

QUABOAG CURRENT

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Quaboag Current
Newspaper

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Volume 16, Number 36

Friday, August 4, 2023

Resident honored for heroic actions



West Brookfield resident Edward O'Donnell, center, was recognized for his heroic actions, saving a toddler from a roof last month. Shown with him are from left, Warren Fire Chief Adam Lavole, West Brookfield Fire Chief Richard A. Lapierre Jr., state Rep. Donnie Berthiaume, Board of Selectmen Chair Roland Sickenberger and Board of Selectmen Vice-Chair Eric von Bleicken. TURLEY PHOTO BY PAULA OUIMETTE

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WEST BROOKFIELD – Resident Edward O'Donnell was recognized as a citizen hero at a recent Board of Se-

lectmen's meeting.

On July 25, Fire Chief Richard A. Lapierre Jr. presented O'Donnell with a certificate of achievement commemorating his quick-thinking last month, saving the life of a 3-year-old child.

"Tonight, we honor him for his heroic actions," Lapierre said, before reading a narrative of the incident.

On June 24 at 6:53 p.m., the Fire Department was toned for a toddler on the roof of 14

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Summer Jam

Cultural Council hosts amateur musician night

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WEST BROOKFIELD – The Cultural Council is getting ready to set the stage for local talent with the first ever West Brookfield Summer Jam, a live performance spotlighting amateur musicians.

Bands, solo acts and more are welcome to take to the Great Hall of the Town Hall on Saturday, Aug. 26 from 6-9 p.m. and get a feel for playing through a professional sound

system in front of a live audience.

This year, West Brookfield's Cultural Council decided to take inspiration from another town's longstanding tradition and host a Summer Jam.

"A friend in Paxton has done this for many years and we decided to try it," Cultural Council member Rebecca Fay said. "It's really taken off...I'd really love to do the same thing here."

While the Summer Jam will help promote the Cultural

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Karaoke on the Common

Cultural Council featured local talent at Friday night series



This little girl danced while her mother sang. TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE

BROOKFIELD – The Friday night summer concert series heated up last week when the Cultural Council hosted karaoke night with the help of Keith Pettit of Keith's Karaoke.

One by one, singers took the stage and performed songs that ranged from country, to Broadway, to Disney, to rock and popular music.

Coming up this week on Friday, Aug. 4 from 6-8 p.m., the concert series will feature The Great Escape, a Journey tribute band. Black Sheep Bah-Bah Q Food Truck and Batch Ice Cream Truck will both be parked by the Common, offering a variety of delicious refreshments.

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Play shares story of underrepresented people

By Ryan Drago
Correspondent

STURBRIDGE – Old Sturbridge Village hosted a new theatrical play, "Not So New New Englanders", inspired by the writing of students at Old Sturbridge Academy Charter Public School and by Robert Brown, the author of the book "The New Englanders"

The second performance of the play took place at the Stephen M. Brewer Theater at Old Sturbridge Village this past



Co-writer and director Jasmin Rivas, center, answered questions after Sunday's performance of "Not So New New Englanders". TURLEY PHOTO BY RYAN DRAGO

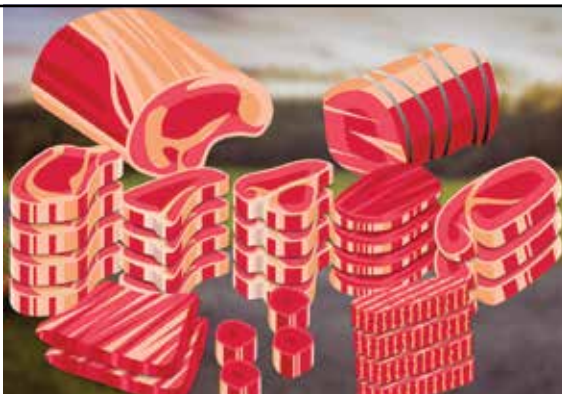
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- community -

Board hears about road damage from storms

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

STURBRIDGE – Town Administrator Robin Grimm asked residents to avoid driving on Cooper Road due to a large hole that formed following severe storms.

Grimm told the Board of Selectmen at the July 17 meeting that the Massachusetts Department of Transportation is also looking to conduct repairs on Route 20, near Yankee Pedlar, and the town will be communicating with MassDOT to ensure both areas aren't completely blocked off at the same time.

Grimm said the town will be working with the emergency management agencies to address culvert replacement.

"We will be looking at trying to get some reimbursement for this, as well as any other damage [from storms] that got caused over the past few days," she said.

Grimm said flood mitigation is a top priority.

Appointments

The Board appointed Stephen Leitao to the Police Department, effective July 28.

"We're pretty fortunate to have such a qualified candidate come in front of us tonight," Police Chief Earl Dessert said.

He has nine years with the Worcester County Sheriff's Department and several years working with both the Brimfield and Holland police departments.

The Board also appointed Ellen Thibodeau to the part-time position of program assistant at the Senior Center, effective July 18.

Heather Egan was reappointed to the

Sturbridge Lakes Advisory Committee as the Walker Pond representative through June 29, 2025. Leigh Darrin was reappointed as the Cedar Lake representative through July 17, 2025.

Police report

Dessert read the monthly reports for May and June. May had 2,867 calls for service including 53 arrests/complaints, 2,070 motor vehicle violations and 779 business checks.

The Police Department requested mutual aid seven times, and gave mutual aid two times.

Dessert said they assisted Burgess Elementary School, Tantasqua Regional High School and Old Sturbridge Academy with bus evacuations. He said they responded to 18 calls at the schools for threats, disturbances, citizen assists, hit and runs and ambulance requests.

Dessert said they received their accreditation status in June.

"This year was a very challenging year," he said. "There was a lot of change in the way we do business...sweeping policy changes. We were very successful at receiving our accreditation and it's very important to note that this is a Department-wide effort," he said.

In June, the Department responded to 2,761 calls for service, including 61 arrests/complaints, 315 motor vehicle violations, 554 business checks. Mutual aid was requested 10 times, and they gave mutual aid one time.

This year to date, the Department requested mutual aid 52 times and gave it four times.

There were 17 calls to the three schools

which included traffic complaints, two assault and battery with dangerous weapons arrests, a lost debit card and more.

Dessert said they receive many traffic and speeding complaints and they have been working hard to address these.

Board member Mary Blanchard requested the total number of motor vehicle accidents on Route 20, between the Center at Hobbs Brook until the Cracker Barrel intersection. The Board discussed traffic concerns with new businesses coming into the corridor.

Resignation

The Board accepted the resignation from Tantasqua School Committee member Kristen Mapplebeck. The Board will hold a joint meeting with the School Committee to make an appointment after properly posting the vacancy.

Town Offices

Grimm said there have been shifts in the Center Office Building at 301 Main St. The Conservation Commission is moving up to the second floor and the new administrative assistant will be located at the back entrance to greet the public.

Road race approval

The Board approved the annual 5K road race hosted by Old Sturbridge Academy's Parent Teacher Association on Saturday, Sept. 30 from 8-11 a.m.

Liquor licenses

The Board approved two one-day liquor licenses for a car show at Hamilton Rod & Gun Club; one on Friday, Aug. 4 from 2 p.m.-1 a.m. and the other on Saturday, Aug. 5 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.



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Winners of 10th annual Paddle Poker Run announced

BROOKFIELD – The 10th Annual QQLA Paddle Poker Run is now in the books after a lively competition on the shores of Quaboag Pond on July 29.

A total of 57 hands were played by 50 different paddlers, most in kayaks, according to Bill Seabourne, event chair.

Christina Black won the \$250 first place prize with the best hand, a straight 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. This was not her first, first place win. Black, who has paddled in many successive QQLA Paddle Poker Runs, also won the first prize a few years ago.

Ann Goodell came in second with three kings, and paddled away with the second prize, a \$75 gift certificate from Bayberry Bowling. Goodell was among the dozen or more paddlers from the Kaleidoscope Kayak Club of Lake Lashaway who entered the competition.

