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SIRENS & Sizzle



TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO

One of the ambulances is shown at the West Brookfield Rescue Squad which hosted a Sirens & Sizzle open house at their new station.

Rescue squad hosted open house at new location

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WEST BROOKFIELD – The West Brookfield Rescue Squad hosted a fun open house and BBQ dinner known as “Sirens & Sizzle”

this past weekend.

The West Brookfield Rescue Squad was founded in 1952 as a volunteer, non-profit ambulance service by eight residents of West Brookfield. Over the years, this 501(c)(3) non-profit organization has evolved and is now a full-time Advanced Life Support service with full-time

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Shown from left to right, Erica, Kylee, Ware Firefighter Matt and retired firefighter Dolan enjoying a nice BBQ meal at the Sirens & Sizzle open house.

Select Board appoints new staff to Fire Dept.

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

STURBRIDGE – Fire Chief John A. Grasso Jr. introduced several personnel to the Select Board for various appointments to the Fire Department.

Cameron Courtney, who currently serves part-time on the department, was appointed to the position of full-time firefighter/paramedic. Grasso said Courtney recently graduated from the Massachusetts Fire Academy and is enrolled to start paramedic school this fall.

Ovidiu Ticlea was appointed to serve as a part-time firefighter/paramedic and Cayla Hurley, Jason Monroe and Wesley Peterson were all appointed to serve as on-call firefighters.

At the July 7 meeting, Grasso said Ticlea has been in the fire service since 2007 and holds a number of certifications including several as an instructor.

Hurley has been in the fire service since 2001 and has recently completed EMT training. Monroe will be attending the Massachusetts Fire Academy to re-

ceive his Firefighter I and II training.

Peterson is a 2025 Tanta-squa Regional High School graduate and took part in the Fire Service program there. He served as an intern with the Fire Department and is prepared to take EMT training and attend the Massachusetts Fire Academy.

The Select Board unanimously approved all of the appointments.

Down payment assistance program

Town Administrator Robin Grimm said a few weeks back the Select Board approved the first in a series of Affordable Housing Trust policies the town is putting forward. She said this second program provides down payment assistance to homebuyers within certain income limits to comply with HUD guidelines for affordability.

“This was designed with the assistance of the Housing Trust,” Grimm said, along with the help of a consultant.

Grimm said the Affordable Housing Trust voted unanimously to support this

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Great American Muscle Car Show held July 5

First ever car show pays tribute to U.S. horsepower

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

PALMER – Car enthusiasts celebrated our nation’s independence and American-made horsepower at the first ever Great American Muscle Car Show held at Palmer Motorsports Park on July 5.

Hundreds of American muscle cars were on display at the track, ranging from

hot rods and gassers, to popular “pony cars” such as Mustangs and Challengers.

This event was sponsored by Sarat Ford Lincoln and Palmer Motorsports Park, along with EMPERFORMANCE. The Valley’s Classic Hits 97.7 gave a live broadcast from the car show and played tunes for all to enjoy.

All who attended had a variety of food to choose from provided by Buster’s food truck and Monson’s own Cookies by Ray.

Exhibitors lined their cars up and popped the hoods, ready to answer questions

about their car’s history with anyone who was interested.

Ed Caplette of Hampden brought his 1968 Jeepster Commando half-cab pickup complete with a custom paint job by artist Michael Raina. Caplette said he has had the Commando for about five years now and he recalled how he dragged it out of a field to bring it home.

“I started with a frame sitting on jack stands,” he said. “I built the whole car.”

Caplette has restored over 50 cars during his career, and he said it usually takes about a year and a half



TURLEY PHOTO BY PAULA OUIMETTE

Ed Jodoin of Palmer stands with his 1932 Ford So-Cal Highboy at the Great American Muscle Car Show at Palmer Motorsports Park on July 5.

to complete each one.

Caplette said there were about 3,000 models made of

the half-cab pickup, which was used as farm truck.

An avid car enthusiast,

Caplette said he had a

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North Brookfield woman named ‘Commonwealth Heroine’

BOSTON – The North Brookfield Community Food Collaborative, led by North Brookfield resident Karen Farrington, was honored at the State House on June 26 as one of the 125 women recognized for contributions to their communities.

Each year the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women partners with state legislators to identify women who make outstanding contributions to their organizations and communities. Karen was nominated by state Rep. Donald Berthiaume.

“Karen started a food security collaborative that has grown into helping 170 families in our small rural

district. She is a behind-the-scenes person, who works diligently to help others and has incorporated the schools and the senior citizens. She has stressed that she is part of a team that works tirelessly and without all of them, this endeavor would not exist. While providing food security, the team is also providing residents that are in need of community, personal compassion, and a sense of belonging. With Karen’s direction, this program has evolved into an amazing resource and total community project. Karen has put the small town of North Brookfield on the map.”

The Commonwealth Heroines are women who

don’t make the news but make a difference. Karen, her daughter Audra, Connect Restaurant, North Brookfield Pizza Palace, and an incredible team of North Brookfield Community Food Collaborative volunteers, offer an invaluable community service each week by providing meals to families and senior citizens who are experiencing food insecurity.

Commonwealth Heroines use their time, talent, spirit, and enthusiasm to enrich the lives of others and make our homes, neighborhoods, cities, and towns better places to live. To learn more about the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Wom-

en, visit <https://masscsw.org/>

The North Brookfield Community Food Collaborative relies solely on donations (financial, food-stuff, and volunteerism) from businesses, individuals and grants.

If you would like to support the NBCFC, please contact: nbfoodcollaborative@gmail.com. Checks can be made out to the Coalition for a Healthy North Brookfield, P.O. Box 92, North Brookfield, MA 01535.

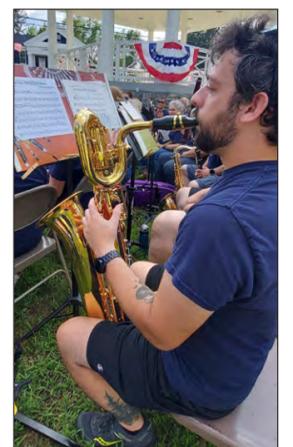
100% of the donations will be used to purchase food that will be distributed by the North Brookfield Community Food Collaborative.

Country music comes to town on July 20

BARRE – The Quabbin Community Band will be presenting a theme of “Country Music” at their concert next Sunday, July 20 on the Barre Common.

New songs to the band will include a medley of Shania Twain hits, A Symphonic Portrait of John Denver, Dolly Parton’s “9 to 5” and others. This concert will mark the sixth in a nine week series of concerts by the Quabbin Community Band, under the direction of Margaret Reidy.

All concerts begin at 6 p.m. Should there be rain on any Sunday evening, the concerts are moved indoors to the Town Hall.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Ryan Malakie of Ware plays his baritone sax with the Quabbin Community Band on the Barre Common for, “Movie Magic” night presented July 13.

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JARS Café & Bakery celebrates first year in business



TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE
Jessica, Sujoy and Pam are shown working behind the counter at JARS Café & Bakery. The business just celebrated its one year anniversary on July 15.



JARS Café & Bakery now has indoor and outdoor seating at its 23 Summer St., North Brookfield location.

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – July 15 represented an important milestone for JARS Café & Bakery as it celebrated one year since it opened its doors at its 23 Summer St. location.

Nestled just off the bustling downtown, JARS Café & Bakery is a labor of love for owner Sujoy Spencer, and also an homage to her family's deep roots in this town.

JARS Café & Bakery came about following the passing of Spencer's mother

at 100 years old. Spencer decided to invest her portion of the inheritance into opening her own café in her ancestral home town, as well as donating to her beloved church, First Congregational Church of N. Brookfield.

On Feb. 29, 2024, Spencer secured the Summer Street location, which is on the same road ("School St. - Summer St."), and half-way between where both of her grandmothers grew up. She said her maternal grandmother lived on Summer Street and her paternal grandmother lived on School Street.

"My dad was born in his grandparents' home on School Street," Spencer said. "The house is still there."

Spencer said her grandmothers were close friends growing up in North Brookfield. One grandmother attended college and shared her notes and text books with the other who was not able to afford to go to college. They educated each other.

Her family's acts of service and love for each other has always inspired Spencer and is now helping to grow the team of staff at her business to become more

than just that.

"It's a family," Spencer said, adding that she wants to bring out the best in all of her employees and relies on their strengths and talents to teach each other including herself.

