



QUABOAG CURRENT

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Quaboag Current Newspaper

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Friday, July 28, 2023

Camp Atwater continues 100-year tradition



Congressman Richard E. Neal is led by campers during a tour of Camp Atwater. TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Located on the glistening shores of Lake Lashaway is Camp Atwater, a place that has provided a century of unforgettable summer memories for youth since it was founded in 1921.

It's also the oldest African American owned and operated summer residential youth camp in the entire country.

"There's no place in the world they can get this experience," said Dr. Shadae (Thomas) Harris, who calls herself a daughter of Camp Atwater.

Her father is President Emeritus and Camp Atwater Advisor Henry M. Thomas III, and Harris spent much of her childhood at the 75-acre camp that includes 40 buildings and a 3-acre island.

"I wish everybody could get a chance to see the surroundings," Harris said.

Earlier this month, Con-
See ATWATER | PAGE 12

Safety Committee recommends parking changes

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Board of Selectmen Chair Jason Petraitis read correspondence from the Safety Committee, recommending the town eliminate diagonal parking in front of the Adams Block and Town House, and create parallel parking.

See PARKING | PAGE 13

Community joins together for Tyler's Heart



Volunteers at Tyler's Heart offered a variety of free activities for children at the third annual Band Together for Mental Health at Common Grounds Ciderworks in North Brookfield. See page 8 for story and more photos TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE

'Taste of New England Summer' has local flavor

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer

STURBRIDGE – Old Sturbridge Village's event, "Taste of New England Summer" hosted and featured many talented musicians and bands from across New England.

The event featured Brookfield musician Evan Couture, a local musician and recent graduate of Worcester State University.

Couture has loved music his whole life and began taking lessons at the age of 9, though it wasn't until he reached high school that he really began to perform.



Brookfield native Evan Couture performed two sets at Saturday's "Taste of New England Summer" event at Old Sturbridge Village this past weekend. TURLEY PHOTO BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

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- community -

Summer's in full 'sing' at Connie Mack Field



The Otters performed at Connie Mack Field as part of the East Brookfield Summer Concert series, held on Thursday evenings from 6-8 p.m. Upcoming concerts include Local Talent Night on Aug. 3 featuring the LeBeaus, Lashaway and Woodlawn Ave; and Rosie Porter and the Neon Moons on Aug. 10. This concert series is made possible by the East Brookfield Cultural Council and the Massachusetts Cultural Council. TURLEY PHOTO BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS



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Traveling zoo comes to Brookfield Aug. 17

BROOKFIELD – The Merrick Public Library presents a traveling zoo on Thursday, Aug. 17 at 5 p.m. on the Common.

Learn about and pet a variety of animals during this one-hour presentation by a zookeeper from Animal Adventures of Bolton. This event is free and open to all; bring blankets or chairs.

In case of bad weather, this event will be moved to the barn at the Library Annex (18 Common St.).

Community Newspaper EDITOR WANTED

Turley Publications is looking for a “hands on” energetic candidate who loves telling stories to be the editor for two weekly publications. This position will include managing and coaching a small news staff that will provide the community with a great local newspaper.

The editor will need to cover local government and events while representing the newspaper at public venues.

The successful candidate will have strong community journalism skills and is also expected to gather news and write stories for the two papers as well as for other occasional companywide publications.

This is a job for a self-starter who has a vision for growing and connecting with our valued readers, and who thoroughly enjoys community journalism.

This full-time position with flexible schedule is based in our Palmer office at 24 Water St., this is not a remote position.

Qualifications should include:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience
- Willingness to mentor a staff writer and correspondents
- Editing experience and ability to write clean copy in a fast-paced, deadline-driven environment
- Proficiency in Associated Press style
- Management experience and/or experience managing content for a print publication.

Please send resume and writing examples to:

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

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- community -

Library selected for digital literacy and affordable connectivity

EAST BROOKFIELD – Powered by a contribution from AT&T, the Public Library Association has selected more than 200 public libraries across 45 states to host digital literacy and Affordable Connectivity Program workshops.

East Brookfield Public Library was one of the libraries selected.

The PLA Digital Literacy Workshop Incentives, supported by AT&T support public libraries in their work improving digital skills and promoting broadband adoption among families and communities. The workshops leverage the online digital literacy courses, created by PLA in collaboration with AT&T, that are freely available to anyone through DigitalLearn.org and AT&T ScreenReady.

DigitalLearn.org online courses and training materials were developed with and for library staff and their patrons.

This second cohort is part of an expanded national initiative and collaboration between PLA and AT&T.

In 2022, 160 libraries were selected to be part of the PLA Digital Literacy Workshop Incentive, supported by AT&T. The initial group of libraries held more than 1,500 workshops which helped over 8,000

learners build skills and confidence using technology.

This new cohort will increase the number of learners libraries can continue to reach.

PLA Past-President Maria McCauley remarked, “Public libraries continuously play a vital role in providing digital literacy tools and information to their communities. The expansion of this powerful collaboration with AT&T for the second year will ensure that even more families and communities can benefit from programs and resources that increase digital access and equity.”

Workshops, available in English and Spanish, will be offered on eight digital literacy topics, as well as how to apply and use the ACP benefit. Courses cover basic technology skills which include topics such as internet use, video conferencing, cybersecurity, and mobile device basics and ACP basics.

“DigitalLearn aligns perfectly with our library’s mission of providing equitable access to digital literacy, technology, and information. DigitalLearn has played a critical role in our library by providing digital support and literacy. Our library will continue to use this resource in a variety of ways.” Miranda Robbins, New Braunfels Public Library, New Braunfels, Texas, 2022 cohort participant.

UMass Amherst announces spring Dean’s list

AMHERST – Below is a list of local students who were named to the Dean’s list at the University of Massachusetts Amherst for the spring 2023 semester.

In order to qualify, an undergraduate student must receive a 3.5 grade-point average or better on a four-point scale.

Local students include Ania Louise Bolaske, Sadie Rane Bridges, Paige K. Cournoyer, Aiden Earle, Jacob Gorham, Abigail Grace Hildick, Christina Ruth Izbicki, Cailyn Koperniak, Hunter Augustus Lynch, Cassidy Grace Morrow, Briana Elizabeth Myran, Angele Noel, Hayden Christopher Peterson, Jacob Michael Peterson, Daniel Ambrose Sickenberger, Alaina Elizabeth Tamanaco, Sydney Riley Warren and Elena Marie Weissman, all of Brookfield; Maeve Margaret Brennan, Nadine Aliya Chidester, Carol Laura DeRose, Thomas Roger Goodwin, Jillian Andrea Gore, Kylee Latda Inthirath, Kaspar John Mazeika, Olivia April Olson, Theodora Obianuju Onwubueke, Adon Jon Osimo, Alexander Michael Pratt, Connor M. Rich, Olivia Marie Rizzo and Garret Aiden Webb, all of Sturbridge.

Beatles multi-media event

WEST BROOKFIELD – A cultural and historical reflection of the 1960s through the music of The Beatles will be presented on Monday, July 31 at 4 p.m. at the Merriam-Gilbert Public Library, 3 West Main St.

The presenter is Fran Hart, founding member of the Beatles tribute band 4EverFab. This program is supported in part by a grant from the West Brookfield Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

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.**

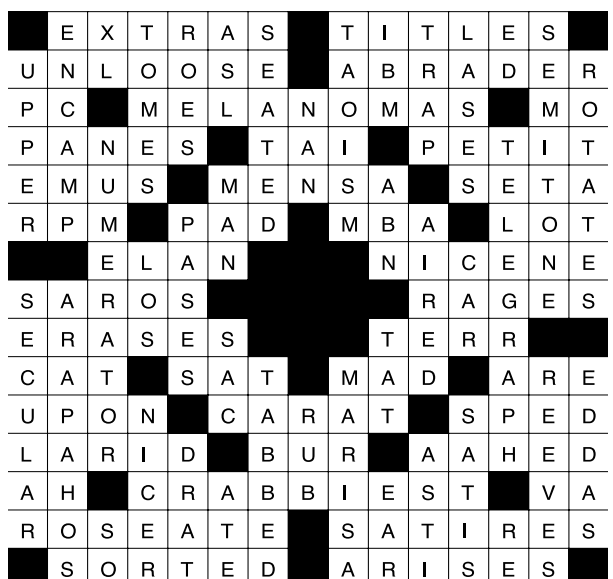
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- opinion -



Get out of the garden with a few good books

The saying goes like this: “If you can’t handle the heat, stay out of the kitchen!”

