

# QUABOAG CURRENT

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Quaboag Current  
Newspaper

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Friday, July 19, 2024

## Sportsmen's club awards essay contest winners

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

**WEST BROOKFIELD** – For the 15th year, the Wickaboag Sportsmen's Club held its annual Fifth Grade Essay Contest at West Brookfield Elementary School.

On June 13, club members visited the school and announced the winners of the contest, while also recognizing the participation of all of the students.

"You've all worked hard on your essays," club member MJ Haesche said.

Haesche was joined by club members Denise Martinelli and Paul Lapenas, as well as her two prized hunting dogs, Roly a 13-year-old American Brittany and 7-year-old Okefenokee or "Okee," a French Brittany (Epagneul Breton).

Haesche explained the process of selecting the winning essays to the students, and how

each submission gets read multiple times by different people.

In this year's contest the class was instructed to demonstrate the basics of expository writing using the Wood Duck as the subject.

The contest began in January, with a presentation by Edward J. Snyder, a well-known, western Massachusetts artist and wildlife enthusiast who has been instrumental in rebuilding Wood Duck habitat and the resurgence of their numbers throughout the northeast.

After the topic had been enthusiastically introduced, the class began their personal research and drafts to achieve their final results. In addition to being read and ranked by volunteers of the Sportsmen's Club, the essays become a graded part of the students' portfolios that is part of their academic record.

See **ESSAY** | **PAGE 6**



MJ Haesche of the Wickaboag Sportsmen's Club presented fifth grader Zoe Hebert with her first place prize for her entry in the club's 15th Annual Fifth Grade Essay Contest. TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE

## Local talent shines at Connie Mack Field

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

**EAST BROOKFIELD** – Local talent took to the stage to kick off the East Brookfield Summer Concert Series at Connie Mack Field last Thursday.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the East Brookfield Cultural Council. This local agency is supported by the state agency, the Mass Cultural Council.

The first concert was all about local talent as residents

See **TALENT** | **PAGE 8**



Woodlong Ave performing under the gazebo at Connie Mack Field. TURLEY PHOTO BY RYAN DRAGO

### Tunes, Java Brews & Artist Views

## Local businesses partner to host summer block party

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

**WEST BROOKFIELD** – Business owners Rebecca Fay and Joy Hinton have been neighbors for almost two years, ever since Hinton opened The Joy of Beans adjacent to Fay's West Brookfield Art & Frame on East Main Street.

Since Hinton opened her artisan coffee shop, she's offered special hours to coincide with Fay's monthly artist's receptions at the gallery, which feature a number of the area's creative individuals and their work.

"The people from the shows love when you're open," Fay said to Hinton.

Now, the two are partnering again to bring a block party-style event complete with

See **BLOCK PARTY** | **PAGE 5**



West Brookfield business owners Rebecca Fay of West Brookfield Art & Frame and Joy Hinton of The Joy of Beans are teaming up to host "Tunes, Java Brews, & Artist Views" on Friday, July 27 from 7-10 p.m. TURLEY PHOTO BY PAULA OUIMETTE

## North Brookfield farmer continues haying after 80 years

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

**NORTH BROOKFIELD** – Many say hay is for horses, but for one North Brookfield farmer, haying is forever.

Ralph Buzzell of North

Brookfield will be turning 89 in the month of September and has reached an incredible milestone; farming and haying for about 80 years. Ralph is the son of John and Hazel Buzzell and the brother of Russ, Jack, Larry and Janice.

The Buzzell family is well

known in the town of North Brookfield and took up the life of farming and living off the land that had been their home for decades. According to the Buzzell family, John, also known as "Pappy," was a farmer before the family moved to town.

See **FARMER** | **PAGE 12**



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Book Review

# 'Grass-Fed Beef for a Post-Pandemic World: How Regenerative Grazing Can Restore Soils and Stabilize the Climate' by Ridge Shinn and Lynne Pledger

By Richard Murphy  
Correspondent

The book, "Grass-Fed Beef for a Post-Pandemic World: How Regenerative Grazing Can Restore Soils and Stabilize the Climate" by local authors, Ridge Shinn and Lynne Pledger, is a well-documented tome about problems on the American farmland and what to do about it.

There is much that the authors promise in championing a revolution, or maybe a restoration of ranching to a more human scale. Degraded farmland can be restored, and in doing that, it can be protected against both droughts and floods. Biodiversity can be increased.

Even climate change can be countered by the reduction in emissions and the sequestration of carbon.

Also, regional development would be enhanced.

It is a tall order. Can it happen? Maybe, but just because something is manifestly a good idea does not mean it will automatically occur.

So, the question becomes, will it?

There is a demand for "grass-fed" beef. The authors document it in the chapter; Regional Resilience.

On page 19, they list the large operations that are responding to the demand for grass-fed from Tyson and Cargill to well-known branded operations such as Niman Ranch. In the prior page there is a side bar highlighting the dramatic increases in sales.

It's all good?

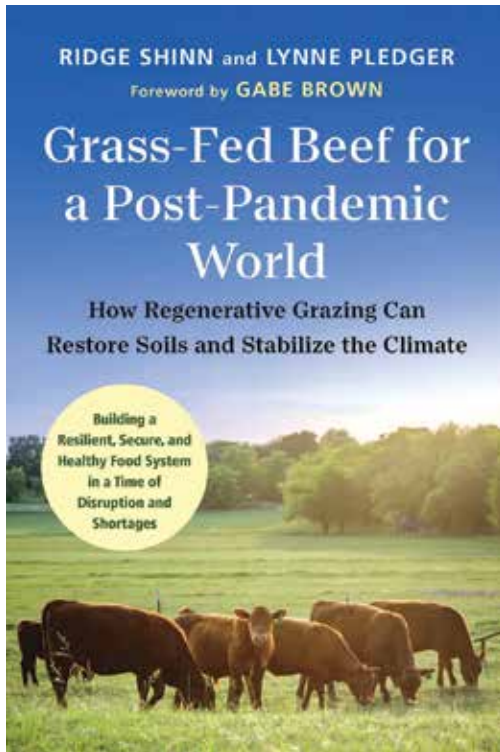
There is a difference between conventional grazing and the regenerative grazing that is part of the title. Letting cows out on the grass as in continuous or conventional grazing, means the cattle are in the pasture to graze on their own. This can lead to overgrazing and compacting of soil, and other problems such as rain water run off.

Regenerative grazing in the hands of a skilled grazer is, well, regenerative. Environmental benefits include improvements in soil fertility, water retention, better biodiversity above and below the soil line, stored carbon and less greenhouse gases.

If one is not just letting the cows out to roam on their own, there has to be a system.

There is and it is outlined on page 45:

"In the regenerative modes, the grazer... moves the cattle throughout a rotation of paddocks, taking care that a grazed paddock fully regrows before the cattle return. This regrowth, stimulated by the previous grazing period is not 'rest'; during the period when the bovines are grazing elsewhere, the microbes and other organisms in the soil—though unseen—are multiplying and very actively participating in their respective tasks.



Local authors Ridge Shinn and Lynne Pledger co-authored the book "Grass-Fed Beef for a Post-Pandemic World: How Regenerative Grazing Can Restore Soils and Stabilize the Climate". SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Ridge Shinn



Lynne Pledger

Nutrients are transported, carbon is stored, roots grow long, and pasture plants grow tall again. The grazer moves the cattle at a pace that allows them to eat only the tops of the plants so that each paddock can successfully regrow. That means short grazing periods followed by longer regeneration periods—much longer in a dry climate. The grazer also adjusts animal numbers to match available forage. This method ensures that the cattle get optimal nutrition and the pasture flourishes both above and below ground."

