



# QUABOAG CURRENT

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Quaboag Current Newspaper

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Friday, July 14, 2023

## West Brookfield celebrates 50th concert season

By Richard Murphy  
Correspondent

WEST BROOKFIELD – In the days leading up to June 29, wet was the operative weather word. With some few breaks for the sun, rain and overcast were the words of the day.

Thursday, however, was going to reverse the trend in grand style, and there would be no complaints. It was the day of the West Brookfield Annual Bonfire Concert.

The Bonfire Concert may not be a tradition going back to colonial times, but 50 years of an annual event does mean something in the life of a town and as the evening progressed,

attendance would verify that.

The night started with the local country band, Tequila Bonfire, playing as the audience grew. The Central Massachusetts band consists of Roger Gamache and Steve Lamoureux on guitar and vocals, Mike Roberts on bass and vocals with Mark Pervier on drums.

The quartet would play covers of a wide range of country standards.

The evening was superintended by the Friends of the Bandstand chaired by Erin Mahoney who was quite busy during the festivities.

Mahoney was assisted by

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Kadence Martin sings the National Anthem. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RICHARD MURPHY

## East Brookfield celebrates the 4th of July

By Emily-Rose Pappas  
Staff Writer

EAST BROOKFIELD – East Brookfield celebrated the 4th of July this past weekend which included a parade, carnival, and fireworks.

The carnival featured many food trucks and booths on the Connie Mack Field. There was a truck of fresh kettle corn, a giant slide, and another fun ride to enjoy at the carnival.

There were tacos, sea food, and Kona Ice trucks available for a variety of tasty snacks.



East Brookfield Fire Department drove an antique firetruck in the parade. TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

The West Brookfield Fire Department had a booth set up where they sold freshly made

grilled cheese, chips, and cold drinks. Holly and Ken Collette

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## Troop 161 honors newest Eagle Scout

Ryan Kelley achieves Scouting's highest honor

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

SPENCER – Becoming an Eagle Scout is really about the process; it's more about the how they got there, rather than when they got there.

Sturbridge Scouts BSA Troop 161's newest Eagle Scout Ryan Kelley of East Brookfield, was recognized for his achievement at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony this past Sunday at the Spencer Country Inn.

Kelley had only one year to earn Scouting's highest rank,

See SCOUT | PAGE 7



David Foote presents Eagle Scout Ryan Kelley with a challenge coin from fellow Scout and U.S. Marine Tyler Montgomery, who was unable to attend the Court of Honor. TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE

## OSV celebrates 4th of July with Naturalization Ceremony

By Anjolina Fantaroni  
Correspondent

STURBRIDGE – Old Sturbridge Village hosted a momentous United States Naturalization Ceremony amidst rainy weather on July 4.

The historic venue was forced to relocate to an indoor rain location due to the heavy showers, but the spirits were high, creating an unforgettable experience for the new citizens and attendees.

Held in the Stephen M.

Brewer Theater, over 150 newly naturalized American citizens brought family and friends along, to take part in this emotional ceremony.

The village, known for early 19th-century New England life,

See CEREMONY | PAGE 7



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# Honey Bee Orchards grows under new ownership

By Richard Murphy  
Correspondent

WEST BROOKFIELD – In talking with Scott Johnson, it would be easy to come to the conclusion the man was born to farm.

From Northborough originally, at 12 he began working at Bigelow nurseries in that town. That gave him his start and he has been in agriculture ever since.

For 30 years he has lived in North Brookfield, where at 100 Old East Brookfield Road is Kettle Brook Farms, which is somewhat a family operation as he operates it with his middle son, Neil, and the youngest, Trevor, handles the fertilizing operation.

Kettle Brook Farms has a state-of-the-art hydroponic system that allows the growing of crops indoors, year-round, without pesticides, enabling freshness.

There are also field crops in season with additional hot house vegetables grown in a controlled environment.

Goat and pig meat, raised from birth are sold fresh at the farm.

The oldest son, Justin, is in a tri-axle trucking business.

Scott's daughter, Peyton, works in the family's newest operation located on Route 9 in West Brookfield.

If you live in the Brookfields, you have probably seen it at 107 East Main St., just west of Howard's Drive-In.

Honey Bee Orchards had been in operation for 20 years, but the previous ownership decided it was time to move on.

The business consisted of an apple orchard and a store.

Johnson had an operation on rented land, but was ready for the chance to own when it presented itself. Honey Bee Orchards had been on his radar for a few years.

When it was time, and the opportunity presented itself, it was an offer he could not pass up. Honey Bee Orchards, a turnkey situation with Route 9 frontage, was well worth pursuing.

The large orchard where the honeybees, as mentioned in the name, were to pollinate, suffered a set-



New owner of Honey Bee Orchards Scott Johnson stands in front of the sign at 107 East Main St., West Brookfield. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RICHARD MURPHY



Honey Bee Orchards has a variety of colorful flowers.

back. The May 18 frost caused the loss of the apples.

The trees themselves survived well enough, but the variability of New England weather is inescapable.

Setbacks being expected, there is nothing to do but keep going, and the Honey Bee Orchards' team is doing just that.

There are fresh spring vegetables such as radishes, lettuce and broccoli. As the summer progresses there will be tomatoes, peppers, eggplant and cukes as well as watermelon, cantaloupe and many others.

Honey Bee Orchards will also be offering a Community Supported Agriculture system, that connects producers and consumers by allowing the consumer to subscribe to the harvest of a certain farm.

This is true of Honey Bee Orchards with a bit of a departure in that a member will be able to choose what goes in their box.

Honey Bee Orchards also has a deli aspect with a

full line of Boar's Head products. Also, you can get fresh sandwiches, potato salads and a great variety of ready to eat dishes.

The variety extends to the pioneering blueberry pierogi with bacon and maple syrup. I'm up for it.

They have blueberries, not just in pierogis.

There are also fresh baked pies including the Fruit of the Farm which is a mixed fruit pie.

The baked cookies are also fresh. Honey, jams, jellies and preserves are in stock.

What would an orchard store be without cider donuts?

And there are scented candles.

Honey Bee Orchards has a social media presence on Facebook and Instagram.

Hours of operation are Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

A blueberry festival is planned soon so stay tuned on Facebook.

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

## Library hosts yoga for kids during Summer Reading

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Haston Free Public Library, 161 North Main St., will be offering a one hour “Yoga and Meditation for Kids” session on Wednesday, July 19 from noon-1 p.m.

This event will be hosted by Brandy Lefsyk, yoga instructor and owner of Home and Heart Studio in Orange. Children of all ages are welcome.

This will be an interactive adventure that will build strength, balance, and confidence, and get children into yoga and mindfulness.

To register for this event, please call the library at 508-867-0208 or email Youth Services Librarian Brianna Lamb at [blamb@cwmar.org](mailto:blamb@cwmar.org).

There is still time to sign up for Haston Library's summer reading program, which runs from June 24 to Aug. 26. The theme this year is “Find Your Voice”.

Participants will receive a book log, calendar of events, and some goodies. Weekly prizes are also available for those that get their logs checked off once a week.

Come to the library Children's Room to register. All ages and reading levels are welcome.

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- community -

# Town office doors to be remanufactured

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Board of Selectmen Chair Jason Petraitis said Dutch doors will be installed at the Town Offices for the protection of office workers.

He said the existing doors will be remanufactured on-site with a shelf on the bottom half of the door. The top half or window part of the door will be able to open, while the bottom remains secure.

Petraitis said the Board previously approved American Rescue Plan Act funds up to \$10,000 to remanufacture the doors, and the quote came in at \$800 for each door, with a total of \$3,200.

**Appointment**

Melissa Magario was appointed to the Cemetery Commission, at the recommendation of the Commission's chair and vice-chair.

She has lived in North Brookfield with her husband for 17 years and she wants to be more involved in town.

Magario said she's interested in cemeteries, especially restoration and preservation of stones and monuments.

**Sidewalk renovations**

The Board approved a plan for sidewalk renovations from the BSC Group as part of the Complete Streets project.

Petraitis said BSC Group will provide bid-ready plans for improvements along the eastside of North Main Street, from the intersection with Maple Street to the intersection of School Street.

**Financial item**

The Board approved the transfer of \$7,000 from the Reserve Fund to the Board of Selectmen's General Insurance account to pay deductibles for lawsuits.

**Transfers**

The Board approved the following transfers for the Fire Department, \$315.26 from Supplies to Gasoline; \$535.34 from Vehicle Repairs to Gasoline; \$530.57 from Oil Heat to Gasoline; \$12.05 from Uniforms to Telephone; \$432.12 from Other Expenses to Telephone; \$713.89 from Air Tank Expense to Purchase of Services; \$182.86 from General Repair and Maintenance to Purchase of Services; \$152.64 from Office Supplies to Electric; \$717.90 from Forest Fire Supplies to Fire Station/Ambulance; and \$466.79 from Equipment to Fire Station/Ambulance.

