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Fire Association presents jaws of life tool to town

By Paula Ouimette *Editor pouimette@turley.com*

NEW BRAINTREE – This past Monday night, the New Braintree Fire Association presented a new jaws of life spreader tool to the town at the Board of Selectmen's meeting.

Association Treasurer Dody Ayer said the association has been hosting many fundraisers in order to purchase necessary equipment for the Fire Department.

"New Braintree Fire Association is constantly fundraising to purchase equipment for the Fire Department, as small towns do not have extra funds in the budget," she said. "We needed this tool for our firefighters."

Ayer thanked resident Rick Wine, who is president and

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New Braintree Firefighters (from left), Morgan, Jacob, Jen and Nick display the new jaws of life spreader tool outside of the Town Hall that was recently purchased by members of the New Braintree Fire Association thanks to fundraisers and generous donors. Association members and donors shown with the firefighters are Dody Ayer, Rehab Officer and Association Treasurer; Andrea Letendre; Assistant Chief Rich Glidden; Rick Wine; Deputy Chief Dennis Letendre; Courtney Letendre and Kathy Letendre. TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE

Car show raises money for police association

By Ryan Drago Staff Writer rdrago@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Brookfield Orchards in North Brookfield hosted the North Brookfield Police Association Car Show this past weekend. The event would also offer a Craft Fair and the snack bar at Brookfield Orchards was open for guests to shop for delicious goods such as cider donuts and apple dumplings. This was the first year of the Orchard and the North Brookfield Police Association have teamed up to

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Ranka

Murphy named as new elementary school principal

By Paula Ouimette Editor

pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Superintendent Timothy McCormick introduced new Elementary School Principal Arthur Murphy to School Committee members at their recent meeting.

"Art is an established school leader, he's been in multiple districts with great success," McCormick said at the Aug. 19 meeting. "I think Art is really the right person for this position." and resignations. He said positions are posted as soon as a resignation is received.

McCormick said new teacher orientation for all recent hires will begin that week, which includes a complete introduction to the school district and connecting staff to each other.

"We want to set our new teachers up for success as they enter the school year," he said.

New teachers will be paired with a mentor, who they will

Deb Hudgins performs at JHPL

By Ryan Drago Staff Writer rdrago@turley.com

STURBRIDGE – The Friends of Joshua Hyde Public Library welcomes Deb Hudgins for a session of Deb's Sing & Swing.

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One of many Ford Mustangs that were parked on the field of Brookfield Orchards. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO Murphy is replacing longtime North Brookfield Public Schools educator and principal Sarah Priestley, who accepted a position in another school district.

McCormick updated the committee about recent hires

meet with monthly for two years.

New school year

McCormick announced that breakfast and lunch will be free for all students across the commonwealth again this school year.

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Deb Hudgins, on her guitar, is shown playing songs related to going back to school. TURLEY PHOTO BY RYAN DRAGO



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Local book binder featured at gallery show

By Paula Ouimette *Editor pouimette@turley.com*

WEST BROOKFIELD – Since 1994, Karen Thompson Bullock and her husband, Ron, have owned and operated Old Working Books & Bindery, selling and restoring rare books by using restorative techniques that take both time, patience and a keen eye for detail.

On Friday, Sept. 6 from 5-7 p.m., Bollock will share her work at the West Brookfield Art & Frame Gallery, 10 East Main St., for an opening reception featuring wine and cheese. "Rare Books" will be on display throughout the month of September.

Bullock's historic home is also her workspace, after her family moved here in 2002 and shifted their book business online. With four book presses, Bullock can work on multiple books at once, helping give many a beloved text new life.

"Repairs are the most popular," Bullock said of her client's request.

The second most popular request is family Bible repair and restoration.

Bullock will be displaying many of her recent projects, including a first edition of H.G. Well's "The Invisible Man", which she restored from cover to cover, including each individual page.

"This is going to outlive anybody," Bullock said of the book.

A complete restoration includes

making repairs to or replacing bindings, replacing the cover and end papers and bleaching the pages to their former brightness.

Bullock said not all collectors are looking to restore their book to likenew condition, some just want to make repairs and allow the book to show its age and wear.

"There's two kind of collectors – those that want it original and those that want it new," she said.

Different styles of bindings require Bullock to use a variety of techniques, including stitching and working with leather. A skill she perfected in her almost two decades of working for Dover Saddlery.

Bullock will also feature her artwork in the "Rare Books," show, including handcrafted blank books and journals. Each journal comes with one of Bullock's custom cards, featuring artwork from books that could not be restored.

"If I can't fix a book, I salvage the pictures," she said, mounting them on Strathmore stock paper.

Bullock also uses squash prints from the U.K.'s Vintage Paper Co., which applies colorful prints on top of pages from old books. If you look closely, you can still see the words peeking out from underneath the vivid patterns.

Bullock said there will be two hanging pieces in the "Rare Books" show, including a rare Currier & Ives stock print

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Karen Thompson Bullock will be the featured artist in "Rare Books" at the West Brookfield Art & Frame Gallery, opening on Sept. 6. Bullock will share some of her rare book collection, including books she has restored and her handcrafted blank books. TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA OUMETTE



West Brookfield artist Karen Thompson Bullock carefully matches colors and shapes to create one-of-a-kind blank books and journals.





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BOOKS | FROM PAGE 2

of the twin-screw steamer "Lucania," which was featured at the New York World's Fair in 1893.

Stock prints are challenging to find, Bullock said, being more expensive to reproduce than more readily available "rush" prints. Stock prints are also hand-colored, and Bullock's print is still in its original frame made by Goodspeed's Book Shop in Boston.

Bullock also has an 1830 Abel Bowen map of the city of Boston.

"These are the only two things in the show I haven't done anything with," Bullock said.

Bullock is looking forward to the reception and sharing her love of rare books and paper with the community.

Gallery owner Rebecca Fay described Bullock as "a genius," for her talent and vision in creating her works of art.

Keeping with the theme of "Rare Books" is a complementary display that will be hung at the gallery during Bullock's show, featuring framed vintage bird illustrations that Fay received from her friend in Florida.

Fay said her friend is a writer and poet, and also a Vietnam veteran.

"He inherited this pile [of prints]

from his sister in law's father and he sent me a box," she said.

The illustrations were created by noted avian artists Guy Tudor, John Yrizarry, Michel Kleinbaum and David Simon. The originals still have the printer's marks on them, Fay said.

Fay said she's spent a lot of time researching the illustrations and found that bird enthusiasts are also book lovers and she thought this would be a fitting secondary display to showcase during "Rare Books."

"I thought it would be a good combination with Karen's show," Fay said.

Other gallery happenings

On Friday, Oct. 4 from 5-7 p.m. the gallery will host an opening reception for the second annual Jewelry Show, featuring three local jewelry makers, Jennifer Geldard, Cathe Palo and Cassandra Goldwater.

On Friday, Nov. 15 the gallery will hold its eighth annual Small Works Show with an opening reception from 5-7 p.m.

Gallery hours at West Brookfield Art & Frame are Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sundays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.



These are some of the books that Karen Thompson Bullock has fully restored, including a first edition of H.G. Well's "The Invisible Man".



Karen Thompson Bullock used binder's board and paper to make this Christmas tree decoration.

Federated Church to hold 'Welcome Home Sunday'

STURBRIDGE – The Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale has announced that it will hold a "Welcome Home Sunday" service on Sunday, Sept. 8 at 9:30 a.m.

Families who may be interested in learning more what the church has to offer in terms of community and religious education are warmly invited to attend. The church is located at 8 Maple St.

According to Reverend David W. Cote, pastor, "an early portion of the 'Welcome Home Sunday' service will include a special children's message after which they and their parents will be guided to Fellowship Hall to join the church's Sunday School staff." When the service has ended, the congregation will move to Fellowship Hall for refreshments and a social hour. "Going forward, our CORI-certified staff will be available during all future Sunday services to supervise up to 25 children, aged 6 months to 10 years of age while their parents attend church," Cote said. "The Sunday School program will encourage Christian morals and ethics, within their understanding and age level, through story time, videos, crafts, and other activities aligned with that week's teachings and sermons."

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

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







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Next year I will not...

t's just about now when I feel, to some degree, embarrassed to be called the Garden Lady.

You see, my garden is not as well kept as I'd like it to be. I skimped in a few areas that I shouldn't of.

As my oldest is about to enter her last year of high school I reflect back on the year of her birth, and how dismal my garden was that year. It was the first summer without a dog to keep critters at bay. We had a whole family of woodchucks eat pretty much everything in the garden.

I consoled myself by saying that I was growing a human that year and not a bunch of vegetables.

While responsibilities have changed in the fact I am no longer changing diapers or zipping up avocado and sweet potato in the blender, I'm still pretty busy with the kids and that has taken priority over a tidy garden. Usually it comes down to getting out what you put in and honestly, the garden has pretty much been on it's own since mid June. Gasp.

