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QUABOAG CURRENT

REGION
Veteran pages Page 6

WEST BROOKFIELD
Winter Faire Nov. 14 Page 8

STURBRIDGE
Historical Society program Page 8

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Quabbin Performing Arts presents 'CHICAGO'



TURLEY PHOTO BY PAULA OUIMETTE

Auguste Bellerose stars as Billy Flynn in Quabbin Performing Art's production of the musical "Chicago: Teen Edition". Performances are held in the auditorium of Quabbin Regional Middle High School, 800 South St., Barre on Saturday, Nov. 14 at 7 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 15 at 2 p.m., Friday, Nov. 20 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 21 at 2 p.m.

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

BARRE – Quabbin Performing Arts is ready to "razzle dazzle" audiences with its production of "Chicago: Teen Edition", set to take the stage for opening night on Saturday, Nov. 14.

This year's cast and crew features a record number of seniors, who are warming up for their last performance as high school students before graduation in the spring.

Auguste Bellerose stars as Billy Flynn, the confident lawyer representing accused murderess, Roxie Hart.

This is Bellerose's fifth production at Quabbin Regional Middle High School, and audience members may remember seeing him as Beast in "Beauty and the Beast", Shrek in "Shrek the Musical" and Hades in the one-act play, "Persephone".

After graduation, Bellerose said he plans to enlist in the U.S. Air Force, and he will study aeronautical science to become a pilot.

Bellerose said the Quabbin Performing Arts has helped him find where he be-

Please see **CHICAGO**, page 2

Board discusses former school

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
zachf@turley.com

WEST BROOKFIELD – The Select Board heard from a group consisting of Deb Provencher, Judy Carr and Denise Pontbriand regarding using the former elementary school as a charter school.

The group wrote in a letter to the board that they have collected 186 signatures out of a goal of 200-225 supporting keeping the building as an educational facility. Pontbriand said state Sen. Peter Durant is also a proponent of the charter school.

In the letter, the group states the board recently allowed the use of the soccer fields and gym at the school, so asking for the charter school follows the same principles of community benefit.

The group wrote that the school building is costing the town $200,000 in utilities and maintenance and the sports group is not providing any revenue to the town, but a charter school has the ability to "offset carrying costs and keep the property productive." The group wrote that they would seek donors to keep up with the maintenance.

The group said they have partnered with Benjamin Franklin Classical Public Charter School, who have been in operation for 31 years and are mentoring them, and wrote that the group did a site visit at the school, observing and asking questions. The group wrote they would create a Charter Board of Trustees with a local bank president, local business owners, real estate people, teachers, IT managers and health professionals.

The group is working on creating a nonprofit called the West Brookfield Regional Learning Foundation.

The group requested that the town administrator create requests for proposals to keep the building an educational site and prioritizing those bids, along with allowing the recreational fields to be used if it is an educational facility.

After the presentation from the group, Town Administrator Theresa Cofske noted that the town

Please see **SCHOOL**, page 3

Select Board discusses chairlift and ramps

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
zachf@turley.com

BROOKFIELD – The Select Board discussed remaining funds on a previous Community Development Block Grant from fiscal year 2022-2023 which still has about $192,000 remaining after projects associated with it were completed or are ongoing.

Town Administrator Ryan Egan said since there have been two town meeting votes along with many discussions about installing a chairlift in the town hall, these funds could be put toward that project.

Egan said this could let the town utilize the great hall for things like meetings, noting the town has already invested in it with American Rescue Plan Act funds. He said the downstairs could theoretically be made into a more comfortable, customer service-oriented environment.

He also said they would be applying for this under accessibility with the Americans with Disabilities Act

Please see **BROOKFIELD BOS**, page 2

QHMA holds annual meeting and membership dinner

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

STURBRIDGE – The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce held its annual meeting and dinner at the Publick House last Thursday evening, welcoming the largest attendance in the past 15 years.

At the Nov. 5 event, James Przypek, Chief Executive Officer of QHMA, said the organization has seen a steady increase in its membership over the past few years, and he thanked all of the members for their continued support.

The annual meeting and dinner was made possible by Presenting Sponsors Baystate Health and Superior Plus Propane.

During the introductions, State Rep. Todd Smola shared insight on the challenges facing small businesses.

"Massachusetts is a tough state for the business community," Smola said.

Smola said there are things that need to happen on the state level to improve this, as many businesses are relocating from the commonwealth.

"We thank you for sticking around," he said to the chamber members. "We're actually seeing a resurgence here in the Quaboag Hills."

QHMA President Renee Niedziela of J. Stolar Insurance Agency said the chamber has been offering opportunities for members to grow their businesses.

"This has been an exciting one for the chamber," she said of the past year. "In 2026 our focus has been on creating new opportunities for our members to learn, connect and grow."

Some of these opportunities include EmpowHer and Ascend, both of which launched this year.

"EmpowHer is more than exchanging business cards," Niedziela said.

It is a chance to network, but also to share the unique insights and experiences that women in business face.

The next EmpowHer session will be held on Thursday, Dec. 3 with presenter Mary-Anne Schelb, life coach and author of "Calming the Chaos: The Intentional Calm Method". The subject is "Calm First:

Please see **QHMA**, page 5

West Brookfield Winter Farmers Market opens for season



Joy Hinton of The Joy of Beans was at the West Brookfield Winter Farmers Market.

By Richard Murphy
Correspondent

WEST BROOKFIELD – It was a warm day inside and outside of the church

Summer is over and fall is still hanging on pleasantly as folks made their way to the

First Congregational Church of West Brookfield. Winter has not arrived, but the Winter Farmers Market is back again and is as warm and welcoming as ever.

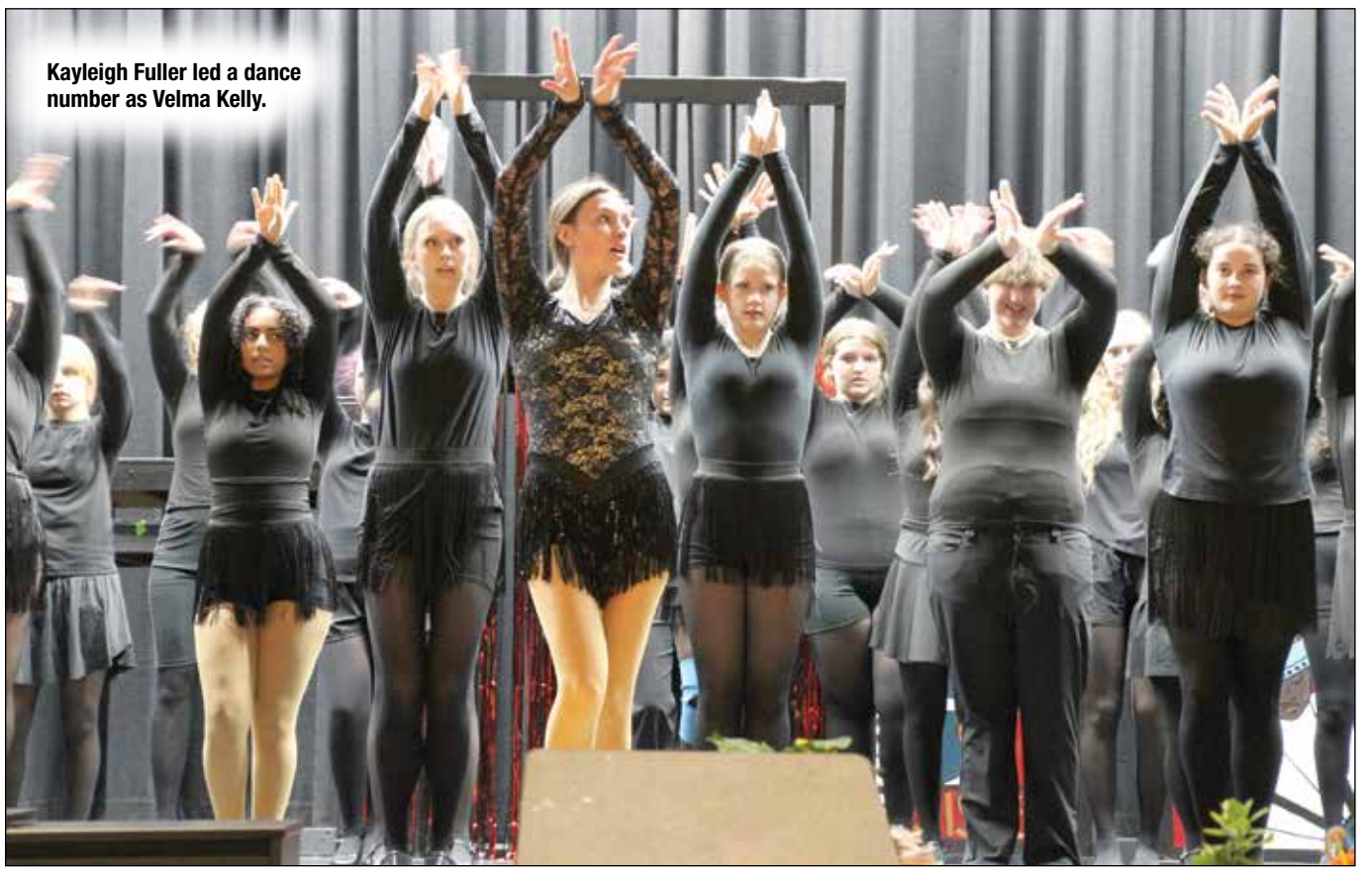
Crossing over from the Common, and entering the hall, there to the left was

Please see **FARMERS MARKET**, page 10



TURLEY PHOTOS BY RICHARD MURPHY

Rich Laba and his daughter Charlotte from Farm46.


