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Friday, January 23, 2026



Gail of Autumn Leaf Farm offered mushrooms and eggs at the first market of the season on Jan. 7.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY RICHARD MURPHY



Chloe and JARS Bakery & Café are new vendors at the West Brookfield Winter Farmers Market.

Selectmen promoted Martin to sergeant

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Board of Selectmen promoted Officer Jeff Martin to the position of sergeant.

At the Jan. 13 meeting, Vice-Chair Jamie Gilman said, “We are all aware of Officer Martin’s contributions to the department.”

Police Chief Ryan Daley said Martin joined the department in 2014 part time, shifting to full time in 2018. He said Martin is a member of the dive team, the drone unit and boat patrol, and he has been instrumental in securing grants for the department.

Martin will now also be the lead firearms instructor for the department.

“Officer Martin is regarded and looked highly upon as a mentor for other officers in the area,” Daley said.

Appointment

Daley presented Robert

See **MARTIN** PAGE 6

West Brookfield Winter Farmers Market is back

By Richard Murphy
Correspondent

WEST BROOKFIELD – The start of the day was not promising with snow coming down at speed on Jan. 7, but by 11 a.m. it was over and the sun came out

so that by 3 p.m. it would be time for the first West Brookfield Winter Farmers Market of 2026, held at the First Congregational Church of West Brookfield.

On entering, it was the same warmth experienced in the old year with vendors

set up and doing business.

Coming inside the hall on the left was Joy Hinton of Joy of Beans, famous for coffee from all over the world. Moving along on the right was Robyn Scott and her Blair House Blooms with beautiful tulips on her

table.

Next would be Linda Fuchs of Flourish Farms. Linda has been coming to the market for several years and also comes to the West Brookfield Summer Farmers Market. This day, her table had microgreens, and

ginger as well as turmeric.

Other vendors that have been here for a few years include Rich Laba and Farm46 from Charlton. He brings his specialty pork

See **FARMERS MARKET** PAGE 5

Special Town Meeting to be held Jan. 27

Warrant has articles for Town Hall roof, transfers and more

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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WEST BROOKFIELD – Voters will take action on eight articles at the Special Town Meeting to be held on Tuesday, Jan. 27 at 6:30 p.m. at West Brookfield Elementary School, 89 North Main St.

Supplemental appropriations

Article 1 will ask voters to transfer money from available funds to supplement appropriations previously voted under article 4 at the Annual Town Meeting held on June 3, 2025 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 for various town departments.

The purpose of this article is to supplement a number of line items in the current fiscal year’s budget in order to

fund a number of additional expenses associated with various departments and projects. This article requires a simple majority vote to pass, unless funds are transferred from the general Stabilization Fund, which would need a two-thirds majority vote.

Previous year’s unpaid bills

Article 2 will ask voters to transfer money from available funds to pay unpaid bills of a previous fiscal year. This article requires a nine-tenths majority vote to pass.

Grant deficits

Article 3 will ask voters to transfer money from available funds for the purpose of funding and closing out various grant deficits and to authorize the Town Accountant to allocate said funds among the affected grant accounts as necessary. These deficits may arise when grant expenditures exceed reimbursements

See **W BROOKFIELD** PAGE 6

Summer Reading kids attended Thunderbirds game

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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SPRINGFIELD – East Brookfield Public Library brought kids to a Springfield Thunderbirds hockey game on Jan. 19.

This annual library hockey game is part of the summer reading program at the East Brookfield Public Library. Library Director Carolann MacMaster said this is the third year the library has attended a Springfield Thunderbirds game.

Prior to the game, kids got to go on the ice at the MassMutual Center in Springfield during a Zamboni ride or as it’s sometimes referred to as the “fanboni”. The kids got to wave to the audience and spotted themselves on the big screen way above the ice.

Later in the summer, the East Brookfield Public Library is visited by the Springfield Thunderbirds mascot, Boomer. This Thunderbird is loved at the library



TURLEY PHOTO BY RYAN DRAGO

Sitting left to right are Trinity, Gwen, Bruce, and Blair getting ready to ride the Zamboni at the MassMutual Center in Springfield prior to the Springfield Thunderbirds hockey game.

and by the kids.

The kids felt like the stars on the ice as they rode on the Zamboni with their parents and MacMaster. Trinity was one of the four kids who attended the Thunderbirds game this past Monday. Her father Steve Burritt said this

was her third time going to the hockey game.

Gwen and Bruce were also at the game, and both said this was their third time seeing the Springfield Thunderbirds play. Blair was at the game with his father and said he has been to well over

100 hockey games.

“He is a big hockey fan,” his dad said.

During the Zamboni ride all the kids agreed that the Thunderbirds were going

See **THUNDERBIRDS GAME** PAGE 6

Select Board interviewed Town Administrator candidate

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Correspondent

BROOKFIELD – The Select Board interviewed town administrator candidate Bob Ayers at their meeting last Tuesday.

In his introduction, Ayers said he is a life-long resident of the town, and has held various positions for the town, serving on the Board of Health and Select Board.

He said he also has management experience in the manufacturing industry.

Each member of the select board, which consists of Richard Chaffee, Sarah Campbell, and Beth Coughlin, asked Ayers various questions, but Campbell said she had already had an extensive interview with him prior to the interview in front of the public.

Coughlin asked Ayers

why he is seeking the job as town administrator. Ayers said that he has been a resident for 67 years, and “can see from afar things that [I] think should probably go differently.”

Chaffee brought up his concerns about the amount of complaints the town receives, including open meeting law complaints. He said the town administrator should respond to any

complaints, rather than send them to town counsel, as that costs the town a significant amount of money.

Ayers said that the board needs to take care of any complaints they currently have, and stop any more from coming through.

“I think a lot of that has to do with communication,” he said.

Coughlin asked Ayers what he believes will be the

most difficult part about moving from his past job experiences into a town administrator position.

Ayers said that he has worked with people for years in manufacturing, and had to know how to work with them, and follow policy with them. He also suggested placing a copy of behavioral expectations around the town offices.

He said that since the

board consists of part time workers, setting those expectations is difficult.

Ayers was also asked about what resources and technical assistance he anticipates needing in order to do the job as town administrator. He said he would need help with the financial aspect.

See **BROOKFIELD** PAGE 6

- community -

Children's events at the North Brookfield Library

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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NORTH BROOKFIELD – Haston Free Public Library, 161 North Main St., is active this winter with various activities for kids.

On Saturday, Feb. 7 from 10-11 a.m., Ellie Shea, an AmeriCorps member working with the East Quabbin Land Trust, will hold a nature journaling workshop at the library for children. Kids can start their own journal and practice observing the world around them through art.

Shea will return to the library several more times this year.

The Children's Room will have a display called "Blind Playdate with a Book" for the month of February, where children can pick a mystery book to read. The books are wrapped up with only a few clues as to what kind of book is underneath. Kids may find their next favorite book.

Youth Services Librarian, Brianna Lamb said this program is "a great way to get kids out of their comfort zones and try something new or different. Plus, it's so fun like unwrapping a gift."

Mystic Aquarium will be visiting the library on Saturday, Feb. 21, at the end of school vacation week. Representatives of the aquarium will be bringing their touch tank program, where children and adults can learn about various marine creatures up close and even touch them.