Paige, the assistant manager and baker at JARS Café & Bakery, graduated from Johnson & Wales University in culinary arts and creates a delicious assortment of cookies, scones, muffins, croissants, cupcakes and much more, including gluten-free and sugar-free items. She frequently takes special orders for her creations, as well as for weddings, special events and birthdays.

The gluten-free and sugar-free items are not at a higher price at JARS Café & Bakery. Spencer feels that dietary special needs should not be more expensive.

Pam, her cook, is retired after 30 years working in the food industry including years with a gourmet macaroni and cheese company, and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the kitchen.

Jessica, also a professional for 20 some years in the food industry, does a little bit of everything, assist in training employees, phenomenal barista and server. She keeps busy crafting the refreshing beverages that



JARS Café & Bakery makes and sells many types of mixes all sold in glass canning jars: chai, cappuccino, coffee mocha, soups, brownies, cookies, spices and more. These jars are available for purchase both daily at its location and every other Wednesday at the West Brookfield Farmers Market from 3-6 p.m.



North Brookfield artisan Wayne Boulette, known as the Chairman of the Board, crafted these custom signs along with several cutting boards and a rolling pin. One sign features JARS Café & Bakery owner Sujoy Spencer's motto, "Buy Local or Bye Local."

rival any top coffee shop, with espressos, lattes, cappuccinos, teas and even the delectable and decadent affogato.

April serves as JARS Café & Bakery's accountant.

Chloe, Geneva and Amanda round out the staff roster and make sure

that every customer feels at home. Coincidentally, Chloe even lives in the same house that Spencer's father was born in.

Before she decided to open JARS Café & Bakery, Spencer worked as a teacher and school administrator

CAFÉ & BAKERY PAGE 9



JARS Café & Bakery offered a 15% discount to customers on its one year anniversary.

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 en-

couraged, 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.

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.

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Belchertown	4.2 acres with twin util.	\$99,900
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Monson	63 acres, frtg 2 roads	\$280,000
New Salem	5.8 acres, perc	\$94,900

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HOMES FOR SALE

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OPEN HOUSE - SUN., JULY 20TH, 12-2

SPENCER – New Construction colonial nearing completion. Downtown location for those who want the conveniences nearby. Finish the walk out lower level for more living space. Three bedroom and huge kitchen/dining area. **\$589,900**

WARREN: Corner lot manufactured home in Heritage Park. Two bedrooms, two bath. Needs interior spruce up. **\$74,900**

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Quabbin High School honor roll

BARRE – Quabbin Regional High School announces the honor roll for the fourth quarter.

Grade 12, High Honors
Matthew Erickson, Adam Faulha, Rachael Fuller, Samuel Guertin, Isabel LaBelle, Lauren Orne, Julia Smith and Jaxon Warburton.

Grade 12, Honors
Eamon Arnold, Jordan Blanchard, Alisyn Brusco, Kyle Clark, Abigail Crawford, Jacquelyn Dahlstrom, Teaghan Earle, Angelina Feliciano, James Q Geary, Kyra Grummell, Rylee-Anne Harty, Mackenzie Holmes, Hunter LaBier, Travis LaRoche, Travis Los, Vincent Marinelli, Alexandra Pease, Nathan Pride, Adelynn Prochnow, Ethan Salvatore, Sadie Sheldon, Hannah Shepard, Sydney Slattery, Isabella Smith, Irene Stolgitis, Vanecia Tarquinio, Richard Tucker, Abigail Ure and Ryan Wreschinsky.

Grade 11, High Honors
Micah Cerezo, Kalina Dyer, Adelaide Harmon, Elizabeth Matheson and Hannah Zereski.

Grade 11, Honors
Owen Breuer, Tricia

Bruso, Bailey Burke, Kylee Costello, Annabella DiMartino, Hemily Halaby, Emma Kahlau, Grace Manna, Hunter McQueston, Jayne O'Brien, Aaron Rowell, Madelyn Stauder, Andrew Warfield, Thomas Wigglesworth and Jin Xi Zou.

Grade 10, High Honors
Jacob Bassett, Madeleine Boisselle, Makenzie Casey, Isabel Doty, Leah Doucette, Tess Dunphy, Anna Hautala, Sadie Kennan and Ellary White.

Grade 10, Honors
Klavdiya Antonian, Skyler Bard, Halo Bissonnette, James Cook, Katelyn Durant, Brody Faucher, Grace Flamand, Alijah Flint, Kathryn Ford, Mia Gleason, Lillian Hinckley, Kayli Howland, Kirk Kaelin, Taylor Kolb, Sierra Lambert, Audrey Laursen, Ailey Majoy, Scarlett Merriman, Anna Metcalf, Jesse Newton, Samantha O'Connor, Charlotte Oliver, Sadie Ouimette, Blake Parmeter, Maya Putnam, Julia Quintal, Sylvan Rector, Camren Robertson, Abigail Rogowski, Jennavi-

cia Roseberry, Emma Ryan, Sienna Shaw, Ash St. Clair, Aubrey Thorpe, Owen Twarog, Grace Vanoudenhove, Caylee Watts, Brendan Welch, Carlo Zolla and Leanna Zou.

Grade 9, High Honors
Brent Benoit, Abraham Brown, Chloe Howarth, Emma Lindsey, Ellie Poulin, Ava Sobol and Erin Trottier.

Grade 9, Honors
Nicolas Antonio, Anyiah Bergeron, Josephine Buck, Carlmorisia Campbell, Eleanor Carroll, Nicholas Carroll, Brian Colleton, Michael Condry, Aiden Crane, Kayla Curran, Adrien Cyr, Ryan Dailey, Aliyah Edouard, Maya Edouard, Andrew Erickson, Audrey Faucher, Samuel Feldman, Alaina Flynn, Sydney Freeman, Daniella Gaudreault, Callahan Hardy, Matthew Labrousse, Alison LaRoche, Max Melad, Niki Nikakhlagh, John Orsini, Aubrie Phelps, Moira Powers, Juliet Priestley, Lucas Proctor, Carter Stevenson, Haley Stoll, Silas Stukuls Barrieau, Benjamin Thompson and Catherine Tucker.

Quabbin Middle School honor roll

BARRE – Quabbin Regional Middle School announces the honor roll for the fourth quarter.

Grade Eight, High Honors
Alison Baptiste, Kalina Bassett, Hazel Carter, Lauren Colleton, Adalyn Cranston, Fiona Derr, Brynn Dunphy, Maya Faucher, Xavier Fjeld, Silas Flint, Nathan Gingras, Olivia Gregory, Hayston Hay, Madisyn Hill, Reese Jamie-son, Sarah Jean-Francois, Sage McQueston, Lunabelle Moore, Gemma Mullins, Greyson Mullins, Olivia O'Connor, Whitney Reeves, Chloe Richardson, Sophia Rogers, Ava Rogowski, Madisyn Shotwell, Annabelle Silver, Adele Strickland, Addison Surprenant, Michael Tabares, Robert Tobin, John Tyler, Robyn Waltz and Jack Wynne.

Grade Eight, Honors
Olivia Abbas-Peck, Emma Ackert, Adeelya Andrade, Caleb Conway-Dias, Joseph Cook, Alexandra Cullen, Gabriel DelGiudice, Jeremy DeMoranville, Landon Devine, Cecelia DiMartino, Aryanna Donofrio, Tyler Ellis, Lindsay Fors, Juliana Guilderson, Madison Haley, Kiara Hanny-Rivera, Sawyer Harmon, Eli Hunter, Averey Hyland, Aubrey Lawson, Weston Letendre, Allie Lipiec, Aixamary Maldonado, Sarah Neal, William O'Neill, Quinn Ouimette, Kimberly Riendeau, Jacob Rosario, Amelia Ruis, Zoey Salvadore, Alexis Savary, Deven Skinner, Brianna Souza, Rosalie Stark, Launa Tran, Maxwell Wade and Gareth White.

Grade Seven, High Honors
Saylor Bissonnette, Julia Blanchard, Winter Boyea, Eliza Brown, Joyce Brown, Emily DeMalia, Brody Despres, Maria Hamm, Nolan Herrick, Aimee Ickler, Evelyn Johnson, Pele Johnson, Caiden Lance, Ava Maxim, Cameron McDonald, Madeline Omasta, Sebastian Palomera-Espinoza, Owen Pears, Evelyn Priestly, Madeleine Proulx, Autumn Rector, Lily Ryan, Avery Sequin, Emma Stauder, Fiona Stevens, Katy Twarog and Elizabeth Welch.