Kayleigh Fuller led a dance number as Velma Kelly.


Eliza Brown as Roxie Hart and Kayleigh Fuller as Velma Kelly performed for their fans during a recent rehearsal.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE

CHICAGO from page 1

longs and given him the confidence to tackle Billy Flynn's lengthy monologues and hit the right notes while singing.

"I guess it helped me find my little niche," Bellerose said. "I never saw myself doing theater, but I loved it since I started…it brought me a lot of joy."

Owen O'Donnell is a member of the backstage crew, working to ensure each performance runs smoothly and efficiently. "Chicago: Teen Edition" is also his fifth production.

When he's not busy working backstage, O'Donnell is also an active member of the NJROTC at the high school and a Boy Scout. He's also applying for colleges to become a nurse and work in an emergency room.

O'Donnell shared a humorous moment that happened backstage during rehearsal, when one of the set pieces being moved by another crew member inadvertently ran him into the wall.

O'Donnell said he has been part of the music program since he was in the fourth grade, and he joined theater when he was in high school. He said he enjoys the fellowship he experiences in both.

"It's a nice positive environment," he said.

Janelle Hutchinson is a member of the featured ensemble, which has a prominent role in all of the song and dance numbers. This is her seventh performance in the theater program.

Balancing sports, schoolwork and rehearsals, Hutchinson is on the Unified Basketball team and also a soccer coach.

After graduation, Hutchinson will attend college to study business management and marketing, which she hopes to partner with her love of music.

Hutchinson said she enjoys the time she spends with her castmates, and learning their songs together.

"I was able to find my own community at this school," she said.

Sadie Ouimette, who is also on the Unified Basketball team and a three-sport athlete, is cast in the featured ensemble. This is her second production, after her high school theater debut as a Duloc dancer and the Moon in "Shrek the Musical" last year.

Ouimette said she decided to audition because her friends were also doing so. She said her favorite memory from rehearsals is laughing backstage with her friends, especially Ari.

After graduation Ouimette will attend college and study criminal psychology.

Arianna Riendeau is also in the featured ensemble, and this is her second theatrical production at the high school.

Riendeau said her favorite song in "Chicago: Teen Edition" is "Funny Honey" because Eliza Brown as Roxie Hart and Aspen Packard as Amos Hart "are talented people."

Riendeau plans to study music while in college, or architectural design.

Music and theater, have "definitely enhanced my passion and part of the reason I want to go into music when I am older," she said,

Amalya Hernandez stars as Liz in "Chicago: Teen Edition", and she enjoys getting to hang out with her friends in between scenes during rehearsals.

Managing her time with back-to-back rehearsals is preparing her for a busy courseload in college, where she will study kinesiology.

Hernandez said working with the Quabbin Performing Arts department has helped her build relationships with the adults involved, who have all been supportive of her.

"It's definitely given me more mentors," she said.

One of the seniors in "Chicago: Teen Edition" said she has also built friendships with the younger students in the cast and crew, many who were just in middle school when she first joined the theater program.

"It makes me sad and proud that I've gotten to see everybody grow physically, emotionally and talent-wise," she said.

The music and theater program at Quabbin Regional Middle High School has helped this senior also grow as a person and look back fondly on the high school years she will soon be leaving behind.

"I'm overall a more patient, kind and happier person since joining choir again and starting theater. Both are team activities and center around trusting people you may not know well to make something moving or even just fun to watch," she said. "I want to cry thinking about how I'm leaving both this year, but I'm glad I have something to miss because it shows me joining was worth it."

Anna Metcalf stars as Mona, and she has been in three prior Quabbin Performing Arts productions including "The Wizard of Oz" "Beauty and the Beast" and "Shrek the Musical".

Metcalf said she has "really enjoyed learning all of the choreography for this show because it is a different style of dance than what we have produced in the past."

After graduation Metcalf plans to become an elementary school teacher, while still continuing to dance, either professionally or teaching at a dance studio.

Metcalf said she loves being a part of both the music and theater departments at Quabbin Regional Middle High School.

"They feel like their own communities built around the common goal of creating art and performing, and performing has always been one of my strongest passions," she said.

Audrey Laursen will also pursue a career in elementary education after graduation, and she is starring as Hunyak in "Chicago: Teen Edition". This is her seventh production.

Laursen said she enjoys hanging out with her friends backstage and taking on the challenging and fast-paced dance choreography. She also appreciates how the Quabbin Performing Arts has given her opportunities to find herself.

"It's allowed me to perform my passion and get closer to and meet new people I didn't expect," she said.

Kayleigh Fuller is taking on the co-lead role of Velma Kelly in her fourth production with the Quabbin Performing Arts. Last year she turned up the heat on stage as Dragon in "Shrek the Musical."

Fuller said getting into Velma Kelly's character is a challenge for her, because Velma does a lot of bad things.

One of her favorite memories from rehearsals was finally mastering "Cell Block Tango" after three straight hours or practicing.

"When we got it, we all felt so proud of ourselves," Fuller said.

After graduation, Fuller will study nursing to work in a pediatric intensive care unit. She is also thinking about joining the U.S. Navy.

Music and theater have taken her out of her comfort zone, both in her singing, and in general. This experience has shown her that she is capable of many great things.

About 'Chicago: Teen Edition'

Performances are held in the auditorium of Quabbin Regional Middle High School, 800 South St., Barre on Saturday, Nov. 14 at 7 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 15 at 2 p.m., Friday, Nov. 20 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 21 at 2 p.m.

Tickets are available online at https://our.show/quabbinchicago, or by scanning the QR code. Tickets can also be purchased at the door but are expected to sell out quickly.

General admission is $10 in advance and $12 at the door.

This show contains themes of murder and adultery and may not be suitable for all ages of children. The show also has simulated gunshots.

The approximate running time of "Chicago: Teen Edition" is 90 minutes.

This venue is wheelchair accessible, including wheelchair accessible seating. Accessible parking is available in the front horseshoe-shaped driveway, in addition to the student parking lot.

BROOKFIELD BOS from page 1

because CDBG projects have to benefit low to moderate income people.

John O'Leary with the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission said people with disabilities are already presumed to be low to moderate income, along with the elderly. He noted the other needs to be eligible, which are not pertinent to this project, include addressing slum and blight or an urgent need.

O'Leary said the feasibility of this project is high because the town would be amending a grant already awarded, so it could be done in a shorter period of time, but a public hearing does have to take place first. Board members asked if O'Leary could find the costs of maintenance and tests that need to be performed on the chairlift, and he said an engineer could come out to give them a better picture of its lifespan and needs.

Select Board member Beth Coughlin said this could allow them to finally give the residents who voted at town meeting access to the second floor.

"Our town meeting twice has voted money for a chairlift," she said.

The motion was made to allow the chair of the board, Sarah Campbell, and the Town Administrator to utilize the funds for the chairlift along with additional improvements to the town hall and library ramps. The board voted favorably on the motion.

Police operations

Select Board member Richard Chaffee said he wanted this item on the agenda to address whether officers are patrolling enough by potentially implementing a mileage log, to track the miles on the car at the beginning and end of the shift. Chaffee said that he sees certain officers out patrolling more than others, and said when he was an officer, there was a mileage log.

Police Chief Michael Blanchard said he's not in favor of the mileage log. Blanchard said he had a conversation with Chaffee about it in October, suggesting a possible 50 mile per day minimum.

According to Blanchard, that conversation ended with the two agreeing that it wasn't the solution until he got a call weeks later asking if it had been implemented.

Chaffee said he requested it because he's getting comments from residents asking where the police are because they aren't seen very much. Chaffee said he wasn't asking for more citations or stops, but just more community policing and visibility on every road in town.

Coughlin noted she had not gotten those same comments and also said the visibility has gone up about 20% over the last year. Campbell said she and the Town Administrator and Police Chief are working on ways for the chief to enhance his monthly report.

Hazard Mitigation Plan

The board approved a Hazard Mitigation Plan, with Coughlin emphasizing the importance of town employees getting themselves familiar with its contents. Egan said the CMRPC can put together some sort of packet touching on its important content.

According to the plan's purpose, it "identifies the natural hazards facing the Town of Brookfield, assesses the vulnerabilities of the town's critical facilities… and presents recommendations to mitigate the adverse effects of these hazards."