The rest of the winners and the prize they won are listed below: third place, Marci Dineen, \$50 gift certificate, Oakholm Brewery; fourth place, Denise Warren, \$50 gift certificate, Howe Lumber; fifth place, Matthew Roderick, \$40 gift card, Klem's; sixth place, Kristy Bannish, \$50 gift card, Tip-Top General Store; seventh



First place winner of the 10th annual Quaboag & Quacumquasit Lake Association Paddle Poker Run, Christina Black paddled away with the \$250 prize. SUBMITTED PHOTO

place, Lon Aguiar, \$35 certificate for state vehicle inspection, Parson's Auto; eighth place, Ted Martell, \$25 gift card, Howard's Drive-In; ninth place, Lionel Gen-

dron, \$25 gift card, Central Package Store; 10th place, Richard Goodell, \$25 dining card, 308 Lakeside; 11th place, Kristy Bannish (second hand), \$25 dining card, E.B. Flatts; 12th place, Kyle Patruno, \$25 gift card, Honey Bee Orchards; and 13th place, Joe Roderick, \$25 gift card, The Clam Box.

A special prize for lowest hand was awarded to Judy Nielsen. With 8,7,6,4,3 in her final hand, she paddled away with four tickets to any future Woo Sox game, courtesy of the Worcester Red Sox, proving it's not so bad to lose.

All registered participants also received a BOGO ice cream certificate courtesy of The Clam Box Restaurant.

About QQLA

The Quaboag Quacumquasit Lake Association is an all-volunteer, non-profit 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. For more information, visit qqla.org.

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- community -

Historical presentation to honor Brookfield's first inhabitants

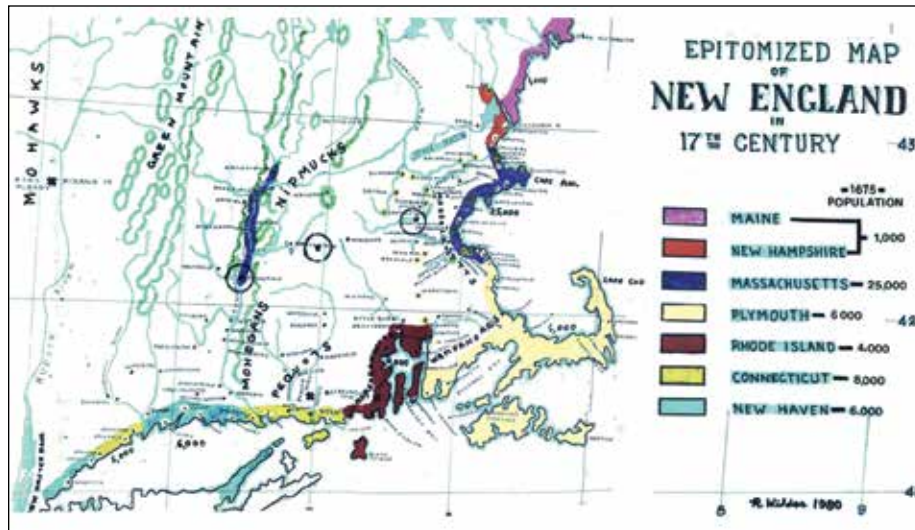
BROOKFIELD – The Brookfield Historical Commission will offer a special multimedia program, “A Robert Wilder Memorial Presentation: Honoring Brookfield’s First Inhabitants,” Sunday, Aug. 27 from 2-4 p.m. at the Brookfield Congregational Church, 8 Common St.

The program is free and open to the public.

Brookfield’s longtime historian, the late Robert Wilder (1933-2015) spent decades mapping early Brookfield and other towns of the original Quaboag Plantation. A collection of his maps and historical material is housed at Brookfield’s Merrick Public Library.

To coincide with celebrations of Brookfield’s 350th anniversary, Wilder’s friends and collaborators organized this program to remember his legacy and to continue the conversation of how to recognize Brookfield’s Native American story.

Through live presentations, film clips, maps, and a display of artifacts,



Shown is an epitomized map of New England in 1675 made by Bob Wilder. SUBMITTED PHOTO

the program will focus on Brookfield’s past, present and future through the lens of its first inhabitants, including the Quaboag and Nipmuc peoples.

Speakers will include Donald Duffy, author of “The Quaboag and Nipmuck Indians” (2014) and “Around

Pottequadic” (2011); historian Thomas Doughton, senior lecturer at the College of the Holy Cross, whose recent projects helped preserve a historic Nipmuc site on Pakachoag Hill and establish Worcester’s Black History Trail; and Smithsonian and PBS documen-

tary filmmaker Ted Timreck, director of the Hidden Landscapes series investigating the archaeological history and the modern legacy of the Northeastern Native civilization.

Dan Hamilton, actor and Emmy winning director who published Wilder’s maps online, directs the event.

“Bob Wilder’s dedication to studying and teaching history inspired many of us to continue his work. He worried history would be forgotten,” Hamilton said in a press release. “We are hoping this presentation will remind us of Brookfield’s place in early America as well as its significance as the home to Native people who have been living here for thousands of years.”

A reception with light refreshments will follow, and books and DVDs will be available for purchase.

For more information, visit <https://robertwildermaps.com/memorial> and email memorial@robertwildermaps.com.

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- Proficiency in Associated Press style
- Management experience and/or experience managing content for a print publication.

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or email directly to ekennedy@turley.com

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- opinion -



The daylily, both friend and foe

I have never been a daylily aficionado, but as of late, they are growing on me. Why I write is because on Cape Cod they are everywhere. The last few days I have seen them paired with shrubs, other perennials and even as a backdrop to carefully placed annuals.

Read on as I resurrect a column from the archives with new and updated factoids.

We've all seen the clumps of orange daylilies (*Hemerocallis fulva*) blooming along roadsides each summer. These remnants of long ago have oftentimes outlived the people who planted them and the farmhouse in which they were planted around.

Arriving from Asia in the late 1800s, the common daylily is now considered invasive because it crowds out native plants. While experts advise not planting daylilies that are known to run amok, there are many cultivars that rightly deserve a place in the landscape.

Two varieties of daylilies presently occupy space in my landscape, one that is a family heirloom, and another that was purchased on a whim.

The lemon lily (*Hemerocallis lilioasphodelus*) was a family heirloom, although I am not sure where it originated. I think it was my grand babci that first gave it to my mother back in the 1950s.

It has been almost entirely choked out of the banking of my childhood home by lily of the valley, but I am lucky enough to have saved a piece and it is thriving in my perennial garden. It is delicate as far as daylilies go, perfectly lemon yellow and subtly scented.

The lemon lily has a short bloom time, a week or less in early June, but it makes a perfect bed fellow to deep purple bearded iris.

Today, thousands of cultivars of daylilies are available, many of which bloom for longer periods of time than the old-fashioned types. They are offered in shades of all colors except blue and pure white.

Miniatures look great in rock gardens, while more beefy types work well to stabilize bankings. The majority blend nicely with annuals, perennials, and shrubbery, as mentioned.

Daylilies belong to the genus *Hemerocallis*- hemero being Greek for "beautiful," and callis Greek for "day." Individual flowers do open and perish in 24 hours or less.

Luckily though, there are usually several flowers per scape (stem), and when one goes by another is waiting to take its place. A desirable variety will bloom for at least two weeks, or will repeat blooming later in the season.

When shopping for daylilies at the nursery simply count the number of buds per scape of the potted plant. The number of buds (or the number of scars if blooming is nearly finished) coincides with the number of days that particular variety is expected to bloom.

Unfortunately, my lemon lily had a mere four.

If you choose carefully and plan accordingly by including early, mid, and late season bloomers in your mix, it is possible to achieve continuous bloom over a three month period in a mixed border of daylilies.

Many people are opting to plant a single variety for a season's worth of flowers. Different than varieties that rebloom, everbloomers offer a nonstop performance from the begin-



Grandma Gatewood's Excellent Adventure



A senior's walk into the record books

By J. Mark Powell
jmarkpowell.com

I've been getting into shape recently. But my progress pales compared to what a remarkable senior did nearly 70 years ago.