Maybe you can relate. So, the column today will be about what I plan to do better on next year, especially since I don't anticipate life slowing down anytime soon.

Next year I will not, absolutely not, skimp on fertilizer. My nature is to be frugal, but I will go back to the statement above of getting out what you put in.

I know that 12-foot squash vines probably need more sustenance than the few shovels of compost I put in their hills. This is evident by how pale the leaves are.

Contrast that to the self-sown decorative squash plants that grew in my compost pile comprised mainly of chicken bedding and manure. They are unbelievably healthy, replete with numerous healthy fruit.

My soil test did indicate that nitrogen was low, and I did intend to go back when I bought that new bag of blood meal and amend it further but alas I did not. Next year I will not skimp on fertilizer.

Next year I will not, absolutely not, skimp on mulch. When I looked at what was left for mulch from the previous year I figured I had enough to get by.

Wrong. Part of the reason the yard looks

- opinion -





I'm already collecting Social Security how will my WEP be calculated

Dear Rusty

I don't understand exactly how the Windfall Elimination Provision works for my situation. I turned 62 in 2017 and am currently still working in a "non-covered" job, not paying into Social Security, but from which I will get a government pension when I retire. I began collecting Social Security at my full retirement age in 2021 and am now collecting \$1,507 per month thanks to the cost of living adjustments since I started. Will my Social Security benefit be reduced by \$587 if I retire this year? SignedConfused by WEP

Dear Confused

You're certainly not alone to be confused by WEP and your situation is somewhat special because you started your SS benefits before taking your "non-covered" government pension. And, unfortunately, most tools and charts, which suggest how much WEP will reduce your Social Security benefit don't accommodate that nuance very well.

In your case, when you claimed Social Security at your Full Retirement Age, you were awarded the full benefit you were entitled to, unreduced by WEP because you were not yet collecting your non-covered government pension. You were able to collect your full SS amount and receive each year's full Cost Of Living Adjustments to those higher amounts. What actually happens is that each person's Primary Insurance Amount is first determined at age 62 and Social Security applies an annually awarded COLA to their PIA even if they're not yet receiving benefits. You received your full PIA including COLA, because you claimed at your Full Retirement Age. But when you start collecting your pension from your non-covered government job, the Windfall Elimination Provision will kick in and reduce your Social Security benefit. The amount of WEP reduction depends on how many years you had contributed to Social Security from "substantial" earnings but, with 20 or fewer years, the maximum WEP reduction is determined by the year you turn 62 and doesn't change. Since you turned 62 in 2017, your maximum WEP reduction, according to Social Security's process, is \$442.50, lower than the \$587 you suspect.

Nevertheless, due to the way Social Security calculates the WEP reduction, the reduction from your current amount will seem larger than the WEP maximum. And that's because of the way Social Security applies the WEP reduction to your benefit. They start by first removing all COLA increases since you were 62 from your PIA. They will then take your PIA (sans COLA) and subtract \$442.50 (if you have more than 20 years of substantial SS-covered earnings they will subtract less and then they will reapply all the cost-of-living increases since you were 62 to the WEP-reduced PIA.

What just happened, in effect, is that your previous, pre-WEP, COLA increases were removed from your PIA and those same COLA percentages were reapplied to your smaller WEP-reduced PIA to arrive at your new monthly benefit amount under the Windfall Elimination Provision. And that new amount will be lower than your previous SS benefit amount by more than the published maximum WEP reduction for the year you turned 62.

A word of caution: Timely notification to Social Security of your non-covered pension is very important. As soon as you receive your non-covered pension award letter, deliver it to your local Social Security office and request a WEP recalculation of your SS retirement benefit. The WEP recalculation will likely take months to process, during which time you will continue to receive your higher non-WEP SS benefit. That means you will be overpaid for the period between when your non-covered pension started and the month your new WEP SS payment began and that overpayment must be refunded to Social Security. The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/ social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



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OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

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

like a jungle is because I should have mulched thicker. Mulch serves several purposes. It covers bare soil and prevents weed seeds in the soil from seeing the light of day, germinating and turning into a nuisance.

Mulch also breaks down over time into organic matter then humus, and feeds the soil. It also helps to conserve moisture.

Until this week we didn't really need help with that, but the abundance of rain, added to not nearly thick enough mulch, surely made for numerous weeds! Next year I will not skimp on mulch.

Next year I will not, absolutely not, let the weeds take over. The first two "will nots" relate to this paragraph entirely.

I prepped the garden and knew I should till in the old strawberry plants. I looked at a few sparse blossoms and thought, "I may get a few berries, I'll leave them in place and till them in later."

Well, the berries were few and far between but the surrounding weeds took over. Then the necrotic squash plants grew all over the

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Send opinions to:

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

Saint Joseph's hosts 42nd **BBQ** and parish picnic

NORTH BROOKFIELD – All are welcome to attend the 42nd annual Chicken BBQ and parish picnic at Saint Joseph's Church, 296 North Main St., on Saturday, Sept. 7 and Sunday, Sept. 8.

There will be plenty of fair food on Saturday evening and a delicious BBQ chicken dinner served on Sunday from 12:30-1:30 p.m. The cost of the chicken dinner is \$15 for adults and \$8 for children ages 12 and under.

Music will be provided by DJ Richard "Tabby" LeBlanc on Saturday and Sunday. The parish will also have assorted raffles including a scratch ticket raffle which features the grand prize of a book (50) \$30 lottery scratch tickets, and lastly a delicious bake sale.

Events begin on Saturday with a parish picnic at 5 p.m. on the church lawn after a special 4 p.m. Mass at the church. From 5-7 p.m. music will be provided by DJ Richard "Tabby" LeBlanc and there will also be assorted fair-style food and raffles.

On Sunday from noon-3 p.m. DJ Richard "Tabby" LeBlanc returns to provide music. There will also be a bake sale and assorted raffles.

The chicken BBQ dinner will be served (eat in and take out) from 12:30-1:30 p.m.

For chicken dinner tickets and more information, please call the parish office Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at 508-867-6469.

Proposed short-term rental by-law public hearing is Sept. 10

WEST BROOKFIELD - On Tuesday, Sept. 10, the Board of Selectmen and the Planning Board will hold a public hearing on a new proposed Short-Term Rental Bylaw.

The hearing will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 10 at 6 p.m. at the West Brookfield Senior Center, 73 Central St.

This issue may be taken up during a Special Fall Town Meeting.

GARDEN | FROM PAGE 4

weeds and the strawberry plants so I'm forced to wait until the first frost to deal with the whole mess.

I'm not sure who said it first, but it's a smart diatribe: "Do not put off until tomorrow what can be done today."

With all this said I must cut myself some slack, and if you failed anywhere along the line with your garden, you should as well. Our gardens are a work in progress and although I wish I had done a better job, I did OK.

We enjoyed some yummy green beans and I froze some kale. I did make tomato sauce on a couple of occasions and hopefully will have another chance at it and maybe I'll get a few butternuts to eat.

I know for sure I'll get some nice decorative squash, thanks to the composted chicken manure. Live and learn I guess.

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

Muster Day & Marquis

Commemorate American history with Old Sturbridge Village

STURBRIDGE - Old Sturbridge al of Lafayette's Farewell Tour. In 1824, Village invites the public to experience early American militia traditions during its annual Muster Day on Saturday, Aug. 31.

This year's event will showcase the historic military practices that shaped early New England and serve as the prelude to a significant milestone: the Bicentennial of the Marquis de Lafayette's Farewell Tour of the United States.

Muster Day is a cherished tradition that dates to the early 19th century when farmers and craftsmen dutifully answered the call to supplement the modest armed forces by joining local militia units, which laid the groundwork for today's National Guard. Twice a year, these citizen soldiers were "called to muster" for a day of intensive training in their town, preparing to defend their communities in times of need.

From 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m., visitors will have the unique opportunity to witness firsthand the training and camaraderie of these citizen soldiers, from marching drills to musket and cannon firing and target practice. The day's activities will also include mock battles, known as "sham fights," all accompanied by martial music played on period instruments.

"Old Sturbridge Village is the only place in New England where you can witness a recreated early 19th century militia muster. These were not only days for the militia to get out and practice drills and maneuvers, but they were often public spectacles that were treated like holidays," said Derek Heidemann, Director of Collections and Research at Old Sturbridge Village, in a press release.

This year's Muster Day is especially significant as it ties into the Bicentennithe beloved French General set out on a tour of the United States, visiting towns and cities across the nation to celebrate the enduring friendship between France and America.

In conjunction with the American Friends of Lafayette, the Village has on display an exhibit that explores Lafayette's historic visit, including objects from the OSV Museum Collection. Visitors will also have the chance to make "Welcome Lafayette" ribbons and enjoy gingerbread made from Mary Washington's famous recipe - just as Lafayette may have tasted during his visit.

On Tuesday, Sept. 3 on Main Street in Sturbridge, beginning at 6 p.m. the American Friend of Lafayette's 2024-2025 Bicentennial Tour will be making a stop.

