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Friday August 1, 2025



Child volunteers lined up to hold Fluffy, who is a friendly animal teacher, as part of The Joys of Nature live animal program.

TURLEY PHOTO BY RYAN DRAGO

Joys of Nature introduces animals of the rainforest

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

STURBRIDGE – The Joys of Nature provided a fun animal program this past week at the Joshua Hyde Public Library.

Joy has been doing live animal programs for kids

and adults for over 20 years, and this program focused on rainforest animals. On July 25, Joy had two presentations to give, and each one had a spectacular turnout.

Over 20 kids attended, and some got to volunteer as part of the program.

Joy said these animals are all “animal teachers”

and are a great importance to the rainforest. The first animal Joy presented was a Madagascar hissing cockroach.

These animals are important to the rainforest community. The rainforest consists of a wet and leafy habitat and requires animals to have special adap-

tations to survive. Kids got to learn about how these unique animals find food and avoid predators in the forest.

It’s in the name, Madagascar hissing cockroaches like to hiss and may sound like a snake to other ani-

SEE RAINFOREST PAGE 5

Select Board appoints three new police officers

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

STURBRIDGE – The Select Board approved the appointments of full-time Police Officer Edward Page and full-time Police Officer Richard Tracy Sr., both effective July 22.

At the July 21 meeting, Police Chief Earl Dessert said Page brings a “wealth of experience” to the role and has over 27 years in law enforcement. He has both bachelor’s and master’s degrees.

Page currently serves on the Wales Police Department, and has also served at several colleges and in other communities. He worked for the Sturbridge Police Department from 2015-2020.

Dessert said Tracy brings “a unique and valuable combination of federal law enforcement and local policing experience.”

Tracy has recently retired from a 23 year career as a U.S. Postal Inspector where he gained extensive experience in criminal investigations, surveillance operations, federal case preparation and interagency collaboration.

“His work in this role required a high level of integ-

riety, attention to detail and commitment to public safety,” Dessert said.

Dessert said Tracy has a master’s degree and serves as a part-time police officer on the Wales Police Department.

Dessert also presented full-time candidate Dominic Barroso for appointment. He said Barroso is new to the field of law enforcement and he has served the Army National Guard as a military police officer since 2021.

“He impressed the interview panel with maturity, professionalism, and a strong desire to serve the community,” Dessert said.

The board approved his appointment with a start date of July 28.

Town beautification

Joe Collins said he has been overseeing the town beautification plantings. He said 97 plants have gone in to date, and there “a significant amount more” to go in.

He said there are four planting locations: in front of Town Hall, the welcome sign, in front of the Department of Public Works plow and in front of the Public Safety Complex.

The plantings include seven trees, 20 shrubs and 70

SEE STURBRIDGE PAGE 5

Outer Cape maritime history presented at Senior Center

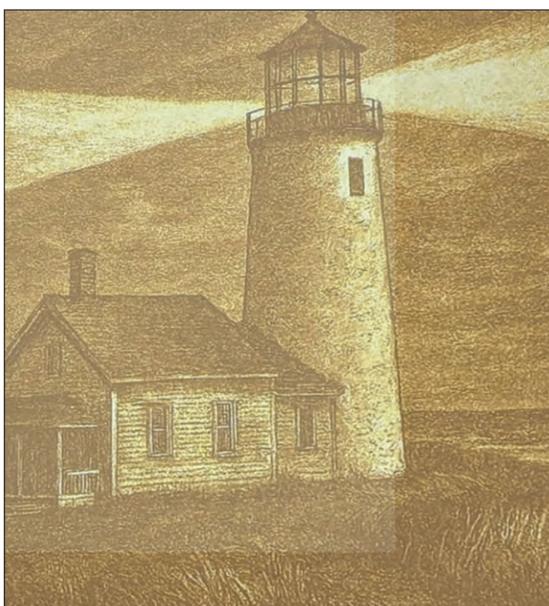
John Small and the Highland Lighthouse

By Richard Murphy
Correspondent

STURBRIDGE –The recent addition to the Sturbridge Senior Center is a comfortable setting for a presentation about a building, or series of buildings in another part of the Commonwealth that were of importance in the Maritime history of the state.

John Small is a resident of Brookfield, just to the north of Sturbridge. For many years, he and husband Paul Carr ran the wonderful regional magazine, The Sturbridge Times, that suc-

SEE MARITIME HISTORY PAGE 6



In 1833, brick replaced the wood at the Highland Lighthouse and in 1840, a more powerful lantern was installed.

The Federated Church announces annual community picnic

STURBRIDGE – The Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale invites the local community to attend its second annual Family Fun Day and Open House from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 9 on the church grounds at 8 Maple St.

The event is open to the general public free of charge and no advance registration is required.

According to Reverend David W. Cote, pastor, the event will include a cook-out prepared by the church men’s and women’s groups, Crossroads and Koinonia.

“All are welcome to attend the cookout with church members for conversation and fellowship,” he said.

“This year we’re delight-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Peter James L'Esperance, who also goes by the name Morning Son, will entertain with a mix of folk, rock, jazz, and Americana originals and covers at the Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale's annual Family Fun Day and Open House on Saturday, Aug. 9 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

wed to welcome back officers from the Sturbridge Police and Fire departments,” according to Cote. “Kids will have an opportunity to meet K9 comfort

dog, ‘Rocky,’ and K9 search and rescue dog, ‘Raya,’ and their trainers, Officers Colby Tytula and Garrett Dana.”

Sturbridge Scout Troop 161, which meets at the church on Sunday evenings, will organize a variety of children’s games on the church lawn, along with Sturbridge Girl Scout Troop 65092. Kathy Krikorian will offer face painting, and Judy LaVergne will be offering story time in Fellowship Hall.

Music director, Andrew Kosiba is pleased to welcome local musician Peter James L'Esperance to entertain guests. L'Esperance, who also goes by the

SEE FEDERATED CHURCH PAGE 5

Local residents complete 100+ mile rucks for Why Me & Sherry's House challenge

Submitted Article

WORCESTER – Rucking is a military term for walking long distances with a weighted backpack and for many of those who took part in the Why Me & Sherry's House 100-Mile Challenge, it was deeply personal.

The event supports Why Me & Sherry's House, a Worcester-based nonprof-

it that provides support to families facing pediatric cancer. Every step of the 100-mile march is a tribute to the children and families who endure unimaginable hardships with unbreakable strength.

The 100-Mile Ruck is not just about miles, it's about meaning. Over four days (July 17-July 20), participants walked 25 miles per day.

One of those participants, Mike Smith of Oakham, raised over \$11,000 and was one of the first to finish the 100-Mile Ruck March. His motivation came from a place of perspective:

“I have two healthy kids, and I can't imagine what these families go through. I'd go through all the pain of this ruck again if it means easing the pain for just one

child and their family.”

The Ultimate Finishers Ruck was only open to those who had completed the 100-Mile Ruck march in the previous five years.

This elite group didn't know their exact route or mileage until the morning. Their path was filled with unexpected turns and tough

SEE 100-MILE RUCK PAGE 8



TURLEY PHOTOS BY BRIANNA WHITELAW

Michelle Kellicker of Barre, Michael Ethier of East Brookfield and Michael Smith Oakham are shown at the start of the 100-Mile Ruck at Why Me & Sherry's House.

