

QUABOAG CURRENT

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Newspaper

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Volume 17, Number 8

Friday, January 19, 2024

The January return of the Winter Farmers Market

By Richard Murphy
Correspondent

WEST BROOKFIELD – Winter in the new year was having a moment. A night of snow followed by soaking rain let us know Mother Nature was still around and could get up to her old tricks if she felt like it.

No matter, the day after the storms was not horrible, and if you could find the right event indoors, it was more than pleasant.

That pleasant indoor event was in session from 3-6 p.m. on Jan. 10 inside The First Congregational Church at 36 North Main St.

It was the new year return of the Winter Farmers Market.

Entering the door and proceeding a few steps one comes into the church hall and arrayed along the wall are tables with the goods and products of

local farmers and artisans.

As you come inside and turn left, there is the table of Joy Hinton. Hinton is the lady who is in charge of the market but is most known for what she brings to the market.

She is the entrepreneur behind Joy of Beans which is a coffee business headquartered at 12 East Main St. in town. Hinton roasts over 30 different coffees from 23 different countries.

If you have coffee questions, she probably has the answer.

To the right of Hinton is the table of Thompson's Maple Farm from up in New Braintree. Yes, they do maple syrup and other maple products, but also many flavors of ice cream.

Continuing on we came to the Chairman of The Board. Wayne Boulette claims that title, but not because he is meeting the directors of his corpora-

See MARKET | PAGE 12



The artisan Wayne Boulette brought his handcrafted wood products. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RICHARD MURPHY

Voices of Resilience

Photo exhibit shines light on opioid crisis

By Nick Boonstra
Staff Writer
nboonstra@turley.com

BOSTON – State officials and community members gathered in the State House on Tuesday to debut a photography exhibit focused on ampli-

fying the lived experiences of those who have been affected by the ongoing statewide and nationwide opioid crisis.

The exhibit, entitled "Voices of Resilience," remained on display on the fourth floor of the capitol building through

See EXHIBIT | PAGE 8



The "Voices of Resilience" exhibit was on display at the State House in Boston. TURLEY PHOTOS BY NICK BOONSTRA

Quabbin School District receives 'clean audit'

By Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

BARRE – Once again, the Quabbin Regional School District received a "clean audit."

Craig Peacock of Powers and Sullivan said to the Quabbin Regional School District Committee at its Dec. 14 meet-

ing the district business office works hard and the district personnel were "almost second to none." He called them one of the best prepared clients.

He said the audit could not have gone any better and said the district received an unmodified opinion or a "clean" report, the best any client can get.

He also said the budget "looked great this year." With a budget of over \$37 million, they turned back \$106,000, which went into the Efficiency and Deficiency Account. This indicated the district did not over appropriate or under appropriate.

See AUDIT | PAGE 6

West Brookfield resident honored by mural in hometown park

WEST BROOKFIELD – R. Vivian Acosta of West Brookfield, received a surprise and a big honor when a friend shared a discovery found while "Googling" Acosta's 37 year longitudinal research on the status of women in intercollegiate sport.

Acosta was included on a massive mural, Champions of Change, which was the anchor for a new park located in Los Angeles, California.

Acosta, a longtime resident of West Brookfield following a full and productive career as a

professor at Brooklyn College, had grown up in Los Angeles where the surprise and big honor were located. When Los Angeles was designing the new Albion Riverside Park for the neighborhood in which Acosta grew up, the LA Department of Cultural Affairs commissioned a well-known muralist to create a mural which would include notable figures and symbolism related to the surrounding area.

Acosta was one of the six selected.

See MURAL | PAGE 6



R. Vivian Acosta of West Brookfield stands in front of her picture on a mural in her hometown park in Los Angeles, California. SUBMITTED PHOTO



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- community -

Abby Montalto joins EXIT Realty in Spencer

SPENCER – EXIT Real Estate Executives in Spencer announced the addition of Abby Montalto to its team of real estate professionals.

“We’re excited to welcome Abby to EXIT Realty,” said Michelle Terry, Broker and Owner of EXIT Real Estate Executives in a press release. “EXIT is growing and attracting quality business people like Abby each and every day.”

Terry is the broker and owner of EXIT Real Estate Executives. She has 27+ years of full time experience in the Real Estate Industry. She is devoted to helping all of her agents grow and be successful.

As a licensed real estate agent in the state of Massachusetts and a member of the Massachusetts Association of Realtors, Montalto brings a unique blend of professional expertise for all things home from the ground up.

Growing up in a family deeply involved in the commercial and residential construction industry, Montalto has developed a keen understanding of the intricate details that make a house a home. This foundation in the construction business has not only shaped her knowledge of real estate but also instilled an eye for potential in every property.

While pursuing her business

education at Quinsigamond Community College, Montalto simultaneously started her own business, selling landscaping materials. This hands-on experience furthered her education ensuring that she can bring a strategic and knowledgeable approach to every real estate transaction.

Whether you’re buying or selling, she is here to guide you through it with a friendly, laid-back approach, making the experience as easy and stress-free as possible.

About EXIT Realty
EXIT Realty is a company founded and built on human potential. A full service, forward-thinking, real estate franchisor with offices across North America, EXIT has to-date paid out more than a half a billion dollars in single-level residual income to its associates.

A portion of every transaction fee received by EXIT Realty Corp. International is applied to its charitable fund, and to date, \$7 million has been allocated to charity.

For more information, please visit www.exitrealty.com and www.joinexitrealty.com.

EXIT Real Estate Executives is located at 130 West Main St. For more information, please call 508-885-5555.

Open auditions for the Workshop13 Players Jan. 29-30

WARE – Workshop13 is proud to announce upcoming open auditions for the new addition of a theatre program.

The “Workshop13 Players” will hold cold auditions on Jan. 29 and 30 from 7-9 p.m. for the production of three newly written short plays entitled “Robin Robin”, “It’s Not Delivery” and “Waiting for a Change”. Auditions are rescheduled from Jan. 16, having been snowed out.

Show dates will be April 12, 13 and 14. The Workshop13 Players will be looking for four-six actors aged 20 to mid-40s, who will be double cast in the three productions.

For further information please call the Director Dave Blessinger at 401-465-9686 or email at dbless9766@aol.com.

About Workshop13
Workshop13 Cultural Arts and Learning Center is a rural non-profit arts innovator devoted to increasing the appreciation and accessibility of the arts, strengthening the creative life of the community through instruction, collaborations and arts-based initiatives.

3 EASY WAYS TO REACH US

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New Braintree Library holds story times

NEW BRAINTREE – The New Braintree Public Library, 45 Memorial Drive, is offering the next Story Time program on Monday, Jan. 22 at 9 a.m.

The stories are “The Very Hungry Caterpillar’s First Winter” by Eric Carle and “The Life of a Little Cardboard Box” by Igloo Books.

Making Opportunities Count will be offering a Winter Play Group series in place

of Story Time at the library on the first Monday. Dates are Feb. 5 and March 4 at 10 a.m. MOC offers Coordinated Family and Community Engagement programs and is funded by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.

Parental supervision is required. People may call the library at 508-867-7650 during regular business for more information.

and Beyond!

WB&CA
Ware Business & Civic Association



Aerial pictures provided by Above the Law Imagery

Ware Business & Civic Association now includes the communities of Palmer, Belchertown, West Brookfield, Warren and Hardwick. Businesses and organizations from those towns are welcome to join!



JOIN TODAY!

Visit warebca.com
email warebca@gmail.com




Join Our Small-Town Business Development Adventure!

Are you a small business owner looking to boost your community presence and connect with fellow entrepreneurs? Look no further! Welcome to the heart of our towns' growth and success - the Ware Business & Civic Association...and Beyond!

➤ **Our Mission**

We're not just any organization – we're a community catalyst! Our mission is clear: foster camaraderie among local businesses, creating a vibrant hub that transforms our town into a must-visit destination for all. We're here to ignite connections, inspire growth, and spark innovation.