The authors provide evidence that the method works for the health of the cattle and the soil and addresses the question of hay elsewhere.

The question thus becomes why isn't it more widely adopted?

It does have its practitioners, but is not the dominant practice in our country, or the world.

There are many reasons why regenerative grazing has not become the dominant. Shinn and Pledger do go over them, but as this is a

review, it cannot be too detailed.

Still, we can look at a few.

One huge reason that keeps the status quo in place is subsidies. Importantly, corn, because of subsidies is made cheap and thus corn-fed beef outcompetes regeneratively raised cattle on price, even if it does not compete in taste.

It is noted on page 21 that most of the 433,000 beef cattle born in the Northeast each year are purchased to be fed in Western feedlots despite the burgeoning interest in grass-fed here.

Though the cows are shipped west, cattle are pouring into the U.S. from Argentina, Australia, New Zealand and Uruguay.

Oddly enough on June 13, the website DNYUZ featured an article with the title, "Montana Has More Cows Than People. Why Are Locals Eating Beef From Brazil?" One might understand that Rhode Island imports beef, but the land of the Dutton Ranch from the series "Yellowstone"?

What could change all that, other than, say a breakdown in the supply chain?

In chapter 9 the authors have what needs to be done.

Certainly, ending of corn subsidies is first on the agenda. Restoring a country-of-origin labeling requirement is next. These are obvious reforms, but the forces ranged against them are huge and well financed.

Does that mean there is no hope?

When Gary Hart, who had been George McGovern's campaign manager, served in the senate, he was part of an investigation of fighter jet performance during the Korean War. U.S. planes were slower than Soviet Migs, yet ours controlled the skies.

It turned out, our jets could go into turning or climbing faster than the enemy aircraft.

The term used for the ability of maneuver over speed was called cycling within the cycle.

With all that is arrayed against us by Big Cattle, can our Yankee graziers cycle within the cycle?

There are some advantages, the local producers are close to their customers. There are number of farmers' markets regionally and many have beef producers as vendors.

Our weather, having adequate rain, favors fields cattle graze on. Regenerative bovines do not require imported fertilizer, as they do the fertilizing and are not eating corn.

In "Grass-Fed Beef for a Post-Pandemic World: How Regenerative Grazing Can Restore Soils and Stabilize the Climate" Pledger and Shinn have produced an exhaustive work in a small volume that in and of itself is a manifesto.



**PHONE**  
413.967.3505  
Fax: 413.967.6009  
Subscriptions: 413.283.8393

**EMAIL**  
Advertising Sales  
Dan Flynn  
dfflynn@turley.com

Tim Mara  
tmara@turley.com

**Editor**  
Paula Ouimette  
pouimette@turley.com

**WEB**  
www.quaboagcurrent.turley.com

@QuaboagCurrent

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## Ware River paddle rescheduled to July 21

WARE – The Chicopee 4Rivers Watershed Council has rescheduled its relaxed paddle on the Ware River to Sunday, July 21 at 1 p.m., meeting at Grenville Park, 73 Church St.

Bring your own paddle craft to explore this stretch of river up and back. The paddle should be done before 4 p.m. and there is ample parking at the launch site.

RSVP is encouraged by emailing chicopeewatershed@gmail.com. For any last minute changes, be sure to visit www.c4river.org by Friday evening.

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- community -

# QQLA hosts 12th annual Paddle Poker Run

BROOKFIELD/STURBRIDGE – The Quaboag Quacumquasit Lake Association has announced that its 12th Annual Paddle Poker Run will take place rain or shine on Sunday, 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 in a press release. “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 rank-

ings: 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 “substantial prize” will also be awarded to the player with the lowest, or worst hand.

Additional prizes have been donated by area merchants including 308 Lakeside Restaurant, Bayberry Bowling Center, Central Package Store, The Clam Box, Gido’s Pizza, Howe Lumber, Oakholm Brewery, Spencer Auto Parts, and Teddy G’s Restaurant. In addition, every registered paddler will receive a “but one, get one free” ice cream coupon from The Clam Box.

Winning hands will be announced as soon as the last registered play 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 qqqa.org or email event chair, Bill Seabourne at billcborn@gmail.com.



Participants line up for the start of last year’s Quaboag Quacumquasit Lake Association Paddle Poker Run. SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Sons of Legion host scholarship golf tournament

OAKHAM – The Sons of the American Legion, Post 244, West Brookfield is hosting its 19th Annual “Scholarship Scramble” Golf Tournament on Saturday, Aug. 10, at Quail Hollow Country Club.

The tournament is 18 holes and

has an 8 a.m. shotgun start. A chicken dinner will follow at the Legion Post in West Brookfield.

The cost is \$120 per person and must be received by Aug. 3. For more information, call Kevin at 774-230-3262.

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# - opinion -



## Zucchini days of summer

In the last three days I have picked 10 zucchini. The seeds were sown around Memorial Day and I ended up with six plants total.

I am thrilled that the harvest is starting to come in. I just wish I had air conditioning in my kitchen so I'd feel like baking!

Zucchini is the brunt of many jokes due to its prolific nature. Some years, though, the harvest isn't so great. Either borers take out the plants or powdery mildew slows them down until the inevitable comes.

Anyhow, I'll count my blessings this year and try my best to preserve and prolong the harvest as much as possible. If you are blessed with your own supply of zucchini or you have been gifted a few, read on, straight from the archives, as to how to make the best use of your bounty.

### Store it

Zucchini will keep in the refrigerator for at least one week. Smaller squashes are more flavorful, and less seedy than their overgrown counterparts.

Harvest when the fruits are six inches long or less, and still narrow. It is likely that baseball bat-sized squashes will develop now and then, especially if you are away from the garden for a few days.

Don't worry; they can be used in most recipes that call for zucchini, although you may wish to remove the largest seeds first; they have a tendency to get tough and chewy.

### Freeze it

Simply shred whole zucchinis, skin and all. Drain in a colander to remove excess liquid and pack in containers or freezer bags.

Nothing beats zucchini bread in the middle of winter. It is helpful to freeze in amounts compatible with your recipe; in other words if you need two cups to make bread, freeze in two cup portions.

If fried veggies are a favorite treat, you can freeze raw, peeled zucchini sections after coating them with bread crumbs.

First, prefreeze on a plate or cookie sheet, then, pack in freezer bags with as much air removed as possible. Fry up at a later date.

I have never been very successful freezing blanched zucchini slices. Experiment yourself and maybe you will have better luck.

### Steam it

Who likes soggy zucchini? No one. Cut in slices one quarter of an inch thick and steam for a mere two or three minutes.

Sprinkle with dill or lemon juice and thyme for a wonderful summer side dish.

### Stuff it

Here is the perfect use for the aforementioned baseball bat sized quash. Making zucchini boats are my sister-in-law Janice's favorite way to utilize the vegetable. I can always count on her to take a few biggies off my hands.

With a spoon hollow out the seed cavity. Stuff it with a mixture of cooked rice, sauce and ground beef or turkey. Top with shredded cheese and bake until it bubbles. Yummy!

Put a Mexican spin on this recipe by using black beans, salsa and taco cheese along with brown rice in place of the other ingredients. Freeze individual portions of this dish for a quick dinner.

