



QUABOAG CURRENT

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Class of 2023 aims to go beyond

Quaboag Regional Middle-High School holds 55th commencement



The Class of 2023 applauds their families and faculty for getting them to where they are today. (TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE)

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARREN – Last Saturday, 95 students in the Class of 2023 at Quaboag Regional Middle-High School were urged to “go beyond” as they received

their diplomas at the 55th commencement.

Class Historian Elizabeth Czaja welcomed those in attendance and thanked them for their role in the students’ success.

She spoke of the obstacles each student overcame to make

it to this point; the end of their high school career.

“Many of us couldn’t have done it without support,” Czaja said. “Many of you in this room have played a vital role – we truly thank you...we did it!”

Class President Victoria Morgan said as she took a mo-

ment to reflect on the class’s achievements while she prepared her speech, she knew she had to thank the parents and guardians for their commitment to their student’s education.

Morgan also thanked Prin-
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North Brookfield celebrates Class of 2023

By Matty Anderson
Staff Writer
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NORTH BROOKFIELD – Graduation caps filled the sky as family, friends and proud mentors celebrated the success of their favorite young adults graduating in the Class of 2023.

North Brookfield Junior-Senior High School held their graduation ceremony in the Elementary School’s gymnasium on Sunday afternoon. The sense of community in the town of North Brookfield is as strong as it gets, and everyone knows everyone.

That being said, it was heartwarming and emotional for many to watch these young adults succeed and move on.

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Sophia Hearnlaye, the Salutatorian. (TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MATTY ANDERSON)

Tantasqua’s Class of 2023 moves forward to future

By Dallas Gagnon
Staff Writer
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STURBRIDGE – Friends and family joined Tantasqua’s graduating class of over 270 students for the 2023 commencement ceremony held this past Saturday.

The humming of the spectators’ conversations broke when “Pomp and Circumstance” began as the graduates entered the field, prompting attendees to stand and cheer instead.

Class Treasurer Grace Chisholm opened the ceremony by announcing the event as

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Quabbin High School holds graduation

Weather fails to dampen the Class of 2023’s spirit

By Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

BARRE – It has been quite a few years since a Quabbin Regional High School graduation was held inside.

Due to rainy weather on Friday, June 2 and more rain predicted for Saturday and Sunday, school officials made the decision to hold an indoor graduation.

The Quabbin High gym was hot, however, the wet weather did not dampen the Class of

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- community -

Voters approve \$40.2 million FY 24 budget

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

STURBRIDGE – Voters addressed 47 articles at the annual town meeting over two nights, starting on Monday before recessing and finally adjourning on Tuesday.

Senior Center project
Article 7 asked voters to approve an additional \$1,780,000 to supplement the \$11.4 million previously approved at town meeting in order to renovate and expand the Senior Center at 480 Main St.

These additional funds would come from Community Preservation Committee funds, and would not increase or impact taxes, Town Administrator Robin Grimm said.

Grimm said the reason for the request is that HVAC bids are coming in high.

“We’re still moving forward,” Grimm said of the project. “The final cost will not be more than the \$11.4 and the \$1.78 if you vote it tonight.”

A resident from Fisk Hill Road questioned the cost for the project, saying it was a “humungous amount.”

She asked if the project could be scaled back, to fit within the amount already appropriated by voters.

“If that’s not enough, maybe now’s not the time to do it,” she said.

Grimm said every municipality is struggling with the rising cost of inflation. “Projects are coming in high, across the board,” she said.

A Walker Pond Road said there is “no way” the cost of construction will ever come down.

Requiring a two-thirds vote, voters approved the additional funding 311 to 52.

Library budget

A hold was placed on the Joshua Hyde Public Library’s budget by resident Michael Young.

During discussion, Young questioned the Library’s recently added Zoom program featuring a drag performer.

Young said offering this program to teenagers is pushing transgender ideology, and is child abuse. Any funds set aside for that purpose should be used for a “more worthy” event he said.

“The only thing we’re asking for, is to remove funding for this program,” Young said. Moderator Michael Caplette said Young’s concern is really a Library Trustee issue.

Library Trustee Sandra Gibson-Quigley said these types of programs have the full support of the Trustees.

“This program is of no cost to the taxpayers,” she said and was paid for by another library.

Gibson-Quigley said the vast majority of the Library’s programs are funded by the Friends of the Joshua Hyde Public Library. “It is those funds that fund the programs... there’s no budget issue here that I can see.”

She added that attendance to any of the Library’s programs are optional.

“You have a choice... You can choose,” Gibson-Quigley said.

Kate Vogel said as a member of the community and a gay person, she rejects the demand made by Young.

“It comes with no evidence of harm caused by any of these programs they’re hoping to eliminate.” Vogel called Young’s hold “a waste of time.”

“Nothing about cutting library services is good for kids,” she said.

A motion was made to move to a vote, but Caplette said he wasn’t satisfied that everyone had a chance to speak.

President of the Friends of JHPL Donna Englander said the money allocated in the budget goes to the Library building, its books and paying for its staff. It does not go toward programs such as the one Young was protesting against.

The Friends offered 201 programs that addressed as many people in the community as possible and she encouraged people to join the group and support programming.

Article 7 was moved to question, and the Library’s budget passed 320 to 23.

Board of Health increase

Another hold was placed on Article 7, relating to the Board of Health’s salaries and wages line item.

Board of Health Chair Linda Cocalis moved to increase the line item by \$11,000 from free cash, to pay for an additional 10 hours of administrative support.

This would bring the new total up to \$39,405.

Finance Committee Chair Kevin Smith said they only have \$8,000 remaining in free cash before they reach their tax levy limit.

“It’s just not possible to do... you can’t have \$11,000. The best we can give you is \$8,000,” Smith said.

Cocalis amended her motion to increase the line item by \$8,000.

Grimm said there are four departments in need of additional administrative help and there is a position built into her budget for a full-time administrative assistant that can assist any department. They can take messages, help draft letters, etc.

Grimm said she is not in favor of the increase, because she doesn’t want to pick and choose which departments get additional help.

A resident who is a retired human resources professional said she was uncomfortable with increasing hours in this type of forum.

“Additional head count always means additional cost down the road,” she said.

Cocalis said for 10 years, the Board of Health hasn’t asked for additional help, and most of the other departments are already at 35 hours.

“The responsibilities of our Board of Health have increased tremendously,” she said.

Voters approved the \$8,000 increase by a vote of 262 to 80.

Turner’s Field fencing

Voters approved \$697,460 to fund various capital improvements, including \$35,840 for fencing at Turner’s Field.

The athletic field is used for ages 14 and up, and is also used by 11 adult baseball teams in addition to youth sports. The outfield has to be used as a multipurpose field.

Recreation Director Annie Roscioli said this is the final renovation needed for Turner’s Field.

Town meeting date

Voters approved changes to the town’s charter, including moving the annual town meeting day from the first Monday in June to the last week in April.

Other articles and STM

All other motions on the remaining articles passed, including for the special town meeting, which was held following the adjournment of the annual town meeting.



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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.

The Joy of Beans Coffee Shop grand opening June 10

WEST BROOKFIELD – Joy Hinton, owner of The Joy of Beans, 12 East Main St., announces the official grand opening of her coffee shop and outdoor cafe on Saturday, June 10 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Hinton roasts over 30 different coffees from 23 countries, mostly sourced from female owned coffee farms; organic, rainforest, fair trade and fair trade organic. Hinton

pairs her coffee with local Farmers Market bakers Turnabout Farm, The Bread Box Company, Brynne’s Bread, Kate’s Bakes and also from On The Rise in Worcester.

In addition to hot coffee, Hinton sells cold drinks and plans to increase the menu selection as time goes on. She will also be selling ice cream for the 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.

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- community -

Artists paint the ‘Colors of Nature’

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WEST BROOKFIELD – For artists Joanne Talbot Quinn and Vanessa Varjian, there is no greater beauty to be captured on canvas than the great outdoors.

At their opening reception for “Colors of Nature” held last Friday at West Brookfield Art & Frame, both painters displayed a number of works they’ve created featuring scenes from near and far.

Talbot Quinn has been creating artwork for about 65 years, ranging from oils to pastels. She has also taught art and photography in area schools.

A resident of Princeton, Talbot Quinn lives near an old farm road that leads into the wetlands, where beavers have made their homes.

“I did a series of beaver lodges at the end of my road during COVID,” she said, which are featured in “Colors of Nature.”

When she’s not painting near her home, Talbot Quinn enjoys summers on Cape Cod, where the rich blue tones of the ocean accentuate the aqua covers on nearby sailboats resting on the shore.

Talbot Quinn said she just recently returned from a painting trip at the Marie Joseph Spiritual Center in Biddford, Maine with several other artists.

Outdoor sessions of painting were divided by meals and culminated with evening critiques.

Talbot Quinn said she usually paints local scenes, including the split rock at the Rock House, East Quabbin Land Trust preserves, and more.

Doing a show alongside Varjian was a natural decision for Talbot Quinn, who added that the two met at a previous show at West Brookfield Art & Frame.

