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Trunk or Treat



Quaboag hosts Halloween fun for all

WARREN – On the eve of Halloween, the Warren Community Elementary School-West Brookfield PTO and Quaboag Regional Middle High School hosted its annual Trunk or Treat event in the back parking lot of the middle/high school.

Several rows of trunks captured a variety of themes, from frightful to funny.

School staff, PTO volunteers, students, Police and Fire, community members and local businesses all joined in this free event.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE
Donna and Jessica had costumes that were out of this world.



The Arsenault family dressed as "Lord of the Rings" characters. More photos on page 5.

School Committee hears about Chapter 70 review

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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WARREN – Quaboag Regional School District Superintendent Stephen Duff gave the School Committee an update about state efforts to update the Chapter 70 funding formula.

At the Oct. 19 meeting, Duff said the Chapter 70 funding formula hasn't been revised since 1993, and it was written more specifically for school districts with more than 2,500 students.

"That formula did not fund rural communities like it did some of the gateway cities," he said.

Duff said state Reps. Todd Smola and Donnie Berthiaume and state Sens. Jake Oliveira and Peter DiNardo advocated to form a Chapter 70 review committee to look at updating this formula. He said the committee has been formed and will have four public hearing sessions starting in January 2027.

Duff said he has signed up to talk about the impact the lack of Chapter 70 funding has had on the Quaboag Regional School District.

"They're looking for stories from smaller schools that have been impacted by not adequate funding in the Chapter 70 formula," he said.

Ecology School trip

Grade six students recently returned from a trip to The Ecology School in Saco, Maine, and several representatives from the class presented about the outdoor learning experience.

Students participated in day and evening classes during the multi-day trip, including a visit to the Biddeford tide pools.

During the trip, students stayed in dormitory-style yurts and completed daily tasks that helped build their independence skills. Students also helped with setup and cleanup at every family-style meal.

Students learned about where their food comes from, and food waste.

"It's very interactive, and very involved," Dean of Students at Warren Community Elementary School Brian Guimond said. "It's really cool to see."

Duff said this was the first year the trip took place with all of the grade six students being at one school in the district instead of two. The Ecology School trip has historically been an opportunity for the students from Warren and West Brookfield to get to know each other better before joining the seventh grade at the middle school.

The students said they made "lifelong memories" on this annual trip.

Student Advisory Council report

Representatives from the Student Advisory Council gave a presentation about happenings at Quaboag Regional Middle High School.

See SCHOOL COMMITTEE PAGE 9

USDA presents opportunities for West Brookfield

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
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WEST BROOKFIELD – The Select Board hosted members of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to present grant and loan programs available through the department that are available to municipalities.

Director Lyndon Nichols and State Director Chris Lyon were present at the Oct. 13 meeting.

Nichols said there are 70 grants available that focus on helping rural communities with things like housing, jobs, healthcare, education, public safety, buildings and sustainability. He noted the description of rural areas can change based on the program, but West Brookfield should be eligible for most of them.

Some examples provided by Nichols included help with single family housing purchases, where lower income people can have up to 100% financing for a new home and have it subsidized, with the goal being once they start earning more, they pay more and get less subsidies.

Nichols said there's another opportunity that allows elderly residents to stay in their home and give

See W BROOKFIELD PAGE 3

SB hears reports from police and building

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
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STURBRIDGE – The Select Board met Monday where reports were given from the Police and Building departments.

Police Department report

The Police Department's September report recorded 2,508 calls for service with 70 arrests or criminal complaints, six operating under the influence arrests, one drug arrest, 28 motor vehicle accidents, 114 citations and 41 incident reports and 11 breaking and entering/larcenies/thefts among other calls for service. The department also requested mutual aid four times and responded twice according to the report.

The report stated that five of the motor vehicle crashes occurred on the stretch between the Walmart plaza and the Xtra Mart.

The department also installed seven child safety seats and patrolled the towns' waters.

In terms of departmental activities, the police department reported holding an internet safety course at Old Sturbridge Academy, a driving education course at the senior center and a response to robbery course at Savers Bank during September.

Building Department report

Building Inspector Bill LePage gave the July through October report for the Building Department.

He spoke about the new online permitting system that was launched in late April that has collected over $54,000 in payments. LePage stated in the written report that it is well received by applicants and offered "a convenient and accessible payment option."

LePage reported 463 permits being issued between July and October including 194 residential building permits, 49 residential plumbing permits, 41 residential gas permits, 82 residential electrical permits, 15 sign permits, 24 commercial building permits, 16 residential mechanical and sheet metal permits, 12 commercial plumbing permits, four commercial gas permits and 26 commercial electrical permits. LePage reported 240 building inspections not including the 110 annual inspections and 301 plumbing, gas and electrical inspections.

LePage stated in the report that the 110 annual inspections are being done with Lt. Jen Ashe from the fire department.

Some project updates in the report include a file out of Coastal Ambulance, an interior remodel winding down at Walmart, apartment units being built at 152 Main St., a property at 511 Main St. working on coming into compliance after it was found there was only one point of egress and a property at 559 Main St. that has had multiple code violations but has deadlines being met, according to LePage.

Spectrum updates

Hanna Walier, Director of Government Affairs with Spectrum was present to

See STURBRIDGE PAGE 10



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Race director Rotarian Klaus Hachfeld with top female finishers in the 5K Trail Race: third-place finisher Elise Servant, 12, of Brookfield (21:33.2). second-place finisher Lisa Bienia Kenton, 43, of Sturbridge (21:13.3); and were first-place finisher Anabel Melanson, 22, of Warren (20:49.6).

Rotary Club announces TREK Sturbridge Halloween 5K finishers

Submitted Article

STURBRIDGE – Craig Fitzgerald of Sturbridge and Anabel Melanson of Warren were the top male and female finishers in the sixth annual TREK Sturbridge Halloween 5K, held Oct. 25, according to race director Klaus Hachfeld.

Participants completing the 5K ranged in age from 6 to 79.

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Sturbridge, the family-friendly event included a 5K Trail Race, a 1K Road Race and a 5K Trail Fun Walk using the Old Sturbridge Village Education Center on Old

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- community -

Mile Marker 63 Disc Golf and Farm

By Paula Ouimette
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TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE

Dan and Amanda Arnberg operate Mile Marker 63 Disc Golf and Farm in East Brookfield.



This mural was created by local artist and disc golfer Emily Burdett.

EAST BROOKFIELD – While being the youngest town to be incorporated in the commonwealth has been the "Baby Town" of Massachusetts' claim to fame for the past century plus, many people around the world know East Brookfield for another reason.

Located across from where the historic mile marker 63 was located on North Brookfield Road (before it was backed over by a delivery truck and relocated) is the 18th ranked disc golf course in the world – Mile Marker 63 Disc Golf.

Operated by Amanda Arnberg, Mile Marker 63 Disc Golf opened in 2024, and quickly became a popular destination for disc golfers, both locally and internationally.

"We debuted at number 44 in the world," Amanda Arnberg said. "This year we moved up to number 18."

Arnberg said the property has been in her family since 1964 when her grandparents, Harold and Mildred Smith, bought what was then a 9-hole golf course. Harold passed away in 2013, and Mildred recently earned the distinction of being awarded the Boston Post Cane for being the oldest resident in town.

In 1989, Arnberg's parents Justyne and Jeff Smith took over ownership of the golf course, known as Bay Path Golf Course, up until 2019.

"As a kid, the golf course was our backyard," Arnberg said. "We had a pretty lucky childhood."

As Bay Path Golf Course neared its end, the family decided to bring farming back to the property, as it was once the home of a melon farm, known as Drake's Gardens.

"That fall we closed it down," Arnberg said. "We went back to our roots and started farming again."

The Mile Marker 63 Farm opened in 2020, during the height of the pandemic, which posed a challenge to the new business.

"We literally couldn't give vegetables away," Arnberg said.

Arnberg said Mile Marker 63 Farm is an all organic, no till farm that offers salad greens, carrots, radishes, tomatoes, squashes, gourds, pumpkins and of course, melons.

"We grow cantaloupe and watermelon to pay homage to Drake's," Arnberg said.

The farm also offers freshly cut flowers and loofahs. Loofahs, Arnberg said, come from a gourd that can grow over three feet long.

The decision to open the disc golf source came a little bit after the farm opened, and Arnberg said her husband Dan has always played the sport. It was Dan who suggested the golf course become a disc golf course.

In 2023, Arnberg said she decided to email a professional disc golfer, Simon Lizotte, about designing a disc golf course on the old golf course.

"He came out that month in November," Arnberg said. "And the rest is history."

Lizotte and his friend, Casey White, set out to design an 18-hole disc golf course on the old 9-hole golf course, making it a par 63, to match its mile marker name.

Arnberg said many who have played the course at Mile Marker 63 Disc Golf agree that Hole 3 is one of the most challenging.

She said the course has some unique features, including three small ponds. She has a raft she uses to paddle out to retrieve lost discs, and her husband has a pair of boots he puts on to wade in.

Arnberg said turtles (including snapping turtles) are a common sight in the ponds. Mile Marker 63 Disc Golf even sells discs with its logo and an image of a snapping turtle on them.

At the sitting area at Hole 8, there's seating as well as a 12-foot skeleton, which has become a permanent fixture on the course.

Perhaps the most unique thing at the course is Pinehenge, a wooden replica of Stonehenge, making use of logs that Arnberg's dad cut down.

"That was all him," she said of the idea.