**Request for resources form**

Petraitis said the request for resources form has been updated, adding Parks and Recreation and removing the School Department and Board of Health, as they both have their own forms. He said the Water Department also has a separate form if the use of water is requested.

He also noted that some costs for resources, including electricity, water and police detail, can vary year to year.

**Senior Center roof**

The Board accepted the low bid to repair the Senior Center roof, submitted by Damazio Builders from Peabody.

**Public comment**

Vice-Chair John Tripp thanked everyone for participating in the town's 4th of July celebration and making it a good event.

He thanked Brandon Avery and other volunteers for mowing the grass, and taking care of benches and picnic tables at the playground.

Tripp said trimming along the edges of the rail trail will begin soon and help is needed. Work will start near Tasse Fuel.

## Flea Market on the Common is Aug. 26

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

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

Sellers of all kinds are welcome - flea folk, antique sellers, crafters, product vendors, and those emptying out basements and attics. No food vendors, please.

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

The church will sponsor a food tent with grilled food, cold drinks and sweet treats. Email FCCofWB-FleaMarket@gmail.com for an application.

## Lucas Emmanuel named to Dean's List

WELLESLEY HILLS – Lucas Emmanuel of Fiskdale, has been named to the MassBay Community College Dean's List.

Emmanuel, who studies life sciences, achieved this outstanding academic honor for the spring 2023 semester. To be eligible for the MassBay Dean's List, students must complete at least six credits of college-level courses, be in good standing with the College, and earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

## Heavy rainstorm damages resident's tree



Limbs were torn from this pear tree in North Brookfield. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



This pear tree was severely damaged during a storm this past Monday.

NORTH BROOKFIELD – A torrential downpour on Monday not only caused flooding and washout across the region, but it also damaged plants and trees.

A Lakeview Road resident lost her beloved pear

tree to the storm, which has grown for many years next to her garage. The force of the rain must have been too much for the tree to withstand, and several limbs were snapped off.

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# - opinion -



## Dog days equal a good balance of maintenance and reward

I am not sure if it is the heat or the calendar that causes my annual shift from planting mode to maintenance mode.

A cooler June extended the former somewhat, but with the last week or so of hot, sticky weather, I am mostly done planting anything but a few succession crops of lettuce or green beans. From here on out it's maintenance full steam ahead, and yet, enjoying the fruits (and vegetables) of our labors.

What have I been up to you ask? Well, here goes:

Deadheading is the number one priority in my flower gardens. We clip off old flowers to keep the new flowers coming.

If we let spent flowers form seed pods, the plant thinks it has fulfilled its job of reproducing itself and it will begin to decline. In addition to deadheading, I am ever mindful of plants that may need a little perking up.

If flowers are sparse and leaves look a little pale, some balanced organic fertilizer applied at the base of those plants should encourage more blooms and healthy foliage. Liquid feeding can also be effective.

Brew your own compost tea by filling a coffee filter with aged manure or good compost and securing it with a twist-tie. Let it soak in your watering can overnight and then it's ready to use.

Water the foliage and also let it sink in to the surrounding soil.

Earlier today I cut back my strawberry plants. I am not doing a full renovation this year, where I'd pull up the oldest plants and replace them with newly rooted runners.

I did that last year. This year, I simply cut the plants back.

My patch isn't huge, so it was accomplished by hand with a good pair of scissors. I basically grabbed a fist full of the plant, and chopped it back to about four inches tall.

I also weeded and thinned as I went. A push style lawn mower set on the highest setting can be used to get the job done in bigger plantings.

After the plants were cut back, I loosened the soil, sprinkled organic fertilizer around the plants and had about an hour before it started raining. I'll reapply mulch to keep the weeds down and that should be all the patch requires until winter.

I have been harvesting kale and peas so far, and in abundance. I continue to shuck, then blanch shelled peas for ninety seconds before freezing, first loose on a cookie sheet then poured into plastic containers whereby I can take out what I need for a specific recipe.

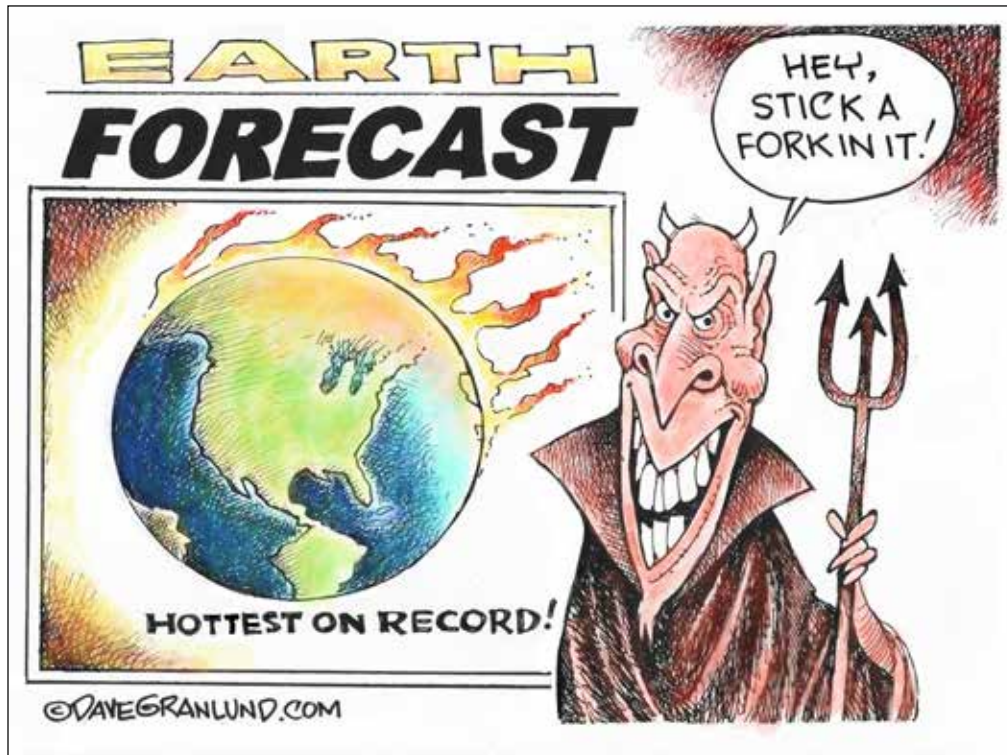
I no longer do any pretreatment prior to freezing kale. I simply rinse, shake the excess water off, rip the tender part of the leaf away from the midrib then pack in baggies, approximately 6-7 leaves per bag.

I try to get all the air out of the bag best I can. Kale, frozen like this, is a wonderful addition to soups, stews and green drinks.

The more you pick it the more it grows! My herbs are also growing well now that the nights have warmed up. This is especially noticeable with basil.

All the rain and some early thinning has produced some awesome dill foliage as well. Basil is not flavorful dried, but dill weed is.

I've been picking small bunches, securing them with a rubber band and hanging them in my hot attic to dry.



## in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer

A Brimfield resident reported a great crested flycatcher using a nest box in his yard, a first for him for this species.

He said he saw them several times in his yard this year and recently saw a bird enter the box. He set up a wildlife camera and got a photo of the flycatcher at the nest box.

The great crested flycatcher is about eight inches long and has a crest as its name implies.

The belly is bright yellow, and the tail is reddish brown. The bird is gray overall with a darker gray throat and two white wing bars.

It raises its crest in alarm or curiosity. During aggressive displays it shows the reddish-brown feathers on its wings and tail by spreading them open.

Its warning call is a loud, ascending "wheep" and a "preeet."

The female lays five to six whitish eggs with darker marks in a new lined with grass, fur, bits of paper and occasionally bits of snakeskin. It will nest in a natural cavity, old woodpecker hole or nest box. They breed in the east and middle states in the north and south and some parts of Canada.

The great crested flycatcher inhabits woods and wooded urban areas. It flies from a perch to catch insects and often feeds high in the tree tops.

Occasionally, it eats berries.

### Flycatcher at Lake Winnisquam

Sunday, June 25 I spent the day at my camp on Lake Winnisquam in Meredith, New Hampshire with one of my daughters and granddaughters.

While standing on the dock, I noticed a great crested flycatcher flying out from tree



Great crested flycatcher

branches along the shore. Its yellow belly was the identifying mark.

### Other birds at the lake

I also saw double-crested cormorants. One swam by the dock and another landed on a rock in the lake.

I did hear the loon, but I did not see them. The call came from a cove across the lake where the Loon Preservation Committee maintains a loon sanctuary with a floating nest.

There were several boats anchored in the cove. I think one boater got too near the roped off area as the loon started making its tremolo call, an alarm call.

Loon chicks usually hatch sometime around the 4th of July week or second week in July.

