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Friday, September 26, 2025

Police promotions celebrated at pinning

By Paula Ouimette
Editor

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NEW BRAINTREE – Residents from New Braintree and Hardwick gathered in the Town Hall this past Sunday to celebrate the recent promotions and accomplishments of Police Department staff.

Acting as master of ceremonies was Lieutenant Ryan Daley of the North Brookfield Police Department, who first met Police Chief Kevin Landine 25 years ago, and developed a close friendship.

Daley commended both towns' Select Boards for voting to appoint Landine as chief following the retirement of James Ayotte earlier this year.

"The department will be in capable hands," he said.

He also noted the accomplishments of the department, and how it is regarded as "one of, if not the most professional in the area."

Daley invited Town Clerks Jessica Bennett and Ryan J. Witkos to each give the oath of office to Landine, who was then pinned by his wife Katherine



Hardwick-New Braintree Police Chief Kevin Landine thanked everyone present for his promotion to that position at a celebration and pinning held this past Sunday in the New Braintree Town Hall.

and daughters Emma and Abigail.

Landine thanked everyone who attended the celebration, giving special appreciation to his family for their unwavering support and understanding.

"They never skip a beat helping me get out the door," he said of his wife and daughters. "This job couldn't be done without family and friends."

Being a police officer

is something Landine dreamed about since he was a small child and he joined the New Braintree Police Department after finishing the academy. Now, he is the third full time police chief of the combined Hardwick-New Braintree Police Department.

"I started as a 19 year old kid who thought I knew everything about law enforcement and was quickly humbled," he said.

Landine thanked both Select Boards for appointing him, and the number of residents who wrote letters of support for his promotion.

He also thanked the members of his department and said he couldn't run the department without each of them.

Landine then called

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Board voted to join regional dispatch district

By Paula Ouimette
Editor

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STURBRIDGE – The Select Board continued discussion about joining the Central Massachusetts Regional Emergency Communications Center district for emergency 911 dispatch services.

At the Sept. 15 meeting, Town Administrator Robin Grimm said KP Law would review the draft agreement between the town and the regional dispatch. She said if the town entered into an agreement with the regional dispatch, a mid-year grant would be needed from the state to deal with radio coverage concerns.

She said there are areas of town that have gaps in radio coverage and this would be taken care of when funding is available.

Fire Chief John Grasso Jr. said the regional dispatch is working with the state to secure the money

mid-year, but if unable to, the grant application deadline is in spring of 2026.

"The regional center said they will do whatever they can to help us in the interim," Grasso said.

Grasso and Police Chief Earl Dessert said the call response would remain the same as it does now, but joining the regional dispatch would allow for more dispatchers to handle simultaneous calls. The town would become part of the district in 2027.

The board voted in favor of joining the Central Massachusetts Regional Emergency Communications Center district. The district also includes the towns of Rutland, Barre, Oakham, Hubbardston and Warren.

Moment of silence

The Select Board held a moment of silence to remember longtime board member Mary Blanchard,

See STURBRIDGE
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SUBMITTED PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BRONSON

The Federated Church Pumpkin Patch will offer local mums, hay, and corn stalks in addition to pumpkins and a series of special events.

The pumpkins are coming!

Federated Church hosts 8th annual Pumpkin Patch

STURBRIDGE – Autumn in New England just wouldn't be the same without pumpkins – and the Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale is once again bringing the season to life with its 8th Annual Pumpkin Patch, opening Saturday, Sept. 27 through

Thursday, Oct. 31.

When the Pumpkins USA trailer truck pulls into the yard early Saturday morning, a host of enthusiastic community helpers will be on hand to unload the huge supply of pumpkins and gourds arriving from New Mexico, including some from the Girl Scouts, Scouting USA, Sturbridge Police and Fire Departments, and Tantasqua High School's Rotary Interact Club.

The church's front lawn at 8 Maple St., will be transformed into a festive fall destination, filled with pumpkins, gourds, mums, hay bales, corn stalks, and loose hay for scarecrows. You'll also find cookbooks to spark your fall kitchen creativity. Whether you're decorating for Halloween, preparing a cozy harvest table, or just looking for

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WBCTV is returning to West Brookfield

WEST BROOKFIELD – Tune into your local Spectrum Cable Channel 191 and you see the first hints of the return of Community Bulletin Board postings after almost eight years.

With invitations already hand delivered to Town Departments, many local businesses, and charitable non-profits and faith groups, the Cable Advisory

Committee is expecting to receive and post requested content as soon as it is received.

The committee is about to begin capturing Board of Selectmen meetings and schedule the posting of the recordings on Channel 191 as well as making them available on the WBCTV YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/@>

WestBrookfieldCommunityTV). With the upcoming outfitting of the current Meeting Room for live broadcasting, the sharing of meeting content and the awareness of the complexities of town government will be seen again.

With the efforts of the Cable Advisory Commit-

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Petersham artist is featured at gallery show

By Paula Ouimette
Editor

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WEST BROOKFIELD – Well-known Petersham artist Abigail Rorer will present a solo show, "Books, Engravings & Drawings" at West Brookfield Art & Frame Gallery, 10 East Main St., opening on Friday, Oct. 3 from 5-7 p.m.

This is Rorer's first solo show at the gallery, where she has been a member for the past several years, and it will display her intricately detailed and moving works of art, many of which focus on nature and animals.

Rorer grew up outside Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and attended the Rhode Island School of Design.

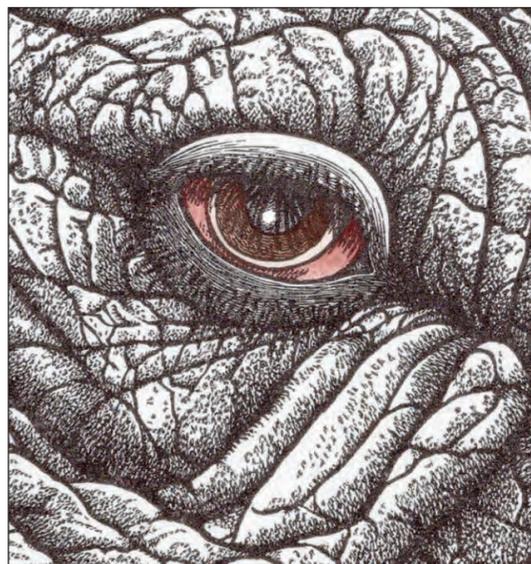
"I immediately started illustrating books and showing in galleries," Rorer said following her graduation.

In her work as an illustrator, Rorer focused on wood engraving which she started doing fulltime in the 1990s.

Rorer noted that even though it is called "wood" engraving, she actually uses Corian countertops to make her blocks for printing. She said the art would be more appropriately called "relief" engraving.

Rorer not only illustrates books, but she makes fine press books as well. In a fine press book, the type is handset one letter at a time. She then prints it and has it hand bound.

