

QUABOAG CURRENT

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Quaboag Current
Newspaper

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Friday, October 4, 2024



Police Officer Patrick Almstrom (center) receives his award and citation for performing lifesaving actions.

DA gives TEAM Award to local first responders

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

HARDWICK/NEW BRAINTREE – Worcester County District Attorney Joseph D. Early Jr. presented the District Attorney’s Team Excellence and Merit Award to eight people credited

with saving a man’s life earlier this year.

On Sept. 23 in Glidden Hall at the New Braintree Town Hall, Early was joined by state Sen. Peter Durant and state Rep. Donnie Berthiaume, who both presented each individual with a citation, and thanked them for their heroic actions.

Early said he created the

TEAM Award to recognize public safety employees who go above and beyond the call of duty.

“When we see excellence,” Early said. “It’s because of the collective work of hardworking men and women.”

Early described the events of Jan. 21, which could have

Please see **AWARDS**, page 12

Oktoberfest at Common Ground



TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO

The Theatre Guild of North Brookfield is looking for new members and provided treats and gifts during the Oktoberfest event.

Annual event helps to benefit the North Brookfield Town House

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Friends of the North Brookfield Town House hosted a family friendly Oktoberfest at Common Ground Ciderworks.

The mission of the Friends of the North Brookfield Town House

is to raise money to help restore and renovate the North Brookfield Town House that is in the center of the town. Members of the Friends of the North Brookfield Town House Maureen Caramiello and Trish Miller were running a prize booth with raffles that help raise money for the town house.

Please see **OKTOBERFEST**, page 7

WBCA&B members visit Pathfinder Tech restaurant

Staff Report

PALMER – Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School recently hosted the Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond at its on-site student run restaurant, Perso.

Superintendent Eric Duda welcomed the members and invited all in attendance to enjoy a buffet prepared by the students.

“The students are excited to demonstrate their skills. We are very proud of what they have accomplished,” he said.

Daniel Flynn, Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond’s president opened the meeting and recog-

nized the volunteers who have maintained the Ware is Blooming program.

“Over the last 10 years, the Ware is Blooming program has made a beautiful impression on Main Street with potted and hanging basket flowers” said Flynn. “These three ladies, since late May, have every day, watered and deadheaded and kept these flowers looking full and beautiful. They have just changed over the baskets to mums who look wonderful.”

Carol Blackmer, Janice Ouimette and Pat Skutnik were then recognized and gifted certificates to Hardwick Crossing as an appreciation for their

Please see **PATHFINDER**, page 13



TURLEY PHOTOS BY VICTORIA PLEASANT

Quabbin Regional Middle High School Cheerleaders posed for a photo during their first craft fair fundraiser held at the school last Saturday.

Quabbin Cheerleaders reflect on successful craft fair

By Victoria Pleasant
Correspondent

BARRE – The Quabbin Regional Middle High School cheerlead-

ing squad is celebrating the success of their inaugural craft fair, which took place on Sept. 28.

The event was a resounding success, raising

valuable funds for the team’s upcoming season, thanks in large part to the efforts of the cheer-

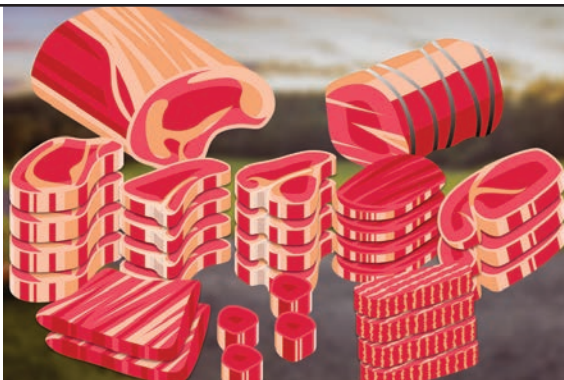
Please see **CHEER**, page 13



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- community -

Board hears request from neighboring senior center

By Paula Ouimette
Editor

pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Town Administrator Michael Szlosek told the Board of Selectmen that he met with a representative from the town of Oakham’s Council on Aging, who expressed an interest in combining the two senior centers.

“Oakham has a very small senior center, and they don’t currently have any staff,” he said at the board’s Sept. 24 meeting.

Szlosek said North Brookfield’s senior center does have extra capacity to accommodate the senior citizens from Oakham. He said there are about 30-40 active residents at the Oakham Senior Center.

“It’s not a lot of extra capacity and I think we can take that on if we had some resources,” he said.

Szlosek will reach out to the Oakham Board of Selectmen and request a meeting between himself, a member of that board and North Brookfield Senior Center Director Courtenay Rivera. He will also research any available state resources for regionalizing the two senior centers.

Memorial bench

The board accepted a gift on behalf of the Haston Free Public Library

Board of Trustees. The gift is a bench in memory of Col. Richard P. McEvoy, a graduate of North Brookfield High School and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

McEvoy served 28 years in the U.S. Army and earned two Bronze Stars and the Valor Award. After retiring in 2008, McEvoy worked as a contractor in Iraq and Afghanistan.

He was killed on Aug. 22, 2015, at the age of 57.

The trustees described the bench as polished black granite, three feet six inches long with curved legs.

McEvoy’s sister, Luann Varney, will pay for the complete cost of the bench, including its delivery and installation.

“I’m sure it’s going to be a very beautiful piece that’s going to complement our library,” Board of Selectmen Clerk Vaughn Schlegel said.

Appointments

Randy Morgan was appointed to serve as the town’s Tree Warden. Board of Selectmen Vice-Chair Elizabeth “Brooke” Canada said Morgan has a background with trees and experience.

“I know he’s got a lengthy history in the tree business,” Schlegel said.

Erin Lynch was appointed to the Conservation Commission. Lynch said she is a big advocate for preserving and protecting the water supply.

“I’ve just been really passionate

about water and trying to make sure that we can do everything that we can,” she said.

The board also appointed Jamie Gilman to Capital Improvement Planning. Gilman said he has been a project leader several times for capital improvements in his career.

Gilman said the town’s biggest obstacle at this time, is financial.

“I’d like to get involved, I’d like to help, if possible,” he said.

Spending request

The board approved a spending request in the amount of \$2,895 from the Highway and Water departments to purchase a jumping jack compactor ram used for pipe installation.

“The last one we used was not owned by the town,” Canada said. “It would be a one-time purchase.”

Szlosek said the town needs this in order to install the water line to the former Huck’s building, which will be the new Highway Department barn.

“Unfortunately, it’s necessary. It’s to compact the earth after they put the line down,” Szlosek said.

Code of conduct policy

Szlosek said it has become necessary for the board to adopt a code of conduct policy for the Town Office, due to people “behaving inappropriately and disruptively and even threateningly to

our staff.”

The board approved a draft policy presented by Szlosek, which lists expectations for behavior.

“People need to be respectful to Town Hall employees, elected officials, other patrons visiting the Town Hall, any residents...visitors in general,” Schlegel said. “It should be common sense.”

Szlosek said the policy will be posted in multiple locations.

Early voting

Canada read a statement regarding Early Voting hours. All Early Voting will take place at the Town Offices.

Voters are reminded that disruptive behavior will not be tolerated; electioneering will not be permitted within 150 feet of Town Offices (wearing political clothing, campaigning, etc.); and there will be no collection of signatures for petitions or exhibiting, circulating or distributing paraphernalia to influence the action of a voter.

Water flushing

The Water Department will begin flushing water mains from Oct. 1 through Nov. 8 to remove sediments in the mains. Flushing is performed between the hours of 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

The daily flushing schedule is posted on the Water Department’s Facebook page. For more information, call the department at 508-867-0207.

Backroads Studio Tour set to take place on Oct. 5-6

The artists and artisans of central Massachusetts Backroads Studio Tour will once again be opening their studios this fall, on Saturday, Oct. 5 and Sunday, Oct. 6 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. in the towns of Petersham, Barre, Oakham, New Braintree, West Brookfield, North Brookfield and Spencer.