➤ **Why Join Us?**

Referrals are just the beginning! As a member, you'll enjoy the spotlight on your business within our close-knit community. Think of us as your business's ultimate cheerleaders, making sure your unique offerings shine bright.

➤ **A Legacy of Achievement**

Since 2011, our organization has been making waves. We're not just about meetings – we're about momentum. From securing endorsements for local businesses to orchestrating events that turn visitors into regulars, we've been shaping our towns' destiny, one success story at a time.

➤ **Events that Sparkle**

Who says business can't be fun? Picture this: quarterly membership nights that blend networking with laughter. We're all about community, after all – and a little friendly competition in the bowling alley or at the axe throwing yard never hurt anyone.

➤ **Network that Expands**

With a sprawling member base, joining us means getting in on the action. Your business won't just get noticed; it'll become a star in our constellation of local talent.

➤ **An Investment in Success**

For just \$120 per year, you're securing your spot in our thriving business ecosystem. That's less than your monthly coffee run – and the rewards are far more energizing.

➤ **Seamless Entry**

No hoops to jump through here! Say goodbye to complicated application processes. Joining us is as simple as a few clicks – just hop online and start transforming your business journey.

➤ **Embrace Uniqueness**

We're not your typical chamber. We're a creative canvas, welcoming fresh ideas and perspectives. No rigid rules, just endless opportunities to make a mark.



**Ready to take your business to new heights while having a blast?
Join us on this exciting ride! Let's be partners in growth and partners in fun.**

- community -

Second Chance Animal Services achieves milestone in 2023

EAST BROOKFIELD – Second Chance Animal Services proudly announces its remarkable accomplishment in 2023, breaking all previous records by assisting 49,036 pets in living healthier lives.

As the nonprofit organization commemorates its 25th anniversary this year, it expresses gratitude to its dedicated team of volunteers, supporters, and staff who have demonstrated exceptional resilience in a year marked by challenges, rising to address the growing needs of pets within the community.

Second Chance Animal Services is unwavering in its commitment to preserving the bond between pets and their owners, striving to keep pets in their homes whenever possible. This commitment is realized through accessible and affordable full-service veterinary care, a pet food pantry program ensuring no pet goes hungry, and adoption services for homeless pets.

Sheryl Blancato, CEO, and founder of Second Chance, expresses her heartfelt appreciation for the organization's accomplishments and acknowledges the collective effort that made them possible.

"In a year of widespread challenges, the demand for assistance has been significant. Through innovative programs and strategic partnerships, we actively address the root causes of pet surrender and homelessness," she said in a press release.

Blancato highlights the organization's focus on providing access to quality veterinary services for all pet owners, supporting those struggling to provide for their pets during difficult times, and fostering stronger bonds between families and their beloved animal companions. She notes that Second Chance veterinary hospitals provided assistance to more pets at subsidized rates than ever before, and the pet food pantry program saw record distributions to meet requests from local human food pantries.



11-month-old Omari, who found himself at Second Chance through no fault of his own, is waiting to find his forever home. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Looking ahead, Blancato emphasizes Second Chance's commitment to expanding services to meet the rising needs. "We are actively hiring at all our hospital locations to extend our reach and assist more pets in need."

Additionally, Second Chance serves as an emergency partner for various agencies, responding to natural disasters and aiding pets rescued from unimaginable living conditions.

Blancato concludes, "Our mission to advocate for pets in need is ongoing. We must continue to fight for their well-being."

For those looking to contribute to Second Chance's vital work, donations can be made online at www.secondchanceanimals.org/help or by mail to Second Chance, P.O. Box 136, East Brookfield, MA 01515.

River East School to Career hosts 2nd annual Trivia Night

PALMER – River East is thrilled to announce an exciting evening of brain-teasing fun with an upcoming Trivia Night to be held on Saturday, Feb. 3 from 5:30-8 p.m. at the Country Club of Wilbraham.

Tickets are \$35 per person and include dinner. A cash bar will be offered. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., dinner is at 6 p.m. and Trivia begins at 7 p.m.

Teams of trivia enthusiasts will go head-to-head in a battle of wits. With a wide range of categories to choose from there's something for everyone – whether you're a seasoned trivia pro or a casual player, Trivia Night promises to be an entertaining experience for all.

The legendary Trivia Host Bobby Roast Beef will keep the energy high and the laughs rolling throughout the night. With his wit and charm, he will guide participants through the trivia journey, making it an engaging and memorable experience.

Trivia Night is open to all, and teams can consist of up to six members. Prizes will be for the top three winning teams.

Luso Federal Credit Union is the Event Sponsor. Additional sponsorships are available.

To purchase tickets or to become a sponsor, please call 413-283-5051, or visit Rivereaststc.org/events The Country Club of Wilbraham is located at 859

Stony Hill Road, Wilbraham.

"We are very excited about the trivia event and welcoming our guests to join in. Bobby Roast Beef is a known trivia host throughout our community, and we are sure he will make it a fun night," stated Amy Scribner, Partnership Director of River East School to Career, in a press release. "We are very appreciative to all of the sponsors, vendors, and others involved who are contributing to this event to benefit student scholarships," she added.

About River East

River East works with nine high schools in the local area - Belchertown, Hampden-Wilbraham, Longmeadow, Monson, Palmer, Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School, Quaboag Regional, Tantasqua Regional, and Ware. Their mission is to assist students in preparing them to be successful in their careers through work-based learning opportunities.

In the past five years, they have helped over 1,500 local students. River East School-to-Career is a business and education partnership under the MassHire Hampden County Workforce Board and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The program is supported in part, seventy-five percent, through the Massachusetts Connecting Activities.

Hannah Schultz makes Dean's list

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield College announces the Dean's list for the 2023 fall semester.

Making Dean's list is Hannah Schultz of North Brookfield, a health science and pre-occupational Therapy major.

The student must have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded coursework for the term, exclusive of "P" grades. The student must not have any incomplete or missing grades in the designated term. The student must have a minimum semester grade average of 3.500 for the term.

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 (families interested in grades 6-8)
Tue., Jan. 23, 9 -10 a.m.

UPPER SCHOOL
 (families interested in grades 9-12, PG)
Thu., Jan. 25, 8 - 9 a.m.

RSVP: www.wma.us/TitanTalks

- opinion -



Dreaming of roses, blueberries bushes and more? Get those orders in!

For me at least, a much needed break from the garden has given way to the return of other hobbies this winter.

Quilting for one. I've enjoyed working on a Christmas tree quilt and have plans to start a pumpkin quilt.

I guess when I can't garden, I take horticulture any way I can get it – even in cloth! Quilting is fun in that you can exercise your love of color by playing with different combinations.

I like to see what looks good together and stand back and admire. It seems very similar to the admiration of a thoughtfully planned out flower garden. Well, you didn't start reading to learn about my sewing fancy, so let's get to some garden talk.

Do you dream of expanding your mini orchard or berry patch? Maybe you have a particular rose you are interested in.

If you desire to shop by mail, place your orders early (yes, now) for home delivery in April and early May.

I will start my dreaming with the Nourse Farms catalog (www.noursefarms.com or 413-665-2658). Located not far away in South Deerfield, this company specializes in producing high quality berry plants (and asparagus roots plus).

It would be great to extend my blueberry picking season over a month or more, just like my parents did with their patch. I will plan to order early, mid at late season varieties to accomplish this.

Last year, Nourse switched from selling bareroot blueberry plants to selling them in one liter pots. According to the listing, plants are cut back to just over a foot. They will increase in top growth the first year.

They have found that selling potted plants eases transplant shock and reduces the chance of the roots drying out in shipment. Sounds great to me!

