

QUABOAG CURRENT

STURBRIDGE

Rotary honors youth

Page 2

WEST BROOKFIELD

Scholarship Scramble

Page 2

NORTH BROOKFIELD

Quaboag held craft fair

Page 10

Volume 18, Number 33

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

Friday July 25, 2025

Town approved for inaugural Mass Save municipal program

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Board of Selectmen Vice-Chair Jamie Gilman announced that the town had been approved for the Mass Save Municipal Energy Manager Grant funding in its inaugural year, along with three other towns in the commonwealth.

This grant is being offered by Eversource and National

Grid and it is open to communities served by either or both sponsors.

The sponsors of Mass Save funding will hire an Energy Manager to lead efforts to reduce municipalities energy use and carbon emissions in municipal buildings. The Energy Manager will help Athol, Berlin, North Brookfield and Royalston to utilize Mass Save programs and incentives for energy efficiency and building decarbonization projects in municipal buildings.

At the July 15 meeting, Gilman said the focus of the program will be on K-12 school buildings. He said he believes that residents will be able to take part in this program as well.

A press release about the Mass Save Energy Manager Grant will be posted on the town's website, northbrookfield.net.

Trunk or Treat planning
Parks & Recreation Committee Vice-Chair Nancy

Waldron said planning is underway for the annual Trunk or Treat that is held on the common on Halloween from 5:30-7:30 p.m. This event is held rain or shine.

Waldron said the event is sponsored by the committee and the North Brookfield Emergency Management Agency and they are looking for volunteers to help with the event.

"The more people we have, the better it's going to be," she said.

Waldron said they are hoping to add a costume parade this year, that will go through the housing development at 271 North Main St. She said they also plan to have hot dogs available for Trunk or Treaters on the common.

She said community organizations are encouraged to set up tables during the event. She asked interested volunteers and organizations to reach out to the Parks & Recreation Committee or

NBEMA.

"Things are better in towns and communities when people work together," Waldron said. "So, we'd really love to see some folks out there making new friends and making new memories for their families."

Trash dumping/vandalism concerns

Gilman said he came across a couple of black bags

See N BROOKFIELD
PAGE 5

Coffee shop hosted chess competition

Celebrating International Chess Day

By Richard Murphy
Correspondent

WEST BROOKFIELD – It was a huge event in downtown West Brookfield as the marching bands and cheerleaders gathered to support the garishly attired contestants in "do or die" brutally physical matches on July 20.

In truth, that is not even close to what happened.

The day was a tournament in celebration of International Chess Day. There was a lot of strenuous effort going on, but not of the muscular variety. Rather, brain cells were being put through their paces.

The day's event took place at Joy of Beans Coffee,



The tables were full at the International Chess Day celebration at Joy of Beans Coffee on July 20.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY RICHARD MURPHY

See CHESS COMPETITION
PAGE 5

Landine appointed Police Chief at joint SB meeting

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

HARDWICK/NEW BRAINTREE – The New Braintree and Hardwick Select Boards met during a joint meeting on July 14 to discuss and vote on the next steps following Police Chief Jim Ayotte's notice of retirement.

Both boards received the notice of retirement letter from Ayotte, who was appointed to the position back in 2011. Ayotte started in the department in the 1990s and his last day will be Aug. 1.

New Braintree Select Board Chair Dennis Letendre, Jr spoke and suggested that both towns should have an internal candidate who is qualified to take over the role as Chief of Police for the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department.

Many members of the Police Department attended this joint meeting in support of one qualified candidate. Lieu-

tenant Kevin M. Landine attended the meeting and was the leading candidate chosen to take the position of Chief.

Landine joined the police department in March 2002 at the age of 19. In 2005, Landine was a full-time police officer.

Both New Braintree and Hardwick Boards agreed and had appointed Landine to Chief of Police, effective Aug. 2, 2025.

Landine spoke on the subject regarding other police officer ranks in the department and said he wishes to "continue moving forward in the department."

Robert Toupin was appointed to Lieutenant and Ryan Gentile was appointed to Sergeant. These suggestions were moved to a vote and were approved by both New Braintree and Hardwick Select Boards.

The Executive Secretary to the New Braintree Se-

See LANDINE PAGE 6



Members of the nonprofit organization, Tyler's Heart, attended the 5th annual Band Together for Mental Health event held at Hardwick Winery this past Saturday.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO

Band Together for Mental Health

5th annual fundraising event held at Hardwick Winery

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

HARDWICK – Tyler's Heart held its fifth annual Band Together for Mental Health fundraiser this past weekend at Hardwick Winery.

Over the years the event has grown, and Tyler's Heart has been raising more money year after year. Tyler's Heart

lives up to its mission by bringing awareness to mental health and encourage acts of kindness by bringing education and resources to schools and communities.

Alysia Kubert of Tyler's Heart said the organization has grown in population every year and this year's Band Together for Mental Health had an amazing turnout.

"It was our biggest year yet," Kubert said.

Donations and sponsorship have grown, and this year's event featured five bands performing, a car show, Kid's Corner, over 50

vendors, food and beverage vendors, raffles and merchandise.

Members of Tyler's Heart are always working hard to support individuals and families in their community.

There are nine members of Tyler's Heart who are working hard to continue to support the mission of Tyler's Heart. The current members are Paul Haynes, Elissa Boos, Jim Boos, Alysia Kubert, Jamie Dodge, Michelle Petraitis, Jessica Huertas, Jennifer Spangenberg, and

See FUNDRAISER PAGE 6

It's summer and BBQ+Beer+Band returns to Farmer Matt's

By Richard Murphy
Correspondent

NEW BRAINTREE – As usual, weather can be interesting in New England, and as beautiful as our countryside can be, luck is a necessary component.

A torrential downpour happened two evenings before a scheduled event, and fingers were crossed as we watched the sky for any portents. The day arrived and the weather breeze wafted across the venue when we drove up the road to New Braintree.

It was late afternoon, July 17 and time for the event known as BBQ+Beer+Band at the farm of the man known as Farmer Matt.

Farmer Matt is Matt Koziol, and he raises purebred Angus cattle on his own 214 acres and more than 400 leased.

The scheduled start was 4:30 p.m., and as no one was taking attendance, folks were moseying up the hill even before the set time. The musicians were tuning up and so it was to the back of the barn, where



Woodshed was in the groove at the BBQ+Beer+Band event at Farmer Matt's.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY RICHARD MURPHY

Lost Towns Brewing was set up, and where we were greeted by the team of Alex and Erin.

We ordered the West Coast style IPA, Nelson's Swift Ryde which is our go to, but Lost Towns had some interesting brews that we had never heard of before such as a White Stout.

Stout is a beverage most associated with an island nation on the other side of the Atlantic. It is brownish, almost black color and has a rich taste.

White stout is a golden colored beer, using oats

See BEER AND BAND
PAGE 6

- community -

Sturbridge Rotary Club honors local youth at annual dinner

STURBRIDGE – The Sturbridge Rotary Club proudly hosted its annual Youth Celebratory Dinner on July 15, at the Publick House Historic Inn, bringing together students, educators, Rotarians, and local leaders for an evening recognizing exceptional youth achievement and service.

The event took place in Paige Hall during the Club's regular meeting, combining tradition with celebration.

Led by Master of Ceremonies David M. Zonia, Psy.D, the evening featured remarks from Club President Klaus Hachfeld, who opened the program with the Pledge of Allegiance and Rotary's Four-Way Test. Special guests included Peter Dufresne, Academic Principal of Tantasqua Regional High School; Mark Wood, Technical Principal of TRHS; Jean Bubon, Sturbridge Town Planner; Lynn Duffy O'Shea, President of the Brookfield Rotary Club; and Rotary District 7910 Governor Johnny Ahern.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of Rotary Youth Leadership Awards by Rotarian Linda Langevin Zonia. RYLA is a signature program of Rotary International that empowers young leaders through workshops and collaborative experiences.

This year, the Sturbridge Rotary Club awarded RYLA scholarships to eight local students selected to join over 150 Massachusetts high school sophomores at the RYLA Conference, held at Fitchburg State University in June.

The conference aims to develop the leadership potential of young men and women through interactive leadership labs, dynamic guest speakers, and mentally and physically challenging activities. Sessions focus on decision-making, critical thinking, effective communication, ethics, and public service.

Recipients were selected based on demonstrated leadership potential, strong citizenship, and a compelling desire to benefit from the



Recently graduated Tantasqua Regional High School Interact officers (back row) Jackson Landine, Rachel Salisbury, Jocelyn Mrotek, Charlotte Ardis, and Samantha Baker passed the torch, and the gavel, to the incoming slate of officers (front row): Emmett Deatte, president; Mairead Fairbrother, secretary; Evie Spencer, Treasurer; and Julie Anne Petersen, publicist. Vice president Ethan Zhu is not pictured.

experience – qualities confirmed through a competitive interview process.

RYLA award recipients Nia Warren and Ben Landine were on hand to receive their awards in person. Additional awards were made in absentia to Madeline Guertin, Sophia Bochicchio, Alexis Baker, Eliza Jaeger, Radisson Jumawan, and Victoria Lockhart, who were unable to attend due to summer commitments.

The Club also celebrated the transition of leadership in the Interact Club at Tantasqua Regional High School, Rotary's youth service organization. Outgoing officers – Jackson Landine, president; Rachel Salisbury, vice president; Charlotte Ardis, treasurer; Jocelyn Mrotek, secretary; and Samantha Baker, publicist – were on hand to formally pass the torch to the incoming board. The new slate of officers, all rising seniors, includes Emette Deatte, president; Ethan Zhu, vice president; Evie Spencer, treasurer; Mairead Fairbrother, secretary; and Julie Anne Petersen, publicist. District Governor Johnny Ahern officiated the swearing-in ceremony, followed by the presentation of officer pins and the gavel.

Guests were invited to view displays of the Interact Club's successful community service projects from the past



Sturbridge Rotary Youth Leadership Award recipient Nia Warren accepted her award from Sturbridge Rotarian Linda Langevin Zonia.

year, along with informational tables on Rotary programs and initiatives.

Another centerpiece of the evening was the awarding of eight scholarships totaling \$8,000 presented by Club President Klaus Hachfeld. Seven scholarships were given in memory of longtime Rotarian Dorothy Wright, and an additional scholarship was awarded in memory of the late Dr. Otto Prohaska.