Snowstorms, floods, earthquakes, extreme temperatures, invasive species, wildfires and hurricanes are all addressed in the plan. The plan also identifies areas in FEMA's 100- and 500-year flood zones and notes the Brookfield Elementary School has snow load vulnerabilities due to its flat roof.

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Many thanks to our generous community for supporting the 2026 Pumpkin Patch, whether you volunteered, bought pumpkins, or just stopped by. We look forward to seeing you in October 2027.
The Sturbridge Federated Church Pumpkin Patch Committee

- community -

Massachusetts voters re-elect incumbents in State Election

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

The State Election held on Nov. 3 saw incumbents retaining their respective seats in all contested races.

Incumbents reelected in these contested races include Edward J. Markey, Senator in Congress; Maura T. Healy and Kimberly Driscoll, Governor and Lieutenant Governor; Andrea J. Campbell, Attorney General; William F. Galvin, Secretary of State; Deborah B. Goldberg, Treasurer; Diana DiZoglio, Auditor; Richard E. Neal, Representative in Congress; Paul M. DePalo, Councillor – Seventh District; and Peter J. Durant, Senator in General Court.

A local breakdown of how voters cast their ballots is listed below:

Brookfield

Senator in Congress
Edward J. Markey, 763; John Deaton, 818; Shiva Ayyadurai, 49; and Joe Tache, 34

Governor & Lieutenant Governor
Healey and Driscoll, 720; Minogue and Oliver, 873; James and Kittredge, 77; Write-in, 1

Attorney General
Andrea Joy Campbell, 797; Michael C. Walsh, 853; Write-in, 1

Secretary of State
William Francis Galvin, 873; Anne R. Brensley, 769; Write-in, 2

Treasurer
Deborah B. Goldberg, 816; Elizabeth Dionne, 818; Write-in, 2

Auditor
Diana DiZoglio, 1040; Al Ozonoff, 419; Write-in, 15

Representative in Congress - First District
Richard E. Neal, 916; Nadia Donya Milleron, 592; Write-In, 10

Councillor - Seventh District
Paul M. DePalo, 822; Margaret M. Abboud, 765; Write-in, 1

Senator in General Court - Worcester & Hampshire District
Peter J. Durant, 913; Shannon M. Teabo, 698; Write-in, 1

Representative in General Court - Fifth Worcester District
Donald Roger Berthiaume, Jr., 1202; Write-in, 30

District Attorney - Middle District
Joseph D. Early, Jr., 1190; Write-in, 38

Register of Probate - Worcester County
Stephanie K. Fattman, 1158; Write-in, 23
Ballot Question 1
Yes, 1391; No, 243
Ballot Question 2
Yes, 875; No, 741
Ballot Question 3
Yes, 661; No, 986
Ballot Question 4
Yes, 720; No, 918
Ballot Question 5
Yes, 904; No, 714
Ballot Question 6
Yes, 933; No, 689
Ballot Question 7
Yes, 705; No. 921
Ballot Question 8
Yes, 434; No, 1240
Ballot Question 9
Yes, 720; No, 968

North Brookfield

Senator in Congress
Edward J. Markey, 971; John Deaton, 1148; Shiva Ayyadurai, 71; Joe Tache, 40

Governor & Lieutenant Governor
Healey and Driscoll, 935; Minogue and Oliver, 1210; James and Kittredge, 99

Attorney General
Andrea Joy Campbell, 1040; Michael C. Walsh, 1177

Secretary of State
William Francis Galvin, 1169; Anne R. Brensley, 1044

Treasurer
Deborah B. Goldberg, 1043; Elizabeth Dionne, 1164

Auditor
Diana DiZoglio, 1403; Al Ozonoff, 601

Representative in Congress - First District
Richard E. Neal, 1155; Nadia Donya Milleron, 843

Councillor - Seventh District
Paul M. DePalo, 1078; Margaret M. Abboud, 1056

Senator in General Court - Worcester & Hampshire District
Peter J. Durant, 1268; Shannon M. Teabo, 906

Representative in General Court - Fifth Worcester District
Donald Roger Berthiaume, Jr., 1604

District Attorney - Middle District
Joseph D. Early, Jr., 1615

Register of Probate - Worcester County
Stephanie K. Fattman, 1565
Ballot Question 1
Yes, 1930; No, 290
Ballot Question 2
Yes, 1147; No, 1028
Ballot Question 3
Yes, 860; No, 1301
Ballot Question 4
Yes, 906; No, 1301
Ballot Question 5
Yes, 1243; No, 936
Ballot Question 6
Yes, 1236; No, 952
Ballot Question 7
Yes, 863; No. 1316
Ballot Question 8
Yes, 500; No, 1743
Ballot Question 9
Yes, 881; No, 1364

West Brookfield

Senator in Congress
Edward J. Markey, 872; John Deaton, 869; Shiva Ayyadurai, 53; Joe Tache, 30; Write-in, 1

Governor & Lieutenant Governor
Healey and Driscoll, 812; Minogue and Oliver, 948; James and Kittredge, 77; Write-in, 2

Attorney General
Andrea Joy Campbell, 910; Michael C. Walsh, 909; Write-in, 1

Secretary of State
William Francis Galvin, 1022; Anne R. Brensley, 794; Write-in, 1

Treasurer
Deborah B. Goldberg, 916; Elizabeth Dionne, 881; Write-in, 1

Auditor
Diana DiZoglio, 1174; Al Ozonoff, 451; Write-in, 10

Representative in Congress - First District
Richard E. Neal, 1003; Nadia Donya Milleron, 632; Write-In, 13

Councillor - Seventh District
Paul M. DePalo, 940; Margaret M. Abboud, 798

Senator in General Court - Worcester & Hampshire District
Peter J. Durant, 960; Shannon M. Teabo, 833

Representative in General Court - Fifth Worcester District
Donald Roger Berthiaume, Jr., 1306; Write-in, 31

District Attorney - Middle District
Joseph D. Early, Jr., 1311; Write-in, 39

Register of Probate - Worcester County
Stephanie K. Fattman, 1255; Write-in, 24
Ballot Question 1
Yes, 1569; No, 242
Ballot Question 2
Yes, 947; No, 835
Ballot Question 3
Yes, 768; No, 1042
Ballot Question 4
Yes, 784; No, 1009
Ballot Question 5
Yes, 952; No, 823
Ballot Question 6
Yes, 1070; No, 720
Ballot Question 7
Yes, 687; No. 1099
Ballot Question 8
Yes, 402; No, 1443
Ballot Question 9
Yes, 757; No, 1098

New Braintree

Senator in Congress
Edward J. Markey, 244; John Deaton, 270; Shiva Ayyadurai, 17; and Joe Tache, 12

Governor & Lieutenant Governor
Healey and Driscoll, 223; Minogue and Oliver, 291; James and Kittredge, 29

Attorney General
Andrea Joy Campbell, 263; Michael C. Walsh, 274

Secretary of State
William Francis Galvin, 308; Anne R. Brensley, 231

Treasurer
Deborah B. Goldberg, 273; Elizabeth Dionne, 262

Auditor
Diana DiZoglio, 374; Al Ozonoff, 119

Representative in Congress - First District
Richard E. Neal, 295; Nadia Donya Milleron, 212

Councillor - Seventh District
Paul M. DePalo, 278; Margaret M. Abboud, 247

Senator in General Court - Worcester & Hampshire District
Peter J. Durant, 323; Shannon M. Teabo, 213

Representative in General Court - Fifth Worcester District
Donald Roger Berthiaume, Jr., 411

District Attorney - Middle District
Joseph D. Early, Jr., 408

Register of Probate - Worcester County
Stephanie K. Fattman, 395

Regional School Committee-Belchertown
Lorraine F. Alves, 373

Regional School Committee-Granby
Blanks, 550

Regional School Committee-Hardwick
Julie Quink, 402

Regional School Committee-Monson
Ronald Keith Valley, Jr., 373

Regional School Committee-Palmer
Blanks, 550

Regional School Committee-Ware
Marie Barbara Ray, 362

Regional School Committee-Warren
Blanks, 550
Ballot Question 1
Yes, 467; No, 77
Ballot Question 2
Yes, 268; No, 267
Ballot Question 3
Yes, 196; No, 344
Ballot Question 4
Yes, 202; No, 339
Ballot Question 5
Yes, 289; No, 247
Ballot Question 6
Yes, 286; No, 254
Ballot Question 7
Yes, 161; No. 380
Ballot Question 8
Yes, 116; No, 426
Ballot Question 9
Yes, 204; No, 343

SCHOOL from page 1

closed the West Brookfield Elementary School because they could not afford it. She said the group hadn't provided any financial information nor did they communicate with the Town of Warren and other area towns that could potentially send their kids to the new charter school.

Select Board Chair Henry Brogna also said Cofske is working with the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission to put together a survey to gather community input on what they would like to see at the site.

