

QUABOAG CURRENT

NORTH BROOKFIELD

Fundraiser dinner Saturday

Page 2

BROOKFIELD

Ice fishing derby

Page 3

REGION

Snow moon walk

Page 2

Volume 19, Number 9

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

Friday, January 30, 2026

Board discussed Fire Chief search committee

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WEST BROOKFIELD – The Select Board met on Jan. 20 and discussed forming a search committee for the Fire Chief position.

Town Administrator Theresa Cofske reported to the board and said they can help form an interview committee that can help se-

lect an applicant to the position of Fire Chief. It was suggested that this interview committee could be made up of three on-call fire chiefs from neighboring towns, the Union Steward of the Fire Department, and one West Brookfield firefighter.

The board wanted to establish an interview committee to help narrow down the field of applicants to one that is most qualified for the

role of Fire Chief. So far, the town has received four applicants for the position, and the board hopes this committee will provide finalists for them for the interview stage.

The Select Board made separate motions to appoint each member to the Fire Chief Interview Committee. On call Fire Chiefs from Wales, Brimfield, and Peter-

sham were appointed to the interview committee, and the Union Steward of the Fire Department was also appointed.

The board is looking further into which West Brookfield firefighter should be appointed to the committee. The board will then go over dates for interviews.

Police Department grant Police Chief Nathan Hagglund shared that the Police Department has been

working with Hardwick/New Braintree to do co-response clinicians. Hagglund is seeking support from the Select Board to accept this grant.

The Chief of Police has support from the District Attorney and the Chief Probation Officer.

A co-response clinician will do its due diligence to make mental health referrals if needed. This will ad-

dress mental health needs in smaller communities in the region, providing on the ground expertise and determining the most appropriate care.

Hagglund is making sure they have a strong grant narrative when it comes to working with the Department of Mental Health,

See W BROOKFIELD
PAGE 5



TURLEY PHOTOS BY RICHARD MURPHY

Chairman of the Board, Wayne Boulette, displayed his cutting boards and more at the West Brookfield Winter Farmers Market.

Shoppers enjoyed the calm before the storm at Winter Farmers Market

By Richard Murphy
Correspondent

WEST BROOKFIELD – On Jan. 21, the weather was not worth discussing. It was just another winter's day as we entered the West Brookfield Winter Farmers Market at The First Congregational Church.

West Brookfield and most of the rest of the country was getting ready for the approaching "end of the world as we know it snowstorm" again.

We shall see how that plays out, but on this Wednesday, there was a market to attend.

To the right, on enter-



Rich Laba and Farm46 offered pork products and more.

See WINTER MARKET
PAGE 5

Select Board discussed Town Administrator hiring process

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Correspondent

BROOKFIELD – The Select Board discussed the process taken during the recent search for a town administrator at their meeting last Tuesday.

Earlier this month, Robert Ayers was interviewed by the board, and the board motioned to move forward in the hiring process with

him. The board was scheduled to appoint Ayers at the Tuesday meeting, but board member Sarah Campbell said that she had not completed contract negotiations with him.

Select Board Chair Richard Chaffee started the meeting by explaining that the process started with the board unanimously voting to have Campbell and town accountant Laurie Bartkus

conduct interviews with candidates.

Bartkus said that many applications they received were from candidates with poor references, and they decided to not interview those candidates. She said that two viable candidates already accepted other job offers by the time they were starting to interview candidates,

See BROOKFIELD PAGE 6

Historical Society presents 'Notables & Notorious' of the Revolution

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

STURBRIDGE – The Historical Society returned to the Publick House for their first presentation of the new year this past week.

The presentation is known as "The Notables & Notorious of the American Revolution: Curious and Infamous Characters from the Last Green Valley."

Presenting this unique program was Development Director of The Last Green Valley, Inc., Regan Miner. The Last Green Valley is a National Heritage Corridor, representing the 35 towns in south central Massachusetts and eastern Connecticut that make up the Last Green Valley.

The Last Green Valley, Inc. was established in 1994 and was the fourth established National Heritage Area out of the current 62 existing in the United States. Sturbridge is one of nine Massachusetts towns that are part of the Last Green Valley.

This National Heritage Corridor is a nonprofit stewardship organization that helps cultural natural values.

The idea of this presentation was to highlight individuals who were part of the Last Green Valley and how residents in the area participated in the American Revolution in various ways. Miner shared that many of the individuals were not only notables to the area, but also some of

notorious status.

The first individual discussed is tied to the Publick House in Sturbridge, Ebenezer Crafts (1740-1810). Crafts, born in Connecticut, commanded a company cavalry supporting the American Revolution and was also a Colonel of a regiment and participated in Shay's Rebellion.

At each individual slide, Miner would highlight the individual's accomplishments. Crafts planted elm trees that shade the Publick House today.

John Spurr (1759-1816) participated in the Boston Tea Party in 1773 and was a known military leader. Spurr fought at the Battle

See HISTORICAL
SOCIETY PAGE 6



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Shown from left to right: Tom Chamberland presented five-year Longevity Acorns to Ray Richards and Bob Barnes. Both men have volunteered for five years, each participating in over five events or volunteer days each year.

FrOST held annual meeting, presented awards

STURBRIDGE – The Friends of Sturbridge Trails held its annual meeting on Jan. 20 at the Publick House.

This is the 14th anniversary of FrOST and was graciously hosted by the Publick House, which provided meeting space and refreshments including a special cake made expressly for our volunteers.

FrOST Treasurer, Brandon Goodwin presented an update on the accomplishments of the Trail Committee as well as the events and programs held and supported by FrOST in 2025.

Of note, the trail committee recorded over 68,000

visitors to the town trail system, and volunteers amassed over 924 hours in trail maintenance and 1110 hours in trail construction. With a special focus on the main Fiske Hill trail loop and Seven Ridges trail on the Leadmine property.

After the routine business meeting, longevity awards (a Frosted Acorn) were presented by FrOST Past Chair Tom Chamberland to Ray Richards and Bob Barnes for their five-year volunteer record and a five year and 10-year award was presented to Bob Lauritsen.

The special award for the evening is the presen-

tation of the David Barnicle Founders Award. This year presented to Lynne Petersen and family for their strong support of the Grand Trunk Trail. The Petersen Family, in honor of their dad and husband, Christian, made a financial donation to Brimfield in support of the construction of a bridge over the Quinebaug River, making a key connection of that trail to Sturbridge, and in Sturbridge purchased a nine-acre piece of property that formerly had a section of the original Grand Trunk Rail Bed, donating an

See FROST PAGE 6

- community -

Local dancer returns with professional dance company

HARDWICK – Explore the depth of human emotion and connection this February. Nova Linea Contemporary Dance will present “some wounds never heal” at The Center at Eagle Hill, 242 Old Petersham Road on Saturday, Feb. 7 at 7 p.m.

Nova Linea Contemporary Dance is Wisconsin’s premier contemporary dance company. Known for their emotionally-provocative performances, it is Nova Linea’s mission to provide accessible and relatable stories through dance to the communities it performs for.

Nova Linea has a local connection as well – Avree Gundersen, a dancer with the company, grew up dancing in West Brookfield at

Betty Gundersen Studio of Dance.

In this evening of dance, Nova Linea will present “some wounds never heal”. Choreographed by Artistic Director Jared Baker, this piece delves into the emotional landscape of loss, portraying a poignant story of feeling frozen and unable to move forward. It examines how grief shapes us, posing profound questions about resilience and healing.

The piece emphasizes the importance of community and empathy, inviting the audience to reflect on their own experiences and find solace in shared understanding. This powerful work encourages us to confront our pain, seek connection, and

leave with a renewed sense of strength.

Tickets are \$35 for adults, \$30 for student and seniors. The Center also offers discounted \$10 tickets to EBT cardholders through Massachusetts’ Card to Culture Program.

For tickets and information, visit www.thecenterateaglehill.org or call the Box Office at 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 our website at www.thecenterateaglehill.org.



Nova Linea Contemporary Dance will present “some wounds never heal” at The Center at Eagle Hill on Saturday, Feb. 7. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Annual Hearts for Heat Spaghetti Dinner 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

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, Bos-

ton Bruins signed puck, City of Smoke, Connect Restaurant, Inishowen 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 Brook-

field 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 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 Asses-

sors – 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.

Deadline for ‘Winter’ art entries is set for Feb. 12

WARE – ArtWorks Gallery invites artists of all mediums from throughout the northeastern U.S. to explore the theme of “Winter.”

The deadline for entry is Feb. 12 by midnight. The entry form and full details can be found on workshop13.org.

ArtWorks Gallery is located at 69 Main St. “Winter” will be on display from March 7 through April 4, opening with a reception on Saturday, March 7, from 3-5 p.m. Gallery hours are Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m.

The juror for “Winter” is Susan Tilton Pecora. She has been painting the streets, harbors, factories and farms of New England throughout her life.

ArtWorks Gallery is Workshop13’s gallery on Main Street. This space features numerous art exhibitions each year and is also available to rent for individual or group

shows. Workshop13 is a dynamic center where arts, culture, and community converge – expanding access to the arts and nurturing creativity and self-expression in the rural region. For more information visit workshop13.org, or call 413-277-6072.

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; 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.

EQLT to host ‘Snow Moon’ walk on Feb. 1

HARDWICK – The East Quabbin Land Trust is hosting a “Snow Moon” full moon walk on Sunday, Feb. 1, at 4:30 p.m. at Mandell Hill Preserve located at 660 Barre Road.

This 1.5-mile easy-to-moderate walk on the blue Loop Trail will cross open fields, transitioning to woodlands with moderate grade changes, and emerging once again in open fields

for unobstructed views of the full Snow Moon.