Take care to amend the soil to the proper pH and site the plants accordingly and you could enjoy blueberries for decades. My parents' bushes are still bearing some 70 years later.

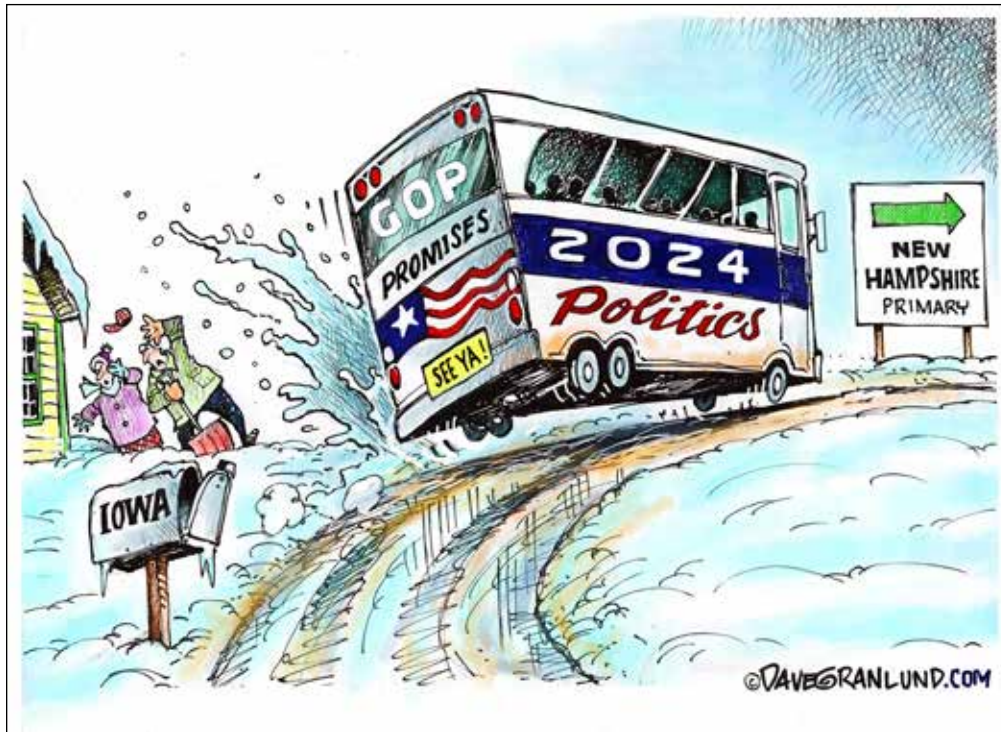
Maybe you are in the market for apple trees this year. For well-rooted, hardy Maine grown plants, shop the Fedco Trees Catalog (www.fedcoseeds.com). Fedco Trees offers a great selection of heirloom apple trees, scionwood and rootstocks for home grafting, pears, plums and grapes among other types of nursery stock and ornamentals.

For heirloom apple enthusiasts or those interested in planting a cider orchard, this is an amazing resource. The final order deadline for trees is March 1.

The catalog changes a bit every year, so be sure to check back or reach out to them if you are looking for a specific variety and you don't see it listed in print.

It's been a few years since I've found a reputable mail-order nursery for heirloom roses. Recently, I stumbled upon High Country Roses (www.highcountryroses.com), and I'm impressed with the variety of roses they carry, many of which I am familiar with from working at Old Sturbridge Village: Rosa gallica officinalis and versicolor, Harison's Yellow, Rosa eglanteria and more.

See GARDEN | PAGE 5



Vaughn Schlegel announces candidacy for Selectman

Dear citizens of North Brookfield,

As a resident of this town, I have taken to heart the issues facing this community. I volunteered my time as a father and a husband to get involved and do my part in making North Brookfield a better place to live.

I, like many of you, care about the state of things in the place we call home. This is true whether you want a safe place to raise your children, to retire peacefully in, start your life over again, or pursue business ventures.

North Brookfield had become that to my family.

This town has always been good to me and my extended family for generations, and the least I can do is give back to this community.

I'd like to thank John Tripp who stepped down from his position for all the time and hard work he put into the town both as Selectman and as a citizen. I hope he continues to contribute to the town where he can.

I am taking the next step in doing my part for this little town that is dear to our hearts. That's why I'm asking you to please support me in my run for Selectman.

I need your vote. Each and every one of you. Come election day, I ask that you set aside 15 minutes of your day to head down to the polls and help me, in my attempt to help you.

Let us not forget that you, the voters, are the government and this is your chance to use be heard. At the end of the day, the elected officials answer to the people, but

only if the people make it known what they want.

What do you the voter want from this town?

I have happily served North Brookfield as a City Letter Carrier at the Post Office for almost three years and have had the fortune of meeting many of you face to face and getting to know you as part of the community.

I serve as a member of the Planning Board and have seen the inner workings of the development and growth of our community on both residential and industrial levels. As a member of the Finance Committee, I have had the opportunity to see firsthand the kinds of obstacles this town faces financially and what is required to form a working budget.

As your neighbor, I promise to do all I can to make our community a better version of itself with accountability, preservation, and unity. We, as the citizens working together, will continue to make North Brookfield a great place to live and do business, to preserve and expand what we love so much about living here.

Let's think about the kind of town we want to leave behind for our children and grandchildren.

To the voters of North Brookfield, please allow me the opportunity and privilege to serve and represent you and all of our neighbors of this great town.

Cast your vote for Vaughn Schlegel for Selectman on May 6, 2024 and let's get to work.

MassCPAs brings CPAs to Quaboag students for career exploration

BOSTON – During Accounting Opportunities Experience Month in November, the Massachusetts Society of CPAs (MassCPAs), in collaboration with the AICPA & CIMA and state CPA societies nationwide, introduced 460 Massachusetts high school students to the diverse career paths within the CPA profession.

Governor Maura Healey declared Accounting Opportunities Experience Month in November. As part of this initiative, 32 MassCPAs members from diverse backgrounds delivered engaging presentations to 21 high schools across the state, sharing their personal journeys and insights into the multifaceted world of accounting, including Quaboag Regional High School.

These sessions offered a comprehensive look at the education and training required to become a CPA and highlighted the dynamic and essential role that CPAs and accounting professionals play in the business

world, while dispelling common myths associated with the profession. This collaborative effort represents just one facet of the Society's commitment to fueling and diversifying the accounting pipeline.

"Thank you to our volunteers for bringing awareness of the accounting profession to hundreds of Massachusetts high school students," said Upasana Prasad, manager of academic and career development at MassCPAs in a press release. "Their unwavering dedication and collaboration made Accounting Opportunities Experience Month a success and will help shape the future of the profession."

To view the photos from Accounting Opportunities Experience, visit masscpas.org/aoc.

About the MassCPAs

The Massachusetts Society of Certified Public Accountants, Inc. is the state profes-

See MASSCPA | PAGE 5

OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and guest columns between 500 and 800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.

Send opinions to:

Letters to the Editor, 80 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082 OR e-mail to pouimette@turley.com. Deadline for submission is Monday at noon for the following week's edition.

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Quaboag Current Newspaper

- community -

Stonehill College announces Dean's list

EASTON – Stonehill College announces the Dean's list for the fall 2023 semester.

Local students making the Dean's list are Kelly Daige of North Brookfield and Nathaniel Laursen of New Braintree. To qualify for this honor, students must have a semester grade point average of 3.50 or better and must have successfully completed all courses for which they were registered.

The Center hosts Appalachian photography exhibit

HARDWICK – The Center at Eagle Hill is hosting photographer Vern McClish's Appalachian Exhibition, featuring 50 powerful images.

The exhibition specifically focuses on the Southeast Ohio Appalachian coal region, with images and text highlighting the people of this region of Appalachia.

McClish's lens captures the essence of Appalachia, presenting a visual narrative of the individuals and families who worked tirelessly in the coal mines, contributing significantly to America's insatiable need for energy.

