



QUABOAG CURRENT

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Quaboag Current Newspaper

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www.turley.com

Volume 16, Number 31

Friday, June 30, 2023

Voters approve purchase of new fire truck at town meeting

By Eric Troy
Correspondent

NEW BRAINTREE – Under the newly renovated roof of Glidden Hall, residents, school department and town officials gathered on June 22 for both annual and special town meetings to discuss budgets for the upcoming fiscal year. Additional funding was

required to offset the budget from the 2021-2022 fiscal year. The town departments which required additional funding were as follows: Select Board, approximately \$838; Assessors (Clerical), approximately \$972; Treasurer, approximately \$600; Town Hall, approximately \$4,500; Police Department, approximately \$24,000; Fire Department, approximately

\$42,000; Equipment Fuel, approximately \$2,000; Highway Department, approximately \$34,000; Health Insurance, approximately \$13,000; Medical Tax, approximately \$1,000; Insurance, approximately \$2,000; and Out of District Tuition, approximately \$1,000.

These budgetary adjustments were approved by residents and included funds from

free cash (money that was still available from last year's budget) for the Highway Department's \$34,000 increase and adjustments to the Capitol Improvement Account of \$37,000.

The increased funds for the Capitol Improvement Account will be used to help make software improvements for town Assessors and to increase the budget of the New Braintree

Historical Commission by \$10,000 for future projects.

The annual town meeting was preceded by a moment of silence to pay respect to members of the New Braintree community who passed since last year's Annual Town Meeting.

While the meeting's primary focus was on upcoming budget increases for fiscal year 2024,

See PURCHASE | PAGE 6

Post Grad students held town-wide event



Mother Caitlin Wawrzonek holds six month old twins Estelle (left) and Ainsley (right) as she multitasks and sells accessories from her Blu's Bows collection. TURLEY PHOTOS BY KAREN A. LEWIS

By Karen A. Lewis
Correspondent

NEW BRAINTREE - What began as a simple idea by the students in Quabbin's Post Grad Program turned into a community event when the first ever New Braintree Town Wide

Yard Sale was held on June 10. "It was a wonderful way for our kids to interact with people in town to build community," said Greg Devine, Guidance Director for External Partnerships of the Quabbin Regional School District.

See YARD SALE | PAGE 8

Day of Caring

United Way hosts 16th annual event

By Anjolina Fantaroni
Correspondent

SOUTHBRIDGE – The United Way of South Central Massachusetts hosted its 16th annual Day of Caring in surrounding towns on June 23.

With over 150 volunteers, the United Way provided opportunities in Southbridge, Sturbridge, Charlton, Dudley, and Webster to beautify and accomplish service in the area.

The day began on the Southbridge Town Common at 8 a.m., with a breakfast provided by a local restaurant, Josh's

See UNITED WAY | PAGE 7



Volunteers placed wood chips on the Tri-Community YMCA playground, to provide safer play. TURLEY PHOTOS BY ANJOLINA FANTARONI

Annual adaptive water skiing event held at Hamilton Reservoir

By Dallas Gagnon
Staff Writer
dgagnon@turley.com

HOLLAND – In a celebration of human potential and inclusion, the Webster Water Ski Collective, Aqua Riders of Holland and Team Hoyt New England joined forces to support athletes of all abilities at an adaptive water skiing event.

The annual event, established by Webster Water Ski Collective, offered 26 athletes with various disabilities an op-

See WATER | PAGE 12



Athletes Braeden Roache and Jameson Roache are shown alongside parents Kristen and Mike, as they prepare to go skiing. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DALLAS GAGNON

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- community -

Country Bank announces promotions

WARE – Country Bank recently announced its newest promotions.

Jessica McGarry has been promoted to Senior Vice President, East Region Commercial Lending Team Lead. Jessica has over 20 years of experience in the banking industry and has been a commercial lender in the Worcester market for the past ten years.

Shantie Prashad, Cindy Saucier, and Blair Robidoux have been promoted to Assistant Vice Presidents, Retail Banking.

Shantie Prashad has over 26 years of sales and leadership experience. She graduated from The New England School for Financial Studies in 2022, and is highly active in the Worcester community. She serves on the Board for the Learning First Foundation and the YWCA and serves as an Ambassador for the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Cindy Saucier has over 20 years of banking and leadership experience, serving as the Retail Banking Officer of the Charlton Banking Center. She graduated from the New England School for Financial Studies in 2021 and is a Board Member and Vice Chair for the Central Mass South Chamber of Commerce, along with various non-profits and committees within the Charlton community.

Blair Robidoux currently leads the West Street Banking Center and has over 17 years of experience in the retail division. Blair has held various roles throughout her tenure at Country Bank and graduated from the New England School for Financial Studies in 2019.

“We are committed to helping each team member identify their career goals and work with them to reach those objectives. Their performance contributes to the Bank’s overall success, and we’re pleased to be able to promote these individuals for their hard work and dedication to the organization,” said Miriam Siegel, first senior vice president, chief culture and development officer of Country Bank in a press release.



Jessica McGarry



Shantie Prashad



Blair Robidoux



Cindy Saucier



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- community -

Selectmen approved contracts; financial items

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Board of Selectmen approved contracts for services recently, including EMS services and the Town Offices lease agreement.

The town will pay an additional \$68,000 for the period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, for advanced life support services in two payments. The first will be paid on July 1, 2023, and the second on Jan. 1, 2024.

North Brookfield EMS will pay East Brookfield Fire Department \$34,000 (in two payments of \$17,000) for mutual aid ALS.

Administrative Assistant Ashley Barre said at the June 20 meeting, that the addendum for ALS has been included in the EMS contract for the past few years. She said the regular contract amount increased by \$20,000, going from \$50,000 to \$70,000.

The Board approved the contract with North Brookfield EMS.

Town Offices lease

The Board signed a three-year contract to lease the Duncan Block for the Town Offices, beginning July 1. The terms of the lease agreement have not changed, Board of Selectmen Chair Jason Petraitis said.

The town agrees to pay a total of \$35,239.44 to lease the space for all three years.

CDBG contracts

Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission Principal Planner Chris Dunphy gave the Board an update on the Community Development Block Grant Programs, including amendments and extensions to contracts.

Dunphy said they are opening bids for the Senior Center roof, as well as closing out the fiscal year 2019 grant.

After an evaluation, Dunphy said the Senior Center project will cost an additional \$6,626, which will be paid for through the grant.

The Board also received the first invoice for the Mount Pleasant Street project.

The project will be completed in phases and the first phase will replace the water line.

Childcare services

The Coalition for a Healthy North Brookfield has opened a community center at 173 Main St., called the Emilia K. Hope Community Center.

The center will be offering childcare services during televised Board of Selectmen's meetings from 5:45-7 p.m. or until the meeting ends. This service is for any people that want to become more involved with the town.

Childcare is available for all ages and drop off is no earlier than 15 minutes prior to the start of the meeting and pick up is no later than 15 minutes after the meeting ends.

All volunteers will have to pass a CORI check to work with children.

Storage units

Board of Selectmen Vice-Chair John Tripp said the town is going to start notifying people that have not paid for their storage units on Donovan Road.

Anyone that has not received a statement for their storage unit rental should contact the town.

4th of July

The town will be celebrating the 4th of July on Saturday, July 1, starting with a parade at 10:30 a.m. from the Firehouse. This event is sponsored by the Board of Selectmen.

After the parade, events will continue on the Common with music by DJ Brian. Common Ground Ciderworks will be set up, and Stan Matthews Music will perform from 5-7 p.m.

Free hot dogs, chips and soda will be provided.

Financial items

The Board approved a request from the Council on Aging to transfer \$447.13 from the Reserve Fund to the Purchase and Services account. This amount will cover a negative balance and five invoices.

Invoices are for energy, technology, Verizon Security, National Grid for the streetlight and Charter Communications.

