



QUABOAG CURRENT

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Friday, June 16, 2023

Petitions to recall town officials withdrawn

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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NORTH BROOKFIELD – Herbert and Kristi Seymour spoke out against drag performances being allowed at the Rural Justice Network’s Small Town Pride festival scheduled for Saturday, June 24 on the Common.

At the June 6 Board of Se-

lectmen’s meeting, Herbert Seymour said after researching drag performances on YouTube, he and his wife determined it was adult entertainment.

“Adult entertainment should be performed in a private setting, or other appropriate venues; not at a public playground,” he said. “We wanted to raise awareness and see if our fellow town residents had

some of the same concerns we did.”

The Seymours mailed 1,000 letters to registers voters, along with three petitions. One petition was asking the Board to cancel the drag performance.

The other two were recalls for Board of Selectman Clerk Elizabeth “Brooke” Canada and Board of Health member Douglas Borowski for “extreme bias,” “blatant support

of immorality” and “constant attempts at shutting down free speech.”

The Seymours have spent over \$3,000 to purchase a copy machine, envelopes, paper, ink, stamps, as well as a Post Office box.

“We were so passionate about the cause; to protect the innocence of the children and to protect the rights of the families,” Seymour said.

Seymour said it took a few days to start receiving petitions back in the mail.

“I think it was within a week of sending out the mailings that we received a great deal of hate mail, and it has lasted for weeks,” he said. The mailings are from residents, but also from out of state.

After receiving an obscene package at their residence, the

See PETITIONS | PAGE 12



Shown are cast members performing “Little Orphan Samantha”. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DALLAS GAGNON

Theatre & Art in the Park showcases talent of students

Brookfield students perform ‘Little Orphan Samantha’

By Dallas Gagnon
Staff Writer
dgagnon@turley.com

BROOKFIELD – A myriad of colorful artwork was strung throughout the Brookfield Elementary School cafeteria while sleeping bags and brick backdrops covered the stage.

An audience of friends and family waited in anticipation as students whispered behind the curtain before the performance of “Little Orphan Samantha” began.

In a joint effort, the Brookfield Cultural Council and the 350th Brookfield Anniversary Committee supported the play as part of an “art in the park” and theater event in an ongoing series of celebratory anniversary programs.

While the event was initial-

ly set to take place on the town common, the program moved inside due to thunderstorm forecasts.

Cultural Council member Jeanne Lytle organized the event and publicly thanked “everyone who came to see the kids perform.”

Though the performers were “scared [and] excited,” Lytle said the performance was “terrific.”

Lytle said she collaborated

See THEATRE | PAGE 13

Food policy council looks to form leadership team

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Members of the Quaboag Valley Food Policy Council continued discussion about the organizational structure of the Council.

Council Coordinator Caitlin Geaghan said since its formation, Council members have talked about its vision and mission, decision making styles, organiza-

tional structure and the needs of the 12 communities it serves.

Members of the Council do not need to be experts, Geaghan said, they just need to have an interest in the food needs of the community.

“Anyone can take part in our food policy council,” she said.

Geaghan went on to explain at the June 12 meeting, that each food policy council is different and can focus on different needs,

See POLICY | PAGE 15

STEAM Night powers young minds



Second grader Bennett Skowrya proudly displays the structure he built with paper cups and popsicle sticks. See page 8 for story and more photos. (TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE)

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- community -

Students sing for sustainability with rFUTURE

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Recently, students at the North Brookfield Junior/Senior High School worked on a project called rFUTURE which was brought to the school through the non-profit CGMM, Inc. which is associated with Long View Entertainment.

CGMM, Inc. works with schools all over the country asking young people two questions; what is the greatest barrier to a sustainable existence in your community and what can be done to address this barrier?

Through the program young people learn that sustainability means using the resources of the planet, people and prosperity in a way that satisfies needs today, while preserving resources for the future.

The students' observations and ideas are shaped into a professionally produced song and corresponding music video that is then shared with the world on YouTube.

The North Brookfield participating students and their sponsoring teacher, Channing Ford, had powerful, positive ideas and solutions. Their voices and their messages are refreshing and hopeful.

The students are inviting the community to see the premiere of their song and video on YouTube on June 15 at 5 pm. <https://youtu.be/egcndO2QX5M>

"We are hopeful that folks will listen, watch and be inspired by our great high schoolers!" said teacher Channing Ford in a press release. "I truly believe that the voices of the next generation are important to include in our community's narrative".

For more about rFUTURE visit <https://www.rfutureshow.com> and for more information about CGMM, Inc. visit <https://cgmminc.com>.



North Brookfield students participate in rFUTURE project through CGMM, Inc. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



A student sings during the rFUTURE project. A YouTube video will be available at <https://youtu.be/egcndO2QX5M>.



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QRSD committee accepts gift of metal building

By Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

BARRE – Northfield Mount Herman School offered the Quabbin Regional School District a gift of a 110-foot-long metal building the school purchased in 2020 and the QRSD School Committee approved the acceptance of the gift at their Thursday, May 11 meeting.

The only stipulations from the donor were Quabbin dismantle the building, haul it away and clean up the site by the end of the month.

Superintendent Sheila Muir said the plants and facility department looked at the building and said they could dismantle it and move it to the high school with their own vehicles with the exception of using a large truck for the long sections. She said the structure was in good shape and would be erected near the football field.

Superintendent's report

Superintendent Muir said Sgt. Russell Davidson will return as the full-time school resource officer for the Quabbin Regional Middle High School and Ruggles Lane Elementary School this fall.

She said the district purchased four vans, with one a wheel chair lift van and a pickup truck for plant and facilities using rural school aid money.

She said the district currently uses Van Pool to transport the post grad students to locations where they volunteer or have internships.

She said the eight passenger vans did not require a special license to drive and would be used to transport special education students during the day. She said the vans would be available after school hours to transport athletic teams to games.

This would save on the cost of transportation and would be in use soon. She also said the school safety consultants would be in the schools next week.

New hires

She said the district hired Erin Cook as the new principal at the Hubbardston Center School and Tim Kane as an elementary school music teacher. He is a drummer and trombone player, who taught at Eagle Hill School.

Student Advisory Council

A group of Hubbardston Center School students read poems via Zoom, which they wrote entitled "I Am."

Jacob Blanchard's poem began, "I am a soccer player who loves soccer." Nora MacDonald wrote, "I am a Starbucks lover, who loves pink drinks."

Avery Melanson in her poem wrote, "I am a girl, who loves kittens." Michelle Lee wrote, "I am a girl who is a farmer."

Two students, Ryan Colgate and Liam Shaw did not attend, and Principal Jill Peterson read their poems. Ryan wrote, "I am a baseball player and an artist" and Liam wrote, "I am a boy, who plays sports."

Gareth White, a sixth grader at Quabbin Regional Middle High School, said he was glad the sixth grade was at the middle school. He also said he was looking forward to the Boston trip next year.

Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer

Cheryl Duval, Director of Administrative Services, said the firm of Livingston & Haynes would be closing their Ware office and the district would no longer have a Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer after the end of the fiscal year.

She asked the School Committee to rescind the appointments of Kathleen Bourcier, treasurer, and Mr. Richardson as assistant treasurer, which they did. The Committee empowered Duval to present possible candidates to the Committee.

Currently, the two positions are employees of the district, but the Committee could also hire consultants as Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer.

Other reports

Kristin Campione said the Quabbin Regional School District would host the Special Olympics on May 25.

John Wyman said an open house for school choice students and parents was held earlier this month and a sixth-grade transition night the end of April. He said about 20 students would be going to Sisson Engineering in Orange and another group visited Flexicon in Spencer.

Greg Devine said there would be an early college process informational meeting on June 7. He also mentioned a free summer program offered by Mount Wachusett Community College in Gardner for high school students.

He said Assumption University offered a two-day summer program for eighth and ninth graders to experience what college was like.

The post grad students will be holding a town wide yard sale June 10 in New Braintree. People may drop off donations for the yard sale at the New Braintree Grade School during regular school hours.



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- community -

Owen Stevens sprints to 2023 New Balance Nationals

By Anjolina Fantaroni
Correspondent

WARREN – Owen Stevens, an incoming senior member of both Quaboag Regional Middle High School's Indoor Track and Outdoor Track and Field Team has secured his place among the nation's top track and field competitors by qualifying for the 2023 New Balance Nationals, held at Franklin Field in Philadelphia June 15-18.

Known for placing in multiple state and regional competitions, Stevens has become a shining member of the track and field community, and trains for his national event, Rising Star High Jump daily.

"Last year when my coach, Mr. Hogan came to help coach, he helped me get to six foot in high jump. After a good season last year, and coming in third in the Division Six State Meet, I was super excited coming into my junior season," Stevens said.

Stevens said that during his junior season, he wanted to give long jump and high jump a chance. With his high jump abilities, he worked hard knowing that he had a good chance to reach higher heights in the current season.

A week for Stevens is filled with intense training for Nationals, with plyometric workouts two to three times a week, and form, approaches, and jumps for the other days.

"The goal was to get to Nationals and compete there, so weeks went by—and I stayed consistent with how I was last season— then I finally reached my jump of six foot three to qualify me for Nationals."



Incoming Quaboag Regional Middle High School senior, Owen Stevens is headed to the 2023 New Balance Nationals after winning several state and regional titles. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Church hosts clothing and textile drive July 9-15

BROOKFIELD – The Committee for Ecology and Social Action of the Brookfield Unitarian Universalist Church, 9 Upper River St., is sponsoring a clothing drive through Helpsy, the largest clothing collector in the northeast.