LOBSTERS, horseshoe crabs, starfish, and more will be featured in this touch tank program. This is a free program, but people should contact the library to register as space is limited.

For more information, contact the library 508-867-0208 or hastonfreepubliclibrary@gmail.com.

Adult and teen programs

There are plenty of activities held at the Haston Free Public Library for teens and

adults. For example, the library offers Craft Night, and the next one is on Thursday, Jan. 29 at 5:30 p.m. Crafters will get to work on Frosty Winter Luminaries, and the library is accepting any clean glass jars.

Registration is required for this craft night. To register, contact the library 508-867-0208 or hastonfreepubliclibrary@gmail.com.

Adults can also enjoy Cozy Mondays every week at the library from 4-5 p.m., a time to visit the library in the afternoon for a relaxing day of jigsaw puzzles, adult coloring pages, mahjong, and other games. Guests are encouraged to bring craft items such as a knitting or crochet project as they relax at the library.

For adults and teens, the Haston Free Public Library hosts a tabletop game night, Dungeon World. This is a beginner-friendly game where players get to roleplay and express their imagination.

No experience is needed to play Dungeon World, just bring your creativity.

Dungeon World is held every Thursday, 5:30-7 p.m. at the library. Questions can be texted to 774-200-9025 or visit the Haston Free Public Library on Thursday night to learn more.

Young adults and kids

For young adults, the library has tabletop gaming every Wednesday at 3 p.m. Join the Haston Free Library's tabletop gaming group, which is built for tweens and teens. If interested, contact the Haston Free Public Library or email blamb@cwmar.org.

Kids can also enjoy the Lego Club, every Thursday at 4 p.m. The theme for January is Snowy. The Lego area has unlimited opportunities for kids to build and be creative in a fun environment.

More information can be found on the library's website, www.northbrookfieldlibrary.org.



Annual Hearts for Heat Spaghetti Dinner is Jan. 31

NORTH BROOKFIELD – North Brookfield Hearts for Heat is hosting its 18th Annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser on Saturday, Jan. 31 from 5-7 p.m. in the North Brookfield Elementary School cafeteria.

The dinner is \$12 per person with a cap of \$36 for a family of four or more. Takeout available.

Tickets are only available at the door.

Sponsored with the Hayden Masonic Lodge and supported by Hannaford Supermarket, this is truly "community helping community."

Big ticket raffles include: Celtics team signed basketballs, WooSox Family Pack-tickets for four and other paraphernalia, Marks of Asgard Tattoo \$100 gift certificate. Local gift certificates donated so far include: Angel Nails, Bike House Brewery, Bogey Lanes, Boston Bruins signed puck, City of Smoke, Connect Restaurant, Inshowen Farms, JARS Café & Bakery "Tea for Two," Jim's Pizza, Joy of Beans, NB Liquors, Salem Cross Inn, Second Chance Animal Shelter, Shaman's Closet, Springfield

Thunderbird Hockey tickets, Strandz Hair Salon, Subway, and Whitco. The Door Prize is a Mr. Coffee 10-Cup Optimal Brew Coffeepot.

The Otters will provide musical ambiance all evening. Students from the North Brookfield High School National Honor Society and Valley View School will assist. The dinner's snow date is the following Saturday, Feb. 7.

NB Hearts for Heat is a 501(c)3 charitable organization to help North Brookfield residents in need of emergency home heating assistance for oil, propane, natural gas, electric, pellets, or cord wood. 100% of donations are used for fuel purchases. Hearts for Heat has assisted 345 families since 2009.

Donations can be mailed to NB Hearts for Heat, P.O. Box 44, North Brookfield, MA 01535. North Brookfield Savings Bank will match the first \$3,000. Thank you also to Monson Savings bank for their \$2,000 support.

To access the printable 2025-2026 application, visit <https://www.heartsforheat.org/NorthBrookfield/index.html>

Town Clerk posts Town Election information

WEST BROOKFIELD – Town Clerk, Klarissa Rose, announces that Nomination Papers are available on Monday, Feb. 2, for the upcoming Town Election to be held on Tuesday, May 5.

These papers must be filed with the Board of Registrars, in the Town Clerk's office, for certification on or before Tuesday, March 17 at 5 p.m. Final

day to withdraw as a candidate is Thursday, April 2 at 5 p.m.

Appearing on the ballot will be the following: Selectman, three-year term; Board of Health, three-year term; Assessor, three-year term; Common Committee, three-year term; Library Board of Trustees, three-year term; Library Board of Trustees, three-year term; Planning Board, five-

year term; Housing Authority, five-year term; Water Commissioner, three-year term.

The Quaboag Regional School District positions will also be incorporated on the Town Ballot. Two members from the Town of West Brookfield for a three-year term and two members from the Town of Warren for a three-year term.

These nomination papers are available on Feb. 2 at the Superintendent's office at 284 Old West Brookfield Road, Warren. Deadline for returning these papers is Friday, March 20 by 4 p.m.

Last day to register to vote before the Town Election is Friday, April 24, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Town Clerk's office at 2 East Main St.

Brookfields Lions Club accepting scholarship applications

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Brookfields Lions Club is now accepting applications for its annual scholarship program, according to club president Bill Cass.

Each year, the club awards a scholarship of up to \$1,000 to a graduating senior in each of the club's member communities, Cass said. Recipients of the 2026 Brookfields Lions Club scholarship awards will be announced in June.

To qualify for consideration, applicants must live in one of the member communities – Brookfield, East Brookfield, North Brookfield, West Brookfield, and New Braintree – and submit an application before their school's spring break. The application must include the student's class rank and be signed by the school's guidance director.

The application form is now available for download on the club's website at brookfieldlionsclub.org/

scholarships. The completed form should be mailed to the scholarship selection committee care of Brookfields Lions Club, Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 128, North Brookfield, MA 01535.

For additional information, please contact the Brookfields Lions Club at brookfieldlionsclub@gmail.com, or visit the Club's Facebook page at facebook.com/BrookfieldsLionsClub.

About the Lions Club

As the world's largest, youngest and most active service organization, the mission of Lions Clubs International is to empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace, and promote international understanding. Members of the Brookfields Lions Club are dedicated to service and support in the communities of Brookfield, East Brookfield, North Brookfield, West Brookfield, and New Braintree.

N Brookfield Town Clerk announces annual election information

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The North Brookfield Annual Town Election will be held on Monday, May 4.

The last day to submit nomination papers is Monday, March 16, 2026, at 5 p.m.

The following offices are up for election: Board of Selectmen – one seat, three-year term; Board of Assessors – one seat, three-year term; Board of Assessors – one seat, two-year term (to fill a vacancy); Board of Assessors – one seat, one-year term (to fill a vacancy); School Committee – two seats, three-year terms; School Committee – one seat, one-year term (to fill a vacancy); Water Commissioner – one seat, three-year term; Water Commissioner – one seat, two-year term

(to fill a vacancy); Board of Health – one seat, three-year term; Cemetery Commissioner – one seat, three-year term; Library Trustees – two seats, three-year terms; Planning Board – one seat, five-year term; Planning Board – one seat, four-year term (to fill a vacancy); Housing Authority – one seat, five-year term; and Southern Worcester County Regional Vocational School District (Bay Path) – one seat, three-year term.