I’d like to switch it up to say “garden” in place of “kitchen” in light of the fact that I really can’t handle the summer heat as well as I used to. These last few weeks, gardening has been accomplished early in the day or during the evening hours instead of midday.

What does a gardening fanatic do if they aren’t actually gardening? Read about gardening, of course!

Call me old-fashioned, but I still prefer books over online text. I like to see and hold my books, curl the pages and even write in the margins.

Sometimes, just for fun, I’ll pick a book and flip the pages to see where my finger will land. What interesting topic will I read about?

Today I’ll choose three books and end up with the topics for today’s column that way. Maybe we can all learn something new or at least refresh our skills.

The first pick is from one of my favorite herb books, “Herbs in Bloom” by Jo Ann Gardner (Timber Press). I flip the pages and end up on Feverfew (*Tanacetum parthenium*).

Timely, because Feverfew is blooming in my yard right now.

Feverfew is from the Latin word febrifuge thanks to its past use as a fever reducer. Both its single and its double form (*Flora pleno*) lend themselves to admission into the perennial border; often they bloom the first year from seed.

The plants thrive in both light shade and full sun, with the single flower type resowing itself to almost nuisance status if given the opportunity. The flowering span seems to go on and on, the white daisy flowers lending themselves to use in the vase alongside bee balm, summer phlox, veronicas and more.

I especially like the double flowers, and had great luck drying them, their off-white color the perfect addition to a wreath of hydrangea and dried roses.

Second year plants will return with some winter-kill that will need addressing. After blooming plants will likely not return for year three.

Still, feverfew is a must have for those of us who love herbs in the flower garden. Keep volunteers at bay by deadheading all but a few of the flowers.

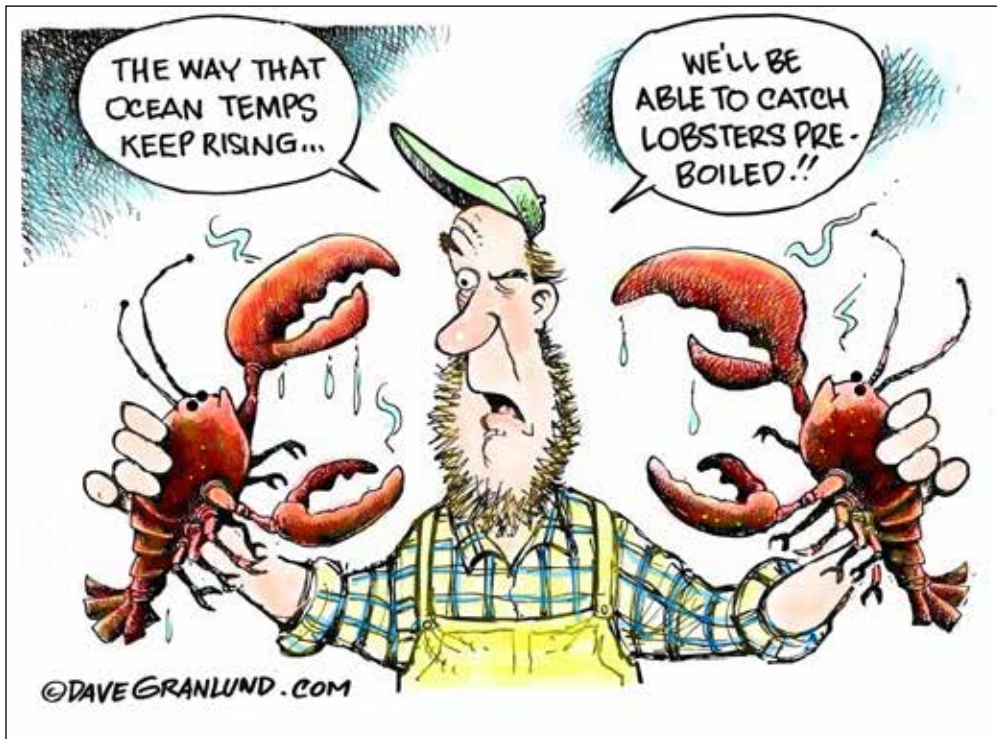
The second pick is ironic, considering the rain we’ve been getting.

On page 138 of “Secrets to Great Soil” by Elizabeth P. Stell (Storey Books), we learn about improving soggy or poorly drained soils, first by mentioning the use of raised beds.

My stone edged raised beds that usually demand a daily watering in the summer heat are handling all the rain in stride. Unlike the corner of my vegetable garden that was literally under water after the 3.5” we received on Friday.

In addition to that mention on raised beds, a number of perennials are cited as thriving in moist soil. You’d be surprised to learn that Astilbe (*Astilbe* spp.) falls into this category, as do the more familiar native wetland plants: Joe-Pye Weed (*Eupatorium maculatum*), Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) and its cousin Great Blue Lobelia (*L. siph-*

See GARDEN | PAGE 5



LETTER-TO-THE-EDITOR

Our ‘pay it forward’ society

I am grateful to Russell Gloor (“Social Security Matters,” July 21, 2023) for explaining how social security works - as a “pay it forward” system, where those of us receiving social security are paid from those now working.

Most of us will receive everything we have paid into the system within 3-5 years, and continue to receive benefits for the rest of our lives. And after a death, a spouse, minor and disabled adult children will receive our benefits for the rest of their lives.

Pretty good system, huh?

This got me thinking about how so many aspects of our society are pay-it-forward: We are educated by those who have paid into the system earlier - our taxes or public/private tuition dollars pay a fraction of what our education actually costs. We drive or ride public transit on roads, tracks and

bridges largely paid for before we began our working/tax-paying lives.

So many of the local-to-national services we take for granted have been gifted to us from our collective ancestors, and we are now paying for future generations to enjoy their benefits.

When we all pool our money, we get a lot done. We all probably disagree with how some of it is spent, but as Winston Churchill said famously: “Democracy is the worst form of government - except for all the rest!”

There are many ways to uphold our democratic system, and one is to pay our taxes. My grandmother used to say each year that she was proud to pay her taxes, her rent for living in this society.

I feel the same (mostly).

Sherry Zitter
Brookfield



Several people spotted a juvenile red-tailed hawk by Coldbrook Road in Oakham last week.

People who saw the bird hoped its parents were nearby and would take care of it. That did not happen.

When no parent appeared by the next day, the bird was brought to a wildlife rehabilitator.

The red-tailed hawk is the most commonly seen hawk in this area. It is about 19 inches long and it gets its name from its reddish upper tail.

It also has a white chest with a belly band and markings on the chest. Plumage varies considerably.

The immature has a finely, banded gray-brown tail and keeps this plumage for one year.

The female lays one to five bluish white eggs with dark marks in a platform of sticks lined with bark and greens in a tree. The nest can be 15 to 120 feet high.

They often are seen perched in a tree by a field. They make a slurred scream like “tsee-aarr” often directed at an intruder.



Juvenile red-tailed hawk

Fledglings and adults also make a “klooeek” sound. During courtship or territorial encounters, they make a piercing “chwirk.”

Bird talk

On July 7, I spoke about birds at the Oakham Senior Center.

Ava, age 7, won the door prize of a “Squirrel Slammer” feeder. She came to the event with her great-aunt, who also took the photo of the young red-tailed hawk in this column.

She related the story of its rescue since it appeared to be abandoned.

One Oakham woman attending the talk said a robin nested near the house. She and her husband could watch it from their home.

One day, they saw the mother shove all her babies out of the nest.

Wild turkeys

Recently, I saw a turkey dust bathing along the side of the road. An Oakham resident had one doing the same thing in her yard.

At first, she was concerned it was injured, but it did get up and leave.

Several people reported wild turkeys in their yard with youngsters. I saw one group on someone lawn recently; the poults looked adorable.

Loons

Most loon pairs hatch their young the first two weeks of July. Both Wachusett Reservoir and Quabbin Reservoir have nesting loons.

See BACKYARD | PAGE 5

OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

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

Send opinions to:

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

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- community -

BACKYARD | FROM PAGE 4

Floating nests not only provide suitable nesting sites, but they also rise and fall with the water level. This is especially important this year with all the heavy rain in preventing flooding of the nests.