Grade Seven, Honors
Albert Afonso, Brady Aiesi, Addyson Barringer, Caleb Brouillet, Jack Castell, Brayden Clark, Henry Corbett, Preston D'Amato, Sophia Dittami, Lane Fagnoli, Benjamin Fisher, Gabriel Fleury, Addison Ford, Eden Fortier, Lucas Gaspar, Meaghan Glidden, Emily Johnson, Brynn Kelly, Noah Kelter, Amy Landrin, Theodore Langer, Grace Lantienne, Maggie Leander, Mathieu LeBlanc, Jack Leclair, Alessandra Lewis, Bree May, Valerie Metterville, Brayden Nadeau, Jonathan Nunes, Isabella Pena, Thomas Schoonmaker, Andrew Scott, Hannah Shotwell, Madalyn Simons, Daisy Stevens, Rowan Valley, Maggie Ward, Charlie White, Lila Wilson, Skylar Wisniewski, Raegyn Wnek and Lola Zantouliadis.

Grade Six, High Honors
Julianna Bienvenu, Ava Blancato, Vincent Broten, Jaysen Cassano, Cameron Charpentier, Charley Chauvin, Ayla Clark, John

Cook, Anna Coomey, Ella Critelli, Joey DeMalia, Matthew Flamand, Andrew Fuller, Asher Griffith, Madilyn Houle, Silas Howe, Ryan LaRange, Maishao Lee, Brady Malin, Adalyn McHugh, Kayla McHugh, Sawyer Minton, Theodore Minton, Annaleigh Moncoeur, Nolan O'Connor, Ximena Palomera-Espinoza, Liam Shaw, Weston Stukuls Barrieau, Brayden Surprenant, Hana Mae Tousignant and Joseph Youngstrom.

Grade Six, Honors
Nevaeh Andrews, Prince Asare, Aubrianna Babin-eau, Asher Baker, Zachary Barre, Jacob Blanchard, Talasyn Boissoneau, Alistair Bombfield, Caleb Caban, Josie Castell, Olivia Coates, Ryan Colgate, Hannah Cutler, Ethan Donaldson, Hannah Dube, Maximus German, Jude Gomes, Brynnley Gould, Lincoln Graves, Joseph Haley, Colby Hill, James Jackson, Nathan Kearchner, Levi Kniskern, Allison Kolenda, Kaydence Landry, Walker Larson, Ilyanna Lynch, Carter Majoy, Logan Mellor, Lucy Merrill, Adalia Miller, Havenanna Morley, Aviendha O'Neill, Evelyn Palladino, Bryce Pariseau, Bentley Parker, Logan Peters, Oliver Poulin, Lillian Roohan, Cooper Sampson, Emily Schur, Ava Sherblom, Sophia Small, Andie St. Clair, Landon Swindlehurst, Amelia Theriault, Kenzie Thorpe, Regan Toohill, Emma Veinotte, Anthony Wade, Everett Weisman, Brady White and Brady Williams.

Summer Eats food program 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 operation 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.

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 Thurs-

day 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.

West Brookfield Farmers Market is 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 in-

cluding 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.

The Chain performs at SummerConcert Series

SPENCER – The Spencer Parks & Recreation Commission's 2025 Summer Concert Series continues from 2-5 p.m. on Sunday, July 20 at Powder Mill Park, corner Smithville and Meadow Roads, Spencer with The Chain.

The Chain is a musical group that has developed a sound that is fresh and new, yet very easy to love. Led by the dynamic presence and powerful voice of Alison McTavish, The Chain has developed a set of music that is an eclectic mixture of cover songs that make the listener smile and say, "I remember that one. I love it!"

Rich three-part harmonies, a dynamic rhythm section, great musicianship and of course, Alison, combine to make The Chain one of the most exciting new bands in central New England.

Following The Chain,



The Chain will perform at the Summer Concert Series at Powder Mill Park in Spencer on Sunday, July 20 from 2-5 p.m.

next up in this series will be Vivi & Da Funk on July 27.

The concert series is proudly sponsored by Cornerstone Bank. Serving Worcester County, Mas-

sachusetts, Cornerstone Bank's local presence and community-based banking model enables a unique ability to deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone pro-

vides the highest level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations with branch locations throughout central Massachusetts.

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- opinion -

LETTER TO EDITOR

Fascism demands fear. Democracy requires courage.

The signs are everywhere now. There is no doubt that the seeds of fascism are taking root.

Fears of reprisal from MAGA appointees and the MAGA faithful are curtailing freedom of speech. Money from weak-kneed tech oligarchs, law firms, and corporations who stand to gain even more money and power is being funneled to institutions that crush descent.

Mainstream media is slowly beginning to change its language and avoid speaking truth to power for fear of reprisal. Public education is beginning to leave out accomplishments of minorities and water down the consequences of its racist past.

Certain types of humans are being scapegoated, dehumanized, and demonized as if they are the root of America's perceived "downfall."

Freedom of religion is under attack. Those who practice religions other than Christianity are marginalized and discriminated against.

The courts, especially the Supreme Court, have been stacked with the MAGA faithful. People are being threatened with violence by masked men without a name, ripped from their families, and disappeared. Even those who try to protect them are brutalized.

There is a new market exchange meticulously

planned and designed by the Right and its currency is fear.

There is only one way to fight the tyranny of fascism. There is only one currency that can cancel fear. Courage is the driver that can enable Democracy to flourish again.

Fear has been weaponized, and it is indeed a formidable foe, but it is flailing in desperate hands. Those who are pulling the strings are becoming worried that it's not working. If they can't scare most of us into submission the game is lost.

Courage is proactive. It requires an inner strength we must demand of ourselves. It needs to be rooted in a deep place, whereas fear is reactive, superficial.

Oh, it can go deep and can be truly debilitating. However, it can be overcome, especially when we recognize that those wielding it are controlled by it. Of course, it often looks different in them. They hide it by becoming loud and angry. They call names and make threats from behind masks. Even the need to be physically violent comes from a place of fear.

Courage is understandably hard, but it is imperative! It is easier when armed with the knowledge that the fear from the other side is palpable...and growing.

Eric von Bleicken
West Brookfield



In the eye (or nose) of the beholder

So many things in life are a matter of preference, and there is no exception when it comes to likes and dislikes in the garden.

Take, for example, the hydrangea in my front yard that is truly a kaleidoscope of blues, purples and magenta. My husband prefers all blue hydrangea flowers, and would love if I would give the bush a watering of "Miracid" so that it will conform more to his liking.

But alas, I tend to enjoy the circusy feel, and will probably continue to let it do its thing without any help from me. Likewise, if you prefer the pink shades instead, you can use lime to make the soil more alkaline.

Do you ever wonder how this process works? It's a matter of making aluminum ions more readily available or not, and that process is pH dependent.

Another area where he and I tend to disagree is whether or not Bugbane, Actaea (formerly Cimifuga) racemosa, deserves a place in our perennial border. The plant is really unique, in that it sends up loads of four-five foot tall white flower spikes, even in the shade.

It's a beefy plant once fully grown. I consider it a "specimen" like the Peony or

Baptisia, where one will do the trick.

The flowers are blooming now and will continue to put on a show for a good few weeks.

So, you ask, what is the problem? Simply put, it's the smell. The plant reeks. It's all for good, though, since the acrid smell lures flies to pollinate it!

My husband loathes the smell and has given it the not so nice nickname of "stinky flesh plant." I am not sure how he came up with that, but each year he is always pretty vocal about the stench when it is in bloom.

As a sidebar, the flies are doing their job, in turn making viable seeds. I know this for certain, since a few of them have sprouted over the years. Welcome volunteers, at least as far as I am concerned!

What is the consensus on Hosta flowers? Should they stay or go? I used to be of the "go" camp until earlier this morning, in fact, when I saw a hummingbird frequenting the blossoms! That changed my mind in a hurry.

While it's true that Hostas are better known for their foliage which is often beautifully variegated, the light lilac flowers are pretty

in their own right. A handful of pendulous bells hang from the tips of the stems that seem to float above the foliage.

Hostas are not very demanding and are best known for their use in a shady border. Most will burn if planted in the sun, although golden leaved varieties seem to fair better in sunnier locales. In general, most varieties look great paired with Astilbe and Ferns.