RSVPs are required; please email atrevvett@eqlt.org. Participants should plan to dress for the weather and bring water.

Some sections of the walk may be icy. Warm boots, traction cleats and/or hiking poles are recommended. Participants should also plan to bring a headlamp, if they have one.

St. Aloysius School’s Open House rescheduled to Feb. 2

HARDWICK – St. Aloysius Catholic School is hosting an Open House on Monday, Feb. 2 from 3-5:30 p.m.

The Open House was intended to happen a week prior but was canceled due to the snow storm and subsequent school closure that day.

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.

Serenity Ayala makes Regis College Fall 2025 Dean’s List

WESTON – Serenity Ayala of North Brookfield was named to the Regis College fall 2025 Dean’s List.

To qualify for the Dean’s List, students must earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher. First-year students qualify with a GPA of 3.25 or higher.

LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET! INFLATION PRICE BUSTERS PRICES IN RED ARE AT OR BELOW LAST YEAR’S PRICES!

USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN ASSORTED PORK LOIN CHOPS..... \$1.88 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF RIBE EYE STEAK \$9.99 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST 10 LB BAG \$1.77 lb
USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS PORK SIRLOIN CUTLETS..... \$2.22 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP SIRLOIN PICANHA STEAKS \$7.99 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS 10 LB BAG. 75¢ lb
USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS PORK BUTT STRIPS..... \$2.59 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN WHOLE DUCK TRAY PAK \$4.99 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN TASTEE CHOICE FAMILY MEAL: CHICKEN CARBONARA or SHRIMP ALFREDO \$4.99 ea
SLICED IN OUR DELI		
USDA INSP. TURKEY BREAST..... \$3.99 lb	USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY DIET LEAN GROUND BEEF 5 LB BAG \$4.99 lb	USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN RAW SHRIMP 15/20 COUNT HEAD ON, TAIL ON 24 OZ BAG \$6.99 ea
SOUPS ON		
USDA INSP. FROZEN BEEF OXTAILS \$9.99 lb	90 Meat Outlet 90 Avocado St. Springfield 413-737-1288 www.90meat.com	
USDA INSP. FRESH FOWL CHICKEN (SOUP CHICKEN)..... \$1.49 lb	HOURS: Mon. - Wed. 8-4 Thurs. 8-6 • Fri. 8-6 • Sat. 8-3	

SALE DATES: 1/29/26-2/4/26 BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE We reserve the right to limit quantities.

- community -

Historical Commission held 'Save Our Structures' session

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Correspondent

RUTLAND – The Historical Commission held a public session last Saturday regarding the Department of Conservation and Recreation's proposal to demolish the cells at the Rutland Prison Camps, and fill in the root cellar.

According to Historical Commission chair Peter Pasierb, the DCR cited hate speech, vandalism and safety concerns in their proposal.

Pasierb began the meeting by reading an email from DCR representative Dan Clark in response to an email the commission sent to DCR asking for specifics

on instances of hate speech, injuries, and claims filed against the state or DCR. The email said that DCR "has painted over hate speech many many times," and their position on demolition had not changed since their original proposal in 2021, and that Clark did not recall any discussions regarding saving the structures as they are without "offering a realistic solution to address DCR's concerns."

A resident asked what counts as hate speech, and the commission said they were unaware as DCR had not given them specifics as to what they have observed, or how often.

Pasierb suggested a

"three-pronged approach" as a potential solution to DCR's concerns including mitigation, education, and stewardship.

One of the main concerns from DCR is people trespassing on the property. The commission suggested installing motion sensing cameras, or cameras with cellular connection. They also suggested placing barriers, including boulders, near the entrance of the property to prevent vehicle access, in order to deter potential vandals.

The commission also discussed community painting days, which can be used to cover up the hate speech, and create new art. Member Michele Van Reet said the

town has painting supplies from a previous grant.

One resident suggested the town hire a local artist to paint a mural related to the town. Van Reet said that some of the graffiti is anti-DCR, and suggested that art done by a local artist may be respected by the graffiti artists.

The commission discussed placing the prison camps on the Massachusetts Register or Historic Places, which would effectively ban demolition, explaining that the process is starting, but it is cumbersome, and one barrier is the town's historic inventory. The commission said many towns in the state have hundreds of sites on their historic invento-

ry, while Rutland has only about 20.

A resident also suggested getting the prison camps on Preservation Massachusetts' list of endangered sites (<https://www.preservationmass.org/mer>), which could attract more visibility. Historical commission member Lindsay Maus said that if a site is in "imminent danger" of destruction, that site could be expedited onto the registry of historic places.

A resident also suggested spreading awareness about the prison camps. The commission said a letter campaign in support of saving the prison camps has been sent to DCR, and they have a petition posted in various

parts of the town on a QR code.

Attendees also discussed the possibility of school events, raising awareness for children.

History of the Rutland Prison Camps

Maus gave a brief history of the prison camps, saying that they were opened in 1903 to house minor offenders. They operated a farm, which sold milk to Worcester, and had a tuberculosis hospital on site to treat the inmates on site.

She said the prisoners were treated well, and there were barriers to prevent escape, and the inmates learned skills and trades at the camps. The camps were abandoned in 1934.

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.

Griffin Smith makes Champlain College fall 2025 Dean's List

BURLINGTON, VT – Griffin Smith of Fiskdale was named to the Champlain College Dean's List for the fall 2025 semester. Students on the Dean's

List have achieved a grade point average of 3.5 or higher during the semester. Smith is currently majoring in Computer Science and Innovation.

HCC fall 2025 Dean's list

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College recognizes superior scholarship through the Dean's list.

Local students making Dean's list honors for the fall 2025 term are: Rebecca L. Quevillon of Brookfield, Casey Castenir of East Brookfield, Isabella Dawn Fitzgerald of Sturbridge, Colleen Morin of West Brookfield and Hart Wil-

liam Waz of West Brookfield. A student is placed on the Dean's list if their G.P.A. is 3.2 or higher.

Visit us at
www.turley.com

Singer Songwriter Series highlights local musicians

WARE – Workshop13 is excited to highlight seven local and regional musicians in the second session of their Singer Songwriter Series.

Musicians will include Dan Frost, Tasteless Jack, Dave Herrera, Carly Lara, and featured artist Seth Newton. This event takes place in Workshop13's Grand Hall at 13 Church St., on Saturday, Jan. 31. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the performance begins at 7 p.m.

Tickets are priced on a sliding scale and are available at www.workshop13.org.

Enjoy photo ops, meet and greets, food for purchase (free popcorn), and a cash bar. The performance will feature sound design by Brian Jyringi and be hosted by Amanda Meli and MC'd by Kevin Wherry. Singer-songwriters will share their original songs and the stories behind them, "in the round" style.



Seth Newton

This performance format brings a group of singer-songwriters together sharing the stage, with each artist delivering songs one after another. After intermission, enjoy a special featured performance by Newton followed by a powerful second round, a group curtain call, and a community meet-and greet with all performers.

Newton is an American singer songwriter who's



Dan Frost

been active for decades, performing internationally in well-known music circuits throughout the globe. Known for his strong, uniquely dynamic four octave vocal range and ethereal atmospheric rock songwriting style, this modern-day vagabond delivers a live experience that resonates long after the final note is sung.

About Workshop13

Workshop13 is a dynamic center where arts, culture, and community converge – expanding access to the arts and nurturing creativity and



Tasteless Jack

self-expression in our rural region.

For more information visit workshop13.org, or call 413-277-6072.

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 brookfieldslionsclub.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 brookfieldslionsclub@gmail.com, or visit the Club's Facebook page at [facebook.com/Brookfield-](https://facebook.com/Brookfieldslionsclub)

lionsclub.

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.

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

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

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

Please contact Pat James 413-726-8661.



Saturday, January 31st ~ 7pm-11pm

Country Rock

Fridays

Karaoke

948 Main Street, Warren, MA • 413-436-8491

Upcoming Events

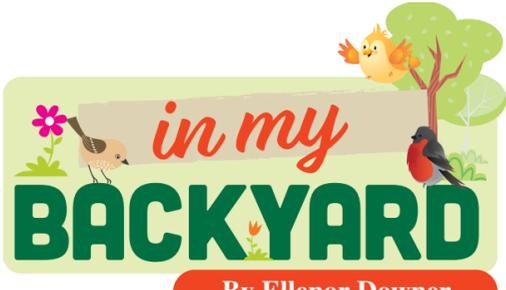
Saturday, February 14th
7pm-11pm

Pure Country

EVERY SUNDAY
DARTS
LUCK OF THE DRAW
5:30pm • All Welcome

- opinion -

Sow onion seeds to get the season



By Ellenor Downer



Snowy owl

In late December of last year and early January of this year, a snowy owl has been seen at Northampton Airport and in a cornfield.

The snowy owl is an irruptive species from the tundra. Usually, it is the young snowy owls that head this way. There have been reports of snowy owls at Plum Island this month. Logan Airport is another common location for them.

The snowy owl is large and white. The mature males have a lot of white. Females and juveniles have dark brown and black barring. Living in the Arctic, it is well adapted to cold with dense feathers including feathers on their feet. They hunt rodents like lemmings in open tundra. They have exceptional sight and hearing.

Their flight is silent allowing them to catch unsuspecting prey. They hunt during the day, a rarity for most owls. They expand south during winter food scarcity in the tundra. It is one of North America's heaviest owls with a wing span of 4.5 to 5.5 feet.

They are generally solitary, but form pairs. They build nests in the ground in shallow scrapes. The female lays three to 11 eggs, the number of eggs depending on food availability. Males bring food and the females incubate and feed the chicks.

