police Log

Sunday, Nov. 10
12:54 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Seizures, Lombard Road, Mutual Aid Transport
1:52 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Pitcherville Road, Officer Spoke to Party
6:21 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Bleeding (Non-Traumatic), Burnshirt Road, Mutual Aid Transported
9:24 p.m. Fire – Brush and Wildland Fires, Williamsville Road, Fire Extinguished
10:54 p.m. Unwanted Party, Gardner Road, Party Departed Without Incident

Monday, Nov. 11
10:35 a.m. Landlord Tenant/Neighbor Dispute, Barre Road, Officer Took Call
Noon Public Assist, Main Street, Report Filed
1:01 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Worcester Road, Information Given
3:11 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Gardner Road, Negative Contact

Tuesday, Nov. 12
8:33 a.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, Old Boston Turnpike, Referred to Other Agency
10:19 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Worcester Road, Message Delivered
3:09 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Main Street, Report Filed
5:46 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Halfway Road, Officer/Chief Advised
5:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident – No Fire Department/EMS Response, Report Filed

Wednesday, Nov. 13
4:55 a.m. Fire – Structure fires, Bigelow Road, Fire Extinguished

Thursday, Nov. 14
5:26 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Muskogee Street, Transported to Hospital
9:51 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Stroke (CVA), Lombard Road, Transported to Hospital
10:21 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/

Syncope, Healdville Road, Transported to Hospital
11:44 a.m. Fire – Smoke Investigation, Campbell Street, Fire Extinguished

Friday, Nov. 15
9:09 a.m. Trespasser or Prowler, Williamsville Road, Report Filed
9:26 a.m. Fire – Brush and Wildland Fires, Hunt Road, Fire Extinguished
5:38 p.m. Erratic Operator, Main Street, Officer/Chief Advised
6:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Gardner Road, No Action Required
9:23 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Plum Tree Lane, Call Transferred

Saturday, Nov. 16
2:05 p.m. Erratic Operator, Gardner Road, Negative Contact
8:10 p.m. Suspicious Person, Gardner Road, Officer Spoke to Party
9:23 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Lombard Road, Transported to Hospital

Oakham Police Log

Monday, Nov. 11
5:10 a.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Old Turnpike Road, Removed Hazard
10:41 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Citation Issued
10:57 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Citation Issued
11:17 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Abdominal/Back Pain, Spencer Road, Transported to Hospital
1:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Citation Issued
2:36 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old

Turnpike Road, Written Warning
5:56 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Worcester Road, Report Filed

Tuesday, Nov. 12
9:18 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old Turnpike Road, Written Warning
9:26 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old Turnpike Road, Written Warning

Wednesday, Nov. 13
4:55 a.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Bigelow Road, Fire Extinguished

Task force continues to develop healthcare model

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

HARDWICK – Judi Korzec, chair of the town's Healthcare Task Force, updated the Select Board about the task force's progress to address rural healthcare needs.

Korzec said the task force continues to grow, and that the Planning Board recommended that a member of the Master Plan Steering Committee be added to the task force.

"Which seems to make a lot of sense, considering you need healthcare in your master plan," she said.

Korzec said the Finance Committee would be involved with the task force on an "as needed" basis, rather than appointing one of its members. She said the task force is also looking to add a community member seat, or someone from one of the local churches.

"Having worked in this industry for a long time, when we're

working in rural and less advantaged communities, it's very helpful to have that," she said.

Korzec said it is now clear that the Mary Lane Hospital property is owned by Baystate Health, and is not tied to the Gilbert trust.

"That was voted on by the Mary Lane board; it is owned by Baystate," she said.

The will of Lewis Gilbert did set up the zoning of the property, which states it "shall be healthcare forever more."

Korzec said the Friends of

Mary Lane Hospital want to ensure that the land is only used for medically related purposes. She said there has been push back from Baystate Health, and the town of Ware would like to see some of the land used to generate tax income.

She said the buildings at Mary Lane Hospital continue to get destroyed and there is little the town of Ware can do other than to ensure safety is maintained. She said the Fire and Building departments are working with Baystate Health to make sure this is taken care of.