"We are thrilled to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Marquis de Lafayette's historic tour of the United States. In 1824, Lafayette was celebrated by massive crowds and his visit was a momentous event for every town he passed through," said Heidemann. "Old Sturbridge Village staff is excited to commemorate Lafayette's journey throughout Worcester County, with a special event on the evening of September 3 on the Sturbridge Common, marking the end of Lafayette's Massachusetts tour exactly as it happened in 1824."

To view the full Muster Day event schedule or purchase tickets, please visit https://www.osv.org/event/muster-day.

To learn more about the 200th Anniversary of Lafayette's Farewell Tour, please visit Commemoration of Lafayette's Farewell Tour - Sturbridge, MA -Old Sturbridge Village (osv.org).



- community -Selectmen discuss changes to streetlights

By Paula Ouimette Editor pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Board of Selectmen Clerk Vaughn Schlegel read a draft letter from the board to send to National Grid about participating in a streetlight replacement program.

This program would allow the town to convert from high-pressure sodium lights to LED for both town and private-paid streetlights.

"All of this will be done at no cost to the residents and community," he read from the letter at the Aug. 20 meeting. "We will work with National Grid to ensure that wattages and illumination is bright enough for the location of the lights to ensure the safety of our residents and the community."

The board approved the letter to send to National Grid.

Grove Street streetlight

Administrative Assistant Ashley Barre said National Grid turned off the streetlight located on Grove Street years ago, but offered to turn it back on after a resident requested for it to be turned on again. The town would be responsible for the cost to operate the streetlight, which is estimated at about \$11 a month.

STM warrant

The board approved the warrant for the special town meeting to be held on Tuesday, Sept. 10 at 7 p.m. at the North Brookfield Police Department. The warrant contains two articles, including article 1, an amendment to the general bylaws regarding downtown unloading for businesses. The amendment states: "No person shall stand or park a vehicle, either for purposes of loading or unloading, or any other purpose, in such a way that it occupies two or more public parking spaces or portions thereof. Loading and unloading of vehicles shall take place in areas designated for that purpose. Violation of this bylaw shall result in a fine to the vehicle owner of \$50. This section will be enforced by any town police officer or take any action relative thereto."

Article 2 will ask voters to transfer \$176.68 from the Collector Postage Machine account to prior year unpaid bills. Electrical aggregate program

Resident John Tripp said he has heard from many residents with questions about the electrical aggregate program the town is taking part in.

Board of Selectmen Chair Jason Petraitis said any residents with questions about the program and how it works, can contact the Selectmen's office at 508-867-0200. Vice-Chair Elizabeth "Brooke" Canada said there is additional contact information on the letter that was mailed to all residents.

Petraitis said residents can also view meetings on the town's public access YouTube channel in which the program was discussed. Recent meeting dates include June 4 and June 18.

"We have been talking about this for a long time," Petraitis said.

Canada said the town and residents will see a savings by participating in the program over time, as electrical costs fluctuate. Tripp said he will save about three and a half cents per kilowatt hour by participating in the program. Residents can opt out of the program at any time without penalty.

One-day liquor licenses

The board approved a one-day liquor license for Still Hart's Cafe's annual playground fundraiser on Sept. 7 from 11 a.m.-9 p.m. There will be outdoor music, karaoke, a food truck and cornhole.

"They do this pretty much every year," Petraitis said.

Canada said the event benefits the town's playground and Parks and Recreation Committee and is a fun event.

The board also approved two one-day liquor licenses for Stars & Stripes, with

one on Sept. 1 from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. and the other on Sept. 28.

CMRPC extension

The board approved an extension request from the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission for grant rounds from fiscal years 2020 and 2021.

The FY 21 grant includes the Mt. Pleasant Street improvement project, and is likely to be extended until June 2025, Barre said. FY 20 will be extended until Dec. 31 and includes the several housing rehabilitation projects and the Senior Center roof replacement.

Senior Center hosts Medicare presentation on Sept. 4

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The North Brookfield Senior Center will be hosting an educational presentation on Thursday, Sept. 4 at 12:30 p.m. at the senior center located at 29 Forest St. for current beneficiaries and for those who will soon be eligible for Medicare.

West Brookfield seniors are also invited. The information is specific to Massachusetts and the session will run from 1 to 1.5 hours, including time for questions.

The presentation will be conducted by Ed Spater, a licensed insurance agent, who will explain the basics of Medicare including:

• Why it's important to evaluate your current Medicare coverage each year

• The pros and cons of each of your

- Medicare coverage options
- What to consider when deciding which Medicare coverage option is right for you
- Ways to save money and get better Medicare coverage in 2024

For accommodations of persons with special needs at meetings call 774-271-5199 or 711 for TTY callers

Town Clerk lists 2024 State Primary information

WEST BROOKFIELD – The State Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 3 at the West Brookfield Senior Center, 73 Central St. with polling hours from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

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JAWS OF LIFE FROM PAGE 1

CEO of EP Wine in Barre, for being a major donor in this fundraising effort, as well as Hardwick Crossing Country Club owner Ken Uracius (a New Braintree native) and his general manager, Courtney Letendre.

Hardwick Crossing was the location for the association's recent Firemen's Gala fundraiser, which Ayer said was "very, very successful."

Ayer said the association holds fundraisers throughout the year, including the annual Christmas in New Braintree Craft Fair in December and the Firemen's Gala at Hardwick Crossing, which is already scheduled to be held on March 22, 2025.



The New Braintree Fire Association presented a jaws of life spreader tool to the Board of Selectmen. Board members are Michael McQueston, Joe Chenevert and Dennis Letendre Jr. TURI FY PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE



Local businesses also provided financial support to purchase the jaws of life spreader tool, including EP Wine in Barre and Hardwick Crossing Country Club in Gilbertville. Shown from left are Rick Wine, president and CEO of EP Wine and Courtney Letendre, general manager of Hardwick Crossing Country Club.

200th anniversary of Lafayette's Farewell Tour is Sept. 3

STURBRIDGE - This year marks the bicentennial celebration of the Marquis de Lafayette's Farewell Tour of the United States in 1824.

Join the Sturbridge Historical Society and Old Sturbridge Village on Sept. 3 at 6 p.m. for a commemorative event on the Sturbridge Town Common, the exact ground where Lafayette stopped. An actor portraying Lafayette will be greeted by costumed interpreters portraying veterans of the Revolution, members of the Sturbridge Artillery, who will stand by with their cannon, and the musicians from the Uxbridge Grenadiers.

There will be a triumphal arch, toasts by costumed interpreters from Old Sturbridge Village, fife and drum music, as well as performances by the OSV Singers and Dancers. Experience the closest thing to the actual events that took place in 1824 here in Sturbridge.

This ceremony is free and open to the public.

This commemorative event is part of The American Friends of Lafayette's 2024-2025 Bicentennial Tour, which will take place across the 24 states that Lafayette visited on his Farewell Tour. For more details about The American Friends of Lafayette and

other Bicentennial Tour programming, please visit lafayette200.org.

At 7:30 p.m., there will be a banquet commemorating Lafayette's visit to Massachusetts and New Hampshire at the Publick House, which is one of the buildings that Lafayette actually visited in 1824. The dinner is the Publick House's distinctive "Yankee Dinner Buffet."

Alan Hoffman, President of American Friends of Lafayette and translator of the account written by Lafayette's secretary, will reflect on the contrast between the original tour and its just completed recreation. There will be an additional discussion of Lafayette's human rights record.

Members of the Colonel Timothy Bigelow chapter of the DAR will do a presentation on "Lafayette and the Ladies."

Tickets are \$75 per person and pre-registration is required. Limited spaces are available.

To purchase tickets, go to the website for The American Friends of Lafayette, search under Events for Sturbridge Publick House Banquet.





CAR SHOW | FROM PAGE 1

bring the car show to the community and help raise money for the association.

Diana Sears of Brookfield Orchards alongside Officer Mark Sawyer made this event possible as hundreds of visitors, vendors and car owners arrived.

"Its fun to see how it all happened," Sears said running an event for the first time at Brookfield Orchards.

The Craft Fair was new for this year's car show as 12 vendors showed up. The Orchard was very satisfied with the turnout they had and the tremendous support by local residents and businesses.

"We're all about helping out our first responders," Sears said.

North Brookfield Savings Bank sponsored the dunk tank that was featured during the Craft Fair. Police Sgt. David Churchey was the officer awaiting for the constant dunks as kids and adults attempted to hit the target dunk the officer. It was a warm sunny day at the Orchard and Churchey probably appreciated staying cool in the dunk tank.

Into the Grain Axe Throwing brought their mobile axe cage for axe throwing. The Orchard provided hayrides with the tractor touring guests around.

Sawyer was in charge of the car show and the raffles. He said planning for this event has been going on since February and the turnouts have increased since last year.

"Last year we raised \$1,400, we've tripled that amount this year," Sawyer

said.