Textile waste is a fast-growing problem and occupies nearly 5% of all land-fill space, but 95% of unwanted clothing can be reused, repurposed, or recycled and only 15% currently is.

On July 9-15, the church will be open between 3-7 p.m. so you can bring your old clothing (including slips, bras, un-

derwear, socks) and certain other acceptable items, such as shoes, accessories (including hats, bags, belts, scarves and jewelry), luggage, stuffed animals and linens (including sheets, blankets, curtains, table linens and quilts).

All items in any condition are acceptable if they are clean, dry, and odorless.

The Brookfield Unitarian Universalist Church is located on the Brookfield Common, near the junction of Route 9 and Route 148.

For more information, email Barbara Hale at blh.buuc@gmail.com.

Lake Wickaboag to Receive Weed Treatment June 19

WEST BROOKFIELD – The West Brookfield Board of Health and Lake Wickaboag Preservation Association (LWPA) have announced that Lake Wickaboag will receive an herbicide treatment on Monday, June 19, to address residual weeds and algae.

Use of the lake's water be restricted on the following dates:

June 19 – No swimming, fishing or boating

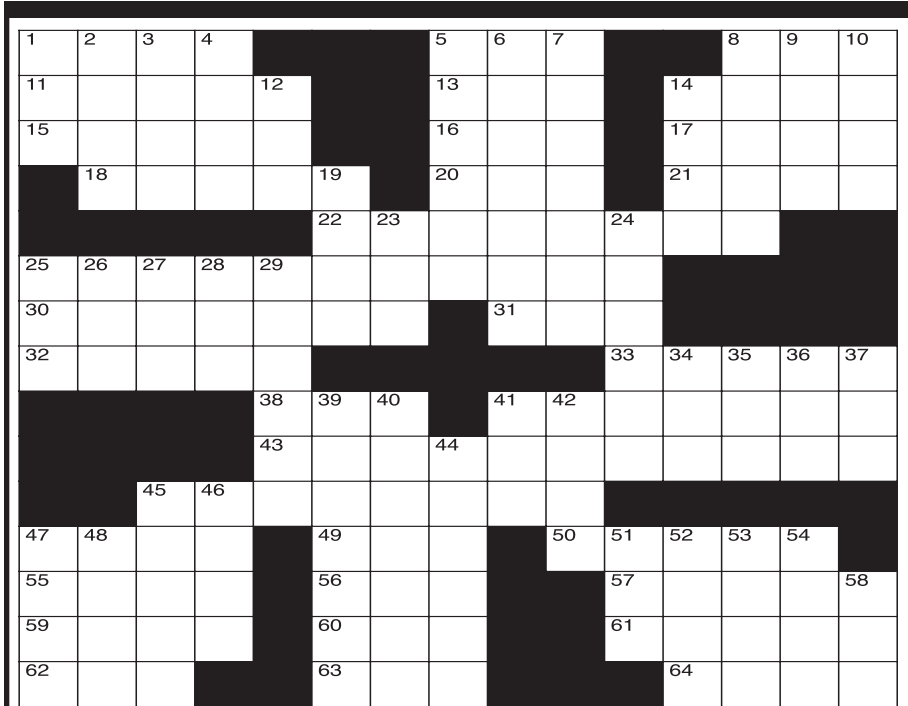
June 19 and 20 – No livestock watering

June 19 – June 22 – No direct drinking of lake water

June 19 – June 24 – No use of lake water for irrigation

Members of the LWPA will notify boaters and swimmers by posting signs on streets leading to the lake and by placing red flag buoys on the lake.

For additional information, please contact SOLitude Lake Management, at (508) 885-0101, or email the LWPA at LWPA01585@gmail.com.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. In a place to sleep
- 5. Chemical compound (abbr.)
- 8. A way to fish
- 11. Classic Linklater film "___ and Confused"
- 13. Legume
- 14. Indonesian island
- 15. Smooth, creamy substance
- 16. Arctic
- 17. Wood sorrels
- 18. Defied
- 20. Cattle
- 21. Tableland
- 22. Honorably retired and retaining one's title
- 25. Repossession
- 30. Danced
- 31. Adult males
- 32. A type of section
- 33. Type of Japanese animation
- 38. Satisfaction

- 41. Fit
- 43. "Ain't No Sunshine" singer
- 45. Failure
- 47. Israeli city
- 49. French river
- 50. Cavalry-sword
- 55. Nocturnal S. American rodent
- 56. Liquefied natural gas
- 57. Afflicted
- 59. Electronic counter-countermeasures
- 60. Popular HBO fantasy series (abbr.)
- 61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- 62. Large body of water
- 63. ___kosh, near Lake Winnebago
- 64. Impudence

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Payroll firm
- 2. Unit of transmission

- 3. Rockers Better Than ___
- 4. Bambi is one
- 5. Highest parts of something
- 6. Correct behavior
- 7. Batty
- 8. Cyprinid fishes
- 9. Expression of sorrow or pity
- 10. Site of the famous Leaning Tower
- 12. American rocker Snider
- 14. W. African language
- 19. Symbol to mark for removal
- 23. ___ Squad
- 24. Resident
- 25. Federal savings bank
- 26. Paddle
- 27. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- 28. One point south of due east
- 29. Winter melon

- 34. Last or greatest in an indefinitely large series
- 35. Anger
- 36. Central European river
- 37. First responders
- 39. Spanish noble
- 40. Persons with absence of skin pigment
- 41. Defunct airline
- 42. Small island (British)
- 44. The extent of something from beginning to end
- 45. Capital of Bangladesh
- 46. Dutch cheese
- 47. Imitates
- 48. A contest of speed
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Prejudice
- 53. Actor Idris
- 54. UNLV's are Runnin'
- 58. Criticize

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BRIDAL GUIDE

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Be sure to include a high resolution, clear photograph for printing.

- opinion -



Lots o' lettuce

The weather has been nothing less than unpredictable these last few weeks.

While there has been next to no rain at my locale, friends and family have talked about deluges and even quarter-sized hail blanketing their deck space. Temperatures for June seem bizarre, too.

If cold night temperatures weren't enough, a day of mercury bursting into the 80's will shock even well-watered plants. Before heat-lovers can adjust, it's back into the 50's and low 60's.

Strange indeed.

While it's too soon to say whether this year will be a bust or boom, I can say that my lettuce is doing wonderfully!

I started my lettuce indoors the first week of April, at the same time I sowed broccoli and kale seed. I saved little "plug" trays from a prior plant purchase and filled the tray with moist seed starting mix.

Lettuce seed needs light to germinate, so I pushed two or three seeds per cell into the soil to make contact but not so far as to have them get covered up. To keep the soil surface moist, I slid the whole tray into a clear plastic bag.

I left it in my laundry room in front of a window where it would get some afternoon sun and checked on it periodically, misting it a couple times a day. After about five days the seeds had sprouted.

It was a little challenging to keep them growing well indoors, but I did, and was able to move the tray outside on nice days where it could get some filtered sunlight.

On one such occasion I hit the end of the doorway with the tray, knocking a number of the cells loose! I re-filled the cells and transplanted what I could salvage and they adjusted fine.

About a month later, in early May, I planted the lettuce seedlings into the garden. Since I planned to grow the lettuce for leaves and not heads, I planted them fairly close to one another, just about six inches apart in a wide block about four feet long by two feet deep.

Every foot or so I interplanted a leek plant; leeks require a long growing season and will outlive the lettuce, but for now they make good companions.

I began harvesting the third week of May, and now, I can make a salad to feed an army. The bed is a beautiful blend of colors, textures and flavors.

Typically, I pick it right before I want to eat it, rinsing it in a sink of cool water before sending it through the salad spinner or blotting it dry with a paper towel.

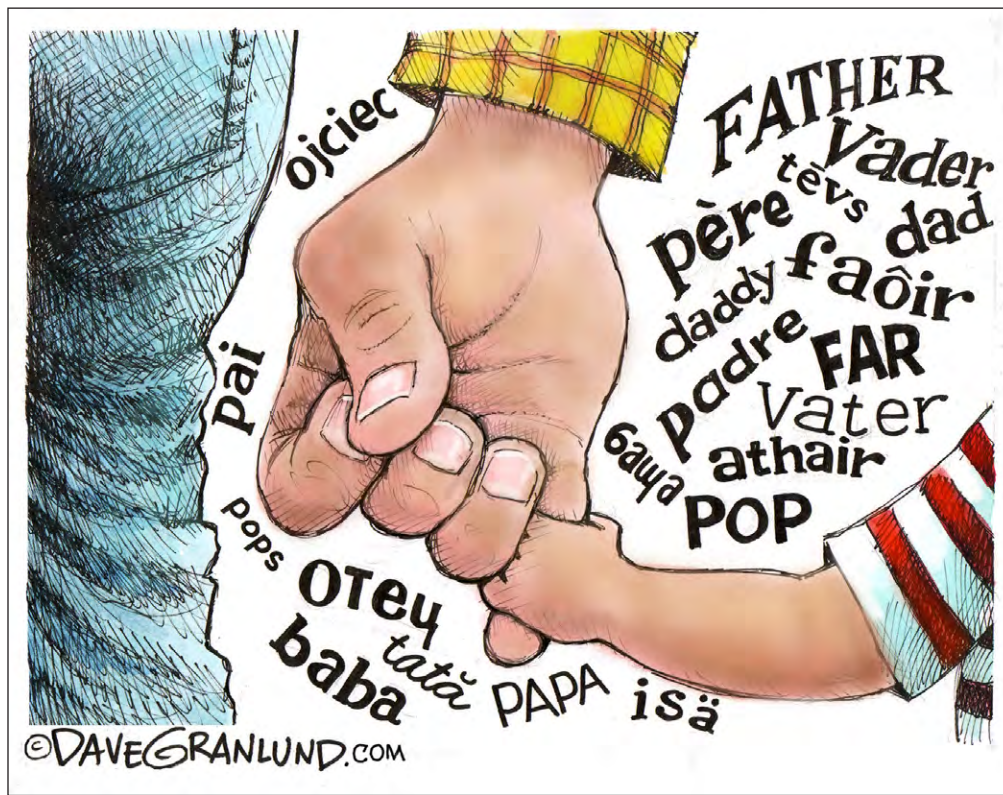
Lettuce is undemanding in the garden as long as you provide it with rich soil and a daily watering if nature does not provide. Some compost mixed into the top couple inches of soil will keep it well fed.