Cofske also noted the school building is the town's largest asset, so they need to have thorough planning and input from the community, not a group. She said a request for interest could be formed to explore a range of opportunities including educational, post-secondary, civic, commercial and housing in the building.

Cofske also brought up the possibility of putting a public safety complex there since the police department is out of compliance with unsafe stairs and a lack of privacy. "It is absolutely shameful," she said of the department's space.

She said a public safety complex committee was put together to move this forward, but they didn't have a building at the time, but now they do.

Cofske also said the town does not have ownership of the building since it was turned over to the town by the Quaboag Regional School District after West Brookfield's annual town meeting, so they need to have a town meeting vote to accept the property.

The director of finance from the Quaboag Regional School District noted that charter schools are funded through the local budget, and tuition is reimbursed over three years at 200%, but in the following years, there is no reimbursement.

Provencher said the goal is to have kids join the school district after they graduate from the charter school to make back some of those costs.

Superintendent Stephen Duff with the district said the tuition cost would be assessed on top of the regular budget for the school, and the towns would be responsible for it, and it would be a $1.2 million cost after year three.

One resident in attendance was concerned about the lottery system that could exclude children who live in West Brookfield from attending the school.

Police Department policies

Police Chief Nathan Hagglund presented the board with two policies including use of force and social media. He said the use of force policy has changed from a leveling rule where the officer could go hands-on if someone pulled away or use a taser when they became aggressive.

He said the new rule is to do what a reasonable person would do in the same circumstances.

Hagglund said the previous rules lasted for about 40 years. The policy calls for officers to de-escalate when possible and follow the law as if they do not, it can undermine the legitimacy of the officer.

Section four of the policy calls for officers who witness unreasonable force being used to report it or intervene, based on the totality of the circumstances. The policy also restricts carotid control and respiratory restraints.

The policy was accepted by the board.

The social media policy calls for officers' use of computers or devices to be ethical, professional and lawful, and to not post any material identifying the department on a personal or social page. The policy was approved by the board.

Appointments and resignations

The board appointed Jessica Cabrera as a part-time/on-call camera operator at a rate of $60 per meeting and accepted the resignations of Mark O'Donnell from the Highway Department and Hagglund as Police Chief.

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USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP SIRLOIN SPOON ROAST $6.99 lb
USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF CHUCK ROAST or STEAK $6.69 lb
USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY DIET LEAN GROUND BEEF 5 LB BAG $5.28 lb
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- opinion -

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

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

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.

Carrots beckon to be harvested

in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid



My youngest daughter loves cooked carrots with a little drizzle of maple syrup, whereby my older one likes them raw with peanut butter on the side.

It's funny that these incentives that we started back when they were little kids and we wanted them to eat their vegetables stuck through the years!

Regardless of what the girls like to eat their carrots with, I am so glad they eat them. Carrots are a nutritious root vegetable, containing beta-carotene which our bodies convert to Vitamin A, potassium and other vitamins, dietary fiber and antioxidants which vary according to the color of the carrot.

For years I struggled to grow carrots when my friends seemed to have an easy time of it. Either the seeds didn't germinate well, or if they did, bugs ate the seedlings when they were just an inch tall.

One year I got past that only to have the roots taste so bitter at harvest that I ended up throwing them all out. All that work for nothing!

The last few years I've done much better, and as we speak my carrots beckon me to finish the harvest. So far I've been in a "pick as needed" mode, but since I don't want to deal with insulating them under layers of straw, time is running out and I better get them out of the ground.

Here are some tips for growing great carrots.

Ideally your soil should be deep, loose and free of stones. Carrots grow well in raised beds for this reason.

Regular garden beds should have the soil loosened to about a foot deep. Be wary of using fresh manure or other sources of fertilizer that are super high in nitrogen. While it's true that carrots like some nitrogen, having ultra rich soil will make for fibrous, hairy roots.

Experts say that if you are going to amend it should be done the fall prior.

It can take a long time for carrot seeds to sprout. Gardeners have tried all sorts of extraneous measures to get them to germinate more quickly and with greater consistency.

Here are some things I have read about and some I have tried.

The old radish trick – try sowing radish seed interspersed among your carrot seed. The radishes will sprout first, marking the row and providing some shade for the developing carrot seedlings. Some people pre-sprout. Place seed in a moist paper towel and set it in a warm spot in the house and it will sprout.

Immediately after sprouting it is sown in place in the garden. The rows are kept moist and ideally the seedlings take hold.

Sadly, I have read that sometimes this causes roots that end up misshapen. Sometimes gardeners use wood, shade cloth or burlap to keep the seedbed moist.

If you miss when the seeds sprout, they could be smothered under these coverings or worse yet, get tangled up in the fabric. Check daily and remove coverings on the first notice of germination. Continue to keep the bed watered or seedlings will perish.

I planted my carrot seeds in shallow furrows just after Memorial Day and kept the plot watered until they were up and growing. Although carrot seed can germinate in early spring – even when soil temperatures are below 50 degrees, I have had better luck with later sowings.

Another concern gardeners have has to do with sowing the tiny seeds and/or thinning the seedlings.

Carrots mature to the right size when given at least two inches between plants. I usually try to sow my seed a half-inch apart and then thin to two inches.

Thinning is a pain to do, especially in bigger plantings, but it can be done. In order not to damage nearby seedlings, I often use a tiny pair of scissors to cut away the crowding seedlings.

A thumb and index finger can also be used to pinch away the excess plants right at the soil line. Sometimes gardeners mix carrot seed with sand or dry coffee grounds to make sowing the small seed easier; using seed tape or pelletized seed are other, albeit expensive, options to ensure more equidistant seedlings.

Regular carrot seeds are viable for two-three years whereas pelletized seed is viable for a year. Tape and coated seeds do still need to be kept as moist as regular sowings – maybe even more so, due to the additional layers.

This past year I thinned early on but probably should have done it again when the plants were bigger. I do have clusters of roots within my rows where some carrots look like "baby" carrots and others are full size.

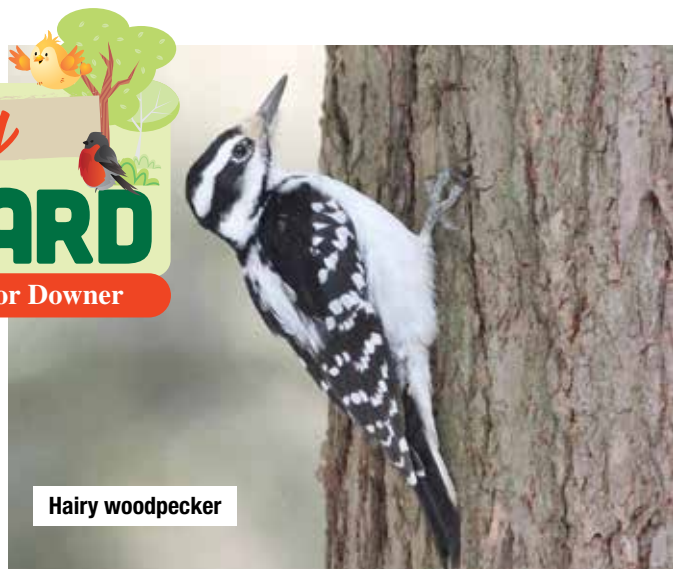
Ah, such it life. The small ones will take a little more work to deal with, but will taste just as good, I imagine.

It'll be fun to serve carrots at our Christmas dinner. After harvest I'll store them unwashed in perforated bags in the fridge until I am ready to use them. And maybe I'll serve them with a drizzle of maple syrup.

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.

in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer



Hairy woodpecker

I received an email this week from a reader, who shared a photo of a white-breasted nuthatch he took. He said he has not seen a hairy woodpecker in three years.

The hairy woodpecker is a medium-sized woodpecker found across North America, characterized by its black-and-white plumage. Males have a red patch on their head; females do not.

They typically inhabits forests and is known for its energetic climbing behavior while foraging for insects in tree bark.

The hairy woodpecker is the larger of two look a likes – the hairy woodpecker and the downy woodpecker.

Although they both possess the same black and white feather pattern color and the red patch on the back of head (males only), the hairy woodpecker has a much longer bill than the downy woodpecker.

The hairy woodpecker measures approximately 9.8 inches in length and has a wingspan of about 15 inches. Its diet mainly consists of insects particularly wood-boring beetles, which it extracts from tree bark.

They also excavate their own nesting cavities often in the dead stub of a living tree. The entrance to the nest is about 2 inches tall and 1.5 inches wide, leading to a cavity 8-12 inches deep.

The inside widens at the bottom to make room for the eggs and the incubating bird. It's typically bare except for a bed of wood chips at the bottom.

They are known for their distinctive drumming sounds, which they use to communicate and establish territory.

The hairy woodpecker's call is a short, sharp peek and is similar to downy woodpeckers, but slightly lower pitched and often sounding more emphatic. They also make a rattle or whinny. This call is also similar to the downy, but does not descend in pitch at the end.

Ravens

The man, who sent the photo of the white-breasted nuthatch said where he lives, the supermarkets are

"raven territory." He recommended reading the book "Ravens in Winter" by Bernd Heinrich..

