

# QUABOAG CURRENT

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## QHSUA reviewed youth health survey findings

By Paula Ouimette

Editor

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During the September meeting of the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance, members heard a presentation about the findings of the Spring 2025 Youth Health Survey, which was administered to students in five school districts across the region.

At the Sept. 8 meeting,

Lead Epidemiologist for the QHSUA, Emma Berthiaume, said surveys were administered to eighth, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students at Ware Public Schools, Monson Public Schools, North Brookfield Public Schools, Palmer Public School District and Quabbin Regional School District.

"We conducted our survey in March and April of 2025," Berthiaume said.

Berthiaume said while

there was less response to the survey from older students, roughly two-thirds of the 1,051 students enrolled in the various school districts participated. Almost 80% of eighth grade students returned surveys.

### Use of illicit substances

Overall, 82% of students reported no substance use in the past 30 days. Almost 90% reported that they have not used alcohol, 92.5% said they have not used can-

nabis, 92.8% said they have not used e-cigarettes/vape pens, and 97.3% have not used nicotine pouches.

Berthiaume said 97.7% of students reported they did not use cigarettes, and 95.7% said they did not misuse prescription medication. Misuse of inhalants (97.1% said they do not misuse inhalants) has also shown a decrease from previous survey data.

"Most students reported

no illicit substance use," she said.

While 12<sup>th</sup> grade students reported less use of cigarettes (down from 6% to 1%), the survey showed that 3% of both eighth and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students still use them.

"The need for prevention is younger. Because we're seeing the behaviors increase in the younger grades," Drug Free Communities Program Director

Rebecca Edwards said.

Berthiaume said there is no trend data for the use of nicotine pouches among students, but they are increasing in popularity and commonality.

After reaching an all-time high in 2021, alcohol use continues to decline according to the survey results except for an increase from 4% to 9% among

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## 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Friends of the Poor Walk will be Sept. 13

STURBRIDGE – The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Friends of the Poor Walk followed by its first Family Fun Day will be held on Saturday, Sept. 13 from noon-6 p.m. on the Sturbridge Town Common.

Featuring Maggie the Clown, alpacas from Ledgecreek Farm, a variety of vendors, food, games for both children and adults, a DJ, live music by G Note & The Tinman, and much more.

Proceeds from the fundraiser will go toward supporting local individuals and families in need across

Brimfield, Brookfield, Holland, Sturbridge, Wales, and other nearby towns. The St. Vincent de Paul Society in Fiskdale provides practical assistance throughout the year, including emergency housing, rental and utility help, food, clothing, and other essential needs – serving people of all backgrounds and faiths.

The Fiskdale conference raises funds through parish poor boxes, public donations, and events such as this

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TURLEY PHOTO BY RYAN DRAGO

Woodshed performed many of their original songs and is a band of four musical friends who found each other.

## Woodshed performed on Brookfield Common

By Ryan Drago

Staff Writer

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BROOKFIELD – It was a beautiful Friday evening as the band Woodshed performed on Brookfield Common.

Woodshed is a country/folk band based out of western Massachusetts featuring four musical friends who found each other through

a love of music and mutual admiration. Since the fall of 2023, Woodshed has been performing together and has been growing in popularity throughout the state.

The members of Woodshed are Jason Wood, A.J. Kiernan, Karen Gallant and Mike St. Germain. The four of them united to perform under the gazebo of Brookfield Common, which had a fantastic turnout of

locals bringing out their picnic blankets and lawn chairs.

Kiernan and Wood played acoustic guitar and sang. St. Germain played the upright bass guitar and Gallant played drums and percussion. Gallant did sing alongside Kiernan during one song.

The country vibe was pretty much lingering on the Common as soon as Wood-

shed began playing. Woodshed gave a special thanks to the Brookfield Cultural Council for inviting them to Brookfield Common.

Woodshed announced they will be playing some of their original songs or as Kiernan and Wood described them as "old stuff". The opening song was "Whole

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Sturbridge Historical Society will host a walk tour of the Old Burial Ground on Sept. 20.

## Historical Society presents tour of Old Burial Ground

STURBRIDGE – Join local historian Bill Barnsley on a walking tour of the Old Burying Ground in Sturbridge on Saturday, Sept. 20 at 10 a.m. covering 170 years of early Sturbridge history.

Through 24 stones, participants will explore some notable people who shaped the town, and some unique stones that illustrate the development of stone carving and beliefs in the afterlife.

Note: this tour will be "off-trail" on some very uneven surfaces. Wear your sturdy shoes.

Barnsley is a writer, storyteller, and local historian with a lifelong passion for uncovering the stories of the past. In 2018, with the help of his very patient wife, Jude MacDonald, conducted a complete survey of Sturbridge's Old Burial Ground, documenting every gravestone and researching the lives behind them. His work connects early town families, Revolutionary War veterans, and the artistry of New England stone carvers,

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## Knights host 8<sup>th</sup> annual memorial golf tournament

OAKHAM – Knights of Columbus Council # 11080, Brookfield/West Brookfield/Warren, is having their 8th Annual Alex Cordy Memorial Charity Golf Tournament at Quail Hollow Golf and Country Club, 1822 Old Turnpike Road, on Saturday, Sept. 13.

Registration begins at 7:15 a.m., with a Shotgun Start at 8 a.m.

As many of you are aware, Alex was an integral part of our West Brookfield community for many years. In memory of his outstanding service to his community, his parish, and being a founding member of our Knights of Columbus Council 11080, this tournament will once again benefit our Youth Activities Fund to support the youth in our local community, a cause that was

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## Candlelight vigil cast light on recovery

By Paula Ouimette

Editor

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WARE – After the skies had opened up and brought much-needed rain on the evening of Aug. 29, a vibrant rainbow

stretched across Main Street, appearing to touch down at the Recovery Center of HOPE.

Standing under the rainbow was a gathering of community members who held a candlelight vigil honoring the memo-

ry of those who have lost their lives to overdose in recognition of Overdose Awareness Day. The vigil also served as a beacon of hope for those on their recovery journey.

Prior to the moment of silence, Recovery Center of HOPE's Program Director Julie Lutz and community member Julianna Garcia gave some opening remarks, and spoke about the importance of honoring this day.

"Many of us have been touched personally," Lutz said of overdose loss.

Lutz said that even though the town of Ware has been underserved in its treatment of substance use disorder and addiction compared to larger towns and cities, it has still found a way to create a community based in care, compassion and consistency.

Those who work to help people in recovery in town are "lifelines," she said.

"They represent com-



TURLEY PHOTO BY PAULA OUIMETTE

Julianna Garcia, left, and Recovery Center of HOPE's Program Director Julie Lutz gave the opening remarks during the candlelight vigil.

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# - community -

## Customers and staff remember Soup to Nuts Café

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

STURBRIDGE – After 43 years in business, Soup to Nuts Café closed its doors this summer.

Though no longer serving its delicious soups, baked goods, and morning coffee, the café will forever serve long-lasting memories for its dedicated customers.

The Café was owned and operated by John Quinlivan from Holden. Quinlivan and his staff left a heartwarming message on the Soup to Nuts Café Facebook page thanking everyone for their support and for giving them a special place for all to gather.

The Café was located inside the old mill building off Route 20 in the Fiskdale section of Sturbridge.

During the last week of August, Quinlivan decided to sell everything at the café, including pictures, furniture, and dishes. It was also time when customers and former

staff could stop by and say goodbye to the owner and this beloved business.

Several long-time customers had nothing but positive things to say about Quinlivan and his café. Soup to Nuts Café was described as a friendly atmosphere and had the resemblance of “grandma’s kitchen.”

According to many long-time customers, Quinlivan’s usual greeting was nothing but pleasant. “Hi folks! Have a seat, I’ll be right with you.”

The space was very welcoming and had a dining area outside in addition to the room with the dining counter and kitchen. Soup to Nuts Café had a lot of visitors and regular customers. Many who remember going to the café said the homemade soups were of high quality.

Regular customers also enjoyed quiche, pastrami, seafood salads, hot pockets and sandwiches. If there was ever a dish that made Soup to Nuts famous in the



Soup to Nuts Café closed its doors after 43 years in business and will be missed by its numerous customers

community it was their corn chowder and soups, according to many regulars.

Dan Chiodetti was a longtime customer of Soup to Nuts Café and thought it was a well-loved place with good service and food.

“It was an institution here,” Chiodetti said.

Tod Beall was also a long-time customer and compli-

mented Quinlivan as a good person, who cooked good food and had was always good to chat with.

“Thanks, John, for being such a good person and a good cook,” Beall said in the comments after the Facebook post announced the closure of Soup to Nuts Café.

Former staff also came to

## Church Thrift Store open on select Saturdays

WEST BROOKFIELD – The Thrift Store of the George Whitefield United Methodist Church is open the first and third Saturdays of each month, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at 33 West Main St.

Many lovely summer wardrobe selections are now available for women, men and children, as well as other seasonal updates to inventory. The Thrift Store offers quality used clothing, shoes, accessories, household goods, decor, picture frames, children’s toys, books and DVDs at bargain prices.

Donations of gently used items are appreciated and may be arranged by contacting Jane Dolan at 508-867-5571. Proceeds from sales support the church’s ministries and missions.

