

QUABOAG CURRENT

Connect with us online



Quaboag Current Newspaper

WEST BROOKFIELD
Fall Festival at the Farm
p5

BROOKFIELD
Apple Country Fair returns
p2

STURBRIDGE
CFC celebrates 7th year
p3

Editorial/Opinion 4
Sports 9
Classifieds 14

Legal Notices 15
Police Logs 15

A TURLEY PUBLICATION
www.turley.com

Volume 17, Number 46

Friday, October 11, 2024

Gramarossa honored at QHSUA's 10-year anniversary celebration

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

MONSON – The Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance marked two milestones this year – the 10 year anniversary of the alliance's formation and the retirement of longtime member Gail Gramarossa.

"We have a lot to celebrate," Rebecca Edwards, Drug Free Communities Grant Director, said at a luncheon held in Memorial Hall to honor Gramarossa and celebrate the anniversary last Friday afternoon.

Gramarossa served as the Prevention and Community Health Director for the town of Ware as well as the Program Director for QHSUA, just two of the many roles she has taken on since she first became involved with substance



State Rep. Aaron Saunders (left) presents a citation to Gail Gramarossa along with state Sen. Jake Oliveira (right). Gramarossa recently retired from her role as the Prevention and Community Health Director for the town of Ware as well as the Program Director of the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance. TURLEY PHOTO BY PAULA OUIMETTE

See ANNIVERSARY | PAGE 6

JARS Café New business brings gluten free options and delicious treats

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
epappas@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – When it comes to finding places to eat with food allergies, it can be extraordinarily difficult, especially concerning those who cannot eat gluten or sugar.

"We don't charge for any other handicap, so why is a food allergy treated any differently?" asked Sujoy Spencer, one of the owners of JARS Café, one of the town's newest businesses.

JARS Café opened up in town on July 15, is home to a mix of delicious pastries and desserts, including gluten free and sugar-free options, homemade from scratch with great care for the health of all who enter.

See JARS | PAGE 5



TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS (Left to right) Joe Shea, Annie Shea, Richard Spencer, and Sujoy Spencer, the owners of JARS Café, and names that make up the name.

Troop 144 climbs highest peaks in all New England states

OAKHAM – Boy Scouts and their leaders of Troop 144 from Oakham recently completed a difficult challenge that they started over a year ago.

Many members of the troop have now climbed the highest mountains in all six New England states.

The troop completed this challenging adventure by lastly climbing Mount Katahdin in Maine. This was saved for last as it's considered one of the most difficult hikes not only for climbing but logistics.

Baxter State Park is seven hours from Oakham, only so many people per day are allowed on the mountain and the reservations for the campground in the park sell out fast. Mount Katahdin and the sur-



Troop 144 took the three-mile Chimney Pond Trail to Chimney Pond. SUBMITTED PHOTO

rounding Katahdin Woods and park are considered the most

See TROOP 144 | PAGE 6

New staff welcomed at School Committee meeting

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARREN – Superintendent of Schools Stephen Duff introduced new Warren Community Elementary School Principal Eugene Rich at the recent Quaboag Regional School Committee meeting.

Rich has "been doing a fantastic job," in his position, Duff said at the Sept. 23 meeting.

Duff credited the partnership between both Rich and West Brookfield Elementary School Principal Melissa Provost for preparing the school district's new staff for the start of the school year.

Rich introduced Nancy Lipinski, the new Librarian/Media

Specialist at the elementary schools.

"She's a great addition to our community," Rich said.

Provost introduced Laura Castle, a new paraprofessional in the school's SOAR program.

"She is remarkable...she is already off to a great start," she said.

Duff said the preschool also has a new paraprofessional, Kelly Hayes, who is a graduate of Quaboag Regional Middle High School. He said she previously worked at Brookfield Elementary School.

Duff said the school district has also hired a new Finance Director, Nicole Goncalves. He said Goncalves had previously

See MEETING | PAGE 7

Farmer Matt[®]
FARM-FRESH + LOCAL

860 West Brookfield Rd.
New Braintree, MA



Pop-Up Beer Garden w/ Lost Towns Brewing

Saturday, October 12 • 12:00 - 7:00 PM

Join us at our pop-up beer garden for a refreshing experience at the farm. Savor locally crafted beer, cider, and seltzer infused with local ingredients and great live music.

- community -

45th Apple Country Fair to be held Oct. 12

BROOKFIELD – Showcasing the work of more than 90 local crafters, the 45th Annual Apple Country Fair will be held on Saturday, Oct. 12, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on the historic Brookfield Town Common.

This year's fair will also feature live music throughout the day, lawn games and face-painting, baked goods and food trucks, raffle drawings throughout the day including a 50/50, and an apple pie baking contest.

Fair-goers can browse and buy hand-knit sweaters and blankets, carved wooden bowls and décor, beaded jewelry, specialty soaps and lotions, hand-crafted toys, locally produced honey, and more.

The raffle will offer chances to win prizes including the

community-stitched quilt, family passes to local museums and attractions, and gift certificates to local restaurants and stores.

The fair is held outside on the common rain or shine.

The Brookfield Community Club has been organizing the Apple Country Fair since 1979.

Originally, the money raised at the fair helped pay transportation costs for the Brookfield Elementary School's annual sixth-grade class to attend an environmental program at Camp Bournedale on Cape Cod. Now the funds generated help to provide grant money for a number of community service projects, including holiday programs for Brookfield seniors.

For more information, please visit www.AppleCountryFair.com.

Apple Run/Walk returns for 18th year on Oct. 26

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The 18th annual 5 mile Apple Run/Walk for diabetes will be held Saturday morning, Oct. 26 at Brookfield Orchards, 12 Lincoln Road.

The event is hosted by the Lions Club of the Brookfields. All proceeds will benefit the Clara Barton Diabetes Camp in Oxford and the Diabetes Research Team at UMass.

The event in prior years has raised over \$37,000 in donations for these two organizations. The race is professionally timed, and cash prizes will be awarded to the men's and women's first and second place finishers.

Registration will be from 9:30-

10:30 a.m., with walkers beginning the course at 10:30 a.m. and runners at 11 a.m. Early registration entry fee is \$20 for adults and \$15 for children age 17 and younger (race day registration is \$5 extra).

Oakholt Brewery of Brookfield will return as a sponsor this year, and will be onsite at the event with a complementary beer for each registered runner and walker at the completion of the course.

Further information and link to online registration (as well as a downloadable registration form) can be found at http://brookfield-lionsclub.org.



PHONE 413.967.3505 Fax: 413.967.6009 Subscriptions: 413.283.8393

EMAIL

Advertising Sales Dan Flynn dflynn@turley.com

Tim Mara tmara@turley.com

Editor

Paula Ouimette pouimette@turley.com

WEB

www.quaboagcurrent.turley.com

@QuaboagCurrent

The Quaboag Current newspaper is published by Turley Publications, Inc. • www.turley.com

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

9th annual Domestic Violence Awareness Walk is Oct. 20

WARE – The 9th annual Domestic Violence Awareness Walk sponsored by the Ware River Valley Domestic Violence Task Force will be held on Sunday, Oct. 20 at 1 p.m. in Veterans Park.

Join the community for a short walk in downtown Ware to show support for survivors of domestic and sexual violence. There will be speakers, a raffle, music, activities and exhibits for all ages.

All are welcome to come and show their support and meet up with family and friends. Wear purple to show your support as well.

In case of rain, the event will be held across the street in the Town Hall.

THERE'S NO BETTER TIME TO ADVERTISE YOUR SERVICES THAN DURING

Whether you're a long-standing customer, or someone looking for a guaranteed advertising market, increase your exposure for two consecutive weeks in the Ware River News Ware • Warren • West Warren Gilbertville • Hardwick • Wheelwright

Publication Dates:

November 7 November 14

The Ware River News will be directly mailed to over 9,900 households for two consecutive weeks!

Advertising Deadlines:

November 4 & November 11



A TURLEY PUBLICATION - WWW.TURLEY.COM

TOTAL MARKET COVERAGE WEEKS

Get your business seen as it's being mailed directly to your customer's home!

Ware River News advertisement featuring a newspaper cover with articles on 'RideN2B on the MCRT', 'Commission reviews role in demo delay', 'Wright's Mill Recovery Master Plan meeting held', and 'Selectboard discusses ARPA uses and more'.

Call Dan today at 413-967-3505

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.

- community -

Community Food Collaborative helps the food insecure

Submitted Article

STURBRIDGE – The Community Food Collaborative is celebrating its 7th year and having a very busy and productive year.

The garden operates under the guidance of a 10-member committee with Joe Coan serving as President of the CFC.

“When we started the garden seven years ago, it was much smaller. We have expanded several times and have learned a lot about working smarter,” Coan said. “Doing similar tasks each year teaches us what to expect. However, our best predictions can change with the weather so we are always learning.”

While growing organic vegetables sounds pretty easy, there are always other important tasks that must be done to reach our goal of high quality organic produce.

Maintenance

Perhaps the largest task is garden maintenance.

This year Robinson Tree Service generously donated their time and service to cut down several trees blocking sun from one corner of the garden. They shredded the trees and spread the mulch on the top and side of the garden.

The collaborative also had all the wild growth around the fence of the garden pushed back 20 feet. A heavy weed fabric was put over the dirt and then a four inch layer of crushed stone was spread on top of the fabric. The collaborative members are hopeful this will protect them for a long time from the growth encroaching into the garden.

Irrigation

The expanded irrigation system was certainly needed this year with all the very hot and dry weather we had. It’s time consuming when they first open the garden because they rotate crops each year and the irrigation system consists of over one thousand linear feet of dripline in the beds.

The dripline needs to be arranged each year to accommodate the new plants with enough water for them to thrive. Arranging the dripline cannot be done before the garden is planted so it’s a scramble to get the lines in place once Suzanne, the head gardener, and her helpers plant.

Planting in the garden started this year on May 27, however, they had started seedlings elsewhere well in advance of actual in-ground planting.

To say planting goes fast is a misstatement when she actually planted 2,224 plants in the garden. This number includes the plants generously donated

to us each year by an experienced gardener.

Raised beds

The collaborative currently has 45 raised beds. Several of the beds were moved or resized somewhat this year to make it easier for the volunteers to reach everywhere in the bed without stepping inside the bed.

This year they replaced 12 of the old beds with new ones made of the same accoya wood as the 10 replacement beds we installed last year. They will continue to replace the old beds each year until all have been replaced with the new wood that is guaranteed not to rot for 20 years.

Challenges

Besides the challenge of laying the dripline around all the plants each year, they had a few challenges with critters (large and small) who love what they grow. One species of small critter loved the tomatoes but only took one or two bites before moving on to the next tomato.

A much larger critter jumped over the six foot fence and loved the string beans. Perhaps they should find a volunteer to stay at the garden at night keeping watch for unwanted critters.

In spite of the work and challenges in growing a large garden, it has also been very rewarding. They have a lot to be thankful for.

About the garden

The garden is on land that is owned by the Federated Church and because the collaborative members are all volunteers and donate everything they grow to feed the food-challenged, the Church lets them use the land for the garden at no cost, which is very generous.

The garden is located behind the Sturbridge Town Hall lower parking lot and is connected to the Town Hall water supply which is provided to us at no cost. They have many sponsors and donors who admire what we do to help the food insecure and these sponsors and donors give to us very generously and some do it every year.

While many contractors do work without charging them, they still have expenses for materials to run a garden this size. Members would be remiss not to mention their great volunteers. They have many who come when they can and those who come on a regular basis and they appreciate each one of them.

They are dedicated, hard-working and offer great suggestions to the members. They listened to the volunteers last year when they suggested volunteering during the morning hours, so they tried it.



