



# QUABOAG CURRENT

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Friday, July 7, 2023

Coming home to Coventry

## Filmmakers turn hospital, historic farm into movie set

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

**BROOKFIELD/WARE** – For the past few weeks, locations around Brookfield and Ware have been transformed into the fictional small town of Coventry for the filming of the full-length indie movie, “Birthrite”.

Late in the afternoon on June 25, the emergency room at Baystate Mary Lane Hospital became part of the movie set, as people dressed in scrubs and uniforms walked into the building to set up for the scene being filmed.

Nurses walked briskly through the busy halls of the hospital, where a woman could be seen talking quietly with a doctor.

The concern was clear on the woman’s face as they discussed her partner, who is expecting the couple’s first child. Wren is

questioning her pregnant partner Mya’s sanity.

The couple has been through many changes lately, both with the pregnancy, and moving from the city and into an old house they inherited from Mya’s aunt in Coventry.

Wren is played by Juani Feliz of New York, in her first lead role.

Feliz said she has played a number of strong supporting lead roles, appearing in “The Purge: Election Year and Canal Street” as well as various television series including “Blue Bloods”, “Power”, “Shades of Blue”, “One Dollar” and more.

“Birthrite” is a psychological thriller, and the first of this genre that Feliz has acted in.

“It’s my favorite genre,” she said.

Playing Mya is Alice Kremelberg, also from New York, who has acted in a number of television series, including

See **FILMMAKERS** | PAGE 8



Actors Juani Feliz (left) and Alice Kremelberg (right) enjoy a quiet moment with Jennifer Lafleur and her daughter, Alma. TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE

## Sportsmen’s Club honors essay and picture contest winners

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

**WEST BROOKFIELD** – Just a couple of days shy of the start of summer vacation, fifth grade students at West Brookfield Elementary School were recognized for their winning essays and artwork by members of the Wickaboag Sportsmen’s Club.

Club members Paul Lapenas, building chairman; M J Haesche, treasurer/education chairman; Denise Martinelli, member and essay reviewer; along with Graham Buckton, Haesche’s intern at her business Talevi and Haesche, LLC, named the top five essay win-



Graciana Quintero was the picture contest winner. M J Haesche is shown holding her winning picture of an American black bear. TURLEY PHOTO BY PAULA OUIMETTE

See **ESSAY** | PAGE 11

## State Police to host Community Day July 12

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

**NEW BRAINTREE** – The Massachusetts State Police Academy is offering people the unique opportunity to visit the campus and meet with Troopers, specialty units, as well as members of the 88th Recruit Training Troop.

On Wednesday, July 12 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Community Day will be held at the State Police Academy located at 340 West Brookfield Road. The free event will be held rain or shine.

“We look forward to seeing everybody...anyone interested can come,” Captain Jon Provost, Commandant of the State Police Academy said. “Hopefully we’ll make it a

regular event.”

The public is invited to meet Troopers assigned to a variety of roles within the department and get a close-up look at special equipment.

Specialty units such as the K-9 Section, Mounted Unit, Drone Unit, Air Wing, Marine Unit, Bomb Squad, Special Tactical Operations Team, Recruitment and Diversity Unit are expected to be in attendance.

“People like to see our specialty units,” Provost said.

Complimentary light refreshments will be provided by the State Police Academy’s third-party catering service, Eurest. The catering service provides all meals to recruits in the training program.

See **COMMUNITY** | PAGE 13



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We invite the public to meet troopers and check out the special equipment they use to do their job. There will be static displays from the K-9 section, Mounted Unit, Motorcycle Unit, Drone Unit, Air Wing, Marine Unit, Bomb Squad, Special Tactical Operations (STOP) Team, and the Recruitment and Diversity Unit.

**Food will be supplied at no cost from Farmer Matt** and the Academy kitchen staff.

- community -

# Hitchcock hosts summer days program

BRIMFIELD – Area families with kids ages 4-10 looking for a half or full day enrichment offerings can register for Hitchcock’s affordable and fun week-long experiences.

From July 17 through Aug. 11, Hitchcock will host its annual Summer Days program, this year with offerings from STEAM Education Leader Challenge Island.

The morning Summer Days program will run from 9 a.m.-noon, while the afternoon program will run from 1-4 p.m. Extended morning is available from 8:30-9 a.m. daily.

For registrants enrolled in both the morning and afternoon program, lunch supervision will be provided. Lunches must be packed and sent in with each child.

Registration starts at \$110 for each weekly program, \$235 for the full day. Early drop-off is also available.

Each week, kids will experience active fun combined with creative enrichment. Mornings and afternoons for the younger group as well as mornings for the older group will include arts and crafts and sports and games.

For the older group, afternoons will be led by Challenge Island, a national franchised STEAM program.

“We are excited to partner with Challenge Island this year,” said Summer Days Program Coordinator Katy Taricano. “Making engineering accessible to kids through hands-on projects is such a great way to engage their minds in the summer while keeping it really fun. And we’re always proud of the program Hitchcock puts together; it’s a nice variety of activities to keep kids busy and having fun. They always have a blast and make memories.”

Hitchcock’s summer program is a decades-long established offering which aims to combine good old-fashioned fun and games with creative exploration, fully engaging kids physically and mentally, guiding their hands, feet, and imagination with a variety of activities designed by seasoned educators and facilitated by energetic staff.

Challenge Island’s program and curriculum are “designed to meet the needs of two entities: today’s playful, imaginative child and tomorrow’s empowered, globally successful adult.”

Hitchcock Academy is a community center located at 2 Brookfield Road serving the community with educational, recreational, and cultural programming. More information can be found at www.hitchcockacademy.org.



Arts and crafts are one of the many activities at Hitchcock’s Summer Days program. SUBMITTED PHOTO



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# Quaboag students received grant for post-prom event



Worcester County District Attorney Joseph D. Early Jr. awarded Quaboag Regional High School students with a grant for a safe post-prom event. (COURTESY PHOTO)

WARREN – Worcester County District Attorney Joseph D. Early Jr. helped fund a safe post prom event at Quaboag Regional High School this year thanks to his annual grant program, now in its fifth year.

“These events should be times of celebration for our students and their families, but these celebrations can turn into tragedies as we know that life can and often does change in the blink of an eye when alcohol and drugs are involved,” Early said in a press release. “We will continue to offer these funds to help provide students with these fun

and safe events. Our goal is prevention of tragedies before they happen.”

This year, the District Attorney’s office awarded a total of \$25,000 in grants to 18 different schools across Worcester County to fund events, organized and overseen by dedicated adults, that offer safe drug- and alcohol-free environments where students can celebrate after celebratory events like prom and graduation.

Early felt it was vital to continue supporting these programs and is utilizing his Drug Forfeiture Reinvestment Program this year to provide these funds.



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This is how divided government should work

Before the memory of the recent debt ceiling negotiations disappears and we confront the next new drama in Washington, let's pause a moment to acknowledge what just happened.

You can debate from here to eternity whether the American people were winners or losers in the deal (I'd say winners because the government didn't default; losers because we had to go through the whole charade in the first place) but what's not debatable is one key point: Congress and the White House provided a lesson in how negotiations and bipartisanship are supposed to work.

We live in an era when this can seem impossible, as hard-line conservatives in the GOP and a few determined progressives in the Democratic party try to push policy to the extremes and appear to reject the idea of even talking to the other side. But Washington has a way of imposing the discipline of hard numbers – in this case, a House controlled by Republicans with a bare majority; a Senate with a very small Democratic margin; and a presidency in Democrats' hands.