## PMP joined Member Track Network

Organization gives members access to tracks across North America

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
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PALMER – Since last December, a group representing various racetracks across North America has been working together to create an incredible opportunity for their members.

The Member Track Network is a not-for-profit organization that connects private club racetracks through a standardized reciprocal member agreement, allowing club members to experience close to a dozen different tracks in the U.S. and Canada.

“So, our members can go to their track, and their members can go to our track,” said Al Sandy, Club Director at Palmer Motorsports Park.

Sandy said Palmer Motorsports Park was developed as a private club for members, and each year, members travel to Indianapolis, Indiana for a conference and tradeshow. Here, various track owners get together

and network, as well as share ideas.

Sandy said every year he introduces himself and proposes a reciprocal member agreement with the other track representatives. At last year’s conference, the owner of The Podium Club in Phoenix, Arizona approached Sandy about forming a not-for-profit network across the U.S. and Canada.

“Being not for profit, at present, my members can go to nine different tracks across the county and Canada and drive for free,” Sandy said.

Sandy said the Member Track Network will help to bring tourism to the communities surrounding Palmer Motorsports Park, and boost the local economy as network members will utilize restaurants, lodging and more while visiting the Whiskey Hill track.

“We’re going to be pulling people in with this,” Sandy said.

Sandy is joined on the Member Track Network board by Jayson Citron of The Podium Club in Phoenix, Arizona and Shawn Hayes of Atlanta Motorsports Park in Georgia.

Currently, the Member Track Network includes access to the following tracks: Palmer Motorsports Park in Palmer; Rocky Mountain Motorsports in Alberta, Canada; NCM Motorsports Park in Bowling Green, Kentucky; Motorsport Ranch in Cresson, Texas; MSR Houston in Texas; Lime Rock Drivers Club in Connecticut; Atlanta Motorsports Park in Georgia; The Podium Club in Phoenix, Arizona; the Autobahn Country Club in Joliet, Illinois; and Calabogie Motorsports Park in Ontario, Canada.

For more information, visit [www.membertracknetwork.com](http://www.membertracknetwork.com).

“It’s been a lot of fun, but it’s been a lot of work,” Sandy said of the organization’s creation. “I feel satisfied that I helped to form something that I hope will stick around.”

### About Palmer Motorsports Park

Palmer Motorsports Park has been rated “One of the top 10 road courses in North America” by Road & Track Magazine. Its unique setting and challenging road course

draws club members and visitors from New England and beyond for racing, research, recreational, and business-related activities.

Palmer Motorsports Park hosts a variety of events, including Porsche on the Mountain on Sunday, Oct. 5 from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Porsche on the Mountain features everything Porsche from show cars to track cars, to race cars and project cars. Show car entry is \$35 (pre-registration required) and \$10 general admission.

Proceeds from this event benefit Homes For Our Troops. For more information and to register, visit [www.porscheonthemountain.com](http://www.porscheonthemountain.com).

The annual Trunk or Treat Car Show to benefit food pantries in Palmer and Ware will be held on Sunday, Oct. 26 and the popular Mustangs on the Mountain event is also set to take place in October to benefit the Central New England Equine Rescue.

For more information about Palmer Motorsports Park, visit [palmermsp.com](http://palmermsp.com) or follow them on Facebook and Instagram.

## Flea Market on the West Brookfield Common Sept. 13

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

This year the Flea Market will be held on Saturday, Sept. 13 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Tell your friends and come out for a day of bargains and yummy a lunch.

New this year is a tag sale inside the church. Come in for more bargains.

Sellers of all kinds

are welcome – flea folk, antique sellers, crafters, product vendors, and those emptying out basements and attics. No food vendors, please.

Spaces are available for \$40 for a 20 x 20 grassy spot. Vendors must bring their own tables and tents. The church will sponsor a food tent with grilled lunch, cold drinks and sweet treats.

Email Karen at [fcconfleamarket@gmail.com](mailto:fcconfleamarket@gmail.com) for an application or call her at 508-801-7692.

## CNEER hosts Fall Festival at the Farm on Sept. 27

WEST BROOKFIELD – Central New England Equine Rescue, 96 New Braintree Road, will host its annual Fall Festival at the Farm on Saturday, Sept. 27 from noon-4 p.m.

Come and share with CNEER over 20 years of

community support rescuing horses. There will be pony rides, face painting, pumpkin decorating, local vendors, delicious food, drinks and desserts.

Deux Amis will provide live folk and jazz music. The Hampden Mounted Police will also be present.

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## - community -

# Students return to school Aug. 27

From the desk of  
Quabbin Regional School  
District Superintendent  
Colleen Mucha

BARRE – On Wednesday, Aug. 27, the Quabbin Regional School District opened their doors to approximately 2,000 students from preschool through post grad.

Classrooms were decorated to create warm, inviting learning spaces. Administrators, teachers, and staff eagerly awaited their arrival.

Students were seen giving high fives and quiet smiles to their beloved adults as they entered the buildings. Admittedly, some had that first day, “I’m not ready to be awake” look. Even those students were quick to share a smile when they were welcomed and acknowledged.

Buildings and classrooms were sparkling clean and welcoming. Teachers filled the learning environments with color and some even adopted themes to set the stage for learning. Elementary students were greeted with common expectations for how to be safe, respectful, responsible students. They are all familiar with the positive behavior programming and were excited to find out that this year there are some additional incentives.

Students at the middle high school level did a wonderful job arriving and navigating to their first block of the day. Staff was stationed everywhere. This made finding an adult very easy. The adults offered warm encouragement and directions when needed.

Students shared with one another what their “hopes and dreams” were for this school year. This allowed



Elementary students gather around a brightly colored rug in their classroom.



Quabbin middle schoolers navigate the hallways to get to their classes.

them to be thinking about what goals they may have for themselves, as well as what areas they’d like to learn more about. When I visited third grade, they were most excited about multiplication and division. While some of our older students wanted to “get better at writing,” “read more” or “complete my homework.”

The first few weeks of school are so very exciting and they can set the stage for the year ahead. This is when relationships and habits are formed. Encourage your student to connect with others and their teachers. This

makes it easier for them if they need to ask questions or seek help. Students of all

ages do not always respond well to “What did you do in school today?” Instead ask a more specific question such as: What was something interesting that your teacher said today?

Please remember to reach out and connect with your child’s building principal or teacher should you have any concerns or questions. It is best to communicate early with any concerns so that we can work together to solve them.

We truly appreciate your support and are truly thankful for the opportunity to work with your children.



These students pair up for a math exercise.

# Dance studio welcomes Cathy Taylor to facility

WEST BROOKFIELD – Betty Gundersen, director of the Betty Gundersen Studio of Dance, is pleased to announce that longtime central Massachusetts dance educator Cathy Taylor has joined the studio’s faculty.

Taylor holds a degree in dance from the Boston Conservatory of Music and a graduate degree in education from Boston University. She will be teaching ballet at the Betty Gundersen Studio of Dance.

“We are honored to welcome Cathy Taylor to our faculty,” said Gundersen. “Her experience and reputation are unmatched, and she brings with her not only a wealth of knowledge but also a genuine love for inspiring young dancers.”

Taylor is well known in the region for owning and operating the popular Cathy Taylor School of Dance in Auburn. Alongside an accomplished faculty of teachers and choreographers, she taught all genres of dance to boys and girls from ages 2 through 18.

Her students thrived both on stage and off, performing in recitals and competitions where they gained confidence, built lifelong friendships, and made connections across

the country and around the world. In 2023, she closed her studio with the plan to continue sharing her love of dance at quality studios in the area.

Like Gundersen Studio alumni, students of Taylor’s former studio now enjoy successful careers throughout the industry, teaching, performing, and choreographing. Some have gone on to perform on Broadway, at Radio City Music Hall, Disney World, theme parks, and cruise ships. Others have earned a place as professional cheerleaders for the New England Patriots and Boston Celtics.

Her students were also invited to showcase their talents internationally at the Shanghai International Dance Festival in China, the World Dance Championships in Reisa, Germany, and here at home in the iconic Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade.

The Betty Gundersen Studio of Dance is located at 79 Wickaboag Valley Road. Registration is now open for fall classes by calling the studio at 508-867-8925. Additional information about the fall class offerings, schedule, and faculty may be found at bettygundersendance.com.



Cathy Taylor

# Medicare 101 educational event is Sept. 16

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The North Brookfield Senior Center will be hosting an educational presentation on Tuesday, Sept. 16 at 11 a.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. 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.

# Take-Out church supper is planned for Sept. 19

WEST BROOKFIELD – The George Whitefield United Methodist Church in West Brookfield will hold a Take-Out Chicken Dinner on Friday, Sept. 19.

Meals may be picked up curbside at 5 p.m. in front of the church at 33 West Main St., West Brookfield.

The meal will include

chicken breast, baby potatoes, glazed carrots, roll and dessert for \$15 or two for \$25.

Reservations may be made by calling Elsa at 209-400-4429 or just come by and pick up dinner on your way home.

Proceeds will benefit the church and its missions.

# Learn to take nature/landscape photos with smartphones

BELCHERTOWN – The Quabbin Photo Group invites the public to a program led by award-winning photographer Linda Repasky, “From Meh to Stunning: Smartphone Photography for Nature & Landscapes.”