The Board also approved the transfer of \$971.58 from the Election and Census Salary account to the Board of Selectmen Town Counsel account; \$758.42 from Parks and Recreation Playground Supplies to Board of Selectmen General Insurance; \$2,000 from Playground/ Recreation Purchase and Services to General Insurance; \$2,000 from Single Audit to Town Counsel to cover a balance of fees expected for fiscal year 2023; \$1,300 from Single Audit to Town Offices Expense to cover increasing costs of electricity and gas; \$775 from Election and Census Registrars Salary to Town Counsel; \$2,570 from Rail Trail to Telephone Expense; \$553.37 from Rail Trail to Town Counsel; \$800 from Streetlighting to Town Counsel; \$12.32 from Town House Oil to Town Counsel; \$8.22 from Board of Selectmen Supplies to Town Counsel; \$160 from Town House Electric to Town Counsel; \$284 from Town House Purchase and Services to Board of Selectmen Purchase and Services; and \$505.78 from Town House Oil Heat to Town House Repairs

Petraitis said the two transfers to the

General Insurance were to cover a negative balance, addition of vehicles and a deductible for lawsuit; adding that the Telephone Expense line item is underfunded.

Appointment

Petraitis said the Town Administrator Search Committee is now meeting, and a fifth member is needed. Kirk Burnham from the Cemetery Commission was appointed to fill the open seat.

Fire Department report

Tripp read Fire Chief Joseph Holway's monthly report for May.

Holway said the training center has been busy, and is receiving some upgrades.

The dive team has also been training at the Town Beach. The team is working on developing a quick response team for the area.

Holway said the Fire Prevention team has been conducting fire alarm tests at the schools.

Request for resources

The Board signed the final approval to allow Barron's Cove the Film, Inc. to film on Lake Lashaway. Petraitis said there will be about 75 people involved and Police Chief Mark Smith already signed off on it.

Flea Market on the Common is Aug. 26

WEST BROOKFIELD – The First Congregational Church, 36 North Main St., has been hosting their Flea Market on the town Common for more than 50 years.

This year the Flea Market on the Common will be held on Saturday, Aug. 26 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Sellers of all kinds are welcome - flea folk, antique sellers, crafters,

product vendors, and those emptying out basements and attics. No food vendors, please.

Spaces are available for \$40 for a 20 x 20 grassy spot. Vendors must bring their own tables and tents.

The church will sponsor a food tent with grilled food, cold drinks and sweet treats. Email Dee at fcco@wb@gmail.com for an application.

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.

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

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- opinion -



Gotta love astilbes

I love to walk around my yard admiring the blooming plants.

Within the last few days my beautiful frosty pink astilbe has burst on to the scene in my shade garden, stealing the show from what is left of the mountain laurel flowers.

I love astilbe, and when they are happy, they certainly perform. They work well with other shade lovers - hostas and ferns come to mind first-off.

The astilbe has two things going for it: nice flowers and handsome leaves; traits desirable in the vase as well as the garden! Nothing is worse in my opinion than perennials that bloom for a relatively short amount of time but leave you with drab or high maintenance foliage for the rest of the season.

Not the case with astilbes, that is, as long as they are grown correctly. Most appreciate light to full shade and moist, humus-rich soil.

They may do okay in the sun as long as the soil is right. Take my word that they will struggle in dry ground, and will be far less attractive than their sunny counterparts.

For years I tried to grow a division of one of Mom's plants on the north side of my old house. Sure, I had great shade, but no matter how much I watered it, the soil drained too readily, and it struggled until I finally gave up and gave it away.

To make the first astilbe happier I should have amended the soil with lots of compost prior to planting. This can be accomplished easily by loosening a space in the garden twice the width of your astilbe and a foot or more deep.

Once it is friable, add a four inch layer of compost on top and mix it into the soil. Now you are ready to plant.

Dig a hole and position the astilbe at the same depth it was growing in the container, with the crown of the plant an inch or two below the soil surface. Back fill and gently firm down the area.

Water well until your new plant is established, as well as during periods of drought. Mulch is very beneficial to astilbes; it helps conserve vital moisture and reduce competition from weeds.

If flowers become sparse or the plant encroaches on its neighbors, division may be necessary. Wait until spring, and at the first sign of new growth lift and separate the clump.

The freshest parts of the plant will be towards the edge, so be sure to replant those sections. No doubt you will have many gardening friends ready and able to take any divisions you have left.

Where you place your astilbe in the border depends on the variety you are growing. They can range in height from less than one foot to over three!

There are also numerous variations in flower and foliage coloration. Flowers can be brick red, salmon, mauve, lavender pink, white and many shades in between.

Leaves can have a red or bronze tint, or be deep or even "electric" green. Some astilbe plumes are upright, while others are arching.

They may be light and airy or rather dense. Certainly, with this many options to choose from there is an astilbe for each and every taste!

Do try growing them along with hostas and ferns - a classic and hard to beat combination. Another plus: this plant is rarely bothered by deer or rabbits; I have both!

But beware, it may be harvested regularly for your next floral creation. It will last a good long time in the vase, especially if picked at the first sign of bloom.

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.



in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer

I received a note from a Williamsburg resident along with a newspaper clipping about a green-tailed towhee spotted in Newport, Rhode Island at Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge.

She said they are native to the Southwestern United States and "having gotten so far, they might be here any day now."

The green-tailed towhee is the smallest towhee. They are small, but chunky songbirds with big heads, stocky bodies and a medium to long tail.

It has a gray body, fairly greenish wings and tail with a rufous crown and white throat. Their bill is thick.

They are fairly common in the western mountains and spend most of their time in dense, low thickets where they forage on the ground. These towhees do sometimes wander east.

The female lays three to four white eggs with heavy dots of brown or gray, often concentrated at the larger end of the egg.

They build their nests on the ground or in low shrubs. It is a large, deep cup loosely made of twigs, grass, weeds, strips of bark and lined with finer grasses, rootlets and animal hair.

They eat mainly seeds and insects, but they will sometimes feed on berries or small fruits. They make a cat like meowing sound.

Best cities for birdwatching

New York, New York recently was ranked the number one city for birdwatching; I assume because of Central Park and the sea coast.

Other cities on the list from two to ten were: San Diego, California; Houston, Texas; Seattle, Washington, Los Angeles, California; San Francisco, California; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Phoenix, Arizona; Austin, Texas and Chicago, Illinois.

On the worst cities for birdwatching list Kansas City, Kansas came in at number one. Other cities were Montgomery, Alabama; Olathe, Kansas; Overland Park, Kansas and Mobile, Alabama (tied for fourth place); Des Moines, Iowa; Huntsville, Alabama; Murfreesboro, Tennessee; Sioux Falls, South Dakota and Henderson, Nevada.

Wild turkeys

I recently saw a hen turkey with her poults on the edge of the road. The hen was standing on the edge of the road and her young were in the tall grass, so I was unable to accurately count how many she



Green-tailed towhee

had.

Geese and goslings

Last week, I saw two pairs of adult Canada geese with some young goslings in my hayfield.

I spotted the adults heads in the tall grass and stopped to watch. I could see the goslings when they jumped up or stretched their necks to eat grass.

Nesting cardinal

One of my daughters had a cardinal nesting in her rhododendron bush. They could be observed from a window in the living room and not be disturbed.

The nest is now empty, and I hope they fledged and did not meet up with a predator.

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.

OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and guest columns between 500 and 800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.

Send opinions to:
Letters to the Editor, 80 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082 OR e-mail to pouimette@turley.com. Deadline for submission is Monday at noon for the following week's edition.

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Hitchcock Tavern grand opening held

WEST BROOKFIELD – Hitchcock Tavern opened its doors to the community with a Grand Opening Celebration on June 15 and lots of smiles from tavern owners Cindy and Roger Larson.