This year's scholarship recipients are:

Charlotte Ardis, Sturbridge – attending the College of William and Mary, majoring in math and economics

Samantha Baker, Monson – attending the University of Connecticut, majoring in nu-

tritional science

Anthony Fazzuoli, West Brookfield – the Otto Prohaska Scholar, attending the University of Massachusetts Amherst, majoring in biology with a pre-med focus

Griffin Harold, Fiskdale, Bridgewater State University, majoring in geography and urban planning

Jackson Landine, Brookfield – attending the University of Rhode Island, majoring in finance and accounting

Jocelyn Mrotek, Sturbridge – attending Dickinson College, majoring in political science

Ethan Parker, Sturbridge – attending Pennsylvania State University, majoring in geography and urban planning

Rachel Salisbury, Stur-



Sturbridge Rotary President Klaus Hachfeld presented checks to the 2025 scholarship recipients (left to right) Anthony Fazzuoli, Ethan Parker, Jocelyn Mrotek, Jackson Landine, Rachel Salisbury, Charlotte Ardis, Samantha Baker, and Griffin Harold



Sturbridge Rotary Youth Leadership Award recipient Ben Landine accepted his award from Sturbridge Rotarian Linda Langevin Zonia.

bridge – attending Marist University, has not chosen a major

Community Appreciation Awards were also presented to individuals who have supported the Rotary mission and youth programs, including Principal Peter Dufresne, Principal Mark Wood, Interact Advisor Amy Willard (recognized in absentia), and Public House Director of Catering Catherine O'Brien (recognized in absentia).

Newly elected Rotary District 7910 Governor Johnny Ahern offered his reflections on the values of Rotary and the importance of fostering youth leadership.

In his closing remarks, President Hachfeld encouraged the new slate of Interact officers to consider doing a

joint international project with Interact members in Stourbridge, UK, the club's sister organization, and offered his assistance in facilitating that process. The meeting concluded with the traditional Rotary toast by President Hachfeld: "To Sturbridge USA, Stourbridge UK, and Rotary International. Hear-hear!"

About the Sturbridge Rotary Club

The Sturbridge Rotary Club is committed to "Service Above Self." As part of Rotary International, the Club supports local and global projects in education, health, and community development, and invests in the next generation of leaders through programs like RYLA and Interact.



THE CENTERED PLACE
SINCE 1988

Yoga & Meditation Classes

Offering both onsite and online classes

Voted Best Yoga in the region by Town & Country Living Magazine

Yoga leaves you more relaxed, centered, open and energized. Come experience this for yourself.

413 436 7374
286 BRIDGE ST, WARREN MA
WWW.THECENTEREDPLACE.COM

YOGA FOR EVERY BODY

STIHL Husqvarna

PARK SAW SHOP

LOGGING • ARBORIST • SAFETY

1292 PARK ST. PALMER, MA 01069

1-800-232-6132
(413) 544-9027

Mon-Fri 6:30am-4pm • Sat 7am-Noon

Shipping Can Be Arranged

RENTALS AVAILABLE

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.

Summer Eats food program for children

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

Glenda's

Saturday, July 26th

Uncle Country
7pm-11pm

Friday Nights ~ 8pm-11pm
Karaoke Saturday Nights also if no band

948 Main Street, Warren, MA • 413-436-8491

Upcoming Events

Saturday, August 9th
7pm-11pm

Uncle Country

EVERY SUNDAY
DARTS
LUCK OF THE DRAW
5:30pm • All Welcome

"Join the team that does more by 9am than some do all day!"



Train now to a new career in 6 weeks. High hourly wages and generous bonus program. Van work available too!

Call or text 774-200-6762 or email jobs@mccarthybus.com to apply

J.P. McCarthy & Sons
WWW.MCCARTHYBUS.COM

- community -

Networking event features gubernatorial candidate Kennealy

PALMER – The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce’s After 5 networking event on Wednesday, Aug. 6 beginning at 5 p.m. at the Monson Free Library will feature an appearance by 2026 Massachusetts gubernatorial candidate, Mike Kennealy (R).

The Chamber’s After 5 networking events allow local business leaders to connect and exchange ideas and opportunities in an informal setting. The August After 5 at the Monson Free Library will include a tour and information on Library

activities and programs, as well as a meet and greet and Q&A session with Kennealy.

In 2018, Kennealy was appointed by Governor Charlie Baker as Secretary of Housing and Economic Development, a role in which he visited more than 150 cities and towns in Massachusetts and built relationships with local governments and community leaders.

Kennealy joined Governor Baker and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito’s administration as Assistant Secretary

for Business Growth in 2015, playing a key role in shaping the administration’s strategies for business development and job creation. More than 215,000 new jobs were created in Massachusetts during his tenure.

“I’m thrilled to join the dedicated business leaders of the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce. It’s the work of our local entrepreneurs, job creators, and community leaders that truly drives the Commonwealth forward,” said Kennealy. “I look forward to engaging with members

of the business community to discuss how government can be a true partner in fostering economic growth, supporting innovation, and revitalizing our communities. Together, we can build a stronger, more prosperous Massachusetts.”

“The Chamber is proud to welcome Secretary Kennealy to the Quaboag Hills region for this special event. We are thrilled to give our constituents the opportunity to hear directly from the candidate, share concerns, ideas and solutions as business leaders and residents

of the Commonwealth,” said James Przypek, Chief Executive Officer of the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce.

Sponsors of the Chamber’s August After 5 include Monson Savings Bank, Cedarbrook Village at Ware and Superior Plus Propane. Registration to the Chamber’s networking events are open to members and non-members alike at qhma.com. The August After 5 will also include food and refreshments from The Better Bean café in Monson.

About the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce

Established in 1978 and headquartered in Palmer, the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce’s purpose is to advance economic growth, interests and tourism for our members through policies, programs and development in the Quaboag Hills region, including the 15 towns of Belchertown, Brimfield, Brookfield, East Brookfield, Hardwick, Holland, Monson, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Palmer, Spencer, Wales, Ware, Warren and West Brookfield.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Vivi & DaFunk will perform at the Summer Concert Series on Sunday, July 27 at Powder Mill Park in Spencer.

Summer Concert Series brings ‘DaFunk’ on Sunday, July 27

SPENCER – The Spencer Parks & Recreation Commission’s 2025 Summer Concert Series continues from 2-5 p.m. on Sunday, July 27 at Powder Mill Park, corner Smithville and Meadow Roads, with Vivi & DaFunk.

Mike Gianfriddo and Alan D’Alessandro founded DaFunk. They decided to add a lead vocalist, Yvette Rhault, in 2015 and expanded their name to Vivi & DaFunk. The band added Warren Olsen and Glenn

Fournier, who both play bass and keyboard, in 2021.

As a five piece unit, they are to pull out the pretty amazing music that makes Vivi & DaFunk one of the premier dance bands in the area. The band performs throughout New England – and with the talented Yvette “Vivi” Rhault at the helm, they never disappoint.

Next up in this series that runs through Aug. 17 will be The Deloreans on Aug. 3.

The concert series is

proudly sponsored by Cornerstone Bank. Serving Worcester County, Massachusetts, Cornerstone Bank’s local presence and community-based banking model enables a unique ability to deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch.

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

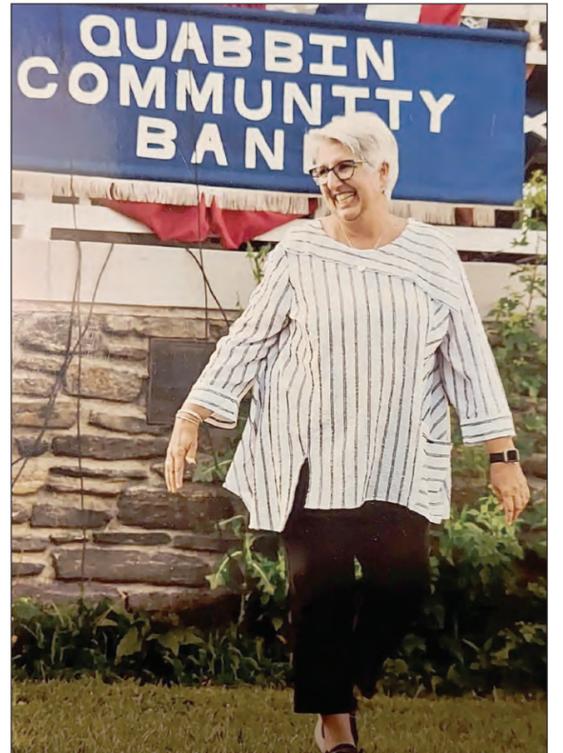
Broadway hits featured on Quabbin Community bandstand

BARRE – This coming Sunday marks the seventh concert in the summer series presented by the Quabbin Community Band, and will feature many favorites from the Broadway stage.

“Phantom of the Opera”, “Les Miserables”, “Fiddler on The Roof”, and “My Fair Lady” will be featured along with guest vocalist Mary Catherine Salo who will be back with the band for her third summer to sing, “Highlights from South Pacific”, and “Selections from Chicago”.

The band will also be performing, “Symphonic Gershwin” as well as “Godspell Medley” and several more.

Membership in the band is at an all-time high following COVID, and so are the crowds in attendance. Be sure to participate in the weekly 50/50 drawing when you come out to enjoy great home town music on the Barre Common, and look through the concert booklet to support the many wonderful local businesses



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Mary Catherine Salo returns as guest vocalist with the Quabbin Community Band on Sunday, July 27.

who have come out to support the QCB this season.

All summer concerts begin at 6 p.m. Should

there be rain on any Sunday evening, the concerts are moved indoors to the Town Hall.

JOIN US FOR CEDARBROOK’S

COASTAL CARNIVAL

A RETRO SEASIDE CELEBRATION!

SATURDAY, JULY 26TH 11:00AM TO 2:00PM

Step back in time to the golden days of the boardwalk! Grab your shades and get ready for a seaside-inspired celebration filled with old-school charm and summertime fun!

