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Quaboag Current Newspaper

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A TURLEY PUBLICATION
www.turley.com

Volume 16, Number 28

Friday, June 2, 2023

Plaque commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the United States rededicated

By Richard Murphy
Correspondent

STURBRIDGE – On a beautiful Thursday morning, all were assembled for the annual day when fifth grade student from Burgess Elementary School commemorate the men who marched off to join the Revolution against the British Crown.

At the entrance to Sturbridge’s Old Burial Ground, were Bob Briere and Dan Soper. Brier is an Air Force Korean War veteran and Soper served in the 82nd Airborne during Operation Desert Storm in Iraq, and will take over from Briere in leading the ceremony in coming years.

The commemoration began several years ago when Briere approached Kathy Pelley, Burgess Principal, about reviving a ceremony he remembered from his childhood.

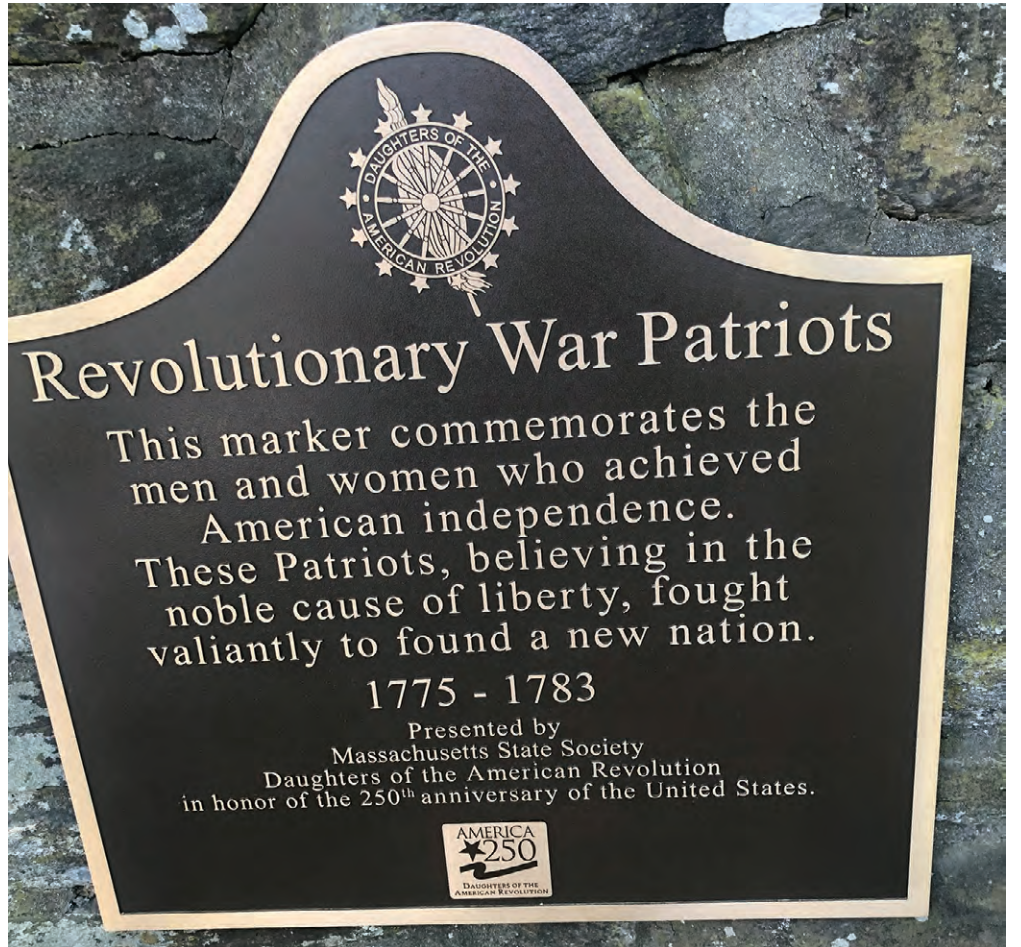
The students at the old Sturbridge Center School would be led by their teachers Agnes Dumas and Maude Callahan to the Old Burial Ground on the last day of school before Memorial Day and would perform the ceremony the children of Burgess would do this day.

This day, the students had been brought by their teachers, Melissa Forni and Maureen McKeon.

Also in attendance would be town and state elected dignitaries as well as members of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

After being welcomed by Briere and Soper, the assembled would recite the Pledge of Allegiance and then “God Bless America” would be sung, led by the Burgess students.

Robin Grimm, Sturbridge Town Administrator would speak words



See PLAQUE | PAGE 8

The Plaque to be rededicated. (TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY RICHARD MURPHY)

Memorial Day

Brookfield remembers the fallen



Some Memorial Day parade participants are shown wearing vintage style costumes. (TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY DALLAS GAGNON)

BROOKFIELD – Residents gathered to honor and remember the nation’s fallen veterans in a Memorial Day parade and service held this past Monday.

While services were held at

the Brookfield cemetery and the town common, attendees could hear “Yankee Doodle” ringing throughout the streets long before the parade reached them.

See BROOKFIELD | PAGE 17

Quaboag students honor veterans

By Dallas Gagnon
Staff Writer
dgagnon@turley.com

WARREN – Students of Quaboag’s eighth grade civics class placed nearly 600 flags on the gravesites of veterans and service members in an act of remembrance last Friday at St. Paul’s cemetery.

Eighth grade civics teacher and veteran, Joseph Salvadore said he has partnered with the Warren Veterans Council for 26 years for flag placing.

“It means a lot to veterans and families to know veterans are remembered with the flag... as a nation you have got to honor

See VETERANS | PAGE 19

Coalition’s carnival brings a new tradition to town

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Correspondent

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Coalition for a Healthy North Brookfield held a carnival this Memorial Day weekend featuring games, rides, and food trucks of all kinds.

From bottle flips to plate breaking to giant slides, the carnival had a lot to offer.

Kids of all ages and adults could find something to enjoy while eating cotton candy, fried dough, and drinking deliciously sweet and refreshing cold

See CARNIVAL | PAGE 6



There were plenty of prizes to win at the games section of the carnival. (TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS)

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- community -

Patriotism on display

Memorial Day parade returns to West Brookfield

WEST BROOKFIELD – Residents and members of neighboring communities joined West Brookfield in honoring veterans at the first Memorial Day parade since the COVID-19 pandemic.

American Veterans of post 244, local Boy Scouts and West Brookfield's Fire and Police departments were some of many community groups to participate in the public honoring of veterans who did not return home after service.

Attendees could hear the beat of drums and bass of tuba playing humming through the air from the elementary school to the town common as the Quaboag school band played "God Bless America" and the National Anthem.



Shown are Quaboag youth athletes walking in West Brookfield's first Memorial Day parade since before COVID-19.



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Shown are more of Quaboag school district's youth baseball players, waving flags and honoring veterans.



Shown is Ben Savage waving as he walks with Quaboag school district's little league baseball teams.



Some of the parade's youngest participants are shown wearing patriot outfits and keeping comfortable in the shade while honoring veterans who have passed.



Shown are participants dressed in vintage military uniforms recognizing veterans from our nation's earliest battles and all throughout United State history.



Veterans from many branches participate in West Brookfield's Memorial Day service.



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Veterans line up on the common to perform a gun salute as tribute to veterans who left for service but did not return. (TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY DALLAS GAGNON)

- community -

C4R's opening day paddle explored Ware River

By Paula Ouimette

Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – This past Saturday, a group of canoers and kayakers took to the Ware River for an 8.5-mile paddle from Robbins Road to Bennett Street in Palmer.

