

QUABOAG CURRENT

WEST BROOKFIELD

LWPA poker run

Page 2

REGION

100 Mile Ruck

Page 2

EAST BROOKFIELD

Open Space survey

Page 2

Volume 19, Number 15

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

August 21, 2026



Thirty cadets signed up for the Barre Police Department's Youth Academy, held at Quabbin Regional High School.

TURLEY PHOTO BY PAULA OUIMETTE

Cadets complete Police Dept's Youth Academy

By Paula Ouimette

Editor

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BARRE – For the fourth year, the Barre Police Department hosted its Youth Academy for students in grades seven through 12.

This year, the academy was held at Quabbin Regional Middle High School, and 30 cadets from the school district and beyond signed up to participate.

Led by instructors Sergeant Russel Davidson and School Resource Officer

Mark Sawyer, the academy was free for all students, thanks to generous support from local businesses, donors and the school district.

"It runs on community donations," Davidson said.

The idea for the academy came about several

years ago when Davidson was the School Resource Officer at Quabbin Regional Middle High School, and he led a similar program during the school year. He wanted to expand on that program and open it up to more students.

"I wanted to do one over the summer," Davidson said.

Barre Police Chief James Sabourin was supportive of the idea, and the summer academy was created.

See CADETS PAGE 5

BOS approves paving project

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis

Staff Writer

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NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Board of Selectmen approved additional paving on North Main Street at their meeting last Tuesday.

This project will span from Spring Street to utility pole two on East Brookfield Road, which is about 50 feet past the intersection with Ward Street. The project will pave the entirety of Gilbert Street.

The total cost of the project is estimated at \$347,490.

Town Accountant Shie-la Leblanc broke down the cost, which includes \$321,656 for the roadwork, \$13,000 for aprons, \$8,544 for off duty detail and \$4,300 for line painting. The cost of the project comes

See N BROOKFIELD
PAGE 9



TURLEY PHOTO BY RICHARD MURPHY

John Baptista (left) is shown with some of the new Go players at the Merriam-Gilbert Public Library in West Brookfield.

The historic game of Go comes to West Brookfield Library

Local musician guides play

By Richard Murphy

Correspondent

WEST BROOKFIELD – The West Brookfield Li-

brary, has books, as does any library. Also, each month has different activities and events that citizens of the town and region can experience and take part in.

Upstairs on the early evening of Aug. 11 at

5 p.m. West Brookfield's Merriam-Gilbert library hosted the kickoff meeting of the West Brookfield Go Club.

Go is a game of strategy

See GAME OF GO
PAGE 6

Brookfield Freedomfest

Event celebrates U.S. 250th anniversary

BROOKFIELD – This past Saturday, the town partied like it was 1776 during the Brookfield Freedomfest event, held on the common.

This event was sponsored by the Brookfield Cultural Council, and was a celebration of the nation's 250th anniversary of independence.

Freedomfest featured many musical performances throughout the day, activities for children, a maze, touch-a-truck, Colonial games, arts and crafts, dance demonstrations, graffiti art and caricatures and a contest for the "Best Colonial/Americana Attire" and "Best American (Red, White and Blue) Desert."

The armed forces branches were also represented, and festival attendees were able to interact with the National Lancers of Massachusetts, a mounted cavalry



TURLEY PHOTO BY CAMREN ROBERTSON

Members of the National Lancers of Massachusetts rode around the common during Brookfield Freedomfest this past Saturday to celebrate the nation's 250th anniversary. This event was sponsored by the Brookfield Cultural Council.

unit. Numerous vendors and food trucks offered a variety of food and beverage options throughout the day. See more photos on page 8.

Ed Popielarczyk puts on magic show

By Ryan Drago

Staff Writer

rdrago@turley.com

EAST BROOKFIELD – The audience at the East Brookfield Public Library were about to be amazed by the magic show of Ed Popielarczyk.

Popielarczyk has been doing magic shows for nearly 35 years, and this year he returned to East Brookfield for some new tricks and new laughs. Popielarczyk also creates his own balloon art

and also hosts a flea circus.

Many of his tricks require audience participation and several children came up to help.

Caleb was one of Popielarczyk's helpers who assisted with his mail a letter trick. Caleb's job was to hold up the miniature post office where the letter is supposed to go.

For some reason, the trick went wrong and the post office fell into pieces even though Caleb held onto it perfectly. Despite the mess,

the letter was magically delivered to the post office.

In this show, Popielarczyk featured his new invention – a box-shaped shoe-cleaning machine that can clean any shoe. One audience member volunteered her sneaker to be cleaned in the shoe-cleaning machine.

The trick seemed to go well, but all of the sudden smoke made its way out of the machine and a burned

See MAGIC SHOW
PAGE 6



TURLEY PHOTO BY RYAN DRAGO

Caleb, left, helped magician Ed Popielarczyk with his mail a letter trick at the East Brookfield Public Library.

- community -

Locals complete 100 Mile Ruck March

Annual event benefits Why Me & Sherry's House

WORCESTER – Area residents recently completed the annual 100 Mile Ruck March to benefit Why Me & Sherry's House in Worcester.

Over the course of four days, 50 athletes rucked 25 miles each day to reach 100 miles.

This event has raised over \$1 million over the past six years to benefit local families facing childhood cancer. To donate, visit https://whyme.org/campaign_event/ruck-march-2026/.

Greg Guertin of North Brookfield is shown crossing water during the ruck march.



Jamie Hasenfus of West Brookfield received a high five from a Why Me & Sherry's House child at the finish line in Worcester.



Becki Hamel of Barre finished day one of the 100 Mile Ruck March for Why Me & Sherry's House at Lilac Hedge Farm in Rutland.

LWPA hosts 9th Annual Poker Run on Aug. 22

WEST BROOKFIELD – The Lake Wickaboag Preservation Association will host its 9th annual Poker Run on Saturday, Aug. 22 from 2-5 p.m.; in case of rain, the event will be held the following Saturday, Aug. 29 also from 2-5 p.m.

The event is a fun way to get out and spend time with family and friends while enjoying the wonders of Lake Wickaboag. Whether by boat, kayak, or canoe, all are welcome.

The LWPA Poker Run

has little to do with poker beyond using poker hand rankings to score the game. To play, players simply need a score sheet and a winning attitude.

On the day of the Poker Run, for a \$20 donation to the LWPA, players can purchase a score sheet at any of the five dealer pontoon boats marked with red flags. With score sheet in hand, players can then take a leisurely cruise or paddle to each of the dealer boats in any order they choose to be dealt one card.

To improve their chances of a winning hand, players can purchase an extra card at any one of the dealer boats for an additional \$10. Dealers will mark the cards dealt on players' score sheets.

For final hands to be counted and scored, players must turn in their score sheets to any dealer boat no later than 5 p.m. LWPA volunteers will tabulate and score all score sheets, and the winner of the game will be the player who has the best five-card

poker hand at the end of the event.

Second and third place winners will also be determined by their hands.

Winners will be announced at 7 p.m. at the Lake Wickaboag Boat Club or contacted by phone. Players must be sure their name and phone number are clearly printed on their score sheet.

For more information and updates, please visit the LWPA website at lakewickaboag.com, or visit their Facebook page.

Special election will be held on Sept. 1

WEST BROOKFIELD – A Special Town Election to elect a Select Board member for a two-year term will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 1.

Last day to register to vote before the Special Town Election is Friday, Aug. 21 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Town Clerk's office at 2 East Main St.

St. Anne – St. Patrick Parish is offering Faith Formation program

FISKDALE – St. Anne-St. Patrick Parish is making it easier for families to participate in both Faith Formation and Sunday Mass with a newly redesigned class schedule for the 2026-2027 program year.

By intentionally centering its Faith Formation schedule around the 10 a.m. Sunday Mass, the parish hopes families can more easily worship together while also having

more time back in their Sundays.

Registration is now open for Faith Formation for students in kindergarten through grade 11. Families are encouraged to register online by Sept. 6, which will help with class planning, although registration will remain open after that date.

The new class schedule is: grades K-six, Sundays, 8:45-9:45 a.m., before the 10 a.m. Mass.; and grades

seven-11, Sundays, 11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m., after the 10 a.m. Mass.