Like Talbot Quinn, Varjian is a “plein air” painter, and loves to paint outside surrounded by her subject.

Varjian has recently moved to Brookfield after living near Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary in Worcester for some time.

She’s been painting since she was 3 years old, and said her paintings are her “heart.”

Drawn to trees, water and flowers, Varjian likes to focus her paintings (which are mix of acrylic layered with oil paints), on filtered, small areas.

“It’s always that kind of portal...filtered light,” Varjian said.

Varjian also displayed handmade rubber stamps that initially started as a thoughtful birthday gift she made for a child.

After she made one, she found herself making more and more.

“I was hooked,” she said.

“Colors of Nature” will be on display at West Brookfield Art & Frame, located at 10 East Main St. through the month of June.

Gallery hours are Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sundays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Other shows include “For the Love of Color” opening Sept. 8 with Susan Tilton Pecora and Cruger Johnson Phillips; “Lucky Girl” opening Oct. 13 with Jennifer Geldard; and “Small Works Show” opening Nov. 17 with all 22 gallery artists.

All opening receptions are held from 5-7 p.m. on their listed dates.

For more information about West Brookfield Art & Frame, or upcoming shows, follow them on Facebook, visit www.westbrookfieldartandframe.com, email yafacceber@hotmail.com, call 508-753-8604 or stop by during open hours.



Joanne Talbot Quinn stands with one of her oil paintings on display at the Colors of Nature exhibition at West Brookfield Art & Frame. (TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE)



Vanessa Varjian is shown with one of her favorite paintings she created with acrylic and oil paints.



Vanessa Varjian’s paintings are known for their rich colors.



Joanne Talbot Quinn often paints scenes from her backyard, but traveled to West Brookfield to paint this one.

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- opinion -



A dogwood worthy of admiration

The Chinese dogwood in my backyard is in bloom and boy, is it pretty!

Although the holly is trying to take over height-wise, the dogwood is holding its own and beckoning for all to admire. Creamy white bracts (mistakenly called flowers) seem to hover over its glossy green leaves in a way few other trees are capable.

It is as if the branches unfold before you, saying "here, look at me!"

Unlike other favorites in the landscape, the Chinese dogwood doesn't fade into the background once it has finished flowering; this plant has something to offer in every season.

Cornus kousa blooms just about a month later than our native flowering dogwood, Cornus florida. Unlike C. florida, Chinese dogwood sets its bracts after it has fully leafed out, and at a time when there is a bit of a lull in the flowering tree and shrub department.

Bracts can vary in size from one to three inches long depending on cultivar, and can be narrow or quite broad. Some can be more of a pure white than a creamy white- these can tend to turn pink with age.

The plants true flowers are barely noticeable, only about a half-inch wide, set in the center of the four bracts. Flowers last for several weeks, much longer than those of the flowering dogwood.

As the flowers fade into the background, the fruit set provides another season of interest. It is faceted, much like a raspberry, and can be red, orange-red or even pink toned.

About an inch in diameter and hanging from two-inch stems, it is quite showy in its own right when plentiful. Fruit can last up to two months.

Foliage, as mentioned, is glossy green during the growing season. Some pink-bracted cultivars have red veins or petioles, adding to the overall interest of the plant.

Fall foliage color is sketchy, sometimes it can be radiant, offering up shades of red, orange and purple; other times it is dull. Brilliance or blarney all depend on the cultivar chosen and the weather.

Inquire at purchase about the particular attributes of the cultivar you've lugged to the check-out: Is it known for its fall color, long bloom-time, vase-shape, etc.? Or better yet, do a quick search on your phone before the work out, just to be sure you get what will do your landscape the most justice!

Once leaves have fallen, the bark of the Chinese dogwood becomes quite interesting when viewed close-up, especially on older trees. Where the bark has begun to exfoliate, gray, copper and sometimes olive tones appear on the trunk and older branches.

I must pay closer attention to this during the off season.

Plant Cornus kousa in moist, acidic, well-drained soil with lots of organic matter. With that said, the plant can adapt to most soils providing they are not overly waterlogged or droughty.

Plants grown in full sun usually flower the heaviest, but part shade, like the conditions in my yard, puts on fine growth as well.

If the Chinese dogwood appeals to you and you'd also like to learn more about other members of the genus Cornus, consult "Dogwoods" by Paul Cappiello and Don Shadow

Last day of school quiz...(match the faces)

- a. Teacher
- b. Principal
- c. Janitor
- d. Student
- e. Mom
- f. Bus driver



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Sandhill crane

I received an email from an Oakham resident last week, who had "three very raucous sandhill cranes" fly past his house, heading northeast.

He said he went to a web site to verify their call and he included the link in his email. To hear sandhill cranes visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DYnH19MqkE0>.

The sandhill crane is a 45-inch-tall, heron-like bird. It is gray with a dark red patch on its forehead and a black bill.

Some feathers on the back and wings are rusty-colored, possibly due to staining while preening from iron rich mud on its bill. They feed by picking or probing with the bill and eating weeds, agricultural grains and small animals.

A pair of sandhill cranes have nested in Hardwick for several years and successfully raised young. The cranes the Oakham resident heard flying over might be those.

The sandhill crane makes a mound like nest of arch plants, grasses and weeds placed on the ground or in shallow water. The female lays one to three olive eggs with dark marks.

Their call is a low pitched "karoooo, karoooo karoooo." Courtship displays are often seen during migration and involve graceful jumps off the ground in a dance like manner.

Years ago, a Barre resident saw a pair doing their courtship antics while they were in a field in Barre. This was years before the nesting pair appeared in Hardwick, so I assume they were in route to their summer breeding grounds further north.

Sandhill cranes form huge flocks in winter and during migration. They are often seen in agricultural fields and roost at night in the center of shallow lakes or large shallow rivers.

Nesting bluebirds

An Oakham resident said she has nesting bluebirds again this year. She said usually the bluebirds and swallows squabble over the nest box, but she has not seen the swallows this year.

She was wondering if anyone else had seen swallows.

I have seen them in my hayfield and I also saw some flying over Long Pond in Rutland.



Nesting ospreys

I received another email this week about the nesting pair of ospreys in Wilbraham. He said the pair were on or near the nest.

If the eggs hatched, the young were too small to be seen. He will make a return trip later.

In a previous column he said for anyone wanting to go see this nest the best place to view the nest is from the Wilbraham Senior Center parking lot and park on the side of the lot facing the playing fields. There are stick nests on three light poles.

Hummingbirds

An Oakham couple reported lots of hummingbirds at their feeder. They keep busy filling the nectar feeders.

People may make their own nectar by adding 1/4 cup white sugar to 1 cup water and bring to a boil. I make extra nectar, which I keep in the refrigerator.

It will keep up to a week, but I am refilling every two to three days, so it never gets past the one week mark.

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

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Quaboag Current Newspaper

Chimes ring out at Walker Memorial

By Paula Ouimette
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NORTH BROOKFIELD – For countless years, the carillon chimes at the Walker Scouting Memorial in Walnut Grove Cemetery have been silent.

But this past Saturday, those chimes rang out during the Walker Scout/Scouter Memorial Service, thanks to a successful campaign started last year to raise funds to repair them, spearheaded by Walker Memorial Committee member Joe Klimavich.

“Today we dedicate the carillon chimes to the memory of Norman Walker, a humble chicken farmer,” Klimavich said.

Walker created the Ronald E. Walker Scouting Memorial and Walker Memorial Garden 53 years ago in memory of his son, who died at a young age from kidney disease.

Walker and his son shared a love of Scouting and Ron had been an active member of Troop 128, chartered to St. Joseph’s Church.

Every year since 1970, the Heart of New England Council of the Boy Scouts of America gathers on the Saturday after Memorial Day to honor the departed members of the Scouting community.

Now fully restored, the carillon chimes will again sound at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., as well as anytime someone enters the circle. The chimes will also play Taps at 7 p.m. each night.

“More than 700 hymns and patriotic songs are built into the system,” Klimavich said. “A year ago today, we made a commitment to restore the chimes, and with tremendous community support, we have fulfilled that pledge.”

Over 100 people donated to the fundraiser; ensuring that once again, the chimes would play just as Walker intended them to.

Klimavich recognized several people who helped to make this restoration possible, including Brookfield electrician Joel Berthiaume and his crew for their dedication and expertise in installing the electrical system the carillon chimes, the laser mechanism, and new spotlights on the memorial and flagpole.

He also thanked Jeff Bezdek and the team at Vox Audio Visual/Bells of America for their design and technical support; as well as Jeff Tasse of Tasse Oil and Crowley Fuel whose generous matching gift in honor of Bob LaFlamme and Crowley Fuel’s 100th anniversary helped meet and surpass the fundraising goal.

Klimavich thanked the Walnut Grove Cemetery Commissioners Kirk Burnham, Jason Petraitis, and Mary Kularski for their assistance and cooperation.