- community -

Register for Rotary's annual TREK Sturbridge Halloween 5K, 1K & Fun Walk

STURBRIDGE – The Rotary Club of Sturbridge has announced that pre-registration is now open for its popular TREK Sturbridge Halloween 5K, 1K, and Fun Walk, which is slated to return on Sunday, Oct. 26, according to club president and race director Klaus Hachfeld. “To pre-register for this year’s event, just go to getmeregistered.com, and type ‘Sturbridge’ in the search field in the upper right-hand corner,” said Hachfeld. Participants who pre-register by Oct. 21 will get a free 2025 TREK Sturbridge Halloween 5K

T-shirt. All activities begin at the OSV Education Center on Old Sturbridge Village Road (not to be confused with Old Sturbridge Village Academy at the main entrance to the village). Parking will be available in the Education Center lot. The family-friendly event offers two timed races, including a 5K Trail Run & Fun Walk, and a 1K Pre-Teen Run. In the spirit of the season, participants are encouraged to come in costume. The event also includes free children’s game starting at 9 a.m. at the Education Center.

The timed 1K Pre-Teen Run (\$20 registration) starts at 9:15 a.m. This is for the 12 and under crowd, and the course is accessible for anyone with mobility challenges. The timed 5K Trail Run (\$35 registration) & Fun Walk (\$30 registration) will start at 10 a.m. using Old Sturbridge Village Road and the Arbutus Park Trail in the Leadmine Mountain Wildlife Conservation Lands. An awards ceremony will follow at 11:15 a.m. starting with a competition for best Halloween costume for all registered runners and walkers. Judging will be by popular choice. On-site registration will also be available starting at 8:30 a.m. on the day of the race. The Trek Sturbridge Halloween 5K and Fun Walk is a Sturbridge Rotary Club fundraiser, with all profits going to the organization’s community needs projects. For additional information, or to sign on as an event sponsor, email the race director at laserklausa@gmail.com. Or visit the Sturbridge Rotary Club website at <https://sturbridge Rotary.com>.

Whether you’re a life-long cat lover or simply looking for a fun day out, Feline Fun Day offers something special for everyone. Admission is free. For more info, visit heretoday-sanctuary.org/feline-fun-day Feline Fun Day is made possible thanks to the generous support of Suppur Hero Sponsors: Australian Natural Soap (www.watertreeandlondon-us.com) and B’leaf Wellness Centre (www.bleafma.com).

Feline Fun Day to be held Saturday, Aug. 9

MONSON –Feline Fun Day returns for its fourth year on Saturday, Aug. 9, from 11a.m.-4 p.m. at Westview Farms Creamery, 109 East Hill Road. The event is hosted by Here Today Adopted Tomorrow, a Brimfield-based cat shelter, and features over 50 local craft vendors, upbeat music, great food, and a chance to enjoy a “purrfect” summer day. This year’s theme, “Purrfect Moments,” celebrates joyful little snapshots of life – whether it’s a sweet treat, a furry face, or a photo-worthy memory. HTAT will bring adorable kittens, themed selfie stations, and all the cuteness you need to fill your camera roll. “Feline Fun Day is a chance for our community to come together, cele-

brate everything we love about cats, and support HTAT’s work to give each one a real shot at a better future,” said Rachael Max, Executive Director of Here Today Adopted Tomorrow. “Whether you’re shopping, snapping a photo, or just stopping by for a cone, you’re making a difference.” HTAT is more than a traditional shelter. Its cageless environment and individualized approach give every cat the room to flourish – especially those with medical needs, tough pasts, or unique personalities that may need extra time or care to shine. Beyond adoption, HTAT supports cats and families through specialized programs that help keep pets healthy and loved in their homes.

who love them in the community. In 2012, the duo opened a no kill, cageless cat adoption center for adult cats and kittens in Brimfield. HTAT offers programs to help special needs cats flourish and get adopted, as well as community assistance programs to help pet owners keep their pets, such as our Pet Food Pantry, low-cost spay-neuter program, and free cat behavior program. Each year, HTAT helps over 1,500 animals and their families. For more information, visit heretodaysanctuary.org or visit Here Today Adopted Tomorrow on Facebook at facebook.com/heretodaysanctuary, and on Instagram at [@heretodayadoptedtommorrow](https://instagram.com/heretodayadoptedtommorrow).

Close of Concerts on the Common to be held Aug. 30

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Concerts on the Common will be held on select Saturdays on the town common from 6-8 p.m. The final concert of the season will be held on Aug. 30 and features the 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.

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.

market will feature 17 vendors with a wide array of locally grown and made goods including 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.

West Brookfield Farmers Market held on Wednesdays

WEST 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.

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.

Library hosts Summer Eats food program for children

EAST 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.

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

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Summer Eats food program held at middle/high school

BARRE – This summer, all kids and teens get free meals at Quabbin Regional Middle High School through the Summer Eats program, no ID or registration required. Summer Eats is open to all kids 18 and under. Kids and teens must be present to receive a meal and are required to eat on-site. The summer feeding program at the Middle High School will be offered July 8-Aug. 7. Hours of operation are Monday through Thursday, from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. You can find additional Summer Eats sites near you using Project Bread’s Summer Eats map at projectbread.org/summereats.



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- community -

Summer Concert Series continues at Powder Mill Park



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Deloreans will perform at the Summer Concert Series on Sunday, Aug. 3 from 2-5 p.m. at Powder Mill Park, Spencer.

SPENCER – The Spencer Parks & Recreation Commission’s 2025 Summer Concert Series features the Deloreans from 2-5 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 3 at Powder Mill Park, corner Smithville and Meadow Roads.

The Deloreans is a seven-piece horn band that performs mostly pop, rock and soul hits of the 70s and 80s. The instrumentation is gui-

tar, bass, drums, keyboards, sax, trumpet and trombone. Four members sing and create great harmonies and backups.

The series runs every Sunday through Aug. 24 and continues on Aug. 10 with the Love Dogs.

The concert series is proudly sponsored by Cornerstone Bank.

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ty, 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.

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.

St. Joseph’s Abbey announces bicentennial open house

Celebrating 200 years of monastic prayer, community, and hospitality

SPENCER – St. Joseph’s Abbey, the Trappist monastery nestled on peaceful rolling meadows in Spencer, is marking its 200th anniversary with a special Open House on Saturday, Aug. 2 from 9 a.m.-noon.

The public is warmly invited to explore the abbey, meet members of the monastic community, and learn about centuries of contemplative life.

Founded in 1825 in Tracadie, Nova Scotia, the monastic community later moved to Rhode Island and, following a fire in 1950, made its permanent home in Spencer. Over the years, the abbey has become renowned for its Trappist Preserves, homemade jams and jellies, and

a retreat ministry rooted in silence, prayer, and hospitality for all who seek spiritual renewal.

“Hope does not disappoint,” reflected Abbot Vincent Rogers in a recent Jubilee reflection celebrating both the Church’s 2025 Jubilee Year and the abbey’s bicentenary. Inspired by this message, the Open House offers a window into the abbey’s lived tradition of blending ora et labora, prayer and work, throughout life’s daily rhythm.

