

QUABOAG CURRENT

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Newspaper

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Friday, September 1, 2023

Summer Jam takes the Great Hall stage

Local talent shines at all-ages open mic concert

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WEST BROOKFIELD – Seasoned musicians Wild Thyme set the stage as the opening act during West Brookfield Cultural Council’s first ever Summer Jam concert this past Saturday.

Local musicians from West Brookfield, Ware, New Braintree, Rutland, Paxton and beyond performed a variety of music that spanned genres and decades.

Opening with a rendition of Bob Seger’s “Mainstreet”, Wild Thyme rocked the house with classic hits covering the 1970s to the 1990s.

For Ware resident Karen

Gallant, performing for an audience has been a lifelong dream.

“It’s kind of a bucket list thing,” she said.

Gallant has only been performing on stage for a year, starting at an open mic hosted by Cultural Council member Amy “A.J.” Kiernan at Lost Towns Brewing in Gilbertville. Gallant is part of Water Bear with Kiernan.

“We play at Lost Towns all of the time,” Gallant’s bandmate Richard Kszaszcz, also of Ware, said. “It’s just a lot of fun and it’s nice to play out.”

Kszaszcz has been a musician for 50 years and he was happy to sit in with Wild Thyme alongside Gallant for the Summer Jam, and even joined them at a concert on Lake Wickabogag the week before.

Playing at an open mic like the Summer Jam is a lot

See JAM | PAGE 8



Invisible Ink performed songs by Nirvana and Blink-182. TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE

Dan Gabel and the Abletones bring Frank Sinatra and Tommy Dorsey back from the past

By Richard Murphy
Correspondent

STURBRIDGE – It would be a pleasant, if cloudy early August evening on the Sturbridge Common.

Vendors were arrayed toward the back with folks visiting the Greater Good Imperial Brewing Company, Sawdust Coffee House and Atrévete a Probar’s south of the border fare. It was not just food and drink. Escape the Pike was present.

Cub Scout Pack 161 was there to promote their Sept. 10 Kick Off at Westville Recreation Area. There will be model rockets launching and an ice cream social.

Still, the aforementioned were not the reason people were gathering on the green.



Bob Briere of Sturbridge Rotary Club is shown with Annie Roscioli, Sturbridge Recreation Director.

The attraction was the memory of a different America, musically speaking.

The Sturbridge Lions Club and Sturbridge Rotary Club

See ABLETONES | PAGE 12

Annual Flea Market sees new and returning vendors

By Ryan Drago
Correspondent

WEST BROOKFIELD – The town common was flooded with traffic on foot and on wheels as the annual Flea Market on the Common showcased many returning and new vendors.

Thanks to the sponsor of the First Congregational Church of West Brookfield, the stage was set for visitors to see over 30 different vendors displaying their various goods.

See FLEA MARKET | PAGE 6



Madison Goodwin, age 8 of West Brookfield and her business, Maddie’s Slime Shop. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO

S.O.N.G. Stock 2023 rocks and rolls for kids

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

BRIMFIELD – Since 1999, Supporting Orphans Nationally & Globally, Inc. has been working to help children across

the world; bringing their focus in recent years to the crisis in Ukraine.

This past Sunday, S.O.N.G., Inc. hosted its annual S.O.N.G. Stock festival fundraiser at Brimfield Winery, featuring three popular local

bands, silent auction, raffle, face painting, games and more. S.O.N.G., Inc. co-founder Wally Connor even brought his famous “ring swing,” which has been a feature at S.O.N.G., Inc. fundraising events since the be-

See S.O.N.G. STOCK | PAGE 13



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- community -

Puppies and yoga make for a peaceful Saturday

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer

EAST BROOKFIELD – This past Saturday, Timberyard Brewing Company hosted its seventh puppy yoga class which began back in February of this year.

Puppies are a main feature, but during early spring, baby goats may join as well.

The company partners with Second Chance Animal Shelter and brings in puppies available for adoption to the yoga class where they run to the participants and give many kisses and cuddles.

There were 26 participants in total on Aug. 26 that were greeted by 5-month old Lab puppy, May. With a wagging tail, she greeted each member of the class and there were smiles all around.

Matt Kline, her buddy for the day, works with May and brought her around to make new friends as a representative of the shelter. He works with the dogs that arrive from the shelter and answers any questions people have about the puppies for adoption.

The leader of the class, Audrey Martinez, began teaching yoga classes two years ago after finding it as a way to destress after a difficult track in her life.

“I found yoga to be grounding, restorative, and empowering,” she said. Her desire is for all who take her yoga classes to feel the same during and after.

Martinez feels strongly about the importance of mental well-being and peace and wants to stress the benefits of yoga- and of course, a serotonin-boost from puppies is also amazing.

“I hope that people know yoga is for ev-

erybody,” Martinez said. “We all have a body, and every body can do yoga.”

“I love the connection with the participants,” Martinez said of her yoga classes. “I don’t really call it ‘teaching’, I call it ‘guiding’. I think there is something really special about connecting with a group of people in this way.”

Her guidance through the different stretches and positions was patient and easy to follow for everyone gathered. The participants enjoyed the experience, and the room had a calm air to it (occasionally interrupted by a giggle as May came to give kisses and cuddles).

All proceeds from the event were donated to Second Chance Animal Shelter so that they can continue to rescue and home animals for many, many more years to come.

Puppy yoga will continue once a month, on the last Saturday of the month, so be sure to sign up for the next class to enjoy some puppy snuggles and time of inner peace.



Audrey Martinez, yoga instructor and lover of dogs, leads the yoga class at Timberyard Brewing Company.
TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS



Twenty-six participants enjoyed yoga class (and surprise visits from May).



Matt Kline from Second Chance Animal Shelter with 5-month-old puppy, May.



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- community -

Town House Friends celebrate Oktoberfest Sept. 30

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Instead of a traditional multiday event extending from September into October, the Friends of the North Brookfield Town House have distilled all the music and fun of an Oktoberfest into a single day, Saturday, Sept. 30.

Their take on this popular celebration will feature authentic German music, food, and liquid refreshment, plus sing-alongs, dancing, raffles, games for all ages, and arts and crafts vendors, all in an attempt to reproduce the Bavarian sense of *gemütlichkeit* - cordiality.

The one and only Happy Chipmunks German Band, Das Lustige Streifenhorchens Deutsche Band, will be joining the fun with their light-hearted banter and toe-tapping music guaranteed to bring you to your feet clapping and singing along.

Do not miss a minute of the fun. Come to Common Ground Ciderworks, 31 East Brookfield Road, on Sept. 30 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and bring the whole family for a day of enjoyment for everyone.

All the proceeds from this community event will fund the Friends' efforts to restore the North Brookfield Town House as the focal point of a revitalized downtown North Brookfield – once again bringing people together in common purpose from our town and surrounding communities.

The event is free with a suggested donation of \$5 that will enter you in a drawing for a cash prize.



The Happy Chipmunks German Band, Das Lustige Streifenhorchens Deutsche Band, will be joining the fun at Oktoberfest on Saturday, Sept. 30 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at Common Ground Ciderworks in North Brookfield. FILE PHOTOS



Are you having difficulty communicating with your partner, struggling with boundaries, and healthy relationships?

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VETERANS DAY SALUTE

Quaboag Current ~ November 3, 2023

The Quaboag Current will be saluting our local veterans (from all wars and branches, including honoring deceased veterans), reservists, active duty U.S. Military members.

Please submit a photo of your veteran with his or her name, rank, branch of military and hometown by email to **dflynn@turley.com** or drop off a photo to **Quaboag Current, 80 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082**
All photos will be returned.

Please submit your photo no later than **Tuesday, October 17, 2022**

There is no cost to submit a photo. No photos will be accepted after deadline. If you would like to use a prior submitted photo, please contact us before to October 10th.

- opinion -



Cherry tomatoes cracked? Mine are too.

I love it when my good friends pose me gardening questions.

Lots of times I turn the questions into columns. My friend Jacquie sent a text with a question about her cherry tomatoes.

She was curious if she could eat them even though they were cracked. Alas, I will delve a little deeper into this topic.

Tomatoes crack when the inside of the fruit expands at a rate that the outer skin can't support. Usually, a soaking rain after a period of drought causes this to happen.

This year we have had pretty constant precipitation, but the cracking happened anyway. As soon as the rain ended a couple days back, I went out to the garden and began picking my cherry tomatoes.

Anything that cracked in my hand or when I put it into the basket could be used.

Cracked fruit still on the plant that had started to heal over I decided to give to the chickens. I didn't want to risk eating fungus, mold or bacteria from fruit flies in the fruit that had scabbed over.

