

QUABOAG CURRENT

BROOKFIELD

Clothing Drive starts

Page 3

REGION

Crumbling foundations

Page 3

NORTH BROOKFIELD

Concerts continue July 26

Page 12

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Friday July 11, 2025

A community celebration



Trinity Catholic Academy of Southbridge spread cheer during the Main Parade in East Brookfield.

TURLEY PHOTO BY RYAN DRAGO

East Brookfield celebrates Independence Day

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

EAST BROOKFIELD – There was a lot to celebrate

this past Saturday as East Brookfield had its annual Independence Day Celebration.

Residents had a lot to look forward to as the celebration featured a day's worth of events all over East Brookfield. The day began with a fun boat parade at Lake Lashaway. About 20

boats were involved in the parade and owners decorated their boats with fun patriotic décor.

There were flags waving all over Lake Lashaway as many gathered to the beaches or by the gazebo off Route 9 to watch and wave at the boats. One boat went with a pirate theme

and hats, swords, eyepatches were worn and waved as guests offshore waved back.

The boat parade was organized by the Lake Lashaway Association.

A lot of the festivities

See **CELEBRATION**
PAGE 5



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Aaron Fontaine of East Brookfield proudly held the Mixed Worlds Candlepin Championship trophy after winning the tournament with his team at Boutwells Bowling Center in Concord, New Hampshire.

Candlepin star continues to rise

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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EAST BROOKFIELD – Aaron Fontaine of East Brookfield returned home after adding another candlepin bowling championship to his resume this past month.

Fontaine, who comes from a big family of bowlers, participated in the Mixed

Worlds Candlepin Championship event up at Boutwells Bowling Center in Concord, New Hampshire. This was a team tournament featuring both men and women candlepin bowlers from all over New England and Maritime Canada and bowl in team competition over the course of three days. The team with the best record is crowned

See **FONTAINE** PAGE 6



TURLEY PHOTO BY RYAN DRAGO

The Slik Pickers took to the bandstand at the West Brookfield Common to start off the annual Bonfire Concert.

Annual Bonfire Concert held on the Common

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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WEST BROOKFIELD – The Concerts on the Common continued with the Bonfire Concert taking place the Wednesday before the 4th of July.

The concert during the West Brookfield Annual Bonfire was sponsored by Country Bank, who were handing out inflatable green bouncing balls for the children.

According to residents, the concert with the annual bonfire draws a big crowd.

Providing information about the concerts throughout the summer was the Friends of the West Brookfield Bandstand Committee. This nonprofit organization gave out a special thank you to Jimmy Rust at Rusty's Tree Experts for providing the wood for the bonfire, which was placed in the center of the common. The West Brookfield Fire Department

were busy monitoring the bonfire throughout the evening.

The concert started with the bluegrass band, the Slik Pickers with the opening performance. Afterwards, the group Wheelsmith of Brookfield performed next as the firewood was about to be lit for the bonfire. This was the second year in a row Wheelsmith performed on West Brookfield Common as

See **BONFIRE** PAGE 6

Independence and citizens celebrated at OSV

By Ryan Drago
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STURBRIDGE – Old Sturbridge Village had much to celebrate during a weekend of Independence Day activities.

As guests walked to the village, they witnessed a Field of Flags honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. At the Center Meetinghouse, there was a display

of the Declaration of Independence for kids to sign and relive the moment independence was born for our country. There were hundreds of signatures listed on a big piece of paper underneath a copy of the Declaration of Independence.

In honor of declaring independence, visitors who were standing all around the village could hear the ringing of the Meetinghouse bell. After the bell there was a contextualized reading of

the country's Declaration of Independence. The reading took place on the Common of Old Sturbridge Village.

The Center Meetinghouse also hosted a concert featuring the OSV Singers. The group performed several patriotic songs as old as the United States of America. One of the songs was "Yankee Doodle."

Hundreds of visitors gathered on the common

See **OSV** PAGE 9



TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO

The band playing during the Independence Day parade.

Sewer superintendent gives update on project funding

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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NORTH BROOKFIELD – Sewer Superintendent Eric Cardenas updated the Board of Selectmen regarding the replacement of the secondary clarifiers at the wastewater treatment plant.

At the July 1 meeting, he

said the secondary clarifiers at the wastewater treatment plant are in "very poor condition" and need to be replaced. He said they have been in service for over 30 years, and they run continuously, every day of the year.

The secondary clarifiers are deep pools that reduce the velocity of the water through the treatment plant,

allowing the bacteria to settle to the bottom and the clear liquid to flow over the top to the next downstream process.

"It's an essential piece to the treatment plant," Cardenas said. "Without those clarifiers you do not have treatment."

Cardenas said the existing secondary clarifiers are

basically obsolete and there is no way to get parts to repair them. He said one of the clarifiers has an oil leak, and needs to be refilled with oil each week.

"There's just no way of avoiding this repair," he said.

Cardenas said it is difficult to predict when the secondary clarifiers will fail, and he said the town needs

both of them to address high flow times at the wastewater treatment plant.

Cardenas said the Sewer Department applied for a state earmark from the Senator's office in the amount of \$2.5 million to cover engineering services, materials and more. He said this was recently approved by the State Senate and will now go

on to the U.S. Senate for final approval.

He said the engineers are "very hopeful" the funding will be approved, and the town won't have to pay for the secondary clarifiers. He said the engineers recommended the town apply

See **N BROOKFIELD**
PAGE 9

- community -

Puzzle wall displayed at JHPL

By Ryan Drago
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STURBRIDGE – For one week, the Joshua Hyde Public Library had a fun puzzle wall displayed for guests to solve.

The theme behind this mysterious puzzle wall was the Sword in the Stone. This was the first time the library had introduced a puzzle wall and was created by Puzzle Designer Caleb Carvalho of Co-Operatives.

According to the library staff, the puzzle wall has been pretty popular as the daily tracker was filled with entries. This was a self-directed kind of puzzle that involved solving locks in certain parts of the puzzle wall.

The wall had various decorations that were puzzles that guests had to solve and reach to the part where they release the sword in the center.

There were clues in the form of shields, an archway, stones, and flower petals that helped guests solve the locks that were placed around the board. There was a maze that looked like a castle window that had to be solved.

Participants timed themselves to see how quickly they can solve the puzzle wall.

Throughout the week of the puzzle wall being in the library, a total of 27 different groups tried to solve it. On June 26, one group of two people solved the entire



The Joshua Hyde Public Library had a puzzle wall up for one week for guests to solve. The theme of the puzzle wall was the Sword in the Stone.



Players work in groups and tracked their time on how long it took to solve the entire puzzle wall.

puzzle wall in just over 12 minutes.

Co-Operatives is a revolutionary new approach to

escape rooms that focuses on bringing players closer together by splitting them up to solve the puzzles. Staff



Flower petals were used for one of the puzzles and helped players with clues.



This window was one of the puzzles to solve and open one of the locks that led players to releasing the sword in the puzzle wall.

at the Joshua Hyde Public Library describe the puzzle wall as an “escape room on a board.”

After having its first puzzle wall, the Joshua Hyde Public Library will consider having more in the future. Co-Operatives is based out

of Boston and specializes in designing escape rooms as well as puzzles for friends and players to solve together.

The Joshua Hyde Public Library is located at 306 Main St. More activities and events can be found at www.sturbridgeliibrary.org.

Library hosts Summer Eats food program for children

EAST BROOKFIELD – The Summer Eats breakfast and lunch program will be available at the East Brookfield Public Library, 122 Connie Mack Drive, Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m.-noon beginning Monday, June 30 and running through Aug. 14.

All children are welcome to pick up a free bagged breakfast and lunch.

Thrift Store at Methodist Church open on select Saturdays

WEST BROOKFIELD – The Thrift Store of the George Whitefield United Methodist Church is open the first and third Saturdays of each month, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at 33 West Main St.

Many lovely summer wardrobe selections are now available for women, men and children, as well as other seasonal updates to inventory. The Thrift Store offers quality used clothing, shoes, accessories, household goods, décor, picture frames, children’s toys, books and DVDs at bargain prices.

Donations of gently used items are appreciated and may be arranged by contacting Jane Dolan at 508-867-5571. Proceeds from sales support the church’s ministries and missions.

Summer Eats food program is offered at middle/high school

BARRE – This summer, all kids and teens get free meals at Quabbin Regional Middle High School through the Summer Eats program, no ID or registration required.

Summer Eats is open to

all kids 18 and under. Kids and teens must be present to receive a meal and are required to eat on-site.

The summer feeding program at the Middle High School will be offered July 8-Aug. 7. Hours of opera-

tion are Monday through Thursday, from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

You can find additional Summer Eats sites near you using Project Bread’s Summer Eats map at projectbread.org/summereats.