Lisa Giguere Berthiaume, for her early encouragement and support; Ed Bemis of Bemis Farms Nursery for his guidance and generous support with the new plantings; and Carl “Skip” Nielsen for his help in planting the new shrubbery and perennials.

Klimavich also thanked the Walker Scouting Memorial Committee for their unwavering support of the carillon chimes project and their commitment to preserving this annual tradition.

Walker Memorial Coordinator and master of ceremonies for the event, John Ebersold, thanked Klimavich for his work to make this happen and bring this dream to fruition.

Chaplain Tim Josti Jr. said he had consid-

ered changing his words this year, but as one of his good friends was on the memorial roll call, he knew he could not.

“I like to think of this as a campfire...the Cubs are sparks, the fuel is the rest of us keeping it going...but the coals are the best part,” he said.

Josti explained that the coals were the best for cooking or roasting a marshmallow, and how with stirring, they could reignite the fire. Those they were honoring today, had become the coals.

“Look into the coals; roast a marshmallow and remember the sweet time we had together.

Ebersold and Michelle McCrillis of the Walker Memorial Committee, read the names of those that passed since last year’s memorial.

Included on the list was Eagle Scout Andrew McCrillis, the son of Michelle and Paul.

Ebersold said, “I had the pleasure of being his Scoutmaster for many years.”

He spoke about Andrew’s 20 plus-year dedication to his job as an EMT/firefighter in East Brookfield and how he will long be remembered for the twinkle in his eye and sense of humor.

North Brookfield resident Allen Comptois and Brookfield resident Jesse Fimian were also called.

Fimian was a cadet at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs at the time of this passing and was a former Scout with Sturbridge Troop 161.

Joseph Fitzgerald of Warren was also remembered as a longtime Scouter with both Pack and Troop 142.

From Sturbridge, A. Robert “Bob” Mandeville, grandfather to two Eagle Scouts; Daniel Sharkey; and James Sutter were also called.

Ronald Marsh of Rutland, an Eagle Scout, served as Scoutmaster for Troop 141 and also served on the Troop Committee.

Other names called include Ryan Anderson of Millbury, Clarence Bachand of Charlton, Elva Blake of Charlton, Donald Carter of Leominster, Richard Cole Jr. of Millbury, David Dill of Holden, Richard “Dick” Flynn of Worcester, MaryAnn Gallagher of Worcester, Michael Gerry of Gardner, Rev. Dr. Paul Kennedy of Worcester, Robert Kimball of Southbridge, Eugene MacKay of Oxford, Kathy MacMillan of Spencer, Joseph “Bill” Marco of Oxford, Robert Mayo of Rochdale, E.W. “Pete” Petterson of Worcester, James Parker Rice Jr. of Fitchburg, Marcos Rios of Southbridge and Pauline Talisman of Southbridge.

After the names were read, Ebersold led the service in singing “Amazing Grace” while he played his guitar.

“All of these individuals being honored today and those we have recognized over the years are bound by a common thread involving their commitment to service to others,” Ebersold said. “We thank them for their service.”



Scouts from North Brookfield Troop 257 lower the American flag to half-staff behind the newly restored carillon chimes at the Walker Scouting Memorial in Walnut Grove Cemetery, North Brookfield. (TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE)



Walker Memorial Committee member Robert LaFlamme adds a ribbon to the Troop's flag.



Scouts and Cub Scouts march toward the Walker Scouting Memorial in Walnut Grove Cemetery.



Scouts from Sturbridge Troop 163 joined others from the Heart of New England Council.





Saturday, June 10th ~ 8pm-11pm
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Upcoming Events

Saturday, June 24th
7pm-11pm
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5:30pm • All Welcome

- community -

Aaron's Race day entering final lap

BELCHERTOWN – The second Aaron's Race Family Event being held Saturday, June 17 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., on the Common, is entering its final lap of preparations.

Building upon last year's inaugural launch to provide help and information as to preventing teen suicide, the day's program offers families a day of fun from the race to the SUPER Raffle, to the booths and demonstrations, and much more.

While much of the race day activities will take place on the Common, the actual Pinewood Derby race takes place in Old Town Hall; and will be held rain or shine.

However, the turn out for the race needs more enthusiastic racers. If you have a Pinewood Derby car

from years past, you can enter it the race.

In addition to the Pinewood Derby Car Race, the Belchertown Lion's Club will offer food for purchase and the Ice Cream Emergency Truck will offer frozen sweet treats. Other attractions and vendors include TJ's Gourmet Popcorn, SUPER Raffle tables, magic show, cotton candy, balloon animals, face painting by Carrie, henna tattoos by K's Body Art, two Western Mass Pinball games, UMass horse and motorcycle patrols and car show with C-10 Trucks and GTO's.

The Belchertown Fire Department will also have a "Touch a Truck" event on the Common.

The Aaron's Race brochure contains an application inside and is found at locations around Belchertown.

If you can't find one around town, the application is also shared on Facebook at Aaron's Race 01007. This site is updated daily for the race, SUPER Raffle, car show, mental health booths with informational help as to Teen Suicide, and other day long activities.

Everything has been thought out, planned, and now AR 01007's volunteers are hoping for a bigger crowd to come and enjoy the day before Father's Day.



Aaron's Pinewood Derby & Family Fun Day!

SAVE THE DATE:
Saturday, June 17th from 10-4
on the Belchertown Common & Old Town Hall.

Aaron's Race Family event seeks participants in the Pinewood Derby Car Race at its event on Saturday, June 17 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (COURTESY IMAGE)

Donations and sponsorships appreciated by mailing checks to Aaron's Race 01007, P.O. Box 517, Belchertown, MA 01007 or through Cash App.

Town wide yard sale is June 10

NEW BRAINTREE – The first ever New Braintree Town Wide Yard Sale will be held rain or shine this Saturday, June 10 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. with maps available for free at the New Braintree Grade School at 8:30 a.m. the morning of the event.

Sponsored by the Quabbin Post Grad Program, any and all proceeds from the yard sale will be used to help with field trips, educational support and enhancement. Mark the date to stop by the school for a map, shopping, food and fun as students and staff will be on hand to help oversee the operations of this worthwhile event.

For more information, please email aroy@qrsd.org, gdevine@qrsd.org or call 978-434-1751.

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.

Jamie Blash joins EXIT Realty in Spencer

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

"We're excited to welcome Jamie to EXIT Realty," says Michelle Terry, broker and owner of EXIT Real Estate Executives. "EXIT is growing and attracting quality businesspeople like Jamie each and every day."

Blash is a third-generation farmer and horse trainer. She's turned her passion for horses into a large successful network within the equestrian industry.

Blash was born and raised in central Massachusetts and has professional experience in the mortgage, finance and sales industry.

As a realtor and have bought and renovated several properties. Future clients will be immediately attracted to her magnetic personality and her incredible work ethic.

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

A portion of every transaction fee received by EXIT Realty Corp. International is applied to its charitable fund, and to date \$7 million has been allocated to charity. For more information, please visit www.exitrealty.com.

Community Newspaper EDITOR WANTED

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.

This is a job for a self-starter who has a vision for growing and connecting with our valued readers, and who thoroughly enjoys community journalism.

This full-time position with flexible schedule is based in our Palmer office at 24 Water St., this is not a remote position.

Qualifications should include:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience
- Willingness to mentor a staff writer and correspondents
- Editing experience and ability to write clean copy in a fast-paced, deadline-driven environment
- Proficiency in Associated Press style
- Management experience and/or experience managing content for a print publication.

Please send resume and writing examples to:

Eileen Kennedy, Executive Editor
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
or email directly to ekennedy@turley.com

GARDEN | FROM PAGE 4

(Timber Press \$39.95). This book is a great reference, especially informative regarding the numerous cultivars in the nursery trade today.

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.

JOB OPENING

STAFF WRITER

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.

Experience in covering town government is a huge plus, and any experience in community journalism is as well. Staff writers cover all aspects of communities from features to municipal meetings to crimes and fires. Successful candidates must have people skills, plenty of curiosity and able to tell a story.

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:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience
- A determination to get the story, whatever it might be
- Equally comfortable writing hard news, features and event coverage
- Ability to write clean copy in a fast-paced, deadline-driven environment
- 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

Turley
Publications, Inc.
www.turley.com

Eileen Kennedy, Executive Editor
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
or email directly to ekennedy@turley.com



Brookfield Orchards
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508-867-6858

2 FUN DATES

June 17th • July 15th
8am-2pm

We are having a Flea Market!
Stop by anytime during the day and find some junk you can turn into treasure!

To participate in this event please show up between 6:30 and 7:30 get your spot and unload your items! This is a Flea Market for used items only. Brookfield Orchards will be renting spaces in their parking lot for this event for \$20 to be paid upon arrival. You must bring all your own tables.

NORTH BROOKFIELD | FROM PAGE 1

The Class of 2023 consisted of Aiden Brunelle, Sophia Hearnlaye, Matthew Adams, Ty Babineau, Zoe Cataldo, Kyle Connor, Madden Gower, Caleb Legasey, Emma LaMontagne, Connor McCormick, Connor Morse, Sarahi Rodriguez, Jadriana Valcancell and Brendan White.