Volunteers harvested a bountiful crop at the Community Food Collaborative. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



The garden at the Community Food Collaborative has 45 raised beds.

Hours this year are 10-11:30 a.m. every Tuesday and Thursday and 9-10:30 a.m. every Sunday. The morning hours turned out well because so many families have challenges with work commutes, sports practice, games, etc. in the evenings making a commitment to work in the garden more difficult for them.

While the garden is still producing this summer, the collaborative members don’t have statistics yet for this year but in the 2023 season, produce grown and donated to the St. John Paul II Food Pantry in Southbridge served 737 households with almost half that number being seniors. They were also able to make five deliveries of fresh produce

to Food Share in Southbridge.

This year in 2024, they were also able to provide some fresh produce to St. John’s and the Bridge Fridge. Total volunteer hours for last year (2023) in the garden were 740.

They welcome all comments and suggestions sent to cfcgarden357@gmail.com or visit the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CFCGardens. They also welcome all volunteers. You

can make new friends and have a lot of fun volunteering with the collaborative. No need to contact them first; just show up during one of their work sessions.

“Join the team that does more by 9am than some do all day!”

Train now to a new career in 6 weeks. High hourly wages and generous bonus program. Van work available too!

Call or text 774-200-6762 or email jobs@mccarthybus.com to apply

J.P. McCarthy & Sons
WWW.MCCARTHYBUS.COM

LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET! **INFLATION** **PRICE BUSTERS** **PRICES IN RED ARE AT OR BELOW LAST YEAR'S PRICES!**

USDA INSP. FRESH COUNTRY STYLE PORK RIBS.....	\$2⁵⁹ lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF STRIPLOIN STEAKS.....	\$7⁷⁷ lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP ROUND ROAST or STEAKS.....	\$4⁹⁹ lb
USDA INSP. FROZEN BONELESS CENTER CUT PORK LOIN.....	\$1⁹⁹ lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP SIRLOIN SPOON ROAST or STEAKS.....	\$6⁶⁹ lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST 10 LB BAG.....	\$1⁹⁷ lb
USDA INSP. STORE MADE HAM SALAD.....	\$3⁹⁹ lb	USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY 80% LEAN GROUND BEEF 7 LB BAG.....	\$3⁷⁹ lb	USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS 10 LB BAG.....	77¢ lb
SLICED IN OUR DELI SWISS CHEESE.....	\$4⁸⁹ lb	USDA INSP. STORE MADE BONELESS CAROLINA GOLD MARINATED CHICKEN THIGHS.....	\$2⁹⁹ lb	USDA INSP. FRESH MINNISMET SLOW ROASTED BACON 2 LB.....	\$4⁹⁹ ea
USDA INSP. FRESH BEEF BRISKET.....	\$4²⁹ lb	USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN AT SEA TILAPIA FILLETS.....	\$3⁹⁹ lb		

TAILGATE TIME!

90 Meat Outlet
HOURS: Mon. - Wed. 8-4
 Thurs. 8-6 • Fri. 8-6 • Sat. 8-3
 90 Avocado St. Springfield
 413-737-1288
 www.90meat.com
 We reserve the right to limit quantities.

SALE DATES: 10/10/24-10/16/24 BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE

- opinion -



Autumn related questions for the Garden Lady

Deborah, who gardens in Hardwick, wrote in with this question for the Garden Lady.

“When would be the best time for me to divide and replant my Black Eyed Susan plants? I have a healthy clump growing near my deck, and I have a couple other spots that could benefit from their all-summer long blooming habit.”

I am fairly certain that Deborah is talking about perennial Black Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia fulgida* var. *sullivantii* “Goldsturm”). This 1999 Perennial Plant of the Year is a hardy perennial that makes a thick carpet of foliage underneath the black centered yellow daisy-like flowers.

The plant is easy to take care of and is drought tolerant. It’s also noteworthy to mention that both deer and rabbits don’t seem too interested in it, but bees and butterflies do love it, and songbirds will visit the spent flowers in search of a seedy meal.

Goldsturm tops off at about two feet tall and enjoys full sun to bloom best. But alas, I digress from Deborah’s question.

I usually don’t divide my perennials much after mid-September at the latest. I want the plants to have a chance to root well before winter, so that the impending freeze/thaw cycles won’t heave the crown out of the ground and into harm’s way.

My recommendation would be to divide as soon as the plant comes alive in the spring, watering the divisions well for a month or so until well established.

While Deborah had my attention she asked a second question. “It is my first time growing dahlias. I was lured into buying a mixed box of tubers in the spring. Boy those pictures on the front of the box caught my eye. It took them awhile to sprout, and even longer to bloom. Just within the last few weeks am I beginning to enjoy the flowers. Is it true that you have to dig them up for the winter, or are they hardy around here?”

Great timing on this question, Deborah!

I am part of a dahlia lover’s group on social media, and the consensus is that indeed, some dahlias have been slow to flower this year. Mine have, for sure!

I think it has to do with all of the rain we had soon after planting. The tubers will sometimes struggle or rot if it’s too wet. It’s interesting to hear from some members of the group – especially those closer to Boston or Cape Cod, having luck with tubers overwintering in the ground.

I guess it’s a gamble, but I am of the habit of digging them up. It’s taken me awhile to build my collection and I don’t want to lose it, and honestly, we never know what kind of winter we’ll have.

Here is how you get the job done: Dig up dahlia tubers either just prior to or soon after frost hits. Leave a small portion of stem attached to the tubers – it is a great place to adhere a label.

Plastic tape works like a dream – and leaves you ample room to write down notes in addition to the variety.

Take it from me – it is easy to forget a name over the winter months and also easy to forget height, or vigor!

Soil should be eased off the tubers with a spray of water before placing in storage.

See GARDEN | PAGE 5



Hiking Column

Chasing every trail in the wilderness

By Julie Midura

It was a rough weekend in the Sandwich Wilderness.

Three days, three nights, 19 trails, 38.6 miles, one black bear encounter, one startled partridge encounter, 168,952 mosquitoes (give or take a few), and a handful of curse words (give or take a few dozen).

It was a weekend when being taken out by a startled partridge who swooped out of the dense brush flapping its wings wildly while making what was assuredly an unintentional beeline straight to my face seemed like a far worse fate than encountering an enormous black bear at a stream crossing.

I have no animosity towards the partridge. Based on the look in its eyes as I dropped to the ground to avoid the impending collision, the bird was just as terrified as I was.

As for the black bear, Tom and I approached a 30 foot wide brook that we needed to ford when we saw the enormous beast coming towards us from downstream. We were about 25 feet from each other when we caught sight of each other, which gave the animal the opportunity to size us up before deciding that we didn’t look very appetizing, and we weren’t worth the effort.

It charged up the embankment on the other side of the stream and disappeared into the woods...in the same direction that Tom and I were going.

It was a weekend of when the steep climbs came one after another after another. To the point that we made the questionable decision of dumping out a large portion of the contents of our backpacks and hiding them behind a truck-sized boulder so that we wouldn’t have to shoulder the heavy weight on the next uphill. We’d pick up everything on the way back down.

Which inevitably made us worry for the next two hours that we’d arrive back at the boulder to find that our tent and sleeping bags would either be gone or be ripped to shreds by the aforementioned bear looking for a soft place to lay his head.

It was a weekend when eating leftover pizza on a mountaintop with beautiful views almost made up for 72 hours of being tormented by every flying, buzzing, stinging insect imaginable, all of whom were intent on sucking every ounce of blood and sanity from my body.

It was a weekend when you don’t want to use insect repellent because you know that there will be no shower at the end of each day and you hate how sticky the bug juice feels on your skin, but you spray yourself



On the summit of Mount Paugus.

anyway, and so liberally that any self-respecting mosquito wouldn’t be caught dead within a mile of you.

But the bug juice ends up being more of an aphrodisiac than a deterrent, and at the end of the day, not only is your skin sticky from the bug spray, but you’re covered in mosquito bites as well.

It was a weekend when you crawl into your tent at the end of the day after hiking for nine long hours in the scorching heat and oppressive humidity, and your long hair is plastered to your head and neck like a second skin and it takes Herculean effort to peel the clothes from your sticky body, and the baby wipes are no match for the stench from days of sweating profusely, no matter how many you use.

It was a weekend when hiking in the pouring rain is actually a welcome relief, even though the added weight from soaking wet gear makes your already heavy backpack feel like there’s a baby elephant strapped to your back.

It was one of those weekends that made us ask ourselves if we really want to complete our goal of hiking every trail in every Federally Designated wilderness area of the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

Frankly, after all of the misery we endured on this backpacking trip, I have just one thing to say...when are we going back?

Follow more of our hiking adventures on Instagram @morethanthemountain

OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

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

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

QUABOAG CURRENT

THE QUABOAG CURRENT (USPS# 10860) is published weekly (every Friday) by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069. Telephone at 413-283-8393 or fax at 413-289-1977. Periodical Postage Prices are Paid at Palmer, MA.

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to: Quaboag Current, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

EDITOR
Paula Quimette
pouimette@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
Dan Flynn
Tim Mara

SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

SOCIAL MEDIA

@QuaboagCurrent

WEB
www.quaboagcurrent.turley.com

Turley
Publications, Inc.
www.turley.com

Turley Publications, Inc. cannot assume liability for the loss of photographs or other materials submitted for publication. Materials will not be returned except upon specific request when submitted.

Connect with us online



Quaboag Current Newspaper

- community -

Fall Festival benefits horse rescue on Oct. 12

WEST BROOKFIELD – Central New England Equine Rescue, Inc. will host its annual Fall Festival at the Farm, 96 New Braintree Road, on Saturday, Oct. 12 from noon-4 p.m.

Come celebrate over 20 years of rescuing horses.

There will be pony rides, face painting, pumpkin decorating, local vendors, raffles, food, drinks and dessert. Deux Amis will perform live folk and jazz music and mounted police units will give demonstrations.

JARS | FROM PAGE 1

Spencer, who opened the café with her husband Richard and their dear friends Joe and Annie Shea, wanted to bring something in to the community that would last a lifetime.

“We’re homegrown”, Spencer said proudly, sharing her very own handmade coloring books for children, as well as menus, business cards, and even rewards cards.

The café is family-oriented and focused on the community, with a wall of board and card games for guests to take down and play, as well as instruments for anyone who wishes to take a guitar off the wall and giving it a play before returning it to its home.

The Sheas and Spencers have a long and deep family history within the community, and that pride and at-home feeling is prominent in their tiny shop.

“I’m blessed to have Sujoy as a sister. She’s my other half,” Annie Shea said.

“She’s my sister, but not by birth,” Spencer agreed about Shea.

When Shea and Spencer realized they both shared a dream to open a bakery of some kind, they jumped on it together along with their husbands, and watched their dreams unfold.

“My favorite part in all this is being with the people who come in,” Spencer said. “Knowing I can contribute to eight families in North Brookfield is wonderful.”

Deanna Wadsworth and Jillian Murrey, bakers at the café, love their job and

working with the regulars and baking new desserts and pastries for all to enjoy.

“I get to use my baking skills to get to know what they like, and I get to spread my wings and learn about baking at the same time,” Murrey said. “We’re like a little family here.”

The café also has a special program called “Free Fridays” where any leftover baked goods from the week too good to toss are put out between seven and nine a.m. on Fridays for anyone to take.

“We donate any way we can, whenever we can, and we serve those who serve us,” Spencer said. the café offers free drinks to firemen, police officers, EMTs, mailmen, and active duty military as a thank you for their service to the community.

You can find many fun evenings to be had at the café. On Thursday nights from 7-9 p.m., there is a special Jammin’ at JARS music night, and there are Game Nights hosted on Fridays from 6-9 p.m.