### Bake with it

Zucchini bread and muffins are one thing, but double chocolate zucchini cake? Yes, and



## EDITORIAL

# Ten ways to help adoptable pets

*Editor's Note: The following information was acquired over the course of my career as a journalist, through my work as an animal advocate, and through common knowledge.*

By Kimberly Palmucci  
sentinel@turley.com

**Volunteer** - There are many different ways one can volunteer with an animal rescue organization, and the experience is truly rewarding. Volunteering offers a way to personally get involved with adoptable pets while eschewing the responsibility of pet ownership itself.

Volunteering duties might include: walking dogs; cleaning; socializing cats; taking photos; office tasks; community outreach; fundraising; transporting animals; attending adoption events; and more.

**Donate** - Animal rescues and shelters need financial assistance, and monetary donations are a welcome way to aid the mission. Certain shelters and rescues don't even have an operating budget, funded solely through donations.

Donations can assist with daily operations, supplies, food, veterinary care, vaccinations, community outreach, and much more.

And if a financial donation is not possible, animal organizations are also in need of many items, such as: food; towels; blankets and pet beds; crates and carriers; pet toys; collars, leashes, or harnesses; cat litter; and more.

**Educate** - By educating others about the importance of adopting, as well as spaying and neutering our pets, we lay the groundwork needed for actual change. However, educating should not be confused with arguing; creating conflict and tension over these topics may feel befitting at times, but we can spend our time more wisely by having respectful, compassionate conversations with people who are willing to listen.

**Advocate** - Supporting legislation that improves the lives of animals is a pivotal step toward making change. There must be regulations in place for certain actions and behaviors—including legal consequences - to set a precedent.

Also, many municipal animal shelters are relying on antiquated budgets to function. Contact your representatives by calling or writing a letter so that you can share your thoughts regarding local and state bills.

**Wishlists** - An animal group near you may already have a "wish list" on its website, go check it out! These lists, which highlight the current needs and donation requests of the organization, can be independent or linked directly to a website such as "Amazon" or "Chewy."

Additionally, when shopping online, consider choosing one of your local animal rescues as your "AmazonSmile Charity" - this is a separate entry from the main website that offers consumers the same items and prices while also contributing a certain percentage of qualified purchases to a charitable group.

**Spay/Neuter** - Spaying and neutering our pets is unbelievably important. Pet overpopulation can best be described as a crisis, both in the U.S. and around the world, and unconstrained cat and dog breeding creates lasting impacts.

Spaying/neutering presents pet owners with a way to not only be part of the solution, but also to keep their pets healthy and safe.

Three benefits of spay/neuter include: diminishing the burden on animal groups; keeping stray/feral pet populations in check; and protecting pets from health concerns.

**Events** - Hosting a fundraising event for an animal group is a unique and valuable way to help. You can design your own event, or combine efforts with an existing or upcoming event, such as a birthday party, wedding, or school function, asking attendees to bring a gift or donation for the animals.

**Share** - Talk about your own stories of adoption, both on social media and in your day-to-day life. The more we talk about our stories of adoption, the more we can share the message that shelter pets are not less or broken because of their circumstance.

They are resilient and capable of such a powerful love. Additionally, "sharing" can quite literally mean getting on social media and sharing posts or adoption profiles from animal groups, who are constantly posting their needs, adoptable pets, wishlists, and more.

When you "like," "comment," or "share," those posts, you're boosting engagement and allowing more people to see and help.

**Adopt** - According to various reports and statistics, more than 6.3 million domestic animals enter into animal shelters and rescues across the U.S. each year. Adopting a pet is a tremendous decision that not only saves one animal, but also creates space in an already overburdened system for another, doubling the impact with every adoption.

When you adopt a pet, it's a lifelong promise (the pet's life, of course). This is not a decision that should be made lightly; before you adopt, consider whether you will be able to provide that animal with the following basic needs for the pet's entire life: love and attention; food, water, and shelter; exercise and medical care.

**Foster** - Fostering a pet entails the temporary housing of an adoptable pet in one's home

## OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and guest columns between 500 and 800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.

### Send opinions to:

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

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**PATRICK H. TURLEY**  
CEO

**KEITH TURLEY**  
President

**EDITOR**  
Paula Quimette  
pouimette@turley.com

**ADVERTISING SALES**  
Dan Flynn  
Tim Mara

**SPORTS EDITOR**  
Greg Scibelli  
sports@turley.com

**SOCIAL MEDIA**  
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Quaboag Current Newspaper

# - community -

## JHPL offers weekly summer story times

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

STURBRIDGE – The Joshua Hyde Public Library has weekly programs available for kids during the summer.

On Tuesday mornings, the Joshua Hyde Public Library will be hosting Stories on the Common. Every Tuesday morning at 10:45 a.m. now through Aug. 6, the library will welcome kids and their families for a story under the gazebo at Sturbridge Town Common.

After story time, the event will also have songs, rhymes and a craft for the kids. If the weather is bad, Stories on the Common will be moved inside the

library.

Another weekly program provided by the Joshua Hyde Public Library is Front Lawn Fridays held at 10:45 a.m. Guests can gather at the front lawn of the library for stories and group activities.

Story time takes place with assistant librarian Jess Hiestand.

Guests can bring a blanket and relax on the front lawn of the library located at 306 Main St., while listening to stories, playing games and enjoying group activities.

For more information, call the Joshua Hyde Public Library at 508-347-2512 or visit [www.sturbridgelifrary.org](http://www.sturbridgelifrary.org).



West Brookfield Art & Frame and The Joy of Beans will host a summer block party outside of their locations on East Main Street. There will be live music by Adelaide Fay & The Leopard Frogs as well as Caribbean food, a variety of coffees and a sale of small, framed, vintage posters and prints. This event is rain or shine. TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA QUIMETTE

### BLOCK PARTY | FROM PAGE 1

live music by West Brookfield's own Adelaide Fay & The Leopard Frogs, delicious food, and of course, coffee and artwork. Adelaide and her band are celebrating the recent release of their second album.

The event will be held on Friday, July 27 from 7-10 p.m., rain or shine.

"We wanted to do something together," Fay said. "It's a good combo."

Hinton said one of Fay's customers came up with the catchy title for the event, which also features Caribbean food made by one of Hinton's friends, who is a cook at Flames in Boston.

Hinton had been roasting coffee for three years and frequenting many farmers markets before opening her store in town, now roasting over 80 different types of coffee.

"I roast coffee from all around the world," she said.

In addition to her coffees, Hinton has partnered with several West Brookfield Farmers Market bakers and others,

including Turnabout Farm, The Bread Box, Brynne's Bread, Kate Bakes, On the Rise and The Goods.

Hinton is also selling charcuterie-style concert boxes on Wednesdays to people to enjoy during the town's weekly summer concerts, each week inspired by a different theme.

Fay's gallery will be open during Tunes, Java Brews, & Artist Views, with a special sale of small, framed vintage posters and prints.

The gallery also features the works of dozens of local artists, sharing their talents in a variety of mediums including painting, printmaking, woodturning, metal working, jewelry making, and more. Each month, a new artist, or group of artists is featured in a themed show.

For more information about the event, visit [westbrookfieldartandframe.com](http://westbrookfieldartandframe.com) or follow West Brookfield Art & Frame on Facebook.

## Familiar faces, new places at the library

### Haston Public Library Trustees announces staffing changes

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Haston Public Library Trustees have been busy so far this summer.

At their July 8 meeting, they voted to recommend to the Board of Selectmen the appointments of Brianna Lamb as Interim Library Director and Gabrielle Holmes as Interim Children's librarian, effective Aug. 14.

When approved, this will allow the Trustees time to search for a new permanent Library Director to replace

Amy Vessella, who resigned in June. The Trustees thank Vessella and wish her well in the future.