Faith Formation provides children and teens with age-appropriate instruction in the Catholic Faith, Sacred Scripture, Prayer, Christian living, and preparation for the Sacraments.

Online registration is the preferred registration method and is available on the parish website. A paper registration form is also available for families who need one.

For more information or to register, visit www.StAnneStPatrickParish.com or call 508-347-9353.

Lighting project is approved at STM

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
zachf@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – A special town meeting was held last Tuesday where residents voted on and approved six articles, including a lighting improvement project.

The motion was for a transfer of \$98,448 from the Capital Stabilization account to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen for lighting improvement projects at the Haston Free Public Library and Police Station.

Finance Committee member Roger Brooks said there were some incentives to reduce the cost of the project, including a 0% loan from National Grid, and about \$51,000 of the motion money will be used to pay the debt, with the rest rolling back into the Capital Stabilization account.

Board of Selectmen Chair Jamie Gilman said there were moving parts,

with incentives changing, and they needed a number for the motion, so they stuck with the larger number. The funds will roll back at the annual town meeting.

Fire Department items

The town voted to move to a weak chief form of fire department rather than a board of engineers during this year's annual town meeting, so there were additions to the fire chief salary voted on.

A total of \$9,093.87 was transferred to the chief salary account from the assistant chief salary account, deputy chief salary account and safety inspector salary account. Article 5 transferred \$4,625.01 from the assistant chief salary account to the Fire Department salary account.

Police Department item

Article 6 transferred \$21,200 from the Police Department office expense account to the Police Department electricity expense account.

Vendors wanted for Flea Market on the common

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

This year the Flea Market will be held on Saturday, Sept. 12 from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (vendor check-in 6:30-8:30 a.m.). Sellers of all kinds are welcome – flea folk, antique dealers, craft-

ers, product vendors and those emptying out basements and attics.

No food vendors, please.

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

The church will sponsor a food tent with grilled food, cold drinks and sweet treats. Email to fccofwb@flea-market@gmail.com for an application or call Karen at 508-801-7692.

Input needed for Open Space and Recreation Plan update

EAST BROOKFIELD – The town of East Brookfield, with assistance from the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission is updating its 2006 Open Space and Recreation Plan and is seeking input from residents.

Community members are encouraged to participate in a survey to share their thoughts on open space, recreational opportunities and priorities for the future. Public feedback will help guide the development of the updated plan,

which is required to maintain the town's eligibility for state grant funding for conservation and recreation projects.

Residents can complete the survey online at <https://tinyurl.com/yv7b23fy>. Hard copies are also available at Town Hall, the East Brookfield Public Library and the Senior Center.

The town encourages all residents to take part and help shape the future of East Brookfield's parks, recreation resources and open spaces.

Bluegrass Gospel Service will be held on Aug. 30

WEST BROOKFIELD – The George Whitefield United Methodist Church will host a Bluegrass Gospel Service at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Aug. 30 at 33 West Main St.

The program will feature traditional bluegrass instruments and voices performing old time Gospel favorites and other toe-tapping tunes

in the bluegrass style. These services have been very well received and are back by popular demand.

Come as you are and enjoy some good music and fellowship. All are welcome. Refreshments will be served. Any questions can be directed to Heidi Jeldres at 978-989-5736.

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- community -

Author shares encyclopedia of American wildlife

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Haston Free Public Library welcomed Brad Timm, the author of “America is Wild!: A State-By-State Encyclopedia of American Wildlife”.

Timm is a wildlife ecologist, nature author and educator from Hadley, who arrived at the library to share copies of his book for kids and adults to review.

During this program, people learned about plants and animals that make the U.S. their home.

Timm’s book featured illustrations of animals that are notable in each state. Illustrators for the book were Jill De Haan, who drew the plants, and Margaux Samson Abadie who drew the animals.

Timm wanted his book to feature a mammal, plant, bird, reptile, insect, and amphibian from each of the 50 U.S. states.

Timm talked about owls such as barred owls and great horned owls.

Kids tested their animal sound skills by imitating the sounds of different birds. This exercise helps kids be



TURLEY PHOTO BY RYAN DRAGO

Author Brad Timm led his guests to see how many wing flaps they could complete in 30 seconds to see if they could match the number of flaps a hummingbird can make.

able to identify the animals they hear.

At one point, the entire group went around and shared what their favorite animals are. The most popular answers consisted of cats, dogs and snakes. Youth Services Librarian Brianna Lamb shared that her favorite animal is a hermit crab.

On of Timm’s favorite animals are snakes. As a wildlife ecologist, Timm studied frogs and snakes. He talked

about how many species of snakes use their tongue to smell.

In New England, Timm talked about the timber rattlesnake, which is an endangered species of snake.

Another favorite species of snake Timm likes is the eastern hognose snake. This breed of snake is known for giving head butts rather than bites and also knows how to play dead.

One of the kids asked

what types of predators snakes have and Timm said some examples include owls, eagles, raccoons, skunks, coyotes, foxes and even other snakes.

The kids talked about animals they see near where they live. The eastern cottontail rabbit is seen a lot in Massachusetts.

“We live amongst so much wildlife,” Timm said.

The groups also turned the page to an illustration

of a bobcat. Timm asked around if guests knew where the bobcat got its name.

The bobcat got its name from the shortness of its tail. According to Timm, a lot of people mistake bobcats for mountain lions and Timm said to look at the tails for proper identification.

Timm also talked about hummingbirds, which are seen often in Massachusetts. For a fun exercise, Timm asked the group to stand up

and flap their hands as many times as possible in 30 seconds.

When time was up, most people got to 60 flaps in 30 seconds. Timm said that hummingbirds can flap their wings 1,500 times in 30 seconds, or about 50 times a second.

Timm also talked about the importance of identifying certain animals and what to do if you’re approached by one. For example, black bears can be seen often in New England.

According to Timm, if someone happens to come across bear, the idea is to not run but slowly walk back and usually the bears walk away in another direction.

Timm said a lot of wildlife could be scared of us as much as we are of them. Whenever Timm does wildlife programs he gives advice to people on what they can do to help wildlife.

Copies of Timm’s book, “America is Wild!: A State-By-State Encyclopedia of American Wildlife”, can be found online and on bookshop.org. A copy of the book can be read at the Haston Free Public Library, located at 161 North Main St.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Miss Fairchild will perform at Powder Mill Park on Sunday, Aug. 23 from 2-5 p.m. for the final concert in the Spencer Parks & Recreation Commission’s 2026 Summer Concert Series.

Miss Fairchild performs at final Summer Concert

SPENCER – The Spencer Parks & Recreation Commission’s 2026 Summer Concert Series will conclude on Sunday, Aug. 23 from 2-5 p.m. at Powder Mill Park, corner Smithville and Meadow Roads, with Miss Fairchild.

For the last two decades under the stage lights, New England’s Miss Fairchild has built a reputation on spectacle, musicianship, awe and entertainment.

Capably combining “juicy bass, slick grooves

and that peaches-and-cream brand of rhythm and blues” (Dig Boston) the band’s live performances have come to resemble one of Prince’s storied after shows: a mélange of original-song staples, B-side cover tunes and extended jams that would make even the Purple One smirk and bat his lashes with approval.

The concert series was proudly sponsored by Cornerstone Bank.

Troop 163 hosts ice cream social/open house

STURBRIDGE – Do you like camping, hiking, swimming, biking, fishing, kayaking, whitewater rafting, sailing, exploring with friends and more? You might like being a Scout.

Come to an ice cream social and open house held by Troop 163, an all-girl troop of Scouting America, on Sunday, Aug. 30 from 4-6 p.m. at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 345 Main St.

Learn about lassoing and how to use a sling shot and other activities. Families are welcome.

Stop by, have fun, and learn about Scouting and the troop.

The troop is open to girls aged 11-17, and while based in Sturbridge, is open to residents of any town. Please email troop163sturbridge@gmail.com with any questions.

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ATTENTION NORTH BROOKFIELD WATER USERS

HYDRANT FLUSHING

September 1-30, 2026

The North Brookfield Water Department will be flushing water mains throughout town beginning Tuesday, September 1 through Wednesday, September 30, 2026. Flushing is performed between the hours of 7:30AM and 3:30PM.