In a brief ribbon-cutting ceremony at the entrance to the historic tavern built by a young Captain David Hitchcock in 1760, Jan McCoy, at-large officer with the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce welcomed those in attendance and introduced state Rep. Donnie Berthiaume and Amanda Galonek Hellyar, legislative aide to state Sen. Ryan Fattman, who presented greetings from the legislature.

Tavern owner Cindy Larson thanked everyone for attending, and cited a number of key individuals for helping with recent renovations and grand opening plans. She introduced general manager Dianne Lincoln and head chef, Mike Rinaldo before stepping forward to cut the ceremonial ribbon.

Larson also thanked the countless tradesman, Dave Maloney who de-

signed the logo and made new signs; Kevin Frickenberg, wood floors; Dean & Son, HVAC; Ace Botta, painting; Tim Nason, painting; Tim & Tim Pecore, plumbing; John Tripp, Brian Fritz and Brad Gregoire, electrical; Dick Reynolds and crew, flooring; and John and the Hardwick Winery team.

She gave special thanks to Joe Klimavich, the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce, Discover Central Massachusetts and their vendors.

Following the ribbon-cutting, light refreshments were served on the patio.

Hitchcock Tavern is now open daily at 11:30 a.m. for lunch. On Sunday through Thursday the tavern will close at 11 p.m., with a midnight closing on Friday and Saturday nights. The main dining room is now available for wedding receptions, showers, bereavement gatherings, and other events.

To make reservations or to book a function, call 508-637-1497 or email info@hitchcocktavern.com.



Many attended the ribbon cutting at the Grand Opening at Hitchcock Tavern. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Shown from front row from left are Jan McCoy (Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce), Amanda Galonek (Legislative Aide), Monique Messier (President, Discover Central Massachusetts), Cindy Larson, Roger Larson, Rep. Donnie Berthiaume, Lorna Stone (Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce). Back row from left Chef Mike Rinaldo, General Manager Dianne Lincoln, Captain David Hitchcock (aka Rob Lyon).



Captain David Hitchcock (aka historic interpreter Rob Lyon) proposes a toast, wishing much success to tavern owners Roger and Cindy Larson.

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SPECIALS POSTED ON FACEBOOK

Quabbin Community Band presents 'A Star Spangled Spectacular'

BARRE – This coming Sunday, July 2, the Quabbin Community Band will present a rousing all-American program titled, "A Star Spangled Spectacular" at Nornay Park in South Barre, starting at 6 p.m.

A community band is often called upon to play for a variety of local functions, most often recognizing veterans and fallen soldiers on Veterans Day and Memorial Day.

As the Quabbin Community Band celebrates its 50th year, it's informative to find in QCB band history that for the Bicentennial in 1976, the Quabbin band was hired to play a Bicentennial concert or parade in the following communities: Rutland; North Brookfield; Readsboro, Vermont; Ware; Athol; Worcester; Three Rivers; and of course, on the Barre Bandstand.

The Quabbin Community Band has truly earned and enjoyed the reputation of always

"being there" for Barre and its surrounding towns with quality music and entertainment for the past 50 years, and the upcoming concert will be no different.

"Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy", "America The Beautiful", and "Stars and Stripes Forever" along with a new arrangement for the band of, "The 1812 Overture" make this an outdoor concert not to be missed. Bring your lawn chairs, your blankets, a cooler of snacks, even your American Flags to wave along to the music as they celebrate in South Barre at Nornay Park at 6 p.m.

Margaret Reidy is the current musical director of QCB who encourages musicians of all ages to join the band at 6:30 p.m. each Monday night through Aug. 7 at the Barre Town Hall for weekly practice. Be sure to follow the band on Facebook @ Quabbin Community Band.



Jill Mongeau, from Gilbertville, is shown playing the red, white and blue Quabbin Community Band bass drum circa 1976 when she was in the sixth grade. She now lives in Hardwick and has rejoined the band for their 50th season. SUBMITTED PHOTO

PURCHASE | FROM PAGE 1

a number of other topics were also discussed, including the acceptance of Town Officials elected on May 1.

Officials elected at the May 1 annual town election were upheld for the following positions and terms: Dennis Létendre Jr., Selectboard for three years; Jessica A. Bennett, Town Clerk for three years; Claire Reavey, Assessor for three years; Shelby Pollard, Assessor for one year; Janet A. Pierce, Treasurer for three years; Renee Gregoire, Auditor for three years; Amie Lefevre, Finance Committee for three years; Robert Glidden Sr., Cemetery Commissioner for three years; Paul Thompson, Board of Health for three years; Jeffrey Howland, Moderator for three years; Susie Mulliken, Constable for three years; Rory Fitzgerald, Constable for one year; Peggy Thompson, Quabbin Regional School District

School Committee for three years; Marjorie Wissiup, Library Trustee for three years; and Theresa Langelier, Library Trustee for three years.

All budgetary adjustments were passed, with conversation from residents focusing on increases to the Police Department budget and funds necessary for the purchase of a new fire truck.

The Police Department's budget for labor costs remained the same as last year (\$179,079), but the budget has risen approximately \$43,000 since fiscal year 2022.

One resident questioned the budget increases, commenting, "I'm not ashamed to pay my share, but my taxes have already gone up." The resident also commented on the decrease in coverage as the Police Department currently covers Hardwick as well as New Braintree.

Police Lieutenant Kevin M. Landline

commented on the increases in police budgets, saying that the increases have largely been due to union-required compensation increases, education, and the addition of a new officer to the police force. This new officer has his master's degree and was compensated an additional \$4,000 annually as required for his level of education.

Additional conversation occurred when the New Braintree Fire Department requested funds for a new pumper fire truck. The current truck is from 1996, has already had its pump rebuilt, and is due for another major maintenance run-through.

As the truck is nearly three decades old, the Fire Department hopes to replace the truck rather than repair it. The cost of a new pumper fire truck is approximately \$708,000.

Numerous emergency officials com-

mented on the rapidly increasing cost of pumper fire trucks (cited at an increase of 4-10% per month by officials). An additional consideration was an upcoming Massachusetts initiative to require electric fire trucks.

The cost of an electric fire truck is significantly higher, with officials citing prices as high as \$12 million during the meeting.

A resident commented on potential savings on the purchase by acquiring a used fire truck, but Fire Department officials commented that many towns are in the same boat as New Braintree, making used pumper fire trucks in good condition scarce.

Funding for the new pumper fire truck was approved by voters and the town should see the new fire truck within the next three years.

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Senior Citizens enjoy annual picnic with Sheriff Evangelidis

SHREWSBURY – On June 10, 1,200 seniors from across Worcester County filtered through SAC Park in Shrewsbury to receive their free barbeque lunch provided by the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office and Worcester County Reserve Deputy Sheriff Association.

For over a decade now, Evangelidis and his teams have been celebrating each summer with the Sheriff’s annual senior picnic. This year, attendees were greeted with barbecue boxed lunches, raffle giveaways, a goodie bag, scratch tickets, chick-fil-a gift cards, and much more.

The Sheriff’s picnic has become a highly anticipated event for the county’s senior community. The Sheriff’s Office receives support and donations from local companies and organizations such as Table Talk Pies, Dimitria Delights, the Massachusetts State Lottery, Polar Beverage, Atlas Distributing, Chick-fil-a Worcester, Chick-fil-a Westbor-

ough, and Automatic Rolls of New England. “The Sheriff’s annual Senior Picnic is always one of my favorite events,” said Evangelidis in a press release. “Each summer, it is great to reconnect with friends and familiar faces from all over Worcester County. Our seniors have done and continue to do so much for our cities and towns. They deserve to be recognized and celebrated.”

This year, the picnic was sponsored by the Worcester County Reserve Deputy Sheriff’s Association and community partners such as CareOne at Millbury, The Overlook, Christopher Heights Assisted Living, Athol Savings Bank, The Gun Parlor, Mercadante Funeral Home, Falcone Enterprises, NEP-BA Local 550 Worcester County Correction Officers, and the Worcester Red Sox.