From July 22 through Aug. 13, the library will temporarily adjust its operating hours to reflect its reduced staff so please mark your calendars. The library will be open on Mondays and Thursdays from 4-7 p.m. and Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 2-5 p.m.

The Trustees look forward to adding more operating hours in mid-August. Check the library's website, Facebook page, and signage outside the building for up-to-date information.

## Library hosts Beach Boys tribute concert July 25

WEST BROOKFIELD – A Beach Boys tribute concert with Melodious Zach performing everyone's classic favorites will be held at the Merriam-Gilbert Public Library, 3 West Main St., on Thursday, July 25 at 6 p.m.

This event is free and open to all

ages. Please contact the library by calling 508-867-1410 to register.

This program is made possible by the West Brookfield Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

### PETS | FROM PAGE 4

prior to adoption. Foster homes afford shelters and rescues the ability to save even more animals, and it helps animals that would otherwise be in a cage find comfort and support.

Fostering is not for everyone. The foster must be able to transport the pet to various places and provide the animal with care.

It is also important to consider that fostering is intended to be temporary - many folks (like myself) have trouble saying goodbye, and that's okay, but if this is you, perhaps there's an alternative way to help.

Here are some questions you might ask

yourself before fostering a pet:

Am I emotionally prepared to say goodbye?

Is everyone in my home equipped for this experience (other pets included)?

Am I able to transport this pet to vet visits and adoption events?

*The best way to discover the needs of your local animal groups is by doing a search online, checking recent social media posts from the organization(s), or by contacting them directly and asking how you can help.*

### GARDEN | FROM PAGE 4

there are more enticing dessert recipes where that came from.

Consult your local library or the internet for other mouth-watering selections.

One pointer: drain shredded zucchini well before using in any recipe. Place it in a colander and apply pressure with clean hands or a large mixing spoon. Squeeze all the liquid right out of it.

This way your desserts will be moist but not soggy.

Be creative and experiment to find your own favorite ways of cooking with

this vegetable. Zucchini pickles, perhaps? How about zucchini pancakes? Zucchini wedges in place of cucumbers with dip?

The list is endless!

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 32 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*

## ATTENTION ALL LOCAL FARMERS & GARDENERS:

If you have surplus produce this summer season, please consider donating it to the North Brookfield Senior Center for our Tuesday morning food distribution. The produce will go North Brookfield and Brookfield seniors.

If you would like to donate, please drop off at the North Brookfield Senior Center, 29 Forest St., by 1:45 pm on Monday and/or 9:00 am on Tuesday. Any donations will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you,  
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Program and Outreach Assistant  
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**ESSAY | FROM PAGE 1**

Grand prize of a week at Camp Marshall in Spencer was presented to Zoe Hebert. Second through fifth places in order of their ranking were: Evelyn Potvin, RJ Gough, Christian Tetrault, and Colton Allen. Giovanni Lindsay was recognized for creating the best drawing.

Hebert read her essay, sharing an impressive amount of knowledge of the Wood Duck, which is sometimes referred to as a “swamp duck” because of its habitat.

The male Wood Duck has red eyes and is known for its brilliant plumage.

“It’s one of the most colorful birds in all of Massachusetts,” she said.

Wood Ducks typically nest in trees above water and most travel south for the winter. Some Wood Ducks overwinter in the commonwealth.

Hebert said the Wood Duck almost went extinct in the 1900s due to loss of habitat, over-hunting and pesticide use. In 1918 the Migratory Bird Treaty was passed, and conservation efforts were taken to protect the Wood Duck.

Hebert said nest boxes continue to be built to provide a safe place for females to hatch their eggs; safe from predators.

Now, the Wood Duck is no longer facing extinction, Hebert said.

Fifth grade teacher Nicole Jones said all of the students wrote amazing essays.

“I’m proud of each and every one of your efforts,” Jones said.

Haesche said the club members have invested over \$10,000 in awards and prizes in support of the essay contest. The fundraisers include “open to the public” chicken barbecues, and spring and winter fishing derbies.

“It’s a really great group of people who really want to support getting kids outdoors,” she said.

Martinelli recalled making plaster casts of animal tracks with her children when they were young and exploring nature. She encouraged the students to ask their parents to take them outside and enjoy the space around them.

“Take a look around you this summer,” she said. “Look at the wildlife. You’d be surprised what’s out there.”



Fifth Grade Essay Contest winners stand with teacher Nicole Jones (from left) and Wickaboag Sportsmen’s Club members Denise Martinelli, Paul Lapenas and MJ Haesche. *TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA QUIMETTE*



Christian Tetrault earned fourth place in the essay contest.



Evelyn Potvin earned second place in the club’s Fifth Grade Essay Contest.



MJ Haesche demonstrates some tricks with 7-year-old Okefenokee or “Okee,” a French Brittany (Epagneul Breton).



Zoe Hebert reads her winning essay to her classmates.



Students enjoy time with Roly, a 13-year-old American Brittany.



Fifth place went to Colton Allen.



RJ Gough earned third place in the Fifth Grade Essay Contest.



Giovanni Lindsay won a prize for submitting the best drawing.

# - community -

## NEDAO performing July summer concerts

The New England Digital Accordion Orchestra is holding two summer concerts on July 19 and July 31.

The orchestra will first perform on Friday, July 19 from 6-8 p.m. at the Brookfield Common gazebo as part of the Brookfield Summer Concert Series. There is no rain date for this show.

Next, they will perform on Wednesday, July 31 at the Brimfield Common gazebo from 6-8 p.m. as part of the Hitchcock Summer Concert Series. The rain date is Aug. 1.

The NEDAO is the nation's first ever digital accordion orchestra and is a leading force in the evolution of the accordion. Roland digital accordions, which first appeared in 2004, are a far cry from the old family squeezeboxes.

The orchestra performs popular songs from a wide array of genres. The NEDAO was formed in 2015 and is conducted by internationally recognized accordionist and music educator Anselmo (Sam) Falcetti, of Wilbraham and South Pond, Brookfield.

The NEDAO is available for performances at summer concerts series, fairs, holiday celebrations, and special events. To arrange a performance, or for further information, please contact Sam Falcetti by calling 413-204-5522 or emailing samfalcetti@gmail.com.



The New England Digital Accordion Orchestra will perform on the Brookfield Common on Friday, July 19 from 6-8 p.m. SUBMITTED PHOTO BY SAM FALCETTI



Great Dane, "Scooby" Robertson, is a loyal follower of the Quabbin Community Band. SUBMITTED PHOTO

## QCB concert presents rock and pop favorites

BARRE – The Quabbin Community Band will be on the Barre Common bandstand Sunday, July 21 at 6 p.m. presenting some rock and pop music favorites.

Come out to enjoy "The Genius of Ray Charles", "The Best of Journey", "Beach Boys Forever", "The Best of Stevie Wonder", "Selections from 'A Hard Day's Night'" and more. The band will be swapping in music from "Titanic" that was removed from a program two weeks ago, plus many more toe-tapping favorites including, "That's Entertainment".

Come take a chance on the weekly 50/50 raffle, enjoy a visit from Scooby the Great Dane who attends the band concerts each week, and stop by the Barre Historical Society for popcorn and lemonade.

## Cultural Council seeks input from residents

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The North Brookfield Cultural Council is looking for input from residents.

If you are a resident, please fill out our survey on the North Brookfield Cultural Council Facebook page by Aug. 15.

Are you interested in the arts, humanities and sciences? The cultural council is also looking for new members. If you'd like to join the Council, email nbcculturalcouncil@gmail.com.



