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Judy Kohn waved from the Tri-Parish Community Church's parade float.



Bicycles helped to lead the parade

TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE

New Braintree celebrates 275 years

By Paula Ouimette

Editor

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NEW BRAINTREE – As the church's bell tolled to announce the arrival of 1 p.m., cannon fire echoed across the green and the town's much anticipated 275th anniversary celebra-

tion began.

On Oct. 3, the Olde Home Day celebration planned by the town's 275th Anniversary Committee, started with a parade from Barre Cut Off Road to Memorial Drive.

The parade featured community organizations, local businesses, police

and fire departments from across the region, a bicycle parade and a miniature horse from Soulful Eyes Equine Rescue.

Performances were given by the Quabbin Marching Band, Quabbin Community Band and the Holyoke Caledonian Pipe Band, as well as a 20-member kazoo

band.

Following the parade, Olde Home Day continued with live music, touch-a-truck, food trucks, children's lawn games and obstacle course, pie eating and pie baking contests, line dancing demonstrations led by J.P. Ellory, dance demonstrations by Next

Step Studio of the Performing Arts, a Farmers Market and a K-9 demonstration.

The New Braintree Fire Association's held a Duck Race down Utley Road to help raise money to purchase necessary equipment

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Kelly Hitt named heroine of year

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis

Staff Writer

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WEST BROOKFIELD – Senior Center Director Kelly Hitt was given a citation as heroine of the year by state Sen. Peter Durant and state Rep. Donnie Berthiaume during the Select Board meeting last Tuesday.

Berthiaume said they nominated her because of her great work at the senior center, and had an official ceremony in Boston prior to the presentation at the Sept. 29 meeting.

Durant and Berthiaume also presented the Town Clerk, Klarissa Rose, with a period correct copy of the Declaration of Independence, as when the declaration was first signed 250 years ago, the state commissioned a printer named Ezekiel Russell who presented the declaration to each town clerk in the state.

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SB interviews candidates for highway superintendent

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis

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BROOKFIELD – The Select Board interviewed four candidates for the position of highway superintendent, which has been vacant since earlier this year.

The town has been operating with just one employee in the Highway Department for months.

The candidates interviewed at the Sept. 30 meeting included Sergio Freitas, Devin Saunders, Mark O'Donnell and Thomas Degnan. Each interviewee was asked the same set of seven questions by the Select Board.

Sergio Freitas

The first candidate was Freitas, who as of the interview works as a supervisor in East Longmeadow's Department of Public Works.

Freitas said he has more than 30 years in construc-

tion experience and has several licenses including a commercial drivers license, asbestos removal and an Operational Safety and Health Administration license.

Describing a recent project, he said there was a slide installation where some parts were not an exact fit and had to be modified, and he said the department is working on some sidewalk improvements. Freitas said he makes those projects go smoothly.

Freitas said in his current position, he manages between four and six employees, but depending on staffing that number can jump to between 10-12. He described his leadership style as leading by example, and not asking a worker to do anything that he is not willing to do.

Freitas said when allocating resources, every day can be a challenge depending on tree problems, snow and

more, and certain tasks need to be put off to the side, and it's important to consult with the police and fire departments about prioritizations. Freitas said he took a look at the equipment in the highway barn, and cannot determine the fixes that need to be done or a timeline, saying he is not a heavy equipment mechanic.

He said for winter operations, he'd have to make sure the salt trucks, plows and sanders are up to code, and he looked at the roads and said they did not look too bad.

Devin Saunders

Saunders was the next candidate, with eight years as a supervisor in Wellesley. Saunders said he has experience in projects involving drainage, road reconstruction, site work, playgrounds and day-to-day snow operations.

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TURLEY PHOTO BY PAULA OUIMETTE

Lisa Janice (LJ) Cohen of Dragonbelly Ceramics in Gilbertville, opened her home studio during the Back Roads Studio Tour this past weekend.

Back Roads Studio Tour spotlight

Weekend celebrates local artists and crafters

By Paula Ouimette

Editor

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This past weekend, the Back Roads Studio Tour highlighted eight artists and crafters by offering the public the opportunity to tour their home studios over two days.

The tour drew visitors from across New England, giving them a chance to talk with the artist, and learn about their work.

The northernmost part of the tour was at Petersham Leathers, a studio

owned by Sylvia Brown in Petersham.

The studio is located in a barn that was part of the Twin Dairy Farm operated by F.W. Elliott and family, until a fire in the 1960s. Brown still has a glass milk bottle on display in her workspace.

Brown has been working with leather for more than five decades, and she still has the first project she ever completed – a bedspread for her doll, complete with a fringe.

Brown makes handbags, briefcases, belts and luggage, but she specializes as a tailor working to fit leather garments. Her work is especially popular with motorcyclists.

Brown also makes handbags out of sheets of cork, a renewable resource and an alternative to leather.

The next stop on the tour was to Sheldon Farms Baskets in Barre, where Sue Morello displayed baskets of all shapes and sizes, as well as handmade soap and Christmas ornaments.

Many of Morello's baskets feature hand-painted designs, and some are accented with braided sea grass.

Morello has been making baskets for 35 years, and she is a well-known teacher of the craft, offering classes at libraries and

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Election letters must be received by Oct. 19

The Quaboag Current welcomes readers to participate in this year's state election by writing letters to the editor for publication.

Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be

sent to Quaboag Current, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to pouimette@turley.com by noon on Monday, Oct. 19 to be published in the Friday, Oct. 23 edition. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last

edition before the election.

Letter writers need to provide their name and the town they reside in.

Please include a daytime telephone number (for verification purposes only) when submitting your letter. Your phone number will not be printed.

- community -

Quaboag Regional School Committee honors longtime member

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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WARREN – The Quaboag Regional School Committee recognized longtime member Andrew Schwenker, who served for 17 years, 10 of which as the chair.

At the Sept. 21 meeting, Schwenker talked about his decision to serve on School Committee back in 2009. He estimated that he attended about 240 School Committee meetings and close to 1,000 subcommittee meetings.

He said one of the best things he accomplished during his time on the School Committee happened when he attended a youth soccer game at Warren Community Elementary School and struck up conversation with the person next to him. This person was Stephen Duff, and Schwenker convinced him to join the school district.

“15 years later, he’s still here,” Schwenker said of the now Superintendent.

Schwenker talked about some of the challenges the School Committee faced, including getting through the COVID pandemic.

He said seeing what the students are capable of “is amazing” and was one of the most rewarding aspects

of the position.

Duff thanked Schwenker for his service to the school district, its families and the communities of Warren and West Brookfield.

“Even through all the difficult times, there was always a silver lining,” Duff said. “Every year, under your leadership, we were able to figure out some of the areas that we could work on and how to turn a negative into a positive...a lot of that is through your mentorship.”

Recognition

Duff recognized Food Service Director Missy Mansfield for the things that she does to save money for the school district, as well as to benefit the students through the nutrition program.

“Missy was absolutely instrumental in making sure that Warren was capable of providing the number lunches and breakfasts that go out every day,” Duff said.

Duff said Mansfield applied for grants over the summer, and the school district was able to receive a \$24,000 credit for trading in old equipment in order to purchase new equipment.

“What Missy does for this district and more importantly for the students...

your efforts are far beyond anything that I think anybody here could ever have expected,” he said.

Duff said Mansfield not only creates her signature recipes from scratch, she has also implemented a salad bar in the high school. She will launch a soup bar during the winter months.

Those attending the School Committee meeting were able to sample one of the soups.

“There’s so much work that goes in behind it,” Duff said of Mansfield’s efforts and her staff.

New staff

Middle High School Principal John Diorio introduced new staff members to the School Committee.

Science teacher Nick Henderson has been with the school district in different roles for a total of 16 years, Diorio said, having previously been a paraprofessional and a substitute teacher. Now, he is a full-time member of the staff.

“He’s done a fantastic job in the classroom,” Diorio said. “I can’t tell you how excited we are to have Nick on our staff.”

Diorio also introduced Isabella Ameen, the new art teacher. Ameen is a recent graduate of UMass and teaches sculpture and pho-

tography for grades seven and eight.

Update from elementary school

Sixth grade students Lily Beall, Bennett Skowyr, Lilian Benkert and Falyn Pervier gave an update about happenings at Warren Community Elementary School since the school year started. This year the school is serving all students in kindergarten through grade six, district-wide, due to the closure of West Brookfield Elementary School.