There were over 110 cars entering the car show and last year's show featured 48. Sawyer appreciated all the support and collaboration with Sears and Brookfield Orchards.

"Sears has been outstanding," Sawyer said. "This place brings a very small town atmosphere."

There were three winners at the Car Show with a 1978 Dodge Challenger winning first place.

One car owner, Ted Morin, brought his dog Coco with him and let visitors sit in his 1963 Chevy Corvette. Morin has owned the car since 1991 and put in six years of restoration work to the car. Coco was styling with a pair of shades while hanging alongside the corvette.

Mark Hibbard of New Braintree brought a 1964 Ford Falcon, which he's owned for 42 years. It took Hibbard 10 years to restore the vehicle and now he got to bring it to the car show. Hibbard is a retired mechanic and comes from a family of mechanics and car enthusiasts.

"It's in the blood," Hibbard said, who's grandfather and father before him also worked as mechanics.

Juniors at North Brookfield High School were offering drawings and crafts for kids who got to design their own police badges. Volunteering their time were Donald Traub and Sophia Giangrande.

All the proceeds raised from the event will benefit the North Brookfield Police Association.



North Brookfield Savings Bank represented by Jesse Howe, left, Katherine Meyer, Marc St. Germain and Audrey Moulton during the Car Show. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO



Brookfield Orchards provided hayrides.



This Black Top Rebel features a flame paint job with multiple stickers and sponsors.





Police Officer Mark Sawyer announced the winners of the car show.





North Brookfield High School juniors Sophia Giangrande and Donald Traub worked a booth where kids could design and draw their own police badges.



North Brookfield Police Sgt. David Churchey sits in the dunk tank during the Car Show and Craft Fair at Brookfield Orchards.

Ted Morin with his dog Coco posing next to his 1963 Chevy Corvette.



1978 Dodge Challenger, which was one of the winning cars of the Car Show.

sports@turley.com @turleysports @turleysports

Central Mass. wins Bay State Games

West team falls in bronze medal game

WALTHAM – The Central and West field hockey teams well-represented their regions in the Bay State Games held over the summer. The Central team won the gold while the West team made it to bronze game. Here are some highlights of the tournament.

Central won an early round game against Metro/Northeast 3-1. Central goals scored by juniors Katelynn Swistak (6) and Emma Huslander (2) as well as sophomore Elly Schofer (8). Metro/Northeast's lone goal was scored by sophomore Lia Arevalo (10) assisted

See GAMES | PAGE 12



Maddie Dart makes her way up the field for

Alise Quinn makes a run up the field.

Warriors participate in play day

SOUTH HADLEY – Last Sunday on a sun-splashed day, Tantasqua girls soccer went to South Hadley and took on several Western Mass. teams in a play day held at the high school. The even featured Agawam, Chicopee Comprehensive, and

Minnechaug as well as host South Hadley. The Warriors have one more scrimmage scheduled against Nipmuc Regionl on Friday morning, then turn their attention to their season opener at Marlborough on Tuesday afternoon at 4 p.m. The Warriors first home game will be held on Monday, Sept. 9 at 3:30 p.m.

Izzy Cox tries to head off the ball. TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Larger Panthers team looks to take gridiron by storm

By Tim Peterson Sports Correspondent

BARRE—Wayne Page was named as the varsity football coach at Quabbin Regional High School prior to the start of the 2021 regular season.

The Quabbin football team only had 19 players in uniform for the final game of the 2021 campaign, which was a home loss to rival Gardner on the

night before Thanksgiving.

the Warriors

When the Panthers kick off the 2024 regular season against the Gardner Wildcats at home on September 12, they'll have more than 40 players standing on the sideline.

"We finished the 2021 season with only 19 players, and we now have 43 players," said Page following a recent preseason

See PANTHERS | PAGE 12

Central Mass. takes field hockey gold

SUBMITTED PHOTO The Central Mass. Bay State Games Field Hockey team won the Gold Medal, which included Quabbin player, shown here, sophomore Makenzie Casey. The Bay State Games were held from Thursday, July 12 to Sunday July 14. The field hockey showcase consisted of five regions: Metro; Northeast; Southeast; Coastal; West and Central. The Central team went 3-0-1 in tournament play, and played in the gold medal round against the 3-1 Southeast team, beating them 2-1. Some of the local field hockey players were Makenzie Casey, Quabbin Regional HS; Kaitlynn Swistak, Quaboag Regional HS: Alyssa Drapuck, Tantasqua HS.





Jenkins Miller passes to Colin Harmon during action last season.FILE PHOTO



Anthony Quartarone blocks as Jacoby Dilling tries to steal during a November game last year. FILE PHOTO

- sports -

Former Red Sox prospect leads new baseball camp

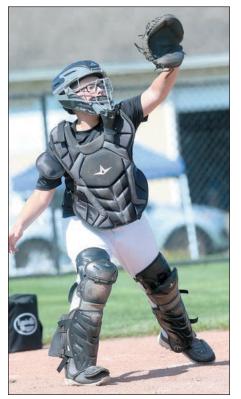
By Tim Peterson Sports Correspondent

WILBRAHAM—Many sports camps were held throughout Western Massachusetts during the past several months.

The Summer Sendoff Baseball Camp



Alex Nunlist fields a grounder.



Catcher TJ Ryan catches a ball at the plate.

took place on the baseball fields at Spec Pond in Wilbraham from August 19-22. The camp was run by Dustin Brisson, who played Minor League Baseball for the Boston Red Sox.

"I held a couple of private baseball clinics with Doug Clark, who's the WooSox hitting coach, during the offseason," Brisson said. "I spoke with the Wilbraham Parks & Recreation Department about holding a baseball camp during the summertime. All these kids just love playing the game of baseball. I really wanted them to have high quality instruction and the resources to be successful."

Brisson was aided at the four day camp by Bryan Barnowski, Ace Adams, Gary Burnham, who was an All-American baseball player at Clemson University, and Dan Gomez, who's the head baseball coach at Western New England University. Minnechaug Regional varsity baseball coach Mike Netkovick worked at the camp for one day. Ray Fagnant, who's the Boston Red Sox Northeast Regional Scouting Supervisor, also attended the camp for a day. Fagnant grew up in Chicopee.

About 40 baseball players between the ages of 6-16 from Wilbraham and the surrounding communities attended the inaugural baseball camp.

"We have a few kids from South Hadley, Agawam, and East Longmeadow at this camp," Brisson added. "This is a very good group of kids to work with. All of them listen to us and they're having a lot of fun."

The players were split up into two groups.

"We play a lot more games with the younger kids, who are in grades 1-5," Brisson said. "We do more skills with the older kids."

Brisson, who was born in Florida, played college baseball at the University of Central Florida from 1997-2000. He also played baseball in the prestigious Cape Cod League and is a member of PeoplesBank, which captured another Tri-County League championship title this summer.

He was drafted by the New York Mets and the Miami Marlins before signing with the Red Sox.

He advanced to Double A before his professional 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 now doing what I can to give back."

Brisson also owns Forge Athletics.

"I started Forge Athletics back in May," he said. "I want to run more baseball clinics in the future. I'm also looking forward to running this baseball camp again next year."

Barnowski, who lives in Southwick, was one of Brisson's teammates at the Single A level.



Parker Duquette dives for a catch.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Bryan and I were teammates on a Single A team," Brisson said. "His sister and my wife have been friends for 40 years. I met my wife when I went to visit him during the offseason, and we've been married for 22 years. My wife's family is from Wilbraham, and we moved here in 2005. We love living in this community."

Because it rained on the first day, the camp was held indoors down the street at the Soccer City Sportscenter.

"Soccer City isn't really designed for baseball, but we made the best of it on the first day of the camp," Brisson said. "The people there were very accommodating. We were able to use both of their soccer fields. We were able to have a full workout. The only thing that we didn't do was to have a live batting practice. The baseball fields here at Spec Pond is one of the best in the area."

Brisson main goal was to teach the players the fundamentals of baseball. He and his staff also held a meeting each morning to map out the schedule for that day.

"My main goal is to teach the players the basic fundamentals of the game," he said. "I also want to keep the kids active. I really don't want them standing around doing nothing. We also talked to the kids about mental health."

Brayden Pacifico, who lives in Wilbraham, had a lot of fun at the baseball camp.

"It's awesome being here with my friends at this baseball camp," said Pacifico, who's a centerfielder. "I've learned a lot about baseball from the coaches, who have a lot of experience. Baseball is my favorite sport."

Baseball was also Brisson's favorite sport growing up. He was also a swimmer and a wrestler.

"I always tell kids to play multiple sports," Brisson said. "My daughter, Natalie, who's six years old, plays soccer and is a swimmer. We want her to experience everything. A lot of kids who only play one sport get burned out very quickly."

Brisson and his staff are already looking forward to holding the baseball camp again next summer.