I've mentioned the "take it or leave it" attitude in prior columns towards the smell of Marigolds. I am definitely a "take it" girl on this one. In fact, the fragrance, in and of itself, transports me back to the Grange Hall of my youth and their annual summer fair where I would, and still do enter the flowers in the "Cut Flower" category.

Both the larger doubled petal African and the smaller French types are represented. Besides looking good in the vase, Marigolds are said to repel aphids and other insects from neighboring plants, and supposedly even able to keep underground nematodes at bay.

Maybe they are worth the odor. Or maybe the fragrance? You be the judge.

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.

QUABOAG CURRENT TEAM



EDITOR
Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com



ADVERTISING SALES
Dan Flynn
dfflynn@turley.com



STAFF WRITER
Ryan Drago
rdrago@turley.com



SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

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@QuaboagCurrent
www.quaboagcurrent.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

Turley Publications, Inc.
www.turley.com

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



Cooper's hawk



My neighbor has a Cooper's hawk in his yard. Cooper's hawks are common woodland hawks and skilled fliers.

They will fly at high speed through cluttered tree canopies in pursuit of other birds. They may be seen at the forest edge or a field taking a few wingbeats followed by a glide.

Males are smaller than the females. They build the nest and supply nearly all the food to females and young during the nesting period.

During migration, ridge tops in both the East and West are great places to spot Cooper's hawks in large numbers. Coopers hawks perch upright and have a long, rounded tail with dark

banding. The band at the end of the tail is white. They have a small, hooked beak.

Adults have a gray back, reddish barred chest and red eyes. They also have a black cap.

Cooper's hawks are similar to sharp-shinned hawks, but are larger. They inhabit deep forest to backyards.

Grape jelly warning

I received a link about the dangers of feeding grape jelly to hummingbirds from a Granby resident. The link said, "Bird experts are raising the alarm that a common practice done to attract some birds is actually killing hummingbirds. Raptor Education Group, Inc. said just this week they had three adult ruby-throated hummingbirds brought in covered in grape jelly. One had already died. The others are alive, but struggling."

The central Wisconsin nonprofit shared photos to raise awareness that grape jelly is a sticky danger for the delicate birds. They said, "It has become common practice for people to put out jelly for orioles. However, when it is this warm, the jelly melts and sticks in other bird's feathers and feet." The group recommends buying bird-safer jelly from



a specialty store or feeding orange halves.

Brimfield bird report

I received an email recently from a Brimfield resident. He said, "It's been a different spring/summer in the yard this year. I didn't see the first Baltimore oriole until June when a male showed up at the bird bath and a few days later a female showed at the birdbath. In previous years we have had a couple of pairs in the yard. I offer jelly and oranges during migration and then just oranges later in the year. I've only seen catbirds at the oranges, no orioles."

He saw a juvenile red-bellied woodpecker following an adult male around and begging for food recently. The catbirds are seen frequently and use the birdbath

regularly. He has a couple pairs of rose-breasted grosbeaks as well. Several years ago, he saw 11 rose-breasted grosbeaks in the yard at the same time. He has not seen an indigo bunting this year. Although he saw great crested flycatchers and house wren earlier in the spring, they did not stay and use the nest boxes in his yard as they did last year.

Nesting osprey

He also said in his email, "In Warren last week I saw one osprey nestling in the nest on South

Street, but on a visit today there was no sighting of the chick, but an adult was perched on the nest."

Alarming statistic

He also said, "Unfortunately the reports that there are billions of fewer birds in

the country now than there were in the 1970s is very evident to anyone who has watched birds since then. Very sad what we humans have done to the planet." He said, "On another depressing note, there are way fewer butterflies in the yard this year."

Phoebes

Every year Eastern phoebes return to nest in my yard. Recently, I saw a fledgling following an adult around begging for food.

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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- community -



Members of the West Brookfield Rescue Squad prepared meals in front of their new station off Ware Street in West Brookfield.



Yard games and BBQ meals were enjoyed at the West Brookfield Rescue Squad's Sirens & Sizzle event.

SIRENS & SIZZLE FROM PAGE 1

and part-time EMTs and Paramedics.

The Squad provides life-saving care to the communities of West Brookfield, Hardwick, New Braintree and Advanced Life Support in Warren.

The Sirens & Sizzle event featured an open house and a BBQ dinner at the West Brookfield Rescue Squad's new location at 30 Ware St. The BBQ dinner featured smoked pork and chicken complete with a number of sides and guests also enjoyed some yard games and raffles.

Guests also met members of the Squad and toured their new station.

Brianna Boudreau has worked at the West Brook-

field Rescue Squad for over a year and is an EMT and also works in inventory. Boudreau is also the Chair of the Events Committee for the Squad and loves working in this community.

By offering the Sirens & Sizzle, the West Brookfield Rescue Squad is looking to raise money to purchase new life-saving equipment to better serve the communities they support. Several squad members, including Boudreau, were giving tours of the new station that was once an auto maintenance garage.

The Squad has seen an increase in staff and equipment, and a new space was needed. The new station off Ware Street has more bays for the Squad's ambulances as well as a lounge space for

the staff. The plan is to soon install a kitchen in the lounge area and include a stove and a sink.

There is a new training room at the new West Brookfield Rescue Squad station, and the Events Committee is planning to use the space to provide more activities for the community.

There will be training and classes for CPR and first aid. These classes are for local businesses and for anyone who wants to learn.

The new station also has bunk rooms for the staff who work around the clock, or 24-hour shifts. One of the garage bays for the ambulance also includes inventory of supplies the Squad needs for their emergency services.

As of 2025, the West



The ambulance subscription drive took place during Sirens & Sizzle.

Brookfield Rescue Squad has two active ambulances with EMTs and paramedics. Having a gathering event such as the Sirens & Sizzle lets people know that the Squad is dedicated to the communities they serve.

"Show the community we want to be involved with them," Boudreau said.

Boudreau is from Hardwick and says she loves working at the West Brookfield Rescue Squad and loves the community.

Helping with the parking for the event is Rescue Squad Captain Ryan Bateman. The Captain has been involved in EMS for 15 years and was appointed to Captain earlier

this year.

Bateman said the Squad was in need of a new space as they grew out of the previous one.

The Sirens & Sizzle also had a booth featuring West Brookfield Rescue Squad subscriptions for guests to learn about their services and possibly sign up. Members of the Squad were available to take any questions guests had.

The West Brookfield Rescue Squad hosts and participates in multiple local events and fundraisers each year. Proceeds from these events such as Sirens & Sizzle help the Squad purchase and maintain equipment to provide the best care and services in the communities they support.

STURBRIDGE FROM PAGE 1

second program to assist with downpayments.

Housing Coordinator April Griffin said the trust has \$80,000 approved for this use, and the funds can be used for downpayment or closing costs. She said Affordable Housing Trust should be able to give three to four awards a year to applicants using this money.

"It will be a zero interest deferred payment loan of up to \$20,000 for moderate income applicants," Grif-

fin said. "The funding is in the form of a grant or a forgivable loan that will be provided as a second mortgage and recorded as a subordinate lien by the closing attorney."

Griffin said qualified applicants are selected first come, first served, for this program.

The Select Board members voted in favor of approving the down payment assistance program.

Highway beautification

Select Board members Mary Dowling and Chase

Kaitbenski spoke about the need for beautification on the traffic islands along Route 20.

Dowling said she would like the town to adopt these areas to improve their appearance. She said money was allocated through the American Rescue Plan Act to address this.

Dowling said the town does not have the "curb appeal" that it should.

Grimm said the Department of Transportation will not allow the placement of any hard structures, such as

barrels or planters, without special permitting. She said they could add plants and mulch.

Veterans Service Officer

The Select Board voted to hire interim Veterans Service Officer Michelle Durkee as the permanent applicant for that position.

Grimm said Durkee was the most qualified applicant, and she is able to complete Veterans Administration work. Durkee will work 10 hours a week and have regular hours at the Senior Center.

New scoreboard

The Select Board approved the placement of a new scoreboard at the Town Barn. The scoreboard was paid for with betterment funds.

Resignations

The Select Board accepted the resignation of Bruce Butcher from the position of Production Coordinator. The board also accepted the resignation of David Fortier from the Police Department.

Appointments

The Select Board made

the following re-appointments: Diane Clark, Council on Aging; Emily Klamm, Sturbridge Tourist Association; Dina Sexton, Open Space Committee; Joan Chamberland, Personnel Committee; Mary Blanchard, Personnel Committee; and Eli Garrett, Trails Committee.