Bald eagles

A Petersham resident spotted four bald eagles, two in a tree and two flying above, on Saturday, Oct. 31 around 10 a.m. on Popple Camp Road, Petersham. He said, "Perhaps the unlucky rabbit road kill caught their attention or they were a reminder to us all to vote on Nov. 3."

Large flock of blackbird

Three of my grandchildren and I saw a large flock of blackbirds flying overhead in Spencer on Friday, Oct. 30. I guessed there were at least 200 birds, maybe more, in the flock.

Other birds

I spotted a flock of about a dozen robins along the road side recently. I wondered if they were gathering to migrate south or if they were some of the robins that over winter in this area.

I spotted a red-tailed hawk fly across the road on election day, Nov. 3. I have seen a red tailed hawk three different days and in different locations recently.

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

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QUABOAG CURRENT

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Send opinions to:
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Quaboag Current

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Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.
One is a free, brief
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The other is a
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Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

- community -

North Brookfield BOS discusses Senior Center use

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
zachf@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Board of Selectmen met last Tuesday and discussed operations at 29 Forest St., the town's Senior Center, and the possibility of making it a community center.

Chair Jamie Gilman said only 3.3% of the town's senior population is utilizing the space right now. Gilman noted that 30.4% of the population is over 60, at 1,446 people, and 891 people in town are over 65.

At the Nov. 3 meeting, the board discussed using the space as a centralized area to bring help to the town's population, of which 34% is below the poverty line. Gilman said 14.9% of seniors are in poverty along with 17.53% of children under 18.

He said Senior Center Director Courtenay Rivera is the contact for SNAP benefits along with heating assistance.

During the meeting, Rivera said she was excited to change the direction of the center into a community center. She noted that some other towns in the area including Southbridge and Holland have switched over to a community center and keep their formula funding since it still operates as a senior center, although Holland did lose a Hampden County specific funding source.

The board discussed some uses the community center could have, including a facility for the North Brookfield Food Collaborative to have room for more resources, and a place where town departments like Parks and Recreation and the Cultural Council can partner to put on larger events to draw more people to the building.

Board members noted there is a need in the town for food and housing security. Rivera also said the community center could become a SNAP partner, which reimburses the town.

"34%, that's bad, that's really bad," Selectman Peter Orsi said about the poverty rate in town, adding that since the town already has a building that has been doing work to help people, they should move forward with this plan to help more residents.

Enterprise and local growth

Selectman Ralph Kay added this item to the agenda to discuss attracting more commercial growth to the town, and potentially creating a task force. Kay said the town is dealing with prices going up, and has to deal with equipment expenses, contracts and debt.

He said the town is tight with money and lives within its means, but said that cannot continue. Kay said the town cannot keep taxing the residents, adding that only 5% of revenue is from commercial or industrial, the rest is residential.

Kay said the per capita income for North Brookfield is 24% below the state average, and he looked at local towns and found their tax rate is the second highest. He said the town's median income in local areas is also the lowest.

Kay said the goal of the task force would be to get more commercial and industrial revenue into the town to moderate the tax rate over time. He created a 90-day plan, with the first 30 days being identifying vacant commercial buildings, infrastructure limits, utility capacity and zoning.

The 60-day mark would be recruiting prospective businesses into town. The 90-day mark would be doing outreach with groups like chambers of commerce and brokers. Kay said an important distinction throughout the process would be protecting the character of the town, and they'd start with things like warehouse distribution or light manufacturing.

COA grant

The board accepted the grant selection for the Council on Aging from St. Vincent Healthcare. It is a $1,200 wellness grant that funds exercise programs and the foot clinic at the Senior Center.

Rivera said she put in for $1,800.

Contract

Please see BOS, page 6

QHMA from page 1

Navigating Work, Life and the Holiday Rush."

Each registered attendee will also receive a signed copy of book. This event is sponsored by Burkhart Pizzanelli, P.C. of Palmer and West Springfield.

The first Ascend session will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 18 from 8:30-10 a.m. led by Lena Buteau. The subject is "How Good is Your Time Management?"

Buteau is the Vice President and Retail Administration Officer for Monson Savings Bank and former president of the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce. Attendees will learn poor versus good time management, how to identify obstacles, defining contributors and setting boundary skills.

"There's always something new to learn," Niedziela said.

Niedziela talked about the need for members to be involved in chamber programs and events, and sponsorships. She asked the members to try and commit to three things: joining in, getting involved and investing in the future.

Niedziela said she is optimistic about the future of the chamber and the direction it has taken.

"As I look around I am excited about where we are going," she said.

Przypek said the chamber has $128,000 in projected revenue, which is an increase of 20%.

"We are on the right track," he said.

This year, the chamber added 21 new members and participated in six ribbon-cutting events at grand openings.

He talked about the chamber office's move from Three Rivers to Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School's Four Corners building, located at 191 Sykes St. in Palmer.

Przypek said the chamber promoted more than 700 community events through its website and increased its social media presence.

The featured speaker for the annual meeting and dinner was Eric Duda, Superintendent of Pathfinder Tech.

Duda is a graduate of the school that was founded in 1973 and has now grown to include nine rural towns in its district.

About 20 years ago, Duda became a teacher at the high school, before rising to principal and then superintendent.

Duda said Pathfinder Tech serves 700 students from two locations after opening a second location at the Cold Springs School in Belchertown. This new location allowed the school district to open up 150 new seats for students.

Duda shared a promotional video for Pathfinder Tech, which was created by a recent graduate, to highlight some of the school district's offerings.

"We have a lot of positive things to share," Duda said.

Duda said despite a trend of declining enrollment in school districts across the region, Pathfinder Tech is continuing to thrive.

"Schools are closing all over this region," he said. "But Pathfinder the past six years has continued to grow in enrollment…this is not luck, this is strategy, planning."

Duda talked about the "Path to Professionalism," which the school district embarked on about 10 years ago.

"We have a system of values we follow," he said. "We live and breathe this with everything we do."

Duda said this system applies to both students and staff.

"Our culture is exceptional," he said.

Duda said Pathfinder Tech is one of the largest employers in the region with 135 full-time staff, 20 plus adult continuing education instructors and 40 plus student workers. He said the school district is able to offer health, vision, and dental insurance to employees as well as retirement planning.

"We are essentially operating like a town," he said.

The school district has an $18 million budget and received an additional $2 million in grants.

He said the school district has received unanimous approval of its budget from each of its member towns for the past five years.

Duda said the school district also carries no debt and has not asked for any capital infrastructure funding from the towns.

Duda said Pathfinder Tech also has a high graduation rate, and each graduate receives a diploma, a technical certificate and 2,000 experience hours.

"Preparing the future work force, that's what we're all about," Duda said.

About QHMA

The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce was established in 1978 to assist businesses in the Quaboag Hills region. The chamber serves 15 towns: Belchertown, Brimfield, Brookfield, East Brookfield, Hardwick, Holland, Monson, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Palmer, Spencer, Wales, Ware, Warren and West Brookfield.

Its mission is to advance economic growth and tourism in the region, to be an advocate for policies that achieve the development goals of its communities, and to advance the interests of its members.

For more information, visit www.qhma.com, email info@qhma.com or call 413-283-2418.



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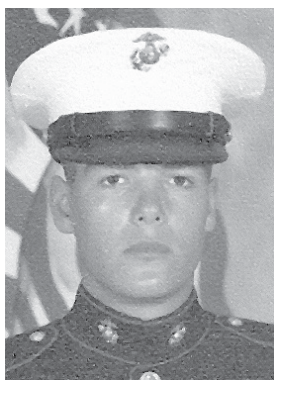

Jeff Nickerson
USMC
West Brookfield



Harmon Pollard
Army
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Thank You

For your **service,**
For your **courage,**
For your **sacrifice,**
For your **dedication.**



Adams Coney Frew Ladies Auxiliary American Legion Post 244 of West Brookfield. Pictured left to right, Abby Birch, Deb Lagrant, Carol Slater, Tracy Hibbard, Dolores Day, Ann Buchanan and Ann Lake. Seecond row: Beverly Anderson, Carol Kelleher, Donna Breton, Carol Pagnoni and Karen Hayes.



Adams Coney Frew Sons of the American Legion Post 244 of West Brookfield Picture left to right, Tom Kane, Richard Kemp, Richard Kimball, Gary Simeone, Wes Casavant, Jeff Nickerson, Bill Mansfield, Mark Adams, Mike Barrett and Brian Lake.



Sawyer Mathieu-Kearns American Legion Post 41 Ladies Auxiliary of North Brookfield, MA



Adams Coney Frew American Legion Post 244 of West Brookfield. Pictured left to right, Bob Bliss, Dave Breton, Rene Berthiume, Dave Tebo, Lloyd Rice, Mike Cox, Jeff Nickerson, Wayne Clayborne and Brad Slater.