If you don't have chickens, the fruit is perfectly safe to add to the compost pile.

There is little you can do to stop tomatoes from cracking. Some people purposely pick almost ripe tomatoes prior to a storm, and let them finish ripening on the counter.

You can also pick unripe tomatoes and place them in a bag with a ripening banana or an apple and the ethylene gas they release will induce ripening.

For this to work, the tomatoes have to feel softish and show slight coloration. You can also use this trick just prior to the last frost.

Pick all of your unripe fruit and try it! Taste is sacrificed here somewhat - think of a grocery store tomato but maybe a step above. I usually risk the inevitable cracking after a storm because the whole point of growing your own tomatoes is to eat them ripened by the sun!

There are a few varieties that are touted as being resistant to cracking. I have never grown a cherry tomato, at least in my most recent memory, that was truly crack resistant, but I am willing to experiment.

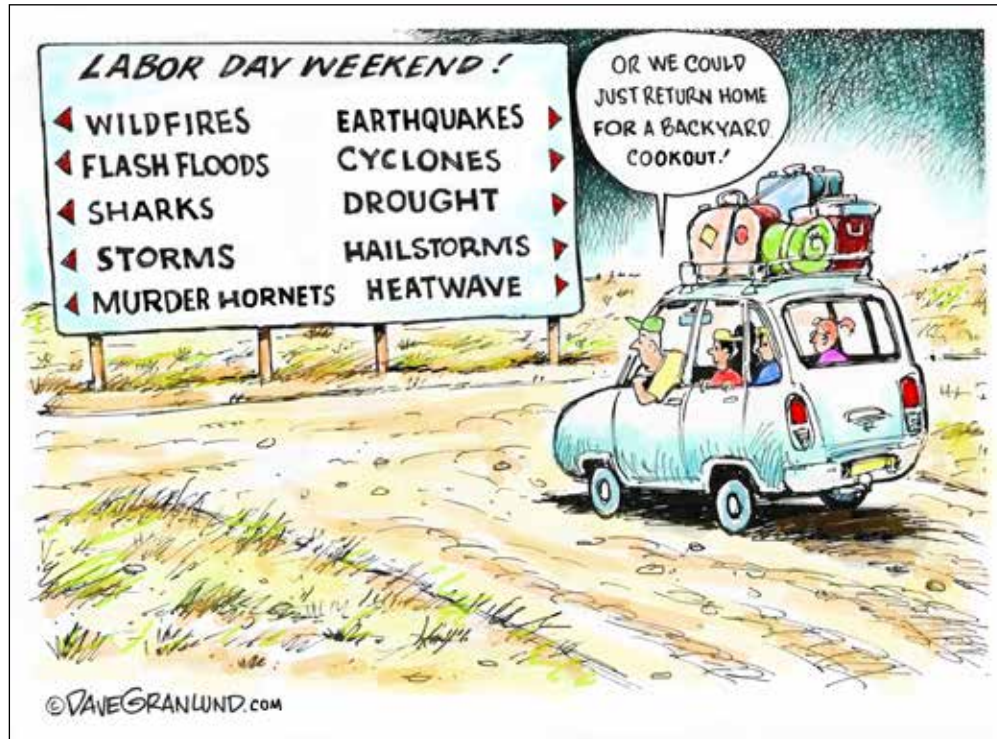
You may wonder what I do with all the tomatoes I pick.

After separating out the bad tomatoes, I cut the good ones in half, added a splash of olive oil, some garlic cloves and slivers of basil and set it all in a shallow roasting pan at 375 degrees. I moved them around every 20 minutes or so, taking the tray out in about an hour, after the skins had blistered.

You can either eat the roasted tomatoes this way, as a chunky topping for pasta or pizza or blend it into sauce. Add seasonings to your specific taste. It can be frozen either way.

Cherry tomatoes are also great dehydrated or sun dried. One summer years ago I sliced

See GARDEN | PAGE 5



What about all the money Congress stole from Social Security?

Dear Rusty

Is there any way that Congress will vote to pay back the Social Security funds they took for their stupid reasons, and left IOUs in place of the funds?

Because of the funds they took going back many years, we didn't have any decent Cost of Living Adjustments for a few years. In fact, there were I think three to five years that we didn't get any COLA. Please Rusty, can you find out if this is true or false? Help us seniors.

Signed: Resentful Senior

Dear Resentful Senior

I can assure you that I've fully investigated the allegation that politicians have squandered Social Security's money and found that charge to be, simply speaking, a myth. I've gone back and looked at Social Security revenues and expenses since the government first started collecting FICA payroll taxes in 1937 and found that every dollar ever collected for Social Security has been used only for Social Security purposes.

Over the years, various claims have been made that the money has been used for other things, but I've researched each of these charges and found them all to be false.

Where the misconception mostly originates is that any excess money collected from working Americans for Social Security is invested in "special issue government bonds," which pay interest, as mandated by President Roosevelt when Social Security began. As with any investment, a financial obligation instrument is given in return for dollars received.

Remember when we used to buy "U.S. Savings Bonds?" We'd use our money to buy those bonds, hold them and later redeem them for a higher amount than we paid.

That's exactly how Social Security contributions have always worked - excess money collected from working Americans is used

to purchase special issue government bonds, which are held in reserve, earning interest, for future Social Security needs.

These special bonds reside in a Social Security Trust Fund and, as of the end of 2022, were worth about \$2.8 trillion.

Are these bonds "worthless IOUs" as some would claim? Hardly, since they are redeemable as needed to pay Social Security benefits.

Considering that, since 2010, Social Security's income from payroll taxes on American workers has been less than needed to cover benefits paid out, redemption of bonds held in the Trust Fund is the only reason that Social Security has been able to continue paying full benefits to every beneficiary. The Trust Fund is a financial safety net, which is now protecting all SS beneficiaries from having their benefits cut.

Problem is, unless Congress acts soon to reform Social Security's financial picture, the Trust Fund will be fully depleted in about 2033 resulting in about a 23% cut in everyone's monthly Social Security benefit. I'm optimistic that will not happen (it would be political suicide) and, hopefully, Congress will act soon to reform Social Security and restore it to financial solvency and avoid a future cut in everyone's benefits.

Regarding Cost of Living Adjustment and the lack thereof for several past years, COLA is determined by the government's standard inflation measure, the Consumer Price Index. There were several years (2010, 2011, and 2016) in which the CPI showed no inflation so, therefore, no COLA increase was given.

Last year, due to soaring inflation, everyone got an 8.7% increase in their Social Security benefit, but that doesn't happen every year. FYI, the average annual COLA increase over the last two decades has been about 2.6%, although COLA for each year can be wildly different depending on each year's inflation measure.

In any case, the lack of a COLA increase in past years was not a result of any political chicanery, it was the result of low inflation during those years.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity.

See SOCIAL SECURITY | PAGE 5

OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

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

Send opinions to:

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

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This newspaper will print free self-submitted statements of candidacy only four weeks or more out from the election. All candidates running in both contested and uncontested races are asked to submit their statements to the editor to include only biographical and campaign platform details. Total word count for statements is limited to between 300-500 words maximum. Please include a photo.

We will not publish any statements of candidacy inside the four weeks from election threshold. To publish any other campaign publicity during the race, please contact our advertising representatives. We also do not allow personal attacks against other candidates or political parties in statements of candidacy, nor do we publish for free any information about key endorsements or political fundraisers.

Letters to the editor of no more than 250 words from supporters endorsing specific candidates or discussing campaign issues are limited to three total per author during the election season. No election letters will appear in the final edition before the election. We reserve the right to edit all statements of candidacy and letters to the editor to meet our guidelines.

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Quaboag Current Newspaper

GARDEN | FROM PAGE 4

some and set them on a tray in the greenhouse at work.

The greenhouse was closed up for my annual weed and bug “fry.” In a matter of two days, I had the tastiest little tidbits.

It’s amazing how all that tomato flavor can be so incredibly concentrated in this round disk! I stored them in a zip lock bag in the fridge.

Some people don’t feel it necessary to refrigerate sun dried tomatoes, but I wanted to be extra cautious since I didn’t use any sort of preservative on the fruit.

Dehydrators are all different. I think it took at least 8 hours for ours to produce that leathery, “done” texture.

Sun dried tomatoes are a great pizza topping, and can be blended into hummus or other savory dishes.

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

SOCIAL SECURITY | FROM PAGE 4

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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- community -



The Weir River Concert Band is preparing for its 19th season, starting Sept. 6. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Weir River Concert Band gets ready for 19th season

The Weir River Concert Band will begin rehearsals for its 19th season on Sept. 6 at the Stone Church Cultural Center in Gilbertville.