It is strongly encouraged that anyone interested in serving to become familiar with the work and responsibilities of these boards, committees, and commissions.

Nomination papers are available from the Town Clerk's Office.

STCC announces fall 2025 dean's list

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield Technical Community College celebrates the accomplishment of the 1,198 students who were named to the fall 2025 dean's list.

Local students include Tammy Gustafson and Ashley Rebecca Hutchins, both of Brookfield; Nicholas C. Beaulieu of Fiskdale; Allan Stanley Gustafson and Lind-

say Kellaher, both of Gilbertville; Faith Elizabeth Holmes of North Brookfield; and Isabella Rodriguez of West Brookfield.

The dean's list is published each semester to recognize excellence in academic performance. To be considered, degree-seeking students must earn 12 or more college level credits in the current semester, or a total of 12 or more combined college-level credits earned during the fall and spring semesters, and achieve a 3.3 or above grade point average.

Ham radio club meets on Jan. 27

WEST BROOKFIELD – The Quaboag Valley Amateur Radio Club will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 27 at 6:30 p.m. at the West Brookfield Senior Center, 73 Central St.

This month's presentation features Bill Simpson of Smokestack Lightning, who will explain the basics of lightning protection and share a short demonstration with

his "lightning machine." All licensed amateurs and anyone curious about Amateur Radio are invited to attend, and the public is welcome to stop in – especially homeowners interested in practical lightning safety.

For more information about the club, upcoming events, or licensing opportunities, visit www.QVARC.com.

St. Aloysius Catholic School to hold open house on Jan. 26

HARDWICK – St. Aloysius Catholic School is hosting an Open House in celebration of Catholic Schools Week on Monday, Jan. 26 from 3-5:30 p.m.

Prospective families are encouraged to visit the school, located at 52 Church St. in Gilbertville, where they can

tour the classrooms, meet the teachers and learn more about the great educational and faith filled experiences that await.

For more information, please call the school and speak to Roberta McQuaid, Enrollment Coordinator, at 413-477-1268.

Poetry reading/reception Jan. 29

SOUTHBRIDGE – The Jacob Edwards Library will host a poetry reading and celebration of the winners of the first annual Bill Tremblay Poetry Prize on Thursday, Jan. 29 from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Earning first place was

Stephen Campiglio of Sturbridge; second place, James Spaulding of Brookfield; and third place, Terrance Lanier of Warren.

The reading is free and open to the public to celebrate this inaugural event.

NOTICE

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- community -



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Second Chance Animal Services is launching an emergency fundraiser to replace the heating system at its Adoption Center in East Brookfield.

Second Chance launches emergency fundraiser

EAST BROOKFIELD – Second Chance Animal Services has launched an urgent fundraising campaign to replace the heating system at its Adoption Center after the existing system failed and was deemed unsalvageable despite extensive repair efforts.

“The Adoption Center is home to vulnerable animals every single day, including puppies, kittens, seniors, and pets recovering from illness or surgery, all of whom rely on a warm, stable environment to stay healthy and comfortable,” said Lindsay Doray, Chief Development Officer at Second Chance. “The failure of our heating system during a period of extended cold weather makes this replacement especially urgent. We brought in professionals who explored every possible option to repair the system, but unfortunately there is no way to save it. Heat is not optional for the animals in our care, and while replacing the system is a major, unexpected expense, delaying is simply not an option.”

Charlton Oil, a longtime supporter of Second Chance, helped set up temporary heat to keep the building open and staff

are monitoring the temperature around the clock until the new system can be installed.

In addition to serving as an Adoption Center, the building functions as an emergency placement facility for pets displaced during natural disasters and other emergencies. During events such as the historic ice storm that knocked out power for a week, Second Chance provides critical shelter and care for affected animals.

Without a functioning heating system, the organization’s ability to respond in similar situations is at risk.

Second Chance is working to raise \$14,000 to cover the cost of replacing the commercial heating system as quickly as possible. Funds raised will go directly toward installation so the organization can continue providing lifesaving care and remain prepared for emergencies.

Community members are encouraged to support the fundraiser or help spread the word.

For more information or to donate, visit givebutter.com/shelterheat.

About Second Chance Animal Services

Second Chance Animal Services is a nonprofit animal welfare organization founded in 1999. Second Chance began as an animal shelter and grew to help more pets in need.

Today, Second Chance operates Community Veterinary Hospitals in North Brookfield, Southbridge, Springfield, and Worcester providing access to the highest-quality veterinary care for all. Subsidized rates are provided to underserved communities to ensure access to care for all pets in need.

Last year Second Chance helped over 64,000 pets live better lives through full-service veterinary care, spay/neuter services, adoption services, community & educational outreach programs, training, and a pet food pantry. For more information, visit Second Chance’s website at www.secondchance-animals.org.

Follow Second Chance on Facebook: www.facebook.com/secondchanceanimals

Follow Second Chance on Instagram: www.instagram.com/secondchanceas/

Follow Second Chance on X: x.com/secondchanceas

- public safety -

East Brookfield Police Log

During the week of Jan. 5-12 the East Brookfield Police Department responded to 112 building/property checks, 79 directed area patrols, nine radar assignments, seven traffic controls, 14 emergency 911 calls, six citizen assists, six assist other agencies, two parking complaints, three motor vehicle accidents, three safety hazards, one fraud, two animal calls and 50 motor vehicle stops in the town of East Brookfield.

Monday, Jan. 5

3:25 a.m. Parking Complaint, East Main Street, Written Warning
1:43 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Telephone, Dispatch Handled
4:38 p.m. Assist Citizen, East Main Street, Officer Handled
8:12 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Podunk Road, Transported to Hospital
10:42 p.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Services Rendered
10:48 p.m. Safety Hazard, Podunk Road, Referred to Other Agency

Tuesday, Jan. 6

8:15 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
3:30 p.m. Assist Other Agency, East Main Street, Services Rendered
5:08 p.m. Radar, East Main Street, Citation Issued
5:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
5:30 p.m. Directed/Area Patrol, Podunk Road, Citation Issued
5:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Podunk Road, Citation Issued
6:59 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
7:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
7:58 p.m. 911 Disturbance, Draper Road, Officer Handled

Wednesday, Jan. 7

3:22 a.m. Medical Emergency, West Main Street, Transported to Hospital
4:02 a.m. Safety Hazard, Town Wide, Services Rendered
7:12 a.m. Assist Other Agency, East Main Street, Referred to Other Agency
9:58 a.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Crash, East Main Street, Citation Issued
1:37 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Howe Street, Officer Handled
3:16 p.m. Radar, East Main Street, Citation Issued
3:20 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
3:25 p.m. Fraud, Connie Mack Drive, Officer Handled
4:48 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, High Rocks Road, Transported to Hospital
5:21 p.m. Directed/Area Patrol, Podunk Road, Citation Issued

tion Issued
5:26 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Podunk Road, Citation Issued
6:18 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Connie Mack Drive, Spoken To