Highlights of the Open House include guided tours of the monastery church and cloisters; displays from the abbey’s historic archives, including Trappist Preserves and The Holy Rood Guild vestments; opportunities to meet monks, ask questions, and partake in prayer accompaniment; and light refreshments.

St. Joseph’s Abbey is lo-

cated at 167 North Spencer Road and parking is available on-site with volunteers offering guidance. Admission is free and all are welcome.

The main cloister area is accessible; some monastic areas, including the manufacturing areas, remain private.

For more information, visit www.spencerabbey.org.

About St. Joseph’s Abbey

St. Joseph’s Abbey is a cloistered Trappist monastery in Spencer, following the Rule of St. Benedict in silence, communal prayer, and simplicity. The community, founded in 1825, has supported itself through retreats, liturgical arts, produce-based enterprises, and a focus on spiritual hospitality.

The abbey’s bicentennial invites reflection on enduring hope, tradition, and service.

Ware Grange lists upcoming events

WARE – The next Kids’ Corner at Ware Grange will be “Pets” and will take place on Saturday, Aug. 9 at 10 a.m. at the Grange Hall at 297 Belchertown Road.

Kids’ Corner workshops are led by local preschool teacher, Jen McNally, and feature songs, stories, crafts, and activities.

There are so many different pets to learn about. Each type of pet has different ways to care for them and different needs. Kids will explore the different types of pets and meet a few of them.

Visit Ware Grange on Facebook or at waregrange.org for more information.

Gardening workshop

Ware Grange’s next gardening workshop, “Gardening in Small Spaces,” will be held on Thursday, Aug. 7 at 7 p.m. at the Grange Hall. The presenter will be Chris Messier, a gardener with 60 years of experience, including expertise in seed saving and homesteading.

Grow bags and raised beds provide a way to have a garden when space is limited or if your soil is not good for growing flowers and vegetables. Participants will explore some of the possibilities for gardening in raised beds as well as using grow bags on patios, balconies and other small spaces.

Visit Ware Grange on

Facebook or at waregrange.org for more information.

Tickets available for barbecue dinner

Ware Grange is holding a Barbecue Dinner at the Fair on Saturday, Aug. 23 from 4-5:30 p.m. The menu includes pulled pork, chicken, brisket, baked beans, coleslaw, cornbread, drink, and dessert for \$25.

Eat outside under the tent and enjoy live music by Brianna Lamb during dinner. Take out is also available.

Reservations are required. Please call 413-284-1135 or email waregrange164@gmail.com to make your reservations for the barbecue.

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- opinion -

Letter to the Editor

Golf tournament benefited animals at Second Chance

Dear Editor,
On behalf of all of us at Second Chance Animal Services, I'd like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who made our 13th Annual Golf Tournament a wonderful success.

It was a great day on the course at Cold Spring Country Club, made even more special by the incredible community that came together in support of pets in need. Whether you played, volunteered, sponsored, donated, or bid in our silent auction, you helped make a real difference for animals who rely on us for a second

chance.

We'd especially like to thank our generous sponsors, including The Republican and Ted & Barbara Hebert of Teddy Bear Pools & Spas, who also sponsored our Hole-in-One contest. Your support helped make this event such a success.

Thanks to you, it was more than just a great day of golf – it was a day that changed lives.

With deepest gratitude,
Lindsay Doray
Chief Development Officer
Second Chance Animal Services



Summer questions for the Garden Lady

This question came when the Garden Lady was visiting the local library: "What is going on with my lilac?"

That was all she needed to say, and I knew: brown, crispy leaves, and dead stems. I answered this same question perhaps a year ago, and at that time it was the second year people had been seeing these symptoms on their beloved lilac bushes.

Well, here we are after another wet spring. Read on to hear my answer.

All you have to do is ride in the car and you will notice brown leaved lilac bushes or those that are nearly devoid of leaves altogether! My best guess is that *Pseudocercospora* leaf blight of lilac is the culprit.

Some lilacs even lost their leaves then sported flowers in October because the plant, after leaf loss, was tricked into thinking it was time to flower and grow new leaves. Because this new growth is very tender, you may notice tip dieback in spring on those areas of new growth and/or flowering.

It simply didn't have enough time to harden off before winter. Lilacs are tough plants, though, so don't despair.

What can we do to help, you ask? First of all, clean up fallen leaves and debris so that it won't spread the inoculum. Second, water the bushes well and at the base if this fall is droughty.

In the spring, prune out any dead branches, disinfecting your tools in between cuts. You can also choose to prune the plant in such a way so that there is better airflow throughout.

That always helps to cut down on diseases. I'm not a chemical girl – I really try to enhance my cultur-

al practices to strengthen the overall health of the plant. I am sure there are options out there for this particular malady should you wish to research it.

Melissa wants to know what my pick is for a long blooming perennial: "I love perennials, but I'm sick of plants that cost an arm and a leg then bloom for two weeks or less. Do you have a long flowering favorites that will give me my money's worth?"

Yes, indeed. Although I am a recent convert to the Coral Bell Admirer's Club, my membership is now a lifetime one.



Coral Bells

You see, mom was giving away some of her plants last year. I more or less took them to make her happy, installing them in a part sun situation in my front yard.

Well folks, I cut some of the wispy stems, boasting sprays of small, coral colored flowers the first weekend in June for a floral arrangement and believe it or not, they are still blooming. On their way out, yes, but still showing color.

Heuchera is the Genus for a large number of Coral Bell cultivars and hybrids, many of which are grown more for their foliage than for their flowers. I'll probably never know what the name of my mom's plants are; they are the standard green

lobed leaves and aforementioned flowers on self supporting stems that top out around 28 inches tall.

Foliage can uniquely colored, though, and beautifully and intricately veined. You'll find it yellow-bronze, as seen with "Amber Waves" or the red-purple of "Chocolate Ruffles," and many in between. Some cultivars have a silver pattern to their foliage which is caused by air bubbles that get trapped under the leaf surface.

The coloration isn't erratic, but uniquely defined because of the regular pattern of the leaf veins. Just beautiful. And just like the Hostas I mentioned a few weeks back, some gardeners appreciate the foliage so much of Coral Bells that they cut the flowers right off, especially on those varieties where they are more nondescript.

Besides the coral color, flowers can come in white, cream or even light green.

Plants are best in full sun to part shade in neutral to alkaline soil. They will rot in soil that is waterlogged. During the drought we've been experiencing I have noticed that they don't particularly enjoy super dry soil either, so they have gotten a drink now and then in between rain storms.

Removing spent flowers may increase bloom time. Perhaps because of my early removal for that flower arrangement, I inadvertently extended the show. I'll plan to do that again next year now that I am a convert.

As an added bonus, flowers are attractive to bees, butterflies and occasionally hummingbirds.

Maybe I have convinced you to also give this unique and varied Genus a try in your garden.

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

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By Ellenor Downer

Male common yellowthroat



A Brimfield resident reported a common yellowthroat in his yard.

The common yellowthroat as its name implies has a yellow throat. It also has a long tail and round belly. The males have a black mask with a whitish line above, olive upper parts, yellow throat and yellow under its tail. Females are brownish olive above with a yellow throat and breast. They lack the distinct, black mask of the male.

Yellowthroats are small songbirds about 4 to 5 inches long. The males sing a "wicheety-wicheety-wicheety" song. Both sexes give a full sounding "chuck" note. During migration, the yellowthroat is the most common warbler found in fields and along their edges.

