

# QUABOAG CURRENT

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Newspaper

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## Concerts on the Common held Wednesday evenings



**WEST BROOKFIELD** – Last Wednesday, the Friends of the Bandstand held the annual bonfire concert, featuring Wheelsmith, with guests Easy Season and Kadence Martin. Concerts on the Common are held on Wednesday evenings from 7-9 p.m. Upcoming concerts include July 10, Dan Gabel and the Abletones; July 17, David Keith & The Coalition; July 14, The Crop Dusters; July 31, The Deloreans; Aug. 7, The Midnight Riders; and Aug. 14, Trigger South.

Gold sponsor for this year's concert season is Country Bank. Silver sponsors are North Brookfield Savings Bank, Bell & Hudson Insurance Agency, Quirk Wire Co., Sherman Oil and Bonin's Wood Products & Landscape Supply.

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Wheelsmith performs during the annual bonfire concert held on the West Brookfield common. TURLEY PHOTO BY PAULA OUIMETTE

## Arts-based learning program to be piloted this fall

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

**NORTH BROOKFIELD** – Superintendent Tim McCormick introduced the School Committee to several members of the community who are looking to launch a new arts-based creative learning program within the school district.

Bonnie Milner owner of Long View Entertainment and Channing LeBlanc, a special education teacher, who are both involved with Cool Kids Choir; were joined by residents Deb Arnold and Dr. Joan Burkhardt.

At the June 17 meeting, McCormick said they have been discussing how to further impact the success of their students next year through the use of this program.

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## Lemonade stand helps children across the world

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

**WARE/WEST BROOKFIELD** – Eight-year-old Mackenzie Milner of West Brookfield decided to help children in need last week, setting up a lemonade stand to raise money for those who don't have homes.

On June 24, Milner was visited by over a dozen customers, who gave generously to help her reach her goal. Through this, and other donations received by Milner's mother, Kim, she was able to raise \$245.

"She wanted to specifically

See CHILDREN | PAGE 13



Mackenzie Milner of West Brookfield, age 8, presents a donation of \$245 to Wally Connor and Michele Connor, founders of S.O.N.G. (Supporting Orphans Nationally & Globally) at their Ware location. Milner raised the money by selling lemonade, to help children in need. TURLEY PHOTO BY PAULA OUIMETTE

## Food policy council learns about SNAP benefits

By Paula Ouimette  
pouimette@turley.com

**WARE** – The Quaboag Valley Food Policy Council welcomed Mary Loughlin, SNAP Outreach Coordinator for the Department of Transitional Assistance, to its June meeting to discuss the program and its benefits.

At the June 27 meeting, Loughlin said SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) is a federal program that provides food-purchasing assistance to people with low income. One in seven people receive benefits.

"When it comes to food security, the programs DTA offers are SNAP, with includes HIP and SNAP Nutrition Education," she said.

### HIP and RMP

The Healthy Incentive Program was originally started with a U.S. Department of Agriculture grant to help bring money back into the local economy, supporting local farmers, while also giving SNAP recipients access to the freshest produce at farmers' markets.

All SNAP recipients automatically qualify for and receive HIP.

See SNAP | PAGE 6



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# - community -

## WB&CA and Beyond welcomes new members

June meeting toured Palmer Motorsports Park

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

PALMER – The Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond held its monthly meeting last week at Palmer Motorsports Park, welcoming several new businesses to the organization.

New members include the Town of Warren represented by Town Administrator James Ferrera, Dhillon Family & Cosmetic Dentistry in Ware, Canna Retreat in Palmer, Sunny Side Storage in Ware and Palmer Motorsports Park.

For the June 26 meeting, WB&CA and Beyond members toured Palmer Motorsports Park, enjoying a view from the top of the steepest vertical grade track in North America. On a clear day, you can see four states from its peak.

Palmer Motorsports Park's Club Director Al Sandy said he grew up around cars, taking many trips to the track in Watkins Glen, New York.

He's been at the club since before it opened, which is now in its 10th season.

Sandy said the Palmer track is unique in its design, and is a challenging course that tests the technical skills of drivers.

"We pull people from all over the world to come here to drive," he said.

Palmer Motorsports Park is a private member's club, and also hosts track days for select vehicles including Miata, BMW and Porsche during Cars & Coffee events. The club also hosts events that benefit military servicemembers and veterans, as well as local food pantries.

Sandy shared some little known facts about the track, pointing out that it's not the American muscle car that is the most popular car to drive on the track, but rather the Mazda Miata, due to its affordability and handling.

"More often or not, the answer to driving the track: Miata, Miata, Miata," Sandy said. "It's what they call a momentum car."

The club also offers high performance driver's education courses. Helping drivers to navigate the track with precision.

"This is a driver's course and we're all about teaching," Sandy said.

Sandy said it's a different mindset being out on the track, and it takes a little while to get used to it. He encouraged the WB&CA and Beyond members to take one of the club's monthly courses, which he said fill up quickly.

Palmer Motorsports Park is a seasonal operation, with the track open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Members are able to select the days and



Palmer Motorsports Park Club Director Al Sandy talks about the track during the Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond's June membership meeting. SUBMITTED PHOTO

times to take their cars to the track.

Sandy said the club has quite a few members who drive multiple cars at the track. The club also boasts a diverse international following, with drivers visiting from Germany, France, Japan, Czech Republic, China, Sweden and many more.

Safety and the rules of operation are strictly enforced, with 14 flaggers around the track and cameras. The club is the only facility in the U.S. to use a program called Flagged, which keeps drivers aware of other cars on the track at all times; and alerts them when a car is stopped.

"There's no other circuit that we know of that operates like this on club days," Sandy said.

The track is built less for speed and more for technical driving, winding 2.3 miles through the top of Whiskey Hill. The track was built into the environment, to disturb as little of the natural surroundings as possible.

"It's that much of a gemstone. It's good for the community and good for all of us," he said.

### Civic updates

Ware Town Manager Stuart Beckley said there is a lot going on, as the town prepares for the end of the fiscal year.

He said the town has applied for a large grant to cover the cost of replacing the town pool and adjacent playground. The grant totals \$7 million, and if awarded, it would also cover the purchase of electric vehicles for the Quaboag Connector and improvements to accessibility throughout town.

Beckley said the Massachusetts Department of Transportation bridge repairs on Route 32 are progressing and that it is expected to be a two- to three-year project.

Ferrera introduced himself to WB&CA and Beyond members and said the town of Warren is a great town that is willing to hear

any business ideas and plans.

"We're open for business...we'd love to have your business in town," he said.

Ferrera said Warren is also working to secure grants, including a federal grant that will help a potential developer restart the Wrights Mill complex in West Warren. The grant can be used to identify weaknesses in the infrastructure around the mill.

"We're keen on looking at ways to help bring businesses in town," he said.

WB&CA and Beyond President Dan Flynn said the new Town Administrator for Hardwick, Justine Caggiano, and Town Manager for Palmer, Brad Brothers, have also been invited to join the organization and share updates from their towns.

### Upcoming event

The WB&CA and Beyond's next event, the Summer Sizzler presented by J. Stolar Insurance Agency, will be held on Wednesday, July 17 from 5-7 p.m. at AMVETS Post 74, 2150 Main St., Three Rivers.

There will be horseshoes and cornhole; and members, employees and "plus 1's" are welcome to attend. The cost is \$10 per person, and includes burgers, hot dogs and sides.

Toss a horseshoe to win the \$100 Golden Ringer prize, sponsored by ColorBlindGuy.

Reservations are required by July 15.

### About WB&CA and Beyond

The WB&CA and Beyond membership consists of businesses and organizations from Ware, Palmer, Belchertown, Hardwick, Warren and West Brookfield. The monthly meetings are open to any business or organization within those towns interested in joining the association.

For information about joining the Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond, visit warebca.com, contact warebca@gmail.com or call Flynn at 413-297-5886.



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- community -

# Album release show held at Workshop13

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – Workshop13 hosted the album release show of Adelaide Fay’s “Sustainable Change” this past Friday.

The grand hall was packed as local musicians shared their talents on stage. The headline was Adelaide Fay and the Leopard Frogs who shared many original songs and some new songs from “Sustainable Change”.