This event was the opening day paddle for the Chicopee 4Rivers Watershed Council, and also the inaugural launch for the new section of Blue Trail, the Lower Ware River Blue Trail.

C4R Team Coordinator Keith Davies along with Events Coordinator Jim Emerson talked about the creation of the Blue Trails, and how C4R is working to promote and protect the rivers that make up the Watershed.

“We’re kind of like a volunteer group trying to connect people to the rivers,” Davies said. “One way to connect people is paddling trails.”

Those rivers include the Ware, Swift, Quaboag and Chicopee.

Davies said C4R now has four Blue Trails, made possible through the Department of Conservation and Recreation’s MassTrails Grant program, with plans to create another on the Swift River.

Saturday’s paddle included several points of historical interest, with the launch site at the location of the former Banas Farm.

After passing through Gibbs Crossing, paddlers went by stone outcroppings that marked where Lambertson’s Bridge used to span the river.

Named after a local family, Lambertson’s Bridge was built over a ford which people had used since the 1700s to cross the river. The Bridge was ultimately abandoned in the 1800s and Gibbs Crossing became the primary means of crossing the river.

The paddle ended at the launch site at Bennett Street in Palmer, where abutments can still be seen from the covered toll bridge that served the Forest Lake area up until 1938, when it was lost in the hurricane.

C4R is hosting more paddling events, including the Upper Chicopee Blue Trail on Saturday, June 17 and an inaugural paddle of the Upper Ware River Blue Trail on Sunday, June 25 at Old Furnace, Hardwick to Ware River Park, Gilbertville.

Other dates and locations include Saturday, July 22, Quaboag River Blue Trail; Saturday, Aug. 19, Swift River; Saturday, Sept. 16, Ware to Barre; and Saturday, Oct. 21, Lower Quaboag.

C4R is also hosting an “Our Local Rivers” Haiku and Picture Contest, open to all ages as of June 1. Deadline to enter is Sept. 18.

There are two age categories, youth (under age 18) and adult (18 and over). Please note your age upon submission.

People are encouraged to capture a haiku moment or an image of a river or tributary in the C4R Watershed, share what it means to them, how it looks to them, why they enjoy it, and how it makes them marvel at the world around us.

The haiku poems should be related to nature, and each person can submit up to three poems (original work, preferably unpublished). Please send two copies, one with your name and one without if sent by paper; or in a Word Doc if sent electronically.

Photos should be printed in a 5 by 7-inch format, or sent electronically as a jpeg.

Winners will be announced in time for C4R’s annual summit in November.

Submissions can be mailed to C4RWC, P.O. Box 126, Three Rivers, MA 01080, or emailed to chicopeewatershed@gmail.com.

C4R is also looking for trail stewards. These are folks who would adopt a trail segment or launch site and help keep an eye on it, keep it clean, clear, report any issues, etc.

C4R also needs volunteers to grab river samples for water quality sampling of the Ware River on Thursdays at 7:45 a.m. in June through early September.

If you’re interested, email Davies at chicopeewatershed@gmail.com.

For more information about C4R, its events, or volunteer opportunities, visit www.c4rivers.org.



Paddlers head down the Ware River from the Robbins Road launch site to Bennett Street in Palmer. (TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE)



Chicopee 4Rivers Watershed Council Coordinator Keith Davies prepares paddlers for the inaugural launch on the Lower Ware River Blue Trail.



Ware Family Pack 520 Cub Scouts Eileen Flynn, left, and Penny Ouimette cut the ribbon to officially open the newest section of Blue Trail. Both of these Cub Scouts have volunteered with C4R to establish the Robbins Road launch site and test the water quality.

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- opinion -



Lots of blue options for the spring border

I got so excited the other day. I was walking around my backyard and came upon a flower I had never seen before. Where did it come from and what is it?

After a little bit of research, I found out that it is named Blue-eye Grass or Sisyrinchium. It is very diminutive, looking like a miniature purple-blue iris, with sword-like leaves and all.

Its size would make it perfect for a rock garden or alpine plant garden.

I promptly moved it out of the way of the weed whacker to join some other blue flowers that are in bloom in one of my gardens, taking their place in the front of the border. During late spring, blue flowers abound.

In fact, you could easily design a monochromatic scheme using just cool tones for a late spring symphony!

Here are some of my favorites: For the back of the border, try Amsonia tabernaemontana. This native plant is topped with clusters of pale blue flowers, each one opening to form a tiny star, hence its common name, blue star.

Growing to around three feet tall and not quite as wide, Amsonia almost qualifies for "specimen" status, although it is not as showy as other specimens like Peony or Dictamnus.

One plant is necessary per grouping in full sun or part shade. In my garden it self sows, but not so much to make itself a nuisance.

Sadly, the plant blooms for only a short while but makes a nice statement when it does. Make sure you choose your forever location wisely.

I need to move mine and with a crown two feet by two feet, it won't be easy.

Another plant best suited for the back row of the perennial garden is Baptisia australis, or false indigo.

Gray-green foliage is pretty in its own right, until you see the beautiful deep blue-purple pea-like flower spikes emerge in mid June. Easily four feet tall and three feet wide, Baptisia is a nice specimen perennial - one plant is certainly enough per grouping.

The size of the plant you purchase may lead you to think otherwise, though, since transplants are usually puny and take a couple of seasons to establish.

Site false indigo in full sun or part shade in rich soil. Refrain from moving the plant once it reaches full size or its deep tap root may be compromised.

Blackish seed pods are hardly decorative on the plant, but do look nice in autumn decorations.

One of my favorite blue flowers is Aquilegia vulgaris. Although there are many cultivars of garden columbine, we grow the species variety at Old Sturbridge Village.

It can be found in white, pink, maroon, purple, blue and almost black. Ours tend to be mostly blue in a hue hard to describe - perhaps more royal blue than purple-blue.

If the color is hard to describe, the flower shape is even more difficult - maybe something along the lines of nodding bells with reflexed sepals?

Lobed leaves are another attractive feature of this plant, although vigilance against the dreaded leaf miner is a must in order to keep it looking good. Here too, full sun or part shade will grow decent two foot to two-

When Kids move out to attend college...



When Kids move back in after graduation...



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Gold Star family thankful for Memorial Day observance

As a Gold Star Sister, I am grateful and proud of the recognition and planning that went into this year's Memorial Day observance in West Brookfield.

The Friends of the West Brookfield Veterans should be thanked for putting it all together.

The William Diamond Junior Fife and Drum Corps of Lexington in their period uniforms and impressive playing add so much to the procession, as well as the musicians in the Quaboag High School Band.

I was impressed that with so many youngsters from the Scouts and Youth Base-

ball and others, that you could hear a pin drop in the cemeteries and on the common during the prayers and salutes honoring our veterans who died in the wars. These children were nothing short of reverent in their respect and their parents and leaders should be noted for teaching this important lesson.

After the long hiatus during Covid, this year's Memorial Day Parade and ceremonies more than made up for missing the one event that brings the community of West Brookfield together in such a wonderful way.

Elsa (Silverberg) Bates

Column

Why are college costs so high?

By Eric Goodhart

The cost of private four-year colleges and universities have steadily increased to a level far beyond the means of all but a small percentage of American households.

There are two major reasons for that.

Breaking the Bretton Woods Agreement of 1944, President Nixon took the dollar off the gold standard in 1971. The Federal Reserve was printing dollars like there was no tomorrow during what is known as the "Guns and Butter" decade of the sixties.

Nixon's move was the catalyst bringing about inflation as the dollar lost value.

A year later, Title IX of the Civil Rights Act was signed into law by Nixon. Many of the most expensive private colleges were beginning to admit women.

Title IX prohibits gender-based discrimination in any college or any other education program that receives funding from the federal government.