On Sundays, you can also go to enjoy a special T-4-2, or Tea for Two, where teams of one to four each receive a jigsaw puzzle and some tasty treats, and whoever finishes the puzzle before the time is called gets a prize.

The JARS restaurant is already a positive addition to the community, and Spencer and her partners at the café work hard to ensure all who walk through those doors feel a part of the family, too.



Welcome to JARS Café, a place where all can feel welcome. TURLEY PHOTO BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS



Sujoy’s delicious homemade tomato soup and croutons and a selection of delicious drinks to choose from.



The beautiful set up of the tables, with two delicious gluten free pastries: a whoopie pie and a treacle scone. SUBMITTED PHOTOS BY SUJOY SPENCER

EQLT to host Tree ID Walk with forestry expert on Oct. 12

HARDWICK – The East Quabbin Land Trust will be hosting a Tree ID Walk at its Mandell Hill Preserve in Hardwick on Saturday, Oct. 12, beginning at 2 p.m.

Leading the walk will be Doug Hutcheson, South Quabbin Forester for the Department of Conservation and Recreation Division of Watershed Protection. Hutcheson is responsible for forest management activities in Belchertown, Hardwick and Ware.

A forester with more than 15 years of experience in Massachusetts, Hutcheson will show participants how to identify over 25 tree and shrub species, such as spicebush, hawthorn, and American chestnut, based on a combination of leaves, branching pattern, bark, and habitat. Participants will also be able to see the impacts of drought and the emerald ash borer on forest health.

The walk will follow a 1.5-mile trail at Mandell Hill Preserve, which offers sweeping views of Mount Wachusett and the Ware River Valley and includes open fields and woods with stone walls and hills of easy to moderate difficulty. Walkers are encouraged to have sturdy footwear and a bottle of water and are welcome to bring a tree field guide to look up various species they see along the way.

Hutcheson began his forestry career with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation after earning his master’s degree in Forest Resources Management from UMass-Am-

herst. He has provided technical assistance to landowners and municipalities pertaining to the Chapter 61 Forest Tax and Forest Stewardship programs and served in a regulatory capacity upholding Chapter 132, the Forest Cutting Practices Act.

Prior to his current role, Hutcheson was Program Forester for the DCR Urban and Community Forestry’s Greening the Gateway Cities Program for the central region.

The Tree ID Walk is the first in a series of educational “walks and talks” by EQLT and is open to people of all ages with an interest in learning about our natural surroundings.

Participants are encouraged to bring their curiosity and questions for what is expected to be a fun and interactive walk. All participants are invited to the nearby EQLT office for snacks and refreshments after the walk.

About the East Quabbin Land Trust

Celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2024, the East Quabbin Land Trust was formed in 1994 out of concern for the loss of farmland and wildlife habitat to unplanned sprawl in and around Hardwick.

Since 1998, EQLT has expanded its protection efforts to Barre, Petersham, New Braintree, North Brookfield, and other nearby towns. By working cooperatively with property owners, government agencies, conservation groups and other land trust organizations, EQLT has been able to protect over 6,200 acres in the region.

GARDEN | FROM PAGE 4

Choose a location to overwinter your tubers that maintain 40-50 degrees temps and 90% humidity.

These conditions will keep them dormant and healthy until it is time to replant. Many people have good luck using a cold basement or root cellar; small quantities of tubers can be stored in the crisper drawer of the refrigerator.

Placing tubers in damp peat moss, saw dust, shredded leaves, or even ventilated plastic bags will help to prevent shriveling. Be sure to check on your tubers every couple of weeks throughout the offseason.

Should you see shriveling, mist them with clean water and re-dampen the medium in which they were placed. If you see mold, bring down the temperature and humidity level. Good luck!

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.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER



Professional - Reliable - Fully Insured

Tree Trimming and Removal
Emergency Tree Work • Stump Grinding
Crane Service • Firewood Delivery

All Major Credit Cards Accepted
100% Financing Available

162 Sturbridge Road, Brimfield, MA 01010
508-641-5249 • office@robinsontreeservice.net
www.robinsontreeservice.net

TROOP 144 | FROM PAGE 1

pristine expanse of natural woods, streams and lakes east of the Mississippi River.

The park consists of over 200,000 acres that have limited access by vehicle and the only way to the top of Mount Katahdin is either by foot or helicopter.

To climb Mount Katahdin the troop arrived at Roaring Brook Campground in the park on a Friday night after a day of driving. The troop woke at 5 a.m. on Saturday and after breakfast, the Scouts were on the trail to climb Mount Katahdin at 7 a.m.

The Scouts first took Chimney Pond Trail three miles to Chimney Pond. This trail has a gradual incline but many rocks and boulders and can be likened to walking in a dry stream bed.

Once at Chimney Pond, the group divided into two groups to begin the final three miles and most difficult part of the climb to Baxter Peak via the Saddle Trail. At this point the weather took a turn for the worse with a soaking rain and winds gusting up to 40 mph.

Now above tree line and exposed to the wind and rain, the Scouts climbed over a two mile section of large boulders, often scrambling and pulling themselves up to the next level. As the Scouts were going up several other groups and hikers found the conditions too much and began turning around.

After enduring this difficult stretch for two miles, which could be described as being on a Stairmaster in a car wash, the Scouts gathered together one mile short of the summit for the final push over a moon like landscape of loose rocks.

Arriving finally at the iconic "Katahdin" sign at the summit after five hours of hiking, the troop celebrated with a group photo. There was little time to linger



Troop 144 is shown at the top of Mount Katahdin. SUBMITTED PHOTO

around on the top as the hike down the Saddle Trail would also be long and difficult.

All Scouts arrived wet, tired and sore but safely back at camp after 10 hours of hiking.

Back at camp the Scouts enjoyed an amazing meal of chicken parmesan, corn bread and minestrone soup prepared by Scout Leaders Augie Fauteux and Patrick O'Donnell.

Completing the Katahdin hike were Scout Leaders Steve Labarre, Alan Arenburg, Aaron Langlois, Kerri-Anne Sampson, Arianna O'Neill, Joe Salvadore and Brian Miller. Scouts who completed the Katahdin Hike were Ethan Salvadore, Owen O'Donnell, Parker

Verham, Quinn Fauteux, Finnean Fauteux, William O'Neill, Cooper Sampson, Nicholas Carroll and Andrew Miller.

Scouts that have now climbed all of the highest peaks in each New England state are Scout Leader Steve Labarre, Scouts Ethan Salvadore, William O'Neill and Nicholas Carroll. The highest peaks in each New England state and elevation are as follows: Massachusetts, Mount Greylock, 3,491 feet; Rhode Island, Jerimoth Hill, 812 feet; Connecticut, Mount Frissell, 2,380 feet; Vermont, Mount Mansfield, 4,395 feet; New Hampshire, Mount Washington, 6,288 feet; and Maine, Mount Katahdin, 5,267 feet.

ANNIVERSARY | FROM PAGE 1

use prevention dating back to 1996 when she became managing director of STOP (Stop Teenage Addiction to Tobacco).

Gramarossa has also been active serving her hometown community of Belchertown, serving on the Board of Health for six terms from 1998 until 2016 and the Select Board from 2019-2022. Currently, Gramarossa serves on the Belchertown Opioid Settlement Fund Advisory Committee.

Throughout the years, Gramarossa has worked with the Collaborative for Educational Services with the SPIFFY Coalition and was a founding member of the Community Health Solutions consulting group. In 2007 she brought Social Norms campaigns to Easthampton and Northampton.

In 2010 she worked for the Center of Healthy Communities and from 2015-2018 she served on the Holyoke Community College faculty teaching the Community Health Workers class.

In 2014, the Substance Use Task Force (renamed the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance in 2017) was formed by the Quaboag Hills Community Coalition. In December of 2016, Gramarossa was hired to lead the alliance, which she has done for the better part of a decade before Emily Kirby took over earlier this year.

Gramarossa has also worked to secure hundreds of thousands of dollars in grant funding for the communities she has represented.

"Gail has just been someone tremendously impactful," state Sen. Jake Oliveira said.

Oliveira said bringing attention to substance use disorders in rural areas has been a challenge, and that Gramarossa, the alliance and its partners, have made incredible strides to do so.

"There is not a family that hasn't been impacted," he said when talking about substance use.

Oliveira said that both Sen. Ryan Fattman and Sen. Peter Durant were unable to attend, but wanted to join him in honoring Gramarossa on her retirement, and for the alliance reaching its 10 year anniversary.

"Both really wanted to be here to celebrate this milestone," he said.

State Rep. Aaron Saunders echoed Oliveira's statements about the alliance's steps to overcome the opioid



State Sen. Jake Oliveira (right) talks about the positive impact Gail Gramarossa has had on the community. TURLEY PHOTO BY PAULA OUIJETTE

epidemic, and shared his appreciation "for the work everyone does."

"The ability to get resources to the people who need it...the fact that this alliance persevered is nothing short of amazing," he said. "We will continue to support your efforts for the next 10, 20 plus years."

Saunders shared his memories from his first time meeting Gramarossa at his daughter's soccer game, and how she introduced herself to all of the parents there.

"She's someone you knew cared," he said.

Oliveira said the alliance and its partners have been key in helping state legislators address the opioid crisis and substance use. Gramarossa has been instrumental in making positive changes and connecting people to necessary resources.

"We didn't know where to turn a lot of the time, but we could turn to wonderful community partners, and Gail, you're certainly part of that," he said.

Gramarossa said she is "so grateful" that both Oliveira and Saunders represent her community, and she has enjoyed getting to know them.

She credited all of those involved with the alliance and beyond for working together to continue making progress to prevent and treat substance use disorder

"There's so many hundreds of people behind all of this," she said.

Gramarossa said in all of her work in the field, she is proudest about the creation of the alliance, and all of the local work that came out of it.

"Each and every town really stepped up," she said.

Looking to the future of the alliance, Gramarossa said she hopes that new people will continue to get involved and help it grow.

"It really helps to have all this collaboration to get this moving," she said.

Another goal achieved by the alliance that Gramarossa is proud of is the creation of the Recovery Center of HOPE, which now has expanded to two locations on Main Street in Ware. She is also happy that both Ware and Belchertown have access to a mobile methadone van.

"10 years ago, would we have thought about a mobile methadone van? About needle exchange?" she said.

Gramarossa said the alliance and its partners have worked to help promote awareness about substance use, and to reduce the stigma associated with it.

"There's a lot of knowledge out in the community now," she said.

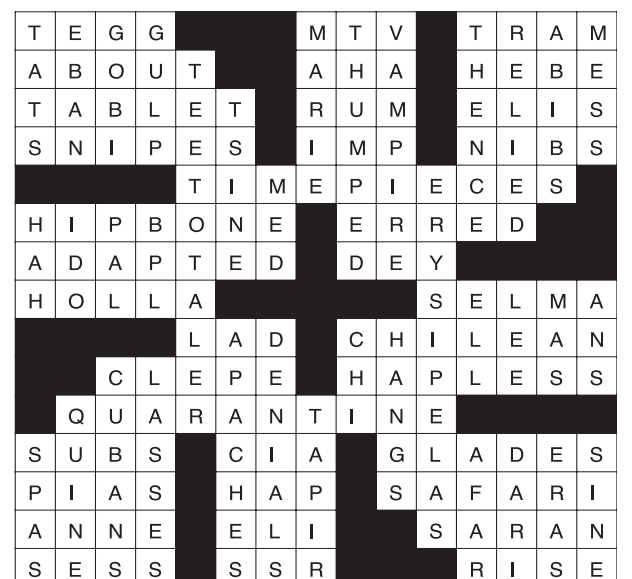
About QHSUA

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

Its mission is to work collaboratively to prevent and reduce substance misuse, especially among youth; to break down the stigma associated with substance use disorder; to reduce health problems resulting from substance use disorder; to contribute to community efforts to expand access to treatment services, and to value all pathways to recovery.