Open Space and Recreation Plan

Select Board members voted to draft a letter of support for the Open Space and Recreation Plan for 2025-2035.

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78th Ware Grange Fair will be held Aug. 23

WARE – This year's Ware Grange Fair will take place on Saturday, Aug. 23.

In its 78th year, this community-focused event features exhibits, food, and fun family activities.

The Fun Dog Show, introduced last year, is a family-friendly event where any dog is welcome to enter. It is not a professional dog show. It's a fun event that gives members of the community the opportunity to show off their adorable dogs.

Dogs will be judged in categories such as Waggiest

Tail, Best Trick and Best Dressed. Winning dogs will receive a ribbon and prize.

To participate in the Fun Dog Show, bring your dog and a copy of their rabies vaccination certificate to the Grange and register them for the show beginning at 1:30 p.m. The show begins at 2:30 p.m.

Come and participate with your dog or just come to see all the cute dogs.

This year the popular Kids' Corner workshops will be part of the Fair, with the "Funtastic Fair Festival!" The festival will

be a fun time for kids to enjoy crafts, dancing, a parade and fair games such as a pie eating contest, hula hoop hop and water balloon toss.

Come have a fantastic time with Miss Jen starting at noon.

This year's fair will feature the return of last year's popular barbecue dinner menu, which includes pulled pork, chicken, brisket, baked beans, coleslaw, cornbread, dessert and drink for \$25.

The barbecue can be enjoyed outside under the

tent, and take-out is also available. Reservations are required by calling 413-284-1135 or emailing waregrange164@gmail.com.

Many favorites are returning for this year's fair, including the bake sale, raffles, games, burgers and hot dogs available in the afternoon, and the auction. Live music will be performed by Brianna Lamb starting at 3:30 p.m. for attendees to enjoy during dinner.

All Massachusetts residents are welcome to enter exhibits and earn ribbons and prizes in categories

such as vegetables, flowers, arts and crafts, photography, and many more. Exhibits must be brought to the Ware Grange Hall at 297 Belchertown Road on Thursday, Aug. 21 between 5-7 p.m. or Friday, Aug. 22 between 9-11 a.m.

All entries must be in place by 11 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 22. Judging will take place Friday afternoon and the hall will re-open to the public on Friday evening at 5 p.m.

Most of the fun takes place on Saturday, Aug. 23 with the hall opening at 9

a.m. and most of the events occurring in the afternoon and concluding that evening with the auction at 6 p.m.

For the full event schedule and contest information for exhibitors, visit Ware Grange's website at waregrange.org. Program books are being mailed to past exhibitors; if you're new to the fair and would like to request a copy of the book by mail, contact the Grange by calling 413-284-1135 or emailing waregrange164@gmail.com.



Bob Desroches of Spencer is shown with his 1949 Chevy vintage gasser racecar.



Eric Hubert drove his 1986 Pontiac Trans Am up from Rhode Island to enter in the Great American Muscle Car Show.



Ed Caplette of Hampden is shown with his 1968 Jeepster Commando half-cab pickup.

CAR SHOW FROM PAGE 1

"whole bunch" of Camaros and Chevelles and he hopes to one day own a 1955 Chevy gasser – the same year he was born.

Gassers were a popular vehicle at the Great American Muscle Car Show, especially Bob Desroches' 1949 Chevy.

Desroches owns Bob's Auto in Spencer, and he has had the vintage racecar for close to 30 years.

"I bought it as a hot rod in 1998," he said. "It's been the love of my life."

Bob's Auto does automobile repair and specializes in vintage cars, work which he described as being "years of acquiring parts."

He's added some unique features to this 27 year-build, including a new style, 6-speed manual transmission, and next up is the paint job. The gasser is fast enough to be a street car and does well in nostalgia races.

Joining Desroches was his friend Eric Hubert from Rhode Island, who drove

up in his mint condition 1986 Pontiac Trans Am.

Hubert said he's had this car since this past October, which he bought from its first owner with just 81,000 miles on it.

"It's a true original car," Hubert said.

Hubert said he bought the Trans Am because it was the same type of car he drove in high school. The only difference being that his first Trans Am was a 1985.

"It's the identical twin to my high school car," he said. "Same interior, same color, same everything."

Hubert said the Great American Muscle Car Show was the second time he's entered the Trans Am in a show, and he said the car was invaluable to him.

"To me, it's priceless," he said. "I couldn't replace this car."

Many of the cars at the track last weekend also had ties to their owner's childhood memories, and this includes Palmer resident Ed Jodoin's 1932 Ford So-Cal Highboy, which he's had for



John Collins of Ware holds an oil painting he created of his Porsche 911.

six years.

Jodoin said he has wanted this type of car since he was a child after watching a Disney cartoon which featured a little coupe.

"Ever since then, I always wanted one," Jodoin said.

Jodoin frequently takes the Highboy to shows around the area, including

the Moose Lodge in Chicopee and the Elks Lodge in Ludlow.

Jodoin said while he loves the Highboy, it's time for him to sell it to make room for something new in his collection.

"There's not many like this," he said of the car. "It's just as clean underneath as it is on top."

Although Ware resident John Collins didn't bring an American-made car to the show, he did bring his 2012 Porsche 911 Carrera GTS, which has a 997.2 body style.

Along with his 911, Collins brought an oil painting he did of the car, which won "Best in Show" at an art show held during a Porsche event in the Pocos. This was the first ever art show Collins entered, and the judge who awarded him the top honors was Grant Larson, the Porsche designer who created the very model of car that Collins' owns.

Collins, who retired from his career in architecture, said he began painting and sculpting about three years ago, learning from many masters in these mediums including one of Ware's most notable artists, Roc Goudreau. Collins has since gone on to creating one-of-a-kind portraits of cars by commission.

"The very first portrait I did was of my car," Collins

said. The photograph Collins used to create this portrait was taken on turn 14 of the Whiskey Hill track, where he is a club member.

Collins' artwork can be viewed online at collinsartstudios.com or at West Brookfield Art & Frame Gallery in West Brookfield, where he is a gallery artist.

Upcoming events Palmer Motorsports Park, located at 58 West Ware Road, has a full line-up of events for the 2025 track season.

Cars & Coffee events are scheduled on select Sundays from 9 a.m.-noon. To register for these events, visit palmermsp.com/carsandcoffee.

Porsche on the Mountain will be held on Sunday, Oct. 5 from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., and features everything Porsche from show cars to track cars, to race cars and project cars. Show car entry is \$35 (preregistration required) and \$10 general admission.

Proceeds from this event benefit Homes For Our Troops. For more information and to register, visit www.porscheonthemountain.com.

The annual Trunk or Treat Car Show to benefit food pantries in Palmer and Ware will be held on Sunday, Oct. 26 and the popular Mustangs on the Mountain event is also set to take place in October to benefit the Central New England Equine Rescue.

For more information about Palmer Motorsports Park, visit palmermsp.com or follow them on Facebook and Instagram.

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A Dodge Viper was featured in the Great American Muscle Car Show.

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Panthers return to action

AUBURN – Last Monday evening, the Quabbin Panthers, a high school summer basketball squad, got back on the court and scored a win over David Prouty in their first action since the Fourth of July holiday week. The Panthers did a great job on both sides of the ball to build an early lead. The Panthers rode a balanced lineup, able to move players in and out of the lineup. Quabbin's week continued with a game on Wednesday evening. The Panthers return to action next Monday and Wednesday.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI
Brady Patchen drives toward the hoop.



Isaac Patchen circles around a blocker.



Jacoby Dilling goes for the layup.



Aiden Crane heads down the court to start a play on offense.



Aiden Crane goes for the breakaway after a steal.



Matt Wade gets the put-back.

Post 241 clinging to playoff hopes as season nears end

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

PALMER – After a defeat earlier this week, the Monson Post 241 American Legion baseball team fell to 3-5 on the season, good for just six points. But with only five losses, Monson is holding onto eighth place for a potential spot in the district playoffs.

Monson has just a small number of games remaining in its regular season to try and improve its standing, including matchups with Westfield, North Adams, Longmeadow, Pittsfield, and West Springfield, which

includes players from Agawam.

During one of their most recent matchups, a 3-2 defeat over Pittsfield-2, the Mustangs got a complete game victory from Grayson Griswold, who attends Pathfinder Tech.