In addition, many vendors attended to showcase their products and services as seniors made their way through the drive-thru.



Worcester County Sheriff Low Evangelidis poses with a group of Worcester County residents driving through the Sheriff’s Annual Senior Picnic. SUBMITTED PHOTO

UNITED WAY | FROM PAGE 1

Place. After a welcome message from Executive Director Mary O’Coin, a group picture was taken, and volunteers left to engage in projects by 9 a.m.

Project locations included the Southbridge Tri-Community YMCA, Old Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge Chamber of Commerce, and Webster Middle School. Five to eight volunteers were stationed at each location helping with projects such as landscaping, making gift kits, tree planting, and painting.

United Way of South Central Massachusetts President Denise Gorski said the day is all about helping different agencies with projects that are much needed.

“It makes everyone feel good that they’re doing it for non-profits,” Gorski said. “Every year it gets better.”

The Southbridge Tri-Community YMCA on-site volunteer work included shoveling fresh wood chips on the playground for safer play. Several volunteers as well as children took part in the process.

Eleven year old Keaton Daun volunteered for Day of Caring, helping with perfecting the playground environment.

“It feels good helping people. My favorite part is connecting with others and making a safe place,” Daun said. His family were among others volunteering at the YMCA location.

The day was sponsored by Savers Bank, Karl Stortz, Rotary Club of Southbridge, Josh’s Place, and Chef Letendre.



Breakfast for Day of Caring was provided by Josh’s Place located in Southbridge. TURLEY PHOTOS BY ANJOLINA FANTARONI



Over 150 volunteers gathered for the 16th annual Day of Caring held by United Way of South Central Massachusetts.



Volunteers of all ages took part in the United Way’s Day of Caring.

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YARD SALE | FROM PAGE 1

Fundraising is nothing new for schools, programs and organizations, however the Post Grad students were seeking something new and different from other fundraisers in the past.

With the help of lead teacher Ashley Roy whose husband had at one time run a retail business, Roy helped to expand an idea of selling a product and through brainstorming with her students came up with a yard sale model and wanted a way to include people in the community.

Since New Braintree did not have a designated date for a Town Wide Yard Sale event, Roy and her students took the initiative to adopt the event as their own and went through the proper channels to secure a date and time.

A mass mailing went out to all the residents in the town, inviting them to participate and be included on a map for a small fee and requests were made for donations to sell at the school site that would benefit the Post Grad Program.

The results were overwhelming, especially for the first year as numerous donations poured into the school for the students to sort, price and organize as well as close to two dozen individuals and families who wanted to join in the fun of holding a yard sale at their residence and be put on the event map.

“The students all seemed to enjoy the preparation and the sale itself,” Devine said. “It was a big deal to them, as they were able to exercise some ownership of the process.”

With the New Braintree School being the “home base” of the event, taking on multiple roles as a place to pick up the yard sale maps, a shopping site and also a location for others who wanted to take advantage of the school as a central spot to set up tables to sell their goods, the morning saw an impressive amount of yard sale shoppers and foot traffic.

Caitlin Wawrzonek was one of the participants who opted to market her

new business of Blu’s Bows, a variety of adorable headpieces, bows and barrettes for babies and girls, at a spot outside the school.

“We live in town and got the flyer in the mail,” said Wawrzonek, regarding the yard sale. “I graduated from Quabbin and the main reason why I signed up was to help out and I wanted to support the Post Grad Program.”

Wawrzonek explained her twin baby daughters inspired her to create her up and coming bow business and the yard sale was her first official attempt at selling her wares.

JoAnn Wypych from Gilbertville was searching through a hefty pile of clothing looking for things for her grandchildren at the New Braintree School.

“I saw the signs around town, and I worked at Quabbin for years and wanted to support the program,” Wypych said. “I love tag sales. It’s all about the hunt. You never know what you’re going to find.”

The Post Grad Program, housed at the New Braintree Grade School, services students ranging in age from 18-22 years, focusing on vocational, academic and life skills.

“The yard sale will help support their field trips and has given them the opportunity to develop life and business skills,” Devine said. “As a result of this project, the students learned to manage inventory, research regarding pricing, retail practices, math skills and interpersonal skills.”

Given the event was held on a non-school day, attendance to help at the yard sale was not mandatory, but that didn’t stop a number of students who happily dropped by to help with the sale.

“We hope to make this a tradition and hope we can make this an even bigger town wide event in the future,” concluded Devine. “This year’s event was just a beginning.”



Jean Sojka of Ware searches through a variety of treasures looking for that special something. TURLEY PHOTOS BY KAREN A. LEWIS



JoAnn Wypych of Gilbertville searches through clothes looking for bargains for her grandchildren.



New Braintree Library Director Therese Goulet and volunteer Theresa Langelier help out at the Book Sale the day of the yard sale.



Quabbin Post Grad students Chad Plouffe and Rachel Hamilton work as cashiers the day of the yard sale event.



Quabbin Post Grad student Simon Gregory helps with the town sign to advertise the event.



Quabbin Post Grad student Johnny Olson uses his special selling technique as he shares with shopper Dawn Orr an interesting selection of books.



Mother and daughter Amy (left) and Camryn Orsini traveled from Athol to New Braintree to check out the finds at the yard sale and to support the Post Grad Program.

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SPORTS

Brewer to take softball talent ‘down under’

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

BARRE—Tori Brewer may have played her final high school softball game in the Division 4 state tournament round of 32 game. But she is soon headed to a bigger stage.

Brewer, who was the Lady Panthers starting catcher, will be playing softball in Australia at the beginning of July. She'll be one of two high school softball players from Massachusetts representing the United States at the Down Under Games.

“Anytime that you can represent your county, it’s an incredible honor,” said Quabbin varsity softball coach Chris Nosek. “I’m very happy for Tori. It’s going to be an experience that she’ll always remember.”

Tori and her mother, Kaelah, will be flying from Logan Air-

port in Boston to Australia on July 3. It’ll be the first time that she’ll be visiting another country.

Ten other high school softball players from throughout the United States will also be playing for the United States softball team at the Down Un-

der Games.

“When we get to Australia, the players on the softball team will have a couple of days to get know each other,” Brewer said. “Whenever I’m on the softball field, the other players become like a family member to me. I

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Post 241 scores big win over Aldenville

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

CHICOPEE—Despite having runners on base in six of the seven innings that they batted, Aldenville Post 337 only scored one run in last Wednesday night’s Senior Legion baseball game against Monson Post 241.

Monson, who scored all their runs in the fifth inning, remained undefeated with a 3-1 win at Szot Park in Chicopee.

“This was a low scoring game against a very good Aldenville team,” said Monson manager Steve Tripp. “We only had runners in scoring position in a couple of innings, but we were able to capitalize on them.

It was a fun game tonight.”