The full cost of attendance for a four-year private college before 1972 averaged \$3,500 to \$4,500 per year. In 2023 those same colleges cost \$67,000 to \$82,300 per year.

State universities are \$39,000 per year.

Financial aid has not made the colleges affordable, in fact, in the majority of cases it has made them more expensive and put more students and their parents into more debt. The formulas used to determine "need" penalize families that save for college.

The Asset Protection Allowance in 1990 has been steadily reduced to zero now Congress does not even believe a family of four

with the oldest parent aged 48 does not need even an emergency fund of \$50,000 anymore.

Plus, Congress continues to bend under the pressure of the paid college lobbyists to not even increase the financial need when a family has more than one student in college at the same time. In other words, if the Expected Family Contribution was \$40,000 with one in college, it would be the same if two were in college, not \$20,000 per student.

The Department of Education's Federal Student Aid Office, changes will affect seniors, rising 11th graders and younger. Therefore, for planning purpose families of divorce, families with more than one student in college at the same time small business owners and family farm owners.

Here is a summary of current, or soon-to-be-implemented changes:

EFC, which has always been a shock to parents as the amount the government expects a family to pay. The DOE now cleverly calls it Student Aid Index.

They say the difference in nomenclature is substantially that alone. Experience warns us that is probably not accurate in effect.

With the replacement of the Data Retrieval Tool with the Direct Data Transfer tax returns become more determinative of basic, financial qualification.

Families of divorce will be asked which parent provides the most financial support for the student rather than, with whom is the student living one-half of a year plus one day, or longer. As of the date of this article, no time parameters are determined.

OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

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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.

QUABOAG CURRENT
 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.

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Former Ye Olde Tavern reopens June 2 as Hitchcock Tavern

WEST BROOKFIELD – After a brief soft opening with a limited menu earlier this month, the former Ye Olde Tavern will reopen with a full food and drink menu, and a new name, Hitchcock Tavern, on June 2.

According to a press release, Cindy and Roger Larson bought the tavern in 2007 and operated it for more than a dozen years before selling the business and moving on to a new venture, Common Ground Ciderworks, in North Brookfield.

The Larsons sold the business, but not the building, so when Ye Olde Tavern closed in February, they decided to rebrand the historic landmark that has been serving food and drink to locals and travelers for more than 250 years.

“We chose to return to the original name, Hitchcock Tavern, as a tribute to Cpt. David Hitchcock, the young patriot who built the tavern in 1760,” said Cindy. “This historic tavern has always been an important part of the fabric of the West Brookfield community, a place where you can enjoy a hearty meal, celebrate an important occasion, or simply gather with friends,” she said. “After completing some much-needed renovations and repairs, we are finally ready to welcome the community in once again.”

The Larsons also noted the appointment of two key staff members, head chef Mike Rinaldo and general manager Dianne Lincoln.

Rinaldo holds a culinary degree from Johnson & Wales University in Providence, Rhode Island. He has been a corporate chef for the Hilton Hotel chain, responsible for restaurants in 47 states.

Most recently, he served as executive chef at NU Kitchen, in Worcester. When the new menu is introduced, he expects it will include several of the comfort foods for which the tavern was previously known.

Lincoln has more than 20 years in restaurant management and more than 30 years in bakery operations. She holds a bachelor’s degree in business from Nichols College in Dudley with a minor in hospitality management.

Many local artisans were involved in recent renovations, including Kevin Frickenberg (floors), Dick Reynolds and his installer, Mike (floors), Ace Botta and Ryan (painting), Tim Nason (painting), Jason



Historic landmark has been renamed Hitchcock Tavern. (COURTESY PHOTO)

School committee votes to borrow money

By Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

BARRE – Cheryl Duval, Director of Administrative Services, asked the Quabbin Regional School District to incur debt in the amount of over \$738,000.

The amount included \$387,344 to replace the chiller for the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning system at Quabbin Regional Middle High School and \$350,684 for the press box and bleachers on Alumni Field.

She said the district’s financial advisor recommended a bond anticipation note under Section D rather than taking out a bond. The other option, Section N, required a ballot election.

Duval said the School Committee must approve the borrowing by a 2/3 majority vote. If approved, the School Committee secretary within seven days of the vote must notify the Select Boards or Board of Selectmen in the five member towns of Barre, Hardwick, Hubbardston, New Braintree and Oakham of the decision to borrow money and list the amount.

The Select Boards then have 60 days to hold a town meeting to not affirm the school committee vote to incur debt. All five towns must approve the borrowing by majority vote per the school regional agreement under section 6, page 8.

Duval said the chiller was no longer working and if it was not replaced, the start of school at the middle high school would be delayed as the building would

be too hot. The chiller regulated heat throughout the building, was an essential repair to the HVAC system and was not an air conditioner.

Duval also asked the committee to authorize the use of reserves to purchase the chiller so the project would start after school ends and completed before school opened in late August.

School Committee member, Mark Wigler, said the Committee could “make a case for the chiller, but not the press box.”

School Committee Vice Chair Debra Chamberlain said the towns can’t afford their assessments and the chiller was a necessity. She said it was a “not wise to include the press box,” which was not a necessity. Other members agreed.

School Committee Chair Mark Brophy said the Committee should borrow the \$387,344 (a state bid) for the chiller replacement, but instead should continue to encourage donations for the press box and bleachers. The district received over \$30,000 in donations to date.

Duval said she was not sure the school district could borrow such a small amount so she emailed the financial advisor, who responded back in the affirmative. They also changed some wording of the article written by bond counsel to only list the chiller and not the second project and to include a reference to the section of the regional school agreement.

The board unanimously approved the motion made by committee member “Lee” Wolanin.

Paquette and team (contracting), John Tripp (electrical), Brian Fritze and Brad Gregoire, Tim Pecore (plumbing), and David Maloney, DM Design Marketing (signage).

Hitchcock Tavern will be open daily at 11:30 a.m. for lunch. On Sunday through Thursday the tavern will close at 11:00 p.m., with a midnight closing on Friday and Saturday nights.

The main dining room is now available for wedding receptions, showers, bereavement gatherings, and other events. To make reservations or to book a function, call 508-637-1497 or email info@hitchcocktavern.com.

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Turley Publications is looking for a “hands on” energetic candidate who loves telling stories to be the editor for two weekly publications. This position will include managing and coaching a small news staff that will provide the community with a great local newspaper.

The editor will need to cover local government and events while representing the newspaper at public venues.

The successful candidate will have strong community journalism skills and is also expected to gather news and write stories for the two papers as well as for other occasional companywide publications.

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Turley Publications, based in Palmer, is seeking a storyteller who is curious about everything, and who understands how town government works to join our team of weekly reporters.

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If you’re a self-starter who enjoys community journalism and who can envision themselves connecting with our communities, we encourage you to apply for this position. Not a remote position.

Qualifications should include:

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- Proficiency in Associated Press style

Please tell us in a cover letter why you would be a good fit for this position and send it along with a resume and three writing samples to

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Second Chance to host a pet vaccine clinic in Petersham

PETERSHAM - Second Chance Animal Services has announced a low-cost pet vaccine clinic to be held in Petersham on Friday, June 9 from 3-5 p.m., on the town common, North Main Street.

The vaccine clinic will offer \$5 rabies and distemper vaccines as well as \$22 microchips for cats and dogs in the Petersham area.

Pet owners do not need to live in Petersham to take advantage of this low-cost walk-in clinic. These vaccines play a vital role in preventing the spread of infectious diseases and ensuring the overall health of pets.