The purpose of the flushing is to remove sediment buildup in the mains. The flushing may result in temporary discoloration of the water, caused by small particles dislodged during the flushing. This discoloration might stain your laundry, especially white materials.

If you would like additional information, please call the Water Department at (508) 867-0207.

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- opinion -

Weeds and seeds

I came back from vacation and was shocked as to how much the garden had grown.

Crops were ready to be harvested and weeds that were merely inches tall had grown by leaps and bounds! Of course, we did have nearly a half foot of rain that week, and this probably played a part in such exuberant growth.

Read on to learn how indiscriminate watering by Mother Nature can mean weeds, weeds and more weeds.

Why such a growth spurt? Because just like other seeds, those of our least favorite weedy plants need both sunlight and water in order to germinate and grow well.

When we water on purpose, we can direct the rain where we'd like – usually at the base of the plant. Unfortunately, rainfall that lands on a brick path, the garden aisle, and also in between plants within the row can cause a lot of weeds to sprout.

Hand weeding and hoeing are both great exercise, and the best option for otherwise bare areas of young weeds.

Many gardeners make the mistake, however, of hoeing too deeply and exposing more weed seeds to sunlight. Try to just scrape the surface of the soil.

Stirrup hoes are particularly effective, skimming across the soil and severing the stems of weeds at the root line as they go. Very tall weeds can be cut down by use of garden shears, scissors or a week whacker, depending on the size of the area.

Once cut back, you can cover the whole area with a tarp, or black plastic to fry what was underneath, killing weed seed.

In the future you can use mulch to reduce the amount a weeding you have to do – it will also help to conserve soil moisture in years that rainfall isn't so plentiful. Mulch doesn't have to be expensive – it can be as simple as a "biscuit" of spent hay, a few sheets of newspaper secured with stones, pine needles or grass clippings – as long as these materials are applied thick enough to exclude light, weed seeds should not sprout.

Sometimes I will put a layer of corrugated cardboard down first, wet it then add the mulch on top.

It really seems to make a difference having that preliminary layer to keep light out.

This may be an unlikely pairing for this column, but there are plants that we desire to grow this time of year, and they are cover crops. Cover crops add lots of organic matter to the soil when incorporated in the spring or summer months.

While winter rye is the standard, you can grow oats, too. If sown right now, oats will germinate but die back as soon as frost hits.

Leave the plants in place, though, and they will prevent erosion by holding onto the soil with their roots. Plant parts can be incorporated come spring time.

In preparation for sowing cover crop seed, the soil surface should be scuffed up so that the seeds will make good contact with earth. Once prep is complete I rake the soil smooth and broadcast the grain, first throwing the seed in one direction and then the other.

It's a good idea to divide the seed in half and try to cover all the area you have once, then go back and fill in the light spots with the rest. After the seed has been sown I'll drag the flat end of a steel rake over the soil surface to bury it ever so slightly.

My goal is to have the seed sprout now, so that its roots will hold the soil and its nutrients in place over the off season.

Winter rye will put on an amazing amount of top growth by spring – weed whack or mow it first to make incorporating easier.

I am also contemplating "tarping" it to solarize the soil at the same time, then working in the dead plants by hand.

Either way, if you do this for a few years in a row you'll watch the organic matter content of your soil soar, reportedly at a rate of three to four thousand pounds per acre!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 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.

- letter to editor -
Barring oil exports would lower US fuel prices

Dear Editor:

As the Iranian hardliners show no sign of making concessions in the current conflict, President Trump has to make a choice to avoid a mid-term election disaster: offend oil producers or millions of swing voters.

Right now lower- and middle-class voters are being hammered by inflation, driven by higher gas and diesel costs that's the result of the shipping impasse in the Strait of Hormuz. So global oil prices remain high, even though the United States has plenty of oil.

Under the 1975 Energy Policy and Conservation Act, President Trump has the legal authority, citing a national emergency, to bar all exports of crude oil. Such a move would lower U.S. gas and diesel prices, moderating inflation. But of course doing so would offend the oil producers.

Unfortunately, if Trump doesn't bar oil exports and do it soon, economically stressed voters are certain to cost the GOP control of the House and even the Senate.

James Cooke
Brookfield



Learning by Traveling

By Sam O'Connor
A senior at Quabbin Regional High School

In April of 2026, I had the incredible opportunity to go to Europe for just over a week, visiting Poland and Germany.

While there, my main mode of transport was by bus, from which I got to see countless windmills towering overhead, and off in the distance, plots of solar fields, both providing energy for the lights shining in each town we passed.

Renewable energy sources like wind and solar are much better for both the environment and the atmosphere, as they replace the use of fossil fuels and are not in limited supply.

The burning of fossil fuels emits massive amounts of greenhouse gases into

the atmosphere. Greenhouse gases trap the sun's warmth inside our atmosphere, slowly increasing the average temperature of the planet, which in turn causes issues like irregular and extreme weather.

By turning instead to renewables, which create far fewer emissions, Germany is mitigating its impact on the environment.

Over the past few decades, Germany has taken many steps to reduce its emissions. As of 2025, the country came closer to a huge milestone in its journey away from non-renewables than ever before – nearly half of all energy produced was done via renewable means.

With a grand total of 42% of energy being generated by either wind, solar, biomass, or other forms of

renewable energy, Germany's "Energiewende" (meaning "energy transition" in English) has been a great success thus far.

This, compared to the United States' 9% of energy being generated by renewable means, is very impressive, and certainly something worth taking notes from.

Solar and wind are already being used in many parts of the U.S., but not to their full capabilities.

While Massachusetts has provided incentives to its residents to switch to renewable sources like solar, our biggest renewable source, few other states have done the same. And even with these incentives, only 17.3% of Massachusetts energy is derived from renewable sources.

Our state's percentage of renewable energy is nearly twice that of the U.S. average, but this is not nearly enough to stop climate change.

Countries like Germany, which have much higher percentages of renewable energy than the U.S., should be looked to as a model for how we should work toward reducing our impacts on the planet.

Why doesn't my Social Security record show all my military earnings?

Dear Rusty:

When I look at my earnings on my Social Security account, I see that in 1955 and 1956 have no earnings. I was in the U.S. Navy as a first officer and have my DD-214 paperwork, which shows my military service from Oct. 1954-Oct. 1958.

My Social Security earnings record shows that I had earnings in 1954, 1957 and 1958 but doesn't show that I was paid in 1955 or 1956. Shouldn't I have received Social Security credit for all my service years?

Signed: An Older Veteran

Dear Older Veteran:

First, I want to thank you for your military service.

Whether your earnings while in the military would provide you with any additional Social Security benefit depends on your career earnings after leaving military service. Here's why:

Your monthly Social Security benefit is based upon the highest earning 35 years over your lifetime with earlier years adjusted for inflation.

From those highest earning 35 years, SS develops your Average Indexed Monthly Earnings, your lifetime "AIME," which is the basis of the SS benefit you get if you claim for benefits to start at your Full Retirement Age So, if - after you completed your military service - you had at least 35 years of other employment where you earned more money than you did



while serving, then your military pay won't affect your Social Security benefit.

FYI, Social Security payroll tax has been withheld from military pay since 1957, which is why your SS earnings record shows your military pay only for 1957 and 1958. Your SS record wouldn't show military pay prior to 1957 because you didn't contribute to SS from your military pay during those years.

The earnings you see in your SS earnings record for 1954 are likely from non-military employment prior to starting active duty in October 1954.

SS does provide older veterans with "special extra credits for military service," but those credits are only a supplemental earnings amount added to your military pay record during the years you served.

It is not a bonus amount added to your monthly Social Security payment; rather it is only an amount added to your military pay record used when calculating your Social Security benefit. For those who served prior to 1957, Social Security would have no record of your military earnings during those early service years.