"The type is the same height as a wood engraving



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Abigail Rorer's book "Extinct: The Western Black Rhinoceros" detailed the extinction of this subspecies of black rhinoceros that disappeared in 2011. Rorer will display her books, engravings, silverpoints and drawings at her show "Books, Engravings & Drawings" at West Brookfield Art & Frame Gallery, opening on Friday, Oct. 3 from 5-7 p.m.

block, so the wood engraving is the perfect medium for the illustration in a fine press book," she said.

Rorer has also illustrated a lot of nature-themed books, using pen and ink drawings as well. Some of the books Rorer has illustrated include the works of Henry David Thoreau, Walt Whitman and many more.

Rorer said her gallery show will feature the work she did to bring attention to the extinction of the western black rhinoceros, a subspecies from Cameroon, Africa that disappeared in 2011.

Rorer spends a considerable amount of time studying and learning about the

subjects of her artwork and fine press books. She even got a behind-the-scenes look at rhinoceros at a nearby zoo, spending time with them and even getting to feed them.

"I worked for really about 10 years for the fine press book about rhinos," Rorer said. "I wanted to kind of focus on extinction and how we should be ashamed of ourselves."

Rorer recently finished a book about wetlands with another wood engraver in California, with Rorer focusing on eastern wetlands. The book is set to be released in February of next year.

See ARTIST PAGE 8

- community -

Digital Accordion Orchestra Concert



The New England Digital Accordion Orchestra will perform at concert dedicated to the memory of the late Stanley Midura.

Tribute to Stanley Midura to be held Oct. 5

HARDWICK – Sam Falcetti, internationally recognized accordionist and music educator, will conduct the 20-member New England Digital Accordion Orchestra tin concert at the Stone Church Cultural Center, 283 Main St., Gilbertville on Sunday, Oct. 5 at 2 p.m.

The program of popular and ethnic music is dedicated to the memory of beloved founding member and Gilbertville resident Stanley A. Midura (1938-2017). Stanley played the accordion his whole life; driving to Springfield for lessons as a youth.

Presenters Friends of the Stone Church will serve snacks at a reception following the concert, which is free to all. Donations to help finish stabilizing the building are appreciated.

Anselmo (Sam) Falcetti formed NEDAO, the nation's first-ever digital accordion orchestra, in 2015. Falcetti started playing accordion at ten and was teaching by age 16. Earning his bachelor's in music theory and composi-



The late Stanley Midura is shown in a circa 1960s photo.

tion from the University of Hartford, he taught accordion through his own studio, at Holyoke College, and at Westfield State University.

Forming an ensemble of graduate accordion majors who twice performed at Carnegie Hall, Falcetti became known among professional educators and performers for his pioneering championship of the instrument. His Springfield Accordion Orchestra performed at the 1970 World's Fair and internationally.

A mentor to students and other music educators, Falcetti also founded his eponymous music store, a leading source of instruments and

music education in Western Massachusetts and Connecticut

The modern digital accordion, essentially a portable piano with responsive bellows, is capable of producing all the sounds and sound effects of its acoustic predecessor. A prominent Celtic accordionist was recently overheard saying "the accordion is a dangerous instrument in the hands of the wrong person." Stanley Midura was one of the right people. One of his friends remarked "He will be playing Polish music for the angels."

This concert is supported in part by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. For more information about this support and the New England Digital Accordion Orchestra, contact samfalcetti@gmail.com..

FOSC, a non-profit organization, presents a series of ticketed and free concerts and silent films and is in the process of stabilizing and preserving its 1874 landmark building, formerly the Gilbertville Trinitarian Congregational Church. For information about concerts and to donate, visit www/FriendsoftheStoneChurch.org.



Second Chance Animal Services rescued 26 Golden Retriever puppies and dogs from a breeder. The puppies are expected to be available for adoption beginning Sept. 27.

Second Chance rescued 26 puppies/dogs from neglect case

EAST BROOKFIELD – Last month, Second Chance Animal Services took in 26 Golden Retrievers, including three mother dogs and their 23 puppies, rescued from a breeder now facing animal cruelty charges for neglect.

The dogs were discovered living in deplorable conditions before being brought to safety.

It's believed that the mother dogs had never even been outside before their rescue. Everyday experiences most pets take for granted, such as walking on grass, climbing stairs, or exploring new spaces, were completely foreign to them. They arrived timid, fearful, and in need of patient, compassionate care.

"The moms came to us with very limited interactions and life experiences, but little by little they are learning what it means to feel safe and loved," said Second Chance's Chief Development Officer Lindsay Doray. "We gave

these precious families time away from the spotlight to heal and ensure they were healthy before sharing their story, and it is heartwarming to see the progress they are making."

The puppies, just under two weeks old at the time of rescue, were placed in foster homes with the mother dogs, where they have been receiving around-the-clock care.

After weeks of nurturing, the puppies are now thriving and expected to be ready for adoption beginning Sept. 27 at 10 a.m. Some will be attending puppy yoga at Timberyard Brewing on Saturday as well to help raise funds for their medical care.

The rescue of these Golden Retrievers is expected to cost more than \$15,000, covering long-term foster care, food, supplies, and medical treatment, including spay and neuter for all. According to CEO and

founder Sheryl Blancato, this is just one example of the many rescues Second Chance undertakes every day.

"Far more stories of pets rescued come through our doors than can ever be shared publicly, but each one receives the same dedication and care," noted Blancato.

The nonprofit is asking the community for help covering these expenses so they can continue to respond to animals in crisis. Donations can be made at <https://GiveButter.com/GoldenRescue>

For those interested in adopting one of the goldens, Second Chance expects Saturday to be a very busy day. Prospective adopters are strongly encouraged to fill out an adoption survey in advance at www.secondchanceanimals.org/adopt and to be patient with staff and volunteers.

All adoptions will be handled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Hike explores life and land of Jacob Riis

BARRE – The Department of Conservation and Recreation will host "The Riis & Heath Hike" on Sunday, Sept. 28 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., meeting at the Barre Historical Society, 18 Common St.

The hike is moderate, with some overgrown and uneven footing

Jacob Riis was one of the most influential journalists and social re-

formers of the early 20th century. He was an immigrant whose photographs changed the way America looked at the human cost of poverty; he was friends with President Theodore Roosevelt, and did you know he spent the last few years of his life in Barre, Massachusetts?

Drawn there due to its rural beauty and the hope of a simple life, Riis

referred to this as "Our Happy Valley". Join DCR staff as they visit his former home site on the grounds of the DCR Ware River Watershed, then cross the street to the beautiful Barre Heath – Riis' front yard – where an ongoing restoration project is recovering this critical biodiversity habitat.

Please bring water and sun and tick protection.

Second Chance seeks 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.

Musical bingo fundraiser to be held Sept. 27

WEST BROOKFIELD – The Mary and Martha Sodality from Saint Carlo Acutus Parish at Sacred Heart Church, invites you to an evening of fellowship and fun on Saturday, Sept. 27 from 6-8 p.m.

The Mary and Martha Sodality will sponsor a musical bingo event in Dugan Hall, 22 West Main St., to raise funds to support its various parish and faith based events including donations to community programs throughout the year.

