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QUABOAG CURRENT

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TURLEY PHOTOS BY RICHARD MURPHY

Halley Stillman and Still Life Farm of Hardwick provided fresh produce at the West Brookfield Winte

Winter Market returned to West Brookfield

It may be cold outside, but the market is warm

By Richard Murphy
Correspondent

WEST BROOKFIELD – What a difference a week makes. In our Massachusetts town, we went from sweater weather, to much colder.

Are there ways to mitigate the harsh climate settling in?

Yes, at least on Wednesdays from November on into March of 2026. There is a place of warmth.

On Nov. 12, we crossed East Main Street and entered the First Congregational Church of West Brookfield. The church has been hosting the West Brookfield Winter Farmers Market for several years now, generously so.

So, at 3 p.m. vendors are already set up along the church hall as patrons arrive.

Walking straight in, on the right is Robyn Scott who has been at this spot for years now. Robyn is known for the flowers that grow from bulbs and there is some variety and there will be more, such as fresh tulips for Christmas.

Robyn knows the tulip business having studied it in Vermont at Emily von Trapp's farm where Emily teaches the craft.

Yes, Emily is from the "Sound of Music" Trapp family.

Next was a new vendor, Autumn Leaf Farm from Hardwick, with a variety of mushrooms, but also microgreens and eggs from Golden Comet chickens.

Linda Fuchs was last ta-

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Condition of Town Hall roof discussed

By Paula Ouimette
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WEST BROOKFIELD – Bob Haveles, Principal of Architectural Insights, said he evaluated the exterior walls of the Town Hall in preparation of them being painted.

At the Nov. 10 Board of Selectmen's meeting, he said he was up on the aerial lift with the general contractor, and noticed water damage along the long, east and west walls.

"We realized that the rot actually started taking and eroding the bottom parts of your rafters and the beams that it's sitting on," he said. "It is a serious item, we can't just let it go."

Haveles said the structural engineer provided a repair sketch, and he presented different proposals to the Selectmen to address the damage. This includes roof framing structural repairs, slate removal and reinstallation after the structural repairs, and a full replacement option with architectural shingles including the cupola apron (not repairing the cupola itself) and new sheathing for the entire roof area.

Haveles said there are multiple layers of roofing materials on the Town Hall, which are then topped with slate shingles. The slate is loose and not properly fastened to the structure or the sheathing

He said the leaking at the eaves has created distortion of the east and west long walls along the eave line. Temporary patches have been applied to cover holes to prevent further damage.

Haveles said gutters and snow guards also need to be replaced on the Town Hall.

He said if left unattended, the roof would have about five years of life remaining.

Haveles said the project could cost between $130,500 and $202,300 to complete.

He recommended the removal of the first eight feet of wood and slate shingles from the roof for the length

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TURLEY PHOTO BY RYAN DRAGO

Former writer and editor for Yankee Magazine, Mel Allen, signed copies of his new book "Here in New England" at the Merriam-Gilbert Public Library in West Brookfield. Allen gave an inspiring presentation and shared photos and stories of people throughout New England he met while writing for Yankee Magazine.

'Here in New England'

Author Mel Allen shared unforgettable stories

By Ryan Drago
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WEST BROOKFIELD – The Merriam-Gilbert Public Library hosted an author talk last week featuring Mel Allen.

For nearly half a century, Allen has told amazing stories about people he has met throughout New England while writing for Yankee Magazine. Allen of Peterborough, New Hampshire has been to so many places and has met many people during his time as a writer and every story is

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Wildwood Acres Farm held Winterfest and maker market

By Ryan Drago
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WEST BROOKFIELD – Wildwood Acres Farm & Forest School hosted a Winterfest and Kids Maker Market this past weekend.

The Winterfest is an annual celebration of the winter season and community spirit. This festive event brings people together for seasonal shopping, bonfire, hot cocoa and family fun.

Wildwood Acres had something new at this year's Winterfest, a Kids Maker Market. This special feature celebrates the creativity and talent of young entrepreneurs and kids got the opportunity to showcase their handmade items from crafts, artwork and treats.