"They're trying to get an outside contractor for inspection, etc., to maintain the safety. Apparently, a lot of the demolition was done outside of what was supposed to be done," Korzec said.

Korzec said the Gilbert trust, which lists the village of Gilbertville, is thought to total around \$7 million, with annual dividends of about \$300,000. She said it is not a "big dollar amount...but it's something."

Korzec said the trust was not used as intended by Baystate Health, with the disbursements

going to its Springfield location rather than Mary Lane or Wing hospitals.

"This is going to become a big deal and a lawsuit," she said.

Korzec said there are smaller trusts associated with Mary Lane Hospital, but they are not directly tied to Gilbertville, such as the Gilbert trust is.

Korzec said the town of Ware has been working with an outside attorney to review all of this information and it has been a slow-moving process.

Korzec said the task force has received the healthcare needs survey from Ware and the 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment from Baystate Wing Hospital. She said the CHNA is a federally funded assessment that determines the healthcare needs of the communities.

"We are close to being approved for having one for this area," she said.

Korzec said the town of Hardwick was not included in the 2022 CHNA, which covered the towns of Ware, Palmer, Monson, Wilbraham, Belchertown and Ludlow.

"We were never even considered when these things were done," she said.

With the completion of the CHNA, the town will be eligible to apply for a number of grant opportunities.

Korzec said she met with the CEO of Point32Health, a private equity group that has bought out insurance groups such as Harvard Pilgrim and Tufts, in addition to Health New England, a subsidiary of Baystate Health.

"This is going to create some challenges for healthcare in our area if we don't make sure whatever we design gets covered by their plans," she said in terms of creating a rural healthcare model.

This model would require a 3,000 square foot building to include a small urgent care, satellite pharmacy, triage, van and satellite units, emergency personnel, strategic placement of AEDs and more. Korzec said she has discussed the creation of a satellite pharmacy with CVS.

"We're building a complete rural model because we will not have a hospital to depend on," she said.

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NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by William C. Dupell, III, Tanya M. Gyszowka-Dupell to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for CitiBank, N.A., dated October 16, 2015 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 67776, Page 234, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from: Mortgage

Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for CitiBank, N.A. its successors and assigns to CitiMortgage, Inc., recorded on May 9, 2016, in Book No. 55296, at Page 345 CitiMortgage, Inc. to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., recorded on July 25, 2017, in Book No. 57470, at Page 376 Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. to NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, recorded on May 4, 2020, in Book No. 62326, at Page 290 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 2:00 PM on December 17, 2024, on the mortgaged premises located at 1476 Patril Hollow Road, Hardwick, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all

and singular the premises described in said mortgage.

TO WIT: A certain parcel of land situated on the northwesterly side of Patril Hollow Road, in Hardwick, Massachusetts and being the lot containing 4 acres shown on a plan entitled "Plan of Land in Hardwick, Massachusetts, Surveyed for Karl D. and Brenda L. Germain" dated March 13, 1995, by Daniel A. Para, Land Surveyor, Inc., and being recorded in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 692, Page 24, to which plan reference is made for a more particular description.

The Grantee takes the parcel conveyed hereunder with notice and acknowledgement that the parcel conveyed is adjacent to the Hardwick Landfill which is owned

by Hardwick Landfill, Inc. and although not being operated as a landfill on the date of conveyance, the Grantor or a successor in interest may seek permits and, if granted, operate the Landfill in the future. As a part of the consideration for this conveyance the Grantees have agreed not to object to the reopening of the Landfill in the future. This provision shall survive the delivery of the deed.

For mortgagor's(s) title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 54452, Page 210.

These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any

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TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of Ten Thousand (\$10,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of

sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

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D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING
Present holder of said mortgage

By its Attorneys,
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Newton, MA 02458
(617)558-0500
26043
11/21, 11/28, 12/05/2024

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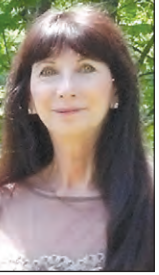
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