CLASSIC CARNIVAL GAMES

COTTON CANDY, POPCORN & SNOW CONES

JUKEBOX OLDIES & SOCK HOP SOUNDS

HOT ROD DOGGS FOOD TRUCK

Optional Costume Contest

You could win a prize for best:

- Cool Cat Coolness
- Beach Babe Chic
- Greaser Vibes

Bonus Tour & Raffle Entry

Take a tour during the event and you could win:

- \$250 Big Y Gift Certificate
- \$250 Visa Gift Card

“A day of nostalgia and fun for all ages!”

RSVP by 7/23 to Mary at 413-758-5377 or mdembkowski@cedarbrookvillage.com

INDEPENDENT LIVING

413-758-5377

CedarbrookVillage.com

ASSISTED LIVING

73 South Street

Ware, MA 01082

Cedarbrook Village

at Ware

An Everbrook Senior Living Community

- opinion -



Revisit wildflower gardening

After driving by an exquisite wildflower border, I was prompted to revisit and update a column I wrote some years back on the topic of wildflowers.

If you wish to give the natural look a go, preparation is the key. Read on for more useful advice.

Wildflower or meadow gardens can be beautiful, even breathtaking, if properly cared for. Besides being pretty, they are low maintenance and environmentally friendly, and they often attract butterflies, bees and other pollinators.

Our goal at the time of sowing is a grass-free, weed-free seed bed. Since wildflower seed is sown in winter or early spring, we have lots of time to achieve that goal.

At summer's end rototill the spot intended for your wildflowers. If the grass is especially thick you may need to go over it several times. Allow what is left of the grass to decompose.

Pull any weeds that sprout, or lightly cultivate the soil – don't go too deep or you'll expose more weed seeds to the light! You can also skip the tiller, and eradicate the grass by use of black plastic or a tarp of course you'll have to look at it for several weeks!

If that's okay, then start now by mowing the grass as close as possible. Lay the black plastic or tarp on top and secure it in place with bricks or rocks. The heat, coupled with the absence of light will kill the grass underneath.

By early fall you will be able to rake away any debris that remains. Plan to sow your seeds in early spring.

There are many wildflower mixes to choose from. I'd recommend selecting one that is suited to the northeast.

A mix that contains both annual and perennial flowers is a good option – the annuals providing you with color the first year while the perennials are establishing themselves.

Don't skimp on the seed. In fact, use up to three times more than the packet says you need to ensure you'll end up with lots of blooms.

To avoid bare spots, divide your seed in half and sow the entire area with the first half, then go to the second.

Don't cover the seed at all, just firm it into the soil. A lawn roller works great!

Gently water until your seeds have sprouted and your plants are up and growing – this will usually take at least a month. Watch now, as the season unfolds in all of its beauty!

At the end of the growing season, after the plants have gone to seed, you should mow the entire field with your mower on its highest setting. This will prevent trees and shrubs from establishing themselves in your meadow. The mower will do a fair job of chopping up spent stems and leaves – just let them fall where they will.

First, they will act as winter mulch. Then, over time they will break down and add organic matter to the soil – just as leaves and twigs do in the woods. In the absence of a mower you can go the old fashioned route and cut the meadow with a scythe or hedge clippers.

In all instances care should be taken not to damage the crown of the plants, this can severely weaken or even kill perennial wildflowers.

As far as fertilizers go, wildflowers generally don't need it! In fact, rich soil does more harm than good, causing weeds to thrive and compete with your flowers for sunshine and water. Speaking of water, once your meadow is established it will only require water in cases of severe drought or if you plan to re-sow annual seeds in bare spots the following spring.

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.

Can my husband work part time and collect Social Security?

Dear Rusty:
I am writing to you on behalf of my husband. His intentions are to go part time as of Jan. 1, 2026, working 30 hours a week and take Social Security benefits as supplemental income. How can we determine what his Social Security benefit would be with him still working part time? He will be 63 and 7 months old next January and has not yet applied for benefits. We look forward to hearing from someone very soon.
Signed: Anxious for Information



by his monthly SS benefit amount.

FYI, the earnings test lasts until your husband reaches his Full Retirement Age (his FRA is age 67), but in the year he attains his FRA the penalty for exceeding the limit is less, \$1 for every \$3 over the limit and the limit is much higher. The annual earnings test no longer applies once your husband reaches his FRA.

When your husband applies for his SS retirement benefit, Social Security will ask about his work plans and how much he expects to earn each year. Based upon that information, if he expects to exceed the annual limit they will pay his benefits for some months of the year depending on his projected earnings and withhold his benefits for the remaining months. They will also monitor his annual earnings as reported to the IRS and make any appropriate benefit adjustment afterwards.

If SS benefits are withheld because your husband exceeded the annual earnings limit, when he reaches his full retirement age (67), Social Security will give him time-credit for all month's that benefits were withheld. Essentially, they will advance his actual claim date by the number of months benefits were withheld, which will make his monthly benefit higher at his FRA. The higher amount he receives after reaching his FRA will help him recover some of the money withheld as a result of exceeding the earnings limit before his FRA.

Please note that it is always best to inform Social Security up front if your husband plans to work and earn to work and reach his FRA. The IRS will provide the SSA with your husband's earnings information and SSA will (if his projected earnings weren't disclosed when he applied) issue an Overpayment Notice if he earns more than allowed. He will then be required to repay SS everything owed or have his benefits withheld until Social Security recovers what he owes.

One final point: by claiming his benefits in January 2026, your husband's monthly amount will be reduced by about 22% from the amount he would get at his FRA of 67. Claiming early before FRA always results in a benefit reduction, whereas waiting longer than FRA to claim always results in a higher monthly amount (maximum benefit is reached at age 70).

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

Dear Anxious:
If he claims Social Security at age 63 and 7 months, your husband's benefit will be about 78% of what it would be if he waited until age 67 to claim.

And, since your husband will not yet have reached his SS Full Retirement Age, he will be subject to Social Security's Annual Earnings Test, which limits how much he can earn while working and collecting early Social Security retirement benefits. The amount he can earn without paying a penalty changes yearly but, for reference, the earnings limit for 2025 is \$23,400 per year.

If his work earnings exceed the annual limit, Social Security will take away some of his benefits. Using the 2025 limit as an example, if your husband's annual 2025 earnings were \$40,000, then he would owe about \$8,300 (half of the amount he exceeded the limit by). Social Security would withhold his monthly benefits for enough months to recover what he owes for exceeding the earnings limit. How many months they withhold would be determined



QUABOAG CURRENT TEAM

EDITOR
Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
Dan Flynn
dflynn@turley.com

STAFF WRITER
Ryan Drago
rdrago@turley.com

SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

THE QUABOAG CURRENT (USPS# 10860) is published weekly (every Friday) by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069. Telephone at 413-283-8393 or fax at 413-289-1977. Periodical Postage Prices are Paid at Palmer, MA.
POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to: Quaboag Current, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

[@QuaboagCurrent](https://www.facebook.com/QuaboagCurrent)

WEB
www.quaboagcurrent.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

Turley Publications, Inc.
www.turley.com

Turley Publications, Inc. cannot assume liability for the loss of photographs or other materials submitted for publication. Materials will not be returned except upon specific request when submitted.

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.

your health

By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column

Summer health hazards – besides the heat

If you can't stand the heat – too bad. The National Weather Service is forecasting above-normal temperatures for a good chunk of the country in August, except where tropical storms and hurricanes are expected.

You can't win.
I wrote earlier this summer about the hazards of excessive heat, from heat rash to heat stroke, which is potentially fatal. Today, we'll talk more about a few com-

mon summer health hazards that we all need to watch out for.

Ticks

Ticks have to be one of nature's grossest arachnids. When you or a pet gets a tick bite, the tick (usually a female) does all it can to hold on and literally feed on your blood in order to lay its eggs. As it does, its body expands from something you can barely see to the size of a coffee bean – about 200 times

larger.

You usually won't feel a tick bite, which is why – after you've been outside – it's a good idea to check your legs for the presence of ticks. It's even better to have someone check you over, because they also favor warm and moist areas where they can hide, such as joints, armpits and genital areas. It usually takes 24 hours for a tick to start transmitting bacteria, so the sooner you remove it, the safer you'll be.

Problems may arise two to four weeks after you've been bitten, when tick-borne illnesses like Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain spotted fever will kick in, potentially causing rash, flu-like symptoms, joint pain, chest pain and gastrointestinal issues (vomiting, diarrhea.) If you remove a tick that has bitten you, tape it to an index card or keep it in alcohol so it can be identified in case you get sick.

The best why to deal with ticks is to avoid getting bitten in the first place by wearing appropriate clothing (for example, long pants tucked inside long socks) and applying insect repellent containing DEET. Keep your pets safe with flea and tick prevention recommended by your vet.

Dehydration

Especially during hot weather, our bodies experience greater "insensible loss" of moisture through our skin. It's how we cool ourselves through perspiration, and we can lose a lot of water in a short period of time.

Dehydration -- literally the lack of water -- affects us in many ways. You may not even realize you're dehydrated because you won't necessarily feel thirst.

People who are mildly dehydrated can experience irritability, fatigue and light-headedness, which can progress to confusion, fainting and symptoms of shock as

the brain experiences less blood flow. Severe dehydration may even lead to unconsciousness, coma and organ failure if left untreated.

Everyone needs different amounts of water, depending on age, weight and level of activity. The rule of thumb is six to eight glasses a day (about 64 ounces) for a healthy 150-pound person, but there's a better way to determine if you're getting enough water: your urine.

If your urine is the pale yellow of lemonade, you're probably getting enough water. Bright yellow urine means you need to drink more.

COVID-19

Yes, it's the virus that keeps on giving. The summer wave of COVID showed up right on schedule in June, with emergency rooms seeing a 15 percent increase in treat-

Our advertisers make this publication possible.

Let them know you saw their ad in the Quaboag Current

- community -

CHES COMPETITION FROM PAGE 1

12 East Main St., which, in consideration of what happens there, bids fair to being the cultural of capital of the town.

Scheduled to start 1 p.m., the first combatants were already at it by then. The battlefield was the array of tables out in front of Joy of Beans, with several chessboards set up.

The competition would have two divisions. Those 18 years of age and under compete together and those 19 and over, against each other.

Upon arriving we found Jim and Travis battling it out, while Jared versus Steve and Richard against John were at another table. The Youth Division saw Aubrey and Gabriel in competition.