With a graduating class of only 14 students, their peers were more like siblings. When the time came for graduates to toss their caps, many laughs were shared by the small bridge in front of the High School.

Thankfully, the rainy weather respected the importance of this moment and decided to clear up just in time for the caps to be tossed.

Math teacher, Megan Hanson, said, "I've known them since they were in seventh grade, I started here when they did, so watching them graduate is a bit emotional, I'm very proud of them."

Jillian Montville, the proud mother of Valedictorian Aiden Brunelle said, "I'm very proud of him! He's going to be pursuing a career in nursing at Worcester State University."

Brunelle has been described as a hard worker, mentors say that he's come really far since Middle School.

Brunelle's friends cheered for both him and Babineau, as they claimed scholarship after scholarship. Their energy lightened the mood and made for a laid back ceremony.

Babineau graduated as the fourth ranked scholar in his class, he served as the Vice President of his class and received scholarships for both his academic and athletic excellence.

Recipients of the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship included Brunelle, Cassandra Callisear, Brendan White, Ty Babineau, Sophia Hearnlaye and

Sarahi Rodriguez.

These students are academic powerhouses, Each one of them received a good handful of scholarships.

Hearnlaye, the Salutatorian, received upwards of 10 scholarships.

She said, "This was a life changing experience, all of my hard work over the past four years has been so worth it, hard work pays off! Those are my words of wisdom."

Roderiguez, the Secretary of her class, said, "I just want to congratulate all of my classmates and honor my teachers, especially our Counselor, Mrs. Pellissier. She was the biggest supporter and helper to our class this year." Roderiguez had her very own cheerleaders, many of her family members attended the ceremony to cheer her on.

As for the formal part of the ceremony, it opened with the "Pomp and Circumstance" which is when all audience members rose to welcome the graduates as they enter. The class was led by Class Marshalls.

Before standing for the National Anthem, Emma LaMontagne led students, teachers and attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance. Then Principal, Dr. John Gould, welcomed and thanked everyone for coming, with a brief speech, he then invited students who had prepared speeches to the podium.

Each of the top four scholars took advantage of their chance to say a few words, in order from Fourth Ranked Scholar to Valedictorian is Babineau, Adams, Hearnlaye and Brunelle. Each of the four dedicated nothing but positive words to summarize their nostalgic high school experience, some also explained plans for their bright future.

Ronald Ryel, School Committee chair, congratulated each student and commended them for their hard work. Gould handed out numerous awards to the soon-to-be alumni.

The school will never forget this once in a lifetime collection of personalities, they are kind, hardworking, intelligent and will go far.

Superintendent Tim McCormick



The class of 2023 tossing their graduation caps. (TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY MATTY ANDERSON)



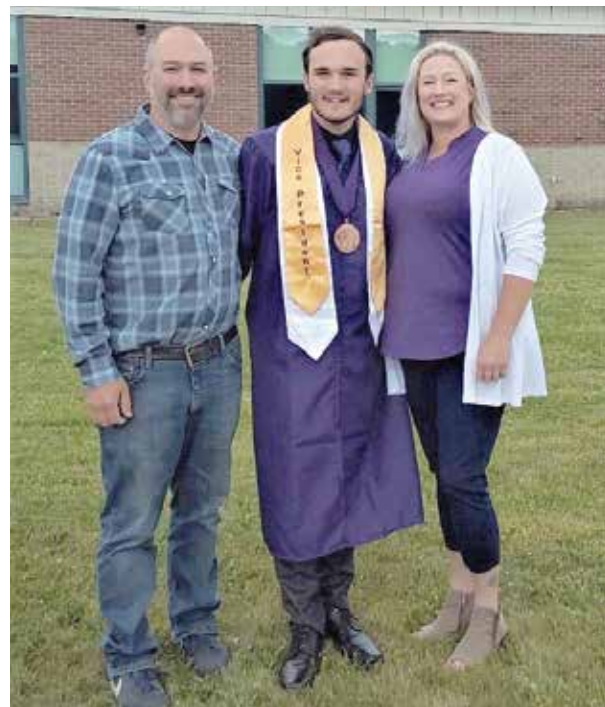
Sarahi Rodriguez poses for a photo with her family. (TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MATTY ANDERSON)



Valedictorian Aiden Brunelle and his mother Jillian Montville. (TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MATTY ANDERSON)



Class of 2023 taking the stage. (TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MATTY ANDERSON)



Ty Babineau and his family. (PHOTO SUBMITTED BY NICOLE OLIVER)

certified each graduate before Gould distributed their diplomas.

The bond forged in this could never

be broken, as the students go their separate ways it will likely be more of a "see you later" than "goodbye."

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

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QUABOAG | FROM PAGE 1



Class Historian Elizabeth Czaja gave the welcoming address. (TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY PAULA QUIMETTE)

Principal and incoming Superintendent Stephen Duff. “Some of us have had the privilege of growing with you,” she said to Duff. “It is definitely bittersweet.” Morgan said the past six years have flown by, just as Duff said they would. She spoke about their artwork on the walls of the school and how they always have their roots here. “We are all tied back here,” Morgan said. She reminded students to think of the legacy they will leave behind and to never regret a day in their lives. “There’ll be bad days and good days,” Morgan said, but all of those days are part of their legacies. Duff said he has been a part of this class’s sixth grade and eighth grade graduations; and now their final graduation in the Quaboag Regional School District.



Julien Compher looks back at his classmates as he finishes his high school journey.

“It has been such a pleasure to see this class grow,” he said. Duff said this class was one of the most competitive classes the school has seen, in all areas: academics, athletics, arts and community involvement. The students have worked together and relied on each other for support. “You have found ways to lift each other up during difficult times,” he said.



Serenity Kauppila proudly wears her honors cords and stole.



Adrik Matys looks out at the audience.

Keynote speaker Tyler Shepard is both a history teacher at Quaboag, and an alumni of the Class of 2009.

Shepard said he was “honored and humbled” to give his speech to the class, and to usher them into the next chapter of their stories.

He said the students drive him to be a better teacher each day, a role he didn’t see himself in when he was in their shoes as a graduate.

He now considers being a teacher his greatest accomplishment.

A 10th generation farmer, Shepard is also the first generation to earn a Bachelor’s degree.

Shepard decided to become a teacher after substituting in Joe Salvadore’s class on his 23rd birthday. By the 2017-2018 school year, he was teaching his own class.

That first class is now the Class of 2023. “This group of students put in the work,” Shepard said. “We are all rooting for you.”

Class Valedictorian Bryan Para said he thought of many things he could say in his speech (few appropriate for the intended audience), but decided to stick to the script.

“This will be another generic graduation speech,” he said wryly.

Para echoed the words of his classmate Julien Compher’s favorite band Weezer’s iconic 1994 hit, “Undone – The Sweater Song”.

“It go...it gone...bye bye,” he said to his classmates of their high school years.

Class Salutatorian Cody Perron was next to speak, saying it wasn’t an easy road to get here, but he wouldn’t want it to be.

“If you’re thinking about doing something, just do it,” he said.

Perron and Class Secretary Chase Potvin presented the class gift, which completed a project to install a digital sign that was started by the Class of 2021 and Class of 2022.

Music was provided by the Quaboag Regional Saxophone Ensemble and the Quaboag Singers.

Interim Superintendent Maureen Binienda told the students that each one of them can contribute to positive change in the world and continue to make it a caring place.

Quaboag gives a “feeling of home and family,” she said, to both the students and faculty, but also to the community.

Binienda read the lyrics of her favorite Lee Ann Womack song, “I Hope You Dance”, saying she hoped the students would never lose their sense of wonder, and never take a single breath for granted.

But most importantly she said, never give up.



Angelina Paradis and Wylliam Pennington-Russell get ready to enter the gymnasium for graduation this past Saturday.



Students turn their tassels.



The keynote speaker was Quaboag teacher and alumni Tyler Shepard.



Hayley-Marie Southwick gets ready to accept her diploma.



Ryan Stearns waves to his family members.



Ryan Wilson gives “two thumbs up” to graduating.



Principal and incoming Superintendent Stephen Duff addresses the Class of 2023.