Patrons of the disc golf course are encouraged to write kind messages on the logs, which range from birth announcements by first time parents, to compliments about the disc golfing experience.

"Everybody that comes can sign Pinehenge," Arnberg said.

People come from all over the U.S. to play at Mile Marker 63 Disc Golf, and just this past summer, visitors from Iceland, Finland and Norway made the journey to one of the smallest towns in central Massachusetts.



Pinehenge is located on Hole 15. Guests are invited to write kind messages on the logs.

"Mile Marker is so well known in Norway," Arnberg said. "It's blowing us away."

With Veterans Day approaching, Arnberg said Mile Marker 63 Disc Golf offers free play to veterans from any military branch. She said her grandfather was an Army veteran, and her family is proud to give back to those who served.

"They're definitely not appreciated enough. It's our way we can say 'thank you,'" she said.

As Christmas is right around the corner, so is the family's holiday parade float, which was constructed by Arnberg's father. Reaching 11 feet tall, the float contained 186 discs and 1,200 lights to create a festive and colorful Christmas tree.

This float is expected to appear again in North Brookfield's Santa Parade and Spencer's Parade of Lights.

A smaller version of the float will be raffled off to raise money for the Toys for Tots program.

"My dad is very crafty," Arnberg said. "He's done woodworking his entire life."

The disc golf course is open year-round, and the farm operates seasonally, from May-October. The farm store is open Wednesday through Sunday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. during the growing season, and it is closed Monday and Tuesday.

Arnberg said in the off season, the farm store remains open on weekends, offering meat, eggs, mushrooms and microgreens from local farms such as Farm46 in Charlton and Autmn Leaf Farm in Gilbertville. The store also offers products that would make great gifts for the holidays, while simultaneously supporting small businesses.



Mile Marker 63 Disc Golf and Farm is located at 193 North Brookfield Road in East Brookfield.

"It's a women-owned business and a lot of the products I sell are from a lot of women-owned businesses," Arnberg said.

The disc golf course is open daily from dawn until dusk, and glow golf is offered on Saturdays.

About Mile Marker 63

Mile Marker 63 Disc Golf and Farm is located at 193 North Brookfield Road.

Disc golfers should check in at the farm store before playing during open hours or use the sign-in board and payment drop box by the garage door when the store is closed.

For more information, visit www.milemarker63.com or follow on Facebook.

Fall Fest Church Bazaar & Bake is Nov. 21

BROOKFIELD – Community members are invited to shop, browse, and enjoy the Fall Fest Church Bazaar & Bake Shop on Saturday, Nov. 21 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Brookfield Congregational Church, 8 Common St.

Hosted by the church's Helping Hands group, the event will feature a variety of handmade crafts, seasonal decorations, homemade baked goods and unique gifts-perfect for holiday shopping or finding something special for your home.

Shoppers can look forward to wreaths, centerpieces, sewn and crocheted items, ornaments, Mason jar soup and cookie mixes, baked goods, themed gift baskets and much more. Gift basket themes will include popcorn and movie night, pet lovers, gardening and other fun ideas.

The bazaar will also offer opportunities for local crafters and small businesses to showcase their products. Six vendor spaces are available for $35 per table. Interested vendors are encouraged to contact the church office at 508-867-6262 or email bccucc1857@gmail.com for more information.

The Fall Fest Bazaar is a great opportunity to connect with the community, discover handmade treasures, enjoy homemade treats, and get a head start on holiday shopping.



All proceeds from the event will benefit Brookfield Congregational Church's general fund and church repairs.

The entire community is warmly invited to attend and support this special event.

For additional information about the event or vendor spaces, contact the church office at 508-867-6262, email bccucc1857@gmail.com, or visit www.bcc1857.org.

Knights host spaghetti dinner to be held on Nov. 14

WEST BROOKFIELD – Knights of Columbus Council 11080 is sponsoring a Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, Nov. 14 in Dugan Hall, Sacred Heart Church, 10 Milk St.

Take out begins at 5:30 p.m. and sit down dinner at 6 p.m. Proceeds from this event will benefit local charitable needs.

Dinner includes pasta fagioli, garden salad, meatballs and sausage, spaghetti and sauce, Italian bread, dessert, water, soda and coffee. Cost is a $15 donation and $10 for children under 12 years old.

Admission tickets are also good for entry for a special door prize. Raffle tickets for a 50/50 raffle and more will be available.

Advance ticket purchase is encouraged and appreciated. Tickets are available from any Knight, by calling 413-813-8100 or by emailing wallyconnor122@gmail.com. Tickets will only be available at the door while they last.

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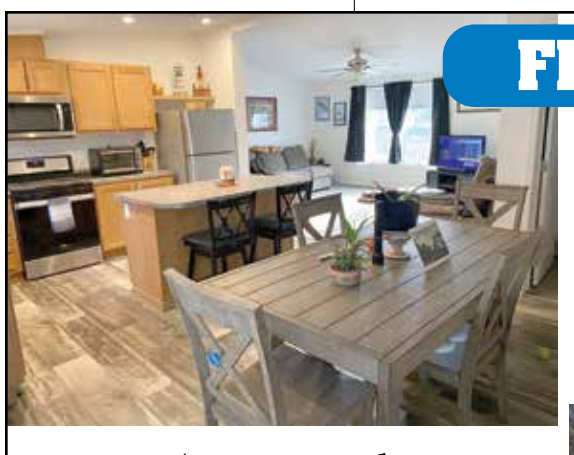
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- community -

Local writer presents 'A Moral Fire'

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer

zachf@turley.com

STURBRIDGE – Local writer Walter Hersee was the featured speaker for the Sturbridge Historica

l Society's October meeting, where he presented the story of Lucy Danforth Colman, an abolitionist and women's rights advocate who was born in Sturbridge in 1817.

Hersee contextualized the time when Colman was born as a time in the U.S. where there were over a million enslaved people and women were still disenfranchised, being seen as belonging in the house and unable to attain a higher education.

Colman's father was an in-demand blacksmith in Massachusetts, living in Winchendon before coming to Sturbridge and eventually moving to Lenox. Hersee said the beginning of Colman's life was very normal and typical, growing up in a house with a couple of siblings and learning how to bake and housekeep, but her mother eventually taught her about the horrors of slavery along with the lack of women's rights and opportunities.

"The spark for that moral fire," Hersee said of that education.

Hersee said in 1824, Colman's mother died, and for the next few years, she started to question religion, which lasted all the way throughout her life. According to Hersee, she wondered why a God would allow all of the inequalities that were permeating American society in the 19th Century.

Hersee said that Colman started to give lectures in Taunton before meeting her first husband John Davis in 1835, and they moved to Boston so she could continue educating. Colman spent a lot of time at the Boston Athenaeum, Lowell Institute and the Peabody Bookroom.

In 1841, her husband died of tuberculosis, so she moved back with her father in Taunton before moving down to Philadelphia to educate at an all girls school there.

In Pennsylvania, Colman attended lectures on anti-slavery, and eventually taught integrated classes in Rochester, New York later in life.

In 1854, Colman married her second husband, Luther Colman who also attended these talks on abolitionism, but he also died after being struck by a train while working on the railroad.

In Rochester, the school she taught in was already desegrated by 1856, before the Civil War started in 1861 after staff members and residents boycotted the school until they integrated, so the school board had no choice. Hersee said that the area of New York had a massive population of free thinkers at that time, including Rochester, Auburn, Oneida, Seneca Falls and Palmyra.

Hersee said at this time, Colman befriended and worked with Susan B. Anthony, and she started to expand her scope of activism to call for an end to corporal punishment in schools and higher wages for female teachers. Hersee said she also befriended and worked with Frederick Douglass and Sojourner Truth.

In 1860, Colman was writing for the Boston Liberator newspaper, an abolitionist publication.

In 1863, Colman became a secretary of the Woman's National League, a campaign where hundreds of thousands of signatures were gathered to abolish slavery, and they were presented to the congress by two black men. This was the beginning of the 13th amendment being passed before the emancipation proclamation in 1865 by President Abraham Lincoln.

Colman personally had a meeting with Lincoln with Truth as well. Afterwards, Hersee said she moved back to Rochester. In 1891, she wrote a short memoir called "Reminisces".

Hersee said Colman also had a daughter Gertrude, but she too died, succumbing to typhoid fever, and Douglass officiated her funeral. Colman is buried in Rochester, and according to Hersee, she is very well known there as a hero, but she is not as well known in Sturbridge.

St. Vincent de Paul Society thanks community for supporting walk

On Oct. 18, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul held its third annual Friends of the Poor Walk, bringing together community members in support of neighbors facing financial hardship.

The event highlights the ongoing needs within our community and the Society's mission to fight poverty in all its forms. Many local families face difficult choices, such as paying for necessary medications, putting food on the table, or finding safe shelter.

Through practical, hands-on assistance, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul works to provide hope and support to those in need.

This year's event featured the annual walk and a raffle, with beautiful weather adding to an enjoyable day of fellowship and community spirit.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul extends its heartfelt gratitude to the many generous sponsors who continue to support this important mission. Special thanks go to Diamond GMC, Hometown Insurance, Cornerstone Bank, Boston Closet Co., TruNorth Bank, Arland Tool, Wegmans, Savers Bank, and Southbridge Credit Union, along with the many individuals who participated in the walk or sponsored a walker.

All proceeds, pledges, and donations from the event directly benefit individuals and families in need within our local community.