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**Wednesday Nights ~ 7pm-10pm**  
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**Friday Nights ~ 8pm-11pm**  
**Karaoke**

*Upcoming Events*  
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**TALENT | FROM PAGE 1**

of East Brookfield performed under the gazebo at Connie Mack Field. Woodlong Ave was the neighborhood band playing a variety of different genres.

This concert series offers free admission with food and drinks available at the snack shack. Running the concerts is East Brookfield native Amanda Lambert. These concerts will take place throughout the months of July and August on Thursday nights.

Lambert thanked the generous sponsors of the East Brookfield Concert Series, including Howe Lumber, Audette's Towing & Recovery Inc., Lamoureux Ford, LaMothe & Associates Financial Services, Inc. and North Brookfield Savings Bank.

Lambert said this concert series has been happening since around 2010-2011 and has become an annual tradition in East Brookfield.

Lambert says they have had crowds of over 300 people in Connie Mack Field who make themselves comfortable with lawn chairs, picnic blankets and umbrellas to cool off in some shade.

The crew at the snack shack kept busy serving hamburgers, hotdogs and ice cream for the concert audience.

Lambert also keeps herself busy at the snack shack by making her famous dessert, a strawberry rhubarb. Lambert has been approached by numerous guests to ask if she had more strawberry rhubarb available.

Lambert's husband, Dan, along with some friends were grilling behind the snack shack making hotdogs and hamburgers for the guests. Dan was making the infamous Double Smash Burgers.

Dan shared some of the history about Connie Mack Field and some amazing stories tied to the town of East Brookfield and the origins of the East Brookfield Summer Concert Series. The concert series was started by Lambert's grandmother, Joan Bedard, and Dennis LeBeau.

Dan described East Brookfield as a small town with people who keep life active all year round.

"We're a small group of very active people," Dan said.

Concerts will continue on Thursdays through Aug. 8 from 6-8 p.m. Upcoming concerts include the Otters on July 19; the LeBeau Family Band featuring Dennis, Paul, Tommy and friends on July 25; The Island Castaways, a Jimmy Buffett tribute band on Aug. 1 and 4 Ever Fab, New England's premier Beatles tribute band on Aug. 8

For more information about the 2024 East Brookfield Summer Concert Series, follow the Facebook page, East Brookfield Summer Concert Series.



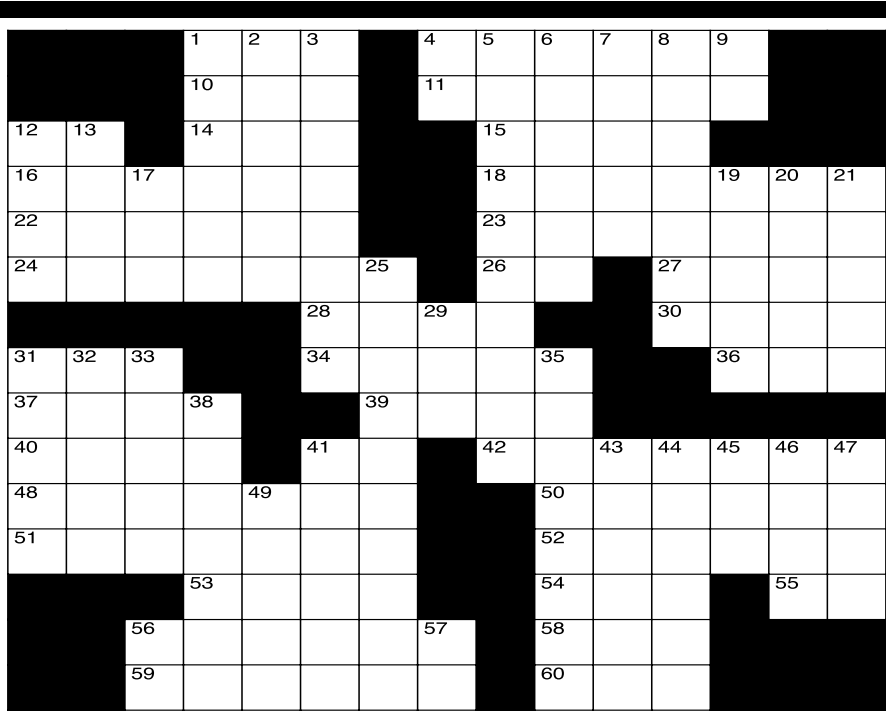
Local talent night was going on at Connie Mack field. Hamburgers and hotdogs were being grilled over by the Connie Mack Snack Shack.



Performing at the first concert at Connie Mack Field was Woodlong Ave, a local band of East Brookfield. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO



Guests were ready to get food at the Connie Mack Snack Shack.



**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Letter of the Greek alphabet
- 4. Cause to become entangled
- 10. Swiss river
- 11. Conversation
- 12. "Magnum" was one
- 14. Small integer
- 15. Christmas
- 16. Of a specific mountain region
- 18. Burrowing bugs
- 22. Of a symbol worthy of veneration
- 23. A type of syndrome
- 24. Cephalopod mollusks
- 26. Metric ton
- 27. Ornamental box
- 28. As quickly as can be done
- 30. "Hoop Dreams" subject Arthur

- 31. Old TV part
- 34. Extinct flightless birds
- 36. Former CIA
- 37. Successor
- 39. Archaic form of you
- 40. Within
- 41. Danny Hurley's alma mater
- 42. Not sacred or biblical
- 48. Written law
- 50. Popular hairstyle
- 51. Congressman
- 52. Type of font
- 53. A predetermined period in office
- 54. Pouch
- 55. Hormone that stimulates ovulation (abbr.)
- 56. One from a particular Asian region
- 58. One's sense of self-esteem

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. A right conferred through legal means
- 2. American island state
- 3. Inflexibly entrenched
- 4. "Pollock" actor Harris
- 5. Foolish person
- 6. Follows a particular Chairman
- 7. Choose
- 8. Sunrooms
- 9. One hundred grams (abbr.)
- 12. A symptom of some physical hurt or disorder
- 13. South American hummingbird
- 17. "Girl Chopping Onions" painter
- 19. Wild dog
- 20. Units of land
- 21. Footwear
- 25. Possessing a constant temperature
- 29. Hormone that promotes water retention (abbr.)
- 31. Popular game
- 32. Pension (German)
- 33. Giant of industry
- 35. Inferred
- 38. One who revolves
- 41. Kept possession of
- 43. Loss of electricity
- 44. Stopped bottle
- 45. Everything
- 46. First to walk on the moon
- 47. Engrave
- 49. Female organs
- 56. Equal to 1,024 bytes (abbr.)
- 57. Northeast

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# SPORTS

## Legion Post 241 suffers loss to Wilbraham

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

PALMER—Samuel Przybyl is one of the pitchers listed on the Wilbraham Falcons Junior Legion baseball roster. The righthander has also made three starts so far this summer for the Wilbraham Senior Legion team.

Przybyl, who was the winning pitcher in all three games, needed a little bit of help to post a victory at Monson Post 241, last Monday night, July 8.

Monson had the tying run on second base with one-out in the bottom of the seventh inning when the lights at Legion Field went out. Following a 20-minute delay, the lights hadn't come back on, and the umpires decided to call the game at that point.

The two managers were notified by league officials via email the following morning that it was an official game, and the contest wouldn't be resumed. Just like in a rain out, the score went back to the pre-

vious inning. The score was 8-5 entering the seventh inning and that was the final.