Federated Church announces Vacation Bible Camp

STURBRIDGE – The Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale has announced it will once again offer its popular Vacation Bible Camp this summer, July 21-25 from 9 a.m.-noon, on church property at 8 Maple St., between Town Hall and the Joshua Hyde Public Library.

The theme for this year’s camp is “Live it Out.” Participating children will have an opportunity to focus on five key aspects of faith – love, live, share, forgiveness, and service – each rooted in a Bible story that encourages them to embody these values in their daily lives. This emphasizes practical

application, guiding children to live out their faith through tangible actions that reflect Christ’s teachings.

The program, which will involve storytelling, games, crafts, and snacks, will be run by CORI-certified teachers who practice SafeChurch policy.

The Federated Church Vacation Bible Camp is open free of charge to all children in the community, ages 6-12, but pre-registration is requested. Please call the Church Office at 774-304-1021 or email them at churchoffice@sturfed.org. The office is also open Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m.-noon.

W Brookfield Farmers Market held on Wednesdays

WEST BROOKFIELD – The West Brookfield Farmers Market has returned on the beautiful West Brookfield Common for its 15th consecutive season.

The market is held on Wednesdays from 3-6 p.m., rain or shine, throughout the spring, summer and early fall.

The 2025 season the market will feature 17 vendors with a wide array of locally grown and made goods including three new vendors sure to please the palate.

The West Brookfield Farmers Market is held every Wednesday afternoon from 3-6 p.m. on the common starting on June 4 through Oct. 8, rain or shine.



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- community -

Author presents narrated slideshow of Quabbin history

WARREN – New York Times bestselling author Michael Tougias, author of “Quabbin: A History and Explorers Guide”, will present a narrated slide presentation about Quabbin Reservoir at the Warren Senior Center on Wednesday, July 16 at 6:30 p.m.

This event is sponsored by the Warren Public Library with a grant from the Warren Cultural Council and the MA Cultural Council.

The program features the demise of the “lost towns” flooded to create the Quabbin, the construction of the massive reservoir, and how the Quabbin works today. In addition, Tougias will take the audience on a natural history tour of the Quabbin and surrounding area with suggestions for day trips.

Tougias’ slides include before and after images of the lost towns, workers building the dams and aqueduct, the grand opening of the reservoir, wildlife of the Quabbin, unique natural places, and favorite trails and entrance gates. Tougias also discusses three fascinat-

ing events from the region he calls “forgotten history” as well as a couple of surprise findings.

When Quabbin was constructed in the late 1920s and 1930s, four towns “drowned,” 2,500 residents displaced, and 7,500 graves were moved. Today Quabbin Reservoir provides water for Boston and 45 other communities, serving over 2.5 million people.

Quabbin and the surrounding forest is the largest tract of open space in southern New England, home to nesting loons and bald eagles, coyotes, porcupines, and moose.

Tougias has been hiking and researching the Quabbin for over 30 years.

“I first fell in love the solitude and the beauty of this special place,” said Tougias. “Later, the history captured my attention, and I set out to interview all the former residents of the lost towns I could locate. Although many were just children when the state took their towns, they have incredible stories of how this huge project changed so many lives. My book and this pres-

entation is a way for me to share my passion for the area and encourage fellow explorers to visit this region of Massachusetts.”

Tougias is the author and co-author of 30 other books including four books about true survival at sea stories: “So Close To Home”, “A Storm Too Soon”, “Overboard!” “Fatal Forecast”, “Ten Hours Until Dawn”, and “The Finest Hours” (now a Disney Movie). He has also written a book about his adventures at his remote cabin in Vermont titled “There’s A Porcupine In My Outhouse!”

His latest books are “Above & Beyond: JFK and America’s Most Dangerous Spy Mission” and a memoir titled “The Waters Between Us: A Boy, A Father, Outdoor Misadventures and the Healing Power of Nature”.

Tougias presents slide presentations on the topics covered in all his books, and is a dynamic speaker who often attracts large crowds. Visit his website at www.michaeltougias.com. When not writing or exploring, Tougias donates his time to protecting open space.

Durant announces establishment of Crumbling Foundations Commission

BOSTON – The legislature’s enactment of a \$61.01 billion state budget for fiscal year 2026 brings good news for Massachusetts residents whose foundations are crumbling due to the presence of pyrrhotite, state Sen. Peter Durant, R-Spencer, said in a recent press release.

“With the establishment of a commission to study how the state can best help residents whose foundations are crumbling, we will be able to create legislation and move forward with the process of getting these affected homes fixed allowing residents to stay in their homes,” Durant said.

In a bipartisan effort and after years of lobbying from members of Massachusetts Residents Against Crumbling Foundations, the measure, as part of the fiscal year 2026 budget, will move to the Governor’s desk for her signature.

The establishment of the commission and duties of chairing the group will fall to Secretary of Housing and Livable Communities, Edward Augustus, or his designee. The group has a March 31, 2026, deadline, at which time they will report their findings.

Durant said he hopes to craft legislation based on the group’s recommendations and noted that crumbling foundations issues have been a priority for him.

“We often talk about the state’s housing crisis

and here are families being forced from their homes because of, essentially, a natural disaster,” Durant said. “We need to address that as soon as we can because the problem is worsening each day as these foundations further deteriorate and more homes are found to have this problem.

“We often talk about the state’s housing crisis and here are families being forced from their homes because of, essentially, a natural disaster,”

Sen. Peter Durant

Members of Massachusetts Residents Against Crumbling Foundations said Monday night they are relieved but that a celebration would be premature.

“It brings us more hope, which is great, but we still know we have a long way to go,” said Todd Robbins.

Some members of the group have been struggling to find funding to fix their foundations for the better part of a decade. Estimates for the repairs can reach \$250,000.

“If this comes to fruition, it means we can get on with our lives,” Scott Fersheiser said.

Michelle Loglisci said she believes part of the suc-

cess this year came when legislators were invited to view the damage to homes firsthand. Group members said that people are often stunned after seeing the damage.

The problem is also prevalent in Connecticut where a program to assist homeowners has been in place for some time. About 1,500 homes have either been repaired or are under contract for repair.

In addition to Augustus, the Massachusetts commission will also include the undersecretary of consumer affairs and business regulation or a designee; the commissioner of insurance or a designee; the commissioner of banks or a designee; two members appointed by the attorney general who shall have experience in advocating for homeowners and consumers; the house and senate chairs and house and senate ranking minority members of the joint committee on financial services; two representatives of the Massachusetts Residents Against Crumbling Foundations; a representative of the Massachusetts Concrete & Aggregate Producers Association, Inc.; a representative of the Massachusetts Municipal Association, Inc.; a representative of the Massachusetts Insurance Federation, Inc.; and a representative of the Massachusetts Mortgage Bankers Association, Inc.

Brookfield Unitarian Universalist Church to hold clothing drive

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

Textile waste is a fast-growing problem and occupies nearly 5% of all landfill space, but 95% of unwanted clothing can be

reused, repurposed, or recycled. Only 15% currently is.

On July 12-19, the church will be open between 3-7 p.m. so you can bring your old clothing (including slips, bras, underwear, socks) and certain other acceptable items, such as shoes, accessories (including hats, bags, belts, scarves and jewelry), luggage, stuffed animals and linens (including sheets,

blankets, curtains, table linens and quilts).

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

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

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



Blind Tiger Swing Posse will perform at the Spencer Parks & Recreation Commission’s Summer Concert Series on Sunday, July 13 at Powder Mill Park from 2-5 p.m.

Summer Concert Series features swing/rock band

SPENCER – The Spencer Parks & Recreation Commission 2025 Summer Concert Series continues from 2-5 p.m. on Sunday, July 13 at Powder Mill Park, corner Smithville and Meadow Roads, with the Blind Tiger Swing Posse.

Blind Tiger Swing Posse is seven pieces of hard-driving swing and rock made up of some of New England’s most seasoned professionals. Band members include Doug Moore on vocals and lead guitar, Pete Levesque on saxophone, William

Fanning on trumpet, Jeff Galindo on trombone, Jim Heffernan on piano, Joe D’Angelo on bass guitar and Billy MacGilvray on drums.

Each musician brings their unique skill set that delivers a timeless mix of jazz, blues, swing, pop, soul and rock.

The series continues on July 20 with The Chain.

The concert series is proudly sponsored by Cornerstone Bank. Serving Worcester County, Cornerstone Bank’s local pres-

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- opinion -



A self-sown surprise

I was pleased to come home from vacation and see the changes in my work gardens over 10 days time. It was astounding to witness the growth that many of the plants put on!

One other thing I enjoyed seeing was a few “volunteers” that had popped up here and there. Celosia, portulaca and my favorite, the cleome, had germinated in bare spots in the garden.

While most of these plants did not fit in to the current year’s design and had to be removed, the cleome, better known as “spider flower,” popped up exactly where I would have wanted it. In a month or so I will have dome gorgeous flowers in the center of a bed, providing height right where I need it.