When temperatures rise, lettuce will bolt. Bolting simply means that the lettuce is going to seed. It will send up a main stalk that has little leaves on it, inevitably flowering at the end of the stalk.

The flowers are yellow, with seeds forming at the end of little pieces of fluff that help them to disperse in the breeze.

Sometimes lettuce will even self sow. I had a beauty come up in the middle of my mulched path this year and moved it to the wide bed.

To keep lettuce growing during the heat of summer gardeners get creative, often plant-



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Aaron's Race brings awareness to teen suicide

Until it happens to you, the depth of that horrific moment is not understood.

That moment is life changing, heart wrenching, the confusion and tears flood your being, and the range of emotions is a tsunami. Until it happens to you, then and only then will you know what it is like.

To prevent the above from happening as well as to give family and friends a head's up, the second Aaron's Race, Saturday, June 17, will take place on our town common and in our Old Town Hall (Pinewood Derby).

It is first and always a day of remembrance of those who took their lives; those who didn't know how to work through whatever it was they were going through. Aaron's Race is also an opportunity to learn about teen suicide, possible signs, how to approach your teen or simply how to be there

when your teen summons the courage to share with you.

From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. there will be games, music, food, a Super Raffle and much more; but it is an opportunity to come, share, and learn. There will be opportunities to meet and talk with those who can help you and your teen move forward.

Heather Twining and Tim Plant, along with their legion of volunteers, have worked diligently to create a day where fun, remembrance, learning, and sharing are uppermost in all the staff's collective mind.

Come to the common from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and be a part of this endeavor to save a life.

Sincerely yours,
Gloria Fortunato
Belchertown

Friends group thanks Theater Guild for donations

The Friends of the North Brookfield Town House would like to thank the Theater Guild of North Brookfield and all the patrons of the wonderful "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" production for your support of the Town House.

Not only did the Theater Guild provide the community with an outstanding theatrical experience, but they also earmarked one

dollar of each ticket sold to the restoration of the historic Town House which hosted Broadway shows during the George M. Cohan era.

Thank you! Your support as we move forward to make the Town House a Community Arts Center is sincerely appreciated.

The Friends of the North Brookfield Town House

etation. Least bitterns stalk through reeds in a crouched posture or stand in place. They eat small fish, frogs, insects, small mammals and sometimes bird eggs and chicks.

They nest in a small platform of sticks lined with live or dead vegetation placed in cattails, bulrushes or bushes above the water. The female lays two to seven pale blue or greenish, white eggs.

In courtship, males make cooing sounds. The male also makes a guttural "uh-uh-uh-oo-oo-oo-ooah" while the female makes ticking sounds.

Both give a "tut-tut" sound.

The least bittern is a secretive bird. It will run through reeds in water and flutter briefly above the reeds. It has the same alarm posture as American bitterns of pointing its head skyward.

Other Audubon sightings

Other sightings included common ringed plover in Fairhaven; four sandhill cranes in Worthington and three in Plymouth County and four in Ashfield in Franklin County;



Massachusetts Audubon Society reported the sightings of a least bittern at Richmond marsh in Berkshire County, one at Great Pond in Hatfield in Hampshire County, two at High Head in Truro and one at Bell's Neck in Harwich, both on Cape Cod.

The least bittern is the smallest of the herons at only 13 inches tall. The male has a black crown and back and the female has a rich brown crown and back. Its chest is white with brown streaking. In flight, the buffy, inner wing patches are visible.

Least bitterns fly weakly with quick wingbeats. They inhabit marshes with dense veg-

OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

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Quaboag Current Newspaper

- community -

Summer concert series kicks off June 25

SPENCER – The Spencer Parks & Recreation Commission's 2023 Summer Concert Series kicks off from 2-5 p.m. on Sunday, June 25 at Powder Mill Park, corner Smithville and Meadow roads, with She's Busy.

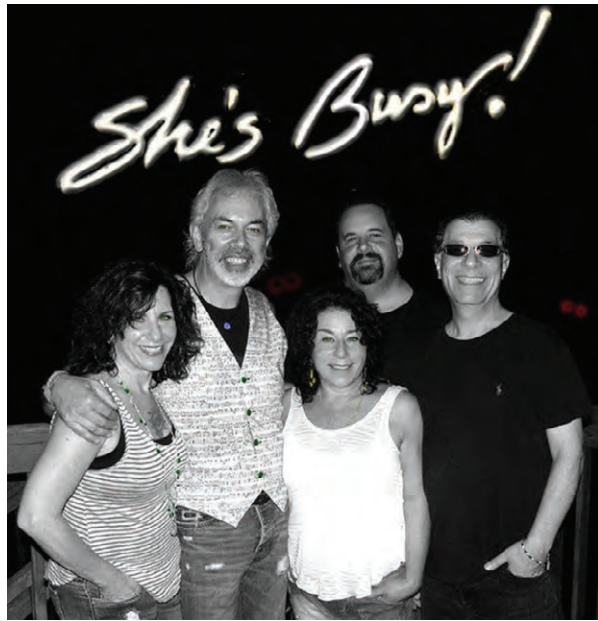
She's Busy is a popular classic rock band with exciting vocal harmonies, rolling rhythms and vibrant energy.

Sisters Lisa and Selena Wilson originally formed She's Busy in 1990 and had two critically acclaimed records -- Strange Bedfellows in 1991 and Thinkin' Out Loud in 1994. Songwriter/guitarist Brett Brumby came on board recording the third She's Busy record in 1996 titled Different This Time.

Mrs. Moriconi's Ice Cream truck will be on hand selling homemade ice cream and other treats during this week's show.

The series continues every Sunday from July 9 through Aug. 27.

The concert series is proudly sponsored by Cornerstone Bank. Cornerstone Bank is an independent, mutual savings bank serving the residents, businesses, and communities throughout Central Massachusetts.



She's Busy will perform the first concert in Spencer Parks & Recreation Commission's Summer Concert Series on June 25. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Car show for 350th anniversary is June 24

BROOKFIELD – Brookfield's 350th anniversary car show will be held at Quaboag Valley Church, 175 Fiskdale Road, on Saturday, June 24 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

This event is rain or shine. Registration starts at 9 a.m.; \$10 cash only.

The Clam Box will have a food truck and DJ Glen will provide music from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. There will be T-shirts and trophies.

For more information, call 774-200-0380.

New Braintree library holds story time

NEW BRAINTREE – The New Braintree Public Library, 45 Memorial Drive, story time on Monday, June 19 at 9:30 a.m. will feature outdoor summer fun with "Bluey The Pool" and "The Night before Summer Vacation" by Natasha Wing.

This reading and crafts program for preschool children is held twice a month on Mondays at the library. Parental supervision is required.

People may call the library at 508-867-7650 during regular hours for more information.

Dan Kirouac performs at Janine's Frostee Friday night

WARE – Regional entertainer Dan Kirouac will bring piano and vocals to the summer concert series at Janine's Frostee, 149 East St., on Friday, June 16 at 5 p.m.

The music performance is free and weather permitting.

Kirouac is a Massachusetts-based musician and singer, and former member of the northeast touring tribute band Beatles For Sale. More about him can be found at www.facebook.com/DanKirouacMusic.

Jubilee Ministries host diaper drive Saturday

WARE – The United Way and Trinity Episcopal Church, Jubilee Ministries Diaper Mission will be outside Walmart this coming Saturday, June 17 from 10 a.m.-noon to collect diapers, pull-ups, wipes and monetary donations.

These donations will be used to assist in the effort of supplying materials to the local surrounding communities in order to meet their diapering needs. The greatest need is for larger sizes; size 4 and up diapers and 4-5T and up pull-ups.

All donations benefit 15 agencies serving families across Franklin County, Hampshire County and the North Quabbin region. To donate online, people may visit uw-fh.org/diaper-drive.

GARDEN | FROM PAGE 4

ing heat tolerant varieties and/or planting it in the shade of trellises of vines or under shade cloth.

I am planning on planting a succession crop soon so that I'll have replacement plants on standby to tuck into the bed that my garlic will be harvested from. My husband enjoys a big salad every night and this will surely help our grocery bill.

If you have never tried growing lettuce, I encourage to you give it a whirl!

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.

BACKYARD | FROM PAGE 4

worm eating warblers in North Brookfield; an Acadian flycatcher at Gate 8 at Quabbin Reservoir in Pelham and two in Granville and an out of place pileated woodpecker in Provincetown on Cape Cod.

Other sightings included a gray-cheeked thrush in Northampton, a blue grosbeak at the Honey Pot in Hadley, a hooded warbler at the Grace Robson Wildlife Sanctuary in Westfield and a northern goshawk at Gate 43 of the Quabbin Reservoir in Hardwick.