The band rehearses from 7-8:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings from September through June. The band performs two concerts each season; a Christmas concert in December and a concert of traditional, pop and marches for concert band in June.

The band also provides live music for the Memorial Day and Veterans Day parades in Ware.

The Weir River Concert Band (originally the Ware Community Band) was formed in February of 2006.

Former Ware High School Band Director John Sacco formed the band at a time when instrumental music was no longer being offered in the Ware school system. He continues to conduct the band entering its 19th season.

The band was created to give musicians of all ages and abilities a place to learn and grow as musicians. The band has included members from the ages of 11-90 over the years.

The group consists of musicians from the surrounding area; from Rutland to Monson and places in between.

The Weir River Concert Band mission statement is

“to give musicians of all ages and playing levels a place to improve their musicianship in an accepting and enjoyable atmosphere. It is also our mission to provide enjoyable, quality performances for the people of the surrounding communities.”

The Weir River Concert Band has been fortunate to join forces and collaborate with the Stone Church Cultural Center. After the COVID outbreak, the band was not able to use the Ware High School as a rehearsal/concert venue.

The Stone Church graciously provided the band with a place to rehearse and hold performances. They have also taken on much of the responsibility of making the concert happen.

The Weir River Concert Band would like to extend an invitation to musicians in the area to come join the fun. The only requirements are that you have your own instrument, you are able to read music (at any level), are willing to attend rehearsals on a regular basis (the band understands that things can sometimes interfere, and that’s okay), and want to have some fun while improving your musical abilities.

If you would like to join, please contact Joanne Meegan by email at jomeegan@comcast.net.

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FLEA MARKET | FROM PAGE 1

The planners for this year's flea market include Dee Blanton, the organizer for the vendors, Terry Hall the flea market coordinator, and Karen Murphy in charge of setting up a delicious food stand outside of the church by the common. These planners were proud of their efforts to continue this one-day annual event that has been a part of the town of West Brookfield for over 50 years.

Blanton enjoys witnessing the turnout of the flea market every year and realizes how important it is for local vendors to sell their wares.

"This event is our way of letting people in the countryside sell their goods," said Blanton.

Blanton and Hall mentioned that the flea market supports the First Congregational Church's Missions Committee. Their committee supports numerous local and international charities including Supporting Orphans Nationally & Globally, Inc., Dismas House, Donations with Dignity, and the Springfield Rescue Mission.

One of their new efforts this year during the flea market is to raise money for their steeple restoration. A church sales table was set during the flea market.

"The table and donation jar brought in \$430 from sales and contributions from the generous crowd at the flea market," said Blanton.

Among the local vendors on the common were many returning vendors and first-time vendors. One of the newcomers to the flea market scene is 8-year-old entrepreneur, Madison Goodwin and her business, Maddie's Slime Shop.

Goodwin of West Brookfield had her table set up selling homemade slime and bracelets. Enjoying her first time as a vendor, Goodwin intends to return regularly as a vendor of the annual Flea Market on the Common supporting her slime shop business.

Another vendor on the common were Everett and Cathy Smith of West Warren and their booth, E&C Treasures.

For several years, the Smiths have attended the flea market in West Brookfield to sell their affordable little crafts. Their booth included jewelry, wood crafts, decorative wooden boxes, and lotions.

With a lot to offer, the Smiths continue their efforts



For over 50 years, the community has supported the Flea Market on the Common. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO



Decorative wooden boxes were sold by Everett and Cathy Smith of West Warren.

to provide affordable products to their customers at any local flea market.

The annual flea market on the common takes place for only one day either in August or September. Thanks to the efforts of the First Congregational Church's Missions Committee, the flea market on the common will continue to be a fun tradition for the town of West Brookfield.

The next event in store for the common is the annual White Christmas event on Dec. 3. The holiday activity will feature caroling and concerts with the tree lighting taking place on the common.



Laurel Weissman of Thrifting with Laurel had many treasures at a great price.

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- community -

National Ice Cream Sandwich Day

Frozen treats enjoyed across Quaboag Hills towns

Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce CEO Robert Lavoie has helped spread some cool refreshing treats all across the 15 town region.

"It began with a call from a generous donor, asking if I could help 'relocate' about 9,000 ice cream sandwiches in less than a week," Lavoie said.

Pathfinder Tech in Palmer kept them in their walk-in freezer, and it was a fantastic plus for the Summer Youth Enrichment Program which runs every year during the month of July.

"As it happened, Friday, July 28 was the first excursion on my road trip. Dave Oliveira, long time Facilities Director at Pathfinder turned a meal cart into a makeshift cooler, enough room for about 1,600 ice cream sandwiches," Lavoie said.

voie said.

Day one was off to Summer Youth programs in local school districts. Starting in Palmer at the Old Mill Pond School. Derek Smola, Summer Youth Director, met Lavoie and we donated close to 800 sandwiches. From there, the process was repeated at the Stanley M. Koziol Elementary School in Ware.

The final stop that morning was at the Quaboag Regional School District in Warren, where Lavoie met Superintendent Steve Duff and his team, along with state Rep. Todd Smola who was key in brainstorming the day.

"Ideas for Chamber and regional school partnerships for this upcoming year were discussed and look very promising for all! What a great new partnership," Lavoie said.

After posting his trip on the Chamber's Facebook page, a follower remind-



Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce CEO Robert Lavoie is shown with Christopher Heights staff April Kosuda, Activity Director (left) and Lorna Stone, Director Admissions/Marketing (right). SUBMITTED PHOTO

Portrayal of Anne Frank comes to Great Hall Sept. 12

WEST BROOKFIELD – The Merriam-Gilbert Public Library is pleased to welcome the return of "Sheryl Faye Presents" with her portrayal of Anne Frank - A Life to Remember: A Story of Perseverance, Hope, and Love.

This program will take place Tues-

day, Sept. 12 at 4 p.m. at the Great Hall of West Brookfield Town Hall, and is made possible through the generosity of Art and Elizabeth Jay.

Please call 508-867-1410 or stop by the Library to sign up.

ed him that coming up on Aug. 2 was National Ice Cream Sandwich Day.

"What could be better?" Lavoie said.

The second and final road trip was naturally on National Ice Cream Day and began with a visit to Christopher Heights assisted living in Belchertown, and from there to Ware where Lavoie met the team at Cedarbrook Village and did the same.

"All enjoyed the surprise sandwiches donated on National Ice Cream Sandwich Day," he said.

As the day progressed, Lavoie made it to Holland, Wales and Brimfield Senior/Community centers throughout the Chamber's 15 town footprint.

During this same period, local communities were holding their annual National Night Out events, honoring first responders.

"This is a great community summer event and QHMA was able to donate sandwiches to the North Brookfield, Palmer and Ware Police Departments to assist with the already popular event,"

Lavoie said. "And to wrap up the donations, we popped in on the new Ludlow Veterans Center and were happy to donate to VSO, Eric Segundo and the Veterans he serves in their beautiful Ludlow facility."

In total, the Chamber was able to facilitate the donation of over 6,000 sandwiches and another 2,600 plus were donated at the local National Night Out events.

"Much thanks to Pathfinder Tech for helping me with the logistics, this couldn't have been possible without their support, ingenuity and spirit," Lavoie said. "My first 60 days as CEO of the Quaboag Hills Chamber have been nothing short of fantastic!"

Make sure to follow the Chamber on Facebook and Instagram, and read about its happenings in your Turley Publications newspaper.

"You'll see us at many events this fall and we're just getting started in our 15 Town Region," Lavoie said. "Can't wait to meet you...where you are!"

Cultural Council seeks funding proposals

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The North Brookfield Cultural Council seeks funding proposals for community-oriented arts, humanities, and science programs.

Organizations, schools and individuals are invited to apply for grants that support cultural activities in the community. Grants are available online Sept. 1 through Oct. 17.

The North Brookfield Cultural Council supports a variety of artistic projects and activities in North Brookfield - including exhibits, festivals, field trips, short-term artist residencies, or performances in schools, workshops, and lectures.

The North Brookfield Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The LCC Program is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, sci-

ences, and humanities every year.

The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to Mass Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community.

This year, the North Brookfield Cultural Council will distribute about \$6,900 in grants. Previously funded projects included: Uniquely Quabbin Magazine, Stone Church concerts, Theater Guild of North Brookfield, Pumpernickel Puppets, Storytelling, Celtic Music, Jumping Juba senior concert, to name a few.