Fanning captures win in Street Stocks at Thompson Speedway

THOMPSON, CT — A perfect Wednesday, Aug. 14 afternoon in the quiet corner of Connecticut brought the fans in droves for the annual NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour Wednesday night showcase at Thompson Speedway. The Thompson 150 presented by Flo-Sports headlined a seven division card of racing on Wednesday night that also included a fan-favorite visit for the New England Supermodified Series and the five track championship divisions that call Thompson home throughout the season. The Street Stocks started off the evening's feature racing with Scott Sundeen at the head of the pack. Sundeen powered up looking to nab his first win of the season followed by Al Stone III, 'Leadfoot' Larry Barnett and Corey Fanning nose-to-tail behind him. The lone caution on lap 12 for the spinning Tim Poulin set up a final showdown between Sundeen and Fanning with Corey Fanning powering through to the win with Ryan Waterman making moves to take second and Al Stone III holding on for third. Following NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour qualifying the Mini Stocks took on the highbanks with Steve Michalski and Rick LaFlesh. LaFlesh got the jump into the lead as heavy-hitters

Jared Roy and Kevin Moore battled for second just inches off LaFlesh's back bumper. Roy sling-shot into the lead powering out of turn four under the halfway crossed-flags. Jared Roy would put the peddle down to return to his winning ways followed by Kevin Moore wide, shooting off turn two and down the back straightaway with Bowes coming out with the lead. Coming from mid-pack, Jon McKennedy also rounded Storace to take third, made the long march to take on Seitz and dove underneath to take position on lap 21. With a diving under Emerling in a look to the near future. Jake Johnson would slam into the turn one wall on lap 76 from mid-pack with an apparent mechanical failure to rerack the field once more. The subsequent restart saw top-5 runner Chase Dowling quickly fall through the field with obvious issues under the hood to swamp a great day for the Tinio Motorsports group as Emerling continued to dominate at the front. The final stretch would see Patrick Emerling dominant the Thompson 150 presented by FloSports for his fifth career NA-SCAR Whelen Modified Tour win and first at Thompson Speedway followed by Justin Bonsignore and Craig Lutz. The AZ Roofing SK Light Modifieds and the Late Models wrapped up the Wednesday night racing action at Thompson. Cautions plauged the opening circuits of the SK Light feature, taking out point leader Tyler Chapman and rookie Steve Midford, leaving Meghan Fuller to battle Nick Hovey and John O'Sullivan. Nick Hovey would motor around Fuller for his first win of the season with John O'Sullivan coming home third. The Late Model 25-lap sprint would see Derek Gluchacki charge ahead of the field to take back-to-back wins followed by Nick Johnson and Matt Lowinski-Loh.

and Ryan Pomposelli.

Rookie Isaiah Newcomb brought the Thompson Sunoco Modifieds to the green flag with Jon Puleo quickly launching the head of the pack. By lap five, Todd Owen had charged up to second and began stalking the youngster with a few love taps on the bumper. Owen would charge under Puleo to lead lap seven with Puleo left to fend off Keith Rocco for second. Puleo would use the cross-over to lead lap 13 with Rocco and Owen getting physical for second. Content to run 1-2-3, the leaders waited for laps to wind down in their 30-lap main event and took it right down to the checkered flags with Jon Puleo taking his fifth win of the season followed by Keith Rocco and Todd Owen in victory lane.

Bobby Timmons and Jim Storace brought the New England Supermodified Series to green for their 30-lap main event. The heart-stopping move of the race would come on lap 4 as Ben Seitz and Dan Bowes took Storace threestraightaway lead Dan Bowes took the win just nine lightning-fast laps later followed by McKenney and Seitz at the line.

Fast time, Mayhew Tools polesitter Patrick Emerling brought the 26-car NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour field to green and quickly shot out front ahead of Craig Lutz. Dave 'Sap' Sapienza brought out the first caution on lap 20 with a flat right rear sending him in the spin-cycle in turn three. Emerling would maintain the lead under the return to green flag racing with a rear-view mirror full of Justin Bonsignore. The leaders would begin taking on lap traffic on lap 53 but remained settled in for the long-haul strategy. The second caution on lap 60 for the spinning Woody Pitkat off turn two saw the entire field jump pit-side for tires and adjustments in preparation for the second half of the Thompson 150 presented by FloSports.

Patrick Emerling again maintained his lead position by an impatient Justin Bonsignore began to show his hand,

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T-Birds announce series of front office promotions

SPRINGFIELD – With Opening Night less than two months away, the Springfield Thunderbirds proudly announced that six veteran front office staff members will take on promotions to their roles for the 2024-25 season.

Last season, the team achieved multiple franchise milestones, including alltime Springfield hockey records in average attendance per game (6,321), sellout games (20), season ticket members, and group sales revenue. The team ended the 2023-24 season by posting an incredible 14 consecutive sellouts.

Jessica Hansen has been promoted to Senior Director of Finance and Human Resources. Hansen, an alumna of Western New England University and a native of Feeding Hills, Mass., has been on the Thunderbirds staff since 2017. In addition to her finance and HR responsibilities, she has been integral in growing the team's in-game charitable presence through 50/50, jersey raffle, and Chuck-a-Puck sales. She has also served a supervisory role in the club's charitable foundation matters and merchandise.

Drew Supernor has been promoted to Senior Manager of Brand Development & Merchandise. A Springfield native and Springfield College alumnus, Supernor has grown the Thunderbirds' merchandise revenues each season since the club's inception in 2016 through many unique product lines, such as the team's various specialty night rebrands throughout the year. In 2023-24, the team generated six times greater revenue in merchandise when compared to the final season of the Springfield Falcons in 2015-16. In recognition of his customer service and dedication, Supernor was honored with a 2024 Howdy Award for hospitality excellence this past May.

Lauren Blanchard has been promoted to Senior Account Executive, Groups and Experiences. An Agawam, Mass. native, Blanchard joined the Thunderbirds in 2021 and has set multiple team records for group tickets, including the most sold for a single game. Thanks to Blanchard's efforts and the entirety of the ticket sales department, the Thunderbirds' group sales revenue has grown 77% over the last six years. The department spearheaded the franchise to the 2021-22 President's Award for AHL Team of the Year. Blanchard was also nominated for a 2024 Howdy Award for hospitality excellence.

Shae Koharski has been promoted to Manager of Social Media & Digital Marketing. A Russell, Mass. native, Koharski has been with the Thunderbirds since 2021. She has exponentially grown Thunderbirds' social media accounts, as the club has eclipsed 80,000 followers across X, Facebook, and Instagram. Her acumen for social media trends has allowed the Thunderbirds' social media to not only provide fun content for fans, but grow the brand in the marketplace while evolving to current trends.

Lucas Armstrong has been promoted to Art Director. An East Amherst, N.Y. native, Armstrong has been instrumental in creating and implementing the Thunderbirds' graphic design as a "keeper of the brand" since joining the organization in 2019. An industry veteran with over 20 years of experience across professional sports and nationally acclaimed brands, Armstrong's work alongside his creative colleagues was recognized with the AHL's Marketing Campaign of the Year award in 2022 for the club's "We Are 413" tagline.

Steve Brousseau has been promoted to Account Executive, Membership Sales & Service. A Springfield College alumnus and a native of Freeport, Maine, Brousseau joined the team fulltime in 2021 after interning for the organization previously. An exemplary builder of relationships with his ticket members, Brousseau will specialize in servicing the Thunderbirds' season ticket members throughout the 2024-25 season as the organization looks to break its season ticket holder record for a ninth consecutive season.

Westfield State University to hold swimming clinics

WESTFIELD – Westfield State swimming and diving coach Matt Nodell will host a Nike Swim Clinic at the Ely Pool on campus on Sept. 7 and 8.

Saturday, Sept. 7 is for co-ed athletes aged 8-12 years old, while Sunday, Sept. 8 is for athletes in the 13-18 year old age groups.

"Participants can expect to learn and practice drills to help them swim easier and faster," said Nodell. "All is done in a fun and engaging environment with contests and competitions."

The clinics last from 9 a.m. to 12 noon each day, with check in at 8:45 a.m.

The fee for the clinic is \$125 and in-

cludes the morning training session, a camp t-shirt and prizes.

For more information or to register online, visit https://www.ussportscamps.com/swim/nike/westfield-stateswim-clinic

Ely Pool is the home of the Westfield State University Owls women's swimming and diving team. The pool has recently seen upgrades with new starting blocks, an updated team locker room and records board, and features 1 and 3 meter diving boards. Nodell is starting his second season as the head coach of the Owls. He led the team to a fifth-place finish at the Little East Conference championships and a 3-3 mark in dual meets.

Quabbin Valley Baseball League seeking to start fall league

The Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League is looking to start an eightgame fall program for the over-28 population. The league, which plays a spring/ summer regular season with six teams for 15 games followed by playoffs, is hoping to continue the fun into the fall with a short eight-game schedule for interested players.

Preliminary details are still being worked on, but the league is looking to have four teams with six "regular season" games followed by a semifinal in the seventh week, and a final/consolation game in the eighth week.