Emma Gatewood's life was hard. Born in Ohio in 1887, she was one of 15 kids in a family that slept four to a bed.

Her father lost a leg in the Civil War and spent the rest of his life drinking and gambling. Though her formal education ended in the 8th grade, she kept learning by devouring encyclopedias, Greek classics, and books on woods and wildlife.

At age 19 Emma married a 27-year-old teacher and tobacco farmer named P.C. Gatewood. The honeymoon ended quickly, when Emma discovered she was expected to work in the fields alongside the men, plus cook, clean, and raise their 11 kids.

P.C. was mean. He killed a man in 1924 but avoided prison because the judge said his many children would go hungry with him behind bars.

He beat Emma often, sometimes almost to the point of death. When he turned violent, she tried to run into the nearby woods. Safe in the security of her beloved trees and plants, she found peace and solitude.

P.C. repeatedly threatened to send Emma to a mental institution to keep her from divorcing him.

In 1939, he had her jailed in the first step toward having her committed. Seeing Emma's cracked teeth and broken ribs, their town's mayor moved her into his home and helped her get a job.

She divorced P.C. the next year. A series of odd jobs saw her through the next decade until her children were all grown.

Then, as so often happens, fate unexpectedly called. For Emma, it came in the form of an old magazine.

She happened upon a 1949 National Geographic issue featuring an article on the Appalachian Trail.

At that moment an incredible idea took root in her mind. She would become the first woman to walk the entire length of the trail, all 2,200 miles from Springer Mountain in

Georgia to Maine's Mount Katahdin.

At age 66, no less.

The idea grew into an obsession. At a time when people nearing 70 were expected to relax in rocking chairs, Emma began preparing to attempt what no woman before had ever done.

Her legs were strong, she was in good health, so why not?

She began her journey at Mount Katahdin in July 1954 – and promptly met with one disaster after another. She broke her glasses, she got lost, then she ran out of food.

When rangers found her, they persuaded the hapless sexagenarian to go home.

But while Emma Gatewood may have failed, she didn't quit. She told no one about her setback and quietly prepared for a second attempt.

She learned from her initial mistakes and changed her strategy.

In 1955, she started two months earlier this time and began in Georgia. Again, it wasn't easy.

That 1949 article had made her believe the route was a smooth trail. It wasn't, and her Keds tennis shoes were no match for the rugged mountain terrain.

She expected to find shelters along the way; there weren't any, forcing her to sleep in piles of leaves.

But she stuck with it and kept walking. Newspapers picked up her story as she went, and soon she acquired a nickname – Grandma Gatewood – along with celebrity status.

She achieved her goal 146 days later when she reached Baxter Peak atop Mount Katahdin. She signed the register, sang "America the Beautiful," and said to herself out loud, "I did it. I said I'd do it, and I've done it."

Grandma Gatewood then appeared on the Today show, was a guest on a TV game show, and was even profiled in Sports Illustrated where she said, "This is no trail. It's a nightmare. For some fool reason, they always lead you right up over the biggest rock on top of the highest mountain they can find."

And she didn't stop walking. She hiked the entire Appalachian Trail a second time two years later, walked all 2,000 miles of the Oregon Train in 1959, and at age 76 she did the Appalachian Trail yet again (though this time in sections), becoming the first person to walk it three times.

She went right on hiking right up until her death in 1973 at 85.

What was the secret to her success? Grandma Gatewood refused to let anything – failure, adversity, or advanced age – stand in her way.

Holy Cow! History is written by novelist, former TV journalist and diehard history buff J. Mark Powell.

OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

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Quaboag Current Newspaper

Free phones, tablets and internet service available

By Michael Harrison
Correspondent

PALMER — Despite the heat and humidity, brothers Michael Lebert and Tommy Strawbridge have been spending hours in a vacant lot downtown to give away new smartphones and tablets.

It's no Christmas in July promotion. The two are sweating out the days outside on behalf of the Affordable Connectivity Program, a federal government initiative approved and funded by Congress to bridge the digital divide faced by many people with low to moderate incomes.

The Android smart devices, which offer free, unlimited calls, texts and internet access, are connected to a nation-

wide 5G network via T-Mobile.

The tablet also doubles as a phone. Both devices do everything all smart devices are capable of, including taking photos and running an array of apps.

Eligibility is required and many people, including U.S. military veterans, Social Security recipients, parents whose children qualify for free or reduced school meals, people who are unemployed, those covered by Medicaid, college students and many others can be approved in minutes.

"Once they qualify, we activate (the device), they leave here and their tablet or phone is ready to use – and it's free," said Strawbridge, who manages outreach for the Western Mass region.

"We program it, hand it to you and



Michael Lebert (left) and Tommy Strawbridge hold up the free smart devices for passing motorists in downtown Palmer last week. The two represent the federal Affordable Connectivity Program in Western Mass. TURLEY PHOTO BY MICHAEL HARRISON

least once a month, either a phone call or going online, to keep the service going," Lebert said.

"What makes our country stand out from other countries is we don't require an ID," he said. "That's because there are a lot of homeless veterans who don't have one. It's especially important for the veterans because a lot of them have nothing. This is one way for them to stay connected."

Lebert, a resident of Chicopee, and Strawbridge, who lives in Holyoke, said they signed up approximately 100 people over four days last week at their stand, set up at the former Speedway station on North Main Street in Palmer. They plan to man the same spot 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. through this week – weather permitting – before setting up elsewhere.

They will visit various locations around the region over the coming months.

Want to know more?

Anyone interested in signing up for ACP but who can't meet up with Lebert and Strawbridge can go to fcc.gov/acp, call 1-888-225-5322 (ASL Video Call: 1-844-432-2275) or mass.gov.

GARDEN | FROM PAGE 5

ning of their bloom period until frost.

It is said that Dr. Darrel Apps, a geneticist and master breeder evaluated some 11,000 seedlings to end up with a mere few that flower continuously.

Breeding continues, so look for the newest introductions each year. My whim purchase from a few years back is a rebloomer called "Purple D'oro." I bought it because it was blooming in the nursery alongside Gayfeather, orange Helenium, and Purple Coneflower.

They are a power quartet in my summer border for sure, and the rebloom factor surely stretches out the show.

Locate daylilies where they will receive at least six hours of sun a day. Average soil, as long as it drains well, will grow strong plants.

Vigor determines whether clumps need to be separated and divided ev-

ery few years, or if they can grow uninterrupted for many seasons. Division is best accomplished in early spring or immediately after bloom.

If you take the later approach, just be sure the plant has at least one month of growing time before frost hits. This way it will have an opportunity to root well, anchoring itself before winter freezing and thawing can heave it from the ground.

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.

HERO | FROM PAGE 1

Sherman St. While enroute to the scene, the Fire Department received another call that the toddler had fallen from the roof, which prompted Lifeflight to be requested.

A second tone for a crew with an engine was requested to respond to the Common to set up a landing zone for the helicopter.

Police Officer Rodriguez and Warren Fire Chief Adam Lavoie were some of the first to arrive on the scene. Shortly after arrival, Lavoie was able to cancel the Lifeflight, because of O'Donnell's actions.

O'Donnell was out walking his dog on Milk Street with his significant other Mary Harder, when the couple noticed a toddler on the roof of a house on Sherman Street. Neighbors were in the yard of the residence, trying to encourage the child to stay still and away from

the edge of the roof until emergency responders arrived.

The toddler tried to climb down from the roof, which was approximately 13-feet from the ground. O'Donnell positioned himself under the roof and caught the toddler, sending both to the ground.

Lapierre said O'Donnell and the toddler both had some minor bumps and scratches, but were otherwise unharmed.

State Rep. Donnie Berthiaume said O'Donnell's actions were the "most extreme case of 'right place, right time.'"

"It's an honor for the community to have people like you in it," Berthiaume said to O'Donnell, giving him a citation from the State House.

Board of Selectmen Chair Roland Sickenberger thanked O'Donnell, and said the town is "very grateful," for his lifesaving actions.

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- sturbridge -

Community Food Collaborative launches another year

STURBRIDGE – The Community Food Collaborative is currently in its sixth year.