Your \$20 ticket includes: pizza, two tickets for wine or soft drinks, dessert, and musical bingo featuring songs from the 1940s-1960s. This over 21 event is geared to an older (but still young at heart) crowd. For tickets, please call the parish office at 508-867-6469. For more information or questions, email maryandmartha11@gmail.com.

Registration open for EQLT's Station Loop Ramble

NEW BRAINTREE – The East Quabbin Land Trust will hold its 14th annual Station Loop Ramble on Sunday, Oct. 19 beginning at 9:30 a.m. with the start on Depot Road at the intersection of West and Hardwick Roads on part of the Mass. Central Rail Trail.

This is a new course due to construction. The five mile classic is a hilly road race with a flat fast finish on Hardwick Road. The Kids Run and 5K run/walk are entirely on a flat course on

the Mass Central Rail Trail.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. The race begins and ends at the site of the former New Braintree Train Station, travels past scenic farmland, through deep woods and skirts the Ware River. Adults must accompany children running this course. Each mile is marked and mid-run water supply is provided.

Start times are 9:30 a.m. for five and under 200 foot dash and 9:40 a.m. for the ¼ mile 6-12 year old run. The 5K starts at 10 a.m. and the

5 mile classic at 10:05 a.m.

There will be post race refreshments, games, entertainment and more. Award ceremony is at 11 a.m. Entry fee is free for ages 5 and under, \$10 for ages 6-12, \$25 early bird online registration by Friday, Oct. 17 (10% discount for seniors, veterans and first responders) and \$30 day of race. A family registration for up to six members is \$35.

For more information, people may visit www.EQLT.org/station-loop-ramble/ or call 413-477-8229.



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- community -

Class of 2026 rise n shine early

From the desk of Colleen Mucha, Quabbin Regional School District Superintendent

BARRE – On Wednesday Sept. 17, 2025 members of the Quabbin Regional High School Class of 2026 got up early and joined together to watch the sunrise over the Quabbin Regional Middle High School.

The start of senior year is filled with hope and promise and these students wanted to celebrate together.

Students, families, and staff all brought plenty of food and drinks to satisfy even the hungriest of seniors. Families and administrators manned the grills and griddles. Pancakes were scooped up right off the grill and for those that wanted something a bit more savory the breakfast wraps were a huge hit.

Seniors were ready to make memories. Some came prepared to make Tik Tok videos by bringing a picture of themselves when they were little and then



Students enjoyed breakfast as they watched the sun rise on Wednesday, Sept. 17.

they added a video of themselves that morning. Others had made special shirts to commemorate their senior year and their long lasting friendships. A group of seniors even brought a generator and their Xbox so they could engage in some friendly competition before the start of school.

The vibe of the morning was fun and engaging. Students gathered together and mingled throughout the morning as uplifting

music set the tone for the day. Soon several teachers and staff joined the students. The seniors were very touched that the teachers joined them and eagerly engaged in conversations.

It was clear that this group of seniors are already thinking about future plans and their big dreams that lie ahead. For now, though, they are going to enjoy every moment they have left together here at Quabbin and so will we!



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

These Quabbin Regional High School students display the special tee shirts they made with the sun rising behind them.



Someone even brought a generator and their Xbox so they could engage in some competition before the start of school.



These girls take photos of themselves to add to picture of themselves when little for TikTok videos.

East Brookfield library lists upcoming events

EAST BROOKFIELD – The East Brookfield Public Library, 122 Connie Mack Drive, will host Movie Time on Tuesdays at 12:30 p.m.

Movie Time will be held on Sept. 30, Oct. 28, and Nov. 25. Stop by the library with your lunch and enjoy a blockbuster movie and meet new friends.

Adult board games
Join library staff for an

afternoon of games and snacks on the first Tuesday of every month at 1 p.m. If you like to play games and want to meet new people from the community, this program is for you.

This program is for adults 18 years or older. Walk-ins are welcome but registration is preferred so staff can plan accordingly for the snacks and number of games.

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.

EQLT to hold harvest dinner

HARDWICK – East Quabbin Land Trust, 120 Ridge Road, will hold a harvest dinner on Sunday, Oct. 5 from 4-7 p.m. at the Petersham Town Hall, Main Street, Rte. 32, Petersham.

This supper will be to support and to celebrate building improvements at the Petersham Country Store. There will be a silent auction.

Tickets are \$35 per person purchased before Sept. 29 or \$45 at the door. Children 10 and under are \$20. Dinner will be served at 5 p.m.

The menu includes chicken stew with potpie topping (vegetarian option available), roasted harvest vegetables with rice and apple crisp with donated apples from Pease Orchard.

Live music is at 5 p.m. by the Evening Standard Jazz. There is a cash bar with donated beverages from Berkshire Brewing, Red Apple Farm and Stone Cow Brewery.

To purchase tickets online, people may visit <https://crm.nonprofiteasy.com/8133/Pages/Events/#/Details/14677/>.

‘Different Ships, Same Boat’ comes to Workshop13

WARE – Workshop13 is excited to announce that “Different Ships, Same Boat” will be performed in the Workshop13 Grand Hall at 13 Church St., on Friday, Oct. 24.

Doors open at 7 p.m.; the performance begins at 7:30 p.m. This event is supported by the New England Foundation for the Arts.

Tickets are priced on a sliding scale and are available at www.workshop13.org.

“Different Ships, Same Boat” is written and directed by Regie Gibson, the inaugural Poet Laureate of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and composer/story catcher Guy Mendilow. Performers include: Regie Gibson (Host/narrator); Guy Mendilow (host/narrator, piano, voice, guitar); Chris Baum (violin); and Courtney Swain



SUBMITTED PHOTO

“Different Ships, Same Boat” will be performed at Workshop13 on Friday, Oct. 24.

(voice, keyboard, bass). “Different Ships, Same Boat” offers a stirring exploration of the joys, tensions, and complexities of who we are and who we wish to be. This multidisciplinary performance guides audiences through a series of powerful real-world stories of risk, love, and laughter drawn from cities, small towns, and ports of entry.

It shares the multifaceted experiences of those who often fly under the radar of history books, from Chinese Americans at Angel Island to Ottoman Jewish immigrants.

At turns humorous, poignant, and poetic, “Different Ships, Same Boat” features an evocative and lyrical musical score spanning American Blues and

music from the homes of origin, where today’s Americans came from.

As we commemorate the country’s 250th birthday, “Different Ships, Same Boat” invites the audience to celebrate not only America but also Americans. It is a show for those who crave a powerful artistic performance of captivating music and stories – a moving, finely-crafted anthology that connects audiences to American histories, perspectives, and experiences, both familiar and different from their own.

About Workshop13

Workshop13 is a dynamic center where arts, culture, and community converge – expanding access to the arts and nurturing creativity and self-expression in the rural region. For more information visit workshop13.org, or call 413-277-6072.

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

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PART TIME SNOWPLOW DRIVERS NEEDED

Part time snowplow drivers are needed for the Town of New Braintree for the 2025-2026 season. Positions available for both CDL and non-CDL License.