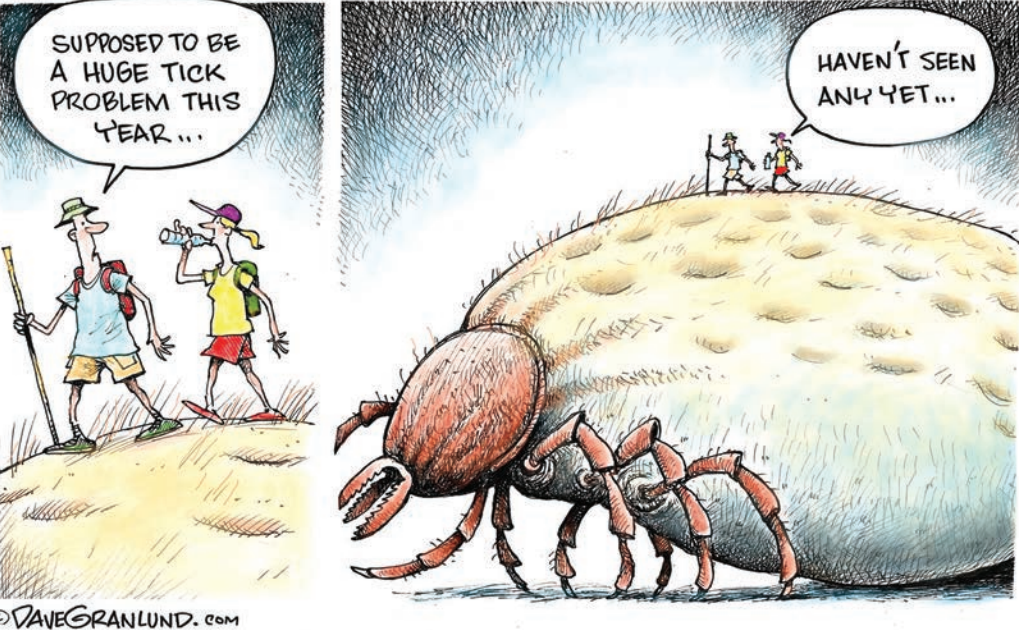
But when you claimed Social Security later in life,

they would have asked if you served in the military and given you "special extra credit" in the form of presumed earnings for your service years. They likely asked for a copy of your DD-214 and would have added \$160 to your military earnings record for each active-duty month from October 1954 through December 1956 and additional earnings credits for 1957 and 1958.

But that doesn't mean you get a special Social Security bonus for your military service. If you have at least 35 years of civilian employment after serving in the Navy, your service years would only affect your SS benefit if those military service years were among the highest paying 35 years over your entire lifetime. And, again, please accept our appreciation for your service to our country.

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See SOCIAL SECURITY
PAGE 10



QUABOAG CURRENT

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THE QUABOAG CURRENT (USPS# 10860) is published every Friday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977. Periodical Postage Prices are Paid at Palmer, MA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069.

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Quaboag Current
OBITUARY
POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph.

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- community -



Sergeant Russel Davidson demonstrated a traffic stop with School Resource Officer Mark Sawyer as the driver.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE

Sergeant Russel Davidson instructed cadets on how to conduct a routine traffic stop.

CADETS FROM PAGE 1

In its first three years, the enrollment was limited to 15 students due to space, but this year, the Quabbin Regional School District offered use of a classroom and grounds and the academy doubled in size.

“We have a great group of kids,” Davidson said.

Davidson said it takes a year to plan out and organize the academy, and they welcome student feedback to continue to improve the program.

“Every year at the end we do a questionnaire with the kids,” Davidson said. This year’s five-day academy started with CPR and First Aid training, and each cadet received their certification for these life-saving skills.

On the second day, cadets learned about building clearing, crime scenes and patrol procedures. Stetson School provided use of the Sykes building for the cadets to practice clearing rooms.

There was also a drone demonstration and physical training.

The third day the cadets learned about motor vehicle stops, impaired driving and use of the phonetic alphabet.

They took turns practicing a stop, with Sawyer as the driver being pulled over.

The cadets also performed Standardized Field Sobriety Tests and navigated an obstacle course on pedal cars while wearing goggles that simulated the effects of alcohol.

On the last day of the academy, the cadets took a field trip to Boston Harbor where they were able to ride along with the State Police Marine Unit, and to the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office. Later that evening, the cadets joined the Barre Police Department for a free movie night at Nornay Park in South Barre.

When asked what he enjoyed about running the Youth Academy, Davidson said it was the opportunity to work with the students, and build a connection with the community.

“I want the kids to have fun and learn something,” Davidson said. “We love doing it.”

Sawyer joined Davidson as an instructor for his second year at the academy.

He has been the School Resource Officer at Quabbin Regional Middle High School for a year and a half, and each day he gets a lot of questions about law enforcement from the students.

“I get asked a lot about ‘what do you guys do in certain situations’ and ‘what have you seen,’ ‘what have you experienced,’” Sawyer said.

Sawyer said he also gets a lot of questions about speeding while driving.

“We just want to guide them in the right direction,” he said. “We’ve all made mistakes, but learned from



K-9 Barry received attention during the Barre Police Department’s Youth Academy week.

those mistakes.”

On Aug. 5, The Quaboag Current was invited to visit the academy and talk to the cadets about their experiences.

Aimee Ickler, a freshman at Quabbin Regional High School, said she learned “a lot really,” at the academy, including how to clear a room properly and how to take point during a building search.

Ickler said she also learned how to talk in a calming manner to someone that may be experiencing a crisis.

Ickler said the experience has encouraged her to pursue her goals of working for the FBI when she’s older.

Isabelle Wentworth, a sophomore at the school, wants to be come a police detective after she finishes school. This academy provided her with skills that will help her to achieve that goal.

Ryker Leslie, a seventh grade student, enjoyed learning how to clear rooms, how to use the phonetic alphabet – as well as how to use handcuffs.

Senior Nick Sabourin is a returning cadet at the academy, back for his third year.

He said he learned about substance use, and the impact they can have on people.

“And how dangerous it is to get drugs off the street,” Sabourin said.

Sabourin said he also learned about how to use a taser, how to use a shield and gun safety.

Sabourin said he wants to pursue a career as a forensic scientist, and he has already started planning out his college journey.

Ryan Dailey, a junior, is also a returning cadet and he talked about learning how to negotiate.

“You have to kind of let them speak and get to know them,” he said.

Dailey said he is also interested in a career in law enforcement, and would like to work in a rural town like Barre.

Kahai Tran, also a junior, has now attended the acad-

my for the fourth year and he said he learns new skills each time.

Finian Fauteux, a sophomore, attended the academy two years ago, but missed last year due to an injury. He was excited to be back this year to continue his learning; including how to build rapport with other people.

“I think I want to be a police officer,” Fauteux said.

Junior Donovan Corby and seventh grader Ethan Alt are both homeschooled students, and they have each learned important skills over the past week.

Corby said he learned how to perform CPR on adults, children and infants. He said he might be interested in become a police officer when he’s older.

Alt said he learned how to hold a gun, and the proper way to clear a room.

“I learned how you have to focus on every detail,” he said.

Alt said this knowledge will help him in his future, as he plans to join the military.

Mason Punlick, a seventh grader, hopes to use his skills for a career in the U.S. Army.

“I want to be in the military, so this kind of helps me a bit,” he said.

Ben Fisher, a freshman, attended the academy for the first time.

“I learned that being a police officer...there’s a lot more to it than people think,” he said.

While Fisher wants to become a musician for his career, he said the academy has been beneficial to him as a citizen.

“This could help me be a better citizen in the community,” he said.

The Barre Police Department thanked Youth Academy sponsors Down Range Sports, Fidelity Bank, Greg’s Restorations, White Valley Motors, Inc., Wholesome Farmers Market, Café on the Common, The Country Store in Peterham, Hardwick Crossing Country Club, Quabbin Regional School District and

Stetson School.

All supplies, snacks, lunches and water were provided to cadets throughout the week, courtesy of the academy’s sponsors. Transportation for field trips was provided by the Quabbin Regional School District.

Be sure to follow the Barre Police Department on Facebook to watch for next summer’s Youth Academy registration, which is open (and free) to all students in grades seven through 12. Students do not need to reside in one of the Quabbin Regional School District towns to participate.