Spider flower goes by the scientific name *Cleome hasslerana*. Older cultivars such as “Helen Campbell” and the “Queen” series top off at an airy four or five feet tall, while the newer “Sparkler” hybrids are a bit shorter and bushier. Besides white, spider flower comes in pink, cherry and lavender.

It was given such a unique name because of the flower’s long, slender stamens that remind one of spider legs protruding from the plant. The stamens hold the eventual seed pods a distance away giving them even more “popping power” once ripe.

As a child, I was drawn to the seed pods of this peculiar plant – if you waited until they were “just right” and gave them a squeeze, the seeds would fly everywhere. What fun!

This attribute gives the plant tremendous “staying power” in the garden- in other words it pops up everywhere the following season! This can be a very good thing if you enjoy having the cleome around as much as I do.

Because cleomes are flower producing powerhouses they sometimes become exhausted by mid-summer; their lower leaves yellow and flowers start to fade. I always thought that if they were dead headed like other, more common annuals were, maybe they would last longer into the season.

So, as an experiment I clipped the seed-pods close to the plant as soon as they began to form. Unfortunately, the overall form of the plant was altered- not for the better- and with little reward for my work. Then I began to search out what exactly cleomes need in order to thrive- perhaps if I met those requirements I’d have better luck.

I had always known that cleomes prefer full sun and well-drained soil. What I didn’t know was that they also like fertile soil and space away from one another. Regular doses of liquid feed are a must!

In the north, the cleome’s habit of self-sow-



ing doesn’t become annoying, but in warmer areas it can become weedy. Clipping the seed-pods as mentioned above would “nip this problem in the bud.” Seedlings that develop from volunteers will likely be a blend color-wise of the plants you grew last year because they are cross-pollinated by insects.

I will have to wait and see what color my self-sown cleome seedlings end up being, but lucky for me the rest of the flowers in the garden bed are in pink and lavender shades and will blend perfectly the volunteers.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.

Social Security questions asked over coffee

Dear Rusty:
My coffee conversations among a group of friends have resulted in several questions about Social Security.



ment. However, federal “SSI” benefits are not paid with Social Security funds. “SSI” is a separate gov-

1. What happens to the Social Security account of someone who dies before retirement age. What happens to that money and where does it end up?

2. How does the decreased birth rate of the USA affect future Social Security benefits?

3. Is a person, who has never contributed to the Social Security System entitled to any benefits from the Social Security Administration?

4. Is there a central location online that a person can access that explains the history and current status of the Social Security System, that explains all of it in simple terms. I would like to be able to give this location to people I talk with about Social Security.

Most of the articles we read are like slogging through mud. I enjoy AMAC articles and am college educated, but the average reading level in the U.S. is less than sixth grade. Thank you for considering these questions.

Signed: Curious Reader

Dear Curious:
Thank you for your readership and I’ll be happy to tackle your “over coffee” questions about Social Security.

1. Social Security is a “pay as you go” program, where all money collected from workers is used to pay benefits for all those, who are currently receiving Social Security. In other words, all money contributed is used to pay benefits to others already receiving benefits. It is not put into a separate account for each person and

that is a good thing. Most people get more from Social Security than they ever contributed, but benefits are paid for life, regardless of how long one lives. The specific answer to your question is that if someone dies before retirement age, the money contributed has already been used to pay benefits to others. Keep in mind though, that a surviving spouse or minor or disabled adult child may also collect benefits on a deceased person’s Social Security record.

2. The decreasing birth rate in the U.S. hurts Social Security. That’s because fewer babies mean fewer future workers contributing to the Social Security program. FYI, in 1950 there were about 15 workers contributing to SS for every one person collecting benefits, but today there are less than three workers for each SS beneficiary. That problem is exacerbated by the steadily increasing U.S. life expectancy. Beneficiaries are now often collecting SS benefits for decades from a program designed to pay benefits for only a few years.

3. Only those who have worked and contributed to Social Security through payroll taxes for about 10 years (40 quarters of SS credit) are eligible to collect SS Retirement benefits. However, some dependent spouses and/or dependent minor or dependent disabled children who have never worked might also be eligible for benefits from the worker’s Social Security record. Along with each U.S. state, the SSA also administers another program, known as Supplement Security Income, on behalf of the federal govern-

ment benefit program, with federal benefits paid from the general U.S. Treasury.

4. There are lots of places to get information about Social Security, but I suggest you start at our AMAC Foundation Social Security information website, which can be found at www.socialsecurityreport.org. Here you will find numerous articles about Social Security, retirement, Medicare, etc., as well as all the Ask Rusty articles I have published weekly over the last 8 years. You can also find excellent Social Security information on our AMAC Foundation main website, www.amacfoundation.org. And, of course, you can always ask any questions you have via email to ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Or, if you prefer, you can just call us on 1-888-750-2622 if you have questions about Social Security or about Medicare enrollment.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation’s staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



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your health

By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column



Summer safety for kids 101

Childhood has certainly changed since today’s grandparents were kids. We rode in the car without seat belts. We roamed our neighborhoods until after dark. And bike helmets? Forget it.

The rules of summer safety have obviously changed, along with our world. What’s

your plan for when the school bell rings for the last time in a week or two? Here are seven tips for a safer summer for kids of all ages.

1. **Have a well-stocked first-aid kit, or maybe two**

The American Red Cross recommends being prepared to treat wounds, minor illnesses, skin irritations and

bug bites. Essential items include adhesive bandages, gauze pads, adhesive tape, antiseptic wipes, antibiotic ointment, scissors, tweezers, a thermometer, and pain relievers like ibuprofen or acetaminophen. Consider adding latex gloves and face masks.

Why two? One for the house and one for the car. In the house, keep the first aid kit easily accessible in a kitchen cabinet, not in a steamy bathroom, which can degrade the effectiveness of some medications.

2. **Be on tick alert.**

Tick season is here! In New England, you should watch out for black-legged ticks and lone star ticks. An infected tick bite can lead to a variety of illnesses, including Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain spotted fever, and even red meat allergies.

If your kid is playing in

a forest, field or park, make sure they’re well protected with insect repellent. Going on a hike? Have them wear a long-sleeved shirt tucked into long pants (despite their protests), shoes and socks. Most importantly, check for ticks when they come inside and learn how to safely remove them before trouble sets in.

3. **Check their vaccination record.**

Measles, once considered eradicated in the U.S., is back, and it’s one of the most virulent diseases out there. Protect your child with a measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine, and ask their pediatrician whether a booster might be in order. This is particularly important if you’re going to be traveling outside the country, and it will likely be required by summer camps.

Another vaccine to check is tetanus, which comes along with a diphtheria shot (TD vaccine). If your child is injured, an EMT or ER doc is likely to ask, “When was their last tetanus shot?” Have the answer handy.

4. **Protect them from heat-related illnesses, as you would yourself.**

Smaller bodies need to work harder to stay hydrated and cool down, so make sure the kids have a water bottle with them at all times. If their urine is bright yellow and has an odor, they’re not getting enough fluids. Remind them that even if they don’t feel thirsty, they still need to drink.

Also, one word: sunscreen.

5. **Practice water safety.** Approximately 900 chil-

See YOUR HEALTH
PAGE 10

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Quaboag Current

A community celebration



A Boat Parade took place on Lake Lashaway during East Brookfield's Independence Day Celebration.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO



The Kids' Wheels Parade took place down Route 9 in East Brookfield.

CELEBRATION FROM PAGE 1

took place at Connie Mack Field where guests experienced food trucks, crafters, lawn games, karaoke, music and a fun time to celebrate Independence. In the morning, the East Brookfield Baptist Church hosted a pancake breakfast for guests to enjoy before experiencing all day events.

There were two parades taking place off route 9 in East Brookfield. The first started off Connie Mack Drive where kids participated in the Kids Wheels Parade. Dozens of kids were on bicycles, riding in wagons and supporting red, white and blue colors on their wheels as they road down Route 9 and into Connie Mack Field.

During the Independence Day Celebration, The Hodgkins Building was open for guests to see the East Brookfield Historical Museum and Quaboag Valley Railroaders. The model railroad club was open to allow guests to review some of the history of the railroad as well as witness some beautiful model trains riding by on some beautifully designed models of cities and towns.

In the afternoon, guests gathered by Main Street to witness the main parade featuring jeeps, trucks, firetrucks, floats and many more. Firetrucks from all of the Brookfields came to participate in the main parade as well as trucks from New Braintree, Brimfield, Spencer



Many boats were sporting stars and stripes as they toured on Lake Lashaway.



Members of Friends for the Community held a "Grand Marshal" sign at the front of the parade.

and Sturbridge. There were many kids who got to ride on the floats in the parade and were passing out candy.