Massachusetts Audubon Society sighting

In Berkshire County, sightings reported to Massachusetts Audubon Society included a northern goshawk and two hooded warblers in Great Barrington and a single hooded warbler at the Hopkins Memorial Forest in Williamstown. Other sightings were a least bittern at Richmond Marsh and merlins in Pittsfield and Lenox.

In Worcester County, sightings included a Brewster's warbler in Harvard, two black vultures soaring near the Hardwick Winery and five evening grosbeaks.

It is good to hear there are evening grosbeak sightings as many of the people at the bird talk at the Oakham Senior Center said they had not seen evening grosbeaks in some time.

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

GARDEN | FROM PAGE 4

litica), the three of which bloom later in the summer.

Candalabra primrose (*Primula japonica*) was also mentioned. I have purchased this plant two years in a row and it never thrives; now I know the reason: it needs moister soil.

The plants growing under the tree canopy at Positively Perennials are a sight worthy of mention in mid-May when they are in full multi-tiered bloom. Next year, check it out!

We seem to be on a flower theme, so let's see what "The Flower Gardener's Bible" by Lewis and Nancy Hill (Storey Books) has in store. Alas, pick three does not disappoint.

I landed on a page devoted to both the native Coneflowers (*Echinacea* species) and the Globe Thistles (*Echinops* species). Right now, my new border, devoted to our pollinators, is striking with Purple Coneflower as one of the stars.

This plant too, has seemed to enjoy the rain, gaining some height after the shock of being divided and replanted early in May. If you leave the spent flowers in place, self-sown seedlings will emerge next spring, begging to be moved about the landscape or shared with friends and family.

Quabbin Visitor Center lists free upcoming events

BELCHERTOWN – The Department of Conservation and Recreation's Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center will offer several free programs this spring.

All ages are welcome. Email QuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov with questions or to be added to the mailing list

Please dress appropriately for the weather and bring water and snacks. Dogs are not allowed anywhere on the Quabbin Watershed.

Space is limited.

To register for any of these events, visit www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events?_page=1.

Barrens habitat hike

Barrens habitats are anything but barren - they are teeming with life. On Thursday, Aug. 3 from 10-11 a.m., come see some of the flora and fauna of a recently restored inland sandplain heath (a type of barrens) and find out what makes these globally rare

ecosystems so special.

The 1.5 mile hike is easy, but the terrain is uneven, so secure footwear is recommended. Please come prepared for sun and ticks and bring water.

Meet at Gate 29, New Salem and caravan to site (<https://goo.gl/maps/CZipU7XxWGSGE6faA>).

Late summer meadow visit

Enjoy a later summer hike at Quabbin Park on Thursday, Sept. 7 from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. This hike will meet at the parking area at the Middle Entrance and walk along the Spillway Road to a small meadow across from the Boat Cove.

The approximately 1-mile walk is easy, but the road along the Spillway is heavily trafficked, so caution is advised. Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear, bring water, and come prepared for insects.

Meet at the Middle Entrance parking lot (<https://goo.gl/maps/2xFhXUWcU7H8fmae8>).

Like Feverfew, from our first pick, *Echinacea* has history as a healing plant and continues to be used today for immune support.

Globe Thistle, with its steel blue globes and deeply cut, silver gray foliage, as stiff as it is, also deserves a place in the garden. It is a true bee magnet!

Stems can be harvested as everlasting once flowers color up but before the individual florets, aka "pickers" on each plant open. Clip and dry them upside down for use in wreaths and arrangements.

Well, it's been fun escaping the heat with you! Read any good books lately?

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

JOB OPENING

STAFF WRITER

Turley Publications, based in Palmer, is seeking a storyteller who is curious about everything, and who understands how town government works to join our team of weekly reporters.

Experience in covering town government is a huge plus, and any experience in community journalism is as well. Staff writers cover all aspects of communities from features to municipal meetings to crimes and fires. Successful candidates must have people skills, plenty of curiosity and able to tell a story.

If you're a self-starter who enjoys community journalism and who can envision themselves connecting with our communities, we encourage you to apply for this position. Not a remote position.

Qualifications should include:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience
- A determination to get the story, whatever it might be
- Equally comfortable writing hard news, features and event coverage
- Ability to write clean copy in a fast-paced, deadline-driven environment
- Proficiency in Associated Press style

Please tell us in a cover letter why you would be a good fit for this position and send it along with a resume and three writing samples to

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Alum treatment of Quacumquasit (South) Pond complete

STURBRIDGE – The Town of Sturbridge, through its agent SOLitude Lake Management, completed an alum treatment targeting deep phosphorous rich sediment in Quacumquasit (South) Pond on July 22.

The treatment was initiated and funded by the Quaboag Quacumquasit Lake Association, with significant contributions from the towns of Brookfield, East Brookfield, and Sturbridge, Camp Frank A. Day, and lake residents.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection also awarded the project a 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution matching fund grant in response to an application prepared by the Town of Sturbridge and TRC Corporation who worked to assess the lake and design the project. TRC was also responsible for obtaining the required permits and is currently overseeing the project's implementation and reporting for the grant.

According to project manager, Dominic Meringolo, SOLitude treated 100 acres around the circumference of the 218-acre pond with 85,000 gallons of buffered alum, a combination of aluminum sulfate and sodium aluminate.

Aluminum binds with phosphorous, he said, one of the key nutrients that helps algae to thrive. By reducing the availability of phosphorous as a nutrient, the likelihood of potentially harmful cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) growth is reduced, which in turn increases water clarity and improved deep-water oxygen levels.

QQLA Co-Presidents Doug Vizard, Bill Seabourne, and Carl "Skip" Nielsen say the treatment should provide a 15-20 year solution to the pond's phosphorous

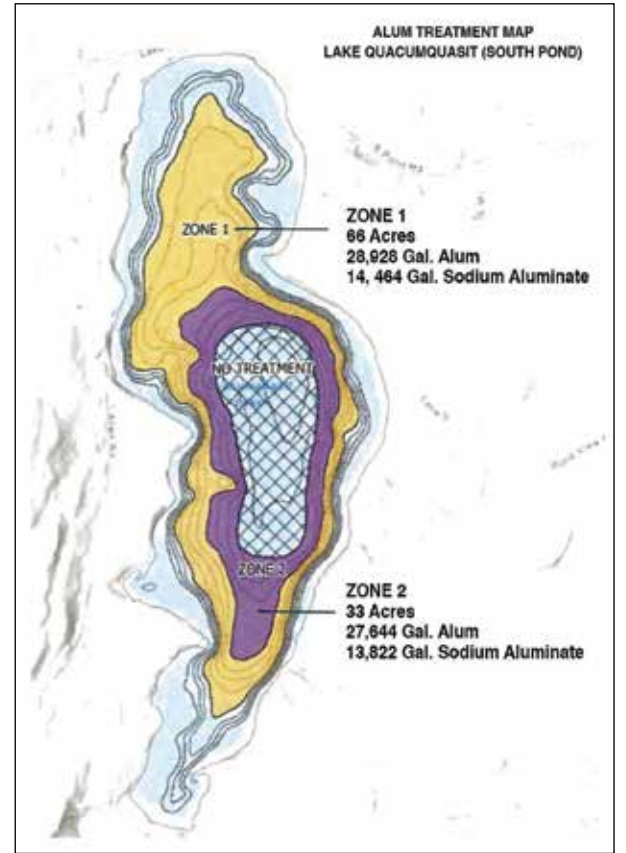


SOLitude's alum distribution barge pulls into the South Pond beach to refill. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

problem, while improving the deep-water fish habitat for local fishing enthusiasts.

"We are extremely grateful to everyone who contributed to the success of this long-awaited project," Nielsen said.

The Quaboag Quacumquasit Lake Association is an all-volunteer, nonprofit environmental conservation organization whose mission is to maintain a healthy lake environment for Quaboag (North) and Quacumquasit (South) Ponds in Brookfield, East Brookfield, and Sturbridge.



This map shows the alum treatment on South Pond.

For more information, visit qqla.org.

National Night Out returns to North Brookfield for second year

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Coalition for a Healthy North Brookfield is thrilled to invite the community to its second annual National Night Out on Aug. 3 from 4-8 p.m.