This new album is the second album by Adelaide Fay and features eight new songs including one with the same name as the name of the album. Guests could get their hands on “Sustainable Change” during the show with CDs available at the merchandise stand.

Other merchandise available included T-shirts, posters, stickers, magnets, candles, earrings and necklaces. It was announced prior to the show that “Sustainable Change” was available on all platforms, including Spotify, Apple Music, Amazon Music and YouTube.

The show would kick off the opening performance of Highland Rush. This local band from the hill towns blends indie folk and rock to create mesmerizing melodies. The group has been performing together for about a year and is new to the music scene.

Being the opener for Fay was a lot of fun for Highland Rush as they played mostly covers. The band mentioned they’re slowly working on some original songs of their own. Members of Highland Rush include Madison Healey, Eric Giordano, Teddy Lee Wilder, Zane Provost and Tyler Brick.

Highland Rush thanked Workshop13 for welcoming them to be a part of Fay’s album release show. Highland Rush is a new band that is ready to show the world what they can do.

Fay and the Leopard Frogs appeared next on stage. Their music features gritty folk with hints of soul. Fay will have

some songs with some of her harmonica solos.

Fay is also an acoustic guitarist and the lead vocalist.

As soon as she appeared on stage, Fay was simultaneously playing her acoustic guitar and harmonica. Fay had a lot of tremendous support as she had many friends and family attend her album release show.

Fay is originally from West Brookfield and is a talented singer and songwriter. During her album release, Fay would play some songs from her first album, “Exhalation”.

Her first album was released back in 2022 and features a total of 12 songs including “Drown”, “Burned & Wet”, “Blind & Mised” and “Dead Leaves”.

Fay’s songs include themes such as soulfully folksy, gritty, deep, dark and Americana. The music played during the album release show can be described as soulful acoustic rock with gritty hints of folksy flavor.

Fay said prior to the album release show at Workshop13 that is more of a celebration of all the work her and her band put in to bring “Sustainable Change” to life and in person. “Sustainable Change” featured eight new songs performed by Fay and the Leopard Frogs.

Some of the popular songs being played included “Craters” and the singer/songwriter epic “Frog Song.” The new songs can make you really connect to the lyrics as Fay took her audience on a journey of the heart through the complexities of life, love and growth.

Fay has been involved in music her whole life and after an entertaining show highlighting some of her best work, she shows only signs of continuing to write songs and sing on stage.

Fay can be followed on Facebook and Instagram and her music can be heard on outlets such as YouTube, Spotify, Apple Music and Amazon Music.



Workshop13 hosted an album release show for Adelaide Fay and the Leopard Frogs. The show had CDs and other merchandise available. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO



Highland Rush was the band who opened for Adelaide Fay at Workshop13.



Highland Rush consists of five members who play covers and some original songs.



Adelaide Fay on acoustic guitar while playing a harmonica solo.



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## Hydrangeas in full color and full swing

A week-long visit to Cape Cod yielded more than fun on the beach and an appetite finally quenched of its seafood craving.

It was a gardener's dream to walk through town and take in all of the glorious container plantings and window boxes. Side streets yielded a peek at some incredible home landscapes complete with gorgeous big leaf hydrangeas (*Hydrangea macrophylla*), nearly everywhere you look.

They were just starting to come into their own when we arrived, but by week's end, they were in full, magnificent glory.

I read somewhere that the rainy summer last year followed by a mild winter has predisposed the plants to be overloaded with blooms here and now, and that they were. Some in shades of blue, others sported pink or purple tones and still some with flowers of each shade on one bush.

We've all heard about adjusting the pH will alter the color of the sepals, the showy modified leaf bracts. Acidifying the soil with aluminum sulfate turns the flowers blue, while making the soil more alkaline with lime will yield flowers in pink tones instead, all because aluminum ions are either more available or less available respectively.

That is the short of it!

I came home from this trip encouraged to try taking cuttings of my hydrangea bush. A hedge of them up by the road would sure be pretty.

The experts imply that the process of duplicating your plants is an easy one and now is the perfect time to do it. Taking softwood cuttings of hydrangeas is similar to taking cuttings of geraniums, rosemary or other plants.

It's best to find a stem that is not is flower. Start at the tip and count down at least four pairs of leaves, then make your cut with a clean pair of clippers or sharp scissors after that last set of leaves.

Carefully cut off the two bottom most sets of leaves, close to the stem. Dip the stem into rooting hormone.

If you are using a powder form, tap the stem on the container to dislodge any excess. The cutting can then be put in a four-inch pot filled with moistened potting soil. It's best if you make a hole for the stem with a "dibble," pencil, or small dowel, rather than pushing the stem into the media so that all of the hormone is rubbed off.

Once the stem is inserted into the pre-made hole, firm around it and mist with a spray bottle. Now, cover the pot and cutting with a tented plastic bag so that the cutting will not dry out and place it in the shade, outside is fine as long as you won't forget about it.

I like to keep them inside in indirect light. Check often, misting if wilted looking and watering if the soil is dry to the touch.

After about 4-6 weeks, check the cutting to see if it has rooted. It's best not to tug, but to invert the pot and remove the soil to see what you have for roots.

Sometimes you can "just tell" that the plant has rooted by its appearance. Maybe it is sporting new growth.

Once your cuttings have rooted and grown on for awhile, it's time to transplant them into bigger pots. I'm not saying we jump to a gal-

## - opinion -



Letter-to-the-Editor

## Resident recognizes Juneteenth at OSV celebration

I would like to commend Jasmin Rivas and the entire DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) team at Old Sturbridge Village for another fabulous Juneteenth celebration!

Old Sturbridge Village has thoughtfully waived the admission fee each Juneteenth, enabling families of various economic means to participate in these special activities.

I have learned a lot at each annual Juneteenth event about Black people who are invisible in our history books, from officers in the Civil War to fine potters, carpenters and other craftspeople whose inventions we

use every day without knowing where they come from.

This year I learned about a freed slave, Polly J., who ran a very popular bakery without the use of sugar made by slaves – very hard to find anywhere in the world in the early 1800s! Perhaps she was the grandmother of today's Fair Trade Movement?

I look forward to next year's Juneteenth celebration – the drumming and entertainment and all it can teach us.

Sherry Zitter  
Brookfield

## Life Together

"Nobody's perfect!" "She is a perfectionist." We stress ourselves out by judging ourselves and realize we are not and cannot be perfect.

In fact, as Leonard Cohen wrote, "the cracks are where the light gets." To be vulnerable is to experience the possibility of change, for relief from stress, for a sense of order and hope.

There is a great book entitled, "The Spirituality of Imperfection", by Ernest Kurtz and Katherine Ketcham. It describes the process for discovery of recovery from and affirming such spirituality.

The Japanese have a process for repair of broken pottery called, Kintsugi, the art of putting broken pottery pieces together again with gold. To see the beautiful lines of gold indicating the broken and now restored is beautiful.

In Native tradition, the weaver will include a flaw in the pattern to remind the

person we are not and cannot be perfect.

As a therapist, it was not unusual for a former patient to grow, repair, and do the work to become a very good therapist. Henri Nouwen called it, "the wounded healer".

When we are judging ourselves for our lack of perfection, or even doing a good job, we need to remind ourselves of the lines in the Japanese pottery, the light getting in through the cracks, and that we can help others with their vulnerability because we have been there. We are wounded healers.

Rev. Dr. Randy Wilburn  
Minister, Therapist, Consultant

*Life Together is written by Rev. Dr. Randall K. Wilburn. With over 54 years as a parish minister, Wilburn is also an experienced marriage and family counselor. Life Together will deal with topics such as stress, grief, anxiety, healing and hope.*

## Durant urges passage of amendment to Right to Shelter Law

SPENCER – State Sen. Peter Durant is calling on Governor Maura Healy to work with the legislature to pass an amendment to the state's right to shelter law following Healy's announcement that she's sent a delegation to the border in an effort to stem the flow of migrants coming to Massachusetts.