Each year, the 10 committee members who organize and maintain the CFC garden get anxious for spring to finally arrive so they can get started. They try to get as many things as possible done early so we can hit the ground running.

For the last two years they've had the challenge of not having enough water pressure to water the 21 raised beds sufficiently, therefore having to hand water. So last fall, they hired a contractor to install a direct connection from the main water supply to our piping in the garden thereby giving us more water pressure.

They also ordered a larger pump and inverter, a larger battery bank to keep up with the larger pump and ordered more solar panels to make it all work. Along with help from students at Tantasqua Regional High School, they installed over 800 linear feet of dripline piping to all the beds.

They were so glad to get this project done but it started to rain and continued to rain so they couldn't try out the expanded system to see if it worked properly. When the sun finally made an appearance, the system filled the three water tanks in no time at all and everything worked fine.

After six years, the CFC members started to notice some of the raised beds were rotting and the corners falling apart. They decided to replace 10 beds each year until all 21 beds are new.

This time they purchased a new wood product called accoya which is essentially an organic pressure-treated wood which has about a 20-year lifespan versus the 5-6 years they are currently getting.

The replacement frames were built by the Tantasqua carpentry students. They had built the original beds six years ago and again when CFC expanded the garden.

This time Southbridge Sheet Metal made brackets to hold the beds together, further strengthening them. While the 10 new beds and brackets were an increase in cost, CFC members felt based on their lifespan, it would be more economical.

CFC's Spring Work Day was held May 13, and all 10 new raised beds were installed replacing 10 of the worse looking beds. They will continue to do this until all former beds have been replaced.

Their regular work shifts for this season started on June 1 and new head gardener, Suzanne, started many of the plants from seed this year versus buying plants. CFC's former head gardener still volunteers, but is unable to put in the hours she used to work.

Between her and Suzanne, CFC has a wealth of knowledge available to them. Suzanne has also earned the cre-



The garden has 21 raised beds. With the help of Tantasqua carpentry students and Southbridge Sheet Metal, the Collaborative has replaced 10 of the beds with longer-lasting materials. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



The Community Food Collaborative is celebrating six years of providing fresh food to the community.

have been a few bugs and pests, CFC is working to keep them under control and the crops that they have started to harvest look great and plentiful.

Last year during the 2022 season, CFC donated to the St. John Paul II Food Pantry in Southbridge, produce that served 1,528 people which included 331 seniors and 588 households. CFC was also able to make 14 regular deliveries of fresh produce to Food Share in Southbridge for 60-75 households.

How do we accomplish all of this? Joe Coan, the CFC garden's president said, "We have wonderful and dedicated volunteers! We could not do all of this on our own. We have made many new friends and they have gotten to know each other while volunteering. It's really a lot of fun. We'd love to have you join us. We volunteer Tuesday and Thursday late afternoons from 5-6:30 p.m. and Sunday mornings from 9-10:30 a.m."

Can't come every week? Not a problem. CFC is flexible and volunteers can come when they can.

CFC is currently building a new website. In the meantime, they have an active Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CFCGardens/. You can also email them at CFCGarden357@gmail.com.

Want to help out?

The garden committee welcomes volunteers, new or used garden tools, and in-kind services.

Pay a visit and take a look at the garden. See the amazing work CFC and the volunteers are doing for the local communities.

The CFC garden is located behind the Sturbridge Town Hall lower parking lot.

dentials of Master Gardener, which is not an easy feat.

It has been a year of challenge for crops at CDC ever since "Mr. Rabbit" and his extended family have decided to adopt them. One entire bed of string

beans disappeared almost overnight.

If you see very healthy rabbits in the vicinity of the CFC garden, you'll know where they have been eating.

In spite of the uninvited guests, all other crops are doing great. While there

Quabbin Regional High School lists honor roll

BARRE – Quabbin Regional Middle High School announces the third trimester honor roll for students in grade nine to 11.

Grade Nine, High Honors

Tricia Bruso, Micah Cerezo, Kalina Dyer, Kenzie Gallagher, Grace Manna, Elizabeth Matheson, Hunter McQueston, Emmalise Skagerlind and Bianca Wilder.

Grade Nine, Honor Roll

Aaron Bodine, Owen Breuer, Branden Brooks, Troy Budreau, Garrett Erickson, Aiden Fuller, Charlie Giese, Ava Gilman, Adelaide Harmon, Emma Kahlau, Emma Mckee, Adrian Parker, Parker Proulx, Brooke Roseberry, Wesley Sanderson, Cameran Vega, Samantha Vessair, Andrew Warfield, Collin Wilk, Hannah Zereski and Jin Xi Zou.

Grade 10, High Honors

Alexander Bedard, Kaeliana

Boucher, Alisyn Bruso, Samantha Carlson, Matthew Erickson, Adam Faulha, Sydney Gagne, James Geary, Samuel Guertin, Isabel LaBelle, Ethan Salvadore, Kaylee Shaw, Sydney Slatery, Isabella Smith, Irene Stolgitis, Abigail Ure and Jaxon Warburton.

Grade 10, Honor Roll

Madylan Alves, Eamon Arnold, Haley Ayer, Kevin Boles, Kyle Clark, Ava Conlee, Isabel Coviello, Abigail Crawford, Teaghan Earle, Angelina Feliciano, Jack Fors, Ellie Frost, Sophia Gagne, Rachel Harrington, Rylee-Anne Harty, Makaylah Kingsbury, Marie Leber, Kun Liu, Veronica Mendrek, Benjamin Metcalf, Rhyan Orr, Alexandra Pease, Adelynn Prochnow, Luke Salvadore, Ezequiel Santoro, Sadie Sheldon, Julia Smith, Vanecia Tarquinio, Richard Tucker, Travis Wells, Cullan White, Ryan Wing and Summer Young.

Grade 11, High Honors

Kylie Casey, Edward Guertin, Abigail Hughes, Sophia Januszewski, Grace LaValley, Kelsey Marsh, Julianna Stanger, Eleanor Thompson, Michael Tobin and Benjamin Vasseur.

Grade 11, Honor Roll

Alena Arnold, Annabel Audino, Hannah Baxter, Conner Breeds, Baylee Carcia, Evan Cole, Rachel Conlon, Sara Ercik, Natalie Fisher, Jadyn Gonzalez, Colin Harmon, Emmah Hinckley, Jaxon Kelley, Sean LaPointe, Jake Leazott, Ally Legare, Paige Lindley, Annabelle Magill, Gavin Majoy, Natalia Marchand, Emma Masser, Cole Morrill, Camryn Orsini, Kayleigh Patch, Ariannah Racette, Carlee Rich, Kayla Sherblom, Amy Stauder, Heather Stuart, Gracie Talbot, Seth Twarog, John Waltz, Brianna Whitelaw, Nicholas Whitelaw, Aurelia Wilder and Kylie Woodruff.

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- community -

Army veteran continues four-corners walk of U.S.

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

March 16 is an emotionally charged date for Windham, Maine U.S. Army veteran Matt Dyer; not only is it his late wife's birthday, it's also when he lost his best friend, Jared, to suicide.

This year, March 16 also marked the day Dyer had to end his mission to walk the four corners of the U.S., having started the 5,600 mile journey at the close of last year.

Dyer had walked from Maine to Virginia, forming friendships as he navigated the winter roads of New England, spending nights camped out in his tent. These friendships gave him warm places to rest after walking about 16 miles a day.

But all that changed when Dyer had to return to Maine to help care for his mother, who is in a nursing home.

"That was a blow, having to go home," Dyer said.

Returning to his starting point after covering so much ground, meeting people from all walks of life and amassing thousands of Facebook followers, put Dyer in a dark place mentally.

"The 10 weeks that I went home... was the most depressed I've ever been in my whole life. It was just hard to walk from Maine to Virginia, and try and go back to being normal," Dyer said. "Living in one spot, driving, seeing the same stuff every day...I could never do that in the first place."

This desire to keep moving is one reason that Dyer loved being in the U.S. Army, and he continued traveling even after discharging.