This event is an annual community-building campaign that promotes strong police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live and work. Join the event along with your neighbors throughout North Brookfield and across the nation as they spend the evening outside with community organizations, local businesses, and especially local law enforcement.

Most communities celebrate National Night Out by hosting block parties, festivals, parades, cookouts and other various community events with safety demonstrations, seminars, youth events, visits from emergency personnel, exhibits and more.

All are invited to National Night Out at the North Brookfield Public School campus for an evening of music, activities, food trucks, Touch a Truck, vendor/craft fair, and more. Join your neighbors to learn more about local resources and meet the amazing local law enforcement from the community.

National Project Coordinator, Matt Peskin said in

a press release, "This is a night for our nation to stand together and promote awareness, safety, and neighborhood unity. National Night Out showcases the vital importance of police-community partnerships and citizen involvement. When law enforcement and the community work closely together, some amazing things can happen."

For questions about North Brookfield's Second Annual National Night Out event, to volunteer, or to become a vendor, please email admin@coalitionforahealthynb.org or for general questions visit natw.org.

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QQLA hosts annual Paddle Poker Run

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

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

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

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

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

Seabourne said, "a prize package of four Woo Sox tickets redeemable for any date will also be awarded to

- community -

POKER RUN | FROM PAGE 6

the player with the lowest, or worst hand.”

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

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

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

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

S.O.N.G.Stock 2023 takes the stage

Musical festival on Aug. 27 helps children in need

BRIMFIELD – Supporting Orphans Nationally & Globally (S.O.N.G.) based in Brookfield and Ware is sponsoring a music festival at Brimfield Winery, 35 Main St., on Sunday, Aug. 27, from noon-6 p.m.

“S.O.N.G.Stock 2023” is a family friendly music festival to benefit children orphaned by the conflict in Ukraine and foster children in Massachusetts. This event features live music all day by Secret Sage, The Lisa Martin Band and Peter J. Newland & RadioX.

S.O.N.G. is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization that has been providing care and support to orphaned children since 1999. By attending this event, you’ll help S.O.N.G. make a much-needed positive impact on their lives.

In addition to the fantastic music, you can enjoy locally crafted wine from Brimfield Winery, locally crafted beer and cider. This event offers various fun family activities, including a pie-eating contest, sack races, face painting, other fun contests, and much, much more.

Don’t miss the 50/50 raffle and silent auction featuring Red Sox tickets, sports memorabilia, collectibles, original paintings, and many other treasures like two beautiful handmade quilts that



Supporting Orphans Nationally and Globally (S.O.N.G.) is hosting a family friendly music festival at Brimfield Winery on Sunday, Aug. 27.

have been donated by a very talented local artistic quilter.

Advance tickets are \$15 (\$20 day of the event) and children under 13 are free. Advance ticket purchases are automatically entered in drawings for special door prizes.

For tickets and more information, contact S.O.N.G. by emailing info@supportingorphans.org or calling 413-813-8100.

Visit their website, supportingorphans.org, and follow them on Face-

book, Twitter, and Instagram for updates and to learn more about their Mission.

Lawn chairs, blankets, pop-up tents, and umbrellas are welcome. Parking is free.

Please, no outside beverages or food and no smoking around the stage or anywhere attendees are gathered. No fires.

Food will be available for purchase. Well-behaved, quiet pets are welcome.

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- community -

Community joins together for Tyler's Heart

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Tyler's Heart presented its annual Band Together for Mental Health event at Common Grounds Ciderworks for the third year.

Dedicated to the memory of Tyler and Grace, siblings who lost their lives to suicide, the organization's mission is to bring awareness to mental health by providing education and resources to local schools and communities, and continuing acts of kindness.

A number of bands and performers donated their time and talents to provide music throughout the day, including Ashley Hensel & Ben Eramo, Key

Dagle, Stone Country Band, Between the Waves, Secret Sage, Headsmack, Your Mother and Trigger South.

The event also included a Ride Together for Mental Health, starting at Sheldon's Harley Davidson in Auburn and ending at Common Grounds Ciderworks.

Countless crafters and vendors sold their wares, and organizations distributed information about the services they provided.

For more information about Tyler's Heart, visit tylersheart.org or find them on Facebook.



Headsmack poses for a photo before playing their set. TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA QUIMETTE



Shawnie Boyce and Kelly Beaudette from Tri-Valley shared information about in-home care and services for seniors and people with disabilities. Visitors to their booth could also take a chance to spin the prize wheel.



Between the Waves performs during Tyler's Heart's annual event to raise awareness for mental health.



Secret Sage lit up the stage.

Flea Market on the Common is Aug. 26

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

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

Sellers of all kinds are welcome - flea folk, antique sellers, crafters, product vendors, and those empty-

ing out basements and attics. No food vendors, please.

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

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

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SPORTS

Cagers lose two on final possessions

CAUBURN – The young and hard-working Quabbin Cagers were denied victory in both games in the final seconds and on the last possessions. There are no do-overs but for the team coached by Luke Brownell and Tim Hay, one could come to the conclusion that experience

is what you get when you don't get what you want. Bay Path downed the Quabbinians 36-33 in a game with many lead changes and with the locals unable to hold on to a 22-18 half-time lead.

Kyle Clark scored nine points followed by Chris Prunesti-Leveille with seven points. Once again, the team placed six players in the scoring book as the offensive continues to improve with a balanced effort.

Jaxon Warburton contributed five points while teammates Jacoby Dilling, Nick Whitelaw and Ricky Janoure all contributed 4 points each.

It was a corner three-pointer that broke the 33-33 tie in the final seconds by Bay Path that handed the cagers the loss in a game that left the team disappointed but not discouraged.



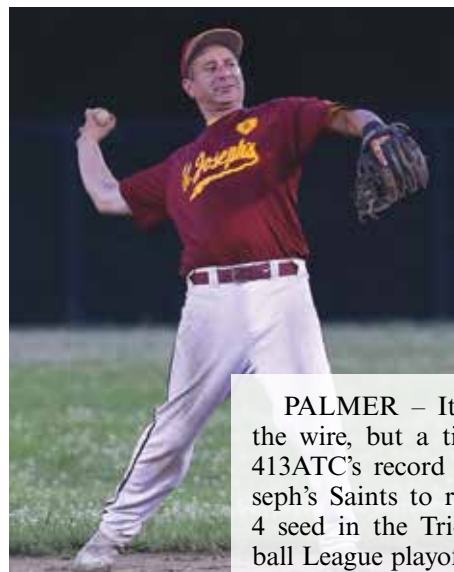
Chris Prunesti-Leveille rises above two defenders for a pull-up jump shot in summer league basketball action. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Guard Ricky Janoure takes advantage of his quickness and ball-handling ability to beat his defender on a drive to the basket.

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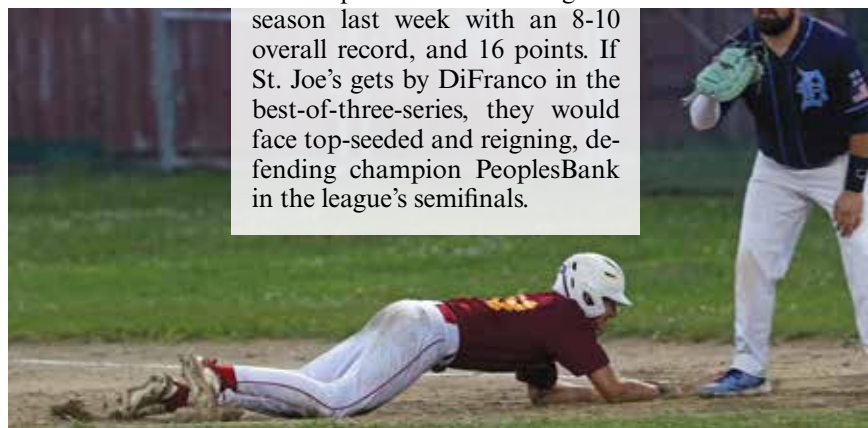
St. Joe's begins playoff run



Greg Vouros winds up for a long throw to first.