This year the tour gladly welcomes back Tracy Crane from West Brookfield. Crane uses a wide variety of mediums to create her art including inks, glass,

buttons, cut paper and resin. Her varied works have an accessible simplicity and capture one’s eye and interest. Her work can be found year round at Worcester Art and Frame in West Brookfield.

In the town of Petersham Sylvia Brown will showcase her line of contemporary classic leather handbags, beautiful garments, belts, briefcases and luggage.

In the town of Barre people will find three studios including Deer Run Studio where metalsmith Bonnie Waterhouse

works with sterling silver, semiprecious stones, fused glass and crystals to create rings, bracelets, necklaces, earrings and ornaments.

Across the street from Waterhouse is Sue Morello of Sheldon Farm Baskets. She creates beautiful baskets in a variety of shapes and sizes, many of which are hand painted with lovely designs.

A short drive from Morello and Waterhouse takes people to Stained Glass by Robert Hill. He enjoys building artwork

from glass that has texture and character. His favorite pieces are those designed for gardens.

In the town of Oakham one will find Dena Hengst showcasing her beautiful paintings, prints and notecards, many of which depict ocean shores, waterfalls and water surfaces. She also creates abstract pieces and looks forward to sharing her techniques with her visitors.

Another short drive takes one to New Braintree where you can visit David

Thompson’s wood shop studio. There, you will find a collection of handcrafted one-of-a-kind spoons, bowls and kitchenware. He also builds a variety of unique interior and exterior furniture pieces.

Nearby in North Brookfield one can find Brookfield Paperworks where Elisabeth Hyder will welcome visitors to view her beautiful boxes, journals, cards, framed art and collages. Vibrant colors and beautiful design combine to create gorgeous “art you can use.”

In the town of Spencer this year visitors will find Lou Meyerderks creating beautiful table runners, penny rugs and holiday pieces, using techniques of wool applique, rug hooking, needle punch and counted cross stitch.

So come and be inspired by the different studios and demonstrations this self-guided tour has to offer, while experiencing the autumn beauty of our serene New England backroads. For more information and a map, people may visit their website at backroadsstudiotour.org.



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- community -

NBSB Food Drive to continue the fight against hunger

NORTH BROOKFIELD – North Brookfield Savings Bank is proud to announce the start of their Annual Food Drive, held from Oct. 1-25, offering the perfect chance to share kindness, support the community and help those in need during the season of giving.

North Brookfield Savings Bank's Annual Food Drive helps provide much-needed food items to local neighbors and families in need within the communities they serve. As part of the bank's commitment to giving back,

North Brookfield Savings Bank will contribute \$1 for every item and dollar collected, up to a total of \$3,000 to further support the operational cost of local food pantries.

Community members are encouraged to drop off non-perishable food items, paper goods, toiletries, or monetary donations at any of NBSB's convenient branch locations throughout the month of October.



Drop off locations include: North Brookfield Branch, 9 Gilbert St., East

Brookfield Branch, 100 West Main St. (Route 9), West Brookfield Branch, 128 West Main St. (Route 9), Ware Branch & Business Center, 40 Main St. (Route 9), Belchertown Branch, 4 Daniel Shays Highway (Route 9 and Route 202) and Three Rivers Branch, 2060 Main St.

Examples of non-perishable and non-food items that pantries can use are paper towels, toilet paper, tissues, diapers, and baby wipes; deodorant, soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste; dry and canned pasta and soups, canned

meats, tuna, and salmon; peanut butter, jelly, tea bags, and ground coffee; canned vegetables and fruits, hot and cold cereals, rice, cake mixes, pancake mix, syrup, powdered milk, and granulated sugar; canned juices, baby food, baby formula, granola, and cereal bars.

To learn more about North Brookfield Savings Bank's Community giving efforts and the convenient banking products and services offered, visit www.NorthBrookfieldSavings-Bank.com.



COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic

Flu shot available!

Wednesday, October 9, 2024


9 am - 12 pm

Located:
Brimfield Senior Center (inside of Congregational Church)
20 Main St., Brimfield, MA 01010

Moderna available.
Bring your ID, insurance card, and vaccination card (if you do not have an insurance card, you can still get the vaccine).
All vaccinations are no cost to you, walk-ins and families welcome!

Supported by Healthy Quaboag and The Rural Vaccine Equity Initiative

Please use QR Code or the link to pre-register:
<https://tinyurl.com/ybr893fy>
Please direct any questions to Nisha Humayun at nhumayun@townofware.com, (413) 207-7698.





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- opinion -



Why is there a Social Security Earnings Limit?

Dear Rusty:
I try to read your article each week and appreciate the information you provide. I am 62 and considering my retirement options and when I should do that to get the most benefit. I understand my full retirement age is 67, but what I don't understand, and I hope you can answer, is why there is such a thing as the Social Security earnings limit? I know that if I was to retire before 67, my benefits would be reduced.
But since I have been paying into SS for 45+ years and that money is technically money I have earned, why does SS care if I make more than the earnings limit? It doesn't affect them or my benefits. Can you tell me about the reasoning behind the earnings limit? I will, for many years after "retiring," continue working in my field.

Signed: Working American

Dear Working American:
This is a great question and, as a point of interest, our parent company, the Association of Mature American Citizens, advocates doing away with Social Security's earnings test which affects those collecting benefits before reaching their SS Full Retirement Age. In AMAC's view, it discourages people from working and, thus, paying Social Security taxes on their earnings.

It is, after all, SS taxes from the earnings of working Americans, which largely pays for the benefits provided to Social Security beneficiaries. Eliminating the restriction would tend to improve Social Security revenue and help ease Social Security's current financial stress.
The reasoning behind the earnings test? Well, when Social Security was first enacted in the 1930s, the intent was that Social Security was for retired workers, meant to keep them from poverty in old age.

The logic back then was that if a person worked they didn't need Social Security to sustain them, so those who worked could not collect Social Security at all.
The current rule, after many adjustments over the years, says that annual earnings for those who collect early SS benefits are limited. If each year's earnings limit (\$22,320 for 2024) is exceeded, Social Security will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 over the limit (FYI, the penalty is less severe in the year FRA is attained).

Historical accounts suggest that the reasoning behind the wording in the original Social Security Act - that "No person shall receive such old-age annuity unless he is not employed by another in a gainful occupation" - was quite controversial, except for the fundamental thought that if someone worked they didn't need Social Security. Over the ensuing decades the rule has been softened to provide that only those who collect benefits before their Full Retirement Age would have a portion of their SS benefits offset by their work earnings.

In any case, the earnings test, in its mitigation
Please see **SOCIAL SECURITY**, page 15



Seeds among the weeds



If there is a consolation from having a garden gone wild, there was one today. You see, I went out for a walk to assess the garden and decided it was time to clean up my overgrown perennial beds. Lo and behold, there were seed pods galore, just waiting for taking!

I gathered up a bunch of envelopes and got busy. There were some really interesting native plants that had dry but intact seed heads, including Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), Blue Cardinal's Flower (*Lobelia siphilitica*), and Native Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*).

I also had classic cottage garden specimens, including beautiful but poisonous Wild Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*), Rusty Foxglove (*Digitalis ferruginea*) and then the oh so fragrant Clove Pink (*Digitalis caryophyllus*). A walk in the backyard yielded seed for the biennial Honesty, better known as Money Plant (*Lunaria* annual).

Saving the seeds of this species is way more fun than just tapping a "pepper shaker" like I did with the others. *Lunaria* references the moon. Once you rub off the outer part of the seed head you are left with a silvery-white papery orb.

Some call it Money Plant because the orbs resemble silver coins. As I clipped branches and began rubbing off the sides between my fingers, they fell to the ground, each containing two-four seeds.