If you are interested, please contact Highway Superintendent Richard Ayer at (508) 867-2451 or email hwysecretary@newbraintree.org.

- opinion -



By Ellenor Downer



Red-eyed vireo

The Massachusetts Audubon Society reported the sighting of a red-eyed vireo on Sept. 15 at their Broad Meadow Brook Sanctuary, located on Massasoit Road in Worcester.

The red-eyed vireo has an olive green back and wings, white underparts, gray crown and a white eyebrow and a black line through its eyes. It has a yellow wash on the flanks. Adults have red eyes hence this six inch tall songbird's name. Immature birds have brown eyes.

It builds a cup shaped nest of grasses, bark and spider webs suspended in the fork of a tree. It sings almost continuously from dawn to dusk with a series of short note phrases, "Here I am, where are you?"

It is frequently parasitized by the brown-headed cowbird, which lays its eggs in other bird's nests.

It feeds on insects, mainly caterpillars and migrates to the Amazon basin for the winter. Vireos are found in the forest canopy, particularly in woodlands and forests.

Other birds at Broad Meadow

Other birds at Broad Meadow Brook Sanctuary included a Nashville warbler on Sept. 16, a great blue heron, a sharp shinned hawk and a broad winged hawk, all on Sept. 15.

Helping birds

Bird friendly windows can prevent collisions, which annually kill millions of birds. Birds can't see glass. Instead, they see whatever happens to be reflected in its mirror-like surface. Often, this is open sky or trees, which, for a bird, are appealing and perfectly safe things to fly towards. It's estimated that between one hundred million and one billion birds die every year in collisions with manmade structures, one of the biggest killers of migratory birds.

Bird-safe glass is specially designed to make

glass a visible obstacle to birds. Bird safe glass is visible to birds while transparent enough for humans to look out. People may visit the Audubon Society at <https://www.audubon.org/news/what-does-bird-safe-glass-even-mean> for ways to keep birds safe from window strikes.

Here are some of the tips they offer. Try placing your bird feeder about 1.5 feet from the window; it will slow them down. Apply a thin film to the outside of the windows. The glass will become visible to birds, but remain transparent to people.

As an added bonus for being so eco-savvy, the film will cut down on incoming infrared radiation, so it will also lower summer cooling costs. Keep curtains or shades drawn during the day to reduce reflection. Place window decals, sun catchers, tape strips, ribbons or anything else in a dense pattern in the "2x4" format, a single decal will not work. Install a screen or net a few inches outside of your windows, to lessen the impact.

Brimfield bird watcher

A Brimfield resident continued watching for migrating common nighthawks in August, but did not have any luck. He has seen them in the past.

He had three ruby-throated hummingbirds feeding on jewelweed, cardinal flower and nicotiana last month. He saw a pair of American Goldfinch drinking from the drip he has in his yard. He also saw a female pileated woodpecker on the top of a

mountain ash where it ate berries for while.

Bird calls

A reader sent an email about a free bird call app called Merlin. She thought other readers might be interested. She said, "Just enter your location and press record. I never knew hummingbirds chirp. Now I do."

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.

A picture is worth a thousand memories



by Roberto McQuaid

This column was prompted by a picture. You see, a co-worker got out her phone and showed me a vase on her table that was filled with the most interesting velvet red flowers.

"What are these?" she asked. "Coxcomb or Celosia," I replied, and I went on to explain how the flower looks like a rooster's comb, hence the plant's name.

Seeing the image brought me right back to the late 1980s and early 1990s where I had a business growing dried flowers and crafting them into wreaths and arrangements that I later sold at area craft shows. It was a fun experience that I shared with my parents.

Read on to revisit some of my favorite flowers for drying.

Celosias make excellent dried flowers. They are available in three distinct types, crested or "Coxcomb," plumed and wheat. Crested types such as "Fireglow," "Prestige Scarlet," or "Big Chief" make quite a statement with their velvety-feeling, brainy-looking heads in rich shades of red, pink, and gold.

Plumed types come in similar colors, but are feathered in appearance. The "Sparkler" series are multi-branching when given ample growing space; just a few plants will provide you with many long lasting stems.

Newer to the catalogs, but really an heirloom, wheat celosia is the most delicate of the three. "Flamingo Feather" has rose tips with a silvery base. Pick often for an abundance of side shoots.

Globe Amaranth is another flower that is popular once dried. Clover-like heads on sturdy stems make great bouquet fillers. Nearly all varieties bloom well in the heat of the summer,

producing even more flowers after they are harvested.

Cut when head reach the size of your thumbnail for best performance.

Lemon Bee Balm or Lemon Bergamot is the most underused of all the flowers mentioned here, but it shouldn't be! Whorls of mauve-pink bracts are best cut when three inches long.

Stems are weak, so mix in with other flowers to keep heads upright or attach stems to a wooden pick for added strength.

Most of us are familiar with the Strawflower, a stiff petaled flower that feels dry even in the garden! To dry, simply insert a 23-gauge wire up through a tiny bit of the stem and into the flower's calyx, just barely into the head itself. This will give the strawflower a strong "stem" for use in floral arranging.

After the flowers have been wired, be sure to let them dry fully, upright and in the dark to preserve their rich hues. You can also simply pluck the heads and dry them on a cookie sheet in the dark for hot-gluing later on.

Love in a Mist or Nigella is an old-fashioned beauty that has light blue, white or rosy pink short-lived flowers followed by really neat brown striped seed pods. When fully dry these look like pepper shakers, dropping their seeds to an fro. The pods are desirable for dried wreaths and arrangements.

Keep picking as soon as the heads are fully developed to keep the plant producing.

Prince's Feather is a member of the Amaranth family and grows lush

plumes worth of a prominent place in your arrangements. Smaller side shoots are great for more delicate work.

Colors are typically shades of burgundy. Plants can grow anywhere from eighteen inches to several feet tall so site accordingly.

Winged Ammobium is a two foot tall, floppy annual that has an abundance of tiny white flowers. It is best picked when the center of the flowers just starts to show its yellow color.

If you wait too long, the centers will turn brown and unattractive. Gather small bunches of ten to twelve stems and secure them with rubber bands. Here too attach a wooden florist pick to tiny bunches for ease in floral arranging- besides giving the stem some strength, it will give it additional length.

An attic or barn loft are the best options in which to hang your harvest to dry. Flowers dried in the dark will retain their vivid colors very well and the heat will dry them out quickly.

Make small bunches of fresh cut flowers, securing them with a rubber band, not string. The rubber band will shrink along with the stems as they are drying. Hang them upside down and you will be rewarded with straight stems and upright heads.

Have fun experimenting with floral arranging or wreath making with these everlasting flowers.

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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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.

If you aren't stopping for these flashing lights... Then you'll be stopping for these flashing lights!



Should I claim Social Security early because it is going bankrupt?

Dear Rusty:
My best friend is going to be 62 and wants to begin taking her Social Security immediately.