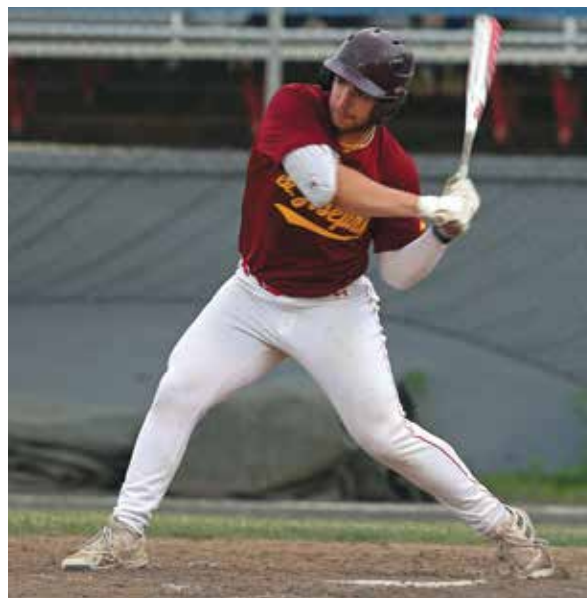


Pitcher Sam Schrieber reaches back and fires to the plate.

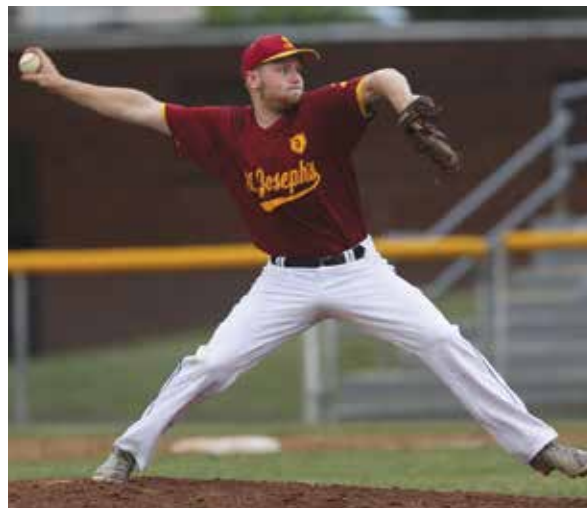


Jackson Petrin slides back to first.

PALMER – It was down to the wire, but a tie thrown into 413ATC's record caused St. Joseph's Saints to receive the No. 4 seed in the Tri-County Baseball League playoffs. As a result, the Saints were placed in the 4-5 matchup with DiFranco Realty. St. Joseph's finished the regular season last week with an 8-10 overall record, and 16 points. If St. Joe's gets by DiFranco in the best-of-three-series, they would face top-seeded and reigning, defending champion PeoplesBank in the league's semifinals.



A.J. Dillard swings and connects.



Ware's Devin Slattery slings a throw to first base. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Playoff berths in Valley Wheel come down to final week

WILBRAHAM – The Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League, which plays its games throughout Western Massachusetts and features adult players from all over the region, has lived up to its reputation for having a league full of parity.

As a result, this final week will be the determining factor when it comes to deciding which teams receive the four playoff spots the league offers.

Following the games of July 9, five of the league's six teams were in a tie for first place with identical 7-5 records.

The games of July 16 were rained out, pushing the league to finish the final three games of the regular season within in an eight-day period.

Weeks 14 and 15 were scheduled to be played on July 23 and 30, respectively, while the Week 13 makeup games were scheduled in between, July 26 and 27.

The Week 14 games found
See **PLAYOFF** | PAGE 10

- sports -

Pioneers take season finale, make playoffs

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—The atmosphere at Lusitano Stadium is always a lot more festive whenever the Western Mass. Pioneers celebrates a victory.

The Pioneers faithful supporters were in no hurry to head home following the July 15 5-1 win over AC Connecticut in the regular season finale.

The Pioneers 10th win locked up sole possession of second place in the USL-2 Northeast Division. They also clinched a playoff berth for the fourth time since 2019. The 2020 season was canceled due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

“I think making the playoffs is a little more special for us this year,” said Connor Hicks, who’s one of the Pioneers’ veteran players. “Our backs were against the wall a couple of weeks ago, but we were able to make the playoffs again.

Following a 2-1 home loss against rival Seacoast United on June 23, the Pioneers (10-1-3) closed out the regular season with five consecutive victories.

“After we lost to Seacoast, most people thought we wouldn’t be making the playoffs this year,” said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. “There was a lot of pressure on us to win every match, but boys worked very hard. It’s not very easy to qualify for the playoffs in this league.”

The Pioneers, who’ll begin their post-season journey this weekend, have posted an impressive 42-6-8 regular season record since the start of the 2019 campaign.

“We’ve changed a lot of players since 2019,” Molinari said. “When the new players join us, they always play very hard, and they also have a good atti-

tude. It has been an outstanding season so far.”

Hicks, who’s from Monson, and Khalid Rose are the only remaining players from the 2019 playoff team.

Hicks, who has been a defender for most of his Pioneers career, was an outside midfielder against AC Connecticut (4-7-3). He had a couple shots on goal, but has never scored a goal while wearing a Pioneers uniform.

“I did score a goal in my first game with the Pioneers four years ago, but it was disallowed because of offsides,” said Hicks, who’s planning to play for the Pioneers in 2024. “I was trying to score a goal in tonight’s game.”

Alec Hughes, who’s a first-year member of the Western Mass. Pioneers, led the way offensively with two goals and a pair of assists.

“We really needed to win tonight’s game to make the playoffs,” Hughes said. “It has been a lot of fun playing for this soccer team this summer.”

The home team, who scored five goals in a home match for the first time since a preseason friendly with KO Elites FC, took a 1-0 lead six minutes into the opening half.

The scoring play began with Gabriel Pacheco sending a pass from the left side of the box to Tomas Duben, who tapped the ball over the goal-line past AC Connecticut goalie Clayton Knibbs.

Less than ten minutes later, Duben was credited with the assist as Hughes fired a shot into the left corner for his first goal of the match.

Duben and Hughes hooked up again during the 32nd minute. A tap in by Hughes increased the Pioneers lead to 3-0, which was the halftime score.

“I always try to put myself in the right spot and let my teammates find



Jordan Koduah makes a pass.



Connor Hicks, of Monson, attempts to run down the ball.

me,” Hughes said. “I just want to do anything to help my team win.”

The Pioneers outshot AC Connecticut, 15-1, during the first 45 minutes of the match.

Any thoughts the AC Connecticut players might’ve had of making a second half comeback didn’t last very long.

A goal by Lucio Berron, which was assisted by Hughes in the 58th minute, gave the Pioneers a commanding 4-0

advantage.

AC Connecticut, who also lost the first meeting to the Pioneers, 2-1, received an early Christmas gift following an own goal in the 73rd minute.

A couple of minutes later, Jordan Koduah scored the Pioneers final goal, which was assisted by Hughes.

It was a perfect way to wrap up the regular season for the Pioneers players and their supporters.



Alec Hughes shoots and scores for the Pioneers.



Gabriel Pacheco sends a free kick away. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Tomas Duben makes his way toward the goal.

PLAYOFF | FROM PAGE 9

the Athletics, Tigers, and Cubs coming away with wins. That left those three games with 8-5 records while the Angels and Twins sat at 7-6, both one game out of the first-place tie.

Midweek matchups included the Angels-Orioles, Cubs-Athletics, and Tigers-Twins, which could further complicate the standing heading into Sunday’s final games.

According to the league commissioner, Jim Nason, the first tiebreaker for determining who makes

the playoffs will be head-to-head records. Each team plays their opponents three times making a definitive decision if there is a tie between two teams. But in the event of a three-way tie, the next tiebreaker is run differential, which could be used to seed teams as well in the event of a three-way tie for first place.

This weekend, the final matchups are Twins-Angels, Cubs-Orioles, and Tigers-Athletics. Semifinals are scheduled for Aug. 6 at Spec Pond in Wilbraham with game times of 2:30 and 6 p.m. The league championship game is set for Sunday, Aug. 13 at 3 p.m. at Spec Pond.

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Quaboag Current

- sports -

Relay team ranks 15th at Nike Outdoor Nationals

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

BARRE – Although student-athletes from Quabbin Regional High School have qualified for nationals six times, Jaxon Warburton, Seth Twarog, Bryce Venne and Will Hood hold the honor of being the first ever track relay team to qualify from the school.

Earlier this spring, the relay team qualified to compete at the Nike Outdoor Nationals held on Hayward Field at the University of Oregon in June, with a time four seconds faster than the 3:36 needed to qualify.