The water was quite warm and great for swimming. I hoped to make the trip to the lake again on the 4th of July, but the weather did not cooperate.

### Fledglings in Brimfield

I received an email from a Brimfield resident the end of June. He reported several fledglings in his yard.

He saw at least three cardinals with dark bills being fed by their parents.

Other youngsters included three fledging downy woodpeckers following their mother and begging for food,

a young chipping sparrow, eastern towhee and a red-bellied woodpecker. He said the eastern towhee resembled the female, but it had a streaked breast.

He saw the red-bellied at the feeder.

He also said, "House wren have nested in the yard for several years, unfortunately they stuff several nesting boxes with sticks that don't get used. On at least two occasions have evicted black-capped chickadees, who had started to use a box."

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

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This newspaper will print free self-submitted statements of candidacy only four weeks or more out from the election. All candidates running in both contested and uncontested races are asked to submit their statements to the editor to include only biographical and campaign platform details. Total word count for statements is limited to between 300-500 words maximum. Please include a photo. We will not publish

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words from supporters endorsing specific candidates or discussing campaign issues are limited to three total per author during the election season. No election letters will appear in the final edition before the election. We reserve the right to edit all statements of candidacy and letters to the editor to meet our guidelines.

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# - sturbridge -

## QQLA hosts 10th annual Paddle Poker Run

BROOKFIELD/STURBRIDGE – The Quaboag Quacumquasit Lake Association has announced that its 10th Annual Paddle Poker Run will take place rain or shine on Saturday, July 29. According to event chair, Bill Seabourne, registration begins at 11 a.m. at the Quaboag (North) Pond boat ramp on Quaboag Street, Brookfield. The Paddle Poker Run begins at noon and concludes promptly at 4 p.m.

“Only manual powered craft (canoes, kayaks, paddle boards, row boats, pedal boats, etc.) are permitted for this event,” said Seabourne. “The entry fee is \$20 per hand, but paddlers may play more than one hand, and there is no limit to the number of players or hands played per vessel.”

After signing a release form, all paddlers will receive a packet of information that includes full rules, scorecard, and route map. The course covers 3.5 miles of paddling with four stops along the way, drawing a card at each of the four stops.

“Upon returning to the North Pond boat ramp, paddlers will draw their fifth card,” said Seabourne. “Then, if they are dissatisfied with their hand, players may draw up to two additional cards at the cost of \$5 per card.”

A \$250 cash prize will be awarded for the winning hand, which is determined by standard poker hand rankings: straight flush, 4 of a kind, full house, flush, straight, 3 of a kind, 2 pair, pair, high card, and there are no “wild cards.”

Seabourne said, “a prize package of four Woo Sox tickets redeemable for any date will also be awarded to the player with the lowest, or worst hand.”

Additional prizes have been donated by area merchants including 308 Lakeside, Central Package Store, The Clam Box, E.B. Flatts, Honey Bee Farms, Howard’s Drive-In, Howe Lumber, Klem’s, Oakholm Brewery, Parson’s Auto, and Tip-Top Store. In addition, every registered paddler will receive a BOGO ice



Participants in the 2022 QQLA Paddle Poker Run queue up for their cards. SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Two new members appointed to library trustees

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

STURBRIDGE – The Board of Selectmen gave preliminary approval to appoint Karen Engell and David Reed to the Joshua Hyde Public Library’s Board of Trustees until April 8, 2024, pending clarification about the legal process to appoint to this position.

At the July 3 meeting, Engell said she has lived in Sturbridge for almost five years, after having lived 35 years in western Massachusetts. Now that she’s retired, she’d like to volunteer at the library.

“Libraries have always been really important to my family,” she said. “I thought it would be a good place to invest some volunteer time.”

Reed has lived in town for 19 years and has become more involved in the community.

He’s worked in nonprofits for five years and volunteers as a Scout leader for Girls Scouts and Cub Scouts. Reed said libraries have “always been a wonderful place” for himself and his family.

“I can’t say enough good things about the program that we have here, and I hope to support it for years going forward,” he said.

Town Administrator Robin Grimm said both Engell’s and Reed’s appointments have the support of the Board of Trustees.

### Accreditation

Grimm said Police Chief Earl Dessert invited her to attend a luncheon where the Police Department was honored for receiving its reaccreditation. The Police

Department received a plaque and certificate.

Grimm said she previously met with the accreditation team, and they were “very supportive” of what the Department was doing.

“I was happy to accompany them and represent the town,” Grimm said.

### Energy pricing

The Board authorized Grimm to sign an energy price agreement through the energy consultant on its behalf.

Grimm said when they go out to big on energy pricing, they would have to sign that day.

“This is done only in consultation with Beth Greenblatt, our energy consultant,” Grimm said. She said they are hoping to lock-in rates for a year.

Pricing in the past few weeks has been “relatively good,” Grimm said, but it fluctuates day to day.

### Reappointments

Charles Roy Jr. was reappointed to the Sturbridge Lakes Advisory Committee as the Big Alum Lake representative, through July 17, 2025.

James Dinopoulos was also reappointed to his position on the Sturbridge Lakes Advisory Committee as Sturbridge Lake representative, through June 29, 2026.

### Contract approval

The Board authorized a three-year agreement with Johnson Controls for multi-site fire alarm, sprinkler and fire alarm monitoring.

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

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Winning hands will be announced as soon as the last registered player returns to the North Pond boat ramp and all hands are ranked, which is expected to be about 4:15 p.m.

Proceeds from this year’s Paddle Poker Run will benefit the Quaboag Quacumquasit Lake Association’s mission of preserving and protecting the quality of the two lakes (better known as North and South Ponds) and the surrounding watershed through the promotion of responsible, effective, environmental policies.

For additional information, visit the Quaboag Quacumquasit Lake Association website at qqla.org or email event chair, Bill Seabourne at billcborn@gmail.com.

## 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
- Willingness to mentor a staff writer and correspondents
- 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:

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

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# - community -

## Country Bank announces Stonier Graduate

WARE – Country Bank is pleased to congratulate one of its Difference Makers, Dianna Lussier, vice president of risk, on her recent graduation from the American Bankers Association, Stonier Graduate School of Banking.

“During the past three years, I gained valuable insights into leadership, innovation, ethics, business strategy, and change management. I’ve learned new perspectives and skillsets and built meaningful connections with leaders in the banking industry across the country. I know these connections will be a great resource for me throughout my career. Thank you to Country Bank for providing me with this opportunity to advance my leadership and other developmental skills that will make a difference in my career, for my team, and the Bank,” said Lussier.

“We couldn’t be prouder of Dianna for her dedication to the completion of the American Bankers Association Stonier School of Banking. She has worked hard over the course of this three-year program designed to enhance her leadership skills as a banker, a risk professional and a thought leader for the bank. Dianna has always been enthusiastic about the learning opportunities offered by the Bank through her career at Country Bank and we are appreciative of her continued commitment to excellence,” said Miriam Siegel, FSVP, Chief Culture & Development Officer.



Dianna Lussier graduates from Stonier Graduate School of Banking. SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Scholarships still available to recent graduates

BARRE – The Quabbin Regional High School Guidance Department announces college financial aid resources and scholarships that are available.

Information regarding both outside scholarships and the local scholarship program is accessible to the community on the Guidance Page of the QRMHS website, www.qrsd.org.

This information is updated frequently, as new information/scholarship opportunities become available.

There are two local scholarships that recently extended their application deadline due date to July 15: Barre Unit 2 American Legion Auxiliary Scholarship and the Barre Woman’s Club Scholarship. The criteria and application for each of these scholarships are posted on the QRMHS website.

Recent high school graduates, Class of 2023, are encouraged to apply. There are also additional scholarship opportunities still available posted to the website.

The Guidance Department is very appreciative to local scholarship donors for providing avenues to success for students.

## Learn to cook with your CSA share July 22

BARRE – Learn to cook using your CSA share at Many Hands Sustainability Center, 411 Sheldon Road, on Saturday, July 22 from 10 a.m.-noon, followed by a farm lunch.

Taking the large step to buy a CSA share is sometimes followed by overwhelm, especially for those who may not center their eating around vegetables. Clare Caldwell and Julie Rawson, farmers at Many Hands Organic Farm will take the share from the week of July 17 and turn it into a delicious lunch for us all to eat.

Last year the CSA received these items during that week - chard, parsley, lettuce, chives, kale, summer squash, cucumbers, beets, sugar snap peas, radishes

This workshop is limited to 12 participants. The price for the workshop is \$25-\$75.

Register at <https://mhof.net/>

### Other events

A food preservation workshop will be held at Many Hands Sustainability Center on Saturday, Sept. 16 from 10 a.m.-noon, followed by a pot luck lunch.