"We've dealt with many rain delays in the past, but I've never been involved in a baseball game before where the lights went out," said Wilbraham Senior Legion manager John Breton. "Monson just kept battling back against us."

Monson manager Steve Tripp wasn't very happy that the lights went off, but he was pleased with the way his squad

See POST 241 | PAGE 10



Austin Meacham slides safely into second.



John Mumper collects a grounder to second base. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

## Mutiny successful in league semifinals

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Entering last Friday night's United Women's Soccer East Conference semifinal match, the New England Mutiny had outscored their previous five opponents, 35-3.

After a scoreless first 45 minutes of the contest, Steel City FC took a 1-0 lead by scoring an own goal in the 53rd minute. The Mutiny quickly

tied the score by converting a penalty kick.

The score remained tied until the 68th minute. That's when Emma Pedolzyk, who lives in Westfield, became the hero for the home team. She scored a corner kick goal giving the Mutiny a 2-1 victory at historic Lusitano Stadium.

"Scoring the game winning goal is really exciting," Pedolzyk said. "I'm glad that we were

See MUTINY | PAGE 11



Hope Santaniello, of Agawam, fights to get the ball by the goalie. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

## Quabbin falls in little league tourney

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

NORTH LEOMINSTER – The District 3 Major Division championship baseball game was held at Felton Field in Barre last Friday night. Unfortunately, the Quabbin All-Stars wasn't one of the teams playing in it this year.

Quabbin's postseason journey came to an end following a 12-3 setback to Leominster at Justin DeSantis Field in North Leominster, last Tuesday night.

Quabbin, who defeated Leominster, 3-2, at home in the first game of the District 3 All-Star tournament, finished with a 1-2 record. Their other loss was at Athol/Orange, who beat Leominster, 5-0, in the finals.

"The Quabbin little league will be hosting the championship game for the first time on Friday night," said Quabbin manager Jason Poulin. "I really wish that my team was playing in that game, but we're looking forward to watching it. We just got off to a slow start in tonight's game."

The members of the 2024 Quabbin All-Star baseball team, who live in either Barre, Hardwick, or Oakham, are Brady Aiesi, Oliver Poulin, Henry Poulin, Colin Kania,



Davis Burch makes a throw to first during Little League tournament action for Quabbin.



Henry Poulin catches a tough pop-up. TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Davis Burch, Deegan Pope, Gabriel Houle, Jacob Cavanaugh, Jonathan Doherty, Logan Smith, Noah Kelter, and Nolan O'Connor.

"All of the players on this year's All-Star team are great kids and it has been a lot of fun coaching them," Jason Poulin added. "Everyone gets along with each other very well. They'll probably forget about

this loss by tomorrow."

Seven of the Quabbin players will be moving up to the bigger diamond next year. They are Kelter, Cavanaugh, Aiesi, Houle, Doherty, Burch, and Henry Poulin.

"I believe that District 3 is supposed to be starting a Junior League next year," the Quabbin All-Star manager

See QUABBIN | PAGE 11

# - sports -

POST 241 | FROM PAGE 9

kept battling back until the end. “Even though we lost the game, we kept battling back against a very good baseball team,” Tripp said. “We’ve been struggling the past couple of games.”

The victory improved Wilbraham’s overall record to 8-4, while Monson’s overall record fell to 3-8.

Przybyl, who’ll be a sophomore at Minnechaug Regional in the fall, officially allowed five runs on six hits in the road start against Monson. He recorded five strikeouts and issued only two walks.

“Sam did a good job out there in tonight’s game and I’m very proud of him,” Breton said. “He’s a very hard worker.”

Prior to the lights going off, Monson put-together a rally in the bottom of the seventh inning.

Shortstop John Mumper drew a lead-off walk. After the next batter hit a pop-up caught by the third baseman, catcher Dylan Sutkaitis lined a single to center. Another single by pinch hitter Dylan Holbrook scored Mumper which closed the gap to 8-6. Sutkaitis also crossed the plate on the back end of a double steal play. At that point the lights went out and the game ended abruptly.

Wilbraham took a 3-0 lead against Monson righty James Delaney in the top of the third inning.

Second baseman Jack Straut, who hit a leadoff double down the left field line, scored the first run of the game following a fielding error by the third baseman. Another run scored on a ground ball out by leftfielder Ryan Keating. A couple of batters later, catcher Vinny Chiarizio (2-for-4) drove home another run with a double down the right field line.

Monson took the lead in the bottom half of the frame.

Their first run scored when leftfielder Nathan Kaczuwka lined a single to right field. His younger brother, Kyle, who started the game at second base, also reached first base on a fielding error which scored another run. The home team would then take the lead when



Brayden Mega makes a catch in the outfield.

third baseman Jesse Cygan blasted a two-run double to left field.

Wilbraham tied the score in the top of the fifth when Keating hit a leadoff home run to deep center field. Chiarizio also had an RBI single, and third baseman Matt Nordstrom smashed a double bringing home another run. Straut capped off the five run inning with a two-run triple to left field giving the visiting team an 8-4 lead.

Monson scored an unearned run in the sixth before they came very close to tying the score in the seventh inning before the lights went out.



Kyle Kaczuwka slides into home. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



James Delaney pitches for Post 241.

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# - sports -

## MUTINY | FROM PAGE 9

able to win tonight's game. We're now looking forward to playing in the finals on Sunday."

Emma Pedolzky, who began her collegiate soccer career at Bryant University transferred to UMass-Amherst last year. One of Emma's teammates at UMass is her twin sister, Chandler, who also plays for the Mutiny. They'll be seniors on this year's squad.

"It has really fun playing on the same college soccer team with my sister," Emma Pedolzky added. "I'm looking forward to playing with her for one more season."

The semifinal victory improved the Mutiny's overall record to a perfect 9-0-0. It was also their first playoff win in five years.

Steel City FC (5-1-3) also didn't lose a match during the regular season.

"We didn't know very much about Steel City, but they were organized and played well in the first half," said Mutiny head coach Federico Molinari. "I thought we dominated in the second half after allowing a goal. It was very important for us to score the tying goal

right away."

The Mutiny were awarded a penalty kick in the 55th minute after Jess Mazo was fouled hard in the box. She was forced to leave the match with a right shoulder injury. Abbey Jones stepped up to the line and booted a low shot into the right corner of the net.

"I've been taking a lot of PK's at practice," Jones said. "It was the first time that I've taken a penalty shot during a game this season. I wasn't very nervous before making the shot."

Jones, who plays college soccer at UConn, also assisted on Emma Pedolzky's game winning goal.

"Abbey is a very good technical soccer player," Molinari said. "She understands the game very well."

The Mutiny had an opportunity to take a 3-0 lead at the end of regulation, but a breakaway shot attempt by Palmer's Maddy Theriault was saved by Steel City goalie Payton O'Malley.

Highlights from the Mutiny's appearance in the finals will be in next week's edition.



Abbey Jones heads up the field. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Alexis Legowski, of South Hadley, moves up the field.



Hannah Peric sends a pass forward.



Maddy Theriault, of Palmer eludes a defender.

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## QUABBIN | FROM PAGE 9

said. "I think we'll have enough players to field a team in that Division. It'll be a lot of fun watching these guys compete at that level."

Quabbin won the pregame coin toss in the second meeting against Leominster, and they were the home team.

The top of the first inning wasn't very much fun for the Quabbin players, as Leominster scored 11 runs on six base hits.

Quabbin scored a run in their first at-bats.

With one-out, Oliver Poulin reached first base on an infield hit. O'Connor drove him home with a line-drive single down the left field line.