Thursday, Jan. 8

6:10 a.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, Podunk Road, Vehicle Towed
8:26 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
8:29 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
8:34 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
8:36 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
8:43 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Cottage Street, Citation Issued
8:45 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

8:52 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

8:57 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Written Warning

9:02 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Mechanic Street, Citation Issued

9:08 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation Issued

9:19 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

9:23 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

10:50 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

10:51 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

10:56 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

10:58 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

11:03 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

11:06 a.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Officer Handled

11:10 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

11:13 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

11:16 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, West Main Street, Patient Refusal

11:35 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

11:38 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation Issued

11:51 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

12:19 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, West Main Street, Transported to Hospital

12:51 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

12:58 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

tion Issued
1:02 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

1:10 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Telephone, Officer Handled

1:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

1:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

1:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation Issued

1:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued

2:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation Issued

3:35 p.m. Fire/Other, Podunk Road, Services Rendered

10:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

Friday, Jan. 9

9:51 a.m. Assist Citizen, Unknown, Officer Handled

9:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Harrington Street, Citation Issued

9:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Harrington Street, Citation Issued

11:27 p.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, Bridge Street, Vehicle Towed

Saturday, Jan. 10

2:06 a.m. Parking Complaint, East Main Street, Citation Issued

5:43 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Faith Drive, Services Rendered

6:01 a.m. Safety Hazard, Town Wide, Referred to Other Agency

8:41 a.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Dispatch Handled

11:09 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Faith Drive, Transported to Hospital

11:38 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Putney Court, Transported to Hospital

3:52 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Jean Avenue, Officer Handled

Sunday, Jan. 11

8:21 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

9:09 a.m. Safety Hazard, East Main Street, Spoken To

12:18 p.m. Traffic Control, East Main Street, Citation Issued

12:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

2:14 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Stevens Road, Services Rendered

2:39 p.m. Assist Citizen, Howe Street, Spoken To

5:57 p.m. Traffic Control, East Main Street, Citation Issued

6:02 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

8:45 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Terry Lane, Transported to Hospital

37th Annual Ice Fishing Derby is Jan. 31

BROOKFIELD – The Brookfields Lions Club will host its 37th Annual Ice Fishing Derby on Saturday, Jan. 31, at Quaboag Pond in Brookfield.

The event remains the largest single-day ice fishing derby in Massachusetts, attracting anglers and families from across the region.

A \$20 entry ticket qualifies participants for more than \$15,000 in cash prizes, including the \$5,000 Grand Prize, \$5,640 in “every five minutes” cash drawings, and \$4,375 in fish categories. Every ticket holder is automatically entered into the major cash drawings whether they choose to fish or not.

Derby headquarters will be located at the Quaboag Pond boat ramp in Brookfield. Weigh-ins will take place from 7 a.m. until the derby closes at 3:30 p.m., with the children’s division ending at 2 p.m. and youth prizes awarded at 2:30 p.m. The \$5,000 cash drawing for all ticket holders will take place at 4 p.m., and a complete announcement of all derby winners will air on The Valley’s Classic Hits 97.7 FM and 1250 AM (WARE Radio)

at 5 p.m.

In the event that no safe ice exists by Thursday, Jan. 29, the derby itself will be cancelled, and all drawings will be held at the North Brookfield Legion Post 41, located below Subway in North Brookfield. No fish prizes will be awarded, but all tickets will still be valid for the five-minute cash drawings and the \$5,000 Grand Prize drawing.

As is customary for this derby, there is a “one fish per category per ticket” rule that helps ensure broader distribution of prizes and encourages a fair, community-minded competition. All qualifying fish must be caught within the Central Wildlife District.

Children up to age 12 compete separately using state minimum lengths, while young anglers who meet the adult minimum lengths may also qualify for the main leaderboard.

Tickets for the derby are available from any Brookfields Lions Club member, and at many longtime partner locations including: K&S Bait Shop (Barre), Central Package (Brookfield), R&R

Sport Shop (Belchertown), 308 Lakeside Restaurant (East Brookfield), Fred’s Variety & Package Store (Fiskdale), Granby Bait Shop (Granby), Ben’s Bait (Leicester), Red Ridge Bait & Tackle (Ludlow), Still Hart’s (North Brookfield), Nick’s Sport Shop (Palmer), Glenda’s and River Town Bait Shop (Warren), Mathieson Bait Shop (West Brookfield).

Following the derby, all winners will be posted at www.brookfieldslionsclub.org, and at all ticket vendor locations.

For additional information, please contact the Brookfields Lions Club at brookfieldslionsclub@gmail.com, or visit the Club’s Facebook page at facebook.com/BrookfieldsLionsClub.

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USDA INSP. SWISS CHEESE.....	\$4.44 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN FULLY COOKED W/BBQ RUB ST. LOUIS PORK RIBS.....	\$2.99 lb	USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN SNOW CRAB CLUSTER COOKED.	\$9.99 lb

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- opinion -



Winter sowing is a fun experiment

“Winter sowing” always comes up as a hot topic on social media this time of year.

The basic premise of winter sowing is to plant your seeds in mini greenhouses (gallon jugs), place the jugs outside and simply let nature take over. The advantage being that no heat mats or lights are needed. No window sills full of seedlings, either.

While I don't think it is as simple as it sounds, I do think trying it would be a fun experiment.

Read on this week and next to consider some of the pros and possible cons of this seed starting technique.

Years ago I read a blog where a master gardener was encouraging folks to start native perennials in milk jugs outside. The seeds of many of these plants require a period of cold and moist stratification to break seed dormancy.

In simple terms, they need to go through winter in order to sprout. Think of it as nature's safety mechanism; seeds germinate at the right time to survive and thrive!

You may ask, then, why not just sow the seeds outdoors in the garden? In theory it sounds good, but in reality “the wild” is not the best seed bed.

From hungry birds and rodents, to wind and drenching rains, success is hit or miss. Safely inside the milk jug, but at the same time outside in the elements to freeze and thaw, freeze and thaw, tricky seeds are coaxed into germinating. Success at your fingertips!

Here are the nuts and bolts! Start with clean gallon containers, the see-through kind that water or milk come in. About four inches up, just below the handle, safely cut around the jug, leaving an inch or so on either side of the handle as a “hinge.”

You should be able to bend the top back and forth. Make a number of drainage holes in the bottom; three or four per quadrant.

There is a lot of advice out there on how to do that, from drilling holes, to twisting an exacto knife around and around and even using a hot tool to melt a hole in the plastic (really!). I generally like to make holes in reused plastic containers by banging a large nail through the bottom into a piece of scrap lumber placed underneath. Once the drainage holes are made, fill the bottom of the jug with moist seed starting mix. With the soil in place, sow your seeds.

If the seeds are tiny or even relatively tiny, don't cover them with soil, simply space them out evenly

on top and press into the surface.

You may wonder how to deal with tiny seed. I place it in a folded index card and gently tap the card so that the seeds fly out. If you can handle the seed easily, do cover with only a small amount soil, say an eighth of an inch or so and firm down.

How many seeds to sow is a tricky question. If you want to keep the plants in the jug until they go in the garden, then hope for four plants, maybe six per jug at the most, figuring how big they will be at transplant stage.