Helping owls

Here are some tips if you see a snowy owl. Keep a safe distance to observe quietly. Do not play bird calls from your phone or other device. Don't feed the owls. Avoid flashes when taking photos. Keep noises to a minimum. If you find an injured owl: contact your state wildlife agency or local rehabilitator. If you find a dead owl: contact your state wildlife agency.

Also people should

avoid using rodenticides; they are poisonous to birds and other animals even a pet. If an owl or other birds of prey eat a rodent that ingested, it will kill them.

Evening grosbeaks

A Worthington resident reported a friend saw two evening grosbeaks on Tuesday, Jan. 6. He said in his email he remembered when they used to be in giant flocks. He asked if they were rare out my way. I have not seen evening grosbeaks in some-time. Other people in Central Massachusetts have seen them recently. The Massachusetts Audubon Society reported six evening grosbeaks in North Brookfield.

Mass. Audubon sightings

Recent Mass Audubon sightings include western grebes, eared grebes, tufted ducks and sandhill cranes as well as an unusual visitors, a scissor-tailed flycatcher, a rare state record and a rosy-billed pochard. Other sightings include goldeneye, mergansers, horned larks, and wintering raptors like Northern harriers in Massachusetts in early January.

On Jan. 6 and again on Jan. 13 a male King Eider was seen among thousands of common Eiders in North Chatham. A Pacific loon and over 400 razorbills were at Race Point in Provincetown.

Brimfield resident

A Brimfield resident sent an email on Jan. 6 that he received a preliminary total for the Springfield Christmas Bird Count, which was 66 species, a few below the average. He also said, "We occasionally see them in the yard and sometimes hear the barred owls calling."

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

If you are sick and tired of winter, and want to get the gardening season going already, why not sow some onion seeds?

Onions are the first seeds I sow each year and I always welcome this task as a true harbinger of spring! Many gardeners only know of growing onions from sets, but you can indeed start them from seed, both indoors in the garden.

Read on for more information on growing onions from start to finish, right out of the archives.

First it's important that we "understand the onion," in other words, come to know its life cycle. Onions are biennial.

We are all familiar with biennial flowers like foxglove, hollyhock and Canterbury bells, who develop foliage the first year of their lives and bloom and set seed in the second, but few gardeners today ever experience a biennial vegetable. That wasn't always the case. Just visit the Freeman Farm at Old Sturbridge Village where in the summer you will see beets, parsnips, onions and more in year two of their life cycle, complete with seed heads.

As the seeds ripen, 19th century gardeners would have stored them away for use the following spring.

So then, if the onion is a biennial and its goal is to make seeds the second season of its life, what is it trying to accomplish in its first? Exactly what you and I want: a big bulb!

The bulb is the food storage unit for the plant during its dormancy period- the winter between years one and two. A big bulb gives the second year plant a good head start and almost always directly relates to increased seed production as compared to smaller bulbs.

For me, understanding this concept was one of those "aha" gardening moments. It all really came together when I recognized that big bulbs are

a direct result of lush top-growth.

Just imagine the green part of the plant photosynthesizing, drawing in all of that wonderful energy from the sun and turning it into a big, fat onion! Luckily, we gardeners can provide just the right conditions for lush top-growth.

Get an early start

All onions have a built-in mechanism that triggers "bulbing up" in response to warmer temperatures and increased daylight hours. Likewise, as daylight begins to decrease, the onion is cued into dormancy.

If lush tops are our first goal, we have to get our onions in early, so that they achieve lots of top growth before being prompted to bulb up. Those of us who garden in the north choose "long day" onions, while southern gardeners opt to grow "short day" types.

Long day onions bulb up when day length reaches 14-16 hours per day; short day plant at 12-13 hours. If we plant short day in our locale we'd end up with fat scalions, but not much more, so choose accordingly.

Reputable seed companies will list the type of onion it is next to the variety name, or feature them under appropriate headings.

Choose your method

There are three ways onions can be grown: by seeds sown directly in the garden, from transplants started indoors, or from sets, which are tiny onions. One huge advantage of utilizing seeds is the variety at your disposal as compared to sets.

They are also less expensive. Some folks even argue that onions sown from seed store longer. The rest of this article will be devoted to starting onion seeds indoors, which is best accomplished in late January through Valentine's Day- good news for those of you itching to get your hands "dirty!"

Onion seeds are sown indoors in small flats filled with moist soilless growing medium. Spacing can be a little closer than prescribed for outdoor germination, with sowing at 1/4" apart. The use of heat mats set at 72 degrees is helpful, but not entirely necessary; regular room temperatures will also encourage sprouting.

Supplemental lighting is vital, however, so that the onions grow straight and strong. Once onions are up, thin seedlings 1/2" to 1" apart from one another - onions hate competition, so this step is important!

I generally cut out the extras using scissors, right at the soil line so as not to dislodge the roots of those we are growing on. As the seedlings continue to grow, keep them trimmed at 3" tall; this will encourage strong roots and a straight, bulky plant.

About a month prior to the last frost, the transplants should be hardened off for a week by gradually acclimatizing them to outdoor conditions. When they are ready, seedlings are sunk into 1" furrows 3-4" apart and watered carefully; they can be protected from sun and wind off and on for the first week should it seem necessary; here a floating row cover supported by wire hoops would come in handy, but old pots or trays would work fine too. Additional rows should be one foot apart.

Stayed tuned for part two of this column next week, and extra-large onions will be yours come fall!

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.

My wife believes she can get a spouse benefit while I'm still alive; can she?

Dear Rusty:

A friend of my wife told her and she believes, she could receive a Social Security benefit based on my SS benefit that I'm currently receiving while I'm still alive. I told her she could only receive spouse survivor benefits. Is there any truth to what she now believes? Would you settle this issue for us please? Thank you.

Signed: Uncertain Husband

Dear Uncertain Husband: Well, surely I don't want to get in the middle of your martial discussion, but I'll be



from you while both of you are living, depending on how your personal FRA retirement amounts compare. The best way for your wife

to find out is to contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 to inquire and if she's eligible, also make an appointment to apply for her spousal benefit.

And to clarify your wife's options as your possible widow, a surviving spouse can also get a survivor benefit if their marital partner passes away, but only if the deceased spouse's current benefit at death was more than the surviving spouse is already receiving. The surviving spouse receives the higher amount, instead of their own smaller Social Security retirement benefit.

But here is an important thing to know: Whenever any Social Security benefit (including a spousal or surviving spouse benefit) is claimed before the recipient's Full Retirement Age, the payment amount is permanently reduced, both spousal and survivor benefits do not reach maximum until the recipient's Full Retirement Age. And just to complete the picture for survivor benefits, a surviving spouse is also entitled to a one-time, lump-sum death benefit of \$255 if their marital partner dies, in addition to any other benefit they are entitled

See SOCIAL SECURITY PAGE 8

QUABOAG CURRENT TEAM



EDITOR Paula Ouimette pouimette@turley.com



ADVERTISING SALES Dan Flynn dfflynn@turley.com



STAFF WRITER Ryan Drago rdrago@turley.com



SPORTS EDITOR Greg Scibelli sports@turley.com

THE QUABOAG CURRENT (USPS# 10860) is published weekly (every Friday) by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069. Telephone at 413-283-8393 or fax at 413-289-1977. Periodical Postage Prices are Paid at Palmer, MA. POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to: Quaboag Current, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.



@QuaboagCurrent



www.quaboagcurrent.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY CEO

KEITH TURLEY President



www.turley.com

Turley Publications, Inc. cannot assume liability for the loss of photographs or other materials submitted for publication. Materials will not be returned except upon specific request when submitted.

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.

Our advertisers make this publication possible.

Let them know you saw their ad in the

Quaboag Current



© DAVE GRANLUND.COM

- community -

W BROOKFIELD FROM PAGE 1

which can be a bit cumbersome.

"It's very difficult to get through their grant process," Hagglund said.

This is a vendor employee, and this grant is not a match grant. Therefore, clarified by Hagglund, this grant is not costing the town any money. It would only cost time for reporting. The board did address a concern and wants to be cautious about making sure reimbursements are being submitted, and making sure the town receives those reimbursements. The Chief is taking the lead on this and will make sure the grant is to the town's benefit.

The board moved forward to accept and support this grant application.

Pole hearing

A public hearing was held regarding National Grid to install one joint-owned utility pole on Kennedy Road

beginning at a point approximately 4,550 feet north of the centerline of the intersection of Lyon Road. Also, National Grid will install a new pole #16-50 on Kennedy Road.

A representative from National Grid briefly explained the project and it is part of making improvements and widening the road more. There were no abutters at the meeting during this public hearing.

The Select Board moved forward and approved the installation of the new pole on Kennedy Road.

Purchase of outdoor evidence storage

The Select Board revisited the agenda item of the purchase of outdoor evidence storage. The board was wondering if they could do anything about this under the current article. A motion was made by a member of the Board to rescind the vote from their last meeting.

Prior to a vote, Hagglund

asked what the next move would be. This storage item is viewed as something that is necessary for the Police Department. It could maybe be put in a special town meeting, but the article would have to be rephrased.

Hagglund shared some prices for various storage items and estimated the sum of money to be around \$3,000. A fence is needed for this storage, but the chief doesn't have a firm number on what the fence would cost.

Looking at various containers, Hagglund believes whatever they choose is readily available. An eight foot by four foot container was an option but appears to be too small. The town could get an eight foot by eight foot container and is cheaper than the smaller container, according to Hagglund.

The board is aware that this item is needed and discuss further in a future

meeting.

Budgeting for special events, police detail

With a budget freeze happening, Hagglund wanted to bring his Police Department budget numbers regarding overtime for these special events, including the Memorial Day parade, bonfire, and Summer Concert Series.