The volunteers of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at St. Anne–St. Patrick Parish in Fiskdale sincerely thank everyone who helped make this year's Friends of the Poor Walk a success. Your generosity, participation, and continued support make a meaningful difference in the lives of our neighbors and help build a stronger, more caring community.

Drama Club presents 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' Nov. 6-8

STURBRIDGE – The Tantasqua Regional High School Drama Club will present four showings of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" by William Shakespeare.

The shows are Friday, Nov. 6 at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 7 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; and Sunday, Nov. 8 at 4 p.m. Tickets will be available at the door and are $15 for general admission, $12 for students/seniors, and free for children under 5.

Step into the enchanted forest and discover why "the course of true love never did run smooth."

Red Door Fayre to be Nov. 14

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Christ Memorial Episcopal Church, 133 North Main St., will host its Red Door Fayre on Saturday, Nov.14, from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

There will be raffles, an Exquisite table, a Christmas table, bake table, pies, interior plants and a craft table. A homemade luncheon of soups, sandwiches and apple crisp will be served.

Troop 163 hosts drive-thru baked potato dinner

STURBRIDGE – Troop 163 of Sturbridge will hold its annual drive-thru baked potato fundraiser on Sunday, Nov. 15, at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church from 5-6:30 p.m.

Each meal will include a baked potato with assorted toppings (sour cream, cheese, bacon bits, and green onions), a cup of soup or chili and a dessert.

Tickets are $12 each; a family pack of four meals is $44.

Tickets must be purchased in advance and can be ordered by contacting a scout in the troop or by emailing Troop163Sturbridge@gmail.com.

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Gingerbread Fair Nov. 21 in West Brookfield

WEST BROOKFIELD – The George Whitefield United Methodist Church, 33 West Main St. (Route 9) will host its annual Gingerbread Fair on Saturday, Nov. 21 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

The Fair will feature baked goods, fudge, a Christmas shop, knit and hand-crafted items, in addition to ongoing thrift store bargains. A lunch of hotdogs and soups with warm gingerbread and cream for dessert will be available.

Being the Saturday before Thanksgiving, it will be a good opportunity to pick up some holiday goodies, do some early Christmas shopping or just get into the spirit by gathering and browsing. All are invited to join the church members in kicking off the holiday season with warmth and cheer.

For additional information you may call Heidi Jeldres at 978-989-5736.

W BROOKFIELD
FROM PAGE 1

them a $10,000 grant to help with things like roof repairs, furnaces and any accessibility concerns. He said there's a similar grant for low income families to get repairs done.

The USDA can partner with the Community Development Block Grant if either organization is lacking funding for a certain grant, along with leveraging earmarks from the state.

Nichols said there's another opportunity that looks at issues in water like PFAS or lead contamination.

Lyon said he recently worked for some repairs at the East Brookfield police station, Princeton public safety building, and fire stations in Southbridge and Bernardston. He said there's a disaster relief fund in the works that could be used for projects impacted by weather events or for sustainability upgrades if a weather event hits. Select Board members brought up the roof on the Town Hall, and water damage concerns, especially when the snow starts falling in the winter. Lyon said in some cases, grant dollars can be used to pay off debts from those projects.

Accept grant

The board accepted a winter recovery assistance program grant from the state in the amount of $134,000, of which $103,000 will be used to cover a snow and ice deficit and the rest will be put into a special revenue fund.

Appointments

The board appointed Louise Garwood to the Historical Commission and accepted the recommendation of the Highway Superintendent to hire Maureen Schur as the administrative assistant for 24 hours a week at a rate of $23.02 an hour.

Other business

The board announced cyclical property inspection notices are going out with the tax bills, approved special use permits at Wickaboag Pond for an ice fishing derby on Feb. 7 and an aluminum rigs bass fishing event on April 10, and approved the minutes of Sept. 29.

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- opinion -

Take notice of the subtle oak

in the Garden
by Roberta McQuaid



Sometimes subtle beauty is just as eye catching as full-blown fireworks.

This fact was reinforced this past week, when oak trees took center stage as leaves worthy of peeping. No, they do not possess the pumpkin orange, lemon yellow or cherry red tones that maples do, but nonetheless they quietly beg the passer-by to take notice.

Ahh, burnt umber, raw sienna and burnt sienna, mahogany and magentas. Gosh, I love them all.

It's like taking a peek inside a very good oil painting kit and seeing all your favorites.

Why don't we take a closer look at the genus called Quercus, to which our beloved oak belongs. The oak is a member of the beech or Fagaceae family.

One unique feature that the oak has and other members of the family do not is that its nut is carried in a cap. The nut and cap together are called an acorn.

Acorns are a valuable food source for wildlife. Wild turkey, deer, larger songbirds and squirrels among others depend on the nut for surviving the winter.

One way to tell the difference between species of oak tree is by their acorns. Examine how they wear their "cap."

The cap of the white oak is about one-quarter the size of the oblong shaped nut. The red oak, on the other hand, has a squatty, saucer-like cap covering a more globose shaped nut.

The pin oak has an obtuse nut and a more diminutive cap- a big belly so to speak!

There are some 500 species of oak throughout the world. Some of them are evergreen, holding onto their leaves throughout the winter months.

These oaks are located in the more southern, warmer regions of our country. Even though our oaks are deciduous, it takes a long time for them to completely defoliate.

Sometimes it is the next season's emerging leaves that finally push the old ones off! This is often problematic for the homeowner who likes to keep his lawn leaf-free.

At work I once saw a young groundskeeper attempt to shake the leaves off of a young pin oak tree – just to be done with his weekly task!

Most oaks tolerate transplanting the best when they are young and small in size. The pin oak is one exception; its shallow, fibrous root system allows it to be transplanted as a larger specimen.

For this reason, the pin oak is widely used for home landscaping. It is also highly sought after because of its unique, pyramidal shape: the lowest branches are pendulous, the middle are horizontal and the top are upright.



Did you know that cork is harvested from the bark of a species of oak tree? Yes, the cork oak grows in Spain, Portugal and parts of Northern Africa.

Another interesting fact: oaks get struck by lightning more than any other tree. This is likely due to their height, some topping over 80 feet at maturity.

The oak tree can grow to be very old. Reportedly, the oldest oak tree in the United States is in Temula, California.

This Coast Live Oak (Quercus agrifolia) named the Pechanga Great Oak, is estimated at 2000 years old!

In nearby Maryland, the Wye Oak lived to be about 460 years old before its demise in 2002. It topped off at 95 feet tall, 165 feet wide and 8 feet in diameter.

In 2006, a clone of the tree was planted in the remains of the trunk in a special ceremony.

All the trivia aside, I hope that you take notice of the subtle colors that line our hills and vales now that the fireworks have subsided. If you are forced to look at them "up close and personal" by way of a rake, don't forget they make great mulch – just chop them up with the lawnmower first. Your plants will benefit from your labor.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

QUABOAG CURRENT

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COMMUNITY RESILIENCE
For our rural way of life in changing times

Valuing Quabbin's Nature

By Elizabeth Martin

I am opposed to citing industrial size battery energy storage systems in Barre and in the other Quabbin towns.

On July 1, 2026, new regulations for BESS went into effect in Massachusetts, requiring all towns to designate a place for these large industrial facilities and for industrial-size solar energy facilities. These regulations fail to consider that not every town in Massachusetts is the same.

The towns that had to give up large tracts of land to the state for the sake of protecting Boston's water should be exempted from this requirement.

In the 1800s Barre was a thriving commercial and industrial town. It was a hub for stagecoach travel between Boston and Albany, with hotels and factories.

Today it's very quiet and still has no traffic signals. It has the prettiest classic Town Common anywhere.

One hundred years ago the state demolished four towns in order to build the Quabbin Reservoir to supply water to Boston. In doing so they also cut off the surrounding communities from development, isolated them from major transportation routes, and deprived them of their industries.

Large tracts of land have conservation restrictions required by the state, reducing the town's potential tax revenues.

When zoning laws came about in the 1970s, almost all of the area was zoned residential and agricultural; there is very little industrial zoning. People built houses along all the roads.

This is the problem with trying to site industrial-size energy projects in the Quabbin towns: there's no place that is neither farm, forest, or residential neighborhood.

People have the right to expect that their homes, built under residential zoning, are safe from proximity to large industrial facilities with their threat of fire and pollution, and the daily torture of constant noise. And how does it make sense to now force industrial development on these towns?

By isolating our towns from easy transportation access, and by preventing industrial development, the state has unintentionally created a peaceful region of quiet, of night-time darkness, and of undisturbed land.

The beauty and value of this quiet undisturbed region should be recognized and treasured. The forest trees, which purify the groundwater, keep soils moist, and cool the air, and are more effective as climate regulators than anything anyone could build on the land.

We who live here accept the inconveniences of being far from shopping, hospitals, and cultural institutions in exchange for peace and quiet.

Our biggest commercial asset is this quiet countryside that brings tourists from more urban areas. They come because human well-being depends on access to natural places.

Looking further into the future, survival may depend on the people's ability to produce most of their food locally, making the preservation of this region's forests, farms, and clean water of critical importance to the longer-term outlook for all of Massachusetts.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

What happens if Social Security runs out of money to pay benefits?

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters
By Russell Gloor

Dear Rusty:

What happens to seniors if the country runs out of funds to pay out monthly Social Security to beneficiaries?

I am 78 years old and Social Security is my only income.

Signed: Worried Senior

Dear Worried Senior:

Please put your mind at ease, the government will never run out of money to pay Social Security benefits.