Open houses and the PTO carnival were held before the first day of school to welcome students to the school. Students also enjoyed ice cream and freeze pops handed out by Police Chief Gerald Millette and school district administrators.

Kindergarten students started their educational journey on Sept. 10.

Students are participating in math challenge, with a prize awarded to the first class to reach 10% puzzle progress by October.

In social studies, students have completed a project on grade six culture. In science, the students completed a study on the phases of the moon.

In reading and writing, students are learning about

figurative language, character traits and themes.

Sixth grade students are also preparing for the Ecology Trip in Saco, Maine from Oct. 13-16.

The Worcester County District Attorney’s office will visit the school to present an anti-bullying and cyber bullying program to students in October as well.

Update from middle/high school

Students Lyndie Miller, Mallory Piazza and Brielle Gerulaitis gave an update from Quaboag Regional Middle High School.

Fall sports have resumed and the student-athletes enjoyed a Fall Sports Night with a meal provided by the booster club, as well as raffle prizes. This year’s fall sports offering includes girls soccer, boys soccer, field hockey, cross country, golf and football.

Grade seven students participated in A.L.I.C.E. training where they learned about awareness, communication and response options during a lockdown.

Members of the EMT and Fire Academy held a remembrance ceremony for the 25th anniversary of 9/11.

The theater and performing arts department will be holding auditions for “Frozen” the musical and stu-

dents in the music program recently performed “God Bless America” during the town of Warren’s dedication of its veterans honor roll wall.

National Honor Society candidates are working on their applications for the induction to be held on Oct. 26 at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium.

Grade eight students will continue the Thanksgiving tradition of the relay race with staff.

Grade 10 students are forming a prom committee, as well as planning the winter breakfast with Santa. Grade 11 students are also planning for prom.

Grade 12 students were able to purchase parking spots to decorate at the start of their final high school year, and they also enjoyed Senior Sunrise. The seniors will staff the snack shack during the fall sports season to raise money for the class.

Cell phone policy

Diorio said the students have been following the new cell phone policy and there have been no issues with its implementation. He said students have been talking with each other more and collaborating.

“It’s really been great,” he said.

Mystics & Makers returns as The Enchanted Market

Annual event has vendors, psychics and holistic practitioners

BROOKFIELD – What began last fall as a new gathering of local makers, intuitive readers, healers and small businesses is returning to Brookfield this October with a growing following and an expanded marketplace.

Mystics & Makers: The Enchanted Market will return for its second annual event on Saturday, Oct. 17 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Brookfield Rod & Gun Club, 56 Webber Road. Ad-

mission is free.

Co-hosted by Candace Ouillette Gaumond of Spiritology by Candace and Lauren “Lulu” Ayer of Lulu’s AvalonRose Cottage, The Enchanted Market brings together the worlds of handmade artistry, holistic wellness and spiritual exploration in an autumn market designed to appeal to the curious as well as the committed enthusiast.

This year’s event will feature approximately 30 vendors, eight psychics and a healer, creating one of the market’s most diverse line-ups yet. Visitors can browse everything from handcrafted and artisan creations

to herbal and apothecary products, jewelry, crystals, seasonal pieces, and mystical and spiritual goods.

With the event taking place just two weeks before Halloween, shoppers will also find plenty of unusual treasures for those who prefer their autumn shopping with a little more enchantment.

A food vendor will be on site throughout the day as well.

For visitors interested in a more personal experience, psychic practitioners will offer a variety of intuitive services, including tarot, mediumship, astrology, oracle readings and other forms of spiritual guidance. A healing practitioner will also be available.

Psychic readings and healing sessions will be offered at a standardized rate of \$25 for 15 minutes, giving guests an opportunity to explore different practitioners and modalities throughout the day.

“The response to Mystics & Makers has shown us that people are looking for experiences that feel more personal than a typical shopping event,” said Gaumond. “They want to meet the person who made what they are buying. They

want to ask questions, experience something new, have a reading, discover a practitioner, or find an item they simply wouldn’t encounter in an ordinary store. We wanted to create a market where all those experiences could exist together.”

For Ayer, the continued growth of the event reflects both the talent of participating small businesses and the community that has begun forming around the market.

“Last year’s Enchanted Market showed us how much people enjoy having artisans, readers, healers and unique small businesses gathered together in one place,” she said. “This year we have even more to explore. There is something special about watching someone discover a handmade piece they love, sit down for a reading, or find a product or practitioner they have never experienced before. That sense of discovery is a big part of what Mystics & Makers is about.”

The organizers said that interest in Mystics & Makers has continued to grow among both attendees and participating businesses, helping establish the event as a developing destination

for the region’s artisan, holistic and metaphysical communities. Yet visitors do not need to consider themselves “mystical” to enjoy the market.

The event is designed as an accessible fall outing for friends, families, shoppers, spiritual seekers and anyone simply curious to see what they might discover. Guests can browse the market, meet local and regional small-business owners, enjoy food, explore holistic and spiritual practices, or begin their Halloween shopping with something decidedly different from the usual seasonal fare.

“We want people to feel comfortable coming because they’re curious,” Gaumond added. “You don’t have to know anything about tarot, energy work or metaphysics. You can come for the artisans, the food or the atmosphere and see where the day takes you. Part of the fun of The Enchanted Market is not knowing exactly what you’re going to find.”

For additional information, contact: Spiritology by Candace, Candace Ouillette Gaumond at 413-537-5715, or Lulu’s AvalonRose Cottage, Lauren “Lulu” Ayer at 774-745-8550.

Senior Center lists events in October

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The North Brookfield Senior Center, located at 29 Forest St., will offer the following programs during the month of October.

Activities and events include Coffee and Craft on Oct. 10 at 9 a.m. (There is a \$5 fee and sign up is required); SHINE representative on Oct. 13 and 26 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. by appointment only; Veteran’s Agent on Oct. 14 from 10-11 a.m.; Blood Pressure Clinic on Oct. 14 at 11 a.m.; Free Drawing/Painting Class on Oct. 15 at 11 a.m.; Ed Spater, Medicare Specialist on Oct. 15 and 29 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. by appointment only; Tech Help with Alex on Oct. 26 at 10 a.m. Tri Valley Nutrition Program –Healthy Eating on a Budget on Oct. 27 at 1 p.m.; Fraud Prevention by Joseph Early’s Office on Oct. 28 at 11 a.m.; Blood Pressure/Glucose Clinic on Oct. 28 from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; and a Free Art Class on Oct. 29 at 11 a.m.

Weekly programs and activities include daily coffee; Walking Club on Mondays and Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.; Food Distribution (for North Brookfield and Brookfield residents) on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m.; lunch on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at noon; Crafting Group on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m.; Gentle Yoga on Thursdays at 1 p.m. (\$5 fee); and Functional Fitness on Fridays at 10:30 a.m. (\$5 fee).

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- community -

Fall tradition continues with the 47th Annual Apple Country Fair

BROOKFIELD – One of Central Massachusetts’ favorite fall traditions returns to the Historic Brookfield Town Common on Saturday, Oct. 10 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Hosted by the Brookfield Community Club, the 47th Annual Apple Country Fair features close to 100 local crafters, artisans and bakers, along with live music, food trucks, lawn games, face painting, raffles and plenty of family fun.

The fair brings together the best of small-town charm with a vibrant marketplace of booths filled with hand-knit clothing, pottery, wooden décor, homemade soaps, pet toys, maple syrups, beaded jewelry, locally-harvested honey and delicious small-batch treats – perfect for early holiday shopping or treating yourself.

But the fair is more than just shopping – it’s a full day of entertainment and activities for all ages. Enjoy live music by local favorites Chuck and Mud and Spooner Well, let the kids enjoy lawn games and face-painting, and dig into delicious bites from a variety of food trucks.

Don’t miss the raffle drawings held throughout the day, including a classic 50/50 raffle and chances to win great prizes like family passes to regional museums, gift certificates to local restaurants and shops, sporting events and the ever-popular community-stitched quilt.

In the days leading up to the fair, be sure to visit the Merrick Public Library to see this year’s themed quilt on display. The quilt is created through the talents and contributions of Brookfield community members, and will also be featured in the fair raffle, giving one lucky winner the opportunity to take home this unique piece of Brookfield community history.

A favorite fair tradition, the Apple Pie Baking Contest is open to bakers of all ages, with youth and adult categories. Bring your best homemade apple pie and show off your baking skills.

Entries for the apple pie contest will be accepted at the Library Annex (18 Common St.) on the day of the fair until 9:45 a.m. There are three judging categories: children under 12, ages 13-19 and adults ages 20 and older.