Small flags were passed around the sidewalk for residents to wave as the parade marched on. Uncle Sam's Pizza of East Brookfield had a float during the parade as well.

There were plenty of activities to do over at Connie Mack Field. Friends for the Community were operating the Connie Mack Snack Shack providing information, taking signups for the

kid and adult karaoke contests and selling tickets for the kid's obstacle course. Friends for the Community is an East Brookfield committee dedicated to building community relationships and activities.

Christine Buckley serves as Chair of the Friends for the Community and has seen the Independence Day Cele-



A vintage East Brookfield firetruck was driven in the parade. State Sen. Peter Durant stood in the back waving to crowd.



The East Brookfield Forestry Truck made its way down Route 9.

bration continue to grow in popularity. The number of food trucks and crafters have doubled and participation in the parades has risen as well.

Based off feedback from the community, the FFTC has offered more activities for kids and have added more shade spots for guests.

The FFTC plans to continue growing the celebration, year after year.

"The goal is to continue to grow," Buckley stated.

This year marked the second year of the event hosting the Kids Wheels Parade, where kids can participate in the parade by riding on

anything with wheels. This year, many kids got to ride on their bikes, and some got pulled in a wagon.

Proceeds and donations go straight into next year's Independence Day Celebration, an event many residents appreciate. Deb Morgan of the FFTC has been involved with the celebration for 20 years and talked about the organization's collaboration with the East Brookfield Fire Association.

Since 2024, the FFTC has taken the lead in the coordination of the town's Independence Day Celebration.

The organization gets tremendous support from local businesses around town. Jim Wales from Jim's Pest Control provided tented areas, Brandis Center Inc. provided the float prizes, and North Brookfield Savings Bank had people volunteering to be cash collectors.

More about the Friends for the Community organization can be found on their Facebook page.

To conclude the Independence Day Celebration, residents all over town gathered at Connie Mack Field to witness the fireworks as the night sky rolled in. The perfect ending to a fun event the entire community of East Brookfield loves to be a part of.



Stars, stripes and a big thumbs up were highlighted in the parade.



The history of David W. Hodgkins and the schools in East Brookfield was displayed inside the East Brookfield Historical Museum.



The museum featured the history and memorabilia of Connie Mack, "The Grand Old Man of Baseball."



Uncle Sam's Pizza in East Brookfield had a float in this year's parade.

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The celebration ended with fireworks at Connie Mack Field. Hundreds of residents gathered outside of Howe Lumber to watch the fireworks light the sky.

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- community -

BONFIRE FROM PAGE 1

the town celebrated Independence Day prior to the 4th of July.

Around the Common were various information tents and food trucks for guests to visit. The West Brookfield Lions Club had food prepared, including hot dogs and hamburgers.

The West Brookfield Rescue Squad had an information booth setup during the concert. The squad will be hosting an event on Saturday, July 12, from 4-7 p.m., the Sirens & Sizzle Open House and BBQ Dinner at 30 Ware St. The group is raising money to purchase new life-saving equipment to better serve the communities.

The volunteer group, the West Brookfield Emergen-



The West Brookfield Emergency Management Members Association hosted a raffle with a 28-inch griddle up for grabs.

cy Management Members Association, hosted a raffle during the bonfire concert. Henry Brogna said this year's prize is a Blackstone griddle. Two years ago, the association raffled off a kayak and

last year hosted a comedy show to help raise money. West Brookfield Fire Chief Rich Lapierre Jr serves as the Emergency Management Director.

The Crop Dusters will be performing under the bandstand on Wednesday, July 16, starting at 7 p.m. The Deloreans will be performing on July 23, Livestock on July 30 and David Keith and the Coalition will be performing on Aug. 6. Concerts on the Common continue to rock on in 2025.

This year's bonfire concert drew up to 2,000 people and is one of the biggest concerts the community witnesses every year.

"Bonfire draws a crowd," said West Brookfield resident Lori Merriam.



The fire was lit on the common with West Brookfield Firefighters monitoring it during the evening.

FONTAINE FROM PAGE 1

champion.

Several months before the tournament in June, Fontaine received a text message from soon to be teammate, Jeff Surette. An offer was made to Fontaine to join Surette, who has numerous accomplishments in the game of candlepin bowling. Fontaine was looking to be on another team at the time and soon took up on Surette's offer.

Fontaine was a part of Team Exeter Lanes/Montalvo Palumbo Electric. The team featured Jeff Surette, Tim Matero, Sonja Rossi, Marion "Mario" Johnson, Kerrigan Skinner, Mike MacIntosh, and Aaron Fontaine.

Prior to the tournament, Kerrigan Skinner had to drop out of the tournament due to an illness. After hearing this news, Fontaine said the team decided that this whole weekend of bowling was going to be for Kerrigan.

"This weekend was for her," Fontaine said.

The teammates kept their word as several members of Team Exeter Lanes wore a team shirt featuring the name "Skinner" on the back.

The tournament featured 24 teams bowling in one-



Team Exeter Lanes won the Mixed Worlds Candlepin Team Tournament in Concord, New Hampshire. Shown from left are Tim Matero, Mike MacIntosh, Sonja Rossi, Mario Johnson, Jeff Surette and Aaron Fontaine.

game matches and there were 23 matches over the course of three days. Fontaine ended up bowling every game throughout the weekend and had an average of 122.

Fontaine said the toughest part of the tournament was wondering how his body would feel in the morning. However, he thought bowling more made him feel more comfortable as the tournament went on. Fontaine's team was leading in first place for most of the tournament.

The team wasn't finished after 23 games.

A team by the name of Huff Powersports ended the tournament by winning 13 matches in a row. During the last match, Exeter Lanes

was losing and Fontaine in the back of his mind felt there was going to be a tiebreaker match afterwards. The rule in the tournament was if two teams tied for first place they would bowl in a one-game tiebreaker.

Fontaine found himself bowling a 24th game against Huff Powersports. During the tiebreaker game, Huff Powersports were beating Exeter Lanes as the match had four frames left.

Bowlers bowled two frames at a time during the entire tournament. Fontaine was up for his last two frames of the match and picked up two clutch spares to get the lead back for his team.

Fontaine finished with a 121 as Jeff Surette came up as the anchor bowler for the team. Surette closed out the match by throwing a strike in the tenth frame. The final score was 549-530 in favor of Exeter Lanes, who won the 2025 Mixed Worlds Candlepin Championship.

It was the first time Fontaine won that tournament.

Fontaine said he is coming back to bowl with the same team for next year's tournament and believed the team had good chemistry. For Fontaine, it is an honor to bowl with prestigious bowlers, such as Surette, especially when they ask you to bowl with them.

"You take up on the opportunity to bowl with Surette when he asks you," Fontaine said.

For Fontaine, it's good to bowl well for yourself, but in a team tournament you have got to surround yourself with good people when it comes to winning a tournament.

"You got to have the right people around you to win a championship in addition to bowling good," Fontaine said.

During the tournament, Fontaine had several family members and friends come down to watch and support him. It made the experience of the tournament more warming and gratifying.

After winning the Mixed Worlds Candlepin Tournament, Fontaine had listed several tournaments he plans to try to win later this year. The next big tournament Fontaine hopes to win is the Men's World Candlepin Championship in November, which will take place in Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada.

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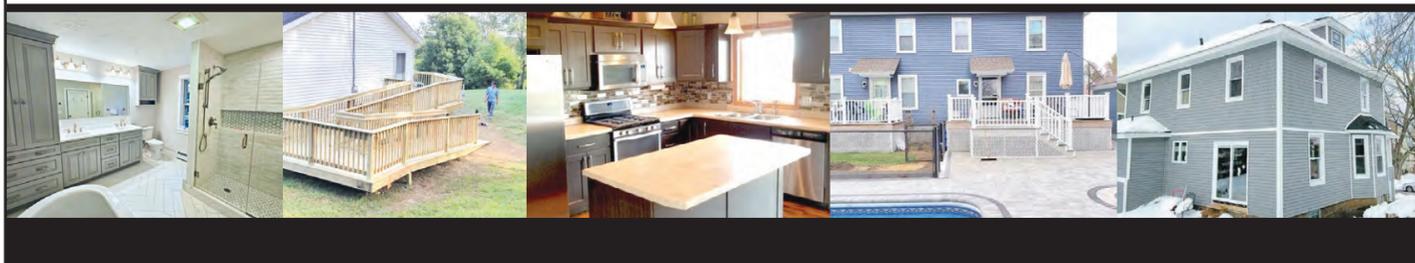
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SPORTS

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Panthers get their reps in during summer season

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

AUBURN—While there are a couple of new boys' basketball teams competing in the Auburn Summer League this year, Quabbin Regional has been a member of the prestigious league since the 1990's.

"We really enjoy playing in this summer basketball league," said longtime Quabbin boys varsity basketball coach Dennis Dextradeur. "We get the opportunity to play against some of the teams that we normally don't face during the regular season. It's always nice to see different styles of play and compete against different players."