That's because if people are working and contributing to the program (e.g., always), Social Security will always have at least some money to pay benefits. What you are hearing about are recent media reports about Social Security having financial issues, expected to come to a head in just a few (six) years.

The primary risk for you (and everyone else) is this: if the reserves in the Social Security Trust Fund (currently about $2.5 trillion) run dry, it would result in a reduction to everyone's monthly benefits.

Right now, the Social Security Trustees are projecting a cut of about 22% starting in the fall of 2032. But that will only happen if Congress fails to act and reform the SS program before the SS reserves are fully depleted.

And that is, in our opinion, not likely to happen unless Congress is completely and totally derelict in its obligations to American seniors and their dependents. Not a pleasant scenario, but neither is it one likely to occur.

Here at the AMAC Foundation, we are working vigorously to prevent the depletion of the Social Security Trust Fund and our expectation is that Congress will, indeed, eventually take action to prevent any cuts to monthly benefits.

It would be political suicide for Congress (and any President) to allow those Social Security benefit cuts to occur. That would greatly increase the poverty level in America. As we have often reported publicly, we have already proposed a commonsense plan to restore Social Security to long term solvency and are working in Congress and with the Social Security Administration to promote the needed reform.

You can see more details of AMAC's plan here: https://amac.us/social-security-guarantee

So, while we fully understand your personal anxiety, we feel confident in assuring you that you are very unlikely to experience any cuts to your monthly Social Security income.

We are firmly committed to preventing that from happening and will continue to vigorously lobby Congress to make the SS changes needed before the SS Trust Fund is fully depleted.

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



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
Obituary Policy

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

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

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

Trunk or Treat



These students had an "Inside Out" themed trunk with Anger, Fear, Disgust, Sadness and Joy.



Miss Julian (right) and Tommy dressed as Judy Hopps and Nick Wilde from the movie "Zootopia" during Trunk or Treat hosted by the Warren Community Elementary School-West Brookfield PTO and Quaboag Regional Middle High School held this past Friday night.



Members of the Warren Community Elementary School-West Brookfield PTO dressed up as the Spice Girls.



Tammy Dufresne had a witchy-themed candy shop for her trunk.



The Bouvier family had a themed trunk from the movie, "The Goonies", complete with One-Eyed Willy's pirate ship.



Jack-o-lanterns were displayed in the Quaboag Regional Middle School cafeteria.



Annalyse was ready to hand out candy at Trunk or Treat at Quaboag Regional Middle High School.



Hannah Salvadore brought the whole barnyard as Old MacDonald.



Jodie Gerulaitis of Country Bank offered complimentary cider and donuts to Trunk or Treaters.



This jack-o-lantern even had marshmallow teeth.



This jack-o-lantern had an outer space them



Country Bank hosted a jack-o-lantern contest at Trunk or Treat.

- community -



TURLEY PHOTOS BY CAMREN ROBERTSON

Quabbin Regional Middle High School's cheerleaders were at the annual Fall Craft Fair hosted by the Friends of Quabbin Varsity Cheer recently.

Craft fair benefits Quabbin Varsity Cheer team

BARRE – The Friends of Quabbin Varsity Cheer held its annual Fall Craft Fair at Quabbin Regional Middle High School Oct. 24.

This annual event is a favorite for shoppers to purchase from over 60 local crafters, vendors, bakers, authors and much more.

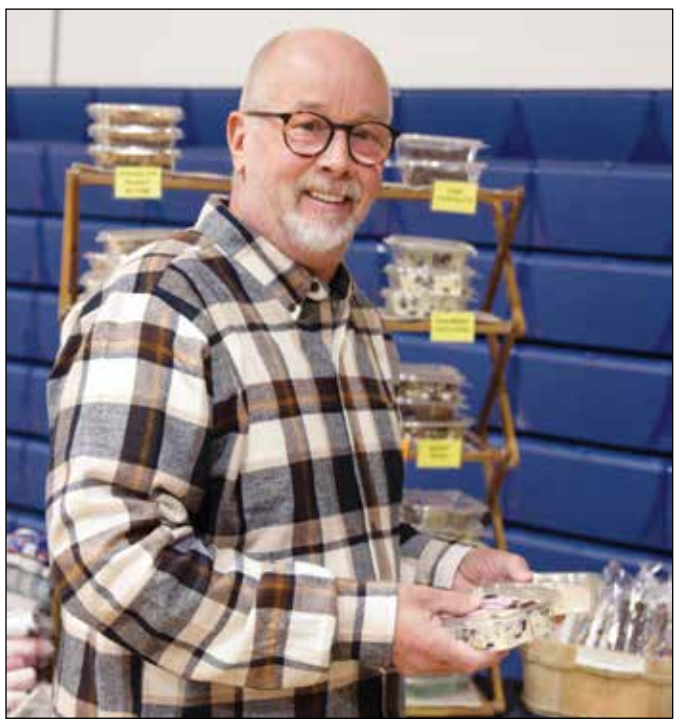
Proceeds from the Fall Craft Fair help to support the Quabbin Varsity Cheer team.



Jeanette Tetreault and Midge Orszulak sold snowflake mittens.



Phyllis Chartier offered a variety of sewn items.



Kevin McConnell offered homemade fudge.



Postcard show takes place on Nov. 7

BARRE – The Central Mass. Postcard Club and St. Joseph's Catholic Church are co-sponsoring the 42nd annual postcard and ephemera show on Saturday, Nov. 7 from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the church at 29 South St.

This will feature ten dealers from four states offering for sale old postcards of local town scenes and numerous topics. Admission is $3 and the church will offer good home-made food for sale at lunchtime.

Free appraisals of postcards are offered. For more information, people may email show manager J.R. Greene at jrg01331@webtv.net.

Preschool events at New Braintree Library lists

NEW BRAINTREE – On Monday, Nov. 9 at 10:30 a.m. the New Braintree Public Library, 45 Memorial Drive, hosts a CFCE MOC coordinated science playgroup at the library.

The target age group is 6 years and under.

The playgroup will visit Kip's Christmas Tree Farm across the street from the library to explore how trees grow. They should dress for the weather.

All are welcome and parental supervision is required.

On Monday, Nov. 23 at 11:30 a.m. the library holds its November monthly preschool story hour. There will be a story, craft and independent playtime. All are welcome and parental supervision is required.

On Monday, Nov. 23 at 11:30 a.m. the library holds their November monthly preschool story hour. There will be a story, craft and independent playtime.

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SPORTS

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SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

Cougars fall at home

WARREN – Last Friday afternoon, Quaboag Regional High School boys soccer lost to Keefe Tech 5-1, concluding the regular season with a 4-12-2 record. The Cougars will not make the state tournament this year.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

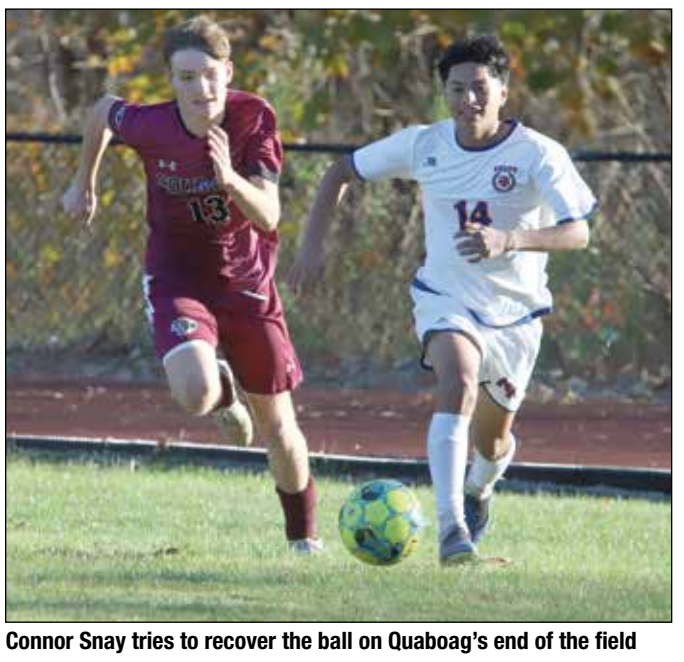
Blake Lopato socks a goal kick away.



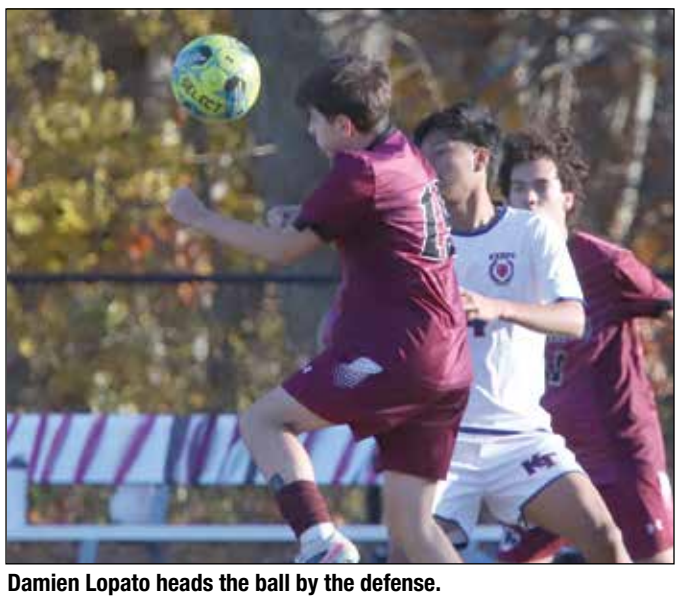
Reed Waz sends the ball by a defender.