The Brookfield Community Club has been organizing the Apple Country Fair since 1979. The money raised at the Apple Country Fair has generated grants for community service projects, including (but not limited to): Supplies for the town’s annual luminary display on Christmas Eve; programs and speakers for Brookfield Council on Aging; equipment for Brookfield Fire Department and EMS; improvements to Brookfield Recreation’s Lewis Field; equipment for Brookfield Scout Troops; programs at the Merrick Public Library; and Diane Martell Community Service Award for a graduating Brookfield senior. The fair is held outside on the common rain or shine.

For more information visit AppleCountryFair.com.



Sue Morello of Sheldon Farms Baskets in Barre is shown with some of her baskets.

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other locations across the region.

The tour then headed further south to Gilbertville, a village in Hardwick, where Lisa Janice (LJ) Cohen has Dragonbelly Ceramics.

Cohen said the studio got its name from one of her signature mugs, which a friend described as looking like a dragon that stood up on its back legs to walk away.

These mugs have a rounded “belly” shape and pinched “feet” at the bottom. Each mug has a unique texture, which Cohen creates using vintage laces she finds.

During the tour Cohen was making “salt pigs,” which are pig-shaped holders for salt to keep handy in your kitchen.

The Back Roads Studio Tour headed further west this year, reaching the town of Ware, at the studio of painter and sculptor, John Collins.

Collins demonstrated his sculpting technique with a bust of a model (and her pet bearded dragon) as well as an owl. The walls of Collins’ studio are decorated with his oil paintings of “people, pets and prized possessions.”

Collins also used the tour to showcase the vast collection created by his late mother. Like her son, she also created sculptures and oil paintings, and many of her paintings were completed entirely with a palette knife.

The Back Roads Studio Tour featured three studios in North Brookfield, including Elisabeth Hyder’s Brookfield Paperworks studio.

Hyder specializes in paper crafts, and during the tour she helped visitors make their own paste paper – a technique that combines acrylic paint with cornstarch (or flour) and water to create a colorful paste.

Hyder creates a number of different works of art with her paste paper, from boxes to collages, to Christmas trees, and even tiny boats.

At Buck Hill Studio, Russell Buzzell displayed a lifetime of work that spanned from his youth to his professional career as an illustrator.

Buzzell’s studio is located on the same road as the family farm where he grew up and enjoyed caring for



TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA QUIMETTE
Lou Meyerdieks of Pieceful Primitives in Spencer held up one of her wool table runners.



Russell Buzzell of Buck Hill Studio in North Brookfield is shown with two of his paintings of his family’s farm.

animals. It’s here that he developed a deep love for nature and wildlife.

While the farm’s massive barn is no longer standing, it is forever memorialized in Buzzell’s paintings, which show it through all the seasons.

Jeff Palmer Designs showcased the woodworking of Jeff Palmer, from furniture to spoons.

During the tour, Palmer was joined by his wife Brenda, who helped talk with visitors that came to the workshop.

Palmer began woodworking when he was 12



Sylvia Brown of Petersham Leathers in Petersham sewed a leather purse during the Back Roads Studio Tour.



Jeff Palmer of Jeff Palmer Designs and his wife Brenda are shown at their North Brookfield home.



ohn Collins worked on an owl sculpture at his Ware studio during the Back Roads Studio Tour.

She had plenty of festive items (including felt Santa Claus figurines) just in time for the start of the holiday gift-giving season.

For more information about the Back Roads Studio Tour and the featured artists and crafters, visit backroadsstudiotour.org.



Elisabeth Hyder of Brookfield Paperworks is shown with her husband Darrell at her North Brookfield studio.

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in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer

Common Nighthawk
eBird reported recent sightings of common nighthawks at the Rutland Prison Camps in Rutland and in Worcester.

The common nighthawk is a medium sized (8.7 to 9.8 inches long) nocturnal bird of the nightjar family found in both the Americas. It is typically dark colored: gray, black or brown with intricate patterns providing camouflage and making them difficult to spot during daytime.

They are mostly observed in flight. The slender body, long wings (wing span 20 to 24 inches) and white wing patches on the wings make them easy to identify.

Although they have a small beak, their mouth is large. They have noticeable barring on their sides and abdomen and short legs.

Its life span is about four to five years. The males of this species may roost together, but the bird is primarily solitary.

The common nighthawk is the only nighthawk occurring over the majority of northern North America. During migration common nighthawks may travel 1,600 to 4,200 miles, one of North America's longer migrations.

They migrate by day or night in loose flocks, frequently numbering in the thousands. An aerial insectivore, the migrants will feed en route and congregate in marshes, rivers and lakeshores.

The best time to see them during migration is in late afternoon into the evening.

During flight, their vocalization is a nasal "peent" or "beernt." Peak vocalizations are reported 30 to 45 minutes after sunset. The male makes a croaking "auk auk auk" in the presence of a female during courtship.

Night time feeding is rare. The most common insects in their diets are butterflies and moths. They actively avoid eating flies.

Artificial light sources such as parking lots at-



tracts them in an effort to forage for insects enticed by the light. They even fly extremely low over the surface of water to drink.

Nighthawks preferred breeding and nesting habitat is forested regions with rocky outcrops, clearings, burned areas or spots with small patches of sand gravel.

The female lays six to seven eggs on a bare rock, gravel or even in lichens. Both male and female feed the young are by regurgitation usually before sunrise and after sunset. The male also feeds the female during nesting.

Sandhill crane

After writing about sandhill cranes, in the most recent bird column, I saw a sandhill crane in a field in Hardwick near the New Braintree line by the Ware River.

On my return, I saw a crane in a different location of the same field. I was not sure it was the same one or a different one.

Flocking Canada geese

In my travels, I saw several flocks of Canada geese. There was a small flock in New Braintree and a larger flock in a harvested corn field in Spencer. The large flock were migrating south for the winter. I'm not sure if the smaller group summered here or not.

Wild turkeys

Wild turkeys are a familiar sight. This week I saw a hen turkey with her slightly smaller poults on a lawn in Barre. Last week I saw a small flock of Tom turkeys.

People may report a bird sighting by emailing edowner@turley.com or calling or texting 774-262-5882.

- opinion -

Friends with more questions

The threat of night time temperatures in the 30s sure have us gardeners on the move.

I had a few questions from friends this week that pertained to the change in seasons. Read on; maybe you can relate!

One of my friends asked if she should harvest all of her unripe peppers, and if they would continue to ripen indoors.

Peppers will only continue to fully ripen (i.e. change from green to their ripe color) if they are showing a hint of their ripe color. They definitely won't be as sweet as if they ripened on the vine, and they will lose a little of their mass as they sit, but they would still be a great addition to a stir fry or sauce.

I generally harvest all of my unripe peppers and keep them one layer deep in my cool mudroom, using or discarding as I go.

Another question came in about the use of Neem as an insecticide. My friend put her houseplants outdoors for the summer months and is concerned about bringing hitch-hikers inside where plants will be in close quarters.

We always spray tender plants such as Rosemary or Bay with Safer's Soap or a Sun oil before returning them to the greenhouse for the winter.

Neem works a bit differently but like the others is also a less toxic approach. Neem oil comes from the

Neem tree (*Azadirachta indica*), which grows naturally in India and Southeast Asia.

It is an effective pesticide, miticide and fungicide for both indoor and outdoor plants. You can buy it ready to use or in oil form which needs to be mixed with water and a small amount of dish detergent right before use. This will help it blend nicely and disperse evenly.

Neem is effective against spider mite, white flies, scale, mealybug and aphids – all of which are typical houseplant pests. It kills them by disrupting their reproductive cycles and feeding patterns.

My advice would be to spray in the shade or when skies are overcast since sometimes neem can cause a phytotoxic effect and it can kill bees if sprayed directly. Always spray a small area of the plant first as a test, and if no damage is visible a day later, coat the surface and undersides of the leaves as well as the stem.

Using this approach, clean plants will delight my friend's window sills this fall and winter.

My coworker kept joking with me that a plant that she was gifted would never, ever

bloom. Well, I kept watch over the neighbor's, checking in on its progress.

About two weeks ago I informed her that flowers were on the way. She finally sent me a picture of her plant and it was following suit.

First buds and then flowers! Yay!

The plant in question is The Nippon Daisy, better known as the Montauk Daisy (*Nipponanthemum nipponicum*). When most flowers are calling it quits, this late season perennial is just getting started.