It was so much fun to gather all of these different seeds, and economical too, when you think about the cost of seed packs. You can extend seed saving beyond perennial or biennial flowers.

In fact, I got my start way back in the 1970s, learning the tricks of the trade from my mom, when we grew annual flowers together each summer.

Sure, I loved all the flowers that we exhibited in local fairs and cut for arrangements throughout the house, but what I'm thinking

about right now are the seeds saved from all of the flowers that had gone by. Every May we would take the shoe box out of the "cellar way" and open up plastic film vials that she re-purposed as seed storage containers.

Cleome, marigold, zinnia, bachelor button, calendula, balsam were stored there - the names of the flowers in our garden keep coming back to me! She would write these names on a little piece of paper and use scotch tape to mark each vial.

How I wish I could go back there for a minute as we began our garden planning. Maybe next weekend I'll venture out to my patch of flowering annuals and see if any seed heads have browned and dried, and save a few of these seeds too, just for old time's sake.

Of course, you have to be certain that the plants you save the seeds from are open-pollinated and not F1 hybrids. Saving seeds of hybrids could give you something with the trait of each parent but not exactly what you originally grew.

You may also get a cross from an open pollinated and another open pollinated of the same type of flower. For example, one year I grew two different, large flowered zinnias side by side. "Grandmother's Garden" and "Berry Basket" come to mind as the name of the varieties.

They were beautiful and I saved the seeds from them. Well, let's just say I call them "Large Flowered Zinnia" going forward, because who knows what they are anymore.

If you are interested in saving seeds of heirlooms for the purpose of continuing and preserving a specific variety, do your homework first and learn how you might isolate your plants from one another. I think it is a bit easier to manage growing flowers that result in seeds that are true to type by planting one named variety of each flower type each year.

Most seeds are viable for a couple years, so technically you could swap them out by growing one set one year and another set of favorites a year later. I encourage you to try seed saving; it's one positive outcome of an unmanicured garden, that's for certain.

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

Turley Publications Election Policy

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

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

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

OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

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

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Letters to the Editor
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OR
e-mail to:
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Deadline for submission is Monday at noon for the following week's edition.

- opinion -



A Brimfield resident recently visited a pond on New Reed Street in Warren where he saw a northern harrier “cruising” over the marsh.

He said in an email, “The bird (northern harrier) dove after something on the ground then sat for a couple of minutes before taking off to cruise over the vegetation along the far side of the pond.”



Northern Harrier

The northern harrier is 18 inches long. It feeds by coursing close to the ground and quickly swooping down on its prey.

This behavior is what the Brimfield resident observed. The male is grey above and white below. The female is larger than the male, common in many hawks, brown above and streaked underneath. The immature harrier is brown above, reddish brown to creamy below and streaking only on the chest. Harriers eat mice, rats, birds, snakes, frogs and other small animals. They inhabit open fields, grasslands, prairies and marshes.

The female lays three to nine bluish, white eggs in a nest of sticks and grasses lined with finer materials placed on the ground. Males are polygamous, mating with up to three females.

They often hunt at dusk and catch prey by sound as well as sight. Their owl like facial disk of feathers may function to help them locate sounds.

Other birds in Warren

Other birds at the pond on New Reed Street in Warren beside the northern harrier were an adult bald eagle, adult osprey, four great egrets, a great

blue heron and a belted kingfisher.

On another trip to to the ponds in Warren with his wife, the Brimfield residents saw two great egrets at one pond and one great egret at another pond. They also saw an adult osprey, a belted kingfisher, two great blue heron, three eastern phoebes and six mallards. The male mallards were in eclipse plumage.

Unsuccessful hawk watch

He also did a mini hawk watch – an hour in the morning and an hour in the afternoon. He said, “Unfortunately, the hawks chose not to participate.” He did see a Carolina wren and two ruby-throated hummingbirds, one an immature male.

Feeding peanuts

The Brimfield resident likes to feed the birds whole peanuts. He fills a tray feeder every day and by the end of the days, they are gone. Blue jays and tufted titmice are especially fond of them along with an occasional red-bellied woodpecker. This summer he has had up to eight blue jays at a time come for the peanuts. He said, “Lately the peanut tray has not been empty when I go out to take down the feeder and some

days I only see one jay and most days and I did see three a few days ago.”

I feed shelled peanuts in the winter in a tray feeder and they are very popular. I’ve had up to ten blue jays at a time and the smaller birds like titmice and downy woodpeckers come for them as well

Wild turkeys

I see wild turkeys almost daily when I travel around town. It is either a group of hens with almost grown poults or a smaller group of Tom turkeys.

The Brimfield resident saw a hen with four half grown poults while driving away from his house

He believes this is the group that was seen in the yard some time ago when the poults were about half the size they were when I saw them on the road. He said in the email, “Just after seeing these turkeys another hen flew across the road in front of my car.”

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.

Durant demands investigation into DOC after officers injured

BOSTON – State Sen. Peter Durant (R-Spencer) and state Rep. Michael Soter (R-Bellingham) called for an investigation following reports of an attack of five correction officers recently at Souza-Baranowski Correctional Center in Lancaster.

“This is not the first time we have seen serious injuries inflicted on corrections officers by inmates and the time has come to act,” Durant said in a press release. “The administration has kicked this can down the road too many times and there is no reason why our correc-

tions officers should have to come to work fearing that they will leave their shift in an ambulance.”

According to reports, two officers were stabbed, and three others were injured in the violent attack.

“I am outraged that we are here, again, after legislators have been begging for a thorough investigation into why these incidents continue and what steps have been taken to prevent them,” Soter said. “We cannot wait until there is a loss of life before we address this problem.”

Durant and Soter said they stand with the Massachusetts Correction Officers Federated Union in their call for accountability in the Department of Correction and for steps to be taken to ensure correction officers are safe, secure and protected in their workplace.

Last year, two letters from a group of legislators were sent to DOC Commissioner Carol Mici demanding the State Department of Correction and the Governor’s office respond to incidents at the correction center by providing a clear and detailed plan to pro-

tect correction officers who put their lives on the line at work each day.

“Those requests went unanswered and now we have five more correction officers whose lives have been forever changed because of the administration’s inaction,” Soter said.

Durant expressed frustration with the lack of action.

“We cannot let the inmates at SBCC assault correction officers without consequences. There must be a plan put in place now to ensure that corrections officers’ safety is a priority,” Durant said.

Life Together

Laura went back to school eager to see her friends again, but she wondered if she will be bullied by another group of girls like last year.

They spread rumors about her, posted negative comments on the internet, and called her house at all hours and hung up when answered.


She complained to the school administration and her parents met with them. They said they could talk to the group of girls, but cannot control them.

Things got so bad for Laura she had to change schools, used her middle name instead of her first name.

Bullying in school often occurs in unstructured school settings, such as the playground area during recess. Most school-aged children are exposed to bullying in some form due to the unequal balance of power and influence that is so common in youth relationships and peer groups.

Bullies are weak and pretend to be strong, they are small but pretend to be big. There is no room for such behavior and many of our youth experience abuse and physical violence. Bullies must be


Please see **LIFE TOGETHER**, page 15



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- sturbridge -

7th annual Pumpkin Patch returns to Federated Church



Master Carver Heidi Curboy will offer a pumpkin carving demonstration on Saturday, Oct. 5 at the Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale.



The Federated Church Pumpkin Patch offers local mums, hay and corn stalks in addition to pumpkins.



Unusual gourds of every shape and kind are popular with visitors to the Federated Church's pumpkin patch

STURBRIDGE – Fall fun is back in full swing as the Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale's 7th annual Pumpkin Patch returns now through Thursday, Oct. 31.