The QHSUA serves the towns of Barre, Belchertown, Brimfield, Brookfield, Hardwick, Hubbardston, Holland, Monson, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Oakham, Palmer, Spencer, Wales, Ware, Warren and West Brookfield.

For more information, visit qhsua.org.



LOCAL KETONE PROMOTER
Call For Information
413-813-2391
 Leave Message
 Check Out Facebook at
Denise Dubowski
Save Up To 25% OFF
Retail Prices

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.

This group will be held in zoom, is educational, confidential, and free.

Please contact **Pat James 413-726-8661.**

Town Clerk lists voter information for Presidential Election

WEST BROOKFIELD – The 2024 Presidential Election will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 5, with polling hours from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. at the West Brookfield Senior Center, 73 Central St.

The last day and time to register to vote for the election is Saturday, Oct. 26 at the Town Clerk's office, 2 East Main St. from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The Vote by Mail application deadline is Tuesday, Oct. 29 at 5 p.m. and the last day to vote in person absentee is Monday, Nov.

4 at noon at the Town Clerk's office.

Early Voting hours will be available on Saturday, Oct. 19 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; Monday, Oct. 21 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Tuesday, Oct. 22 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Wednesday, Oct. 23 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Thursday, Oct. 24 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Saturday, Oct. 26 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; Monday, Oct. 28 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Tuesday, Oct. 29 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Wednesday, Oct. 30 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; and Thursday, Oct. 31 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Early Voting will take place at the Town Hall, in the first floor conference room, 2 East Main St.

Each registered voter will have received by mail, an application which will allow them to vote from home if they wish. If you have not received an application, please notify the Town Clerk's office by calling 508-867-1421, extension 2.

Ballots are being mailed as applications are received.

MEETING | FROM PAGE 1

worked for both Country Bank and TMS, Inc.

"Nikki has a strong background in accounting," he said.

The Payroll Specialist position has been filled by Lorena Prokop, a former employee of the Town of Warren. He said Prokop has been the Payroll Specialist for the Spencer/East Brookfield Regional School District and the Assabet Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School.

"We are probably in one of the best positions we've been in in a long time in terms of those two positions," he said. "We're very lucky to have gotten those two individuals for those key roles in the central office."

Food Services update

Food Services Director Melissa Mansfield said there are a lot of exciting things happening with the school district's food services, including the approval of a new dishwasher for WCES, the arrival of a new milk cooler, the painting of the Quaboag Regional Middle High School kitchen, a new serving line and stove at WBES.

She said the food services department has a full staff and is using a new point of sale system.

"Everything is going really well so far," she said. "It's nice to be able to have some funds coming in and be able to replace all the aging equipment and start to elevate our program a little bit more."

Mansfield said these upgrades are being paid for from the food services revolving fund. She said the more students receive meals, the more the school district is reimbursed for those meals, which then goes into the revolving fund.

"As long as meals are free in the state, then we're getting 100% reimbursement," she said.

Mansfield said the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education notified the school district that they needed to spend some of the funds in the revolving fund. Using these revolving funds has allowed the school district to cover some costly capital needs.

Superintendent's report

Duff said each elementary school uses a different math curriculum and the administrative team will be piloting two different curriculums this year, which are IntoMath and Eureka.

"The goal would be to pilot this year to pick a curriculum for next year, and to apply for the grant funding so we can pay for the textbooks out of grant funding," he said.

Duff said the English Language Arts/reading curriculum that is being implemented was purchased using grant funding, saving the school district hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Duff said there are currently 39 eighth grade students registered to attend the Washington, D.C. trip scheduled for March 2025. The trip usually has about 80-100 students.

Duff said the cost of the trip has increased substantially, now averaging about \$1,200 per student. He said he spoke with Principal Casey Handfield and discussed the possibility of postponing the trip until the next school year and offering it to both the eighth and ninth grade students.

Duff said both West Brookfield and Warren will be using their opioid settlement money to pay for a visit

from Chris Herren, a substance use speaker and former NBA player.

Duff said the Extended School Year program provided a positive experience for students this past summer. He said initial transportation challenges were quickly worked out.

He said the middle/high school ESY program made several community outings, including trips to the Rock House and to local restaurants where they could practice life skills and financial management.

LED lighting has been installed at the district's three schools, and is expected to provide a significant energy cost savings. LED lighting has also been added to the pathway leading to the football field at Quaboag.

Recognitions

School Committee Chair Andrew Schwenker said the first School Committee meeting of the year is dedicated to recognizing members of the community who have volunteered their time and services to the district.

The first person he recognized was Highway Surveyor Jeremy Olson for paving over the potholes at the middle high school and the elementary school in Warren.

Schwenker also recognized Country Bank for providing a donation for a tailgating event during the first football game of the season.

"They're always very generous to the Quaboag regional district," he said.

Schwenker recognized Flexcon in Spencer for providing security screening materials for the lower level windows at Quaboag Regional Middle High School. He said soon the same materials will be added to both elementary schools.

Duff recognized a local tree company owner, who has donated his time and services to remove brush from around WCES.

Student Advisory Council report

Students Allison and Katelynn presented a report about school happenings including the Senior Sunrise held for grade 12 students at the start of the school year.

"It was very foggy, but we made the best of it with cornhole, coffee and donuts," Katelynn said.

She said a link was sent out to order senior class T-shirts on Sept. 13.

Allison and Katelynn said the various grade levels are busy planning and preparing for upcoming fundraisers.

This sports season, the grade 11 class office is responsible for the Snack Shack which is usually open for most boys and girls soccer games and football games. The grade 11 class is also considering hosting a calendar raffle.

A basketball night will be hosted by the sophomore class on Nov. 14 to raise money.

The grade nine class is planning to host a Bingo

night as well as Penny Wars as fundraisers. Class dues will be collected during the month of November.

In the middle school, grades eight students will also collect class dues and plan fundraisers for the Washington, D.C. field trip. Grade seven students have adjusted well to middle school and will soon be voting on a class board.

Schoolwide events are already taking place, including events helping to prepare students for college. Falls sports are underway including boys and girls soccer, field hockey, cross country, football and golf.

On Sept. 11, Fire Academy students visited the Warren Fire Department for a 9/11 memorial ceremony. Juliette Boos was appointed to the role of lieutenant in the Fire Academy.

Duff shared some of the accomplishments both Katelynn and Allison have achieved as students and athletes.

He said Katelynn scored five goals in two games and hopes to continue playing field hockey when she attends college after graduation next year. She also completed the certified nursing assistant and phlebotomy programs at the school last year.

Allison, who was a Fire Academy student last year, began volunteering with the West Brookfield Rescue Squad this spring, assisting on a number of calls since then.

"I saved a life," she said.

Duff said nine of the 14 Fire Academy students from last year are actively involved with the Warren, West Brookfield and North Brookfield fire departments.

"Once again, two students that have taken advantage of the programs that we offer that help guide where you're going to end up," he said.

Driver's education class

Duff said state Rep. Todd Smola has been instrumental with helping the school district contact the professional driver's license school at the Registry of Motor Vehicles in order to start a driver's education class at the middle high school. He said the RMV will make a site visit to ensure the classroom is Americans with Disabilities Act compliant and meet technology requirements for driver's education.

Capital improvement plan

Duff said the school district submits a yearly capital improvement plan to each town. He said Warren Town Administrator James Ferrera reached out to him about some capital improvement projects that he would like to see move forward.

He said the capital improvement plan will be presented to the Budget Subcommittee, and it will also be forwarded to the School Committee.

RAAC update

Schwenker said a meeting of the Regional Agreement Amendment Committee is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 9 at 7:30 p.m.

Support the local businesses that support your local newspaper.

Let them know you saw their ad in the

Quaboag Current

Function
Space
Available





HARDWICK CROSSING
EST. 2022

COUNTRY CLUB

BOOK YOUR EVENT WITH US!

262 Lower Road, Gilbertville • 774-757-8907 • Pro Shop 774-261-2634
hardwickcrossing.com

OPEN 7 DAYS FOR LUNCH, DINNER & GOLF
Specials Posted on Facebook & Instagram

<p>Monday - 6:30 p.m. TRIVIA NIGHT</p>	<p>Large Wedding & Event Hall Available</p>	<p>Large Outdoor Dining Seating Area</p>
<p>Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. MUSIC BINGO</p>		

Visit Our Website For More Details

<p>Prime Rib Every Thursday, Friday & Saturday Online Ordering Curbside Pick-up Available</p>	 <p>Halloween Party Saturday, November 2nd, 7 p.m. Costume Contest Live Music by Tequila Mockingbird</p>
--	--



The Barre Masonic family consists of the Mt. Zion Lodge of Freemasons, Cradle Rock Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star and Barre Assembly, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls. All three organizations were joined at Barre's 250th celebration parade by Most Worshipful George F. Hamilton who was accompanied by members of the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts. TURLEY PHOTO BY PAULA OUIMETTE

To be one, ask one

Masonic organizations continue to serve community

By Paula Ouimette

Editor

pouimette@turley.com

BARRE – As the town of Barre celebrates its 250th anniversary this year, it is important to recognize several organizations located right off the common that are also reaching some momentous milestones.

Chartered almost 225 years ago in Hardwick, Mt. Zion Lodge of Freemasons moved to Barre on March 14, 1855. Half of its original members hailed from Hardwick, while the rest were from the “lost towns” of Greenwich and Enfield.

“This lodge was chartered just after Paul Revere went out as Grand Master,” John Fritscher, Master of Mt. Zion Lodge said.

Having originally met upstairs in the Town Hall, the lodge is now located at 71 Pleasant St., sharing its space with other Masonic-affiliated organizations, including Cradle Rock Chapter No. 125, Order of the Eastern Star and Barre Assembly #114, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls.

These active organizations serve the community and also provide a lasting, close-knit bond between its members that for many, has spanned generations.

Fritscher has been involved with Mt. Zion Lodge since 1995 and is also a member of Cradle Rock Chapter, where he serves as its Worthy Patron. He is also a past District Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Masons.

“I had no intention of being initiated in Masonry,” Fritscher said. “And it just took off.”

Fritscher said he enjoys the company and fellowship of the organizations, which he said are part of one big “Masonic family,” with each member being like a sister or brother, terms that are found throughout the pages of the rituals.

Simon Maznick, who is the Senior Warden of Mt. Zion Lodge, said its approximately 75 members come from Barre, Oakham, Ware, Palmer and other surrounding towns, and many members affiliate with other lodges as well.

“Everybody joins a certain lodge for a certain reason,” Fritscher said.

Mt. Zion Lodge is part of the 25th Masonic District (formerly the 13th District), along with lodges located in West Brookfield, Rutland, Holden and more.

Mt. Zion Lodge is responsible for a number of community events, including its summer chicken barbeque, Halloween haunted house and Christmas tree sale.

The 25th Masonic District also hosts a weekly cruise night throughout the summer at Klem’s in Spencer. This Wednesday night tradition was started by the late John Bettencourt, a member of Mt. Zion Lodge who passed away in 2020.

The Masons host an open house each October, inviting community members into the lodge to learn what the organization is about, and how they can join.

Maznick said he wasn’t sure what Freemasonry was until he had attended one of Mt. Zion Lodge’s open houses.

“I more or less had no idea what it was,” he said.

When he came to the open house,

he saw many familiar faces he had seen around town, and many people he knew from growing up here.

“I felt comfortable and know everybody,” he said. “I do it for the community.”

Fritscher said all three of the organizations work well together, forming a multigenerational team that is welcoming to all.