The plant is shrub-like, so it blends in well in the landscape with bushes or other specimen perennials, growing 1.5-3 feet tall and 3-5 feet wide. It looks like a regular white daisy, only more robust.

Enjoy them now through the first heavy frost. Plant in full sun; cut back a bit in the spring to keep them growing upright. It is both deer and rabbit resistant.

I hope that you enjoy these timely, friendly questions.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 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.



- letter to editor -

Trek Sturbridge supports scholarships and projects

To the Editor:

Sturbridge has something that many communities would envy; miles of trails that give residents and visitors an opportunity to experience our community in an entirely different way.

Those trails are there to be used – by serious runners and hikers, certainly, but also by families looking for an opportunity to get outside, enjoy the fall weather and discover places in Sturbridge they may never have visited.

That's one reason the Rotary Club of Sturbridge created the Trek Sturbridge Halloween 5K. The annual event isn't just for runners.

It includes a 1K and Fun Walk and offers families an opportunity to get outdoors, enjoy our local trails and have a little fun at Halloween.

Costumes are encouraged.

We'll also have free games and activities to keep younger children safely entertained while older family members take part in the race or walk.

There's another benefit as well. Proceeds from the event help the Rotary Club support scholarships for local students and other community projects throughout the year.

This year's Trek Stur-

bridge Halloween 5K takes place Sunday, Oct. 25, at the Old Sturbridge Village Education Center. Runners may register at racerooster.com, or at OSV on race day starting at 8:30 a.m.

Whether you run, walk, bring the family, or simply come out to support the participants, it's a good opportunity to enjoy one of the resources that makes Sturbridge a special place to live.

We hope you'll join us.

Tim Gresenz
*President
Rotary Club of
Sturbridge*

When will Congress repay Social Security money taken years ago?

Dear Rusty:

I seem to remember that Congress borrowed a total of 4 trillion dollars from SS back in the 1980s and 1990s. When will this be repaid with interest?

Signed: Concerned Senior

Dear Concerned Senior:

I'm afraid your recollection is not correct – no politicians (Congress or Presidents) have ever taken money from the Social Security Trust Funds – not in the 1980s, nor 1990s, not ever.

Congress and Presidents are prevented by law from using Social Security money for any purpose other than paying SS benefits to beneficiaries and for paying the operating costs of administering the program.



Some significant changes to the Social Security program were, indeed, made in the years you mention, but those changes essentially saved Social Security from defaulting on monthly SS payment obligations.

In 1983, Congress and President Reagan enacted some income tax on received SS benefits for those with higher incomes and which added to Social Security's revenue, thus avoiding a benefit cut.

Then in 1993, Congress and President Clinton ex-

panded that legislation to increase the taxation of received Social Security benefits to provide additional SS revenue.

What you may be remembering is the political rhetoric from those days, which opined that Congress had stolen, squandered or borrowed (and should repay) Social Security money used for other purposes.

And that rhetoric originated because of the way received SS revenue from payroll FICA tax is invested.

Social Security revenue,

when received, is immediately invested in special-issue government bonds, which pay interest (just like normal government "T-bills").

The difference is that these SS bonds are redeemable, with interest, upon demand and as needed by SSA to pay monthly benefits. This means that SS gets additional interest income from these investments accounting for about \$69 billion in extra SS income in 2025.

Some folks, however, feel that because the U.S. Treasury gets the actual cash received for those SS investments, that the money is used by the Treasury for other purposes. Which is, of course, true – just as the government uses all income

received from all revenue sources to pay for government programs.

So, rather than viewing those SS bonds as investments, some view them as "money borrowed" and sometimes call the bonds "worthless IOUs." This, of course, is not at all the case, because every dollar invested in those special issue government bonds has been (and still is) used only for valid Social Security purposes and results in extra SS revenue from interest.

Nevertheless, those accusations were prevalent in the 1980s and 1990s when the changes to tax SS benefits were enacted. Indeed, we still regularly hear and

See **SECURITY**
PAGE 5

QUABOAG
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Send opinions to:

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Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

- community -

Roots and Relics to bring Celtic music to Federated Church

STURBRIDGE – Roots and Relics, a central Massachusetts ensemble celebrating traditional Irish and Celtic music, will perform in concert on Friday, Oct. 9, from 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m. at the Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale, 8 Maple St.

Admission is free of charge, but a free will collection will be taken during the concert.

Formed at St. Patrick's Parish in Whitinsville, Roots and Relics grew out of a shared love for traditional Irish and Celtic music, as well as Celtic-inspired music from around the world. The musicians bring backgrounds in classical, jazz, rock and traditional American music to their performances, creating a distinctive sound that remains rooted in Celtic musical traditions.

The members of Roots and Relics are: Jillian Martin (violin), Bert Baldarelli (percussion and bodhrán), Christopher Bilodeau (guitar, piano and vocals), Katrina Ireland Bilodeau (vocals, bass guitar and ukulele) and Matthew Reilly (penny whistle).



Irish and Celtic music group, Roots and Relics will appear in concert at the Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale on Friday, Oct. 9. Shown from left: Bert Baldarelli, Katrina Ireland Bilodeau, Christopher Bilodeau, Jillian Martin and Matthew Reilly.

Collectively, the musicians bring extensive experience in classical and contemporary performance, music education, church music, musical theater and traditional American and Irish music. Their backgrounds range from study at Berklee College of Mu-

sic and the Longy School of Music to decades of performance in churches, theater productions, community ensembles and traditional music groups.

The Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale joyfully celebrates Christ's presence and God's grace

in our lives. All are welcome.

Join them for worship on Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

For additional information, please visit the Church website at sturfed.org, or contact the Church office at 774-304-1021 or churchoffice@sturfed.org.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

CNEER fall fundraiser holds benefit dinner on Oct. 24

HARDWICK – Central New England Equine Rescue, Inc. will hold a fall fundraiser benefit dinner at Hardwick Crossing Country Club, 262 Lower Road, on Saturday, Oct. 24.

Doors open at 5 p.m. and a buffet dinner will be served at 6 p.m.

Tickets are \$100 each or bundle two tickets for \$175. Payment must be received by Oct. 10.

To purchase tickets online, use the QR code



or visit www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/fall-fundraiser-banquet. Checks made payable to CNEER can also be mailed to 96 New Braintree Road, West Brookfield, MA 01585.

About CNEER

CNEER is a grassroots rescue located in West Brookfield. Its mission is to rescue, heal and restore the spirit of the horse when it has been damaged through abuse, neglect and abandonment.

CNEER is committed to making a difference – one horse at a time.

For more information about CNEER, people may visit CNEER.com or follow the rescue on Facebook.

Christ Memorial Church tag sale

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The tag sale at Christ Memorial Episcopal Church, 133 North Main St., will be held Saturday, Oct. 17 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., rain or shine.

There will be plants, puzzles, books, clothes, kids' stuff, kitchen and

household items, treasures and more. Name your own price.

Help support the North Brookfield Food Collaborative by bringing non-perishable items. Use the Spring Street door should the weather force the tag sale inside.

W BROOKFIELD FROM PAGE 1

Cable contract

Members of the Cable Advisory Committee presented a request for a new contract with Spectrum, as the last 10 year contract ran out. Chair of the committee, Paul Lapenas, said the town is on a journey to start rebroadcasting out of their studio. The committee worked with Government Affairs Director Shelly Winchenbach and special counsel Bill Solomon.

Lapenas said the new contract has some expanded definitions of gross annual revenue, which is a key part

of financial calculations for Public, Education and Government funds and capital improvements, and there were also more protections for the town's interests negotiated in the contract to protect for things like easements, right of ways and repairs.

Lapenas said they secured a \$25,000 capital grant for broadcast equipment, but there is some equipment in its sixth year out of a 10 year expected lifespan that cost up to \$60,000.

He said they increased their share of gross annual revenue to 4.5% from 1.5%, and they anticipate \$55,000 coming in the first year.

He also said Spectrum's

subscribers have been falling, so it's unclear how much money that 4.5% will amount to come 10 years from now. He said the previous contract had a \$150,000 capital grant but the PEG funds were lower.

Some other updates from the contract include the continuation of complimentary television subscriptions for town offices, a reduction in broadcast stations from three to two because of a lack of content and an opportunity to broadcast meetings in high definition.

He estimated the current PEG account has about \$75,000 in it. Winchenbach said they can start negotiating a new contract after sev-

en years.