Leominster scored another run with two-outs in the top of the third inning.

Holding a 12-1 advantage, Leominster needed to keep Quabbin from scoring two runs in the bottom of third to end the game with the help of the 10-run mercy rule.

Quabbin didn't allow that to happen.

Kania and Oliver Poulin, who both singled, scored when Henry Poulin blasted a triple to left field.

However, the contest was halted two innings later by a thunderstorm.

The returning Quabbin baseball



Nolan O'Connor makes the out at first.

players will be trying to capture the Major Division championship title at this time next year.



Brady Alesi takes a swing. TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

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**FARMER | FROM PAGE 1**

John farmed in nearby towns, including Spencer and Brookfield. Ralph's father also worked for CPC Engineering as a welder, but the family farm always kept the Buzzells busy.

Ralph recalls moving to North Brookfield back in 1946 at the age of 11 but got involved in farmwork at an earlier age.

The Buzzell Farm was originally 319 acres, and as life went on, each of John's sons got 12 acres of land. The farm operated as a dairy farm for years, while raising beef and chickens up until the 1970s.

The farm also had goats and sheep at one time.

The one area of work that Ralph always stuck doing to this day is haying.

Ralph has been involved in all forms of haying from loose hay, mowing, making wire bale and round bales. Before moving to North Brookfield, Ralph started haying through raking and with a tractor.

He began making his own hay bales back in 1949.

When it comes to the workload on the farm, Ralph figures if you have about 50 cows, he will make about 1,000 hay bales. Growing up on the farm, Ralph worked with a lot of relatives, uncles, cousins and neighbors.

The job of a farmer involved a lot of working early mornings and Ralph's parents always had a good work ethic they would eventually pass down to their children.

"Pappy wanted us to work," Ralph said. "We would milk cows right after school."

This work ethic expanded to other jobs Ralph has had throughout his life. Work outside the farm included Aubuchon Hardware in North Brookfield and Klem Tractor in Spencer where he

worked for a total of 39 years.

Ralph is also a veteran and served in the U.S. Marine Corps, enlisting back in 1952 at the age of 17 and was involved in active duty from 1953-1955. Throughout his time in the Marine Corps, he was stationed throughout the world including several nations in Europe and Africa.

Ralph recalls spending a lot of his service in Korea and Japan. For fun, he would go horseback riding up Mount Fuji in Japan.

Ralph said the people he met in Japan referred to him as "American Cowboy" or "Cowboy from Massachusetts." While stationed in Korea and Japan, he worked at ammunition depots and would do work in guard duty or military policing.

Ralph was stationed in Japan for seven months.

In addition to horseback riding, Ralph learned how to saddle horses and thought about possibly becoming a cowboy. However, he decided to stick to farming and haying, but will always remember being the "American Cowboy" in Japan.

Though his father taught him a lot about farming, Ralph recalls having another great mentor in his life. His uncle Wendell gave Ralph the idea that learning new things are best known by experiencing them firsthand.

"You got to learn things by doing them," Ralph said.

Ralph started working on the farm at the age of 8, dating back to about 1943.

The young boy learned how to plow a field and then harrow it over. Harrowing is the process after a field has been ploughed a harrow will break up the soil, digging up weeds and shallow rooted grass.

One of the toughest tricks Ralph had



Ralph Buzzell has been haying for 80 years and is always prepared to drive the tractor. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



This photo shows Ralph Buzzell horseback riding in Mount Fuji, Japan.



Ralph Buzzell is a veteran and was on active duty back in the 1950s with the U.S. Marine Corps.

to learn while plowing a field is turning. The tip he was given was aim for a tree on the other side of the field, which was about four acres long.

Ralph would learn later on that his father would watch from a distance to make sure he was doing the plowing right.

"Made sure I didn't kill myself," Ralph said jokingly.

From that moment on, Ralph was driving tractors as if it was second nature. Prior to living in North Brookfield, he worked on two previous family farms, Wilson Farm in Spencer and Molasses Hill Road Farm in Brookfield.

The Molasses Hill Road Farm was hit during the 1938 Hurricane, one of the most destructive and deadliest tropical cyclones that hit the U.S. Ralph recalls getting a beautiful view of the trains driving by Molasses Hill Farm in Brookfield.

Although he is an experienced tractor driver, Ralph does recall some accidents that happened while farming at home. One time while driving the tractor, he accidentally ran over two of his brothers. Luckily, no one was severely injured and the Buzzell brothers laugh about the incident to this day.

Another early farming experience Ralph had as a child was milking cows. He first started milking cows at the age of six. Ralph is known for naming his cows as he worked on the farm.

The first cow he milked was named Rosie.

Ralph still has cows at his North Brookfield farm, a total of 14. He still sometimes names his cows.

The names come from the people he's met over the years and Ralph sometimes names them after movie stars. Names for cows include Susan T, Soo Lee, Mae West and Mary Magdalene.

Another funny moment Ralph remembers on the farm was measuring a barn door. To get the measurements right, Ralph would intentionally fall forward to get the measurements of the door. Completely unorthodox, but the measurements ended up being correct.

There was a lot of work to be done while farming, but Ralph's favorite part about doing it all after all these years, it's about "being country and being your

own boss."

Ralph's younger brother, Larry recalled working on the farm being a lot of work, but its different when you're so used to working your whole life.

"You had a hundred things to do but you'd do it on your time," Larry said.

The Buzzell brothers would play baseball during their breaks from working on the farm. After a hard day's work, the Buzzells would gather for dinner at 5 p.m. Ralph said his mother Hazel was a great cook and always had high moral standards, as did his father.

The Buzzell Farm operated in North Brookfield from 1946 to 1974. It was in the year 1974 when a good portion of the farm was sold. However, Ralph still lives on part of the land off Tucker Road.

One portion of the land currently owned by another family is still being maintained by Ralph who is soon to be 89 years of age. He still operates a tractor and a hay baler on the field that was once part of Buzzell Farm.

The celebrity in the family is Ralph's father John who has a few film credits on his resume. John drove a stagecoach with Julie Andrews in it on the set of the 1966 film, "Hawaii". This scene was filmed at Old Sturbridge Village.

A photograph of John driving the stagecoach is featured in Diane Buzzell's book, "The Artist, the Farmer, the Hunter and the Good Guy".

John also took Merv Griffin on a stagecoach ride through the village. He was also featured on "Buffalo Bob" with Howdy Doody.

Many more stories about Ralph and his family are featured in his sister-in-law's book. The book is all about the Buzzell family and Diane truly believes it is important to share many great stories about her entire family.

Diane is married to Ralph's brother, Larry.

"Families should record their stories," Diane said.

Though he has worked a lot on the family farm, Ralph was never alone when he was surrounded by family and good neighbors. Ralph and his late wife Mabel had been married for 57 years. He continues the Buzzell family tradition by haying the fields near his home.

# 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 11, 2024**. Total circulation of **85,000** which reaches over **200,000** readers in the Pioneer Valley. **Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public**

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**Deadline for Calendar submissions is August 12.**

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 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069  
 or email\* them to: [jamie@turley.com](mailto:jamie@turley.com)  
 \*Be sure to indicate "Autumn Event" in the subject line of your email.

## Vendors needed for Flea Market on the Common

WEST BROOKFIELD—The First Congregational Church, 36 North Main St. has been hosting its Flea Market on the town Common for more than 50 years and this year it will be held on Saturday, Sept. 14 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

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

Spaces are available for \$40 for a 20 by 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 to fccofwb-fleamarket@gmail.com for an application.