The church's front lawn at 8 Maple St., will be transformed into a festive fall wonderland, brimming with pumpkins and gourds of all shapes and sizes. Whether you're looking to decorate your home for Halloween or create a cozy fall atmosphere, the Pumpkin Patch offers everything you need – from pumpkins and mums to hay bales, corn stalks, loose hay for your scarecrow, and even cookbooks to inspire your autumn cooking.

The Pumpkin Patch is open to visitors Monday through Friday from 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturdays from 9 a.m.-6 p.m., and Sundays from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. (weather permitting). Convenient payment options include cash, credit cards, Venmo and PayPal, making it easy for everyone to join in the fun.

But that's not all – October is packed with special events and entertainment to make your visit even more memorable.

Featured events include a pumpkin carving demonstration by Heidi Curboy on Saturday, Oct. 5 from 10 a.m.-noon. Rain date is Sunday, Oct. 6 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Curboy is an artist/carver for the Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular that is held throughout October at the Roger Williams Park Zoo in Providence, Rhode Island.

On Oct. 12 and 26, Judy, Queen of the Pumpkins will be telling pumpkin stories in the picnic area near the Joshua Hyde Public Library. In the event of rain, the Pumpkin Patch Story Hour will be held in the Federated Church parlor.

Rock Voices Auburn will be performing on the front steps of the church (date to be announced), and other activities and games will be available daily.

Keep an eye on the Church's Facebook page (@FederatedChurchSturbridgeFiskdale) for the latest updates and event details.

"The Pumpkin Patch started back in 2018 as a fundraiser to support both church operations and regional ministries," according to Committee Chair Jason Chin. "It also has a broader impact, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting the Navajo Nation in Farmington, New Mexico. Pumpkins USA, our pumpkin supplier, employs over 700 Native Americans during the harvest season, with a full-time, off-season staff that's 100% Native American. This initiative brings long-lasting support to a region where unemployment rates reach 42%."

So, gather your friends and family and head over to the Federated Church's Pumpkin Patch this fall – it's more than just a pumpkin sale; it's an experience full of community spirit, fall vibes, and fun for all ages.

For more information on the Pumpkin Patch or other upcoming events, visit the Church's website at sturfed.org or contact the Church office by calling 774-304-1021 or emailing churchoffice@sturfed.org.

The Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale welcomes everyone to celebrate Christ's presence and God's grace in their lives. Members of the community are welcome and invited to join in worship on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am.

Bag-of-Books Sale at library

STURBRIDGE – The annual Bag-of-Books Sale will be returning to the Joshua Hyde Public Library in Sturbridge on Saturday, Oct. 19, with great books for all ages, and lots of them.

Sponsored by the Friends of The Joshua Hyde Library, visitors may stuff a small bag with gently used books for a total price of only \$5. Fill a medium bag for only \$10. Small and medium bags will be provided.

If you'd like, you may fill your own tote bag for \$15 to \$20 depending on size. That's a lot of good reading. Cash or check only, please.

Visitors to the sale can expect to find a large selection of nonfiction books including biographies, history, sports, crafts, cooking, arts and more. Many audio books, CDs and DVDs will be available as well.

All proceeds will be used by the Friends of the Joshua Hyde Library to pay for all the extras that the town budget for the library doesn't cover, like museum passes and special programs for children and adults.

The sale will be held indoors in the basement meeting room, with some outdoor tables on the library's back lawn facing the Town Common, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The sale coincides with the Sturbridge Harvest Festival, Saturday, Oct. 19.

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

We invite you to join us Friday afternoons from 1-2:30 pm to explore these topics and more.

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A replica of the North Brookfield Town House was created by Russ Emerson.



A thank you poster to all the sponsors who supported the Oktoberfest and a thank you to the venue Common Ground Ciderworks.



Darrin Gorey had photo of the barn that provided all the wood for some of his wood crafted whales.



Shelley Ingalls danced, laughed and made balloon animals for kids.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO



Darrin Gorey is shown with a barnwood cut out of a whale.



The whales came in all sizes and are handcrafted by Dave & Darrin's Whales.



Greg Afton and Derek Ingalls were on stage performing during Oktoberfest.

OKTOBERFEST from page 1

Prizes consisted of tickets to the Woo Sox, admissions pass to Old Sturbridge Village, gift certificates from local businesses and an area rug. There was also a raffle for gift baskets and gift cards.

In attendance was President of the Friends of the North Brookfield Town House Jim Buzzell. The organization was established in 2006 to help support restorations of the building which was built in 1864. There was an original town house that was lost due to a fire back in the 1860s.

The Friends of the North Brookfield Town House consists of a nine member board and over 100 members.

"Anyone can join and don't have to be from North Brookfield," Buzzell said.

The Oktoberfest featured festive day outdoors filled with live music, delicious food, local vendors, fun games, and more. There was a total of 12 vendors in

attendance during the Oktoberfest.

One of them was from the Theatre Guild of North Brookfield. The crew featured games and animal balloons made by theatre guild member Shelley Ingalls.

Ingalls made cute animal balloons and hats for those at the event. There was one visitor wearing a balloon sailor's hat.

Ingalls' husband Derek Ingalls was performing alongside Greg Afton. Afton was on the banjo and harmonica and Ingalls was on acoustic guitar.

One unique vendor was selling cutouts of whales. The craftsmanship is made possible by Dave & Darrin's Whales of Sturbridge. Darrin Gorey was running the booth and featured whales in the form of table wood, boards, driftwood and barnwood.

The whale's made of barnwood come from an old barn that unfortunately

was falling apart. The age of the barn dates back to the 1920s. Gorey has been crafting whales since the age of 7.

One of the oldest whale cutouts Gorey had on display was from a table that is about 80 years old.

North Brookfield High School had a fundraiser going on at their booth. Proceeds will help students raise money for their trip to Washington D.C. in 2025. The booth featured homemade goods and snacks.

The Friends of North Brookfield had an information booth with an interesting donation box on their table. Holding the money was a replica of the North Brookfield Town House crafted by Russ Emerson. Folks looked through the tiny windows and saw money displayed inside the replica of the town house.

Guests could drop a donation through

the roof of the replica.

The Friends of North Brookfield Town House is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization focused on restoring, preserving, and sustaining the town House as a cultural center of North Brookfield and central Massachusetts.

This was the fourth time the Friends of North Brookfield Town House hosted their Oktoberfest at Common Ground Ciderworks, located at 31 East Brookfield Road.

The Friends of North Brookfield town house also hosts a May festival at the library and a fundraiser at the Bemis Nursery in November.

For more about the Friends of North Brookfield Town House visit nbtownhouse.com.

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Walked Homestead hosts antiques and primitives show



Stone wear and country antiques were featured at Walker Homestead's Country Antiques & Primitives show.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO



Handmade pillows and figurines were made by antique collector and salesman Charles Guinipero of Pantry Box Antiques.



Homemade apple crisp was featured inside homestead kitchen at Walker Homestead.



Live music was playing during the antique show, featuring members of Grade A Fantasy.



This antique pedal tractor was on display at one vendor's tent.



Pottery and vintage jugs were on display during the antique show.

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By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

BROOKFIELD – The Walked Homestead hosted an antique show featuring country antiques and primitives this past Saturday.

For over a decade the Casuccis have offered their homeland as a destination for antique collectors and vendors to pick out and sell antiques and primitives. The theme behind this year's antique show was all about country and country living.

This year's antique show was dedicated to a fellow antique dealer, Matt King, who passed on earlier this year. King was looked at as an icon in the antique world.

"He was a wonderful and knowledgeable friend," Kris Casucci said.

The antique show featured over 40 vendors who come from Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Connecticut, Maryland, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Casucci says its an event "that brings the antique community together."

Having careers prior to getting involved with antiques, Paul and Kris Casucci wanted to find something they both enjoy. Therefore, they got involved with the antiques community and also enjoy gardening.

Several of the homestead's beautiful gardens could be seen as visitors walked through the homestead during the antique show.