“The boys ran a 3:32.0 in the 4x400 at the state relays back in April,” Coach Matt Castriotta said. “They finished second that day and crushed the school record by more than two seconds.”

Castriotta has been coaching outdoor track for 20 years, and is joined by Coach Matt Twarog to head the Quabbin program.

The Quabbin Track Club was able to raise over \$5,000 through donations to a GoFundMe page, in order to spend four days on the west coast, representing the rural regional school amidst a field of larger, more competitive schools.

For recent Quabbin graduate Hood, this event marked a bittersweet end to his high school athletic career.

Hood, who also played baseball for the high school, said he’s been pretty successful on the outdoor track team. He started in seventh grade, only missing his freshman year when sports ceased due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Until this track season, I hadn’t lost a track meet,” he said.

Sidelined with a hip flexor injury, Hood had to skip All-States, and was unable to train for nationals. He even had a physical therapist come to his house before flying to Oregon, just to make sure he was still able to safely compete.

“It was good to know that it would hurt, but I could



The members of the Quabbin Track Club's 4x400 relay team are shown at the Nike Outdoor Nationals held at the University of Oregon in June. They are from left, Jaxon Warburton, Seth Twarog, Bryce Venne and Will Hood. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

do it,” Hood said.

Hood also qualified individually for the 400 meters at nationals, but opted out of competing in order to give his all to the relay team.

Hood is getting ready to attend UMass Amherst this fall and is already talking with the coach there about continuing his track career through college.

Twarog has been a member of the outdoor track team since seventh grade, only missing a year due to the pandemic. Now a senior, Twarog said he and his teammates all started the sport to help stay in shape for the other sports they play.

“As we got better at track, it’s become more of an actual main sport rather than just a way to stay fit,” he said.

Both Venne and Warburton will be juniors this school year, having started outdoor track when they were in the eighth grade.

Warburton said it was exciting to play under the lights at nationals, as their team didn’t compete until 9 p.m. Pacific Standard Time, which would be midnight back home.

“Each event takes a long time,” Warburton said.

Despite the time difference, the rest of the outdoor track team, as well as family and friends, watched the streaming of the competition and cheered the four student-athletes on from afar.

Warburton said this was his first time running in a closed stadium, but aside from that, the competition wasn’t really that different.

“I had a lot more nerves walking onto the track,” Twarog said.

Venne said the most profound moment of competing at nationals was walking into the stadium.

“It was next level...everybody was screaming,” he said.

The Quabbin Track Club finished 15 out of 21.

While in Oregon, the Club was able to visit some iconic locations featured in the 1985 film “The Goonies”, including the beach where One-Eyed Willy’s

ship was last seen sailing off into the mist; and even the Fratelli’s getaway car.

There was one stark difference being on the west coast versus the east coast, Venne said.

“There was no Dunkins’,” he said.

Even with schools from all over the country competing, members of the Quabbin Track Club agreed that track is the friendliest of sports, and that competition is really driven by yourself.

“It definitely builds your discipline for self-improvement,” Warburton said.

It’s also the perfect sport to keep you in shape for a number of other sports, Hood said, and you can develop your strength and skill at your own pace.

“Anybody can do it,” he said.

The student-athletes are spending their summer working on their conditioning and preparing for the next outdoor track season. They are all working toward reaching their personal goals.

Twarog said he is hoping to beat the 400 meter record, while Venne said he wants to break the school record for 400 meter hurdles. Venne said he was two seconds from beating it last season, even after falling.

Warburton said he wants to qualify for nationals individually in javelin.

In fact, all three hope to qualify individually.

Competing at the Nike Outdoor Nationals earned the Club members plenty of Nike products, including red windbreakers with their names on them, spikes and more; but it also gave them memories to last a lifetime.

“It’s more about the experience,” Venne said.

A recording of the competition is available at nike-outdoornationals.runnerspace.com.



Student-athletes Jaxon Warburton, Seth Twarog, Bryce Venne and Will Hood look out over the track at the University of Oregon, where they competed against schools from across the U.S.

CAGERS | FROM PAGE 9

It may have been a poor performance from the free throw line that made this game close and eventually doomed the Quabbinians as they shot 3-for-10 from the charity stripe.

Committing 15 turnovers, which has been an improvement over the course of the summer season, kept the cagers in the game and although the ball-handling and passing has been getting better both Hay and Brownell are emphasizing taking care of the basketball.

The team did exactly that in turning the ball over only six times in an exciting game against host team Auburn only to be edged on the last possession again when they couldn’t get a shot off to tie or win in regulation.

Kyle Clark continues to lead the team in scoring as the 6’4 junior scored sixteen points including two key offensive put-backs from assaulting the offensive boards which he is beginning to dominate. Ricky Janoure was also in double figures with ten points and contributed three loose ball possessions as they 5’8 guards relies on his quickness and savvy. Freshman Jacoby Dilling scored a summer high seven points and added five loose ball recoveries. Dilling and Janoure seem to be always around the basketball taking advantage of their speed and anticipation.

In Fitchburg League action, the younger Cagers were also downed on the final possession of the game as South Lancaster Academy made a free throw to break a 37-37 tie with less than one second remaining on the game clock. A final desperation shot by Matt Wade fell short and the squad, coach by Dawn Sulmasy, was on the short end of a 38-37 bitter loss.

Coach John Leonard will be at Quabbin this Thursday, July 27, for two sessions conducting his advanced skill and development clinic. Those interested in improving their skills and knowledge while concentrating of the fundamentals of the game must sign up with a summer league coach.

Leonard is a former head coach at the collegiate level and was drafted by the NBA New York Knicks-erbockers soon after graduating Manhattan University as the all-time leading scorer. His ability to teach advanced offensive skills and concepts is well-known and the clinician has been to Quabbin several times to work with those interested.

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- community -

Quabbin Community Band presents 'Bandstand Favorites'

BARRE – At this week’s concert on the Barre Common on Sunday, July 30, The Quabbin Community Band is going “interactive;” allowing the audience to choose which song the Band plays next.

The theme is “Bandstand Favorites” so there really is no wrong choice. They will be offering up the classic “Man of La Mancha”, the dramatic “Selections from Les Miserables”, and the heart-pounding “Mission Impossible” theme among others.

They’re also excited to perform Rodgers and Hammerstein’s “The King and I” with guest vocalist Mary Catherine (Reidy) Salo, reprising her role as guest singer with the Quabbin Community Band from when she was in high school. Salo played the bass clarinet in the band at their first concert on June 10, 1973, and sang with the band several times during the summers in between her studies at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston.

As always, concerts on the Common start at 6 p.m. As a reminder, the following week’s concert on Sunday, Aug. 6 is “Homecoming On The Barre Bandstand” when we will be welcoming and recognizing alumni from the band’s early years.

The QCB encourages all to bring family and friends to this reunion celebrating 50 years of music and community on the Barre Common.

Margaret Reidy is the current mu-



Adrienne Nims (South Barre) on flute in 1976. She has been a professional musician in California for the past 30 years.

sical director of QCB who encourages musicians of all ages to join the band at 6:30 p.m. each Monday night through Aug. 7 at the Barre Town Hall for weekly practice.

Be sure to follow the band on Facebook at Quabbin Community Band. In the case of inclement weather, concerts will move to the Barre Town Hall.



Sante Graziani (Barre) warms up his cornet with Sally Ruggles (Hardwick) and her French horn before a parade, circa 1975. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

JHPL hosts author Ashley Hope Perez

STURBRIDGE – The Joshua Hyde Public Library in conjunction with other central Massachusetts libraries, will host Ashley Hope Perez to discuss her book “How to Fight Book Bans & Stand Up for the Right to Read” on Wednesday, Aug. 2 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Pérez is an assistant professor of

world literature at The Ohio State University and the author of three novels including “Out of Darkness” (2015), which has been on the American Library Association’s list of Top 10 Most Challenged Books since 2021.

For more information or to register, visit sturbridgelibrary.org.



Congressman Richard E. Neal, left, is shown with retired state Sen. Stephen M. Brewer, center, and is President Emeritus and Camp Atwater Advisor Henry M. Thomas III.

ATWATER | FROM PAGE 1

gressman Richard E. Neal visited Camp Atwater, a year after he announced \$450,000 in Congressionally Directed Spending for the Urban League of Springfield to invest in Camp Atwater’s capital and endowment campaign to modernize and revitalize the Camp’s physical facilities and grounds.