The league will be a bit more informal than the regular spring/summer league with the goal being for players to have fun playing more baseball, work on field and batting skills through more innings in the field and extra at-bats, or potentially working on or trying out pitching.

As has been traditional in other fall leagues, the Quabbin League will likely be wood-bat only for the fall.

There is an interest form and survey interested players can fill out at www. quabbinvalleybaseball.org. The league is open to all current Quabbin league players as well as players from other leagues who are age 28 and over during the calendar year of 2024.

The league will look to keep the cost very low for the league with preliminary indications having the league in the \$40-50 range to play eight games.

Games will likely be held in the West Springfield, Agawam, Southwick area and are likely to be held on Sunday mornings, though a few games may be held at alternate times. Games are scheduled to begin in September after Labor Day.

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago Staff Writer rdrago@turley.com

Tuesday Night Commercial

The defending champions are Life is Good, consisting of bowlers John Havens Sr, Paul Cyr, Jeff Knight, Scott Denault and Jim Plushner. Life is Good took the crown by defeating The can be reached by calling 413-289-0013.

Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes also has leagues on the evenings of Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Fall leagues forming at Bogey Lanes EAST BROOKFIELD – Bogey Lanes is preparing for their fall leagues of the 2024-2025 season. The candlepin league season goes on from September and ends sometime in April or May. There are leagues available for adults, teens and youth bowlers. Bogey Lanes will be featuring weekly leagues on Sunday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The Monday Doubles Mixed League will be a bi-weekly league. There is a senior league available for seniors on Thursdays in the afternoon at 1pm.

There are several leagues available for kids and teens. Kids will have a bumper league on Fridays as will be a non-bumper league for kids. There will be a teen league on Wednesday nights at 5 p.m. starting in late September. For those new to the bowling game and looking for a night out, tryout for some of the leagues available at Bogey Lanes. Bogey Lanes is taking signups at their front desk or by email, info@bogeylanes.com. For more information about fall leagues call Bogey Lanes at 508-867-6629. Visit Bogey Lanes at 199 North Brookfield Road.

Elks League

PALMER – The fall/winter leagues will be starting after Labor Day at Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes in Palmer.

The Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League will be the first league to begin the candlepin league season of 2024-2025. The league is looking to have a full league this season with eight four-person teams. Champs R Here and Compression in a three-way playoff battle for the season championship.

Life is Good is aiming to defend their championship in the upcoming season. The league consists of three separate rounds. Each round winner will advance to the playoffs at the end of the season. The opening league night of the season for the Commercial Elks League will begin the Tuesday right after Labor Day. Visit Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes at 1446 North Main St. The lanes



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PANTHERS | FROM PAGE 9

practice. "The players have worked very hard during the offseason, and I'm really excited about this season."

The Panthers return a total of 19 starters from last year's squad, which finished with a 5-6 overall record.

"A lot of the seniors were forced to play key roles for us when they were freshmen, so they took their lumps," said Page, who was previously an assistant football coach at both Grafton High School, which is his alma mater, and at Hudson High School. "We're a very experienced team on both sides of the ball this year. We just need to keep working hard at practice.'

During Page's first two years coaching at Quabbin, he was a physical education teacher at Hudson High School. He's now teaching physical education at Quabbin, which has made things a lot easier for him.

"I was a teacher in another school district during the first two years that I was coaching here, which was very difficult," Page said. "I didn't see the players during the school day, and you can't keep tabs on their grades. Being in the same school building has really helped a lot."

Because Quabbin and Gardner are both members of the Mid-Wach E, they'll be playing each other twice for the third year in a row. The Panthers won both games in 2021 and 2022, but the Wildcats didn't have very much trouble sweeping the season series a year ago.

"We've built a very good relationship with Gardner during the past couple of years. It has been a lot of fun beginning and ending our season against them. The kids love it," Page said. "Gardner is our biggest rival and they're going to be a very good team again this year. Playing them in the season opener will be a huge test for us.'

The Panthers and Wildcats are also scheduled to meet on Thanksgiving morning.

The other football teams in Mid-Wach E are Ayer-Shirley, Littleton, Murdock, and Narragansett Regional.

The Panthers homecoming game will be against Narragansett on October 25.

"I don't believe the Quabbin football team has ever beaten Narragansett," Page said. "We'll be playing them in our homecoming game this year. It should be a very good game."

While all the other Mid-Wach E teams are either in Division 7 or 8, the Panthers are one of the 30 teams in Division 6. They'll need to finish the regular season in the top 16 to qualify for the state tournament for the first time.

"We don't play any of the Division 6 teams during the regular season," Page said. "The ranking system does hurt us a little bit, but it's something we can't control. We just want to keep building our football program."

Quabbin's non-league opponents are David Prouty, Quaboag, and Oxford. All three of those games will be on the road.

The only three players that the Panthers lost to graduation are Jake Leazott, Jaxon Kelley, and Ed Guertin.

"Those three guys were our captains last year," Page said. "We're going to miss them a lot this season."

Guertin, who's a freshman member of the Nichols College football team, is the second Quabbin player that Page has coached to play at the collegiate level. Colton Wells is a sophomore on the Western New England University football team.

The Panthers six senior captains this year are Jaxon Warburton, Luke Salvadore, Bryce Venne, Cole Wilson, Travis Wells, and Adam Faulha.

"Our senior captains are hard workers and they're awesome kids," Page said. "They're also very good leaders. I'm hoping their final season playing football for this team is very successful."

Warburton has been the Panthers starting quarterback since the middle of his sophomore year.

Salvadore and Venne are both running backs. Faulha is a fullback and offensive lineman. Wilson is a tight end, and Wells is also an offensive lineman.

The captains are also starters on defense.

Junior Quin Reynolds and senior Ryan Wreschinsky are also tight ends.

The other offensive linemen are sophomore Carter Bassett, senior Zach Zajac, senior Zeke Santoro, and junior Trace Davin.

"It's always very important to have a strong offensive line," said Page, who calls the offensive plays. "If you don't have a good line, you won't be a very successful team."

The Panthers have used the I-formation on offense during the past three seasons, but they'll be using the double wing formation this fall.

"I was waiting for the right personnel to switch to the double wing," Page said. "It was the same formation that I used when I was the quarterback at Grafton High School. It's not a very easy offense to defend against."

A few of the key defense players are junior Chase Talbot, junior Wes Sanderson, and Bassett.

Sanderson will also be handling the punting duties.

The Panthers assistant coaches are Mike Besaw, Jay Bergman, Jeyson Sanchez, Shawn Costello, and Steve Tremblay.

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by freshman Addison Aufiero (8).

West had a wild tie with Coastal 5-5. Sophomore Adeline Finlaw (3) scored 2 goals and had one assist for Coastal. Sophomore Paige Moreau (8) had both a goal and an assist. Other Coastal goals scored were from juniors Lilly Cook (9) and Summer Silverman (11). Junior Ellia Delisle (15) and sophomore Kelsey McCleary (5) each had an assist. Central goals scored by juniors Emma Huslander (2) and Katelynn Swistak (6), sophomore Elly Schofer (8), freshman Makenzie Casey (1), and 8th grader Isabelle Stanley (4).

West then lost the bronze game 3-1. West's lone goal scored by junior Grace Rajpold (13). Coastal's Goals scored by 8th grader Breanna Aveiro (6), sophomore Paige Moreau (8), and junior Ellia Delisle (15). Freshman Maura Kennedy (2) and sophomore Adeline Finlaw (3) each had an assist. Coastal won the bronze medal.

Central defeated Southeast for the gold 2-1. Southeast's lone goal was scored by freshman Ella Marzullo (8). Central's sophomore Elly Schofer (8) scored 2 goals in the final game, one unassisted and the other assisted by freshman Mackenzie Casey (1). Central took home the gold while Southeast settled for the silver.

> Email us yous sports news & photos sports@turley.com

PRINCIPAL | FROM PAGE 1

In anticipation of the first day of school on Aug. 28, McCormick is preparing to send out newsletter to both families and staff.

The newsletter is intended to try "to get parents as much information as we can, prior to the start of school," he said.

McCormick said the new student information system will be launched this school year.

"It's much simpler than our current system and we feel it will be a lot more benefit to not only our teachers, but also our families and our students as we go through this process," he said.

McCormick said staff are ready to implement new curriculum this school year, as well as transitioning sixth grade students to the middle school wing. McCormick said the school district is partnering with a worldwide consulting firm founded by former central Massachusetts administrator. Teachers and the leadership team will receive training throughout the year. "We've been doing a lot of work last year and a half around aligning our curriculum and we feel this is the next step in giving our teachers the skills and our students the access to be more successful with the curriculum and what they're learning," he said.

district.

"It's a very good video," McCormick said.

Diorio said he received the New England Association of Schools and Colleges report regarding the high school's performance, and he shared some of the highlights from it. He said the school was approved for accreditation by NEASC.

Highlights include fostering a positive school culture that "ensures all learners are known and valued," and "promotes a sense of collaboration, shared ownership, pride in leadership and social responsibility."