For either side to make progress, they have to negotiate with the other.

What's easy to forget is that this has been the norm for more than a half century. Of the 28 Congresses since 1969, 19 have been divided (if you include the 107th, which began and ended under unified Republican control, but for most of its two-year length was divided because of a senator's party switch).

Anyone who's spent time in the nation's capital during this long era of mostly divided government knows that with power so distributed, there is no single path to success in trying to make the Congress work. As long as they're playing by the rules, the chief way to judge success is by the results. And on that front, the debt ceiling debate was a success – even if the harder-core members of the GOP caucus in the House are now trying to punish Speaker Kevin McCarthy for the deal he struck.

You may know the broad outline of the agreement: It buys the government two more years before the next debt ceiling clash; imposes a freeze on some federal spending; broadens work requirements for food stamps; and makes other changes designed to appeal to either Republicans or Democrats.

As The New York Times' Catie Edmondson wrote after it passed, "The compromise was structured with the aim of enticing votes from both parties. It allowed Republicans... to say that they succeeded in reducing some federal spending – even as funding for the military and veterans' programs would continue to grow – while allowing Democrats to say they spared most domestic programs from the severe cuts."

This allowed both McCarthy and President Joe Biden – and their parties – to claim victory. In a set of negotiations like this, that's actually what you're aiming for: the ability for everyone to walk away saying, "This is what I've done for you."

It's a classic illustration of how democracy works, especially when political leaders are content to share credit. In an analysis after the bill passed, longtime Times Washington correspondent Peter Baker noted, "The president's approach to the negotiations – and especially their aftermath – reflects a half-century of bargaining in Washington. When someone has been around the track as long as Mr. Biden has, resisting the temptation to spike the ball and claim victory can be critical to actually securing the victory in the first place."

The recent floor rebellion by some disgruntled members of McCarthy's caucus is a reminder that none of this is easy. But the

## - opinion -



Guest Column

## Massachusetts, it's time for a new state symbol

The state seal and flag of Massachusetts need to be changed.

Our state flag and seal, the symbol we hold up to the world and to our own residents, depicts a white hand holding a Colonial broadsword over the head of an Indigenous person, with a Latin motto beneath that translates: "She seeks a quiet peace under the sword, but peace with liberty."

This symbol has been the subject of protest by our Indigenous brothers and sisters in Massachusetts for more than 50 years. It is a symbol of violence and, as Brian Weeden, the chairperson of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe has succinctly stated, it is a reminder of "the oppression of Native people."

The state flag and seal of Massachusetts has been changed many times in the past, the last time 140 years ago.

In June, the town meeting voters of Brookfield and West Brookfield voted to join 75 other towns and cities in Massachusetts, from the Berkshires to the Cape Cod, in support of changing this shameful symbol, and more towns, such as Southbridge, are considering adding their voices soon to the push for a much needed change.

For one thing, the current image is not historically accurate, as it was modeled after a native person from Montana rather than Massachusetts.

The broadsword on our state seal is modeled after one used by Miles Standish to behead Native people. Not a great image for our young children to study in school.

Today, for the first time in 140 years, Massachusetts is undertaking a thorough review of our state symbol, and the structures are finally in place to make this update happen.

There is bipartisan support on a recently appointed bipartisan special commission, with indigenous representation, appointed by the former Republican Governor, Charles Baker, to make final recommendations for the design of a new state flag, seal and motto that may better reflect harmony among all the people who now call the Commonwealth their home.

overwhelming majority by which the debt ceiling compromise passed in both houses is also a reminder that, when the chips are down, many members can remember a key fact about life on Capitol Hill: You have to be flexible and work with what you can patch together when you're trying to lead the country.

That's what our system offers – the chance for political leaders to do their jobs

Soon, the special commission will be conducting a statewide poll that will enable all of us to give input over the coming months on elements for a new design. The cost of change will be minimal, as stationery and flags and signs need to be gradually replaced anyway due to wear and tear.

Although 77 towns in Massachusetts – over 20% – have supported this positive change so far, some of them unanimously, we need to put some pressure behind these votes in order for this 40-years-in-the-making change to finally occur!

Massachusetts is the last state in the union to fly a flag with symbols of violence against one race of people. This needs to change as soon as possible.

As members of the commission themselves state, they want to find "symbols and terms that might replace harm with inspiration" and that "reflect Massachusetts' commitment to 'peace, justice, liberty and equality and to spreading the opportunities and advantages of education.'"

We urge all citizens to make your voices heard, both to your state senator and representative, asking them to push for the recommendations of this commission to be heard and enacted, and to join in the upcoming statewide polling to gather input for a new flag design we can all believe in. This is a truly historic process in which we can all participate.

As this process unfolds, we can take a great deal of pride in the willingness of the town meeting voters of Brookfield and West Brookfield to step forward and register their support for a new flag and seal for Massachusetts!

*Sherry Zitter, LICSW lives in Brookfield and spearheaded the town warrant article that recently passed 2:1 to change our state seal and flag. She loves gardening, walking her dog, playing guitar and making the world a fairer place for all.*

*David Detmold is coordinator of the statewide campaign [Changethemassflag.com](http://Changethemassflag.com) and lives in Montague.*

and make democracy work.

*Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.*

## OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

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Quaboag Current  
Newspaper

# Hardwick High celebrates 65th reunion

By Dallas Gagnon  
Staff Writer  
dgagnon@turley.com

HARDWICK – Hardwick High School’s Class of 1958 gathered to share each other’s company and reflect on memories of their youth.

On June 12, members of the Class celebrated 65 years since they graduated from the former school.

“We’ve always had the reunions, every five to 10 years,” said classmate Janet Shea.

Class of 1958 graduate Mary Gage was in charge of organizing the event, including the outreach. She added she keeps an updated list of classmates she can contact via mail, phone, or social media.

“It’s important to stay with your past,” said Gage.

She added the graduating class only had about 30 students and were relatively close.

“I loved every day of high school,” said Gage.

Shea added they “all knew each other,” and are “happy to get together and reminisce.”

The reunion was held at the Hardwick Crossing Country Club, allowing attendees to enjoy the club menu while overlooking the greenery.

Gage brought a celebratory cake and set up a small display of memorabilia to remind the class of their younger days.

A photograph from the last high school reunion was placed on one side of the cake, while an initiation cap from their freshman year was placed on the other.

“We would wear them from the first day of school until Thanksgiving,” said Gage.

A tin container was also on the display table, full of vintage print photos sparking memories of classmates at school dances, in U.S military uniforms, and even a few enjoying drinks and laughing with friends.

Gage coined classmate Bill Stolgitis as “the best dancer.”

Stolgitis said he shares “a lot of good memories” with the class, and was the former student council president.

In addition to the 13 class members in attendance, several spouses and even the class teacher, Lucille Canavan, shared the opportunity to remember the class of 1958.

Helen Stolgitis said reunions are important because the years celebrated “meant so much,” adding they are



Shown in front is Lucille Canavan, former high school teacher for the class of 1958. First row from left are Fran Surles, Sandra Fritcher, Carol Dulak, Mary Gage, Beverly Mooney, Janet Shea, May Ellen Midura, Jeanette Stange, Anne Barnes. Back row from left are Richard Lapierre, Bill Stolgitis, Leon Small and Bob Messier. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DALLAS GAGNON

“important years.”