To date, Neal has secured about \$1 million in funding for Camp Atwater.

Thomas said 2023 was a “new birth” for the Camp, which had just fully reopened for its first year since the pandemic. He said they had a lot of people to thank for bringing it back, and continuing to provide African American youth with the Camp Atwater experience.

“A lot of love and perseverance co-existed together,” Thomas said, in order to make this happen.

Harris and Thomas thanked members of Job Corps and the Carpenter’s Union for their work to make improvements to the Camp last year, in preparation for this summer.

Camp Director Jawad Brown first came to Camp Atwater as a camper, before getting his first job there at age 16 as a counselor in training.

Now, Brown is at the helm of the Camp. “It’s full circle,” he said.

“There’s no better person to do this,” Harris said of Brown.

Harris also thanked members of the Lake Lashaway Community Association for their continued support of

the summer camp, and tolerance for its early morning bugle wake-up call.

First-year counselor Joel Gibbs of Texas was never able to attend Camp Atwater as a camper, but the Camp has been a part of his family’s history for generations, with both his mother and grandfather having attended.

His uncle Buck also works at the Camp.

Gibbs said he was excited to play capture the flag, and try out the hamster balls.

As a Boy Scout in Troop 434 working toward earning his Eagle Scout rank, Gibbs is no stranger to camping, with the only difference being spending nights in cabins instead of in a tent.

“It’s so much different,” he said, of the Camp Atwater experience.

About Camp Atwater

Located at 20 Shore Road, Camp Atwater is a residential summer camp for boys and girls ages 8-15 years old, and is owned and operated by the Urban League of Springfield, accredited by the American Camping Association and listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Campers focus on five activities each day, as well as Black history, music, pride and self-discovery. Activities include over a dozen sports as well as aquatics, boating, archery, horseback riding, fencing and more.

For more information, visit campatwater.org.



Congressman Richard E. Neal applauds the work of Job Corps to make improvements to Camp Atwater.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

SUMMER | FROM PAGE 1

His freshman year at WSU really kicked off his career in music where he began his first gigs with his guitar and voice, singing and playing locally.

Playing mostly original pieces, he reflected on his inspiration and where it comes from.

"The Grateful Dead and other great guitarists [really inspired me]. It is also in what you feel- I like to play what will make people feel good," Couture said.

When it comes to writing music, he finds he doesn't get inspiration from one source, but in many. "I find what strikes me and I go with it. I take inspiration as it comes."

Couture's go-with-the-flow outlook on his music is greatly reflected in how it sounds. His friendly demeanor and open nature allows for listeners of his music to find something to relate to in some way.

This is his second year playing at this event, and reflected on its "good vibes" and homey atmosphere, something that is surely felt by all who attend this event.

"Taste of New England Summer" brought about different foods, beverages, music, and games to play that spotlighted the uniqueness of the six states of New England.

The food stations featured Vermont's traditional maple candies and apple pork pie. Rhode Island had fried cod cake and apple pie, and Connecticut had good old fashioned hamburgers.

Massachusetts' booth featured braised pork, beans, and cornbread, and Maine had a classic lobster roll. New Hampshire's station offered two unique choices- split pea and potato stew and "rock cake", a biscuit-like dessert made with rose water, caraway seeds, and currants.

Each station with its featured dish selected the foods and beverages specifically and carefully in respect to the uniqueness of each state.

The director and coordinator of the musical performances at the three event days, PJ Griffith, picked musicians and bands based off of the uniqueness and diversity of their music styles, and no two bands truly sounded the same.

"We are trying to do something spectacular, highlighting the past and future of the six states of New England," Griffith said of the musicians gathered. "Each one of these bands is rooted in the sounds of the past and future."

PARKING | FROM PAGE 1

Petratis said the Safety Committee also wants to restrict parking by eliminating a parking spot on the north side of the alley, next to the Nash Building; and before the crosswalk on Grove Street.

These changes are being recommended to improve the line of sight for both pedestrians and traffic.

A Vibram employee in attendance at the July 18 meeting encouraged the Board to look at the recommendations, saying traffic poses a safety risk to himself and other employees. He said there were several times where pedestrians were almost hit by vehicles while using the crosswalk.

"It's a huge problem," he said.

The Board took these recommendations under advisement and will discuss them at a future meeting.

Financial items

The Board approved more financial transfers from the Reserve Fund to round out the end of the fiscal year, including a transfer to the Police Overtime account in the amount \$9,336.01; Fire Salary, \$2,520.89; and Library (unanticipated roof repairs), \$1,318.29.

Other transfers to cover Police Overtime include \$1.62 from Police Vehicle Supplies, \$51.25 from Uniforms, \$11 from Dues and Memberships, \$255.36 from Training Expenses, \$130.99 from Police Officers Expense and \$490 from Animal Control Expense.

Transfers to the Police Part Time Salary account include \$739.76 from Police Salary, \$948.50 from Shift Differential, \$10.85 from Police Career Incentive, \$500 from Police Training, \$54.87 from Police Equipment Repairs, \$13.62 from Police Purchase and Services, \$114.55 from Police Office Supplies, \$735.04 from Police Other Supplies and Expenses, \$1,490.82 from Police Training Expenses and \$597.32 from Police Gasoline.

The Board approved two transfers, one in the amount of \$39.43 and the other for \$41.19 from Council on Aging Supplies to Janitor's Salary and Director's salary, respectively.

The Board also approved \$2,645.62 from Playground Purchase and Services to Playground Supplies in order to repair benches, fencing, and cracks in the basketball court; \$505 from Recycling Moni-

tor Salary to Recycling Repair and Maintenance for unexpected repairs to the mower; and \$22.67 from Board of Selectmen Town Office Expense to Rail Trail for a negative balance.

The Board also amended a previously approved transfer of \$7,436; which was amended to \$4,936.

FY 24 appointments

The Board made the annual appointments for the fiscal year 2024. There are vacancies for the positions of Caretaker of the Town Clock, Fence Viewers, Hazardous Waste Coordinator, Town Hall Agent, Capital Improvement Planning Committee (one position for Finance Committee representative and one alternate) and Council on Aging (two positions and two alternates).

Town fuel use

The Board approved a memo to be forwarded to all departments prohibiting the use of town fuel/gas in personal vehicles.

The memo states that "effective immediately," the use of town fuel is for town vehicles only. If an employee uses their personal vehicle for town business, they must submit a mileage reimbursement request.

Broadband issues

A resident said they are facing a lack of internet connection in their neighborhood, saying it has become a "real challenge."

"In this day and age, we need access," she said. The resident said Spectrum gave her a quote of \$34,000 to run cable approximately 800 feet to her house.

Petratis said many years ago, the town's cable provider (which was then Charter Communications) had said they would increase the serviceable area if more users signed up for it, but that didn't happen.

Administrative Assistant Ashley Barre said the town's contract for Charter/Spectrum expired in 2021 and the Local Public Access Cable been trying to renegotiate the contract, pushing for complete town broadband coverage.

Flooding issues

A resident thanked the Highway and Fire departments for helping the town with flooding issues during the recent heavy rainfall.

Send Us Your Autumn Event Information

Turley Publications will print your Autumn event **FREE OF CHARGE** in our **Autumn Fest Supplement** which will be published **September 13, 2023.**

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Juggler keeps summer reading in motion

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer

STURBRIDGE – The Joshua Hyde Public Library was filled with the laughter of children this past Saturday as Henry the Juggler performed his tricks and jokes.

Henry has been performing for 40 years and loves every minute of it. His acts include juggling (obviously), balancing, twirling, jumping, and bringing joy to the audience he performs for.

Although he doesn't speak aloud during his performances, Henry's shows are vibrant and filled with impressive throws and balancing acts.

"My favorite part is bringing up the audience and playing with them. It's not

as much about tricks - it's being with the audience," Henry said.

Throughout his performance, he included several children and even had a "juggling workshop" at the end where he brought out a bucket of juggling sacks and taught the children how to juggle.

With patience and a smile, he made the children and their parents a part of the performance as well. When he shared what performances meant to him, he stressed again how much he loves interacting with his audiences.

"[To me] it means connecting with the audience. I love hearing their laughter and seeing their responses, and then reacting to their responses," he said.



Henry the Juggler steadied a crutch on his nose.