When discussing what events are considered essential for police presence, Hagglund thought the Memorial Day parade is a good example of having support. For the summer concerts, Hagglund has the funds listed at \$211.20 per event and the bonfire usually has two officers for four hours.

The board wants to make sure funds are available when covering the overtime and the events, which are budgeted. As far as being mandatory, Hagglund says there is mandatory overtime for officers during the parade.

The board moved to continue the events as planned and approved overtime, which was specified by the Chief. The board would also like to speak with representatives of the bandstand and get their perspective on the events.

Motorcycle safety awareness

Hagglund brought it to the Board's attention of getting the word out regarding motorcycle safety. In a recent discussion Hagglund shared there was a response to a total of 13 motorcycle crashes. The board could make a proclamation about motorcycle safety.

Select Board Chair Roland Sickenberger read a proclamation out loud during the meeting.

Special use permits for Lake Wickaboag

The following special use permits were approved by the Select Board on their Jan. 20 meeting: Boy Scout Troop 118 Ice Fishing Derby on Feb. 15, Wickaboag

Sportsmans Club Ice Fishing event on Feb. 8, and Josh Kemp Memorial Ice Fishing Derby event on Feb. 1.

Inclement weather policy approval

The Select Board went over changes in the Inclement Weather Policy. The changes included going over essential employees, weather-related closures and delays.

The Town Offices along with the West Brookfield Senior Center and the Merriam-Gilbert Public Library, will follow the Quaboag Regional School District's inclement weather closings and delays. If the school district announces a closure or delay, the Town Offices will operate on the same schedule.

The board moved to a vote and approved the amended policy.

The next open meeting for the Select Board is Feb. 3 at 6 p.m.



Shoppers browsed local produce, meats and other offerings prior to this past weekend's snowstorm.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY RICHARD MURPHY



Wayne Boulette held an herb stripper, a hand tool that removes the leaves from herb stems.

WINTER MARKET FROM PAGE 1

ing, was Robyn Scott of Blair House Blooms. Back this week after having been ably represented by her son, Adam, at the last market. She returned with color, that is in the form of tulips.

Next was Linda Fuchs of Flourish Farm, up again from Brimfield. Her array of fresh microgreens, ginger and turmeric seemed larger than the previous week.

Turning the corner, to the left, there is Kelly Homestead Apiary from Charlton. Kelly Homestead is returning to its same spot. The farm at the market is presided over by Ginger, who was assisted by her daughter, and the table is overflowing with product such as home hand dipped candles. New this year are garlic infused and Chipotle honeys. Eggs and poultry are also available.

Bucha Bros was back with Ryan Laurie staffing the table. Bucha Bros motto is "In Gut We Trust" speaks to a beverage, kombucha, that promotes a healthy microbiome.

Golden Grain Artisanal Bread and Bryan were at the corner of the hall with the variety of sourdough and other flavorful breads they have been bringing this winter.

Our neighbors up in North Brookfield, JARS Bakery & Café, are back with pastries soups and their "gifts in a jar."

A cottage industry manufacturer, who was with the market last year, is back again. Bernie Wilson had the pens he makes out of old pallets and the historic wood of the locally famous covered bridge. Not bad for a guy "too cheap to buy wood."

Next is John Thompson of Thompson's Maple Farm. John has been bringing the farm to the market since the beginning. With their many taps, the syrup keeps on flowing, but that is not all. They make delicious ice cream and purvey that at the market as well.

At a table facing the back of the hall was Gail of Autumn Leaf Farm, with her microgreens and a locally grown variety of mushrooms. Also on her table were eggs from her Golden Comet chickens.

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

Joy Hinton of Joy of Beans had her table by the door with gourmet coffees from all over the world. Joy is always thinking and may

have a surprising announcement in the future.

Below are a couple of vendors spotlighted this week.

Rich Laba and Farm46

Rich Laba is back this season and, of course he brings the pork products that his Farm46 is known for. They are produced from the heritage breed of pigs he raises.

There is more than a little variety available at Rich's table. Everything from shoulders, roasts, butts, hams, sausage, chorizo, ground pork, kielbasa and much more.

Rich was especially excited about the salamis he brought with him this year. According to Rich, they are pasture raised with no GMOs and from the same heritage breed he raises for the other cuts and sausages. They are uncured which means they are not treated with harmful curing salts.

Farm46 also brings eggs to market, and one can order pastured poultry, from whole chickens to chicken feet, Rich has it.

Of course, Rich will be at the winter market until the end and then it will be at summer farmers markets.

There is a website, <http://farm46ma.com/>, and on Facebook.

The Chairman of the Board

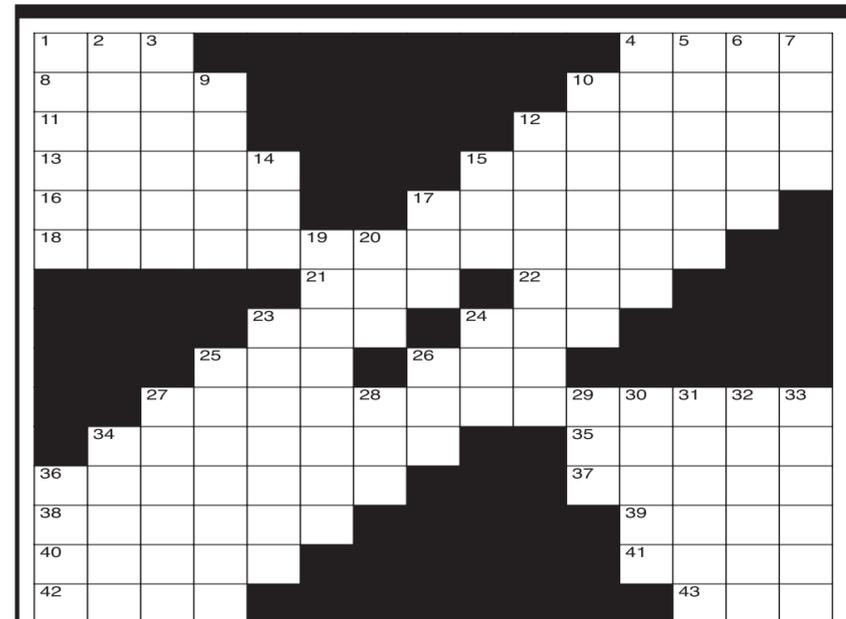
Continuing we came to

the Chairman of the Board. Wayne Boulette claims that title, but not because he is meeting the directors of his corporation, 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 goes to support the ASPCA.

Wayne has been part of the market for many years and manages to come up with something new each season.

This year was something unique in that we had never heard of it. You probably never heard of it either, but an "herb stripper" may turn into something you can't live without.



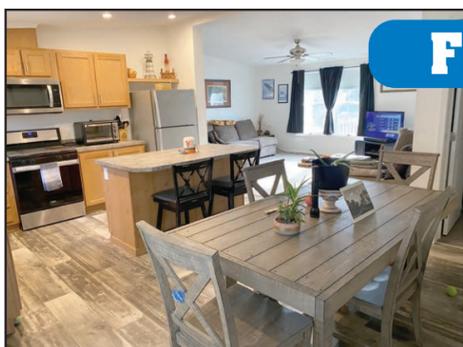
CLUES ACROSS

- Racket sport pros
- Make tea
- City South of Moscow
- Spanish bullfighting term
- Egg-shaped
- Could not remember
- French modernist painter
- Persons
- Painful intestinal obstruction
- Professions
- Is up to the task
- Wood or metal bolt
- Tax collector
- A way to save for the future
- Georgia rockers
- Midway between

- north and northeast
- High schoolers' test
- Does not accept responsibility
- One who prepares
- Gout-indicative deposits
- Place to play games
- Book of Genesis character
- Cleans oneself
- Unloaded for money
- Genus of flowering plants
- Take a puff
- Congressmen
- God of battle in Scandinavian mythology

CLUES DOWN

- Type of bomb
- South Pacific islands
- Celestial body
- Negotiates
- Consider in a specified way
- Type of group in organic chemistry
- Buddhist monasteries
- Inhabitant of Bering Sea island
- Body part
- Milestone birthday
- Thyroid-stimulating hormone
- More (Spanish)
- Chicago ballplayer
- Leaves a place
- Cannot be found
- One's internal body parts
- Tell on
- North American peoples of southwest
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Extract used for jams and jellies
- Greek goddess of the dawn
- Old English letter
- A way to exaggerate
- Get up and leave
- "Boardwalk Empire" character
- More generous
- Hanging cloth used as a blind
- Ancient Greek sophist



FIVE ISLANDS

Georgetown, Maine
2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathroom
Washer/Dryer, Fully Equipped

- Walk to Five Islands Wharf and Ledgewood Preserve Beach
- Close to Reid State Park



\$1200/week

207-607-9333

- community -

Museum sells rare artifact to secure future preservation efforts

NEW SALEM — The Swift River Valley Historical Society, the leading resource in preserving the artifacts, stories and records of the lost towns of the Swift River Valley, has announced the successful sale of a seventeenth century artifact from its collection.

The Symon and Rebeckah Horne Pilgrim Century valuables cabinet, attributed to the Symonds shops of Salem and dated 1677, was sold by Sotheby's in New York, achieving \$1.6 million.

The decision to sell the

piece was made after a thorough review by the museum's board of directors. The cabinet, while valuable and historically significant, was owned by a family that moved to the Swift River Valley from eastern Massachusetts, and did not directly support the museum's core mission to preserve and interpret the history of the Swift River Valley towns that were destroyed to build the Quabbin Reservoir, Boston's water supply.