Sawyer Mathieu-Kearns American Legion Post 41 of North Brookfield, MA



Sawyer Mathieu-Kearns Sons of American Legion Post 41 of North Brookfield, MA

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Wreaths Across America honors servicemembers Dec. 19

WEST BROOKFIELD – West Brookfield's Wreaths Across America will take place on Saturday, Dec. 19 at noon at the Veterans' Monuments on the Common, followed by wreath-laying at Pine Grove Cemetery, 41 Church St.

This event will be in conjunction with Congress' proclamation of National Wreaths Across America Day and Arlington National Cemetery's wreath-laying schedule.

West Brookfield is the only Wreaths Across America location in all of the Brookfields, Warren, New Braintree, Oakham, Barre, Hardwick, Spencer, Sturbridge and Charlton.

This year the goal is to ensure that every one of the nearly 600 servicemembers laid to rest in West Brookfield receives a fresh, handmade wreath as a symbol of remembrance and gratitude.

Each wreath sponsorship is just $17, with 100% of each sponsorship supporting this community's veterans. For more information, please call Nadine Morin, 774-200-3396, or email 01585wreathsacrossamerica@gmail.com.

Library lists 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.

BOS from page 5

The board signed an advanced life support agreement with Brookfield and East Brookfield that would allow at least one paramedic with ALS services 24 hours per day.

Donation

The board accepted a $400 donation to be put into the COA gift account, which was gifted by an anonymous donor.

Administrative items

The minutes of the Oct. 27 meeting were approved as well. The board also was notified of the hiring of Assistant Town Clerk Melissa Magario.

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Cougars defeat Worcester Tech



WARREN – On Senior Day, Quaboag field hockey defeated Worcester Tech in an 8-0 shutout. The victory brought the Cougars back to .500 for the season as they sought a spot in the Division 4 State Tournament, which was scheduled to begin earlier this week.

Lexie Gauthier tries to avoid an opponent.



Harper Bradley gets ready to for a long hit.



Josie Hescock heads into the circle.



Olivia Arvizu advances past an opponent.



Lexie Gauthier tries to avoid an opponent.

Pioneers turn back Frontier

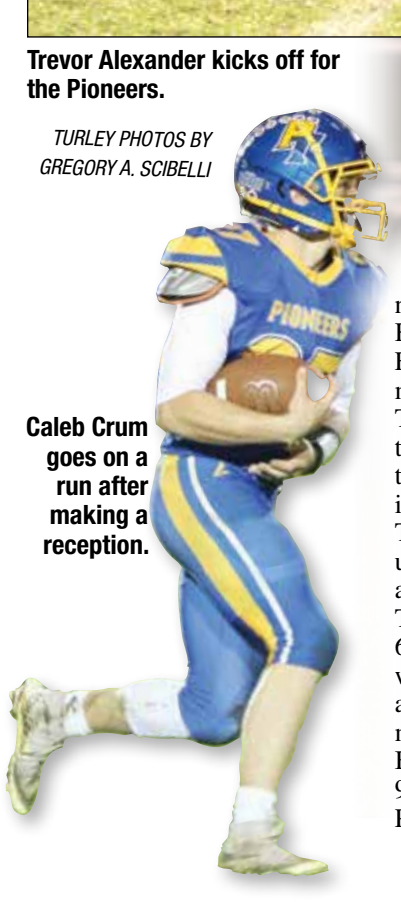


Trevor Alexander kicks off for the Pioneers.

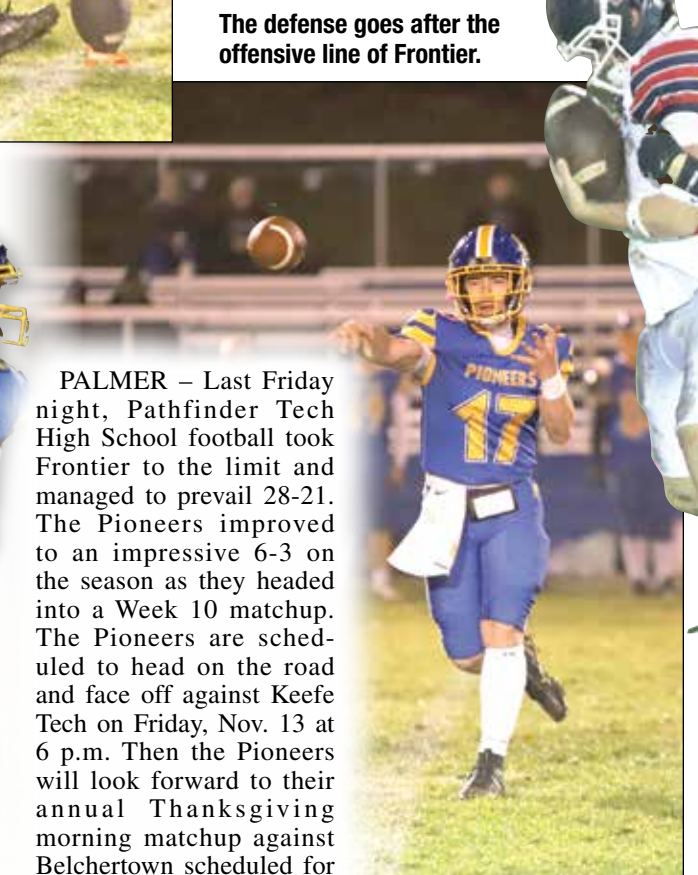


The defense goes after the offensive line of Frontier.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Caleb Crum goes on a run after making a reception.



Grayson Griswold attempts a screen pass.

PALMER – Last Friday night, Pathfinder Tech High School football took Frontier to the limit and managed to prevail 28-21. The Pioneers improved to an impressive 6-3 on the season as they headed into a Week 10 matchup. The Pioneers are scheduled to head on the road and face off against Keefe Tech on Friday, Nov. 13 at 6 p.m. Then the Pioneers will look forward to their annual Thanksgiving morning matchup against Belchertown scheduled for 9 a.m. at Legion Field in Palmer.



Ray Kularski makes a tackle.

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TURLEY PHOTOS BY JEFFREY HAYNES

Makenzie Casey fights through a swarm of opponents during recent action.

Strong finish for Quabbin field hockey



Juliana Nickson gets positioning for control of the ball.

BARRE – Last week, the Quabbin Regional High School field hockey team finished up an impressive 2026 season. The Panthers were an overall 16-2, but even more impressive, they had a perfect 10-0 league record in the Midland Wachusett B to win the league championship. Offense was a big part of Quabbin's game, and Makenzie Casey and Abby Rogowski led the way with 25 and 21 goals, respectively. Freshman Olivia VanOudenhove also had a breakout year with 13 goals. Goalie Aubrey Thorpe allowed less than a goal per game while Quabbin averaged more than four goals scored per game. The Panthers, as of last Friday, were ranked No. 6 in Division 4, which means they will have home games for at least the first two rounds of the state tournament, which should be begin late this week.



Abby Rogowski battles for possession.



Waverly Rivard pushes the ball forward through traffic.



Kayla Curran chases down the loose ball.

- sturbridge -

Historical Society presents 'Gadgets, Gizmos & Gimcracks' Nov. 19



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Do you recognize these items? On Thursday, Nov. 19, at 7 p.m. at the Publick House, Bob Arnold will present a lighthearted look at a selection of bits and pieces of technology from the past. You'll have to wait for the presentation to have the items pictured here identified.

STURBRIDGE – On Thursday, Nov. 19, at 7 p.m. the Sturbridge Historical Society will present Bob Arnold to share lighthearted look at a selection of bits and pieces of technology from the past at the Publick House.

While many of these objects and their uses may seem puzzling today, when they were created they were, for the most part, quite useful – whether in the kitchen, or the barn, or for personal care. Many of us can remember those big telephone directories; or that little button on the floor of the car for the headlights; or the heady aroma of the mimeograph machine, all of which have passed on into technological oblivion.

Arnold will present a series of photos of items from earlier eras and discuss their original uses.

This will definitely be an audience participation presentation. You can see how many items you may recognize – and you're welcome to bring and share unusual items you have in your collections/cellars/attics.

A Sturbridge resident since 1970, Arnold is a freelance photographer, amateur historian, and collector of all things Sturbridge. He has been documenting life in our community over the past 50 years providing a unique perspective on the commercial, cultural, and environmental changes in our community.

His ongoing program of digital preservation of documents and photographic images assures that future generations will have access to a visual record of the past.

Arnold, his wife, Susan, and their dog, Jesse, live with thousands of images and many, many gadgets, gizmos and gimcracks.

This program is graciously hosted by the Publick House. The Historical Society is holding a Thanksgiving Food Drive to benefit The Pages and Packs Pantry at the Joshua Hyde Public Library and will accept non-perishable, non-expired foods.

Christmas in New Braintree seeks vendors

NEW BRAINTREE – On Saturday, Dec. 5, the Tri-Parish Community Church will once again be holding a craft fair as part of the "Christmas in New Braintree" celebration this year from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the New Braintree Grade School, 15 Memorial Drive.