Post 241's squad includes players from five different schools, Palmer, Monson, Pathfinder, Ware, and Quaboag.

Griswold would hold Pittsfield, a larger school compared to the five Post 241's players come from, to just three hits and one earned run. The Mustangs were able to overcome errors

that led to another run and five additional baserunners through walks by Griswold.

Ware's Nate Kaczuwka had two hits in the game and Hunter Griswold turned in a hit and an RBI in the matchup. Monson got all three of its runs in the top of the fourth inning.

Monson has a matchup on Friday, July 11 at 5:45 p.m. at home at Legion Field against Longmeadow. They will follow with a road matchup on Sunday afternoon against Northampton at Joe Wolfe Field. On Monday, Post 241 will host West Springfield at 6 p.m. in Palmer.



Breddan Fournier cuts across the diamond and gets the out.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Devin Slattery, of Ware, makes the stop.

Saints keep first place in Tri-County

PALMER – Following the Fourth of July, Tri-County Baseball League action resumed with a full week of action. Teddy Bear Pools and St. Joseph's were among the several games that took place. Both teams had a few games during the week. With a couple of weeks remaining in the season, St. Joseph's holds first place with 20 points and a 10-6 record. PeoplesBank is second with 16 points and an 8-2 record and several games to make up. Bank-ESB is third with 11 points, and Teddy Bear Pools holds fourth with nine points and a 4-7-1 record.



Mason Barcomb slings a throw to first.



Colby Harrington delivers a pitch for St. Joe's.

Extra time goals hurt Pioneers in draw

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—The task wasn't a very difficult one for the Western Mass. Pioneers entering the regular season finale against rival Vermont Green FC.

The Pioneers needed a victory to clinch the top spot in the USL League Two Northeast Division table for the first time since 2021.

The home team held a 2-0 lead in the 90th minute before referee Stephanie MacFarland decided to add 10 minutes of stoppage time. That's when everything fell apart for the Pioneers like a house of cards.

The Green managed to score two goals during extra time and last Friday night's match, which was played in front of the largest crowd of the regular season at historic Lusitano Stadium, ended in a



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Juan Hernando chases after a loose ball.

2-2 draw.

"I've never been involved in a soccer game before where the referee added ten minutes of stoppage time," said Pioneers captain Aidan Kelly. "We just crumpled under the pressure, but it's something that we're going to learn

from. It's very disappointing, but we're looking forward to the playoffs now."

Longtime Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari was upset with how the home match ended.

See **PIONEERS**
PAGE 8



Jake Delaney picks the ball out of the dirt.



Jose Suarez Monaco tries to make a stop.

- sports -

T-Birds reveal schedule for upcoming season

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds, the proud American Hockey League affiliate of the St. Louis Blues, released their full schedule for their 2025-26 regular season on Thursday in conjunction with the AHL. The T-Birds will be celebrating their 10th year as an AHL member club during the upcoming campaign, as well as their fifth playing season in affiliation with the Blues. Springfield has qualified for the Calder Cup Playoffs in three of its past four seasons.

The Thunderbirds will begin their regular season on home ice for a sixth consecutive season when they play host to the defending Eastern Conference champion Charlotte Checkers on Saturday, Oct. 11 at 6:05 p.m. inside the MassMutual Center for Opening Night.

Fans are advised that all Saturday games at the MassMutual Center will now start one hour earlier at 6:05 p.m. for the 2025-26 season.

The Thunderbirds will face every Eastern Conference team at least twice during the 2025-26 regular season, except for the Cleveland Monsters. Once again, the AHL season will consist of all 32 clubs playing 72 games (36 home, 36 away).

Springfield will play 54 games against Atlantic Division opponents, including 27 at the MassMutual Center. Their most frequent opponents are the Providence Bruins, who will visit the Thunderdome six times, including 6:05 p.m. puck drops on Saturday, Dec. 6, Saturday, Dec. 27, Saturday, Feb. 21, and Wednesday,

March 11. The two teams will also square off on New Year's Eve for a 3:05 p.m. matinee on Wednesday, December 31, as well as a 7:05 p.m. puck drop on Wednesday, March 25.

The home-ice portion of the I-91 rivalry series against the Hartford Wolf Pack begins on Saturday, Oct. 25 at 6:05 p.m., and the two foes will square off five times in each building during the 2025-26 season. Other I-91 game dates include Friday, Jan. 9 (7:05 p.m.) and 6:05 p.m. puck drops on Saturday, Jan. 31, Saturday, April 11, and Saturday, April 18.

The Bridgeport Islanders will also make five appearances in Springfield against the T-Birds, starting with a 7:05 p.m. contest on Friday, Nov. 7, followed by meetings on Saturday, Nov.

29 (6:05 p.m.), Sunday, Dec. 28 (3:05 p.m.), Friday, Jan. 2 (7:05 p.m.), and Friday, Feb. 20 (7:05 p.m.).

The most frequent visitor from Pennsylvania is the Lehigh Valley Phantoms, who visit the Thunderdome on Saturday, Jan. 10 (6:05 p.m.), Friday, Jan. 30 (7:05 p.m.), and Wednesday, April 15 (7:05 p.m.). Springfield will also host two games each against the Hershey Bears and Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins.

The Thunderbirds will also play 18 games (9 home, 9 away) against North and Central Division opponents. The Iowa Wild are the lone Western Conference team on the T-Birds' schedule, visiting Springfield on Friday, March 6 (7:05 p.m.) and Saturday, March 7 (6:05 p.m.).

Registration open for 3v3 soccer jamboree

BELCHERTOWN – The Third Annual Julia's 3v3 Soccer Jamboree is scheduled to be held at the State Street Fields in Belchertown on Aug. 16. The annual event is held in memory of 13-year-old Julia Haynes who passed away in March of 2023 following a battle with brain cancer. All of the funds the Jamboree raises benefit the Julia Haynes Scholarship Fund, which is a 501(c)(3) founded by four of Julia's classmates.

The first two events hosted more than 60 teams, each year, in grades 3 through high school for the all-day event bracket which

also featured food trucks, raffle and dunk tank.

Registration is open until July 20 and is \$100 per team for up to four players and includes an event t shirt. There is also a new bracket for class of 2022 - 2025 participants. There will again be food trucks, a DJ and some fun activities for attendees including a raffle.

Those interested in registering a team, becoming a volunteer, sponsor or donating to the raffle can get more details on the @julias3v3jamboree Instagram or Julia's 3v3 Soccer Jamboree Facebook pages or through Runsignup: <https://runsignup.com/Race/MA/Belchertown/Julias3v3SoccerJamboree>

PIONEERS FROM PAGE 7

"I have no words to describe tonight's game," Molinari said. "We played very well until extra time. There isn't anything we can do about it now."

The scoreboard clock was stopped when the match reached the 90th minute. MacFarland kept the rest of the time. Soccer is the only sport that uses a clock where the players and fans have no idea when the match is going to end.

While it was a heartbreaking way to end the regular season, the Pioneers (10-1-3), who lost, 2-0, to the Green on June 17, were scheduled to host the Long Island Rough Riders in an Eastern Conference play-in match on Tuesday night.

"We've qualified for the playoffs again," Molinari said. "We just have to prepare for Tuesday's playoff match now."

The Pioneers qualified for the playoffs for the sixth time since 2019. They've also finished in second place in the



Goalie Rees Sheppard punts the ball away.

Northeast Conference standings in each of the past four seasons.

Vermont (12-0-2) captured the League title for the first time since joining USL League Two in 2022.

When the Green made their annual visit to Lusitano Stadium a year ago, they clinched a playoff berth with a 3-1 victory over the Pioneers. The first meeting of the 2024 regular season ended in a scoreless draw.

The overall series record

between the two squads is now tied 3-3-2.

The Pioneers posted a pair of 1-0 victories against Vermont during the 2023 regular season.

Since suffering the shutout loss at Vermont back in June, the Pioneers had gone 5-0-0 and outscored their opponents, 18-1 during that span.

The start of last Friday's contest was delayed about 30 minutes due to a thunderstorm.

The Pioneers starting



Robert Lyons eyes an opponent up the field.

goalie was Trey Sheppard, who started a home match for the first time this season.

"We decided to go with him (Sheppard) tonight," Molinari said. "He's been training with us the whole season and he deserved a chance to play."