NEASC identified Diorio's leadership as being a positive example to student leaders.

"Inclusivity and compassion," were other positives NEASC identified in the school's culture. Diorio said he is "really proud" of the accreditation and the high school's accomplishments. Diorio said the recently created "portrait of a graduate" will be incorporated into lessons and school culture, revolving around five key areas: critical and creative thinkers, global citizens, collaborators and communicators, character and resilient and flexible learners. Student-athletes and coaches participated in sport's night to discuss practice and game schedules, expectations and concussion protocols. He said this fall the high school will have a field hockey team and they hope to have a boys and girls cross country team and a junior varsity soccer team.

this school year, including math, reading and Project Lead the Way. He said he is making sure the teachers have support in the first two days of school prior to students returning.

Interviews are being conducted to fill a shared STEM position between the two schools.

Student Services Director Amy Emory said she has been settling into her new role and meeting staff while learning processes and procedures.

Emory said the extended school year program was "very well attended" by students and she thanked families for their efforts to support their students and attend the program.

"The teachers and the staff who worked during the ESY program worked very hard to provide engaging, supportive programming for students," she said.

Emory said the school district's Circuit Breaker submission for special education reimbursement was completed in mid-July and they are waiting for it to be reviewed. A kickoff meeting was held with a company that is assisting the school district in implementing a new IEP system.

very successful opening because of their hard work."

Regionalization update

School Committee Vice-Chair Tim Canada said there is no update about regionalization with the Quaboag Regional School District. He said Regional Agreement Amendment Committee member Shiela LeBlanc sent an email to the other committee members but has not heard a response yet.

'There's been no movement," he said. Policy and handbook updates

McCormick presented a draft use of facility policy for the committee to review. He said the current policy requires School Committee approval for facility use, which can be challenging with only monthly meetings.

He said the school district received over 100 facility use forms last school year.

Administrators' reports

High School Principal John Diorio said his staff has been preparing for the new school year, and he shared a slideshow video created by teacher Matthew Bilz and students, entitled "Greatness Begins Here". The video highlighted all the high school has to offer, from athletics to academics, and will be linked into the school newsletter.

Diorio said the video features interviews with several of the students, sharing their experience in the school

In his new role as Elementary School Principal, Murphy said he is focusing on learning about the elementary school, from staff to students.

"I'm very excited for my first year," he said.

Murphy said a lot is happening with the curriculum at the elementary school

Recognitions

McCormick recognized the school district's custodian staff, for their work to keep the schools clean. He also credited the grounds crew, saving he was verry impressed with their work.

"They really did a fantastic job this summer," he said. "It was a team effort."

McCormick thanked the ESY team, including teachers, paraprofessionals and support staff who worked with students over the summer; and the leadership team.

'Schools don't just open up on their own, it takes a lot of work behind the scenes," McCormick said. "The summer months is when you prep for that school opening...we're going to have a

McCormick said the draft is broken down into subsections to add clarity.

McCormick said there were changes to Title IX regulations earlier this month and he will present a draft version of the policy to reflect this at next month's committee meeting.

The student handbooks have also been updated to include the new portrait of a graduate, attendance policy, grade changes, mission/vision and core values, schedules and more. The committee voted to approve the updated handbooks.

The School Committee also approved the curriculum for Valley View School.

EV charging

Canada said the committee addressed a resident's concern about an electric vehicle being plugged in behind the school.

He said it would be good for the committee to look into providing an EV charging station sometime in the future.

JHPL | FROM PAGE 1

This program features fun, kid friendly songs and audience participation for kids in grades from preschool to second grade. Hudgins of Uxbridge has been playing guitar since the age of 12 and has been providing fun programs for kids for 29 years.

This program includes musical storytelling for kids to sing and dance. With the new school year starting soon Hudgins wanted to provide songs and stories related to kids going back to school. Hudgins would play songs such as the hello song, "I'm Fine, How about you", "The More We Get Together", "Row your Boat", "Wheels on the Bus" and many more.

Many of the kids and their parents sang along and sometimes danced in the meeting room of Joshua Hyde Public Library.

Hudgins then transitioned into storytelling by reading the book, "On the First Day of Kindergarten" by Tish Rabe. This fun story is an engaging adaptation of the Twelve Days of Christmas but with elements tied to school.

Hudgins sang the story out loud as some kids joined in. According to Hudgins, nothing gets kids on their feet and having fun quite like songs, dancing and silly stories.

"Its important for kids to move, stay active and learn to follow directions," Hudgins said.

Hudgins has offered her program all over central Massachusetts at preschools, libraries, elementary schools, day care centers, and parent/teacher organizations. Hudgins has offered this program for many years and she truly has seen many kids grow up long after seeing them at one of her events.

"Kids I had 30 years ago are now bringing their kids," Hudgins said.

During the pandemic, Hudgins offered the same program but in virtual form via Zoom. Once the COVID-19 restrictions began to loosen. Hudgins began offering her program outdoors.

Hudgins enjoys coming out to Joshua Hyde Public Library and goes there five times throughout the year for programs.

The next book Hudgins read was "The Letters are Lost!" by Lisa Campbell Ernst. The story follows all the letters of the alphabet together in their box, but one by one they disappear and now the reader helps to find them.

The kids got excited when finding out what each letter block stood for in the book.

There was also an activity where the kids got to play their own instruments while singing some songs with Hudgins. The group activity featured a parachute being used while singing and shaking. This fun game in motion had kids and Hudgins balancing foam balls in the parachute while singing a song.

One of the last activities was Hudgins leading a march where the kids got to dance with plates. Hudgins would then thank all the kids for inviting her to the library for songs and dance. Hudgins will return to JHPL in the winter during the school winter break and will be singing some new songs.

For more about Hudgins and her programming, visit debssingandswing. com. Many of her programs include her guitar playing and singing, dance and movement, entertaining stories and a variety of fun props like rhythm instruments and scarves.

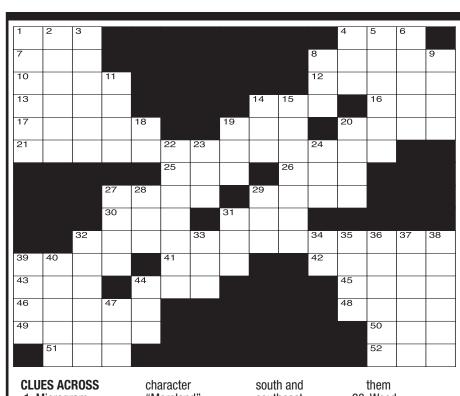


Deb Hudgins read "On the First Day of Kindergarten" a book that you can sing along to. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO



Deb Hudgins led a march around the room during her Sing & Swing program.





Deb Hudgins passed around instruments for kids to play during one activity.



The group activity was singing while shaking a parachute.

1. Microgram "Moreland' 4. After B 29. Oafish creature 7. Everything 30. A major division 8. An unfortunate of geological time 31. Bird-like Chinese development 10. Coat with sticky dinosaur substance 32. Sporting events 39. Body part 12. Cylinder of tobacco for 41. Clerical vestment smokina 13. Minimum 42. Shows data 43. Some are interval take off 14. Yuck! "special" 16. NBA sensation 44. Expression of Jeremy disappointment 45. Students' rights 17. Where some rockers work document (abbr.) 46. Vacation locale 19. Midway between northeast and Costa east 48. Pop singer 20. Snake-like 49. Distract outside fishes a city 21. Groups of homes 50. Mark Wahlberg 25. Swiss river comedy 26. Useful towel 51. Coniferous tree 27. "The Wire" 52. Midway between

southeast 23. Wood **CLUES DOWN** 1. Lunatic 2. Actress Danes Buttock muscles 4. The 22nd letter of the Greek alphabet 5. Popular 70s rockers 6. Electronic communication 8. Trigraph 9. Sea eagles 11. Low-pitched, resonant sound 14. Northeastern US university (abbr.) 15. Home of the Bulldogs 18. Exclamation of surprise 19. Make a mistake 20. Advantage 22. Monkeys love

24. Paddle 27. Past participle of be 28. Tall, rounded vase 29. Device manufacturers 31. Financial institution (abbr.) 32. Paper product 33. A type 34. Atomic #43 35. Red Hot Chili Peppers' drummer 36. Behaviors 37. Decays 38. Walked confidently 39. Voice (Italian) 40. Class of adhesives 44. Bar bill 47. One-time aerospace firm

- public safety -**East Brookfield Police Log**

During the week of Aug. 12-18, the East Brookfield Police Department responded to 162 building/property checks, 52 directed area patrols, nine traffic controls, 16 radar assignments, 10 emergency 911 calls, three citizen assists, one assist other agency, four complaints, one larcenv/theft, one investigation, one motor vehicle investigation, three motor vehicle accidents, four animal calls and 32 motor vehicle stops in the town of East Brookfield.