Classmate Beverly Mooney added “it’s great to get together while we can.”

Richard Lapierre said he attended Hardwick High School as a freshman before enlisting in the U.S. Navy.

He said he enjoys the reunions because it’s “nice to know where people move to,” and “nice to get everybody together to socialize.”

Canavan said she remembers the class as “the best” and “most fun.”

Jeanette Stange said seeing Canavan is one of her favorite parts about the reunion.

She added Canavan’s late husband was also a teacher at the high school.

“Our class got those two together,” said Stange.

She said they would tease the teachers, reminding the late Canavan “you know she’s single, right?” and telling Canavan “he is a bachelor.”

Stange said she noticed he “wasn’t so grumpy after he met her.”

Mary Canavan, daughter to Lucille, said she re-

members when members of the class “crashed” her parents’ wedding in New Hampshire.

Canavan added she “loved it.”

“I think that’s sweet they drove all that way as teenagers in 1957,” said Canavan.

Fran Surles was one of five students who made the trip, and while they didn’t stay for the reception, they did stay long enough to see the two wed.

Thinking back to her younger self, Gage said a piece of advice she would give is “to stay open minded and get all the education you can get.”

Lapierre said “sometimes you don’t take things seriously enough...education is everything.”



Shown is a celebratory cake, reading “Class of 1958.”



Shown from left are Bill Stolgitis, Bob Messier, Leon Small and Richard Lapierre smiling alongside one another at the 65th class reunion.

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# - community -

## Zonta Club installs 2024 Board of Directors

REGION — On June 19, Zonta District Governor Donna Sroka of Northampton inducted four new members and installed the 2024 Board of Directors of the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley during its annual meeting at the Ludlow Country Club.

Cynthia Melcher of Palmer was installed as board president.

The Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley is part of Zonta International, a global organization intent on making a better world for women and girls by advocating for equality, education, and an end to child marriage and gender-based violence.

For more, search on social media using #zonta.org, #zontadistrict1.org, #zontaqv.org.



The 2024 Board of Directors of the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley was recently installed. They are: Past President Dana Burton (Belchertown), Board Member Kerry Chenausky (Belchertown), Treasurer Susan Seaver (Springfield), Board Member Patricia Pupek (Westfield), Co-Vice Presidents Karen Keough-Huff and Christine Keough-Huff (Belchertown), Secretary Mary Knight (Belchertown) and District Governor Donna Sroka. Missing from the photo is newly elected President Cynthia Melcher (Palmer). SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Blash joins EXIT Real Estate Executives

SPENCER — EXIT Real Estate Executives is pleased to announce that Jamie Blash has joined its growing team of dedicated real estate sales professionals.

EXIT Real Estate Executives, located at 130 W. Main St., is a proud member of EXIT Realty New England's rapidly expanding network of independently owned and operated brokerages across the region.

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For more information, please visit [www.exitrealty.com](http://www.exitrealty.com) and [www.joinexitrealty.com](http://www.joinexitrealty.com).

## Superintendent Muir retired from Quabbin

BARRE — The end of this month Dr. Sheila Muir will retire as the Quabbin Regional School District Superintendent, a post she held for five years.

A graduate of Quabbin Regional High School, she taught at Quabbin and served in administrative positions including Assistant Superintendent before becoming the Superintendent. When she announced her decision to retire, a school committee member asked what her retirement plans were. She said she planned to do some gardening.

In fact, she had already started some gardening; she is learning to raise dahlias. She said her daughter raises them.

Dahlia tubers are planted in late spring and sport blossoms, which come in a wide range of colors. They bloom from midsummer through fall.



Quabbin Regional School District Superintendent Dr. Sheila Muir will be retiring the end of this month. TURLEY PHOTO BY ELLENOR DOWNER



School committee members, colleagues, former colleagues and people from the community attended an open house held at the Educational Support Building in Barre to honor retiring QRSD Superintendent Muir recently. TURLEY PHOTOS BY ELLENOR DOWNER

## Community Newspaper EDITOR WANTED

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

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

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

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

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

### Qualifications should include:

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

### Please send resume and writing examples to:

Eileen Kennedy, Executive Editor  
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### JOB OPENING

## STAFF WRITER

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

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

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

### Qualifications should include:

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

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

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- sturbridge -

# Troop 161 Scouts complete backpacking trip

STURBRIDGE – Scouts BSA Troop 161 completed their final backpacking trip in the White Mountains of New Hampshire to wrap up training for a Philmont Scout Ranch trek to New Mexico this summer.

Four vehicles packed full of Scouts, Scouters and their gear traveled to Sugarloaf Campground II in Twin Mountain, New Hampshire for their first night.

They spent a day eating, resting, practicing their backpacking skills and playing in the freezing cold waters of the Zealand River. A 5 a.m. wake-up on Friday morning had them all on North Twin trail by 6:37 a.m.

The crew sent intermittent digital updates home to parents on a Garmin GPS unit.

The hard work of climbing 4.3 challenging miles was rewarded with blue skies and a brisk breeze on the 360-degree view summit of North Twin Mountain, at 4,764 feet.

Traveling 1.3 mile on North Twin Spur, took the crew up to South Twin, at 4,892 feet. For two more miles, they spread out along the Twinway trail, also part of the Appalachian Trail, skirting the north edge of the Pemigewasset Wilderness.

The crew headed south an-

other .8 miles to Guyot back-country tent site for the night and claimed and paid for the Adirondack shelter. Scouts rolled out and lined up sleeping bags instead of setting up the tents they carried.

The crew filtered the most refreshing and delicious mountain water from a natural spring below the shelter and refilled their bottles, cleaned up and prepared an extra-large pot of Mountain House beef stroganoff.

With full bellies, some of the group decided to backtrack to a grassy knoll and watch the sunset over the mountains. The experience was worth the extra mileage.

Sunset was bed time and at 5 a.m. they woke up inside the clouds. Rainy weather and a risk of thunder and lightning storms were due to move in.

Fed and packed up, the crew were on the trail again by 6:37 am. Heading northeast on Twinway trail, they crossed over Mount Guyot and summited Mount Zealand at 4,265 feet, wooded and viewless and their third 4,000-footer of this trip.

Plank walkways, a nifty ladder, some side paths to Zealand Pond and soaked in outlooks guided us down, down, down to Zealand Falls Hut where we



Scouts BSA Troop 161 completed a backpacking trip in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. Shown top row from left are Keenan Scherer, Jay Gormley, Mason Gormley, Jennifer Scherer, Keller Sheridan and Jonah Scherer. Shown bottom row from left are Jeremy Mrotek, Quinn Rainville, Joseph Roderick, Nick Colangione, Nate Lavoie, Andrew Aloisio, Alex Fairbrother and Arakel Kandoyan. SUBMITTED PHOTO

thoroughly enjoyed treats made and served by the hut staff which gave the crew the energy they needed to summit Mount Hale.

In total, the crew conquered four 4,000-footers over and 20 miles for 11 hours and 34 min-

utes of hiking, averaging 35 minutes per mile. They had over 5,650 feet of elevation gain.

Troop 161 is sponsored by the Champeau-Vilandre American Legion Post 109 and meet regularly on Sunday nights at the Sturbridge Federated

church.

For more information about =Troop 161, contact Scoutmaster Kevin Scherer by email at kscherer27@aol.com.

## Sturbridge resident secures Cornerstone Bank internship

WORCESTER – Cornerstone Bank, a community bank, has welcomed eight college students to its internship program this summer.