Turtle
Although a turtle is not a bird, I did see one before Memorial Day laying eggs in the small cemetery on Lincoln Road. I was planting flowers on my late husband's parents and grandparents' graves.

After planting the flowers, I walked by a smooth shelled turtle about seven to eight inches in size laying

eggs. Water is nearby as there is a beaver pond across the street and another located behind the cemetery.

Several days later while driving past the cemetery, I saw two turtles, at different times, crossing the road in the general area of the cemetery. One was a large snapping turtle and the other much smaller, most likely a spotted turtle.

Other wildlife
An Oakham resident said she saw a large coyote and also heard of someone seeing one at Crocker Nye Spring in town.

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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- sturbridge -

Taste of New England Summer at OSV July 21-23

STURBRIDGE- Old Sturbridge Village will host the first of its kind Taste of New England: Summer the weekend of July 21-23 from 4:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Taste of New England will feature 18 bands, beers and ciders from various New England brewers, and food inspired by historical recipes from each state. Pre-registration is required to attend the event.

The event is sponsored by Southbridge Credit Union.

There will be six outposts around the grounds, featuring historic buildings, foods and beverages, and modern-day musicians from each state. There will be live performances on three stages and a family-friendly, festival-like atmosphere.

Historically inspired foods from each state include sweet and savory items such as New England clam chowder and clam fritters from Rhode Island, mac and cheese from Vermont, lobster roll slider from Maine, pumpkin roll from New Hampshire and snickerdoodle cakes from Connecticut.

Old Sturbridge Village will be pre-

senting the history of beer and cider-making in New England and tour the region by exploring beers and hard ciders, as well as non-alcoholic drinks and mocktails from featured brewers such as Athletic Brewing Company, Breakaway Beerworks, Oxbow Brewing, Champlain Orchards Mac and Maple cider, and state favorites like coffee milk, and blueberry lemonade.

The grounds will be even more festive with the sounds of talented New England bands including Muddy Ruckus, Gracie Day, Beecharmer, Green Heron, Among the Acres among others.

Visitors will get to explore the museum, ride the horse-drawn carryall, and summertime games on the Common. See the chickens, sheep, oxen, and pigs, follow the nature trails, hang out by the Millpond and interact with the costumed historians to learn more about New England history.

Tickets are on sale now. Visit <https://www.osv.org/event/taste-of-new-england-summer/> for more information or to purchase tickets.



Old Sturbridge Village offers visitors a Taste of New England Summer July 21-23, featuring beers and ciders, food and bands. (COURTESY PHOTO)

Pioneer Valley Community Band Festival is June 17

SOUTH HADLEY – On Saturday, June 17 at 3 p.m. at the Mount Holyoke College Amphitheater as many as 150 musicians from throughout Western Massachusetts and beyond will come together for an outdoor performance in one giant concert band.

The concert is free and open to the public to attend. In the event of inclement weather, the rain date is Sunday, June 18.

The Pioneer Valley Community Band Festival is being hosted by the Amherst, Florence and South Hadley community bands and will bring together amateur and professional musicians of all ages and abilities from throughout the region to celebrate and perform live instrumental music.

According to a press release, as of May 30 approximately 120 musicians are already registered to participate. Additional musicians of all abilities who would like to participate can email pioneervalleycommunitybandfest@gmail.com.

Thomas Bergeron, Director of Music at Deerfield Academy, will lead the festival band in a day of music-making.

Bergeron commented, "It's really exciting to have so many people of all ages gathering to experience the joy of mak-

ing music together. We've programmed a wide variety of music, from Sousa to Duke Ellington, Billie Eilish and Ray Charles. Personal highlights for me include music from Captain Marvel by the Emmy-nominated Turkish-American composer Pinar Toprak, and an original piece for concert band 'Across A Golden Sky' by American composer Quinn Mason, who was recently featured on the Springfield Symphony Orchestra concert in February."

Saxophonist Ronald Smith, will be the featured guest soloist. A native of Memphis, Tennessee, Smith is the Director of Music Programs at the Northfield Mount Hermon School.

Priscilla Ross, director of the Florence Community Band, stated, "Our band members always enjoy playing under the baton of other conductors. And many of us remember when Tom was up and coming, playing with us. So, it will be a joy to reunite under his leadership."

The free concert is made possible thanks to grants from the South Hadley and Amherst Cultural Councils, a Festivals Grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and sponsorship by the South Hadley Electric Light Department.



Thomas Bergeron, Director of Music at Deerfield Academy. (COURTESY PHOTOS)

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Saxophonist Ronald Smith will be the featured guest soloist at band fest.

- community -

Quaboag Book Shop and the romance of used books

By Richard Murphy
Correspondent

WEST BROOKFIELD – It was around 30 years ago, two people were contemplating the purchase of land in West Brookfield and were investigating what the town had to offer the potential settlers.

It was the usual exurban mix. A pizza shop, stores and businesses, restaurants, some land with excellent views. Pleasant with nothing to drive one away, but also, not too different either.

Eventually, on West Main Street, it caught our eyes. A large white building with a sign that said, “The Book Bear.”

Well, this had to be investigated.

Inside, one did not find a bear binding pages into books, but no matter. There were shelves well stocked with volumes of many different subjects.

What I most remember of the day is that though time was of the essence, it was impossible not to continue browsing among the stacks in a place unique in small town Western Central Massachusetts.

We would purchase the land, build and eventually move to town. I would not say that the existence of The Book Bear was the deciding factor in our decision, but it was a plus.

The big white building would give way to what looks to be a steel building next door. Not a bad transition, as a lot of books with paper pages in a wooden edifice might not be the most incombustible arrangement.

The stacks are thus lined up in an orderly manner as to subject. At the front are more open displays of different themes.

The proprietor who operated the bookstore. Al Navitski was a presence in the town.

Eventually, Jay Horgan arrived at the Book Bear.

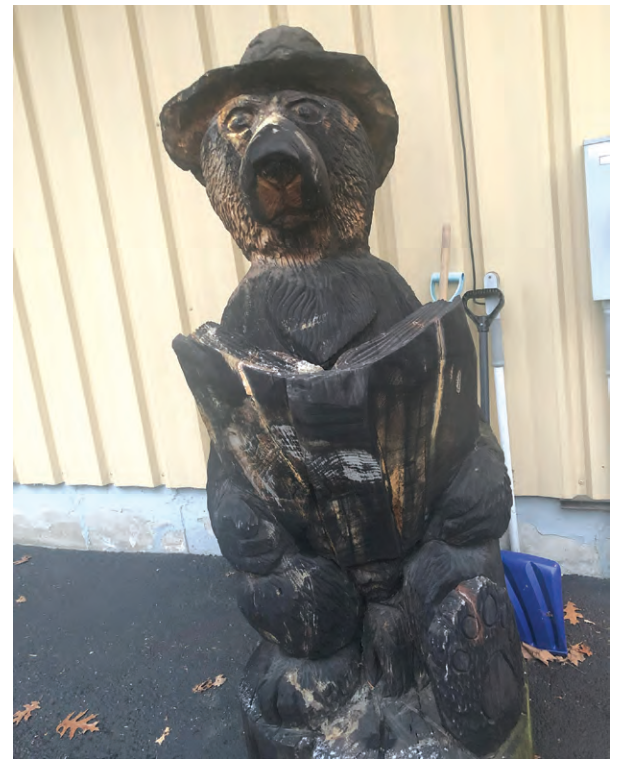
Originally from Fitchburg, his family moved around as his father’s profession of building custom packaging machinery demanded it be done on the site of the customer’s business.

Jay is a book person from a young age, as one might suspect of someone who will go on to run a bookstore. He has been a collector since a teenager.

The man would work in the new book business for Borders Books and Music. Borders, of course, would



The Quaboag Book Shop has a large selection of books about New England. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RICHARD MURPHY



The iconic Book Bear.

go out of business. Jay would be witness to the decline. Jay wished to stay in the business and came to West Brookfield in 2016 to learn about the used book trade with Al at the Book Bear.

Al Navitski and Jay came to terms, and Jay took over the business. Though he had hoped to keep it the Book Bear, legal technicalities precluded that and The Quaboag Book shop became the new name.

Jay reflected there are advantages and disadvantages to taking over an existing bookshop as opposed to starting one.

In beginning a new book store one can shape the business as you want. An ongoing business may not give you that freedom, but there is a built-in customer base.

2017, Jay’s first year was tight, but the business grew about five percent each year after that.

The reality that was Covid was not going to leave any retail business alone and 2020, was, to put it mildly, an interesting year. He was closed for a few months.

Upon reopening, business picked up and Quaboag Book Shop ended the year well. 2021 and 2022 were even better.

So who are The Quaboag Book Shop’s customers? Jay acknowledged the obvious, as locally, we are too small a market, that the majority of business is non-local, with maybe 15% to 20% from our region.

However, people travel for the books. According to Jay, they come from New York State, other New England States and all over Massachusetts.

Some regulars come weekly or monthly. One twice yearly customer comes all the way from San Francisco and will fill boxes of books to take home.

Younger people have more diversions today, but under 25s can be customers.

Homeschool families might buy a Tom Swift adventure if only because there is little controversy to explain unlike now, when politics is part of everything.

Maybe you are a book person. The Quaboag Book Shop on Route 9 at 80 Main St., is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

With over 100,000 volumes on the shelves, it’s hard not to find a good book.

Jay maintains an email list, so if you would like to stay informed, you can request to be included at Quaboagbooks@gmail.com.