Her reasoning not to wait is the thought that it is going to run out in 10 years, so she wants as much of her money before that happens. I have paid into Social Security my entire working life (44 years and counting). What are your thoughts on taking it as soon as you are eligible?

Signed: Uncertain what to do

Dear Uncertain:
Deciding when to claim Social Security is a some-

times-confusing task, but no one should ever claim SS early because they believe Social Security will go bankrupt in the near future. Social Security cannot and will not go bankrupt. What your friend may be referring to is the fact that Social Security will be facing some financial issues in 2033 unless Congress acts soon to reform the program. And they will act, but likely not until they must.

The fact is, Social Security still has about \$2.7 trillion in reserved funds which are now being used to pay full benefits. If that Reserves balance were to

be fully depleted, then Social Security would need to go to a "cash basis" (essentially, paying out in benefits only what is received in SS taxes), which would result in about a 21% cut in everyone's benefit. In other words, even if Congress neglected to reform the program, beneficiaries would still get about 79% of their monthly benefit starting in about 2033/2034. Hardly anyone believes that Congress will fail to eventually reform Social Security and, in fact, they already know how to do that reform (they

See SOCIAL SECURITY PAGE 7

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Turnovers help Quabbin in win



Steven Smith takes the rush.



Adam Adams catches the high snap.

BARRE – Last Friday night, Quabbin hosted its first home game of the season. Following an interception and another turnover from a safety, the Panthers jumped up to a big lead and eventually led 36-0 at halftime.

The Panthers would defeat visiting Quaboag 36-8. Wes Sanderson, Adam Adams, Chase Talbot, and Owura Ankoma-Mensah had touchdowns. Joey Flynn had a pick-six with a 15-yard interception return for a score.

Quaboag got one touchdown from Thomas Belizzi with a three-yard run in the fourth quarter.



Owura Ankoma-Mensah returns a punt.



Chase Talbot attempts a point-after kick.



Braiden Bradley passes on the run.



Keegan Grieco takes down a ball carrier.



Wes Sanderson heads for the left side on a carry.



Jacob Cacace tries to squeeze out another couple of yards.



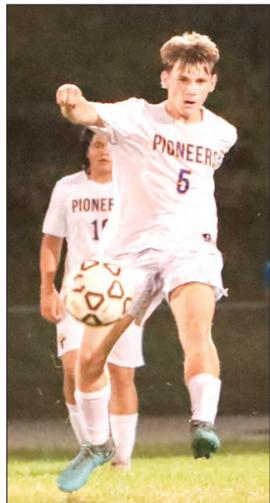
The Quabbin offensive line attempts to block.



Jontae Todd attempts to make a tackle.

URLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Pioneers, Indians battle to draw



Cayden Bousquet focuses on bringing the ball into play



James Vulpe leads the charge as he brings the ball down field.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY JACK CASCIO NEAPSMUGMUG.COM

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WARE— After beginning the regular season with a 4-1 home win over Hopkins Academy, the Ware boys' varsity soccer team were outscored, 22-1, in their next four matches.

Ware was trailing Bi-County East rival Pathfinder Tech, 2-0, in the middle of the first half before storming back.

The Indians, who scored a goal before half-time, netted the tying goal with ten minutes left in regulation. Last Thursday night's contest, which was held at Veterans' Field in Ware, ended in a 2-2 draw.

“Our past few games

haven't been very much fun, but tonight's game was a lot of fun,” said Ware head coach Charlene Valle. “All of the players worked very hard, and we played well as a team. Everyone stepped up.”

The Indians had a 1-4-1 overall record and a 0-3-1 league mark following the home tie, while the Pioneers made short trip back to Palmer with a 2-2-1 overall record and a 1-2-1 league record.

Pathfinder Tech head coach David Wilson wasn't as excited as the Ware head coach was following the match.

“I'm not very happy

See **SOCCER** PAGE 8



Olivia Holmes sends the ball into the circle.



Sarah Moshin is closely pursued.

Indians score a win over Palmer

PALMER – Last Monday, North Brookfield High School field hockey scored a 3-0 win on the road at Palmer High School. The Indians are now 1-4 on the season. The Indians had three losses prior to beating Palmer. The Indians did fall to Northbridge 4-0 on Sept. 18. Coming up next, the Indians will host Shepherd Hill on Friday, Sept. 26 at 4 p.m.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



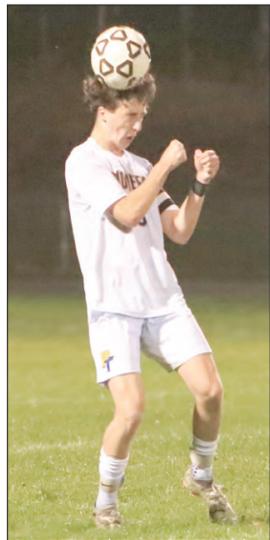
Noah Gillette is pressured near the sideline.



Sophia Giangrande tries to break away with the ball.



Abbie Lindberg guides the ball toward the left side of the field.



Owen Pear heads the ball during play.

- sports -

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Turleysports

Athlete of the Month

NAME: Sarah Moshin
SCHOOL: North Brookfield

Moshin was a catalyst for the North Brookfield field hockey offense in its 3-0 win over Palmer last week.

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



Owls get conference win over Dean

WESTFIELD – Sophomore RB Aidan Patterson (East Lyme, Conn.) scored three touchdowns to lead Westfield State University to a 48-6 win over conference newcomer Dean College in a Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference football game on Saturday in Franklin, Mass.

Westfield snares its first win of the season to go to 1-2 overall and 1-1 in the MASCAC, while Dean is now 0-3 and 0-2 in the league.

Patterson scored on runs of 18 and 10 yards in the first half, and caught a short pass and ran it into the end zone for a 11-yard touchdown in the third quarter.

Westfield jumped out to a 20-0 lead in the game, and led 20-6 at the half, the lone blemish on the scoreboard coming on a 71-yard scoop and score fumble recovery by Dean's K-Vorn Pember-

ton with 20 seconds left in the first half.

Westfield held huge edges in nearly every statistical category, outgaining the Bulldogs 405 yards to 60, posting 24 first downs to Dean's 8, and had a 40:02 to 19:58 advantage in time of possession. Westfield held Dean to -53 yards rushing.

Westfield was 11-12 (92 percent) on third down conversions.

Owls QB Miles Foerster (Amherst, Mass.) was a perfect 10-10 passing for 137 yards and three TD's, connecting with Patterson, Casey Tang (Cambridge, Mass.) and Will Brewster (Westfield, Mass.) for the three scores. Foerster's perfect passing day sets a school record for completion percentage in a game with the perfect 1.000 mark. Colby Pires was 16-17 for a .941 mark against Worcester State in 2022.

Manny Mengata (Tewksbury, Mass.) carried 23 times for 126 yards, and Patterson added six carries for 46 yards. Nick Boucher (Dartmouth, Mass.) and JC Pena (Worcester, Mass.) each had TD runs late for the Owls.