Marcie Fusco is the owner and director of Wildwood Acres Farm & Forest School and she shared the story behind offering a Kids Maker Market at the annual Winterfest. Wildwood Acres has been running summer camps for kids the last 14 years and wanted to offer additional programs keep the school

TURLEY PHOTO BY RYAN DRAGO

Ruby Hughes stood alongside Father Winter.

open year-round.

"Let's make something beautiful," Fusco said as the Kids Maker Market was born.

In addition to six adult vendors in this year's Winterfest, there were 13 child vendors, who expressed interest in crafting and designing their own handmade items.

Wildwood Acres Farm & Forest School is a fully licensed independent school that provides a unique outdoor educational experience for children from preschool through grade eight, as well as a supplemental homeschool program for ages 2.9-17.

Money raised from this event helps support the sliding scale and helps save money on tuition costs. There was also fundraising for classes going on during the Winter-

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- community -

Fontaine returns home as international champion

By Ryan Drago
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TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO

Aaron Fontaine is shown alongside the International Candlepin Team Championship trophy he won earlier this month in New Brunswick, Canada. This photo was taken at Fontaine's home bowling center, Bogey Lanes in East Brookfield.

aron Fontaine was part of the championship winning team, Academy Lanes. Shown back row from left are Team Captain Mike Miccichi, Jack Berrigan and Josh Daley. Front row from left are Justin Waters, Sean Taylor, Nick Norcross, Aaron Fontaine (shown with the trophy), Danny Harris, Charlie Collins and Korey Packard.

EAST BROOKFIELD – 2025 has been a great year for Aaron Fontaine who won the Men's International Candlepin Team Championship earlier this month.

Fontaine of East Brookfield comes from a candlepin bowling family and has achieved great success in the game this year alone. The East Brookfield resident, who just turned 28 this past week, returned home from Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada where the Men's International Candlepin Championships were held.

Playing host to this tournament was Fairlanes in Moncton.

This weeklong event featured many of the greatest candlepin bowlers throughout New England and Maritime Canada. The tournament consisted of a one-day singles knockout tournament followed by four days of team competition and a playoff round.

This year was the fifth time Fontaine has competed in the world championships. Fontaine was a new recruit for the team Academy Lanes based out of Haverhill. This well accomplished team has won the tournament three times in the last four years.

The talent on the team is incredible, and Fontaine was honored to be a part of it. The International Candlepin Championships is an invitational tournament, and Fontaine received a total of six invitations from six different teams.

Fontaine made a decision that he felt was best for him and found his way to Academy Lanes. Fontaine would fill in for Academy Lanes team member Jeremy Seaholm, who couldn't make this year's international tournament.

From Fontaine's standpoint, the team chemistry worked, and Academy Lanes was motivated to win the tournament for the second year in a row. This tournament has been around since 1985 and the trophy Fontaine got to hoist up for the first time displays the previous winners of the tournament.

What makes this win meaningful for Fontaine is that his grandfather, Tom Olszta, a candlepin bowling hall of famer, has won this tournament on two occasions (1989 and 1995). Olszta's name is listed on two of the square plaques that are displayed on the team trophy.

Soon Fontaine, alongside his teammates will be placed on one of the squares highlighting them as the 2025 World Champions.

A victory like this does not come easy and Academy Lanes had some competitors during the tournament. The team event consists of two divisions, 12 teams in each. The team with the best record in each division receives a bye to the semi-finals of the tournament.

Academy Lanes was leading throughout the week, but Fontaine admitted that any team in this competition is capable of putting up a big score.

Exeter's Lucky Strike was a formidable opponent and bowled against Academy Lanes in the final round of match play. The team needed to win all three games and total pinfall to take the #1 seed from Academy Lanes.

The team bowled well, but Exeter's Lucky Strike stepped up, and spoiled Academy Lanes' run and were the #1 seed. Despite the defeat, Academy Lanes still qualified for the playoffs and were a powerful favorite.