The Auburn Summer League games were held at the outdoor courts located behind the Horgan Skating Arena for many years. The games are now played indoors at the Auburn High School gymnasium, which is air conditioned.

"When we first joined this summer basketball league, it was an outdoor league, but now all the games are played indoors," Dextradeur said.



Jacoby Dilling makes his way up the court during action last summer season.

"We don't have to worry about the weather anymore, and the gym is air conditioned."

According to Dextradeur, it has been more than ten years since Quabbin won the Auburn Summer League championship title.

"I believe the last time

that we won the summer league title was in 2012 or 2013. We're hoping to end that drought this year," he said. "This is an outstanding developmental league for us. We're able to play some of our younger players."

Quabbin has also played in the Game On Summer

League in Fitchburg in the past, but they're just playing in the Auburn league this summer.

While Dextradeur can attend the Auburn Summer League games, he isn't all

See **PANTHERS**
PAGE 8



Evan Sherblom looks to shoot for the Panthers. The summer season is important to Quabbin's development.



Kyle Clark muscled his way to the hoop.

Pioneers punch playoff tickets with victory

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW — After winning the USL D-3Pro League championship title in 1999, the Western Mass. Pioneers only qualified for the playoffs five times during the next 20 years.

Since joining USL League Two in 2019, the Pioneers have qualified for the playoffs each season.

The Pioneers clinched a berth in this year's playoffs following a 5-0 win over the Albany Rush before a large gathering at historic Lusitano Stadium, last Wednesday night.

"This is the sixth time in a row that we've made the playoffs," said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari, who's been coaching the men's squad since 2012. "I think it's a very good accomplishment for the club. We need to win our last two regular season games to have a chance to finish in first place."

The Pioneers (9-1-2), who have finished in second place in the league standings during the past three years, are battling Vermont Green FC (9-0-2) for the top spot in the Northeast Division table.

"We accomplished one of our goals tonight by clinching a playoff berth," said Pioneers midfielder Augustine Boadi. "We're now trying to win the league title."

The Pioneers were scheduled to play a road match against the New England FC on Monday night before closing out the regular season by hosting the boys from Vermont on Friday night.

The Vermont Green won the first meeting of this season between the two squads, 2-0, which took place in front of 2,500 enthusiastic soccer fans at Virtue Field located on the University of

Vermont campus on June 17.

When Vermont made the three-hour trip south on Rte. 91 to Lusitano Stadium a year ago, they clinched a playoff berth with a 3-1 win over the Pioneers in the regular season finale. It was the Pioneers, who had already locked up a playoff berth, only home loss of the 2024 campaign.

Entering last Wednesday's match, Albany (2-9-1) had never defeated the Pioneers since they joined USL League Two in 2022.

The Pioneers, who defeated the Rush, 6-0, on May 19, put the second meeting out of reach by scoring four goals in the first half.

"Building a large first half lead allowed us to relax a little bit in the second half," Molinari said. "We played very well tonight."

The Rush have gone 0-7-1 since celebrating back-to-back victories against Black Rock and Boston City FC at the end of May. Any hopes they might've had about upsetting the Pioneers didn't last very long.

The home team took a 1-0 lead following a corner kick goal in the ninth minute.

Defender Gustavo Barbosa booted the ball into the box from the right corner. Then Boadi sent a pass to forward Jose Bustamante who tapped the ball into the net past Albany goalie James Joyce.

A little more than ten minutes later, Matt Cence, who's also a midfielder, delivered a crossing pass from the right wing into the box. Boadi finished off the play by scoring his first goal of the season.

"I've been on a goal drought for a long time," Boadi said. "I've been

See **PIONEERS**
PAGE 8



Samantha Breton, of Chicopee, tries to fake out an opponent.



Mila Dillard, of Chicopee, heads down the field.



Maddy Theriault, a Palmer graduate, corrals the ball.

Mutiny closes out regular season

LUDLOW — The New England Mutiny, which gathers talent from all over the region to play its home matches at Ludlow's Lusitano Stadium, recently wrapped up its regular season, including an impromptu 12-0 win over the Worcester Fuel. The Mutiny's short season will lead them to the playoffs, which are likely to take place on the road this year. The Mutiny have hosted playoffs at Lusitano in the past.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Agawam's Hope Santaniello fights for possession of the ball.



Avery Klingensmith, of Belchertown, tries to get a pass away.



Bella Santaniello, gets in the action for the Worcester Fuel during a recent matchup with the Mutiny.

- sports -

Polewarczyk grabs win at Hudson Speedway

HUDSON, N.H. - Joey Polewarczyk left no doubt Sunday night as to who holds the home track advantage at Hudson Speedway.

The Hudson, N.H., native and 2020 Granite State Pro Stock Series champion, led every lap en route to his second straight victory in the series' annual Gate City Classic 100.

Only a pre-race redraw could keep "Joey Pole" from starting on the pole, as the veteran clocked in fastest in time trials but redrew second. Two-time GSPSS champ Joey Doiron led the field to green, but Polewarczyk nosed out front before the field even reached turn one.

Polewarczyk and Doiron showed the way for the first nine laps, until Bobby Frappier nosed into the turn-three concrete to bring out the evening's first caution

flag. On the restart, Polewarczyk reasserted himself out front, keeping Doiron at arm's length but setting a brisk pace around the high-banked quarter-mile.

While the two veterans held firm out front, former Hudson winner Angelo Belsito dived for third with recent winner Evan Beaulieu and first-time starter Connor McDougal. Eddie MacDonald lingered in the distance, cracking the top five by halfway as he gave Belsito fits for fourth.

Polewarczyk and Doiron were well ahead of the pack when Cory Casagrande ran up on a slower car in heavy traffic, sending the car for a spin and drawing a yellow flag with 25 laps to go.

Once again, the lead duo took off from the field, but the battle for third heated up as "The Outlaw" cleared Belsito, then Beaulieu, to

claw his way toward the podium. Belsito and Beaulieu quickly found their hands full with a charging Casagrande and Cole Robie, both trying to make up for lost time in the closing laps.

But not even Doiron could chase down Polewarczyk, who gapped Doiron by nearly half a second on the way to his fourth GSPSS win at his home track.

Doiron's runner-up result was his best-ever finish at Hudson, the track where he last finished a GSPSS race outside the top ten back in 2020.

MacDonald brought car owner Dale Drew's No. 50 home in third, with Beaulieu close on his heels in fourth. Robie finished fifth, giving the young hard charger three top-five runs to open the season.

Casagrande was sixth

after an early exit one week ago at Speedway 95, while Belsito slipped all the way to seventh in the home stretch. Frankie Eldredge had his best GSPSS performance yet with an eighth-place finish, while McDougal and Josh St. Clair rounded out the top ten.

Polewarczyk's ninth GSPSS win elevates the 36-year-old to second on the series' all-time win list behind D.J. Shaw. His home-track mastery has played a big part; only once in five GSPSS appearances at Hudson has Polewarczyk not parked in the winner's circle.

The GSPSS teams have a week off to celebrate Independence Day before returning to action on Friday, July 11 at Claremont Motorsports Park, kicking off a four-week midsummer trek through New Hampshire.

Quabbin Valley set to host second over-28 fall league

Following up on the resounding success of its inaugural campaign, the Quabbin Valley Baseball League, an over-28 adult baseball league will hold its second Fall League this September and October.

Seeking to create a similar competition environment to its spring/summer league, Quabbin Valley, with contributions from the Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League, created a four-team fall league last year featuring the Braves, Dodgers, Cardinals, and Twins.

Those same four teams are set to return and each team tends to have openings on them. Additionally, the league is open to welcoming more teams in to the league if it finds enough interest.

While the fall league schedule is still under construction, it will mostly feature Sunday morning games played with wood-bat only, which is customary for fall baseball. There could be some Saturday games added to the schedule depending

on the completion of the spring/summer season as well as to makeup rain-outs, potentially. Games are nine-innings long and there is a small playoff and championship held at the end of the season.

Last year's fall season was eight games and that is the goal for this year. Free and low-cost fields are used as well as just one umpire in an effort to keep the costs lower for players. The cost to play will likely range from \$40 to \$60 for the eight-game schedule. Players from outside the Quabbin League may also pay a small fee for insurance as well.

An interest/registration form, will be forthcoming soon, but until then, to express interest in the league, you can email the coordinators of the league at either GScibelli22@yahoo.com or ikhandfield@gmail.com.

Scheduled and team placement for unaffiliated players will be finalized in mid-to-late August. Please join in the fun this fall.

T-Birds bringing back Community Caravan

SPRINGFIELD - The Springfield Thunderbirds are proud to announce the return of the T-Birds Community Caravan, with support from MassMutual, marking the third annual summer tour designed to bring the excitement of Thunderbirds hockey to communities across the region.