"We are thrilled to bring our vaccine clinic to Petersham," said Sheryl Blancato, CEO and founder of Second Chance in a press release. "By making these vital vaccinations accessible and affordable, we are taking a significant step in safeguarding the health and well-being of pets in the community."

The clinic will be open to all pet owners in Petersham and surrounding areas, regardless of income or residence. Second Chance Animal Services is committed to breaking down barriers and ensuring that every pet receives the necessary care.

In addition to vaccinations, the clinic will also offer microchipping services to help reunite lost pets with

their owners.

The vaccine clinic will operate on a first-come, first-served basis, and appointments are not required.

Pet owners are asked to bring their pets in carriers or on leashes for everyone's safety. To expedite the process, owners are encouraged to bring any existing vaccination records they may have.

For more information about Second Chance Animal Services and their vaccine clinics, please visit their website at www.secondchanceanimals.org/vaccine-clinics.

Chelsea Sanders named to Dean's List

MANCHESTER, NH – Chelsea Sanders of North Brookfield was named to the Southern New Hampshire University Dean's List for her academic achievements during the winter 2023 term.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired eight-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring and summer.

Friends host book sale at Library on June 17

WEST BROOKFIELD – The Friends of the Merriam-Gilbert Public Library, 3 West Main St., will be holding its annual book sale beginning Saturday, June 17 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. outside (weather permitting) and inside the library.

The sale will continue for a few weeks after, inside the library.

Memorial car show planned for June 24

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The North Brookfield Sportsmen's Club will be hosting the 2nd Annual Tim Morin Memorial Car Show on Saturday, June 24 at 20 Boynton Road.

Registration is from 8:30-11:30 a.m., with plaques awarded at 1:30 p.m.

Donation is \$15 per show vehicle. Spectators are free.

Lunch, cash bar and 50/50 raffle will be available. Music will be provided by DJ Bruce Marshall.

For show information, call Gary at 508-450-8643.

CARNIVAL | FROM PAGE 1

lemonades. Food trucks also offered many options for satisfying lunches or snacks.

Many skilled crafters had tables set up to display their beautiful creations, including jewelry and sculptures. One of the booths had a massage table, and another had a face-painting setup with children gathered around to get their own, beautifully made face paint.

K9 Warner and his friend, Officer Eric Blair, were at the Paws 4 Blue K-9 tent. Warner is a retired K9, and spends his retirement days relaxing and playing with his human.

The carnival also featured Jenn Pecora, owner and lead photographer of Amidst Photography, where she had a beautiful photo booth set-up.

Meghan Jaquith and her daughters ran a fun and interactive booth for her escape room, "Escape the Pike", which is located in Sturbridge.

The carnival was a wonderful experience with friendly volunteers to host all visitors. Geneva and Gisela Rivera were two such volunteers who walked around greeting people and welcoming them to the Carnival.

The event was a success, and although it was hot, the guests, vendors, and ride operators had smiling faces.

So, step on up and try your shot, and let's get the carnival to come back next year!



Volunteers with the Coalition for a Healthy North Brookfield, Geneva and Gisela Rivera were all smiles this past Sunday. (TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS)



Lydia Debuc gives the hula hoop a twirl.



Buddy enjoyed watching the crowd from the shade.



Jenn Pecora of Amidst Photography had a photo booth set up.



Claire Madden tries ribbon dancing.



Escape the Pike was at the carnival, shown from left are Serena Roberts, Tabitha Jaquith, Teaghan Jaquith and Meghan Jaquith.



Officer Eric Blair was at the Paws 4 Blue K-9 booth with retired K9 Warner.

- community -

COLLEGE | FROM PAGE 4

What does that mean? Having observed the decisions of colleges for decades, it means college financial aid offices are going to dig deeper into the financial arrangements of families of divorce.

Child Support will no longer be counted as "untaxed income," but rather as a parent asset.

The current asset exclusion of family-owned businesses and family-owned farms is gone. The asset value of each shall be included in the SAI calculation.

Simplified Needs Test (which removes assets from an SAI calculation) is based on AGI under \$60,000. But if the parent operates a small business, buyer beware. The financial aid officers are trained to watch out for business owners because they are told that the AGI on the tax return can be reduced at will.

The number of family members in college at the same time, as a consideration, will be phased out; although professional judgement may allow for that to be considered. Therefore, it should be noted in "Other Information" provided to the colleges.

Two other considerations represent the proverbial double-edged sword. One is that the end of PELL Grant eligibility after 12 semesters is removed.

The other side is that Direct Student Loan time limit of 150% of satisfactory academic progress is also removed.

Students will be able to drag out their college education beyond six years. Over the last 30 years, the statistics show that only 38% of students graduate in four years.

The 50 or so, most competitive colleges have over 90% graduation rate in four years. That is because they have many applicants each year to fill seats. Getting through college in those colleges is much easier than getting in.

Presently, this reporter

is researching each of the community colleges that largely served the western part of Massachusetts beginning with Mount Wachusett and Greenfield Community Colleges.

So far, some nice surprises, but some are facing challenges. Each week there will be a profile of the colleges.

With college costs being so high, does it make financial sense to go to a community college for two years and then transfer to as a junior to a four-year college?

As is the case to many scenarios... it depends. Those will be explored and explained.

If the reader has personal experience with a community college, as a student or parent in Massachusetts or elsewhere, they may email Eric Goodhart at barrenews@turley.com.

GARDEN | FROM PAGE 4

and-a-half foot wispyish plants- a size perfect for the middle row of the border.

Mountain bluet, or perennial bachelor button, as it is sometimes called, is one of my most treasured perennials.

There is nothing rare about Centaurea montana, or even all that unique about it. I just plain like its oversized cornflowers and their lovely true blue shade.

At eighteen inches tall it is another plant best suited to the middle row of the garden. Plant in full sun or slight shade for best results. Cut back after it is done flowering for a chance at late season rebloom.

Jacob's ladder, Polemonium caeruleum, is another of my favorite blue perennials. Its pinnately compound leaves

surely resemble a ladder, hence the Biblical reference, but it is best known for its pretty cup shaped, light blue flowers that hang from multi stems growing 18 inches to 2 feet tall and blooming in May in part shade locations.

Have fun playing with blue hues this spring. By high summer blue will be few and far between in the landscape.

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

There are just a few weeks of summer left and back-to-school preparations to begin!

This handy guide will help parents plan late summer activities and prepare for the upcoming school year.

in the CLASSROOM

preschool • elementary • middle school • high school • college • trades

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Theatre & Art in the Park performance is June 9

BROOKFIELD – As part of the town's 350th celebration, the Brookfield Cultural Council will be hosting Theatre & Art in the Park on the Common, Friday, June 9 at 4:30 p.m., starting with a display of artwork by local students.

At 5 p.m., the students will perform "Little Orphan Samantha". After the performance, Maggie the Clown will provide entertainment.

All are welcome to attend and are encouraged to bring chairs, blankets and a picnic supper. In case of rain, the event will be held in Brookfield Elementary School's cafeteria.

PLAQUE | FROM PAGE 1

of thanks to the Revolutionary War soldiers.

Then it would be the turn of the elected members to the General Court of Massachusetts. State Sen. Ryan Fatman, and state Rep. Todd Smola were also laudatory in their remarks with Smola mentioning that he was happy to be present, but was afraid to say no to Briere.

There are many of us who feel that way.

The Daughters of the American Revolution were an important part of the ceremony. State Regent Carolyn Nutt would speak to the day and its importance as well as the rededication of Daughters of the American Revolution Plaque.

That plaque had been dedicated on March 17, 2023, by Massachusetts State Society of Daughters of the American Revolution in honor of the 250th anniversary of the United States.

Patricia Karakashian, State Chaplain of the DAR would lead the invocation and prayers regarding the rededication.