Henry the Juggler amazed the crowd at the Joshua Hyde Public Library this past Saturday. TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

Library hosts ice cream social and Teddy Bear Picnic

EAST BROOKFIELD – Summer Reading continues at the East Brookfield Public Library, 122 Connie Mack Drive.

Ice cream social/raffle drawing

The Summer Reading Program will wrap up with an ice cream social and raffle drawing on Thursday, Aug. 3 at 2 p.m. Every time you visit the Library during the summer make sure to fill out a raffle ticket – there are raffle prizes for children and adults alike.

All Summer Reading participants are invited to celebrate with ice cream and great prizes.

Teddy Bear Picnic

Bring your favorite stuffed friend, a blanket, and lunch to the library for the Teddy Bear Picnic on Tuesday, Aug. 8 at 12:30 p.m. Listen to Teddy Bear stories while you eat your lunch.

Have a friend with some seams that are giving way or holes from their adventures? Your library can stitch them up for you.

Open to all ages, children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. This program will take place outside, weather

permitting.

Recurring Programs

The Library is more than just a place to find books, it also hosts regular weekly programs. Programs include Story Time on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.; Knitting Group on Thursdays at 12:30 p.m.; Bingo on the last Monday of the month at 3 p.m.; Board Games on Saturdays at 11:30 a.m.; Technology Help Tuesdays on Tuesdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; Library Book Talk Group on the first Tuesday of the month at noon; Pokémon Go Club on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1 p.m.; and Drop In Craft available every Monday while supplies last.

Full details on any programs in can be found in the Library's printed newsletter, available at the Library. Anyone interested in starting a group should contact the Library.

The Library is now open an hour earlier on Mondays, with hours from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Other hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

For more information, call 508-867-7928 or email ebplibrary@gmail.com.

Ready, set, read!

Quaboag has new summer reading requirements

By Haileigh Swistak
Student Intern

WARREN – The Quaboag Regional School District's English Department will no longer be assigning specific summer reading assignments to students.

At the end of the school year, an email was sent out to all students and guardians notifying them of this change in curriculum.

However, this shouldn't dissuade students from reading at all this summer, especially when so many anticipated new releases have come to local libraries and bookstores.

Rick Riordan's newest release in the Percy Jackson universe, "The Sun and the Star", came out May 2. This would be a great read for middle and high school students alike.

Older elementary school students can also begin or continue to read the extremely popular "Wings of Fire" series by Tui T. Sutherland. For those who prefer graphic novels, this series is also available in comic format.

Many popular chapter books like "Animal Farm" by George Orwell, "A Wrinkle In Time" by Madeleine L'Engle, and "The City of Ember" by Jeanne DuPrau have also been adapted into graphic novels.

For high schoolers who are interested in Shakespearean tragedies and are also looking for a thriller murder mystery, "If We Were Villains" by M. L. Rio is the perfect fit. Released in 2017, the novel is still popular among teens in 2023.

To find more new releases or past summer reading books, visit your public library.

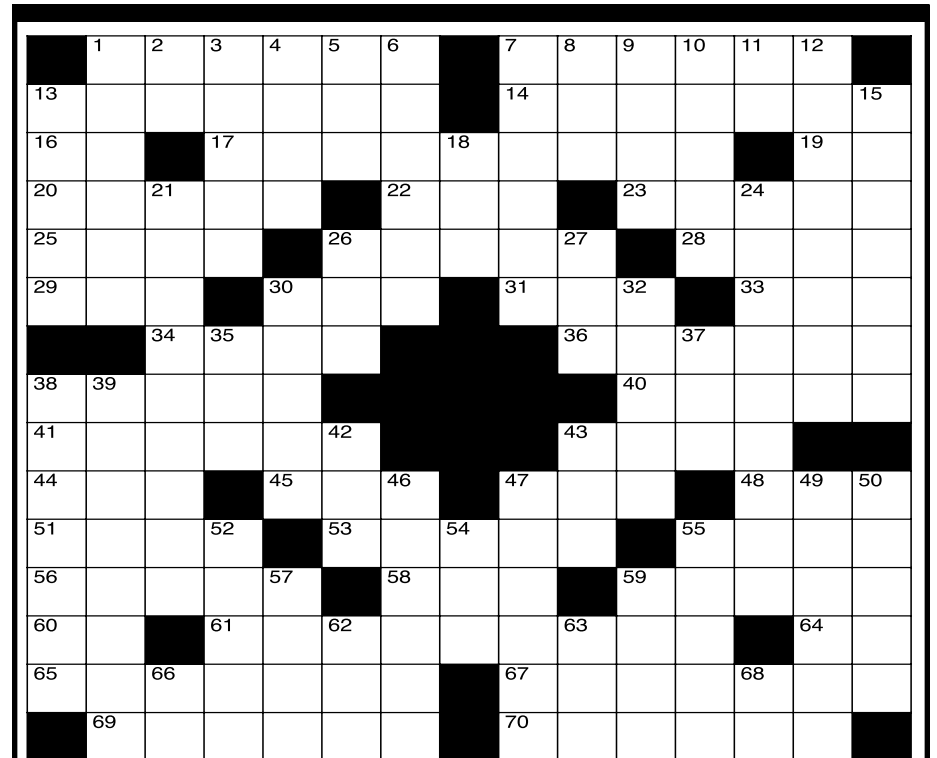
Brookfield resident publishes historical site app

BROOKFIELD – Michael Frey, age 23, announced that he has published HistorySeek, an information-based educational app that is free to download, and available on Google Play and will soon be released on the Apple Store.

HistorySeek was created for people of any age, who want to look up key facts about historical sites around the

world, while on the go. The app currently contains over 120 locations in it, from the Tower of London to Abu Simbel, to Mount Rushmore.

It does not require an Internet connection on your mobile device to use. It is a free app that also does not contain ads, but has a voluntary donation feature.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Bonus materials
- 7. Formal names
- 13. Free from restraints
- 14. One who scrapes away
- 16. Type of device
- 17. Skin cancers
- 19. The Show Me State
- 20. Plate glasses
- 22. Red-brown sea bream
- 23. Small (Fr.)
- 25. Flightless Australian birds
- 26. High IQ group
- 28. Stiff structures
- 29. Revolutions per minute
- 30. Where a bachelor lives
- 31. Licensed for Wall Street
- 33. A place to park
- 34. Energy, style and enthusiasm
- 36. An important creed in Catholic Church
- 38. 18-year astronomical period
- 40. Furies
- 41. Removes from the record
- 43. Noted child psychiatrist
- 44. Feline
- 45. High schoolers' test
- 47. Not happy
- 48. They ___
- 51. On top
- 53. Precious stones unit of weight
- 55. Moved quickly
- 56. Seagulls
- 58. A seed with hooks or teeth
- 59. Partner to "oohed"
- 60. Exclamation of surprise
- 61. Most unpleasant
- 64. Organization help service members
- 65. Type of cockatoo
- 67. Humorous criticisms
- 69. Went through and

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Settle in tents
- 2. Big
- 3. Books
- 4. Masses of eggs in fish
- 5. Language
- 6. Not standing
- 7. Chinese philosophy
- 8. Computer giant
- 9. A device to catch radiation
- 10. Emits coherent radiation
- 11. Actor O'Neill
- 12. Smallest interval in western music
- 13. Not lower
- 15. Revolves
- 18. Leavened bread
- 21. Number above the line in a fraction
- 24. Cable
- 26. Adult male
- 27. Airborne (abbr.)
- 30. Bullfighting
- 32. Broadcast
- 35. ___ Angeles
- 37. Vehicle
- 38. Not religious
- 39. North American peoples
- 42. A baglike structure
- 43. Body art (slang)
- 46. Picked for a role
- 47. Actress Tomei
- 49. Former hoopster "Big Country"
- 50. Icelandic poems
- 52. More pleasant
- 54. It can add flavor to meat
- 55. Self-immolation by fire rituals
- 57. Expression of annoyance
- 59. ___ Spumante (Italian wine)
- 62. Consumed
- 63. Body part
- 66. Thus
- 68. In reply (abbr.)

QUABOAG CURRENT



NORTH BROOKFIELD
National Night Out
returns Aug. 3 p6

STURBRIDGE
Alum treatment
completed p6

WARREN
Summer reading
requirements p15

Editorial/Opinion **4**
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Volume 16, Number 35

Friday, July 28, 2023

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