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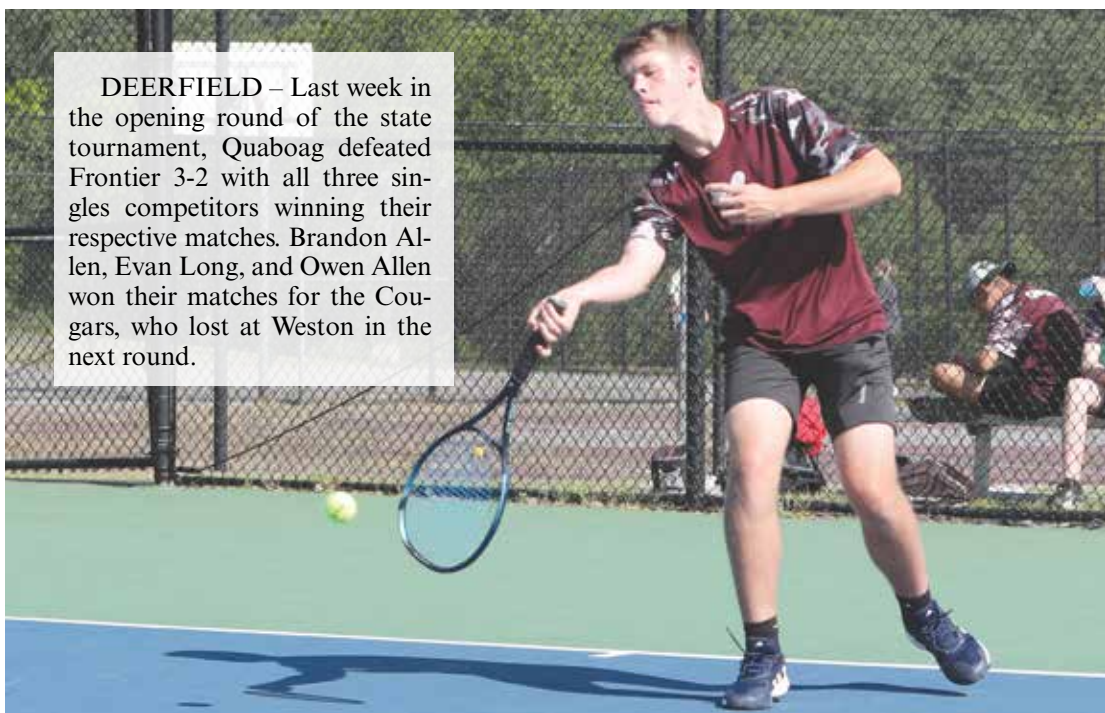
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SPORTS

Singles competitors lead Cougars

DEERFIELD – Last week in the opening round of the state tournament, Quaboag defeated Frontier 3-2 with all three singles competitors winning their respective matches. Brandon Allen, Evan Long, and Owen Allen won their matches for the Cougars, who lost at Weston in the next round.



Senior Co-Captain Brandon Allen returns this shot with a low forehand. PHOTOS BY JACK CASCIO NEAPSMUGMUG.COM



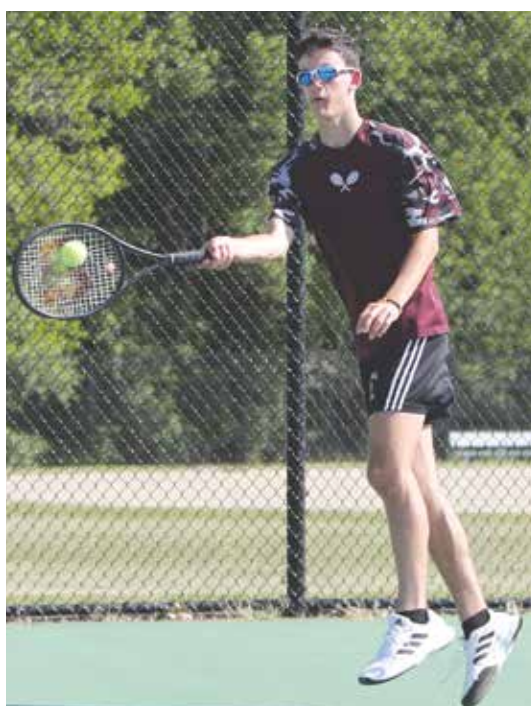
Senior Gabe Paquette makes good contact with his swing.



Junior Owen Allen hits a nice serve with great eye concentration. Owen won the decisive point in a second set 10-8 tie-breaker.



Junior Dylan Piazzo frames a picture of concentration.



Junior Co-Captain Evan Long puts some power into this forehand.

Pioneers fall in opening round of state tournament

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER—Whether it was on the gridiron, the hardwood, or the baseball diamond, Andrew Roman always competed very hard every time that he put on a Pathfinder uniform.

On June 1, 2017, Roman tossed a two-hitter leading the Pioneers baseball team to a 1-0 win at Turners Falls in a Western Mass. Division 4 first round game. It wound up being the final victory of Roman's brilliant high school baseball career.

See PIONEERS | PAGE 10



Brayden Mega slings a pitch to the plate for the Pioneers. PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Panthers find way into tournament

BARRE – Despite a rough season at 3-14, the Quabbin Regional High School softball team was among the top 32 teams to qualify for the Division 4 State Tournament, based on the power rankings system

used to determine tournament teams. The Panthers would face Tyngsborough in the opening round of the tournament on Monday, falling 15-0. The Panther's season ends with a 3-15 record overall.



Abigail Rogowski stretches for the out. PHOTOS BY RAY DUFFY



Sydney Giorgi pitches for the Panthers during the season.



Lianna Leger talks with her coach after a base hit.

- sports -

Western Mass. battles to draw

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Joao Bernardo has been the public address announcer at historic Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow for many years.

While Bernardo announced his normal messages to the crowd during last Saturday night's USL League Two match-up between the Black Rock FC and the Western Mass. Pioneers, he didn't make his famous goal call. The contest, which was played on a fall like evening, ended in a scoreless draw.

"We had 22 shots on goal in tonight's match, but we couldn't put any of them into the net," said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. "We always want to win every game that we play, especially at home."

It has been more than seven years since the Pioneers (3-0-2) played a 0-0 match at Lusitano Stadium. They have played three scoreless road draws since 2018. The last one was two years ago against Black Rock FC, who currently play their home matches at Colby-Sawyer College in New London, New Hampshire.

During the past several years, Black Rock has played home matches at MCLA in North Adams and at Applejack Stadium in Manchester Center, Vermont.

The Pioneers outscored their first four opponents, 17-2. They scored ten of those goals in a 10-1 road victory against Boston City FC on May 30.

"We weren't really tested in our last game," said Pioneers starting defender Conor Hicks, who's from Monson. "We hit the post or crossbar at least four or five times in tonight's game. The ball just didn't bounce our way and it's a very tough result. We still haven't lost a match yet so far this season."

Hicks, who's one of the Pioneers veteran players, missed the season opening road match against the Boston Bolts, which was a 3-0 win, with an injury. He played the final 45 minutes in the home opener versus Pathfinder FC, which was also a 3-0 victory, before starting the past three matches.

Western Mass. first-year goalie Gi-

anluca Cersosimo only had to make two saves against Black Rock to record his third shutout of the season.

The last time that Black Rock (1-1-2) celebrated a victory at Lusitano Stadium was during the 2018 regular season.

"We just wanted to contain their high power offense in tonight's match," said Black Rock head coach Jon Moodey. "They have the top goal scorer in the league, and we were looking to keep the game close. We did have a couple of scoring chances late in the second half. We do have a lot of respect for them."

Alec Hughes, who's a member of the UMass men's soccer team, leads the Pioneers with seven goals.

Hughes had four shots on goal during the first 45 minutes against Black Rock.

During the 24th minute, Hughes, who's a first year Western Mass. player, blasted a shot that was saved by Black Rock goalie Pablo Costa (22 saves), who's from Brazil.

"Their goalie played fantastic," Molinari said. "He kept his team in the game."

About five minutes later, Pioneers captain Nicholas Oberrauch, who celebrated his 24th birthday on Monday, fired a laser shot, which Costa deflected over the endline resulting in a corner kick.

With a little more than ten minutes remaining in the opening half, Black Rock's Jaland Laramond had a wide open shot attempt, but the ball was cleared away by Connor Bagdon before crossing the line.

The trio of Khalid Rose, Laurie Goddard, and Augustine Boadi had shots on goals for the Pioneers in the first half.

During a ceremony held at halftime, the Lusitano Alumni and Fans (LAF) committee presented scholarships to Cassie Pendleton, who graduated from Ware High School, and Kyle Girouard, who graduated from Chicopee Comp.

The Pioneers had several more scoring opportunities during the second half, but they couldn't put the ball into the net past Costa.

There was seven minutes of stoppage time, but the contest was still scoreless when referee Fabio Cardoso blew his whistle for the final time.



Rodrigo Saraiva de Castro socks the ball away. PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Augustine Boadi tries to balance the ball.



Connor Hicks, of Monson, looks to pass.



Lawrence Goddard sends a corner kick away.

PIONEERS | FROM PAGE 9

On the same date six years later, the 32nd-seeded Pioneers lost to 33rd-seeded South Shore Voc-Tech, 18-0 in a Division 5 state tournament preliminary round game on a hot afternoon at St. Joe's Park.

"We just didn't compete in today's game," said Pathfinder head coach Paul Bouthiller. "We beat Drury (2-1) on the road in the Western Mass. Class C tournament. Then we lost to Frontier (6-1) in the semifinals. We competed in those two games. It's no fun for anyone when we don't compete."

Prior to this season, the Pioneers (13-7) hadn't qualified for the postseason tournament since Roman was a member of the baseball team. After playing four seasons at Salve Regina University, Roman was the closer on the Boston College baseball team this spring. The Eagles played in the NCAA Division 1 Regionals at Alabama, last weekend.