The American's Creed was recited by all assembled.

The Mass DAR state historian would recount the building of the venerable walls of the Old Burial Ground.

The names of 65 local men who answered the call would be read out by Diane Isaacson.

Geraniums were then placed on the graves of the 65 Sturbridge men who served their country in the Revolution. The flowers were generously provided by Michael Glick and Michael Harrington of the Publick House.

The General Henry Knox Regimental Color Guard was on hand for their part in the festivities. Henry Knox was Washington's chief of artillery. Now the

color guard are attired and perform as Continental Army infantry, even though the general's main weapon was the cannon, but then, who wants to be dragging those big guns around?

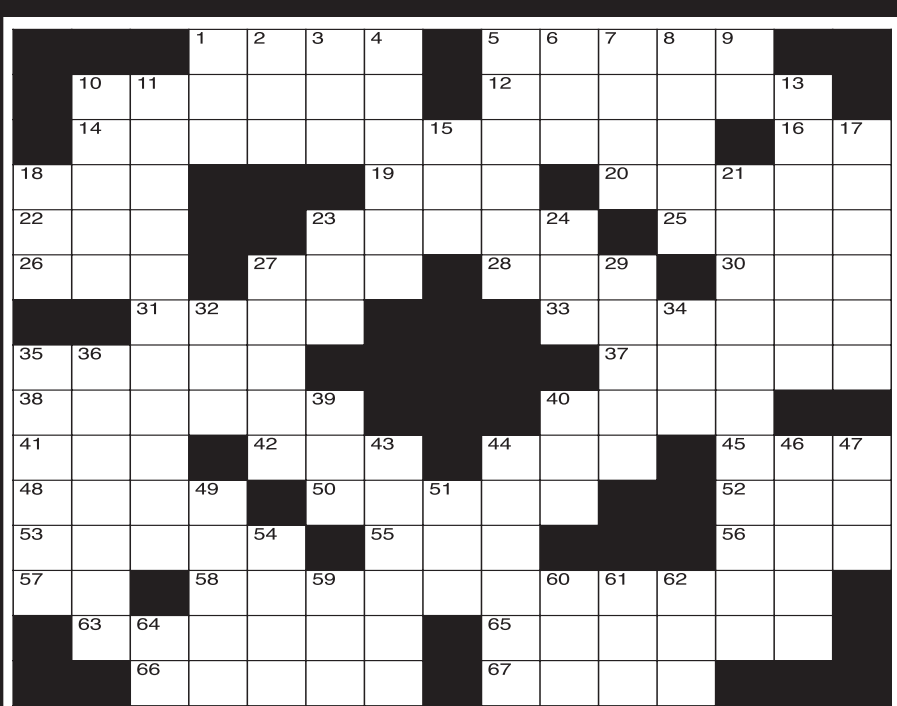
No matter, the guard led by their commander, Christopher Tourtellot, went through all the necessary steps to load and fire the muskets as would have been done in late 18th Century warfare. It was impressive and loud when they fired.

Next to the Knox Guard stood a few members of the Sturbridge Militia. They were not as formally dressed as the guardsmen, but more as "minutemen."

After the salute, "Taps" was played to the memory of the 65.

Tourtellot would give his rousing toast to the flag, sans libation.

All too soon the ceremony would be over and it would be time for the fifth graders to board the bus and return to Burgess, and back to class. The rest of us drifted apart and will not be back until late May of 2024.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Sloping position
- 5. Descendant of a notable family
- 10. Following accepted norms
- 12. Root vegetable
- 14. Having a shape that reduces drag from air
- 16. Integrated circuit
- 18. Records electric currents of the heart
- 19. Used to anoint
- 20. Japanese city
- 22. After B
- 23. Muffles
- 25. Pass over
- 26. Vase
- 27. Soft touch
- 28. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- 30. Patti Hearst's captors
- 31. Israeli politician
- 33. Degrade

- 35. Type of wrap
- 37. Polyurethane fabric
- 38. Avoids capture
- 40. Vegetarians avoid it
- 41. Decay
- 42. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 44. Vessel to bathe in
- 45. Inches per minute (abbr.)
- 48. Frosts
- 50. Dipped into
- 52. Controversial replay system in soccer
- 53. Comforts
- 55. Needed for yoga
- 56. Ands/_
- 57. South Dakota
- 58. Printing system
- 63. Dramatic works set to music
- 65. Highest points
- 66. Social division
- 67. Used to treat Parkinson's disease

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Hill or rocky peak
- 2. Initial public offering
- 3. Type of light
- 4. Test
- 5. Flaky coverings
- 6. Former NFLer Newton
- 7. Part of the eye
- 8. Roman god of the underworld
- 9. Negative
- 10. Indiana pro basketball player
- 11. Replaces lost tissue
- 13. Denotes one from whom title is taken
- 15. Historic college hoops tournament
- 17. Hut by a swimming pool
- 18. Defunct European monetary unit
- 21. Feeds on insects
- 23. Adult male
- 24. Melancholic
- 27. Sheets of glass
- 29. Slang for famous person
- 32. Not good
- 34. "Ghetto Superstar" singer
- 35. The "World" is one
- 36. Used to make guacamole
- 39. Midway between south and southwest
- 40. Wet dirt
- 43. Ancient Egyptian name
- 44. Set of four
- 46. Strips
- 47. Wife
- 49. More dried-up
- 51. Socially inept person
- 54. Clusters on fern fronds
- 59. Bar bill
- 60. Prefix indicating "away from"
- 61. Very important person
- 62. Fiddler crabs
- 64. Special therapy



The salute is fired. (TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY RICHARD MURPHY)



Burgess Elementary School students sing "God Bless America".

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	LG SMOOTH TOP ELECTRIC STOVE \$699⁹⁹ <small>WAS \$899.99</small>	AMANA MICROWAVE #JYM160RPS1 \$199⁹⁹ <small>WAS \$329.99</small>	BIKE SALE	