It will be held on Monday, Sept. 22, at 7 p.m. at the Belchertown Recreation Department, 66 State St. (located behind the Belchertown Police Department). The evening is open to anyone curious about turning everyday phone shots into wall-worthy images.

The program will show how the camera you always have in your pocket can do far more than take snapshots. Attendees will learn practical techniques and in-phone features that make an immediate difference, exposure and focus control, composition tips, burst modes, panoramas, macro close-ups, and simple edits that bring out detail and color in outdoor scenes.

Repasky is a Belchertown photographer who captures the beauty of local natural



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Quabbin Photo Group will offer a learn to shoot smartphone photos program on Monday, Sept. 22.

resources with her iPhone. Repasky is a frequent explorer of the Quabbin Reservoir and an avid macro photographer, revealing the tiny patterns, textures, and details in nature that most of us walk past. Her iPhone images have earned recognition in numerous international photography competitions, and you can view her work on Instagram at @lindarepaskyphotography (www.instagram.com/lindarepaskyphotography).

“The camera you always have in your pocket can do far more than take snapshots,” said Repasky. “We’ll

cover techniques and tips for using your smartphone to create nature and landscape photos worthy of hanging on your walls.”

Founded by renowned nature photographer Les Campbell, the Quabbin Photo Group celebrates the natural beauty of the Quabbin Region through monthly public programs, guest speakers, and opportunities for photographers of all levels to learn, experiment, and share their work. Whether you’re an experienced photographer, a casual hiker with a phone, or someone who just wants better pictures of New England foliage, this program is designed to help you get more from the camera you already carry.

For more information about the program, contact Program Chair Ed Comeau at ecomeau@comeaphotography.com. To learn more about the Quabbin Photo Group, reach out to President Mark Lindhult at mlindhult@gmail.com.

# Farmers Market is held on Wednesdays

WEST BROOKFIELD – The West Brookfield Farmers Market has returned on the beautiful West Brookfield Common for its 15th consecutive season. The market is held on Wednesdays from 3-6 p.m., rain or shine, throughout the spring, summer and early fall.

The 2025 season the market will feature 17 vendors with a wide array of locally grown and made goods including three new vendors sure to please the palate. The West Brookfield Farmers Market is held every Wednesday afternoon from 3-6 p.m. on the common s through Oct. 8, rain or shine.



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# - opinion -

## Guest Column

### A tragic irony

Never forget. All my life I have believed in that mantra. I still do to this day.

The systematic atrocities committed to the Jewish people by the German government under the leadership of one of the vilest human beings to ever walk the earth should be forever held up for remembrance. It should be forever taught to our children to make them aware of the darker side of humanity.

This, I always thought, was the only way to ensure it could never happen again.

On Oct. 6, 2024, I cried for the parents and all the loved ones who lost friends and family at the hand of Palestinians who committed atrocities to Jewish people. I have followed the painful history of the area for many years and, as an adult, came to understand the frustrating stalemate that has existed.

I experienced deep sorrow and grave frustration with a history that seemed never to be addressed by either side. No responsibility. Ever. The leadership always seemed to drive the hatred as the innocent and those who wanted real compromise watched in horror. Meanwhile the victims piled up as citizens allowed their evil leaders to manipulate them for their personal benefit.

The rich and powerful figured out how to shape this continuous march of death for their own personal survival.

Here is the sad truth:

The holocaust descendants are now seen by the world as committing atrocities that approach ethnic cleansing.

There is a small faction of radical leaders in the seat of power...on both sides. Isra-

el, of course, with the backing of the United States, is far more powerful. It has engaged in a retaliation that began with wide support to get their hostages back.

Now, after the wholesale destruction of an entire population, supported by the politically powerful, feelings have changed.

Meanwhile, revenge blinds the radicalized to their own impending destruction as they cheer the complete destruction of the Palestinian people. They cheer a holocaust of their own as they support a systematic ethnic cleansing. Images of young people filled with hatred who laugh at starvation and murder are all over social media. This cycle is a tragic version of the movie, Groundhog Day.

All over the world people are seeing the complete destruction of the Palestinian people making it increasingly impossible to stand with Israel. The U.S. is the only country sending arms to Israel.

America voted against declaring a Palestinian state to help stop the destruction. Meanwhile so many thoughtful Jews are seeing this pattern as destructive to their own existence. Many are bravely marching in the streets and getting arrested. Even they are shockingly learning that Israel is repeating the horrors of the Third Reich. America is complicit.

It is such a tragic irony. I certainly will "Never Forget." However, I must ask...What is the use of remembering such a tragic mistake if you never learn from it?

**Eric von Bleicken**  
West Brookfield



Male Eastern towhee

A Brimfield resident has a wildlife camera in his yard. In a recent email he said, "Surprisingly an adult male Eastern Towhee was seen on the wildlife cam, images quite often even though I don't see him often in the yard. I haven't seen a female or juveniles this summer."

The male Eastern towhee has a black body, rufous sides, white belly and long tail with white spots. The female has a brown body. Juveniles are brown with heavy streaking.

They like dense brush, forest edges and overgrown areas; hence, why it is not always seen. This large sparrow, 7 to 8 inches long, forages on the ground, scratching through leaf litter for seeds and insects. In my first sighting of a towhee, the scratching sound alerted me to the its presence.

The towhee is a ground nesting bird that can be attracted to gardens with untamed vegetation. They build an open cup nest hidden under a shrub or

in dense vegetation. Its song is a "drink y o u r tea" and a sharp "c h e - wink" call. They are short distance migrant, wintering in the southeastern United States, but some may linger in northern areas.

#### Other Brimfield birds

The Brimfield resident and his wife saw a Northern flicker probing around plants in their flower bed. Coming to his birdbath are gray catbirds, adults and at least one juvenile, as well as blue jays, who come for a drink. Since he stopped feeding peanuts due to black bears, he has not seen tufted titmice, red-bellied woodpeckers, Northern cardinals or as many blue jays. Other birds that show up at the bath include chipping sparrow, female or immature; scarlet tanager, female or immature; common yellowthroat warbler; male American goldfinch; American robin and mourning dove.

#### Common nighthawks

The Brimfield resident said, "I sat out front for three nights recently looking for migrating common nighthawks, but was skunked, didn't see any. However two members of the Allen Bird Club reported large flights last week and this weekend. Both live west of the Connecticut River.

#### Helping birds

A previous column mentioned the poisoning of birds of prey when they eat rodents that ingested anti-coagulant rodenticide bait. Birds can get stuck on glue traps when used

outdoors to kill rodents. The birds die or end up horribly injured. The lucky ones are taken to wildlife rehabilitators, who can often save the bird. However, they then need to spend months in care growing back feathers.

South Hadley resident A South Hadley resident said in an email, "Cedar waxwings sound like delightful birds, I hope I can see one or more some day. I'm in the process of removing non-native and invasive plant species from my property and intend to plant berry bushes, among other things. Maybe that will entice them. Though I do have tons of pokeberry on the perimeters of my yard."

#### Eagles, ravens and more

My daughter, Paula, saw a bald eagle circling the Ware River by the Church Street rail trail. It was flying very low so either it was landing or just took off. She also heard a raven calling by the covered bridge and then saw it in a tree. She and her daughters saw an osprey while driving over a bridge in Rhode Island. She also had a Carolina wren on her back deck recently.

#### Canada geese

Two of my grandchildren and I saw a huge flock of Canada geese in a field in North Brookfield last Friday. I stopped to look at them and my granddaughter, Lizzie, took a photo of the geese.

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

### Peach pits and preservation

My first experience with growing peaches was back at my parents' house when a peach pit sprouted in their compost pile.

The resulting tree was moved to a spot in the yard and within a few years, my parents became peach preservers. It was fun for them to "work on" the peaches together, and what I mean by this is blanching, peeling and quartering them, then putting the pieces in a container in syrup and freezing them.

Sure, it was a sticky mess of a time but worth it all to have this bounty in the dead of winter.

Fast forward 30 years to the present day and my mini orchard, deemed "the tiny place" when my kids were little. There I have three peach trees, all started from pits. Two trees were from my friend Eva and one I started on my own.

I planted the pits in my garden in the fall maybe 5 years ago. They went through the stratification process over the winter

which helped to break dormancy. Gradually they would germinate over the spring and summer months.

Sometimes they need two winters to complete the process and still not all will germinate, I think the last time I had four or five out of a dozen pits pop up. One tree to keep and others to share!

This year's was the best peach harvest I've ever had on these trees. It was probably the combination of the last couple of wet summers encouraging new growth on the tree and then mild weather this spring during bloom time.

It is always so disappointing to have the tree so beautifully in flower and then a couple nights of very cold weather come through to kill them all. I still didn't have what I would call a bumper harvest for three trees, but we had enough to can 17 quarts (thanks for the canning lesson, dear friend!) and also eat plenty of the fruit fresh off the tree.



Here are a few fun facts about our favorite fuzzy fruit.

Peach trees prefer soil that is near neutral to alkaline. I never think of liming under the trees, but maybe that would be a good idea.

Flower buds are borne only on shoots that grew the previous year. So it is important to prune your trees to encourage new growth.