These warblers live in open areas with thick, low vegetation ranging from marsh to grassland to pine forests. The females select a nest location, near or on the ground supported by sedge, reeds, cattails, briars and other low plants. Nests in marshy areas are usually higher off the ground where they are safer from flooding. Sometimes the nest has a roof like the ovenbird nests. They are one of the species that cowbirds lay their eggs in their nests.

People may designate an area of dense or tangled low-growing grasses and other vegetation to attract common yellowthroats to their yards. Yellowthroats prefer larger yards of at least half an acre or more.

Photo of a phoebe nest

I received an email containing a photo of an Eastern phoebe nest filled with phoebe nestlings. Eastern phoebes nest near humans often selecting a spot over a door or in a shed.

Wild turkeys

My grandson and I had to stop and wait for several hen turkeys with their poults to move them along a backroad in Barre. The largest hen led the way,

walking down the middle of the road. Three other hens took up the rear with the poults walking all over the place. Some even stopped to explore the edge of the road, but then ran to catch up. Finally, they headed into the grass and woods on the edge of the road.

More Brimfield birds

The Brimfield resident said he has seen more birds in his yard since his last email. "Baltimore orioles

have been seen more often at the birdbath, probably because of the warm weather we have been having." On a recent day he had a robin, three orioles, cardinals, a titmouse, a chipping sparrow, blue jays, catbirds and a common yellowthroat all stopped by the birdbath and a black and white warbler was seen in the yard.

He said he took down the bird feeders because of bears. "We had a bear make a daytime visit. It was not seen, but we discovered that it had cleaned out the feeding station. All the black oil sunflower seed, two suet cakes, a "log" of compressed seeds and fruit and suet pellets were all gone. Fortunately the bear didn't damage anything or steal any of the feeders which they often do."

His wife checks a town Facebook page and has seen many reports of bears in town and many of them are in the daytime so he figured it was time to take the feeders down. He still throws a seed mix around in several places like he always has and only put handfuls of black oil and whole peanuts in a small try hanging from a Shepard's crook.

He said, "I've started to see young of the year around the yard. Several days ago two juveniles were following an adult male red-bellied woodpecker around, two juvenile Baltimore orioles were seen at the bird bath and I also saw a juvenile chipping sparrow take a bath."

Bobolinks

He said, "A few years back I took part in a citizen science project monitoring bobolinks at Moore State Park in Paxton. Because the Mass Department of Conservation and Recreation has failed to maintain two large fields at the park for the benefit of grassland species the bobolink

population at the park has declined. Milkweed, multi flora rose, bindweed, crown vetch and other non-grass type vegetation is slowing invading the once grass fields. The first year I monitored the park there were 149 bobolinks seen in the largest field in August but unfortunately the numbers declined every subsequent

year."

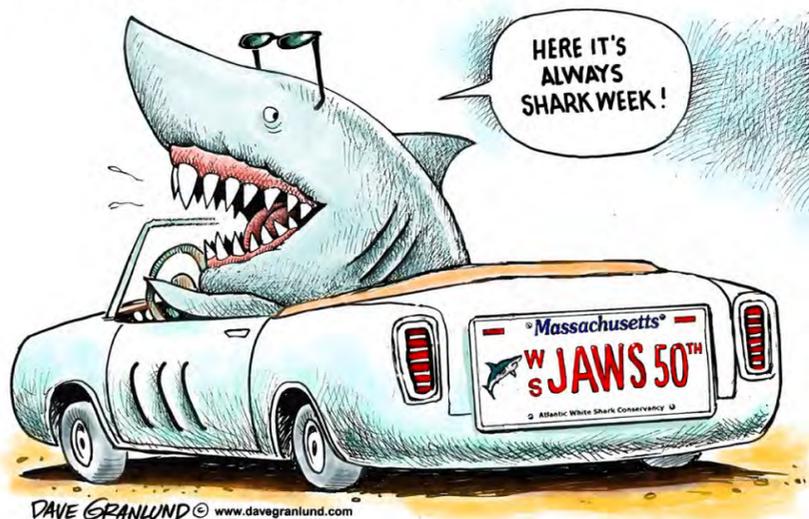
Osprey

This Brimfield resident visits a pond in Warren often to check on an osprey nest. He said, "The osprey nest in Warren may have only produced one young this year. The nest has gotten bigger over the years so I hoping that there are more young in the nest that have

been unseen because the nest is deeper now."

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

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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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Quaboag Current

78th Ware Grange Fair will be held Saturday, 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.

RAINFOREST FROM PAGE 1

Joy went around the JHPL meeting room for kids to gently pet the cockroach. Some volunteers got to hold the cockroach as well.

The next animal was a blue-tongued skink. This friendly lizard species uses its bright blue tongues to hunt prey, ward off predators, and attract a mate. The skink was lying comfortably on Joy's hand as she went around the room to let kids pet this unique rainforest animal.

Joy then showed everyone the panther chameleon. This beautiful species can camouflage and will use its tail and feet to hang on to trees and branches. In this case, the panther chameleon will hang on to hands and arms.

Joy even got the chameleon to do a trick with its tongue.

Several child volunteers



Joy is shown with Fluffy the red-tailed boa at the Joshua Hyde Public Library.

lined up to form their hands to look like a tree branch for the panther chameleon to walk. All the kids who volunteered and got to hold these rainforest animals did a great job and had fun meeting these animal teach-

ers.

It was now time to meet the snakes of the rainforest. The first snake Joy introduced to everyone was an Australian jungle carpet python. This little python was very friendly and likes to



The panther chameleon relaxed comfortably in the hands of these child volunteers. The kids made a tree structure with their hands for the chameleon to climb on.

move around.

Several kid volunteers lined up with their hands nice and low for the Australian jungle carpet python to move.

The snakes kept getting bigger in size as Joy moved

on to introduce the Honduran milk snake. This egg-laying species can reach a length of five feet and mostly eat mice and rats.

Joy went around the room to let kids pet the Honduran milk snake, which had colors

of red, black, and yellow. Other milk snakes can be orange.

For the last animal, Joy brought out the biggest snake in the program. The last guest was Fluffy, the red-tailed boa. Joy was looking for four older kids to volunteer to help hold up Fluffy.

He was heavy and appeared intimidating, but Joy said he is very friendly.

After the program, Joy introduced Baby RT, a smaller red-tailed boa, who is also the younger brother of Fluffy. Joy mentioned that these snakes are important rodent predators and encourages folks to give them social distancing as well as try to reduce rat poison or rodenticide.

Joy thanked all of the kids and adults who came to her program and thanked all the volunteers who did a good job meeting all the animals of the rainforest.

STURBRIDGE FROM PAGE 1

perennials.

"Where we stand now, we have roughly \$2,000 in plants costs left," Collins said. "Which we hope to kind of accentuate the planting around the welcome sign."

Collins said the welcome sign is a challenging area to plant due to the sign's proximity to the roadway edges and Department of Transportation regulations. He said the plantings throughout town will flower at various times throughout the year.

"DOT has very specific requirements for the spaces they allow," Collins said. "DOT's very concerned and rightfully so with sightlines...there's never a scenario where you can plant the entire island."