The only two seniors listed on this year's Pathfinder varsity baseball roster are Jesse Cygan, who hasn't played in a game since the middle of the regular season, and Austin Lagimoniere, who started in centerfield against South Shore.

The Vikings (15-6) had a 3-0 lead be-

fore the Pioneers batted for the first time in the bottom of the first inning. Their first run came home on a bunt hit by senior first baseman Jake McAleer. Then Pathfinder sophomore righthander Brayden Mega gave up a two-run single to junior leftfielder Riley Siereveld.

Mega, who gave up another run with two outs in the third, managed to keep his team within striking distance during the first five innings.

The Pathfinder offense wasted a scoring chance in bottom of the second inning.

Junior second baseman Miguel Velasquez began the Pioneers rally with a leadoff single down the leftfield line. Then Lagimoniere drew a walk on a 3-and-2 pitch thrown by Vikings sophomore righty Jake Starbird.

Both runners moved into scoring position following a sacrifice bunt by junior leftfielder Than Nompoggi.

The Pioneers rally ended very quickly, as Starbird struck out the next two batters. Starbird finished his outstanding performance on the mound with a total of 14 K's in 6 1/3 innings.

With two-outs in the fourth, Lagimoniere walked for the second time. He advanced to second base on a throw-



Hunter Griswold tries to field the in-between hop. PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Jarett Skowrya goes for the tag.

ing error before stealing third. He was stranded there as Starbird recorded his eighth strikeout of the game.

"We just kept looking for the perfect pitch," Bouthiller said. "Their starter is very good against us, but he wasn't the best we've faced this season."

The Vikings put the game out of reach after scoring 11 runs against a couple of relief pitchers in the sixth inning. That inning lasted 30 minutes longer due to a sun delay.

The visitors from Hanover scored

two more runs in the seventh inning.

"It's a very disappointing loss," Bouthiller said. "I don't think they're that much better than us. I hope our next game is important to everyone."

The Pioneers (13-7) season isn't over yet. They were scheduled to face Smith Vocational in the small school's vocational semifinal game on a day to be determined. The winner of that contest will face Old Colony Regional Vocational High School in the championship game.

TANTASQUA | FROM PAGE 1

a gathering to “celebrate the combination of our high school years.”

This year’s theme was inspired by the C.S. Lewis quote “you can’t go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending.”

“It is time to look ahead and remember what we leave behind,” said Chisholm.

On par with the event’s theme, the Tantasqua Choraleers sang “You are the New Day,” by David arranged by Knight, celebrating the beginning of the class’s journey after high school.

Class President, Kaitlynn Riley said, “I know the past four years have not been easy, but with perseverance we have made it through.”

Riley said that while COVID-19 pandemic affected the class’s high school experience, she called on C.S. Lewis to remind the class “you can’t change the beginning.”

Riley believes the class has proven they “are not only capable of dealing with adversity, but striving through it.”

Academic honor student Lilly Ehrhard welcomed the class to “the day we’ve all been talking about since day one,” adding that “after today, everything is going to change for all of us.”

While Ehrhard said she counted down the days until graduation, she has learned “going forward, we should never lose sight of the present.”

Ehrhard said she is “thankful for the protective bubble” being in high school with the class provided for her, as leaving it behind is bittersweet.

She added that although the class will no longer be spending time together “we don’t have to give up our positive mindset and spirit...there will be plenty more opportunities in the future.”

She advised the class to “be deliberate with your time.”

Technical honor student Sierra Murray also asked the class to consider the value of their time as they embark on the next chapter of their lives.

“Hard work is great - but not at the expense of your relationships,” said Murray.

She added “nothing will be more important than the relationships you have with others... nothing is guaranteed - have no regrets.”

As rain began lightly drizzling down on all attendees, Tantasqua Principal Leigh Joseph said she believed the rain was “tears from Heaven,” from those who were not able to make it to graduation.

She added two forget-me-nots were

planted two weeks prior to the ceremony in the same flower pot, which had merged to form one plant.

The plants were placed on a chair by the stage to symbolize two students who passed away and would have otherwise attended the June 3 commencement ceremony.

Following the Tantasqua concert band performance of the “Washington Post March”, Tantasqua School Committee Chairman Michael Valanzola gave a presentation speech.

Valanzola spoke to the class about the importance of perspective, sharing the story of former U.S. Marine Sergeant Johnny “Joey” Jones.

Jones, a former Explosive Ordnance Disposal technician, served in Afghanistan and experienced an injury resulting in the amputation of both legs from above the knee as well as other injuries.

Following the accident, Jones went on to obtain a bachelor’s degree from Georgetown University and shares his story to inspire others to continue pushing forward despite life’s challenges.

Valanzola said Jones’ emphasis on a positive perspective was critical in his recovery and his motivation.

“No matter how hard of a day you have - everything is a matter of perspective,” said Valanzola, adding Jones was “driven by a positive perspective.”

“Remember the way you make people smile... remember your academic achievements - you have so much to be proud of class 2023, yet so much more to achieve,” said Valanzola.

District Superintendent Deborah Boyd shared her hopes for the Class of 2023.

While many people claim high school is “the best years of [their] lives,” Boyd said she hopes “so much more,” for the class moving forward.

“I hope we gave you a few things to move forward with,” said Boyd.

Boyd asked the class to consider some of the obstacles they have, and have not, overcome throughout their high school experience.

“Over the next few days as you celebrate, look back and reflect on those obstacles...It’ll give you motivation to move forward,” said Boyd.

She added “by holding on to a few pieces of the beginning, we can move forward.”

Before the presentation of the diplomas, Joseph recognized a number of students who were not present as they have already left to join the United States Armed Forces to begin basic training.



Students are shown smiling and waving as the crowd cheers on the graduating class of 2023. (TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY DALLAS GAGNON)



A graduate is shown smiling as they make their way to their seat for the commencement ceremony.



A graduate is shown in her cap and gown.



A student smiles as they prepare for graduation.



A student is shown in graduation attire, ready to receive their diploma.



Students walk across the Tantasqua school track for the last time as students.



The graduating class walks in front of the bleachers as friends and family show support to the graduates.



Graduates walk with enthusiasm as they get ready to receive their diplomas.

QUABBIN | FROM PAGE 1

2023's spirit or the enthusiasm of family members and friends attending.

Instead of marching out the front door of Quabbin Regional High School onto the front lawn of the school, they marched through a corridor into the gymnasium to their seats to "Pomp and Circumstance" by Edward Elgar. The Symphonic Winds under the direction of Toni Brown played this traditional graduation selection.

Leading the procession of soon to be Quabbin Regional High School graduates were the Naval Junior Reserve Officers Training Corp color guard, marshals Michael Tobin and Camryn Orsini, school administrators, faculty and Quabbin Regional School Committee members.

Senior class secretary Colin Brown led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Senior class president William Hood. He said, "Teachers have one of the most important jobs in the country" and requested a round of applause for them.

During her greeting, high school Principal Purnima Demorais said the graduates were entering the early chapter of their life journey. She reminded them to remember kindness, that hard work makes things happen and face adversity with calmness and love.

Valedictorian Darian Hulsart said, "We were in it together." She said, "Our class will make a profound mark." Following her speech, the Symphonic Winds including the almost graduates in the band, played "Arabian Dances" by Brian Balmages.

Abigail Ramsey and Summer Barringer were the two student speakers. Ramsey said she has been in the Quabbin Regional district, her whole life. She said she looked through old photos recently and she said really knew her senior class.

Barringer said she had immense gratitude for her journey these last 13 years. She said they belonged to Generation B and were different from other generations before them.

The Quabbin Singers sang "Ad Astra" by Jacob Narverud under the direction of Julia Tuttle. Quabbin Regional School District Superintendent Dr. Sheila Muir gave her last address to a Quabbin Regional High School graduating class as she will retire the end of this month.

She said, "45 years ago I was one of you."

She said she still had her Quabbin Regional High School diploma and it was on the wall in her office placed above her other degrees, a Bachelor's degree, two Master's degrees and a doctorate. She concluded, "This month both of us are leaving our Quabbin family."

She then performed her official duty of certifying the class had met all the requirements set by the Quabbin Regional School District School Committee and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

School Committee Chair Mark Brophy asked the Class of 2023 to stand and say to the person on the right and left, "You Did It." He said, "Be well manners, be a caring person, donating time and volunteering is a good thing."

Debra Chamberlain, school committee vice-chairman, awarded diplomas with Superintendent Muir. Class advisors, Regina Trumbell and Kathy Gardner, read the students names. Class president Hood was the first to receive his diploma.

After the handing out of diplomas to 123 graduated, Hood led his classmates in the moving of their tassels. Following tradition, the entire class tossed their mortar boards into the air. A few managed to get stuck in the rafters.

The class processed to "Fanfare and Recessional" by James D. Ployhar, played by the Symphonic Winds.



Johnathan Olson, from left, has his picture taken with Karen Lewis after the graduation ceremony.