"This is not a decision the board made lightly," said Judith McIntosh,

Chair of the SRVHS Board of Directors. "We are deeply committed to our mission to preserve the history of the Swift River Valley. The sale allows us to strengthen our operations, make much-needed capital improvements, and expand educational programming that serves the greater community."

Proceeds from the sale will be used to make capital improvements and accessibility updates to the Whitaker-Clary House, fund long-term maintenance of museum buildings, and

implement a new strategic plan.

"We understand that the community places great trust in us as stewards of Quabbin history," said McIntosh. "This sale ensures that we can devote greater resources to fulfilling our mission."

The Swift River Valley Museum is open during the summer season and by appointment. For a glimpse into the life of each of the four lost towns, visit the Whitaker-Clary House, Prescott Church Museum, and Carriage Shed at the

historical society's location at 40 Elm St.

About the Swift River Valley Historical Society

The Swift River Valley Historical Society is the leading resource in preserving the artifacts, stories and records of the towns that were lost in order to create the Quabbin Reservoir water supply that serves eastern Massachusetts: Prescott, Dana, Enfield, and Greenwich.

SRVHS collaborates with communities, organizations and agencies to provide educational opportu-

nities and programs about the history of this region and to ensure appropriate management and protection of those resources and artifacts, including the Quabbin watershed, to engage public interest and support.

The Swift River Historical Museum is open Wednesdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m. from June to September. Admission to the museum is free.

Read more at www.swift-river-museum.org, or on Facebook at Swift River Valley Historical Society.

Pedestrian death in parking lot under investigation

WARE — A 73-year-old woman from West Brookfield died Friday evening after being struck by a vehicle in the Walmart parking lot on Palmer Road.

The woman had exited a vehicle she had been occupying with her 79-year-old

husband. Shortly thereafter, the vehicle was put in reverse and struck her.

She was pronounced deceased at the scene.

The incident remains under investigation by the Ware Police Department and the Massachusetts

State Police Detective Unit assigned to the Northwestern District Attorney's Office. At this time, no foul play is suspected.

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner will determine the cause of death.

FROST FROM PAGE 1

easement the town so that section of the trail could be constructed.

In addition, they also donated an easement to the town to construct a 10-car parking lot to support that section of the trail. This parking lot has become the second busiest trail head in the Sturbridge Trail system.

In Lynne's acceptance remarks she mentioned how none of this would have been possible without the vision of Charles Hayes, the lead proponent in constructing the Grand Trunk rail line, who passed with the sinking of the Titanic.

The Friends of Sturbridge Trails is a nonprofit group consisting of area residents who are focused on assisting the trail committee and hosting events of the Sturbridge Trail system.

More information on FrOST and becoming a member, along with the Sturbridge Trail systems can be found at www.treksturbridge.org Or email FrOST at treksturbridge@

Tom Chamberland presented five-year and 10-year Longevity Acorns to Bob Lauritsen. Bob has volunteered for over 10 years, participating in over five events or volunteer days each year for more than 10 years.



Brandon Goodwin looked on as Founders award recipient Lynne Petersen made a few remarks knowing David Barnicle, Founder of FrOST and her family's appreciation in receiving this award



HISTORICAL SOCIETY FROM PAGE 1

of Bunker Hill in 1775.

There is a memorial marker for Spurr in Charlton that was erected by the town's Historical Society in 1974.

The inscription reads "Built about 1798 by John Spurr, Participant in the Boston Tea Party (1773) and an officer in the Revolution A leader in local affairs, a Major Gen. in the Militia & several years he represented Charlton at the General Court."

The next individual was Benedict Arnold, the infamous traitor during the American Revolution. Arnold was born in Norwich, Connecticut in 1741. Miner shared Arnold's background and family history. Various tails shared of Arnold's upbringing highlighted that he had a sad childhood.

Arnold was involved in the Sons of Liberty and participated in the capture of Fort Ticonderoga. Arnold during his time in the military was involved in many battles including Saratoga, Montreal, and Quebec.

A lot has been shared on how and why Arnold betrayed America. Part of his betrayal was being in secret correspondence with British Major John André and surrendering a fort to the British. Shortly afterwards, André was captured with documents revealing the treason, forcing Arnold to flee to the British side.

Faith Trumbull Huntington (1742-1775) was an artist from the Last Green

Valley, whose story is unfortunately tragic. She fell into a deep depression and eventually committed suicide.

Samuel Ashbow Jr. of the Mohegan Tribe was a Native American who fought during the American Revolution. He died in 1775 during the Battle of Bunker Hill and was buried at Breed's Hill.

Recently, there was a celebration as the Sons of the American Revolution along with the Mohegan Tribe recognized the Mohegan individuals who served in the American Revolution.

Lebbeus Quy (1753-1821), was enslaved in Norwich and soon enlisted in the military and fought during the entire American Revolution (1775-1783). Quy not only fought to get his freedom but also received a pension following the war.

The Last Green Valley was also the home to some revolutionary leaders. The first was Jonathan Trumbull, Connecticut's Revolutionary War Governor. Samuel Huntington moved to Norwich to practice law. Huntington is one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Huntington was also president of the Continental Congress on March 1, 1781, when the last state ratified the Articles of Confederation and the country became "The United States in Congress Assembled." In this sense, it can be claimed that Huntington was the first president of the United States.

Huntington was elected lieutenant governor in 1784 and then governor of the new State of Connecticut in 1786.

The last individual presented was military officer, Israel Putnam, who is also recognized as killing the last wolf in Connecticut. Putnam had been known to live an adventurous life.

There is a historic site off Wolf Den Road in Pomfret, Connecticut where the Wolf Den was located.

Miner provided programs from the Last Green Valley, which feature trails and other historic locations within the Valley. Miner took questions from the audience as "The Notables & Notorious of the American Revolution" presentation came to an end.

Historical Society member Wally Hersee was in attendance signing copies of his new book, "To Defend All That is Dear: The Soldiers Who Served Sturbridge in the War for Independence".

The Historical Society's next program will be held on Thursday, Feb. 26 for exploring Massachusetts property records and how land records can help folks explore their family history. On March 26, in collaboration with the Southbridge Garden Club, Friends of the Joshua Hyde Public Library presents, "Victory Gardens: How a Nation of Gardeners Helped to Win the War", with Judith Sumner.

For more information about the Last Green Valley, visit thelastgreenvalley.org.

BROOKFIELD FROM PAGE 1

leaving only Ayers.

Board member Beth Coughlin said she would have preferred a town administrator search committee to be put together, as a committee could provide more information on all the candidates, and create more transparency. At the last board meeting, Coughlin said she and the other board members saw very little information about the candidates not considered, and reasons they were not.

Bartkus said she took notes of every candidate she interviewed, and sent them to executive assistant Karen Trainor Resseguie. Coughlin also said the board should have been more clear as to whether this search was for an interim or full time town administrator position.

Chaffee said that the town needs immediate help, and that a search committee would have delayed the process of hiring somebody, saying that he stands by his decision to have Campbell and Bartkus lead the process. Coughlin said she conducted many phone screens of candidates in December to try to expedite the process, but did not hear any response from fellow board members.

The board heard comments from resident Jeff Clark, who served on a previous town administrator search committee. He said the process was transparent,

and that committees can help with communication. He said the town should have had two more candidates to interview along with Ayers.

Resident Bruce Clark said he was concerned the board did not hire a professional.

Resident and conservation commission chair Steve Karrmann said that choosing Ayers as a permanent rather than interim town administrator was controversial. Karrmann also said that previous failures of search committees do not reflect poorly on their use.

Resident Chris Kelleher said he expected two to three applicants to be interviewed, and expressed concern that there were no public comments during the interview.

Appointment of Town Treasurer

The board voted to appoint Rebecca Forand as interim town treasurer. Forand is the current treasurer/collector of Spencer. Campbell abstained from the vote.

Highway deficit spending

Highway Superintendent Kyle Rutkowski requested up to \$60,000 of deficit spending for expenses and wages. He said there are more salt events so far this winter than all of last winter combined, and he is avoiding pre-treating roads to avoid overtime pay.

The deficit spending request was approved by the board.

Highway equipment

Rutkowski said a 2006 truck used by the Highway Department is experiencing engine problems, and received an estimate of ten-thousand dollars to repair it. He said a replacement truck would cost between \$20,000-40,000.

Chaffee suggested an independent estimate of the repair costs. The board voted that if the estimate to repair the engine is less than \$10,000, Rutkowski has the final decision on whether to repair it or not, which would come from the fleet repair account.

The Highway Department also has a back-hoe which caught fire, and Rutkowski said the estimate for repair is about \$20,000. Chaffee also suggested an independent estimate for the back-hoe.

There is also a sweeper which has broken down, and the board approved to let Rutkowski get an estimate on the sweeper up to \$1,200 from fleet repair.

Highway Advisory Committee

Campbell and Rutkowski said they are working on creating a charge and putting together a Highway Advisory Committee. Coughlin and Chaffee both said they want to see the charge before making a final decision on its formation.

Resignation

The board accepted the resignation of Council member Sarah Rich.



ROBINSON

TREE SERVICE
LLC

Professional - Reliable - Fully Insured

**Tree Trimming and Removal
Emergency Tree Work • Stump Grinding
Crane Service • Firewood Delivery**

*All Major Credit Cards Accepted
100% Financing Available*

**162 Sturbridge Road, Brimfield, MA 01010
508-641-5249 • office@robinsontreeservice.net
www.robinsontreeservice.net**

SPORTS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

Offense can't keep up in Cougars loss

WARREN – Last Wednesday night, Quaboag Regional girls basketball kept opponent Doherty below 40 points, but their offense could not matchup as they lost at home 37-28. The Cougars are now 2-9 on the regular season.