Some of the competitors were sporting the official fashion of International Chess Day West Brookfield. It was a T-shirt with various chess pieces and the Queen to the forefront. At the bottom was the legend "Le Pouvoir."

Le Pouvoir translates from the French as "The Power." On the chessboard, the queen



Aubrey and Gabriel contemplate their next moves during a game of chess.

is the dominant piece, being able to move in all directions across the board. The King is rather limited in the moves he can make, and the game is lost if he is checked. However, it was not pointed out in French, that power, Le Pouvoir, is a masculine noun.

No matter, it was an attractive bit of clothing.

An open-air chess event on a summer's day in New England depends on one thing, no rain. Granted, there was cover, but a downpour would have sent the participants scurrying inside. Although rain would arrive later, the day was warm, moderated by an occasional breeze.

If one desired a break, the shop was open with gourmet coffee, teas and pastry to enjoy in the comfortable chairs. The larger room could almost be called an art museum as there are usually works by different artists over time.

On July the 20th, the works of Tara Erin were featured. Among the paintings were *The Spirit of Winter* and *Our Lady of Compassion* (painted after attacks in Paris). They show an artist who has a love of brilliant colors.

Joy Hinton, impresario of Joy of Beans, was everywhere, making sure it all went off smoothly and passing out bottles of water to make sure



John and Richard were intense during their match.

no one suffered from thirst.

The chess community regionally has been coming together for some time now. International Chess Day is lovely enough, but Joy of Beans has been the locus of the revival of the game around here. Jim, from Brookfield has been a spark as well.

Though there was not any boisterous behavior, victory is acknowledged and, in its own way, defeat is also, with contestants analyzing what was not done wisely and how they were caught off guard.

As the day went on, match results were recorded on a scoreboard. At the end the final outcome was Richard

surviving John in the 19 and over cohort, and Chase making it past Gabriel in the under 18 section.

Chase is Joy's grandson and son of Jared, one of the over 19s. Chess runs in the family.

So, it went over the afternoon.

The next event at Joy of Beans will be a "Cars and Coffee" day on a date to be determined. Attendees will park diagonally. Always something different in West Brookfield.

While you are waiting for that, there is always the possibility of finding a chess match on Saturdays at 12 East Main St.



Chase was named the Junior Champ.



Richard was named the Senior Champ.

N BROOKFIELD FROM PAGE 1

full of used diapers on the rail trail, and an empty box of diapers at the crossing of Elm Street.

Waldron reminded residents to clean up after their dogs, especially on the common. She said this is a regular issue, particularly in the area of the soccer field.

Board of Selectmen Chair Jason Petraitis said there are fines for leaving dog waste on public property.

He said the town's volunteers have put in a lot of work to keep the common enjoyable for all. He said a shade canopy that was recently added over the sandbox, has since been vandalized and ripped.

"There are fines involved in destruction of property," he said.

Petraitis said the board received photos of children seen playing on top of the canopy, which he warned against due to the danger of injury. He said if the children are identified, the parents could be held responsible for any damage to the canopy caused by this misuse.

"Don't let your kids climb on the canopy...have some respect for where we live, have some respect for the people who do the work for you," he said.

Board and committee vacancies

Petraitis read the list of vacancies for the town's boards and committees.

He encouraged any residents to visit the Town Offices and fill out a volunteer form to express their interest.

These vacancies include the following appointed positions: Town Administrator; Animal Control Officer; Fence Viewer (two seats); Assistant Fire Chief; Harbormaster; Town Hall Agent; Capital Improvement Planning Committee (four seats); Council on Aging (two alternate seats); Insurance Advisory Committee; Local Public Access Committee; Parks & Recreation Committee (two seats); Zoning Board of Appeals (alternate); and Assistant Sewer Superintendent.

Transfer requests

The board approved the transfer of \$28.43 from the Board of Selectmen Town Counsel Purchase of Services to the Board of Selectmen Town Offices Expense account. This amount was to cover a negative balance for the gas bill for fiscal year 2025.

The board also approved the transfer of \$2.18 from Town Counsel Purchase of Services to Streetlighting due to a higher than normal electric bill.

Spending requests

The Board of Selectmen

approved a spending request in the amount of \$2,075.77 from the Highway Department to cover the cost of repairs to the catch basin truck.

Laser light show funding

Parks & Recreation Committee Chair Brandon Avery said there isn't any funding available to have a laser light show this year. He said the committee will "look into some other alternatives at this time."

Resignation

The board received a resignation letter from Tara Hayes from her various positions on town boards and committees. These positions are Parks & Recreation Committee, Council on Aging, Zoning Board of Appeals and Capital Improvement Planning Committee.

Hayes said she will prioritize her health, her family, and her role as Town Clerk. She stated in her letter that she hopes residents will step up to take on any of these board and committee positions.

Appointments

The board appointed Suzanne Phipps as a full-time member of the Council on Aging. The board also appointed Mike Kularski as an alternate member of the Finance Committee and Heather Croteau as a member of the Cultural Council.

policing in both Hardwick and New Braintree and being involved in the communities. Landine also wants to get additional training opportunities for the department.

BEER AND BAND FROM PAGE 1

for a "creamy mouth feel." Cocoa nibs are added as is some coffee. A bit of a departure.

Lost Towns is going on the road. The brewery plans a dinner-concert series on three Wednesdays this summer. The series will take place at Laurel Ridge Bed and Breakfast.

Laurel Ridge is located off Southbridge Road on a secluded 60-acre setting in Warren. The words, one of a kind, truly apply here. The 4,500 square foot building was hand constructed by the members of the family, with much of the lumber from trees on the property.

If you've been around awhile, you remember the tornado that ripped through the area in 2011. Well, some of the trees uprooted then, are part of the house. Talk about recycling.

The band was now in tune and playing. The quartet performing are known as Woodshed. The style is designated as country/folk, but it was not without some bluesy notes.

The two instrumentalists and vocalists to the front were A.J. Kiernan and Jason Wood. Behind them were Karen Gallant providing harmony and the beat with an instrument known as a Cajon and Mike St. Germain was on stand-up bass.

The audience definitely found the band a pleasure to listen to, and others will too, as they are booked to gigs through the summer. In September they will go



Jillian, Gina, Kiaya, Sam, Alissa, Katelyn were ready to serve guests at Farmer Matt's BBQ+Beer+Band event.

into a studio in Springfield to record an album of five songs over five days.

As the day got later, more and more folks arrived to enjoy the band, the food, or each other's company. Some enjoyed walking around the farm which is a pleasure in itself.

Down at the other end several Angus cows had found a lush spot and were calmly grazing. Walking back from there, the sun was slowly declining making for a pleasant contrast over the large field.

The food squad was kept busy taking orders and preparing meals. The process started with Katelyn writing up, and the kitchen team preparing the meal and when done, it was delivered to the patron. The system itself was beyond the understanding of your correspondent, as the diners gave their phone numbers, and that had something to do with the order.

No matter, it was all efficient.

Matt was everywhere. At one point,

he and another fellow were seen moving a picnic table so that some guests could make use of it. In doing so, two kids were sitting on it as it was being carried.

What Matt won't do for his guests!

The band continued to play, the weather was idyllic and the evening continued pleasantly.

The evening would come to an end, but summer is not over and Aug. 21 will see the return of BBQ+Beer+Band with the band North Country Strangers headlining.



Erin and Alex were in service for Lost Towns.

LANDINE FROM PAGE 1

lect Board, Rebecca Acerra, shared with the boards that residents have expressed overwhelming support of these new appointments. Hardwick Town Adminis-

trator Justine Caggiano said Hardwick residents have also expressed support of these new appointments.

Moving forward as the Chief of Police, Landine is focused on continuing the

Park Administrator

Full-time Park Administrator for a large, over-55 mobile home community. Responsibilities include overseeing facilities and maintenance crew, as well as enforcement of cooperative rules. Individual would be expected to take an active role in day-to-day operations, in coordination with President, Board of Directors, maintenance crew and office staff.

Requirements include previous management experience; general knowledge of building, property and vehicle maintenance; excellent organizational, communications, and time-management skills.

Resumes can be sent to:
Pine Valley Plantation Cooperative,
 281 Chauncey Walker St., OFC30,
 Belchertown, MA 01007
 or emailed to office@pvpcop.com
 Attention: Richard Kelleher, President

Please include days and times that you would be available for an in-person interview.

LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET!		INFLATION		PRICE BUSTERS		PRICES IN RED ARE AT OR BELOW LAST YEAR'S PRICES!	
USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS CENTER CUT PORK LOIN CHOPS OR ROAST	\$2.88 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF RIBEYE STEAKS	\$10.99 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF CHUCK ROAST or STEAKS	\$5.69 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST 10 LB BAG	\$2.33 lb
USDA INSP. STORE CUT BONE-IN HAM STEAK	\$3.99 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF SIRLOIN SPOON ROAST or STEAKS	\$7.49 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN THIGHS 10 LB BAG	\$1.55 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN FULLY COOKED PANCAKE BATTERED SAUSAGE	\$2.99 lb
USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS PORK BUTT STRIPS	\$2.99 lb	USDA INSP. STOREMADE ITALIAN MARINATED 1/2 CHICKEN	\$2.99 lb	USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN COOKED SALAD SHRIMP 91/120 CT. 2 LB BAG	\$6.99 ea		
USDA INSP. TURKEY BREAST	\$4.99 lb	USDA INSP. PEPPER JACK CHEESE	\$4.99 lb	USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY DIET LEAN GROUND BEEF 5 LB BAG	\$4.99 lb		
USDA INSP. STOREMADE KOREAN BBQ MARINATED BONELESS PORK BUTT STRIPS	\$3.35 lb						

SALE DATES: 7/24/25-7/30/25

90 Meat Outlet

HOURS: Mon. - Wed. 8-4
Thurs. 8-6 • Fri. 8-6 • Sat. 8-3

90 Avocado St. Springfield 413-737-1288 www.90meat.com

We reserve the right to limit quantities.

- community -

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.

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.

Sons of A.L. sponsors 20th annual Scholarship Scramble

WEST BROOKFIELD – Sons of the American Legion, Post 244, West Brookfield is hosting its 20th Annual "Scholarship Scramble" Golf Tournament on Saturday, Aug. 9.