Hunter Dodson fights to keep possession.



Connor Snay tries to recover the ball on Quaboag's end of the field



Damien Lopato heads the ball by the defense.

Pioneers head into state tourney with nine wins

PALMER – Last week, Pathfinder Tech girls soccer wanted to end the season on a strong note. They did so with wins over Cape Cod Tech and Mt. Everett. The Cape Cod win was a 2-1 triumph followed by a 7-3 win over Mt. Everett. Pathfinder is 9-2-3 entering the state tournament this year. Pathfinder's shorter schedule this season was due in part to the fact the Pioneers lost a few opponents just prior to the regular season because of schools that did not field teams.

Because of the lateness of the cancelled games, Pathfinder could not find more opponents to replace them with.

The Pioneers were set to learn their tournament seeding earlier this week.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Callie Hawk tries to avoid a defender.



Madison Boulrice looks to make a save.



Whisper Wagher goes after a loose ball on defense.



Josephine Boyko makes a quick pass



Abigail Carmody goes for the goal.



Megan Clark crosses the field to avoid the defense.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY JEFFREY HAYNES

Seniors Jacoby Venne and Zakk Mielnicki lead the team out of the tunnel.

Panthers to take two weeks for injuries

BARRE – Last Friday, Quabbin Regional High School Athletic Director Mark Miville announced that Quabbin football would be forfeiting its Weeks 7 and 8 games in order to allow its depleted roster to heal from a rash of injuries. The injuries, Miville said, have hurt the depth of the team to the point where they do not believe they can compete at the varsity level. Miville said he hopes the team will be able to compete in Weeks 9 and 10 during nonplayoff action. The Panthers have won just one game this season.



Kingston McKenzie wraps up the runner for the tackle during action on Oct. 16



Noah Kelter takes the snap and turns to make the handoff.



Jordan Douglas readies a stiff arm to get an extra yard.

- community -



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Race director Rotarian Klaus Hachfeld with top male finishers in the 5K Trail Race: second-place finisher Trey Doane, 13, of North Brookfield (19:53.8); and third-place finisher Isaac Lakhani, 14, of Fiskdale (20:19.5). Not shown is first-place finisher Craig Fitzgerald, 33, of Sturbridge (17:59.7).



Jason Thomas, age 13, of Brookfield won the "best costume" award in his age category.



Skyler Paul, age 10 of Fiskdale, dressed up as Freddy Krueger.

TREK
FROM PAGE 1

Sturbridge Village Road and the Arbutus Park Trail in the Leadmine Mountain Conservation Lands. Student members of the Tantasqua Regional High School Interact Club helped with event setup and organized free games for younger children.

"Seeing participants from age 6 to 79 complete the 5K captures the community spirit behind this event," Hachfeld said. "We're grateful to the runners, walkers, volunteers and sponsors whose support helps us provide local student scholarships and respond to community needs."

The 5K results were timed and tabulated by Race Roster.

Top male finishers in the 5K Trail Race were first-place finisher Craig Fitzgerald, 33, of Sturbridge (17:59.7); second-place finisher Trey Doane, 13, of North Brookfield (19:53.8); and third-place finisher Isaac Lakhani, 14, of Fiskdale (20:19.5).

Top female finishers were first-place finisher Anabel Melanson, 22, of Warren (20:49.6); second-place finisher Lisa Bienia Kenton, 43, of Sturbridge (21:13.3); and third-place finisher Elise Servant, 12, of Brookfield (21:33.2).

Age-category winners included Jacob Bernier of Sturbridge and Jordan Wetherell of Palmer (19 and under); Damien Dumont of Sturbridge and Jill Terlizzi of Charlton (20–29); Patrick Graham and Alexandra McConnon, both of Sturbridge (30–39); Nate Lane of Sturbridge and Julie O'Gara of Holland (40–49); Michael Spillane of Sturbridge and Jill Sheldon of Brimfield (50–59); and Robert St. John of Dudley and Elaine Dill of Monson (60 and over).

Top finishers in the 1K Pre-Teen Race were first-place finisher Esteban Gilrein, 11, of Sturbridge (4:59); second-place finisher DeAnna Hamm, 12, of Southbridge (5:08); and third-place finisher AJ Haringa, 8, of Sturbridge (5:36).

The youngest participant to complete the 5K was Giovanni Rocha, 6, of Wales. The oldest was Howard Bottomly, 79, of Sutton.

Race security was provided by Sturbridge Police, assisted by Community Emergency Response Team volunteers from Sturbridge, Charlton, Warren and Auburn, and with help from volunteers from the Quaboag Valley Amateur Radio Club. Medical coverage was provided by Sturbridge Ambulance Squad.

Sponsors for the event included Gold Sponsors: Cornerstone Bank, Old Sturbridge Village and TruNorth Bank; Silver Sponsors: Dave's Pest Control, Joe Klimavich Public Relations, Publick House Historic Inn and Southbridge Credit Union; and Bronze Sponsors: Cormier Jewelers, George & Davis, Attorneys at Law, Gido's Brick Oven Pizza & Ice Cream, Hearthstone Market, Pioneer Oil & Propane and Tasse-Crowley Energy.

Additional sponsors included Applebee's Grill & Bar, Big Bunny Supermarket, Cook's Orchard, Cracker Barrel, Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, Jeffrey M. Chasse, Attorney at Law, Ocean State Job Lot, Shaw's Supermarket, Sullivan Tire and Unique Hair by Chrissy.

The TREK Sturbridge Halloween 5K, 1K and Fun Walk is a Rotary Club of Sturbridge fundraiser, with proceeds supporting local student scholarships and other community needs projects.

Rotary International is a worldwide service organization whose members provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards and help build goodwill and peace. The Tantasqua Regional High School Interact Club is a Rotary-sponsored organization that brings together young people ages 12–18 to develop leadership skills while discovering the power of Service Above Self.

For more information about the Rotary Club of Sturbridge, visit sturbridgerotary.com or contact Klaus Hachfeld at laserklaus@gmail.com.



Jill Terlizzi of Charlton and Damien Dumont of Sturbridge were ready to race.



This family came dressed up as kings and a queen of hearts.



The Hamburglar was on the run.



Matthew Simpson and Holly Simpson of Sturbridge dressed up as Sully and Mike from "Monsters, Inc."

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9:30 a.m.
Interested in more information
amherstrail.org

- community -

Brookfield groups present new films on New England Indigenous cultures

BROOKFIELD – The Friends of the Merrick Public Library and The Friends of Brookfield will present "New England's Hidden Landscapes: Acknowledging and Incorporating Our Indigenous Cultures" on Saturday, Nov. 14 from 1-3 p.m. in the sanctuary of the Brookfield Congregational Church, 8 Common St.

The program is free and open to the public. It is the latest in the Robert Wilder Memorial Presentation series, begun in 2023.

The program features two new films by T.W. (Ted) Timreck, a Peabody Award–winning documentary filmmaker known for his biographies of Thomas Eakins, the sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens, Frederick Law Olmsted (designer of New York's Central Park), and the composer Charles Ives, among many others, including a series of contemporary interviews for the Kennedy Center.

Timreck's films have been featured on PBS and other networks around the globe.

In addition to his work in biographical films, Timreck is known for his anthropological documentaries on prehistoric civilizations in North America, including the widely viewed "The Mystery of the Lost Red Paint People", a special on the Viking explorations to North America produced for NOVA, and the current series "Hidden Landscapes."

Timreck has been affiliated with the Smithsonian for more than four decades and is a Research Associate of its Arctic Studies Center.

The first film, the hourlong "Acton", premieres in Acton on Tuesday, Nov. 10 sponsored there by the Friends of Pine Hawk. The film continues Timreck's "Hidden Landscapes" series and highlights new developments in the discovery of Native American ceremonial landscapes in the Northeast.

Collaborating with archaeologists and tribal representatives, Timreck presents multiple lines of evidence for early migrations; stone prayers, structures and markers; and astronomical and cultural sophistication, suggesting that New England's Indigenous cultures are far older and more complex than popularly believed. Rather than offering definitive conclusions, the film points to promising directions for further investigation.

In the second film, the 20-minute "Crossroads New Lebanon", Timreck, recently appointed Town Historian of New Lebanon, New York, proposes a vision for the town's economic future built on its heritage of Indigenous knowledge and culture.

This memorial series honors the work and memory of Robert (Bob) Wilder (1933–2015), a Brookfield resident, author, historian, cartographer, Old Sturbridge Village interpreter, U.S. Marine Corps veteran and, for 25 years, an aerospace engineer. "Bob Wilder's dedication to studying and teaching history inspired many of us to continue his work. He worried history would be forgotten," said Dan Hamilton, actor and Emmy-winning director, who helps present the series. "We hope these presentations will remind us of Brookfield's place in early America, and of its significance as home to Native people who have lived here for thousands of years. I think the Town of Brookfield, which is also facing questions of how best to honor its own Indigenous sites and cultures, could profit from the examples shown in these films."

Eastern Star hosts pancake breakfast on Nov. 7

BARRE – The next Designer Pancake Breakfast sponsored by Cradle Rock Chapter of Eastern Star, will be held on Saturday, Nov. 7 from 7:30-10:30 a.m. in Mt. Zion Lodge Hall, 71 Pleasant St.