Old Sturbridge Village Commemorates Juneteenth

STURBRIDGE – Old Sturbridge Village will be having programming for Juneteenth on Mon. June 19, from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. This year’s event is free to the public and will be rich with history, learning, hands-on activities, and food. “The Village has taken a robust approach to deepening the programming that interprets life in the 19th Century for today’s visitor and commemorates the lives and experiences of Black people in America,” says Jasmin Rivas, director of diversity, equity, inclusion and access.

Juneteenth commemorates the emancipation of enslaved African Americans in 1865—marking the day when troops arrived in Galveston, Texas to ensure the freedom of those enslaved, more than two years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Visitors to Old Sturbridge Village on June 19 will be encouraged to consider Juneteenth’s historical and present-day significance, engage in discussions with interpreters and special guests, and participate in activities that help broaden their understanding of history and culture.

National Night Out returns for second year

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Coalition for a Healthy North Brookfield is thrilled to invite the community to its second annual National Night Out on Aug. 3 from 4-8 p.m.

This event is an annual community-building campaign that promotes strong police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live and work. Join the event along with your neighbors throughout North Brookfield and across the nation as they spend the evening outside with community organizations, local businesses, and especially local law enforcement.

Most communities celebrate National Night Out by hosting block parties, festivals, parades, cookouts and other various community events with safety demonstrations, seminars, youth events, visits from emergency personnel, exhibits and more.

All are invited to National Night Out at the North Brookfield Public School campus for an evening of music, activities, food trucks, Touch a Truck, vendor/craft fair, and more. Join your neighbors to learn more about local resources and meet the amazing local law enforcement from the community.

National Project Coordinator, Matt Peskin said in a press release, “This is a night for our nation to stand together and promote awareness, safety, and neighborhood unity. National Night Out showcases the vital importance of police-community partnerships and citizen involvement. When law enforcement and the community work closely together, some amazing things can happen.”

For questions about North Brookfield’s Second Annual National Night Out event, to volunteer, or to become a vendor, please email admin@coalitionforahealthynb.org or for general questions visit natw.org.

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STEAM Night powers young minds

WEST BROOKFIELD – Students and their families took a break from the heat to enjoy STEAM Night 2023 at West Brookfield Elementary School.

Featuring five stations with activities based in science, technology, engineering, arts and math, families were given the chance to learn alongside their students, while also enjoying concerts by the various grade levels and a school-wide art show.

A scavenger hunt sponsored by Country Bank yielded a table full of fun prizes for students to choose from.

Students also received prizes for completing at least three activities at any of the five stations.

At the science station, students could

create glowing drawings in the black light room or participate in Keva plank challenges. Students practiced coding for Ozobot robots in the technology station and could also make a paper plate maze.

Over at engineering, students were challenged to make a seaworthy aluminum boat or build a structure using paper cups and popsicle sticks.

The arts station included concerts throughout the evening and the art show, which was displayed throughout each hallway of the school.

Learning was a little bit sweeter at the math station, as students built towering structures using gum drops and toothpicks.



Fourth grader Braelynn Valley and kindergartener Brady Valley work on drawing family portraits. (TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE)



Fifth grader Jayden Skowron practices coding with Ozobot robots.



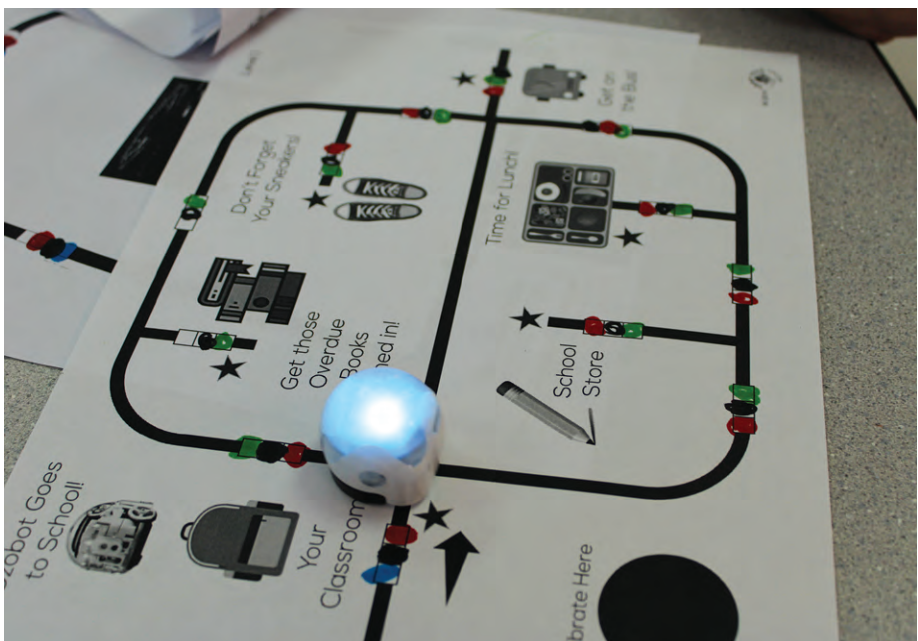
The Kuranda family participated in STEAM Night 2023 at West Brookfield Elementary School. Shown from left are Dariusz, preschooler Mila, third grader Zosia and Jennifer.



Kindergartener Isabella Skowron codes to get her Ozobot across the paper.



The black light room featured glowing artwork.



Children and their families practice coding with Ozobot robots.



Koinobori kites created by students hang from the art room ceiling.



SPORTS

Tantasqua beats Pittsfield in second round

By **Tim Peterson**
Sports Correspondent

FISKDALE—The Tantasqua Regional baseball team entered last Thursday afternoon's Division 3 round of 16 contest against Pittsfield High School having lost only one game at William R. Emrich Field this spring.

The fifth-seeded Warriors closed out the home slate by celebrating a 5-3 victory over the 12th-seeded Generals.

"We battled hard and found a way to win our final home game of the season," said Tantasqua head coach Jon Leroux.

"We just made a couple more plays than they did, which was the biggest difference."

The seniors listed on the Tantasqua varsity baseball roster, who walked off Emrich Field victorious for the final time in a varsity game, are Henry Blake, Devin Krochmalnyckyj, Aubyn Phillips, Steven Parent, and Ryan Kelly.

"All five of us seniors really wanted to win our final home game. It really means the world to us," said Blake, who's the Warriors starting catcher. "I really love playing games on this field. It's awesome."

The Warriors (20-3), who

are looking to capture the state title for the first time since 1977, only home loss this season was to West Springfield, who played in the Division 2 state tournament.

Both of their road losses came at neutral sites. They lost to Shrewsbury High School in the championship game of the John Ahern Tournament at Hudson High School during the April school vacation. Their other loss was to Leominster in the finals of the Central Mass. Tournament held at Tivnan Field in Worcester.

"We were a really young team last year with only a cou-

ple of seniors," added Blake, who'll be playing baseball at MCLA in North Adams next year. "Everyone on this year's team has stepped up and have played a key role."

Phillips tossed a five inning perfect game against David Prouty at the beginning of the regular season, but he's not the ace of the Warriors pitching staff. That title belongs to Henry's younger brother, Miles, who's only a sophomore.

Henry Blake had the opportunity to catch for his brother at least one more time at the high school level. Miles Blake, who's a lefty, was scheduled

to start against fourth-seeded Oakmont in the round of eight road game last Sunday afternoon.

"It has been a lot of fun being the catcher for my brother during the past couple of years," Henry Blake said. "I also enjoy catching all of our other pitchers."

Junior right-hander Joe Amaru was the starting pitcher against Pittsfield (12-9). He went the first 4¹/₃ innings allowing two runs (one earned) and four base hits. He struck out four and issued just one

Please see **TANTASQUA**, page 11

High school players take court for tournament

WORCESTER – The summer season has begun and the Quabbin area boys basketball team members were anxious to start the rebuilding process by heading to the Worcester United AAU Tournament at Assumption College.

Coach Tim Hay was at the helm with 12 players in the high school division taking on three AAU teams which is a challenge for any single high school-based team.

However, the focus and goal this summer season is betterment in all area of the game and that necessitates the further acquisition of an advanced individual skill set as the regeneration of the program continues.

If it was a challenge on the hardwood they were looking for they found it at the three game tournament with Quabbinians absorbing three losses but going away with more savvy and experience.

Hay no doubt had the youngest team in pool and bracket play with a team comprised of six sophomores, two freshmen along with an eighth and sixth grader to compliment his only two seniors at last week's tournament.

Offense was a concern with the team dropping the first game 48-28.

Rick Janoure led the team with 9 points followed by Quinn Geary with 8 and Kyle Clark with 7.

The second game saw the cagers place nine players in the scoring column but falling by a

Please see **QUABBIN**, page 11

Tough season for lacrosse co-op



Kyle Beaudry passes to a teammate.



Seth Mitchell breaks away from this defender.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY JACK CASCIO NEAR:SMUGMUG.COM

MONSON – Monson boys lacrosse, which has had a co-op the last two seasons with Pathfinder Regional, had a rough end to the season as the Pioneers simply had a tough time stopping goals. The Pioneers played

to a 2-15 record overall. Their final game was a nonplayoff win over Central High School, the source of their other win in the regular season on May 6.



Talon Clark maintains control despite the defensive efforts.



Osvaldo Nieves makes a great save at goal.

- sports -

Pioneers season ends in Division 5 state tournament



Jennifer Kinney swings at a pitch.



Olivia Ward makes a catch in the outfield.

PALMER – Pathfinder softball has been slowly making its way back into playoff contention, and this year qualified for the Division 5 state tournament. The Pioneers faced an Eastern Mass. school in the preliminary round, Minuteman High School. The Pioneers were defeated 14-1 on the road, and their season ends at 7-8.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY JACK CASCIO NEAP:SMUGMUG.COM



Greenly Lagimoniere looks to make contact.