Guests even got to explore the house at the Walker Homestead which dates

back to the 1690s. Inside the house was a room housing plants and herbs.

Casucci says the antique items she regularly focuses on are primitives, colonial period pieces, country antiques, stoneware and any item before 1850. Casucci also likes collecting golden oak and sometimes refinishing it.

The Walker Homestead hosts two antique shows a year and most events draw in about 1,000 people. The homestead kitchen had some delicious homemade apple crisp available for visitors during the antique show.

One of the vendors was Pantry Box Antiques of Stafford Springs, Connecticut. Many American country antiques and accessories were provided by collector and salesman Charles M. Guinipero. Charles has been involved in the antique business for 12 years but has been a collector for 40 years.

Guinipero is active in the antique community as he travels all over the country for antique shows including ones in Brimfield, Marlborough, Danielson in Connecticut and Tolland in Connecticut. Guinipero also attended the Simple Goods Antique Show in Ohio.

Pantry Box Antiques had items such as country items, stoneware, and lots of Steiff animal figurines. Guinipero also had home goods and woodenware items in their original conditions or with a new paint surface applied.

Walker Homestead is dedicated to creating an 18th century experience with a country antiques & primitive goods shop, heirloom gardens, plants and herbs.

SPORTS

Cougars score win over Panthers

BARRE – Last Friday afternoon in a hard-fought matchup, Quaboag defeated Quabbin Regional 3-1. The Panthers suffered its seventh loss of the season, falling to 1-7-1. The Panthers hope to rebound on Oct. 3 against Maynard. The Cougars improved to 4-5-1 and look to reach .500 this week. The Cougars are next in action on Friday, Oct. 4 at Keefe Tech.



Christian Marshall tries to steal the ball.



Reed Waz takes a shot on goal.



Jacob Toomey clears the ball away with a free kick.



Logan Spring tries to get away from pressure in the midfield.



Blake Lopato picks up the ball.



Goalie Alijah Flint makes a high save.



Jake Doty makes the stop.



Matt Labrousse chases after the loose ball.



James Cook watches the ball to his foot.



Jacoby Dilling gets the header for the Panthers.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

- sports -

Panthers football falls to Cougars



Tyler Snow kicks off for the Cougars.



Camden Williams heads for the right sideline on a carry.



Cameron Evans picks up the ball and goes on a run.

WARREN – Last Friday night, Quaboag Regional High School football defeated Quabbin at home. The Panthers would fall to 1-2 on the season. The Panthers won their first game before dropping the last two. The Cougars had a big win over Ludlow to start the season, but were edged by Palmer in Week 2. The win over Quabbin brings the Cougars to 2-1 on the season. Both teams are headed for their conference schedule in Week 4 with the Panthers host Murdock High School on Friday, Oct. 4 at 7 p.m. The Cougars will host Worcester North at the same time.



Chase Talbot heads to the left on a carry.

Quarterback Jacob Cacace passes on the run.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Luke Salvatore enters traffic on a carry.



Jaxon Warburton jumps to catch a high snap.



Travis Wells makes a block for the Panthers.

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League

PALMER – The Commercial Elks League at Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes reached week three of the season.

As of Sep. 10, Daft Kings are in first place at 6-2. Last in Line and Gutter Mouths are tied for second place at 5-3. The Mailmen are 4-4, Compression is at 3-5 and Team BK is at 1-7.

In one match, Compression bowled against Team BK. In game one, BK was victorious over Compression, 344-335. In game two, Compression bounced back thanks to the team's anchor bowler, Jason Dominick, who bowled a 106. Compression won 355-324. In game three, Team BK

won the last game 380-345. Jeff Whyte of BK was the high man for his team with a 104.

Team BK won total pinfall and a total of three points with a final score of 1048-1035.

Daft Kings bowled against the team of Mailmen. In game one, the match was decided by one point in favor of Daft Kings, 385-384. In game two, The Mailmen bounced back with a victory over Daft Kings 410-372. Bryan Surprise of Mailmen bowled a 110.

In game three, The Mailmen won again by a score of 394-364. The Mailmen won total pinfall by a final score of 1188-1121.

The Gutter Mouths bowled against Last in Line. In game one, Last in Line defeated Gutter Mouths 362-332. In game two, Last in Line won again by a

score of 351-324. In game three, The Gutter Mouths won by a score of 377-368.

Last in Line won total pinfall by a final score of 1081-1033.

Visit Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes in Palmer at 1446 North Main St. The lanes can be reached by calling 413-289-0013.

Bogey Doubles League

EAST BROOKFIELD – The Monday doubles league at Bogey Lanes returned on Sept. 23 for two more rounds.

In round one, Renaud & Ward bowled against Mondor & Brayton. In game one, Mondor & Brayton defeated Renaud & Ward 302-284. Tina Ward started off with a 128. Jesse Mondor had a good opening string of 123.

In game two, Mondor &

Brayton won again 272-264. In game three, Mondor & Brayton won for a three-game sweep 268-253. The team of Mondor & Brayton won total pinfall 842-801.

Gauthier & Clough bowled against Pellett & Nester. In game one, Pellet & Nester won 284-268. Jim Nester started off round one by scoring 137. In game two, Gauthier & Clough won 290-243. Phil Clough had a good second game with a 148.

In game three, Pellet & Nester won 271-235. Nester bowled a series of 349 in round one. Total pinfall scores were 798-793 in favor of Pellet & Nester.

New team Dave Rando & Duncan MacDougall bowled against Clauson & Santora. In game one, Clauson & Santora won 275-265. In game two, Clauson & Santora won again

292-261. Tom Clauson had a 128 and his partner Gary Santora bowled a 114.

In game three, Clauson & Santora defeated the newcomers 276-260. The team also won total pinfall by a final score of 843-786.

Murphy & Kenneson bowled against Halbedel & Fontaine. In game one, Murphy & Kenneson won by just one point, 259-258.

In game two, the team of Halbedel & Fontaine won 311-252. Aaron Fontaine bowled a 138 and Halbedel bowled a 134. In game three, Murphy & Kenneson won 310-286. Aaron Fontaine finished with a 149 and a series of 391. Trever Kenneson finished with a 119 and his partner Lonny Murphy finished with a 122. Murphy & Kenneson won total pinfall 855-821.

- sports -

Costa has big game for Pioneers



Evan Costa watches the ball as he moves up the field.



Justin Davis winds up for a long kick.

CHICOPEE – Last Tuesday afternoon, Pathfinder boys soccer visited Hampden Charter in Chicopee and scored a 5-3 win. Evan Costa had a huge match with four goals for the Pioneers, while Kareem Awkal, who resides in Agawam, scored twice for the Wolves. The Pioneers improved to 6-2 while Hampden Charter suffered its first defeat of the season and is 6-1-1.



Brody Wetnicka dribbles up the field.



Joseph Piche looks to send a pass away.



Cayden Bousquet navigates through traffic with the ball.



Owen Pear tries to steal the ball.

Emerling takes modifieds event at Monadnock

WINCHESTER, N.H. – Empire State Modified star Patrick Emerling had a huge day Saturday at Monadnock Speedway, topping the 200-lap second annual Winchester Fair main event and, with that win, securing the 2024 Granite State Short Track Cup championship while also moving just shy of the top of the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour points parade.

The quarter-mile oval's last event of the 2024 season ended with a large fireworks display lighting up the crisp autumn air with all the oomph and pizzazz that JDV Productions shows have been known for this summer, but not before Emerling had basked in the glory of victory lane, as had Chris Riendeau, twice, Randy Cabral, and Rob Richardi Jr...

No fewer than seven drivers turned in blistering sub-12 second laps in pre-qualifying for the USNE Power presents the second annual Winchester Fair main event. Youthful rocketman Austin Beers was quickest, setting fast time at 11.723 seconds around the high-banked quarter-mile.