Town Administrator Robin Grimm said she will be meeting this week with a representative from the commonwealth about the "adopt a highway" program. One of the spots she hopes the town can adopt is across from the State Police barracks.

Town Administrator's report

Grimm thanked the Fire Department and mutual aid responders for quickly putting out the fire earlier that day at an apartment above Sadie Green's.

Grimm said she received a letter from ACORN (Ad-

vocates for Conservation of Oakham's Rural Nature and Safety), representing the town of Oakham regarding a proposed battery storage site in that town near its large watershed area. She said the town is seeking support from other towns against the project.

Grimm said there is also a bill that seeks to keep local control over the placement of battery disposal sites.

She asked the board members if they would like her to draft letters of support for the town of Oakham and/or the bill. The board asked Grimm to draft the letters for review.

Contract for lake services

The Select Board approved a contract with SOLitude Lake Management for hydro raking to remove weeds from the recreation area at Cedar Pond in the amount of \$8,000.

Recreation Director Andrew St. George said this occurs every three to five years to remove weeds from the swimming area. He said the hydro raking will take place at the close of the summer recreation program.

"It stops a lot of the algae bloom...stops a lot of the bacteria growth," he said.

Building Department report

Building Commissioner and Zoning Enforcement Official William LePage gave the department's monthly reports for May and June.

He said there were 25 commercial permits and 216 residential permits issued with a total of \$109,247.70 in fees collected.

Ongoing commercial projects include the ConvenientMD Urgent Care on Route 20.

"They're currently a little ahead of schedule," he said of the construction.

Another project is Blueberry Estates, which now has three complete homes and about four that are being worked on. He said Old Sturbridge Village built a new horse barn and is in the process of converting a large classroom into two rooms. Work is also ongoing at the Dollar Tree.

Police Department report

Dessert said the Police Department answered 3,179 calls for service during the month of May and 3,004 calls during the month of June.

He said Officer Nicholas Marderosian held a RAD class at Burgess Elementary School for students in May, and the department participated in the Memorial Day parade.

In June, Officer Zachary Marderosian and Officer Bradford Merkel received an award for their proactive motor vehicle enforcement training.

Resignations

The board accepted the following resignations from

the Police Department: Officer Jeffrey Forcier, Officer Scott Crevier and Officer Brendan Baxter.

Appointments

Lauren O'Donnell was appointed to serve on the Cultural Council until Aug. 1, 2028. She said she moved here almost eight years ago and wants to be involved with the community.

Charles Roy Jr. was re-appointed to the Sturbridge Lakes Association Advisory Committee – Big Alum with a term to expire July 18, 2028.

Select Board Chair Jamie Goodwin was appointed to serve as the board's delegate to the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission and Mary Dowling as the alternate.

Pole hearing

At a public hearing, National Grid representative Robert Williams said the utility company wants to install a new transformer and joint-owned utility pole on Arnold Road. He said this is necessary to run secondary cable to a commercial property that recently upgraded its service.

After the closing of the public hearing, the Select Board voted in favor of the pole's placement.

FEDERATED CHURCH FROM PAGE 1

name Morning Son, plays a mix of folk, rock, jazz and Americana originals and covers.

"Parents and children in attendance will have an opportunity to attend a meet-and-greet in Fellowship Hall with a few of our CO-RI-certified Sunday School teachers," said Cote. "Our staff is always available during the Sunday service to supervise up to 25 children, aged 6 months to 10 years of age while their parents attend church. Our Sunday School encourag-

es Christian morals and ethics, within their understanding and age level, through story time, videos, crafts, and other activities aligned with that Sunday's teachings and sermons."

The Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale joyfully celebrates Christ's presence and God's grace in our lives. Community members are welcome and invited to join in worship on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m.

Services are also live streamed on the church's Facebook page. For more information, call 774-304-1021 or visit sturford.org.

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- public safety -

East Brookfield Police Log

During the week of June 16-22, the East Brookfield Police Department responded to 129 building/property checks, 47 directed area patrols, six traffic controls, 11 radar assignments, nine emergency 911 calls, eight citizen assists, three assist other agencies, one investigation, two safety hazards, one fire, three thefts/larcenies, two motor vehicle accidents, five animal calls and 34 motor vehicle stops in the town of East Brookfield.

Monday, June 16
9:47 a.m. Assist Citizen, West Main Street, Officer Handled
3:35 p.m. Assist Citizen, East Main Street, Officer Handled

Tuesday, June 17
12:04 p.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Officer Handled
3:56 p.m. Safety Hazard, East Main Street, Served in Hand

Wednesday, June 18
7:42 a.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Officer Handled
12:49 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Draper Road, Transported to Hospital

12:51 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Draper Road, Merge
4:47 p.m. Safety Hazard, Lashaway Drive Circle, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
5:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued
5:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
7:25 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Route 49, Citation Issued
8:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Harrington Street, Citation Issued

Thursday, June 19
7:49 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Written Warning
11:40 a.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, East Main Street, Report Taken
5:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Harrington Street, Written Warning
5:25 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Harrington Street, Written Warning
5:57 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Bridge Street, Transported to Hospital
6:11 p.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Services Rendered

Friday, June 20
11:58 a.m. Larceny/Theft/Shoplifting, Harrington Street, Report Taken
12:30 p.m. Larceny/Theft/Shoplifting, East Main Street, Investigated
2:10 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Unknown Location, Officer Handled
2:48 p.m. Assist Citizen, Dunn Brook Road, Officer Handled
4:33 p.m. 911 Assist Citizen, West Main Street, Services Rendered
4:59 p.m. Disturbance, West Main Street, Officer Handled
5:29 p.m. Larceny/Theft/Shoplifting, East Main Street, Officer Handled
11:06 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Crash, Podunk Road, Transported to Hospital

Saturday, June 21
8:12 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Written Warning
9:08 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Sturbridge, Services Rendered
10:18 a.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Services Rendered
11:57 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Podunk Road, Written

Warning
2:04 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Shore Road, Written Warning
3:04 p.m. Radar, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued
3:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued
6:04 p.m. Investigation, Harrington Street, Spoken To
6:12 p.m. Traffic Control, Podunk Road, Citation Issued
6:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle

Stop, Bridge Street, Citation Issued
6:24 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Podunk Road, Citation Issued
9:02 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning
11:58 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Services Rendered

Sunday, June 22
12:02 p.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Services Rendered
12:41 p.m. Fire/Other, Harrington Lane, Taken/Re-

ferred to Other Agency
2:07 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Oakwood Drive, Transported to Hospital
3:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Written Warning
4:09 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Street, Written Warning
5:24 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, East Main Street, Transported to Hospital
8:43 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Written Warning

4:35 p.m. Safety Hazard, West Brookfield Road, Services Rendered

Saturday, July 19
12:22 a.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Services Rendered
5:14 p.m. Vandalism, Ravine Road, Investigated
7:05 p.m. Complaint, Wine Road, Spoken To
Sunday, July 20
12:02 p.m. Complaint, Memorial Drive, Spoken To Other Agency

New Braintree Police Log

During the week of July 14-21, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 12 building/property checks, 11 directed/area patrols, two radar assignments, one traffic control, one emergency 911 call, two citizen assists, two complaints, one vandalism, one property damage, two safety hazards, one animal call and seven motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

Monday, July 14
8:34 a.m. 911 Misdial, Mass Central Rail Trail, No Action Required
6:17 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled
Wednesday, July 16
12:43 p.m. Property Damage, Ravine Road, Report Taken
Thursday, July 17
2:03 p.m. Safety Hazard, Barr Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

MARITIME HISTORY FROM PAGE 1

cumbed during covid, but his family story is intimately connected to far Cape Cod from just about the beginning.