This year's Caravan will include three stops throughout the Greater Springfield area during the summer months, continuing the initiative's mission to keep the T-Birds top-of-mind in the offseason while deepening the team's connection to local families and fans. This summer's Caravan dates are as follows:

•Saturday, July 19 - Sonny's Place, Somers, CT - 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

•Saturday, August 9 - Amelia Park Ice Arena,

Westfield - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

*The Westfield Community Caravan will also feature the annual T-Birds Street Hockey Tournament on the outdoor deck hockey court at Amelia Park. The Street Hockey Tournament features teams of players ages 9-12. To register your team, click here.

"After a fantastic continuation of the program last summer, we're thrilled to bring back the Caravan and keep building on its success," said Thunderbirds President Nathan Costa. "We're equally excited to welcome back MassMutual as a partner and thank them for embracing our mission of being champions in the community beyond the Thunderdome."

Each free-to-attend event will feature appearances by Thunderbirds mascot

Boomer, team staff, and a lively mix of interactive games, street hockey, family-friendly activities, and local vendors. Fans can also enjoy delicious food options, with each Caravan date spotlighting a local non-profit beneficiary, helping to raise awareness and support for impactful community organizations.

"We're delighted to support the Springfield Thunderbirds not only on the ice but also throughout the local community," said Dennis Duquette, head of community responsibility at MassMutual and president of the MassMutual Foundation. "Their caravan provides terrific activities for local kids and families, and we're proud to be a part of it."

The Springfield edition of the Caravan will be collecting donations benefiting The

Gray House. Among the requested items are baby food, diapers and wipes, school supplies, and non-perishable food items. The Thunderbirds will also be hosting food drives at the July and August Caravan stops. The July Caravan at Sonny's Place will benefit the Enfield Food Shelf in Connecticut, while the August Caravan in Westfield will collect items for the Westfield Food Pantry.

Additional information for all Community Caravans will be released in the coming weeks via the Thunderbirds' website and social media channels.

For more information on upcoming events, including the Community Caravan, stay tuned to the T-Birds on social media @ThunderbirdsAHL, or visit the Community Tab on www.SpringfieldThunderbirds.com.

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<p>CLUES ACROSS</p> <p>1. 50 percent</p> <p>5. Records electric currents</p> <p>8. Charlize Theron flick "Flux"</p> <p>12. More frosty</p> <p>14. Disfigure</p> <p>15. Sky color</p> <p>16. A thoroughfare in a town or city</p> <p>18. Actress de Armas</p> <p>19. Spend time in a relaxed way</p> <p>20. California peak</p> <p>21. Lodging option</p> <p>22. Small amount of a thing</p> <p>23. Expresses sorrow</p> <p>26. Keeps an ear warm</p> <p>30. Babies (Spanish)</p> <p>31. A conceited and self-centered person</p> <p>32. No seats available</p> <p>33. Pouches</p>	<p>34. Hip joints</p> <p>39. A place to bathe</p> <p>42. Evading</p> <p>44. Minute, one-celled</p> <p>46. Losing one's hair</p> <p>47. A country in W Africa</p> <p>49. One point north of northeast</p> <p>50. Pointed end of a pen</p> <p>51. Extreme</p> <p>56. Norse personification of old age</p> <p>57. Doctors' group</p> <p>58. Member of U.S. Navy</p> <p>59. Mens' fashion accessories</p> <p>60. A way to allow</p> <p>61. Gloomy</p> <p>62. Grads wear one person</p> <p>63. Between south and southeast</p> <p>64. Jaguarundi cat</p>	<p>CLUES DOWN</p> <p>1. Snakes do it</p> <p>2. Hormone</p> <p>3. The standard monetary unit of Turkey</p> <p>4. Fixed charges</p> <p>5. Electronic communication</p> <p>6. Artilleries</p> <p>7. "Strangers on a Train" actor Farley</p> <p>8. Burning</p> <p>9. Makes ecstatically happy</p> <p>10. Greek liqueurs</p> <p>11. Tropical Old World tree</p> <p>13. Someone who takes vengeance</p> <p>17. Style of cuisine</p> <p>24. Select</p> <p>25. Immunized against disease</p> <p>26. Old world, new</p> <p>27. Honorable title (Turkish)</p>	<p>28. Court case: ___ v. Wade</p> <p>29. Supervises interstate commerce</p> <p>35. Not divisible by two</p> <p>36. Twelve</p> <p>37. Commentator Coulter</p> <p>38. Encourage</p> <p>40. Plumbing fixtures</p> <p>41. Early</p> <p>42. One point north of due east</p> <p>43. King of Thebes</p> <p>44. Short-tailed martens</p> <p>45. Impose a penalty on</p> <p>47. Consort of Poseidon</p> <p>48. A way to lessen</p> <p>49. Brooklyn hoops team</p> <p>52. Female of a horse</p> <p>53. Do as one is told</p> <p>54. A way to prepare meat</p> <p>55. Unit of measurement</p>
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PANTHERS FROM PAGE 7

lowed to coach the team.

Those duties are handled by Alan Crane, who's a former Quabbin basketball player, and Steve Gasper.

The other members of the Panthers summer league team are Brady Patchen, Jacoby Dilling, Aiden Crane, Isaac Patchen, Bobby Tobin, Jack Leclair, Anthony Quarterone, Evan Sherblom, Collin Leclair, Matt Wade, Calvin Hurd, Lucas Gaspar, Gavin Rivard, and Bryce Pariseau.

Brady Patchen and Dilling are the captains of the summer league team.

Unless something changes between now and November, Quarterone will be the only senior on the var-

sity basketball team during the 2025-26 regular season.

"I think we're going to be the underdog next year, which is something that I like," Dilling said. "We're also hoping to qualify for the state tournament. We just missed it by one game last year."

Quabbin finished the first week of the Auburn summer league season with a 1-1 record.

After losing a close game to Quaboag in the first game, the Panthers pulled out an exciting 49-45 overtime victory against Tahan-

Regional last Wednesday night. Brady Patchen and Dilling are the captains of the summer league team.

Unless something changes between now and November, Quarterone will be the only senior on the var-

were trailing in the second half, but we were able to battle back and win it in overtime. Playing in this league is going to help us a lot."

Patchen made a 3-point-er in overtime against Tahan-

to, which gave his team a 47-45 lead with a minute remaining. He also made a foul shot.

A made free throw by Dilling sealed the deal with ten seconds left in OT.

"We played with a lot of energy defensively in the overtime period," Dilling said. "It led to our offense, which was the reason why we won the game."

After taking the Fourth of July week off, Quabbin is scheduled to face David Prouty on July 7 and Wachusett Regional on July 9.

PIONEERS FROM PAGE 7

working very hard, and it feels very nice to finally score a couple of goals, especially in front of the home crowd. You can't ask for anything better than that."

Cence and Boadi hooked up again in the 24th minute. This time, Boadi blasted a shot into the upper right corner of the net.

While Cence and Boadi are teammates during the summer, they'll be opposing each other at the beginning of September.

Boadi, who's one of the Pioneers veteran players, is also a member of the men's soccer team at Bryant University, while Cence plays at UMass-Amherst.

Aidan Kelly, who's the Pioneers captain and defender, is also a member of the Minutemen men's soccer team

The two college soccer teams are scheduled to meet each other in a non-conference match in Amherst on September 6.

"It's always a lot of fun playing your summer teammates during the college soccer season," said Boadi, who would like to play for a professional soccer team after graduating from college next year. "I'm hoping that we can win our game against UMass. We talk about it all the time and I'm really looking forward to that match."

Cence is a first-year member of the Western Mass. squad.

"I'm thankful for coach Molinari allowing me to join the team this year," Cence said. "It has been a great experience and the guys on the team are awesome."

Cence also assisted on the Pioneers' fourth goal, which was scored by midfielder Robbie Lyons in the 34th minute.

The Pioneers had several more scoring chances during the second half.

Bustamante netted his second goal of the match during the 82nd minute. Defender Alejandro Carrillo was credited with the assist.

Goalie Alan Horrocks only had to make a couple of save in recording the Pioneers sixth shutout of the season.

- community -



TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO

A Field of Flags is displayed outside of Old Sturbridge Village to celebrate Independence Day this past weekend.



The militia prepared to line up prior to the parade around Old Sturbridge Village.

OSV FROM PAGE 1

to witness a United States Naturalization Ceremony to welcome new U.S. citizens. The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services presented candidates to the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts, and they pledged their Oath of Allegiance to the United States for the very first time.

A total of 147 people from 35 countries became U.S. cit-



Young visitors to the museum were able to sign a copy of the Declaration of Independence.

izens on July 4 this year. Old Sturbridge Village has hosted this ceremony for many years and it has always been on Independence Day.