A top-four redraw would switch Beers and Craig Lutz spots on row one, with Lutz taking over the inside groove pole. From there, he was all over the lap-one lead, setting a fast pace that would

keep him at the head of the 21-car pack for 76 laps.

Matt Hirschman, Big Money Matt, firing from row three, took second from Beers on lap 18, then grabbed Lutz in a high-speed bear hug before low-lining to the point on the 77th circuit. He held the lead until lap 191 when Emerling sped by.

But while Lutz, then Hirschman, was putting on a show up front, much of the huge crowd's eyes were on superstar Ron Silk. Involved in a lap-three tangle that dropped him to 19th on the grid, the Norwalk, Connecticut star was gobbling up positions like there was no tomorrow. But, somehow, he and five-time Monadnock winner Justin Bonsignore couldn't get along.

When the potent pair tangled out of turn four to draw the event's third and final caution on lap 183, changes aplenty took place. Along with both Silk and Bonsignore now refiring deeper in the field, Big Money Matt now seemed almost mortal.

Restarting lap 191 in second, Emerling quickly had the lead and never looked back. Anthony Nocella got up for second with six to go, and Hirschman held on for third. Lutz and Woody Pitkat, from way back in row

nine, rounded out the top five, with former Monadnock regular Matt Kimball coming home sixth.

Emerling's Sunday victory, coupled with earlier strong runs in both the

Granite State Derby and Duel At The Dog events, earned him the \$3,000 winner's bonus atop the Whelen Granite State Short Track Cup series conceived for the series by JDV Productions.



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- community -



Worcester County District Attorney Joseph D. Early Jr. recognized eight people with the District Attorney's Team Excellence and Merit Award on Sept. 23 in New Braintree. Shown from left are Police Officer Patrick Almstrom, Firefighter Louie Gaumont, Deputy Chief Nicholas Gaumont, Police Chief James Ayotte, Diane Kmiec, Mark Kmiec, Dispatcher Corrine Snow, Early, Chief Paramedic Daniel McCall, Dispatcher Charles McCoy, state Rep. Donnie Berthiaume and state Sen. Peter Durant.

AWARDS from page 1

cost Hardwick resident Mark Kmiec his life, if it weren't for the efforts of the award recipients.

Kmiec collapsed on the floor in his home, and his wife Diane, who has been a registered nurse for over 30 years, called 911 and immediately began CPR. State Police Dispatchers Corrine Snow and Charles McCoy were able to talk Diane through the CPR process and also alert first responders to the scene.

First to arrive was Hardwick/New Braintree Police Officer Patrick Almstrom, who took over chest compressions for Diane and also administered two shocks using the department's AED machine.

"You can never underestimate how important it is to have these machines,"

Early said. Hardwick Fire Department's Deputy Chief Nicholas Gaumont and Firefighter Louie Gaumont were next to arrive on the scene, and were able to assist with CPR.

West Brookfield Rescue Squad's ambulance, manned by Chief Paramedic Daniel McCall and EMT Leah Bartholomew, arrived and McCall and Bartholomew were able to administer a third shock with the AED, which restored Kmiec's pulse. Shortly thereafter, Kmiec began breathing on his own again.

"It's a good thing paramedics and EMTs were able to use the AED to get Mark's heart pumping again," Early said.

Kmiec was then transported to Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, where he underwent emergency surgery.

Early said situations like

Kmiec's don't normally have a positive outcome.

"No matter how hard they work, they can't save everyone," he said. "You've done a tremendous service to your town."

Kmiec, who attended the ceremony with Diane, credited her with saving his life.

"Without her training, I just wouldn't be here," Kmiec said.

Kmiec also thanked the first responders who provided care and support for both him and his wife during his medical emergency.

"I'm at a loss for words to these guys," he said. "I owe everything to you."

Receiving the TEAM Award were Corrine Snow, Charles McCoy, Patrick Almstrom, Nicholas Gaumont, Louie Gaumont, Daniel McCall, Leah Bartholomew and Diane Kmiec. All eight also received citations from both the House



Mark Kmiec (second from right) and Diane Kmiec (right) watch as Worcester County District Attorney Joseph D. Early Jr. talks about Mark's medical emergency from earlier this year.

of Representatives and Senate, given by Berthiaume and Durant.

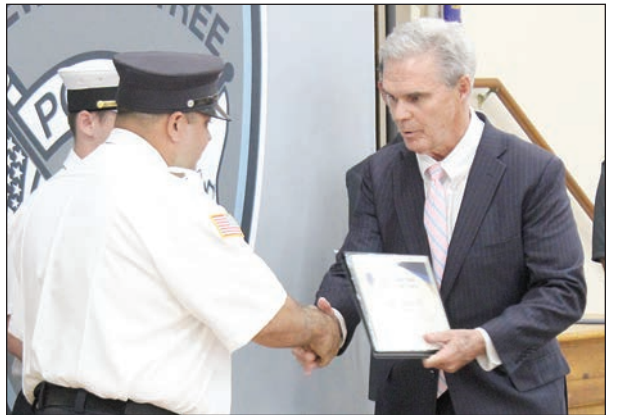
Berthiaume thanked Early for creating the TEAM Award and for recognizing first responders, who he said are often the forgotten people.

Durant said, "You don't hear about all the work that they do until you actually need them."

Also present at the award recognition were members of both towns Select Boards and Hardwick Town Administrator Justine Caggiano, along with Hardwick/New Braintree Police Chief James Ayotte, Lieutenant Kevin Landine, New Braintree Fire Chief Dennis Letendre Jr., Hardwick Fire Chief Josh Pease, and several community members.



Mark Kmiec embraces Deputy Chief Nicholas Gaumont.



Worcester County District Attorney Joseph D. Early Jr. presents Firefighter Louie Gaumont with his award.



Worcester County District Attorney Joseph D. Early Jr. shakes hands with State Police Dispatcher Charles McCoy.

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WARE RIVER NEWS



RideN2B on the MCRT
The event aims to raise funds for the MCRT. Participants included cyclists, families, and dogs. The event was held on a scenic route through the woods.

Wright's Mill Recovery Master Plan meeting held
The meeting was held at the Wright's Mill site. Attendees discussed the master plan for the mill's recovery and future development.

Commission reviews role in demo delay
The commission reviewed the role of various agencies in the delay of the demonstration project. The review focused on communication and coordination.

To be one, ask one
Masonic organizations continue to serve the community. The article highlights the efforts of local Masons in various community service projects.

Selectboard discusses ARPA uses and more
The selectboard discussed the use of ARPA funds for various community projects. The discussion included budget priorities and future plans.

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- community -

CHEER from page 1

leaders booster club president, Robin Wagher.

The craft fair featured a wide variety of handmade items, including jewelry, candles, baked goods and holiday decorations. The community turned out in force to support the cheerleaders and enjoy the festive atmosphere.

“We’re happy by the support we received from the community,” said Wagher. “The craft fair is a success,

and we’re so grateful for everyone who came out to support us.”

The funds raised from the craft fair will go towards new uniforms, equipment and travel expenses for the cheerleaders. The team is now focused on preparing for their upcoming competitions.

“We’re excited to see what we can accomplish this season,” said 14-year-old Angelina Orr, a flyer for the team. “We’re a [determined] group of girls.”



Crafters and vendors filled the cafeteria at Quabbin Regional Middle High School.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY VICTORIA PLEASANT

PATHFINDER from page 1

efforts.

Next followed town updates from attending town administrators.

Stuart Beckley, Ware Town Manager, spoke to the WB-CA&B members about the importance of vocational education in the region.

He brought a tree box that was one of 55 built by the Pathfinder carpentry shop. The boxes form the base of Ware’s holiday trees on Main Street.

“Pathfinder is a strong partner with the district’s communities,” said Beckley.