"Going to the border to discourage migrants from coming to the very place that has rolled out the welcome mat and offered incredible benefits is nothing more than

theatrics," Durant said in a press release. "The legislature has offered solutions to this problem and the Governor has made no effort to roll up her sleeves and work with us."

Healy said she has sent her State Emergency Assistance Director Scott Rice to the border to tell officials that Massachusetts shelters are full, but Durant said that move is not enough, and he doesn't believe it will work.

## 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](mailto:pouimette@turley.com). Deadline for submission is Monday at noon for the following week's edition.

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## - community -

# NFPA offers safety tips for the summer season

With summer upon us, the National Fire Protection Association® is reminding people about potential electrical hazards that exist in swimming pools and hot tubs, onboard boats, on docks and piers, and in waters surrounding boats, marinas and launch ramps.

While most people are unaware of electrical dangers posed in water environments such as electric shock drowning, each year people are injured or killed from these hazards. ESD can occur when improperly installed or maintained electrical systems within marinas or boat electrical systems result in electrical current in the water, which can then pass through a person's body, causing a level of paralysis that can ultimately cause serious injury or drowning.

"Because ESD is not well known, NFPA continues to raise awareness about the presence of electrical hazards in water to help prevent deaths and injuries from happening in pools and waterways," said Lorraine Carli, NFPA vice president of Outreach & Advocacy in a press release. "Never swim near a marina, dock, or boatyard, and have a qualified electrician inspect your boat, swimming pool equipment, hot tub, and spa before engaging in any water activities to ensure all life-saving measures and protection systems are functioning properly."

Following are tips for swimmers, and boat and pool owners:

### Swimmers

- Never swim near a marina, dock, or boatyard. While in a pool or hot tub look out for underwater lights that are not working properly, flicker, or work intermittently.
- If you feel a tingling sensation while in a pool, immediately stop swimming in the direction you are heading. Try and swim in a direction where you had not felt the tingling. Exit the water as quickly as possible; avoid using metal ladders or rails. Touching metal may increase the risk of shock.

### Boat owners

- Avoid entering the water when launching or loading a boat. These areas can contain stray electrical currents in the water, possibly leading to electric

shock drowning or injury from shock, including death.

- Each year, have the boat's electrical system inspected by a qualified marine electrician to be sure it meets the required codes of your area, including those set by the American Boat & Yacht Council. Make the necessary repairs, if recommended. Follow the same steps after any major storm that affects the boat.
- Check with the marina owner about the marina's electrical system and whether it has recently been inspected to meet the required codes of your area, including the National Electrical Code®.
- Have ground fault circuit protection (GFCI and GFPE) installed on circuits supplying the boat; use only portable GFCIs or shore power cords (including "Y" adapters) that bear the proper listing mark for marine applications when using electricity near water. Test GFCIs monthly.
- Never modify the electrical system on a boat or shore power to make something work. The code-required safety mechanisms in place are intended to alert people if something is wrong with the boat and with shore power. Find a licensed, qualified professional to help determine the cause of the problem.

### Pool owners

- If you are putting in a new pool or hot tub, be sure the wiring is performed by an electrician experienced in the special safety requirements for these types of installations and that the completed work is inspected by the authority having jurisdiction.
- Have a qualified electrician periodically inspect and - where necessary - replace or upgrade the electrical devices or equipment that keep your pool or hot tub electrically safe. Have the electrician show you how to turn off all power in case of an emergency.
- If there are overhead electrical lines, make sure they have proper clearance over the pool and other structures, such as a diving board. If you have any doubts, contact a qualified electrician or your local utility company to make sure power lines are a safe distance away.

NFPA has several resources for swimmers, boat, and pool owners, including videos, tip sheets, checklists, and a new NFPA Podcast episode, "Hazards in the Water," that can be downloaded and shared. Please visit [nfpa.org/watersafety](http://nfpa.org/watersafety) to learn more.

### About NFPA

Founded in 1896, NFPA® is a global self-funded nonprofit organization devoted to eliminating death, injury, property, and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards. The association delivers information and knowledge through more than 300 consensus codes and standards, research, training, education, outreach and advocacy; and by partnering with others who share an interest in furthering the NFPA mission.

For more information, visit [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org). All NFPA codes and standards can be viewed online for free at [www.nfpa.org/freeaccess](http://www.nfpa.org/freeaccess).

## East Brookfield celebrates Independence Day on July 6

EAST BROOKFIELD – The town will celebrate Independence Day on Saturday, July 6, starting with a pancake breakfast at the East Brookfield Baptist Church from 9-11 a.m.

The celebration will continue at Connie Mack Field from 11 a.m.-10 p.m., with crafters and vendors and food trucks. Free kids activities will be offered from 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

A kids wheel parade will begin at 11:15 a.m. with lineup at 11 a.m. The main parade will begin at noon with lineup at 11 a.m.

A Battle of the Bands will be held from 1-4 p.m. and Heartland Radio will perform from 7-9 p.m. Fireworks will begin at 9 p.m. and admission is \$2 per person (starting at 5 p.m.).

### DURANT | FROM PAGE 4

"We've created a modern-day gold rush and the only way we can stop it is to change the law that dictates we must pay for these benefits. This effort to essentially rescind the invitation to come to Massachusetts is not going to have any significant results," Durant said. "It is time for the Governor to take real action on this crisis. Once the migrants know that our generous benefits are no longer available here in the Commonwealth, they will stop coming."

Durant maintains his stance that the state cannot continue to fund the benefits provided to migrants who come to Massachusetts hoping to take advantage of the Right to Shelter Law. As the only state in the country with such a law, migrants are flocking to the Bay State where shelters have been at capacity for months.

He said the situation facing Massachusetts now could not have been foreseen when the Right to Shelter law was passed in 1983 and there should be no opposition updating the statute to relieve the burden on taxpayers.

"I cannot understand the Governor's hesitancy to change the law to address this crisis," Durant said. "It was she who, when she was a candidate for Governor, visited the border and encouraged people to come here. This mess has cost taxpayers billions of dollars and it is of her making; yet she is still declining to take part in finding a solution."

### GARDEN | FROM PAGE 4

lon size pot but maybe go up to a six or eight-inch pot and then go bigger the next time until the specimen is large enough to earn a coveted spot in your yard.

I can't wait to try this! Maybe you will too, and we can compare notes!

I can see the lovely hedge up near the road in my mind's eye already!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 32 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](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

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# - community -

## Registration/sponsorship open for golf tournament

OAKHAM – Knights of Columbus Council # 11080, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, Brookfield/West Brookfield/Warren Massachusetts, is having its 7th Annual Alex Cordy Memorial Charity Golf Tournament at Quail Hollow Golf and Country Club, 1822 Old Turnpike Road, on Sunday, Aug. 25.

Registration begins at 7:15 am, with

a Shotgun Start at 8 a.m.

As many of you are aware, Alex was an integral part of the West Brookfield community for many years. In memory of his outstanding service to his community, his parish, and being a founding member of our Knights of Columbus Council 11080, this tournament will once again benefit the Youth Activities Fund to support the youth in the local

community, a cause that was very important to Alex.

The Knights were able to award two \$1,000 scholarships this past year from the proceeds of this event to two local high school seniors, as well as fund many other youth activities.

They ask that you please consider supporting this event by sponsoring or participating in the tournament individ-

ually or with a foursome. Tournament Raffle Items and General Donations to this event are always welcomed and appreciated!

Registration and sponsorships are now available for this tournament. To register, and for more information, please call 413-813-8100 or email wallyconnor122@gmail.com.

### SNAP | FROM PAGE 1

“They can get an additional \$40, 60, 80 a month in HIP,” Loughlin said when an electronic benefit transfer card is used at a participating farmers’ market. “The money goes right back on the card as long as they spend it on fruits and veggies.”

HIP eligible foods include fresh, frozen, canned or dried fruits and vegetables with no added salt, sugar, fat or oil. Seeds and seedlings also qualify for HIP reimbursement.

Money that is spent on qualifying produce using an EBT card is instantly reloaded on the card up to the maximum amount allowed per month.

Loughlin said HIP became so popular that the commonwealth decided to fund it when the USDA grant ran out.

Participating farmers and markets can be found on dtafinder.com.