For tricky germinators, perhaps double or triple the amount of seed you sow versus how many you desire. If germination is great, you can always transplant some out.

Close the container and seal it with duct tape. Be sure to label the jug with the plant name via a paint pen, really the only writing utensil that won't smear, fade or wash away when exposed to the elements.

Place the jugs in full exposure outdoors and with the cap off, so that heat can escape and small amounts of moisture can penetrate. When the temperature outdoors heats up past 60 degrees, be sure to take the duct tape off and vent your seedlings. Check often and water as needed.

The pros recommend to cover with a blanket if frost threatens or even move heat lovers inside on cold nights so that the seedlings won't freeze. To prevent tip-over by four-legged friends or playful kids, pros also suggest putting the jugs in trays or bins.

As you can see, this method is not maintenance-free, but certainly worthy of a try especially for gardeners who are short on indoor space or in the mood to get their hands dirty earlier in the season than normal! January and February is the perfect time to start seeds that need a cold treatment.

Look for key terms on the seed packet, such as “stratification needed,” “sow in the fall,” etc. You can also use this technique to sow cold hardy annuals in March- think chard, spinach, kale, snapdragons, bachelor button and the like.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 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.



A final hike of 2025

by Julie Midura

“You know, honey, we always talk about how we'll really start living ‘some day.’ Once the kids are grown. Once we have more time and more money. Once we retire. But how do we know that we'll both be physically capable of doing something so demanding if we wait for ‘some day’ to arrive? How do we know that we will even reach that elusive ‘some day?’”

It was a beautiful August day in 2016, and Tom and I were standing on the summit of Mount Lafayette in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. We were completing Tom's lifelong dream of hiking the Franconia Ridge Loop – a majestic 9-mile hike featured on a National Geographic List of the 20 Best Hikes in the World.

On that summer afternoon almost ten years ago, I was trying to convince my husband that we should attempt to hike all of New Hampshire's 48 tallest peaks. I was 51, and he was 59 at the time. There were numerous reasons not to pursue such a time-consuming and physically chal-



lenging endeavor.

One of which, as Tom stated, was because “We're far too old and there's no way we can hike up all those mountains in our lifetime.”

It took a bit of persuasion on my part, but he finally agreed to chase after those 48 mountain peaks.

Since that day, Tom and I have not only completed the entire White Mountain 4,000 Footer List once, but twice including climbing every peak during the winter season. And we've repeated several of our favorites over a half dozen times.

In addition, we've backpacked 800 miles on the Appalachian Trail, completing 8 of the 14 states. We have also climbed the second highest peak in the continental United States – 14,440-foot Mount Elbert in Colorado – when I was 58 and Tom was 66 years old.

The thousands of miles we have walked over the past 10 years have not just proven what our bodies and minds are capable of. Every mile has been a journey of adventure, self-discovery, courage, humility, resilience, contentment and gratitude. And every footprint we have left on every woodland trail and every slab of granite has propelled us forward to the next.

Our final hike of 2025 in New Hampshire, just two weeks ago, continued to do the same.

It's minus 2 degrees when we start up the trail toward the summit of Mount Jackson at 4:15 a.m. The sky is black and the beams of our headlamps pierce the darkened forest. When we lift our heads upward, our lights illuminate the trees, and they appear like figures standing guard over the landscape.

The snow-laden evergreens groan under the weight, pressing closer to the ground, seeming to bow to us as we pass. The silence is full, broken only by the crunch of our boots on the hard-packed snow.

When we break treeline, everything changes. We brace ourselves against the onslaught of howling wind. The sheer force pushes our bodies backward. We slam our trekking poles into the hard-packed snow to steady ourselves, while hoping that our spike-clad boots anchor us to the icy granite.

The final steep pitch makes my heart tremble. Adrenaline is coursing through my body. I grab onto rocks and pull myself upward, eyes watering, skin pierced with the sting of icy needles. I breathe a sigh of relief when we reach the plateau, and we rush to the leeward side to escape the wind's torment.

We find a partially sheltered ledge and quickly spread our bright green sleeping bag over our sleep pads atop several feet of snow. We crawl inside of the double-wide down bag and snuggle close together. Based on the weather, we know we can't remain immobile for long. Movement keeps the body warm.

Stillness allows the cold to penetrate the numerous layers of clothing we are wearing. Today, even the trees are shivering.

We sip hot apple cider in an attempt to warm our insides while waiting for the sun to crest the distant horizon. The cold kisses our cheeks and the wind fills our ears. We inhale the frigid mountain air and watch plumes of vapor rise as we exhale.



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See HIKING PAGE 8

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- community -

FARMERS MARKET FROM PAGE 1

products. Making specialty products out of scrap wood is veteran market man Bernie Wilson of B&D Enterprises. Years ago, he brought pens and has since expanded the variety of products.

Thompson's Maple Farm came from up in New Braintree. They bring maple syrup and other maple products, but also many flavors of ice cream.

In the center of the hall was Still Life Farm as usual with Halley and Curt Stillman. Still Life Farm was busy, as customers were lining up to buy the winter produce.

Autumn Leaf Farm is the purveyor of locally grown microgreens and is the vendor of a variety of mushrooms. Gail was staffing the table this Wednesday. We asked her why shrooms?

Gail told us she did not find anyone else doing them and could not find them in stores. About a year ago she started teaching herself.

She usually has five types, but this day there were Shiitake, Blue Oyster and Pioppino. These are customer favorites and they looked beautiful.

Also on the table were lovely colored eggs from Autumn Leaf Farm's Golden Comet Chickens. It's a breed of Golden-Brown color that is a prolific layer and popular at the market.

To the left of Autumn Leaf Farm was Bucha Bros. Their motto is "In Gut We Trust." What the heck does that mean?

There is an explanation. Kombucha is a beverage that has taken off in popularity in the last several years. It is a fermented beverage that is beneficial for a person's gut health.

We spoke with Ryan Laurie, co-founder with Edward Fisher.

Bucha Bros Kombucha is produced at the Worcester Food Hub. Unlike much of what is on sale in grocery stores, Bucha Bros is not pasteurized. "Pasteurization kills the billions of tiny good bacteria that call Kombucha (and your gut) home."

Bucha Bros is here at the winter market and several others through the year.

On Jan. 14, we again crossed East Main Street and entered the First Congregational Church of West Brookfield. The church has been hosting the West Brookfield Winter Farmers Market for several years now, generously so.

So, at 3 p.m. vendors are already set up along the church hall as patrons arrive. On this day, we arrived mid-market to see sellers and shoppers happily interacting.

Coming in the hall, on the right, were the lovely tulips of Robyn Scott's Blair House Blooms. Though Robyn is usually greeting shoppers, she was absent this week. That was no problem as her son, Adam, on duty, competently serving the needs of customers wanting to take



Ryan Laurie and Bucha Bros are vendors at the West Brookfield Winter Farmers Market.



Bryan of Golden Grain Artisanal Bread is a first-year vendor at the market.

some color home.

Turning the corner, we came to Kelly Homestead Apiary from Charlton. Again, in the church was Ginger, who was assisted by her daughter. The table had more than a little honey and related products. Infused hot honeys or with garlic are new this year.