Beckley also commented on updates regarding healthcare in the region and the recent meeting with Baystate Health’s new CEO Peter Banko. The focus is to attract a health center or similar form of health care to Ware.

Justine Caggiano, Hardwick Town Administrator, said, “Hardwick is looking into different options for three vacant town owned properties. The town is also prioritizing repairs to town infrastructure and fully staff our town departments. Hardwick is preparing for a special town meeting on Oct. 17 looking to fund a fire truck.”

Brad Brothers, Palmer Town Manager, reported, “Recent auction yielded positive results for Palmer including Thorndike Grammar school. Next up will be Converse Middle School through and RFP process in roughly three-four months hopefully. Many streets and sidewalks will see upgrades via state grants. Specifically, to those in the target area of the corner of Shearer Street There will be a new sidewalk installed providing access to the Big Y/Ocean State lot. Rail stop continues to progress to a 2029 opening. Potential sites are being narrowed down and it will



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School Superintendent Eric Duda presented during a Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond breakfast held in the school’s student run restaurant, Perso.

be an active fall/winter for the project.”

WBCA&B Activities Committee member Dustin Pennington spoke next about the latest event.

“We held an axe throwing event at the American Legion Hall parking lot in Ware. It was a beautiful evening, well attended by over 50 members. Twelve teams were put together to compete for the golden axe which was awarded to the top scoring team. At the end of the event, the Quabbin Wire team, Wired to Win, outscored in the final round against the Ware Sox, composed of Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce CEO James Przypek and Town of Ware employees Stuart Beckley and Amy Przypek, and took the prize. Farmer Matt came down and provided farm fresh cheeseburgers for all,” he said.

Caitlin Phelps, Pathfinder Co-op coordinator and grant writer spoke about the co-op programs.

“Our students

have been engaged with many businesses throughout the surrounding communities. It’s a week of classroom study then a week of hands on work in their selected trade. These students are actually working, learning the trades, being an active and engaged part of the trade. Many of these co-ops lead to summer employment and often post school employment,” said Phelps.

Duda followed with a presentation of the school operations. “This facility is maintained with the involvement of the students. Every aspect of the school has the direct involvement of the student body.”

Duda presented a comprehensive overview of the Pathfinder Regional School District, which serves nine member towns. He highlighted the district’s 16 career and technical education programs, emphasizing

the importance of employer connections through advisory partnerships and cooperative education opportunities.

Duda also reviewed the school’s history and its robust academic offerings, which include more than 30 Advanced Placement and honors courses, alongside an expanding array of athletic programs. The discussion further explored current and potential partnerships between Pathfinder Tech, local municipalities, and businesses, aiming to continually enhance opportunities for students and the community.

The nine member towns are Palmer, Ware, Warren, Hardwick, Oakham, Belchertown, Granby, Monson and New Braintree. Pathfinder is celebrating its 50th year this year.

Duda spoke on how the school and the students make a strong impact with the educational structure.

“One week of classroom then a week of hands on learning. That’s 90 days a school year of trade learning. Many of our graduates will finish school with certificates to assist them in their chosen fields or prepared to take the certifications,” he said.

Duda spoke of each town and the impact and engagement the school has with each.

“Palmer Police Department had a situation with several vehicle issues. Our automotive students were able to assist and continue to maintain the department vehicles. These students have the abilities to do an oil change all the way up to an engine rebuild,” he said.

“Our students are engaged in many projects in our mem-

ber towns. The holiday tree box that Stuart referred to was a big project of building 55 wooden frame boxes that will decorate Main Street of Ware for the holiday season. These students put their acquired skills to work and produce valued results,” Duda said.

Duda also announced that at a recent Palmer Town Council meeting, \$50,000 was awarded to Pathfinder to assist in renovating the gym floor.

“Our facility is available for communities and organizations to utilize. We are proud to partner and assist. This gift will help us improve the floor’s condition,” said Duda

Chris Murphy, IT coordinator for the WBCA&B spoke about the website upgrade.

“We had added a page to our website which our member Town Manager and Town Administrators can directly update information on town specific and regional grants available to our local businesses and organizations,” said Murphy.

Flynn concluded the meeting with an announcement.

“We are honored to announce that on Wednesday, Oct. 16 from 7:30-9 a.m. at Cedarbrook Village, we will host a Candidates Forum for the two candidates running for the State Senate Worcester and Hampshire District seat. Incumbent Peter Durant of Spencer and challenger Sheila Dibbs of Rutland will both be participating in the forum. This is a closed event due to space, but Ware TV will tape the forum and play it and also post on its website,” he said.

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Saturday, Oct. 5th ~ 7pm-11pm
TRIPLE TREE

Wednesday Nights ~ 7pm-10pm
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THE TOWN OF PALMER DPW is seeking contractors for snow removal for the upcoming winter season. If interested, contracts are available on the town website or at the DPW office. Completed contracts with a copy of the necessary insurance forms can be delivered to the DPW office located at 1015 Bridge St. Palmer. Rates have been increased for fiscal year 2025. Please call our office at **(413) 283-2615, M-F, 7a-330p,** with any questions.

TOWN OF WILBRAHAM P/T PROGRAM ASST. SENIOR CENTER
 The Town of Wilbraham is looking for a part-time Program Assistant to work in our brand new Senior Center. Application Deadline 10/11/24 For application and more information please visit **www.wilbraham-ma.gov.** EOE

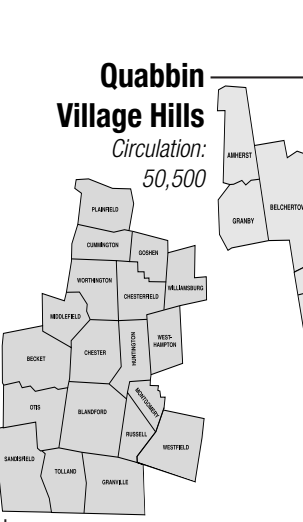
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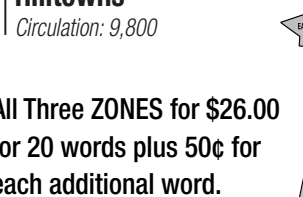
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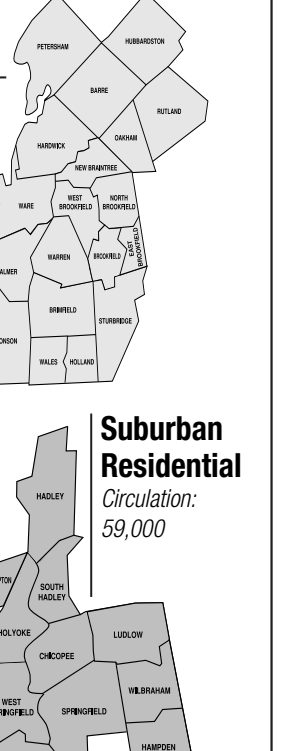
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29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00



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- public notice -

East Brookfield Police Log

During the week of Sept. 9-15, the East Brookfield Police Department responded to 126 building/property checks, 42 directed area patrols, four traffic controls, seven radar assignments, eight emergency 911 calls, nine citizen assists, four assist other agencies, seven investigations, one fraud, one burglary, one safety hazard, one trespass, five animal calls and 67 motor vehicle stops in the town of East Brookfield.