School Resource Officer Mark Sawyer explained the traffic stop exercise that cadets took part in.



Cadet Aimee Ickler explained the reason for the traffic stop.



Sergeant Russel Davidson walked the cadets through traffic stop protocol.

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- community -



Ed “We live amongst so much wildlife,” Timm said. prepared his cannon trick while Yvette held a deck of cards.

MAGIC SHOW
FROM PAGE 1

shoe popped out. Somehow, Popielarczyk’s magic brought the audience member’s shoe back in one piece.

Popielarczyk’s magic show also brought some education. For example, his next trick featured a trio of colored juggling balls representing a traffic light. The kids answered about what each color light represents. All the kids helped out with the trick by telling him the correct order of the colors.

After placing the colors in order, the magic words for the trick would mess up again as the colored juggling balls continued to reappear out of order. It took Popielarczyk a few tries, but the color order finally appeared correctly.

To make the magic show more amusing, Popielarczyk



The chicken from the chicken coop kept appearing despite Ed Popielarczyk’s orders not to.

had to continuously water his purple flower. Every time the magician turned his back the purple flower began to droop. Only with the help of his audience did he know

when to water the flower. For some of his tricks, Popielarczyk was assisted by his jumping stuffed animal friend, Rocky the racoon. Yvette came up to assist



Ed Popielarczyk’s flower kept drooping, forcing him to continuously water it during the show.



Ed Popielarczyk asked Beckham to help him with a rink trick.



Ed Popielarczyk soon revealed what was behind the magical red and blue boxes.

Popielarczyk with a card trick and Rocky was placed inside a cannon and was supposed to grab a card selected by Yvette. Unfortunately, the target

box responsible for catching Rocky malfunctioned and once again another trick goes wrong with laughs soon to follow. However, Rocky some-

how made it inside the target box and was holding the card selected by Yvette. It was a trick that stunned the entire audience.

Popielarczyk has done many fantastic tricks in his career. One of his favorite tricks to do for the audience is an illusion trick featuring the suspension of a child who sits on two chairs and a board, and the board is moved with the child suspending in mid-air.

“I love doing that trick,” Popielarczyk said. “The kids love it and are amazed.”

Another favorite trick is the classic cutting someone in half. During the show at the East Brookfield Public Library, Rocky the racoon was used for the cut in half trick.

For more about the wonderful world of magic with Magician Ed Popielarczyk, visit his website, edpop.com.

GAME OF GO
FROM PAGE 1

often, though not completely accurately compared to Chess. While chess has different pieces of varied purposes, checkmate is what it moves toward.

Go is more involved with

capturing territory.

The game is associated with Asia, having its origin in China 4,000 years ago, and arriving in Japan around 700 years ago. In the late 1800s, Go arrived in the Western Hemisphere.

The game begins on an

empty board, unlike chess where play starts with all the pieces on the board.

Where chess has different pieces, Go only has two, called stones. One player uses black stones, and his opponent, white.

All the Go players your correspondent has known

have been more intelligent than he. This may have been the reason he has avoided learning the game.

Upon arriving upstairs, John Baptista welcomed the folks interested in learning about the game.

John and his family are residents in West Brookfield for about four years now.

Professionally, John is in the music business in different aspects. He attended Berklee College of Music, famous for the study of contemporary music.

He is one of the founders and owners of Bold Groove Media, LLC. Bold Groove Media is an entertainment, production, promotions company specializing in live performances.

John is a multi-instrumentalist and vocalist, which means he plays various instruments and sings as well. He is Chief Technology Officer at Bold Groove Media.

John is a union musician, husband, father of two and a gardener, rock climber and Star Trek fan and a Go player.

John would speak briefly about Go and would help folks get started. A couple started off and seemed to take to the game by themselves.

A young girl, Peyton also started playing with another attendee as would others. John would be there to



TURLEY PHOTO BY RICHARD MURPHY
This sign directs people where to play Go.

make suggestions and answer questions.

Pairs of players would start with white going first. The usual board size is a 19-inch by 19-inch grid, but the neophytes used smaller boards for learning.

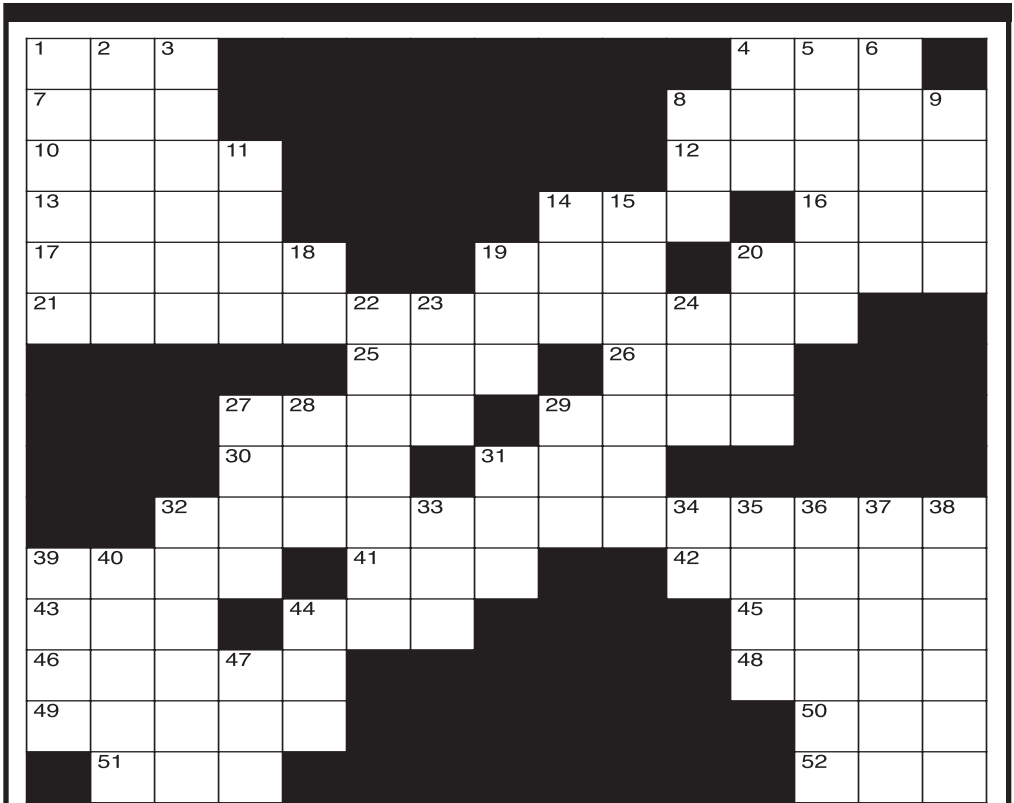
On the grid, where the lines intersect is a point. One wants to control as many points as possible.

As players put stones in different places on the

boards, John explained what it all meant with the different terms such as liberties and capture and escape.

It was for the attendees, a learning experience, but will not be a one-time event. On Tuesday, Aug. 25, the library will again host the West Brookfield Go Club with John Baptista presiding.

Please feel free to be part of the learning experience.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Microgram
- 4. Fixed charge
- 7. Each
- 8. Feeling of humiliation
- 10. Coat with sticky substance
- 12. Powerful “Severance” family
- 13. Japanese city
- 14. “Pulp Fiction” actress Thurman
- 16. Hat
- 17. Place where rockers work
- 19. Psyche
- 20. Snakelike fishes
- 21. Where people live
- 25. Body part
- 26. Old towel
- 27. One’s essential being

- 29. Japanese alcoholic beverage
- 30. Boxing’s GOAT
- 31. Wet muddy ground
- 32. Christian Laettner is one
- 39. A place to store lawn tools
- 41. Large tub for liquid
- 42. Old World lizard
- 43. One-time European member group
- 44. Healing student
- 45. Nuclear weapon
- 46. “Kiss of the Spider Woman” actress Sonia
- 48. Silk garment
- 49. About some Norse poems
- 50. Woman religious community member
- 51. Congressman (abbr.)