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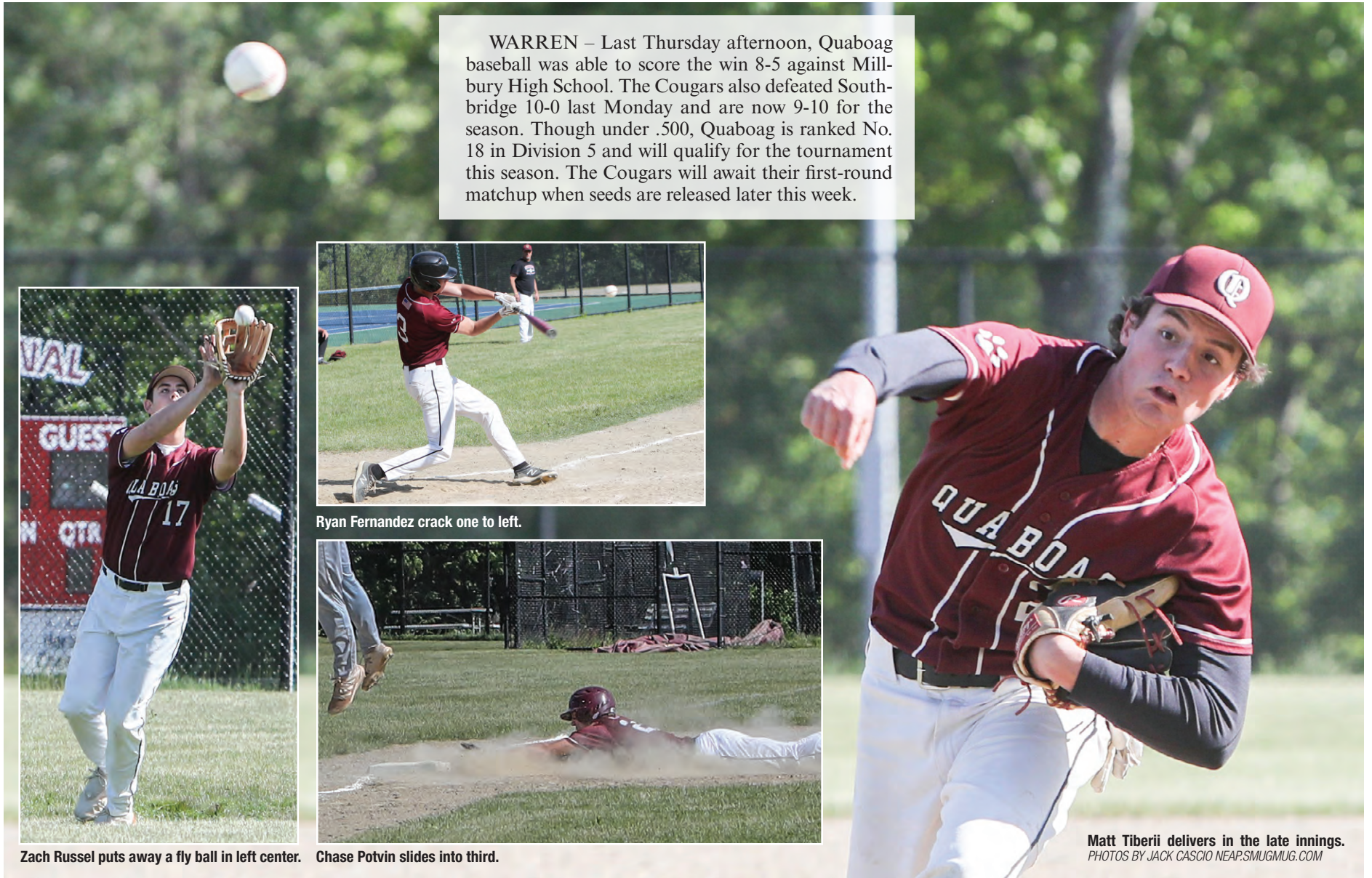
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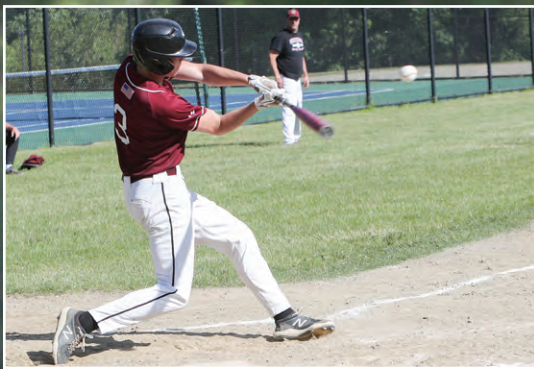
SPORTS

Cougars defeat Millbury

WARREN – Last Thursday afternoon, Quaboag baseball was able to score the win 8-5 against Millbury High School. The Cougars also defeated Southbridge 10-0 last Monday and are now 9-10 for the season. Though under .500, Quaboag is ranked No. 18 in Division 5 and will qualify for the tournament this season. The Cougars will await their first-round matchup when seeds are released later this week.



Zach Russel puts away a fly ball in left center.



Ryan Fernandez crack one to left.



Chase Potvin slides into third.

Matt Tiberii delivers in the late innings.
PHOTOS BY JACK CASCIO NEAP:SMUGMUG.COM

Quabbin golf participates in tournament



Kylie Casey tees off on the second hole. She shot a 99 in the tournament. PHOTOS BY RAY DUFFY



Kenzie Casey tees off. She shot a 95 to lead the Panthers.



Sam Vessar puts for par.

BARRE – Last week, the Quabbin Regional High School girls golf team participated in a league tournament. The Panthers got a 95 from Kenzie Casey while Kylie Casey turned in a 99.



Kayla Sherblom gets a fairway shot.

Tantasqua advances in Central Mass. tournament

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

FISKDALE—The Tantasqua varsity baseball team entered last Wednesday’s Central Mass. Athletic Director’s Association Class A quarterfinal game riding a seven-game winning streak.

The third-seeded Warriors needed a little bit of help from junior first baseman Jack Raposse to keep the streak alive. Raposse delivered an RBI single into left field with two outs in the bottom of the seventh inning as the Warriors celebrated an exciting 5-4 walk off victory over the sixth-seeded Westborough Rangers in the rain at Emrich Field.

“I’ve been slumping at the plate during the past couple of games, so it feels awesome getting the winning hit in today’s game,” Raposse said. “My main goal was just to put the ball in play in that situation.”

Tantasqua (17-2) also won a walk-off game, 5-4, against

SWCL rival Uxbridge on a chilly afternoon in the second game of the regular season. The winning run in that contest scored on a wild pitch.

“It seems like every time that we play a game in bad weather, we win on a walk-off,” said Tantasqua head coach Jon Leroux. “I’m just glad that we found a way to win today’s game. That’s what we’ve done all season long.”

The Warriors hadn’t won a game in the CMADA tournament since posting an 11-0 shutout victory versus Nashoba Regional two years ago. They then lost to Westborough in the semifinals.

“We lost Westborough in this tournament two years ago. We lost to Shrewsbury last year,” Leroux added. “We’re now going to be facing Wachusett Regional, who’s another very good baseball team, in the semifinals on Friday afternoon. We really do enjoy facing talented baseball teams before the

See **TOURNAMENT** | PAGE 10

- sports -

Pioneers makes semifinals



Jesse Cygan pitches for the Pioneers.



Brayden Mega gets the throw off to first.



Austin Lagimoniere fields a ground ball to center.



Trevor Millet makes the short throw to second.



Brayden Mega gets the tag down at third. PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEET-DOGPHOTOS.COM

PALMER – Last week, Pathfinder baseball took part in the Western Mass. Class C tournament. The Pioneers would narrowly defeat Drury 2-1 in the quarterfinals, then be defeated 6-1 on the road at Frontier Regional. The Pioneers have qualified for the state tournament and will await their seeding later this week.

Run for Rice's 5K Road Race set for June 3

WILBRAHAM – The 11th annual “Run for Rice’s 5K Road Race” will be held on Saturday, June 3 at 9 a.m. This popular, family-friendly 5K road race begins at Christ the King – Epiphany Church, 758 Main Street, Wilbraham, and winds through a flat, fast course in surrounding neighborhoods, ending at Rice Fruit Farm across the street from the start. Pre-registration fee for runners and walkers is \$20, while day-of-race registration is \$25. Ages 18 and under registration is \$15 including day-of registration. The first 150 registered runners by May 20 will receive our

famous race t-shirt featuring the “Running Apple” logo, and all registered runners will receive a free Rice Fruit Farm ice cream with their bib number on day of race only. Cash prizes will be awarded in several categories, and all proceeds benefit the Rice Nature Preserve maintenance fund of the Minnechaug Land Trust. Race day registration will be open from 7:30 a.m. until 8:45 a.m. On-line registration now available at RunSignUp.com, and paper registration forms can be downloaded at the Minnechaug Land Trust website www.minnechauglandtrust.org.

Hall adds new lighting display

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced a recent addition to the museum’s iconic exterior, a state-of-the-art LED projection lighting display. The dome, one of the city’s most prominent structures, will be lit up every night and will display an array of festive colors and patterns for holidays and events throughout the year.

“We’ve completed a major renovation on the inside of the Hall, and adding this dynamic lighting package to the building’s exterior demonstrates our ongoing commitment to beautifying the property and enhancing the

riverfront area,” said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. “We couldn’t be more pleased with the result and to be able to help light Springfield’s night sky.”