Local guidelines, application forms and more information about the Local Cultural Council Program are available online at www.massculturalcouncil.org. For questions contact the North Brookfield Cultural Council at nbculturalcouncil@gmail.com.

People can also visit the North Brookfield Cultural Council on Facebook and Instagram.



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JAM | FROM PAGE 1

more fun than playing professionally Kszaszcz said, who used to be a wedding singer.

Next to take the stage was Paxton-based band Invisible Ink.

Made up of 12-year-olds Charlie Palumbo, Nick Beaudoin, Jake Erickson and Jack Cross, Invisible Ink has only been performing together since January. This was their sixth performance in front of an audience, having also played at a talent show, a party, and a few events.

Invisible Ink performed a mix of grunge to pop-punk, with songs like “Smells Like Teen Spirit” by Nirvana and “All the Small Things” and “Dammit” by Blink-182.

High school sophomore Cecelia Potts of New Braintree may only be 15 years old, but her powerful vocals rivaled the artists she covered, from Adele to Kelly Clarkson and Evanescence.

A member of her school’s chorus since eighth grade, this was Potts’ first time performing alone on stage.

Potts is planning to go into musical theater for her career and she said her dream role would be JD in “Heathers” the musical.

“It is so good,” she said.

Longtime friends and West Brookfield residents Janet Baskowski and Jeff Robbins have been playing together for “years and years,” or at least a quarter of a century.

With Robbins on mandolin and Baskowski on guitar, the two performed a mix of folk and bluegrass, including “Wichita”, “Buckskin Baby” and “Steel Rails”.

The two friends have performed together on the bandstand on the Common, as well as at the Asparagus Festival, and they were eager to join Summer Jam.

“We just wanted to encourage others and show our support,” Robbins said, adding that it’s not the music that makes an open mic event great, it’s the community.

Several more acts took the stage, each one bringing their own unique style and talent to Summer Jam well into the evening.

About the Cultural Council

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

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



Cecelia Potts from New Braintree sang some powerhouse ballads.



Wild Thyme started the Summer Jam with a rendition of Bob Seger’s “Mainstreet”. TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA QUIMETTE



West Brookfield musicians Jeff Robbins and Janet Baskowski have been performing together for at least 25 years.



Karen Gallant and Richard Kszaszcz, both from Ware, sit in on percussion with Wild Thyme.

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

The Coffee and Wood Concert Series continues Sept. 21 with Rod Abernethy; Oct. 19 with Kemp Harris; and Nov. 16 with The Sea, The Sea.

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



Wild Thyme performed a variety of classic rock hits, from Bob Seger to Tom Petty.

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 413-420-1994.

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SPORTS

Cougars host annual scrimmage session



Kendall Lariviere starts a drag after a whistle. TURLEY PHOTOS BY JACK CASCIO NEAP. SMUGMUG.COM

WARREN – It has become tradition in recent years for Quaboag field hockey to host a small scrimmage set with four teams right after the preseason begins. Once again, Belchertown and Quabbin were among the participants in the event. The teams had short scrimmages as they all prepare for the regular season. Quaboag will host Notre Dame Academy to start the regular season on Thursday, Sept. 7.



Hanna Nemeroff sends a free hit away.



Amarie Martino converges with an opponent.



Isabelle Burgess meanders toward the opposing goal.

Kennedy looks for new additions to Tri-County next season

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

CHICOPEE—While Mike Kennedy was a three-sport athlete at Holyoke High School forty years ago, his favorite sport has always been baseball.

Kennedy was a member of Holyoke's 1985 state championship baseball team.

"We defeated Boston College High School in the Division 1 baseball state finals," said Kennedy, who played first base. "It was a fun experience, especially being a group of city kids. Baseball has always been my favorite sport."

Holyoke, who defeated B.C. High, 4-2, in the state championship game, finished the 1985 season with a 24-1 record. They

squeaked a 1-0 victory over Minnechaug Regional in the Western Mass. finals.

After graduating from High School, Kennedy was a member of the PeoplesBank baseball team in the Tri-County League for the twenty four years. During that time, PeoplesBank won eight Tri-County League championship titles.

Kennedy recently completed his first season as the President of the prestigious Tri-County League. He took over the reins from Don LaValley.

"This is my first year as the league President," Kennedy said. "I think it was a very successful season."

Kennedy has received a lot of support and his right hand man is Eric Emet

"Eric has been a very big help to me," Kennedy said. "He has kept my head above water in my first year as President.

In his role as the T.C.L. President, Kennedy presented the 2023 championship trophy to PeoplesBank player/manager Joe Ferry.

Top-seeded PeoplesBank didn't have very much trouble sweeping second-seeded Chicopee Falls Tigers in the best of three championship series.

PeoplesBank captured the T.C.L. championship title for the tenth consecutive year, and for the 18th time since 1995.

While PeoplesBank has been the dominant team in the T.C.L. during the past 30 years,

See KENNEDY | PAGE 11

Warriors get set for opener

WILBRAHAM – On the turf of Minnechaug High School last Sunday, Tantasqua Regional girls soccer was able to participate in a few short scrimmages with some Western Mass. competition as they near

their season opener on Sept. 8 at Leicester. The Warriors do have one Western Mass. opponent during the regular season. The Warriors will meet Ludlow late in the season.



Nicole Vejack gets a throw-in.



Hayden O'Mally makes a quick touch to a teammate.



Ava Chaviler crosses the field trying to outrun an opponent. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Elanor Leland sends a free kick away.

- sports -

Panthers set to make an impact



Haley Ayer sends a pass away.

WARREN – Quabbin Regional field hockey has been one of the school's most successful programs in recent memory. Several of the players on the team won the Central Mass. summer league once again this season. The Panthers saw their first fall preseason action at Quaboag last Saturday morning. Their regular season opener is on Wednesday, Sept. 6 at Narragansett.



Olivia Breault dribbles up the field.



Makenzie Casey socks a long hit. TURLEY PHOTOS BY JACK CASCIO NEAP:SMUGMUG.COM



Violet Kelley is all focus as she watches her hit away.

North Brookfield 2023 fall varsity schedule

Girls Soccer

Friday, Sept. 8	Home	Sizer	3:30 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 18	Home	Valley View	3 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 22	Home	Pathfinder	3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 26	Away	Worcester Tech	3:30 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 30	Home	Saint Bernard	10 a.m.
Monday, Oct. 2	Away	Hampden Charter	4 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 4	Home	Trivium	3:30 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 6	Away	Sizer	3:45 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 12	Away	Pathfinder	7 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 16	Home	Oxford	3:30 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 19	Away	Trivium	3:30 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 20	Home	Hampden Charter	4 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 23	Away	Blackstone-Millville	4 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 25	Home	Blackstone-Millville	4 p.m.

Field Hockey

Wednesday, Sept. 6	Home	Montachusett	3:30 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 8	Away	Tantasqua	4 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 11	Home	Quaboag	3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 13	Home	Worcester Tech	3:30 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 18	Home	Bay Path	3:30 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 25	Away	Montachusett	4 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 27	Away	Blackstone Valley Tech	4 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 2	Home	Worcester Tech	3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 4	Away	Bay Path	3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 10	Away	Oxford	3:30 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 13	Away	Blackstone Valley Tech	3:30 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 16	Home	Oxford	3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 17	Home	South	5 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 21	Away	Greenfield	12 p.m.

Boys Cross Country

Tuesday, Sept. 5	Away	South Lancaster	4 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 7	Away	Sutton	3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 20	Home	Bay Path	3 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 22	Away	Burncoat	3:30 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 2	Home	David Prouty, Sizer	3:30 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 5	Away	Worcester Tech	3:30 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 12	Home	South	3:30 p.m.

Girls Cross Country

Tuesday, Sept. 5	Away	South Lancaster	4 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 7	Away	Sutton	3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 20	Home	Bay Path	3 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 22	Away	Burncoat	3:30 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 2	Home	David Prouty, Sizer	3:30 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 5	Away	Worcester Tech	3:30 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 12	Home	South	3:30 p.m.

Tantasqua 2023 fall varsity schedule

Football

Friday, Sept. 8	Home	Marlborough	7 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 15	Home	Auburn	7 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 22	Away	East Longmeadow	7 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 29	Away	Doherty	6 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 6	Away	South	6 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 13	Home	Uxbridge	7 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 20	Home	Grafton	7 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 27	Away	Nashoba	6:30 p.m.
Nov. 3/4	TBD	Week 9 - TBD	TBD
Nov. 10/11	TBD	Week 10 - TBD	TBD
Thursday, Nov. 23	Home	Shepherd Hill	10 a.m.