Clare Caldwell and Julie Rawson, farmers at Many Hands Organic Farm, will teach participants how to cook with their CSA share at a workshop on July 22. SUBMITTED PHOTO

## MassDOT announces Safe Routes to School awards

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Department of Transportation through the Massachusetts Safe Routes to School Program, held its annual awards ceremony to recognize the program’s partner schools, community champions, stakeholders, and crossing guards who have made significant contributions within their communities by strengthening, promoting, and improving safety for students walking, biking, and rolling to school.

The Safe Routes to School awards are open to all school and alliance partners.

This year’s Awards Ceremony honored 217 schools across the Commonwealth including the Coalition for a Healthy North Brookfield and West Brookfield Elementary School.

For the third year, the program recognized the important role crossing guards have in supporting families’ safety as they access schools and neighborhoods across the Commonwealth. Approximately 175 Crossing Guard nominations were submitted for consideration from over 35 statewide communities.

For more information on Massachusetts Safe Routes to School visit:

[www.mass.gov/safe-routes-to-school](http://www.mass.gov/safe-routes-to-school)

### GARDEN | FROM PAGE 4

Basil, on the other hand, is best preserved in pesto. I make my own version less the pine nuts by filling a food processor with basil leaves (no stems or flowers), a few garlic cloves and olive oil.

Once it reaches the desired consistency, I spoon it into ice cube trays. Once frozen, I pop out the cubes into gallon size freezer bags.

These can be added to all kinds of recipes or turned into real pesto (plus the pine nuts!) as needed. In the event that you can’t harvest basil, keep that foliage coming by pinching the flower heads off, otherwise it too will think it has done its job and it will begin to decline.

Be on the lookout for Japanese beetles on your plants- cover them if you see the foliage getting eaten up or be diligent about hand picking the insects off into a bath of soapy water.

Enjoy the dog days of summer. The maintenance outweighs the reward.

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.*

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## Anna Maria College announces Dean's List

PAXTON – Anna Maria College announces the Dean’s List for the spring 2023 semester.

Local students making the Dean’s List are: Brodin Coughlin of North Brookfield, Trista Daley of New Braintree, Heather Monroe of Sturbridge and Robert Howard of West Brookfield

Anna Maria College awards Dean’s List recognition to students enrolled in a full-time undergraduate day program in good standing who have attained in the previous semester a GPA of 3.5 with no grade lower than “B” for a minimum of four courses.

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# - community -

## SCOUT | FROM PAGE 1

which is only reached by about 4-6% of all Scouts.

Kelley began his Scouting career as a Cub Scout in Brookfield Pack 159, later joining Troop 161 near the end of seventh grade.

A recent graduate of Tantasqua Regional High School, Kelley will attend Virginia Tech this fall, where he will join the Naval Reserve Officers' Training Corps of Cadets, which will educate and train him to enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Kelley is working to pursue a career in the military or government.

"Make our way powerful, and our footsteps firm," Mary Waytina read during the opening invocation of the ceremony. These are words that reflected Kelley's determination to earn his Eagle Scout rank in about half the time it takes most Scouts.

"When I first started on my Eagle project, I thought I knew what I was going to do," Kelley said, adding that help from his mentor Steve Perrault made him realize he had a lot to learn, and his path quickly changed.

With the help of Perrault, as well as mentors Angelina Ostrenga and Laura Zappone-Kandoyan, Kelley found the perfect project for him to complete in his hometown.

Kelley's Eagle Scout project for the East Brookfield Recreation Department at the Lake Lashaway Park Town Beach, was completed in January of this year.

The project included building a kiosk to house a new "Beach Rules" sign and a message board; a new "Beach Rules" sign for the Pump House building located at the beach; repairs and repainting nine picnic tables on the beach; and general clean-up of the beach area.

Kelley completed the project with the help of the team he assembled, including fellow Scouts, adult leaders and family. This project was made possible with help from Leo Fayard of the East Brookfield Town Recreation Department; Scott Norrie of Howe Lumber, where Kelley purchased supplies for this project; and Mark Carron, who was instrumental in the printing for the signs.

Ostrenga and Kelley spent many early mornings and late nights working on details of the project.

"She listened to everything I had to say," Kelley said.

Zappone-Kandoyan was "kind of intimidating" at first, Kelley said, but she was always there to answer his questions and keep him focused on his goal.

Kelley presented Perrault, Ostrenga and Zappone-Kandoyan with the Mentor pin, honoring them for their support of his Eagle project, and their integral role in his Scouting journey.

For over 60 years, Troop 161 has seen many Scouts earn the rank of Eagle Scout

"The number of Scouts achieving this, from Troop 161, is a testament to the men and women who volunteer and lead these young individuals," Kelley's mother Charlene Kelley said. "At a time when positive role models are needed, they can be found within this Troop."

Troop 161's Scoutmaster Kevin Scherer said Kelley was a quiet kid, but always eager to help.

"He was always a good friend," Scherer said.

Kelley's friendship with fellow Scout and U.S. Marine Tyler Montgomery led him and Scherer to take part in an intense 20-mile hike that they embarked on at 5 a.m. one morning.

David Foote, who also served in the U.S. Marine Corps, presented Kelley with a challenge coin on Montgomery's behalf.

"He took what I hope is a nontraditional route to earn Eagle," Scherer said jokingly, adding that he learned a lot about Kelley through this process.

"A lot happened in the last 12 months...he did a lot of it on his own," Scherer said.

Scherer presented Kelley with a special patch for his collection, which is part of a new tradition he has started as Scoutmaster. Kelley received a council strip from Scherer's childhood council.

Kelley also earned a palm for completing the fishing merit badge.

He was presented with an official citation from the House of Representatives, given to him by state Rep. Donnie Berthiaume.

Kelley's former Scoutmaster Mark Fancy shared some memories of Kelley's journey through Scouting, starting with a summer campout at Treasure Valley Scout Reservation.

Kelley and his friends decided to forgo tents, and camp in hammocks stacked four Scouts high on the outskirts of camp.

"Some interesting games were had at night," Fancy said, and many interesting visitors came through their improvised campsite...and not the two-legged kind.



Ryan Kelley, left, joins the ranks of other Eagle Scouts during the Eagle Charge. TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE



Charlene Kelley puts a pin on her son, Ryan Kelley, for earning his Eagle Scout rank.



Dave Kelley puts the slide on his son Ryan Kelley's Eagle Scout neckerchief while Life Scout Joe Roderick (master of ceremonies for the Court of Honor), looks on.



Ryan Kelley displayed his collection of patches.



Ryan Kelley puts the father's pin on his dad, Dave Kelley.

"Ryan's been a pleasure to have in the Troop," Fancy said.

Kelley reflected on his journey to Eagle Scout and said, "We can't be truly secure without the help of others." He thanked the friends he has made through Scouting and his leaders.

"Thank you for supporting me through everything," he said.

Kelley also thanked his family who were with him on this journey that began when he was just 6 or 7 years old.

"My mom the most," Kelley said emotionally.

## CEREMONY | FROM PAGE 1

transformed its theater into a patriotic ceremony as candidates from 50 different countries gathered to take the oath of allegiance and become proud citizens of the United States.

The ceremony began with The Old Sturbridge Village choir performing the National Anthem, and the drumline introducing the presentation of colors.

Board of Trustees, Bichop Nawrot, representing Old Sturbridge Village, said that this has been his third year of speaking at the ceremony.

"I was naturalized— I am proud to be a citizen of my country; it's the greatest on Earth," Nawrot said. He said that speaking in front of the new citizens and audience brings more satisfaction to him than becoming a citizen himself.

"I really began to appreciate the importance of it more by speaking for the last three years than when I was in that spot," he said.

Newly naturalized citizen Yana Andreeva, originally from Russia, was ecstatic to become a citizen of the United States.

"It's been a very long journey and I'm very excited. It's a big milestone in my life," she said.

Andreeva said that the process took a long time,



Old Sturbridge Village held the Naturalization Ceremony on July 4 inside the Stephen M. Brewer Theater due to rainy weather. TURLEY PHOTO BY ANJOLINA FANTARONI

but was rewarding in every aspect.

"I had to go through a lot of paperwork in the process and interview for official papers, but it is so worth it to become a citizen of such a great country with great opportunities," she said.

Andreeva brought her best friend to the ceremony with her, because her family is still living in Russia.



**CONCERT | FROM PAGE 1**

Cole and Jamie Hubacz and Mackenzie McHatton and Michelle La Riviere. Other committee members are Natalie Masterjohn and Michael Doldo.

As the band played, there was much going on everywhere for diversion for the young as they played with bubble machines or had their faces painted, were tattooed and put chalk on the street. Others rode around in front of the bandstand on bikes and scooters.

A great time for kids, and it did not deter from those wishing to listen to the music.

As one walked along the East Main Street side of the Common there would be found the Emergency Management team providing information to interested concert goers. They were holding a kayak raffle at \$5 a ticket.