Recent graduate Natalie Techera, middle, poses for an after graduation photo.



Valedictorian Darian Hulsart, from left and Salutatorian Casey Seem hold their diplomas.



Marshalls Camryn Orsini, from left and Michael Tobin process into the gym holding their batons.



Class President William Hood was the first to receive his diploma.



Olivia Bettencourt, from left, and Summer Barringer march into the gym during their graduation.



James Hernandez, from left, and Katherine McMenemy process into the high school gym during graduation at Quabbin Regional High School.



Savannah Cote, from left and Aspen Qualles are shown following their graduation.



Superintendent of Schools Sheila Muir, left and Joseph Wyman march into the Class of 2023 graduation held in the Quabbin High School gym Friday, June 2.



The Quabbin Naval Junior Reserve Officers Training Corp led the graduation procession. They are from left, Benjamin Metcalf, Jadyen Gonzalez, Hannah Wiggin and Brianna Caponigro.

- community -

Historic preservation plan is in the works for Sturbridge

By Ryan Drago
Correspondent

STURBRIDGE – A community meeting took place at the Town Hall to discuss the preparation of the town's Historic Preservation Plan and the essential recommendations for preservation activities undertaken with the Public Archaeology Laboratory.

The May 10 presentation was given by Gretchen Pineo, an architectural historian of the Public Archeology Lab.

Pineo began the discussion by explaining the central goal of the project, which is “to prepare a historical preservation plan that has actual meaningful things that you can have... that would help move preservation forward in Sturbridge. The vision of what the people in town want.”

Pineo said the plan is in line with what the town wants to preserve as essential historical pieces, locations, and buildings.

Part of the plan is to create a framework for implementing certain actions to take and how they can get completed. The project consists of a five-step process as Pineo explained.

The first step involves collecting background information. This includes collecting historical documentation in the town involved with plans put in place back when trails and old buildings in the town were built, torn down or rehabilitated.

“Getting a full picture of Sturbridge's

history,” Pineo said.

Step two would be to conduct historical background research. This step of the preservation plan analyzes inventory forms and historical photographs provided by digital resources, and documents provided by the collections gathered by town hall and the public library.

Pineo suggests applying this background research will give an “understanding of parts of Sturbridge that have not been already surveyed.”

The third step is applying a public survey. Pineo said a survey was recently made available to the public via Google forms and in hard copy.

One of the questions asked was about resources that are tied into what builds the town's historic character. Pineo pointed out the most popular answers were historic villages, corridors and stonewalls were considered most important.

For example, Town Common, The Publick House, Old Sturbridge Village, trails, cemeteries, and vintage buildings are answers in the public survey that were most popularly considered historically significant to Sturbridge.

Next, the plan intends to evaluate these findings and identify historic preservation issues. One of the issues brought up by Pineo is the “potential and actual loss of historic buildings.

One of those losses was the Worcester South Agricultural Society Exhibition Hall back in 2016. Their old space is now a CVS pharmacy.

One of the historical buildings currently at risk of being lost is the Fiskdale Upper Mill. These building examples are just part of ongoing preservation issues the town of Sturbridge could face.

Pineo suggests some of the ongoing issues can be due to volunteer shortages. “Sometimes it's hard to have enough volunteer hands to do all of the work that needs doing,” she said.

Sturbridge also has a lot of communication and coordination between departments and commissions to review many historic resources. “Sometimes it can be a little bit hard to get everybody talking to each other... so you've got the cemetery and you've got stonewalls and you've got historic trees and buildings and they're all overseen by different people,” she said.

Pineo is aware of how much wealth goes into the historic resources of Sturbridge and it is important for the people of the town to know what is offered and should acknowledge what should be preserved.

The final step of the preservation plan is to prepare final recommendations, including goals and policies to be adopted. The survey taken by many Sturbridge locals suggests they really take pride in their town's history.

“Value their preservation,” Pineo said.

She truly believes in the townsfolk admiring the architecture and historic resources that should be preserved. However, the resources associated with the recent past are more at risk of being

lost.

Pineo said these resources are most in need of documentation in order to be preserved. These resources can be buildings that are at least 50 years old, but less than 75-100 years old.

The recommendations in the plan are divided into four categories: Take an Inventory and Survey, National Register documentation, Education and Outreach, and Bylaws and Regulations.

Aside from these essential recommendations for the plan, Pineo insists on public engagement being one of the most important priorities in the plan.

There may be many people living in town that wish to share local stories. Some of these stories could involve knowing what people did during certain situations and locations.

“There is so much more to see and explore in Sturbridge,” Pineo said. “There's all these great stories that are lost, overlooked, forgotten... that shouldn't be.”

Some locals in attendance and town officials agreed with a lot of what Pineo's presentation had shown to build support for other historic places.

All agreed that keeping good communication and coordination with departments and commissions involved, “we should never be in a situation where something is taken down,” said one member of the community meeting.

The final plan will be posted online to the community page, and the Facebook page for all to view.

Democratic caucus to elect delegates is June 14

STURBRIDGE – Registered Democrats in Sturbridge will hold their annual Town Caucus beginning at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, June 14 at the Sturbridge Senior Center at 480 Main St., in Fiskdale.

The purpose of the caucus is to elect delegates and alternates to the 2023 Massachusetts Democratic State Convention which will be held on Saturday, Sept. 23 at the Tsongas Arena in Lowell. Democrats will come together to discuss the critical issues facing the people of the Commonwealth and set an agenda for the party in the year ahead.

Sturbridge can elect five delegates and four alternates to the Convention.

Youth, minorities, people with disabilities, and LGBTQ individuals who are not elected as a delegate or alternate may apply to be an add-on delegate at the caucus or at www.massdems.org.

The Sturbridge caucus is open to all registered Democrats in Sturbridge with provision for registering new Democrats at the event. Pre-registered Democrats who were 16 by May 23, 2023, are allowed to participate and run as a delegate or alternate.

Those interested in getting involved with the Sturbridge Democratic Town Committee should contact Chair David Mitchell at Waterfront2828@gmail.com.

EQLT seeks Youth Education Coordinator

HARDWICK – East Quabbin Land Trust is interviewing candidates for a Youth Education Coordinator.

The YEC will engage with the Executive Director to manage volunteers on community service projects, educate or train individuals in environmental stewardship or environmentally conscious practices, and complete three capacity building projects.

“I think back to my service year with the East Quabbin Land Trust as a defining time, shaping my career, ambition, and confidence all at once,” said Louisa Rossell, former YEC at EQLT. “I learned that facilitating youth connection to the Earth can be done in a multitude of ways. I was given the space, resources, and community connection to dream big and create spaces for nature-inspired mindfulness, storytelling, and garden education. As I move forward in my farm education career, the lessons, hands-on skills, and self-assuredness I developed during my time at

EQLT will continue to guide my way.”

YECs are encouraged to bring their own passions, skills and experiences to this year of service and develop capacity building projects of their own.

Applications for this position must be submitted via the TerraCorps online application. The position description for the East Quabbin Land Trust's Youth Education Coordinator can be found at terracorps.org/available-member-positions.

TerraCorps partners with a network of 40+ nonprofits in Massachusetts and Rhode Island focused on community needs related to local land conservation and sustainable agriculture.

These partners act as service sites for a new cohort of up to 60 AmeriCorps service members annually. Service members are paired with a site supervisor who provides guidance and mentorship while they learn to manage community programs and projects over an 11-month, 1700-hour service term.



Ellianna Kaimi first-place winner of EnTEENpreneur Challenge winner. (COURTESY PHOTO)

EnTEENpreneur Challenge Winner announced

SPRINGFIELD – Ellianna Kaimi, a business technology student from Putnam Vocational Technical Academy, was chosen as the EnTEENpreneur first-place winner.

Kaimi received top honors for Binder Buddy, a teen business that sold a binder for students exploring colleges to make it easier for them to store notes, pictures, flyers and questions that will aid their decision-making process.

The EnTEENpreneur Challenge is a regional contest in which student teams create a comprehensive business plan and product idea for a small business and pitch it to a team of judges. This year's event consisted of 20 student companies representing Putnam Vocational Technical Academy, Hampshire Regional High School, Pathfinder Regional Technical High School and Agawam High School.

EnTEENpreneur Challenge was held on April 27 at the UMass Amherst Center at Springfield in Tower Square hosted by the Junior Achievement of Western Massachusetts. Twenty student

JA companies compete in the trade Fair and Pitch Competition. Participating schools included Agawam High School, Hampshire Regional High School, Pathfinder Vocational, and Putnam Vocational.

“We are incredibly proud of all the students who participated. They each presented such original ideas that captured the entrepreneurial spirit of the event,” said Jennifer A. Connolly, president, JAWM in a press release. “In the end, it was a hard decision for our judges, but they were just so impressed by the Binder Buddy. We congratulate Ellianna on her success.”

Judges for the event included: Amanda Garcia, Elms College; John Barber, CHH Engraving; Tracey Alves-Lear, Baystate Financial; Mychal Connolly, Stand Out Truck; Wesley Days, University of Massachusetts, Springfield; and Bryan LeBlanc, Haven Games and Hobbies. The winning team received a \$2,500 scholarship to Elms College and a \$500 cash prize.