Boys Soccer

Tuesday, Sept. 5	Away	Shepherd Hill	6:15 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 8	Home	Leicester	3:30 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 11	Away	David Prouty	3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 13	Home	Millbury	3:30 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 16	Away	Wachusett	3 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 20	Away	Grafton	6 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 22	Home	Nashoba	3:30 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 25	Away	Bartlett	3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 27	Home	Northbridge	6:30 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 2	Away	Uxbridge	3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 4	Home	Oxford	3:30 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 6	Home	Nipmuc	4 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 11	Away	Auburn	6:30 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 13	Home	Quaboag	3:30 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 16	Away	Doherty	3:30 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 19	Away	Southbridge	3:30 p.m.

Girls Soccer

Friday, Sept. 8	Away	Leicester	3:30 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 11	Home	David Prouty	3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 13	Away	Millbury	3:30 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 16	Away	Wachusett	1 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 18	Home	Leominster	4 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 20	Home	Grafton	3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 26	Away	Auburn	3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 27	Away	Northbridge	3:30 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 2	Home	Uxbridge	3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 4	Away	Oxford	3:30 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 6	Away	Ludlow	3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 11	Home	Auburn	6:30 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 13	Away	Quaboag	3:30 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 16	Home	Shepherd Hill	6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 18	Home	Blackstone Valley Tech	4 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 20	Away	Belchertown	6 p.m.

Field Hockey

Wednesday, Sept. 6	Home	Leicester	3:30 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 8	Away	North Brookfield	3:30 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 11	Away	Shepherd Hill	4 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 15	Away	Nipmuc	4 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 18	Home	Fitchburg	4 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 21	Home	Grafton	3:30 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 25	Home	Wachusett	4 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 28	Home	Northbridge	3:30 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 2	Home	Agawam	4 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 3	Away	Uxbridge	3:30 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 6	Home	Oxford	3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 10	Away	Auburn	3:30 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 12	Home	Quaboag	3:30 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 16	Home	Belchertown	4 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 18	Away	Doherty	3:30 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 21	Away	Quaboag	10 a.m.

Golf

Wednesday, Aug. 30	Away	Leicester	3 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 5	Home	Saint Paul	3 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 6	Home	David Prouty	3:30 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 7	Away	Millbury	3 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 11	Home	Grafton	3 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 13	Home	Bartlett	3 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 14	Home	Belchertown	3 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 15	Away	Wachusett	3:30 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 18	Away	Whitinsville Christian	3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 19	Away	Sutton	2:45 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 22	Home	Shepherd Hill	3 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 25	Home	Uxbridge	3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 26	Away	Saint John	3:45 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 27	Away	Oxford	3 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 28	Home	East Longmeadow	3 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 2	Home	Auburn	3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 3	Away	Longmeadow	3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 4	Away	Quaboag	3:30 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 6	Away	East Longmeadow	3 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 12	Away	Minnechaug	3:30 p.m.

Boys Cross Country

Wednesday, Sept. 6	Home	Grafton	3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 13	Home	Northbridge	3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 20	Away	Uxbridge	3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 27	Home	David Prouty	3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 4	Away	Auburn	3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 18	Home	Southbridge	3:30 p.m.

Girls Cross Country

Wednesday, Sept. 6	Home	Grafton	3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 13	Home	Northbridge	3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 20	Away	Uxbridge	3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 27	Home	David Prouty	3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 4	Away	Auburn	3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 18	Home	Southbridge	3:30 p.m.

Girls Volleyball

Wednesday, Sept. 6	Home	Southbridge	5 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 11	Away	Oxford	4:45 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 13	Away	Grafton	4:45 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 15	Away	Shepherd Hill	5 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 18	Away	Millbury	4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 20	Home	Bartlett	5 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 22	Away	Sutton	5 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 25	Away	Southbridge	5:15 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 27	Home	Grafton	5 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 29	Home	South	5 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 2	Home	Oxford	5 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 4	Away	Bartlett	4:45 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 5	Away	Doherty	4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 11	Home	Millbury	5 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 13	Away	North	4:45 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 16	Home	Bay Path	5 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 18	Home	Notre Dam Academy	5:30 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 19	Home	Shepherd Hill	5 p.m.

- sports -

Quaboag 2023 fall varsity schedule

Table with columns: Date, Location, Time, Opponent, and Score. Includes sections for Football, Boys Soccer, and Field Hockey with game details for the 2023 fall season.

Quabbin 2023 fall varsity schedule

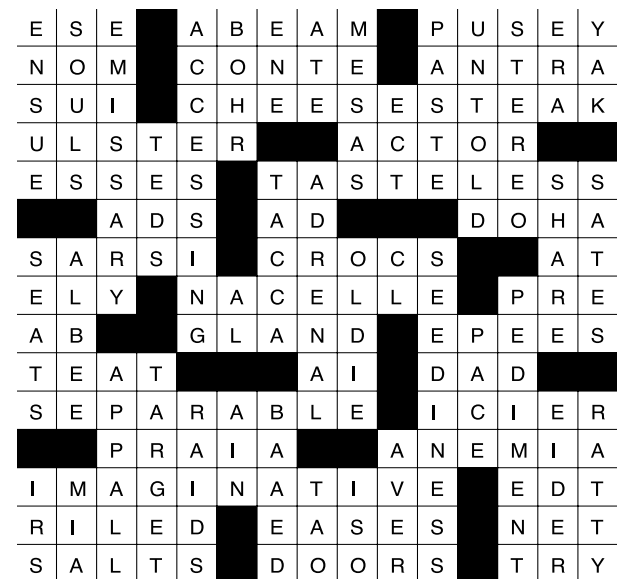
Table with columns: Date, Location, Time, Opponent, and Score. Includes sections for Football, Boys Soccer, and Girls Soccer with game details for the 2023 fall season.

KENNEDY | FROM PAGE 9

there were only five other teams in the league this summer. Kennedy is looking to add a few more teams before the start of the 2024 season. "My main goal is to add a few more teams," Kennedy said. "I would like to have at least ten teams in our league during the next couple of years. I want this league to get back to where it used to be." The three teams that dropped out of the T.C.L. following the 2022 season were Pa'Lante, Easthampton and Teddy's Bear Pool. On a positive note, 413ATC was a first-year member of the T.C.L. this summer. They finished in third place behind PeoplesBank and the Chicopee Falls Tigers in the regular season standings. They were swept by the Tigers in the semifinals. "The 413 team had a bunch of young players," Kennedy said. "For being a first-year team in this league, I thought they had a very good season." Kennedy is hoping more of the high school and Legion baseball players will join the Tri-County League during the next couple of years.

"What we really need to do is to get the younger baseball players from the area to play in this league," he said. "Most of our current players are older." The other three T.C.L. teams this summer were St. Joseph's, DiFranco Realty, and the Longmeadow Cardinals. The Tri-County League teams play their games on some of the best kept baseball fields in Western Massachusetts. PeoplesBank homefield is MacKenzie Stadium in Holyoke. The Chicopee Falls Tigers play their home games at historic Szot Park. The 413ATC home field was at Westfield State University and St. Joseph's has played their home games at St. Joe's Ballpark in Thorndike for many years. "All of our baseball fields are high quality," Kennedy said. "Most of the fields have lights, which is always a bonus." While PeoplesBank will be looking to add another championship title to their collection in 2024, all the other Tri-County League teams will be looking to knock them off the top of the mountain.

See more varsity schedules page 15



ABLETONES | FROM PAGE 1

had come together with Sturbridge Parks and Recreation to sponsor the last summer concert featuring Dan Gabel and the Abletones.

Dan Gabel and the Abletones feature the Big Band sound. Though of another era, it is still alive and well even now, thanks to folks like Gabel and his crew.

There was a theme to the evening's show. The Big Band had many great orchestras, band leaders and singing stars. Thursday would feature two of the most famous personalities of the genre.

Tommy Dorsey was one of the most renowned bandleaders of the day. As far as singers go, few if any, were more famous than Frank Sinatra.

Now, the ages of the attendees were varied. Many were too young to be aware of Sinatra and Dorsey. Frank Sinatra was known to more than a few of the audience, but it had to have been a large segment who said, "Tommy who?"

For them, the learning experience had to have been a treat.

Just before the show, Bob Briere would introduce the evening on behalf of the Sturbridge Lions Club and Sturbridge Rotary Club. At the intermission, Dave Zonia, co-president of Sturbridge Rotary Club would speak as well.

At 6 p.m. the Abletones took the stage. Gabel was impressively dressed in a white suit that was standard attire for a band leader back then.

His bandmen all wore blue vests over white shirts, while singer Kimberly Hawkey was resplendent in a gown.