Peach trees should be pruned to an open center, so that the sun can ripen the fruit. In our part of

the country, prune when the tree is blossom or right after it is done flowering. At that point in the growing season you can also see and remove winter damaged branches and stems more easily but be careful not to knock off developing fruit by accident.

I read that spreading compost under the tree right after it has been harvested will start the tree out on the right foot. I am going to get to that later this week.

Peach trees are not very long lived. You may get 10-20 years out of them. Trees usually top off at around ten feet tall and wide.

There are such a thing as super dwarf trees, grown as specimens in the shrub border or a kitchen garden, but

from what I hear, fruit quality isn't the best. I'll stick to the regular size trees, thank you! And planning ahead with replacement trees means sowing some pits in the garden this fall. Even my mom has sown some around the foundation of her house, just as an experiment. I love that she is still experimenting. I would imagine the memories of "working on" the peaches with my dad hold a special place in her heart.

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*

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For more information, or to submit people or milestone news for the Quaboag Current, please email pouimette@turley.com.

## - community -

# Wrestling returned to Timberyard Brewing

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

**EAST BROOKFIELD** – It's time to ring the bell as Rebel Spirit Pro Wrestling returned to Timberyard Brewing Company this past weekend.

This was the second year the wrestling promotion performed at Timberyard Brewing Company.

This show was called "Meltdown" and featured many talented wrestlers from the New England area. The main promoter of Rebel Spirit Pro Wrestling is Caleb Seltzer.

This wrestling promotion is the home of many talented wrestlers, such as Spencer Slade, Wrecking Ball, and Brad Baylor. Baylor is currently working with NXT, a brand that is part of World Wrestling Entertainment.

There were several wrestlers meeting fans prior to the show. Some had booths set up and had merchandise available and signing autographs.

The show was underway as the bell rang and the audience at Timberyard were ready for some Rebel Spirit Pro Wrestling action. The opening match on the card was Travis Jacobs versus Jason Blade. Based off the crowd's reaction during his entrance, Blade was certainly the favorite in this match.

The high-flying Blade was the victor in the match and stayed in the ring for a



TK O'Ryan, right, is shown being interviewed after his debut match during Rebel Spirit Pro Wrestling's Meltdown show at Timberyard Brewing Company.

brief interview. Blade greeted some of the fans on his way back to the locker room.

The next match was an exciting match as it featured the Rebel Spirit Pro Wrestling debut of TK O'Ryan. It was a fast-paced match as O'Ryan charged at his opponent and showed no nerves in the ring.

It was a successful debut as TK O'Ryan won by pinfall. O'Ryan was interviewed after his match, and he shared that he was away from wrestling for about five years.

After a successful debut, O'Ryan made it clear to the audience that he will return to Rebel Spirit Pro Wrestling. O'Ryan also complimented the talent of the wrestlers who represent Rebel Spirit.

O'Ryan feels "some of the



TK O'Ryan made his entrance during his debut in Rebel Spirit Pro Wrestling.

best wrestlers in the world" are here on the east coast.

The roster also featured the talent of women wrestlers. In one match, Kayla Lopez went one on one with Elle Valentine with Valentine earning the victory.

Other wrestlers who performed during Meltdown at Timberyard were Wrecking Ball Legursky, Oxx Adams, David Goldy, Mortar, A Game Alexander, and Seabass Finn.



Kayla Lopez is shown in the ring prior to her match against Elle Valentine. Rebel spirit wrestling 5



Jason Blade is shown during his interview after a pinfall victory over Travis Jacobs.

### QHSUA FROM PAGE 1

eighth grade students.

Cannabis use has also seen a downward trend in all age groups surveyed, Berthiaume said, going from 19% to 9%. This trend was also seen with the use of e-cigarettes/vape pens.

"A drop from 19 to 9% is pretty significant," she said.

The survey data showed that the misuse of prescription medications and inhalants has remained the same after increasing from 2021 to 2023. Medications used to treat ADHD, benzodiazepines and opioids were all listed as being "easily accessible" to students.

"That's definitely something to keep an eye on," Berthiaume said. "Even though they're comparatively low, due to their seriousness."

#### Access to illicit substances

The percentage of students who reported access to illicit substances noted that alcohol, cannabis vape pods and pens, and nicotine vape pods and pens were the easiest to get. Access to cigarettes also came in high, but most students reported not using them.

"Almost 50% of students reported it would be easy to access alcohol," Berthiaume said.

Students who reported some substance use reported they primarily gained access from friends. Students also reported getting access to substances (both knowingly and unknowingly) from family members.

"Very small amounts reporting buying it online or asking a stranger to buy it for them. Very few reported using fake IDs. The time of that is largely over," she said.

In talking to school administrators, many students reported getting substances from their coworkers who are over 21 years old and legally able to pur-

chase alcohol, nicotine and cannabis.

Policies that raise the age of purchase (such as the Nicotine Free-Generation) could help to reduce the amount of friend to friend exchanges of substances. The town of Belchertown is one of 13 towns in the commonwealth to adopt such a policy.

#### State and national comparison

Berthiaume said national and state data was not available yet for the 2025 survey, but compared to previous data, the region remains comparable to those numbers.

For eighth grade students, the regional data reported less alcohol use compared to both national and state data. The 10<sup>th</sup> grade students were slightly higher than the state average but still below the national average.

Students in 12<sup>th</sup> grade reported less alcohol use than the state average and were comparable to the national average.

#### Student demographics

"For many of the categories, we see pretty consistent with all students," Berthiaume said.

Berthiaume said substance use rates are higher with LGBTQ+ students and students of color. These students also reported higher levels of feeling negative emotions.

#### Emotions and mental health

Berthiaume said the students surveyed were asked about the following emotions: anxious/nervous, happy/content, depressed/sad, angry/upset, really stressed and physical symptoms of emotions.

"The major question we asked was 'how often do you feel these emotions?'" Berthiaume said.

Berthiaume said the eighth grade students reported higher levels of these emotions, and LGBTQ+ students reported feeling more negative emotions regularly.

Female students were twice as likely to experience negative emotions than their male peers, but had similar levels of happy/content every day.

Students of color also reported more negative emotions than white students.

"The overall data of feeling negative emotions is trending downward compared to 2021 and 2023," Berthiaume said. "During COVID, negative emotions were at an all-time high."

When the students were asked how they coped with these negative emotions, only 27% reported that they would talk to their family, but almost 70% will go on social media to manage difficult emotions.

"The impact social media has on youth is not good and it's going to exacerbate those feelings," she said.

Talking to friends to help cope with negative emotions was listed by 42% of students, which is lower than expected. More than three-quarters of students said they would focus on something else or do an enjoyable activity to cope.

Berthiaume said one in 10 students reported engaging in self-harm in the past 12 months (11%), which is a drop from the 16% reported in 2023. She said this is still something to monitor closely as it is "concerningly high."

#### Perceptions of harm

Over 80% of students reported there is a "moderate/great" risk of harm with binge drinking alcohol, which is defined as five or more drinks one-to-two times a week.

For cannabis, about half of the students reported it as moderate/great risk of harm for use one-to-two times a week, but 87% think every day use is more harmful than binge drinking. More than 90% of students think every day use of e-cigarettes/vape pens is moderate/great risk of harm.

A large percentage of students recognized the dangers of substance use and saw these behavior as more harmful for someone their age versus just people in general.

"So that was great to see," Berthiaume said. "They really understand that it's harmful for them."

#### Parent and friend disapproval

For 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders, there's a drop in the percentage of students who think their parents would disapprove of the use of alcohol and cannabis.

"One to keep an eye on is the cannabis in particular," Berthiaume said.

Looking at friend disapproval rates for 10<sup>th</sup> graders, trends are bouncing back from what was seen in the 2023 data. Berthiaume said she would like to see the results for e-cigarettes/vape pens and cannabis to be higher.

For eighth graders, the friend disapproval rate increased for both e-cigarettes/vape pens and cannabis.

In 12<sup>th</sup> grade, the disapproval rate for friends dropped for the use of alcohol.

#### Family factors and school culture

Berthiaume said 95% of students reported that their families have clear rules and expectations about alcohol and 96% have the same for drug use. Almost 100% of students said their parents would be aware if they were in school or not.

"Our students know that someone is looking out for them. It's really reassuring to see," Berthiaume said.

The survey showed that the percentage of students who think their peers are using substances is higher than the number actually reported by students.

The survey also looked at bullying, and 50% of students who reported being bullied said it was for their body size/personal appearance which broke down

to weight (90%), hygiene (73%) and clothing (56%). Almost 40% of those bullied said it was because of their race/ethnicity.

Another primary cause reported for bullying was related to a student's physical ability.

#### About QHSUA

Established in 2014, the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance is a partnership of local hospitals, school districts, behavioral health agencies, religious organizations, police departments, town administrations, mental health professionals, fire and rescue departments, businesses, youth groups and organizations, substance use treatment service providers, and community members who care about community-based substance use prevention, treatment and recovery supports.

The alliance began as a program under the auspices of the Quaboag Hills Community Coalition.

In 2015, it was funded with a start-up grant from Baystate Health Eastern Region's Community Benefits Advisory Council. In 2016, the town of Ware and the alliance were awarded a five-year federal Drug-Free Communities Support Program grant. They have also received grant funding from the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts and the Public Health Services Commissioned Officers Foundation.