Library items

Library Director Amy Agro said there is a possibility that the federal government will suspend an E-rate program, which provides discounted rates for telecommunications and internet, and the town gets about an 85% discount based on their demographics. Agro said that amounted to \$3,000 off their bill last year, which came in at a total of under \$800.

She said the program has two components, one for the transport of the internet and the second category for hardware improvements. Agro said there's a public

comment period on this until Oct. 13.

Agro also gave an update on the Municipal Appropriation Requirement, which is required to keep a library certified.

She said since the override amounted to a \$60,000 cut, or 27% of the budget, that was the largest cut in the state, and there is a waiver that can keep them certified for five years as long as they get back to their MAR number by 2031, which is estimated to be \$228,000. It was supposed to be \$217,000 this year.

Appointments and resignations

The board approved the

hiring of Jennifer Whelan for two positions in the senior center, the first being the programs director for 15 hours a week and the second being digital skills instructor for four hours per week. The skills instructor pay is through a grant.

The board accepted the resignation of Stephanie Plante from the Recreation Committee, which Select Board Chair Henry Brogna said brings that committee to two members out of five, and noted there are several open seats on committees around town.

The next Select Board meeting is scheduled for Oct. 13.

SOCIAL SECURITY FROM PAGE 4

refute similar rhetoric these days in our capacity as Social Security Advisors.

We've written many articles on this topic, all of which are available at the AMAC Foundation's two main websites at www.amacfoundation.org, and www.SocialSecurityReport.org.

To answer your specific question "when will this (money) be repaid with interest?" The answer is - there is nothing to repay. All monies ever received for Social Security purposes have been invested in special interest-bearing government bonds, which are redeemed (with interest paid) weekly as needed to pay Social Security benefits to those who have earned and are entitled to them.

These bonds are secured by the "full faith and credit of the U.S. government," a financial designation which is globally considered to be "exceptionally low risk."

FYI, the SS Trust Fund reserves held about \$2.5 trillion in investments as of the end of 2025, down from about \$2.9 trillion in 2020. The Trust Fund total is now being regularly depleted because incoming SS revenue has not been sufficient to pay 100% of SS benefit obligations since 2021, so Trust Fund reserves are now being used to pay full benefits.

And therein lies the crux of the Social Security solvency issue, which is why the program so urgently needs Congressional reform

before the SS reserves in the Trust Funds run dry in 2032, after which everyone would see a cut in their monthly SS benefits. Congress must enact SS reform now.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does

not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

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The New Braintree 275th Committee hosted a parade on Oct. 3 to celebrate the town's milestone. The New Braintree Historical Society's float paid homage to the town's agricultural roots and resilience in the face of adversity.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE
The Kountry Kazoo Krew performed a repertoire of songs during the parade.

New Braintree celebrates 275 years

OLDE HOME DAY
FROM PAGE 1

for the Fire Department. During Olde Home Day, state Sen. Peter Durant and state Rep. Donnie Berthiaume presented Town Clerk and 275th Committee member Jessica Bennett with a historically accurate copy of the Declaration of Independence. This presentation was to commemorate not only the town's 275th anniversary, but also the nation's 250th. Durant and Berthiaume also presented a citation

to Select Board members Dennis Letendre Jr., Joe Chenevert and Michael McQueston. A special presentation was made to Robert N. Glidden, a longtime resident, business owner, and the town's former police chief. This presentation was made by resident and U.S. Postal Service employee Michelle Gallagher, who said the "250 Years of Delivering" Forever stamp was dedicated to Glidden and his service to the town. Glidden moved to New

Braintree in 1958 when he was 20 years old. Here, he and his wife Carolyn raised their two sons and one daughter. Glidden started RN Glidden Landscaping at his home in 1960, and ran it until 2000 when his son Richard took over. Gallagher said in 2024 at 90 years old, Glidden was still operating the front loader. Glidden spent 30 years on the town's Police Department with 25 of those years as police chief.

"He secured the town's first police cruiser," Gallagher said, which was a station wagon. Glidden also served as a volunteer firefighter in the 1970s, and is credited with saving the Police Department's radio system from the Town Hall's 1977 fire. "Mr. Glidden has dedicated his life to the people of New Braintree," Gallagher said. Olde Home Day ended with a performance by the band Disco Lemonade and a bonfire.



Tractors of all sizes were part of the Olde Home Day parade.



Robert N. Glidden (seated) was honored with the U.S. Postal Services' "250 Years of Delivering" Forever stamp.



The New Braintree Pickleball players dressed for the occasion.



The Barre Masonic Family was represented by members of Mt. Zion Lodge of Masons, Barre Assembly (International Order of the Rainbow for Girls) and Cradle Rock Chapter (Order of the Eastern Star).



Annabelle Ickler and Amelia Ickler held the banner for the Quabbin Regional High School Marching Band.



Members of the Theatre Guild of North Brookfield dressed up for the occasion.



New Braintree embraced its farming roots during Olde Home Day.



Rutland Police Department's K-9 Storm gave a demonstration with Officer Justin Lawlor.



State Sen. Peter Durant (right) and state Rep. Donnie Berthiaume, presented a historically accurate copy of the Declaration of Independence to Town Clerk Jessica Bennett.



Matt Koziol of Farmer Matt led the businesses in the parade.



U.S. Postal Service employee Michelle Gallagher is shown with Robert N. Glidden.



The Friends of the New Braintree Library marched in the parade.



This banner celebrated the town's 275th anniversary.



The State Police joined the bicycle parade with its motorcycles.



Area fire departments joined New Braintree Fire Department in the parade.



Thomas Jennette rode his mountain bike in the parade. Jennette also organized a kid's bicycle obstacle course during Olde Home Day.



A young cyclist covered his ears during the parade.



The Colonel Henry Knox Regimental Artillery Color Guard fired a salute.



Soulful Eyes Equine Rescue "hoofed it" in the parade.



Audrey Larson performed with the Quabbin Regional High School Marching Band.



The Holyoke Caledonian Pipe Band performed during the parade. The band's performance was sponsored by Country Bank.

- community -

Rotary Club presents annual TREK Sturbridge Halloween 5K, 1K & Fun Walk

STURBRIDGE – Runners, walkers, families and Halloween enthusiasts are invited to hit the trails again this fall when the Rotary Club of Sturbridge presents its annual TREK Sturbridge Halloween 5K, 1K and Fun Walk on Sunday, Oct. 25.

Pre-registration is now open for the family-friendly event, according to Race Director Klaus Hachfeld. Participants can pre-register at RaceRoster.com by entering “Sturbridge” in the search field.

Those who register before Oct. 19, will receive this year’s free collectible TREK Sturbridge Halloween 5K T-shirt.

“Partnering with TREK Sturbridge has become a great way to bring people together, enjoy some of Sturbridge’s beautiful trails and have a little Halloween fun at the same time,” Hachfeld said in a press release. “More importantly, every registration helps Rotary put money back into the community through scholarships for local students and support for other community projects and needs.”

All activities begin at the Old Sturbridge Village Education Center on Old Sturbridge Village Road. Participants should note that the Education Center is not



Costumes are part of the fun at the annual TREK Sturbridge Halloween 5K, 1K & Family Fun Walk, as this spirited group demonstrated before hitting the trail at last year's race.

the Old Sturbridge Village Academy located near the village’s main entrance.

Parking will be available in the Education Center lot.

The event features a timed 5K Trail Run, a Fun Walk and a timed 1K Pre-Teen Run. In keeping with the Halloween spirit, participants are encouraged to come in costume. Activities begin at 9 a.m. with a free costume parade, relay races and organized games for young children at the Education Center.

The timed 1K Pre-Teen Run begins at 9:15 a.m. and is open to children ages 12

and younger. Registration is \$20, and the course is accessible to participants with mobility challenges.

The timed 5K Trail Run and Fun Walk begin at 10 a.m. The course follows Old Sturbridge Village Road and the Arbutus Park Trail through the Leadmine

Mountain Wildlife Conservation Lands.

Registration is \$35 for the 5K and \$30 for the Fun Walk.

Registered runners and walkers can also compete in the Best Costume competition prior to the 11:15 a.m. awards ceremony, with

BROOKFIELD
FROM PAGE 1

He said that he plans for the winters, makes orders and oversees crews ranging from two to eight members.

Saunders said he has several licenses including the CDL and OSHA, and is a CDL instructor in Wellesley, and is also pursuing his bachelor’s degree in business, already having an associates in it along with accounting.