The seashore that is the outer Cape fronts an ocean that often lashes it with storms that make its coast a treacherous place for ships that sail off of. This would make it a place of opportunity for John's ancestors, many of them.

John spoke of the waters off the Cape that were referred to as "Dangerfield." A fitting name for what happened there.

In 1794, a local cleric, Reverend James Freeman wrote that "There were more ships wrecked near the eastern shore of Truro than any other part of Cape Cod."



TURLEY PHOTOS BY RICHARD MURPHY
John Small presented a program about the history of the Highland Lighthouse at the Sturbridge Senior Center.

The reverend suggested the building of a lighthouse. In 1786 Congress appropriated \$8,000 for the purpose.

Here is where the Small Family enters the picture. John's great-great-grandfather,

Isaac Small (b. 1754), was a prosperous farmer with 55 acres, and would sell ten acres to the U.S. Government for \$100 and the right of way for \$10. You don't get bargains like that these days.

In 1796 the 45-foot octagonal wooden tower was built 500 feet from the bluff to shine 160 feet above the ocean, and on Nov. 15 1797 a man climbed to the top of the new tower and lit 15 spider lamps with whale oil fuel.

Thus, the beginning of the Highland Lighthouse.

As one might suspect, there was a familial relationship between the presenter and that first light house keeper. It would be Isaac Small, and he would receive an annual salary of \$100.

Technological improvements were constant. In 1798 the first flashing light in the

country was installed in a Lighthouse. The device was called an eclipser.

The Small family tenure ceased for a while in 1812, in time to miss the first lighthouse's demise due to storms.

In 1833, brick replaced the original wood structure of the Highland Light and in 1840 a new, more powerful lantern was installed.

1843 saw the return of the Small Family. Isaac's son, James, would be keeper, with a hiatus of a few years, until 1856. The renowned Henry David Thoreau would travel to the Lighthouse, and spend time with the Smalls.

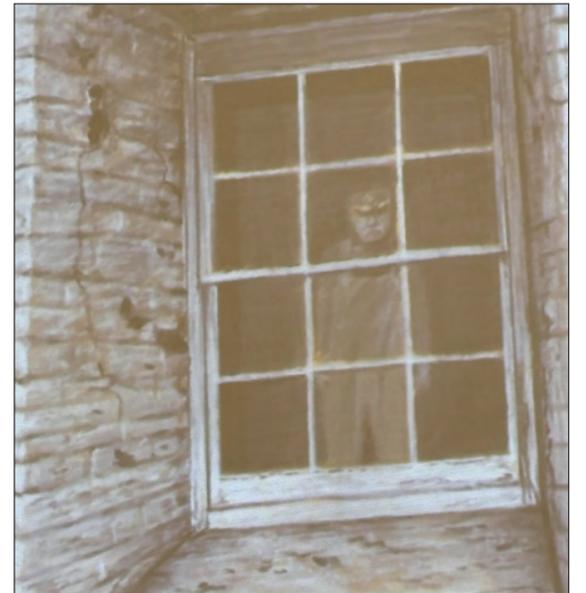
The Lighthouse would again have to be rebuilt, this time in 1857, to 66-feet with a Fresnel lens, a technological advance.

There was no reason for John, in his presentation, to dwell on the excitement of the lighthouse keeper's life, for another relative opined in print that "The lives of the keepers are somewhat monotonous...the routine of their duties is regular and systematic."

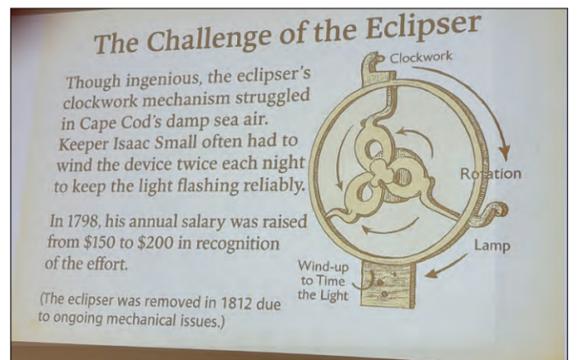
Of course, many a life was preserved due to the intermittent emergencies the keepers were there for.

The Small Family would have one more member as keeper in 1873 as Thomas Kenney Small, grandson of the first man to serve, had a brief term. Thomas lived on a farm close to the light and remained involved.

There is only so much lighthouses can do. John noted the famous "Portland Gale" storm of 1898. The Portland was a ship that sunk in the storm after leaving



A ghost in the lighthouse.



The Eclipser-progress, but not perfection.

Boston with nearly 200 passengers.

The lighthouse changed with the times. A naval radio station was set there in 1904. The Fresnel lens was electrified in 1932. The beacon was automated in 1986 and the Highland Light de-staffed.

One of the last keepers, Patrick Punty thought he

heard a ghostly voice in the lighthouse. Per Mr. Punty, "If I was going to be a ghost, I'd like to be in a lighthouse. I'd stay there the rest of my life." Some philosophical if not theological room for thought on what constitutes the life of a ghost.

In 1996, the light had to be moved, due to the receding edge of the shore, 450 feet inland so that it did not become a ghost.

John presented so much more than is included here. He is an artist, and he featured drawings to illustrate all that he related.

There is even more in his book, "The Small Family Legacy: A Journey of Ingenuity Sea and Story". The book is also replete with his drawings, and is available on Amazon.

His next book will be "Thomas the Lighthouse Mouse", "a whimsical children's tale of friendship, bravery and light - set in and around the Highland Lighthouse, where little Thomas and his mouse fiends find adventure, meaning, and home." Surely, there will be no dearth of John's illustrations.



A famous man visited the Highland Lighthouse

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CLUES ACROSS

- Popular potato snack
- Guards the Pyramids
- Furnish anew
- Herb
- Preoccupy the mind continually
- The lowest adult male singing voice
- NATO commander (abbr.)
- A major division of geological time
- New Zealand parrot
- Notions
- Lump in yarn
- Indicates position
- Lose hold of
- Hindu honorific
- Former OSS
- Electronic data processing
- Cost per mile
- Snake-like fish
- They start the alphabet
- Taylor Swift's tour
- Intermediate ecological stage
- Scarlett's home
- Of he
- Ohio city
- Breakfast item
- An evening party
- Falls
- Linked together
- Mythological spirits
- Small Eurasian deer
- Bundy and Fenwick are two
- Qualities of sound
- One who gets paid
- Expresses surprise
- O.J. trial judge
- Pointed ends of pens
- Shield bugs genus
- Container for shipping
- Upper body parts
- Closes tightly
- Nigerian World Heritage Site
- Volcanic island in Fiji
- Commercial
- _: denotes past
- They _
- Confraternities
- A way to gain a point
- Parts per billion
- Brew
- Badgers group
- Sailing boat
- ___ Polo, explorer
- Elder citizen (abbr.)
- Frankish law code
- Exclamation of surprise
- Groan
- It presses clothing
- Do not allow
- Gelatinous substance
- Common Japanese surname
- Present in nature
- Electronic countermeasures
- Last or greatest in an indefinitely large series
- Commercials
- News agency

CLUES DOWN

- Earliest human form: ___-Magnon man
- Flavoring
- Notion

SPORTS

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Panthers grab another win



AUBURN – Last Monday evening, Quabbin boys summer basketball scored a win over Shepherd Hill. Combined with a win last Wednesday night, the Panthers are an impressive 8-1 for the summer season in the Auburn High School Summer Basketball League. The Panthers have one final regular season game earlier this week before the playoffs begin.