In an effort to honor those who have sacrificed everything in service to the nation, the dome and building will be lit red, white, and blue this Memorial Day Weekend, May 25-29.

This summer, the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame will light the night to celebrate the winner of the NBA Finals, Independence Day, Enshrinement Weekend, and more.

TOURNAMENT | FROM PAGE 9

start of the state tournament. Miles (Blake) will be our starting pitcher in the semifinal game.”

Blake, who’s a sophomore lefthander, is the Warriors ace. He recently verbally committed to playing Division 1 college baseball at Northeastern University in a couple of years.

The weather wasn’t that bad at the start of last Wednesday’s quarterfinal game, which was delayed 30 minutes because the Westborough bus arrived late to the field.

Tantasqua junior righthander Joe Amaru, who had a cheering section behind the backstop, retired the Rangers very quickly in the top of the first inning on three groundball outs.

His teammates gave him a 1-0 lead to protect in the bottom half of the frame.

Junior third baseman Colm McGrath drew a leadoff walk against senior lefty Cooper Hagen, who struck out the next two batters. Senior catcher Henry Blake didn’t make the third out, as he lined a single to the gap in left center scoring McGrath with the game’s first run.

Henry Blake, who’s one of the Warriors five seniors, will be playing college baseball at MCLA next year. Tantasqua’s other four seniors are Devin Krochmainyckj, Aubyn Phillips, Ryan Kelly, and Steven Parent.

The Rangers tied the score in the third inning following a sacrifice fly to left field by junior second baseman Andy Cerniglia. The visitors took the lead for the first time with one-out in the fourth when senior Owen Tarasiak (2-for-3) blasted a run scoring triple to center.

It began to rain in the bottom of the fourth inning and the batter’s box became muddy, but the contest continued without a stoppage.

The Warriors used some small ball to retake the lead in the bottom of the fifth inning.

Junior left fielder Cole Nussey began the rally with a leadoff walk. Then junior center-fielder Ryan Wright put down a bunt, which was fielded by Hagen. Nussey just beat the pitcher’s throw to second base. The next batter struck out and sophomore right fielder Chace Fredette had a bunt hit, which loaded the bases.

Krochmainyckj brought home the tying run with an infield hit. Wright also scored on

a wild pitch to the backstop, which gave the Warriors a 3-2 lead.

Amaru, who loaded the bases with no outs in the sixth inning, was replaced on the mound by sophomore righty Lucas MacNevin, who wound up being the winning pitcher.

“Joe always does everything that we ask him to do on the mound. They did score a couple of runs against him, but he just kept battling out there,” Leroux said. “Lucas has performed very well in his role all season long.”

Amaru finished his outing allowing four runs on six base hits. He struck out three and issued only one walk in five plus innings. He also picked off a runner at first base.

Following a force out at the plate, Tarasiak drove home two more runs by hitting a double into left field, which gave the Rangers a 4-3 advantage.

Hagen, who went the distance, hit Raposse with a pitch leading off the bottom of the sixth. MacNevin then put down a sacrifice bunt and Rapoose, who stole second, scored the tying run on a throwing error by the pitcher.

MacNevin issued a two out walk in the top of the seventh before striking out the next batter, which set the stage for the dramatic finish.

Krochmainyckj lined a leadoff single into right field. He was forced out at second base when Henry Blake bounced into a 6-4 fielder’s choice play. Blake stole second and moved to third on a single by junior second baseman Hunter Normandian.

With Raposse at the plate, Leroux called for a suicide squeeze bunt play. The play failed as Raposse couldn’t make contact on a high fastball and Blake was tagged out by the catcher. Normandian did move into scoring position, which made things a little less painful for the Warriors.

“We didn’t execute the suicide squeeze, but we still had a runner at second with two outs,” Leroux said. “Jack has been in a slump and I’m very glad that he got a base hit in that situation.”

Raposse sent a fastball into left field for the game winning hit before being mobbed by his teammates.

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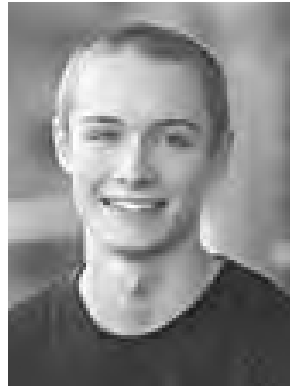
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Edgar Amoros



Thatcher Atwood



Olivia Bagg



Arianna Belen



Kaitlyn Bezingue



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Nathan Church



Phoebe Clowes



Brogan O'Keefe
Ware High School



Darian Hulsart
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PHOTOS UNAVAILABLE

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- Jakob Bond
- Isaac Graves
- DeLijah Hinton
- Jessica Kupstas
- Samantha Lasky
- Lee Morse
- Kaitlyn Osborne
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BROOKFIELD | FROM PAGE 1

Parade participants kicked off the program at 10 a.m. at Brookfield Elementary School and moved their way throughout town.

Community groups such as the Brookfield Cultural Council, Board

of Selectmen, Fire Department, Police Department and Massachusetts State Police participated in the event while many residents waved flags in support of those who served our country.



More participants are shown wearing vintage clothing while waving large U. S flags to honor veterans from all stages of United States history.



Band members are shown playing patriotic tunes while marching in the Brookfield Memorial Day parade. (TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY DALLAS GAGNON)



Brookfield's little league baseball teams are shown waving flags and marching while honoring veterans.

St. Joseph's Parish to hold strawberry festival

NORTH BROOKFIELD – St. Joseph's Parish, 296 North Main St., will hold its 30th annual strawberry festival on Saturday, June 17 from 5-7 p.m. in their church hall.

The menu includes baked ham, homemade baked beans, homemade potato salad, homemade cole slaw, rolls, coffee, water and strawberry shortcake. The meal will be served family style and take-out is also available.

Tickets are \$15 per adult and \$7 per child aged 5-10 years old. Tickets are available after Masses or by calling the rectory at 508-867-6811.

Annual Western Massachusetts Eldercare conference June 8

HOLYOKE – The 31st Annual Massachusetts Eldercare conference is to be held on Thursday, June 8, at the Holyoke Community College Kittredge Center. The first keynote speech will feature Dora D. Robinson, adjunct professor at multiple colleges in the area, and be from 9 to 10:30 a.m. The second keynote speech will feature Judith Black, a storyteller, from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

There will be a continental breakfast available. Various other workshops will be held throughout the day on multiple subjects affecting elders and their care team. To see the full details and register please visit <https://jgslifecare.org/wmecc/>.