Sheppard, who'll be a sophomore on the Amherst College men's soccer team in the fall, started his first match of the season for the Pioneers on the road against New England FC, which was a 3-1

victory on July 7.

During the third minute, Sheppard made an outstanding save on a shot taken by Arnaud Tattevin resulting in a corner kick.

The Western Mass. squad took a 1-0 lead following a free kick goal during the 41st minute.

Gustavo Barbosa booted the ball into the box with his left foot from the right sideline near the Pioneers bench. Juan Hermoso, who's a defender, headed the ball into the right corner of the net past Vermont goalie Niklas Herceg. It was Hermoso's third goal of the season.

"It was very important for us to score the first goal of the match," Hermoso said. "I saw the ball heading towards me, and I was able to head it into the net. It was a great feeling."

A year ago, Hermoso was a senior on the University of Charleston men's soccer team, which lost to Lynn University, 3-2, in the NCAA Division 2 finals.

It was the first time that Vermont, who only needed a

tie to finish in first place, had trailed in a match this season.

The Pioneers had a couple of other scoring chances early in the second half before Israel Neto blasted a shot into the back of the net in the 64th minute. Barbosa was credited with his second assist.

Twenty minutes later, Neto had another shot on goal, but Herceg was able to make the save.

The visitors cut the deficit in half following a goal from Zach Zengue.

A couple of minutes later, Owen O'Malley, who had entered the match in the 69th minute, lined a shot from the top of the box over Sheppard that landed in the right corner tying the match.

Then the Vermont players raced across the field and celebrated with their many supporters, who made the three hour trek to Ludlow from Burlington.

It wasn't the way the Pioneers players wanted the regular season to finish, but they had a clean slate entering Tuesday's home playoff match.

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.

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56							57			
	58							59		

CLUES ACROSS

1. Resorts

5. One point south of southwest

9. Musical performances

11. Matched

13. Four-footed animal part

15. Express severe disapproval of

16. Type of leaf

17. Preparatory

19. Walk heavily

21. Succulent plants

22. Rectangle of grass

23. Lump in yarn

25. Too

26. Foot (Latin)

27. Afflicts

29. Smoothed

31. Mind (Greek)

33. Tampa ballclub

34. Semitic language

36. Sheltered sides

38. Ocean

39. Electronic point of sale

41. Thrust a knife into

43. 12th month (abbr.)

44. Ringworm

46. Father of Aoris (Greek myth.)

48. Fighting back

52. Cease to exist

53. Insects in adult stage

54. Freestanding sculpture

56. Caps

57. Repents

58. Brown and Wallace are two

59. Moved quickly

CLUES DOWN

1. Goes bad

2. Yard structure

3. They ____

4. Marine invertebrate

5. European river

6. Office supplies firm

7. Physically abused

8. Service stations in Australia

9. Kills

10. Liquid body substances

11. Particular to a given individual act

12. Brave or noble

14. Sicilian city

15. Conqueror

18. Elected officials

20. Type of «pig»

24. Drop of viscous substance

26. Monetary unit of Spain

28. Guarantees

30. Coloring materials

32. Reddish browns

34. Square measure

35. Will not

37. Canned fish

38. Appeared

40. Six (Spanish)

42. Took off

43. Negligible amount

45. Posts in a Greek temple

47. Witnesses

49. Phil ____, former CIA

50. Places to park

51. Guns

55. Dance to pop music

- community -

JARS CAFÉ & BAKERY FROM PAGE 1

until retirement. She is also known professionally in the music world for her skill on the violin and viola; she is “vi-lingual” and recently returned from performing in Columbia.

Spencer comes from a long line of musicians. Her father was a cellist. Her mother was a violinist. Both paternal grandparents were musicians, and her maternal grandmother became the church organist at NBCC at just 12 years old.

Spencer also self-publishes music lesson assignment books as well as “Colors of Music” educational coloring books, and is an active Rotarian.

Since it opened last summer, JARS Café & Bakery has been a gathering place for people of all ages, offering them not only a home-cooked meal using locally sourced ingredients, but also a place to enjoy each other’s company and connect with each other. Whenever possible, ingredients are purchased locally from professional farmers.

Each inside table has a variety of games available to pass the time, and JARS Café & Bakery also hosts



Harry Irving Spencer 1893-1993 Married 1919 Lived in Worcester, MA
Bertha Elizabeth Johnson 1898-1979
born 36 Summer St. N. Brookfield

Owner Sujoy Spencer has part of her family tree displayed on the wall at JARS Café & Bakery. Her maternal grandmother lived on the same street the café is located on.

Mahjong on Tuesdays from noon-2 p.m. Musical instruments are hung on the wall next to a sign that encourages patrons to share a tune.

On the first Sunday of every month, Tea for Two is held with seatings at noon and 1:30 p.m. Reservations are required by stopping by or calling ahead 508-637-1577 and spots are filling up fast for August and September.

JARS Café & Bakery has added outdoor seating, with colorful umbrellas at each table to provide relief

from the summer sun.

“I want it to grow more,” Spencer said of the business.

Her ideas include adding after school homework help by inviting adults and especially grandparents to stop by and help the town’s youth after school.

Spencer said she wants JARS Café & Bakery to be a CONDUIT in the community, and that opening the business wasn’t about making money for her. Spencer said she cannot make it all happen by herself, however, “together, we

CONDUIT.”

“I’m not here to pay my electric bills, I’m here to provide a service to the town.”

She said the name of the business not only represents the canning jars she uses but also reflects the Biblical reference to “jars of clay.” Clay jars were used in the past to store precious, valuable and most cherished possessions for safekeeping.

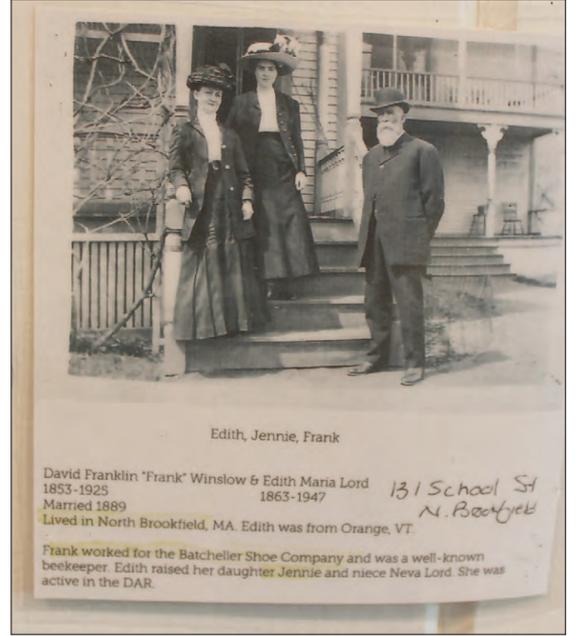
“You put things in a jar that were valuable,” she said. Spencer says that she is putting her inheritance into JARS Café & Bakery and hopes that it grows and spreads a community feel in North Brookfield.

For Spencer and the rest of the staff at JARS Café & Bakery, the most valuable things are their customers and their community. They feel joy each time they serve their next customer.

About JARS Café & Bakery

JARS Café & Bakery, 23 Summer St., is open Tuesday through Saturday from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

The restaurant offers coffee, tea, baked goods and both breakfast and lunch menus. Gluten-free and sugar-free options are



Sujoy Spencer’s paternal grandmother lived on School Street, not far from JARS Café & Bakery.

available at no extra cost.

JARS Café & Bakery customers will also receive a punch card, that once filled, will earn them a free beverage. Customers can also bring in the coupon found weekly on the back page of this newspaper to earn a free beverage with the purchase of a baked good Tuesday through Thursday between the hours of 8-10 a.m.

The staff of JARS Café & Bakery can also be found at the West Brookfield Farmers Market on the common every other Wednesday from 3-6 p.m. where they sell their popular baked goods and glass canning jar mixes.

For more information, stop by JARS Café & Bakery, call 508-637-1577 or visit jarscafe.com.

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- public safety -

East Brookfield Police Log

During the week of June 9-15, the East Brookfield Police Department responded to 142 building/property checks, 58 directed area patrols, five traffic controls, 11 radar assignments, 13 emergency 911 calls, seven citizen assists, three assist other agencies, one complaint, one investigation, one motor vehicle investigation, one fire, three motor vehicle accidents, three animal calls and 37 motor vehicle stops in the town of East Brookfield.