Beyond the physical toll, the region has grappled with the ravages of poverty, family strife, and the devastating impact of the opioid crisis. Many of McClish's images are accompanied in this exhibition by written descriptions of the moment the image was captured.

The exhibition serves as a testament

to the unwavering determination and commitment of those who have called Appalachia home.

The exhibit "Ode to a Forgotten People and Place: Faces and Families of Ohio's Appalachia 1971-1974" will run from January to March 2024, at The Center at Eagle Hill. There will be an opening reception, free and open to the public, on Saturday, Feb. 10 from 4-6 p.m.

For additional viewing hours, please contact The Center at Eagle Hill by calling 413-477-6746.

About The Center

The Center at Eagle Hill is a performance venue in central Massachusetts presenting world class music, dance, theatre, and comedy. For more information about this, and other events please visit www.thecenterateaglehill.org.

The Center at Eagle Hill is located at 242 Old Petersham Road.



Photographer Vern McClish's Appalachian Exhibition "Ode to a Forgotten People and Place: Faces and Families of Ohio's Appalachia 1971-1974" will be on display at The Center at Eagle Hill. An opening reception will be held Saturday, Feb. 10 from 4-6 p.m. SUBMITTED PHOTO

GARDEN FROM PAGE 4

If heirlooms aren't your thing, check out the number of ARS (American Rose Selections) winners for proven success. All of the roses they sell are grown on their own roots by vegetative propagation and are not grafted.


Some arguments in favor of own root roses include better hardiness, increased blooms, vigor and longevity. With over 600 varieties to choose from there is something for new and seasoned rose enthusiasts alike, and a lot of useful information for growers on their website.


Yes, it is the middle of winter and all should be quiet on the gardening front, but it is also a great time to get your orders in to your favorite mail order catalogs. Shop early for the best selection!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

MASSCPA FROM PAGE 4

sional association of certified public accountants, representing over 11,500 members in public accounting practice, industry and business, government and education. The Society works to develop and maintain high professional standards and offers a wide array of legislative, technical and referral services to its members.





COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic

Flu shot available!

Monday January 22, 2024


3 pm - 6 pm

Located:
Education to Employment (E2E)
79 Main St.
Ware, MA 01082

Pfizer & Moderna available.
Bring your ID, insurance card, and vaccination card (if you do not have an insurance card, you can still get the vaccine).
All vaccinations are no cost to you, walk-ins and families welcome!

Supported by Healthy Quaboag and The Rural Vaccine Equity Initiative

Please use QR Code or the link to pre-register:
<https://tinyurl.com/ycky5da>
Please direct any questions to Arianna Palano at
apalano@townofware.com, 413-478-2526.



MURAL | FROM PAGE 1

A few weeks ago, Acosta was able to share the mural with eight of her family members who had long ago moved away from Los Angeles but who were gathered in the LA area for a family reunion. The rain showers of the day did not diminish everyone's joy at seeing the new and beautiful park and most importantly, the mural.

Acosta's decades of effort to open doors for girls and women, particularly in the areas within the rubrics of education and sport, were sometimes daunting and challenging but also very rewarding.

Federal legislation referred to as Ti-



R. Vivian Acosta was joined by her family in Los Angeles, California to view the Champions of Change mural. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



R. Vivian Acosta had a number of accomplishments during her career, including co-authorship of the book entitled "Title IX" and 37 year national longitudinal study of women in intercollegiate sport.

tle IX, enacted in 1972, was frequently the tool that allowed those doors to be opened wider. Title IX prohibits sex discrimination in any education program receiving federal support.

In addition to her co-authorship of the book entitled "Title IX" and her landmark 37 year national longitudinal study of women in intercollegiate sport (which has been included in a number of Congressional hearings as well as various lawsuits and even in U.S. Supreme Court cases), Acosta served as the President of the National Association for Girls and Women in Sport.

A long list of articles and national speaking assignments on the topic of equity and Title IX are also found in her professional vita.

When asked what makes her smile the most in relation to her efforts for equity, she responded: "Every time I pass by our beautiful town common and see young girls playing softball or I go to the grocery store and see a young girl, a bit sweaty and perhaps grass stained in her soccer uniform, I consider it a celebration of the work so many people have done to open the doors of equity and fuller participation for so many

young girls across our nation. The youngsters may have never heard of Title IX but their lives have been changed by its enactment and by those who have had a willingness to work for such positive change." She continued, "I hope that those youngsters who are enjoying their new park in my old neighborhood will take a moment to look at the mural and be inspired to find ways in their own lives to be Champions of Change for others in whatever way greater equity might be needed in their lifetimes."

AUDIT | FROM PAGE 1

Cardiac Emergency Preparedness

Three high school students, Jahzara Tweedel, Jasmine Young and Summer Young along with teacher, Robert Whitelaw gave a presentation about Automated External Defibrillators in the Quabbin Regional Middle High School to the school committee.

They wanted to make people more aware of the severity of cardiac arrest. In one year, 436,000 die from cardiac arrest and more than 7,000 are under the age of 18.

Only 24 out of 50 states require AED devices in school. The Quabbin District has four AEDs in the middle/high school, two each at Ruggles Lane Elementary School and Hubbardston Center School and one each at Hardwick Elementary School, New Braintree Grade School, Oakham Center School and the Central Office.

The students said they sent a survey

to staff and teachers. Of those, 95% work directly with students and 43% of them do not have experience with an AED. They said 25% of teachers know where all the AEDs are in the building.

They also said only one third of students take Health 2 with 90% not trained in the use of an AED and 56% have not been in Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation or First Aid. The students made recommendations that link crew leaders receive a lesson on CPR and AEDs during their summer training and Health Class be mandatory.

The also recommended AEDs be in the middle school and sixth grade wing, which currently have none and the school nurses extension be written above the phones in the building. They said four or five more AEDs are needed in the middle/high school and signage such as an arrow with AED on it, pointing to all AED locations.

In addition, the AED should be more

visible with a flag or bright color.

Freshmen at orientation should be shown the location of all AEDs in the school. An AED costs about \$3,000.

School Committee member Dr. Richard Allan, said the Health 1 and 2 class got merged and will be mandatory for all students.

Elementary student report

Three fifth grade students from Hubbardston Center School, Adrian, Analeigh and Jeri-Lynn, gave a presentation via Zoom to the School Committee about their trip to Nature's Classroom in Charlton in October.

Adrian said his favorite thing were the field groups. Analeigh concurred with him and liked the animal dissection part. Jeri-Lynn said the night walk in the woods without lights was her favorite activity.

Superintendent's report

Superintendent Colleen Mucha said the Safety Team meets twice a month

and recently held a Stop the Bleed training on how to apply a tourniquet. They also plan to hold CPR classes.

She said she will present in the school calendar for 2024-2025 at the next school committee meeting.

Other business

Cheryl Duval, Director of Administrative Services, said the bids for excavation and concrete work for the building given to the district by the Mount Hermon School came in over the anticipated cost. The district cancelled the Information For Bid and will re-bid in the spring.

Building, Grounds and Security Director Kevin Clark was working on eliminating the communication dead spots in the building, which the police have with their radios when in the building. Part of the problem was towns police departments have different radio frequencies.

"Lee" Wolanin said members of the building and facilities sub committee toured Ruggles Lane Elementary and Hubbardston Center School. They will tour Hardwick, New Braintree and Oakham at their next meeting.



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Valentine Gala on Feb. 3 to benefit Stone Church

HARDWICK – Friends of the Stone Church welcomes all to a Valentine-themed benefit from 4-7 pm on Saturday, Feb. 3, at Hardwick Crossing Country Club, 262 Lower Road, Gilbertville.

All proceeds will benefit the preservation of the Stone Church Cultural Center, the iconic regional landmark located at 283 Main St., Gilbertville, and the programs of the Stone Church Cultural Center.