Saunders said his leadership style is by example and cross training so everybody is efficient, and he cited a recent overhauling of a recycling facility in the town,

where he coordinated the plans , and put together a crew of certified operators. Saunders said that he tries to go off of people’s strong suits and uplift everybody, and pulls people aside to explain mistakes that were made if need be. Saunders said in his current position, he’s checking sites, answering questions, operating as needed and creating work orders.

Saunders said that the top priority would be allocating resources to make sure the equipment is ready for the winter, and getting employees with CDL and hoisting licenses in the department.

He said the \$500,000 budget is smaller than he’s accustomed to, but there are less needs and demands in a town like Brookfield. He said other things to look into are Chapter 90 funding, road conditions and a five year plan to determine what capital projects need to be done and when.

Talking about the equipment, Saunders said he’d have to check the fluids and deal with any brake and battery problems, and make sure the salters and their hydraulics are working. He said that he has some mechanical experience, but a lot would have to be referred to another business.

Saunders described the town’s current equipment as “decent.” He said in his current town, they take the salters out once per month to keep the batteries alive.

Mark O'Donnell

The third candidate was O'Donnell, who has 15 years of experience as the chief mechanic and operator in West Brookfield. O'Donnell said he takes care of the trucks, prepares roads for paving and does projects related to drainage, and has several licenses.

He said in West Brookfield, they weld the blows in-house and he has experience with oil changes, tires and brakes. O'Donnell said he has a crew of three, and he is the senior employee, so the other’s follow his lead.

Projects O'Donnell cited as having a hand in include the 2011 ice storm where he operated a loader and backhoe and did brush removal in-house, saving the town \$200,000. He also cited a successful water line installment in Lexington.

O'Donnell said he’d allocate resources for mowing and paving preparation, and allocate manpower within the budget and go through priority roads to be done with Chapter 90 funds. O'Donnell said in the first week, he’d see what he could do to unfreeze certain parts of the vehicles and see if other trucks have good parts, saying he knows how to change them but it comes down to availability if there are none in-house.

board noted he has several water licenses.

Degnan said he’s coordinated with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and done work like full reclamations, utilities, subdivisions, sidewalks and curbing along with bid work with contractors.

Degnan said he was a supervisor in East Providence where there were about 30 men in the union, and his transfer to supervisor was easy because the people in the organization knew him. He said that he knows how to work with different people and figure them out, and he enjoys using the new technologies related to highway operations.

A project Degnan highlighted was a subdivision in Bellingham where the property had their own contractors who were adversarial with his crew, but he was, in part along with other members, able to work through it and make the project a success.

For the equipment, he said it’s a bit older, and in his current position, they have been trading in so the oldest machine on their fleet is five years old.

He said he’d look at the equipment and compare that to the budget, and try to oil up the brakes and sprockets, and get new ones if the budget allows. He said it would take him just one day to figure out the needs of the equipment, and he can do diagnostics work and brake work, but not things to do with the engine.

He said one of the strategies for figuring out which roads are a priority are by looking at a pavement management plan, or just seeing which roads destroy vehicles as a result of things like frost heaves.

Deliberation

The Select Board did not come to a conclusion as to whom to hire for the position following the meeting. The board voted to have each candidate, if available, come to the town to test out the equipment so the board could observe them and see who handles it the best.

Members of the highway search committee were in attendance, including Bruce Clarke, who said Degnan was “quite a candidate” because of his several certifications in water and as a tree warden. He said one of the questions the board missed asking was about response time.

Select Board member Beth Coughlin noted that O'Donnell had no formal supervisory experience, but Clarke said that shouldn’t rule him out, saying he would pick O'Donnell as the top candidate because he’d be with the town until retirement. Select Board member Richard Chaffee said he knew about O'Donnell personally, and described him as the glue that held the department together.

Coughlin had some concerns about O'Donnell, saying she wasn’t confident that he could handle the budgets and Chapter 90 funding, but Chaffee noted there’s a highway secretary who is supposed to do that.

Chair Sarah Campbell said the current secretary is struggling with past due bills and what to pay when, and she’s concerned about payroll come winter.

As for the other candidates, Coughlin said if Degnan was hired, they’d have an opportunity to aggregate water into the rest of the operations and make a DPW, and Chaffee said Freitas is a good hands-on worker.

Two Select Board members gave their rankings of the candidates, from first choice to last choice. Coughlin ranked her choices as Degnan, Saunders, O'Donnell and Freitas and Chaffee ranked his O'Donnell, Freitas, Degnan and Saunders.

The board scheduled to conduct the equipment testing the week of Oct. 5, and a decision to potentially be made directly following the test.

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313233

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3839404142

4344454647

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535455

565759

CLUES ACROSS

1. Difficult

5. Coarsely ground corn

9. A group of similar things ordered one after another

11. Loved Romeo

13. Something to solve

15. Pelvic areas

16. Informal debt instrument

17. Ineffective

19. A device attached to a workbench

21. Related on the mother's side

22. "Fresh Prince of ___ Air"

23. Astronomer Sagan

25. C. Utah city

26. Turkey

27. Informal terms for money

29. Awakens

31. Those who favored Prohibition

33. Blabbed

34. Looked through

36. Rhode Island rebellion

38. A type of "cast"

39. One's duty

41. Where golfers begin

43. Make a mistake

44. Semitic Sun god

46. Ancient Greek City

48. Removed someone's head

52. A place to stay

53. Unwise

54. Most unnatural

56. "Dennis" is a notable one

57. Ointments

58. Examination

59. Leaked fluid

CLUES DOWN

1. Brave

2. A state of excitement

3. Jest at

4. Sandwich store

5. Chapter of the Koran

6. Dismounted from a horse

7. Small vehicle

8. Irrked

9. A disreputable man

10. Monetary unit of Samoa

11. A list of woes

12. Weight unit

14. Alone, single

15. Broadway legend Bernadette

18. Monetary unit of Serbia

20. Worn by exposure to the weather

24. A body of traditions

26. Students seek one

28. Hydrophilic amino acid

30. Nasal mucus

32. Branch of U.S. Congress

34. Swinish

35. Russian assembly

37. Grant an exemption to

38. Set up in advance

40. Satisfy

42. Felt

43. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls

45. Witnesses

47. Strong insects

49. Gasteyer and de Armas are two

50. One of an ancient people inhabiting Scotland

51. Cheerless

55. Unhealthy

PEOPLE/MILESTONE NEWS

As a free service for our readers, we will print all births, weddings, engagements, milestone anniversaries, major birthdays, military achievements, honors and awards. We have a "people news" form available for you to submit these listings. This material is provided to us by our readers and local institutions and we do not charge to print this content.

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

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SPORTS

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SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

Cougars finish in 1-1 draw with Ware

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WARREN – The Ware girls’ varsity soccer team had gone four consecutive seasons without scoring a goal against Quaboag Regional, while being out-scored 16-0.

In their only meeting of the 2026 regular season, the two teams battled through a scoreless first half before the Lady Cougars grabbed a 1-0 lead in the 54th minute.

The Lady Cougars wouldn’t post another shutout, as the Lady Indians scored the equalizer a little more than ten minutes later. The visitors from Ware had several late scoring chances, but last Tuesday night’s non-league match at Cougars Stadium ended in a 1-1 draw.

“It was definitely a hard fought game tonight,” said Ware head coach Morgan Toelken. “Even though Quaboag graduated some talented players last year, they still have a lot of talent. We haven’t had very much success against them in the past and I’m very glad to come away with a tie in tonight’s match.”

The road tie left the Lady Indians with a 2-3-2 overall record and extended their winless stretch against the Lady Cougars to more than 15 years.

Before this season, Ware hadn’t scored a goal against Quaboag since a 5-2 home loss on Sept. 18, 2021. Aislin McClure accounted for both Lady Indians goals.

Ware was ranked 16th in the first MIAA Division 5 power rankings of the

fall season.

“We’re 16th in the power rankings, which is the highest that we’ve been in a long time,” Toelken said. “I’m not sure how much this tie will really help us in the power rankings.”

The Lady Cougars (0-5-2) entered this week’s action still searching for their first victory of the season.

“It was a pretty even game tonight,” said Quaboag head coach Joe Mooney. “We graduated nine seniors, including seven starters from last year’s team. We’re in the rebuilding process this year.”

Two of the players that Quaboag lost to graduation were Maddie Potvin and Madelyn Bagg, who’s currently a member of the women’s soccer team at Bates College. The duo combined to score 30 goals a year ago.