Over by the Blacksmith

Field, there was a cannon demonstration. Guests could hear the roar of the cannon throughout the village.

The costumed historians of Old Sturbridge Village

gathered at the Common for their annual Independence Day parade. The village residents marched all over Old Sturbridge Village with music and the flag hoisted in front.



The Old Sturbridge Village Singers had a concert in the Center Meetinghouse performing patriotic songs from the early days of the nation.



Kids marched in the parade during the Independence Day celebrations. Independence and citizens celebrated at OSV

N BROOKFIELD FROM PAGE 1

for a State Revolving Fund loan in the meantime, in case the earmark does not come through.

"That's just a backup plan," Cardenas said of the SRF loan.

Cardenas said the SRF application is more of a request to see if the town's project qualifies for the loan, and it does not oblige the town to accept the loan. Applying for the SRF loan will not impact on the town's chances of receiving earmarked funds.

The board approved the application process for the SRF loan.

Change orders for Fire/Highway buildings

Finance Committee Chair Joe Trentacosta said there are four change orders for the Fire/Highway buildings project including the apparatus lighting in the amount of \$3,852.70.

"The original design did not have included the exit lighting and the exit sign," he said. "The town electrician came in and requested that we do so."

Other change orders include changing the electrical breakers to GFI breakers in the amount of \$408.80; new vent pipes for the heating units in the amount of \$17,330.83; and other electrical upgrades in the amount of \$2,370.84.

Fire Chief Darin Anderson said the original plan did not include the replacement of the heating unit's vent pipes, but since the project started, the pipes have rotted and now need to be replaced.

Council on Aging programs
Board of Selectmen Chair Jason Petraitis said the board met with the Council on Aging Director and the Friends of the Council on Aging regarding planned youth programming scheduled on Wednesday afternoons that

could interfere with current senior programming.

"There were some other questions that came up regarding liability and just general use," he said during that meeting.

He said there have been many comments on social media from people who did not attend the meeting or have all of the information.

Board of Selectmen Clerk Ralph Kay said he has been appointed as the liaison for the Senior Center, and he has initiated communication with both the Council on Aging and the Friends' group. He said he has learned what each group's responsibility is.

Kay said he is going to be actively involved with what is happening at the Senior Center to improve communication between them and the Selectmen.

He said they will keep "lines of communication open in a positive vein" between the groups at the Senior Center and the Board of Selectmen.

"I don't want to look back, I want to look forward," Kay said. "The Senior Center is an important part of this town."

Board of Selectmen Vice-Chair Jamie Gilman said there were two areas of liability regarding youth programming, and the board has located a form that was previously drafted for the board to review.

Gilman said he has been involved with Scouting America, and he spoke about the need for youth protection guidelines and CORI checks.

Petraitis the board will be working with the groups to "bring everybody together."

Wood for residents
Petraitis said a lot of trees have been cut down due to utility work, and the Highway Department has been cleaning up the remaining wood, which is then disposed of in the town pit on

Kittredge Road.

He said residents who live where the trees are being cut down are first asked if they want the wood before the Highway Department removes it.

He suggested the board consider adding a sign-up form to the town's website for all residents to request unclaimed wood to be dumped at their houses and make use of it. He said residents would need to sign a waiver and be present when the wood is delivered.

Petraitis said the wood would be delivered one truck length onto a resident's property. He suggested the wood be delivered on a first come, first served basis.

"I just hate to see it all go to waste," he said.

The board will continue discussion on this proposal.

Moment of silence

Petraitis announced that Ed Decoteau, the town's oldest male resident and the last World War II veteran, passed away the end of June at the age of 101. He held a moment of silence to honor Decoteau's memory.

Transfer requests

The board approved the Town Collector's request to transfer \$100 from the Town Collector Clerk account to the Town Collector Postage Machine account. This transfer will cover the cost of late payments.

A request to transfer \$500 from the Recycling Monitor Salaries account to the Recycling Electricity account, was also approved by the board.

The board approved the following requests from the Board of Health: \$1,350 from the Board of Health Clerk's Salary to the Board of Health Purchase of Services to balance accounts; and \$2,041 from the Food Inspector Salary to Purchase of Services Title V to bal-

ance accounts.

Free event for seniors

The North Brookfield Community Food Collaborative is partnering with the First Congregational Church to host a free hot dog lunch for seniors on Monday, July 14 from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

DJ Brian will provide music, and Long Branch Hot Dog Stand will provide hot dogs. The meal will include potato salad, macaroni salad, drinks and ice cream.

Reservations are encouraged by calling Karen at 774-289-9832 by July 13.

Meeting with East Brookfield

Petraitis said the officials from the town of East Brookfield have requested to meet with the board regarding collaboration with the Transfer Station, the town beach and addressing beaver concerns.

Send Us Your Community Autumn Events

Turley Publications will print your Autumn event FREE OF CHARGE in our Autumn Fest Supplement which will be published September 10, 2025. Total circulation of 85,000 which reaches over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley. Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

FREE Calendar Listings Reaching over 200,000 Readers in the Pioneer Valley

Event Name	_____
Date/Time	_____
Location	_____
Description	_____ _____ _____
Cost	_____
Contact name & phone number for more information	_____

Deadline for Calendar submissions is August 11.

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.

- public safety -

East Brookfield Police Log

During the week of June 2-8, the East Brookfield Police Department responded to 113 building/property checks, 45 directed area patrols, six traffic controls, five radar assignments, seven emergency 911 calls, four citizen assists, three complaints, two investigations, one motor vehicle investigation, one fire, two animal calls and 34 motor vehicle stops in the town of East Brookfield.

Monday, June 2
5:55 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Written Warning
11:38 a.m. Investigation, Connie Mack Drive, Ser-

vices Rendered
1:15 p.m. Assist Citizen, Lashaway Drive, Spoken To
5:04 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued
5:43 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Harrington Street, Written Warning
5:50 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, North Street, Transported to Hospital

Tuesday, June 3
11:58 a.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Services Rendered
1:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning
1:15 p.m. Motor Vehi-

cle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning
1:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued
1:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Written Warning
1:58 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued
2:43 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
5:15 p.m. Directed/Area Patrol, Podunk Road, Citation Issued
5:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Podunk Road, Citation Issued
7:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Route 49, Citation Issued

sued
8:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Route 49, Citation Issued
8:30 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Route 49, Citation Issued

Wednesday, June 4
12:44 p.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Services Rendered

Thursday, June 5
6:54 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
10:01 a.m. 911 Fire/Auto, West Main Street, Extinguished
12:18 p.m. Investigation, Connie Mack Drive, Ser-

vices Rendered
6:06 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, East Main Street, Services Rendered

Friday, June 6
7:09 a.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Route 49, Spoken To
12:58 p.m. 911 Misdial, Park Street, Spoken To
4:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Stevens Road, Services Rendered
7:07 p.m. Complaint, Quacumquasit Pond, Negative Contact
9:57 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Elm Street, Transported to Hospital

Saturday, June 7
10:18 a.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Services Rendered
10:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

Sunday, June 8
1:04 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Bridge Street, Transported to Hospital
1:27 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Route 49, Citation Issued
3:01 p.m. Parking Complaint, East Main Street, Peace Restored
4:22 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, East Main Street, Services Rendered

New Braintree Police Log

During the week of June 23-30, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 12 building/property checks, 11 directed/area patrols, three radar assignments, three traffic controls, six emergency 911 calls, one citizen assist, one motor vehicle accident, three complaints, one fire, three animal calls and six motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

Monday, June 23
8:09 a.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Crash, Barre Road, Transported to Hospital

Tuesday, June 24
2:30 p.m. Complaint/

Motor Vehicle Operations, Barre Road, Officer Handled

Wednesday, June 25
1:59 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Barre Road, Transported to Hospital
3:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Written Warning
3:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Criminal Complaint
5:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Written Warning
5:19 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Thompson Road, Transported to Hospital

6:39 p.m. 911 Animal Call, Unitas Road, Gone

on Arrival

Thursday, June 26
5:27 p.m. 911 Assist Citizen, Barre Road, Services Rendered

4:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old Turnpike Road, Written Warning

Friday, June 27
10:26 a.m. Complaint, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

1:21 p.m. 911 Fire/Other, West Brookfield Road, Extinguished

Sunday, June 29
8:48 p.m. Complaint, West Brookfield Road, Unfounded

BBB Tip: Flight canceled? Tips for handling travel delays

Paula Fleming
pfleming@boston.bbb.org

Better Business Bureau® provides guidance to travelers who may be seeking compensation and refunds for airline cancellations.

When a consumer is flying domestically in the United States, rules regarding flight delays and cancellations are overseen by the US Department of Transportation. In Canada, complaints about flight delays are handled by the Canadian Transportation Agency. In general, no U.S. federal laws require airlines to compensate passengers for a delayed flight. In Canada, see the flight and delay cancellations guide.