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June 7 deadline

PUBLICATION DATE

June 28 issue



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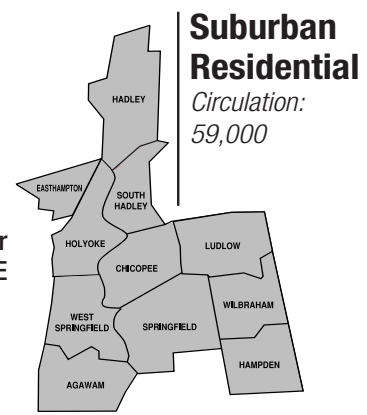
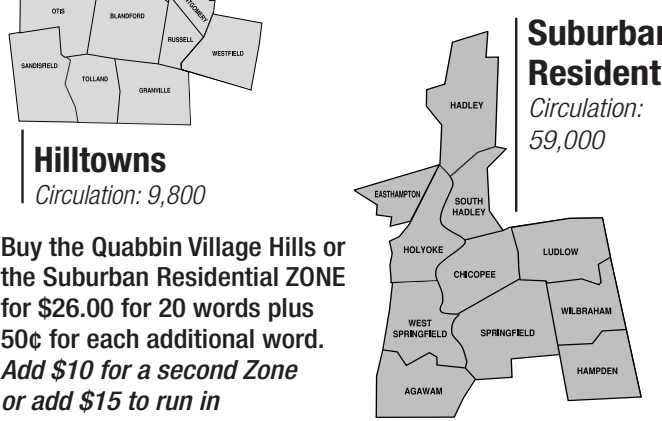
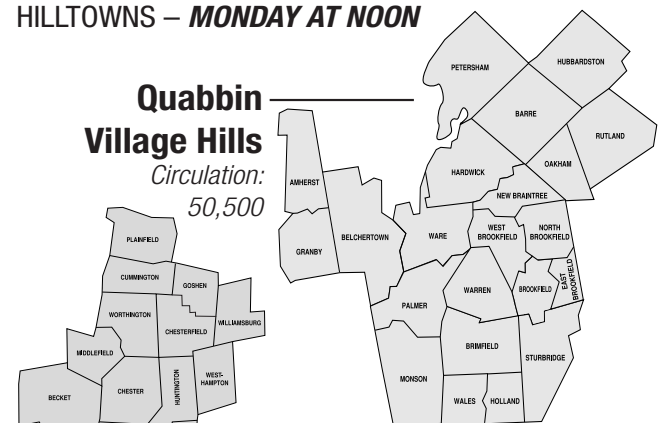
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VETERANS | FROM PAGE 1

or your heroes and those who made that important sacrifice," said Salvatore.

The flag placing took place three days before Warren's Memorial Day ceremony and parade.

Veterans Council Co-Chair Rebecca Acerra said working with Salvatore and the Quaboag students will "hopefully instill a greater appreciation of Memorial Day."

Acerra said she joined the Veterans Council in 2016 as she noticed a declining attendance for the Memorial Day parade and "it didn't sit right" with her, so she wanted to help.

"We lose sight of the fact that we get to live the life we live [because of] those who have died," said Acerra.

She added "it is a selfless act... they are going to defend me, and they have never even met me."

Veterans Council Co-Chair Richard Demetrius said it is "humbling" to see so many flags placed in honor of those who served.

Both Acerra and Demetrius have families who have fought and served to protect the United States of America.

Acerra said she had two uncles who were wounded in action - one served in the Korean War, and another served in World War II.

Demetrius said a great uncle of his was killed while serving in World War II.

Resident, Army veteran and National Guard veteran Everett Smith attended the flag placing to honor veterans as well as support his son's decision, Sean Smith, to participate in the honorable act.

Smith said when his son brought home the permission slip to participate, he believed it would be good to join him.

"As each generation comes, it [Memorial Day] falls more to the wayside... we forget what's important and what's not... For my son to want to do this - I had to come," said Smith.

Students Hunter Dodson and Gavin Williams said although they receive community service hours for the National Junior Honors Society for partic-



Shown are students of Joe Salvatore's eighth grade class volunteering alongside Warren's Veterans Council and resident volunteers to place flags for Memorial Day. (TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY DALLAS GAGNON)

ipating, they believed it was important to attend as it is "our civic duty."

Salvatore pointed out the evolution of headstones throughout history.

Some of the oldest stones date back to the 17th century.

Salvatore noted the older stones were not as thick as the more modern ones, and are hand chiseled.

"You can almost tell when they were placed just by looking at the design," said Salvatore.

The Revolutionary War era stones are simpler, with stone designs ranging from skull and crossbones to a face with angel wing and weeping willow trees.

A stone from 1799 marked the grave of 24-year-old John Tyler, which has the weeping willow chiseled on it.

Another marked the grave of Capt. Solomon Keys who died in 1755 at 55-years-old in the battle fought near Lake George.

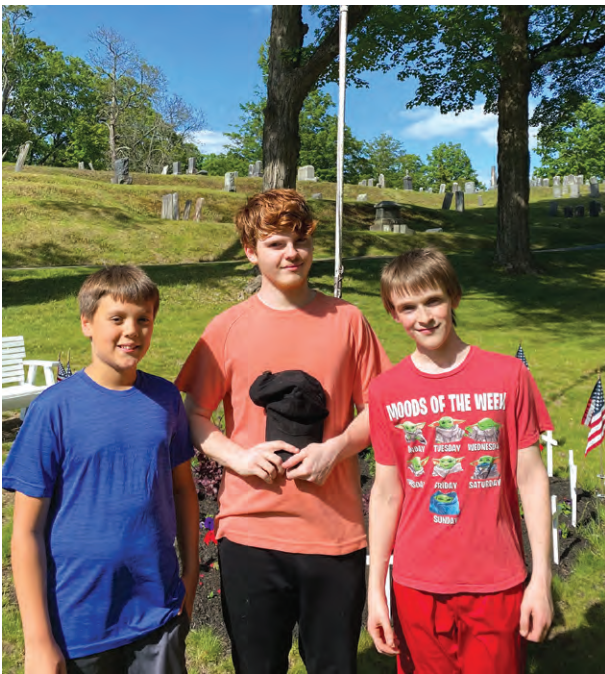
Flags were placed at the right-hand corner of each service member's headstone and were provided by the Veterans Council.

Upcoming events the Veterans Council organized to support veterans include a Salute to Veterans concert on June 30 as a partnership with the Park and Recreation Commission, a barbe-

que chicken dinner hosted at St. Stan's Polish Club on Aug. 5, and a flag retirement ceremony on June 14, details to be determined.



Students Hunter Dodson and Gavin William holding flags in honor of veterans who never returned home.



Students Cameron Collis, Luke McDonald and Sean Smith are shown in front of the memorial site in St. Paul's Cemetery after placing flags.



Breya Sauriol and Lyndie Miller participate in flag laying to prepare for Warren's annual Memorial Day services.



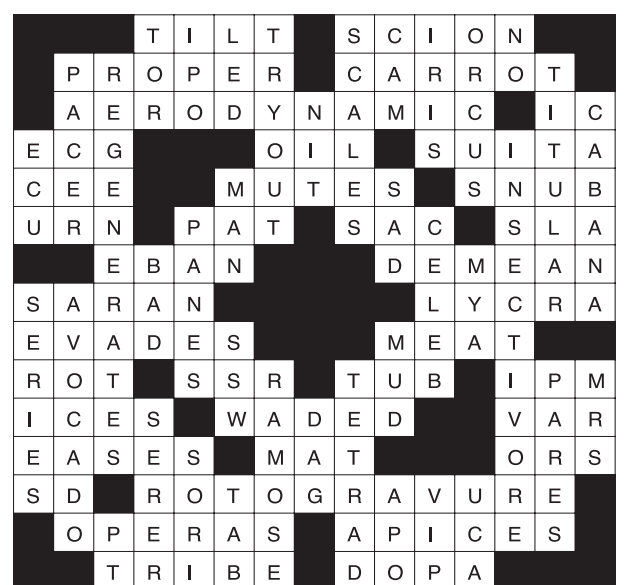
Kasey Narov and Zaylee Brodeur smile as they prepare to lay flags for Memorial Day.



Gavin Williams is shown placing a flag on a veteran's grave.



Army and National Guard veteran Everett Smith is shown placing a flag on a veterans grave alongside son, Sean Smith.



QUABOAG CURRENT



WEST BROOKFIELD
Memorial Day parade returns p2

REGION
C4R holds inaugural paddle p3

STURBRIDGE
Varsity baseball team advances p9

Editorial/Opinion **4**
Sports **9**
Classifieds **18**

Volume 16, Number 28

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