Gabel would thank his sponsors and the people of Sturbridge from the bandstand more than once, but the star of the evening was the music, and the Abletones quickly got into that.

They began with "Boogie Woogie", a number written by Dorsey, and based on a style originated by others. Released in 1938, it would sell four million copies. Gabel would play trombone with Dave Winters on piano.

The Abletones' chanteuse, Kim Hawkey would sing "A Tisket a Tasket", a song based on a children's rhyme and recorded by Dorsey and his Clambake Seven as well as many others.

The Frank Sinatra favorite, "Lonesome Road", as arranged by Bill Finnegan was next.

The Abletones' vocalist Craig Robbins would sing "That's Why the Lady is a Tramp", a show tune that the Dorsey band would play, and then "This Love of Mine", with lyrics actually by Frank Sinatra.

Hawkey would then sing the gentle "Meet Me Tonight in Dreamland", as the concert moved closer to the 8 p.m. finish.

That would be a rendition of "Let's Get Away from It All", with Gabel on trombone and Hawkey on vocals. "Let's Get Away from It All" is featured on the Abletones new record.

There was so much in the evening than can be mentioned in an article, but notable was the tribute to the recently passed away Tony Bennett. "I Left My Heart in San Francisco" was played as an instrumental because no one could take the place of Tony.

Gabel would pay tribute to those who had served in the military. Part of that was a medley of songs made famous by British lady Vera Lynn whose singing was credited with keeping up wartime spirits.

Her songs were, "There'll be Bluebirds Over the White Cliffs of Dover", "I'll Be Seeing You" and "We'll Meet Again".

Just as the evening ended, it began to rain. Everything on Thursday came together perfectly for the Abletones, the audience, and Sturbridge.



The Abletones performed on the Common last Thursday, sponsored by the Sturbridge Rotary Club, Sturbridge Lions Club and Sturbridge Parks and Recreation.



Saaday and Christopher of Atrevere a Probar, providing south of the border specialties.



Don and Mandi of Greater Good Imperial Brewing Company.



Cub Scout Pack 161 promoting the kickoff of the new Scouting year.



Serena representing Escape The Pike.



Dave and Linda, co-president and president of Sturbridge Rotary Club.



Makenzy and Pete from Sawdust Coffee House.



Sturbridge Rotary Club's Klaus Hachfeld and Rotary scholar Jake Rosen.

S.O.N.G.STOCK | FROM PAGE 1

ginning, and sure to test your skills (and maybe even your patience).

Frisbees were given as prizes to those joining in the pie eating contest. Bearing the S.O.N.G., Inc. logo, the frisbees were donated by a supporter, with printing provided by Dennis Craig of BT Copy & Printing Cetner.

While S.O.N.G., Inc. (formerly Socks for Siberia) was founded to help children living in orphanages in Siberia, it has expanded to include orphans in numerous countries, including South Africa and Pakistan. S.O.N.G., Inc. also works with Wonderfund of Massachusetts, providing essential items for children involved with the Department of Children and Families.

S.O.N.G., Inc. co-founder Michele Connor said this event is the organization's major fundraiser for this year. Money raised helps the organization's mission as a whole, but this year's event will also help continue to bring care to the Ukraine/Poland border.

"This is mostly for the kids affected by the conflict in Ukraine, now in Poland," Michele said.

Michele said her husband Wally has been to the border three times on his own, and they've gone once together.

Wally said a fifth trip is being planned for Oct. 1, to bring immediate relief for children whose parents were killed in the war or bombed out of their homes. Thanks to previous efforts, the children in Poland's orphanages are "pretty settled," he said.

Making the trip from Florida for the event were Michele's sister and S.O.N.G., Inc. supporters Kathy Small and her husband Perry Small. When the organization first started out, Kathy could be found "clowning" around along with her puppet, wearing a clown suit sewn by her late mother.

Now, Kathy and Perry make the trip each year for this event, oftentimes accompanied by a spiderweb-slinging superhero.

"It's really awesome to see all of the changes," Kathy said of the growing organization and the event.

The three featured bands at the event have all helped support S.O.N.G., Inc.'s mission for a number of years, some

right from the start.

Peter J. Newland and RadioX have been there since the beginning, Newland said.

"I grew up in a family that believed in community service," the Monson-based songwriter said.

Newland said he met the Connors through his brother, who worked with Wally.

When he first heard about S.O.N.G., Inc.'s mission, he knew he had to be part of it, donating his band's performance every year.

Newland and Radio X performed an original set of songs which he described as a "cross section of American music." Newland is also a founding member of the band FAT, which just celebrated 55 years of making music.

Also donating their time at S.O.N.G.Stock were the Lisa Martin Band and Secret Sage.

Martin is a Ludlow songwriter who performs a variety of folk, rock, country and blues and Secret Sage is a central Massachusetts group that has been performing for over a decade.

Secret Sage got its start with S.O.N.G., Inc., Wally and Michele said, with some of the band's members performing with the organization for 16 years.

All of the bands at S.O.N.G.Stock have gifted their tunes and talent to the organization, as they have every year.

"They donate their time and help raise money for the kids," Wally said.

Wally thanked Brimfield Winery for being "big supporters" of S.O.N.G., Inc. and providing the venue for this event for the past four years.

"It's a beautiful venue and we appreciate them a lot," Wally said.

About S.O.N.G., Inc.

For more information about S.O.N.G., Inc., its mission or ways you can help, visit supportingorphans.org, email info@supportingorphans.org or call 413-813-8100. You can also find them on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, or stop by S.O.N.G., Inc., located at 13 North St., Ware.

Monetary donations can be mailed to S.O.N.G., Inc., c/o North Brookfield Savings Bank, 9 Gilbert St., North Brookfield, MA 01535.



Megan Stapleton of Monson gets ready to paint faces. Stapleton has supported this event for many years.



Lisa Martin and her band kicked off S.O.N.G.Stock 2023, held at the Brimfield Winery this past Sunday. The all-day festival featured three bands, a food truck, raffles, face painting, games, silent auction and more, all to benefit the work of Supporting Orphans Nationally & Globally, Inc. TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE



Shown are Supporting Orphans Nationally & Globally, Inc. board members Maureen Caramiello and Carlo Caramiello.



One of the silent auction items was this original oil painting by Janice St. Hilaire.

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60	61							62	63			64		
65							66					67		
68							69					70		

- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Midway between east and southeast
 - 4. At right angles to a ship's length
 - 9. William Penn's business partner
 - 14. ___ de plume
 - 15. Accomplished soccer coach
 - 16. Bone cavities
 - 17. ___ juris: independent
 - 18. Popular Philly sandwich
 - 20. Northern Ireland county
 - 22. Performing artist
 - 23. S S S
 - 24. Lacks flavor
 - 28. Commercials
 - 29. Anno Domini (in the year of Our Lord)
 - 30. Qatar's capital
 - 31. Indigenous peoples of Alberta
 - 33. Popular footwear
 - 37. Indicates position
 - 38. Anglican cathedral
 - 39. Aircraft part
 - 41. Before
 - 42. Blood group
 - 43. Secretary organ
 - 44. Fencing swords
 - 46. The small projection of a mammary gland
 - 49. Technological advancement
 - 50. Male parent
 - 51. Dissociable
 - 55. More cold
 - 58. Cape Verde Islands capital
 - 59. Blood disorder
 - 60. Creative
 - 64. Sun up in New York
 - 65. Made angry
 - 66. Relieves
 - 67. Brooklyn hoopster
 - 68. Seasonsings
 - 69. Movable barriers
 - 70. Attempt
 - 2. Spiritual essences
 - 3. Representative
 - 4. Entering
 - 5. Nobel Prize-winning physicist
 - 6. Midway between northeast and east
 - 7. Consumed
 - 8. Tablelands
 - 9. Kids' craft accessory
 - 10. Not known
 - 11. Sound directed through two or more speakers
 - 12. A major division of geological time
 - 13. Wild ox
 - 19. Shock treatment
 - 21. Turner and Lasso are two
 - 24. Genus of flowering plants
 - 25. Relating to ductless glands
 - 26. Stock certificate
 - 27. Satisfies
 - 31. Places to enjoy a rest
 - 32. Edward ___, author and writer
 - 34. "___ but goodie"
 - 35. One hundredth of a liter
 - 36. Shabbiness
 - 40. TV personality Roker
 - 41. Triangular upper part of a building
 - 45. Speed at which you move
 - 47. Offend
 - 48. A reference point to shoot at
 - 52. Forays
 - 53. Biblical city
 - 54. Blatted
 - 56. Northern sea duck
 - 57. Shabby (slang)
 - 59. Allege
 - 60. Tax collector
 - 61. Whereabouts unknown
 - 62. Chinese philosophical principle
 - 63. Indicates equal
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Occur as a result of

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Michael Chausse joins EXIT Realty in Brookfield

BROOKFIELD – EXIT Real Estate Executives in Brookfield announced the addition of Michael Chausse to its team of real estate professionals.