Airlines may have policies and provide better benefits if a flight is canceled or significantly delayed within the airline's scope of control. Consumers may have additional benefits if they purchase the flight with a credit card that offers additional travel protections. Check the cardholder agreement with the airline. Consumers should keep receipts for extra purchases, like a hotel room, to submit them to their airline or credit card company for reimbursement later. Typically, nearly all domestic airlines will try to accommodate passengers

on the next available flight and sometimes on a different carrier.

When flights are canceled by the airline, consumers are always entitled to a full refund. This includes refunding bag fees or extras for a seat, such as additional legroom. Ask about expiration and blackout dates if the airline offers a voucher instead of a refund. Airlines may also have additional restrictions on the use of vouchers. Consumers are not obligated to accept vouchers and may insist on a full refund. However, if the consumer cancels the trip, they may not be entitled to a full refund.

BBB is asking consumers to keep the following tips in mind when handling travel disruptions:

Check delays - Travelers can check their latest flight information on their carrier's website or via the airline's telephone reservation system. Delays often don't occur until the day of the flight, and the airline must update its flight information within 30 minutes of receiving a status change notice.

Check carrier and credit card terms - While federal regulations don't require airlines to reimburse expenses such as rooms or food in the event a flight is canceled or severely delayed, the carrier

and credit card companies may have different policies. Purchase tickets with a credit card that offers trip protection or traveler insurance and check individual airline policies.

Keep documentation - Keep receipts and records for expenses incurred due to a significantly delayed or canceled flight. These may be needed later to recover expenses.

Check the carrier's website - Most airlines allow consumers to initiate refunds directly on the carrier's website. Using a website may help a consumer obtain a refund or rebook a trip much faster than waiting for a consumer service agent in person or on the phone.

Consider travel insurance. Most travel insurance policies cover trip cancellations or interruptions; emergency medical situations; lost, stolen or damaged baggage; and cancellations for any reason. It's important to check with the provider to verify what is covered and what is not.

Rules are different for foreign flights. Flights canceled in another country will be affected by the laws of that nation. Check with the local country's department of transportation while traveling internationally.

- public notices -

NOTICE OF INTENT TO FILE FOR FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Town of West Brookfield Water Department proposes to file an Application for Federal Financial Assistance with the USDA, Rural Development. This application for financial assistance will be for funding under

the Rural Utilities Service, Part 1780 Water and Waste Loans and Grants (CFDA 10.760) and is anticipated to be submitted by the end of July 2025. The specific elements of the project are to add treatment for Manganese and Iron to the Leland Road Water Treatment Facility per MassDEP's direction. This project is anticipated to cost upwards

of \$6.24 million, as the final cost estimate from the project engineer is still in development. The water department is applying for grant/loan combination with the anticipation of some grants to cover the cost. Any comments regarding this application should be submitted to the Town of West Brookfield Water Department KLandry@

wbrookfield.com or (508) 867-1421 ext. 8 within fifteen (15) days of this publication. 07/11/2025



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Jamie Joslyn
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069
Email:jamie@turley.com

YOUR HEALTH FROM PAGE 4

dren between the ages of 0 and 19 die from drowning each year. Drowning is a leading cause of accidental death for children, particularly those aged 1-4, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Most importantly, no one should swim unsupervised. Nonswimmers should always wear flotation of some sort. Swimming lessons can help your child feel comfortable in the water and learn some rudimentary strokes and how to breathe, even if they're

never going to be a competitive swimmer.

If your summer plans include going to a lake, don't let your child in the water if they have an open sore or wound, as bacteria can enter and cause an infection. Finally, avoid swimmer's ear by using ear plugs. You can also instill a few drops of over-the-counter ear-drying solution, or make your own from equal parts white vinegar and rubbing alcohol.

6. Encourage hand hygiene.

Kids in close quarters may be susceptible to hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD), which is a viral infection com-

mon among young children, particularly in settings like summer camps. HFMD is characterized by fever, mouth sores and a rash on the hands and feet. It can be a miserable experience - sometimes the mouth sores become so painful that children might refuse to eat or drink, leading to dehydration and discomfort.

Encourage frequent and thorough hand washing and avoid close contact with infected individuals to prevent the spread of HFMD.

7. Keep some structure. Don't let your child overdose on TV screens or video games. Watching movies together, playing video games

and enjoying board games and puzzles are fun activities the family can do together.

But ideally, get out there and enjoy summer together!

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, is a registered nurse and board certified patient advocate and founder of www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com, which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. Teri offers a free phone consultation to Turley Newspaper readers as well as to nurses interested in becoming advocates. Reach her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com

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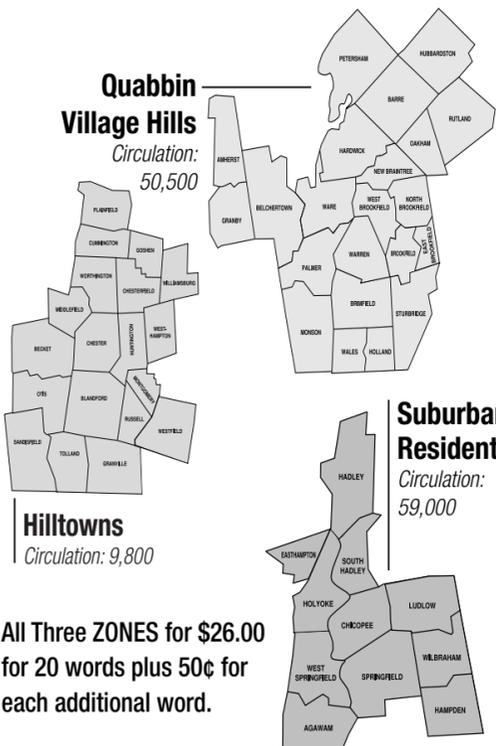
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Scouting America serves as parade Grand Marshal

RUTLAND – The Heart of New England Council, Scouting America proudly led this year's 77th Independence Day celebration in Rutland, serving as Grand Marshal for the town's annual Fourth of July Parade.

The honor recognizes the Council's deep-rooted commitment to youth leadership, community service, and civic values across Central Massachusetts.

Scouts, leaders, and volunteers from throughout the Council's territory marched at the head of the parade, waving flags, saluting veterans, and representing the enduring legacy of Scouting in America. The crowd cheered as the Scouts passed by, honoring both the nation's independence and the values that unite communities.

"This was an incredible honor for our Scouts and volunteers," said Jason Pigg, CEO of the Heart of New England Council in a press release. "Being chosen as Grand Marshal is a powerful recognition of the



Scouts held a banner representing the Heart of New England Council of Scouting America.

impact Scouting has had – and continues to have – on the lives of young people and their communities. We are proud to celebrate this moment with the people of Rutland."

The Heart of New England Council serves thousands of youth in Central Massachusetts with programs that emphasize leadership, character development, and outdoor adventure.

Ben Barakian, coordinator of Rutland's Fourth of July Parade, shared his enthusiasm for the Council's selection: "Our theme this year was 'It's Out of This World!' and celebrates ex-

ploration, imagination, and the extraordinary spirit that lives right here in our community. We chose Heart of New England Council to be our Grand Marshal because Scouting America develops young leaders who embody the values of service, adventure, and leadership. Like space explorers who boldly venture into the unknown, these Scouts demonstrate curiosity, courage, and a commitment to making the world around them better."

The parade is a centerpiece of Rutland's multi-day celebration of Independence Day (<https://www.rutlandma-4thofjuly.org/>), which includes concerts,



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Jason Pigg, CEO/Scout Executive and Kelly Stickney, Program Director and Treasure Valley Camp Director, were Grand Marshals of the Rutland 4th of July Parade.

fireworks, family-friendly events, and reflections on American history and values.

For more information about the Heart of New England Council, Scouting America, visit www.hnescouting.org.

About Heart of New England Council

Heart of New England Council is a 501(c)(3) organization that serves about 4,000 boys and girls in more than 60 communities in

central Massachusetts. It provides the nation's foremost program that teaches young people character, leadership, and citizenship through fun and exciting adventures for the entire family.

Heart of New England Council fosters a culture of diversity and inclusion that makes it enriching to participate, volunteer and work in the Scouting program. Visit www.hnescouting.org for more information.

Concerts on the Common held monthly in North Brookfield

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Concerts on the Common will be held on select Saturdays on the town common from 6-8 p.m.

Upcoming dates and performers include July 26, Stan Matthews and the Rough Riders; and Aug. 30, Superchargers.

These concerts are free, but tips for the band and free will donations toward future events are appreciated. Food trucks will be available, or people are welcome to bring their own.

Chairs, blankets or something to sit on are encouraged, as well as insect, sun and weather protection.

The Concerts on the Common series is made possible by the North Brookfield Parks and Recreation and the North Brookfield Cultural Council.

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