"I can't stay still, I don't want to... that's how I am," he said. "I need to travel; I need to see new things every day."

On June 1, Dyer started his walk again; armed with a new determination.

When asked what was different about this walk, Dyer said, "everything."

"I'm happy I started over just because I have much more experience," he said. "I was able to build a much better cart, which is making the walking easier."

Even though he is better prepared, and added about 20 pounds from weightlifting during his 10-weeks back home, Dyer is faced with new challenges

One being the summer insects, and the other being the incredible amount of rainfall the northeast has received in the past few weeks.

"My legs just look completely torn

apart by bugs...if I picked up a horsefly here, it would probably follow me all the way to Teresa's [Restaurant]," Dyer said with a laugh.

He admitted that the rain has been "brutal," but said he didn't want to complain about it too much.

Just like before, people are opening their doors for him, eager to share their stories with the 29-year-old veteran who has already experienced a lifetime of loss.

Dyer said he is sticking to about 95% of his original route, making minor detours to avoid problematic or dangerous travel areas.

When he walked into Barre after stopping for the day in Gardner, Dyer decided to avoid Williamsville Road, coming in from Route 62 instead.

The hills, however, were unavoidable as he reached the Common.

While in Barre, Dyer caught up with Randy and Lauri Marsden, two people who had shown him great kindness during his first walk, and spent a night in Cooks Canyon.

As he traveled from Barre into Hardwick, Dyer was greeted by his followers along the way.

He reconnected with Patrick Howe of Ware and his family, and was even able to meet Howe's mother Cheryl and his 92-year-old grandfather, Richard.

Arriving in Ware late Monday night, Dyer stayed at an Airbnb on Church Street, getting some much needed rest before leaving late Tuesday afternoon, traveling down to Main Street then to Teresa's Restaurant where he enjoyed good food and conversation until the sun went down.

Dyer was heading to Ludlow for the next part of his journey, another town he had received a warm welcome in during his first walk.

He will also stop at the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, adding that he still plays the sport regularly.

As an athlete, Dyer sees this walk as his own personal "Super Bowl."

"This is the one thing that I can do that no one else can do," Dyer said. "That is what I always have been and most excited about. Just accomplishing something that is an incredible feat of athletics and will."

Virginia-based energy drink maker Soldier Fuel donated \$1,000 to help construct a sturdier cart for Dyer to pull on this walk, and has continued to be a supporter of his efforts. Proceeds from each drink sold go to organizations that support veterans and military members.

Dyer's Facebook following on his



Matt Dyer constructed a new cart to haul his belongings for his second journey to walk approximately 5,600 miles. TURLEY PHOTO BY PAULA OUIMETTE

page 2023walkusa continues to grow, and he hopes sharing his story will help others going through difficult phases of their lives.

"If I weren't telling my life story, I don't think I would do the Facebook

page," Dyer said. "Part of this for me is healing...I can help people because I've been through a lot, but I need to help myself first. 'To thine own self be true'...that phrase resonates with me a lot."



Matt Dyer has a Facebook page people can follow to track his journey. TURLEY PHOTO BY MARY WHITELAW



Windham, Maine U.S. Army veteran Matt Dyer passes through Main Street in Ware. TURLEY PHOTO BY PAULA OUIMETTE

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SPORTS

Locals participate in basketball clinic



Coach John Leonard demonstrates with Quabbin eighth grader Aiden Crane during his advanced skill development clinic recently held at the high school gym. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Brady Patchen carefully listens to instructions from former Villanova and UMass coach John Leonard during the well-attended skills clinic.

Coach John Leonard hosted another advanced skill development clinic at Quabbin on July 12. The event featured more than 30 local players. Leonard brings a specific plan to instruct on various skills. There is another clinic in the works as Leonard is planning on returning for a dedicated post play clinic as well as another advanced skills clinic.

Cagers respond with pair of wins

AUBURN – After two close heart-breaking losses last week, the Quabbin Cagers rebounded with two consecutive wins over West Boylston and Tahanto in Auburn Summer Basketball league play.

And rebounded they certainly did, as the E.P. Wine-sponsored team controlled the boards in both games allowing multiple transition baskets in each game for the locals to take advantage.

This has been a work in progress for coaches Tim Hay and Luke Brownell as they are finding ways to increase offensive production. And controlling the boards along with offensive transition opportunities are just two of the expectations.

The losses the previous week by one possession in each game was certainly disappointing to the team and coaches, however, they were not discouraged. Posting a solid 61-41 win over West Boylston saw three players in double digits with guard Chris Prunesti-Leveille leading the way with 21 points followed by combo guard Jacoby Dillon with 12 and power forward Kyle Clark with 10 more.

Forward Nick Whitelaw contributed 6 points and Jaxon Warburton added 4 as well. Six cagers were in the scoring column as seventh grader Hayston Hay saw action and drained a three-pointer to continue the



Quabbin's Anthony Quarterone employs an effective ball fake to get his opponent in the air on his way to the basket during his team's 41-27 win over Tahanto. SUBMITTED PHOTO

balanced scoring attack.

Rebounding was a key to the victory and Junior Kyle Clark powered down 10 caroms including six on the offensive boards where the 6'4 forward is beginning to exert himself.

Guards Ricky Janoure and Jaxon Warburton combined for seven loose ball recoveries

as the Quabbinians totaled 18 for the game.

On defense, Whitelaw drew two charges and Warburton drew another. Whitelaw leads the team in drawn charges.

The Cagers then went on to down Tahanto by a score of 41-27 as Kyle Clark, having a break out summer season, paved the

way with 16 points followed by Chris Prunesti-Leveille with 11 and Nick Whitelaw with 6 more. Clark has been working on his rebounding technique and post up play with Brownell and he led the team again in this department with 8 caroms. Jacoby Dilling, leading

Teams clinch playoff spots as Valley Wheel season nears close

WILBRAHAM – Sunday's action in the Valley Wheel Over-28 baseball league got a lot clearer as three teams cemented their spots in the playoffs while the fourth team will be determined by a matchup this week.

The Twins-Angels game held at Bruce Park in Suffield provided the stage for a preview to the playoffs.

The two teams have met in the last two playoff finals. It will not happen this year. Thanks to a complete game from Todd Bergstrom, as well as a two-run single in the ninth inning he also provided, the Twins prevailed over the Angels 6-4.

The game was close throughout, with the Angels and Twins trading leads a few times. Down 4-3 in the eighth, Trevor Portlock, of Wilbraham, drove home a run with a single to make the game 4-4. The Angels, unfortunately, could not bring home the go-head runs, which were at second and third with one out. Bergstrom was able to close the game in the ninth.

- sports -

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Athlete of the Month

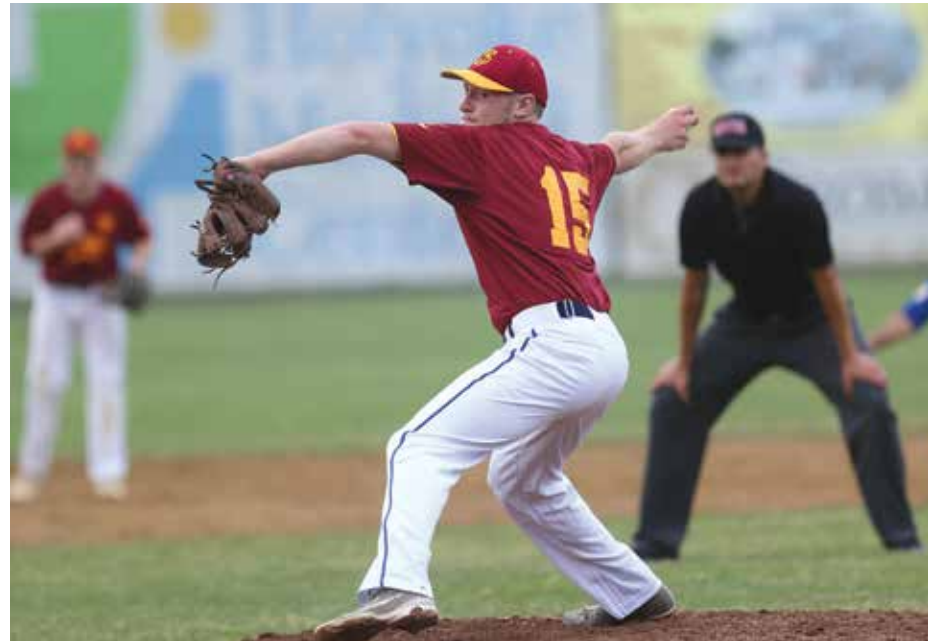


DREW WRIGHT
SCHOOL: Tantasqua

Wright played quarterback for Tantasqua's summer football team, which participated in a 7v7 league at Minnechaug this year.