Isaac Patchen crosses midcourt with the ball.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SOBELLI

Brady Patchen navigates through the defense looking for a basket.



Jacoby Dilling calls out a play.



Evan Sherbloom keeps the ball from going out of bounds.



Aiden Crane goes for the layup.

Post 241 advances in Legion tourney

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WORCESTER—Nate Kaczuwka will be ineligible to play for the Monson Post 241 Legion baseball team in the summer of 2026.

Kaczuwka hurled a three-hitter as Monson stayed alive in the 2025 state playoffs with a 7-1 victory over the Wilbraham Falcons at Fitton Field located on the College of the Holy Cross campus, last Sunday. “Unless we can make a heck of a run in the state playoffs, this was the last start of my legion career,” Kaczuwka said. “Being the winning pitcher in my final start is a great way to go out.”

Monson, who finished the regular season with a 7-6 record, began the playoffs with a 7-1 loss to Shrewsbury Post 297, who were the top-seeded and host team in the Region 3 pod.

The Wilbraham Falcons (7-6), who finished tied with Monson in the District 3 standings, lost 5-4 to Low-

ell Post 87 in the opening round game.

At the start of the regular season, the Falcons squeaked out an 8-7 home win against Monson.

“We lost a close game to Wilbraham at the beginning of the season,” said Monson manager Steve Tripp. “We had some timely hits, and we broke the game open after the rain delay in the sixth inning.”

Monson held a slim 2-1 lead when it began raining with one-out in the sixth inning. The members of the grounds crew began rolling out the tarp in left field before the home plate umpire stopped the game.

When play resumed 30 minutes later, Wilbraham righty Anthony Ardolino, who played baseball at Pope Francis, recorded his seventh strikeout which was the second out of the frame.

Monson would send six more batters to the plate before the final out of the inning was made.

“We just stayed focused in the dugout during the

rain delay,” said Monson catcher Kyle Kaczuwka. “We managed to pull away after that.”

Monson third baseman Brayden Mega kept the inning alive with a line-drive single to right field. Then Dylan Holbrook, who had been a pinch hitter two innings earlier, was safe at first base following a throwing error by the third baseman.

Centerfielder Zack Youngberg, who attends Worcester Academy, greeted relief pitcher Robert Bouchard by hitting a hard groundball single into left field scoring the first run of the inning. Two more runs crossed the plate when Kyle Kaczuwka (3-for-4) blasted a triple that bounced off the center field fence.

“Kyle is our best hitter,” Tripp said. “He was our starting catcher in today’s game, but he can also play any infield position. He just loves playing baseball.”

Second baseman Miguel

SEE MONSON LEGION PAGE 8



Cam MacDonald sends the ball from third to first.



Rey Rivera gets the out at first for PeoplesBank.

PeoplesBank advances to Tri-County finals

HOLYOKE – In a best-of-three games series, the PeoplesBank Tri-County baseball team swept Teddy Bear Pools in two games to advance to the league championship series. St. Joseph’s won its series in three games, two games to one, to face PeoplesBank.

That championship series was scheduled to begin earlier this week. PeoplesBank defeated Teddy Bear in both games by a final of 7-2.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Alex Gochinski makes a throw to first for Teddy Bear Pools.



Dave Clark flips a throw to first.

Valley Blue Sox score win over Bristol

HOLYOKE – The Valley Blue Sox hosted the Bristol Blues in what was a phenomenal game. Bristol (25-17) scored two runs in the top of the second. Blues’ Dean Oneill singled, which was then followed by a Thomas Ahlers single. The first baseman Trevor Hansen smacked a double into left to score Oneill and Ahlers. The Blues were in business up 2-0.

Valley (19-21) responded in the bottom of the fourth inning. Second baseman Sean Darnell singled into left for the Blue Sox’s first hit of the night. An E4 by

Bristol’s Danny Infante allowed Michael Elko to advance to first. John LaFleur then came up to the plate. He doubled off the right field wall to score Darnell and advance Elko to third. Tim Ford hit a sac-fly to right, which scored Elko and advanced LaFleur to third. Valley’s Catcher, Hayden Perry singled, scoring LaFleur to give the Blue Sox the lead 3-2 after four innings.

The Blues found their offensive footing in the top of the fifth. Tyler Benick reached first on a walk. Blue Sox’s Starting Pitcher Conor Wolf got replaced by Jake

Andrews with one out in the inning. Andrews struck out the first batter he faced, that being Infante. Kristopher Giangreco walked to put another runner on base for Bristol. The three-hole hitter, Gianni Merlonghi, ripped a single into shallow right field, scoring Benick to tie the game at 3-3. Valley’s relief pitcher Andrews, got out of the inning by striking out Oneill to limit the damage to one run.

In the bottom of the sixth the Blue Sox’s First Baseman Elko blasted a

SEE BLUE SOX PAGE 8



Mason Barcomb fields a grounder to short.



Seth Allen steals second base.

- sports -

Silk conquers Monadnock Speedway

WINCHESTER, New Hampshire – After a series record eight different to open the year, Sunday's Cheshire County Clash 200 at Monadnock Speedway yielded the first repeat winner of the 2025 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour season.

Ron Silk would be the one to snap the streak, earning his first Monadnock victory with the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour in the process. The triumph did not come without drama for Silk, who collided with race leader Patrick Emerling in Turn 3 with 30 laps remaining, sending the latter for a spin.

Silk attributed the collision to two drivers going for the win. Although he was disappointed to see Emerling spin after the contact, Silk was more than satisfied to finally vis-

it Victory Lane at Monadnock in his 15th appearance.

"We were racing pretty hard," Silk said. "I pulled out on the exit of Turn 2 and he didn't give me a lot of room, but I don't blame him. I feel like we both kind of got loose in and made some contact. I wish he could have held onto it, but that's hard racing."

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made some contact. I wish he could have held onto it, but that's hard racing."

Matt Hirschman celebrates after claiming the Whelen Short Track Cup for the second time during the Cheshire County Clash 200 for the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour at Monadnock Speedway in Winchester, New Hampshire on July 20, 2025. (Photo: Jaiden Tripi/NASCAR) Bonsignore held on to finish second while Hirschman secured third, which enabled him to claim his second Whelen Short Track Cup. Hirschman endured an odyssey just to reach the top five, as a mistake in qualifying relegated him to 20th on the starting grid.

By utilizing strategy and persevering with a car not to his liking, Hirschman narrowly edged out his Mud Lane neighbor Aus-

tin Beers for the Whelen Short Track Cup and a \$3,500 bonus courtesy of JDV Productions.