Rainbow, which serves girls ages 10-21, has been an active part of the Masonic family at Mt. Zion Lodge since the 1960s. Some of the assembly’s original charter members still visit even 60 plus years after their initiation.

The International Order of the Rainbow for Girls is set to celebrate its centennial year in 2025.

Led by Mother Advisor Beckie Ward, the Rainbow girls are familiar faces helping to serve at Mt. Zion and Cradle Rock dinners, and they are always present at community events.

Ward’s family has long been involved with Masonic organizations, including her mother (a former past Mother Advisor), sister and grandparents. Ward’s daughter, Nitasha, is also involved with the assembly after reaching her majority several years ago.

Girls come from Barre, Hardwick, Oakham, Ware, Athol, Chicopee and even New Hampshire to attend meetings held twice a month at the lodge.

Ward said her favorite part of being Mother Advisor is seeing the girls grow.

“They start off shy, then you see them speak publicly without a problem,” she said. “The leadership in them develops.”

Ward said Rainbow continues to be

a place where girls can find themselves and enjoy the sisterhood with their peers. This unique organization helps form friendships that remain strong despite time and distance.

“You can come back years later and still feel at home,” she said.

Nitasha agreed with her mother, adding, “you can make friendships that last a lifetime.”

Building membership is important to all of the organizations, Ward said. Maznick said to be a Mason, just ask one.

“Everybody is welcome,” Fritscher said.

About the Masonic family

Masons of Mt. Zion Lodge meet on the first Wednesday of each month and for more information visit mtzionlodge.org or follow Mt. Zion Lodge, A.F. & A.M. on Facebook. Mt. Zion Lodge will be hosting a vendor event on Sunday, Sept. 29 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Klem’s, 117 West Main St., Spencer.

Cradle Rock Chapter meets on the third Wednesday of each month. Be sure to watch for Cradle Rock Chapter’s Designer Pancake Breakfasts and holiday cookie walk.

Eastern Star is for men and women ages 18 and over. Men must be Master Masons in good standing with a lodge and women must have a relative (past or present) who is a Master Mason or be a majority member of Rainbow.

Barre Assembly meets on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month. For more information, people may email Ward at labadore_7@msn.com.

DCR launches new interactive fall foliage map

BOSTON – As part of its ongoing effort to promote the enjoyment of the state’s picturesque natural resources, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation rolled out a new interactive Fall Foliage Map.

The new map is designed to allow residents and visitors to better plan their foliage viewing by providing updates on peak foliage conditions at DCR properties across Massachusetts.

“Our parks come alive in the fall, and we want everyone to have the best opportunity to experience the beauty of Massachusetts’ natural landscapes,” said DCR Commissioner Brian Arrigo in a press release. “The new interactive foliage map will make it easier than ever to enjoy the season, whether you’re planning a weekend getaway or a day trip to one of our parks.”

By selecting a date, users can see where across the state leaves will be at peak color change. Based on cur-

rent conditions compared to previous years, DCR’s forestry staff predicts that most of the state will see peak colors in mid-October, with certain areas in western Massachusetts peaking slightly earlier.

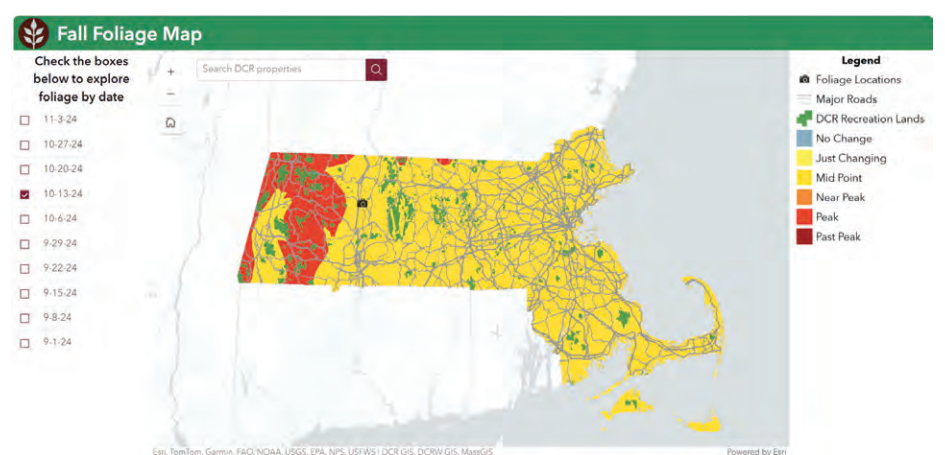
The map also features photos of DCR parks and properties taken by staff during previous fall seasons to give visitors a preview of what they may see on their foliage expedition.

The map is optimized for use on desktop and mobile devices, ensuring accessibility for all users. DCR’s Interactive Fall Foliage Map is now available online and on DCR’s Fall Foliage webpage.

DCR’s Fall Foliage webpage also highlights 17 recommended foliage viewing spots in the state park system along with hiking trails, picnic areas, and scenic overlooks at the locations.

About DCR

The Massachusetts Department of



This interactive map showcases when leaves will change at Department of Conservation and Recreation properties across the commonwealth. SUBMITTED IMAGE

Conservation and Recreation, an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, dams, and parkways. Led by Commissioner Brian Arrigo, the agency’s mission is to protect, promote,

and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources for the wellbeing of all.

To learn more about DCR, its facilities and programs, please visit www.mass.gov/dcr or email mass.parks@state.ma.us.

✉ sports@turley.com

🐦 @turleysports

📘 facebook.com/turleysports

SPORTS

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WARREN—A year ago, the Quaboag field hockey team won both games that they played against Southern Worcester County League rival Tantasqua Regional.

The Lady Cougars winning streak continued against the Lady Warriors following a 4-1 home win on a beautiful fall af-

ternoon, last Friday.

“This is our third win in a row against Tantasqua and it just feels awesome because we’re such a young team this year,” said Quaboag senior tri-captain Katelynn Swistak. “Tantasqua is probably one of our biggest rivals, and it has been an up and down series against them during the six years that I’ve been playing for the varsity field hockey team.”

The Lady Cougars (5-4) posted a 3-1 win over the Lady Warriors in their first meeting last year. They also defeated them, 4-0, in a home game at the end of the season.

The Lady Warriors swept the season series in 2021 and 2022.

Last Friday’s contest was the fourth game of the week for Quaboag and they went

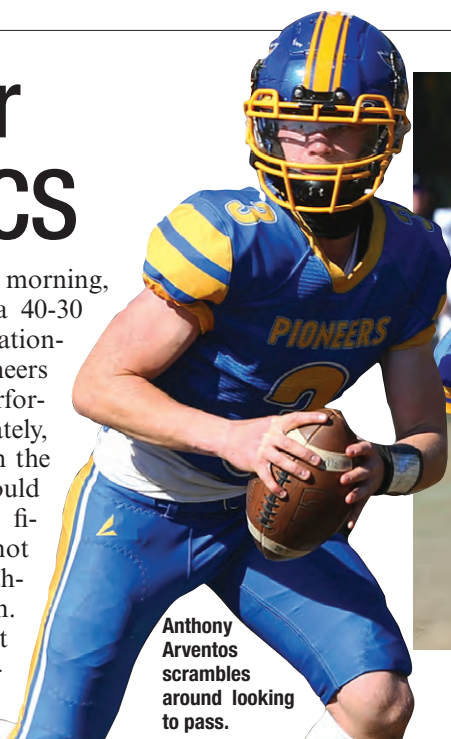
See **COUGARS** | PAGE 11



Alyssa Kuszupa looks to clear the ball up the right side of the field. TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI.

Pathfinder falls to SICS

PALMER – Last Saturday morning, the Pathfinder Tech suffered a 40-30 loss against Springfield International Charter School. The Pioneers put up their best offensive performance of the year. Unfortunately, the Pioneers fell behind 12-0 in the first quarter. The Pioneers would outscore the Cybercats in the final three quarters, but could not make up the early deficit. Pathfinder drops to 0-4 on the season. The Pioneers face Monument Mountain on the road this Friday night at 7 p.m.



Anthony Arventos scrambles around looking to pass.



Cassian Kowalik goes for the tackle. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOG-PHOTOS.COM



Stephen Curtis makes a block for the Pioneers.



Nicholas Pfister looks for the end zone.



Dustyn Cook makes the reception.

Pathfinder handles Putnam

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

SPRINGFIELD—Despite playing only two home matches during the first month of the regular season, the Pathfinder Tech boys’ soccer team entered October with a 6-2 overall record.

The Pioneers road journey continued as they defeated the Putnam Voc./Tech Beavers, 5-1 at Forest Park in Springfield last Tuesday afternoon.

“We haven’t played Putnam in a few years, so we really didn’t know what to expect

See **PATHFINDER** | PAGE 10

Correction:

In last week’s coverage of Quabbin versus Quaboag football, the paper incorrectly reported Quaboag as the winner of the game. Quabbin won the game 34-0. We apologize for the error.

- sports -

PATHFINDER | FROM PAGE 9

coming here,” said Pathfinder Tech head coach Dave Wilson. “This is a very good win for us. We didn’t suffer any more injuries or get any yellow cards.”

The Pioneers only two losses have come on the road against the Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School, and Springfield International Charter School. The final score in both of their matches were 3-1.

Senior Ethan DeBettencourt, who’s normally a starting defender, didn’t play in the Pioneers first meeting on the soccer pitch against the Beavers since the start of the 2019 regular season because of an injury.

“Ethan is our starting right fullback, but he missed today’s game because of an injury,” Wilson added. “We also had several other players who are nursing injuries. We just need to keep an eye on them.”

Another senior listed on the Pioneers soccer roster is Evan Costa, who recorded a hat-trick against the Beavers (1-5-2).

“Evan just loves playing the game of soccer, and he works very hard,” Wilson said. “I returned as the varsity soccer coach when he was a sophomore. He was already a talented soccer player at that time. He’s also approaching 100 career points (Goals + Assists) which will be a great accomplishment for him.”

Costa finished the road game against Putnam with 98 career points. He was hoping to achieve the elite milestone in a



Zander Auffrey makes a throw-in.

home match against the Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School, but that match ended in a scoreless draw.

“I realized at the beginning of the season that I was very close to reaching 100 career points,” Costa said. “It will be awesome when I do reach the milestone. I also have several hat-tricks this



Goalie Aidan Santiago punts the ball away. TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

season, which feels great.”

The only other Pathfinder boys’ soccer player to reach 100 career points was Byron Peabody, who broke the school record for goals in a season in 2021.

The Pioneers scored their first goal in the road game against Putnam on a free kick five minutes into the opening half. The kick was taken by junior Adonis Dupre and the ball was redirected into the right corner of the net off the foot of junior Jaleel Roman.

Dupre and Roman both attend Palmer High School. They’re able to play soccer at Pathfinder Tech as part of a co-op between the neighboring schools.

During the 13th minute of the opening half, Costa fired a shot into the net that deflected off the right post giving his team a 2-0 advantage. Sophomore Cayden Bousquet was credited with the assist.

About 20 minutes later, Costa scored his second goal, which was unassisted, on a low shot into the net.

The Pioneers held a commanding 3-0 lead at halftime.

Costa completed his hat-trick with another goal two minutes into the second half, which was assisted by senior Justin Davis.

The Pioneers final goal of the road match was scored by Bousquet during the 55th minute.

The only goal allowed by Pathfinder senior goalie Aiden Santiago came on a breakaway shot from senior Elian Cepeda with about 15 minutes remaining in regulation.

The two boys’ soccer teams are scheduled to meet again at Pathfinder Tech on Thursday afternoon.



Cayden Bousquet crosses to the right side of the field with the ball.



Jaleel Nevue-Roman and Evan Costa go after the ball.