Next, back this week is Rich Laba, well known for the pork products he brings from Farm46 in Charlton. There are eggs and pastured poultry, but the jowl bacon is sublime.

The Chairman of the Board was next. It is not in the corporate sense that Wayne Boulette does this, nor is it in the sense Frank Sinatra was. Wayne does boards, that is making cutting boards and other useful kitchen utensils that are brought to market. The man is a dog lover and has a couple of poodles at home, and part of the chairman's profits go to support the ASPCA.

New this year is JARS Bakery & Café down from 23 Summer St., in North Brookfield. Representing JARS at the Market was Chloe Frette.

Chloe came with a good selection of pastries. There was banana chocolate chip bread, cinnamon rolls with cream cheese frosting, as well as apple turnover and chocolate chip cookies.

Not looking for something too sweet, a spinach feta croissant looked good.

Soup was also available. The choices were creamy tomato basil and Loaded potato soup.

To the left was an array of "gifts in a jar." There was drink mixes, soup mixes and various seasonings.

The café is open 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 9 a.m.-2 p.m. on Sunday.

They have variety of coffees and teas and other beverages.

On the first Sunday of each month at the café there is "Tea for Two Sundays," with a selection of sandwiches, fresh pastries and desserts as well as teas.

JARS also strives to accommodate allergies and dietary restrictions.

Also, a first-year vendor at the winter market is Golden Grain Artisanal Bread. We spoke with Bryan who is co-owner, with Leidy, of the business.



Still Life Farm had plenty of winter produce.

Bryan is a self-taught artisanal baker, who wanted a break from a previous endeavor. Bryan is without formal training but is not without dedication.

Starting out by utilizing tutorials, cookbooks, "and relentless trial-and-error test-

ing, it would become a true fascination with food."

Bryan brought the results to market. On the table was Rustic Sourdough that was fermented for the better part of three days. He explained that depending on the humidity, fermentation time

could vary greatly. A humid summer day could see it happening in four hours, whereas in winter it could be two and a half days.

Whole lot of science in baking.

Also at the market, Bryan had a couple of focaccias,

and brown butter chocolate chip cookies. Shok Up An is a Japanese milk bread.

Such was the mid-February day at a market. It's a welcoming venue, so come next Wednesday as the end in March will be here before we know it.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY RICHARD MURPHY

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NEWS & FEATURES

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

For more information on news or community features for the Quaboag Current, please email pouimette@turley.com.



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- community -

BHN launches treatment program for youth and families

SPRINGFIELD – Behavioral Health Network, Inc., the designated Community Service Agency for Western Massachusetts, has announced the launch of its Family-Based Intensive Treatment program. This new service expands BHN's commitment to delivering essential behavioral health care to children, youth, and families through a community-centered approach. The FIT program helps

families in crisis to stabilize by providing intensive home-based support. FIT serves youth under age 21 with MassHealth insurance. Each family is supported by a dedicated team, providing clinical support, 24/7 availability and peer support from someone with lived experience. The team teaches practical skills to help children thrive at home and connects families with com-

munity resources for long-term success. FIT is part of a full continuum of child and family support services, available to families in the following communities of Hampden and Worcester Counties, ensuring that families across Western and Central Massachusetts have access to timely, compassionate care: Ware, Warren, Barre, Hardwick, Oakham, West Brookfield, East Brookfield, Brookfield, New

Braintree, North Brookfield, Rutland and Hubbardston. "FIT expands the continuum of care within BHN's child and family programs, ensuring families receive intensive, home-based support when they need it most. These programs reflect our commitment to building stronger, healthier communities," said Michelle Michaelian, Senior Vice President of Child and Family Commu-

nity-Based Programs. Families interested in learning more about the FIT program can call 413-301-9355 or visit www.bhninc.org. **About Behavioral Health Network** Behavioral Health Network, Inc. is a nonprofit regional provider of comprehensive behavioral health services for adults, children, and families. Originating from the Child

Guidance Clinic established in 1938, BHN has grown into a network that serves communities across Massachusetts. BHN offers a wide range of community-based services, including innovative, integrated whole-health models, traditional clinical and outpatient care, therapeutic services, day treatment, addiction services, crisis intervention, and residential supports.

BROOKFIELD FROM PAGE 1

Nelson to the board for appointment as a full-time officer on the Police Department. Daley said Nelson currently works as a sergeant for the Stow Police Department, and has over 25 years of experience.

The board approved Nelson's appointment.

Community Heart & Soul Catherine Ingraham White, a Community Heart & Soul coach, came before the board to talk about resident-driven planning. She said it is a two-year process and broken into four phases.

"It's based around three principles...one is to focus on what matters most. It seeks to involve everyone...and it focuses on playing the long game," she said.

White said Community Heart & Soul has been speaking with town stakeholders since the summer to determine if the program could work in town.

She said they are still in the "getting started" phase to determine if the program fits the community.

White said the Greater Worcester Community Foundation covers the cost of coaching, and the town could also receive a \$10,000 grant from Community Heart & Soul.

Many residents spoke in support of the program, noting that it would require ded-

icated volunteers to make it work.

Water/sewer bills

Town Administrator Ron Aponte spoke about the new Water and Sewer departments' combined bills.

"We're going to take what has been traditionally two separate, biannual water bills...two separate biannual sewer bills...we're going to combine them together, so that will be one bill and now it's going to be coming out quarterly," he said.

He said the first combined bill would be issued to water/sewer users in February.

Aponte said partial payments would be accepted and applied to outstanding sewer balances first, then applied to outstanding water balances, followed by current sewer, and then current water.

"We ask for everyone's cooperation and patience during this time," Aponte said, and encouraged anyone with questions to reach out.

Downtown parking conditions

Gilman read a letter submitted to the board by several business owners regarding parking conditions on North Main Street.

One business owner said downtown apartment tenants have been utilizing the North Main Street parking spots and tying up spaces available for

customers. He asked if timed parking could be enforced.

He also asked if a town-owned lot could be turned into an overflow parking area, which could be used as overnight parking for the tenants.

Gilman said there were signs for short-term parking in the area, but they were removed to help with the ease of snow removal.

Business owners said the lack of parking has been detrimental to their ability to bring in customers.

Board members Gilman and Ralph Kay acknowledged the business owners' concerns, and said there wouldn't be a quick solution to the issue, but that they would continue to work toward finding one.

U.S. 250th celebration

The Parks & Recreation Committee will host a special 4th of July event to celebrate the U.S.'s 250th birthday. The event will be held on the common and there will be music, a dunk tank, bounce house, beer garden and more.

"We want to try and get a little bit of something for everyone," Parks & Recreation Committee member Nancy Waldron said.

Spending request

The board approved a spending request in the amount of \$1,400 from the Highway Department for a four by eight foot sign to be placed on the front of the new building on Donovan Road.



Kids and their parents made their way to a Thunderbirds photobooth. Standing in the far right is Library Director Carolann MacMaster.

THUNDERBIRDS GAME FROM PAGE 1

to win the game. After they were seated the kids cheered for their favorite hockey team. Some of the kids enjoyed some cotton candy while watching the game.