This year's group of interns from the area includes investments intern Michael Pelozo from Sturbridge who attends Nichols College in Dudley.

The goal is to provide the students with hands-on experience that complements their studies and allows them to explore career opportunities and begin to build a professional network.

"Our program provides students with experiential learning that integrates things they learn in the classroom with real-life experiences in a professional setting," said Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman. "Our interns gain valuable skills, work on meaningful projects and make professional connections."

The Cornerstone interns attend an orientation on their first day before diving into their respective departments.

"Throughout the program,

we meet regularly with the students to make sure they're getting what they want out of their experience and see if there is anything that we can help with," said Cornerstone's Chief Culture Officer Maria Salvatore. "We also give them opportunities to support our community, attend Cornerstone Bank events and network with each other. At the end of the summer, we ask them to reflect on their experiences and provide us with feedback, allowing us to continue to improve the program."

Cornerstone's internship program started in 2021 and is open to both high school and college students. It offers both part-time and full-time internships, with most students choosing to intern for 40 hours per week.

Each intern goes through an interview process so that they can be placed into the department that best aligns with their goals and interests. All interns are paid and are eligible to get school credit upon completion of the program.

## Sturbridge awarded two Mass Trails Grants

STURBRIDGE – The Town of Sturbridge was recently notified of its successful application for trail project funding under the Mass Trails grant program.

The awards were announced on June 14 by the Governor's office.

The grants funded are for: \$150,000 for engineering and permitting to construct an accessible trail and foot bridge over the Quinebaug River from 501 Main St. to the Riverlands, connecting with the recently completed section of the Grand Trunk Trail.

The second grant in the amount of \$85,000 is for engineering and permitting to construct an 1800-foot extension of the Grand Trunk Trail from its current end at the intersection of River and Farquhar roads out to Haynes Street following the original Grand Trunk Rail bed and including a 10-car parking lot.

These projects were two of 98 proposals requesting \$14.6 million submitted during the grant application period. This year, 68 projects will receive awards totaling \$11.2 million in funding.

Pulling together the grant application submittals were Trail Committee Chair Brandon Goodwin and members Fritz Reeves and Tom Chamberland, assisted by Town Planner Jean Bubon and planning department staff.



Shown is a conceptual drawing of the proposed trail bridge crossing the Quinebaug River as presented by the Worcester Polytechnic Institute student study team in 2020. A Mass Trail grant will be used to build an accessible trail and foot bridge over the Quinebaug River from 501 Main St. to the Riverlands. SUBMITTED PHOTO

The accessible trail and foot bridge is all on town owned property and this project will achieve a major goal of the town's Commercial tourist district master plan and of the trails master plan, in providing connections for all sections of town to our open spaces.

An initial feasibility study of the project was completed by students majoring in environmental engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in 2020.

The extension of the GTT out to Haynes Street is through a generous trail easement given by the property owners of 1 and 9 River Road. The grant to extend the GTT is a part of a multi-phased effort to complete the remaining 2.5 section of the through town 6-mile GTT.

These grant awards will

cover 70% of these engineering/permitting costs with remaining funds being provided through the Community Preservation Act as voted at this past annual town meeting. The grants must be completed by June 2024.

Goodwin said of the award, "Receiving these two grants is great news for Sturbridge in moving forward two initiatives to help make Sturbridge a great place to live, work and visit."

He added, "Thanks to the efforts of the trail committee and our trail volunteers and support from the various town departments, Sturbridge has demonstrated our ability to complete trail projects through grant awards and this success is continuing."

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**FILMMAKERS | FROM PAGE 1**

ing “The Sinner”, “Orange is the New Black”, and “The Ballad of Renegade Nell” to name a few.

“Being here every day is such a treat,” Kremelberg said. “It’s been such a group effort. Juani and I are having the best time.”

“Birthrite” is directed by Ross Partridge of Los Angeles, California, a respected actor, director and producer.

Partridge has appeared in the hit series “Stranger Things” as Lonnie Byers, the estranged father of Jonathan and Will Byers.

While Ware and Brookfield may seem like unlikely places to film a movie, it feels like home for Partridge and his crew.

His wife, Jennifer Lafleur, who is also an actor, was born at Mary Lane Hospital, and grew up in Brookfield just a few doors down from the historic Elm Hill Farm owned by Bill McCreary.

The impressive 1870 mansion at Elm Hill Farm is surrounded by rolling fields and is still an active horse farm to this day.

In “Birthrite”, Elm Hill Farm is transformed into the Coventry home that Wren and Mya move to, with the hope of starting their family in the serenity of the country.

“Bill has just been amazing,” Production Manager Kelly Frazier said of farm owner McCreary. “He’s just the best.”

Frazier, an industry veteran of 25 years, said that when the production team scouted the location for “Birthrite” they knew it was perfect.

Lafleur said her parents built their house near Elm Hill Farm and that she, her husband and their 3-year-old daughter, Alma, spend a lot of time in the area.

“It’s so nice to be working locally,” she said.

Joining the cast is Lafleur’s father, Roger and mother, Donna.

“I spent a lot of time visiting my dad here,” Lafleur said of the hospital. She also worked as an EMT in Brookfield with her mother.

Roger spent over 30 years in the medical field, starting as a physician’s assistant under Dr. Grace for 10 years before

becoming a physician in the emergency department. He then moved to the urgent care department until it closed.

“The best person for urgent care is an emergency room doctor,” Roger said. “They know what to worry about.”

Roger, along with many familiar faces from Mary Lane Hospital, is starring as an extra in the film; his second acting role under his son-in-law’s direction.

Donna works as an EMT in Brookfield and remembers spending a lot of time at the hospital.

“It’s sad, but it brings back a lot of good memories,” she said of returning to the emergency room.

Jean Comeau worked in Mary Lane Hospital’s emergency room for 35 of her 50 years as a nurse, retiring before it closed.

“Roger and I were like brother and sister,” Comeau said. “All of us worked well together.”

Comeau said she and her fellow nurses still get together every six to eight weeks, hailing from Hardwick, Ware, Brookfield, West Brookfield and beyond.

“Some of my best memories were here,” she said.

Nurse Michelle Kurilova works in the operating room at Baystate Wing Hospital in Palmer, but looked back fondly on her days spent at Mary Lane Hospital.

“It’s wonderful to have the opportunity to see it again,” Kurilova said.

Emergency room nurse Marylynn Pratt echoed Kurilova’s words, adding that working in the hospital created a deep, lifelong connection between the staff.

“It’s family,” she said.

Most of the crew working on the film are based in Massachusetts, as are many of the extras.

Frazier thanked McCreary and Baystate Health Services for their hospitality and credited Dan Diaz of Westerman Props Warehouse in Worcester for his work.

The film is expected to be released in 2024 and will premiere locally for all to enjoy.



Shown from left are Dr. Roger Lafleur, nurses Michelle Kurilova and Marylynn Pratt and David Pratt. PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIJETTE



The 1870 mansion at Elm Hill Farm in Brookfield is set as Wren and Mya’s home in the fictional town of Coventry.



Nurse Jean Comeau and Brookfield EMT Donna Lafleur get ready for the day’s filming at Baystate Mary Lane Hospital.



Director Ross Partridge, (standing, right) directs the actors.



The cast and crew get ready to shoot in the emergency room.



Sunlight illuminates the grand piano in the Elm Hill Farm mansion.