In 2019, the QHSUA was awarded another federal grant to address underage drinking and the risk of impaired driving.

QHSUA serves local communities that are located in Hampshire, Hampden and Worcester Counties – the towns of Barre, Belchertown, Brimfield, Brookfield, Hardwick, Hubbardston, Holland, Monson, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Oakham, Palmer, Spencer, Wales, Ware, Warren and West Brookfield.

### POOR WALK FROM PAGE 1

one. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul operates in 153 countries, with more than 4,000 local conferences, and is run entirely by members committed to tackling poverty in all its forms.

For more information contact svdpfiskdalepr@gmail.com. To make a donation, visit the website: svdpfiskdale.org and click on the "Donate" button.

To register for the event, go to the events tab at svdpfiskdale.org.

### BURIAL GROUND FROM PAGE 1

preserving their history for future generations.

When he isn't leading tours, Barnsley writes children's books, teaches, and volunteers in community projects.

The Old Burial Ground is located at 308 Main St. Parking is available behind the Center Office Building and along the road in front of as well as behind the cemetery. Registration is requested by emailing sgibquig@gmail.com.

### MEMORIAL GOLF FROM PAGE 1

very important to Alex.

The Knights were able to award two \$1,000 scholarships this past year from the proceeds of this event to two local high school seniors, as well as fund many other youth activities. They ask that you please consider supporting this event by sponsoring or participating in the tournament individually or with a foursome.

Tournament raffle items and general donations to this event are always welcomed and appreciated. Registration and sponsorships are now available for this tournament.

To register, and for more information, please call 413-813-8100 or email wallyconnor122@gmail.com.

- sports -

# Leclerc, Patnode gets wins at Monadnock Speedway

WINCHESTER, N.H. - Teen Ty Leclerc is for real and so too is a slightly older guy named Todd Patnode. The potent pair split a pair of 35-lap Modified main events Saturday night at Monadnock Speedway, with each backing up his dash to victory lane with a strong third-place performance in the second feature event.

Other winners Saturday on the high banks of the Great Race Place included Super Street hot shoe Zach Zilinski, who won for the second time this summer and Gordon Farnum, Farnum, who jumped into the Swanzy Oil ride mid-season, won for the third week in a row and fourth time this summer.

While points aren't kept in the youth Young Guns division, 2025 will be remembered as the year of

Hunter Duquette. The Bay State teen scored his track-high seventh win Saturday. And in the Six Shooters, defending track king Michael Yeaton moved to the top of the leader board with his second win of the summer.

Leclerc started up front alongside Andrew Brousseau as the Allstates Material Group 604 Modifieds went to war in the night's first of two 35-lap features. The Taunton, Mass. star, who'd scored his first career win just three weeks earlier, jumped all over the opening lead and never looked back.

Top gun Tyler Leary raced most of the way in Leclerc's shadow but could never find a path around the flying teen. Patnode was quickly up to Leary's bumper but could advance no farther, settling for the bronze medal finish and setting his sights on a bigger

prize in the nightcap.

With the top eight then inverted to start round number two, top points man Brian Robie, who entered Saturday night's twins with four wins already this summer, took charge on lap two. Patnode, though, firing from row three, led by a foot as the two former champs hit the stripe on lap four and then held strong to beat Robie to the checkers by a single length. Leclerc, blasting off from row four, was strong in third.

While Robie was winless on the night, he and his potent Bar Harbor Bank and Trust ride still holds a commanding 64-point lead in the race to the 2025 604 Modified championship, with only two remaining races this season.

Michael Lashua, stronger and better every week, led the first eight laps of the

Twin State Truck Services Super Street feature. Zach Zilinski, though, wasn't about to let him get away, low-lining into the lead in turn two and then holding off a blockbuster cast to score his second win of the season.

Zilinski had to first hold off Erik Smith, and then JD Stockwell, as the presence of five-time winner Dylan Zullo moved closer and closer from his row four starting spot. Zullo rocketed into second on lap 16 but, on this night, had to settle for second, taking the checkers glued to Zilinski's bumper as he continued his march toward a first-time title, Stockwell finished his strong night's work in third, with two other previous 2025 winners, Chris Rien-deau and Smith rounding out the top five.

Reigning Brattleboro

Towing and Recovery Pure Stock champ Andrea St. Amour started up front in Saturday night's 25-lap feature and immediately took charge. While she had a swarm of top contenders at her heels, the biggest thing to keep her from cruising into victory lane was coming like a heat-seeking missile from way back in row five.

Gobbling up positions from any lane he chose, Farnum took fourth on lap six, third on lap nine, and sailed past points leader Kyle Kenny two laps later. St. Amour was next. Taking the lead low along the front chute as lap 13 went into the books. He sped off into the sunset to win for the third week in a row. St. Amour and Carlos Grenier, staged a terrific battle for the second spot, with St. Amour prevailing to earn the run-

nerup hardware. Jimmy Zellman was fourth on the night, and fifth went to Addison Brooks.

Hunter Duquette made easy work of powering to win number seven in the Doug's Auto Body Young Guns Saturday. Leading all the way in the caution-free 15-lapper, he romped to victory after earlier winning his heat. Ella Grabowski impressed in second, and Maya Bell was third.

Michael Yeaton and Travis Hollins were tied atop the Six Shooter leader board entering Saturday's third outing of the season. Not anymore. Like he'd done a few weeks ago at Claremont, Yeaton, the reigning king of the Six Shooters on the high banks, blasted off to win by a country mile Saturday. Hollins was second, and first-timer Jeff Staiti came home third.



During the candlelight vigil, a rainbow formed above those gathered, appearing to end near the Recovery Center of HOPE's two Main Street locations.

VIGIL FROM PAGE 1

passion in action," Lutz said.

Garcia said having a community is one of the key factors needed along the recovery journey, a path which nobody can walk alone.

"Even in darkness, there is light," Garcia said. "In grief, there is community."

The vigil featured a number of speakers from the community, including peer recovery coach from the Behavioral Health Network, Randy Gratton.

Gratton said it was an honor to speak about recovery, and something him and his family never thought he would do.

Gratton said a word used a lot in recovery is "gratitude," which he said is "cliché and overly used," but necessary in the recovery journey. Also important is the understanding and comfort that comes with speaking to people who have had a shared life experience.

He encouraged everyone present to stop by the Recovery Center of HOPE or participate in one of its many programs.

"We can turn the worst nightmares into something positive," Gratton said.

Next to speak was Turley Publication Advertising Executive and Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond President Dan Flynn, who has been a strong community ally for the Recovery Center of HOPE.

Flynn said in his time spent visiting the Recovery Center of HOPE, he has learned a lot about recovery and the roadblocks that people face along their journeys.

Peggy Baxter of the United Church of Ware led a prayer before a moment of silence was held, which each person present holding a purple candle.

She spoke about suffering, endurance and character building. All of these things help to produce hope.

"Today, we hold onto



Community members joined together for a moment of silence at Veterans Park on Aug. 29 in recognition of Overdose Awareness Day. A candlelight vigil was organized by the Recovery Center of HOPE.

hope," Baxter said.

Public Health Nurse Kirsten Krieger, who served the town of Ware for several years, including working closely with those in recovery, pointed out the rainbow that had formed over Main Street. She said it seemed to represent a bridge, connecting the Recovery Center of HOPE to the community.

She spoke about her experience working with people in recovery from

substance use disorder, and how important it is to not be afraid – and to help.

"You could be the one person that gets them to the place that says, 'I think I can do it,'" Krieger said.

Lutz then invited members of the community to remember loved ones lost to overdose.

"Your presence and care make a difference," she said. "Let us continue to honor those we lost."

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| <b>CLUES ACROSS</b>                    | 29. Construction location          | <b>CLUES DOWN</b>                    | 28. Former French coin of low value   |
| 1. Utilitarian fashion accessory       | 30. Cow's noise                    | 1. Occur                             | 29. A bag-like structure in an animal |
| 4. Engine additive                     | 31. Blue                           | 2. Show up                           | 31. Schenectady County Airport        |
| 7. Macaws                              | 32. One of the Fab Four            | 3. Capital of Taiwan                 | 32. Calm down                         |
| 8. Listens to                          | 39. Formula 1 team                 | 4. Ocean                             | 33. Partner to cheese                 |
| 10. Self-righteously moralistic person | 41. Dash                           | 5. Givers and _____                  | 34. Cola brand                        |
| 12. Made of wood                       | 42. Lifting device                 | 6. Gets ready                        | 35. Stepped on                        |
| 13. Chinese lute                       | 43. Basics                         | 8. Ad _____                          | 36. Japanese city                     |
| 14. Beginning military rank            | 44. Keyboard key                   | 9. Fit of irritation                 | 37. Type of coating                   |
| 16. Indicates near                     | 45. Old Irish alphabet             | 11. Criminal organization            | 38. A citizen of Yemen                |
| 17. Ties the score                     | 46. Shaking of the Earth's surface | 14. Exclamation that denotes disgust | 39. Popular breakfast item            |
| 19. Chum                               | 48. Covered stadium                | 15. American state                   |                                       |
| 20. Long ago                           | 49. Sword handles                  | 18. Sensor hub                       |                                       |
| 21. Localities                         | 50. Longing or yearning            | 19. Before                           |                                       |
| 25. Midway between northeast and east  | 51. Creators' social network       | 20. The boundary of a surface        |                                       |
| 26. Make fun of                        | 52. Boxing's GOAT                  | 22. Witnesses                        |                                       |
| 27. Tennis great Arthur                |                                    | 23. Singular                         |                                       |
|  |                                    | 24. Type of meal                     |                                       |
|  |                                    | 27. Music awards show                |                                       |



The country/folk group Woodshed performed on Brookfield Common this past Friday night. The band consists of A.J. Kiernan (front left), Jason Wood (front right), Karen Gallant on the drum, and Mike St. Germain on the upright bass guitar.