Emma Chevalier pitches for the Pioneers.

Rollins takes win in Late Model race

WINCHESTER, N.H. – Veteran wheelsman Geoff Rollins rocketed to victory Saturday at Monadnock Speedway, gobbling up the competition as he won the first round of the 2023 Teddy Bear Pools NHSTRA Late Model Triple Crown series at the storied high-banked speedplant.

The Bay State hot shoe was one of four drivers scoring his first win of the year Saturday on the high banks. Nate Wenzel, NHSTRA Modifieds, Louie Maher, Mini Stocks, and Michael Yeaton, Six Shooters, each earned his first victory lap of the summer, while Pure Stocker Chris Davis and Young Gun Adrian Smith both won for the second time.

Starting up front in the 50-lap main event after dominating his heat race, Rollins never looked back en route to running away with the \$1,000 top prize. Strongman Chris Buffone stayed with him the first ten laps but when Buffone sud-

denly dropped out on lap 11, it was all Rollins. Behind him, though, the competition was fierce for spots two through five.

With only one caution, on lap 47, slowing the rapid-fire event, gains were hard to come by as the sizzling field blasted through the fog. Kenny Thompson claimed the duce at Buffone's demise, but had Tim Wenzel glued to his bumper.

Matt Sonnhalter, charging from row four, took second on lap 35, but Wenzel stayed just inches behind. With three to go, Rollins lost his half-lap lead, while the two top contenders set up for a furious finish. Sonnhalter's last-lap backchute dive netted him second, with Wenzel, Thompson, and Hillary Renaud rounding out the potent top five.

Sophomore speedster Nate Wenzel led all the way in the NHSTRA Modified 40-lapper, keeping defending track champ Tyler Leary in his shadow to



Geoff Rollins got a victory at Monadnock Speedway last Saturday evening.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

score his first victory of the summer. Brian Chapin edged Aaron Fellows for third, while JT Cloutier, spun on lap five, stormed back through the field

to come home fifth. The crowd held its breath in this one, as the red waved on lap five when Kimmy Rivet's open-wheeler took a wild ride

in turn two, landing on top of the backstretch wall. Something appeared to have broken in Cole Littlewood's car, send-

Please see **RACING**, page 11

- sports -

Pioneers gets another draw

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—The last two Western Mass. Pioneers home matches have ended in draws. It's something that hasn't taken place at Lusitano Stadium since 2018.

Four days after playing a scoreless draw against Black Rock FC, the Pioneers had to settle for a 1-1 home tie versus the Boston Bolts, last Wednesday night.

"Another tie really doesn't help us very much," said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. "We've been having trouble putting the ball into the net during the past couple of games."

At the beginning of the 2018 regular season, the Pioneers posted back-to-back 1-1 home draws against the Boston Bolts and the GPS Portland Phoenix.

The Pioneers also played a road tie against the Seacoast United Phantoms and a home tie against the Westchester Flames in back-to-back matches at the end of the 2018 regular season.

The good news is the Pioneers haven't lost a regular season match at Lusitano Stadium since June 22, 2018, when they suffered a 2-1 setback to Black Rock FC.

The Western Mass. squad had a 3-0-3 overall record after their first six matches of this season. Their other tie came in the first meeting of the regular season with the Phantoms, which took place away from the friendly confines of Lusitano Stadium on May 25.

The Pioneers posted a 3-0 road victory over the Bolts in the season opener on May 16.

Western Mass. was trailing 1-0 at halftime of last Wednesday's home contest.

The Bolts (0-3-3) took a 1-0 lead following a header by Harry Sankey, which was assisted by Tanner Barry, during the 21st minute.

The home team, who played much better during the second half, had several very good chances to put the ball into the net past Bolts goalie Nikola Antich.

Alec Hughes, Jared Smith, Lucio Berron, and Khalid Rose had shots on goals for the home team.

Augustine Boadi, who's a first-year member of the Western Mass. Pioneers squad, finally got the job done during the 84th minute.

Boadi, who'll be entering his sophomore season as a member of the Boston College men's soccer team in the fall, received a pass from Hughes before firing a shot off the post into the right corner of the net for the game tying the goal.

"It was the third goal that I've scored as a member of the Western Mass. Pioneers," said Boadi, who was born in Accra, Ghana. "I scored my first goal of the season in a home match against Pathfinder. The second one came at Boston City, which was a 10-1 win. Another tie wasn't the result that we really wanted in tonight's match, but it's one of those games we need to learn from."

Boadi also does a very good job in the classroom at Boston College. He was recently selected to the ACC All-Academic Team.

Prior to playing soccer for Boston College, Boadi at-



PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Lucio Berron dribbles up the field.

tended Northfield Mount Hermon where he was named as the Massachusetts Gatorade Player of the Year as a senior.

Frankie D'Agostino, who's a former Pioneers player and is currently the associate head coach of the B.C. men's soccer team, recommended Boadi to Molinari.

"Frankie played a key role in getting me to play for the Pioneers this year," Boadi said. "Vermont and the Bolts also wanted me for them. Frankie told me about this team and stadium, so I decided to come here. It has been a lot of fun so far. This is a very special place and I'm hoping to come back here next year."

D'Agostino, who grew up in Longmeadow, had the chance to watch Boadi play a soccer match at Lusitano Stadium for the first time last Wednesday night.

It looked like the Pioneers would take a 2-1 lead with a stoppage time goal, but the referee never called it a goal.

"From my point of view, I thought the shot by Andrew Serafino did go into the net," Boadi said. "It was either a goal or we should've been given a penalty kick because of a hand ball."

Molinari gave his thoughts about the no goal call.

"All of the players told me it was a goal," he said. "If it was a goal, it's disappointing that the referee didn't allow it, but there isn't anything we can do about it now. We now must win the rest of our games if we want the chance to make the playoffs."

Nicholas Oberrauch, who's the Pioneers captain, didn't play in the Pioneers home match against the Bolts because of an injury.

After playing a couple of road matches, the Pioneers will be returning home to battle rival Seacoast United at 7 p.m. on June 23.

QUABBIN from page 9

score of 53-36.

Quinn Geary led Quabbin in the third game in scoring with 6 points as 8 more teammates added to the offense as well but the Quabbinians fell 51-31.

Coach Hay was pleased that the younger players are looking to be aggressive towards generating offense but more skill work and definitely practice is on the future agenda.

"We began our summer season at Assumption this past weekend by playing in a high school AAU tournament. Our roster was represented by all 3 levels with players from our Varsity, JV and even our Middle School team. Competition was tough, however it was a great experience for our guys to begin the summer session and start playing as one unit. Assumption has a top notch facility that was a great venue to kick things off," said Hay.

Defensively, the synergy is not there yet with strategy and tactics but the energy and effort was evident.

Just needs to be applied successfully.

It is only the beginning of the summer season and now the attention will turn to both the Auburn League and Game On League in Fitchburg.

TANTASQUA from page 9

walk.

Sophomore righty Lucas MacNevin, who started in right field, took over on the mound with one-out in the fourth and was able to get out of a jam. MacNevin allowed the tying run in the top of the sixth inning, but he wound up as the winning pitcher.

"Joe did an awesome job of throwing strikes, and we made the plays behind him. Joe wasn't the winning pitcher, but he has won a lot of games for us this year," Leroux said. "He and Lucas have worked very well together all year long. Lucas did a great job in relief."

MacNevin was also the winning pitcher in the Warriors 3-1 home win over 28th-seeded Dover Sherborn on June 5.

The score of the round of 16 game was tied 3-3 entering the bottom of the sixth inning.

Junior first baseman Jack Rapose (2-for-3) singled to left field leading off the frame. Following a sacrifice bunt by MacNevin, junior centerfielder Ryan Wright hit a flyball single to center putting runners at the corners. Then junior DH Petey Casine, who's normally a pinch hitter, slapped a single past the Generals third baseman scoring the go-ahead run.

"We decided to make a change today to spark our offense," Leroux said. "Petey has been our main pinch hitter this year and he got the job done in that situation."

Another run crossed the play on a ground ball hit by junior third baseman Colm McGrath.

MacNevin allowed a leadoff single in the top of the seventh inning to Pittsfield junior pinch hitter Roshan Warrior before retiring the next three batters. He ended the game with his only strikeout before being mobbed by his teammates.

"I just kept throwing the last batter curveballs and he couldn't hit them," MacNevin said. "It's a lot of fun winning a postseason game. We're not done yet."

Amaru was helped out in the top of the first inning with a couple of outstanding defensive plays made by Krochmalnyckyj, who's the Warriors starting shortstop, and Rapose.

McGrath poked a single into center field leading off the home half of the frame. After stealing second base, McGrath moved to third on a bunt hit by junior left fielder Chace Fredette before scoring the game's first run on Krochmalnyckyj's sacrifice fly to right.

The Tantasqua defense turned a 5-4-3 inning ending double play in the top half of the fourth inning.

With two outs in the bottom of the fourth, Tantasqua junior center fielder Ryan Wright gave his team a 3-0 advantage by hitting a two-run ground-ball single into left field.

The Generals battled back with two runs in the fifth before tying the score with another run in the following inning.

The Warriors never trailed as Casine came up with a clutch base hit and MacNevin got the job done on the mound.

RACING from page 10

ing him into Rivet and then into the wall, but both drivers fortunately walked away from the carnage.

Louie Maher made the move of the night on lap three of the Mini Stock feature to take the lead from Skyler Shippee and then hold strong to score his first win of the season in the caution-free 25-lapper. Shippee finished at his bumper, with Kevin Clayton strong in third.