Brody Wetnicka goes after the loose ball.



Adonis Dupre clashes with an opposing player.

New inductees for HoopHall’s Superfan gallery

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced the addition of four new SuperFans to its James F. Goldstein SuperFan Gallery. Billy Crystal, Alan Horwitz, Spike Lee, and Jack Nicholson will be recognized during the Hall of Fame’s SuperFan Celebration on Sunday, Oct. 13 at 1 p.m. on the Jerry Colangelo Court of Dreams.

The event will be held as part of the Hall’s Enshrinement Weekend festivities, at which a new class of Hall of Famers will be inducted during a ceremony beginning at 6:00 PM at Springfield’s Symphony Hall.

“We are excited to welcome Billy Crystal, Alan Horwitz, Spike Lee, and Jack Nicholson into our SuperFan family,” said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. “These

individuals have not only been passionate fans but have also significantly contributed to the rich culture of basketball. Their unwavering dedication to the game and their ability to connect with fans make them truly deserving of this recognition.”

These four celebrated SuperFans will join a group of basketball enthusiasts who have made a profound impact on the game through their loyalty, passion, and dedication. The Hall of Fame has previously honored Jim Goldstein, the gallery’s namesake, along with SuperFans Penny Marshall and Nav Bhatia. Both Goldstein and Bhatia, along with Crystal, Horwitz and Lee, will be in attendance during the SuperFan Celebration and the Hall’s prestigious Enshrinement Ceremony.

- sports -

COUGARS | FROM PAGE 9

2-2. They began last week with a 10-1 non-league home win versus Burncoat before losing to SWCL rivals Auburn and Northbridge.

“We started off the week with a good win against Burncoat and we closed it with a win against Tantasqua,” said John O’Neill, who’s been coaching the Quaboag varsity field hockey team since 1982. “We played well against both Auburn and Northbridge, but they’re stronger teams than us. This is probably one of the youngest teams that I’ve ever coached. It’s a lot of fun watching them improve in every game.”

For the first time in 42 years, Quaboag doesn’t have a junior varsity field hockey team.

The Lady Warriors (5-6-1) have had an up and down season so far this fall. They had a 4-1 record following a 4-3 victory at Blackstone-Millville Regional on September 16. They then went 0-4-1 before posting a 4-0 shutout victory on their turf field against Burncoat, last Wednesday afternoon.

“We’ve been playing against some tougher teams during the past couple of weeks,” said Tantasqua head coach Shelby Green. “We were really hoping to win today’s game.”

Swistak, who’ll be continuing her field hockey career at Worcester State University next year, is the only senior listed on the Quaboag varsity field hockey roster.

“I love being one of the captains and teaching the younger players on the team how to play the sport,” Swistak said. “My younger sister, Stephanie, is a seventh grader and she’s a first-year member of the field hockey team. I just love having the opportunity to play with her in my final year on the team. She has improved tremendously since the start of the season and I’m very proud of her.”

The elder Swistak scored the first goal of the home game against Tantasqua with 9:27 left in the opening quarter. Sophomore Lexi Gauthier was credited with the assist.

The Lady Cougars other two goals of the first quarter were scored by sophomore tri-captain Josie Hescocock. Swistak was given the assist on Hescocock’s first goal, which was scored at the 6:15 mark.

Her second goal, which was scored three minutes later, was unassisted.

Quaboag’s other tri-captain is junior Evie Iwaniec.

Tantasqua senior goalie Alyssa Drapuch, who’s also a tri-captain, made eight of her 14 saves during the first 15 minutes of the match.

The Lady Warriors other two senior tri-captains are Libby Dodson and Carsyn Knapik.

Down at the other end of the well-kept grass field, Quaboag sophomore goalie Riley Gray only had to make seven saves during the entire game.

Trailing 3-0, the visitors from Fiskdale got on the scoreboard with a little more than two minutes remaining in the first half following a penalty corner goal by sophomore Dessa Demears, which was unassisted.

“We worked very hard to get that penalty corner goal. We also played well defensively,” Green said. “Quaboag is a very good team and we’re looking forward to playing them again at our place.”

Hescocock recorded her first hat-trick of the season with another unassisted goal five minutes into the third quarter.

“It’s very special getting a hat-trick against our rivals, especially on our home field,” Hescocock said. “Hopefully, we can beat Tantasqua again on their field in a couple of weeks.”

Besides scoring goals, Hescocock also handles the ball very well.

“Josie is like a point guard on our team,” O’Neill said. “She distributes the ball very well. Kate is our leading goal scorer, but when Josie is taking shots, it’s a plus for us.”

The Lady Warriors had possession of the ball for the final five minutes of regulation, but they didn’t have very many scoring chances.



Lina Santos blocks a pass. TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Natalie Bruneau looks to work out of trouble.



Emmy Cooley is pressured by the Cougars’ defense.



Kartina Robbins looks to grab the loose ball.



Kate Swistak makes a backhand dribble.



Evie Iwaniec makes an insert pass on a penalty corner.



Stephanie Krog defends against the Cougars.



Josie Hescocock tries to get around an opponent.

RideN2B on the MCRT

Three-day bike ride aims to finish 100+ mile trail

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – A dozen cyclists set off from Northampton Friday, Sept. 20, traveling across the commonwealth using segments of the Mass Central Rail Trail and roadways.

The cyclists, who are ambassadors for the rail trail, made stops at key communities along the length of the 104-mile trail which runs from Northampton into Boston, with the hope of spreading awareness for the work that still needs to be done to complete the trail along the former railroad corridor.

The first stop of this three-day event was at the New England Small Farm Institute in Belchertown, where the cyclists were joined by the Friends of the Belchertown Greenway and community members for lunch. The second stop was at Grenville Park in Ware, where the ambassadors met with town and state officials, as well as community members.

On the second and third days of the RideN2B, cyclists traveled through the towns of Hardwick, Barre, Rutland, Oakham, Clinton, Hudson, Sudbury, Wayland, Somerville and Cambridge.

Craig Della Penna, volunteer coordinator for the Mass Central Rail Trail and president of the Norwottuck Network, said that Ware is a “pretty special place.”

Della Penna said that Ware serves as a gateway town between two of the commonwealth’s major cities, and that having the rail trail, a “linear park,” was important to both the residents of the



Mass Central Rail Trail supporters and cyclists participated in the inaugural RideN2B from Northampton to Boston held over three days this past weekend. PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE

town, and for increasing and promoting tourism.

“The smaller towns that were robust during the industrial times have fallen on hard times and are coming back,” he said.

Helping create these linear parks is the East Quabbin Land Trust, a Hardwick-based land trust that has been instrumental in developing the Mass Central Rail Trail through the towns of Hardwick, New Braintree and Ware.

The East Quabbin Land Trust is working with the town to secure grant funding to purchase a parcel of land adjacent to Grenville Park in order to further expand the rail trail.

East Quabbin Land Trust’s Executive Director Cynthia Henshaw also announced that additional mileage will be

added to the rail trail in New Braintree with the recent acquisition of the Tanner-Hiller Airport property for the Department of Fish and Game.

“This is amazing,” Della Penna said of the Mass Central Rail Trail’s growth. “Nowhere else in the United States do you see this.”

Della Penna credited the East Quabbin Land Trust with helping to provide a “third place” for residents in the communities it serves. He explained that each person has three places that are important in their lives, with their first being their family, the second their workplace and the third being a social space where people connect with their community.

“There is a definite need to preserve that third place,” Della Penna said.

The Mass Central Rail Trail, once finished, will also become a third place, he said.

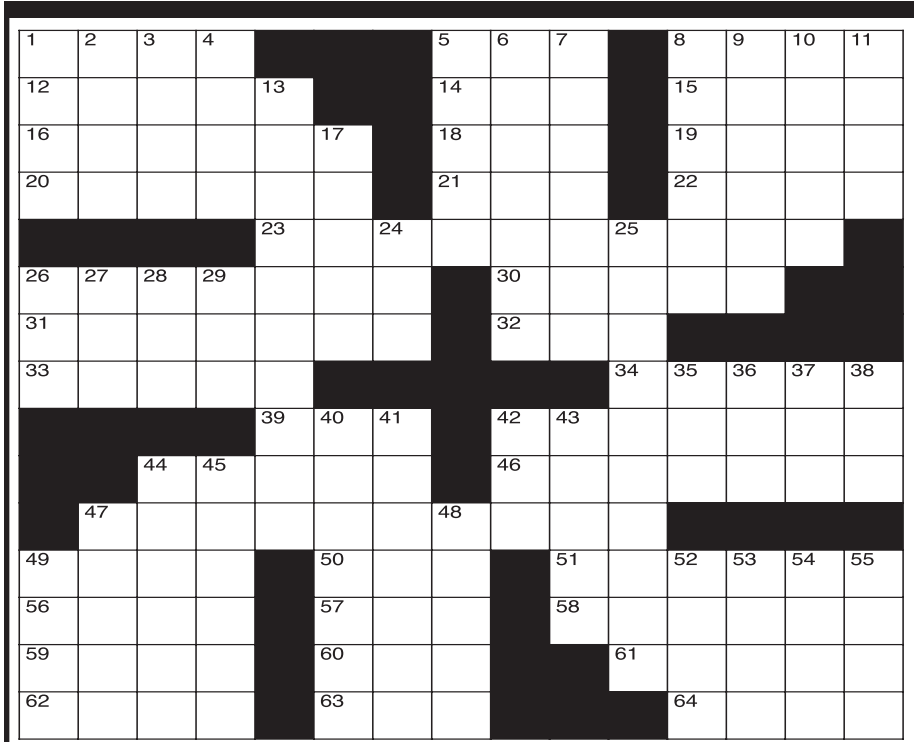
Joining Della Penna at the Grenville Park stop was local rail trail advocate Steven Hawk,

Hawk, a quadriplegic wheelchair-user, spoke about how the rail trail helped him to gain independence in his life, and has been something he has pushed for since he moved to town over 15 years ago. He uses the trail regularly to access his local shopping center and buy groceries for his family.

“It gives so many people an opportunity to get outside,” Hawk said.

Hawk said the rail trail also helps bring people together, in addition to providing an economic boost to the region.

See BIKE RIDE | PAGE 13



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Unsheared sheep
- 5. Rock TV channel
- 8. Streetcar
- 12. Concerning
- 14. Exclamation
- 15. Greek goddess of youth
- 16. Popular type of device
- 18. Alcoholic beverage
- 19. Ancient Olympic Site
- 20. Sharpshoots
- 21. Tyrion Lannister was characterized as one
- 22. Pointed ends of pens
- 23. Measuring instruments
- 26. Midsection body part
- 30. Made a mistake
- 31. Adjusted
- 32. “Partridge” actress Susan
- 33. Yell
- 34. Civil rights city in Alabama

- 39. Young boy
 - 42. Type of sea bass
 - 44. To call (archaic)
 - 46. Unfortunate
 - 47. Separate oneself from others
 - 49. Hero sandwiches
 - 50. Spy group
 - 51. Florida is famous for them
 - 56. Irritating individuals
 - 57. Luck
 - 58. Hunting expedition
 - 59. WWII diarist Frank
 - 60. Peyton’s younger brother
 - 61. Type of wrap
 - 62. Type of overseas tax or levy
 - 63. Soviet Socialist Republic
 - 64. Wake up
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Works of body art
 - 2. Israeli politician Abba

- 3. Renowned desert (abbr.)
- 4. Eat greedily
- 5. She didn’t make it through the Fr. Revolution
- 6. Beat
- 7. Bloodsucker
- 8. From a place already noted
- 9. Counted on
- 10. Alberta Assn. of Baccalaureate World Schools
- 11. Something one can make
- 13. One who abstains
- 17. Wild ox
- 24. Type of student
- 25. Bacterial infection of the skin
- 26. Expresses surprise
- 27. What engaged couples ultimately say
- 28. Crony
- 29. Where one begins

- 35. Architectural designation
- 36. “Matt Houston” actor Horsley
- 37. More (Spanish)
- 38. Autonomic nervous system
- 40. Indigenous peoples
- 41. Deflections
- 42. Circulating life force
- 43. Executes with a rope
- 44. Natives of an island nation
- 45. Girls
- 47. Logician and philosopher
- 48. Nocturnal hooved animal
- 49. Relaxing spaces
- 52. From a distance
- 53. Form of Persian language
- 54. Amounts of time
- 55. Mathematical designation



Cyclists greeted supporters as they made their second stop along the RideN2B route.