Monday, Sept. 9
8:05 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Telephone, Officer Handled
8:43 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Harrington Street, Spoken To
2:28 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Cove Street, Spoken To
3:03 p.m. Assist Citizen, East Main Street, Dispatch Handled
5:12 p.m. Assist Citizen, Telephone, Officer Handled

Tuesday, Sept. 10
6:11 a.m. Burglary (Breaking and Entering), Howe Street, Report Taken
6:29 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Howe Street, Citation Issued
8:22 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
10:08 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, East Main Street, Transported to Hospital
11:11 a.m. Investigation, Howe Street, Officer Handled
11:51 a.m. Assist Other Agency, West Main Street, Dispatch Handled
12:03 p.m. Investigation, Howe Street, Officer Handled
12:06 p.m. Investigation, Howe Street, Officer Handled
12:40 p.m. Investigation, Adams Road, Officer Handled
3:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

3:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
4:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

Wednesday, Sept. 11
8:55 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued
9:21 a.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Services Rendered
10:20 a.m. Assist Citizen, Unknown Location, Officer Handled
10:21 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, South Pond Road, Transported to Hospital
11:27 a.m. Safety Hazard, West Sturbridge Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
11:42 a.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Officer Handled
3:02 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
3:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
3:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
4:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
9:09 p.m. Traffic Control, East Main Street, Written Warning
9:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

Thursday, Sept. 12
7:57 a.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Services Rendered
9:53 a.m. Assist Citizen, Draper Road, Spoken To
12:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued
12:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation Issued
1:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
1:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Adams Road, Citation Issued

1:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Po-dunk Road, Vehicle Towed
1:58 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
2:25 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued
3:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
3:25 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
8:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation Issued

Friday, Sept. 13
3:23 a.m. 911 Suspicious Activity, West Main Street, Report Taken
12:56 p.m. Assist Other Agency, South Street, Arrest(s) Made
2:27 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
2:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
3:20 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
3:30 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
3:41 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
3:53 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
4:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
4:20 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Mechanic Street, Citation Issued
5:28 p.m. Trespass, South Street, Officer Handled
6:58 p.m. Assist Citizen, Route 49, Officer Handled
11:25 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Route 49, Citation Issued

Saturday, Sept. 14
12:04 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Arrest(s) Made
6:38 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Route 49, Citation Issued

6:46 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Route 49, Citation Issued
6:55 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Route 49, Citation Issued
7:35 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
7:48 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
7:56 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
9:01 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
9:44 a.m. Investigation, North Street, Services Rendered
9:46 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
9:54 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
10:26 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation Issued
10:45 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Harrington Circle, Citation Issued
11:07 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Out of Town, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
11:15 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Route 49, Citation Issued
11:31 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Po-dunk Road, Citation Issued
1:06 p.m. Found/Lost Property, Soccer Field, Investigated
2:41 p.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Officer Handled
6:51 p.m. Investigation, Connie Mack Drive, Investigated
8:18 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Adams Road, Checked/Secured
8:25 p.m. 911 Misdeal, Howe Street, Checked/Secured

Sunday, Sept. 15
10:20 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Mechanic Street, Written Warning
10:43 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, High Rock Road, Transported to Hospital
2:55 p.m. Investigation, Connie Mack Drive, Services Rendered

New Braintree Police Log

During the week of Sept. 23-30, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 12 building/property checks, 25 directed/area patrols, one radar assignment, three traffic controls, two emergency 911 calls, one complaint, three animal calls and one motor vehicle stop in the town of New Braintree.

Monday, Sept. 23
12:41 p.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, West Brookfield Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

Tuesday, Sept. 24
11:05 a.m. Welfare Check, Gilbertville Road, Investigated
3:48 p.m. 911 Computer Crimes, Unitas Road, Services Rendered

Thursday, Sept. 26
8:42 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gilbertville Road, Written Warning

Sunday, Sept. 29
12:24 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, West Brookfield Road, Services Rendered

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- public notice -

TOWN OF NORTH BROOKFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Brookfield Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing to consider a petition to locate poles, wires, cables, and fixtures, including the necessary anchors, guys, and other such sustaining and protecting fixtures, brought before it by National

Grid **Tuesday, October 22, 2024 at 6:15 PM** at the Police Department, 55 School Street, North Brookfield, MA 01535.
The pole location that will be considered is as follows:
Donovan Road– National Grid to install 1 SO Pole on Donovan Rd beginning at a point approximately 420 feet West of centerline of the intersection of Donovan Rd and E. Brookfield Rd.

National Grid will install new pole 2-2 45' Southwest of pole 2 on South side of Donovan Rd.
Said hearing will begin at 6:15 PM and continue until completion, and will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 166.
Jason M Petraitis, Chairman
E. Brooke Canada
Vaughn Schlegel
09/27, 10/ 04/2024

SOCIAL SECURITY from page 4
ed form, still persists today. FYI, H.R. 5193 – The Senior Citizens Freedom to Work Act was recently introduced in Congress proposing to repeal the SS earnings test, but has not advanced in the legislative process since introduced in August 2023.

In any case, under current rules, if you continue working after your FRA, the earnings test will not apply to you. And, if you lose any benefits before your FRA due to the earnings test, when you reach your FRA you'll get time credit for any months that benefits were withheld, resulting in a somewhat higher monthly payment after your full retirement age.
One final point: if you continue to work after starting your Social Security benefits and your recent earnings are

higher than any of those in the inflation-adjusted 35 years used to originally calculate your benefit, your entitlement will be recalculated to give you credit for those higher recent earnings.
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.

LIFE TOGETHER from page 5
held accountable.
I remember what James Baldwin wrote: "I imagine the reason people hang on to their hate, is because, if they had to let it go, they would have to deal with their pain."
We do not know if or who is bullying the bully at home? There may be abuse, addiction, domestic violence. Often the bully takes out her or his pain on others.

Open communication among students, administration, and parents is the key to prevention and intervention.
Rev. Dr. Randy Wilburn
Minister, Therapist, Consultant
Life Together is written by Rev. Dr. Randall K. Wilburn. With over 54 years as a parish minister, Wilburn is also an experienced marriage and family counselor. Life Together will deal with topics such as stress, grief, anxiety, healing and hope.

- CLUES ACROSS**
1. Separate with an instrument
5. State clearly
11. One-time MLB speedster Gordon
14. Broad in scope
15. Lacking social polish
16. Amount of time
17. Frame
19. Automobile
20. Caps
21. High school dances
22. Utilize
23. Checked
25. One-sided
27. Having an extreme greed for wealth
31. Potted plants
34. We all have one
35. Lake north of the Kalahari
38. Unidentified flying object
39. Aging persons
41. Small amount
- 42. Mother of Perseus
44. Ornamental waist box
45. Officials
46. Uncertain
49. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
51. Extensive, treeless plains
55. Your consciousness of your own identity
56. Consumer advocate Ralph
60. Notable Spanish sports club
61. Body part
62. One's responsiveness
64. Woman (French)
65. Ready and willing to be taught
66. Muslim ruler title
67. Unhappy
68. Gradually disappeared
69. Able to think clearly
- CLUES DOWN**
1. Brushed
2. Water sprite
3. Ones to look up to
4. Monetary units
5. We all have one
6. Marine invertebrate
7. One who institutes a legal proceeding
8. Outer
9. Parallelograms
10. Uncomfortable feelings
11. Cross to form an X
12. Remove
13. Some pages are dog-
18. Capital of Ukraine
24. A citizen of Denmark
26. Eighth month (abbr.)
28. Hindu queens
29. Acids structurally related to amino acids
30. Rider of Rohan in Tolkien
- 31. Wet dirt
32. Russian city
33. Observed
36. Irrate
37. Travelers need them
39. Musical composition
40. Auction
43. Form of "to be"
45. Women
47. Inspire with love
48. Think Japanese ankle sock
49. Appears
50. Old World lizard
52. The lead dancer: _____ ballerina
53. Protein involved in motion
54. Rosalind Franklin biographer
57. Popular 1920s style art _____
58. _____ Blyton, children's author
59. Abnormal breathing
63. A place to rest

QUABOAG CURRENT

STURBRIDGE Pumpkin Patch returns p2	BROOKFIELD Walker Homestead hosts show p8	REGION Backroads Studio Tour Oct. 5-6 p2	Editorial/Opinion Sports Classifieds Police Logs	4 9 14 15
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