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# SPORTS

## Post 241 rebounds with a win

PALMER – After suffering a pair of consecutive losses last weekend against Belcher-town and Pittsfield, Monson Legion Post 241 scored a 7-0 win over Ludlow last Monday evening to get back on track.

Monson is 4-2 on the summer season with a team built from players from Monson, Palmer, Pathfinder, and Ware this summer. Monson had a matchup last Wednesday against Wilbraham postponed due to a

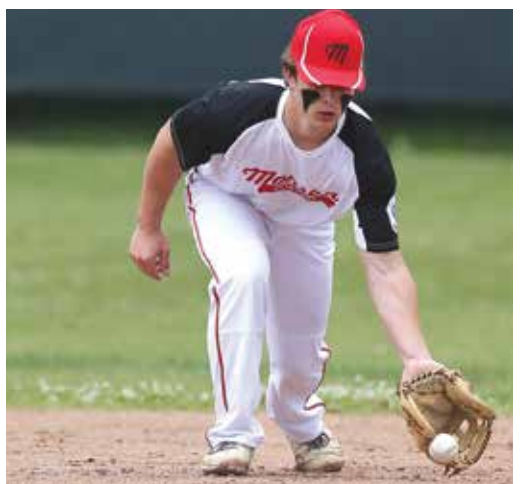
thunderstorm. Monson had a couple of games scheduled before the Fourth of July holiday and next play on Friday, July 7 against Sheffield Post 340 at 7 p.m. at Legion Field in Palmer.



John Mumper has been a constant in Post 241's rotation this summer. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Nathan Kaczuwka makes a long throw across the diamond to first.



Pathfinder's Hunter Griswold fields a grounder on the run.



Brayden Mega squares up a ground ball.



Ela Kopec gets set to punt the ball away. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

## Mutiny shut out at home

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—The forecast called for thunderstorms, but the New England Mutiny lucked out with a beautiful night to play their third home match of the regular season. The weather turned out to be the only bright spot for the Mutiny.

Sporting CT, a first-year member of United Women's Soccer, made the trip north to Ludlow from Middletown, Connecticut and posted a 4-0 shutout before a large crowd at Lusitano Stadium on Saturday, June 24.

"We faced a very tough opponent tonight. They played a 3-5-2, which is more of an attacking formation, against us," said Mutiny assistant coach Jill Kochanek. "We did have a couple of scoring opportunities. If we could've capitalized on them, it probably would've been a different result."

Kochanek took over the

head coaching duties from first-year Mutiny head coach Mauricio "Toto" Coimbra for one night. Coimbra missed the home match because he was in Virginia coaching his club team at the Regionals.

The Mutiny (3-2-1), who lost 3-2 to the Albany Rush on the road on June 16, suffered their first regular season home loss during the past two years. They did lose to FC Buffalo, 2-1, at home in the Eastern Conference semifinals, last July.

"We've had a couple of setbacks, but that doesn't define you as a team," said forward Hope Santaniello, who's one of the Mutiny veteran players. "Our main goal now is to win our final two regular season matches."

If the Mutiny can post victories at the Worcester Fuel on Saturday night and at home against the CT Rush in the regular season finale on July 8, they should be able to clinch a berth in the U.W.S. playoffs for

See MUTINY | PAGE 10

## PeoplesBank blows out St. Joe's



Dave Clark makes a throw to first. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

HOLYOKE – Last Tuesday night, PeoplesBank kept their momentum with a 14-0 mercy-rule shortened win over the St. Joe's Saints. Both teams, which feature players from all over the region, will be back in action following the Fourth of July holiday. PeoplesBank holds down first place with 18 points.



Cam MacDonald fires across the diamond.



James Flahive delivers a pitcher for the Bankers.



Brandon Magni makes a play for St. Joe's.

## - sports -

# Blue Sox falls to Danbury

HOLYOKE – The Valley Blue Sox were defeated by the Danbury Westerners last Thursday night 8-4. Valley's record now sits at 9-10.

Danbury got out to a 2-0 lead in the bottom of the fourth inning, following a two-run homer from Luke Boynton. The Westerners added three more runs in the bottom of the fifth after an RBI double and error from Blue Sox starter Jonathan Bautista.

Bautista made his team debut for Valley, and pitched five innings allowing five runs, and striking out seven batters.

Valley answered back in the top of the sixth inning. The offense hit back-to-back home runs to lead off the inning, with solo shots coming off of the bats of AJ Guerrero and EJ Kreutzmann. Both outfielders went 3-for-5 on the night with an RBI apiece.

Michael Zarrillo would add another solo home run in the inning, cutting the Danbury lead to 5-3.

Leo Harris relieved Bautista in the bottom of the sixth inning, and allowed two runs in two innings of work out of the bullpen.

The Blue Sox scored one run in the top of the eighth inning off of a sacrifice fly from Sean Scanlon.

Jason Arrigo took over for Harris in the bottom of the eighth, allowing one run and striking out two batters in his one inning of work.

Last Tuesday evening, the Valley Blue Sox are back in the win column following a 5-4 victory over the Bristol Blues in 10 innings. The Blue Sox' record stands at 9-9, and they hold a 1.5 game lead in the West Division.

Valley scored five runs off of nine hits in this game. The bats were rolling early after Matt Bergevin hit an RBI single to put the Blue Sox in the lead 1-0 in the top of the first inning. Bergevin went 2-for-4 with two RBIs and a walk on the night.

The pitching staff was on point tonight for the Blue Sox. Graham Jeffries started the game for Valley, and pitched four innings allowing two runs and striking out one batter. Bristol took the lead in the bottom of the fourth inning following an RBI triple and a sacrifice fly. Manager Pedro Santiago turned the ball over to Dillon Ryan in the bottom of the fifth, who pitched a scoreless inning with one strikeout.

Thomas Ballard was the next man out of the bullpen for Valley. The right-hander pitched one inning allowing one run along with one strikeout.

The Blues would add one more run in the bottom of the sixth off of an RBI double to make it a 3-1 game.

Michael Weidinger struck out the side in the bottom of the seventh, his one inning of work in this game.

Valley would fight back to tie the

ballgame in the top of the eighth, scoring two runs off of an RBI fielder's choice from Matt Bergevin and an RBI single from CJ Willis.

Zach Cameron took over for Weidinger in the bottom of the eighth inning, keeping the game tied in his first two innings of work to force extra innings.

The Blue Sox took the lead in the top of the tenth after an RBI double

from CJ Willis scored Michael Zarrillo from second. Cian Sahler would pinch run for Willis and score on a wild pitch, making it a 5-3 game heading into the bottom of the tenth.

Cameron closed the door in his third inning of work, working a double play after a leadoff RBI single. The right-hander struck Bristol's Dixon Black to end the game, and snap a five game losing streak for the Blue Sox.

# Coby finishes fifth at Seekonk

SEEKONK – Doug Coby rebounded after being collected in a mid-race wreck to finish fifth during Open Wheel last Wednesday at Seekonk Speedway. Coby won his qualifying heat race to start off the night in the Mayhew Tools No. 10 and rolled off ninth for the 100-lap, \$10,000 to win race.

Coby ran around the bottom of the top-five for much of the first half of the race until the wreck off turn two on lap 49 left him nowhere to go. During the caution period, the team worked to repair the car and Coby returned to the track, restarting from 19th. He was able to pass 14 cars up into fifth before the finish.