Maddie Potvin eyes the hoop to shoot.



Caitlyn Toomey passes inside around an opponent.



Evelyn Potvin gets around an opponent and heads for the hoop.



Riley Corder looks to shoot as she focuses on the hoop.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Indians score big in win

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Last Friday evening, North Brookfield High School girls basketball picked up its sixth win of the season over Sizer School. It was the third straight victory for the Indians, who also beat Trivium and Immaculate Heart of Mary during the past week. North Brookfield is now 6-3 this season.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI
Sarah Monsin passes on the run.



Ciara Green makes a pass in transition.



Jinx Ripley goes for the three-pointer.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Olivia Holmes tries to get around an opponent.



Whitney Reno makes her way across midcourt.

Pioneers turn on offense in win over Turners



Megan Clark shoots with pressure on.

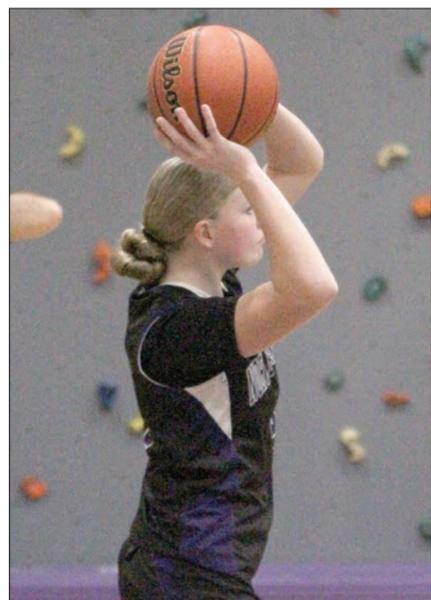


Addison Doktor shoots near the free-throw line.



Cassandra Nykiel goes for a jump-shot.

PALMER – Last Tuesday evening, Pathfinder girls basketball defeated Turners Falls 52-28. The Pioneers did an excellent job on defense, limiting Turners to single digits in every frame of the game. Addison Doktor had a great game with 22 points while Megan Clark contributed 21 points for the Pioneers. Pathfinder is an even 5-5 this season.



Abby Lindberg inbounds the ball.



Sophia Giangrande goes for the offensive rebound.

Ott named new head coach of T-Birds

SPRINGFIELD – St. Louis Blues President of Hockey Operations and General Manager Doug Armstrong announced today that Steve Ott will assume the role of head coach for the team's AHL affiliate, the Springfield Thunderbirds, for the remainder of the season. Ott replaces Steve Konowalchuk, who has been relieved of his duties. Current Thunderbirds

assistant coach Chad Wiseman will serve as the interim head coach for today's Thunderbirds game against the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins until Ott can join the team later this week. "The Blues want to thank Steve Konowalchuk for his contributions to our organization over the last two years and wish him all the best moving forward," said Armstrong. "We're

looking forward to Steve Ott taking over in Springfield to push our young players to get better every day and further their development path to become St. Louis Blues. The current staff will take over his duties with the Blues for the rest of this season."

Ott, 42, has nine seasons behind the Blues' bench af-

See T-BIRDS PAGE 6

- sports -

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Bondsville League

WARE – It is week 19 of the Wednesday Night Bondsville League at Roll-A-Way Lanes in Ware.

After 19 weeks, Fire Mountain maintains the #1 seed overall and in their division. Fire Mountain has a record of 84.5 wins and 48.5 losses. Night Hawks are in second place with a record of 78-55. Ironmen are in third place with a record of 76-57 and Sandri has the same record as Ironmen and are leading in the west division.

During week 19, Night Hawks bowled against The Snappers at Roll-A-Way Lanes. In game one, Snappers began the match with a win over Night Hawks, 493-451. Eddie Stachowicz of the Snappers was on fire with an opening game of 139.

In game two, Night Hawks snapped out of their first game slump and beat the Snappers, 501-474. Every Night Hawk

bowler exceeded the century mark with scores of 129, 118, 108, and 103.

In game three, Night Hawks won the last game by a score of 448-431. Gavin Sinclair of Night Hawks finished strong with a final game of 122. The high three-game series on the Night Hawks was bowled by Darryl Sinclair (340), and the highest series for Snappers was Stachowicz (311).

The final score was 1400-1398 in favor of Night Hawks.

Ironmen bowled against Spare Parts Bud during week 19. In game one, Spare Parts Bud defeated the Ironmen by a score of 491-469. Pete Swistak of Ironmen began the match with 119 in a losing effort. John Jebb of Spare Parts Bud maintained the lead and began with 99.

In game two, Ironmen defeated Spare Parts Bud by a score of 464-459. Ryan Drago of Ironmen finished with 119 to hang on to a slim lead. Jebb had to throw back-to-back spares in the final two frames to catch up to Drago and only got one spare.

In game three, Ironmen won by a score of 525-498. Steve Swistak of Ironmen bowled well over his average with 124. Drago finished with the highest game of the match, 143. Jebb finished strong bowling well over his league average by scoring 114.

The final score was 1458-1448 in favor of Ironmen.

Cannonballs bowled against P&J Meats in week 19. In game one, P&J Meats defeated Cannonballs by a score of 436-430. In game two, Cannonballs defeated P&J Meats by a score of 464-448. Micah Hinkley of Cannonballs responded with 112 in game two.

In game three, P&J Meats won by a score of 448-445, the closest game in the match. The final score was 1339-1332 in favor of Cannonballs.

Fire Mountain bowled against Flaming Bowling Balls on lanes 9 and 10 at Roll-A-Way Lanes. In game one, Fire Mountain won the first game by a score of 482-443. Rick Trott of Fire Mountain began the match with 128.

The final score was 1437-1379 in favor of Fire Mountain.

- community -

East Brookfield Police Log

During the week of Jan. 12-18, the East Brookfield Police Department responded to 130 building/property checks, 86 directed area patrols, nine radar assignments, eight traffic controls, six emergency 911 calls, six citizen assists, one assist other agency, two motor vehicle accidents, two safety hazards, one investigation, one scam, one animal call and 35 motor vehicle stops in the town of East Brookfield.

Monday, Jan. 12

1:28 a.m. Safety Hazard, Pleasant Street, Officer Handled

2:33 a.m. Safety Hazard, Howe Street, Services Rendered

8:35 a.m. Investigation, Harrington Street, Services Rendered

9 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, High Rocks Road, Transported to Hospital

10:46 a.m. Complaint, Howe Street, Officer Handled

2:30 p.m. Assist Citizen, Rice Road, No Action Required

5:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Harrington Street, Citation Issued

5:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Harrington Street, Citation Issued

6:29 p.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Officer Handled

Tuesday, Jan. 13

3:48 p.m. Traffic Control, East Main Street, Citation Issued

3:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

4:03 p.m. Directed/Area

Patrol, Podunk Road, Citation Issued

4:20 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Podunk Road, Citation Issued

3:54 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, North Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital

8:03 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Officer Handled

9:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

Wednesday, Jan. 14

12:22 p.m. Assist Citizen, Draper Road, Report Taken

4:24 p.m. Assist Citizen, Mechanic Street, Officer Handled

4:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

5:57 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Podunk Road, Citation Issued

6:14 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Crash, Route 49, Vehicle Towed

Thursday, Jan. 15

4:56 p.m. Assist Citizen, Draper Road, Officer Handled

Friday, Jan. 16

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

11:42 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

11:54 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation Issued

12:04 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

12:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

1:26 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation Issued

1:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

1:58 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

2:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

2:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

8:25 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Harrington Street, Citation Issued

Saturday, Jan. 17

8:05 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

8:28 a.m. Traffic Control, West Main Street, Citation Issued

8:54 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

9:24 a.m. Traffic Control, Podunk Road, Citation Issued

10:02 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Shore Road, Citation Issued

10:54 a.m. Scam, Connie Mack Drive, Report Taken

2:16 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, West Main Street, Transported to Hospital

Sunday, Jan. 18

10:26 a.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, Connie Mack Drive, Report Taken

10:35 a.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Officer Handled

11:36 a.m. 911 Welfare Check, East Main Street, Transported to Hospital

Registration set to open Feb. 1 for Quabbin Valley

SOUTH HADLEY – On Sunday, Jan. 11, the Quabbin Valley Baseball League, an over-28 recreational league, held its first meeting of 2026 to prepare for the upcoming season.

At the meeting it was determined registration for players will open up on Sunday, Feb. 1.

For the 2026 season, the cost will be \$215 and will include a 16th game added to the regular season schedule.

During the 2025 season, the league experimented with playing on Mother's Day Saturday as well as a week-night game to allow players an opportunity to play under the lights. While the night games were very successful, the Mother's Day Saturday games were rained out.

Those elements will return along with a 16th game with an opponent to be determined as the league's board explores possibilities for interleague matchups with another league in the region.

For returning players to the league, the deadline is Mar. 22 at 12 noon to be registered for the 2026 season in order to be guaranteed a roster spot. There will be open practices for all players but specifically targeted at new players scheduled for March 29 and April 4 at times and locations to be announced. The draft is currently scheduled to take place on April 4 following that practice.

The season is currently slated to start on Sunday, April 19 and following the success of the six-team fall

league last year, the league will also have a fall league in September and October this season.

The registration link will be live on Feb. 1 at www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org. Players must register and then pay the league dues via Venmo or contact the league leadership if an alternate form of payment is needed.

Aside from the weeknight and Mother's Day games, other games take place Sundays at 10 a.m. outside of Mother's Day, Memorial Day and July 4 weekends. Play-offs will be in August.

This is the 30th season for the league and league officials are looking to celebrate the anniversary with a couple of events.