Chris Davis held second-generation pilot Nolan McClay in his shadow for all 25 laps to win his second Pure Stock feature in a row. Reigning Claremont champ Chris Chambers was third, taking the checkers just ahead of Kodi Sabins and CJ Johnson.

Week one winner Steve Miller and son Steve Jr. brought the Six Shooters to the green but, if this one was supposed to be a Marvelous Millers show, Michael Yeaton hadn't read the script. Yeaton took over on lap three and never looked back. Miller Jr. was strong in second, with Renegade Robert Shaw coming home third.

Markus O'Neil led the first eight laps of the Young Guns feature before giving way to event winner Adrian Smith. Owen Zilinski got up for second on lap 11 but couldn't reel in the speedy Smith, while O'Neil stayed strong to earn the third podium spot.

After a weekend off, Monadnock Speedway will return to action on Saturday, June 24, when it hosts the 50-lap Pure Stock Shoot Out. The NHSTRA Modi-

fieds, Pro 4 Modifieds, Mini Stocks, and Young Guns, along with the NELCAR Legends and Bandaleros, will all be in action too.

Monadnock Speedway June 10 Unofficial Top Tens:
TEDDY BEAR POOLS TRIPLE CROWN
LATE MODEL 50: Geoff Rollins, Matt Sonnhalter, Tim Wenzel, Rupert Thompson, Hillary Renaud, JD Stockwell, Erik Smith, Isabella Minchella, Gordon Farnum, Chris Castor.

NHSTRA MODIFIED: Nate Wenzel, Tyler Leary, Brian Chapin, Aaron Fellows, JT Cloutier, Cory Plummer, Joel Belanger, Eric Leclair, Adam LaPoint, Kevin Pittsinger.

MINI STOCK: Louie Maher, Skyler Shippee, Kevin Clayton, Cam Sontag, Erin Aiken, Jon Fultz, Chris Sontag, Robert Williams, Jake Puchalski, Pat Houle.

PURE STOCK: Chris Davis, Nolan McClay, Chris Chambers, Kodi Sabins, CJ Johnson, Colton Martin, Jimmy Zellman, Andrea St. Amour, Colton Hull, Ricky Melcher.

SIX SHOOTER: Mike Yeaton, Steve Miller Jr., Robert Shaw, Steve Miller Sr., Andrew Scott, Ethan Meyette, Mike Comtois, Zach Zilinski, Jacob Scott, Russell Mason.

YOUNG GUN: Adrian Smith, Owen Zilinski, Markus O'Neil, Madison Cousino, Addison Brooks, Cambri Hubbard, Kailyn Hubbard, Sofia Rego, Jordan Higbee.

PERFORM | FROM PAGE 1

with the elementary school to get submissions for student artwork as well as essays and photographs.

She announced students Ashleigh Wall, Aiden Swanson and Sam Gustafson as the essay and photo competition winners and awarded them certificates before the play.

Lytle said she was involved in an enrichment program offered through the school and her involvement allowed her to recruit students to participate in the program as well as gather artwork for the show.

"We encouraged the kids to create artwork and the art teacher [Ashley Simonds] collected it," said Lytle.

She added "the Cultural Council is always supporting everything in the arts," and that the June 9 performance is the first one Lytle has been involved in organizing since before COVID.

She commended the students for overcoming their nerves and following through with the play.

"Little Orphan Samantha" follows the journey of several young orphan girls who become adopted by billionaire, "Mr. Big Bucks."

Though Samantha is at the forefront of the play, she finds herself the pawn of a scheming orphanage director who attempts to swindle \$25,000 from the billionaire seeking to adopt her.

The plan falls short, resulting in the arrest of the orphanage director, Mrs. Shannanigan's brother and his partner.

While a tone of aggravation was set early on in the play with an a capella performance of "It's the Hard Knock Life", from the 1982 film "Annie", the tone shifted to one of

hope following the performance of "Tomorrow".

A valuable lesson Mr. Big Bucks shares with the orphans is that money cannot buy happiness.

"No matter how much money...how many things you have, if you don't have anybody to share them with you might as well be broke," said Mr. Big Bucks.

As the curtains closed, attendees clapped for the actors.

Lytle presented the cast with participation certificates and commended their performance.

Some parents brought children bouquets of flowers and snapped photos as they departed the stage.

After the show, Maggie the Clown and her daughter set up a balloon animal station, face painting and even performed magic tricks.

Lytle thanked Maggie and her daughter as well as the volunteers who helped clean the cafeteria.



Shown are characters Miss Shenanigans, orphan home director, with her brother and his friend plotting a scheme to get money. Turley Photos by Dallas Gagnon



Students Adella Harvey and Riley Perron smile as they hold flowers and awards for their performances in "Little Orphan Samantha".



Another student created a landscape design for the art show with a deep blue sky, yellow sun and tree.



Shown is fifth grader Maya's artwork in the school cafeteria.



Shown is fourth grade student Amelia's artwork hanging on display for the art show.



Shown is the artwork of another elementary schooler, who used pastels to color their landscape.

PETITIONS | FROM PAGE 1

Seymours filed a voluntary statement with the Police Department. Seymour said many of the mailings had substances in them, or were targeted at their children.

Seymour said prior to this, they felt safe in town. "Now we are on high alert," he said.

The Seymours have been to the Police Department several times.

Seymour said Tashena Marie Holmes, president of the Rural Justice Network, has slandered him and his wife on her social media videos.

Seymour said many people agreed that the drag performance was inappropriate but were fearful of retribution.

As of May 30, the Seymours have received a total of 181 signatures to recall Canada, 177 to recall Borowski, and 187 to cancel the drag performance.

Seymour said the Town Clerk told them they would need 15% of registered voters to sign the petitions in order to have a successful recall.

"That would mean 568 for each recall for elected officials," Seymour said. "After all the hate mail, threats, mistreatment and obscenities, we will not be submitting the recall petitions to the Town Clerk."

Seymour said if the petition to cancel the drag performance is necessary, they will submit it to the appropriate people.

He said all three of the Selectmen have been threatened over this event.

"We can only hope the proper authorities will use wisdom, and make sure all people of our community are treated fairly, and that this matter be treated lawfully, fair, equitable and just," Seymour said.

Board of Selectmen Chair Jason Petraitis said the Board has no authority to cancel the event. He said the Rural Justice Network is responsible for insurance and covering the cost of police detail.

Annual town report

Petraitis said the annual town report will be available at the town meeting on Friday, June 16. This year, the report will be dedicated to Anne Jannette.

"Small towns like North Brookfield sometimes have

a quick turnover on various employed positions," Petraitis said. "Every so often someone fills a position with a great deal of professionalism and heart...wants what is best for the town and strives to be the best that they can be in all they do for the town."

He said the town had the "happy fortune" of hiring Jannette in 1995. She started at the Police Department, before moving to town treasurer, retiring in 2022.

"Over the years, Mrs. Jannette has worked diligently with the other members of the town's financial offices," Petraitis said. "In dedicating this year's town report to Anne Jannette we hope to relay to her our appreciation and thanks...thank you Anne for your valuable service to North Brookfield."

Town Administrator discussion

Petraitis said the Board discussed using \$200,000 from American Rescue Plan Act funds to hire a Town Administrator for approximately a year and a half.

In order to do this, a five person committee must first be formed. Candidates for the committee include Jannette, Bob Locatelli, Chris Caputo, Tim Canada and Michelle Petraitis.

Petraitis said the hope is that the committee will find a candidate halfway through the next fiscal year.

Financial items

The Board approved a reserve fund request in the amount of \$1,961.26 to be transferred to the purchase and service account, to cover a negative balance and three invoices for pest control and National Grid.

The Board also approved a transfer of \$450 from the election and census department account salary to other expenses.

"Printing of the ballots for the annual election was more expensive than originally budgeted," Petraitis said.

Retirement fund vote

The Board voted to approve a 2% cost of living adjustment increase for retirees through the Worcester Regional Retirement Board, retroactively going into effect as of July 1, 2022.

Budget amendment

Petraitis said the Board will need to amend the budget by about \$3,850 in order to cover the costs of a

special election to elect a state senator. The Board approved an amended budget of \$292,862.89.

Master Plan/Open Space Committee

Michelle Petraitis, representing the Master Plan/Open Space Committee recommended creating a separate five-member committee to follow through with initiatives listed in the Master Plan.

Petraitis said a lot of time and work went into creating the Master Plan, and it would be useful to form a committee to see that it's implemented.

"We would hate to see it lay fallow for lack of government," she said.

The Board approved creating a committee to follow through with the Master Plan.

Request for resources

The Board approved a resources request from Barrens Cove the Film, Inc. for use of Lake Lashaway to film a movie.

Administrative Assistant Ashley Barre said both Police Chief Mark Smith and Fire Chief Joseph Holway have reviewed the request and the film company is willing to pay for police detail.

Letter of support

The Board signed a letter of support for Carolyn Romano to apply for Mass Development's Underutilized Properties Program, after she purchased the historic property at 22 Summer St.

The property is located behind the Town House, and has been home to a number of businesses since it was built in the 1800s, including a hair salon, shoe factory, furniture store, pizzeria, U.S. Post Office, undertaker's office and more.

A retail establishment will open this month on the first floor and there is a rented apartment on the second floor.

Town meetings

A special town meeting will be held Friday, June 16 at 7 p.m., followed by the adjourned annual town meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Water treatment

Treatment of Lake Lashaway will begin on June 20. For more information, visit lakelashaway.org.