People may create their favorite pancake with chips, nuts, fruit and more. Complete breakfast includes designer pancakes, waffles, sausage gravy and biscuits, bacon, sausage, juice, coffee and always real maple syrup.

Adults are $10 and children age 6 and under are $5. All are welcome.

Tri-Parish hosts tree lighting and market on Nov. 28

HARDWICK – On Saturday, Nov. 28 from 3-5:30 p.m. on the Hardwick common, the Tri-Parish Community Church will be hosting a Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony and a Pop-up Thrift Market for the town of Hardwick's "Christmas on the Common" celebration.

These activities will be a few of the many activities planned for that day by various organizations. Come kick off the holiday season with the church members as they participate in this Christmas tradition.

Christmas Fair at St. Joseph's Church Hall is Nov. 7

NORTH BROOKFIELD – St. Carlo Acutis Parish will hold its Christmas Fair in St. Joseph's Church Hall, 296 North Main St. on Saturday, Nov. 7 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

The Christmas Fair features beautiful handmade craft items, jewelry, homemade baked goods and plenty of raffles.

Lunch is served from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. featuring homemade soups, great sandwiches and delicious homemade apple pie.

All are warmly invited to the Parish's Christmas Fair for festive fellowship, holiday treats and Christmas cheer.

East Brookfield library lists upcoming movie showings

EAST BROOKFIELD – The East Brookfield Public Library, 122 Connie Mack Drive, will host Movie Time on select Tuesdays.

Stop by the library with your lunch and enjoy a block buster movie and meet new friends. The next movie is "The Librarian" on Tuesday, Nov. 10 at 1 p.m.

A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving

The Charlie Brown Thanksgiving movie will be played on Thursday, Nov. 19 at 3:30 p.m. A Charlie Brown Feast will be served.

Spencer Exchange Club Fall Food Fest is Nov. 14

SPENCER – As the cozy sweater weather arrives, the Spencer Exchange Club invites you to enjoy a delightful evening at their annual Fall Food Festival on Saturday, Nov. 14 from 6-9 p.m. at the Spencer Country Inn.

Come and enjoy a variety of delicious food, wine tastings and much more, all prepared by talented local chefs and businesses.

This year's participants include Yamato Asian Bistro, 308 Lakeside, Black & White Grille, Uncle Sam's Pizza, The Clambox, Savage Smash Burgers & Brews, Savage Wraps, Savage Catering, The Goods Bakery & Café, Timberyard Brewing Company, Spencer Country Inn, Tijuana Bar & Grill, Hardwick Winery and Rapscallion Brewery & Taproom.

All proceeds from this event will benefit the Exchange Club's civic service fund that supports the Mary, Queen of the Rosary Food Pantry, Warm Coats for Spencer East Brookfield school children, sponsorship of area youth sports programs and facilities, support for local scouting groups and many other local, worthwhile projects.

Tickets are priced at $35 per person and may be purchased at Uncle Sam's Pizza, Savage Smash Burgers & Brews or from any Exchange Club member.

The Exchange Club of Spencer is a group of volunteers dedicated to making the community a better place to live while building leadership and teamwork skills for its members.

The event is proudly sponsored by Cornerstone Bank. Serving Worcester County, Massachusetts, Cornerstone Bank's local presence and community-based banking model enables a unique ability to deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone provides the highest level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations with branch locations throughout Central Massachusetts.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE
FROM PAGE 1

To prepare for and celebrate homecoming, students participated in a spirit week and pep rally. At the end of the week, the homecoming dance was held in the school gymnasium.

The theater program will present "Frozen" Feb. 5-7. Over 60 students auditioned for the musical.

Junior and Senior National Honor Society candidates will be inducted during a ceremony on Oct. 26. The NHS is currently planning a shoe drive in collaboration with the Rotary Club of the Brookfields and Planet Aid.

NHS students will also organize a Thanksgiving food drive to benefit the Sharing Cupboard food pantry in West Brookfield, which serves both towns in the school district.

Superintendent's report

Duff said a survey was conducted to plan for a science field trip to happen in 2029. He said teachers will present the findings from the survey at the November School Committee meeting.

He said the school district received its New England Association of Schools and Colleges report from its evaluation that was conducted last year. He said Principal John Diorio will present on the findings next month.

"I can tell you the report was very favorable," Duff said.

Duff said he attended a Warren Board of Selectmen's meeting to discuss the start of the school year, as well as a potential logging project. He said the logging project is moving forward as discussed previously.

Duff said the North Brookfield/Quaboag exploratory subcommittee met the previous week to discuss opportunities including sharing staff, potential regionalization and tuition agreements. He said the next meeting is Nov. 5 and will include North Brookfield Town Accountant Shiela Leblanc and Quaboag's Director of Finance & Operations Nicole Goncalves

"We can start looking at the financial impacts of decisions that can be made… what is doable and how soon we could actually move on something," he said.

Duff talked about the success of What I Need Now blocks at Warren Community Elementary School. WINN allows students to break into small learning groups for 30 minutes of direct learning.

"It's what education should look like," he said.

Duff said elementary school busing has become "much smoother" and staying on schedule. He said feedback from parents has been favorable.

"We're trying everything we can to make it as quick as possible," he said.

Duff said Director of Facilities Marc Astrella said everything should be out of West Brookfield Elementary School by Nov. 13.

Duff said the school district received several grants, including a Prism Grant for over $200,000 to purchase high-quality instructional materials for grades six-nine English Language Arts; a My Career and Academic Plans middle school grant for $15,000 and a MyCAP high school grant for $7,000 for stipends and field trips; and an Innovation Career Pathways grant for $50,000.

Projects

Duff said there is a need to purchase a walk-in freezer and refrigerator to be installed at Warren Community Elementary School to contain larger quantities of food. He said purchasing the food in bulk provides cost savings for the food services department.

Duff said this could become a capital project, with some funding coming from the department's revolving account.

Duff said the wheelchair lift at the elementary school has been fixed, and the staff staircase in the lower parking lot has also been repaired.

He said the staircase and sidewalks at Quaboag Regional Middle High School have been evaluated. He said one of the recommendations involves replacing damaged steps with granite as it is resistant to deterioration from salt.

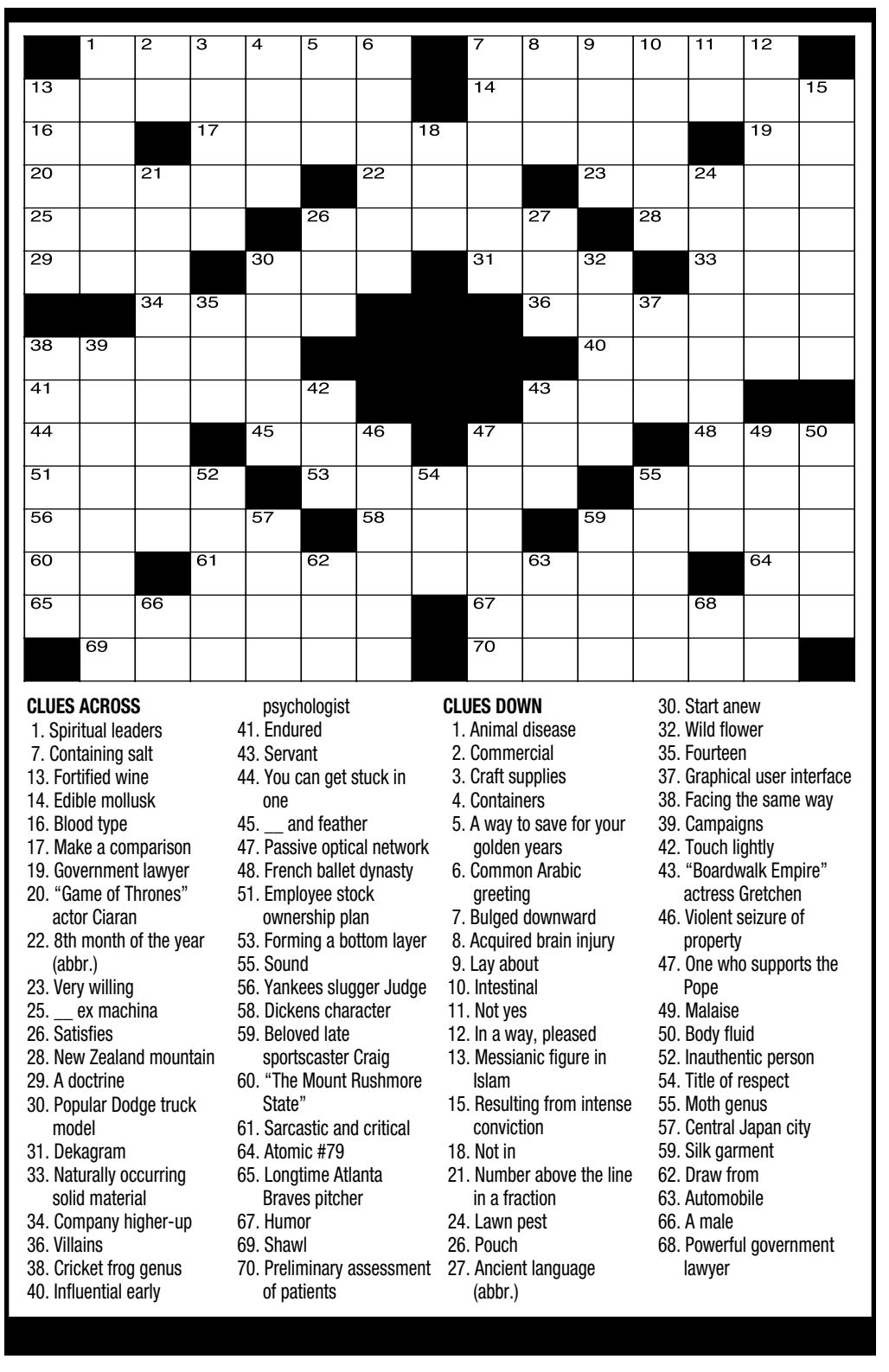
Duff said the contractor will provide the school district with quotes for the project. He said in the meantime, Astrella will patch the front steps to the school.