- 52. Two-year-old sheep

CLUES DOWN

- 1. An insane person
- 2. “Homeland” actress Danes
- 3. Buttock muscles
- 4. US federal agency
- 5. Birds of prey
- 6. Electronic communication
- 8. Ocean
- 9. Terminates
- 11. Low-pitched sound from a bell
- 14. Exclamation: yuck!
- 15. A place to attach a boat
- 18. Exclamation of surprise
- 19. Make a mistake
- 20. Border line
- 22. Have religious faith
- 23. Klutz
- 24. Large tree
- 27. House of __ rulers
- 28. Red deer
- 29. Small coin (French)
- 31. Popular sandwich
- 32. 10-year period
- 33. Not good
- 34. Government lawyer
- 35. Egypt’s intelligence agency
- 36. Without an occupant or incumbent
- 37. Stain with one’s hands
- 38. Crippling
- 39. One point east of southeast
- 40. Large, united groups
- 44. __ and cheese
- 47. Alcoholic beverage



FIVE ISLANDS

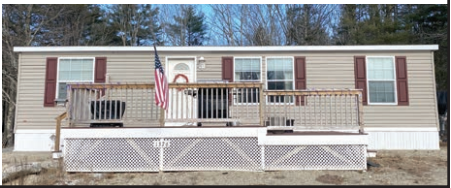
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SPORTS

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SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

Forge Baseball Clinic returns to Western Mass.

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WILBRAHAM—One of the last sports camps of the summer of 2026 was held at Spec Pond in Wilbraham from August 10-13.

A total of 57 baseball and softball players between the ages of 6-16 from Wilbraham and the surrounding communities attended the four day clinic.

“This is our fourth year conducting the baseball clinics, and this is probably the best one yet,” said camp director Dustin Brisson “We have almost 60 kids, including a couple of softball players for the first time, this week. It’s the most campers we’ve ever had at this clinic and I’m very pleased.”

Brisson, who is the owner of Forge Athletics, was born in Florida and played college baseball at the University of Central Florida from 1997-2000. The first baseman was drafted by the Boston Red Sox in the 15th round of the 2000 MLB draft.

Brisson, who played 345 minor league games, advanced to Double A Port-



Campers receive some instructions from one of the coaches in the Forge Baseball Clinic.

land. His baseball career came to an end due to an injury.

“I was blessed to have the opportunity to play professional baseball,” Brisson said. “I’m doing what I can to give back to these kids.”

Some of the camp instructors were Lindsay Beer, David Wendt, Ace Adams

Chade Shade, who’s the head coach of the Springfield College baseball team, Pat Strange, who’s the pitching coach at Westfield State University, Dan Gomez, who’s the head baseball coach at Western New England University, and Terry Doyle, who’s the the baseball coach at New England

College.

“It’s an honor to have these coaches working at our clinic this year,” Brisson said. “They want to help these kids. This is a high level skills clinic. I just want the older kids to have the opportunity to work with the college coaches.”

A couple of the guest



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Adam Smola swings off a tee.

speakers at the clinic were Brandon Seymour, who’s the general manager of the Valley Blue Sox, Nancy Street, who’s a board member of the Miracle League of Western Massachusetts, and Duke Castiglione Jr who’s a sportscaster at a television station in Boston.

Ray Fagnant, who grew

up in Chicopee and is the Boston Red Sox Northeast Regional Scouting Supervisor, also spent a day at the clinic.

A few of the different stations were hitting, fielding, and throwing.

“My main goal is to

See CAMP PAGE 8

Lusitano keeps the soccer going, hosts collegiate match

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW— In what could become an annual tradition, the UConn and UMass women’s soccer teams met in an exhibition match in front of a large crowd at Lusitano Stadium on Aug. 5.

Neither team was able to find the back of the net during the contest, played in three 30-minute intervals, but it was still a memorable evening at the 108-year-old stadium located on Winsor Street in Ludlow.

“It’s very exciting to be hosting a college soccer match here at Lusitano Stadium,” said Joe Ferrara Jr., who’s the Managing Director of the New England Mutiny and the General Manager of the Western Mass. Pioneers. “Both UConn and UMass have been very supportive of the Mutiny over the years. I also have a personal relationship with both coaching staffs.”

The last time a college soccer match was held at Lusitano Stadium was on October 17, 2018.

On that fall evening, the Worcester State University Lancers squared off against the Western New England University Golden Bears in a non-conference men’s match-up.

Cyrus Raines, a Belcher-town High School graduate, delivered his first collegiate goal during the second half, which lifted the Lancers to a 1-0 shutout victory. Raines, who’s a defender, finished his college soccer career with three goals.

The Worcester State head coach at that time was Jason Willis, who’s currently an assistant coach for the Western Mass Pioneers. He also coaches a Western United Pioneers team.

Willis graduated from Ludlow High School, and he helped the Lions boys’ soccer team win two state titles and three Western Mass. titles back in the 1990’s.

Ferrara, who also graduated from Ludlow High School in the 1980’s, played many soccer games on the grass stadium field.

“I recall scoring a lot of big goals on this field while I was in high school,” Ferrara said. “I also played for the Lusitano Whites, which won the first ever summer league championship on this field. I hope the college players appreciate the history of this place.”

This past spring, Ferrara approached UMass head coach Jason Dowiak about playing the exhibition match against UConn at Lusitano Stadium.

“Because it was UMass turn to host the exhibition, I asked coach Dowiak if he would be interested in playing the game here this year,” Ferrara said. “He thought it was a very good idea.”

It was something that Dowiak, who was hired as the UMass women’s soccer coach in 2017, had always wanted to do.

“I’m beginning my ninth season as the UMass women’s soccer coach and this is something that I’ve always wanted to do,” said Dowiak following the scoreless draw. “I’ve watched several Mutiny games here in the past and this was really a very special night for us. I’m very glad that the soccer community came out and supported us. This was an electric atmosphere for an exhibition game.”

A year ago, UMass posted a 5-8-4 overall record and went 3-6-2 against their Mid-American Conference foes.

“I thought my team played very well against a fantastic UConn team, and this is a positive step for us,” Dowiak added. “I feel like we can go into tough environments and still be successful.”

One of the three graduated students listed on the UMass women’s roster is Bianca Cardano, who’s from

Monson. She attended Minnechaug Regional where she played soccer for Nundi Goncalves, who’s another Ludlow High graduate.

“I’ve played a lot of games at this stadium,” Cardano said. “My family and friends were here tonight. It was a very special night.”

Cardano, who’s a management major, fell in love with the UMass campus when she made her official visit.

“UMass was always my top choice,” she said. “The girls on the soccer team are like members of my own family. We’re hoping to finish first in the Mid-American Conference.”

Cardano, who’s a starting defender, played in 16 games as a freshman before missing her entire sophomore season recovering from a right knee injury. She was limited to just three matches (two starts) in 2024.

A year ago, Cardano was a starter in ten of the 14 matches that she played in.

“We’re really hoping that Bianca is able to play the whole season for us this year,” Dowiak said. “She’s a fantastic leader on and off the field.”

Cardano isn’t the only Minnechaug girls’ soccer player to play soccer at UMass.

Jess Howe, who was a member of the Lady Falcons 2005 Western Mass championship team and the 2008 state title team, was a defender at UMass from 2009-2012.

UConn head coach Margaret Rodriguez played soccer at Lusitano Stadium for a couple of seasons as a member of the Western Mass. Lady Pioneers. She also played for the Mutiny for one year when they played their home matches at Agawam High School.

“We’ve led the Big East in fan support during the past several years,” Rodriguez said. “This was a good way for my players to get used to playing in this type of a set



Nate Carrill slides safely home.



Ray Toth makes a throw on the run.

Tri-County finals forced to a deciding game three

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY— Third-seeded Teddy Bear Pools & Spas had a golden opportunity to sweep the top-seeded St. Joseph’s Saints in the Tri-County League championship series.

Teddy Bear held a 1-0 lead entering the top of the third inning in game two.

St. Joe’s rallied for three runs in the third and fourth innings and they evened the best-of-three series at 1-1 following a 6-3 victory at South Hadley High School Friday, Aug. 7.

The game came to an end after five innings due

to darkness, which didn’t please the Teddy Bear players and their supporters.