New Braintree Police Log

During the week of Jan. 12-19, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 13 building/property checks, 19 directed/area patrols, 11 radar assignments, three traffic controls, three emergency 911 calls, two citizen assists, one assist other agency, one safety hazard, one motor vehicle investigation, one threat, one complaint, one larceny/theft/shoplifting, one animal call and four motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

Tuesday, Jan. 13

4:08 a.m. Medical Emergency, West Brookfield Road, Patient Refusal

1:39 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

Wednesday, Jan. 14

7:58 a.m. Threat, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

2:18 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

Thursday, Jan. 15

10:47 a.m. Safety Hazard, Worcester Road, Removed Hazard

12:17 p.m. Complaint, Memorial Drive, Referred to Other Agency

6:50 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, West Brookfield Road, Officer Handled

8:32 p.m. Motor Vehicle

Stop, Hardwick Road, Citation Issued

Friday, Jan. 16

3:01 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Dispatch Handled

3:22 p.m. Larceny/Theft/Shoplifting, Dennis Whitney Road, Referred to Other Agency

Saturday, Jan. 17

12:26 a.m. Medical Emergency, West Brookfield Road, Patient Refusal

Sunday, Jan. 18

10:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Barre Road, Investigated

T-BIRDS FROM PAGE 7

ter first joining the staff as an assistant in the summer of 2017. During his tenure, the Summerside, PEI, native has helped the Blues compile a 350-244-74 (.588 points percentage) regular-season record and four postseason appearances. In 2018-19, just his second season as a coach, Ott played an instrumental role in helping the

Blues make a historic rise in the standings during the regular season, ultimately capturing the 2019 Stanley Cup championship. Ott becomes the fifth head coach in Thunderbirds history

As a player, Ott enjoyed a 14-year NHL career, including 122 games with the Blues from 2014-2016. Overall, he accumulated 288 points in 848 career regular-season

games, including stints with Dallas, Buffalo, St. Louis, Detroit, and Montreal.

Konowalchuk, 52, was in his second season as head coach of the Thunderbirds and has recorded an overall record of 47-50-4-8 (.486 points-percentage) during his time in the organization, including a record of 13-18-4-2 (.432) this season.

ADVERTISING SALES

HELP WANTED

- Do you want to work in your community helping local businesses connect with their customers?
- Do you want a career supporting local journalism, which tells the unique stories of our communities?
- If so, then join our team! Turley Publications is looking for an outgoing, energetic person interested in selling advertising for our community newspapers. The right candidate will assume an established territory with a portfolio of customers.

You must be a self-starter with excellent communication and organizational skills. Basic computer skills are required. Previous print sales experience is preferred but we will train the right candidate.

Turley Publications, a locally owned family business, offers a competitive commission structure, 401k, and health plan.

Send resume & cover letter to:



Jamie Joslyn
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069
Email: jamie@turley.com

- legals -

Town of North Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals Notice of Public Hearing

The Town of North Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) will hold a public hearing on **February 23, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Senior Center 29 Forest Street.** The application is for a Special Permit to convert and renovate the existing

building at 75 School Street into a four-unit multifamily residential building by AUM Blackrock Investments LLC. The request is being made under the North Brookfield Zoning Bylaws, Section IV(A)(2)(1), which allows an existing dwelling to be converted to multifamily use if the ZBA grants a Special Permit. 01/30, 02/06/2026

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.

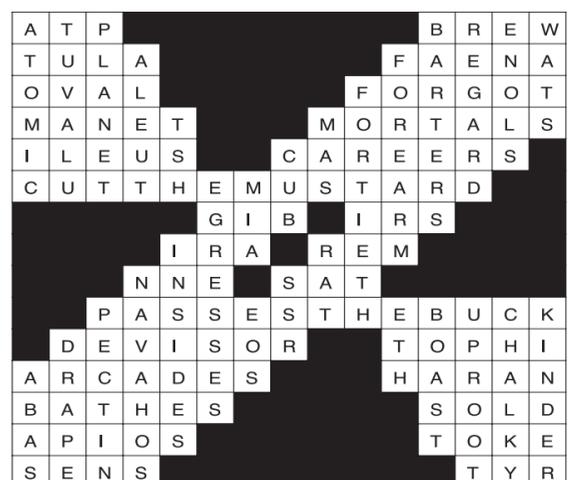
Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

SOCIAL SECURITY FROM PAGE 4

to. The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It

presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

FOR SALE

FIREWOOD

FIREWOOD
Fresh cut & split \$225.00
Seasoned cut & split \$325.00
All hardwood.
Tree length available
*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap).
Quality & volumes **guaranteed!!**
New England Forest Products
(413)477-0083

MORE HEAT LESS WOOD. Central Boiler Classic Edge HDX Outdoor Wood Furnace. EPA Certified. Titanium Stainless Steel. \$2K Tax Credit.
Call (508)882-0178

WANTED

WANTED TO BUY

ALL ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.

BUYING Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, kitchenware, cookware, knives, military, automotive, fire department, masonic, license plates, beer cans, barware, books, oil cans, advertising tins, hunting, fishing, signs, and more.

Donald Roy (860) 874-8396

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

FRIDAY AT NOON

WANTED

ALWAYS BUYING ALL ANTIQUES:

Musical instruments, guitars, horns, keyboards, vintage electronics, jewelry, coins, watches, military cameras, sports memorabilia, art, sterling, signs, automotive, hunting, advertising, radios, ham radio equipment, audio equipment, toys, one item or entire estate.

Call Paul 413-206-8688.

JUNK REMOVAL

A Call We Haul FAST REMOVAL
Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts.
We load it & take it.
413-531-1936
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

SERVICES

DRYWALL, PAINTING AND CEILINGS, plaster repair. Drywall hanging. Taping & complete finishing. All ceiling textures. Fully insured. Jason at Great Walls. (413)563-0487

ELECTRICIAN

PJ's Electrical MASTER ELECTRICIAN
• Licensed & Insured •
Providing safe, reliable electrical services for residential and commercial projects.
NOW OFFERING FREE CONSULTATIONS.
Call today to schedule your appointment.
(413) 366-1703
(Lic. #24046-A)

SERVICES

LICENSED ELECTRICIAN

I offer good quality electrical work, no project too small. Service upgrades, pools, trustworthy, dependable & insured. Master Elec. #20773A.
Text/call Luis 413-218-3301.

ZEN ELECTRIC COMPANY LLC
Fully licensed and insured; Master Electrician on staff. Call for all your electrical needs. No job too small. Senior citizen and Veteran Discount. A veteran owned company. MA License #8101A1.
Call John at (413)206-6509
Every customer gets a free gem stone.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

CHAMELEON PAINTING & REMODELING
INTERIOR/EXTERIOR
Remodeling & Deck Specialists
Residential/Commercial
Fully Insured • Free Estimates
413-351-1147

Handyman Services

Walker Home Improvement

Licensed & Insured

Finish Carpentry • Framing • Drywall • Painting • & more!

(413) 687-5552

SERVICES

INSTRUCTION

NRA Certified Basic Pistol Course
with Live Fire for License to Carry permit \$140.
Matt Marcinkiewicz
muscione@hotmail.com
413-537-0620

LANDSCAPING

A+ ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BOBCAT SERVICE
Excavator Services
Overgrown property?
Extreme Brush Cutting!
Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal
Lawn/Arborvitae Installed
Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand
Storm Clean-up
Small Demolition/ Junk Removal
Insured
Josh Rozell 413-636-5957

BUY LOCALLY
support our community!

SERVICES

MASONRY

STOP WET BASEMENTS
ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT WATERPROOFING
All brick, block, stone, concrete. Hatchway doors, basement windows, chimneys rebuilt & repaired, foundations repaired, basement waterproofing systems, sump pumps. BBB+ rating. Free estimates. Lic #14790. Call (413)569-1611, (413)374-5377

PLUMBING

GREG LAFOUNTAIN PLUMBING & HEATING Lic #19196 Repairs & Replacement of fixtures, water heater installations, steam/HW boiler replacement. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30 years experience. Fully insured. \$10 Gift Card With Work Performed. Call Greg (413)592-1505

RUBBISH REMOVAL

BOB ROBILLARD'S RUBBISH REMOVAL Attics, Cellars, Garages cleaned, Pools/Hot Tubs Removed. Family owned/operated since 1950 (413)537-5090

TREE WORK

AAA-TROM'S TREE SERVICE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE. Residential removal of trees. Free estimates. Fully insured W/Workman's Comp. Remove them before the wind takes them down. Cordwood, stump grinding. Call 413-283-6374.

DL & G TREE SERVICE. Everything from tree pruning, tree removal, stump grinding, storm damage and brush chipping. Honest and Dependable. Fully insured. Now offering a Senior Citizen and Veteran discount. Call today for free estimate (413)478-4212

TUNE-UPS

LAWN TRACTOR & MOWER TUNE UP & REPAIR
A&M TUNE-UPS
Push Lawnmowers, Riding Mowers and Small Engine Repair.
Work done at your home.
STUMP GRINDING
FREE PICKUP OF UNWANTED LAWN EQUIPMENT
Call Mike (413) 348-7967

STUMP GRINDING

DL & G STUMP GRINDING Grinding stumps of all sizes, insured & certified. Senior discounts. Call Dave 413-478-4212

AUTO

CASH FOR JUNK AND REPAIRABLE CARS
FREE TOWING FAST SERVICE CASH PAID AS IS CALL OR TEXT 413-219-6839

HELP WANTED

The Resident Care Facility at Saint Joseph's Abbey, 167 North Spencer Road, Spencer, MA has an opening for a **PART TIME FACILITY COOK.** Hourly wage negotiable depending on experience and related skills. Requirements: High School Diploma or GED. Ability to speak and read English required. Must be able to understand written policies and procedures. Must be able to work unsupervised while following food safety protocols.