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.**



CLUES ACROSS
1. Spiritual leaders
7. Containing salt
13. Fortified wine
14. Edible mollusk
16. Blood type
17. Make a comparison
19. Government lawyer
20. "Game of Thrones" actor Ciaran
22. 8th month of the year (abbr.)
23. Very willing
25. __ ex machina
26. Satisfies
28. New Zealand mountain
29. A doctrine
30. Popular Dodge truck model
31. Dekagram
33. Naturally occurring solid material
34. Company higher-up
36. Villains
38. Cricket frog genus
40. Influential early psychologist
41. Endured
43. Servant
44. You can get stuck in one
45. __ and feather
47. Passive optical network
48. French ballet dynasty
51. Employee stock ownership plan
53. Forming a bottom layer
55. Sound
56. Yankees slugger Judge
58. Dickens character
59. Beloved late sportscaster Craig
60. "The Mount Rushmore State"
61. Sarcastic and critical
64. Atomic #79
65. Longtime Atlanta Braves pitcher
67. Humor
69. Shawl
70. Preliminary assessment of patients

CLUES DOWN
1. Animal disease
2. Commercial
3. Craft supplies
4. Containers
5. A way to save for your golden years
6. Common Arabic greeting
7. Bulged downward
8. Acquired brain injury
9. Lay about
10. Intestinal
11. Not yes
12. In a way, pleased
13. Messianic figure in Islam
15. Resulting from intense conviction
18. Not in
21. Number above the line in a fraction
24. Lawn pest
26. Pouch
27. Ancient language (abbr.)
30. Start anew
32. Wild flower
35. Fourteen
37. Graphical user interface
38. Facing the same way
39. Campaigns
42. Touch lightly
43. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
46. Violent seizure of property
47. One who supports the Pope
49. Malaise
50. Body fluid
52. Inauthentic person
54. Title of respect
55. Moth genus
57. Central Japan city
59. Silk garment
62. Draw from
63. Automobile
66. A male
68. Powerful government lawyer

- public notices -

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by DANIEL F. LEAHY to COUNTRY BANK FOR SAVINGS, dated July 1, 2005 and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 36723, Page 29, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at **Public Auction** at 11:00 a.m., on the 3rd day of December, 2026, on the mortgaged premises believed to be known as 14 Maple Street, Brookfield, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit:

"The land in Brookfield, Worcester County, Massachusetts, being a certain tract or parcel of land with the buildings thereof situated on School Street, now called Maple Street, in the center village of said Brookfield and bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at the southwest corner thereof by land formerly of Charles Collar;

THENCE by said street, northerly one hundred one (101) feet to land now or formerly of Charles Collar;

THENCE easterly parallel with the house seventy-three (73) feet;

THENCE southeasterly eighty-four and one-half (84-1/2) feet by land formerly of Thomas Vizard;

THENCE southerly one hundred two and one-half (102-1/2) feet to stone bound set in the ground;

THENCE westerly one hundred seventeen (1117) feet to the place of beginning.

BEING the same premises conveyed to us by deed of David Long and Patricia Long dated June 19, 1978 and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 16497, Page 359."

The premises will be sold subject to any and all restrictions, easements, improvements, covenants, outstanding tax titles, municipal or other public taxes, assessments, liens or claims in the nature of liens, and existing encumbrances of record superior to the Mortgage, if any. Said premises will also be sold subject to all leases and tenancies having priority over said Mortgage, to tenancies or occupation by persons on the premises now and at the time of said auction which tenancies or occupation are subject to said Mortgage, to rights or claims in personal property installed by tenants or former tenants now located on the premises, also to all laws and ordinances including, but not limited to, all building and zoning laws and ordinances. It shall be the purchaser's sole responsibility to ascertain all items described in this paragraph and no representations are made concerning compliance with applicable zoning, building, sanitary or other state and/or municipal regulations.

TERMS OF SALE: TEN THOUSAND AND 00/100 ($10,000.00) DOLLARS will be required to be paid in cash, or by certified or bank cashier's check by the purchaser at the time and place of sale, said deposit to be increased to an amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the purchase price, within five (5) business days of the sale, to be paid in cash, or by certified or bank cashier's check by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price in connection with the sale shall be paid in cash, or by certified or bank cashier's check within thirty (30) days of the date of the sale and the Deed transferred contemporaneously therewith. A buyer's premium equal to five percent (5%) of the successful bid will be paid by the successful bidder and incorporated within the purchase price. The purchaser at the sale shall be required to sign a Memorandum of terms of sale containing the above terms at the Auction sale. The purchaser will be responsible for all closing costs, Massachusetts deed excise stamps and all recording fees.

The sale may be postponed or adjourned from time to time, if necessary, by the attorney for the mortgagee at the scheduled time and place of sale. The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, will be announced at the sale.

Country Bank for Savings,
Present Holder of said Mortgage
By:
/s/Jonathan C. Sapirstein
Jonathan C. Sapirstein
SAPIRSTEIN & SAPIRSTEIN, P.C.
1500 Main Street, Suite 2504
P.O. Box 15408
Springfield, MA 01115-5408
Tel.: (413) 827-7500
Its Attorneys
Date: October 16, 2026
10/30, 11/06, 11/13/2026

- public safety -

East Brookfield Police Log

During the week of Sept. 21-27, the East Brookfield Police Department responded to 127 building/property checks, 114 directed area patrols, 15 radar assignments, six traffic controls, 10 emergency 911 calls, five citizen assists, two assist other agencies, one complaint, one property damage, three suspicious activities, 10 safety hazards, four animal calls and 31 motor vehicle stops in the town of East Brookfield.

Monday, Sept. 21

12:32 p.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Spoken To

3:49 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Harrington Street, Spoken To

4:49 p.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Services Rendered

Tuesday, Sept. 22

7:04 a.m. Complaint, Flagg Road, Spoken To

8:23 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Elementary School Zone, Citation Issued

9:05 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Terry Lane, Patient Refusal

10:44 a.m. Assist Citizen, Evergreen Street, Services Rendered

11:24 a.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Officer Handled

3:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

4:36 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

4:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Cottage Street, Citation Issued

Wednesday, Sept. 23

5:51 a.m. Medical Emergency, Stone Road, Transported to Hospital

1:38 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, West Main Street, Patient Refusal

1:57 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Howe Street, Officer handled

5:41 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued

5:59 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Written Warning

Thursday, Sept. 24

1:28 p.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Officer Handled

3:29 p.m. Medical Emergency, Bridge Street, Transported to Hospital

Friday, Sept. 25

8:21 p.m. 911 Suspicious Activity, Gleason Avenue, Services Rendered

10:41 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning

Saturday, Sept. 26

8:34 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasant Street, Citation Issued

9:58 a.m. Safety Hazard, West Sturbridge Road, Services Rendered

10:04 a.m. Safety Hazard, Podunk Road, Officer Handled

10:35 a.m. 911 Utility Issues, Howe Street, Services Rendered

12:10 p.m. 911 Safety Hazard, Podunk Road, Removed Hazard

12:34 p.m. Safety Hazard, Baker Hill Road, Transferred Call to C3

2:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

3:08 p.m. 911 Animal Call, East Main Street, No Action Required

8:52 p.m. Safety Hazard, West Sturbridge Road, Removed Hazard

9:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

10:01 p.m. Safety Hazard, Harrington Street, Removed Hazard

10:58 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Route 49, Negative Contact

Sunday, Sept. 27

12:08 a.m. Safety Hazard, Harrington Street, Officer Handled

1:04 a.m. 911 Safety Hazard, Howe Street, Officer Handled

7:49 a.m. Safety Hazard, Draper Road, Removed Hazard

12:15 p.m. Safety Hazard, Howe Street, Removed Hazard

12:22 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Lashaway Drive, Services Rendered

4:06 p.m. Property Damage, East Main Street, Citation Issued

6:55 p.m. Medical Emergency, Daniels Drive, Patient Refusal

New Braintree Police Log

During the week of Oct. 26-Nov. 2, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 27 building/property checks, 11 directed/area patrols, four radar assignments, two traffic controls, four citizen assists, one assist other agency, one illegal dumping, one safety hazard, one trespass, one animal call and three motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

Monday, Oct. 26

12:53 p.m. 911 Misdial, Hardwick Road, Spoken To

1:15 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Services Rendered

1:37 p.m. Welfare Check, Barre Road, Investigated

Tuesday, Oct. 27

10:08 a.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Services Rendered

1:31 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

2:14 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Services Rendered

3:17 p.m. Illegal Dumping, Ware Road, Negative Contact

Wednesday, Oct. 28

5:14 p.m. 911 Animal Call, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled

6:16 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Sibley Road, Transported to Hospital

Thursday, Oct. 29

12:26 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

Friday, Oct. 30

5:54 p.m. Safety Hazard, Gilbertville Road, Services Rendered

Saturday, Oct. 31

8:33 a.m. Trespass, Gilbertville Road, Spoken To

1:39 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Adams Road, Services Rendered

State Button Society to hold fall meeting

PALMER – The Massachusetts State Button Society's fall meeting will be hosted by the Crescent and Shirley Button Clubs on Saturday, Nov. 7, at the AMVETS Post 74 on Main Street in Three Rivers.