"It was a way different race compared

to the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour race here a few weeks ago," Coby said. "I thought it was a really competitive race. We raced hard out there, risking using up your stuff for track position, but you had to do it. To come back from a wreck and grab a top-five, we're happy. The Mayhew Tools team worked hard."

Doug Coby will return to the track driving for Tommy Baldwin Racing in the Mayhew Tools No. 7NY during the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour event at Wall Stadium Speedway on Saturday, July 8. For more information on Doug Coby, visit DougCobyRacing.com and follow his page on Facebook for the latest news and updates, including from the track on both race days.

### MUTINY | FROM PAGE 9

the second consecutive year. The top eight teams in the East Division will automatically qualify for the Eastern Conference playoffs.

"We're still vying for a playoff spot," Kochanek said. "If we do want to make a long run in the playoffs, we'll need to capitalize on our scoring chances. This game was a good learning experience for us."

Santaniello, who's from Agawam, has been a member of the University of Rhode Island women's team during the past couple of years. She recently entered the NCAA transfer portal and is in the process of searching for a new school to play soccer at in the fall.

In last Saturday's match, Santaniello had a couple scoring chances in the first five minutes of the contest. Santaniello's first shot attempt sailed wide, and her second shot on goal was saved by Sporting CT goalie Abby McCarthy.

Midfielder Lily Fabian, who graduated from Monson High School in 2018, played in her first match of the season for the Mutiny.

"Lily has been one of our leaders during the past couple of years," Kochanek said. "We're grateful to have her back for today's match."

Sporting CT (6-0-0) took a 1-0 lead during the 21st minute when forward Aubrey Kupla fired a shot into the upper right corner of the net past Mutiny goalie Naya Lipkens. Tiffany Weimer, who's the Sporting CT player/head coach, was credited with the assist.

Kupla finished her first ever soccer match at Lusitano Stadium with a hat-trick.

"The atmosphere at this stadium is electric," Kupla said. "It was a lot of fun playing in front of a large crowd. Getting the win is the most important thing to me. Scoring the three goals was just the icing on the cake."

Weimer, who's also an assistant women's soccer coach at Yale University, was a member of the Penn State women's soccer team from 2002-2005. She holds



Agawam's Hope Santaniello looks to take a shot. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Laci Lewis sprints up the field.



Alexis Legowski, of South Hadley, eyes an open teammate.

the school record with 91 career goals.

Kupla, who'll be a senior at Cromwell High School in the fall, will be following in Weimer's footsteps. She has verbally committed to playing college soccer at Penn State.

"Tiffany holds the record for goals at Penn State," Kupla said. "I'm really hoping to score 92 goals during my collegiate career, so I can break her school record."

Early in the second half, Mutiny forward Chandler Pedolzky stole the ball away from Abby McCarthy, who was the Sporting CT starting goalie, but her shot attempt sailed wide. She also had a header, but it was saved by McCarthy.

The score remained 1-0 until Sporting CT scored three goals in a span of seven minutes late in the second half.

The duo of Kupla and Weimer combined for the second and third goals.

Weimer finished the match with three assists. She netted the final goal of the match in the 77th minute.



Jenna Kalwa tries to maneuver through the opposing defense.

**ESSAY | FROM PAGE 1**

ners.  
Haesche explained that this essay program is unique to West Brookfield Elementary School and gives students a rare opportunity to incorporate conservation into their curriculum.

“This is a really unusual thing that doesn’t happen in a lot of elementary schools,” she said.

First place was awarded to Aiden Price, second to Annabelle Oakley, third to Finnian Barkoskie, fourth to Taylor Bertch and fifth to Zachary Thompson. Graciana Quintero won the picture contest.

Teacher Nicole Jones read Price’s first-place essay aloud to the class and Club members, who were also joined by Haesche’s dogs, Roly, a 12-year-old American Brittany and Okee, a 6-year-old Epagneul Breton, or French Brittany.

Price’s essay gave detailed information about the American black bear, and even shared some little known facts about North America’s most common bear species.

Did you know that black bears are not true hibernators? Or that they have the intelligence level of a human toddler?

“The Sportsmen were very impressed,” Haesche said of the essays. She added that the members learned things about bears they never knew, even as experienced outdoorsmen and women.



Members of the Wickaboag Sportsmen’s Club join fifth grade teacher Nicole Jones and essay and picture contest winners for a photo. *TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE*

All of the winners received prizes, and Price received a scholarship to attend camp this summer for his first-place essay.

Jones said all of the students worked hard on their essays, with 45 students participating in the contest. She thanked

the members of the Sportsmen’s Club for reading the essays and selecting the winners.

“We thank you very much for all of your efforts,” Jones said.

Jones said this is the first research paper her students have written, and she

explained the steps they took to write them.

“It’s a really good learning experience,” she said.



First place winner Aiden Price accepts his award from Paul Lapenas.



Annabelle Oakley was the second place essay contest winner.



Finnian Barkoskie was awarded third place for his essay.



A fifth grade student hugs Roly.



M J Haesche introduces her dog Okee to students.



Roly enjoys attention from a fifth grade student.

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In memory of Les and Terry

# Quabbin Visitor Center dedicated to the Campbells

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – As a family of Canada geese made their way across a meadow near the shores of the Quabbin Reservoir, a gathering of people sat down to reflect on the lives of Les and Terry Campbell.

On Sunday, June 4, two years of work to rename the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Quabbin Visitor Center the Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center was celebrated, with featured speakers, a tour of the Center, and a ribbon cutting at the new sign in front of the building.

A nature photographer who focused his lens on birds primarily, Les spent decades capturing the changing landscape of the Quabbin Reservoir and its surrounding watershed.

Terry, his wife, was his constant support and the heart and soul of the Quabbin Visitor Center which she kept active and staffed after its creation, connecting the community to the Reservoir and its history.

Longtime friend of the Campbells and Treasurer of the Friends of Quabbin, Inc. (an organization the Campbells founded), Paul Godfrey, welcomed those in attendance and said the decision to rename the Visitor Center in their honor was a “no-brainer.”

“Shortly after Les died on Sept. 24, 2020, I was working on an article, a final tribute, that appeared in the [Friends of Quabbin, Inc.] newsletter,” Godfrey said. “When I finished, I got an email from Anne Ely.”

In her email, Ely told Godfrey that the various photography clubs that Les was involved with wanted to create a memorial to him, but they couldn't decide what would be best.

They considered a plaque on a tree, or a memorial bench, but none of these options seemed fitting for the couple that became known by many as “Mr. and Mrs. Quabbin.”

When Godfrey suggested renaming the Visitor Center in both Les and Terry's honor, Ely quickly agreed.

“It's like the first part of the name was in invisible ink,” Godfrey said of the Visitor Center.

Annie Tiberio was also key in having the Visitor Center renamed, Godfrey said.

“I felt it was my duty to memorialize him,” Tiberio said of Les, whom she first met when she had finished



Gene Theroux, president of the Friends of Quabbin, Inc. (right) prepares to cut the ribbon with the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Regional Director of the Quabbin/Ware Region, Dan Clark. (TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE)

her orientation working at Mass Audubon's Laughing Brook Wildlife Sanctuary in Hampden.

The person training her during orientation told her it would all be “completely incomplete,” without meeting Les.

“He served as a role model to me,” she said.

Tiberio said that Terry was always right beside Les and it “quickly became obvious,” that her name needed to be included with her husband's.

“Without Les and Terry, the Visitor Center would not have been born,” she said.