Local vendors that accept HIP include Flourish Farm, 59 Tower Hill Road, Brimfield; Growing Places, 40 West St., Barre; Hunt Road Berry Farm, 96 Hunt Road, West Brookfield; Many Hands Organic Farm, 411 Sheldon Road, Barre; Mycoterra Farm/Mass Food, Belchertown; Still Life Farm, 1643 Petersham Road, Hardwick; Stillman’s Farm, 1205 Barre Road, New Braintree; Wildberry Acres Farm, 135 Town Farm Road, Brookfield; West Brookfield Farmers’ Market, West Brookfield; Hardwick Farmers Market, Hardwick; Brimfield/Hitchcock Academy Farmers’ Market, Brimfield; and the Belchertown Farmers and Artisans Market, Belchertown.

DTA also offers a Restaurant Meals Program, which allows people ages 60+, homeless and disabled to use their EBT cards at select restaurants to purchase meals.

There are 15 restaurants approved by

DTA for this program, with the closest in proximity to the Quaboag Valley being in Worcester.

The RMP allows people to purchase a meal in a participating restaurant and it is not subject to meal tax. The program does not cover tips for servers.

Currently, the commonwealth is one of nine states offering this program.

“Much like the HIP program has grown, I hope the RMP will grow,” Loughlin said.

#### Eligibility and applying

Loughlin said there are many ways people can apply to receive SNAP benefits, including online at dtacconnect.com, by fax or by mail. People can also call DTA or visit an office.

“Outreach partners can also help with applications,” Loughlin said, and can be found locally at the Ware Senior Center.

Paper applications are available in 13 languages.

Loughlin said there is also an app called DTA Connect, which helps people manage their SNAP benefits and check their balance. In order to use this app, people need to have an email address.

She said the outreach workers can help those who do not have an email address to create one.

Eligibility is based on who is in the household, earned income and unearned income, disability, child support, certain expenses like rent and mortgage, utilities and medical expenses. Countable unearned income includes Social Security and child support.

Loughlin said it takes about 30 days to complete the SNAP application process, which requires a mandatory interview. If this interview is not completed in that time frame, the applicant will be denied, but is able to reapply.

Loughlin said many SNAP users cy-

cle on and off the program.

After the interview is completed, applicants will typically have another 30 days to provide proof of eligibility and mandatory verifications including identification, proof of Massachusetts residency, unearned income, two- to four-consecutive pay stubs for earned income and Social Security number.

“The more deductions you have... can result in a higher award,” she said.

Optional verifications include shelter costs, costs of utilities, dependent care costs and medical costs that total more than \$35 a month for elderly and disabled people.

#### Help for senior citizens

Loughlin said the standard medical deduction range is \$35-190 per month, and that seniors and disabled people can self-declare up to four items to get into that range.

This includes co-pays and any out-of-pocket pharmacy costs for prescriptions. She said people can ask their pharmacy for a one-year “look back” to view these expenses.

“The client should tell us about all of their expenses,” Loughlin said. “The amount awarded is based on your income and your deductions.”

Loughlin said many seniors have low shelter costs, due to their homes being paid off, which can lower their SNAP benefits.

“Seniors may not have a lot of income coming in, but they have low expenses,” she said.

In addition to working with outreach partners, seniors can receive application assistance through the Senior Assistance Office.

“A lot of seniors don’t want to apply because they’re afraid to take benefits from others,” Loughlin said. “There’s enough money in the program to take care of everybody.”

#### Monthly benefits

Loughlin said SNAP benefits will be awarded on the same day each month, and any unused balance will roll over month to month. HIP benefits do not roll over, and will re-set each month.

Once a person applies for SNAP benefits, they will automatically be mailed an EBT card, prior to the application being processed. Once the process and mandatory interview and verifications are completed, the applicant will receive a pin number.

Those who have had SNAP benefits in the past and still have their EBT card, can note this on their application and use their existing card once the application process is complete.

EBT cards can also be used for online for food purchases from certain vendors.

#### Benefit protection

Loughlin said the DTA recommends re-pinning your EBT card prior to each monthly benefit being received, to help prevent theft of benefits. If theft is detected, notify the DTA immediately using the online form found at dtacconnect.com.

#### How to apply

For more information about the DTA and SNAP eligibility and benefits, visit dtacconnect.com or call 877-382-2363.

#### 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.



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# - community -

## Second Chance seeking experienced adopters

*Thirteen Malinois puppies looking for homes*

EAST BROOKFIELD – Second Chance Animal Services has taken in 13 adorable Malinois puppies who will soon be seeking their forever homes.

These energetic and intelligent puppies are looking for breed-experienced adopters to meet their unique needs and provide them with loving, active environments.

The puppies were born after a local pet owner rescued their pregnant mother earlier this year. She reached out to Second Chance for help and is fostering the pups until they are ready for adoption.

Malinois are known for their exceptional intelligence, agility, and loyalty, which makes them excellent companions for active families, working homes, and individuals who have experience with high-energy breeds. These dogs thrive on physical and mental stimulation and require significant daily exercise and training.

Malinois are often employed in roles such as police work, search and rescue, and protection due to their strong work ethic and trainability.

“We are dedicated to finding the best possible homes for these wonderful puppies,” said Wendy Hall, Second Chance Animal Relocation Director in a press release. “Given the unique needs of the Malinois breed, we are looking for adopters who have the experience

and commitment to provide the appropriate environment and care. They will do best in homes with ample space to run and play and are not well-suited for apartment living unless their exercise and stimulation needs can be met.”

Interested adopters are encouraged to submit an adoption survey online [www.secondchanceanimals.org/adoption-survey](http://www.secondchanceanimals.org/adoption-survey) indicating interest in the Malinois puppies. This will help to ensure that each puppy is matched with a suitable home.

Qualified applicants will be invited to meet the litter beginning around July 3 to allow adopters to interact with the puppies and make informed decisions.



One of the Malinois puppies received at Second Chance Animal Services enjoys a cuddle.



A Malinois puppy is shown with Second Chance veterinary technician Julie Gadbois. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Dr. Jackie Celmer holds one of the Malinois puppies at Second Chance Animal Services.

## East Brookfield summer concert series starts July 11

EAST BROOKFIELD – The East Brookfield Summer Concert Series will be held on Thursday evenings starting at 6 p.m. at Connie Mack Field.

The first concert of the series will be held on Thursday, July 11 with Local Talent Night. Other concerts include July 18, The Otters; July 25, LeBeau Family Band; Aug. 1, Island Castaways;

and Aug. 8, Fab Beatles Tribute Band.

Food and drinks will be available to purchase at all concerts.

This year's series is made possible by the East Brookfield Cultural Council, Howe Lumber, Audette's Towing, Lamoureux Ford and Lamothe and Associates.

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Massachusetts Walking Tour

# Traveling musicians make stop at Lucy Stone Park

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

WARREN – Since 2010, the Massachusetts Walking Tour has traveled by foot, covering more than 100 miles over a two week period of time, all while sharing songs and exploring trails along the way.

Co-founded by the husband and wife team of Mark Mandeville and Raianne Richards, the Massachusetts Walking Tour aims to bring awareness to the trails and greenways of the commonwealth, while sharing the talents of a variety of musicians.

“We always invite wonderful musicians to join us,” Mandeville said.

One of the stops along this year’s tour was to Lucy Stone Park in Warren, located about quarter of a mile from the town’s common. Named after noted West Brookfield abolitionist and suffragist, the park has been the focus of a dedicated group of volunteers, who have helped bring recognition to this hidden jewel.

Joining Mandeville and Richards were fellow Massachusetts Walking Tour members Eli Go and Quasi Lane, along with five-time participant Vito Caccavelli and the duo Green Heron, featuring husband and wife, Scott Heron and Betsy Heron.

Caccavelli first joined the Massachusetts Walking Tour when he was still in high school, and Mandeville described him as a “tremendous musician.”

“Vito has been at the Massachusetts Walking Tour for so many years,” Mandeville said.

Caccavelli performed three songs, including “Rockin’ Chair” by The Band and “Blue Spotted Tail” by Fleet Foxes. All of the songs performed during the concert have references to nature or walking.