Items being sold by our vendors include: handmade teddy bears, hand made jewelry, local honey and maple syrup, Christmas ornaments and decorations, pottery, and many other one of a kind items that are perfect for Christmas gift giving.

Along with our craft fair taking place in the Grade School, there will be homemade cookies, homemade ice cream, and food being sold in the Town Hall, 20 Memorial Drive. There will also be kids' games and activities, and hayrides, too.

All are invited to come shop at the craft fair and join in all the holiday fun taking place at "Christmas in New Braintree." The proceeds for the craft fair will go to the Hardwick Food Pantry, the Mustard Seed and Hardwick Christmas for Kids.

If you wish to be one of craft fair vendors, spaces are still available.

For more information and an application, please contact the Tri-Parish Community Church office by calling 508-867-3306 or emailing triparishcc@gmail.com.

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.

Red Door Fayre to be held 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.

Gingerbread Fair is 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.

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



- public safety -

East Brookfield Police Log

During the weeks of Sept. 28-Oct. 11, the East Brookfield Police Department responded to 239 building/property checks, 157 directed area patrols, 28 radar assignments, 14 traffic controls, 18 emergency 911 calls, six citizen assists, five assist other agencies, two complaints, four suspicious activities, two safety hazards, three motor vehicle investigations, one investigation, one motor vehicle accident, one animal call and 44 motor vehicle stops in the town of East Brookfield.

Monday, Sept. 28

5:15 a.m. 911 Misdial, Stone Road, Officer Handled

6:39 a.m. Safety Hazard, Pleasant Street, Removed Hazard

10:36 a.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Services Rendered

11:30 a.m. Welfare Check, Park Street, Spoken To

2:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Howe Street, Citation Issued

8:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Connie Mack Drive, Citation Issued

Tuesday, Sept. 29

5:26 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Podunk Road, Citation Issued

11:55 a.m. Assist Citizen, South Pond Road, Services Rendered

3:38 p.m. Assist Other Agency, East Main Street, Arrest(s) Made

Wednesday, Sept. 30

1:03 p.m. Welfare Check, Route 49, Services Rendered

Thursday, Oct. 1

2:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Cottage Street, Services Rendered

3:23 p.m. Welfare Check, Stone Road, Services Rendered

7:33 p.m. 911 Suspicious Activity, Flagg Road, Officer Handled

Friday, Oct. 2

10:58 a.m. Complaint, Pleasant Street, Spoken To

1:48 p.m. Investigation, West Main Street, Investigated

3:17 p.m. Fire Alarm, East Main Street, Services Rendered

7:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

8:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation Issued

Saturday, Oct. 3

12:13 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Harrington Lane, Spoken To

12:33 a.m. 911 Disturbance, Adams Road, Officer Handled

2:20 a.m. Medical Emergency, Park Street, Transported to Hospital

6:36 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Services Rendered

7:35 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Podunk Road, Services Rendered

10:32 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, West Main Street, Patient Refusal

Sunday, Oct. 4

12 p.m. Traffic Control, East Main Street, Citation Issued

12:09 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

12:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Route 49, Citation Issued

3:06 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Vehicle Towed

6:02 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

9:39 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, North Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital

Monday, Oct. 5

7:51 a.m. School Zone Traffic, East Main Street, Citation Issued

8:03 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

1:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

1:41 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Crash, West Main Street, Report Taken

1:55 p.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Services Rendered

6:58 p.m. Fire/Auto, East Main Street, Extinguished

7:22 p.m. Welfare Check, Terry Lane, Services Rendered

Tuesday, Oct. 6

9:16 a.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Services Rendered

12:01 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Adams Road, Transported to Hospital

2:46 p.m. Complaint, Howe Street, Officer Handled

4:33 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Podunk Road, Officer Handled

4:59 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Written Warning

5:03 p.m. Safety Hazard, Podunk Road, Services Rendered

7:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Howe Street, Officer Handled

Wednesday, Oct. 7

5:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

6:54 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Cove Street, Officer Handled

7:53 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

8:19 p.m. Medical Emergency, North Brookfield Road, Patient Refusal

10:18 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, South Pond Road, Transported to Hospital

Thursday, Oct. 8

9:09 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Mechanic Street, Spoken To

12:07 p.m. 911 Welfare Check, Route 49, Services Rendered

2:05 p.m. Assist Citizen, East Main Street, Services Rendered

Friday, Oct. 9

9:37 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, West Main Street, Transported to Hospital

10:33 a.m. Suspicious Activity, Harrington Lane, Spoken To

12:56 p.m. Assist Other Agency, North Brookfield Road, Services Rendered

7:59 p.m. Medical Emergency, Evergreen Street, Transported to Hospital

Saturday, Oct. 10

9:03 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

9:06 a.m. 911 Serve Warrant, Harrington Street, Merge

11:41 a.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Spoken To

1:03 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Services Rendered

Sunday, Oct. 11

11:11 a.m. 911 Disturbance, East Main Street, Officer Handled

12:48 p.m. 911 Misdial, West Main Street, Services Rendered

New Braintree Police Log

During the week of Nov. 2-9, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 23 building/property checks, 16 directed/area patrols, five radar assignments, two citizen assists, one suspicious activity and one brush fire in the town of New Braintree.

Tuesday, Nov. 3

2:15 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Moore Road, Transported to Hospital

2:15 p.m. 911 Fire/Brush, Worcester Road, Services Rendered

Wednesday, Nov. 4

4 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

Thursday, Nov. 5

6:45 a.m. Assist Citizen, Barre Road, Dispatch Handled

Sunday, Nov. 8

3:29 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Ware Road, Report Taken



Fall Fest Church Bazaar & Bake is set for 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.

Santa Parade and Tree Lighting on Nov. 28

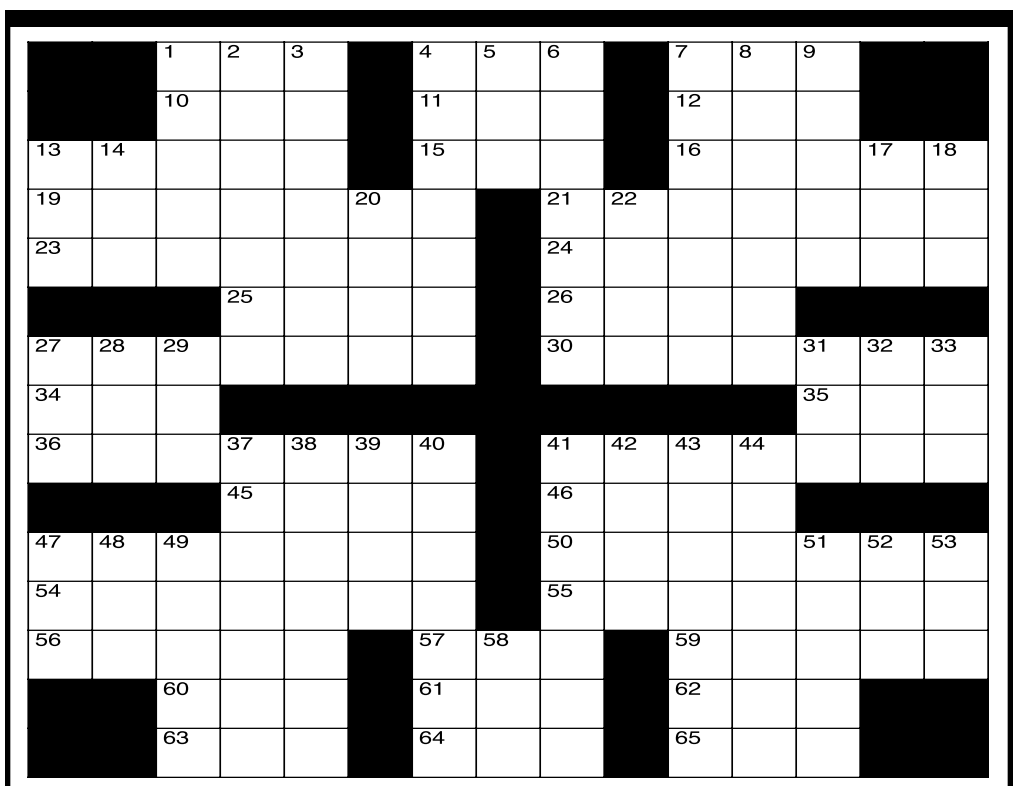
NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Town of North Brookfield is hosting its annual Santa Parade & Tree Lighting on Saturday, Nov. 28.

The parade will be held at 5 p.m. and the tree lighting at 6 p.m.

Be sure to visit the library before the parade for holiday activities and stop into the church after the tree lighting to warm up with hot cocoa and Christmas caroling.

The Haston Free Public Library, 161 North Main St., will have a cookie sale, holiday music by On Q piano students, festive crafts and letter writing to Santa from 3-5 p.m.