Tickets are \$65 per person; mail payment to FOOSC, P.O. Box 347, Gilbertville, MA 01031 or order online through www.FriendsoftheStoneChurch.org (\$35 dollars of the ticket price is a tax-deductible contribution to FOOSC). Advance purchase is required by Jan. 26.

For information, call Kathy McCrohon at 404-813-8809.

Paul Provost, keyboard and vocalist, will entertain with lush songs, fun dance tunes and traditional melodies.

FOOSC's Gala Committee has engaged professional auctioneer Paul Varney. The live auction will include sponsor donations of a year's membership at the Baglio Center at Eagle Hill School and a certificate for 75 gallons of heating oil from R. J. McDonald, Inc; certificates for experiences, services and products, as well as many attractive and collectible items.

"The FOOSC Gala and auction has always been a joyful time to visit with old friends and to meet new ones – all while supporting a good cause – and we look forward to this year's event," said FOOSC president, Judy Edington in a press release.

Hardwick Crossing Country Club will serve an entrée-choice dinner with vegetables and salad, served buffet style, plus appetizer, desserts and beverages, and a full cash bar.

The historic Stone Church Cultural Center serves as a community meeting space, a concert and arts program venue. The 1874 Victorian structure is a remind-

er of 19th-century Massachusetts, when mill villages sprang up as textile and other industry brought people from around the world, creating prosperity and enriching our region's cultural heritage.

The Friends formed as a non-profit corporation in 2015. Aided by the Massachusetts Historical Commission, a state agency which provided several matching grants, the Friends re-opened the shuttered building in 2016.

Since then, the group has simultaneously invested in preservation construction while offering the building to serve the public, providing family arts programs, rehearsal space for community music groups, fine classical music concerts, and an elegant rental venue for community events.

In January 2023, the Friends received legal ownership of the building from the Gilbertville Trinitarian Congregational Church and inaugurated the Stone Church Cultural Center. Raising over \$188,000 in 2023 for capital preservation projects, FOOSC contracted to reinforce the interior of the stone tower, replace over 500 tiles on the main roof, cap two unused chimneys, and install hand railings on the south entrance ramp.

Project Architect and FOOSC Board member Phillip Warbasse reports that "FOOSC's goal of securing the building for the future is coming closer, with elaborate steel reinforcing and new bonding grout going into the lantern level, above the belfry. This complex interior phase, the 4th of our staged tower stabilization projects, has paused during the winter. It will resume in freeze-free spring months, when conditions allow full curing of the water-based grout and mortar. We are proud of the professional services that contractor Joseph Gnazzo Company is providing on this project."

FOOSC's future plans include completing masonry repairs to the stone tower, installing a handicapped bathroom, landscaping to reduce threats from tree damage, driveway repairs, and interior improvements.

In addition to generous community support, major funding for FOOSC's 2023 capital projects was provided by the Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund, a program of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts administered through a collaborative agreement between MassDevelopment and the Mass Cultural Council. Preservation Massachusetts, with support from the national 1772 Foundation, provided support for significant repairs to the slate roof by Skyline Engineers. The Barre Charitable Savings Foundation provided support to complete the south entrance access ramp.

FOOSC received funding for the first time in 2023 from The Greater Worcester Community Foundation to strengthen its technology and organizational infrastructure.

Partial support for classical and community music concerts in 2023 was provided by Country Bank, Boston Financial Services, the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency, and Cultural Councils of Hardwick-New Braintree, Oakham, North Brookfield and Petersham, local agencies which receive support from the Mass Cultural Council. FOOSC makes all of its ticketed programs free to youth under 18 and accessible based on income through the Mass Cultural Council's "Card to Culture" program.

Friends of the Stone Church, Inc. is a public charitable corporation and community-focused organization. To preserve the historical Stone Church Cultural Center as a venue that is open to all, FOOSC requires ongoing financial and volunteer support in the areas



This photo shows the scaffolding at the Stone Church for Phase 4 Lantern Level interior stabilization. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



This shows the inside of the Stone Church job site at lantern level.



Workers are shown sealing lantern level exterior, which is necessary to keep new grout from seeping out of deteriorated masonry.



Skyline Engineers repair the Stone Church slate roof 2023.

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EXHIBIT | FROM PAGE 1

Jan. 12, where it was visible to legislators and visitors alike, and included Ware as one of the Massachusetts communities on which the project focused.

The exhibit marked the culmination of work done through the National Institutes of Health HEALing Communities Study, part of the larger NIH HEAL Initiative, commissioned in 2019. According to the HEALing Communities website, Massachusetts ranked among the top 10 states with the highest rates of opioid overdose deaths in a 2017 National Institute on Drug Abuse report.

Researchers with the study went into communities in four states to connect individuals with helpful resources and with each other, and to learn from participants what additional resources were still needed locally to aid those seeking recovery.

Alyssa Curran, a clinician with the Hampshire County Sheriff's Office and the study's Community Coordinator for Ware and Belchertown, explained that the images used for the exhibit were chosen and presented through a method known as photovoice, in which study participants share reflections about meaningful photographs. Some of these reflections were printed anonymously on the displayed photographs, adding context and poignancy to them.

One evidence-based practice encouraged at the event was that of carrying Narcan, also known by its generic name naloxone. Narcan is a life-saving medication that can reverse an opioid overdose and can be purchased at many pharmacies without a prescription.

Representative William "Smitty" Pignatelli, of the 3rd Berkshire District, emphasized the importance of carrying Narcan in remarks he gave at the event.

He related the tragic story of a young man who passed away as a result of an opioid overdose while his family and a police officer were present as they waited for an ambulance to arrive with Narcan.

Because of this and similar stories, Pignatelli said that he was supporting a bill that would require all first responders in Massachusetts to carry Narcan. The bill, H. 2008, most recently had a joint hearing in October, according to the Massachusetts General Court's website.

"You never know who's going to show up at your front door," Pignatelli said, emphasizing that this was especially true in rural communities, and demonstrating that EMTs should not be expected to be the only ones with Narcan available.

Department of Public Health Commissioner Robert Goldstein also spoke at the event, sharing the startling news that the 2,359 overdose deaths recorded in 2022 were a record for the Commonwealth.

In addition to further stressing the importance of carrying Narcan, Goldstein laid out the evolution of the opioid crisis in Massachusetts, starting with prescription drugs around 2005, and escalating with the influx of fentanyl, a synthetic opiate, over the last decade.

"The drug supply is poisoned," he said, referring to the fact that illicit street drugs are now frequently contaminated with substances like fentanyl and xylazine, an animal tranquilizer, unbeknownst to the user.

Dr. Jeffrey Samet, Boston Medical Center physician and Principal Investigator for the HEALing Communities Study in Massachusetts, said that the Commonwealth had taken on a leadership role in addressing the national opioid crisis, but that there was still a long way to go.

"The essence of the HEALing Communities Study was to see if we can engage community members to come together in coalition within their communities," Samet said. Specifically, Samet highlighted how the study empowered participants to make decisions about the most helpful ways to allocate resources within their own communities.

Randy Gratton, a fourth generation Ware resident, shared how the HEALing Communities Study had helped him in his own recovery, expressing his gratitude to the Study for "giving the little town of Ware the big help it needed."

Gratton said that community members in recovery had been having similar ideas about what was needed, but that they "didn't know how to put them together." As a result of individuals coming together, Gratton said, the Recovery Center of HOPE was opened on Main Street in Ware, and a van was also commissioned that would be able to connect community members without access to transportation to recovery resources.

Gratton closed by sharing the personal story of how one of his mentors in recovery encourages him every year on the anniversary of his sobriety with the words, "Good start." In the same way, he said that the efforts undertaken as a result of the HEALing Communities Study were good, but that they were just a start.