Craig Della Penna, volunteer coordinator for the Mass Central Rail Trail and president of the Norwottuck Network, welcomed community members at the RideN2B stop at Grenville Park in Ware.



Mass Central Rail Trail advocate Steven Hawk talks about the importance of the trail to himself and the community.

BIKE RIDE | FROM PAGE 12

“It’s safe and I love it,” he said. Hawk said he hoped the RideN2B event would demonstrate the support the Mass Central Rail Trail has from community members to state legislators; to help secure vital funding needed to complete the trail.

The cyclists shared their thoughts about the ride from Northampton, with many commenting on the beauty of the region, but also the need for more trail access and less use of the roadways.

“There’s gaps...problem areas,” Del-la Penna said.

Pete Sutton of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, was one of the cyclists to join the inaugural RideN2B, noting that his agency will be conducting a comprehensive study to determine the actual cost to complete the rail trail.

Also present at Grenville Park were state Sen. Peter Durant and Director of

Rural Affairs Anne Gobi.

Durant credited those supporting the rail trail for their passion and for getting people “fired up,” about the project. Gobi said the ambassadors and advocates were making a big difference and helping to get people “singing the same song.”

“It will happen,” Gobi said about the completion of the Mass Central Rail Trail.

RideN2B was made possible with support from HUBLUV, the Lawrence & Lillian Solomon Foundation, the Helen & William Mazer Foundation and Adventure East.

The Mass Central Rail Trail is the longest rail trail in New England, providing economic, environmental and health benefits to the 26 communities it intersects. For more information about the work needed to complete the rail trail, visit finishtherailtrail.org or mass-centralrailtrail.org.



Herb Nolan, executive director of the Lawrence & Lillian Solomon Foundation was one of the 12 cyclists to take part in the event.



Anne Gobi, director of Rural Affairs for the Healey-Driscoll Administration, joined those in support of completing the Mass Central Rail Trail.



Pete Sutton of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (left) and Gerald Autler, Director of Trails & Greenways with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation rode into Grenville Park in Ware.



Glenn Pransky, organizer of the RideN2B, is a longtime trail advocate and serves on the Board for the Norwotuck Network and the Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail.



Alexi Conine, president of the Conine Family Foundation was one of the 12 cyclists participating in the RideN2B event.

Send Us Your Holiday Event Information

Turley Publications will print your holiday calendar listings FREE OF CHARGE in our Holiday Dazzler Supplement which publishes Nov. 20th.

Deadline for submissions is October 14th

Community Holiday Events

Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

FREE Calendar Listings Reaching over 200,000 Readers in the Pioneer Valley

Event Name _____

Date/Time _____

Location _____

Description _____

Cost _____

Contact name & phone number for more information _____

Please specify if you would like your name and number printed in the paper.

CLIP OUT AND MAIL TO:
Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069
or email* them to: jamie@turley.com
***Be sure to indicate "Holiday" in the subject line of your email.**

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

FOR SALE
3-PIECE TWIN BEDROOM SET. solid maple, frame and headboard, 5 drawer dresser and nightstand. \$125. Call **413-267-5894.**

CANOE CHIEF RED, 14 ft. Good cond. Two paddles, two back rest. \$150. **413-596-6496.**

MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY. EXTRAORDINARY performance. Central Boiler certified Classic Edge Titanium HDX OUTDOOR WOOD FURNACE. Call today **413-296-4320.**

FIREWOOD
FIREWOOD
 Fresh cut & split \$200.00
 Seasoned cut & split \$300.00
 All hardwood.
 Tree length available
 *Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap). Quality & volumes **guaranteed!!** New England Forest Products **(413)477-0083**

MORE HEAT LESS WOOD. Central Boiler Classic Edge HDX Outdoor Wood Furnace. EPA Certified. Titanium Stainless Steel. 26% Tax Credit. Call **(508)882-0178**

SEASONED FIREWOOD, (1.5-2 YRS) Stored inside off the ground. Cut, split, free delivery within 10 miles. \$250 per cord. Call **413-218-3918.**

SEASONED OAK FIREWOOD Cut, split, delivered, 11"-18", \$275 a cord, \$250 for 2 or more. Edwin Wroblewski Logging, **413-824-0731.** Buying standing timber, paying good money.

TAG SALE
3-FAMILY TAG SALE. OCT. 12-13-14, 8 am-4 pm. Aldenville section of Chicopee. **159 Stebbins St.**

FOR SALE
TAG SALE: OCTOBER 12 & 13, Sat. 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.; Sun. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. **15 Homestead Lane off Hunter, Ludlow.**

WANTED
Buy, Sell & Trade Video Games
Retro World
413-301-5020 M-S 11-7
187 Main St.
Indian Orchard, MA

OLD CARPENTER TOOLS wanted. Planes, chisels, axes, etc. Vintage hunting, camping, cast iron cookware, advertising, motorcycles, clothing. Call Ken **(413)433-2195.**

WANTED TO BUY
ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.
BUYING Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, kitchenware, cookware, knives, military, automotive, fire department, masonic, license plates, beer cans, barware, books, oil cans, advertising tins, hunting, fishing, signs, and more Donald Roy **(860) 874-8396**

FIELDSTONE WALLS WANTED to buy. Looking to purchase large quantities of old stone walls. Please call R.E. Barnes Fieldstone **(978)807-0746**

JUNK REMOVAL
A Call We Haul FAST REMOVAL
 Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts. We load it & take it. **413-531-1936**
 CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

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

SERVICES
 **A B Hauling and Removal Service**

2***A & B HOUSEHOLD REMOVAL SERVICE*******
 Cellars, attics, garages cleaned, yard debris. Barns & sheds demolished. Swimming pools removed. Cheaper than dumpster fees and we do all the work. Lowest rates. Fully insured. **(413)283-6512, cell (413)222-8868.**

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

Advertise your **HOME IMPROVEMENT SERVICES** in our classifieds. **WE GET RESULTS!** Call **413-283-8393**

SERVICES
ELECTRICIAN

NEED AN ELECTRICIAN?
 Look no further! **PJ's Electrical** offers fast and reliable electrical services for your home or business. Call now for a FREE estimate! **(413) 366-1703**
 LICENSED & INSURED

HOME IMPROVEMENT
HANDYMAN RESIDENTIAL REPAIRS. Powerwashing, home repairs, interior/exterior painting, ceiling/wall repairs and chimney repairs. Fully licensed/insured. Lic. #105950CSL. Call **413-566-5596/413-433-5073.**

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

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

LANDSCAPING
****ALL SEASON**** Specializing in shrub trimming, pruning, design, deliveries, loader, backhoe, insured. Professional. Please call Bob **(413)537-5789 (413)538-7954.**

SERVICES
A+ ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BOBCAT SERVICE
 Excavator Services
 Overgrown property?
 Extreme Brush Cutting!
 Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal
 Lawn/Arborvite Installed
 Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand
 Storm Clean-up
 Small Demolition/ Junk Removal
 Insured
Josh Rozell 413-636-5957

MASONRY
STOP WET BASEMENTS
ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT WATERPROOFING

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

STOP WET BASEMENTS NOW! MASONRY FOUNDATION RESTORATION. stairs, walkways, ext. Also roofing, new and repairs welcome. Licensed/Insured. Call **413-978-894-5412 or 978-894-6331.**

PAINTING
DUTCH TOUCH PAINTING
 Interior only \$199.00 for average 12x16 room. Very neat, references, prompt service call **(508)867-2550**

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

ROOFING
JENKINS ROOFING specializing in residential roofs & repairs, chimney repairs. Hampden, MA - **413-566-5596/413-433-5073.** Lic. #105950CSL. Fully insured.

RUBBISH REMOVAL
BOB ROBILLARD'S RUBBISH REMOVAL Attics, Cellars, Garages cleaned, Pools/Hot Tubs Removed. Family owned/operated since 1950 **(413)537-5090**

TREE WORK
AAA-TROM'S TREE SERVICE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE. Residential removal of trees, Free estimates, Fully insured W/Workman's Comp. Remove them before the wind takes them down. Cordwood, stump grinding. Call **413-283-6374.**

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

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

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

PETS
WEST HIGHLAND WHITE TERRIER, neutered male, current on vaccinations, 10 yrs. Best in a home with no other pets. Well behaved, housebroken. Owner is in a nursing home. \$100. **413-782-2305**

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


 Post your job openings in our classifieds. **WE GET RESULTS!**
 Call **1-413-283-8393**

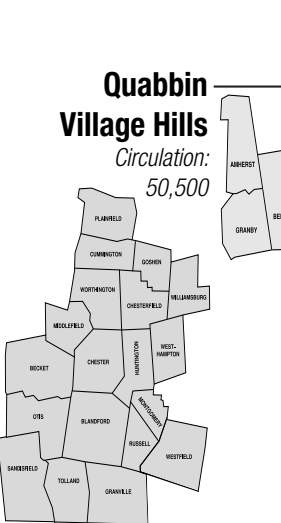
FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 DEADLINES: **MONDAY AT NOON**
 or call: 413-283-8393

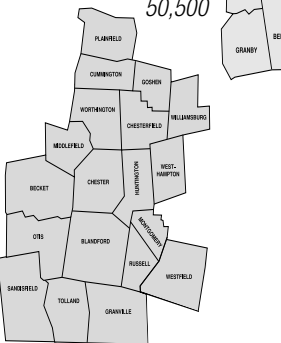
CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	Base Price \$26.50	22	Base Price \$27.00
23	Base Price \$27.50	24	Base Price \$28.00
25	Base Price \$28.50	26	Base Price \$29.00
27	Base Price \$29.50	28	Base Price \$30.00
29	Base Price \$30.50	30	Base Price \$31.00
31	Base Price \$31.50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

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

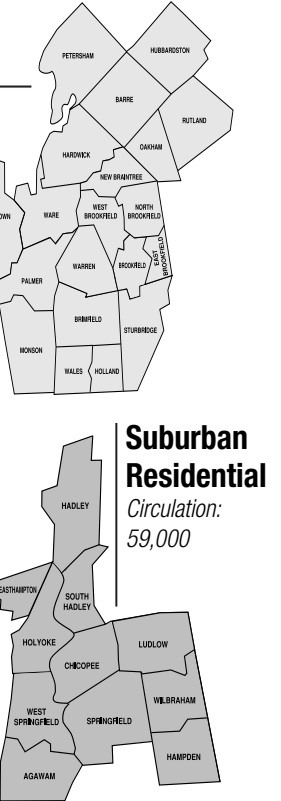
Quabbin
 Village Hills
 Circulation: 50,500



Hilltowns
 Circulation: 9,800



Suburban Residential
 Circulation: 59,000



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

GREAT VALUE!
ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS
SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

Call us at 413.283.8393

HELP WANTED

FULL TIME ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

The Town of West Brookfield is looking for a full time Administrative Assistant for the Highway Department. Candidates must have a high school diploma and at least two years' experience in a similar work environment.