For more information, people may email Lindsey at Lindsey.rockwood@yahoo.com.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Tire pressure metric
4. Request
7. Clairvoyance
10. 007's creator Fleming
11. Male adult
12. Norse mythological figure
13. Coffin cloths
15. Breeze through
16. Ladyfish genus
19. We all take them
21. Nobleman's jurisdiction
23. Members of U.S. Navy
24. Rummy-like card game
25. Unable to move
26. Type of horse
27. Parted
30. Woman's cloak
34. South American plant
35. Prohibit
36. Something one takes
41. Dish detergent manufacturer
45. Romanian river
46. Personification of pity
47. Makes upset
50. Discuss again
54. Medical instrument
55. Support
56. Informal term for money
57. Catch doing something wrong
59. Prehistoric people
60. Large African antelope
61. Automobile
62. "Losing My Religion" rockers
63. High-resolution scientific instrument
64. A major division of geological time
65. Attempt

CLUES DOWN

1. Indoor plant
2. Fit to be sold
3. Rather
4. Collected
5. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
6. Irish rap group
7. Ageless
8. Lists indicating curriculum
9. Pokes at
13. Public television station
14. They ___
17. Cooking tool
18. Separately managed account
20. Iron-containing compound
22. Swiss river
27. Former French coin
28. Electronic countermeasures
29. Taxi
31. Helps little firms
32. Unhappy
33. Midway between northeast and east
37. Glowing
38. Lists of items to be discussed
39. An informal body of friends
40. Indispensable quality
41. Neural structures
42. Brews
43. A place to dock
44. Festive singer
47. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
48. Northernmost point of mainland Wales
49. Most worthless parts
51. Type of "bear"
52. Take or consume
53. Defunct European organization
58. Swiss river

BABY'S FIRST CHRISTMAS

Turley Publications, Inc.



Kelsie Smith
January 11, 2026
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Grandparents: Theodore & Susan Smith, Ware
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Pictures will be published the week of December 23-25, 2026.

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❑ Barre Gazzette
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❑ Journal Register
❑ Quaboag Current
❑ The Register
❑ Sentinel
❑ Town Reminder
❑ Ware River News
❑ The Wilbraham-Hampden Times

Deadline for photos and forms is Thursday, December 4, 2026

- 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



Curtis and Halley Stillman of Still Life Farm in Hardwick offered fresh produce.



Ginger of Kelly Homestead Apiary had a variety of items.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY RICHARD MURPHY

FARMERS MARKET

from page 1

Joy Hinton. Hinton is the impresario of The Joy of Beans the locus in the town of locally artisan roasted Whole Bean Coffee. She sources coffees from all over the world.

From chess to art, there is always something happening at her Joy of Beans Coffee shop at 12 East Main St., but on this Wednesday, it was available at the church and will be every week.

Next along the hall to the right was Susan Linnéa Kallander who has been at the market in prior years. Susan does pet portraits and makes earrings out of gemstones and clay; thus, she is both artist and artisan.

On this day, Kallander presented your correspondent a book co-authored with Larry Boomgaarden.

"Up in Smoke" is the charming tale of an extended family and their farm in Minnesota at harvest time. They are not, as they say, separating the "chaff from the wheat" but the straw from the oats. The book is about how the clan from youngest on up work on steam driven equipment while feeding and entertaining each other.

Moving along, Gail of Autumn Leaf Farm was next. She is the purveyor of locally grown microgreens and is the vendor of a variety of mushrooms as well as eggs from her Golden Comet chickens.

There is more this year. Autmn leaf will be vending



Nonna's Kitchen had gluten free products, granola and more.



Bucha Bros had new flavors of kombucha.



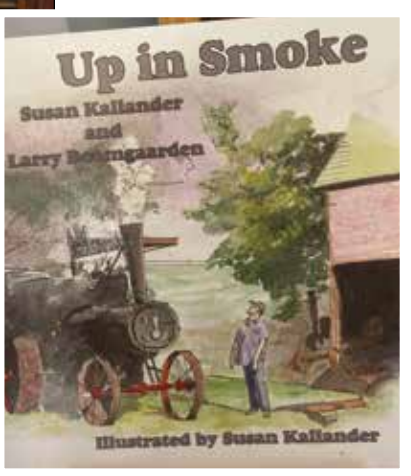
Gail of Autumn Leaf Farm of Gilbertville had mushrooms and more.



John Thompson of Thompson's Maple Farm displayed his new ice cream flavor.



Sweet Treats Bakery offered breads, brownies, cookies and more.



Susan Linnéa Kallander co-authored "Up in Smoke" with Larry Boomgaarden.

Rose 32 Bread and cheeses from Round Table Farm.

Turning the corner and, we came to Kelly Homestead Apiary from Charlton. Kelly was again represented by Ginger.

She was taking orders for their Thanksgiving turkeys for Nov. 18 delivery. The chickens are pasture raised and organically fed.

Kelly Homestead takes Snap and EBT.

New this year are kitty and dog treats of chicken, beef and turkey flavors.

Next was Four Acre Farm from up in Hardwick. Jason Adams and Cindy Hitchcock were there with wonderful beef for stews and steaks and other cuts. They have other meats as well as eggs.

After Four Acre was Bucha Bros, LLC, The Bros, Ryan Laurie and Eddie Fisher are producing kombucha, a fermented tea beverage known for its health benefits.

The Bros produce kombucha without artificial means. This is not their first year, and Ryan was at their table.

New this year are the Raspberry Jun Tea, green tea and Raspberry fermented tea bag. Also, Nepal Black Tea, a black tea with a cane sugar base.

The Bros are wholesaling now and their kombucha is available at Joy of Beans.

Turning left at the corner of the room there was another farmer coming from Charlton who has been at the market for some time. Rich Laba and Farm46 bring pork products from the Berkshire heritage breed of pigs he and his family farm raise.

There is more than a little variety available at Laba's table. Everything from shoulders, roasts, butts, hams, sausage, chorizo, ground pork, kielbasa and more. There are also eggs and chicken broilers.

Laba was there with daughter Charlotte and reported the farm has expanded a bit and raising more.

After Laba came the local Sweet Treats Bakery. Treats on display certainly looked sweet. Cookies, cupcakes, muffins and many other choices all looked enticing.

Across the way was Nonna's kitchen. Jean Novia has gluten free products and granolas and energy bars.

Over to the wall, as always for many years now is John Thompson of Thompson's Maple Farm. There is no lack of syrup and maple products, but that is not all. They make delicious ice cream. New this year is the Watermelon Ice Cream.

Holding together the center of the hall was Still Life Farm as usual with Halley and Curt Stillman. They had late autumn produce of a wide variety, such as kalettes, a cross between kale and brussels sprouts.

The farm has two more greenhouses for winter tender crops, which we can expect to see at the market.

Thus, the winter market is back, so far without the winter weather, and that's okay.

See you Wednesdays until spring.

PUBLIC NOTICES
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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.

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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

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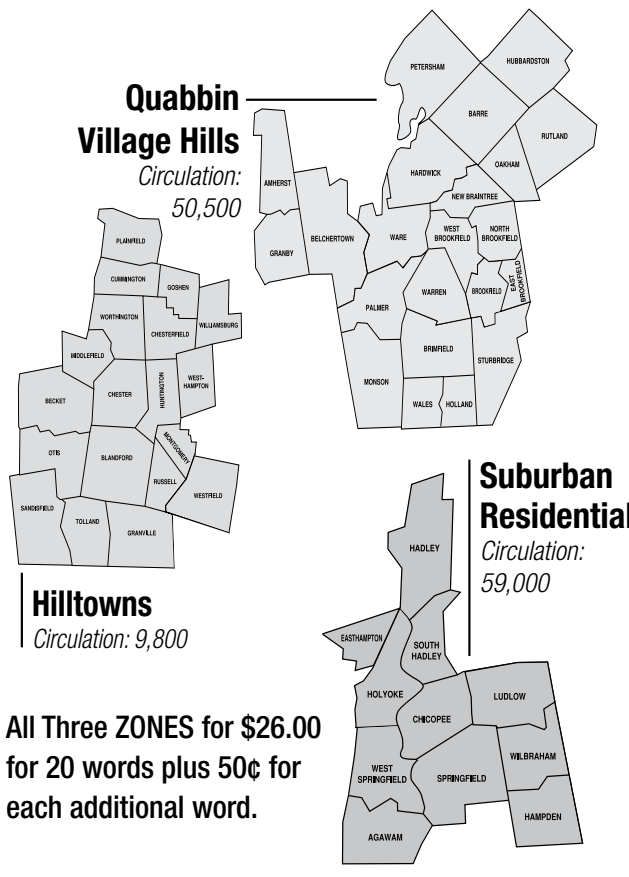
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price $26.00
21 Base Price $26.50	22 Base Price $27.00	23 Base Price $27.50	24 Base Price $28.00
25 Base Price $28.50	26 Base Price $29.00	27 Base Price $29.50	28 Base Price $30.00
29 Base Price $30.50	30 Base Price $31.00	31 Base Price $31.50	32 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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Knights host spaghetti dinner 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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