Quaboag qualified for the Division 5 state tournament four times between 2021-2024. They were moved up to Division 4 last year. After defeating Blackstone-Millville, 4-0 in a preliminary round home match, they lost to second-seeded Douglas on the road in the round of 32.

Quaboag assistant soccer coach Michelle Zawalski graduated from Ware High School in 2017.

Quaboag had the opportunity to take a 1-0 halftime lead against Ware on back-to-back corner kicks at the end of the first half.

Both kicks were taken from the left corner by junior Isabelle Manzano.

See COUGARS
PAGE 10

Warriors even record with pair of wins

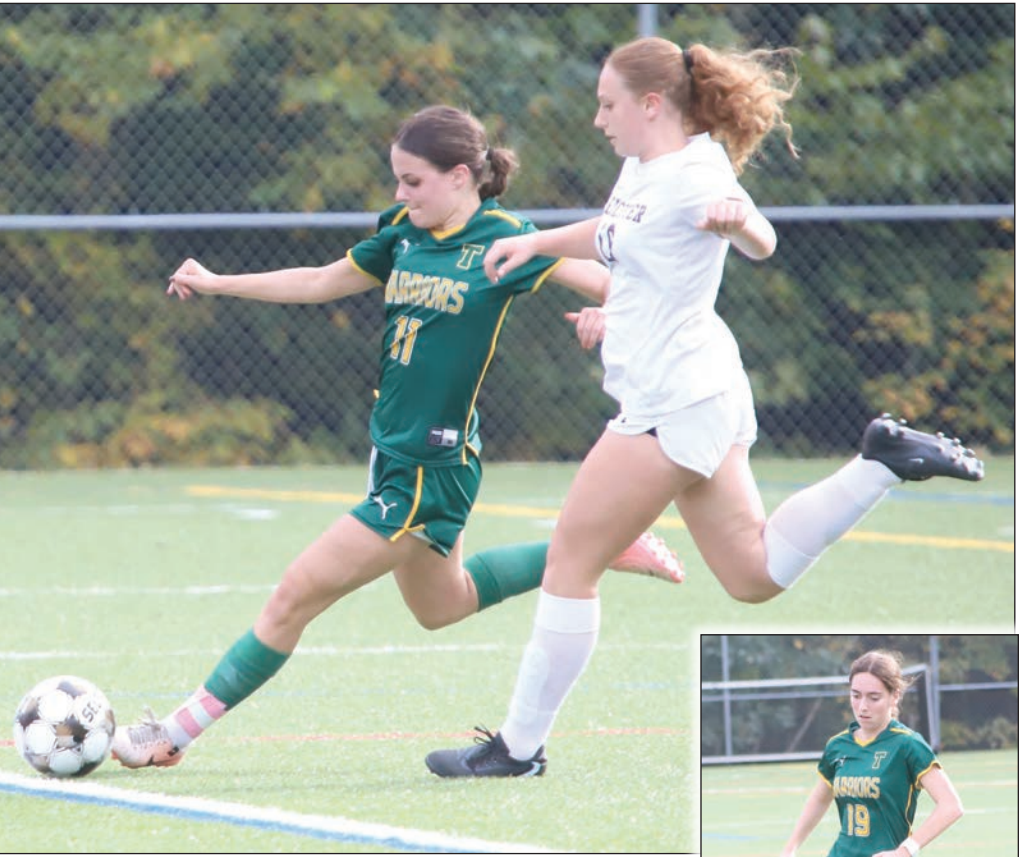
FISKDALE – Last week, Tantasqua Regional High School girls soccer evened up their record with wins of Leicester 3-2 at home and then on the road at Doherty High School 3-1 to improved to 3-3-1 for the regular season. Coming up, the Warriors will host Ludlow High School on Friday, Oct. 9 at 5:30 p.m.



Abigail Gunagan heads the ball forward.



Tessa Shelden is pursued by a defender.



Emma Peasturo tries to get the ball around a pressing opponent.



Isla Czub looks to get the 50/50 ball.



Maeve O'Neil tries to keep the ball from going out of bounds.



Madeleine Bachand makes a stop on defense.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Pioneers fall at home, but rebound to pair of wins

PALMER – Last week, Pathfinder boys soccer had a 5-1 loss at home against Southwick Regional, but rebounded to defeat Smith Vocational 2-1 and then Monson 2-0 last Friday night to improve to 7-2-1 overall on the season.

The Pioneers were then off for six days before returning action on Thursday, Oct. 8 against the High School of Commerce at 4 p.m.



Owen Marion goes for a header.



Owen Pear sends a free kick up the field.



Gianni Holland tries to play the loose ball.



William Wright defends against an opposing player.



Elijah Hodge punts the ball away.



Brody Wetnicka looks to settle the ball and turn play around.

- public notices -

TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
The Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on **Monday, October 26th, 2026 at 6:00pm** in the first floor meeting room, West Brookfield Town Hall, to act on an application for a Special Permit, for Robert and Jennifer Dold, for the property located at 207 Shoreline Dr, West Brookfield. The applicant wishes to rebuild a house that was demolished due to failing foundation. A Special Permit is required per Section 1.52. Non-Conforming Structures. Please note this public hearing was previously advertised for Tuesday October 12th 2026, which was incorrect. 10/09, 10/16/2026

INVITATION FOR BIDS FY2027 Paving Materials and Services
Town of West Brookfield - Highway Department
The Town of West Brookfield Board of Selectmen requests sealed bids on the following Paving Materials and Services for various Town Roads in West Brookfield using State Aid Chapter 90 Funds, And other Federal, State and Municipally funded projects in Fiscal Year 2027.
Bids for the Paving Materials and Services in the Town of West Brookfield will be received at the West Brookfield Highway

Department located at 15 Front Street West Brookfield, MA 01585 until 9:00 a.m. Monday October 26, 2026, at which time they will be publicly opened and read. No late bids accepted.
Obtaining Bid Packages: Specifications, general instructions, and Bid Forms must be obtained at the Highway Department located at 15 Front Street in West Brookfield between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday or by emailing jdaley@wbrookfield.com. Bidders are required to submit bids on the Bid Forms provided.
Bid Deposit: All bids over \$10,000.00 MUST be accompanied by a bid deposit in the amount of five percent (5%) of the bid in the form of cash, a bid bond, or a certified check made payable to the Town of West Brookfield.
Conditions of Contract: All contracts awarded shall be subject to the Special Contract Conditions that accompany this bid package. Successful Bidders will be required to produce a certificate of insurance and security bonds with the signed contract. All work being performed requires 100% Performance Bond and a 50% Payment Bond in accordance with G.L. c.149, section 29. The bidder shall be able to start work under this contract after November 1, 2026.
Wage Rates: All wage rates will comply with those established by the Commonwealth Department of Labor and Workforce Development, M.G.L., Chapter 149, Sections 26-27G as set forth in the contract documents.
Prequalification: Bidders for all projects that cost over \$50,000.00 must be prequalified by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (formerly Mass. Highway Department). The qualified class of work for this project is PAVEMENT SURFACING with a limit amount of \$1,000,000.00. All bidders shall be subject to Section 34 of Chapter 90, must be prequalified in accordance with 720 CMR 5.00 "Prequalification's of Contractors". This will apply to horizontal construction only. The Awarding Authority reserves the right to extend the contract for two (2) additional twelve (12) month options. Valuation for purposes of MassDOT Prequalification is based on first year, times three (3) to arrive at an estimated total value of all bid items. The estimated value of \$303,500.00 provided in this Invitation to Bid is for one year. Vendors are expected to be able to provide their services over three (3) years at three (3) times the initial estimated value.
James Daley,
Highway Superintendent
10/02, 10/09/2026

Auxiliary hosts Fall Harvest Festival and Bake Sale

NORTH BROOKFIELD – American Legion Auxiliary Unit 41 will host its annual Fall Harvest Festival and Bake Sale on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
The festival will be held at American Legion Post 41, 163 North Main St. (located behind Subway).
Join the auxiliary for local vendors and crafters, homemade baked goods, a white elephant table and great raffles. A few tables

COUGARS FROM PAGE 9
Her first attempt sailed into the box and a shot deflected off Ware senior goalie Emily Jones (12 saves) over the end line. Her next kick landed on top of the net.
The contest remained scoreless until Quaboag eighth grader Evelyn Potvin lofted a shot from the right side of the box into the back of the net for her first varsity goal, which was unassisted.