The Administrative Assistant performs a wide variety of general administrative work. Basic responsibilities are accounts payable, payroll, account reconciliation and assisting the Highway Superintendent with Chapter 90 and grant projects.

A full job description and application are available on the West Brookfield website. Applications should be submitted to jdaley@wbrookfield.com. Applications will be accepted until position is filled. Salary is \$19.47 - 24.64 per hour (40 hrs), grade 7.

The Town of Huntington is seeking a part-time **HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** for 16 hours per week. Applicants must be proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, and Outlook. Hours are flexible, but must be worked during the regular highway department hours of Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to assist the Highway Superintendent. Application and complete job description are available online at www.huntingtonma.us or by emailing admin@huntingtonma.us. Position is open until filled. Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

Classified Advertising DEADLINE MONDAY AT NOON

REAL ESTATE



www.newspapers.turley.com

AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS

BARRE GAZETTE

COUNTRY JOURNAL

CHICOPEE REGISTER

THE JOURNAL REGISTER

THE LUDLOW REGISTER

QUABOAG CURRENT

THE SENTINEL

THE SUN

WILBRAHAM-HAMPDEN TIMES

TOWN REMINDER

WARE RIVER NEWS



turleynews



TurleyPublications

- public safety - East Brookfield Police Log

During the week of Sept. 16-22, the East Brookfield Police Department responded to 147 building/property checks, 66 directed area patrols, nine traffic controls, six radar assignments, seven emergency 911 calls, two citizen assists, seven assist other agencies, one investigation, one trespass, four complaints, two motor vehicle accidents, 15 animal calls and 16 motor vehicle stops in the town of East Brookfield.

Monday, Sept. 16

10:25 a.m. Assist Other Agency, South Street, Officer Handled
12:05 p.m. Assist Citizen, Unknown, Services Rendered
4:29 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Adams Road, Transported to Hospital
9:10 p.m. Welfare Check, East Main Street, Transported to Hospital

Tuesday, Sept. 17

4:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning
5:10 p.m. Trespass, South Street, Officer Handled
9:06 p.m. Traffic Control, East Main Street, Written Warning

Wednesday, Sept. 18

8:11 a.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, East Main Street, Services Rendered
9:15 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Connie Mack Drive, Spoken To
10:05 a.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Connie Mack Drive, Services Rendered
1:22 p.m. 911 Suspicious Activity, Podunk Road, Spoken To

6:48 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Route 49, Officer Handled
8:55 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Officer Handled

Thursday, Sept. 19

11 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Station, Officer Handled
2:17 p.m. Investigation, East Main Street, Checked/Secured
Friday, Sept. 20
1:15 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Telephone, Spoken To
10:35 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Baker Hill Road, Transported to Hospital
11:09 p.m. 911 Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, East Main Street, Investigated

Saturday, Sept. 21

1:42 p.m. Complaint, East Main Street, Officer Handled
7:26 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, Podunk Road, Officer Handled
9:30 p.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Harrington Street, Negative Contact
11:38 p.m. Medical Emergency, Howe Street, Transported to Hospital

Sunday, Sept. 22

5:07 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Connie Mack Drive, Officer Handled
10:54 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
2:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
7:49 p.m. Assist Citizen, Out of Town, Services Rendered

- legal notices -

TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

National Grid seeks approval to undertake tree removal and trimming on Scenic Roads in West Brookfield, namely Beaman Road, Coy Hill Road, Pierce Road, Ragged Hill Road and Lyon Road. The removal and

trimming of trees are in relation to a solar connection on Coy Hill Road.

All trees have been tagged for removal and a complete list of their locations is posted along with this notice at the Town Hall and online at www.wbrookfield.com.

The Planning Board and Tree Warden will hold a public hearing at the West

Brookfield Town Hall meeting room, 2 East Main Street at **6:30 PM on October 28th, 2024**. The purpose of the hearing is to provide West Brookfield residents with the opportunity to discuss the planned removal and trimming of trees.

Timothy Morrell
Planning Board Chair
10/11, 10/18/2024

Bag-of-Books Sale at Sturbridge Library

STURBRIDGE – With winter about to knock on our doors people are looking ahead to quiet times with a good book or two or three...or a whole bagful.

Fortunately, 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.

Here's a great opportunity to stock up on books for your children and for yourself. A large selection of children's books will be available on the tables, from board books to advanced readers, along with many young adult books.

Library patrons have been donating

favorite books all year long and this October sale includes hundreds of books for adults. Mysteries, romance, historical fiction, science fiction and just about all your favorite genres.

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.

Come harvest some books and stock up for the winter.

New Braintree Police Log

During the week of Sept. 30-Oct. 7, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 19 building/property checks, 40 directed area patrols, one radar assignment, five traffic controls, five emergency 911 calls, one citizen assist, two assist other agencies, four animal calls and four motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

Monday, Sept. 30

12:39 p.m. Assist Citizen, Unitas Road, Voice Message Left
5:45 p.m. 911 Animal Call, Barre Cut Off Road, Unfounded

Tuesday, Oct. 1

8:50 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Wine Road, Spoken To

Wednesday, Oct. 2

11:33 a.m. 911 Animal Call, Webb

Road, Services Rendered
7:46 p.m. 911 Misdiagnosed, Utley Road, Services Rendered
10:34 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, Hardwick Road, Report Taken

Thursday, Oct. 3

4:40 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Worcester District Attorney, Services Rendered

Friday, Oct. 4

10:57 a.m. 911 Animal Call, West Brookfield Road, Gone on Arrival
2:50 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gilbertville Road, Citation Issued

Sunday, Oct. 6

6:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning

Friends of the Poor walk on Oct. 20 helps neighbors in need

FISKDALE – The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Fiskdale will host a Friends of the Poor walk of up to 2 miles (as each is able) to assist neighbors in the communities with food, clothing, utilities, and housing-related requests.

The walk will be held on Sunday, Oct. 20, from 2-4 p.m. on the grounds of St. Anne St. Patrick Parish, located at 16 Church St.

"The goal of the walk is to generate critical funds to meet an ever-growing need," said Jon Gorman, SVdP Fiskdale president in a press release. "Last year, SVdP volunteers served 55 individual neighbors and 92 families. We hope that the Friends of the Poor will become an annual fundraiser. To bring our community together to support those facing economic hardship."

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is

an international nonprofit organization that helps those living in poverty.

All proceeds, pledges, and donations from the Friends of the Poor walk will directly benefit those neighbors needing emergency food, clothing, transportation, utilities, and housing-related assistance. These are neighbors who live in Brimfield, Brookfield, Holland, Sturbridge and Wales.

With similar walk events happening nationwide, SVdP Fiskdale is proud to join ten other Massachusetts cities and towns to have a walk. It helps bring awareness to the number of people in the local communities struggling to make ends meet.

To learn more, participate, or make a pledge, please visit <https://www.svdp-fiskdale.org/>.

QUABOAG CURRENT

WEST BROOKFIELD Fall Festival at the Farm p5	BROOKFIELD Apple Country Fair returns p2	STURBRIDGE CFC celebrates 7th year p3	Editorial/Opinion Sports Classifieds Police Logs	4 9 14 15
---	---	--	---	--

Volume 17, Number 46

Friday, October 11, 2024

Your BUYLINE CONNECTION

FALL APPLIANCE SAVINGS SPECTACULAR!!!

END OF SEASON BIKE SALE
GIANT TOY DEPARTMENT!!!
HUGE APPLIANCE REBATES!
WEBER GRILL SALE!!!
E BIKE & BIKE SALE!!!!

WHITCO TOY & BIKE

12 MONTHS 0% FINANCING

140 Main St., Spencer
www.whitcosales.com
508-885-9343

Open: Mon.-Fri. 10am-8:30pm, Sat. 9am-8pm, Sun. 12pm-7pm

115 Wickaboag Valley Road, West Brookfield, Welcome to 115 Wickaboag Valley Road in picturesque West Brookfield! This charming 2-bedroom, 1-bath home offers stunning views of Wickaboag Lake, just across the street. As you step inside, you're greeted by a cozy living room with beautiful hardwood floors, leading seamlessly into the kitchen, where you can enjoy peaceful lake views right from your kitchen table. The home features a spacious first-floor bedroom, while the second bedroom is located upstairs for added privacy. The finished basement provides extra living space, ideal for a home office, guest suite, or recreation room. Lovingly maintained by the same owner for 39 years and thoughtfully updated through the years. With the town beach being less than 5 minutes away, this well-cared-for property is perfect for lakeside living or a year-round retreat. \$374,900

YOUR LOCAL REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS

We Do More So You Will Make More!!!

EXIT

Michelle Terry
Broker/Owner

EXIT Real Estate Executives

130 W. Main Street
Spencer, MA 01562

GIVE US A CALL TODAY! 508-202-0008

FARMSTAND IS NOW OPEN!!!

PICK YOUR OWN APPLES!

BREEZELANDS ORCHARDS

Our Donuts Are Famously Delicious!

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

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

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

Looking for that Perfect Home to Buy or Sell?

Call me - your local real estate expert.

Serving Hampshire, Hampden, Worcester counties and beyond!

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

Brookhaven Assisted Care

19 West Main Street, West Brookfield, MA 01585

MANAGEMENT TEAM:
Erin, Laura and Nancy

Over 56 years of service.
24 hour care, Medical Management, Assistance with activities of daily living, Activity Program, well trained, compassionate and caring staff.

Services Available In-House:
Physician's / Nurse Practitioner services, Pharmacy services, Podiatry services

VNA services:
Physical, Speech, Occupational Therapy, Hospice, Mobile X-Ray, Geriatric-Psych services
Transportation available, Hairdresser / Barber
Manager: Erin Glazier
508-867-3325 ~ erin.brookhaven@gmail.com

NOW OPEN
MANY APPLE VARIETIES NOW AVAILABLE

CIDER DONUTS

U PICK APPLES ALL OCTOBER

RAGGED HILL ORCHARDS

Open Daily 9-5 • 508-867-2187
Ragged Hill/John Gilbert Rd., W. Brookfield
www.raggedhill.com

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

WHERE EVERYONE GOES FOR THEIR PIECE OF THE EARTH!

LANDSCAPE STONE

ALL SIZES
White • Blush • Blue • Brown • Purple
Red • Lt Gray • Dark Gray

SCREENED LOAM STORED IN BUILDING

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

Homeowner Friendly • No Minimums

PICK-UP OR CALL TO SCHEDULE YOUR DELIVERY TODAY!

Bond

98 North Spencer Road,
Route 31N, Spencer, MA
508-885-6100
508-885-2480

Sand, Gravel & Asphalt
www.bondsandandgravel.com

Michael Toomey & Associates, Inc. Real Estate

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

Serving all your Real Estate needs!

Adventure tours of Warren
Share the Adventure with us!

NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE 2025

Call now for Best Cabins! Deadlines apply...

MARCH 15
8-Night Bahamas Cruise from \$1499

MAY 23
7-Night Bermuda Cruise from \$1699

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

FOUNTAIN Construction Company *And Sons* INCORPORATED

• Excavation Complete Site Work • Demo • New Home Construction
• Screened Loam, Sand, Stone, Gravel, Septic Sand
• Trucking • Backhoe, Dozer, Excavator Work
• Water & Sewer Line Repairs & Replacements

YOUR BUSINESS IS IMPORTANT TO US!

177 Brimfield Road, Warren, MA 01083
413-436-5705 • www.fountainandsons.com

Farmer Matt
FARM-FRESH • LOCAL

COLUMBUS DAY SAVINGS

Save 15% on all farm store orders over \$100 now thru Columbus Day. Use code **COLUMBUS** online or mention this ad in-store.

FarmerMatt.com • 508-980-7085
860 West Brookfield Rd.
New Braintree, MA

Save 15% now thru Columbus Day.