The tournament features 18 holes of golf with an 8 a.m. shotgun start at Quail Hollow Country

Club, Oakham. There will be a chicken dinner, raffles and prizes to follow at the Legion Post 244 in West Brookfield.

The cost of the tournament is \$120 per person and must be received by Aug. 2. For more information, contact Kevin at 774-230-3262 or Gary at 508-450-8643.

- public notices -

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, 18-25, as amended by Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2009, The Wetlands Protection Act, the West Brookfield Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **WEDNESDAY August 6, 2025 at 6:00 pm** in the first floor meet-

ing room, West Brookfield Town Hall, 2 East Main Street.

6:00 – Public Hearing:
NOI – 164 Wigwam Road – Ingraham – Repair/Improve Road and Drainage

NOI – Abbreviated - Continuation – 25 Rodman Street – Carlson – replace wall, patio, stairs

RDA – Continuation - Vegetation Management – CSX Transportation -

NOI – Leland Road - Water Department – Continuation - Construction of new water treatment facility.
07/25/2025

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, 1: 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

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

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 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

FUNDRAISER FROM PAGE 1

Rob Kubert.

Proceeds go to providing big life journals to schools, memorial gifts, peer to peer support and Tyler's Heart awards a \$2,000 scholarship every year. The recipient of this year's scholarship was Nadia Rondeau, a graduate of David Prouty High School.

In the past, Tyler's Heart has hosted other fundraising events, but the Band Together for Mental Health is their biggest annual fundraiser. Tyler's Heart has hosted a cornhole tournament, comedy for crash event. The car show at the Hardwick Winery was a new addition to the Band Together for Mental Health event.

The five bands performing were Ashley Hensel & Ben Eramo, Crossing Kelley, Secret Sage, Headsmack, and Lori Brooks. All the bands performed outside under one of the pavilions at Hardwick Winery.

Tyler's Heart hosted this event in previous years at the former Common Ground Ciderworks in North Brookfield. This year Kubert said the organization is looking to expand in other areas to host events including the Band Together for Mental Health.

"Spread our mission," Kubert said. "Spread across the communities and look-



Headsmack was one of five bands who performed at the Band Together for Mental Health event.

ing to expand in other areas, trying to spread our message."

There were over 50 vendors in attendance at this year's Band Together for Mental Health. Vendors offered multiple goods such as jewelry, clothing, baked goods, candles, plants, soap, handcrafted items such as quilts and much more to shop for.

There was a kid's corner providing all sorts of fun activities. Kids got to enjoy face painting, tie dye, sand art, rock painting, giant Jenga, bracelet making, photo props, and a lot more. Later in the day, people got to meet Gilbert the Pig and his piggy friends at the Hardwick Winery.

Tyler's Heart had a booth with raffles with multiple prizes to win and merchandise to continue to spread awareness of their cause in



Merchandise such as T-shirts were available at the Tyler's Heart booth. Their mission is to bring awareness to mental health and encourage acts of kindness.

memory of Tyler and his sister Grace. There were prize baskets, sports memorabilia, tickets, band T-shirts, and Tyler's Heart swag.

Kubert describes Band Together for Mental Health as a very family-friendly event that is also about spreading kindness. For memories, there was a photo booth with a Tyler's Heart backdrop and a Franken-

stein statue in front. Dozens of guests got to do a photo shoot with Frankenstein.

Throughout the day, a lot of people showed up during Band Together for Mental Health and Tyler's Heart funds more than doubled their funds from last year.

"We are extremely grateful for the overwhelming support," Kubert said.

For more information, visit tylersheart.org to learn more about this nonprofit organization who helps bring awareness to mental health and continuing acts of kindness.

There is a sharing wellness library placed in the center of North Brookfield. Self help books for all different ages are available in the sharing wellness library. Tyler's Heart and its team hope to expand this more in the future.



Raffle prizes were up for grabs at the Tyler's Heart booth.



Professional - Reliable - Fully Insured

Tree Trimming and Removal
Emergency Tree Work • Stump Grinding
Crane Service • Firewood Delivery

All Major Credit Cards Accepted
100% Financing Available

162 Sturbridge Road, Brimfield, MA 01010
508-641-5249 • office@robinsontreeservice.net
www.robinsontreeservice.net

YOUR HEALTH FROM PAGE 4

ing people who have COVID, and hospitalizations for severe cases increasing by 25 percent.

While researchers are working to understand the new variants, which appear to be more transmissible, there are two pieces of good news.

First, the variants appear genetically similar to previous variants, so existing vaccines should remain effective. Also, most of us have built up significant immunity because we've had the vaccines and we've likely had COVID ourselves.

So if it's been six months or more since your last

COVID booster, head to your doctor's office or the local supermarket or pharmacy for a fresh one. And I do recommend that, if you're traveling on crowded airplanes this summer, wear an N95 mask.

Falls

The aforementioned hazards of heat and dehydration, when they result in fainting or dizziness, means we are more susceptible to falls, and this is especially true of our seniors.

Also, we're outside more, around slipper surfaces (like poolsides) and maybe wearing the wrong shoes, making slip-and-falls more common, too. Again, protect yourself by staying hydrated and not

getting overheated in the hot days to come.

Cooler days are coming, if we can just hang in there and stay safe.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate, is the founder of Northshore Patient Advocates LLC (NSHore). She is also founder and CEO of Nurse Advocate Entrepreneur, which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. Teri offers a free phone consultation to newspaper readers as well as to nurses interested in becoming advocates. Reach her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com.

SPORTS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

North County defeats Belchertown in Legion playoffs

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN—Following a loss at Northbridge Post 343 on June 28, the North County Post 129 Legion baseball team had a 2-7-1 record. The Post 129 squad closed out the regular season by winning seven of their final ten games and qualified for the state playoffs.

While North County just squeaked into the playoffs as the sixth-place finisher in District 4, Belchertown was the best baseball team in District 3 throughout the regular season.

The two Legion baseball teams faced each other in the opening round of the state playoffs at the Belchertown High School baseball field last Saturday afternoon. North County scored three unearned runs in the first inning and posted a 3-0 shutout victory over the top-seeded team in the Region 1 pod.

“We started playing very well as a team during the second half of the regular season,” said North County righthander Levi Hessel,



Adam Adams receives a throw to third.

who was the winning pitcher in the opening round game. “I had a 3-0 lead to protect before I walked out to the mound for the first time in the bottom of the first inning.”

Hessel was a member of the Oakmont Regional varsity baseball team, which won back-to-back Division 3 state titles in 2023-24. He'll

be playing baseball at Wheaton College next year.

The righthander only allowed four base hits in 5 2/3 innings in his start against Belchertown.

North County, which plays its home games at the Winchendon School, has a total of seven Oakmont players listed on their roster. They also have three players



Anthony Girgenti slings a throw to first

from Quabbin Regional in Barre.

They are Alijah Flint, Adam Adams, and Aiden Lapointe, who pinch hit in the seventh inning.

The Legion playoff format was changed this year. The first round of the Legion double elimination playoffs were held at seven different sites throughout the state.

Each of the pods had four teams.

The Senior Division Championship Tournament is scheduled to take place at Adams Field, Quincy, Massachusetts starting on July 26.

North County (9-10-1) was one of the three Legion teams who defeated the top-seeded team in the open-



Rocky Lora makes a play.

ing round.

“We managed to score three runs in the first inning before they shut us down over the final six,” said North County head coach Gregg Picucci. “We played well defensively, and our two pitchers pitched very well.

See NORTH COUNTY PAGE 8

Catalano scores win at Monadnock

WINCHESTER, New Hampshire – For Tommy Catalano, watching his brother Trevor earn his first NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour victory at Monadnock Speedway last year was emotional for several reasons.

Trevor's triumph came in only his eighth NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour appearance. Entering Saturday's Duel at the Dog 200 at Monadnock Speedway, Tommy had 96 career starts on his resume, none of which had resulted in a win despite several close calls.

Years of patience and hard work brought a second Catalano to Monandock's Victory Lane in thrilling fashion.

Tommy was tasked with fending off Patrick Emerling during an overtime restart while on older tires. Emerling briefly took the lead from Tommy, but a nudge to Emerling's back bumper knocked him out of the groove just enough for Tommy to earn an emotional breakthrough victory by the slimmest of margins – .007 seconds.

“I didn't really want to get [Emerling] like that into [turn three],” Tommy said. “I was hoping to kind of move him up the hill a little bit. Everyone was kind of tight right there. Justin [Bonsignore] was right on my bumper. It's unbelievable.

“Hopefully this isn't the last one.”

After starting 12th, Tommy cycled to the second

position after electing to stay on track during a caution with 42 laps remaining that, ironically, involved his brother Trevor.

Tommy lined up second behind Luke Baldwin for the ensuing restart, with Tyler Rypkema providing the two a buffer between Emerling, who led the remaining lead lap cars off pit road. Knowing he needed to move quickly, Tommy dove underneath Baldwin in Turn 1 to take the lead, which also pinned Emerling on the top line.

By the time Emerling worked his way back to second behind Tommy, another caution would trigger an overtime restart. The fastest car at Monadnock all evening would now be lined up to Tommy's outside for the final two-lap sprint, but even with the odds against him, the seasoned veteran was not ready to surrender the win just yet.

Emerling led at the white flag. Through determination and sheer will, Tommy led at the checkered flag, albeit just barely.

The scene in Victory Lane was nearly identical to last year's Duel at the Dog 250, with the only difference being the role reversal of the brothers.

As the Catalanos celebrated, Emerling felt a mix of frustration and disappointment with his second-place effort. He was critical of the maneuver Tommy pulled on him to take the victory but does not

plan to linger on Saturday's defeat for long.

“We had the best car today,” Emerling said. “We led basically the whole race and the whole team executed really good. We were doing exactly what we had to do and had the race won in the last corner but got smashed out of the way. That's not the type of racing that I do, but I guess that's how it goes.”

If Emerling had edged Tommy at the line, he would have snapped a streak of different winners to open 2025, having previously won at New Smyrna Speedway. Austin Beers' victory at Lancaster Motorplex last weekend tied the record for seven different winners in seven events that was set in 1999.

Instead, Tommy's valiant effort during the final laps set a new NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour record; eight winners in the first eight races.