"I would encourage you all to continue to work, and more than anything to continue to care," he said.



Ware resident Randy Gratton spoke at the State House during the "Voices of Resilience" exhibition. TURLEY PHOTOS BY NICK BOONSTRA



Narcan was available at the exhibit.



Dr. Jeffrey Samet shared opioid overdose statistics.



Community Coordinator Alyssa Curran spoke about the photovoice project held in Massachusetts' communities.



State Representative Smitty Pignatelli spoke in support of a bill that would require all first responders in Massachusetts to carry Narcan.



Department of Public Health Commissioner Robert Goldstein speaks at "Voices of Resilience."



From left are Department of Public Health Commissioner Robert Goldstein, state Rep. Smitty Pignatelli, Dr. Jeffrey Samet, Randy Gratton and Alyssa Curran.



These photos were taken from the community of Ware during the photovoice project.

SPORTS

Cougars suffer tough loss at home

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WARREN—Paul Dubuc, longtime girls' varsity basketball coach at South Hadley High School, is familiar with all the high school gyms throughout Western Massachusetts.

Dubuc and his players traveled to Central Massachusetts last Wednesday night where they played a regular season game at the Quaboag Regional gymnasium for the first time.

The Lady Tigers, who held a 21-2 lead at the end of the first quarter, cruised to a 62-32 non-league road victory over the Lady Cougars.

"We've never been to this gym before, but we came out and played very well in the first quarter," Dubuc said. "This gym is bigger than our own gym. We enjoy playing in bigger gyms because it gives us more space to operate. My players played very hard and I'm very proud of them."

The Lady Tigers had a 5-3 overall record following their only visit to Central Massachusetts during the 2023-24 regular season. When the first MIAA Division 4 state power rankings of the season were released, the Lady Tigers were ranked 13th.

"We've been improving in every game that we've played this season," Dubuc

See **COUGARS** | PAGE 10



Isabelle Burgess brings the ball down court. TURLEY PHOTOS BY JACK CASCIO NEAP. SMUGMUG.COM

Quabbin girls take second loss

BARRE – It was just their second loss of the regular season this year as Quabbin girls basketball fell to visiting Tyngsborough 43-36 last Tuesday evening. The Quabbin offense, which has been excellent for most of the season, suffered a bit

a of power outage in this matchup. Riley Bassett and Mia Ducos managed double digits with 12 points each. The Panthers are 7-2 on the season with a 3-2 mark in the Mid-Wach C league.

See **MORE QUABBIN PHOTOS** | PAGE 10



Mia Ducos drives to the hoop. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RAY DUFFY

Pioneers win again, defeat Cybercats

SPRINGFIELD – The Pathfinder girls basketball team improved to 5-3 on the season as they defeated Sci-Tech on the road last Thursday night. The Pioneers got 14 points each from Victoria Stevens and Desiree Croteau. Pathfinder led throughout the matchup and went up 33-17 at halftime. Sci-Tech did make a run in the fourth quarter, but Pathfinder's big lead was too much to overcome.



Victoria Stevens makes her way down the court. TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Taylor Allen goes for the open layup.



Megan Clark dribbles toward the hoop.



Hannah Mellor passes to her left.



Althea Jewell fakes before heading for the basket.

- sports -

COUGARS | FROM PAGE 9

added. “We put the ball in the basket and played good defense in tonight’s game.”

Junior Maddie Soderbaum led the way offensively for the Lady Tigers with 14 points.

Junior Caitlin Dean and freshman Cara Dean both contributed with 10 points each.

Rounding out the scoring column for the visiting team were junior Ava Asselin (8 points), freshman Taylor Bullough (7 points), senior Drew Alley (6 points), junior CC Gurek (5 points), and junior Sophia Butler (2 points).

Alley, who was the starting goalie for the Lady Tigers soccer team, which lost to Sutton in the Division 4 state finals last fall, is the only senior listed on the South Hadley varsity basketball roster.

“Drew can dominate a game without even scoring a point,” Dubuc said. “She defends, rebounds, and passes the ball very well. I really don’t remember the last time that we only had one senior on the varsity team. Our future looks very bright.”

The only double figure scorer for the Lady Cougars (3-5) was senior Evelyn Doe, who scored 12 of her 14 points after halftime.

“Evelyn is an outstanding basketball player,” said Quaboag head coach Bill Beauregard. “She only took a couple of shots in the first half. For us to be successful, she needs to shoot the ball more than 20 times in a game.”

Junior Juliette Boos chipped in with eight points and junior Parker Tunley

added seven points.

The trio of Doe, Boos, and Tunley, who scored her team’s only points of the first quarter, combined to score 29 points.

Quaboag, who played in the Division 5 state tournament a year ago, were moved up to Division 4 before the start of this season. The Lady Cougars were ranked 41st in the Division 4 power rankings.

The top 32 teams in each Division automatically qualify for the state tournament. The other teams who finish the regular season with a .500 or better record also qualify for the state tournament.

Beauregard wasn’t very happy with his team’s first half performance.

“We weren’t aggressive either offensively or defensively in the first half. We also allowed them to make too many three-pointers, which was probably the biggest difference in the game,” he said. “We seem to get off to slow starts against very good teams. I thought we played much better in the second half.”

The Lady Tigers made four of their nine 3-pointers during the first eight minutes of the contest.

A little more than a minute into the game, Soderbaum hit a 3-pointer from the right side which was followed by a Gurek lay-up which gave South Hadley a 5-0 lead.

With three minutes remaining in the first quarter, Cara Dean stole the ball at midcourt before scoring an inside hoop pushing the Lady Tigers lead into dou-



Evelyn Doe and Parker Tunley put out a defensive double team. TURLEY PHOTOS BY JACK CASCIO NEAR.SMUGMUG.COM

ble digits (12-2) for the first time.

The opening quarter ended with back-to-back 3-pointers from Bullough and Cara Dean, who scored all her points during the first half.

South Hadley, who outscored Quaboag, 14-7, in the second quarter, headed into the locker room holding a 35-9 advantage.

Just like they did at the end of the first quarter, the Lady Tigers ended the first half with a pair of 3-pointers from Asselin and Cara Dean. Caitlin Dean also made another 3-pointer in the sec-

ond stanza.

Doe scored 11 points during the third quarter, but the Lady Cougars were trailing by 26 points (49-23) entering the final quarter of the game.

Quaboag reeled off six unanswered points early in the fourth quarter on an inside hoop by Doe, which were followed by two baskets from Tunley, which closed the gap to 51-29. The home team didn’t get any closer than that the rest of the way.



Maddie Potion takes control of this ball.



Hailey Dumont passes to an open teammate.



Parker Tunley brings the ball down the court.

MORE QUABBIN PHOTOS | FROM PAGE 9



Bri Whitelaw grabs a three-pointer. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RAY DUFFY



Hannah Baxter gets an offensive rebound.



Abby Rogowski wrestles for the ball.



Riley Bassett puts up a shot.

Senators introduce Bill of Rights for paraprofessionals and support staff

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Senator Edward J. Markey (D-Massachusetts), a member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, introduced the Paraprofessionals and Education Support Staff Bill of Rights, a resolution that would call for living wages, good benefits, and fair working conditions for the paraeducators, classroom assistants, bus drivers, custodial workers, and others who serve as the backbone of our education system by providing essential services which keep schools running and students thriving.

Senators Bernie Sanders (I-Vermont) and Elizabeth Warren (D-Massachusetts) are cosponsors of the resolution.

Paraprofessionals and education support staff far too often work for low wages, few benefits, and without job security. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, 331,000 school staff have left their jobs.

A 2022 survey found that one in five paraprofessionals recently visited a food pantry, while 25 percent said they could not afford to live in the communities where they worked. Yet, families rely on paraeducators as often the only heritage language speakers in schools; on bus drivers to safely transport their children; on food service workers to provide healthy meals; and on instruction assistants to ensure all students access high quality education.