**WOODSHED FROM PAGE 1**

"This Time" and "If I Had No One".

During their performance, Woodshed announced they will be recording some new songs soon, including an EP.

Woodshed will be performing live at Lost Towns



Guests brought their chairs and picnic blankets for a nice evening of music on Brookfield Common to witness Woodshed.

# SPORTS

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## Warriors have tough opening week



Eliza Alexander tries to get the ball past a Ludlow attacker.

**LUDLOW** – Last Tuesday afternoon on the turf at Ludlow High School, Ludlow girls soccer scored an independent win over Central Mass.' Tantasqua Regional 5-1. Audrey Afonso had the big game in the opener as she scored a hat trick along with an assist for four points. Catarina Mazza and Stacy Barros had goals while Ava Friese added two assists. Tantasqua managed just a late goal in the second half. Ludlow also faced Northampton this week (see related story) while Tantasqua's tough start continued. The Warriors lost to Auburn 3-0 and Douglas 5-0. The Lions face Agawam on Sept. 15 at 5 p.m. while Tantasqua next faces Nipmuc on Sept. 17 at 4 p.m.



Ailse Quinn sends a quick pass away.



Maeve O'Neil eyes an open teammate.



Hayden O'Malley gets close to midfield.



Sarah Parson dives for a save.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHTOS.COM



Tess Alexander looks to fake out an oncoming opponent.



Bobby Tobin gets a foot on the ball.



Logan Bruley makes a play on defense.

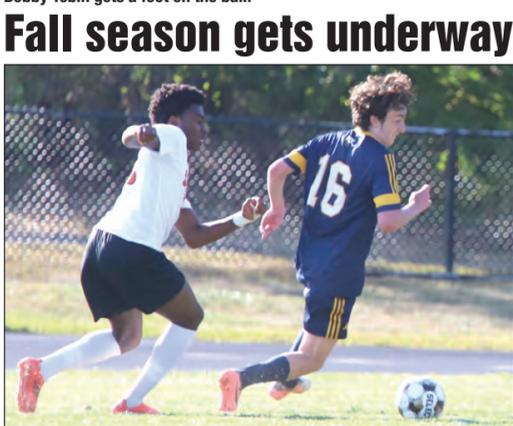
## Pioneers wins season opener

**PALMER** – Last Tuesday afternoon, three different Pioneers scored for Pathfinder in the season opener as they defeated Monson 3-2. Adonis Dupre, Owen Pear, and Cayden Bousquet all had the goals as the Pioneers were able to pull out the victory. The Pioneers fell to Smith Vocational 5-4 to make Pathfinder 1-1 to start the season.

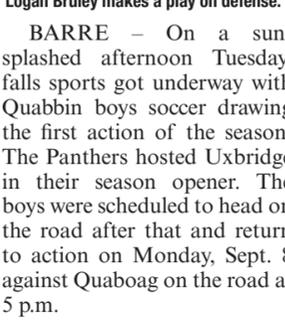


TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Cayden Bousquet looks to get around a Monson midfielder.



Collin Lindley chases after the ball.



Joseph Cook plays the ball off his chest.



Brody Wetnicka looks for a lane to make a throw-in.



Gianni Holland goes for the loose ball.



Silas Barrieau heads up the field with possession.



Jaleel Roman tries to play the ball high.



James Vulpe defends the ball in front of the net with Cayden Bousquet, left, and Goalie Elijah Hodge flanking him.



Adonis Dupre sends the ball deep.

# - community -

## Annual school summit to focus on social media, technology, cell phones

The Northwestern District Attorney's Office is joining with the Children's Advocacy Centers of Hampshire and Franklin counties and North Quabbin to host the 11th Safe and Healthy School Summit on topics related to social media, cell phones, and digital health in schools.

"Schools in the Age of Digital Distraction" is the theme for the day-long conference planned for Oct. 8, from 8:45 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Greenfield Community College. The Summit is geared toward K-12 administrators, including superintendents, assistant superintendents, building principals, pupil services directors, teachers, para-educators, school resource officers, nurses, counselors and other vital members of school communities.

With keynote speakers and panel presentations, the day will explore the risks and benefits of cellphone and social media technology on the developing brain

and the learning environment, community norms around tech use, digital media literacy, and how to promote healthy relationships with technology to foster engaged learners. Educators will share their experiences with designing and implementing bell-tobell policies in schools.

Keynote speaker, Dr. Michael Rich, will deliver a presentation titled "Raising Healthy, Smart, Kind Humans in the Age of Social Media and AI." Rich is a pediatrician and director of the Digital Wellness Lab at Children's Hospital, founder of the Clinic for Interactive Media and Internet Disorders, and associate professor of pediatrics at Harvard University. He is also author of the book "The Mediatrician's Guide: A Joyful Approach to Raising Healthy, Smart, Kind Kids in a Screen-Saturated World".

The summit also features a talk "Mindfulness and Youth-Generated Ap-

proaches to Digital Pitfalls" presented by Susan Reynolds, M.Ed., academic technology expert and founder of Look Up, an organization dedicated to empowering young people to think critically about their relationships with technology.

In addition, there will be panels featuring local educators and youth talking about technology, social media, and school culture and a presentation of local data about the impact of social media and cell phones, and policy implications.

The \$35 registration cost includes light breakfast and lunch. Registration is open now and extends until Friday, Sept. 26. To register, visit <https://cacfranklinnq.org/d/529/11th-Safe-and-Healthy-Schools-Summit>.

The first 100 registrants receive a free copy of Rich's book "The Mediatrician's Guide: A Joyful Approach to Raising Healthy, Smart, Kind Kids in a Screen-Saturated World".

## Second Chance to host low-cost pet vaccine clinic

LEICESTER – Second Chance Animal Services is returning to the Leicester community with another low-cost pet vaccine clinic on Friday, Sept. 13, from 9 a.m.-noon at Endless Pawsabilities, 880 Pleasant St., Rochdale.

Dogs and cats from all towns are welcome.

Thanks to support from the Leicester Savings Bank Fund through the Greater Worcester Community Foundation and Petco Love, the Distemper/Parvo combo

vaccine will be offered free of charge. Rabies vaccines will be available for \$12 for residents of Leicester, Rochdale, and Cherry Valley, and \$18 for residents of all other towns. Microchipping will also be offered for just \$22.

"Vaccines are a critical tool in preventing the spread of dangerous and sometimes deadly diseases in pets," said Lindsay Doray, Chief Development Officer of Second Chance. "We're proud to offer this clinic to help protect the

health of pets and the people who love them."

Parking is limited, and a limited number of walk-ins will be accepted until 10:30 a.m. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged to ensure availability.

Pet owners can register online at [www.secondchanceanimals.org/scasconnect-worcester/](http://www.secondchanceanimals.org/scasconnect-worcester/) to reserve a spot and help ensure a smooth clinic experience. All dogs must be on leashes and cats in carriers for everyone's safety.

# Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP

## Town of West Brookfield – Snow Removal Contractor Wanted

Seeking contractors or individuals with a 6-wheel truck, 9' plow, and 2–3 CY spreader for snow & ice removal for the 2025–2026 season

Details and application available at: [wbrookfield.com/highway-department](http://wbrookfield.com/highway-department)

Questions? Call (508) 867-1417 or email Anne [agarwood-hampp@wbrookfield.com](mailto:agarwood-hampp@wbrookfield.com) or Jim [jdaley@wbrookfield.com](mailto:jdaley@wbrookfield.com)

## Full-Time Police Officer

The Warren Police Department is accepting applications for the position of full time Police Officer. Applicants do not have to be academy trained, but academy trained are preferred. Must be willing to work weekends, nights and holidays.

Responsibilities include responding to emergency and non-emergency calls for Police, Fire and Ambulance services. It is preferred that applicants currently possess valid certification as a Police Officer. Candidates must have strong interpersonal, verbal, and written communication skills. Preferences include an associate degree or higher in criminal justice, serve in the US military, or experience as a Police Officer.

The Patrolmen's contract provides an education incentive and a candidate with prior experience may also be considered to start at a higher step of pay.

Resumes and cover letters will be accepted until position is fill to the attention of Lt. Kyle Whitcomb, WPD PO Box 606, Warren, MA 01083 or [Whitcomb@warren-ma.gov](mailto:Whitcomb@warren-ma.gov).

The Town of Warren is an EOE.

# - public safety -

## East Brookfield Police Log

During the week of Aug. 10-16, the East Brookfield Police Department responded to 107 building/property checks, 50 directed area patrols, 20 radar assignments, 11 emergency 911 calls, four citizen assists, one assist other agency, two investigations, one disturbance, two complaints, three animal calls and 44 motor vehicle stops in the town of East Brookfield.