Monday, June 9
 9:18 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Sturbridge Road, Unknown Outcome
 12:53 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Crash, Podunk Road, Transported to Hospital
 2:36 p.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, East Main Street, Report Taken

Tuesday, June 10
 8:17 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Bridge Street, Transported to Hospital
 10:07 a.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Spoken To
 11:57 a.m. Serve Warrant, East Main Street, Arrest(s) Made
 2:25 p.m. Assist Other Agency, East Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 3:13 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Howe Street, Transported to Hospital
 9:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 9:50 p.m. Complaint, Connie Mack Drive, Spoken To

Wednesday, June 11
 5:30 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Written Warning
 3:30 p.m. Radar, North Brookfield Road, Citation

Issued
 3:43 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued
 4:24 p.m. Stolen Motor Vehicle, East Main Street, Report Taken
 6:16 p.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Spoken To

Thursday, June 12
 8:31 a.m. Investigation, East Main Street, Officer Handled
 10:08 a.m. Medical Emergency, Harrington Lane, Transported to Hospital
 10:09 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Written Warning
 3:36 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, North Brookfield Road, Spoken To

Friday, June 13
 7:17 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Written Warning
 7:27 p.m. 911 Medical

Emergency, Paula Circle, Transported to Hospital
 11:41 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, West Main Street, Services Rendered
Saturday, June 14
 4:05 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Services Rendered
 9:27 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 10:23 a.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Officer Handled
 10:32 a.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Spoken To
 2:04 p.m. 911 Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Podunk Road, Negative Contact
 2:58 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Draper Road, Transported to Hospital
 5:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Podunk Road, Citation

Emergency, Paula Circle, Transported to Hospital
 11:41 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, West Main Street, Services Rendered
Saturday, June 14
 4:05 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Services Rendered
 9:27 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 10:23 a.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Officer Handled
 10:32 a.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Spoken To
 2:04 p.m. 911 Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Podunk Road, Negative Contact
 2:58 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Draper Road, Transported to Hospital
 5:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Podunk Road, Citation

tion Issued
 6:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 6:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Connie Mack Drive, Citation Issued
 6:18 p.m. Radar, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued
 6:20 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued
 8:42 p.m. 911 Fire/Other, Maple Street, Unfounded
Sunday, June 15
 12:13 a.m. Assist Citizen, Podunk Road, Services Rendered
 7:40 p.m. 9:40 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, West Sturbridge Road, Negative Contact
 11:12 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Crash, West Sturbridge Road, Officer Handled

New Braintree Police Log

During the weeks of June 30-July 14, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 27 building/property checks, 44 directed/area patrols, 14 radar assignments, four traffic controls, seven emergency 911 calls, four citizen assists, five complaints, one trespass, two property damages, one illegal dumping, two safety hazards, one motor vehicle investigation, 10 animal calls and six motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

Monday, June 30
 9:12 a.m. Complaint, Ware Road, Services Rendered
Tuesday, July 1
 5:54 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Written Warning
 7:46 a.m. Complaint, West Brookfield Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 2:24 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Services Rendered
Wednesday, July 2
 10:53 a.m. Assist Citizen, Ravine Road, Negative Contact
 11:39 a.m. Assist Citizen, Ravine Road, Services

Rendered
 7:34 p.m. Trespass, Pierce Road, Spoken To
Thursday, July 3
 9:09 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital
 1:32 p.m. Property Damage, Hilton Drive, Spoken To
Friday, July 4
 10:01 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Gilbertville Road, Services Rendered
Sunday, July 6
 1:08 p.m. 911 Complaint, Barr Road, Officer Handled
 6:47 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Services Rendered
 7:33 p.m. Illegal Dumping, Hardwick Road, Dispatch Handled
 7:54 p.m. Property Damage, Ware Road, Officer Handled
 9:11 p.m. Complaint, Cemetery Road, Negative Contact
Monday, July 7
 3:58 p.m. Safety Hazard, Barre Road, Removed Hazard
Tuesday, July 8
 4:33 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Thompson

Road, Transported to Hospital
Wednesday, July 9
 11:53 a.m. Disturbance, Padre Road, Transferred Call to C3
 12:51 p.m. Disturbance, Padre Road, Transferred Call to C3
 1:54 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, West Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital
 2:19 p.m. Assist Citizen, Oakham Road, Officer Handled
Thursday, July 10
 8:06 a.m. Safety Hazard, Worcester Road, Services Rendered
 9:59 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Ravine Road, Services Rendered
 4:31 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Memorial Drive, Services Rendered
Friday, July 11
 3:04 p.m. Complaint, Hardwick Road, Services Rendered
 8:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Written Warning
Saturday, July 12
 9:55 a.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

BBB offers tips to avoid identity theft

The Better Business Bureau is offering advice on how to spot and avoid identity theft by looking out for scams.

Scams are designed to either steal your money or your identity to steal your money later. Scammers have all kinds of techniques to collect personally identifiable information.

Once they have it, they can become you, using your identity to open accounts, file taxes, or obtain medical coverage.

How this scam works
 How do people steal your identity? With enough personal information, a scammer can pretend to be you and commit many crimes.

They can make false applications for loans and credit cards, withdraw money from your bank account, or obtain services in your name. They can also sell your information to others on the Internet.

Identity theft may take a long time to detect. Scammers ensure that bills and statements for new accounts are not sent to your address. You may notice what is happening once the scammer has already inflicted substantial damage on your assets, credit, and reputation.

If you believe you are a victim of identity theft, it is essential to act quickly. In the U.S., visit identity-theft.gov for information on how to stop and recover from identity theft.

How can you spot this type of scam?
 Look for unexplained withdrawals, charges, and accounts. Review your bank account and credit card statements regularly.

Look for unfamiliar charges, accounts, or withdrawals. Know when your bills are due; one tip-off for identity theft is when

you stop receiving certain bills.

This can happen because scammers have changed the address associated with your bank account or credit card. If bills don't arrive on time, follow up with your creditors.

Debt collectors may call you about debts that aren't yours. You can also set up automatic alerts on your accounts so you are notified every time a transaction is made.

Check your credit reports regularly for unauthorized inquiries and accounts. In the U.S., you can check your credit report with each of the three major credit bureaus once per year at AnnualCreditReport.com.

This is the only free crediting reporting service authorized by the Federal Trade Commission. Space these checks out throughout the year, and you will quickly know if something is wrong.

How to protect yourself against this scam
 Be careful with your personal information. Treat your personal information like the valuable commodity it is.

Ensure you shred documents containing your bank account information, Social Security/Social Insurance number, or other personal information. These include credit card applications, insurance forms, financial statements, health forms, and billing statements from utilities and phone services.

Cut up expired credit and debit cards, and cut through the numbers before you dispose of them.

Secure personal documents at home. If you have roommates, employ outside help, or have contractors in your home, ensure personal documents

are in a safe place – preferably under lock and key – and not lying out in plain sight.

Minimize personal information on checks. You don't need to include your Social Security number, driver's license, or phone number.

Be alert to phishing attempts. Scammers are sophisticated; their phishing attempts may come via email, text, social media messages, or even phone calls.

Be suspicious of any unsolicited communication asking you for personal information. Whether it's a supposed tech support call, an offer for a free cruise, or a charity plea, they may be after your personal information.

Protect yourself against hackers

Use strong passwords or passphrases. Avoid using your birth date, child's name or birth date, mother's maiden name, the last four digits of your Social Security number, or really obvious ones like "123456" or "password."

Change your passwords frequently. Use different passwords for each online account or website.

Be careful about the types of information you share online, especially if it is information that could be used to get past security questions on your accounts (things like your first car, first pet's name, city where you were born).

Shred outdated documents with personal information.

While you should keep your tax returns forever, you should shred supporting documents for your tax returns after seven years. After one year, shred bank statements, pay stubs, and medical bills (unless you have an unresolved insurance dispute).

Shred utility bills a month after they had been paid.

Find more scam tips at BBB.org.

NOTICE
 ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

- public notices -

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- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

North Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals Notice of Public Hearing
 The North Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing & meeting on **Monday, August 18, 2025 at 6:00pm** in the North Brookfield Senior Center, 29 Forest St on the application of Robert Anderson for a Special Permit to Zoning Bylaw, IV, A, 2, I: to construct a two-family duplex in the R11 District at 12 Winter St. A copy of the application is available at the Town Clerk's Office at 215 North Main St. 07/18, 07/25/2025

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