Vito Caccavelli performed with the Massachusetts Walking Tour.



Eli Go and Quasi Lane played guitar and ukulele bass during the Massachusetts Walking Tour.

Next to perform was Green Heron, driving down from New Hampshire to share a set ranging from the blues to a lively jig.

Betsy Heron grew up in Hubbardston and began her music career as a member of the family band, and continues to sing and play the fiddle alongside her sisters in their band, The Green Sisters, in addition to Green Heron.

Heron has been a common theme for this year’s tour, being both featured on the logo and spotted along the musicians’ walking route.

The tour logo was created by artist Dan Blakeslee, who has created the logo for the Massachusetts Walking Tour each year it has been in existence. Blakeslee’s artwork is often featured on music posters as well as craft beer labels.

“We’ve encountered at least two if not three of them a day,” Mandeville said of the herons. “My wife thinks it’s a spirit animal.”

Mandeville, Richards, Go and Lane joined together to perform the first song in their set, “Walk Right In” made popular by the Rooftop Singers, followed by Patsy Cline’s classic “Walkin’ After Midnight”, “The Guitar Man” by Bread, “Bein’ Green” by Kermit the Frog and many more.

This was Lane’s first time playing a full set for an audience, and also the first time the Massachusetts Walking Tour has included a bass player. Go has been with the tour for his third year and brings a “jazz edge,” Mandeville said.

Prior to the start of the concert, members of the Massachusetts Walking Tour along with Warren resident Tim O’Brien led a community hike through Lucy Stone Park, exploring the banks of the river and the pollinator garden before heading into the woods.

O’Brien, whose name is synonymous with Lucy Stone Park, said nature had taken its “normal course” at the park until over a decade ago, when work began to remove invasive plants and improve accessibility.

With time and effort, the invasive plants were removed and native plants, including wild strawberries, mountain laurel, serviceberry, swamp azalea, redosier dogwood, and many more, were added to the park. O’Brien said in the next week or so, the garden will begin to bloom, and he invited people to return and see its splendor.

“Tim and a crew of volunteers have tirelessly worked to bring the park to its glory,” Richards said.

The park has also been improved by three separate Eagle Scout projects, which includes a hardpacked accessible trail, an accessible parking lot and a storage shed. Students from the nearby Quaboag Regional Middle High School



Raianne Richards and Mark Mandeville performed during a stop of the Massachusetts Walking Tour at Lucy Stone Park in Warren. TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE

even constructed a bench.

As the tour “broke ground” on the park’s newest section of trail, participants enjoyed the cool shade of the trees and were able to view North America’s largest woodpecker, the pileated woodpecker, as it flew just overhead.

This event was made possible with support from the Warren Cultural Council, a local agency, which is sup-

ported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. The Rotary Club of the Brookfields provided refreshments and the Community Emergency Response Team handled traffic detail.

For more information about the Massachusetts Walking Tour, visit [masswalkingtour.org](http://masswalkingtour.org) or find them on Facebook.



Scott Heron and Betsy Heron of the duo Green Heron joined the Massachusetts Walking Tour for its stop at Lucy Stone Park.



Tim O’Brien prepared to lead hikers along a newly completed section of trail at Lucy Stone Park.



Over 40 people participated in the hike and enjoyed the concert at Lucy Stone Park.





# SPORTS

## Monson Post 241 evens record with win over Aldenville

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY—Because of a couple of postponements, the Monson Post 241 Legion baseball team had only played three games during the first 18 days of the regular season.

Monson evened its overall

record to 2-2 following a 6-1 win against Aldenville Post 337, at Thomas B. Landers Baseball Diamond in South Hadley, last Friday night.

“This was only our fourth game since the Legion season began on June 10. We’re still trying to figure things out,” said Monson manager Steve Tripp. “We did play very well

defensively, and we also had a couple of timely base hits. I’m very happy with the way that we played in tonight’s game.”

The winning pitcher was righthander Brayden Mega, who was a junior on the Pathfinder Tech varsity baseball team this past spring. He allowed one run on three hits with four walks and four strike-

outs in 5 1/3 innings. Righty James Delaney, who graduated from Belchertown High School in 2023, only allowed one hit over the final 1 2/3 innings.

“Mega pitched an outstanding game,” Tripp said. “He kept the Aldenville batters at bay. He threw around 80 pitches and just kept throwing strikes.”

Aldenville, who normally

plays their home games at Szot Park in Chicopee, had a 3-3 record following the loss to Monson.

“We were missing five starters tonight and we found enough players together to play the game. We didn’t want to forfeit tonight’s game,” said Aldenville assistant coach Steve

See POST 241 | PAGE 11



Jacoby Dilling makes his way up the court. TURLEY PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

## Panthers get summer season underway

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

AUBURN—After only winning a couple of games a year ago, the returning members of the Quabbin boys’ varsity basketball team will be looking for much better results during the 2024-25 regular season.

“We’re really looking forward to the upcoming basketball season,” said Kyle Clark, who’ll be one of the six seniors on the Panthers varsity basketball team next winter. “We’re playing in a couple of summer

leagues which helps us prepare for the regular season.”

The Quabbin players are playing in the Auburn Summer League, which began their season during the last week of June. The Panthers posted a 62-35 win against Leicester in their first game on June 24 before suffering a 61-29 loss to Millbury two days later. All of the Auburn Summer League games are held inside the Auburn High School Gymnasium.

“There are a lot of very good teams in this league, but

See PANTHERS | PAGE 10

## Quaboag boys take on Leicester

Members of the Quaboag Regional High School boys basketball team faced off with Leicester in their second match-up of the Auburn High School

Summer Basketball League. Quaboag has regularly entered a team in the eight-game summer league that runs through the end of July with playoffs in

early August. The Cougars are off this week for the Fourth of July holiday and resume action next week.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

## Extra innings decide minor division championship

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

STURBRIDGE—The Sturbridge Little League Minor Division championship game featured the top-seeded Mariner’s and the second-seeded Red Sox.

Grayson Tavares, who’s one of the players listed on the Mariner’s roster, probably nev-

er thought he would be the hero of the June 18 game.

With the score tied with one-out in the bottom of the eighth inning, Tavares hit a hard groundball single into left field bringing home Gabe Parent with the game winning run, as the Mariner’s celebrated a thrilling 6-5 walk-off victory under the lights at Town Barn Field.

“It was Grayson’s first base hit of the entire season, and you couldn’t have written a better script,” said Mariner’s manager Steve Brunell. “This is Grayson’s first year playing for our baseball team and I’m thrilled for him.”

Had the Mariner’s failed to score a run in the bottom of the eighth inning, the Sturbridge Little League Minor Division

championship game would’ve ended in a tie for the first time in at least the past 15 years.

One of the four regular season meetings between the two rivals did end in a tie. The Mariner’s won the other the three contests.

“I never expected tonight’s game to go into extra innings,” Brunell said. “I’m just glad that we won the game with a hit in-

stead of a walk or an error. We always tell the players that they have to earn it.”

The other Mariner’s players are Max Schwerwin, Ryan Schwerwin, Aiden Petersen, Jace Levesque, Jase Lamothe, Ethan Petersen, Jacob Brunell, Nick Kluge, Denny Jennette Jr., Emily Parent, and Joey Nellenbeck.

See INNINGS | PAGE 11

- sports -

# Mutiny racks up another home win

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—A parade, a block party, and fireworks were held June 16 as part of Ludlow’s yearlong 250th anniversary celebration.

The New England Mutiny joined in the fun by celebrating a 4-0 shutout victory in their first ever meeting against the Hudson Valley Crusaders before a large gathering at Lusitano Stadium.

“This is a very good win for the ladies,” said Mutiny assistant coach Ciro Viviane. “I thought we played very well in tonight’s match, especially during the second half.”

Viviane and Joe Ferrara, who’s the Mutiny’s Owner and General Manager, shared the coaching duties during last Saturday’s home match.

Federico Molinari, who’s the Mutiny’s first-year head coach, is also the longtime head coach of the Western Mass. Pioneers. He coached the Pioneers match at Vermont Green, which ended in a scoreless draw, last Saturday night.