“We’re excited to welcome Michael to EXIT Realty,” said Michelle Terry, broker and owner of EXIT Real Estate Executives in a press release. “EXIT is growing and attracting quality business people like Michael each and every day.”

Chausse has been an active member of his community for 15 plus years. Chausse is excited to be turning that local focus toward real estate.

With passion for serving the Spencer/East Brookfield area, Chausse is a member of the Massachusetts Multiple Listing Services as well as a member of the National Association of Realtors.

When Chausse isn’t making home ownership dreams come true for his clients, he enjoys spending time glassblowing and connecting with others at local fairs and events.

- legal notices -

TOWN OF NORTH BROOKFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Brookfield Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing to consider a petition to locate poles, wires, cables, and fixtures, including the necessary anchors, guys, and other such sustaining and protecting fixtures, brought before it by National Grid and Verizon **Tuesday, September 26, 2023 at 6:15 PM** at the Police Department, 55 School Street, North Brookfield, MA 01535.

The pole location that will be considered is as follows:

Brickyard Rd-National Grid to install 1 JO Pole on Brickyard Rd beginning at a point approximately 25 feet north of the centerline of the intersection of Brickyard Rd and continuing approximately 25 feet in a south direction. Install new Pole # 2-1, 50’ south of Pole # 2 on Brickyard Rd.

Said hearing will begin at 6:15 PM and continue until completion, and will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 166.

Jason M Petraitis, Chairman
John H Tripp
E. Brooke Canada
09/01, 09/08/2023

Sunday School Rally Day is Sept. 10

WEST BROOKFIELD – Sunday School Rally Day to welcome all students back from the summer break will be held on Sunday, Sept. 10 at the First Congregational Church of West Brookfield, 36 North Main St. at 10 a.m.

Sunday School is planned for students from kindergarten through sixth grade and is held on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. The curriculum used is “The Whole People of God”.

Nursery care is available for children under 5 years old. Children are always welcome to join the regular worship service on non-Sunday school Sundays.

For more information, please call the church at 508-867-7078 and please leave a message.

New Braintree Library to hold story time

NEW BRAINTREE – The New Braintree Public Library, 45 Memorial Drive, is offering their next story time programs on Monday, Sept. 11 and Monday, Sept. 25, both at 9 a.m.

This reading and crafts program for preschool children is held twice a month on Mondays at the library. On Monday, Sept. 11, the story will be “Chicka Chicka Boom Boom” by Bill Martin Jr and John Archambault and Monday, Sept. 25 will feature “Perfect Square” by Michael Hall.

Parental supervision is required. People may call the library at 508-867-7650 during regular business for more information.

Pathfinder 2023 fall varsity schedule

Football

Friday, Sept. 8	Away	Palmer	7 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 15	Away	Athol	7 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 22	Away	Franklin Tech	7 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 30	Away	SICS	6:30 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 6	Home	Monument Mountain	7 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 13	Home	Drury	7 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 20	Away	McCann Tech	7 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 27	Home	Smith Vocational	7 p.m.
Nov. 3/4	TBD	Week 9 - TBD	TBD
Nov. 10/11	TBD	Week 10 - TBD	TBD
Thursday, Nov. 23	Away	Belchertown	9 a.m.

Boys Soccer (co-op with Palmer)

Wednesday, Sept. 6	Away	Hampden Charter	4 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 8	Home	Athol	4 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 13	Home	PVCA	4 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 15	Home	Franklin Tech	4 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 18	Away	Smith Vocational	4 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 20	Home	PVCIC	4 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 22	Away	St. Mary’s	4 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 25	Away	Duggan	4 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 27	Home	Hampden Charter	4 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 30	Away	Athol	1 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 4	Away	PVCA	4 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 6	Away	Franklin Tech	4 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 12	Away	PVCIC	4 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 16	Home	St. Mary’s	4 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 18	Home	Duggan	7 p.m.

Girls Soccer

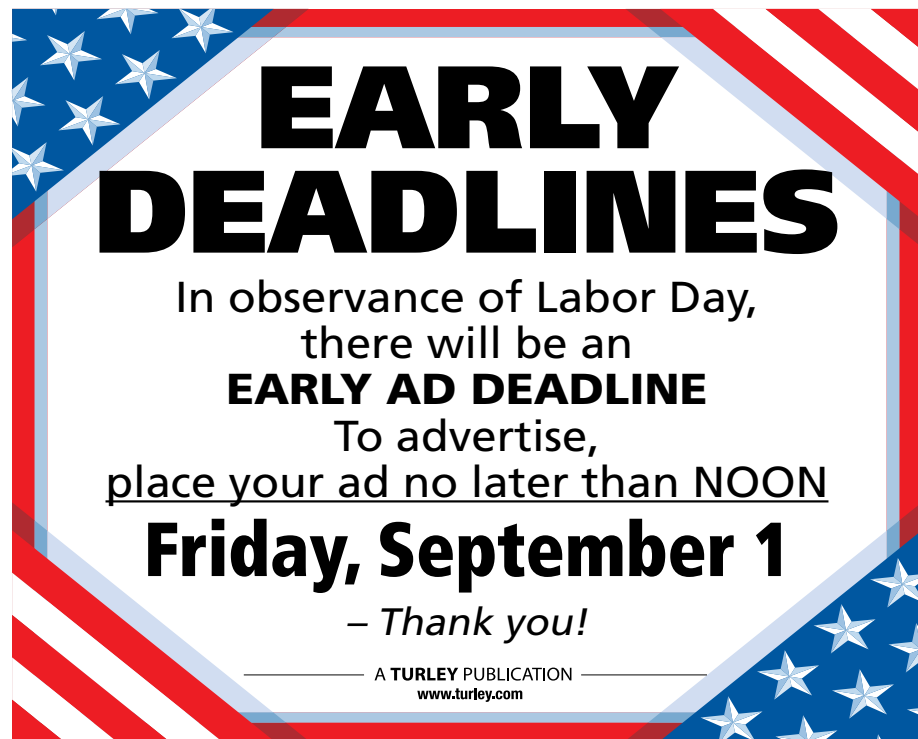
Tuesday, Sept. 5	Home	Greenfield	4 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 7	Home	Gateway	4 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 11	Home	Pioneer	4 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 13	Away	Athol	6 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 15	Away	Renaissance	4 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 19	Home	Franklin Tech	4 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 21	Home	Sizer	4 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 25	Away	Greenfield	3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 27	Away	Gateway	6 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 29	Away	Pioneer	4 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 5	Home	Athol	4 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 10	Home	Renaissance	4 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 12	Home	North Brookfield	7 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 13	Away	Franklin Tech	4 p.m.

Golf

Thursday, Sept. 7	Home	St. Mary’s	3 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 11	Away	Central	3 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 12	Away	Westfield Tech	3 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 18	Home	Mohawk	3 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 21	Home	McCann Tech	3 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 28	Home	SICS	3 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 29	Away	Mohawk	3 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 3	Away	St. Mary’s	3:30 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 5	Home	Central	3 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 11	Home	Westfield Tech	3 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 12	Away	McCann Tech	3 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 17	Away	SICS	3:30 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 19	Home	Athol	3 p.m.

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.