For more information and to apply, contact **Wally Connor, Facility/HR Manager at (508) 885-8700 Ext. 550** or by email: wally@spencerabbey.org

The Town of Huntington is seeking a part-time Town Hall **Floater/Selectboard Administrative Assistant/Assistant Town Clerk.** \$20-\$22 per hour based on experience. 15 hours per week. Application and complete job description are available online at www.huntingtonma.us or by emailing admin@huntingtonma.us. Position is open until filled. Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Wilbraham United Church is hiring a part-time, experienced **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/BOOKKEEPER.** Apply to **Wilbraham United Church, Attention: Alesia; 500 Main Street; Wilbraham, MA 01095.** More information at www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org/about-us-2/

Post your job openings in our classifieds.

We get results!

Call 413-283-8393

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

AGAWAM APARTMENT SUBLET. 1st Floor, 2BR, 1BA, electric heat, laundry, off-street parking. \$1345/mo includes water, trash removal. Available 3/1/26. Good credit score 650+, references. Dog 40lbs or less \$50/mo., cat \$25/mo. Elaine 413-544-4330.

PALMER: 1 BR Apt. No Pets/No Smoking. **BRETON ESTATES 413-283-6940**

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

FOR RENT

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development " HUD " toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

2026 TAX TIME

CHANTEL BLEAU ACCOUNTING SERVICES
For Full Accounting & Tax Service
Registered Tax Return Preparer
228 West St., Ware, MA 01082
413-967-8364
Call For An Appointment
The IRS does not endorse any particular individual tax return preparer. For more information on tax preparers go to irs.gov.

Personal & Small Business Federal & All States

FAST TAX USA TAX PREPARATION SERVICE 413-348-2279

IRS Certified Tax Preparers
Independently owned and operated. Over 25 years experience.
1622 B North Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069
www.FastTax-MA.com
Free E-File & Direct Deposit

Call Your Local Turley Publications Sales Representative For Information And Rates On Advertising Your Tax Service Here **CALL 413-283-8393 TO PLACE YOUR AD TODAY!**

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 DEADLINES: **FRIDAY AT NOON**
or call: 413-283-8393

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

Quabbin Village Hills
Circulation: 50,500

Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800

Suburban Residential
Circulation: 59,000

All Three ZONES for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word.

GREAT VALUE!
ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!

Make checks payable to Turley Publications

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Number of Weeks: _____ X per week rate = \$ _____
Credit Card: MasterCard VISA Discover Cash Check# _____
Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____
Amount of charge: _____ Date: _____

Your BUYLINE CONNECTION

**WINTER SALE!!!!
ALL TVS ON SALE!!!**

**GIANT APPLIANCE REBATES!!!
MATTRESS SALE!!!
SLEDS, SKATES, TOBOGGANS, TUBES!!!**

12 MONTHS 0% FINANCING
WHITCO
140 Main St., Spencer
www.whitcosales.com
508-885-9343
Open: Mon.-Fri. 10am-8:30pm, Sat. 9am-8pm, Sun. 12pm-7pm

Totally renovated 3 bedroom, 2 bath ranch home located in desirable Tantasqua School District. updated plumbing, electrical, hot water tank, newer boiler, well pump and roof. Large dining room off new kitchen with granite countertops and stainless steel appliances, all new flooring throughout. Huge dining and living room area. Slider to back yard. Massive basement ready for you to finish. Horseshoe drive and large carport. Passing title v in hand.



NEW LISTING!
28 Long Hill Road,
Brookfield - \$429,900

Lisa Caron Real Estate
Broker, Owner GRI, ABR, SRS, RENE, C2EX, SRES, MRP, PSA, LMC, COPE, E-PRO
42 W. Main Street, PO Box 447 Brookfield, MA 01506
Call: 508-341-8299
Search Homes Instantly: <http://www.lisacaron.com>



Country Canine KENNELS



**Boarding,
Grooming, Daycare**

🐾 Boarding starting at \$40 a night
🐾 Daycare starting at \$26 a day

84 Greenwich Plains Road
Ware, MA 01082
Find us on Facebook
(413) 277-0334 Office Phone
countrycaninekennels@gmail.com

LOCAL BUSINESS
ADVERTISING SPECIALS
CONTACT US TODAY FOR DETAILS
NEWS
12 HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS
www.turley.com • 413.283.8393

POST ROAD REALTY
BUYING OR SELLING... WE HAVE THE PERFECT FIT FOR YOU!
www.PostRoadRealty.com
\$559,900
95 TOWN FARM ROAD WARREN, MA
A MUST SEE! - \$674,900 (LAKEFRONT)
22 BEACH DRIVE, WEST BROOKFIELD, MA
Features:
• 3 beds
• 1.50 baths
• 2 car garage
• private dock
• boathouse with kitchenette & bath
• New Construction
• 3 beds
• 2 baths
• 2 car garage
• Walkout Basement
• Open floor plan
Cassie Paolucci
774-200-3523
Follow us on Facebook

AVAILABLE NOW - OAKHAM, MA
This split level ranch in the great town of Oakham has so much to offer. 3 bedrooms and 2 full baths on the main level, an additional bedroom/office space on the lower level, w/ second living room and space to add a kitchenette to create an in-law/teen suite. Multiple heating options include electric baseboards, wood stove, brand new pellet stove. Solar panels are owned and fully cover the electric bill every month, a HUGE bonus with the recent rate increases! Newer metal roof, newly paved driveway, brand new shed w/ heat and electric, large barn (currently being used for a sawmill) and fenced lot, all set up for animals if looking for a farm/horse property. 3.5 private acres of land, w/ LOW property taxes! Available for \$539,900. For those looking for a unique business opportunity, this property is also available for \$579,900 - This price includes the property as well as all business equipment, and client list for anyone interested in continuing to operate the sawmill.
YOUR LOCAL REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS
We Do More So You Will Make More!!!
Michelle Terry
Broker
130 W. Main Street
Spencer, MA 01562
michelleterryteam.com
GIVE US A CALL TODAY! 508-202-0008

WHERE EVERYONE GOES FOR THEIR PIECE OF THE EARTH!
LANDSCAPE STONE
White • Blue • Purple • Red
Lt Gray • Dark Gray • Beige • Rip Rap
SCREENED LOAM STORED IN BUILDING
Construction Stone • Title V & Presby Septic Sand
Concrete Sand • Chicken Coop Sand • Utility Sand
Pool Liner Sand • Stone Dust • Silt • Crushed Gravel
Crushed Asphalt • Crushed Concrete • Cold Patch
Homeowner Friendly • No Minimums
PICK-UP OR CALL TO SCHEDULE YOUR DELIVERY TODAY!
98 North Spencer Rd., Spencer
bondsandandgravel.com
508-885-6100
508-885-2480
Sand, Gravel & Asphalt

JARS Caffe & Bakery
In-House Fresh Bakery
All Occasion Cake
Cupcakes and Cookies
Every Month Special Treat Box Available For Sale at the Cafe
Future Events
Contact us to plan your next private event.
508-637-1577

23 Summer Street
North Brookfield
MA 01535
508-637-1577
Tues.-Sat. 8am-2pm
Sun. 9am-2pm
❖ COFFEE
❖ GLUTEN FREE OPTIONS
❖ BREAKFAST SANDWICHES
❖ SOUPS
❖ COOKIES
❖ MUFFINS
❖ PASTRIES
Bring in entire ad for one FREE Beverage with purchase of a baked good. Tues.-Thurs. 8am-10am

Adventure tours of Warren
Share the Adventure with us!
4-Day Boothbay Harbor Vacation
June 9-12
\$899
May 24....8-Day Bermuda & Halifax Cruise.....from \$1699
June 27....Lake George Cruise & Lunch\$185
July 11....Provincetown by Fast Ferry.....\$220
July 19....8-Day Bermuda & Halifax Cruise.....from \$1699
Aug 30....8-Day Nova Scotia Cruisefrom \$1699
Share the Adventure with us soon!
For further information call Randall at (413) 436-5357 or email adventuretours@att.net or go to www.adventuretoursofwarren.com

WATERWHEEL REALTY
Paul Varney Sr.
Real Estate Broker and Owner
978-355-4438
978-355-3454
paulraymondvarney@gmail.com
NO ENTRANCE FEE
Mobile Home located in Waterwheel Village at 31 Edward Lane, Barre, MA 01005. This is a 55 and better community. This home includes a wonderful floor plan with very spacious rooms. Master bedroom includes a walk-in closet. Two full bathrooms. A four-season sunroom is off the kitchen. Includes two large woodsheds and a metal garage you can park under to fend off winter weather. Asking \$288,000. See listing on MLS # 73433198
NO ENTRANCE FEE
Mobile Home located in Waterwheel Village at 21 Varney Lane, Barre, MA 01005. This is a 55 and Better community. This home includes a wonderful floor plan with spacious rooms. Master bedroom includes a large attached bathroom. Two full bathrooms, large back deck, and two large wood sheds. Asking 245,000. See MLS#73457117.
NO ENTRANCE FEE
Mobile Home located in Waterwheel Village at 32 Edward Lane, Barre, MA 01005. This is a 55 and better community. Includes large carport and two large garden sheds. Approx. living area 1,000 SqFt. Asking \$134,900. See listing on MLS # 73398863.

HANNA'S ON MAIN
91 Main Street
Ware, MA 01082
413-277-0009
www.hannasonmain.com
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

**Complete Catering Services
For Your Super Bowl Party!**
Let us do the work for you!
Delivery Available
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
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
KENO