The event will take place from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

The public is invited to attend the day's activities and to purchase buttons from 9 a.m. to noon, and from 1:30 p.m.-3 p.m.

There will be no button sales during the break from noon-1:30 p.m., as lunch, a business meeting, and a program by Bob Milburn on the George Washington Button will take place.

Morning visitors will be treated to coffee and refreshments provided by the hosting clubs.

Please bring your own brown bag lunch, and dessert will be provided.

There is no admission fee, and all are welcome.

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2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.

3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

EARLY DEADLINES
FOR ADS, CLASSIFIEDS & LEGAL NOTICES

Thanksgiving will bring early deadlines for all legal notices to run in TURLEY PUBLICATIONS the week of November 23-27, 2026.

Thursday, Nov. 19 at 2 PM for November 26 issue
• CLASSIFIEDS FOR ALL PAPERS •
• Country Journal • The Register • Wilbraham-Hampden Times

Friday, November 20 at 2 PM for November 26 Issue
• Agawam Advertiser News • Sentinel • Quaboag Current

Monday, November 23 at 2 PM for *November 26 Issue*
• The Journal Register • Ware River News • Barre Gazette

Tuesday, November 24 at 2 PM for *November 27 Issue*
• Town Reminder • The Holyoke Sun • Chicopee Register

TURLEY PUBLICATIONS
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STURBRIDGE
FROM PAGE 1

talk about some updates to Spectrum services and what it will mean for Sturbridge residents.

She said the company is working on improving their infrastructure and customer service and serves 81 communities in the state and is 100% U.S. based.

Walier said Spectrum is investing money in improving speeds for upload and download and by 2027, faster speeds should be available to Sturbridge residents. She also talked about a router they have called invincible Wi-Fi that can keep a home connected for up to eight hours after a power outage.

Walier said customers who switch from another carrier are guaranteed a $1,000 per year savings, and there are also programs for lower income people along with grants given to local nonprofits from Spectrum.

Appointment

The Select Board appointed Tamara Cullen to the position of part-time dispatcher at a rate of $24.72 per hour effective Nov. 3.

In the recommendation letter from Police Chief Earl Dessert, he wrote that she has a master of science in healthcare administration and economic and urban policy from the New School for Social Research and a bachelor of science from Utica College of Syracuse University. He wrote "throughout her career, she has held positions requiring a high degree of organization, communication, confidentiality, attention to detail and the ability to manage multiple responsibilities."

Dessert also wrote that she obtained certifications and training related to emergency communications including APCO Public Safety Telecommunication Course and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts NG9-1-1 Equipment Certification.

Constellation Electric

The board authorized Town Administrator Robin Grimm to enter into a 13 month contract with Constellation Electric as they came in as the lowest bidder according to Grimm, and the prices for electricity will be locked in for that time.

Grimm said the prices actually increase when locking into a longer term like 25 months, with the bid showing about $490,000 annually for 13 months and about $493,000 annually for 25 months. The board voted to opt in for the 100% green energy option, which costs about $10,000 per year.

ARPA funds

The board voted to put money from American Rescue Plan Act funds into the payroll line for the Fire Department, and to let whatever overages may come from that line item roll back into free cash for next fiscal year.

Upcoming events

There is a Home of the Brave 5K walk or run on Saturday, a tree lighting event on Nov. 27 from noon-6 p.m. on the town common and the special town meeting on Nov. 16 at 7 p.m. at Tantasqua Regional High School. Grimm said there may be a zoom information session for town meeting warrants either on Monday, Nov. 9 or Tuesday Nov. 10.

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Donald Roy
(860) 874-8396

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FOR RENT

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

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

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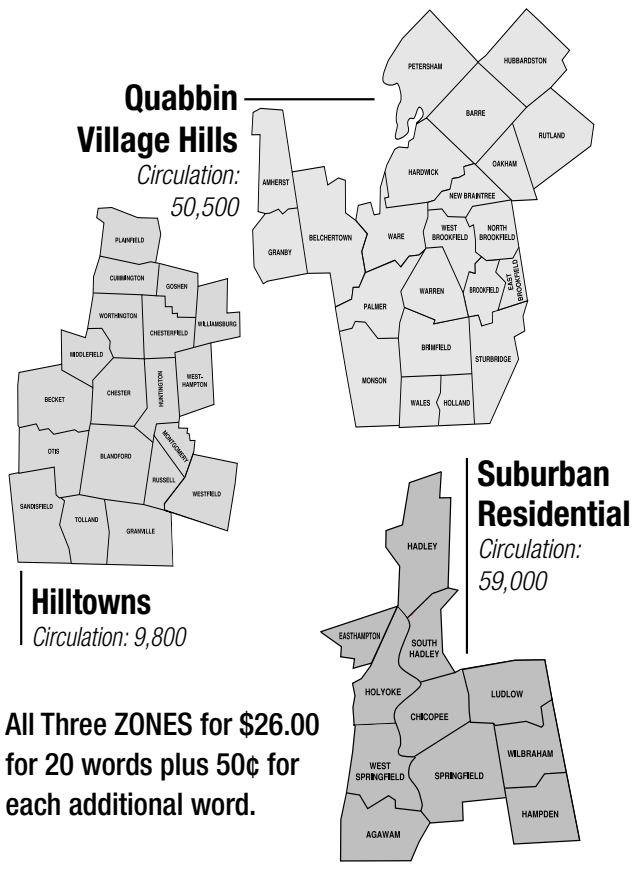
Card #:_____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____
Amount of charge: _____Date: _____



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Hardwick Memorial Handbell Choir performs Nov. 7

BARRE – Woods Memorial Library, 19 Pleasant St., is delighted to welcome back the Hardwick Memorial Handbell Choir for another special musical performance on Saturday, Nov. 7 at 11 a.m.

The talented ensemble will present a selection of musical pieces showcasing the artistry, precision and beautiful harmonies of handbell ringing. Audiences of all ages are invited to enjoy this unique and engaging musical experience.

Following the performance, attendees will have the opportunity to try ringing the handbells themselves under the guidance of the choir members. This interactive experience offers a rare chance to learn about the techniques behind handbell music and discover firsthand the skill and coordination involved in creating its distinctive sound.

Whether you are a longtime music lover or simply curious about this unique art form, this special program promises to be an enjoyable experience for the whole community. All ages are welcome. For additional information, people may call the library at 978-355-2533, extension 102.

Wildwood Acres hosts Enchanted Forest Winter Faire

WEST BROOKFIELD – Wildwood Acres Farm & Forest School, 147 Wigwam Road, invites families to the Enchanted Forest Winter Faire, a wintery Renaissance faire where kids take center stage on Saturday, Nov. 14 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Rain date is Sunday, Nov. 15. Admission is free and food and drink will be available.

Wander a forest village filled with skilled artisans and traditional vendors, plus the Kids Medieval Makers Market, where young merchants sell goods they made themselves.

Wandering characters, storytellers and performers bring the woods to life throughout the day, and King Winter will be holding court. Children can try hands-on crafts and make their own magical and medieval treasures, visit the Winter Wish House and toast s'mores by the fire. Costumes are highly encouraged. Kings, queens, fairies, jesters and every kind of magical creature are welcome.

For more information, visit https://wwoodacres.com/events, follow on Facebook and Instagram or email coop@wwoodacres.com

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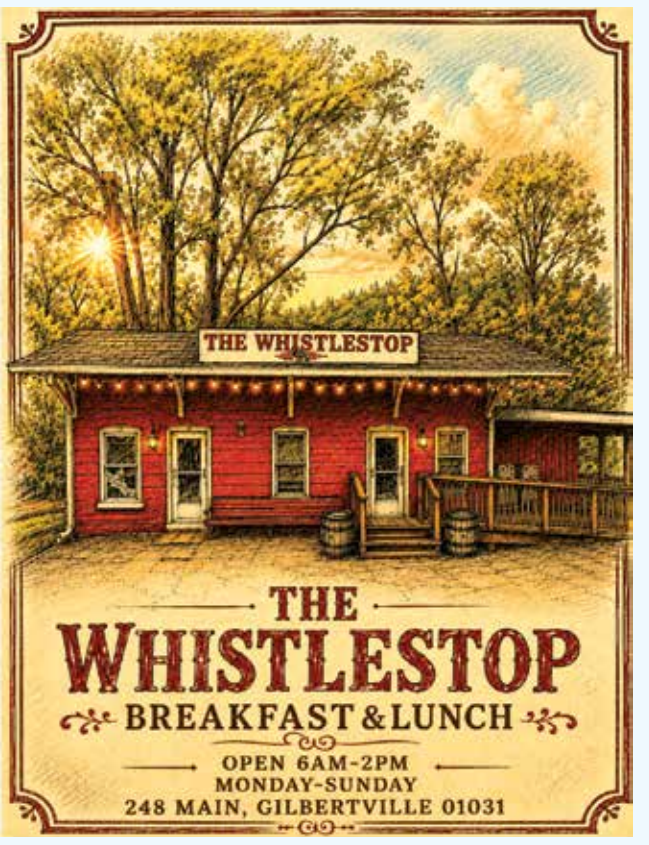

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