The Mutiny remained in first place in the United Women Soccer East confer-

ence standings with a perfect 5-0-0 overall record.

“It feels really good to be 5-0,” said Mutiny defender Rachel Marchini, who scored her first goal wearing a Mutiny uniform. “We’re just looking forward to continuing playing well in each game.”



Avery Klingensmith follows through on a pass. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Jess Mazo sends a quick pass away.



Hope Santaniello gets past an opponent.

Because only the top four teams in the East Conference standings will qualify for the league playoffs, the Mutiny can’t afford a loss in their final three regular season matches.

They’re scheduled to play a road match against the Connecticut Rush on Saturday night.

The same two teams will face each other again seven days later at Lusitano

Stadium, which will be the Mutiny final regular season home match.

The Mutiny will then close out the regular season with a road clash against the Worcester Fuel on June 30.

“We’re looking forward to finishing the regular season on a positive note,” said Viviane, who’s also the Pioneers goalie’s coach. “I think our next two

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**PANTHERS** | FROM PAGE 9

we probably faced the best team in this league today. We knew that it was going to be a very challenging game for us,” said Quabbin summer league coach Tim Hay following his team’s loss to Millbury. “The guys are also playing in the Fitchburg summer league this year. Playing in the different summer leagues is only going to help them prepare for the winter season.”

The Woolies, who lost to Wareham in the Division 4 state semifinals in March, made a total of eight 3-pointers against the Panthers during the first half enroute to a 36-17 halftime lead.

“They had four players who could shoot the ball from the perimeter,” said Hay, who’s been coaching the Panthers summer league team for the past couple of years. “They just made a bunch of 3-pointers in the first half, which was the difference.”

The Panthers, who only lost one player to graduation, couldn’t make a second half comeback.

Clark led the Panthers with 13 points. “Kyle has improved immensely since last winter,” Hay said. “He’s been working very hard on his footwork. We’re



Aiden Crane makes a pass on the run.

looking for him to keep improving.”

The other five Quabbin seniors will be Quinn Geary, Jaxton Warburton, Bryce Venne, Zeke Santoro, and Luke Salvatore.

“We’re hoping for good things from the six seniors,” Hay added. “Championship teams normally have a lot of seniors. The seniors are going to be the team leaders.”

Geary didn’t play in the Panthers first two Auburn Summer League games because he had his wisdom teeth taken out.

“Quinn is probably our best player,” Hay said. “He normally averages between 15-20 points per game. He also pulls down a lot of rebounds. Not having him on the court is a disadvantage for us.”

Rounding out the Quabbin summer league roster are Jacoby Dilling, Brady Patchen, Aiden Crane, Evan Sherblom, Anthony Quarterone, and Jacoby Venne.

Hay, who graduated from Quabbin Regional in 1995, finished his outstanding varsity basketball career

with 1,865 points. He was inducted into the Quabbin Athletic Hall of Fame in 2010.

Hay’s high school basketball coach was Dennis Dextrateur, who’s still at the helm.

Dextrateur watched the summer



Kyle Clark muscles his way to the hoop. TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

league game against Millbury from the front row of the bleachers.

“I’ve known coach Dex since I was a little kid,” Hay said. “He was my high school basketball coach, and he has a lot of knowledge about the game. I’ve learned a lot from him.”

Dextrateur attended the game against Millbury with Gene Rich, who was one of Hay’s basketball teammates at Quabbin.

“Gene Rich was the starting point guard of my high school basketball team,” Hay said. “I didn’t know that he

was coming to today’s game until he walked into the gym. We’ve always had a very good relationship and I’m very glad he came.”

Rich has been the boys’ varsity basketball coach at Ware High School for the past several years.

Hay is also the President of the Quabbin Youth Basketball League.

There were about 350 kids playing in the league this past winter, so the future does look very bright for the boys’ varsity basketball team at Quabbin Regional.



Luke Salvatore gets the turnaround shot.



Evan Sherblom looks to shoot for the Panthers.

# - sports -

## MUTINY | FROM PAGE 10

matches against the Connecticut Rush will be hard fought battles. Worcester might be struggling, but you can't overlook any team in this league."

The Mutiny won't have the services of forward Cat Berry, who's one of the team's leading scorers, during the final three regular season matches. She went back to the University of South Carolina last weekend to take summer classes and prepare for her final collegiate season as a member of the Gamecocks women's soccer team.

Berry has been a member of the Mutiny for the past three seasons and is a fan favorite. She'll most likely be drafted by a National Women's Soccer League (N.W.S.L.) team next year.

"Cat will definitely be drafted by a

N.W.S.L. team next year," Ferrara said. "It was awesome having her play for our soccer team during the past couple of years. Not only is she a very talented soccer player, but she's also a great kid."

The Mutiny, who outscored their first five opponents of this season, 19-3, have compiled an 18-5-2 overall record since the start of the 2022 regular season.

The Crusaders (3-1-1), who joined the U.W.S. this season, entered last Saturday's contest with a 3-0-1 mark. They had only given up two goals in the first four matches. The Mutiny doubled that total in a span of 90 minutes.

The home side took a 1-0 lead during the 11th minute of the opening half following a corner kick goal.



Chioma Okafor settles the ball.



Maddy Theriault advances up the field.

## POST 241 | FROM PAGE 9

Burnett. "I think they only scored one earned run against us. We just made a couple of costly mistakes."

Aldenville manager Mason Scott also didn't attend last Friday's game against Monson because he was on vacation.

Aldenville did take a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning.

With one-out in the frame, shortstop Nathan Carillon, who graduated from South Hadley High School a year ago, hit a chopper off the pitcher's glove for an infield hit. He advanced to second base on a wild pitch before Brady Burnett, who was Aldenville's starting pitcher, drew a walk. Then another infield hit by second baseman Zach Oldenburg loaded the bases. Left fielder Ryan Netkovich, who was a sophomore on this year's South Hadley varsity baseball team, drove home the game's first run with a groundball out to third.

Aldenville managed to hold onto the one run lead until the third inning.

That's when Monson took advantage of a couple of errors to take a 3-1 lead against lefty Brady Burnett.

Monson shortstop John Mumper was safe at first base following a fielding error by the third baseman leading off the inning. His younger brother, Jason, who started in center field, followed with an infield hit. John Mumper scored the tying run on the play following a throwing error.

After a line-drive single to left field by first baseman Dylan Sutkaitis, designated hitter Dom Allen blasted a double

to deep left field scoring two more runs.

Monson also had scoring chances in their next two at-bats. They left a runner at third base in the fourth and the bases loaded in the fifth.

Meanwhile, Mega retired ten batters in a row before walking both first baseman Justin Moskal and right fielder Noah Carillon with one-out in the bottom of the fifth inning.

Mega was able to retire the next two batters rather easily ending Aldenville's threat.

After walking Netkovich with one-out in the sixth, Delaney replaced Mega on the mound.

The Monson relief pitcher did receive some help from his defense when left fielder Austin Meachum made an outstanding diving catch.

"Austin is the starting shortstop for the Monson varsity baseball team and he's a star in the making," Tripp said. "His outstanding diving catch helped us get out of that inning."

The next batter grounded out which ended the threat.

Monson scored three more runs in the top of the seventh inning. The biggest hit of that inning was an RBI single by right fielder Shane Szado, who also plays baseball at Monson High School.

Monson made a couple of errors in the bottom of the seventh, but Delaney got out of the jam without giving up any runs.

It was the only meeting of the regular season between the two squads.

## INNINGS | FROM PAGE 9

"This group of players have been fantastic to coach this year," Steve Brunell said. "We only lost one game during the regular season. It was just a great season."

Following the game, the Marnier's players took pictures with the championship trophy in the outfield. Every player will also be receiving their own championship trophy.

The members of the Red Sox are Oliver Boudreau, William Norton, John Hinson, Owen Boudreau, Kade Schefler, Cole Bond, Carter Beales, Jack Lazzareschi, Charles Gagnon, Aiden Coombs, Thomas Luth, and Colin Lee-cock.