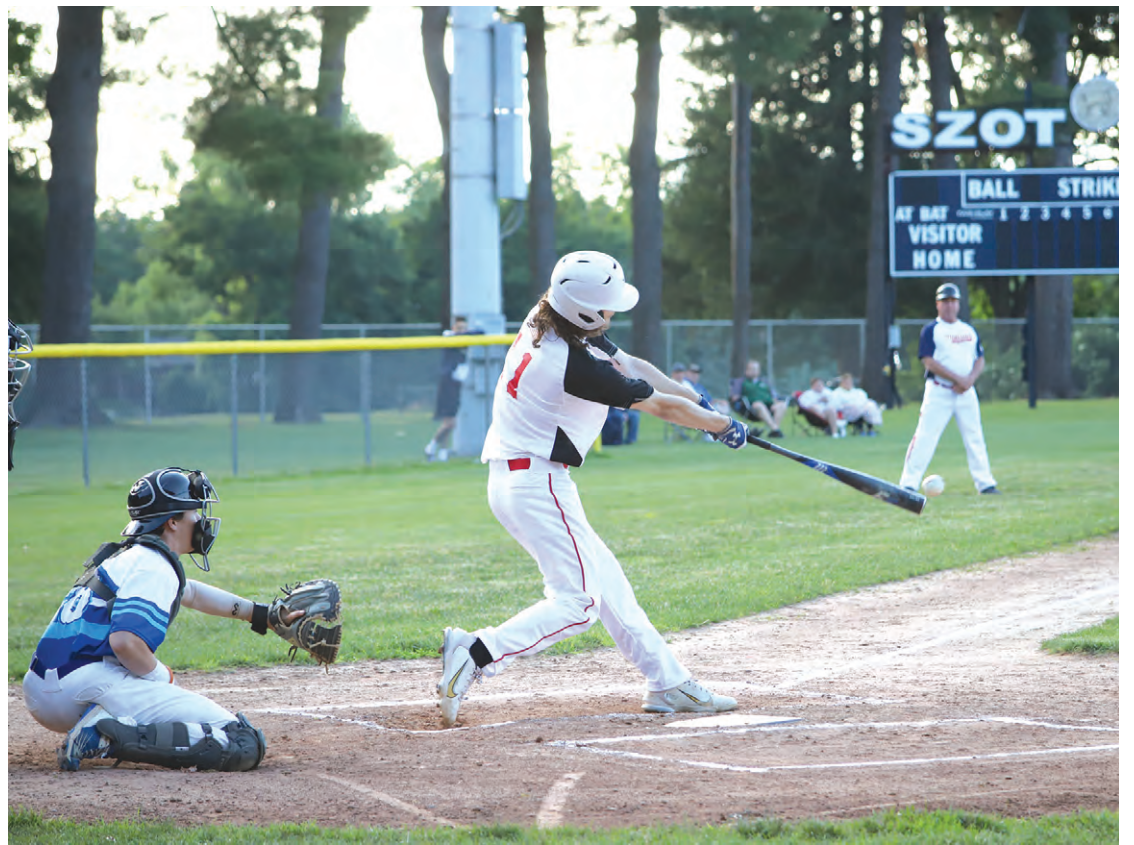
The road win improved Monson’s record to 3-0, while Aldenville had a 2-2 record.

“I thought it was a great pitcher’s duel tonight,” said Aldenville manager Mason Scott. “We just had one bad inning defensively, which wound up hurting us.”

Monson righthander John Mumper won his second game of the Legion season. He went the distance allowing one run on six hits with eight strikeouts. He only issued one walk and threw a total of 82 pitches.

“Johnny was lights out again tonight,” Tripp said. “He just pounds the strike zone and changes speed well. He

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Ty Miller swings and connects. TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Bankers roll into first place

HOLYOKE – After a slow start, the reigning, defending playoff champion PeoplesBank are now in first place thanks

to wins over the Chicopee Falls Tigers, DiFranco Realty, and St. Joe’s during the past week. PeoplesBank is now 6-1

this season, with 12 points to lead all teams. The Bankers, a Tri-County team with eight straight playoff championship

and drawing great players from all over the region, sees their season continues this week.

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James Flahive pitches in relief.



Dave Clark makes a catch in right. PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Cam McDonald makes a quick throw for an out.

Sturbridge Legion’s rally falls short in loss

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

FISKDALE—Almost half of the players listed on the Sturbridge Post 109 Legion baseball roster were also members of the Tantasqua varsity baseball team.

While it was a very successful season for the Warriors, things haven’t started out very well for the Post 109 squad.

After being shutout in their first three legion games, Sturbridge was trailing Cherry Valley Post 443, 7-1, entering the bottom of the third inning in last Monday night’s game. The Post 109 squad battled back, but they suffered a 9-5 loss at Emrich Field.

“Not all of the players have been showing up and we’ve been playing a lot of young

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- sports -

Williams gets another big win

THOMPSON, Conn. — Ronnie Williams used a late caution to win the Icebreaker 125 for the Outlaw Open Modified Series at Thompson Speedway back in April. Wednesday night, Williams didn't need a late caution - he did it in dominating fashion. Williams took the lead early and rolled to the win after holding off Chris Pasteryak and on a flurry of late restarts. The victory came in the first of the summer Dash For Cash 50-lap, \$5,000 to win races for the Outlaw Open Modifieds at the Connecticut oval in 2023.

Williams had a tough challenge on the final restart with Pasteryak closing in on the back bumper. Pasteryak was close on the final lap when the field took the white flag, but got loose off turn two and had to settle for second. Joey Mucciacciaro posted a strong third-place finish with Kurt Vigeant and Swanson finishing the top-five.

BREWER | FROM PAGE 9

just want to work hard for them, and I want them to work hard for me."

Brewer has been playing softball for the past eleven years. She's also a member of the Jr. WooSox AAU softball team.

It was at AAU college showcase tournament in Connecticut last summer that Barry Roberts, who's the head softball coach at Louisiana College, saw Brewer play on a live stream. He was very impressed and invited her to play for the United States team at the Down Under Games. Brewer didn't believe it at first.

"The Louisiana College softball coach sent me a text message inviting me to play for United States team at the Down Under Games in July," Brewer said. "At first, I didn't believe it because I thought it was a scam text, but it wasn't. I'm very excited about having the opportunity to play softball in Australia. I never thought I would ever have this opportunity. It's amazing."

The United States softball team will be playing games during the first five days of the tournament. They could possibly play several more games depending on how well they do.

Being a member of a softball team with a bunch of new players isn't something new to Brewer.

She transferred to Quabbin from Tantasqua Regional before the start of her junior year.

Giorgi, who was Quabbin's starting first baseman, was the only varsity softball player that Brewer knew before the first practice.

"Sydney and I went to elementary school together," Brewer said. "We've been very good friends ever since. I also became good friends with Brynn Adams (outfielder) during the past couple of years."

It took coach Nosek about five minutes to realize that Tori was a very good softball player.

"Tori is a talented softball player, and she understands the game very well," he said. "If she decides to become a softball coach in the future, she'll do a very good job at that. She has done a tremendous job for us during the past two seasons."

Brewer has been a catcher since the fourth grade. "Being a catcher is a position that I just fell in love with," Brewer said. "If I was an outfielder, I think that I would probably get bored very quickly. I just worked very hard to become a very good catcher."

Brewer called the pitches for the Quabbin pitchers this season.

"Calling the pitches can be very hard at times, but it's also a lot of fun," she said. "I had the opportunity to pitch in a couple of games last year. I really didn't like it very much because there is a lot of pressure on you."

Brewer is a very good hitter at the plate. She had the game winning hit in the Lady Panthers 6-5 senior day victory over the Gardner Wildcats on May 18.

"Tori is a very consistent hitter," Nosek said. "Every time that she steps into the batter's box, you always feel like she's going to deliver a base hit."

Besides being an outstanding softball player, Brewer has excelled in the classroom since she's been a student-athlete at Quabbin Regional.

Brewer, who's an honor roll student, hasn't made a college decision yet, but she's really looking forward to playing softball at the Down Under Games in July.



Ronnie Williams captured a win in the Outlaw Open Modifieds. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Former Thompson champion Nick Johnson rolled to victory in the 25-lap Late Model race, taking the lead using the bottom lane. Johnson passed Matthew Lowinski-Loh for the second spot on the bottom, then passed Devin Deshaies for the lead just before halfway. Although Lowinski-Loh was closing in during the final laps, Johnson was able to seal the win. Lowinski-Loh finished in second, with Andrew Moelleur wrapping

the race in third. Oddly enough, even though Johnson won the championship in the Late Models in 2019, it was his first career track Late Model win, he said in Victory Lane.