### Sunday, Aug. 10

7: 15 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, North Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital  
 11:19 a.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Harrington Street, Officer Handled  
 6:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued  
 7:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Route 49, Citation Issued  
 7:50 p.m. Assist Citizen, Rice Rod, Spoken To  
 10:42 p.m. Medical Emergency, Flagg Road, Transported to Hospital

### Monday, Aug. 11

11:47 a.m. Assist Citizen, Drake Lane, Officer Handled  
 3:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation issued  
 3:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Harrington Street, Citation Issued  
 3:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Harrington Circle, Citation Issued  
 4:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued  
 4:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued  
 5:25 p.m. Motor Vehicle

Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued

### Tuesday, Aug. 12

10:28 a.m. 911 Suspicious Activity, Howe Street, Spoken To  
 2:42 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Harrington Street, Transported to Hospital  
 6:26 p.m. Radar, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued  
 6:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued  
 9:07 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Route 49, Services Rendered

### Wednesday, Aug. 13

1:16 p.m. Assist Citizen, Oakwood Drive, Officer Handled  
 3:02 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Harrington Street, Citation Issued  
 3:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Harrington Circle, Citation Issued  
 4:01 p.m. Radar, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued  
 4:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Harrington Street, Citation Issued  
 4:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued  
 4:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation Issued  
 4:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued  
 4:36 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued  
 5:20 p.m. Fire/Other, Podunk Road, Investigated  
 6:23 p.m. Radar, West Main Street, Citation Issued  
 6:36 p.m. Motor Vehicle

Stop, West Main Street, Citation Issued

9:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Route 49, Vehicle Towed

9:52 p.m. 911 Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, East Main Street, Officer Handled

### Thursday, Aug. 14

6:31 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued  
 7:11 a.m. Investigation, Harrington Street, Spoken To  
 9:46 a.m. 911 Suspicious Activity, Court Street, Services Rendered  
 10:16 a.m. Suspicious Activity, Young Road, Services Rendered  
 10:20 a.m. 911 Suspicious Activity, Young Road, Merge  
 1:09 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, East Main Street, Services Rendered  
 3:53 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Podunk Road, Transported to Hospital  
 4:39 p.m. Radar, Harrington Street, Citation Issued  
 4:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Harrington Street, Citation Issued  
 11:13 p.m. Medical Emergency, East Main Street, Transported to Hospital

### Friday, Aug. 15

3:23 p.m. 911 Disturbance, East Main Street, Arrest(s) Made

### Saturday, Aug. 16

10:20 a.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Services Rendered  
 5:38 p.m. Investigation, Route 49, Services Rendered

## New Braintree Police Log

During the week of Sept. 2-8, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 15 building/property checks, 21 directed/area patrols, five radar assignments, three traffic controls, two emergency 911 calls, one citizen assist, one assist other agency, four safety hazards, four animal calls and five motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

### Tuesday, Sept. 2

12:46 p.m. 911 Animal Call, Gilbertville Road, Ser-

vices Rendered

### Thursday, Sept. 4

9:27 a.m. Utility Issues, Cushman Road, Services Rendered  
 12:56 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled  
 2:02 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Written Warning

### Friday, Sept. 5

9:10 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital

### Saturday, Sept. 6

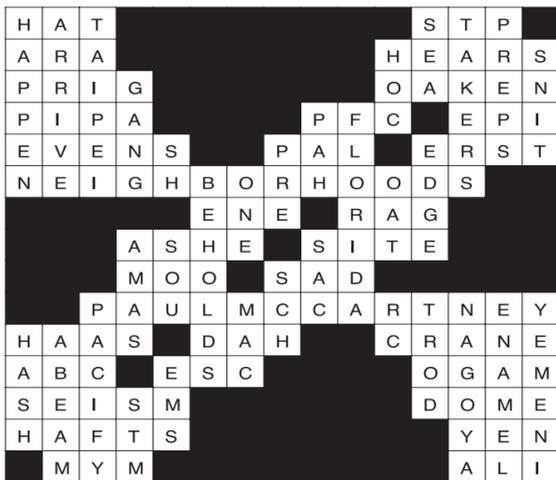
2:28 p.m. Safety Hazard, Utley Road, Dispatch Handled  
 3:01 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled  
 3:45 p.m. Safety Hazard, Oakham Cut Off Road, Officer Handled  
 3:51 p.m. Safety Hazard, Barre Road, No Action Required  
 5:06 p.m. Safety Hazard, Hardwick Road, Checked/Secured

## DEATH NOTICE

**O'Keefe, Michael J. "Mickey"**  
 Died Sept. 1, 2025  
 Varnum Funeral Home

## 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.



## BUSINESS

Turley Publications is liberal with regard to its business coverage policies, but we do have some standards folks need to understand. First, local businesses and merchants are just as much institutions in our towns as the library and schools. Without them, there are no towns.

We will feature coverage of local businesses that are new, have a major expansion, moving, closing, under new management or ownership, celebrating a milestone anniversary, or have been thrust into the news realm. Merchants can request that coverage through the editor, or for our existing advertising clients, through their ad representatives.

For more information on business coverage for the Quaboag Current, please email [pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com).

# Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

## FOR SALE

### FIREWOOD

**FIREWOOD**  
Fresh cut & split \$225.00  
Seasoned cut & split \$325.00  
All hardwood.  
Tree length available  
\*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap). Quality & volumes **guaranteed!!** New England Forest Products  
(413)477-0083

**MORE HEAT LESS WOOD.** Central Boiler Classic Edge HDX Outdoor Wood Furnace. EPA Certified. Titanium Stainless Steel. \$2K Tax Credit. Call (508)882-0178

### MISCELLANEOUS

**8 FT. MINUTE MOUNT FISHER PLOW**, new 5/8" cutting bar, remote included. \$800. Call 413-388-5854.

## TAG SALE

**COMMUNITY WIDE YARD SALE. Sat., 9/13/25, 9am-4pm. Brookhaven Association Clubhouse, 8 Lakeview Drive, West Brookfield.**

We have a TON of items, including new and used clothing, shoes, coats, home decor, kitchen supplies (dishes, serving platters, etc.), chandeliers, laptops, and dog supplies (clothing, collars, etc.), board games, wood, tents and camping gear, and many, many, many other things. FREE chicken coops and misc supplies!!!! Clothing: XS-XXL Female Shoes: 7.5-8.5

**20 Burleigh Rd. Hampden, MA 01036**  
**Sept. 13-14, 20-21, 27-28**  
**10am-5pm**  
**Sept. 15-19, 22-26 10am-2pm**  
Other times by Appt. Rain or Shine  
Call/text Ellie @ 413-531-5026 for questions and appointments.

## WANTED

### WANTED TO BUY

#### ALL ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.

**BUYING** Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, kitchenware, cookware, knives, military, automotive, fire department, masonic, license plates, beer cans, barware, books, oil cans, advertising tins, hunting, fishing, signs, and more.

Donald Roy (860) 874-8396

#### ALWAYS BUYING ALL ANTIQUES:

Musical instruments, guitars, horns, keyboards, vintage electronics, jewelry, coins, watches, military cameras, sports memorabilia, art, sterling, signs, automotive, hunting, advertising, radios, ham radio equipment, audio equipment, toys, one item or entire estate.

Call Paul 413-206-9688.

## JUNK REMOVAL

### A Call We Haul FAST REMOVAL

**Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts.**  
We load it & take it.  
**413-531-1936**  
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

### ARA JUNK FURNITURE REMOVAL

Full house cleanouts, attics, basements, garages, pools, hot tubs, sheds, decks. Same day service. 8am-9pm. Credit cards accepted. Free estimates on phone.  
Fully insured.  
Call Pete 413-433-0356.

## SERVICES



### 2\*\*\*\*\*A & B HOUSEHOLD REMOVAL SERVICE\*\*\*\*\*

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**DRYWALL, PAINTING AND CEILINGS**, plaster repair. Drywall hanging. Taping & complete finishing. All ceiling textures. Fully insured. Jason at Great Walls. (413)563-0487

## ELECTRICIAN

### PJ's Electrical MASTER ELECTRICIAN

**Licensed & Insured**  
Providing safe, reliable electrical services for residential and commercial projects.

**NOW OFFERING FREE CONSULTATIONS.**  
Call today to schedule your appointment.  
**(413) 366-1703**  
(Lic. #24046-A)

### BUILT 'N POWERED.

Serving all your electrical and construction needs. Fully insured and licensed. Free estimates. 10% Senior and Veteran's discounts. Call Tom 413-472-4104. Electrical Lic. #56789/CLS Lic. #1045405

### LICENSED ELECTRICIAN

I offer good quality electrical work, no project too small. Mini-splits, upgrades, pools, trustworthy & dependable. Luis Arroyo #20773A. Text or call 413-218-3301.