Cotton candy was Trinity's first choice when her and her father arrived at the MassMutual Center.

"The kids love their cotton candy," he said.

The kids and the parents had a great time attending the Springfield Thunderbirds game. A great event for the summer reading program at the East Brookfield Public Library.



Blair and his dad enjoyed the Thunderbirds game at MassMutual Center in Springfield.



The Thunderbirds skated their way back to the bench after scoring the first goal of the game.

W BROOKFIELD FROM PAGE 1

or when grant closeout timing creates shortfalls.

Approval of this article ensures compliance with accounting requirements and maintains the financial integrity of the town's grant programs.

Capital improvement projects

Article 4 will ask voters to transfer money from available funds for the purpose of funding various capital improvement projects or for purchasing capital improvement items as recommended by the Capital Improvement Committee.

Town Hall repairs and roof replacement

Article 5 will ask voters to borrow money to pay for the costs of structural repairs and roof replacement for the Town Hall. This article seeks to address safety concerns, prevent further

deterioration and preserve the historic integrity of the building.

This article requires a two-thirds majority vote to pass.

Tax title expense

Article 6 will ask voters to transfer money from available funds for the purpose of paying costs associated with tax title proceedings, including but not limited to legal fees, title examinations, notices, filings, and other expenses necessary for the enforcement and collection of delinquent taxes.

These funds support legal and administrative steps such as title research, court filings and notification to property owners. This article requires a simple majority vote to pass.

Disposition of abandoned funds

Article 7 will ask voters to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 200A, §9A Disposition

of Abandoned Funds by City or Town, in order to authorize the town to follow the alternative procedures established under said section for disposition of abandoned funds held by the town. This includes unclaimed checks, deposits, credits and other abandoned property held by the town.

Acceptance of Section 9A allows the town to follow alternate procedures for notices, records and reporting; transfer long-abandoned funds to the town's general fund after required waiting periods; reduce administrative burdens and clean up old accounting items.

Water Stabilization Account transfer

Article 8 will ask voters to transfer money from Retained Earnings to the Water Stabilization Account. This money is the surplus or "free cash" in the Water Enterprise Fund.

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CLUES ACROSS

- Paddles
- Sunscreen rating
- Very fast airplane
- Immune responses
- "Partner" to feather
- New England river
- Longest river in New Guinea
- Midway between east and southeast
- Israeli politician
- Back bones
- Consumed
- One you can rely on
- Dressed up gaudily
- Representatives
- Dog breed
- Pitching statistic
- Manpower
- S. Korean entertainer
- Outsourcing firm
- Viceroy of Egypt
- under Turkish rule
- One who removes antlers from a flower
- Potluck dish
- Discount
- Airborne (abbr.)
- Cavalry sword
- Basics
- Hollywood director Howard
- Afflicted in mind or body
- Horsley and Majors are two
- Midway between northeast and east
- Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- Malaysian isthmus
- Fall back
- Cheek
- Baseball's best pitchers
- Nui, Easter Island
- Invests in little enterprises
- Constant
- Hobby
- A place to store food
- Short-tail marten
- Burn with a hot liquid
- Left his heart in San Francisco
- Swedish krona
- Legendary actor Connery
- French cleric
- Former measure of length for textiles
- Opaque glassy substance
- Residue of burned item
- A place to unwind
- Japanese honorific
- Terminus
- Fails to make a shot
- Journalist Tarbell
- College hoops tournament
- Monetary unit of Macao
- Of she
- Spoke ill of
- Elements
- Kilocalorie (abbr.)
- Pole used in Scottish sport
- Hollyhocks genus
- Street name for marijuana
- Polio vaccine developer
- Swiss river
- Prejudice
- Actor Idris
- Confederate soldiers
- Criticize

CLUES DOWN

- Former CIA

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Cougars grab third win

WARREN — Last Wednesday evening, Quaboag Regional High School boys basketball defeated Southbridge 65-60 for its third win of the regular season.

After a tough start losing three of its first four games, the Cougars have now won two of their last three.

The Cougars started the week with a 3-5 record and next face the Advanced Math and Science Academy Charter School on Friday, Jan. 23 at 6:30 p.m.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Jacoby Labillois goes for a layup.



Jack Stevens receives a pass on the run.



Kadin Dufault heads for the hoop.



Jacob Toomey heads down the court to start play on offense.

Panthers fall to Clinton, Tyngsborough

BARRE — Last week, Quabbin girls basketball enjoyed much of the week off, but the Panthers were looking to regroup from the previous week that included a pair of losses. The Panthers would fall to Tyngsborough at home 53-33. They followed that with a 58-31 loss at Clinton on Jan. 9. The Panthers were in action against Lunenburg earlier this week, but return home on Friday, Jan. 23 at 6 p.m. to face Hudson High School.

Mia Ducos considers her next move as she approaches pressure.



Izzy Doty tries to make a pass away from the sideline.



Abby Rogowski winds up to make a pass.



Makenzie Casey charges into the paint.



Sophia Giangrande takes a shot just inside the arc.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI
Kalyn Roy heads to right side.



Sarah Mohsin tries to make a rebound.

Indians not able to hold lead, fall to Palmer

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

NORTH BROOKFIELD—The North Brookfield girls' basketball team held a six-point halftime lead in their first ever meeting with Palmer High School.

The Palmer Lady Panthers, who spent the entire 10-minute halftime break in their locker room, outscored the Lady Indians, 19-5, during the second half en route to a 31-23 non-league victory at Julianne Caron Memorial Gymnasium, last Wednesday night.

"We made a couple of defensive adjustments in the locker room at halftime. We were able to put a lot more pressure on them and we forced a lot of turnovers in the second half," said Palmer co-head coach Denise Levasseur, who shares the coaching duties with Amanda Theriault. "We've never faced North Brookfield



Olivia Holmes keeps the ball moving around the perimeter.

before, and we really didn't know very much about them."

The Lady Panthers, who made the trip back home to Western Mass. with a 4-5

overall record, didn't have any double digit scorers in the road game. Eight players scored at least two points led by eighth grader Harper Brouillette with eight points. She scored four points in each half. Her classmate, Aria Nompleggi netted five of her seven points before halftime.

Junior Addyson Petrasiewicz, who's the oldest player listed on the Lady Panthers roster, chipped in with five points.

While the Lady Panthers were ranked 24th in the MIAA Division 5 power rankings on January 13, the Lady Indians (3-3) were ranked 23rd, but three of their games were not submitted.

Junior Olivia Holmes scored all 10 of her game-high points during the first 16 minutes of the contest.

Junior Ayala Milcalia added seven points for the home team.

"I've been coaching both Olivia and Ayala on the varsity basketball team since they were in the seventh grade," said Lady Indians head coach Caitlyn Malone, who graduated from North Brookfield High School twenty years ago. "We rely on them a lot. They're also our leaders."

The trio of senior Sophie Dufresne, senior Sarah Mohsin, and junior Kalyn Roy each scored two points.

A Nompleggi 3-pointer from the right corner and a Petrasiewicz made free throw gave Palmer a 4-2 lead



Grace Vandoudenhove tries to shoot over a block.



Aubrey Thorpe attempts a shot.



Milcaia Ayala starts up the court after making a defensive rebound.