"It was a long game, but it was very exciting," said Red Sox manager Jed Beales. "We were able to take the lead in the sixth inning, but we couldn't keep it."

Levesque, who was the Marnier's starting pitcher, struck out the side in the top of the first inning.

With two-outs in the bottom of the first, Lamothe drove home the game's first run with a flyball single to center.

The Red Sox tied the score in the following frame when Bond, who walked, scored on a wild pitch with one-out.

The Marnier's quickly retook the lead on an RBI single to rightfield by Ethan Petersen with one-out in the bottom of the second.

After both teams were held scoreless in the third, Hinson drew a leadoff walk in the top of the fourth. He scored the tying run on a wild pitch.

The contest stayed tied until the top of the sixth inning.

That's when the Red Sox took the lead for the first time.

With two-outs, Bond delivered a two-run double to right field before scoring on a wild pitch.

The Marnier's answered right back with three runs in the bottom half of the frame.

Those three runs were scored by Max Schwerin, Aiden Petersen, and Jacob Brunell on wild pitches.

During the regular season Minor Division games do end in ties and there is also a two-hour time-limit.

Following a discussion between the two managers and the umpire, the championship game continued into extra innings.

The score remained tied at 5-5 until Tavares became the hero for the Marnier's with one-out in the bottom of the eighth.

Mutiny midfielder Abbey Jones, who's a member of the UConn women's soccer team, booted the ball into the box from the left corner. Marchini, who also played soccer at UConn a couple of years ago, sent a volley shot into the back of the net past Hudson Valley goalie Natalie Kelchner.

"I've been playing for the Mutiny for two years now and I scored my first goal in tonight's game," said Marchini, who also scored only one goal during her collegiate career. "I was just in the right spot at the right time. My goal gave us a lot more confidence because they were also an unbeaten team."

Marchini was also a member of the Connecticut Fusion before joining the Mutiny.

"I used to play for the Fusion, but when they folded, I decided to come play here," Marchini said. "It has been a lot of fun playing soccer at this stadium during the past couple of years."

Marchini anchors the Mutiny defen-

sive unit along with Logan Jacobs, Laci Lewis, and Sam Breton.

Goalkeeper Natalie Mutschler only had to make a couple of saves in recording her second consecutive shutout.

The Mutiny second goal was scored by forward Chioma Okafor during the 29th minute. Forward Maddy Theriault, who graduated from Palmer High School a couple of years ago, was credited with the assist.

Another local player listed on the Mutiny roster is Hope Santaniello, who was an All-American soccer player at Agawam High School.

Santaniello, who'll be a member of the UMass-Lowell women's soccer team in the fall, scored her team's second corner kick goal, which was assisted by Okafor, during the 71st minute.

She also converted a penalty kick during the final minute of regulation, which kept the Mutiny undefeated heading into the home stretch of the regular season.

## Blue Sox continue season into July

HOLYOKE – The Valley Blue Sox are the local attraction for college baseball. The Blue Sox have played about half its schedule and continue their 42-game slate into July. Home games are played at Mackenzie Stadium in Holy-

oke. There are numerous promotions and fun deals for individuals and families. The Blue Sox have several home games throughout July and hopefully beyond with the New England Collegiate Baseball League playoffs.

magazine

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**PROGRAM | FROM PAGE 1**

“There’s a lot of research behind this, there’s a lot of research both in rural America and urban America that supports the arts and how they can be used within the classroom to support instruction, education and student achievement,” he said.

Milner said she has lived in town for many years and is now the owner of Long View, where she first started as a horse stall cleaner. The recording studio has had artists from all over the world record in North Brookfield.

Now, the studio is producing music for film and television, as well as producing its own content.

“But my most important achievement in my life, has been the Cool Kids Choir program here in North Brookfield, which just finished its 30th year,” Milner said. She said thousands of children have gone through the program.

Cool Kids is a program that uses music as a vehicle to teach life skills, she said.

Milner said they want to use the arts to teach the fundamentals of learning, including math, science and English.

“When you incorporate the arts into it, it changes how people learn, how they think and how they remember,” she said.

Milner said McCormick has been active in getting the community involved in the school district and there are a lot of positive things happening the schools. She said despite this, there are issues that need to be addressed, including low test scores, funding challenges, interrupted attendance, high dropout rates, apathy among staff and students and a lack of a differentiator for school choice.

She said these issues are happening all over the country and that there is a national creativity crisis. There is also an “unbelievable” resource challenge in rural America.

Milner said people know that the arts are the solution through extensive research, and it needs to be invested in. She said it’s time for North Brookfield Public Schools to make “radical, bold change.”

Milner said the group came up with CATLab (Creative Action and Thinking), an “innovative, interdisciplinary STEAM overlay programming designed to increase student engagement, common core competencies and 21st century skills while addressing the national creativity crisis and filling a gap in the region’s school choice options.”

At CATLab, students will participate in daily a cooperative, collaborative and creative endeavor with creative professionals from outside the school system, who are paired with the school district’s educators to implement an innovative, interdisciplinary curriculum.

“The creative professional works side-by-side with the teacher,” she said.

Milner said the overlay program could start in the fall, funded through sponsorships and grants initially, and partnership with the community, regional colleges, creative professionals and the existing teaching staff and administration at the school district.

The program will also be data driven; monitoring the impact CATLab has on the students. The program will pilot this fall starting in two classrooms in each school.

In years two through five of the program, CATLab will expand. Funding would continue to come from outside the school district’s budget for as long

as it can, she said.

“We would be increasing the programming across the board,” she said.

Milner said CATLab can offer vocal music for teaching life skills, drum corps for math, songwriting for English and history, Turn It Up Theater for science, basic videography for science, basic recording for math and engineering, beat-making/songwriting for math and English, music production and recording for math and engineering, rFUTURE documentary shorts/filmmaking for STEAM and traveling drum corps for math.

Milner said a CATLab committee will be formed, which would include herself, LeBlanc, Arnold Burkhardt and McCormick.

Arnold, who is an artist and a former School Committee member, said she was part of a 2010 educational task force. Survey results showed that community members wanted the school district to stay small, regionalize or become a small, “niche” school and attract school choice students.

“The school should be the center of the town...if you have a healthy school, you have a healthy town,” she said. “It’s a fact...it very much reflects in the town what the school does.”

Arnold said the town needs a vision for the school.

Burkhardt, a lifelong resident and graduate of North Brookfield High School, said she is looking for a way to get involved in the town. A former public school teacher, she sees the importance of an arts program in the school.

LeBlanc teaches special education at the elementary school and live in town. She is also a musician and an alumni of the Cool Kids Choir.

“We really believe the school district

is at a crossroads,” Milner said. “We can start doing something now that could really create change and could be something that could be a model for other schools and small districts all over the country. This is cutting-edge education.”

The School Committee voted to accept the CATLab pilot program.

School Committee Chari John Magario said he thinks it’s a great idea and will help promote both collaboration at the school district and the town’s sense of community.

**Recognition**

McCormick thanked all staff, students and families for a successful school year.

He recognized retiring staff members Patty Duggan, Cheryl Johnson and Robin Brown. All three have worked in the elementary school cafeteria for a combined total time of 64 years.

“They do a lot of hard work for our kids and our families,” he said.