Dick Lapierre, the Deputy Director explained that the raffle was to raise money for equipment, and for the team to help out the Fire Department when they needed a little sustenance during a long fire.

Further on, were a couple of food trucks, specifically Taco Dude, providing a south of the border flavor and Big T's Jerky House for barbecue fans.

On the North Main Street side was the largest grown lemon in the world.

Well, actually, no. It was a lemonade stand in the shape of a lemon that was doing a good business. Another stand served cotton candy.

The Lions' stand, often at local events, was serving burgers and popcorn and other such fast food.

Before the singing of the National

Anthem, the crowd had filled much of the common.

The second band, Wheelsmith began after being introduced by Mike and some sound work by Bill Ryan of FarmView Studios. They started with a rousing version of "The Boys are Back in Town" originally by the Irish band, Thin Lizzy.

Wheelsmith consists of John Wheeler on keyboard and vocals. Paul Lebeau on guitar and vocals. There are the Smith Brothers: Marshall on guitar and vocals and Ian on bass and vocals. Jon Richt is on drums.

At 8 p.m., Kadence Martin came up to the microphone and sang the Star-Spangled Banner. It was a lovely performance of our national anthem.

Over at the bonfire itself, smoke that would turn into flame rose while Martin sang.

After that, Wheelsmith continued on until near 10 p.m.

It was a fine evening and a "well done" should go to Mahoney and her team.

Also, there were businesses in town who provided support for the concert. Tequila Bonfire was sponsored by Quirk Wire and Wheelsmith by Country Bank.

Support for the year's program was also provided by Sherman Oil, North Brookfield Savings Bank and Bonin's Wood Products and Landscape Supply.

The Police, Fire and Highway Departments maintain the bandstand and keep the events safe. Many others contributed as well.

The concerts will continue on into



The bonfire begins for the 50th year of the concert season. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RICHARD MURPHY

August on Wednesday nights. Upcoming concerts include The Green Sisters on July 19, Changes in Latitude on July

26, Gumbo on Aug. 2 and The Brumblingtons on Aug. 9.



The Emergency Management Team's kayak raffle was a good cause.



Erin Mahoney is shown making bubbles. Just because you're in charge doesn't mean you can't have fun.



Members of the Bandstand Committee, Cole Hubacz, Jamie Hubacz, and MacKenzie McHatton.



Wheelsmith rocks the bandstand.



Country music was performed by Tequila Bonfire.



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# SPORTS

## Sturbridge Legion falls to Northbridge

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

WHITINSVILLE—Sturbridge Post 109 and Northbridge Post 343 were both looking to celebrate their first victories of the season entering last Thursday's Zone 4 Legion baseball game.

After Sturbridge took a 2-0 lead in the top of the first in-

ning, Northbridge responded with five unanswered runs leading to a 5-2 home victory.

"We were up 2-0 with the bases loaded with no outs in the first inning," said Sturbridge manager Jim Rossel. "We had their pitcher on the ropes and all we needed was one hit to break the game wide open, but we didn't get it. We only had a couple of hits during the rest of

the game. It's another frustrating loss for us."

Sturbridge, who haven't won a game in two years, had a 0-10 record following the road loss.

"We're a young team this year," Rossel said. "We have a bunch of 15 and 16 year olds playing against 18 year olds. Our defense also made some costly errors in tonight's game." Sturbridge began their

first inning with back-to-back walks by second baseman Jar-el Martinez and catcher Brandon Phillips. The visiting team then loaded the bases when third baseman Ethan Laplante was safe at first base following a fielding error by the Northbridge first baseman.

Shortstop Devin Krochmalnyckyj drove home the game's first run with a ground

ball single up the middle into centerfield. Phillips scored Sturbridge's second run of the opening frame on an infield hit by left fielder Ryan Kelly. The inning continued with centerfielder CJ Harrell grounding into a fielder's choice play before Northbridge righthander Chase Falcon struck out the next batters.

See LEGION | PAGE 10

## Pioneers score shutout to keep playoff chances going



Gianluca Cersosimo sends a kick away. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Mamadi Jiana was one of the seven reserve players listed on the Western Mass. Pioneers starting line-up sheet for last Friday night's USL League Two match-up with Vermont Green FC.

Jiana, who was a member of the boys' varsity soccer team at Chicopee High School a couple of years ago, entered the match during the 78th minute. Two minutes later, he scored what turned out to be the game winning goal. The Pioneers kept their postseason dreams alive with an exciting 1-0 victory before the largest crowd of the regular season at Lusitano Stadium.

"The tempo was very high when I came into the game late in the second half, and I was ready for the moment," Jiana said. "When I saw the scoring opportunity, I knew that I had to capitalize on it. We played very well tonight, and it just feels amazing. I'm very proud of the guys."

It was Jiana's third goal of the regular season and all of them were game winners.

See PIONEERS | PAGE 10



Tomas Duben stops the ball as he runs into the opposing defense.

## Bankers rolling to first place finish



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

HOLYOKE – PeoplesBank are the elite of the Tri-County Baseball League, and are now 13-1 heading into the final stretch of the season. Last week, the Bankers scored at 14-4 win over St. Joe's, and a 12-1 win over DiFranco Realty. Those wins took place on con-

secutive nights and the Bankers now have a five-point lead for first place. The Chicopee Falls Tigers hold second place at 10-5-1. St. Joe's has moved into third place at 7-8. The regular season is heading for a close during the next two weeks.



Cam McDonald winds up for a long throw for an out.



James Flahive continues to rack up wins for PeoplesBank.



# - sports -

## Wall Stadium Speedway to host big race

MILFORD – Six-time NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour champion Doug Coby will look to add yet another track to his winners list this Saturday night. Wall Stadium Speedway, located in New Jersey, is a high-banked, high-speed track that has tight corners and often produces exciting side-by-side racing.

When the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour rolls into town for the Jersey Shore 150, Coby will drive the Tommy Baldwin Racing, Mayhew Tools No. 7NY. With one win this season (Monadnock Speedway), Coby enters the race third, 30 points back in the championship standings on the Whelen Modified Tour circuit entering the eighth race of the season.

In his 35 career wins, Coby has been to Victory Lane at 12 different tracks. At Wall Stadium, Coby has three career Tour starts, with only one coming in the last 18 years. Coby started sixth, led 72

laps and finished 10th in 2019. He did not compete in the Whelen Modified Tour event at Wall last year, but Jimmy Blewett won in the Tommy Baldwin Racing entry Coby will be driving for this event.

“I watched the race last year and it didn’t seem like it was similar to the one in 2019,” Coby said. “It seemed like the groove had moved around. Wall is one of those places that can throw a lot at you – and a lot can happen quickly. Our car will be good. I’ve never won there and it’s on my bucket list of tracks where I want to win. I got my first pole there, used to race at Little Wall as a kid, and I’ve always liked the facility.”

Saturday’s practice session will roll from 3:30-4:30 p.m., followed by Mayhew Tools qualifying and the Jersey Shore 150 at 8 p.m. The main event will be live on FloRacing.TV for those who would like to watch from home.

## HoopHall introduces new board members

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced four new board members. Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Executive Director of the National Basketball Players Association Foundation, was named to the Board of Governors. Executive Chairman of Delano Media Group, Todd Delano; Former NBA Head Coach and Player, Vinny Del Negro; and Thomas Tull, Chairman of the USIT Fund, and Chairman of Tulco Holdings, were named to the Board of Trustees.

“We are very pleased to be adding Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Todd Delano, Vinny Del Negro, and Thomas Tull as board members,” said Jerry Colangelo, Board Chair of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. “Each new member brings unique perspectives which will be invaluable in supporting the Hall of

Fame’s mission to promote and preserve the game.”

“I look forward to working closely with our new Board members,” said John Doleva, President and CEO of the Hall of Fame. “We have a significant amount of investment coming to the Hall over the next few years, and the Board’s input and guidance is critical to the success of our organizational goals.”

Board members serve as ambassadors of the Hall while also being responsible for preserving the fundamental mission and financial well-being of the Basketball Hall of Fame. The Board is made up of individuals that work in or have worked in the game, as well as business leaders that have supported the game in Springfield, Mass., or on a national or global level.

### PIONEERS | FROM PAGE 9

“We can’t win games with just eleven players,” said Pioneers longtime head coach Federico Molinari. “We need contributions from all 18 players to be successful. Mamadi is a local player and we’re very happy to have him on our team this year.”

Jiana scored his first goal wearing a Pioneers uniform in a 2-1 road win against AC Connecticut on June 10. A little more than two weeks later, Jiana, who currently lives in Westfield, was a starter in another road match against Pathfinder FC. He netted the only goal of that contest.