- business -

The Joy of Beans celebrates grand opening

Coffee as it should be in the center of West Brookfield

By Richard Murphy
Correspondent

WEST BROOKFIELD – The shop in the center of West Brookfield could have been described as unobtrusive; and it was, more or less, until June 10, 2023.

That Saturday, it may be said to be on its way to becoming a landmark. On that day, Joy Hinton would hold the grand opening of her The Joy of Beans coffee shop.

On Saturday, it was “grand,” but it took a while getting here. The shop started with a “soft” opening at the beginning of the year, understandable as it was more or less a shakedown cruise, and one takes time to get the sea legs under them.

As it turned out, this day, the fates were kind. The weather more than cooperated and the locals turned out in good numbers.

They had been coming since much earlier in the morning as the Joy of Beans opened its doors at 8 a.m. Your correspondent arrived to find a line in front of the counter and all seats occupied with jazz playing in the background.

At the end of the room were Bing and Sue sitting in the comfortable chairs.

Bing was not the late former crooner resurrected, rather a man who had been a Methodist minister for a short time in West Brookfield many years ago, but mostly in Connecticut parishes. Sue had a career in teaching.

Both, as they were enjoying the brew, expressed their love of the town and their appreciation of the impresario, with the words, “Joy is a delight.”

If one wanted to sit and have coffee and pastry, it could be done out front as well. There is an arbor, and under it seats and tables. At the front of the structure was The Joy of Beans sign to tell the world where they were.

Now one does not just up and open a coffee shop in a lovely little New England town without there being antecedents that led her to this, and certainly, that is the case with Hinton. She is generous in comments about others.

It began when Hinton received a Christmas gift from her husband, Travis.

She started roasting coffee for Travis and became “fascinated with the history, science, geography, math” around the origin of coffee. The beverage can comfort people in emergencies and has health benefits, not to mention how it brings people together, gathering over cup.

“I was encouraged by family and friends to sell in the West Brookfield farmers market, but it also got off the ground a little sooner when a friend and owner of the Book Bear (now The Quaboag Book Shop), Al Navitski kickstarted my business by ordering eight pounds of coffee for his daughters on their birthdays,” Hinton said

Hinton also notes, and not least, it was done “with help and support of my husband, children and grandchildren.”

Speaking of the grandchildren, it has been a learning experience for them, being part of the operation.

“They have learned how to start a business from the ground up. Many have met them at various farmers markets and events. We have participated in West



The front arbor and sign at The Joy of Beans coffee shop.

Brookfield, Brimfield, Timberyard and Worcester Farmers Markets and Festivals and Castleberry Fairs,” Hinton said.

Hinton roasts over 30 different coffees from 23 different countries. Purchase a pound from the collection, and she will grind it for you.

As the morning continued, folks continued to join the line to order coffee and maybe a pastry at the well-stocked counter.

That counter is a tale in itself. On a cupboard there are the cards of the locals she sources from.

Included are local farmers market bakers: Turnabout Farm, The Bread Box Company, Brynne’s Bread and Kate’s Bakes. The Crafted Cookie is sourced from Worcester as are the pastries from On The Rise.

As Hinton puts it, “So my goal is to stay small but think big.”

Also on the cupboard were handcrafted mugs, produced by Molly Kelly from West Barnstable and called Molly Mugs, which is understandable.

Hinton plans to increase the menu selection as time goes on. Cold drinks are available and ice cream will be sold in the summer.

Morning progressed and the customers continued to arrive. Your correspondent observed that people he knew, but did not see often were coming in.

Well known denizens showed up as well. Truly, The Joy of Beans has the makings of a town meeting spot. Not all the visitors were townies.

All the way from the Winston-Salem area of North Carolina came Hinton’s uncle, English Bradshaw.

The 86-year-old gentleman made the trip by himself. May we all be so spry at that age.

Bradshaw spoke of how proud he was of his niece. So, it would go as the day went on. Not as packed at the end, still people were there and getting coffee. The Hinton family came by and would pose with Joy in a family picture.

Hinton, and her young assistant, had had a busy day, but the smile on her face told everyone that it had been a successful time.

It was a “grand opening.”



Al Navitski with Joy Hinton, Al's encouragement would bear fruit. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RICHARD MURPHY



Homemade pastries pair perfectly with freshly made coffee.

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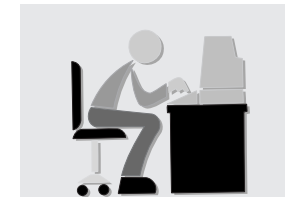


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17	18	19	20	Base Price \$26.00			
21	Base Price \$26.50	22	Base Price \$27.00	23	Base Price \$27.50	24	Base Price \$28.00
25	Base Price \$28.50	26	Base Price \$29.00	27	Base Price \$29.50	28	Base Price \$30.00
29	Base Price \$30.50	30	Base Price \$31.00	31	Base Price \$31.50	32	Base Price \$32.00
33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base Price \$33.00	35	Base Price \$33.50	36	Base Price \$34.00
37	Base Price \$34.50	38	Base Price \$35.00	39	Base Price \$35.50	40	Base Price \$36.00

Quabbin Village Hills
Circulation: 50,500

Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800

Suburban Residential
Circulation: 59,000

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Explore barren habitat with DCR July 15

BELCHERTOWN – The Department of Conservation and Recreation’s Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center is offering another free program.

On Saturday, July 15 from 9-11 a.m., explore barrens habitat restoration on Barre Heathland, meeting at the intersection of Route 62 and Barre Road in Hubbardston on a 1-mile moderate hike. How can forest management and prescribed fire programs support rare plant and animal habitats?

All ages are welcome. Email QuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov with questions or to be added to the mailing list

Please dress appropriately for the weather and bring water and snacks. Dogs are not allowed.

Space is limited.

To register for this event, visit www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events?_page=1.

New Braintree Police Log

During the week of June 5-12, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 11 building/property checks, 37 directed/area patrols, four traffic controls, three radar assignments, three emergency 911 calls, one burglary (breaking and entering), three citizen assists, one assist other agency, two motor vehicle accidents, one motor vehicle investigation and four animal calls in the town of New Braintree.

Monday, June 5
8:07 a.m. Burglary (Breaking and Entering), Oakham Road, Report Taken

Wednesday, June 7
11:45 a.m. Assist Citizen, Gilbertville Road, Served in Hand
10:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Barre Road, Vehicle Towed

Thursday, June 8
1:18 p.m. Assist Citizen, Utley Road, Negative Contact

9:11 p.m. Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Services Rendered

Friday, June 9
7:30 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Skivira Lane, Vehicle Towed
10:40 a.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled
1:18 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Worcester Road, Dispatch Handled

Sunday, June 11
9:26 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Cemetery Road, Services Rendered
10:49 p.m. 911 Suspicious Activity, Barr Road, Services Rendered
9:26 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Cemetery Road, Services Rendered
10:49 p.m. 911 Suspicious Activity, Barr Road, Services Rendered

POLICY from page 1

depending on the community.

After discussing the organizational structure, members of the Council agreed that Geaghan and Project Coordinator for Community Health Emily Coderre would handle the day-to-day business of the Council, such as scheduling meeting dates and times.

A leadership team will be formed to narrow down topics before they reach the general Council membership.

“These narrowed down topics are presented to the whole food policy council for discussion,” Geaghan said.

The leadership team would be comprised of a representation of the 50 active members of the Council covering different communities and demographics, such as farmers, those who’ve experienced food insecurity, low-income, business owners,

local government, geographic and ethnic diversity.

The general membership will then come to an agreement on the topic that everyone can live it.

Geaghan said this means that not everyone will love the decision, but no one will be fully opposed to it either.

All in attendance at the meeting agreed that this was an effective plan to conduct the Council’s business.

Council members also discussed current food needs in the community, with one being homelessness and access to hot, cooked meals.

Food pantries have been an invaluable resource to provide food for people, but preparing meals poses an extra challenge to those without anywhere to cook or store them.

Hosting community dinners was suggested, such as the ones many of the local

churches hosted prior to the pandemic.

Members also discussed organizations that collect expiring food from grocery stores in order to distribute it to those in need.

While there are no organizations like this that directly serve the Quaboag Valley region, there is Rachel’s Table in Springfield, a program of the Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts, as well as another based in Boston.

Members discussed the possibility of reaching out to either of these groups, to learn how food can be collected and distributed not only to address hunger, but also to cut back on food waste.

Coderre said the Council is also looking to conduct a community food assessment to determine where gaps in resources are, and who is affected by these gaps. This assessment could take a couple of months to compile.

The Council will be hosting hybrid training opportunity about Food Policy and Advocacy 101 on Wednesday, June 28 from 4-5 p.m. at E2E, 79 Main St., with Zoom access available.

About QVFPC

The Quaboag Valley Food Policy Council is funded through a grant received by the Town of Ware in partnership with Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation, covering the towns of Ware, Belchertown, Palmer, Monson, Wales, Holland, Brimfield, Warren, Brookfield, West Brookfield, North Brookfield and East Brookfield.

The Council is open to all, and everyone is welcome to join in the discussion.

For more information, people may email Geaghan at cgeaghan@townofware.com or Coderre at ecoderre@townofware.com.

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Thursday 5:00 - 10:00

Friday 5:00 - 10:00

Saturday 3:00 - 8:00

QUABOAG CURRENT



NORTH BROOKFIELD
Students perform in rFUTURE p2

STURBRIDGE
OSV offers tastes of summer p6

BROOKFIELD
Car show celebrates 350th p5

Editorial/Opinion
Sports
Police Logs
Classifieds

???

Volume 16, Number 30

Friday, June 16, 2023

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