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TAG SALE

DANA WOODS ANNUAL tag sale: Belchertown: George Hannum Rd off Rt 9 (turn at Stop & Shop) Children's clothes, toys, furniture, housewares, tools and more! **Saturday, June 10th, 9:00am-3:00pm**

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The position works under the direct supervision of the Principal Assessor. Please go to www.townofpalmer.com for full job description. Send resume and cover letter to kwenzel@townofpalmer.com or to 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069. Salary commensurate with experience between \$22.26 - \$25.77 per hour.

This position requires a high school education; and one (1) to three (3) years of experience in a real estate or office setting; Experience in appraisal and assessment practices desired; or any equivalent combination of education and experience. Associates Degree preferred. Experience with Vision, Munis and GIS is desirable. *The Town of Palmer is an EOE/AA employer.*

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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.

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St. Aloysius lists third trimester honor roll

HARDWICK – St. Aloysius Catholic School announced the names of students that made the honor roll for the third trimester.

High Honors

Eden Fanelli, Hannah LaRochelle and Andrew Letendre.

Honors

Anthony Adams, Madison Clough, Natalie Luukko, Alexander St. Jacques, Christopher Rice, Sophia Adams, Diane Aller, Jackson Boudreau, Olivia Mosso and Noelle St. Jacques.

Sheriff Evangelidis' Senior Picnic returns June 10

WEST BOYLSTON - Sheriff Evangelidis and the Worcester County Sheriff's office announce the return of the annual Sheriff's Senior Picnic on Saturday, June 10 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at SAC Park in Shrewsbury.

The picnic will once again be held as a drive-thru and feature a BBQ boxed lunch, goodie bags, music, giveaways, and raffle prizes.

The event is free and open to all seniors in Worcester County. Space is limited, please register by May 19. Only Worcester County residents over the age of 60 are invited to attend.

The drive-thru picnic is sponsored by the Worcester County Reserve Deputy Sheriff's Association and community partners such as CareOne at Millbury, The Overlook, Christopher Heights Assisted Living, The Gun Parlor, Mercadante Funeral Home, Falcone Enterprises, NEPBA Local 550 Worcester County Correction Officers, the Worcester Red Sox, Nuovo Restaurant, and Atlas Distributors.

To register, please visit reservedeputysheriff.com/senior-picnic-sign-up.



Sheriff Lew Evangelidis addresses Senior Picnic volunteers prior to the start of the 2022 Sheriff's Senior Picnic. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Sheriff Lew Evangelidis poses with players from the Worcester Red Sox and seniors participating in the 2022 Sheriff's Senior Picnic.



Sheriff Evangelidis poses with seniors participating in the 2022 Sheriff's Senior Picnic.

June 10 is Boat Safety Day on Lake Wickaboag

WEST BROOKFIELD – The Lake Wickaboag Preservation Association will again take the lead and partner with the Lake Wickaboag Boat Club to co-sponsor an event to promote boating safety on Lake Wickaboag.

On June 10, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., the Coast Guard Auxiliary will screen boats for free at the LWBC. Please consider bringing your boat by the LWBC, especially if you are a new boater.

During the inspection, you will learn whether your boat has everything needed to be seaworthy and no citations will be issued if your boat is found to be non-compliant with Massachusetts boating rules.

Boats will be inspected on a first come-first served basis; no reservations are needed.

Members and non-members of the LWPA and the LWBC are welcome. Visit LakeWickaboag.com for more information.

legal notice

TOWN OF EAST BROOKFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION 122 Connie Mack Drive LEGAL NOTICE FOR PUBLIC HEARING

The East Brookfield Conservation Commission will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, June 20, 2023 at 7:30PM** or as soon thereafter as can be heard, in the Conference Room of the East Brookfield Town Hall, 122 Connie Mack Dr, in accordance with M.G.L. c.131 s.40 to hear the **Notice of Intent** filed by Linda Sullivan for the purpose of replacing the septic system, construction of an addition and a garage at 116 Lane 4 East Brookfield, MA.

Anyone wishing to comment or hear discussion should be present at the above stated date and time. The submitted documents may be viewed at the Conservation Commission office in the Town hall.

East Brookfield
Conservation Commission
06/09/2023

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.

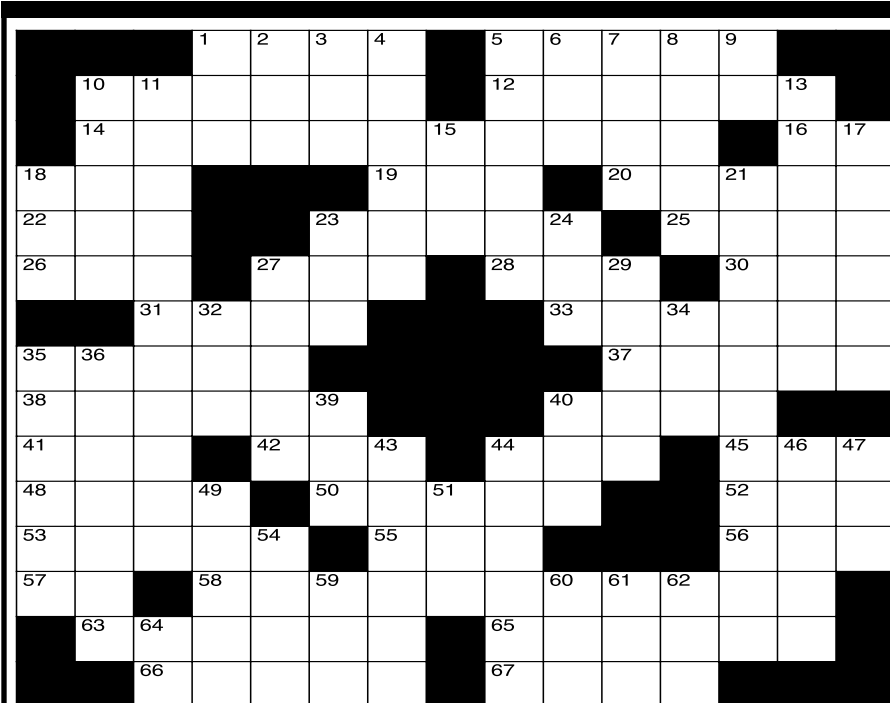
Lunch, cash bar and 50/50 raffle will be available. Music will be provided by DJ Bruce Marshall.

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

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Quaboag Current



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Flat tableland with steep edges
- 5. Where there's __, there's fire
- 10. Talked incessantly
- 12. Skill
- 14. Without shame
- 16. Where teens spend their days (abbr.)
- 18. Boxing's GOAT
- 19. Used to anoint
- 20. Cluster cups
- 22. Footballer Newton
- 23. They make up a forest
- 25. Split pulses
- 26. Self
- 27. Post-office box
- 28. Test for high schoolers
- 30. Large, flightless bird
- 31. Ejector
- 33. Falsehood
- 35. Prickly, scrambling shrub
- 37. French river
- 38. Told on
- 40. Hillside
- 41. Peyton's little brother
- 42. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 44. Cathedral city in Cambridgeshire
- 45. Witness
- 48. Brews
- 50. Yellowish-brown
- 52. Arctic explorers, abbr.
- 53. Mexican agave
- 55. A type of "cast"
- 56. Encourage
- 57. Atomic #52
- 58. Relating to position north of south of equator
- 63. Gadget whose name you forget
- 65. Another recording
- 66. Small blisters
- 67. Dark brown or black
- 2. " __ and flow"
- 3. A very large body of water
- 4. Accumulate on the surface of
- 5. Central cores of the stem
- 6. Angry
- 7. Ceramic jar
- 8. Scraped a car
- 9. __ route
- 10. Soviet labor camp system
- 11. Strong hostilities
- 13. Vitamin of the B complex
- 15. Go quickly
- 17. Toast
- 18. A team's best pitcher
- 21. A Philly culinary specialty
- 23. Small child
- 24. Unhappy
- 27. Trims away
- 29. Characterized by crying eyes
- 32. Soft touch
- 34. American spy organization
- 35. A person's chest
- 36. Came from behind to win
- 39. Fall back
- 40. Nellie __, journalist
- 43. Great places to kayak
- 44. Suffer patiently
- 46. Majestic bird
- 47. Electroencephalograph
- 49. Organic compound used as an antiseptic
- 51. Objects connected to the web (abbr.)
- 54. Ship as cargo
- 59. The bill in a restaurant
- 60. Upper-class young woman (abbr.)
- 61. Judge in OJ Simpson trial
- 62. One's grandmother
- 64. Siberian river

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Licensed for Wall Street

QUABOAG CURRENT



NORTH BROOKFIELD
Chimes ring out at Walker Memorial p5

WEST BROOKFIELD
Artist paint 'Colors of Nature' p3

STURBRIDGE
Town talks historic preservation p13

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Friday, June 9, 2023

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