Justyn Gardener (East Hartford, Conn.), Landon Andre (Belchertown, Mass.) and Tommy Bean (Stafford Springs, Conn.) each had five tackles to lead the Owls, with Gardener adding a pair of sacks and Andre and Bean recording one apiece.

Da'Qwon Foster caught four passes for 43 yards for the Bulldogs. Sincere Wright led Dean with 13 tackles.

It was the first-ever meeting in football between the two schools.

Westfield will be back in action at home next Saturday, Sept. 27, hosting Worcester State at 2 p.m. as part of Family Weekend.

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Extra roster spots open in Quabbin Valley fall baseball league

SOUTH HADLEY – The Quabbin Valley Baseball League fall session is underway with just two games played. Due to injuries and other obligations, a small number of roster spots have opened up on teams and the league would like to add a few more play-

ers for the remainder of the fall campaign.

Games are Sundays at 10 a.m. for the remainder through Nov. 2. Anyone interested in registering can go to www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org and click on the registration link. There are six games remaining

in the season and the fee to play in the remaining games will be prorated for any player who joins. Players looking to join should be age 28 or older.

For more information or to ask any questions, contact Greg Scibelli at GScibelli22@yahoo.com.

SOCCER FROM PAGE 5

with this result," Wilson said. "We dominated the first half and had plenty of scoring chances. It's very frustrating, but you have to give a lot of credit to Ware. They fought very hard and played with a lot of heart."

It was the first meeting on the soccer pitch between the two squads since the 2022 regular season. The two meetings that season also ended in ties.

One of the Indians key players in last Thursday's match was senior goalkeeper Jack Gaudreau, who made a total of 22 saves.

"I think Jack has a chance to finish his varsity career with more than 700 saves, which will be a new school record," Vallee said. "He always keeps us in every game even when we're losing. He's a fantastic goalie."

Gaudreau was aided by a strong defense led by senior Kyle Kaczuwka, sophomore Jaedon Warren, and sophomore Levi Ramirez.

The Pioneers did take a 1-0 lead during the 13th minute of the opening half when senior Adonis Dupre put a shot into the right corner of the net for an unassisted goal.

A couple of minutes later, junior Cayden

Bousquet fired another shot on goal for the visiting team, but Gaudreau made an outstanding diving save.

Bousquet assisted on the Pioneers second goal, which was scored on a tap in by senior Jaleel Roman in the 24th minute.

The Indians got on the scoreboard two minutes later following a free kick goal from about 30 yards out by sophomore Matt Skutnik.

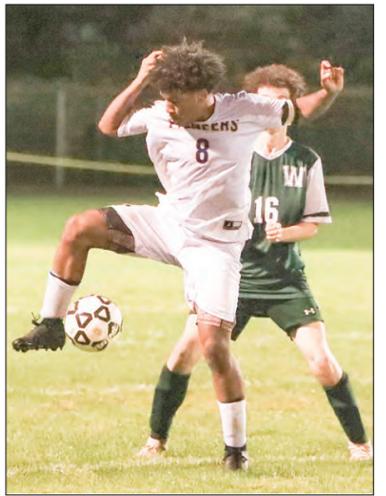
The ball sailed into the back of the net past freshman goalie Elijah Hodge.

"Whenever Matt takes free kicks closer to the goal, they usually go over the crossbar," Vallee said. "I knew that he could score a goal from that distance. It also set the tone for the rest of the game."

The Pioneers had eight more shots on goal during the final 15 minutes of the first half, but the score was still 2 to 1 at the break.

Hodge, who made three saves in the first half, was replaced by junior Gavin Peters (5 saves) at the start of the second half.

Ware senior Ryder Cahalan had several scoring chances in the first twenty



Jaleel Roman knocks the ball down to gain control.

minutes of the second half.

Another shot by Cahalan struck off the right post with ten minutes left in regulation. Then senior Kaleb Kanozek passed the ball to freshman Raymond Kularski, who scored his first varsity goal tying the score at 2-2.

"Ray is a first-year member of the boys' soccer team," Valle said. "His tying goal pumped up the rest of the team. Everyone was very excited for him."

Ware had a corner kick and a free kick during the final five minutes, but the match ended in a tie.

The second meeting of the regular season between the rivals is scheduled to take place at Pathfinder Tech on October 10.

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We will regularly fea-

ture samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis.

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- community -



New Braintree Town Clerk Jessica Bennett gave Police Chief Kevin Landine the oath of office.



Police Chief Kevin Landine is pinned by his wife Katherine and daughters Emma and Abigail.

PROMOTIONS FROM PAGE 1

Lieutenant Robert Toupin and Sergeant Ryan Gentile to the stage take the oath of office and be pinned by their families.

Landine said he has known Toupin for 16 years and said his investigative work has “truly been his niche.”

“Rob has been my go-to right hand and was an obvious choice,” Landine said of his promotion to lieutenant.

Landine said Gentile has been on the department for over 10 years and specialized in all things motor vehicle. He also graduated top of his class from the academy.

“He has been a sounding board to myself and the other officers,” Landine said.

Landine recognized the other members of the department, including Officer Andrew Ronnau, who was given the department’s Life-saving Award for his heroic actions to save a resident at a Gilbertville house fire earlier this year.

Ronnau arrived to the scene within one minute of the 911 call coming in, and encouraged the resident to jump from the second story window, as the house was completely consumed by

fire. He then dragged the unconscious woman up an icy hill for 45 yards to the front of the house and provided medical care until the ambulance arrived.

Ronnau “without a doubt,” saved the life of this resident, Landine said. The woman is now home and mostly recovered thanks to his actions.

State Sen. Peter Durant and state Rep. Donnie Berthiaume both presented Ronnau with citations from the Senate and the House of Representatives to recognize his response to this call.

“You are most certainly a hero,” Berthiaume said.



Police Chief Kevin Landine is shown holding a citation received from state Sen. Peter Durant (left) and state Rep. Donnie Berthiaume (right).



Lieutenant Robert Toupin received a citation from state Sen. Peter Durant (left) and state Rep. Donnie Berthiaume.



Lieutenant Robert Toupin is pinned by his wife Stephanie and children Mackenzie and Benjamin.



Sergeant Ryan Gentile received a citation from state Sen. Peter Durant (left) and state Rep. Donnie Berthiaume.

SOCIAL SECURITY FROM PAGE 4

just currently lack the bipartisan support to accomplish it). But neglecting reform would amount to political suicide for all members of Congress, which is extremely unlikely to happen.

Here at the AMAC Foundation, we are confident that Congress will soon address Social Security’s future financial dilemma, and we have been working on potential solutions. We have, for several years, been providing these suggestions to various members of Congress, and those members are now considering our proposals. Thus, we do not suggest making a Social Security claiming decision based on fear of the program going bankrupt.

That fear is unfounded.

Instead, we suggest that everyone decide when to claim based upon their individual personal situation, considering their need for the SS money, their life expectancy, and their marital status. And remember, claiming early (before one’s SS full retirement age (FRA)) also means Social Security’s Annual Earnings Test will apply (the AET limits how much can be earned from working before FRA is attained).