The New England Supermodifieds rolled into Thompson to supply pure speed and power and it was a dominant performance by Ben Seitz. The driver of

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LEGION | FROM PAGE 9

players in our first couple of games of the season," said Sturbridge Legion manager Jim Rosseel. "At least we battled back in tonight's game. We had one bad inning, which killed us."

Rosseel was forced to reschedule several of the Legion games because the Warriors advanced into the round of eight in the Division 3 state tournament.

The first game of the Legion baseball season, which was at Milford Post 59, took place a day after Tantasqua's season ended following a 3-2 loss at Oakmont Regional. They also lost at Framingham the next night.

"We did play well in the first three innings of those two games," Rosseel said. "Then we fell behind and couldn't catch up."

Sturbridge, who didn't win a game last year, also lost their home opener against Leominster Post 151 on June 18.

"I never thought this year would be a mirror image of last year," Rosseel added. "We do have several very good players who play for the high school team."

Righthander Ben Yarter, who graduated from Tantasqua Regional a year ago, was Sturbridge's starting pitcher against Cherry Valley. He recently completed his freshman year as a Sports Management Major at Nichols College.

Cherry Valley (2-3) grabbed a 1-0 lead with two outs in the top of the first inning.

With two outs in bottom of the frame, Devin Krochmalnyckj, who graduated from Tantasqua on June

4, tied the score by launching a home run over the fence just inside the left field foul pole.

"That was our first run of the season, and it was nice to finally break the ice," Rosseel said. "Devin has been a member of the Legion team for the past several years and he's one of our leaders."

The contest didn't remain tied for very long. Cherry Valley scored six unearned runs with the help of four costly errors in the top of the second inning. All six of their runs crossed the plate with two outs.

"We gave them six runs in that inning," Rosseel said. "We had a couple of players playing out of position."

Cherry Valley added two more runs on a double into right field by shortstop Evan Remington in the top of the third inning.

Trailing, 9-1, Sturbridge put-together a rally against Cherry Valley righty Jacob Delvalle with one-out in the bottom half of the frame.

Following back-to-back walks by catcher Colby Scanlon and third baseman Brandon Phillips, Krochmalnyckj drove home both runners by hitting a double that just landed fair down the right field line. Designated hitter Keenan Wetherbee also had a run scoring single to center before scoring on a wild pitch.

Sturbridge's only other base hit against Cherry Valley came with two-outs in the fifth when second baseman Ethan Laplante singled to right field.

Post 109 also played three other games last week. They lost a pair of one run road games to Hudson, 5-4, and North Country, 1-0, before losing to Northborough in a home game.

Bankers roll into first place

BANKERS | FROM PAGE 9



Ryan Franczek makes a throw to first. PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Pitcher Danny Gaines starts for PeoplesBank.

- sports -

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just pitched a great game. I couldn't say enough good things about his performance on the mound."

The home team had a golden opportunity to take a 1-0 against Mumper, who was the ace of the Ware High School pitching staff, in the bottom of the first inning.

Second baseman Luis Dejesus hit a grounder to the Monson third baseman leading off the bottom of the first inning. He wound up at third base following a throwing error.

After Mumper struck out the next batter, shortstop Nathan Carillon hit a flyball that was caught by Monson right fielder Ty Miller. His throw to the plate bounced away from catcher Dylan Sutkaitis. The ball was picked up by Mumper. He tossed it back to Sutkaitis, who put the tag on DeJesus for the final out of the frame.

"That was a huge play in the bottom of the first inning," Tripp said. "If they scored a run there, they would've been all fired up. The key thing was Johnny backing up the play."

Aldenville left two more runners on base in the second inning.

"We just need to capitalize on our scoring chances," Scott said. "That's been one of our problems so far this season."

Meanwhile, Aldenville lefthander Brady Burnett, who graduated from Chicopee High School on June 2, retired the first nine Monson batters that he faced.

"Brady's performance was stellar tonight," Scott said. "He's a very good lefty pitcher for us."



Hunter Griswold slings a throw to first from short.



John Mumper start for the Monson Post 241. Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Monson shortstop Hunter Griswold broke-up Burnett's perfect game bid by lining a single into left field leading off the top of the fourth inning. After stealing second base, Griswold was thrown out trying to steal third by Aldenville catcher Nikolas Misiaszek.

With two outs in the frame Sutkaitis drew a walk and designated hitter Don Allen reached on an infield hit before Burnett escaped the jam with a flyball out.

Burnett wasn't as fortunate in the following inning.

After Monson loaded the bases with two outs with the help of a fielding error, Miller knocked home two runs with a single into right field.

"Ty fouled off a couple of pitches before getting the base hit in the fifth inning," Tripp said. "That was the biggest hit of the game."

Brayden Mega, who was hit by a pitch, also scored on the play following a throwing error.

Burnett, who allowed three unearned runs on four hits, was replaced on the mound by righthander Race Drobiak in

the sixth inning.

Aldenville ended Mumper's shutout bid in their final at bats.

Centerfielder Devan Santos led off the bottom of the seventh inning with a double down the right field line. He scored when right fielder Nathan Serrano grounded into a fielder's choice play.

The home team couldn't score any more runs against Mumper.

Monson lost, 6-5, to Belchertown Post 239 in their home opener, last Friday night.



Dylan Sutkaitis fouls off a pitch.



Niko Matthieu smothers a bouncer to second.

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

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

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

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.

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- 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

WATER | FROM PAGE 1

portunity to ski alongside volunteers from each organization on Hamilton Reservoir last Wednesday.

After viewing a Facebook post of last year's event, Team Hoyt New England Secretary, Kathy Boyer said she reached out to Webster Water Ski Collective founder, Ryan DesRoches to inquire about hosting this year's event in Holland.

According to Boyer, between 12-14 Team Hoyt athletes participated in the event.

"Traditionally, a lot of people with disabilities are not included [in sports] because people assume they can't do things...Well, we know they can because it has been done," said Boyer.

Team Hoyt New England is a non-profit organization with a mission to raise awareness of inclusion, educate, inspire and enrich the lives of individuals, families and communities by pairing athletes' with differing capabilities in endurance events.

Webster Water Ski Collective is also a nonprofit organization and is dedicated to promoting water skiing while "fostering a sense of community among water sports enthusiasts."

Money raised through events and donations are reinvested into the organization. DesRoches said adaptive sports equipment is expensive and the water skis alone cost about \$5,000.

"It took about three years to build our program," said DesRoches.

The ski equipment resembles a chair that is fixed on two skis. Athletes are secured by straps and sit with pool noodles tucked around their waists.

To ensure safe skiing, DesRoches said every boat had seven volunteers, including two side skiers.

Sam Naples, a Holland Aqua Riders volunteer, said she has met many friends through water skiing and attended several Webster Water Ski Collective events in the past.

She said the adaptive water skiing event "is a great opportunity for our club to give back to the community."

"It's rewarding to see people do something they might not usually get to do," said Naples.

Webster Water Ski Collective member, Cindi Gazda said adaptive sports are "really important," adding she experienced a brain injury and "without organizations like these [she] would have given up."

"All it is, is doctor after doctor...to be able to do something active [and] adaptive that gets you doing the things you love is important," said Gazda.

Sarah Weirich of Amherst said her son Tristan Weirich skied around the lake twice during Wednesday's event, adding it was his first time water skiing.

Weirich said Tristan is a "thrill seeker" and she was glad to find "something fun and affordable."

Abby MacCurtain also participated in water skiing for the first time during the event.

Abby's Dad, Greg MacCurtain said "she had a blast."

MacCurtain added the adaptive skiing event was "a great thing" for the organizations to host.

Holland Aqua Riders volunteer Logan St Clair of Sturbridge said it was "awesome how many people showed up from different ski teams."

He added the event was a great "opportunity to allow people to do things they don't normally get to do."