“For too long, we have asked paraprofessionals and education support staff to do too much with too little,” said Markey in a press release. “We have asked them to educate, feed, transport, and support students in their path to grow, learn, and thrive - all without the pay, benefits, and job security they deserve. My Paraprofessionals and Education Support Staff Bill of Rights is a call for action to provide these workers with the dignity, respect, and recognition that they have long deserved. Well-paid, well-treated, union staff make stronger schools and stronger communities.”

Markey’s resolution would call for paraprofessionals and education support staff to have:

- Livable, competitive wages, and access to benefits, including health care and paid leave;
- The supplies, resources, and training they need to do their jobs;
- Meaningful voice in workplace policies and the right to negotiate for better working conditions;
- The dignity of safe, healthy, and adequate staffed workplaces; and
- Year-round job security and opportunities for growth.

The resolution is endorsed by National Education Association, American Federation of Teachers, Service Employees International Union, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, Latinos for Education, National Rural Education Association, NREA Coalition, Autism So-

ciety of America, Citizens for Public Schools, Council of Administrators of Special Education, Network for Public Education, Milwaukee Teachers’ Education

Association, the Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates, First Focus on Children, National Urban League and Arc of the United States.



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MARKET | FROM PAGE 1

tion, but because he is a wood working artisan.

His cutting boards and rolling pins were on display. A dog lover with a couple of poodles at home, part of the profits go to support the ASPCA.

Turning right, there is Elzire's Acre Goat Milk Soap. Chad Steiner comes down from Princeton to spend a few hours in a town next to where he grew up in Warren.

He lives in Princeton with his wife who is originally from Leicester. There they raise the goats and make the well-regarded soap sold at farmers markets and stores.

To the right of Elzire's is The Bread Box where Tamsin is known for fresh breads, cakes, several savory pie varieties, vegan soups and seasonal fare, all handmade and homemade from scratch in small batches.

After The Bread box, we come to Rich Laba, who was born to farm and brings home the bacon and other pork products with his special Berkshire breed pigs.

Next is Kelly Homestead Apiary, also from Charlton, presided over by Ginger and on the colorful table was a display of bee products from honey to hand dipped candles. Kelly Homestead also brings eggs from their hens as well.

Turning right after Kelly is Linda Fuchs. Fuchs has

been coming to the summer market for years and with her Flourish Farm is bringing some green to the winter market.

Microgreens, living or cut were available. Also on the table were "mature" ginger and garlic.

After Fuchs was a table full of bright colored tulips. This was the work of Robyn Scott of Blair House Blooms from Blair House just up the street at 50 West Main St.

Scott is the owner, farmer and designer.

In the center of the room, maybe tying it all together, are the tables of Still Life Farm. Halley Stillman enthusiastically represents the farm from Hardwick with its variety of vegetables. Still Life will be coming to the market for rest of the season that is scheduled to end on Wednesday, March 13.

Upon leaving the hall, and about to leave building, we noticed one last vendor in a small room to the left.

It was Deb and her exhibit of Quantum Breakthroughs. There were many products related to natural healing, such as organic seeds, and mixes.

What was on the table was only the beginning. Deb offers coaching to help folks de-stress their lives.

So, it's out into the afternoon cold, but we'll be back in a week and in no time, the summer market will return.



Halley Stillman of Still Life Farm. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RICHARD MURPHY



Joy Hinton of Joy of Beans offered a variety of wonderful coffee.



Thompson's Maple Farm brought flavorful ice cream.



Robyn Scott with her Blair House Blooms' Tulips.



Rich Laba and daughter bring Berkshire Breed pork products to market.



Chad Steiner of Elzire's Acre Goat Milk Soap.



Deb of Quantum Breakthroughs.



The Bread Box and its variety of baked products.



Ginger of Kelly Homestead Apiary.



Linda Fuchs of Flourish Farms.

New Braintree Police Log

During the week of Jan. 8-15, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 16 building/property checks, 38 directed/area patrols, five traffic controls, four radar assignments, three safety hazards, one citizen assist, one assist other agency, two complaints, two emergency 911 calls, two animal calls and five motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

Monday, Jan. 8

10:04 a.m. 911 Assist Citizen, Ravine Road, Officer Handled

Tuesday, Jan. 9

8:12 a.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations,

Gilbertville Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
8:14 a.m. 911 Notification, Barre Cut Off Road, Services Rendered
2:46 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Written Warning
3:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Written Warning
4:55 p.m. Safety Hazard, Townwide, Dispatch Handled

Thursday, Jan. 11

8:47 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Wine Road, Officer Handled

Friday, Jan. 12


8:15 p.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, West Road, Citation Issued

Saturday, Jan. 13

9:52 a.m. Safety Hazard, Oakham Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
7:57 p.m. Gunshots, West Road, Negative Contact

Sunday, Jan. 14

4:47 p.m. Safety Hazard, Townwide, Taken/Referred to Other Agency



COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic

Flu shot available!

Sunday January 21, 2024

11:00 am - 3:00 pm

**Hardwick Town House
40 Common St.
Hardwick, MA 01037**

Pfizer & Moderna available.
Bring your ID, insurance card, and vaccination card (if you do not have an insurance card, you can still get the vaccine).
All vaccinations are no cost to you, walk-ins and families welcome!

Supported by Healthy Quaboag and The Rural Vaccine Equity Initiative

Please use QR Code or the link to pre-register:

<http://tinyurl.com/ms2zhh7p>

Please direct any questions to Arianna Palano at apalano@townofware.com, 413-478-2526.



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**PUBLIC NOTICE
PUBLIC NOTICE
and OPPORTUNITY
FOR COMMENT ON
PROPOSED
DE MINIMIS IMPACT
DETERMINATION
ON SECTION 4(F)
RESOURCES
(Coy Hill Wildlife
Management Area)**

PROJECT: MassDOT Project 606517 West Brookfield Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 9

CITY/TOWN: West Brookfield

PROponent: The Town of West Brookfield

This notice will initiate review of the above-referenced project pursuant to Section 4(f) of the DOT Act of 1966 (23 CFR 774). Information specific to the proposed project and its impacts, avoidance, minimization, mitigation or enhancement measures may be obtained from:

Alex Lamarche
10 Park Plaza, Room 4260
Boston, MA 02116

The project, as designed, will require permanent easements and temporary construction easements within Coy Hill Wildlife Management Area in the Town of West Brookfield. These permanent and temporary easements are required for improvements to existing drainage infrastructure, driveway reconstruction, stone wall removal, slope stabilization, erosion control, grading, installation of retaining wall, clearing and grubbing, sediment removal, and wetland replication in support of resurfacing and safety improvement work along West Main St (Route 9). The property and its usage are held for protection as significant public recreational resources under Section 4(f) of the DOT Act.

This notice is being published in an effort to solicit public comments on the impacts this project will have on the referenced parcel. Given the minor square footage (approximately 13,603 square feet/0.312 acres) of permanent easements, location of the required easements (located in areas immediately adjacent to Route 9), and improvement to the quality of stormwater runoff that this project will provide, it was determined that no recreational or wildlife refuge functions of the WMA will be impacted as a result of the easements.

MassDOT intends to pursue a determination that the proposed use of the temporary pedestrian detours meets the definition of de minimis (or minor) impacts, as specified under 23 CFR 774.17(5). A de minimis finding is being made based on the preliminary assessment that the proposed use of this resource will have no adverse effect on the recreational activities, features or attributes qualifying it for Section 4(f) protection. All persons wishing to comment on the project should write to Alex Lamarche, 10 Park Plaza, Room 4260, Boston, Massachusetts 02116, referencing the above referenced project within 15 days of this notice. Comments will become part of the official record and will be considered when making future project-related decisions.