So, our thought on the wisdom of taking Social Security as soon as you are eligible is that it is often not a wise decision and certainly not if that decision is made based on fear of Social Security “not being there” soon. Instead, we suggest making your Social Security claiming decision based upon your unique

personal circumstances, including, especially, your life expectancy, financial need and marital status.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation’s staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

PUMPKINS FROM PAGE 1

perfect pumpkin, the Patch has it all. The Pumpkin Patch will be open Monday–Friday: 10:30 a.m.–6 p.m., Saturday: 9 a.m.–6 p.m., and Sunday: 11 a.m.–6 p.m. (weather permitting). Payment is easy with cash, credit, Venmo, and PayPal all accepted.

A series of special events will also take place at the Pumpkin Patch throughout the month, including a visit from the Central Mass Plein Air Painters, a group comprised of local artists who enjoy painting live on site, on Saturday, Oct. 4.

According to organizer,

Diane Vanaskie Mulligan, “The Pumpkin Patch is such an idyllic fall scene it begs to be painted.”

“The Pumpkin Patch began in 2018 as a simple fundraiser, but it’s become so much more,” said committee co-chair Paul Medeiros. “It supports our church and local ministries, while also reaching far beyond our community. A portion of proceeds helps the Navajo Nation in Farmington, New Mexico, where our supplier, Pumpkins USA, employs more than 700 Native Americans each harvest season and maintains a full-time, 100% Native American staff

year-round. That support is life-changing in a region where unemployment is as high as 42%.”

The Pumpkin Patch has become much more than a sale – it’s a seasonal tradition, a place where families, neighbors, and friends come together to celebrate the best of fall in New England.

For additional details on the Pumpkin Patch or other upcoming events, visit sturfed.org or contact the church office at 774-304-1021 or churchoffice@sturfed.org.

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- police logs -

New Braintree Police Log

During the weeks of Sept. 8-22, the Hardwick New Braintree Police Department responded to 30 building/property checks, 31 directed/area patrols, nine radar assignments, two traffic controls, seven emergency 911 calls, three citizen assists, two assist other agencies, one complaint, four animal calls and nine motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

Monday, Sept. 8
5:11 p.m. Utility Issues,

Dennis Whitney Road, Services Rendered

Wednesday, Sept. 10
9:43 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Scott Road, Transported to Hospital
8:39 p.m. Disabled Motor Vehicle, Gilbertville Road, Services Rendered

Thursday, Sept. 11
2:28 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, West Brookfield Road, No Action Required

Friday, Sept. 12
4:27 p.m. 911 Assist Citizen, Barre Road, Services Rendered

Saturday, Sept. 13
4:53 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Citation Issued

Monday, Sept. 15
8 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Gilbertville Road, Officer Handled

Wednesday, Sept. 17
12:51 p.m. Complaint,

Ravine Road, Negative Contact
10:04 p.m. 911 Misdiagnosis, West Road, Negative Contact

Thursday, Sept. 18
6:43 a.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled
9:58 a.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled
3:49 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled
6:22 p.m. 911 Medical

Emergency, West Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital

Friday, Sept. 19
2:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Cut Off Road, Written Warning

Saturday, Sept. 20
8:18 a.m. 911 Animal Call, Barre Cut Off Road, Services Rendered
10:19 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Ravine Road, Written Warning
10:45 a.m. Motor Vehicle

Stop, Ravine Road, Written Warning
10:58 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Ravine Road, Written Warning

Sunday, Sept. 21
4:49 p.m. 911 Assist Other Agency, Bernard Whitney Road, Services Rendered

Monday, Sept. 22
7:01 a.m. Disabled Motor Vehicle, Ravine Road, Services Rendered

STURBRIDGE FROM PAGE 1

who passed away on Sept. 14. Chair Jamie Goodwin read a poem by Robert Frost titled, "Nothing Gold Can Stay".

Select Board Clerk Mary Dowling said she worked with Blanchard for over 15 years on the board.

"Her sense of duty and her public service were a sparkling example of true citizenship," Dowling said. "She always knew how to separate politics from friendships...she carried herself with grace, she had a wonderful sense of humor and I'm going to miss her very much; the town of Sturbridge will miss her very much."

Vice-Chair Chase Kaitbenski said Blanchard took him under her wing when he first joined the board. He offered his condolences to her family.

"She was such a kind person and Sturbridge owes her a great deal of thanks," he said. "Her commitment to civil service and to helping people was really unwavering."

Board member MaryLou Volpe recognized Blanchard's commitment to the town, including her start as a teacher here.

Grimm said Blanchard was encouraging and supporting when she began her position in town. Her lasting impact on the people of the community is a testimony to her life's work.

"That is a huge legacy," Grimm said.

Police Department report
Dessert said the department received 2,848 calls for service, which included 55 arrests/criminal complaints, 39 incident reports, 236 citations, 51 motorist assists, 77 alarm calls, 546 business checks, six restraining orders, 18 domestic disturbances and five breaking and enterings/larcenies/thefts. He said the department requested mutual aid three times and provided aid to other agencies twice.

"That brings our total calls for service to 21,088 as of July...that's up 2,575 calls," Dessert said.

Dessert said the department conducted underage alcohol sale stings at town businesses and there were no

violations.

He said the department also installed 12 child safety seats for residents and conducted 30 boat inspections.

Fire Department report
Grasso said the Fire Department and mutual aid responders did a "fantastic job" stopping the fire near the Publick House from turning into a "terrible tragedy."

"The firefighters that were there that day really saved that building," he said.

Grasso said a small kitchen fire at a residence on Snell Street was also put out quickly, saving the building.

Grasso said members of the department joined the Police Department to train on a driver's safety course using a simulator.

Building Department report
Building Commissioner and Zoning Enforcement Official William LePage said a total of 228 permits were issued in July and August, totaling \$131,944.92. He said residential activity was the primary reason for building and electrical permits being pulled, with commercial projects progressing.

He said the department

conducted 358 inspections during this period.

LePage said of the over 6,000 open permits, the department was able to close approximately 900.

LePage said the Dollar Tree just received its occupancy permit and the ConvenientMD Urgent Care on Route 20 is on schedule to be open in the beginning of December. He said Old Sturbridge Village has finished building its new horse barn.

He said a resident raised concern about the enforcement of the town's swimming pool bylaw, and after some research, it was found that a 1967 town meeting approved that all swimming pools 18 inches or more would require a fence around them.

"We had a resident come in that's pretty passionate about this bylaw," LePage said.

He said the Select Board has the authority to enforce the bylaw.

Grimm said the 18-inch requirement would be challenging to enforce, due to

the rise in popularity of inflatable pools since the bylaw was created. She asked the board members if they wanted to update the bylaw.

Appointments
The board voted to appoint Stephen Sandberg as production coordinator of the Public Access Television.

Grimm said Sandberg filled in to cover for Bruce Butcher during an illness, and continued in the role after Butcher retired.