During the past two years, Jiana scored 17 goals and had 13 assists for a total of 47 points as a member of the men’s soccer team at Norwich University, which competes at the Division 3 level. He recently entered the NCAA transfer portal and is hoping to play soccer for a Division 1 school in the fall. Jiana has two more years of college eligibility remaining.

The Norwich University men’s soccer coach was Adam Pfeifer, who retired at the end of last season. Pfeifer is currently the Athletic Director at Kimball Union Academy and is also the Vermont Green head coach.

The first and second place finishers in the Northeast Division will qualify for the playoffs.

The Pioneers (8-1-3) and Vermont (9-3-0) are battling for one of those two spots, along with the Seacoast United Phantoms. If the Pioneers can win their final two regular season matches at Albany, which was scheduled to be played on Tuesday night, and at home against AC Connecticut on Saturday night, they should lock up a playoff berth. The last time that the Pioneers didn’t qualify for the playoffs was in 2018.

“This is a very good win for us tonight,” Molinari said. “We made a couple of changes at halftime, and we played a lot better in the second half.”

Alec Hughes, who entered the match at the start of the second half, had a couple of opportunities to give the home team a 1-0 advantage.

Hughes breakaway shot in the 58th minute was flicked over the endline by Vermont goalie Nathan Schmur resulting in a corner kick.

Less than ten minutes later, Hughes had another wide open shot, but his chip shot clanked off the cross bar.

The Pioneers didn’t miss their third scoring chance.

The scoring play began when Connor Bagdon, who had also entered the match at halftime, intercepted a pass before delivering a pass to Lucio Berron. After dribbling the ball over the midfield line, Berron made a short pass to Ignacio Albo, who then found Jiana open on the left side. Jiana dribbled the ball into the box before firing a rocket shot into the right corner past Schmur, who made a diving attempt to make the save.

“I was wide open, and Ignacio passed the ball to me,” Jiana said. “Then I shot the ball with my right foot into the corner. As soon as I shot the ball, I knew that it was going to go into the net.”

When the Pioneers made the trek north to the University of Vermont on June 17, Albo scored the only goal of the match.

A year ago, the Pioneers pulled out a thrilling 3-2 come-from-behind home victory over the Vermont Green.

In the first ever meeting between the USL-League two rivals.

During the first half of last Friday’s home match,



Jaiden Williams plays the ball. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEET-DOGPHOTOS.COM

Western Mass. goalie Gianluca Cerosimo (4 saves) made a couple of outstanding saves, which allowed Jiana to score his third game winner of the season with ten minutes remaining in regulation.



Stevan Milosevic dribbles up the field.



Connor Hicks, of Monson, runs down the ball.

### LEGION | FROM PAGE 9

Falcon, who graduated from Sutton High School in June, only allowed three base runners during the final 51/3 innings he was standing on the mound. Falcon finished his outing with two runs on four base hits. He walked three and struck out twelve.

With two outs in the top of the second inning, Phillips grounded a single into left field. Three innings later, Phillips hit a flyball single to left field with one out before stealing second base.

Falcon, who had retired eight in a row, set down the next two batters on a strikeout and groundout.

Sturbridge’s only other base runner was first baseman Chase Bond, who walked with one out in the seventh inning.

Falcon struck out the next batter before reaching the pitch limit. Zack Feeney, who started at second base, only threw one pitch to end the game on a groundout.

Sturbridge righthander Addrian De Choudens went the distance, but he didn’t receive very much support from the defense. He allowed five runs (three earned) on seven hits and struck out three.

After Northbridge (1-9) cut the deficit in half in the second inning, they took the lead by scoring two unearned runs in the following frame.

The home team added single runs in the fifth and sixth innings.



# - sports -

## Blue Sox score doubleheader sweep

HOLYOKE – Last Saturday, the Valley Blue Sox swept a doubleheader versus another North Division opponent. The team defeated the Upper Valley Nighthawks 4-1 to climb back to .500 on the season at 14-14. Valley now leads the West Division by one game over the Bristol Blues.

As in the first game, the Nighthawks got on the board first, following a sacrifice fly in the top of the second.

Blue Sox pitching was rock solid in the ballgame, only allowing one run off five hits. Dillon Ryan started the game for the team, pitching three innings allowing one run while striking out two batters.

Michael Weidinger would relieve Ryan in the top of the fourth inning, pitching two shutout innings and striking out five batters.

All of the runs for the Blue Sox came in the bottom of the fifth following a huge rally, even with the team only recording two hits in the inning. Efrain Correa Jr. was hit by a pitch, Will Gale singled, and newcomer Jack Power walked to make it bases loaded with no outs.

Jeff Pierantoni and Eliot Dix both hit RBI fielder's choices to take the lead for Valley. The team added two more insurance runs off an RBI single from AJ Guerrero, and a throwing error from Upper Valley to allow the final run of the ballgame.

Jason Arrigo would relieve Weidinger to close the game for Valley. Arrigo's curveball was ranked third in the league in RPM. The right-hander pitched two scoreless innings to earn himself the save, and added to his strikeout totals with three more on the night.

AJ Guerrero went 2-for-3 in the game, with an RBI. Will Gale also had two hits, going 2-for-2 with a walk and a stolen base.

In Game 1, another close game throughout the seven inning contest saw the Blue Sox rallying back from

a three run deficit to claim the victory.

The Nighthawks scored one run in the top of the first inning following an RBI double, then added two more in the top of the second inning off an RBI single.

Sean Scanlon was on the bump to start the game for Valley, pitching four innings while allowing three runs and striking out two batters. In the bottom of the second inning, the Blue Sox took a run back off of an RBI double from Zach Ketterman. Matt Bergevin scored on the play to make it a 3-1 game.

Valley added two more runs to tie the game in the bottom of the third following RBI singles from AJ Guerrero and Matt Bergevin.

The Blue Sox then wasted no time taking the lead, scoring a run in the bottom of the fourth inning following the first home run hit by a Blue Sox player at home this season. Zach Ketterman hit a towering solo shot over the right field wall to make it a 4-3 ballgame. The third baseman went 2-for-3 with two RBIs in the contest.

Terry Murray relieved Scanlon in the top of the fifth inning, pitching two innings allowing one unearned run while striking out two.

The Nighthawks rallied back to tie the game 4-4 in the top of the sixth after two straight errors from the Blue Sox.

Zach Cameron pitched a scoreless frame in the top of the seventh to set the Blue Sox up to walk it off in the bottom half of the inning.

Jeff Pierantoni walked in the bottom of the seventh, then AJ Guerrero hit a double to put runners on second and third with only one out. EJ Kreutzmann hit a ground ball down the third base line allowing Jeff Pierantoni to score. The Blue Sox secured their second walk-off victory of the season 5-4.

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Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching "turleysports." We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.



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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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Description \_\_\_\_\_

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



# - community -

## QCB presents popular music through the decades

BARRE – This Sunday, July 16, marks the beginning of Quabbin Community Band concerts to be held on the Barre Common on the newly restored Harding Allen bandstand from 6-8 p.m.

As always, bring your lawn chair or blanket and get ready for a toe-tapping good time as this week the band will feature pop and rock music favorites arranged just for the concert band.

As they continue to take time to look back to the 1970s when the Quabbin Community Band came into being, it's fitting that a number of musical selections from this concert come from that era: "Peter Frampton Medley", "California Dreamin'", "Sounds of the Carpenters" and "The Best of Stevie Wonder" all were published during the 1970s. They'll reach as far back as Frank Sinatra, and come forward to include a medley of hits from supergroup ABBA.

It's also fun to look back at some of the area businesses who supported the band back in 1973 when the group was trying to accomplish many things including an exchange trip to the Netherlands, and the purchase of the dormant Barre Boys Club building located near Nornay Park in South Barre in hopes of turning it into a community music center.

A few supporters from the original 1973 program booklet no longer in business included Nick's Place (South Barre), Gilbertville Mills, Inc (Gilbertville), Beard Chevrolet Pontiac (Barre), Snyder & Britton Funeral Home (Barre), Bob's Variety (Barre Common), The Barre Wool Combing Co. (South Barre), Mall's Frostee (Barre Common), and Caruso's Restau-



Shown from left are Steve Ferrandino of Rutland, Julia Sullivan of Barre, Tina Maki of Sterling and Susan Nourse of Holden. This photo was taken in rehearsal, circa 1976. SUBMITTED PHOTO

rant & Lounge (South Barre).

It's always been the people and businesses of Barre and surrounding towns that have put the "community" in the band. Many thanks to all those who were able to support the band in the past and thanks again to those who continue to do so.