By Alex Lamarche
01/19/2024

**PUBLIC NOTICE
RIGHT OF WAY MAINTENANCE**

As required by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 132B, National Grid (New England Power and/or Massachusetts Electric Company) hereby gives notice that it intends to selectively apply herbicides along specific transmission line rights-of-way in 2024.

The selective use of herbicides to manage vegetation along rights-of-way is done within the context of an Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) program consisting of mechanical, chemical, natural, and cultural components. In right-of-way vegetation management the pest or target is vegetation (primarily tall growing) that will cause outages and safety issues. National Grid's IVM program encourages natural controls by promoting low growing plant communities that resist invasion by target vegetation. The selective use of herbicides and mechanical controls are the direct techniques used to control target vegetation and help establish and maintain natural controls.

National Grid may utilize any of the herbicides noted the MA Sensitive Materials list. Rodeo, and possibly one of the following herbicides, Arsenal or Arsenal Powerline, will be applied directly to the surface of stumps immediately after target vegetation is cut (Cut Stump Treatment). Garlon 4 or Garlon 4 Ultra will be applied selectively to the stems of target vegetation using hand-held equipment (Basal Treatment and Dormant stem treatment). Krenite S or Rodeo, mixed with Escort XP, and one of the following herbicides, Arsenal or Arsenal Powerline, or Milestone will be applied selectively to the foliage of target vegetation using hand-held equipment (Foliar Treatment). Cambistat as a tree growth regulator. Applications shall not commence more than ten days before nor conclude more than ten days after the following treatment periods. The herbicide mixes and additional information about rights of way management in Massachusetts can be found here: <https://www.mass.gov/rights-of-way-vegetation-management>

Municipalities that have rights-of-way scheduled for herbicide treatments in 2024:

Sturbridge

Municipalities that have rights-of-way that were treated in 2023 but may require some touch-up work in 2024:

North Brookfield, Sturbridge

Treatment Periods

February 1, 2024 – May 30, 2024:

CST
Basal
Dormant Stem

May 30, 2024 - Oct 15, 2024:

Foliar
CST
Basal
Cut stubble

Oct 15, 2024 – Dec 31, 2024:

CST
Basal
Dormant Stem

**The exact treatment dates are dependent upon weather conditions and field crew progress.*

Further information may be requested by contacting (during business hours, Mon-Fri from 8:00 am-4:00 pm):
Mariclaire Rigby, National Grid, 939 Southbridge Street,
Worcester, MA 01610.

Telephone: (781) 290-8310 or email:
mariclaire.rigby@nationalgrid.com
or email: mariclaire.rigby@nationalgrid.com

01/19/2024



PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

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

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

Lucas Emmanuel earns Dean's List

WELLESLEY HILLS – Lucas Emmanuel of Fiskdale has been named to the MassBay Community College Dean's List.

Emmanuel, who studies biotechnology, achieved this outstanding academic honor for the fall 2023 semester.

To be eligible for the MassBay Dean's List, students must complete at least six credits of college-level courses, be in good standing with the College, and earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

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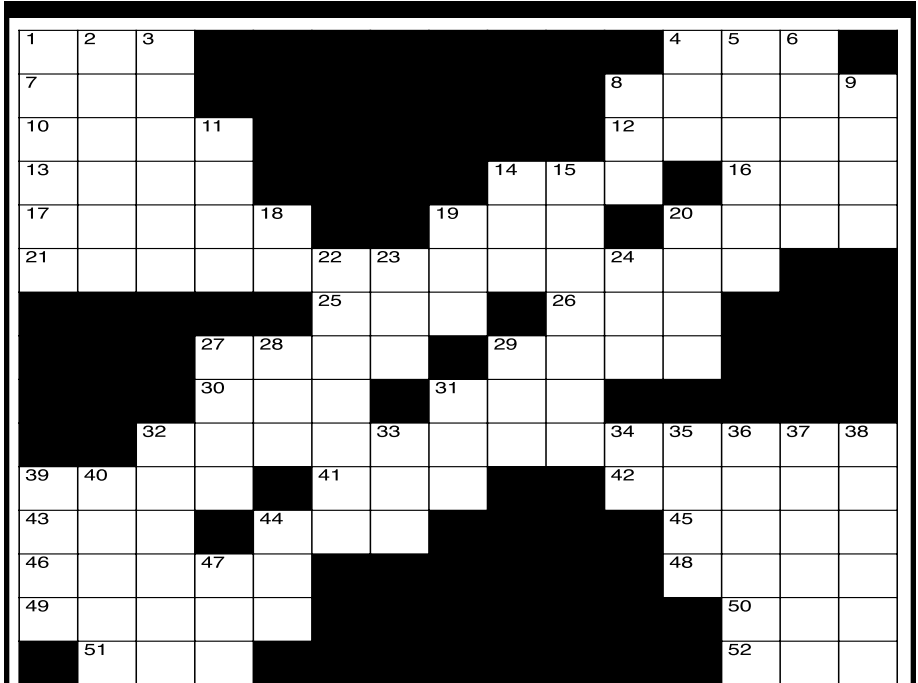
The Warren Police Department is accepting applications for the position of full time and part time Police Officer. Applicants are preferred to be academy trained and must be willing to work weekends, nights, and holidays.

Responsibilities include responding to emergency and non-emergency calls for Police, Fire and Ambulance services. It is preferred that applicants currently possess valid certification as a Police Officer. Candidates must have strong interpersonal, verbal, and written communication skills. Preferences include an associate degree or higher in criminal justice, serve in the US military, or experience as a Police Officer.

The Patrolmen's contract provides an education incentive and a candidate with prior experience may also be considered to start at a higher step rate of pay.

Resumes and cover letters must be returned no later than Friday, January 26th, 2024, to the attention of Lt. James Early, WPD PO Box 606, Warren, MA 01083 or early@warren-ma.gov.

The Town of Warren is an EOE



CLUES ACROSS

1. Microgram
4. Where golfers begin
7. Each
8. Warm weather metropolis
10. Coat with sticky substance
12. Girl's given name
13. Myth (Spanish)
14. Ultrahigh frequency
16. Former NBAer Jeremy
17. Where rockers work
19. Your consciousness of your own identity
20. Soft-finned fishes
21. Localities
25. Paddle
26. Union
27. Member of religious
- community
29. Small shrill flute
30. Small constellation in the Milky Way
31. They ___
32. College kid on vacation
39. de Armas and Gasteyer are two
41. Part of the human body
42. A progressive grading
43. Sound unit
44. Noise some birds make
45. Abba ___, Israeli politician
46. Portuguese city
48. Be extremely, uncritically fond of
49. Resembling old Norse poems
50. Ask for out of extreme need
51. Sino-Soviet

CLUES DOWN

1. An insane person
2. ___ Boothe Luce, American author
3. Buttock muscles
4. Men's fashion accessory
5. "Hotel California" rockers
6. Electronic communication
8. Magnetomotive force (abbr.)
9. Hostleries
11. A way to resound
14. Exclamation: yuck!
15. A resident of Indiana
18. Exclamation of surprise
19. Make a mistake
20. Boundary
22. Antilles island
23. It's used to make furniture
24. Clod
27. They indicate where places are
28. Bobby ___, NHL champ
29. Prints money
31. Honorable title (Turkish)
32. Appetizers
33. Midway between north and northwest
34. Spanish be
35. Breezed through
36. Grilled dishes
37. In a way, excites
38. Change mind
39. A French abbot
40. Popular candy
44. Partner to cheese
47. Wood or metal bolt

QUABOAG CURRENT

EAST BROOKFIELD Second Chance marks milestone p3	NORTH BROOKFIELD Vaughn Schlegel runs for BOS p4	WARREN Cougars face loss to Tigers p9	Editorial/Opinion Sports Police Logs Classifieds	4 9 13 14
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Volume 17, Number 8

Friday, January 19, 2024

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