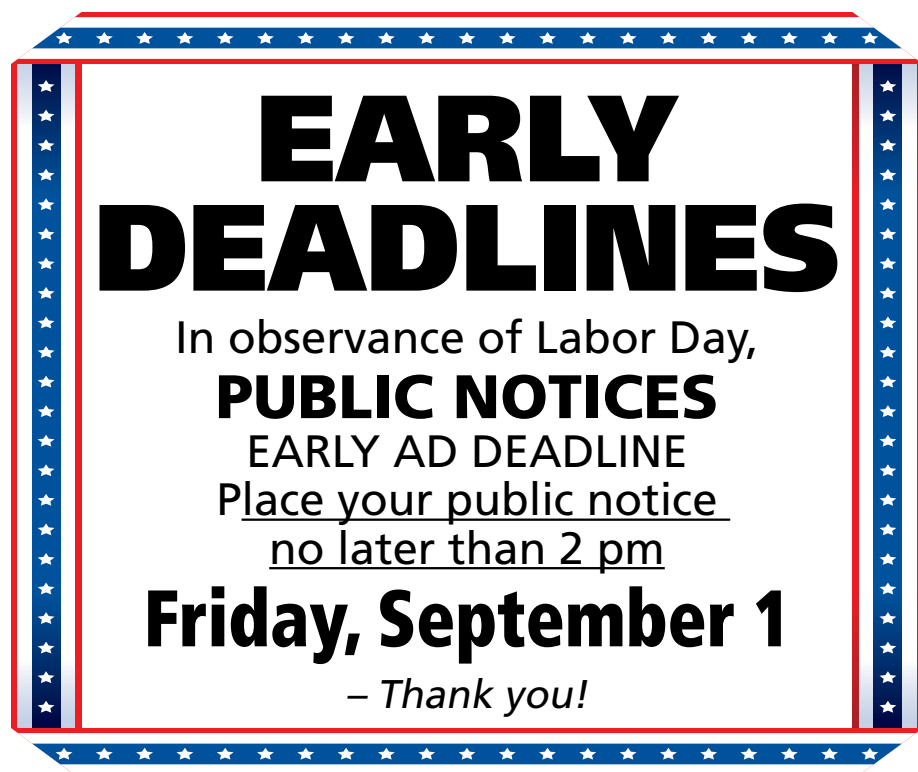
EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of Labor Day, there will be an **EARLY AD DEADLINE** To advertise, place your ad no later than **NOON** **Friday, September 1** – Thank you!

A TURLEY PUBLICATION
www.turley.com

Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP



EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of Labor Day, **PUBLIC NOTICES** EARLY AD DEADLINE Place your public notice no later than **2 pm** **Friday, September 1** – Thank you!

FULL-TIME

Planning/Building Secretary

The Town of Warren is seeking qualified applications for the position of Secretary to the Planning/Building Department. This position is a permanent full-time (29 hours) Town benefited position.

Monday through Thursday schedule with occasional evening meetings. The successful candidate will perform clerical duties and provide excellent customer service in the Town’s Planning and Building Department. The pay scale ranges from \$18.36 to \$24.67/hour based on relative work experience and educational background. For a full job description please visit the Town’s website www.warren-ma.gov.

Please submit your resume and cover letter to Jim Ferrera, Town Administrator, townadministrator@warren-ma.gov.

Resumes will be accepted until Friday, September 15, 2023.

The Town of Warren is an Equal Opportunity Employer

QUABOAG CURRENT

NORTH BROOKFIELD
Octoberfest returns
Sept. 30 p3

REGION
Weir River band starts
season p5

STURBRIDGE
Tantasqua sports fall
schedule p10

Editorial/Opinion
Sports
Classifieds
Legal Notices

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15

Volume 16, Number 40

Friday, September 1, 2023

Your BUYLINE CONNECTION

LABOR DAY SALE
DON'T BUY TIL YOU SEE US!!!

OPEN LABOR DAY 10AM-7PM!
1,000s OF APPLIANCES!
GRILL & A/C SALE!
THOUSANDS OF BIKES IN STOCK!!!
WE REPAIR BIKES!!!
E BIKES IN STOCK!

SEE AD INSIDE

WHITCO TOY & BIKE
12 MONTHS 0% FINANCING
140 Main St., Spencer
www.whitcosales.com
508-885-9343
Open: Mon. thru Sat. 10am-8:30pm; Sun. 10am-7pm

LABOR DAY WEEKEND HOLIDAY HOURS

Saturday Sept 2nd
Sunday Sept 3rd
Labor Day Sept 4th

Open 7 a.m. - Noon
(Serving Breakfast Only)

Wishing y'all a Safe and Happy
Holiday Weekend!

E.B. FLATTS
245 W. Main East Brookfield
508-867-6643 EBFlatts.com

OPEN

WE ARE OPEN!
APPLES ARE IN!

BREEZELANDS ORCHARDS

Our Donuts Are Famously Delicious!

FREE 1/2 Dozen Cider Donuts
WITH THIS COUPON AND PURCHASE
GOOD TUES. THRU THURS. ONLY TP

VISIT THE FARM FOR:
• Honey • Cheese
• Jams • Early Apples
• Maple Syrup

Southbridge Road, Warren, MA
5 min. from Sturbridge - 148 N. Follow Signs
Open 10am-6pm
(413) 436-7122
www.breezelandSORCHARDS.com

PRICE REDUCTION \$274,800

Ware Ranch
on over 5 acres!
3 bedrooms, 1 bath,
hardwood floors,
1st floor laundry &
3 season room!

Call me for a showing!

CENTURY 21
Century 21 North East
109 West St., Ware
Ready to Buy or Sell? Call Me!
1-978-434-1990

NOW OPEN
HONEY CRISP NOW AVAILABLE
CIDER DONUTS
U PICK FALL RASPBERRIES
RAGGED HILL ORCHARDS

Open Daily 10-6 • 508-867-2187
Ragged Hill/John Gilbert Rd., W. Brookfield
www.raggedhill.com

Directions From Rte 9, take Pierce Rd.
to Ragged Hill Rd. or take Snow Rd.
to Wickaboag Valley Rd. to Ragged Hill Rd.

MICHAEL Toomey & Associates, Inc.
Real Estate

East Brookfield | Maryellen Brunelle | 774-230-1419
Oakham | Irene Caruso | 774-696-9794
Worcester / West Brookfield | Macey Gaumont | 413-233-8967
Spencer | Zac Leach | 508-277-5209
Holden | Sarah Mahoney | 774-245-1218
Barre | Dan Mankin | 760-617-0548
Leicester | Lee Martinelli | 774-253-0364
Paxton | Scott Moss | 508-847-6330
Spencer | Amy Ekleberry Perro | 508-769-7025
Brookfield | Meghan Robidoux | 508-414-2518
North Brookfield | Mike Toomey | 508-951-6460

Serving all your Real Estate needs!

WHERE EVERYONE GOES FOR THEIR PIECE OF THE EARTH!
LANDSCAPE STONE
ALL SIZES
White • Blush • Blue • Brown • Purple
Red • Lt Gray • Dark Gray

SCREENED LOAM STORED IN BUILDING

Construction Stone • Title V Septic Sand
Concrete Sand • Chicken Coop Sand • Utility Sand
Chip Stone • Stone Dust • Silt • Crushed Gravel
Crushed Asphalt • Crushed Concrete • Cold Patch

Homeowner Friendly • No Minimums
PICK-UP OR CALL TO SCHEDULE YOUR DELIVERY TODAY!

Bond
Sand, Gravel & Asphalt
98 North Spencer Road,
Route 31N, Spencer, MA
508-885-6100
508-885-2480
www.bondsandandgravel.com

Support Your
Hometown Businesses

SHOP LOCAL

Bring more shoppers to your door with
locally focused advertising
in our weekly community newspapers.

Call Dan at 413-967-3505
for rates & information

The Barre Patch
Burgers, BBQ and More

7 Worcester Rd., Barre
978-355-3000

Thurs. 11:30am-10pm
Sun. & Mon. 11:30am-7:30pm
Fri. & Sat. 11:30 am - 11pm
Closed Tues. & Wed.
Hours may change
Check Facebook for updates

JAZZ NIGHTS
SEPTEMBER 1ST 7-9 PM EACH NIGHT
BY YOUR MOTHER
SEPTEMBER 8TH
BY EVENING STANDARD
~ FULL BAR AVAILABLE ~

Adventure tours of Warren
Share the Adventure with us!

12-Night Eastern Caribbean Cruise
April 7-19, 2024

Oct. 21.....**Mrs. Doubtfire at PPAC**..... \$99
Nov. 4.....**Book of Mormon**..... \$120
Nov. 18.....**Vermont Country Store**..... \$79
Dec. 30.....**Moulin Rouge!**..... \$125
Jan. 12-14.....**NYC Weekend**..... \$469

Share the Adventure with us soon!
For further information call Randall at (413) 436-5357
or email adventuretours@att.net
or go to www.adventuretoursofwarren.com

HAPPY LABOR DAY

Labor Day Special

15% off beef, pork, and chicken
now through Sept. 3.

Celebrate Labor Day with sizzling savings at Farmer Matt's. Enjoy 15% off beef, pork, and chicken on orders over \$100. From steaks to chops and chicken, our farm-fresh delights are perfect for grilling. Fire up the grill and indulge in the best flavors with Farmer Matt's Labor Day special. Order online at **FarmerMatt.com** with code "Labor Day" or show ad in-store at 860 West Brookfield St., New Braintree.

Farmer Matt
FARM-FRESH + LOCAL