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

St. Joe's season ends in playoff loss



Sam Schriber delivers a pitch for the Saints. TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

By Tim Peterson
 Sports Correspondent

EAST LONGMEADOW— Two days after losing to fifth-seeded DiFranco Realty at home in game one of the Tri-County League playoffs, fourth-seeded St. Joseph's made the trek to the East Longmeadow High School baseball field looking to even the best of three series.

Game two was a very close affair until the fifth inning.

With the score tied, 2-2, entering the bottom of the fifth inning, DiFranco Realty put together a rally. They wound up sweeping the opening round series with a 5-2 victory, last Wednesday night.

"Anytime that you're the higher seeded team and you don't win a game in a playoff series, it's very unfortunate," said St. Joe's manager Paul Marcinek. "We did have some good pitching in these two games, but we just didn't execute at the plate. We just left a lot of guys on base."

Marcinek shared the coaching duties with Jon Ferry.

DiFranco Realty celebrated a 6-1 victory in game one. Game two was postponed for a day due to rain.

St. Joe's, who finished the regular season with an 8-10 record, left a total of six runners on base in game two. Five of them were stranded in scoring position.

DiFranco, who went 6-12 during the regular season, took a 1-0 lead against St. Joe's righthander Brandon Magni in the bottom of the first inning.

Centerfielder Cam Rivest, who's from Agawam, lined a leadoff single into leftfield. Rivest moved to third base following a perfect sacrifice bunt by first baseman Andrew Bunger.

After the next batter hit a ground ball back to Magni, an RBI single by

designated hitter Carlos Pena gave the home team an early 1-0 lead.

St. Joe's did tie the score in their next at-bats.

With one-out in the top of the second inning, second baseman Jon Nickerson hit a flyball double to right field. Nickerson, who went 2-for-3 in game two, scored the tying run when left fielder Eric Corley (3-for-3) singled to center.

The duo of Nickerson and Corley combined for five of St. Joe's seven base hits in game two.

Nickerson, who also hit a bloop single to right field with one-out in the top of the fourth, scored the go-ahead run when catcher Adam Zebian hit a ground ball to the shortstop.

St. Joe's didn't keep the 2-1 lead for very long.

With one-out in the bottom of the fourth, DiFranco Realty second baseman Josh Wood, who walked, scored the tying run when right fielder Cade Raymond blasted a double down the right field line.

The home team retook the lead in the fifth inning.

Pena knocked home the first run of the frame with a double. Third baseman Nick Wilken followed with a single. After the next batter flied out, shortstop Ty Emet drew a walk which loaded the bases.

Wood drove home two more runs with another double giving DiFranco a 5-2 lead.

After DiFranco Realty righthander Nate Morse retired eight batters in a row, Corley hit a ground ball single into left field leading the top of the seventh inning. Shortstop Greg Vouras also singled with one-out. Morse retired the next two batters on a pop-up and a strikeout, as DiFranco Realty advanced into the semifinals.

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CAGERS | FROM PAGE 9

the team this summer season in loose ball recoveries, added seven more to his total while Chris Prunesti-Leveill had four of his own while Bryce Venne tracked down three.

With Brownell working diligently with the bigs this summer, Hay has been working hard with the guards and that effort was evident in this game as the team totaled eleven assists. In the West Boylston game, the team was moving the ball well with less dribbling and finding the open players and this produced a summer season high of fifteen assists.

The Cagers managed to keep turnovers below the 15 mark committing only 12 give-aways. This has been another area that the summer coaches have repeatedly stressed to the team.

The addition of forward Anthony Quarterone, the 6'3 freshman, has been a spark for the team off the bench and Quarterone can run the court and hit the boards. With Hayston Hay picking up minutes and adding to the deep perimeter shooting offense the rotation has been productive.

Bryce Venne and Jacoby Dilling continue to see increased minutes and both have the quickness to play the best guards on the opponents team. Hay noted that each and every game Jaxon Warburton becomes more of a factor at both ends of the court and is now assuming the lead guard role. Hay has

commented positively on the 5'11 junior's acumen and court sense.

As a result of the two victories, the Cagers will move on to play Whitinsville-Christian in the first round of Auburn League summer playoffs.

Coach John Leonard hosted another advanced skill development clinic at Quabbin and over 30 players attended the two sessions offered. Leonard always brings a curriculum plan of strong fundamentals to each session from shooting technique to the pass-screen offense. Those that attended were certainly drenched in perspiration but the skills received by repetition and the knowledge gained will serve them well against future competition. Leonard is planning on returning for a dedicated post play clinic as well as another advanced skills clinic. The clinics are extremely popular with the players and the former Villanova and UMass coach conducted two age and skill appropriate clinics on the same day to better meet the needs of those players wanting to improve.

Quabbin graduate Aiden Welch attended Leonard's clinic with the high schoolers. He is heading to Quinsigamond Community College to play college hoops. He never missed a clinic while at Quabbin. That dedication and discipline rewarded Welch with this year's selection as most valuable player and league all-star.

PLAYOFFS | FROM PAGE 9

With the win, the Angels fell to 8-7 and their regular season is finished. The Twins are 8-6, and had a makeup game scheduled with the Tigers on Wednesday at Spec Pond under the lights. A win gets the Twins to 9-6 and the final playoff spot. But a loss would make the Twins 8-7 like the Angels, and put the Angels in the playoffs. The Angels hold a 2-1 advantage in their tiebreaker over the Twins this year, winning the first two matchups the teams had.

Elsewhere in the league, the Cubs cemented their playoff spot, winning their ninth game of the season with a 14-12 win over the Orioles. The Orioles would finish 1-14 and out of playoff conten-

tion. The Cubs meet the Athletics on Thursday night with the top seeds on the line.

The Athletics defeated the Tigers on Sunday evening at Spec Pond 9-7. Both teams have already made the playoffs this year, but will look for momentum in their respective games later this week.

The two makeup games were necessitated from rainouts last Thursday night that wiped out all the action about two hours before the games were scheduled.

The playoffs are currently scheduled for this Sunday at Spec Pond with the 2 and 3 seeds playing at 2:30 p.m. and the 1 and 4 seeds playing at 6 p.m.

- sports -

Bankers cash in for finals

WILBRAHAM – Last Friday night, PeoplesBank Tri-County baseball took down DiFranco in the opener of a best-of-three series 17-0 in five innings. The Bankers are the No. 1 seed in the Tri-County League playoffs. They would punch their ticket to the finals the following day when DiFranco forfeited the second game of the series, giving the Bankers the finals berth. The finals were scheduled to begin earlier this week.



Braeden Lamirande gets an out at first for DiFranco.



Zach Handzel, of Palmer, pitches for PeoplesBank.

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KARAOKE | FROM PAGE 1

As part of the town's 350th anniversary celebration, Saturday, Aug. 5 will be packed with events on the Common.

The 15th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, a group of Civil War re-enactors will transport the Common back to 1863 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. All ages are welcome; there is a lot of history to learn.

The Merrick Public Library and the Historical Commission will be hosting the Historic Walking Tour, starting at the library at 10 a.m.

A Firemen's Muster will be held at noon on Central Street. During the Muster, Black Sheep Bah-Bah Q Food Truck will start serving around 11:30 a.m.

From 6-8 p.m., Cold Train will take to the bandstand.

For more information about Cultural Council events, including the 350th anniversary celebration, please find Brookfield Cultural Council on Facebook.