Building up Catalano Motorsports has been a prolonged, methodical effort not only by Tommy, but his mother Amy, his brother Dave, his brothers and every member of his team. That elusive first victory finally arrived on Saturday, a day Tommy wasn't sure would ever materialize.

“It's just nuts,” Tommy said. “You see all the people that have won so far this year and if you said any of them were going to win their second race [this year], that wouldn't have surprised me

See RACING PAGE 8



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHTOS.COM
Rees Sheppard socks a free kick away.

Pioneers grab win in playoffs



Gustavo Barbosa gets a leg on the ball.

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Four days after giving up a pair of stoppage time goals and having to settle for a tie against rival Vermont Green FC in the regular season finale, the Western Mass. Pioneers hosted the Long Island Rough Riders in a USL League Two play-in match.

Once again, the Pioneers held a two-goal advantage late in the second half, but this time there wouldn't be any miracle comeback by the opposing team. The Pioneers advanced into the Eastern Conference quarterfinals with a 2-0 shutout victory before a large

crowd at Lusitano Stadium, last Tuesday night.

“We're very happy with this result, especially after what happened on Friday night,” said longtime Western Mass. Pioneers



Juan Hermoso heads up the field but eyes an open teammate.

head coach Federico Molinari. “It was in the back of my mind during tonight's game. You just hope it doesn't happen again.”

The Pioneers, who finished the regular season with a 10-1-3 record, played their last home game of the season.

Pioneers' goalie Trey Sheppard, who made his first home start of the season against Vermont, was feeling much better after posting his first shutout against the Rough Riders.

“I didn't sleep very well the other night, but I received a lot of support from my teammates,” said Sheppard, who's from Columbus, Ohio. “I just forgot about the past and focused

See PIONEERS PAGE 8

Western Mass. softball captures gold

DEVENS – Earlier this month, the entrant from Western Massachusetts captured the gold in this year's Bay State Summer Games for softball.

The tournament began this year with West team actually suffering a loss 3-0 in the opener playing in the Willard Field Complex in Devens. The tournament started

on July 8 with two games. Following an opening loss, the West bounced back with a 4-3 win over the Northeast team.

Action continued on Wednesday July 9 as the West scored two wins in the game. They defeated Metro 2-1 and then trounced on the Central Mass. team 10-2 to earn a spot in the gold medal game,

which took place on Thursday, July 10.

The West found itself in a rematch with Coastal and this time prevailed in a slugfest, winning 11-7. Among the players on this year's team from Western Mass., Chelsea Hull of Monson High School, Agawam's Alexina Lentas, and Holyoke's Mia Bauer were on the team.



Jose Suarez Monaco goes after the ball.

- sports -

Valley Blue Sox scored slugfest win before break

HOLYOKE – The Valley Blue Sox had great offensive success in their 14-11 victory over the Sanford Mainers. Valley (16-19) had the bats going early thanks to shortstop Michael Elko and right fielder Isaac Wachsmann, however, Sanford (18-18) started the offensive explosion first.

In the top of the first, Mainers' Zack Kent singled up the middle to score Domenico Tozzi. Peter Keblinsky scored an earned run on an E2 by Hayden Perry and Kent scored unearned. Sanford had a dominant top of the second inning, scoring four more insurance runs

thanks to wild pitches and an error by the Blue Sox.

Valley found their footing in the bottom of the inning. It started with Wyatt Hunt being hit by a pitch which was followed by Andrew Loikits' double. An E6 error occurred which allowed Hunt to score and Loikits to advance to third. Kai Cunningham then singled into center field scoring Loikits. Cunningham found his way down to second base on a nice steal and was then driven in to score off of a single by Chris Carson. It was now 7-3 at the end of two innings.

Sanford acquired two

runners on first and second before Sam Miller nuked a three run home run shot into left field to make it 10-3 heading into the bottom of the third.

Just when it looked like the Blue Sox were going to be crushed by the Mainers, Valley had an incredible offensive explosion. Wachsmann crushed a homer into left field to start the scoring frenzy. Nichoals Spaventa and Hunt walked and then Loikits reached first base on an E1 which allowed Spaventa to score to make it 10-5. Cunningham hit a sac ground out to score Hunt and advance Loikits.

Hayden Perry walked to reach first. Carson drove a ball into left center to score Loikits and advance Perry to third. Then Michael Elko came to the plate. Elko ripped a triple into right field scoring Perry, Carson and himself on a E4 to tie the game at 10-10. Wachsmann came up to bat for the second time that inning and crushed a homer into the same exact spot as before to give Valley their first lead of the night 11-10 to end the inning.

Wachsmann was hyped about his home runs. "There was not a lot going through my head [during the home

runs.] I was just trying to put together good at bats and help the team get back into the game."

Valley's Head Coach Endy Morales was impressed with Wachsmann's performance. "He's a super talented guy and when pitchers make mistakes and when facing really good hitters, you make them pay, that's just the name of the game right there."

More scoring occurred in the bottom of the fourth. Hunt tripled which was then followed by Loikits walking and stealing second. Cunningham then walked to load the bases up. Perry's

sac ground out scored Hunt and advanced Loikits to third. Carson walked and then Elko slapped a double off the center field wall to drive in Loikits and Carson. The Blue Sox were now up 14-10.

Sanford was ultimately not able to catch up to Valley's explosive offensive momentum as the game ended 14-11 in favor of the Blue Sox.

Morales was hyped about the win. "Absolutely incredible [game]. I told the [team] in the second inning this game was going to be a dog fight and they responded," Morales said.

Quabbin Valley set to host second over-28 fall league

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

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

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

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

on the completion of the spring/summer season as well as to makeup rain-outs, potentially. Games are nine-innings long and there is a small playoff and championship held at the end of the season. Last year's fall season was eight games and that is the goal for this year. Free and low-cost fields are used as well as just one umpire in an effort to keep the costs lower for players. The cost to play will likely range from \$40 to \$60 for the eight-game schedule. Players from outside the Quabbin League may also pay a small fee for insurance as well.

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

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

NORTH COUNTY FROM PAGE 7

We just need to perform a little bit better offensively."

The only team from District 4 who beat Belchertown (12-2) during the regular season was Northampton Post 28 on June 13.

"We don't enjoy losing, but it's part of baseball," said Belchertown head coach Todd McDonald. "We just made a couple of costly mistakes in the first inning of today's game. Their starting pitcher also pitched well. He just kept throwing strikes."

North County, who was the visiting team, began the top of the first inning with a leadoff walk by centerfielder Johnny Losordo. After the next batter hit a pop-up caught by Belchertown shortstop Ian McDonald, Losordo stole second base. Then Hessel hit a flyball that was misplayed by the right fielder, which turned out to be a key play in the inning. Following another pop-up caught by second baseman Jake Waller, North County scored their first run when leftfielder Ben Forbes hit a line-drive single to left.

Two more runs crossed the plate following another



Adam Adams, who attends Quabbin Regional High School, tries to make a play at second.

single into left field by third baseman Steven Escano.

Hessel set down the side in order in the home half of the first inning before Belchertown put together a rally in the bottom of the second.

Catcher Jacob Smith (2-for-3) began things with an infield hit to third before advancing to second base on a throwing error. DH Chace Earle also had an infield hit before a walk to first baseman Thatcher Rudnik loaded the bases. Hessel then proceeded to strike out the

next threat batters ending the threat.

Hessel finished his outstanding performance with a total of nine strikeouts.

Belchertown had three more base runners in the following frame, but once again failed to score.

After allowing three unearned runs in the first inning, Belchertown righthander Alex West retired eight consecutive batters before giving up another single to Escano with one out in the fourth.

At that point, West was

relieved by Earle, who loaded the bases with two outs in the inning.

Belchertown center fielder Spencer Waite made an outstanding diving catch on a line drive hit by Losordo which ended the fourth inning.

The home team loaded the bases again with two outs in the bottom of the sixth.

Forbes, who replaced Hessel on the mound during that inning, got out of that jam without allowing any runs following a strikeout.

Earle, who's a righty, retired the final eight batters that he faced. McDonald set down the only batter that he faced in the top of the seventh on a flyball to center.

Forbes, who plays baseball at Fitchburg State University, also retired the three batters that he faced in the seventh inning, which sealed the upset victory for North County.

Belchertown kept their season alive with a 5-0 win against Northampton on Sunday morning.

North County suffered an 11-3 loss to Leominster Post 151 in a winner's bracket game.

RACING FROM PAGE 7

at all. To come here and do what we did is phenomenal.

"You start getting down

thinking it's not meant to be, but you keep plugging away and keep at it."

Kyle Bonsignore finished third in his 100th NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour start,

followed by his cousin Justin Bonsignore and Beers. The rest of the top 10 included Rypkema, Baldwin, Stephen Kopicik, Craig Lutz and Anthony Nocella.

PIONEERS FROM PAGE 7

on tonight's game. I'm really looking forward to playing for this team again next year."

Sheppard is also one of the goalies listed on the Amherst College men's soccer roster. The Mammoths are the defending NCAA Division 3 National Champions.

Sheppard, who's going to be a sophomore in the fall, missed most of the Pioneers regular season because the Amherst men's soccer team made a trip to Europe where they played several matches.

"It was definitely a very cool experience," he said. "We played a few games over there, but I'm very glad they gave me an opportunity to play here."

Sheppard certainly enjoyed having a solid defense in front of him led by Pioneers captain Aidan Kelly, who's a member of the

UMass-Amherst men's soccer team.

"Aidan is a great defender," Sheppard said. "He makes all of the plays."

The other three Pioneers starting defenders in the home finale were Jaiden Willems, Juan Hermoso, and Gustavo Barosa.

Willems suffered an injury in the middle of the first half against Long Island (9-3-1). He was replaced by Jared Smith.

"I thought Jared was the man of the match," Sheppard added. "We have a very good defense."

The play-in match was scoreless until the 26th minute of the opening half.

That's when Mamadi Jiana, who graduated from Chicopee High School, received a pass from Israel Neto before blasting a shot into the net.

"I felt very good after scoring what turned out to be the game winning goal

in front of the hometown crowd," said Jiana, who mostly likely played his final match wearing a Pioneers jersey at Lusitano Stadium. "It's always very special whenever we're playing at home."

A couple of minutes later, Neto fired a shot from the top of the box, but Long Island goalie Ethan Wood managed to knock the ball over the crossbar resulting in a corner kick.