"I did not think this was possible," Hirschman said. "I do think we gave it away last night, but we ended up with a third place finish with a car that felt like it was on six or seven cylinders. My guys worked hard, nobody knows what the problem is, but it's nobody's fault. The Cup wouldn't have even been a contest if we finished remotely close to where we should have last night."

"I feel like I drove my rear end off today with what I had."

Anthony Nocella and Trevor Catalano made up the rest of the top five. Rounding out the top 10 at Monadnock were Joey Cipriano III, Luke Baldwin, Emerling, Beers and Tommy Catalano.

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 depend-

ing 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.

MONSON LEGION FROM PAGE 7

Velasquez continued Monson's rally with an RBI single to right field, which gave Monson a 6-1 advantage.

Then Nate Kaczuwka, who was the ninth batter of the inning, also hit a triple down the rightfield line scoring another run.

The righthander then kept Wilbraham off the scoreboard during the final two innings finishing his complete game performance.

Monson took a 1-0 lead

with no-outs in the top of the second inning.

Velasquez, who hit a leadoff single, scored the first run of the game when Nate Kaczuwka doubled to left. It could've been a much bigger inning for Monson, as they left the bases loaded.

Wilbraham tied the score in the bottom half of the frame.

Bouchard, who began the game in centerfield, drew a walk before advancing to second base following a wild pitch. After the next batter flied out to right, leftfielder Ethan Steigmeyer drove

home Bouchard with a single.

Wilbraham's other two base hits were by shortstop Luke Stejna and first baseman Liam Howe.

Monson quickly retook the lead in the next inning with an unearned run. Kyle Kaczuwka knocked home the go-ahead run with a single to left.

Post 241 made another trip to Worcester less than twenty four hours later and played another elimination game.

"My older brother pitched a great game, and it

feels great winning our first playoff game," Kyle Kaczuwka said. "We just need to take it one day at a time."

100-MILE RUCK PAGE 1

choices, symbolic of the daily uncertainty and challenges faced by families of children in treatment. Ruckers were given a card with a story of a child who was from a Why Me family.

The Ultimate Finishers rucked 130 miles over the four days and camped at the same farms the 100 mile ruckers did.

"Rucking for Kailiah and her family turned out to be a gift. Pushing through each day and all the challenges that came with it, got us one step closer to finding out how Kailiah's story unfolded. It really was a moving experience. One I'll certainly never forget. Kailiah's cancer journey moved me to never take things granted," said Diana VanOudenhove of Oakham.

People traveled from out of state to participate in this event, but many of the participants are from right here in our community.

Oakham residents participating in the Ultimate Challengers Ruck were Diana VanOudenhove and



The start line of 100-Mile Ruck.



Jamie Hasenfus West Brookfield received a high five from a Why Me & Sherry's House child.

Michael Ethier.

The Ruck March began at Why Me & Sherry's House in Worcester. One day one, ruckers made their way from Worcester to Lilac Hedge Farm in Rutland, where they camped overnight. On day two starting at 6 a.m., a cowbell wake-up signaled the next leg from Lilac Hedge Farm to Stone Cow Brewery in Barre.

On day three, ruckers went from Stone Cow Brewery to Oakholm Brewery in Brookfield, where the miles began to take their toll.

On day four, ruckers made the final push back to Why Me & Sherry's House in Worcester, ending where they started, full circle in

year's event or join the ruck and walk with purpose

Registration for next year's event is open, and people can visit 100mileruckmarch.com for more information.

Donations can be made to Diana's fundraising page https://whyme.org/event_campaign/val-oudenhove-finishers-challenge/?empty-cart=true



Diana VanOudenhove of Oakham is shown rucking into Stone Cow in Barre.

BLUE SOX FROM PAGE 7

homer into right field as the crowd roared in cheers. Valley was now up 4-3 after the go ahead homer by Elko. Blue Sox Head Coach Endy Morales was hyped after the homer. "He's unbelievable. Off the field he's a high char-

acter guy and on the field he does all the little things right." Ford then lined a single in the gap into left but then got caught on a pickoff by Bristol's Pitcher Mason Glickman. The Blue Sox were not able to score more runs after the homerun but reclaimed the lead to end the

inning.

No more runs were scored and the game ended 4-3 in favor of Valley. Morales gave his thoughts on the game. "I thought we pitched really well. We got ahead of a bunch of hitters and that makes a big difference when you're getting ahead."

Send Us Your Community Autumn Events

Turley Publications will print your Autumn event FREE OF CHARGE in our Autumn Fest Supplement which will be published September 10, 2025.

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

FREE Calendar Listings Reaching over 200,000 Readers in the Pioneer Valley

Event Name _____

Date/Time _____

Location _____

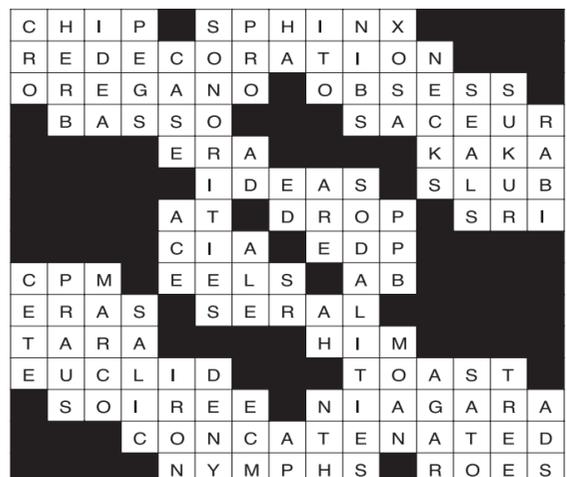
Description _____

Cost _____

Contact name & phone number for more information _____



Jay Sauvageau of East Brookfield is shown rucking toward an aid station before one of the Ultimate Finishers Ruck challenges.



MAIL YOUR LISTING INFORMATION TO: Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or email* them to: jamie@turley.com *Be sure to indicate "Autumn Event" in the subject line of your email.

Deadline for Calendar submissions is August 11.

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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.*

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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.

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For additional information contact the Highway Superintendent at (413) 655-8224. *(The Town of Peru is an equal opportunity employer).*

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Massachusetts RMV warns public of text scams

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles warns the public to beware of text messages that allege to be from the RMV that request payment or other information.

The practice, also known as smishing, can involve messages stating the RMV will

take action against an individual due to unpaid fees. Attempts have been made in Massachusetts and several other states to trick individuals into sharing credit card numbers and other sensitive information, directing them to websites to pay outstanding balances. The

RMV strongly encourages customers not to click links contained in such messages.

“If you receive any kind of message telling you to make a payment or that you need to act quickly, do not click the link. The RMV will never text you looking for payment,” said Registrar

of Motor Vehicles Colleen Ogilvie. “Scammers will often convey urgency to manipulate you. If you need to perform a Registry transaction online, be sure to only use Mass.Gov/RMV.”

A wave of current text messages circulating warns of traffic ticket enforcement

and that immediate action must be taken to avoid license suspension and vehicle registration revocation and impact to one’s credit score. The texts referenced a false regulation that allows for this enforcement action. These texts are being customized with dates and dif-

ferent states and can include the word “Massachusetts” to trick individuals into immediate payment.

Scammers will sometimes create links that mimic the names and URLs of official websites. Customers should only use Mass.Gov/RMV for online RMV services.

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