“It’s a very frustrating situation,” said Teddy Bear player/manager Ryan Magini. “I think we should’ve been able to finish the final two innings of tonight’s game at St. Joe’s Park before playing the deciding game tomorrow night.”

The baseball field at South Hadley High School doesn’t have any lights and the first pitch of game two was thrown by Teddy Bear righthander Sean Rosemond at 5:55p.m. The three umpires made the decision to end the game at 7:45 p.m.

“The pace of tonight’s



Ramon Jimenez takes a swing.

game was very slow,” said St. Joe’s manager Paul Marcinek. “We were very lucky to finish five innings which made it an official game.”

Had the game ended before the bottom of the fifth inning, it would’ve resumed at South Hadley High School the following day. If the score would’ve been tied, game two would’ve been replayed from the beginning, which has been a TCL rule for many years.

Teddy Bear won game one of the championship series, which was an old fashion pitcher’s duel, 3-1, at St. Joe’s Park, last Thursday night.

Righthander Matt Drobiak, who graduated from South Hadley High School in 2024, went the distance for Teddy Bear. He allowed a run on six hits and three strikeouts without issuing a walk.

Drobiak outdueled St. Joe’s righty Trey Yesu, who graduated from Monson High School in 2022.

Yesu also went seven innings allowing three runs (two earned) on six hits with six strikeouts and two walks.

Teddy Bear took a 1-0 lead in game against lefthander Jackson Hayes with two outs in the bottom of the first inning following a run scoring double by second baseman Ramon Jimenez.

St. Joe’s took the lead against Rosemond in the top of the third inning.

See TRI-COUNTY PAGE 8

- community -

N BROOKFIELD
FROM PAGE 1

from available chapter 90 funding of about \$455,209, leaving the town with just over \$100,000 for other projects.

There are other projects being considered, including paving and reclamation of Stoddard Court and Chase Road. The total cost for the proposed project is \$78,025, including \$18,424 for Stoddard Court, \$55,885 for Chase Road and an anticipated 5% escalation of \$3,715.

If this project is approved, there will be about \$29,000 left in chapter 90 funds.

The board voted to put this project online for public comment. The spreadsheet can be found on the website (northbrookfield.net).

There is a potential allocation of \$561,834 in chap-

ter 90 and fair share funding coming to the town for fiscal year 2027, once the state approves the budget, according to Leblanc.

Town communication

The board reviewed the four forms of communication in the town, including Code Red, the emergency alert system, the town sign, the town website and the town Facebook page.

Chairman Jamie Gilman said all messaging should come from the Board of Selectmen.

For the Code Red system, the board discussed who should be allowed to utilize it, including the Police and Fire departments, Board of Health, Board of Selectmen for nonemergency notifications and the Water Department in the case of a main break. Selectman Peter Orsi recommended an

outreach program at the Senior Center, so people who do not use the internet often can still get Code Red on their devices.

Executive Assistant Mary Beth Kularski said the system can call home phones too, but residents are not automatically signed up. There is a QR code on the website home page to sign up for the system.

Financial items

The board approved a request of \$3,500 from the Holden Hospital account from the Police Department to pay an invoice to Swan for preventative maintenance. They also approved two requests from the Fire Department, including a \$2,823 invoice to Tri State Truck Center for an actuator and \$315 to Fisher Auto Parts for overdue maintenance like fuel, oil and air

filters and antifreeze.

Both of these repairs were for Engine 1.

Department head reports

The board reviewed department head reports from the Senior Center, Highway Department and Police Department.

The Senior Center reported 429 sign ins, and well attended lunches and a continental breakfast. The Fire Department did a fire safety presentation, and there was a well-attended bingo and pizza night, the next one to be on Sept. 25.

They are working on expanding their newsletter.

The Highway Department reported some tree calls done by Rusty's Tree Service, a mower being down for three weeks, roadside cleanup and pothole maintenance, setting up brine systems for the win-

ter, a contract with Petersen Oil and possible paving on South Main Street proposed through Mass Municipal Pavement Program. The Police Department reported 427 calls including 12 arrests, and extra patrols at Brooks Pond and Lake Lashaway for the summer.

Donation

A \$1,500 donation to the Fire Department from Bob's Discount Furniture

was accepted by the board.

Administrative items

The board approved warrants including payroll for \$286,509, school for \$30,252, general fund for \$443,123 and \$2,500 and debt for \$476,416. The minutes of July 21 and July 27 were accepted and there were multiple officer and board/committee appointments made for FY 27.

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- public notices -

Town Of West Brookfield Notice Of Public Hearing
The Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, September 8th, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.** in the first floor meeting room, West Brookfield Town Hall, to act on an application for a Special Permit, for WB RV LLC, for the property located at 58 John Gilbert Road, West Brookfield. The applicant wishes to change the usage on this property to year round use. A Special Permit is required per Sections 3.0 Use Regulations and 3.1 Basic Requirements of the Zoning Bylaws.
08/21, 08/28/2026

TOWN OF NORTH BROOKFIELD ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
Notice is hereby given that the North Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, August 24, 2026, at 6:15 p.m.** at the North Brookfield Senior Center, 29 Forest Street, North Brookfield, Massachusetts.
The purpose of the hearing

is to consider the application of New England Power Company for a Special Permit and a Variance from the front yard setback for the expansion of an existing electrical substation at 39 East Brookfield Road, North Brookfield, MA.
The application is filed pursuant to the Town of North Brookfield Zoning Bylaws. Section IV, C.1 (Business General District) allows any use permitted under Section IV, A.2, except subsections (f) and (h). Section IV, A.2(e) provides that a power substation is permitted by Special Permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals. Any person interested or wishing to be heard on this matter is invited to attend the public hearing.
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the North Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40A and the Town of North Brookfield Zoning Bylaw
North Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals
08/14, 08/21/26

Legal Notice
Town of West Brookfield Conservation Commission
Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, 18-25, as amended by Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2009, The Wetlands Protection Act, the West Brookfield Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **WEDNESDAY, September 2, 2026 at 6:00 pm** in the first floor meeting room, West Brookfield Town Hall, 2 East Main Street.
6:00 – Public Hearing:
NOI – 225 Long Hill Road – Ranellone – Continued - Drive-way
NOI – 380 West Main Street – Continued - Raymakers Construction – Staging area
NOI – Wickaboag Pond – Board of Health – Continued - Weed Treatment
08/21/2026



Giant mushrooms found in backyard

NEW BRAINTREE – Dean and Darlene Gildert recently found giant puffball mushrooms growing in

their backyard. This large fungus can range from softball to beach ball sized, and can be found

growing in lawns and fields during late summer into early fall.



This giant puffball mushroom measured over nine inches tall. Its size is compared to a tennis ball.



These giant puffball mushrooms were found by Dean and Darlene Gildert of New Braintree.

Job Connection

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TOWN of BRIMFIELD EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
Emergency Management Director

DEFINITION

The Emergency Management Director designs emergency response plans and procedures to respond to emergencies and natural disasters. The Emergency Management Director works in coordination with government agencies, public safety officials, nonprofit organizations, and elected officials to help lead the response in crisis. This position is compensated with a stipend.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

The essential functions or duties listed below are intended only as illustrations of the various types of work that may be performed. The omission of specific statements of duties does not exclude them from the position if the work is similar, related, or a logical assignment to the position.

- Responsible for planning and coordinating emergency management preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation.
- Works collectively with various municipal departments ranging from School, Police, Fire, and Highway Departments as well as the Board of Health to ensure effective implementation of goals, training, emergency management, and planning.
- Acts as a liaison between the Town and relevant federal and state agencies, notably the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA).
- Serves as an advisor regarding preparation for potential hazards, response to disasters, and post-event recovery.
- Performs other related job duties as required.