The Pioneers held a 1-0 halftime advantage.

In the middle of the second half, Neto chipped a pass from the right side of the box to a wide Santiago Blasco Gomez, who put the ball into the net giving the Pioneers a 2-0 advantage.

Unlike what happened in the regular season finale, Sheppard and the defense didn't allow the Rough Riders to make a late comeback.

Are you having difficulty communicating with your partner, struggling with boundaries, and healthy relationships?

We invite you to join us Friday afternoons from 1-2:30 pm to explore these topics and more.

This group will be held in zoom, is educational, confidential, and free.

Please contact Pat James 413-726-8661.

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.

@turleysports www.turleysports.com facebook.com/turleysports

Turleysports

Athlete of the Month

NAME: Liam McGrath
SCHOOL: Quaboag
McGrath represented Quaboag on the Monson Post 241 American Legion baseball team this summer.



To nominate someone for Athlete of the Week, contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at 413-283-8393 ext. 258 or send an e-mail to gscibelli@turley.com.

MOULTON
Insurance Agency

HOME – AUTO – BUSINESS – LIFE

**CONGRATULATIONS
ATHLETE!**

Very Competitive Rates • Experienced Professional Staff
99% Claim Satisfaction Rate • On-site Registry Processing

143 West Street
Ware, MA 01082

45 North Main Street
Belchertown, MA 01007

www.moultoninsurance.com

413-967-3327

ARBELLA
INSURANCE

**Our Family
Cares
About Your
Family**

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

FOR SALE

FIREWOOD

FIREWOOD
Fresh cut & split \$225.00
Seasoned cut & split \$325.00
All hardwood.
Tree length available
*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap). Quality & volumes guaranteed!! New England Forest Products (413)477-0083

MORE HEAT LESS WOOD. Central Boiler Classic Edge HDX Outdoor Wood Furnace. EPA Certified. Titanium Stainless Steel. \$2K Tax Credit. Call (508)882-0178

MISCELLANEOUS

PIANO FOR SALE
\$100 or best offer.
Call Judy at 413-419-8263.

NATIVE ULTIMATE 12 FISHING KAYAK:
Excellent Condition, always stored indoors. Adjustable seat, Scotty Rod Holders, Hummingbird fish finder, trolling motor, paddle, Stohlquist fishing vest, and many extras. \$600.
Call Frank 413-537-5254

WANTED

WANTED TO BUY

ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.

BUYING Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, kitchenware, cookware, knives, military, automotive, fire department, masonic, license plates, beer cans, barware, books, oil cans, advertising tins, hunting, fishing, signs, and more.
Donald Roy (860) 874-8396

JUNK REMOVAL

A Call We Haul FAST REMOVAL

Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts.
We load it & take it.
413-531-1936
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

ARA JUNK FURNITURE REMOVAL

Full house cleanouts, attics, basements, garages, pools, hot tubs, sheds, decks. Same day service. 8am-9pm. Credit cards accepted. Free estimates on phone.
Fully insured.
Call Pete 413-433-0356.

SERVICES



A B Hauling and Removal Service

2*****A & B HOUSEHOLD REMOVAL SERVICE*****

Cellars, attics, garages cleaned, yard debris. Barns & sheds demolished. Swimming pools removed. Cheaper than dumpster fees and we do all the work. Lowest rates. Fully insured. (413)283-6512, cell (413)222-8868.

DRYWALL, PAINTING AND CEILINGS, plaster repair. Drywall hanging. Taping & complete finishing. All ceiling textures. Fully insured. Jason at Great Walls. (413)563-0487

ELECTRICIAN

LICENSED ELECTRICIAN

I offer good quality electrical work, no project too small. Mini-splits, upgrades, pools, trustworthy & dependable. Luis Arroyo #20773A. Text or call 413-218-3301.

ZEN ELECTRIC COMPANY LLC
Fully licensed and insured; Master Electrician on staff. Call for all your electrical needs. No job too small. Senior citizen and Veteran Discount. A veteran owned company. MA License #8101A1.
Call John at (413)206-6509

EXCAVATING

ELIOT STARBARD EXCAVATION
35+ yrs of happy customers.
508-882-0140

HOME IMPROVEMENT

CHAMELEON PAINTING & REMODELING
INTERIOR/EXTERIOR Remodeling & Deck Specialists
Residential/Commercial
Fully Insured • Free Estimates
413-351-1147

HOME IMPROVEMENTS. REMODELING Kitchens, baths. Ceramic tile, windows, painting, wallpapering, siding, decks. Insurance work. Fully insured. Free estimates. (413)246-2783 Ron.

WALKER HOME IMPROVEMENT
Interior and exterior
Finish carpentry, framing, window & door replacement, drywall, painting and decks. Competitive pricing. Insured.
Call Brendan at 413-687-5552.

Find archives of this local newspaper at
www.newspapers.turley.com

SERVICES

LANDSCAPING

A+ ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BOBCAT SERVICE

Excavator Services
Overgrown property?
Extreme Brush Cutting!
Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal
Lawn/Arborvitae Installed
Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand
Storm Clean-up
Small Demolition/ Junk Removal
Insured
Josh Rozell 413-636-5957

****ALL SEASON**** Specializing in shrub trimming, pruning, design, deliveries, loader, backhoe, insured. Professional. Please call Bob (413)537-5789 (413)538-7954.

MATT GUERTIN LANDSCAPING

Weekly Mowing
Landscape design and installation
Paver Patios, Walkways
For more services visit
mattguertinlandscaping.com
Call or text 413-266-9975
Insured - Commercial - Residential

LAWN & GARDEN

***COMPOSTED LOAM* 3/8"** screened, \$40/yd. deliv., 10 yd min.; No additives, fillers or by-products. Local deliv. to Oakham and surrounding towns only. Eliot Starbard 508-882-0140.

MASONRY

STOP WET BASEMENTS

ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT WATERPROOFING
All brick, block, stone, concrete. Hatchway doors, basement windows, chimneys rebuilt & repaired, foundations repaired, basement waterproofing systems, sump pumps. BBB+ rating. Free estimates. Lic #14790. Call (413)569-1611, (413)374-5377

C&J MASONRY HARDSCAPE RETAINING WALLS

Chimney Repair
Foundation Repair
Steps, Patios
Pool Surrounds
Pressure Washing
Water Proofing
Cord Wood

Brian French
(413) 222-5542
frenchyn@gmail.com

SERVICES

PLUMBING

GREG LAFONTAIN PLUMBING & HEATING Lic #19196 Repairs & Replacement of fixtures, water heater installations, steam/HW boiler replacement. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30 years experience. Fully insured. \$10 Gift Card With Work Performed. Call Greg (413)592-1505

TREE WORK

AAA-TROM'S TREE SERVICE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE. Residential removal of trees. Free estimates, Fully insured W/Workman's Comp. Remove them before the wind takes them down. Cordwood, stump grinding. Call 413-283-6374.

AFFORDABLE STUMP GRINDING
Fast, dependable service. Free estimates. Fully insured. Call Joe Sablack 413-436-9821, Cell 413-537-7994

DL & G TREE SERVICE. Everything from tree pruning, tree removal, stump grinding, storm damage and brush chipping. Honest and Dependable. Fully insured. Now offering a Senior Citizen and Veteran discount. Call today for free estimate (413)478-4212

TUNE-UPS

LAWN TRACTOR & MOWER TUNE UP & REPAIR

A&M TUNE-UPS
Push Lawnmowers, Riding Mowers and Small Engine Repair.
Work done at your home.
STUMP GRINDING
FREE PICKUP OF UNWANTED LAWN EQUIPMENT
Call Mike (413) 348-7967

STUMP GRINDING

DL & G STUMP GRINDING Grinding stumps of all sizes, insured & certified. Senior discounts. Call Dave 413-478-4212

AFFORDABLE STUMP GRINDING
Fast, dependable service. Free estimates. Fully insured. Call Joe Sablack 413-436-9821, Cell 413-537-7994



SAW Stump Grinding
Call for a Free Estimate, Veteran Owned, Fully Insured
WWW.SAWSTUMPGRINDING.COM
413-213-5470

AUTO

CASH FOR JUNK AND REPAIRABLE CARS
FREE TOWING FAST SERVICE CASH PAID AS IS
CALL OR TEXT 413-219-6839

HELP WANTED

Full Time Position OIL BURNER SERVICE TECH

MA Oil Burner Tech License required. Full Time position with benefits and vacation. Local service area, no cities. Potential signing bonus based on experience. Call Sherman Oil to inquire. 508-867-7447 or email shermanoil@aol.com.

HOUSEKEEPER. Monday and Friday, 5 hours each day. Duties include cleaning, ironing, washing. Send resume to **PO Box 8, Hampden, MA 01036.**

SERVERS WANTED
Inquire at **Girly's Grill, 1315 Park St., Palmer, MA 01069** or call 413-284-0005.

THE TOWN OF HUNTINGTON IS SEEKING A PART-TIME TREASURER.

\$20,384 - \$23,110 annual salary based on experience. Approximately 16 hours per week. Application and complete job description are available online at www.huntingtonma.us or by emailing admin@huntingtonma.us. Position is open until filled. Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

TOWN OF WORTHINGTON HIGHWAY POSITION OPENING

The Town of Worthington is soliciting letters of interest and resumes from qualified candidates for a **full-time Equipment Operator/General Laborer** position within the Highway Department. Valid MA CDL operator, Hydraulic Hoister's licenses and OSHA-10 certification is preferred.

More in-depth information can be found on the Town's website: www.worthington-ma.us
Questions will be answered by the Highway Superintendent at 64 Huntington Road, Monday - Friday, 7 AM to 3 PM; the telephone number is 413-238-5830 or send letter of interest, resume and three (3) references with relevant contact information to highway@worthington-ma.us and sboard@worthington-ma.us. This posting will remain pertinent until the position is filled.
The Town of Worthington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Post your job openings in our classifieds.
WE GET RESULTS!