For more information about Keith's Karaoke, call or text 774-230-3404 or email keith.alan.pettit@gmail.com.



Karaoke singers joined together to perform the last song of the night, "Closing Time". *TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA QUIMETTE*



Jenn sang "Maybe This Time" by Liza Minelli while her daughter put on a show for the audience.



Sadie and Quinn sang a series of Taylor Sift hits.



Keith Pettit of Keith's Karaoke got the fun started by singing "Your Song" by Elton John.



Orrin channeled Elton John to sing "Rocket Man".



Doreen added a country twang with Shania Twain's "That Don't Impress Me Much".



Keith, Tom and Penny join together for a song.



Applause was all that could be heard following Jack's performance of "Sounds of Silence".



MacKenzie sang "Breathe (2 AM)" by Anna Nalick.



Kristina performed "Crazy" by Patsy Cline.

MUSICIANS | FROM PAGE 1

Council and let residents know about the events and programs its funding supports, it's really about the performers.

"The focus is on the musicians that want to get their feet wet," Fay said, similar to an amateur open mic night.

Professional musicians will also perform, Fay said, including her daughter and West Brookfield native, Adelaide Fay. Performers will take the stage in age order, starting from youngest to oldest.

"There's some amazing musicians out there that are kids," Fay said. "It's a great opportunity to sing into a mic."

Musicians can be any age to perform in Summer Jam. Cultural Council member Amy Kiernan's brother Dave will provide the professional sound system and Tim Kane will set up a drum kit for bands to use.

Summer Jam will not only promote local talent and the Cultural Council, but it will also promote family fun.

Fay said each year, local cultural councils are able to use a percentage of their allotment from the Massachusetts Cultural Council to put on an event of their own and promote themselves.

The Cultural Council is made up of Fay, Kiernan, Susan Rowden, Diane Vayda, Jane Higgins and Amy Dugas, and more community involvement is welcomed.

"We're always looking for new members," Fay said of the three-year appointment to the Council. "If you have an interest in culture in your neighborhood, please volunteer."

The Cultural Council has sponsored more than 30 events and programs for the current grant cycle, ranging from poetry to drumming circles to gardening. The Cultural Council is also sponsoring musicians at the Farmer's Market on Wednesdays on the Common.

The Cultural Council has sponsored a yo-yo show, a juggler, a poetry and jazz series, and has recently kicked off a Coffee and Wood Concert Series at the Merriam-Gilbert Public Library.

Coffee and Wood will continue Thursday, Aug. 17 with Grace Morrison at 5:30 p.m., admission is free. Other dates and performances include Sept. 21, Rod Abernethy; Oct. 19, Kemp Harris; and Nov. 16, The Sea, The Sea.

All Together Drumming with Tim and Chris Kane is being held on Monday evenings on the Common, with the last drumming circle being held Aug. 7 from 6-7 p.m. No experience is necessary for this free event and participants are asked to bring tall lawn chairs.

Each week has a different theme focusing on Africa, Caribbean Islands, Brazil, Peru, Middle East and Native American rhythms. Participants will learn hand drumming on djembes and frame drums of all sizes.

Drums will be available for up to 20 participants, with personal percussion welcomed. Rain location is the Senior Center.

For more information about the West Brookfield Cultural Council and other upcoming programs, find them on Facebook at "West Brookfield Cultural Council of MA," visit masscultural-council.org/local-council/west-brookfield, email [wbroadfieldlcc@gmail.com](mailto:wbrookfieldlcc@gmail.com) or call 508-867-3610.

Ready to jam?

Interested musicians can sign up for Summer Jam by emailing [wbroadfieldlcc@gmail.com](mailto:wbrookfieldlcc@gmail.com) with "Summer Jam" in the subject line. Please include your name, phone number, email address and band name (if applicable) as well as the number of band members.

Bring your instruments and your friends.

Sturbridge Police awarded accreditation status

STURBRIDGE – Police Chief Earl J. Dessert recently announced in a press release, that on May 19, the Sturbridge Police Department received state accreditation status from the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission pending the formal award presentation on June 21.

Accreditation is a self-initiated evaluation process by which police departments strive to meet and maintain standards that have been established for the profession, by the profession.

These carefully selected standards reflect critical areas of police management, operations, and technical support activities. They cover areas such as policy development, emergency response planning, training, communications, property and evidence handling, use of force, vehicular pursuit, prisoner transportation and holding facilities.

The program not only sets standards for the law enforcement profession, but also for the delivery of police services to citizens of the commonwealth.

"As Executive Director at the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission, I commend the efforts of the Sturbridge Police Department in achieving their third re-accreditation award. The agency has been part of MPAC's program for over a decade. They continue to adhere to the law enforcement profession's best practices and comply with our program's requirements as a profes-

sional 21st-century police department." said Rick Rathbun

Under the leadership of the Accreditation Manager, Lt. Joseph Lombardi, the Sturbridge Police Department was assessed in March by a team of commission-appointed assessors. The assessment team found the department to be in compliance with all applicable standards for accreditation.

To conduct the initial self-assessment, Lt. Lombardi established an accreditation team consisting of Sgt. Murray, Sgt. Paine, Officer Tytula, Dispatcher Maloney, Dispatcher Widling and Dispatcher Griffin. The group worked diligently together on policy review, policy updates and self-assessment to ensure that the department was in compliance with all the standards set forth by the commission prior to the actual assessment.

"This achievement is truly a department wide effort where each and every member of the Sturbridge Police Department helped us succeed in many ways throughout the long process. For that, I am thankful and proud of all of the men and women of the Sturbridge Police Department. They are dedicated to operating under the best and latest police practices. Having the accredited status gold standard of the industry really speaks volumes of their commitment to our agency and the community of Sturbridge." said Dessert.

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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.**

Total circulation of 85,000 reaching over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley.

Deadline for Calendar submissions is August 16.

Community Autumn Events

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 _____

MAIL YOUR LISTING INFORMATION TO:

Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or email* them to: jamie@turley.com

***Be sure to indicate "Autumn Event" in the subject line of your email.**

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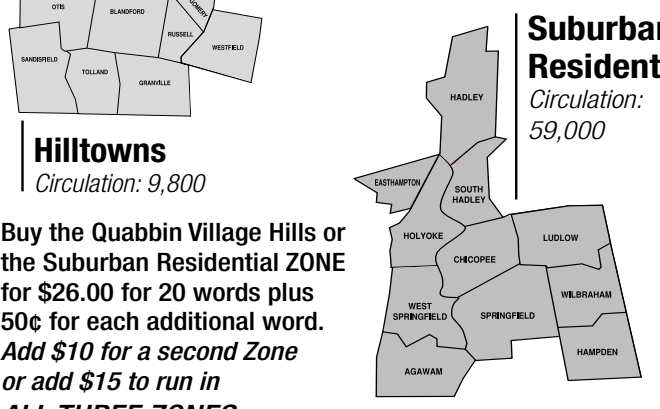
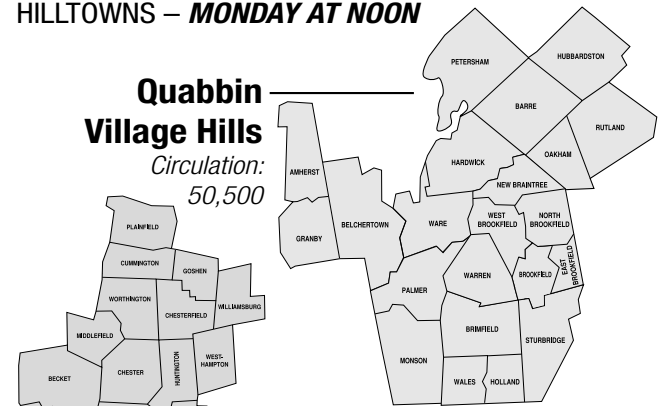
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- legal notices -

PUBLIC NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

PROJECT: The Applicant is proposing to rehabilitate and expand the roadway surface along Route 9/West Main Street from the Ware/West Brookfield Town Line east to Pierce Road in West Brookfield, Massachusetts. The objective of this approximately 2.1-mile project is to upgrade the existing roadway infrastructure which includes widening to extend the service life and improve traffic flow as well as increase safety for automobiles and cyclists. Proposed improvements include: road widening (road center will remain essentially the same); mill and overlay; providing dedicated shoulders for bicycles throughout the project; improving the existing storm drainage system structures and installing/replacing deep sump catch basins, reinforced concrete pipes; and, construction of retaining walls. Safety improvements include installing guardrails, new signs and

recessed polyurea pavement markings/stripping throughout the roadway corridor for improved automobile awareness.