## New Braintree Police Log

*During the week of July 8-15, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 13 building/property checks, 35 directed/area patrols, one radar assignment, three traffic controls, five emergency 911 calls, two citizen assists, one complaint, two safety hazards, one investigation, one motor vehicle accident and one animal call in the town of New Braintree.*

### Monday, July 8

10:40 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Rutherford Road, Officer Handled

8:12 p.m. Investigation, Wine

Road, Officer Handled

### Wednesday, July 10

1:12 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, North Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital

### Thursday, July 11

6:12 a.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Gilbertville Road, Citation Issued

10:01 a.m. Safety Hazard, West Road, Removed Hazard

11:09 p.m. 911 Misdial, Memorial Drive, No Action Required

### Saturday, July 13

1:14 p.m. Assist Citizen, Worcester Road, Officer Handled

### Sunday, July 14

2:35 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, West Road, Transported to Hospital

4:21 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Barre Road, Services Rendered

8:49 p.m. Assist Citizen, Unknown Location, Dispatch Handled

### Monday, July 15

7:03 a.m. Safety Hazard, West Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

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## East Brookfield Police Log

During the week of July 7-14, the East Brookfield Police Department responded to 119 building/property checks, 42 directed area patrols, one traffic control, 10 radar assignments, 15 emergency 911 calls, nine citizen assists, five assist other agencies, four complaints, one safety hazard, four investigations, two animal calls and 29 motor vehicle stops in the town of East Brookfield.

### Monday, July 8

10:54 a.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Officer Handled  
11 a.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, North Brookfield Road, Officer Handled  
11:25 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, East Main Street, Merge  
11:26 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, East Main Street, Transported to Hospital  
6:22 p.m. Assist Citizen, Howe Street, Officer Handled  
8:35 p.m. Assist Citizen, Lashaway Drive, Taken to Family/Guardian

### Tuesday, July 9

8:09 a.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Officer Handled  
11:26 a.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Officer Handled  
12:31 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Connie Mack Drive, Dispatch Handled  
4:04 p.m. 911 Misdiagnosed, Red Gable Road, Investigated

### Wednesday, July 10

6:06 a.m. Safety Hazard, Gleason Avenue, Taken/Referred to Other Agency  
8:29 a.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Officer Handled  
10:28 a.m. Investigation, Spencer, Officer Handled  
1:12 p.m. Investigation, Connie Mack Drive, Officer Handled  
1:22 p.m. Investigation, East Main Street, Officer Handled  
5:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued  
5:36 p.m. Radar, Route 49, Written Warning  
5:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Route 49, Citation Issued

6:37 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, East Main Street, Transported to Hospital  
8:33 p.m. Assist Citizen, Jean Avenue, Officer Handled  
9:04 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Jean Avenue, Investigated

### Thursday, July 11

9:55 a.m. Assist Citizen, Jean Avenue, Negative Contact

### Friday, July 12

6:38 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation issued  
8:57 a.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Podunk Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency  
9:25 a.m. Assist Other Agency, West Main Street, Officer Handled  
2:34 p.m. 911 Welfare Check, Route 49, Arrest(s) Made  
3:34 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, East Main Street, Negative Contact

4 p.m. 911 Assist Citizen, Charlton, Dispatch Handled  
4:06 p.m. 911 Investigation, East Main Street, Officer Handled  
9:16 p.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Route 49, Negative Contact

### Saturday, July 13

12:53 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Services Rendered  
4:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued  
8:30 p.m. Medical Emergency, Bennett Street, Transported to Hospital

### Sunday, July 14

12:15 a.m. 911 Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Podunk Road, Verbal Only  
8:51 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Services Rendered  
10:28 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Officer Handled

## - legal notices -

### TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD Invitation to Bid

The Town of West Brookfield Board of Selectmen request sealed bids on the following items for tree removal and tree trimming work to be performed in Fiscal Year 2025 which ends on June 30, 2025. Fiscal Year 2025 Tree Removal and Trimming Budget is \$40,000.

1. Bucket truck w/operator
2. Tree crew

Selectmen reserve the right to waive any informalities, to reject any or all bids and to make awards in a manner deemed in the best interest of the Town.

These items are based on projected work and seasonal requirements.

The Town reserves the right to increase or decrease quantities required.

The term of the Contract shall be from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. The bid prices within this Contract may be extended by mutual agreement between the Town and the Contractor for up to two (2) 1-year options.

The first option shall extend through June 30, 2026. The second option shall extend through June 30, 2027.

Wage rates shall be in accordance with Labor and Industries of M.G.L. Ch.149 §26-27H, inclusive.

Sealed bids to be marked "Tree Removal and Tree Trimming Bid".

A bid bond of 5% of the value of the bid shall accompany all bids.

**Bids will be accepted until 8:00 AM on Tuesday, July 30, 2024, at the West Brookfield Highway Department. The bids will be publicly opened and read at 8:00 AM on the same day.**

Specifications and bid forms are available at the office of the Highway Superintendent, 15 Front Street, West Brookfield. Tel. # (508) 867-1417 07/19/2024

**TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
Notice is hereby given

that in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L Chapter 40A, Section 9, and Section 11 Back Lot Permit, of the West Brookfield Zoning Bylaws, the Planning Board will open a public hearing on **Monday August 5, 2024 at 7:00 pm** in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 2 East Main Street, for the following application:

Anthony Woodman seeks Special Permit approval to create a Backlot, approximately 8 acres, at 421 Wickaboag Valley Road, West Brookfield.

Interested parties may review the plan at the office of the Town Clerk in the Town Hall, 2 East Main Street, West Brookfield. A copy is posted on the display board outside of the Town Hall and on the Town website at www.wbrookfield.com, under the Events Calendar.

The Board invites all interested parties to attend the public hearing.

Timothy Morrell  
Planning Board Chair  
07/19, 07/25/2024

## Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP

### The Ware Housing Authority (WHA) is seeking a qualified and experienced Program Administrator.

The Authority's portfolio includes Ch. 667 Elderly/Handicapped, Ch. 705 Family and Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers. The candidate should be familiar with both the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC) and U.S. Department and Urban Development (HUD) program requirements.

Tenant Intake/Outreach, Maintenance of waiting lists, Assist program participants to secure appropriate housing and complete all associated paperwork. Negotiate with landlords for comparable rents. Attend training sessions. Administer the Section Program, Ch. 667 and Ch. 705. Including but not limited to all other tasks as assigned.

Possess excellent written and verbal skills, ability to communicate effectively. Familiar with centralized public housing wait lists, (CHAMP) housing software, HUD and EOHLC databases.

The maximum salary is \$50,286 and is dependent upon experience. The required work hours are 37.5 hours per week and the position includes excellent benefits. The candidate will be subject to qualification verification prior to employment.

To apply in confidence please submit a cover letter and resume to Linda Hanssen, Executive Director, Ware Housing Authority at [lindahanssen@gmail.com](mailto:lindahanssen@gmail.com).

The deadline is no later than August 1, 2024.

Diverse applicants are encouraged to apply.

The Ware Housing Authority is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

# QUABOAG CURRENT

<b>NORTH BROOKFIELD</b> Cultural council seeks input p7	<b>BROOKFIELD</b> Paddle Poker Run July 29 p3	<b>WEST BROOKFIELD</b> Beach Boys concert July 25 p5	Editorial/Opinion Sports Police Logs Classifieds	<b>4</b> <b>9</b> <b>13, 15</b> <b>14</b>
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Volume 17, Number 34

Friday, July 19, 2024

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774-200-3523

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