Gazda thanked all of the volunteers who made the event possible, including volunteers from Team Hoyt New England, Holland Aqua Riders and Webster Water Ski Collective.

"Without volunteers these organizations would not exist," said Gazda.

Team Hoyt New England President, Beth Craig said "it takes a village."

Webster Water Ski Collective has announced the organization will host another adaptive ski event at Hamilton Reservoir next year, though the date has not been set.

DesRoches said, "this is what we do...we provide opportunities to our rider athletes."



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DALLAS GAGNON

Abby MacCurtain is shown smiling alongside dad Greg MacCurtain after her first time water skiing.



Shown are volunteers side spotting an athlete as they take off.



Tiffany Lund and son Morty Gove are shown smiling before Gove goes water skiing.



Beth Craig and Barbara Singleton are shown smiling in front of the water.



Shown are volunteers pushing Braeden Roache out of the water.



Abby MacCurtain is shown exiting the water.



Jameson Roache and a volunteer are shown high fiving one another as Roache exits the water.



Shown is Tristan Weirich in front of the water.

WILLIAMS | FROM PAGE 10

the No. 11 jumped out to the lead passing Anthony Nocella for the top spot and never looked back en route to picking up the dominating victory. Danny Bowes was second and Rob Summers third at the end of their 30-lap feature.

Tyler Chapman collected the extra-distance prize in the SK Light Modifieds at the end of their 30-lap feature, worth \$750 to win. Much of the middle portion of the race saw Chapman chasing Danny Cates for the lead, with Alexander Pearl not far behind in third. Chapman would pass Cates for the lead with just under 10 laps remaining and go unchallenged the remainder of the laps to win. Cates would lose second to Pearl in the final laps, but the two did complete the podium. The division not only had extra laps and extra prize money, but also infield pitting during the race for the first time during their Thompson tenure.

Corey Fanning made it two-for-two on the 2023 season in the Limited Sportsman, outlasting a stout group of contenders during a wild green-white-checked finish to take the win in the 30-lap EdenRaffety Clash For Cash. The \$750 to win race looked to be in the control of Ryan Waterman as the field took the white flag, but a caution for a spinning car in turn four slowed the race and set up the dash to the finish with a green-white-checked. Waterman and Chicolas brought the field down for the green with Waterman jumping away with the lead into turn one. When the field hit turn one after taking the white flag a lap later, contact between Waterman and Chicolas sent Waterman drifting up the track sideways. Chicolas took advantage to grab the lead, but Fanning snagged the bottom lane and drag-raced him for the lead down the backstretch and Waterman rallied to chase them both in third. Off turn four to the checkered, Fanning jumped out to control and crossed for the win. Chicolas was second and Waterman third.

It was a dominant type of night for Kyle Wing in the Mini Stocks. Wing won his qualifying heat in dominant fashion, then followed it up by leading all 15 laps to win the Mini Stock feature race. It was his first career win in racing, he said in Victory Lane. Kevin Moore crossed the stripe second and Glynn Roy in third.

Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park's oval track is promoted by the American-Canadian Tour and Pro All Star Series again in 2023. The track will return to racing action on Wednesday, July 26, with the Twisted Tea Open Modified Dash For Cash round two, set for 50 laps and \$5,000 to win. The SK Light Modifieds will run double features, while the Late Models, Limited Sportsman and Mini Stocks will also be in action. Racing begins at 6PM and a full schedule of events will be released one week prior to race day.

Country Bank Receives Marketing Awards



Country Bank's Marketing Team: Audrey Moulton, digital marketing specialist; Mike Dias, product and data marketing manager; Travis Pacheco, intern; Jodie Gerulaitis, VP, community relations; Shelley Regin, SVP, marketing and PR; Devon Wonderlie, marketing specialist; and Justin Roberts, VP, marketing. SUBMITTED PHOTO

WARE – Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serving Central and Western Massachusetts, has received two marketing awards from the New England Financial Marketing Association for its 2022 marketing efforts.

According to a press release, Country Bank achieved first place with a gold award for its “Made to Make a Difference” rebranding.

In May 2022, Country Bank introduced the rebrand in partnership with the bank’s advertising agency, Financial Marketing Solutions. The new tagline was created from focus groups that consisted of Country Bank team members, board members, consumer and business customers, non-customers, and community non-profits throughout its marketplace.

Since 1850, Country Bank has been a part of the fabric of the communities it serves; so, it was essential to include the community in the process. As a result, the tagline was created with meaningful insights and feedback.

The common theme of how the bank made a difference became a clear indicator of how its

stakeholders received the brand in the market.

Country Bank also received a silver award for its Police vs. Fire baseball game in association with the WooSox Foundation.

This game was a century-old tradition brought back to life on September 26, 2022. Part of the game is giving back to the community, something the WooSox Foundation and Country Bank are passionate about.

The teams chose the Manny 267 Foundation, which received a \$15,000 donation.

“As a founding partner of the Worcester Red Sox, we are honored to bring back this tradition and support the police and fire departments in Worcester. It was a tremendous effort of the WooSox Foundation, the police and fire departments, and the Country Bank marketing team to make this happen. We look forward to the re-match this August, where the teams will again battle for the trophy and bragging rights. The game will also donate to a deserving local non-profit,” said Shelley Regin, SVP, marketing and PR.

Send Us Your Autumn Event Information

Turley Publications will print your Autumn event **FREE OF CHARGE** in our **Autumn Fest Supplement** which will be published **September 13, 2023.**

Total circulation of 85,000 reaching over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley.

Deadline for Calendar submissions is August 16.

Community Autumn Events

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Description _____

Cost _____

Contact name & phone number for more information _____

MAIL YOUR LISTING INFORMATION TO:

**Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069
or email* them to: jamie@turley.com**

***Be sure to indicate "Autumn Event" in the subject line of your email.**

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Car show for 350th rescheduled to June 30

BROOKFIELD – Brookfield’s 350th anniversary car show will be held at Quaboag Valley Church, 175 Fiskdale Road, on Friday, June 30 from 5-8 p.m. Registration starts at 4:30 p.m. \$10 cash only.

The Clam Box will have a food truck and DJ Glen will provide music. There will be T-shirts and trophies. For more information, call 774-200-0380.

Summer fun for mind, body and soul

Listening Wellness Center offers classes for children and teens

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

BARRE – Listening Wellness Center, 35 South St., is ready for summer with a selection of classes geared toward children ranging from 5 years old through teenagers.

Registration is required at least seven days before the first day of class; and space is limited and filling up fast.

Artist Jen Swan has a variety of classes she’s offering this summer, and her “Dragons” class has already filled up.

Swan, who has been with the Listening Wellness Center for many years, is a teaching artist and mural painter. She is inspired by the connection between art and nature and her creativity gravitates toward the beauty of the outdoors.

“Mandalas with Jen Swan” will help children between the ages of 6-12 explore the art of mandalas. They will paint on smooth river rocks, making intricate patterns of dots.

Participants will also use colored pencils to create drawings, as well as experiment with sand to layer colors and designs, making both small and large scale works of art.

“Mandalas with Jen Swan” will be held July 11, 12 and 13 from 10-11 a.m. The cost is \$40.

Swan will also teach “Family Fun: Mosaic Stepping Stones” on July 13 and 20 from 2-3:30 p.m. The cost is \$50.

This is a workshop designed for an adult/child pair to make a stepping stone out of tile, small stones and glass marbles. This stepping stone will make the perfect addition to a garden or yard.

Swan will explore the art of paper-mâché with children ages 6-12 during “Sun and Moon Masks” held on July 25, 26 and 27 from 10-11 a.m. The cost is \$40.

These “night and day” masks can be displayed as wall sculptures, or even worn during costumed play.

Rhonda Hamer of Hubbardston will teach “On the Move with Food” in two separate classes; one for age 6-11 (11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m.) and the other for teens ages 12 and up (12:45-2 p.m.). The cost is \$50.