“That was a huge goal by Evelyn,” Mooney said. “We’re hoping that she becomes one of our top goal scorers just like her older sister. We’re still trying to figure things out.”
The Lady Indians scored a corner kick goal during the 65th minute.
Sophomore Josephine Galeckas booted the ball into the box from the right corner. After it bounced around, junior Callie Cygan scored the tying goal on a

header.
“It was Callie’s first goal of the season,” Toelken said. “She scored a couple of goals for us last year.”
Sophomore Gloria Cotaj was credited with the assist.
Cygan and Galeckas had a couple of shots on goal during the final ten minutes of regulation, but the contest remained tied.
Quaboag senior goalie Seph Piermarini made a total of eight saves.



VETERANS DAY SALUTE

Quaboag Current ~ November 5, 2026

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

Please submit a photo of your veteran with his or her name, rank, branch of military and hometown by email to dflynn@turley.com or drop off a photo to **Quaboag Current, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069**
All photos will be returned.

Please submit your photo no later than Monday, October 20, 2026.

There is no cost to submit a photo. No photos will be accepted after deadline. If you would like to use a prior submitted photo, please contact Dan Flynn no later than October 13th (413) 297-5886.

- police logs -

East Brookfield Police Log

During the week of Sept. 1-6, the East Brookfield Police Department responded to 126 building/property checks, 84 directed area patrols, six radar assignments, nine traffic controls, seven emergency 911 calls, five citizen assists, two complaints, one investigation, one motor vehicle investigation, one threat, one missing person, one motor vehicle accident, two animal calls and 32 motor vehicle stops in the town of East Brookfield.

Tuesday, Sept. 1
7:58 a.m. School Zone Traffic, East Main Street, Citation issued
2:22 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Howe Street, Transported to Hospital
5:09 p.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Officer Handled
5:09 p.m. 911 Complaint, Podunk Road, Officer Handled
5:50 p.m. Traffic Control, Mechanic Street, Citation Issued

Wednesday, Sept. 2
2:10 p.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Officer Handled
4:43 p.m. Assist Citizen, Young Road, Officer Handled
7:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Street, Citation Issued

Thursday, Sept. 3
8:36 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, West Sturbridge Road, Transported to Hospital
10:56 a.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Spoken To

Friday, Sept. 4
5:45 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation Issued
9:39 a.m. Medical Emergency, East Main Street, Transported to Hospital
11:08 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Podunk Road, Officer Handled
1:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
2:09 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
2:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
2:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
6:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

Saturday, Sept. 5
10:05 a.m. 911 Threat, North Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital

Report Taken
9:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Bay Path Road, Citation Issued
10:43 p.m. Complaint, East Main Street, Officer Handled

Sunday, Sept. 6
8:43 a.m. 911 Missing Person, Prospect Street, Investigated
10:36 a.m. Assist Citizen, Prospect Street, Spoken To
10:59 a.m. Investigation, Connie Mack Drive, Officer Handled
11:52 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
2:55 p.m. Welfare Check, West Main Street, Services Rendered
3:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Mechanic Street, Citation Issued
3:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
4:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
4:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, Adams Road, Transported to Hospital
9:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation Issued
9:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

New Braintree Police Log

During the week of Sept. 21-28, the Hardwick/ New Braintree Police Department responded to 24 building/property checks, 11 directed/area patrols, five radar assignments, four traffic controls, five emergency 911 calls, two citizen assists, 12 safety hazards, four utility issues, two animal calls and two motor vehicle stop in the town of New Braintree.

Monday, Sept. 21
10:59 a.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled
3:09 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled
4:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Ravine Road, Citation Issued

Tuesday, Sept. 22
5:01 p.m. Medical Emergency, Slein Road, Transported by Helicopter
6:02 p.m. Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital

Wednesday, Sept. 23
2:23 p.m. 911 Safety Hazard, Construction Area, Officer Handled

Friday, Sept. 25
12:41 p.m. Safety Hazard, Gilbertville Road, Removed Hazard

Saturday, Sept. 26
11:01 a.m. Safety Hazard, Thompson Road, Removed Hazard
11:16 a.m. 911 Utility Issues, Hardwick Road, Referred to Other Agency
12:08 p.m. Safety Hazard, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled
12:17 p.m. Safety Hazard, Gilbertville Road, Referred to Other Agency
12:30 p.m. Utility Issues, Gilbertville Road, Officer Handled
1:39 p.m. Safety Hazard, Utley Road, Referred to Other Agency

2:20 p.m. Safety Hazard, Worcester Road, Removed Hazard
4:53 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Barre Cut-Off Road, Transported to Hospital
10:33 p.m. Safety Hazard, Worcester Road, Removed Hazard
10:34 p.m. Safety Hazard, Ravine Road, Officer Handled

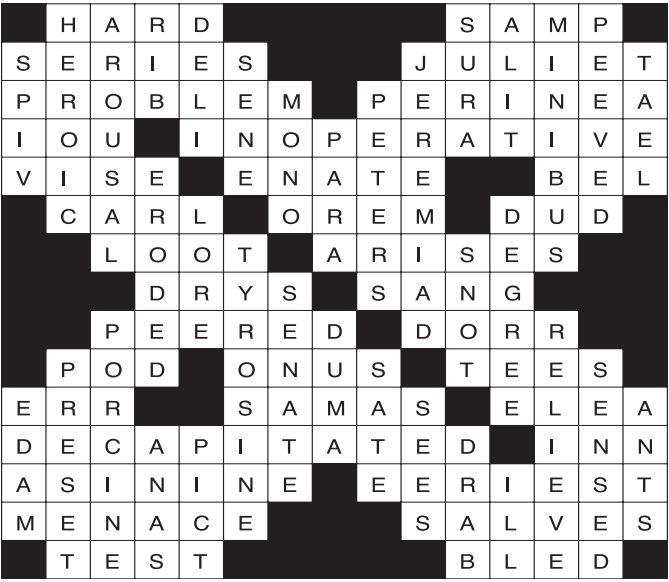
Sunday, Sept. 27
1:57 a.m. Safety Hazard, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled
9:44 a.m. Safety Hazard, Moore Road, Removed Hazard
11:22 a.m. Utility Issues, Hardwick Road, Removed Hazard
12 p.m. Utility Issues, West Road, Services Rendered
1:49 p.m. Safety Hazard, Unitas Road, Services Rendered

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com



Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

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

Palmer, MA 01069

- community -

Federated Church Pumpkin Patch open through Oct. 31

STURBRIDGE – The Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale, 8 Maple St., is hosting its 9th annual Pumpkin Patch through Saturday, Oct. 31, with pumpkins, seasonal displays and a growing schedule of activities for the community.

The Pumpkin Patch will be open Monday through 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 may be made by cash, credit card or Venmo.

Visitors will find more than pumpkins during the five-week run. Plans include pumpkin carving, face painting, music and Storytime with Judy, along with a performance by Rock Voices Auburn, with the date to be announced.

The Central Mass Plain Air Painters will also return on Saturday, Oct. 10, setting up their easels around the church grounds to paint the Patch and surrounding autumn landscape.

Proceeds help the Federated Church support a

variety of local missions and ministries, including Sturbridge Girl Scout and Scouting America troops, both of which meet at the church, the local Veterans Association and the church's ecumenical work with other area congregations.

A portion of the proceeds supports the Navajo Nation in Farmington, New Mexico, where Pumpkins USA grows the pumpkins and provides seasonal and year-round employment.

October will be a particularly active month at the Federated Church. In addition to the Pumpkin Patch, the church will host a Roots and Relics concert on Friday, Oct. 9, from 7-8:30 p.m.; and the Koinonia women's group Rummage Sale on Oct. 23 and 24.

For additional information about the Pumpkin Patch, October activities or volunteering to help with unloading and setup, visit sturfed.org, call the church office at 774-304-1021 or email churchoffice@sturfed.org.

‘American Constitution’ film screening Oct. 25

NEW BRAINTREE – Explore the origin story of the American system of government at a free public screening of the new documentary film, “The American Constitution”, on Sunday, Oct. 25, 2-4 p.m. at New Braintree Town Hall, 20 Memorial Drive.

The film, from award-winning filmmaker David Garrigus, dramatizes the creation of one of history's most influential documents. Using only the Framers' own words drawn directly from the historical record, an impressive cast portrays the impassioned debates between figures like George Washington, James Madison and Benjamin Franklin.

Following the screening, attendees will have the special opportunity to participate in a live Q&A session with the film's writer and director, and a legal expert.

The event is free and open to all. For more information, visit Constitution-Movie.com.

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