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

## New Braintree Police Log

During the week of June 19-26, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 17 building/property checks, 44 directed/area patrols, six traffic control, seven radar assignments, four emergency 911 calls, one citizen assist, one assist other agency, one safety hazard, three animal calls and four motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

### Monday, June 19

2 p.m. 911 Animal Call, Oakham Road, Spoken To

### Tuesday, June 20

10 a.m. 911 Harassment, Padre Road, Taken/ Referred to Other Agency

10:21 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Gilbertville Road, Dispatch Handled

8:23 p.m. Safety Hazard, Oakham Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

### Wednesday, June 21

1:47 p.m. Assist Citizen, Gilbertville Road, Officer Handled

4:47 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Scott Road, Transported to Hospital

### Sunday, June 25

3:56 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Barr Road, Spoken To

### PARADE | FROM PAGE 1

were joined by Danny Santos and Adhemar Martinez and the group of friends made grilled cheese sandwiches with a smile.

Meg Jaquith and her family had a booth set up for her escape room in Sturbridge, "Escape the Pike".

They had candy, light-up toys, and glow sticks for the fireworks later in the evening. The puzzle boxes they brought were equally as entertaining.

Hillios Novelties had a booth filled with light up toys, batons, hats, headbands, and jewelry for the fireworks. Tim and Sarah Hillios and their daughters, Madison and Lexi, manned the booth.

Josephine Hillios is the owner of the 30-year-old business and her favorite fireworks display is the one here in East Brookfield.

Girl Scout Troops 64704 and 65196 had a booth of Girl Scout cookies for sale. Corinna Burdette and Riley McArthur, who are Daisies, ran the booths with leaders Laura Burdette and Sereena Novia.

The parade was filled with many emergency response vehicles from towns surrounding East Brookfield all the way out to Holland. There were fire trucks, ambulances, ladder trucks, and many police cruisers.

All trucks in the parade had lights flashing and horns and sirens blaring - it truly was a spectacle. The Latter family, Nate and Kay and their daughter Addie, enjoyed the parade and the candy one of the floats threw to the gathered children.



Tim and Sarah Hillios of Hillios Novelties. TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS



Nate and Kay Latter enjoyed the parade with their daughter Addie.

East Brookfield will continue to host these celebrations annually, and every year there is new fun to be

had and more to explore. The East Brookfield fireworks display is truly one of a kind.



Girl Scouts are shown from left, Teaghan Jaquith, Sereena Novia, Riley McArthur (white), Laura Burdette, and Corinna Burdette (pink).



West Brookfield Fire Department, from left, Holly Collette, Ken Collette, Danny Santos and Adhemar Martinez.



- community -

# Athletes compete in first ever local IRONMAN triathlon

By Paula Ouimette  
 Editor  
 pouimette@turley.com

SPRINGFIELD – In its first western Massachusetts event, the IRONMAN 70.3 saw 1,141 athletes from around the world compete in the sports of swimming, biking and running.

The middle distance triathlon started with 1.2 miles of swimming in the Connecticut River, followed by 56 miles of biking, and ended with 13.1 miles of running.

This event held on June 11 was a first for the city, and it was also a first for Stamford, Connecticut resident Andrew Les. In fact, it's the first race he's ever competed in.

"I've actually done zero; never even done a 5K road race before," Les said.

Coming in 318th overall, Les completed the swimming in 36:23, biking in 2:50:45 and the running in 1:57:41.

When asked if he would compete in the IRONMAN 70.3 again, Les said he'd consider it if it came back to Springfield.

"If you asked me right after the race, I was a very positive 'no,'" Les said with a laugh.

Les, who grew up in Palmer and has family living in Holland, said an event like the IRONMAN 70.3 is good for the city, but it takes many months of preparation to train for.

"It's a big time commitment...the training is intense," he said.

Preparation for the triathlon began in mid-December for Les, who was asked to be a training partner for a friend.

"I just so happened to be the lucky one that was drafted," Les said.

Using a training program they found online, Les and his friend spent almost half a year preparing for the race. Unfortunately, Les was injured less than four months into training and was sidelined for a month and half.

Training consisted of swimming in the pool at 5:30 a.m. twice a week before work, as well as twice a week on the bike and twice a week running.

Les said for many competing in triathlons, the biggest challenge is the swimming. He has done survival swimming before, but didn't swim in high school and college and was "starting from scratch" for this event.

"That was the biggest mental battle for me, I was nervous about it. But in the actual event, the swim was the easiest," Les said. "The bike and the run are the two more challenging of the events."

Les said he really hopes the race returns to Springfield and he was grateful for the crowd of people along the route that cheered him and other athletes on.

He was also impressed with the diversity of the athletes, who ranged in age from 18-79.

"It's just amazing how many people do it from all ages...It's pretty incredible," Les said. "I know what it took just to get there...it is not an easy race."

Although this wasn't Daniel Moriarty's first IRONMAN, the Springfield race saw Monson Savings Bank's President and Chief Executive Officer coming in 86th in his age division and 884th overall.

His times were 36:34 for swimming, 3:19:54 for biking and 2:50:44 for running.

He joked that his aim was to take first place in the bank CEO and presidents class.

Moriarty said he's done a couple of local triathlons prior to this, and has even competed in a full IRONMAN 140.6 in Mont-Tremblant, Quebec, Canada in 2015.

Moriarty knows the importance of fitness and health, and helped Monson Savings Bank distribute \$20,000 worth of new bicycles and helmets to area youth through the 150 Build-a-Bike campaign in celebration of the Bank's 150th anniversary last year.

When asked what his favorite event of the triathlon was, Moriarty agreed with Les and said it was "100% the swim."

"After learning how to swim, I just think it's one of the best exercises anybody can do," he said.

Moriarty was also injured during his training, as a result of playing pickleball for the first time and straining his calf. Because of this, he was only able to get out and run a few times before the race.

Moriarty competed in the IRONMAN 70.3 as part of his regular work day, decked out in Monson Savings Bank gear to promote the local bank.

He said he trains all year long and stays active to



During the running portion of the IRONMAN, the participants biked over the Memorial Bridge.



Dan Moriarty runs the along the trail that was setup in Riverfront Park.

help cope with the stresses of his day.

Not all athletes competed as individuals, with several opting to complete the IRONMAN 70.3 as part of a relay team.

Chris Snow, a longtime resident and business owner in Belchertown (who recently moved to Holyoke) said his relay team finished sixth out of a field of 39 teams.

Snow said this was his fifth half-IRONMAN triathlon, but he also competed in a full distance triathlon last July in Lake Placid, New York.

In the last three years, Snow has lost over 85 pounds while training for IRONMAN, and described the experience as "life changing."

"When I signed up for my first IRONMAN, I'd never swum laps in a pool, I didn't own a bike, and I could barely run a mile," he said.

Snow completed the biking portion of the race; joined by Devon Santos of South Hadley and Austin Terault from Greer, South Carolina.

Terault is Snow's nephew, and he was the team's runner.

"This was his first experience competing in a triathlon of any capacity, but not likely his last," Snow said.

Santos took on the swimming portion of the race and she is also a seasoned marathoner, having completed the Boston Marathon in the last two years. Like Snow, Santos has also completed a full-distance IRONMAN.

While no date has been set for the 2024 IRONMAN 70.3 Western Massachusetts triathlon, registration is set open Sept. 6. For more information, visit www.ironman.com/im703-western-massachusetts-register.



Runners run along the Springfield River Walk.



Andrew Les makes a lap through the running course of the triathlon.



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The Wild Epicurean

# Elderberries (Sambucus species)

By Christal Whelan  
cwhelan@turley.com

If your elderberry bushes are in their first year, you needn't worry that deer are browsing on them just as they are beginning to produce the buds of their fragrant white flowers.

In the first year these flower clusters, called "cymes" or "blows," should be cut off anyway in order to strengthen the root system as much as possible. During the second year you can cut some and leave some on the bush, but by the third year the bushes will probably be well established and ready to produce ample berries for harvest.

One way to provide the elderberry bush with optimum nourishment is to place ramial mulch around the base of the bushes to about 4-inches deep. Ramial mulch, made from the branches and young stems of deciduous trees, has a higher ratio of cambium to cellulose than chips made from heartwood.

It is especially good for fruit trees because it has the ideal carbon to nitrogen ratio for promoting soil fungi and building up organic matter.

Elderflowers bloom in May and June for a couple of weeks before producing the green to red and then purplish black berries. Once your bushes are established, deer may like to browse on the cymes and you will have little left with which to make elderberry flower fritters or elderberry cordial, both made from the flowers, or anything that will later require the berries.

How can the gardener or homesteader deter deer from destroying their elderberries? The secret lies in the deer's nose.

The deer's olfactory sense is very acute, having evolved to help them find food at great distances, and also to detect predators. But because of their heavy reliance on this one sense, they



Samyl Elderberry (Sambucus nigra cultivar), prized for its sweet berries, showing the ramial mulch at the base.

avoid strong odors that might easily overwhelm their normal sense of smell and interfere with their detection of a nearby predator.

Some of the plants with powerful fragrances which they tend to avoid browsing on for this reason are: lavender, garlic and mint. While you can grow these plants at the base of your elderberry bushes, it will take a few seasons to get established.