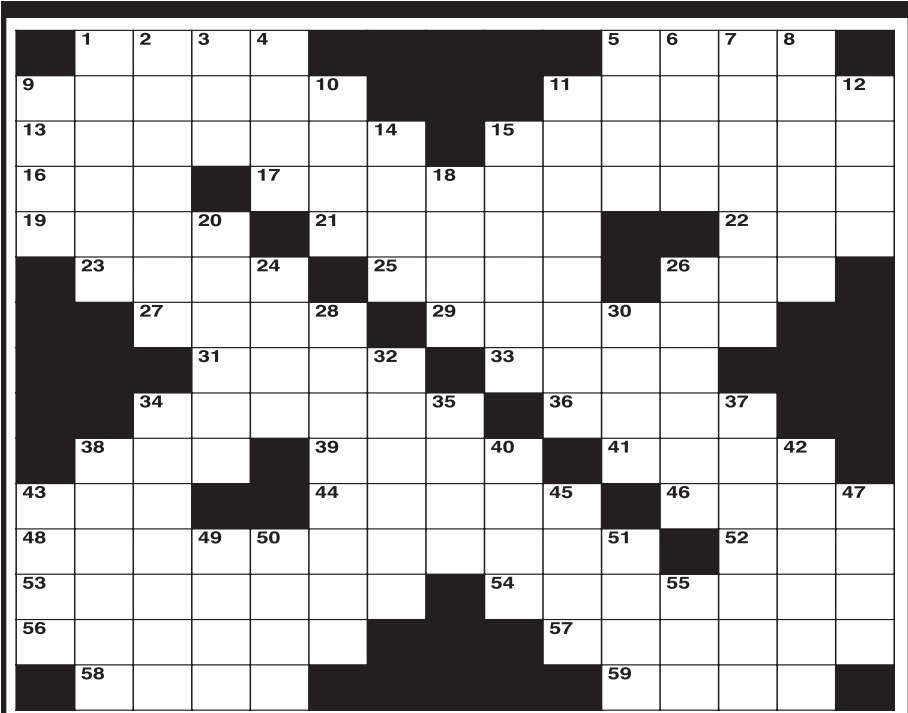
McCormick also recognized interim Director of Student Services Ann Knapp, who is returning to retirement after serving for the school year.

Knapp said it has been a “pleasure and an honor,” to work for the school district.

McCormick said in addition to the four staff that are retiring, he said Elementary School Principal Sarah Priestley is leaving the district to take a position in Athol Public Schools. He said she has spent 16 years in the district, starting as a teacher in both the high school and elementary school before becoming principal five years ago.

“We are very lucky to have had you. You’ve done a fantastic job and you’ve been a fantastic leader for the elementary school for our district,” he said.

See PROGRAM | PAGE 13



**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Six (Spanish)
- 5. Invests in little enterprises
- 9. Large dung beetle
- 11. Gored
- 13. Partially paralyzed
- 15. Still a little wet
- 16. Legal field media company
- 17. Not working
- 19. 500 sheets of paper
- 21. Church structure
- 22. Sheep disease
- 23. Small drink of whiskey
- 25. Weaving tradition
- 26. Pestilence
- 27. Body part
- 29. Nabs
- 31. Places to stay
- 33. Witnesses

- 34. Looked for
- 36. Arranges
- 38. Political action committee
- 39. Middle eastern nation (alt. sp.)
- 41. Hair-like structure
- 43. Parts producer
- 44. Greek city
- 46. Subway dwellers
- 48. Norm from “Cheers”
- 52. Clean a floor
- 53. Vied for
- 54. Canned fish
- 56. Inspire with love
- 57. Sent down moisture
- 58. Wrest
- 59. Partner to carrots

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Mounted

- 2. Assign
- 3. Wrath
- 4. Self-immolation by fire ritual
- 5. Parts of an organism
- 6. Person from England
- 7. Tropical plants of the pea family
- 8. Body part
- 9. Practice boxing
- 10. Containers
- 11. Contrary beliefs
- 12. Bleached
- 14. Pre-Islamic Egyptian
- 15. A group of similar things ordered one after another
- 18. Innermost spinal cord membranes
- 20. Cassava
- 24. A restaurant’s list of offerings

- 26. Annoy constantly
- 28. Orchestrate
- 30. Z Z Z
- 32. Astute
- 34. Highly decorated tea urn
- 35. Teach to behave
- 37. Endurance
- 38. Urinating
- 40. Barbie friend dolls
- 42. Repents
- 43. Man-eating giant
- 45. Jewish calendar month
- 47. Accelerated
- 49. Husband of Sita in Hindu
- 50. Lump of semiliquid substance
- 51. Lying in wait
- 55. Cease to exist

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**CHILDREN | FROM PAGE 1**

help other children,” Kim Milner said. Milner and her mother then contacted their local church, where they were connected to Wally and Michele Connor, founders of S.O.N.G. (Supporting Orphans Nationally & Globally), a Ware-based organization that has been helping children in need for over 25 years. The Connors were inspired to create S.O.N.G. (formerly Socks for Siberia) after visiting a Siberian orphanage back in 1998. “We walked by the orphanage with about 100 children. They were poorly dressed and had no toys,” Wally Connor said. The Connors made it their mission to make sure those children had new clothes and plenty of toys to play with, among other things. They continued to

do so up until 2022 when their focus shifted to the war in Ukraine. Wally Connor has made five trips to Ukraine, bringing everything from clothing and toys to essential medical and hygiene supplies. S.O.N.G. has also provided relief to children in Pakistan since 2018. S.O.N.G. is also working with children in South Africa, many who have been left behind with the closing of diamond mines. “We also help orphaned and foster children in Massachusetts,” Michele Connor said. The Connors thanked Milner for her thoughtfulness and compassion for those in need, by making her donation to S.O.N.G. “Thousands of children are helped because of people like you,” Wally Connor said.



Mackenzie Milner presents her donation to Michele Connor. TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA QUIMETTE

**PROGRAM | FROM PAGE 12**

**Building use policy and form**

Magario said he and Vice-Chair Tim Canada both serve on the Building and Grounds Subcommittee, and they recently met to discuss updating the school’s policy and form for use of school buildings and grounds. The last amendment was in 2006. “In order for organizations or groups to use the school the appropriate representative of the organization is supposed to fill this out and submit it and ultimately, it’s supposed to come before the school committee for approval,” he said. Both Magario and Canada said these forms have not come before the committee for approval since they were elected.

Magario said it’s a legal document and requires approval by the school committee. “I think there’s been a lapse in protocol,” Magario said. Magario said there is also outdated language in the building use form that needs to be amended. He said they will discuss amending the language after reviewing it with Building and Grounds and the Policy Subcommittee. “We are going to evaluate this and figure out what needs to be changed,” Canada said. **Regionalization update** Canada said there has been no update or communication regarding the Regional Agreement Amendment Committee.



Wally Connor gives Mackenzie Milner gifts for her donations, including artwork created by a child S.O.N.G. helped in Ukraine.

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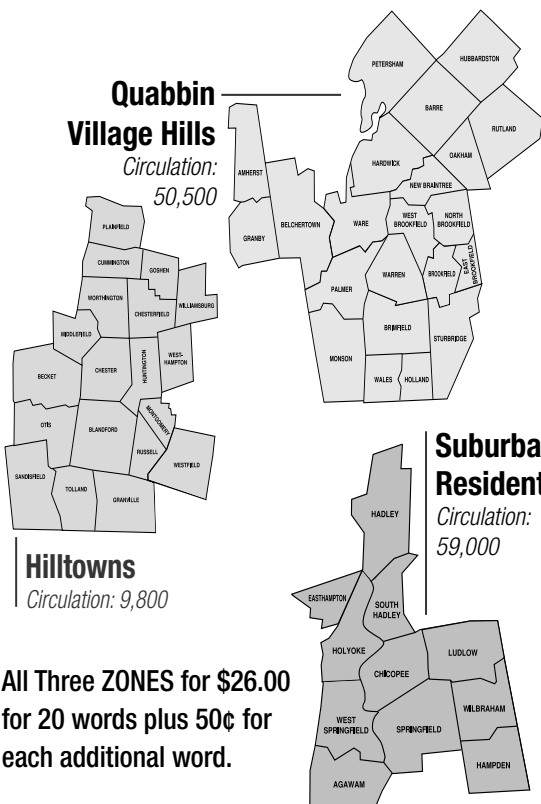
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## STCC announces spring 2024 Dean's List

SPRINGFIELD - Springfield Technical Community College celebrates the accomplishment of the 902 students who were named to the spring 2024 Dean's List.

The Dean's List is published each semester to recognize excellence in academic performance. To be considered, degree-seeking students must earn 12 or more college level credits in the current semester, or a total of 12 or more combined college-level credits earned during the fall and spring semesters, and achieve a 3.3 or above grade point average.

Local students include Ashley Rebecca Hutchins of Brookfield; Piper Jean Weldon of Sturbridge; and Luisa Feeny and Matthew D. Jablonski, both of West Brookfield.

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Friday, July 5, 2024

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