Grimm said the position would be reduced from 35 hours to 20 hours. She said Butcher gave his highest recommendation for Sandberg to be appointed to this position.

The board voted to appoint Nicholas Gravel to the Conservation Commission through Sept. 15, 2028. Grimm said Gravel has attended several of the commission meetings and has met with the chair and the Conservation Agent.

The board selected Kaitbenski as a candidate to serve in an alternate position on the southwest subregion

of the Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization.

The board also reappointed Hugh Brower of the Open Space Committee for a term to expire Sept. 16, 2028.

CCC regulations
Grimm provided the board members with copies of cannabis social equity and host community agreement policies, in order to meet the Cannabis Control Commission's new regulations.

"The CCC has done and redone its regulations and its laws on this," Grimm said. "We need to have these processes in place. We are subject to fines if we do not get these processes in place and post them."

The board voted to adopt the policies in order to comply with state CCC regulations.

Event approval
The board approved a permit for a 5K road race hosted by Old Sturbridge Academy to be held on Sunday, Nov. 9 from 8-10 a.m.

WBCTV FROM PAGE 1

tee that began well over a year ago, its members now have access to the Spectrum franchise fees collected on behalf of WBCTV, and they are making slow progress since July. The studio is

located on the third floor of Town Hall and the committee is scheduling the upgrades to software and equipment.

Finally, the committee needs someone to fill the position of Studio Coordinator to make all of this happen. The post-

ing as well as the job description can be found at <https://wbrookfield.com/board-openings-job-opportunities/>.

Send WBCTC your announcements, or questions and comments to WBCTV@wbrookfield.com.

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Resumes and Cover letters will be accepted until the position is filled. Please forward your resume and cover letter to the Town Administrator, Jim Ferrera, townadministrator@warren-ma.gov

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ARTIST FROM PAGE 1

"Wetlands are just fascinating," Rorer said. "There are so many images I want to draw...all the dead trees, the waterfowl."

Rorer will also showcase her silverpoint drawings in the gallery show. The technique is created using a specially prepared paper or panel that has a fine grit to it, which catches the silver when you draw on it.

"It's a very old medium and you can get incredible detail," she said.

Rorer said she is looking forward to the Oct. 3 opening of her show, and said she first met gallery owner and fellow artist Rebecca Fay when both were at a gallery in Northampton 35 years ago.

"She is just the nicest person," Rorer said of Fay.

Rorer described the types

of artwork that will be featured in her show and said it's, "basically everything and anything."

"I'm putting in some older stuff that doesn't get seen very much, and all of my newer work," she said.

Fay said this is the first show of the fall season at West Brookfield Art & Frame Gallery, and spoke about Rorer's talent.

"She is a real, true artist/artisan," Fay said of Rorer, adding that the detail of her work is "tiny and meticulous."

All are welcome to attend the opening reception on Friday, Oct. 3 from 5-7 p.m. and meet with the artist and enjoy friendly fellowship (along with wine and cheese). "Books, Engravings & Drawings" will be on display through the month of October.

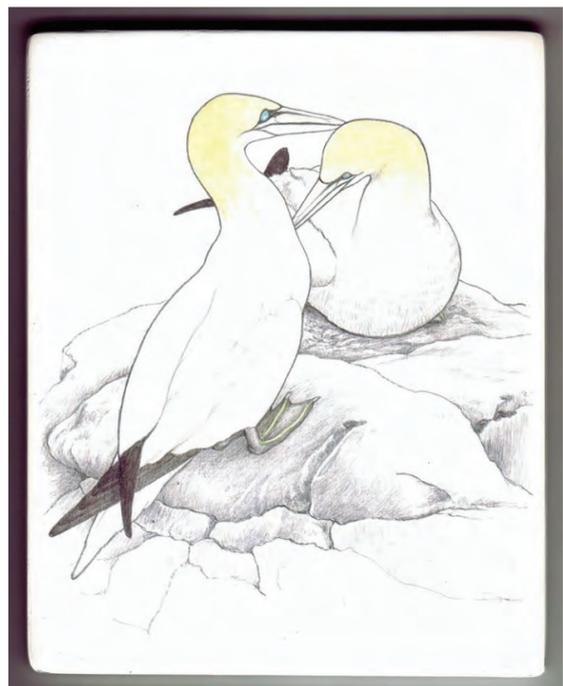
For more information

about Rorer and her work, visit her website www.theloneoakpress.com.

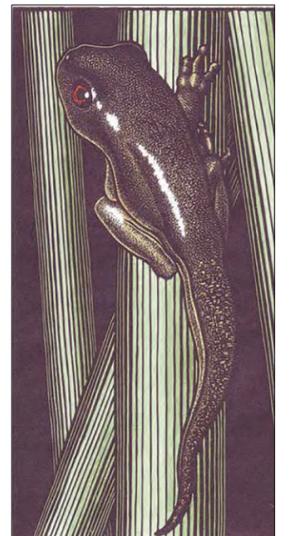
Upcoming shows and events
West Brookfield Art & Frame Gallery will host the 3rd annual Jewelry Show with Cathie Palo and Cassandra Goldwater, opening on Friday, Nov. 7 from 5-7 p.m. and the 9th annual Holiday Group Show featuring gallery artists opening on Friday, Dec. 5 from 5-7 p.m.

The gallery also offers a number of classes and workshops, including "Cosmos & The Cosmos!" an evening of tarot readings with gallery artist Cheryl O'Donnell on Oct. 24; and a decoupage clock making class with Fay on Nov. 20.

For more information or to register, call the gallery at 508-753-8604, email yafacceber@hotmail.com, visit westbrookfieldartandframe.com or stop by the gallery during open hours, Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.



This silverpoint focused on two gannets, the largest seabirds of the North Atlantic.



This hand-colored engraving of a tadpole was created by Abigail Rorer in 2021.

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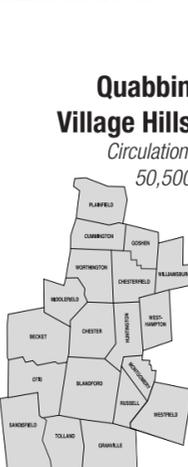
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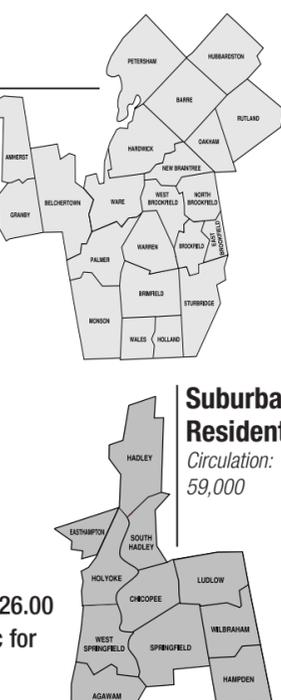
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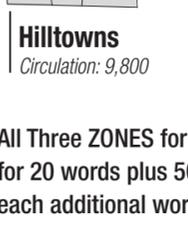
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