Godfrey said it took quite a few tries and support from the legislature to make the Visitor Center reality 39 years ago.

“Quabbin is different from almost all of the others,” Godfrey said of the Reservoir, which contains 412 billion gallons of water over 39 square miles, with 181 miles of shoreline. “It has some of the best drinking water in the country; maybe the world.”

After the Visitor Center was completed, Les, Terry, and numerous volunteers kept it staffed in order to preserve and share the history of the Reservoir, and the four towns disincorporated for its creation.

Terry eventually was hired by DCR to run the Visitor Center, which she did until her retirement.

She created a tradition that still continues today, the Tuesday Tea's with former residents of the Lost Towns. These weekly meetings allowed the residents to band together and share their memories.

The group continues to meet, just not as frequently as the number of former residents has dwindled, Godfrey said.

“Thirty-nine years later what they created is still in existence,” he said.

State Sen. Anne Gobi spoke in her last appearance in that role before stepping in as the new Director of Rural Affairs in the Executive Office of Economic Development on June 5.

Gobi said she was hoping this dedication would take place while she was still in office, and it did.

Joining her were state representatives Susannah Whipps, Todd Smola and Aaron Saunders.

Whipps shared that when she was a restaurant owner, the only art that hung on the walls was from Les.

“These photographs are historic documents of the flora and fauna of the area,” she said.

Retired state senators Stephen Brewer and Stanley Rosenberg each shared their memories of the Campbells.

Brewer said he has five of Les' photographs displayed in his “man cave,” and he stressed the importance of leaving a legacy just as the Campbells have.

“We know that time marches on. Those that follow need to carry this on,” he said.

Rosenberg said he first met the Campbells back in the 1970s and that “it was an honor and privilege” to know them.

“Les and Terry spend their whole lives seeing things that needed to be done, and organized people to get it done,” he said.

Peg Louraine of the Select Board talked about how the walls at the former Hawley's Family Restaurant were covered with Les' photos.

She spoke about his generosity and how he supported so many things around town, including the theater and music programs.

“He loved Belchertown,” she said.

Les' son, David Campbell, was the last to speak prior to the ribbon cutting for the sign outside of the

See QUABBIN | PAGE 13



David Campbell holds a photo of his father, Les, standing in the spillway channel in 1945.



Annie Tiberio spoke about the process to rename the Quabbin Visitor Center in memory of Les and Terry Campbell.



Friends of Quabbin, Inc. treasurer Paul Godfrey opens the dedication ceremony.



Retired state Sen. Stephen Brewer spoke about the importance of leaving a lasting legacy.



State Sen. Anne Gobi and state Rep. Susannah Whipps prepare to present a citation to be displayed in the Visitor Center.



Retired state Sen. Stanley Rosenberg shared memories of the Campbells.

**QUABBIN | FROM PAGE 12**

Visitor Center.

Campbell said his father was a tremendous speaker, and how he could mesmerize an auditorium full of people with his words, but that he didn't share his father's love of public speaking.

"I knew I couldn't give a great speech, so I slid into his shoes," Campbell said, pointing to his father's shoes on his feet. Campbell also wore his father's trusty Timex watch.

He shared a photo of his father at 19-years-old, standing in the spillway wearing a tie, which he was known to wear on almost all occasions.

Campbell said his father had a lot of pipedreams, and he was sure that there were many people who believed

the Visitor Center was one of them.

Campbell said he was happy that Terry was included in the renaming of the Visitor Center.

"I don't think he could have pulled this off without her," he said.

About the Quabbin Visitor Center  
The Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center, 485 Ware Road, Belchertown, is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. It is open year-round and features exhibits, brochures, books and videos about Quabbin management and history.

For more information, call 413-323-7221 or email QuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov.

**COMMUNITY | FROM PAGE 1**

"They're ready to feed an army three times a day," Provost.

Farmer Matt will also be there serving up some of his signature dishes at no cost. Farmer Matt is located just down the road from the State Police Academy, at 860 West Brookfield Road.

Located on the grounds of the former Pioneer Valley Academy, the State Police Academy covers just under 780 acres in the rural town.

Pioneer Valley Academy was a co-ed boarding school operated by the Southern New England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists that provided high school education to hundreds of students from 1965-1983.

After the school closed and was unused for a number of years, construction began in the late 1980s to turn it into a state prison. Facing fierce opposition from residents and people from surrounding towns, the plan was eventually abandoned.

The State Police relocated their training academy to the site, and in 1992 graduated their first class of recruits, the 70th RTT.

Provost was a member of the second class to graduate from the New Braintree campus, the 71st RTT, and stepped into his role as Commandant last year.

Since he arrived in New Braintree, he has talked with Deputy Division Commander of Training Major Steven McCarthy about hosting a Community Day to engage the public.

Not much has changed since it's days as a school, with the buildings repurposed to suit the State Police's training needs.

The B building of the former school is now the main building of the State Police Academy, and A and C, the former men's and women's dormitories, still serve the same purpose.

Both A and C had chapels when it was a school, and they have since been converted into large classrooms capable of seating 100 recruits.

The State Police Academy campus is also home to the State Police Regional Dispatch center, which provides services to close to a dozen towns, including New Braintree, Hardwick, Brimfield, Brookfield, East Brookfield, North Brookfield, West Brookfield, Holland, Petersham and Wales.

The cafeteria is still that, but now has a wall lined with navy blue hats, or covers.

"It's our version of 'ringing the bell,'" Provost said, referring to when candidates "volunteer out" of Navy SEAL training.

Each hat represents a recruit that has left the State Police Academy before finishing training. The 88th RTT started with 249 recruits and there are now 167 remaining.

Only about one out of every three

recruits make it to the end and graduates.

Training at the State Police Academy is intense, with 16-hour days Monday through Friday for about 23 weeks.

As a paramilitary organization, training at the State Police Academy is both physically and mentally demanding, and broken into three phases. It ranges from classroom training to hands-on, giving recruits confidence in the field.

The first phase demonstrates and teaches the necessary skills and techniques needed by recruits, and in the final phase, the recruits are trained to be autonomous.

"They are working to be independent," McCarthy said.

The grounds of the State Police Academy are also home to a firearms range, a ropes confidence course, a gym and more. The State Police Academy works with municipal police departments from across the state, offering the use of its state-of-the-art training facility.

The State Police Academy's wells also provide water to the town's grade school and Town Hall.

Local farmers lease the fields for haying, and hunters utilize the grounds during hunting seasons, Provost said. The gym is also open for public use, available around training schedules.

Sunsets and sunrises up on the hill are the most breathtaking he's ever seen, Provost said.

The Community Day event is really just that; a celebration of the community and its role in supporting the State Police Academy.

"We appreciate New Braintree very much," Provost said.

People are also encouraged to join in the ongoing food drive at the State Police Academy during Community Day, to benefit the Worcester County Food Bank.

Requested donations include non-perishable gluten-free food, spices and condiments, healthy snacks (such as nuts, granola bars, canned and dried fruits), cereals, rice, pasta, canned pasta sauce, dry beans (all varieties), low-sodium broths/soups/stews/chili and 100% fruit and vegetable juices.

All items must have a clear expiration date and ingredient list. Try to avoid sugar-sweetened beverages such as soda and non-fruit juice, candy products and energy drinks.

Menstrual care products and hygiene items are also needed.