Read your local newspaper online at [www.newspapers.turley.com](http://www.newspapers.turley.com)

## SERVICES

**ZEN ELECTRIC COMPANY LLC**  
Fully licensed and insured; Master Electrician on staff. Call for all your electrical needs. No job too small. Senior citizen and Veteran Discount. A veteran owned company. MA License #8101A1.  
Call John at (413)206-6509

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**ELIOT STARBARD EXCAVATION**  
35+ yrs of happy customers.  
**508-882-0140**

## HEATING & AIR COND.

**KELLUM HEATING & COOLING LLC.** Now is the time to get your AC, Heating & Water Heater cleanings before the winter. **413-275-4408**

## HOME IMPROVEMENT

### HOME IMPROVEMENT SPECIALIST

Decks, porches, repair service, roofing and siding contractor.  
Tim 413-563-2229.  
Licensed/insured.  
35 year construction supervisor.

**HOME IMPROVEMENTS. REMODELING** Kitchens, baths. Ceramic tile, windows, painting, wallpapering, siding, decks. Insurance work. Fully insured. Free estimates. (413)246-2783 Ron.

## CHAMELEON

### PAINTING & REMODELING

#### INTERIOR/EXTERIOR Remodeling & Deck Specialists

Residential/Commercial  
Fully Insured • Free Estimates  
**413-351-1147**

## SERVICES

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Overgrown property?  
Extreme Brush Cutting!  
Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal  
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Small Demolition/ Junk Removal  
Insured  
Josh Rozell 413-636-5957

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Insured - Commercial - Residential

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All brick, block, stone, concrete. Hatchway doors, basement windows, chimneys rebuilt & repaired, foundations repaired, basement waterproofing systems, sump pumps. BBB+ rating. Free estimates. Lic #14790. Call (413)569-1611, (413)374-5377

Find archives of this local newspaper at [www.newspapers.turley.com](http://www.newspapers.turley.com)

## HOME IMPROVEMENT

Handyman Services  
**Walker Home Improvement**  
Finish Carpentry • Framing • Drywall • Painting • & more!  
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## SERVICES

### PAINTING

**B&D PAINTING** - Home improvement contractor. Reg. #175887. Free estimates. 30 years experience. 300 excellent references. 4.83 rating out of 5 on Angies List. **413-727-9846.**

### PRO PAINTING

Low, low prices. All phases interior, exterior painting and wallpapering. Also minor carpentry. **413-310-5099.**

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**GREG LAFOUNTAIN PLUMBING & HEATING** Lic #19196 Repairs & Replacement of fixtures, water heater installations, steam/HW boiler replacement. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30 years experience. Fully insured. \$10 Gift Card With Work Performed. Call Greg (413)592-1505

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**AFFORDABLE STUMP GRINDING**  
Fast, dependable service. Free estimates. Fully insured. Call Joe Sablack 413-436-9821, Cell 413-537-7994

**DL & G TREE SERVICE-** Everything from tree pruning, tree removal, stump grinding, storm damage and brush chipping. Honest and Dependable. Fully insured. Now offering a Senior Citizen and Veteran discount. Call today for free estimate (413)478-4212

**H & H TREE SERVICE** All phases of tree care. Call Dave(413-668-6560) day/night.

## STUMP GRINDING

**DL & G STUMP GRINDING** Grinding stumps of all sizes, insured & certified. Senior discounts. Call Dave 413-478-4212



**SAW Stump Grinding**  
Call for a Free Estimate, Veteran Owned, Fully Insured  
[WWW.SAWSTUMPGRINDING.COM](http://WWW.SAWSTUMPGRINDING.COM)  
413-213-5470

**Classified Advertising DEADLINE FRIDAY AT NOON**

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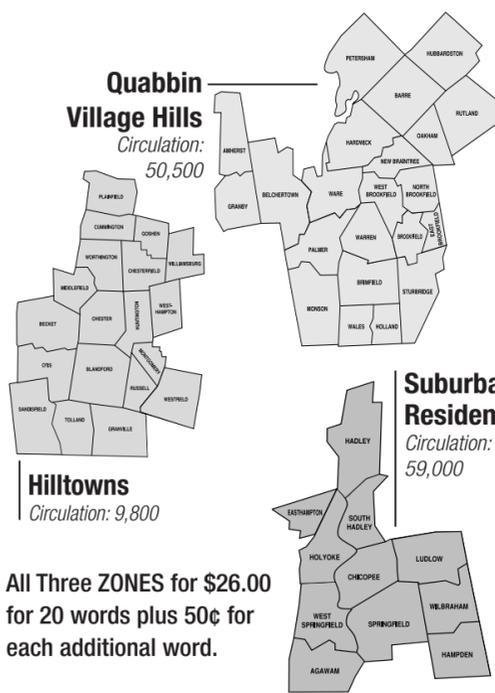
MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069  
or call: 413-283-8393

DEADLINES: FRIDAY AT NOON

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Weeks: \_\_\_\_\_ X per week rate = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card:  MasterCard  VISA  Discover  Cash  Check# \_\_\_\_\_  
Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount of charge: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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All Three ZONES for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word.

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**ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!**

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## SERVICES

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**A&M TUNE-UPS**  
Snowblowers, Push Lawnmowers, Riding Mowers & Small Engine Repair.  
Work done at your home.  
Call Mike (413) 348-7967

## AUTO

**GMC AND CORVETTE NOS PARTS** and repair items, collection of metal signs, car books, repair manuals and literature. All at very good prices. Call for information **413-531-6835.**

**CASH FOR JUNK AND REPAIRABLE CARS**  
FREE TOWING FAST SERVICE CASH PAID AS IS  
CALL OR TEXT 413-219-6839

## HELP WANTED

### MAINTENANCE

**20 to 25 hours per week.**  
Experience required in all aspects of property maintenance and repair. Work includes, but is not limited to: snow removal, electrical, plumbing, painting, carpentry, and grounds keeping. Must be available every other week for on call emergency maintenance requests. Valid driver's license and clean driving record. Professional references required. Criminal background check required. Insurance and full state benefits package available.  
Please submit resume to:  
**Wilbraham Housing Authority**  
88 Stony Hill Rd.,  
Wilbraham, Ma 01095  
Deadline for resumes 12 PM, September 19, 2025. Equal Opportunity Employer

### SERVERS WANTED

Inquire at **Girly's Grill**,  
**1315 Park St., Palmer, MA 01069**  
or call 413-284-0005.

**SQUIER & CO.** is looking to hire an oil truck driver \$35-\$40/hr. full time or part-time. Squier will provide help with endorsements and CDL training for the right candidate! Email: [squieroil@verizon.net](mailto:squieroil@verizon.net). Call 413-267-3184 or visit us at 5 Squier Ave., Monson, MA. Monday-Friday.

### TOWN OF WARE EQUIPMENT OPERATOR/ TRUCK DRIVER

**Duties** include but not limited to: Operating various types of motorized vehicles, snow and ice removal equipment and other misc. equipment. Participate in snowplowing, road sanding, snow and ice removal, hazardous materials mitigation, and natural disasters. Assisting with preparation of trucks and other equipment for different seasonal jobs including repairing and maintaining sanders and snowplows; repairing roadways, sidewalks, and other surface areas and drainage structures.  
**Qualifications:** A high school graduate or equivalent, experience in the operation of construction equipment, road maintenance, drainage installation, and operation of power equipment and snow plowing, Class B CDL License with Air Brake endorsement required. All applicants must pass a criminal background/CORI check and a pre-employment physical including drug testing. Hourly rate range: \$23.32-\$25.26.  
Submit resume to:  
**Town of Ware**  
ATTN: Human Resources  
126 Main Street  
Ware, MA 01082

## REAL ESTATE

### COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE

**SHOP, WAREHOUSE, GARAGE,** light industrial, yard space, contractor space/ yard for rent. 2k to 4k sq. ft. indoor space available. Large yard/outdoor parking available. Location: **1317 Federal St., Belchertown, MA.** Contact Ben 413-372-2216.

## FOR RENT

### FOR RENT



All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development " HUD " toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

# Second Chance is seeking clothing and linens donations

EAST BROOKFIELD – Cleaning out your closets? You can now bring used clothing donations to Second Chance Animal Services East Brookfield or North Brookfield locations.

Second Chance has partnered with St. Pauly Textile Inc. to provide a wood-frame clothing drop-off

shed for community use. The sheds are designed to give community members a uniquely clean, convenient, and well-cared-for option to donate their used linens and clothing to.

St. Pauly Textile Inc. partners with businesses and various organizations to distribute donated items

both here in the U.S. and worldwide, where they're ultimately re-worn by people who need them. Second Chance receives funding for donated clothing and additionally has the option to use donated items like towels and blankets to care for pets.

With over 1,600 clothing

drop-off sheds in place, St. Pauly Textile Inc. collects over 175,000 pounds of clothing a day and estimates that this clothing ends up in 44 different countries (including the U.S.) yearly. In 2024, the company was able to help keep over 64 million articles of clothing out of landfills, which clothed an

estimated 7.8 million people worldwide.

The company was founded in 1996 and is an A+ rated member of the Better Business Bureau. Accepted items: clothing, shoes, belts, purses, towel, blankets, sheets, curtains, pillowcases, and stuffed animals.

The donation sheds

are located at the Second Chance Adoption Center, 111 Young Road, East Brookfield and the North Brookfield Community Veterinary Hospital, 372 North Main St., North Brookfield.

# Your BUYLINE CONNECTION

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