In the meantime, to make a deer repellent to spray directly on the elderberry bushes, mix 15 drops each of mint, lavender, and clove essential oil with a cup of vinegar, a tablespoon of light cooking oil, and a teaspoon of dish detergent in a spray bottle.

Spray the bush on strategic areas to discourage deer from coming too close.

To make elderberry flower fritters, cut the cymes from the bush, but don't wash them; they contain beneficial pollen and yeast.

Holding them by the stem with the blossoms facing downward, dip them in the batter made by mixing ½ cup of flour, ½ cup of milk, 1 egg, and ½ teaspoon sugar, ¼ teaspoon salt.

Then fry them until light brown in hot oil with a neutral scent (canola or safflower).

While there are many ways to make and serve elderberry flower fritters, they are especially popular in Austria and Germany where they are sometimes eaten with vanilla ice cream.



Close-up of the elderberry leaves – compound, opposite leaves with lance-shaped leaflets.

# SJC denies Comtois' request for further review of conflict-of-interest decision

BROOKFIELD -- The Supreme Judicial Court has denied former Brookfield Selectman Stephen Comtois's application for further appellate review of the Appeals Court decision upholding the State Ethics Commission's Aug. 18, 2020 decision that he violated the conflict-of-interest law.

Following an adjudicatory hearing, the Commission found that Comtois had violated the conflict-of-interest law by acting as a Brookfield selectman to derail a proposed donation of land to the town so that he could purchase the land for himself and ordered Comtois to pay a \$20,000 civil penalty. Comtois appealed to the Superior Court, which upheld the Commission's decision and order, and then appealed to the Appeals Court, which affirmed the Superior Court decision. With the Supreme Judicial Court's denial of Comtois's application for further appellate review, the Appeals Court decision upholding the Commission's decision and order stands as decisional law. Comtois must now pay the \$20,000 civil penalty.

Comtois's conflict-of-interest law violations date to 2016, when a former Brookfield resident offered to donate a parcel of undeveloped land to the town because she believed it was unbuildable and over-assessed. The town taxed the land as buildable and assessed its value as \$43,900.

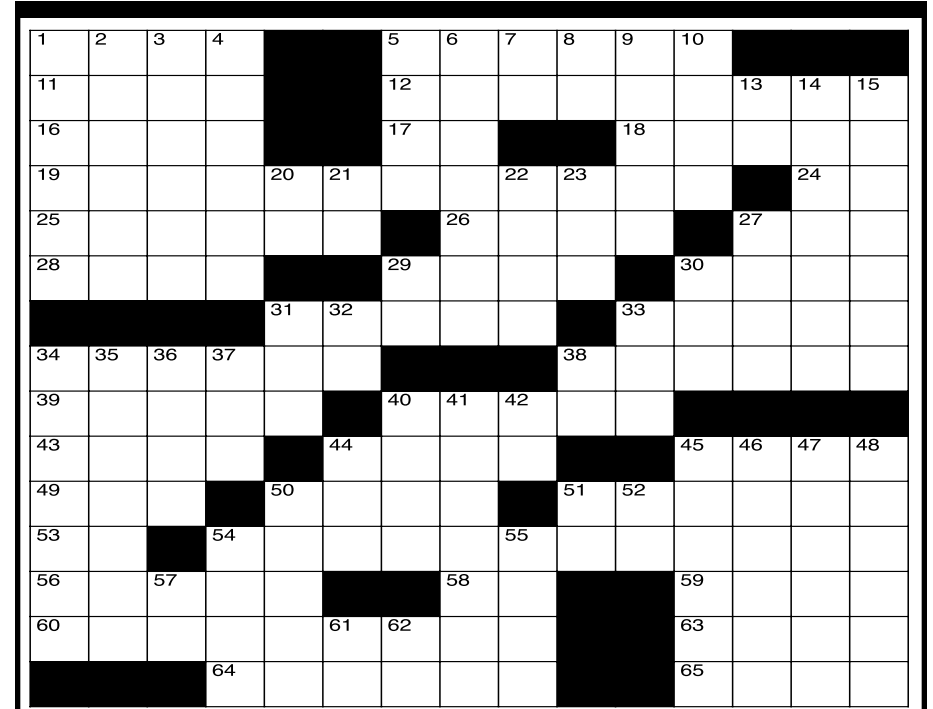
Although interested in purchasing the land himself, Comtois voted as a selectman to submit the proposed land donation to an upcoming Town Meeting, then volunteered to serve as the Board

of Selectmen's liaison to the landowner. As a selectman, Comtois contacted the landowner's real estate broker, misled her into believing the Board of Selectmen opposed the proposed land donation, then offered to buy the land himself.

Comtois never informed the town of his intent to purchase the land and dodged questions from the town's assistant assessor regarding the status of the land donation. Comtois then purchased the property for \$200 and agreed to pay legal expenses associated with the purchase.

Through his actions as a selectman concerning the land donation, Comtois violated the conflict-of-interest law's prohibition against municipal employees participating as such in matters in which they know they have a financial interest. In addition, by using his position as selectman to derail the donation of the land to the town so he could purchase it for himself, Comtois violated the law's prohibition against public employees using their official positions to obtain valuable, unwarranted privileges that are not available to similarly situated persons.

The State Ethics Commission is charged with civilly enforcing the conflict-of-interest law, G.L. c. 268A. The Commission encourages public employees to contact the Commission's Legal Division at 617-371-9500 for free advice if they have any questions regarding how the conflict-of-interest law may apply to them.



**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Database management system
- 5. Medical procedures
- 11. \_\_\_ Clapton, musician
- 12. Defender
- 16. Exert oneself
- 17. Indicates position
- 18. Prevents river overflow
- 19. Atrocities
- 24. Mister
- 25. Ends
- 26. Slope or tilt
- 27. Taxi
- 28. The very ends
- 29. Actor Sean
- 30. Japanese persimmon
- 31. Sours
- 33. Beneficiary
- 34. Baseball official
- 38. Muddy, boggy ground
- 39. Not worldly
- 40. Actress Lathan
- 43. Soil
- 44. \_\_\_-Cola
- 45. Asleep
- 49. \_\_\_ Angeles
- 50. Give birth to a child
- 51. Beach shelter
- 53. Commercial
- 54. Taste property
- 56. Local jurisdictions
- 58. It cools your home
- 59. Dismounted from a horse
- 60. Charge with a crime
- 63. Close in
- 64. Spoke
- 65. Famed garden
- 5. Abba \_\_\_, Israeli politician
- 6. Saw
- 7. "Westworld" actor
- 8. Belonging to me
- 9. Shoelace tube
- 10. Takes to court
- 13. Early multimedia
- 14. In a way, produces
- 15. Bowlers
- 20. Of I
- 21. Equally
- 22. Gets some sun
- 23. A place to stay
- 27. Town in Galilee
- 29. Aronofsky film
- 30. Klingon character, "Star Trek"
- 31. Equal to 100 square meters
- 32. Atomic #58
- 33. Arrived extinct
- 34. Loosen grip
- 35. A distinctive odor that is unpleasant
- 36. Membranes
- 37. Some is poisonous
- 38. Partner to Pa
- 40. Small brown gray rail
- 41. A salt or ester of acetic acid
- 42. Sodium
- 44. Military official (abbr.)
- 45. Lighted
- 46. Took off
- 47. All
- 48. Ohio city
- 50. More abject
- 51. A radio band
- 52. Controversial tech product (abbr.)
- 54. Monetary unit
- 55. Passed with flying colors
- 57. A way to win a boxing match
- 61. The Golden State
- 62. Home of the Longhorns

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Draw a scene
- 2. Its sultan is famous
- 3. Unlucky accident
- 4. A way to ski

## legal notices

**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

**TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD LEGAL NOTICE**

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 138, Section 15, a public hearing will be held on **Tuesday, July 25, 2023, at 6:00 PM** in the Lower-Level Meeting Room, 2 East Main Street, West Brookfield, MA on the application for a Transfer of License to Shri Sai Ram, LLC d/b/a Main Street Liquors, with a Manager of Record as Abhishek Gupta located at 11 East Main Street, West Brookfield, MA 01585.

The public is invited to attend with any comments or concerns.  
07/14/2023

**Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.**



# QUABOAG CURRENT



<b>NORTH BROOKFIELD</b> Library hosts yoga for kids p2	<b>WEST BROOKFIELD</b> Honey Bee Orchards has new owners p2	<b>STURBRIDGE</b> Paddle Poker Run is July 29 p5	Editorial/Opinion Sports Police Logs Classifieds	<b>4</b> <b>9</b> <b>12</b> <b>14</b>
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Volume 16, Number 33

Friday, July 14, 2023

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Dec. 30 ... <b>Moulin Rouge!</b> .....	\$125

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