Please do not donate alcohol or mixers intended to be used with alcohol, over the counter oral medications, flammable products (such as lighter, matches or charcoal), products in glass containers, perishable products, opened products or expired products.



The Deloreans will perform on Sunday, July 9 from 2-5 p.m. at Powder Mill Park, corner Smithville and Meadow Roads. SUBMITTED PHOTO

**Sunday afternoon concerts continue**

SPENCER – The Spencer Parks & Recreation Commission's 2023 Summer Concert Series features the Deloreans on Sunday, July 9 from 2-5 p.m. at Powder Mill Park, corner Smithville and Meadow Roads.

The Deloreans is a seven-piece horn band that performs mostly pop, rock and soul hits of the 1970s and 1980s.

The instrumentation is guitar, bass, drums, keyboards, sax, trumpet and trombone. Four members sing and create great harmonies and backups.

Savage Wraps food truck will be on hand serving fresh, unique wraps, soft drinks and ice cream during this week's show.

The series continues every Sunday from July 16 through Aug. 27.

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

**- public notice -**

**Town of North Brookfield Board of Selectmen Public Hearing Notice**

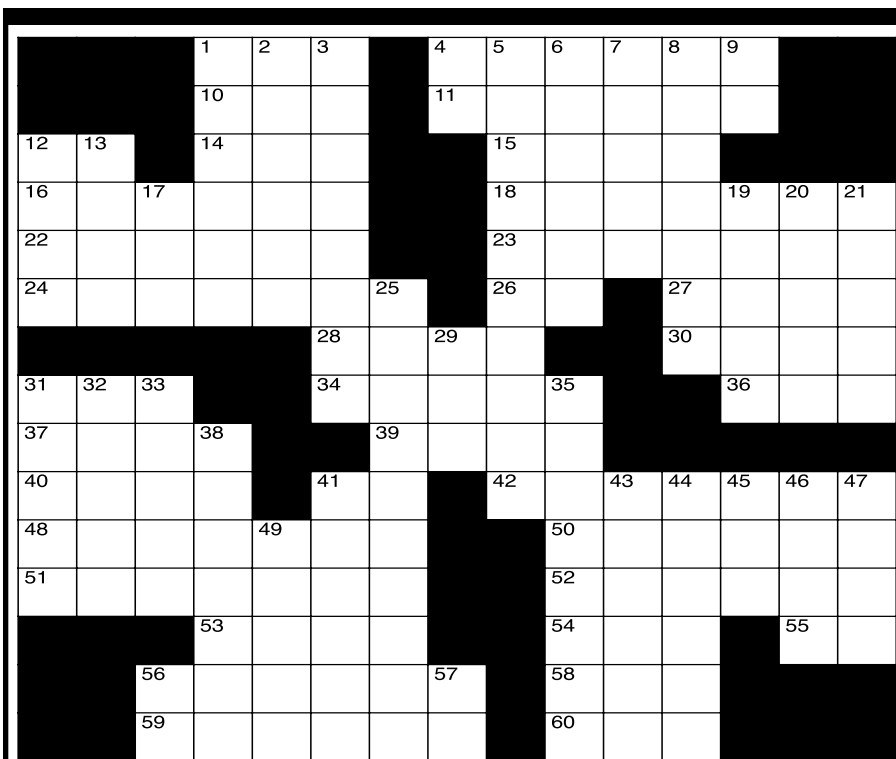
The North Brookfield Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing on the application of Connect Restaurant NB for a new On-Premise All Liquor

Restaurant License at 341 North Main Street, North Brookfield, MA 01535. The hearing will be held at **6:15PM on Tuesday, August 1, 2023** at the North Brookfield Police Department, located at 55 School Street, during the

regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen. All interested parties are urged to attend.

Jason M Petraitis, Chairman  
Board of Selectmen  
June 28, 2023

07/07, 07/14/2023



**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Small Eurasian deer
- 4. Irish county
- 10. A major division of geological time
- 11. Broadway actor Lane
- 12. Canadian province
- 14. It causes fainting (abbr.)
- 15. Two
- 16. A notable one is blue
- 18. Utter repeatedly
- 22. Rings
- 23. Sullies
- 24. Occurs
- 26. Publicity
- 27. Near
- 28. Tools of a trade
- 30. Offer in good faith

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Make up for
- 2. American songbird
- 3. Pay
- 4. International organization
- 5. Engravers
- 6. Declared as fact
- 7. Criminal
- 8. Jewelry
- 9. Hospital worker (abbr.)
- 12. Nonsense (slang)
- 13. Town in Galilee
- 17. Value
- 19. Another name
- 20. Sheep in second year before shearing
- 21. Town in Surrey, England
- 25. Appropriate during a time of year

**CLUES DOWN**

- 29. Creative output
- 31. Recesses
- 32. District in N. Germany
- 33. Rider of Rohan
- 35. The official emblem of the German Third Reich
- 38. One who puts down roots
- 41. Scribe
- 43. Painted a bright color
- 44. Tycoons
- 45. Actress Thurman
- 46. Walking accessory
- 47. Crest of a hill
- 49. Member of a North American people
- 56. Type of computer
- 57. U.S. State (abbr.)

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30	Base Price \$29.50	31	Base Price \$30.00	32
33	Base Price \$30.50	34	Base Price \$31.00	35
36	Base Price \$31.50	37	Base Price \$32.00	38
39	Base Price \$32.50	40	Base Price \$33.00	41
42	Base Price \$33.50	43	Base Price \$34.00	44
45	Base Price \$34.50	46	Base Price \$35.00	47
48	Base Price \$35.50	49	Base Price \$36.00	50

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# Star-spangled sights and sounds celebrate freedom



Kelley and Sean Cederlund get ready for North Brookfield's 4th of July parade this past Saturday with their daughters Skye, age 1; River, age 2; and Lily, age 4. TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA QUIMETTE

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Keeping with tradition, the town hosted one of the area's most impressive display of red, white and blue during the 4th of July parade this past Saturday.

Packed with police, fire and EMS vehicles from the towns of North Brookfield, East Brookfield, West Brookfield, Brookfield, Spencer and Oakham, the sounds of sirens filled the air, as people of all ages lined the parade route.

Following the parade, a free hot dog lunch was served up, while people enjoyed refreshing beverages from Common Ground Ciderworks, along with music provided by DJ Brian and Stan Matthews.



A young passenger looks out from the seat of Brookfield's forest fire truck.



John Tripp and Michelle Petraitis had sweet treats for children along the parade route.



Oakham Fire Department brought this antique Engine 1.



Parade participants were decked out in red, white and blue.



It wouldn't be a proper New England parade without some tractors.



Claire Madden wore her 4th of July best.



The newly opened Emilia K. Hope Community Center had a float in the parade.

## 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

Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

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Event Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date/Time \_\_\_\_\_

Location \_\_\_\_\_

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.**

# QUABOAG CURRENT



<b>NORTH BROOKFIELD</b> 4th of July parade p15	<b>STURBRIDGE</b> Scouts explore White Mountains p7	<b>REGION</b> Quabbin Visitor Center names for Campbells p12	Editorial/Opinion Sports Classifieds	<b>4</b> <b>9</b> <b>14</b>
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Volume 16, Number 32

Friday, July 7, 2023

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Oct. 21 ... <b>Mrs. Doubtfire at PPAC</b> .....	\$99
Nov. 4 ... <b>Book of Mormon</b> .....	\$120
Dec. 30 ... <b>Moulin Rouge!</b> .....	\$125

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