Please apply by submitting a letter of interest and resume to the Select Board Office, 23 Main Street, Brimfield, MA 01010 or by email to selectboard@brimfieldma.org

- public safety -

New Braintree Police Log

During the week of Aug. 10-17, the Hardwick/ New Braintree Police Department responded to 17 building/property checks, 22 directed/area patrols, five radar assignments, three emergency 911 calls, one safety hazard, two citizen assists, one harassment, two animal calls and four motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

Monday, Aug. 10
10:12 a.m. Medical Emergency, Scott Road, Transported to Hospital

Wednesday, Aug. 12
10:01 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Moore Road, Transported to Hospital
8:33 p.m. Suspicious Activity, West Road, Spoken To

Thursday, Aug. 13
9:43 a.m. Medical Emergency, West Brookfield Road, Patient Refusal
5:26 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Ravine Road, Citation Issued
6:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Mara Road, Citation

Issued

Friday, Aug. 14
7:08 a.m. Safety Hazard, West Brookfield Road, Call Canceled
10:08 a.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Report Taken

Saturday, Aug. 15
8:44 a.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Served in Hand

Sunday, Aug. 16
9:53 p.m. Harassment, Pierce Road, Spoken To

East Brookfield Police Log

During the week of July 13-19, the East Brookfield Police Department responded to 141 building/property checks, 126 directed area patrols, 12 radar assignments, seven traffic controls, five emergency 911 calls, six citizen assists, eight assist other agencies, two lost/stolen plates, one complaint, two safety hazards, one threat, two animal calls and 22 motor vehicle stops in the town of East Brookfield.

Monday, July 13
9:07 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Harrington Street, Officer Handled
11:28 a.m. Lost/Stolen Plate, Prospect Street, Officer Handled
1:34 p.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Officer Handled
1:48 p.m. Assist Citizen, Harrington Street, Services Rendered

Tuesday, July 14
9:06 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, East Main Street, Transported to Hospital
10:18 a.m. Assist Citizen, Pleasant Street, Services Rendered
12:13 p.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Spoken To
12:21 p.m. Assist Citizen, South Street, Services Rendered
1:57 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Howe Street, Officer Handled
2:07 p.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, No Action Required
2:08 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Podunk Road, Dispatch Handled
2:42 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Connie Mack Drive, Spoken To
9:23 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Shore Road, Services Rendered

Wednesday, July 15
6:11 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Services Rendered

10:16 a.m. Suspicious Activity, Podunk Road, Verbal Only
11:26 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Draper Road, Officer Handled
2:38 p.m. Complaint, Red Gable Road, Report Taken
6:14 p.m. 911 Safety Hazard, Route 49, Services Rendered
6:43 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Officer Handled

Thursday, July 16
11:35 a.m. Suspicious Activity, Harrington Lane, Officer Handled
2:51 p.m. Threat, Connie Mack Drive, Officer Handled
4:41 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Written Warning
5:06 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Harrington Street, Citation Issued
5:09 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Harrington Street, Citation Issued
9:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Written Warning

Friday, July 17
11:52 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
12:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
12:46 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Harrington Street, Citation Issued
12:56 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Harrington Street, Citation Issued
1:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Harrington Street, Citation Issued
2:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Written Warning
2:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
2:52 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

4:31 p.m. Suspicious Activity, South Pond Road, Spoken To
9:19 p.m. Medical Emergency, Lashaway Drive, Transported to Hospital

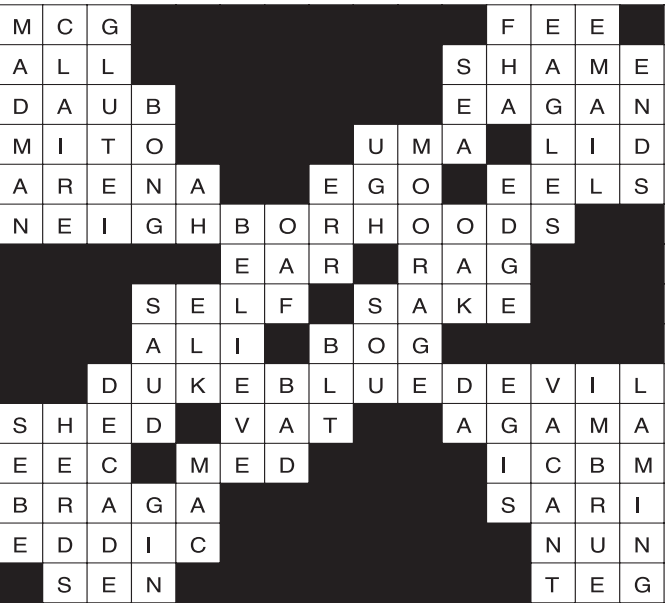
Saturday, July 18
7:39 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
7:58 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Street, Citation Issued
8:18 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
8:28 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
8:42 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
9:58 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
10:25 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
10:47 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
4:23 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Route 49, Officer Handled
6:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Sturbridge Road, Citation Issued
11:39 p.m. Suspicious Activity, East Main Street, Checked/Secured

Sunday, July 19
12:21 a.m. Safety Hazard, Podunk Road, Referred to Other Agency
1:44 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Lashaway Drive, Transported to Hospital
6:40 a.m. Medical Emergency, Maple Street, Transported to Hospital
1:55 p.m. Lost/Stolen Plate, North Brookfield Road, Spoken To
4:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
5:57 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Mechanic Street, Citation Issued

SOCIAL SECURITY FROM PAGE 4
and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff,

trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/

social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



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1

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2

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3

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visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

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

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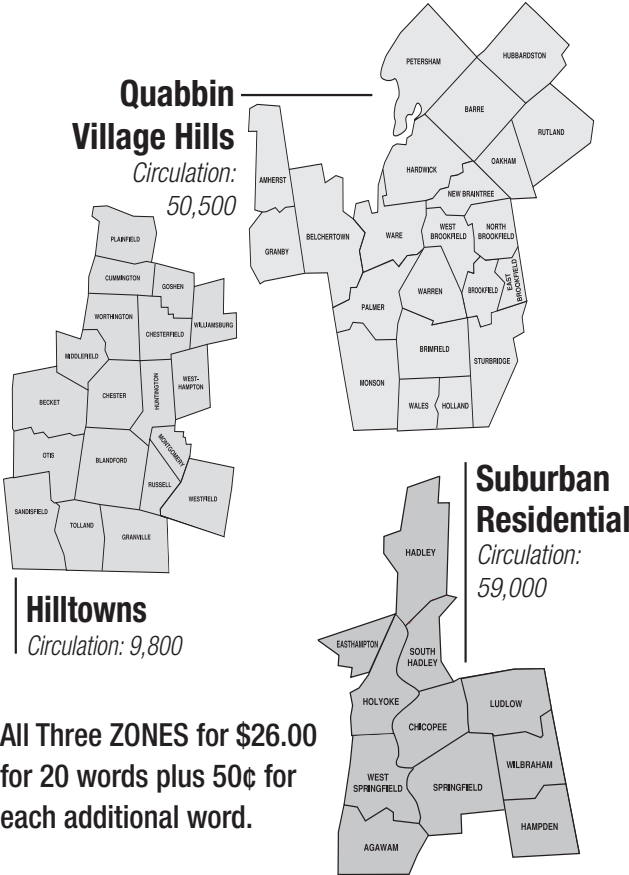
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Every Wednesday
\$5⁹⁹ Burgers at 4PM
& Musical Bingo at 6:30

Every Thursday
\$6 Pizza and Polish Night at 4PM &
Opinionation at 6:30

Every Friday and Saturday
Live Entertainment,
Weekly Specials &
Fried Seafood Favorites

OPEN FOR LUNCH
Wed - Fri at 11:00AM

Dinner served
Saturday from 11am - 10pm
& Sunday from 12pm - 9pm

Function Room Available!
(up to 50 people)
Book Your Event Today!

HANNA'S ON MAIN
EAT • DRINK • GATHER
PIZZA AND POLISH Night
EVERY THURSDAY
BIG FLAVORS. COMFORT FOOD. BETTER TOGETHER.
PIEROGIES KIELBASA PIZZA DONE RIGHT.
BUILD YOUR OWN PIZZA. Your style. Your way.
MADE FOR CATERING. Bring your crew. Make it a tradition.
GOOD FOOD. STRONG DRINKS. GREAT COMPANY.
See you Thursday!



Prime Rib Dinner
Served Every Saturday 4pm - Close
Includes a generous portion of our slow roasted prime rib served with a baked potato and a seasonal vegetable. While Supplies Last!