See INDIANS PAGE 8

- sports -

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Athlete of the Month



NAME: Olivia Holmes
SCHOOL: North Brookfield

Holmes had a great first half for the Indians in a matchup with Palmer High School last Wednesday. She led the Indians with 10 points for the game.

To nominate someone for Athlete of the Week, contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at 413-283-8393 ext. 258 or send an e-mail to gscibelli@turley.com.

Early defense keys win for Pathfinder

PALMER – Last Thursday night, Pathfinder Tech defeated Smith Vocational 47-37 thanks to some good early defense and a great night from Megan Clark. Pathfinder limited the visitors to just eight points in the first half and Clark scored 23 points to lead all scorers.

Taylor Allen added 13 points. The Pioneers are now 4-3 and next play on Thursday, Jan. 22 against Bay State Academy Charter at 6 p.m.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI
 Taylor Allen makes her way down the court.



Megan Clark changes sides of the court.

INDIANS FROM PAGE 7

three minutes into the first quarter.

Then Holmes, who was the tallest player on the court, took over the spotlight for the home team. She made two put-back hoops and another inside basket giving the Lady Indians an 8-4 lead in the middle of the opening quarter.

A minute later, a Holmes coast-to-coast fastbreak lay-up capped off North Brookfield's 8-0 run.

The Lady Panthers entered the second quarter, trailing by only two points (10-8) following field goals by Brouillette and Nempleggi.

A Milcalia inside hoop gave the Lady Indians an 18-8 lead with 4:40 remaining in the second quarter. It was their largest lead of the first half.

The home team was then held scoreless until the fourth quarter.

The Lady Panthers, who trailed 18-12, at halftime, entered the fourth quarter with a 22-18 lead.

Petrashewicz scored four of the Palmer third quarter points, while Nempleggi, eighth grader Lainey Haley (2 points), and Brouillette combined to score the other six points.

A Milcalia jumper in the lane snapped North Brookfield's scoreless drought and cut their deficit to 22-20 with

six minutes remaining in regulation.

"Their press defense really bothered us in the second half," Malone said. "We didn't score any points in the third quarter, which was the difference maker."

Palmer pulled away at that point with a Brouillette baseline jumper, a 3-pointer from freshman Anabelle Ladue (3 points), and a lay-up from freshman Evelynn Ladue (2 points). The Ladue's are twins.

It was the Lady Panthers second road win of the regular season.

The two squads are scheduled to meet for the second time this season at Palmer High School at 7 p.m. on Feb. 2.

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T-Birds offense dries up in loss to Bridgeport

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. - The Springfield Thunderbirds (13-18-4-2) continued to have a tough time location offense, falling 4-1 to the Bridgeport Islanders (16-17-2-1) on Saturday night inside Total Mortgage Arena.

A bad break for T-Birds netminder Vadim Zherenko resulted in Bridgeport's game-opening tally at 6:37 of the opening period, as Zherenko lost his balance and fell in his blue paint, allowing Daylan Kuefler to carry the puck around the net and wrap it past the fallen goaltender to make it 1-0 Bridgeport.

Aside from that unfortunate break, the T-Birds and Islanders played a

mostly defensive-minded first period, as Zherenko's nine saves and Henrik Tikkanen's eight stops in the Bridgeport crease accounted for much of the action on the scoresheet.

Matthew Peca quickly got his troops back on track, as the T-Birds captain slipped a wrister through Tikkanen just 49 seconds into period two, tying the score, 1-1, and extending his point streak to five consecutive games. Matt Luff also extended his season-long point streak to seven games with the primary assist on Springfield's first marker of the evening.

However, that potential momentum-changer was

quickly washed out when Cam Berg connected on a wrister from the left circle just 2:08 later, restoring a one-goal Bridgeport lead, 2-1.

Shots and chances continued to come at a premium for both teams, as the clubs combined for only 43 shots all evening, including just 25 in the final 40 minutes of play.

The T-Birds never did receive a power play in this one, and the club's last-minute efforts with Zherenko on the bench proved fruitless, as Adam Beckman and Eetu Liukas each connected on empty-netters to give Bridgeport the final goals of the night.

BROOKFIELD FROM PAGE 1

He said that the job description posted would be "a quarter of a million dollar job" in a bigger city.

"You're going to get the best I can do, in the best interests of this town," he said.

Ayers was asked about a time when he received direction from a boss that he believed was against policy. He talked about a time in manufacturing when a superior asked him to do something that would be dangerous, and he went to their superior to stop it from happening.

"There's certain things I just know, that I know I shouldn't do," he said.

Ayers also talked about his past job where he wanted to have windows in his

offices to overlook his employees, so he could be supportive to them. He talked about how he would work on weekends to be helpful to his team.

He said that a good team comes from clear expectations.

Coughlin asked what level of autonomy department heads should have relative to their budgets. Ayers said that the heads should have full autonomy, and there should be regular meetings with them.

As a final question, Ayers asked the board what they expect from him. Chaffee said that he wants to reduce the dependence on town counsel, and reduce the budget for it.

He also said that he wants the town administrator to have regular communication with the select

board before making decisions.

The board moved on to a vote to appoint Ayers as town administrator, which Chaffee and Campbell voted in favor of.

Coughlin abstained, as she had concerns about the process the board took with the search. She said they saw little information on the other applicants.

Campbell said that Ayers was the only applicant out of five they received to agree to an interview, and that she does not want to extend the process further.

After the initial vote to appoint Ayers, Coughlin motioned to rescind the motion, and motioned to offer him the position pending contract negotiations. Chaffee and Coughlin voted in favor of the motion, and Coughlin abstained.

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HIKING FROM PAGE 4

We remain snuggled in our lofty sleeping bag on this snowy perch for over an hour, unwilling to leave in spite of the cold settling into our bones. For we don't want to miss one single minute of this unforgettable moment that is unfolding before us.

The earth itself seems to be holding its breath, waiting for the show to begin. With eyes focused eastward,

we watch the black of night turn into the blazing red of dawn. The stars above are being replaced with an inferno of fiery reds and blazing oranges-like molten lava spreading as the horizon slowly burns.

And there it is. The shimmering golden sphere we have been waiting for, spreading its golden light down the mountainside and awakening the earth from its slumber. The brilliant rays stretch from the

heavens and dance upon the earth, giving life to everything they touch.

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regretting what could have been if only you had taken the chance.

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See you in the wild places, my friends!

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Mon & Tues Functions Only • Wed & Thurs 11:00 AM - 9PM
 Fri & Sat 11:00 AM - 10pm • Sun 8AM - 9PM

We Are Open For Breakfast Every Sunday 8am - 12pm

Live Entertainment Every Friday & Saturday Night

GREAT PLACE TO WATCH THE SUPER BOWL

Prime Rib Dinner
 Served Every Saturday
 4pm - Close

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

Market Price

Complete Catering Services For Your Super Bowl Party!

Let us do the work for you!

Delivery Available

Function Room Available

OPEN FOR LUNCH Wednesday - Friday at 11:00AM

Dinner Served
 Wednesday - Friday at 11:00 AM • Saturday from 11AM- 10:00PM
 Sunday from 12PM - 9PM