Hamer has trained and educated adults, teens and children with varying levels of fitness, including many who are new to exercise or with limited mobility. She is both a Certified Personal Trainer and Nutrition Coach.

Participants will learn how food and movement are connected over three weeks, starting with Heart Smart on July 11.

During Heart Smart, children and teens will engage in movement to get the heart pumping and make a healthy snack of energy bites to quickly refuel.

On July 18, Hamer will lead participants through A Stronger Me! to work muscles and enjoy foods to rebuild them, such as hummus.

The final part of the class will be held



“Yin Yoga for Teens” will be held by Lisa Holloway, one of the newest yoga instructors at Listening Wellness Center. COURTESY PHOTO BY NATALIE BOND ON PEXELS

on July 25 and is called Feelin’ Good. Participants will learn flexibility exercises and enjoy refreshing smoothies.

Yoga instructor and Barre resident Lisa Holloway will lead “Yoga for Kids” and “Yin Yoga for Teens.”

Holloway has been practicing yoga for over 20 years and is a Registered Yoga Teacher with a Children’s Yoga Teacher Certification. She is also a National Board Certified Health and Wellness Coach and has a private practice, Burnout to Bliss Health Coaching.

“Yoga for Kids” will be held July 12, 19 and 26 from 10-10:45 a.m. for ages 5-7 and from 11:15 a.m.-noon for ages 8-11. The cost is \$30.

Holloway will join children while they breathe, move, sing, tell stories and meditate. This fun and imaginative class benefits all areas of health including physical, mental, emotional and spiritual.

“Yin Yoga for Teens” will be held July 12, 19 and 26 from 12:30-1:30 p.m. for ages 12 and up. The cost is \$36.

Each class will begin with a grounding exercise, followed by a practice of yin yoga postures that will be held for three to five minutes each. Classes will end in savasana, a restorative pose.

To register, visit listeningwellness.org, click on “Classes,” then select “Children’s Classes” where an interactive flyer will provide links.

Scholarship, made possible through the Barre Savings Charitable Foundation and personal donations, are available by emailing listeningwellnesscenter@gmail.com.

Financial Fitness Club begins October 2023

WARE – The Harrison and Diane Quirk Financial Fitness Club is a program of the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation.

The Financial Fitness Club helps build participants’ financial capabilities while helping them to reach their goals.

The Club meets every month beginning in October. The Financial Fitness Club helps participants to pick a savings goal and set up a savings account. Then staff can match their savings up to a capped amount.

At every monthly meeting participants will learn something new such as; how to reduce debt, smart borrowing, how to maximize income, improve your credit score and more.

For more information, please visit qvcdc.org or call Carol at 413-497-4407.

- legal notices -

INTENT TO FILE
The Wagon Wheel Community will re-file their application with the USDA Rural Development for financial assistance for a Grant for an upgrade to the present Wastewater Treatment Facility. The proposed grant amount has been changed due to the increase in costs and will be in the approximate amount of \$1,698,169. **A public meeting will be held at 6:00 pm on July 13th, 2023 at Wagon Wheel Community, Recreation Hall, 13 Buckboard Pass, Brookfield, MA 01506.** The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the proposed upgrade and provide an opportunity for community comment.
Wagon Wheel Community,

Inc.
Board of Directors
Dated: June 21, 2023
06/30/2023

Town of Warren Public Hearing Notice of FY2024 Sewer Rate Increase Hearing

The Warren Board of Sewer Commissioners will be having a public hearing on **Wednesday, July 12, at 3:30 p.m.** about a sewer fee increase for FY2024 (July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024).

The location of the hearing will be the Selectmen’s Meeting Room in the Charles E. Shepard Municipal Building at 48 High Street in Warren.
06/30/2023

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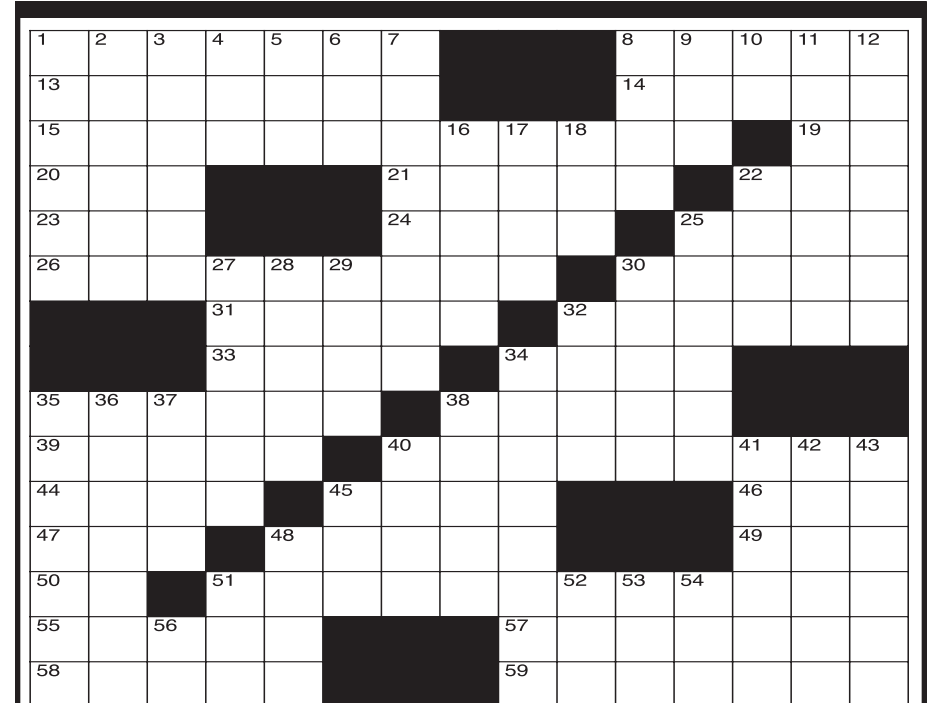
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13. Unknowing
14. Dangerous mosquitos
15. Exaggerated and sensationalized
19. Military policeman
20. Touch softly
21. Wrap
22. A story of one’s life
23. Midway between east and southeast
24. Toward the mouth or oral region
25. A list of dishes available at a restaurant
26. Changes the meaning of
30. Semitic Sun god
31. Sneaker parts

32. Capital of Zimbabwe
33. Breezed through
34. Partner to pedi
35. Becomes less intense
38. Bottoms
39. Tested
40. Vistas
44. Take care of
45. Traditional rhythmic pattern
46. S. African political party
47. Cologne
48. Men
49. The Science Guy (abbr.)
50. Gospel author
51. Act of signing up
55. Human feet
57. A very short time
58. Streetcars
59. Cuplike cavities

CLUES DOWN

1. A type of pool

2. Malaise
3. Seasoned
4. A pair
5. Young male
6. Make a mistake
7. Experienced
8. It often accompanies injury
9. Old world, new
10. Commercial
11. Course of lectures
12. Promote
16. Female horses
17. Greek mythological figure
18. Small amount
22. Orthodox church altar
25. Actress Tomei
27. Excited
28. Looked directly at
29. Popular cold desserts
30. More reasonable
32. Disk above the

- head of a saint
34. Devoted to the extreme
35. Make an effort
36. It’s in the surf
37. Member of aboriginal people of Japan
38. Discounts
40. Cliff in Hawaii
41. Extremely wild person
42. All persons
43. Aromas
45. Popular kids’ game
48. A difficult situation
51. Popular Georgia rockers
52. It’s in all living cells
53. Unspoken language
54. ‘Talk to you’ abbreviation
56. Influential lawyer

QUABOAG CURRENT



WEST BROOKFIELD
Hitchcock Tavern
celebrates opening p5

BROOKFIELD
350th car show tonight
p15

STURBRIDGE
Legion baseball faced
Cherry Valley p9

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