HELP WANTED

TRUCK DRIVER/LABORER

The Town of Peru Highway Department is now accepting applications for the position of **Truck Driver/Laborer**. Preferred applicants will have a valid Class B CDL, Class 2A Hoisting license, and a current DOT Physical card. Construction and mechanical experience preferred. Must be able to work in all weather conditions. Position is full time 40hrs/week with mandatory overtime during snowstorms. Excellent benefits. Email resume to: townadmin@townofperuma.com or mail to **Town of Peru, Board of Selectmen, 3 East Main Rd. Suite 107, Peru MA 01235**. For additional information contact the Highway Superintendent at (413) 655-8224. (The Town of Peru is an equal opportunity employer).

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT

4 ROOMS, 2 BEDROOMS, 1.5/baths, appliances included. \$1500/mo. No utilities. 1st/last/security. References and proof of income required. Call 413-589-0401.



ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

WARE: 3 BDRM., quiet dead end street. Refrig/stove/off-street parking. \$1300/mo. First/last. (508) 723-2638.

FOR RENT



All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

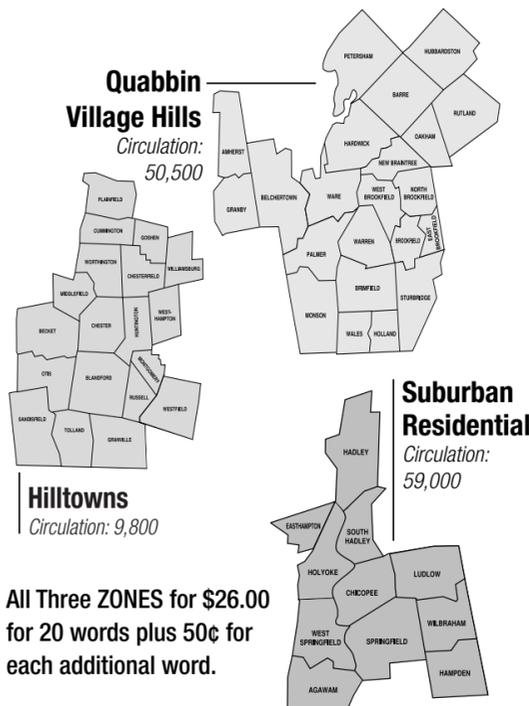
FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 DEADLINES: FRIDAY AT NOON
or call: 413-283-8393

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	Base Price \$26.50	22	Base Price \$27.00
23	Base Price \$27.50	24	Base Price \$28.00
25	Base Price \$28.50	26	Base Price \$29.00
27	Base Price \$29.50	28	Base Price \$30.00
29	Base Price \$30.50	30	Base Price \$31.00
31	Base Price \$31.50	32	Base Price \$32.00
33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base Price \$33.00
35	Base Price \$33.50	36	Base Price \$34.00
37	Base Price \$34.50	38	Base Price \$35.00
39	Base Price \$35.50	40	Base Price \$36.00

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Number of Weeks: _____ X per week rate = \$ _____
Credit Card: MasterCard VISA Discover Cash Check# _____
Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____
Amount of charge: _____ Date: _____

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!



All Three ZONES for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word.

GREAT VALUE!
ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!

Make checks payable to Turley Publications

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES
FRIDAY AT NOON



Turley Publications, Inc.
12 HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS
413.283.8393
www.turley.com
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069

Concerts on the Common held monthly in North Brookfield

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

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

Superchargers.

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

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

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

West Brookfield Farmers Market held on Wednesdays

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

The market is held on

Wednesdays from 3-6 p.m., rain or shine, throughout the spring, summer and early fall.

The 2025 season the market will feature 17 vendors with a wide array of locally grown and made goods 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.

Your BUYLINE CONNECTION

NO SALES TAX HOLIDAY! PRE BUY SALE!!!!

1000'S OF APPLIANCE DEALS! E-BIKE SALE!!! 100'S OF A/C'S & HUMIDIFIERS! GIANT BIKE SALE!!!

WHITCO
140 Main St., Spencer
www.whitcosales.com
508-885-9343

12 MONTHS 0% FINANCING
Open: Mon.-Fri. 10am-8:30pm, Sat. 9am-8pm, Sun. 12pm-7pm

NEW LISTING: WEST BROOKFIELD, MA

Charming 4-bed Cape in beautiful West Brookfield! Close to the town common, this 2000 sq. ft. antique-style home blends character & comfort. Enjoy a custom remodeled kitchen, with breakfast nook & all appliances included. 1st-floor bedroom, sunny family room, dining & living room, remodeled bath, natural gas stove, oil heat, and spacious mudroom with laundry. 3 more bedrooms upstairs, plus a bonus room. Neutral & inviting throughout. Oversized 2-car detached garage and 2 fenced backyards - perfect for pets or play! Sidewalks, streetlights, in-town beach, and year-round events make this town feel like a Hallmark movie. Easy access to Routes 9, 20, & MA Pike! Listed at \$389,900.

YOUR LOCAL REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS

We Do More So You Will Make More!!!

exp REALTY
130 W. Main Street
Spencer, MA 01562

Michelle Terry
Broker/Owner
michelleterryteam.com

GIVE US A CALL TODAY! 508-202-0008

2 bed/2 bath mobile home in highly sought after Nanatomqua. Luxury vinyl plank floors, bed & bath at each end. Eat-in kitchen, oversized living room w/electronic blinds and built-ins. All new windows throughout. Furnace only 2-3 years old. Park share \$17,250 included in list price. Monthly lot rent \$210 includes water, sewer, taxes, road maintenance and trash removal. Whole house generac generator, shed. Covered deck with handicap ramp.

6 Second Street Brookfield - Nanatomqua \$190,000

Lisa Caron Real Estate
Broker, Owner GRI, ABR, SRS, RENE, C2EX, SRES, MRP, PSA, LMC, CDPE, E-PRO
42 W. Main Street, PO Box 447 Brookfield, MA 01506
Cell: 508-341-8299
Search Homes Instantly: <http://www.lisacaron.com>

WHERE EVERYONE GOES FOR THEIR PIECE OF THE EARTH!

LANDSCAPE STONE
White • Blue • Purple • Red
Lt Gray • Dark Gray • Beige • Rip Rap

SCREENED LOAM STORED IN BUILDING

Construction Stone • Title V & Presby Septic Sand
Concrete Sand • Chicken Coop Sand • Utility Sand
Pool Liner Sand • Stone Dust • Silt • Crushed Gravel
Crushed Asphalt • Crushed Concrete • Cold Patch

Homeowner Friendly • No Minimums
PICK-UP OR CALL TO SCHEDULE YOUR DELIVERY TODAY!

Bond
98 North Spencer Rd., Spencer
bondsandandgravel.com
508-885-6100
508-885-2480

Sand, Gravel & Asphalt

Adventure tours of Warren
Share the Adventure with us!

2026 Norwegian Cruise Line Bermuda and Nova Scotia - Call Today

NCL NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE

July 12.....Escape to Rockport\$110
July 26.....Perkins Cove for a Day.....\$110
Oct. 4.....Stockbridge - Rockwell Museum.....\$120
Oct. 18.....Turkey Train.....\$175
May 2026.....8-Day Bermuda & Halifax Cruis.....from \$1699

Share the Adventure with us soon!
For further information call Randall at (413) 436-5357 or email adventuretours@att.net or go to www.adventuretoursofwarren.com

Gorgeous 4 br home with so much character. Open floor plan, large eat-in kitchen w/g center island, upgraded corian countertops, built-in hutch, pantry, pellet stove, tons of cabinets & access to back patio area. Dining rm w/wood floors, front to back living room w/brick fireplace & 1/2 bath make up 1st floor. On the 2nd fl you will find a full bath & 4 bedrooms all w/hardwood floors & great closet space. There is a small finished room in the basement. Everything has been done here.... Buderus Boiler & hot water tank in 2013, mass save insulated 2013, new driveway 2018, new roof 2019. This property sits on 1.52 acres & is beautifully landscaped. You will find raspberry bushes & tons of perennials. Screened gazebo & storage barn in huge back yard.

35 Ayers Street North Brookfield \$449,900

Lisa Caron Real Estate
Broker, Owner GRI, ABR, SRS, RENE, C2EX, SRES, MRP, PSA, LMC, CDPE, E-PRO
42 W. Main Street, PO Box 447 Brookfield, MA 01506
Cell: 508-341-8299
Search Homes Instantly: <http://www.lisacaron.com>

BPP POOLS

180 West Street, Ware • 508-868-0016
www.bppools.com • bppools@hotmail.com

Support Your Hometown Businesses

SHOP LOCAL

BUYLINE CONNECTION
3 Ads for 1 Low Price!!!
Ware River News, Barre Gazette & Quaboag Current
Over 16,000 copies • Prints every Thursday

Special Ad Size Pricing

3" x 1"	only \$33
3" x 1.5"	only \$48
3" x 2"	only \$66
3" x 2.5"	only \$82
3" x 3"	only \$99

CONTACT Dan Flynn 413-297-5886 dfflynn@turley.com

FULL COLOR INCLUDED!

FARMSTAND IS NOW OPEN!!!

BREEZELANDS ORCHARDS

PEACHES ARE IN!

Our Donuts Are Famously Delicious!

FREE 1/2 Dozen Cider Donuts
WITH THIS COUPON AND PURCHASE GOOD TUES. THRU THURS. ONLY TP

VISIT THE FARM FOR:
• Honey • Cheese
• Jams • Early Apples
• Maple Syrup

Southbridge Road, Warren, MA
5 min. from Sturbridge - 148 N. Follow Signs
Open 10am-6pm

JARS Café & Bakery

In-House Fresh Bakery
All Occasion Cake
Cupcakes and Cookies

Every Month Special Treat Box Available For Sale at the Cafe

• **Future Events**
Contact us to plan your next private event.
508-637-1577

23 Summer Street North Brookfield MA 01535

508-637-1577
Tues.-Sat. 8am-2pm
Sun. 9am-2pm

- COFFEE
- GLUTEN FREE OPTIONS
- BREAKFAST SANDWICHES
- SOUPS
- COOKIES
- MUFFINS
- PASTRIES

Bring in entire ad for one FREE Beverage with purchase of a baked good. Tues.-Thurs. 8am-10am

Cohasse Golf Course
Semi Private - Join Today!
Visit Cohasse.com for Times Memberships Available for 2025 Season
Bar open limited hours. Restaurant not open yet.

COHASSE COUNTRY CLUB
393 Eastford Road
Southbridge, MA 01550
Phone: (508) 764-6801

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

Cohasse 1918