Monday, Aug. 12

10:02 a.m. 911 Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, West Main Street, Services Rendered

11:51 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Stone Road, Negative Contact

6:03 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Harrington Street, Transported to Hospital

Tuesday, Aug. 13

1:41 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation Issued

7:10 a.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, Podunk Pike, Transported to Hospital

8:21 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Maple Way, Services Rendered

4:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

5:46 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Blaine Avenue, Criminal Complaint

10:10 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Harrington Street, Transported to Hospital

Wednesday, Aug. 14

12:46 a.m. Alarm, East Main Street, Street

Arrest(s) Made

2:11 a.m. 911 Larceny/Theft, Harrington Street, Services Rendered

10:10 a.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Route 49, Could Not Locate

10:32 a.m. Assist Citizen, Unknown Location, Officer Handled

6:33 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, East Main Street, Transported to Hospital

11:24 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Cottage Street, Citation Issued

Thursday, Aug. 15

11:29 a.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, East Main Street, Spoken То

3:04 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, East Main Street, Citation Issued

Friday, Aug. 16

4:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Pond Road, Citation Issued 7:22 p.m. Assist Citizen, Connie

Mack Drive, Officer Handled

Saturday, Aug. 17

11:46 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Route 49, Officer Handled

2:53 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, East Main Street, Transported to Hospital

3:37 p.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, East Main Street, Unfounded

3:42 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Howe Street, Transported to Hospital 4:32 p.m. Investigation, Out of Town,

Officer Handled 9:59 p.m. Traffic Control, East Main

- legal notices -

TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L Chapter 40A, Section 9, and Section 11 Back Lot Permit, of the West Brookfield Zoning Bylaws, the Planning Board will open a public hearing on Monday, September 9, 2024 at 7:00 pm in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 2 East Main Street, for the following application:

Dominic Paolucci seeks Special Permit approval to create a Backlot, approximately 11 acres, at 85 Tucker Road, West Brookfield.

Interested parties may review the plan at the office of the Town Clerk in the Town Hall, 2 East Main Street, West Brookfield. A copy is posted on the display board outside of the Town Hall and on the Town website at www. wbrookfield.com, under the Events Calendar. The Board invites all inter-

ested parties to attend the public hearing. Timothy Morrell

Planning Board Chair 08/23, 08/30/2024

Child Find Quaboag Regional School District

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, require districts to annually attempt to identify and locate every qualified (individual with a disability) attending the Quaboag Regional School District. If you suspect your child or a child in your care may have a disability or physical or mental impairment and is in need of an evaluation, please contact the Director of Student Support Services at 413-420-

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 4, 2024 at 6:00 pm in the first floor meeting room, West Brookfield Town Hall, 2 East Main Street.

6:00 PM: Public Hearing:

NOI: 35 Highland Trail - Edward Czeremcha - Wall replacement -NOI: Continuation - 29

East Main Street - Housing Authority - Replace entry decking and railings

NOI: 129 Lakeshore Drive - Owen Kramer, Representative - Rebuild existing structure 08/30/2024

9:59 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

10:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop. Route 49, Citation issued 10:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop,

Route 49, Citation Issued

11:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation Issued

11:53 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

Sunday, Aug. 18

12:04 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

12:12 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

- 7:55 a.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Spoken To
- 6:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Mechanic Street, Citation Issued
- 7:06 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued
- 7:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

8:47 p.m. Traffic Control, East Main Street, Written Warning

8:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

Friday, Aug. 23

4:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hard-

4:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre

6:11 p.m. Assist Citizen, West Road,

8:26 p.m. Welfare Check, McEvoy

Saturday, Aug. 24

4:04 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre

4:11 p.m. Assist Citizen, Barre Road,

4:57 p.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle

8:41 p.m. 911 Complaint/Motor Ve-

8:49 p.m. Safety Hazard, Dennis

Operations, West Brookfield Road, Of-

hicle Operations, West Brookfield Road,

Sunday, Aug. 25

tion, Gilbertville Road, Investigated

8:32 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investiga-

Whitney Road, Officer Handled

Road, Services Rendered

Road, Written Warning

Road, Written Warning

Officer Handled

Road, Investigated

Services Rendered

Negative Contact

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wick Road, Written Warning

New Braintree Police L .00

During the week of Aug. 19-26, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 18 building/property checks, 38 directed/area patrols, three radar assignments, one traffic control, three emergency 911 calls, five citizen assists, one assist other agency, one safety hazard, two complaints, one scam, one motor vehicle investigation and five motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

Monday, Aug. 19

9:07 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Gilbertville Road, No Action Required

8:08 p.m. Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital

Tuesday, Aug. 20

2:24 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, North Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital

7:29 p.m. Assist Citizen, North Brookfield Road, No Action Required

Wednesday, Aug. 21

7:31 a.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Spoken To

8:44 a.m. Scam, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

3:03 p.m. Assist Citizen, Oakham

Town-wide rummage sale is Sept. 8

BROOKFIELD - The Brookfield Cultural Council would like to announce a town-wide Rummage Sale on the Brookfield Common on Sunday, Sept. 8 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

All are welcome. This is a rain or shine event.

There are several neighborhoods throughout the town that will also be

Water skiing show comes to Lake Wickaboag

WEST BROOKFIELD - On Saturday, Aug. 31, the Lake Wickaboag Preservation Association in conjunction with The Lake Wickaboag Boat Club

taking part and maps will be available. This will be held in conjunction with a book sale at Merrick Public Library in Brookfield.

In addition to free popcorn and lawn games, there will be live music from local acts such as Woodshed, Heavens to Zeppelin and Ryan McKenzie.

chandise and raffle tickets will be available.

Viewing will be from the town beach on Cottage Street in West Brookfield,

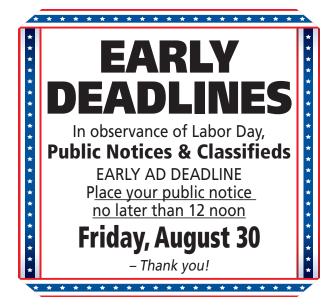
08/30/2024 LEGAL NOTICE: TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD

will be hosting a water ski show.

The Aqua Riders of Holland will be performing on the south end of Lake Wickaboag in West Brookfield from 11 a.m.-noon. Admission is free, lake mer-

The Lake Wickaboag Boat Club or from your anchored boat on the lake in the designated area. All are welcome.

Please visit www.lakewickaboag.com for more information.



1994

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HELP WANTED

The Trustees of the Otis Library seek applicants for a Library Director Position The position pays \$21-\$25 per hour commensurate with experience. The Director can expect to work between 25-30 hours per week.

An application packet is available by emailing otislibrary@cwmars.org or at the Otis Library at 48 North Main Road, Otis, MA 01253. (413) 269-0109.

The application deadline is September 13, 2024. The Otis Library Board of Trustees is an equal opportunity employer.

TOWN OF WORTHINGTON

HIGHWAY POSITION OPENING The Town of Worthington is soliciting letters of interest from qualified candi-dates to fill two full-time **Equipment Operator/General Laborer** positions in the Town Highway Department. Valid MA CDL operator, Hydraulic Hoister's licenses and OSHA-10 certification is preferred.

Further information can be found on the Town's website

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29	Base Price \$30.50	30	Base		Base Price \$31.50	32	Base Price \$32.00
	\$30.30		\$3	1.00	\$31. 3 0		\$32.00
33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base I \$3	Price 35 3.00	Base Price \$33.50	36	Base Price \$34.00
37	Base Price \$34.50	38	Base F \$3	Price 39	Base Price \$35.50	40	Base Price \$36.00
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Questions will be answered by the Highway Superintendent at 64 Huntington Road, Monday - Friday, 7 AM to 3 PM; the telephone number is 413-238-5830.

Send letter of interest, resume and three (3) references with relevant contact information to: worthingtonhighway@gmail.com or to Worthington Highway Department, P. O. Box 643, Worthington, MA. This posting will remain pertinent until the position is filled.

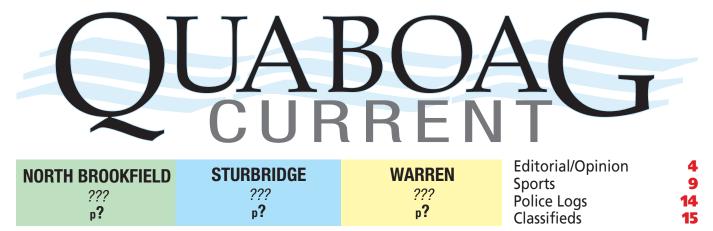
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Volume 17, Number 40

Friday, August 30, 2024

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primary suite with a private bathroom for your comfort, a nice sized laundry room, the 2nd full bathroom & 3 more bedrooms! Set on 4.5 acres of scenic farmland, this property includes a 2 car attached garage, huge unfinished basement, 36x36 two-story barn with 3 (12x12) stalls w/ room for more equipped with hot & cold water and electricity! The fenced-in field payed driveway in breathtaking views and tranquil country living with easy access to all of the MA cities! Don't

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