LOCATION: Route 9/ West Main Street, West Brookfield, MA

PROPOSER: Town of West Brookfield Highway Department & Massachusetts Department of Transportation

The undersigned is submitting an Environmental Notification Form ("ENF") to the Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs on or before 07/31/23.

This will initiate review of the above project pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act ("MEPA", M.G.L. c. 30, s.s. 61-62I). Copies of the ENF may be obtained from:

Town of West Brookfield
Highway Department
James Daley
2 East Main Street,
P.O. Box 372
West Brookfield, MA 01020
(508) 867-1417

Copies of the ENF are also being sent to the

Conservation Commission and Planning Board of Town of West Brookfield where they may be inspected.

The Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs will publish notice of the ENF in the Environmental Monitor, will receive public comments on the project for 20 days, and will then decide, within ten days, if an environmental Impact Report is needed. A site visit and consultation session on the project may also be scheduled. All persons wishing to comment on the project, or to be notified of a site visit or consultation session, should write to the Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs, 100 Cambridge St., Suite 900, Boston, Massachusetts 02114, Attention: MEPA Office, referencing the above project.

By Town of West Brookfield Highway Department & MA Dept. of Transportation (Proponent) 08/04/2023

- obituary -

Allyn "Al" Mathieson, 78

BURKBURNETT, TX – Allyn "Al" Mathieson, of Burkburnett passed away Saturday, July 29, 2023, at the age of 78.

The family will receive friends from 6 until 8 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 6, 2023, at Owens and Brumley Funeral Home in Burkburnett. A Celebration of Life will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, Aug. 7, 2023, at Owens and Brumley Funeral Home in Burkburnett.



always made good decisions for his family, and Myrna was never far from his side.

Al was funny, sarcastic, caring, and loving to everyone he met. Now he is no longer hurting, and he is riding that helicopter up to go fishing with his brothers.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and brothers Paul, Gary, and Carl Mathieson.

Al is survived by his wife Myrna; daughters Andrea and Melanie; grandson Tyus; and granddaughters Isabella and Makena.

The family requests that memorial donations be made in Al's name to the veteran's charity of your choice.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.owensandbrumley.com.

DEATH NOTICE

**Mathieson, Allyn
Died July 29, 2023
Celebration of Life Aug. 7, 2023**

Interment with military honors will follow at Burkburnett Memorial Cemetery.

Al was born on Feb. 12, 1945, in Ware to the late James and Frances (Parker) Mathieson. He proudly served his country in the United States Air Force, where he retired, and then went to work for Lockheed.

He married Myrna Dilbeck on Sept. 9, 1966, in Burkburnett. Al touched many lives, and helped numerous people while in the military.

The couple travelled all over the world while Al was in the military. He

PLAY | FROM PAGE 1

Sunday, after debuting earlier in the month.

The story involves three students going on an educational journey discovering the incredible stories and experiences of underrepresented people in the history of the towns of Southbridge, Springfield, and Worcester. The actors portraying these students are fifth grade students of Old Sturbridge Academy.

Each character wanted to learn about their ancestors and family history and not just the histories from the settlers' perspective. In the story, the ending result was the three students learning more about themselves, the community, and society as it exists in both the past and present.

The students performed with passion and pride and were given a standing ovation with the play's creators bowing alongside them.

After the play had completed, co-writer and director of the story, Jasmin Rivas, who is also the director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access at Old Sturbridge Village, hosted a question and answer session for the audience to learn more about the upbringing of the play.

Members of the audience were interested to know what inspired the creation of "Not So New New Englanders". According to Rivas, it all started with asking the essential question, "What would be a great way to highlight these stories?"

Rivas acknowledged the students as the innovators of the play when they made a presentation to a board of trustees and wanted to highlight the stories of people from various cultures who are part of the local communities of Massachusetts.

"The students were great collaborators," said Rivas. Reflecting on the time the students were presenting the story idea in front of educators.

Their goal was to tell stories of these three communities (Southbridge, Springfield, and Worcester).

Rivas shared how important the play was to her and shared her story and her journey growing up. She mentioned that the author of the inspiring book, "The New New Englanders", Robert Brown was also her fifth-grade teacher.

His book inspired Rivas and other storytellers as he documented many families of local communities, includ-

ing Southbridge that are of Albanian, Greek, Polish, Portuguese, Italian, Puerto Rican, Vietnamese, and African American heritage. The play shared the backgrounds of people living in these communities and the creators of the play wanted to bring more people together and share their stories as well.

"Bringing more people together to share their stories and background... we are a beacon for people," said Rivas.

Alongside Rivas during the question and answer was stage manager, Frances Baker-Tucker. Her shared passion for telling stories got Baker-Tucker to be a part of a great cast and crew for the play.

Baker-Tucker enjoys her work at Old Sturbridge Village, and thinks it is a great historical atmosphere to preserve the history of all cultures in the communities nearby.

"Tell important stories at a museum," said Baker-Tucker.

These important stories included the recorded interviews of Phoutsone Ketnouvong and Gloria Juanita May Peeler (Gentle Running Deer). Their real-life stories became part of the play's educational discovery of the students learning about the experiences of members of their neighboring communities.

The cast and crew of "Not So New New Englanders" featured co-writers, Aprell May Daily, Rivas and James Connelly.

Rivas was also the director of the play and Baker-Tucker was the stage manager. The audio and visual technician was Charles Diaz.

Baker-Tucker was also the lighting technician alongside Kenady Sloan. Carrie Midura was the play's costume designer.

For the cast, Rowan Vail played the roles of the Narrator and Mr. Johnson. Jade Ofori, Mila Fors, Paige Sheffield, and Parker Sheffield portrayed the students.

Elaina Cardenas played Elaina, Steven Cardenas played the AO Worker, Rowan Vail, Grace Richardson and Katerina Pacheco-Wolf played the Protesters.

The creators of "Not So New New Englanders" thanked Old Sturbridge Village for hosting the play. In addition, they thanked the following organizations for their support: African Community Education, Empowering People of Inclusive Communities, the Greater Worcester Community Foundation, and Pa'Lante.

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10. 007's creator	45. Ottoman military commanders	4. Collected	38. Tasks which should be done
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12. Scandinavian god of battle	47. Makes unhappy	6. Patella	40. Intrinsic nature
13. Cloths spread on a coffin	50. Discuss again	7. Ageless	41. Neural structures
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21. Noble-governed territory	57. Tag the base runner to get him out	14. They ___	47. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
23. Members of U.S. Navy	59. Prehistoric people	17. Cooking hardware	48. Southwest Scotland town
24. Card game resembling rummy	60. Large African antelope	18. U.S. Army title	49. Most worthless parts
25. Affected by injury	61. Vehicle	20. Iron-containing compound	51. Viscous
26. Member of a Semitic people	62. Georgia rockers	22. Swiss river (alt. spelling)	52. Put to work
27. Left	63. Scientific instrument (abbr.)	27. Former French coin	53. Old world, new
30. Woman's cloak	64. A major division of geological time	28. Electronic countermeasures	58. Swiss river
	65. Attempt	29. Taxi	

QUABOAG

CURRENT

NEW BRAINTREE State Police prepare for graduation p8	BROOKFIELD Historical presentation Aug. 27 p3	STURBRIDGE Community Food Collaborative in sixth year p6	Editorial/Opinion 4 Sports 9 Classifieds 14 Legal Notices 15
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Volume 16, Number 36

Friday, August 4, 2023

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Cassie Paolucci
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