Fontaine viewed this as good news and said, "Ii's time to get to work" going into the playoffs.

Fontaine bowled throughout the entire playoffs and bowled great during Academy Lanes' run. Each playoff match was a three-game match and Fontaine bowled a series of over 400 three times.

Earlier in the playoffs, Fontaine scored 431 and felt he was placed nicely in the lineup. The format of the tournament is five versus five and Fontaine felt comfortable bowling in the second and third spots.

Academy Lanes would then get a rematch against Exeter's Lucky Strike in the semi-finals. This was one of the highest scoring matches in the tournament as both teams scored over 1900 in three games. Fontaine put up a score of 422 in the semi-finals against Exeter's Lucky Strike.

One of Fontaine's teammates, Nick Norcross, said winning this tournament took a team effort and that semi-final match against Lucky Strike was one of the best matches he has seen and has been a part of.

Norcross of Arlington, has been bowling in the international candlepin tournament for 13 years and has now won the championship four times; all four wins were with Academy Lanes. Norcross joined Academy Lanes in 2015 and won his first championship in 2018.

Korey Packard is another Academy Lanes team member, who has also won four championships.

Over the years, Norcross feels that he and his team are fortunate to have this success and were happy with bringing Fontaine aboard for this year's tournament.

Norcross describes Fontaine as "a very fierce competitor" and a great teammate who is always right there with you.

"He's going to give you 1,000%," Norcross said. "He's going to be a great bowler for years to come."

Norcross has known Fontaine for about 13 years, remembering his time bowling in the youth candlepin tournaments all over New England.

For Fontaine, he feels his team has established themselves as a candlepin bowling dynasty. Fontaine feels he made a good choice in joining Academy Lanes and plans to join the team again for next year's tournament, which will be held at Academy Lanes in Haverhill.

Winning this prestigious tournament for Fontaine feels like winning the triple crown. In 2025, Fontaine won the Pro Series Championship, the Mixed Worlds Team Championship, and now the Men's World Candlepin Championship.

This year's tournament concluded with Academy Lanes defeating Fenway Academy in the finals on Nov. 8.

For Fontaine, the key to success in winning this tournament is team chemistry in addition to performing at the best level. Teammates supporting each other throughout the experience goes a long way and Academy Lanes has built that environment as they establish themselves as one of the best candlepin bowling teams in the world.

"Your teammates are behind you every second of the time," Fontaine said.

Fontaine returned home and brought the trophy with him to his home bowling alley, Bogey Lanes in East Brookfield. Aaron is proud to share this incredible moment with not only his team, but with his family and friends.

Fontaine will continue to bowl candlepins, a game he has been involved with his entire life. His next pursuit is to try and become the pro bowler of the year.

- community -

TURLEY PHOTO BY RYAN DRAGO

Advent wreaths were made during a workshop at the Brookfield Congregational Church.

Wreaths for Advent

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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BROOKFIELD – The Brookfield Congregational Church hosted an advent wreath workshop this past weekend.

This was the first ever advent wreath workshop the church has hosted but it has done various types of workshops in the past.

"It is the beginning of the advent season," said Nancy Mullen of the Christian Life Board as members of the Brookfield Congregational Church came up with the idea of an advent wreath workshop.

Many members of the church wanted to make their own advent wreaths to place them in their homes.

Advent is a season of preparation for the birth of Jesus Christ and a time to also anticipate his second coming. This is a period of hopeful waiting, reflection on past promises and future hope.

The four meanings of advent are hope, peace, joy and love. These are also the names of the four candles that are lit on an advent wreath over the four Sundays before Christmas.

Hope represents the anticipation of Christ's coming and is the first candle lit on the advent wreath. Peace symbolizes the preparation of Jesus' birth and is the theme for the second week. Joy is the focus on the joyfulness of the upcoming Christmas celebration and is the theme for week three. Love is the ultimate virtue of love, which is embodied in Jesus' birth, and is the theme of the final week of advent.

The advent wreath workshop had a great turnout as it was held in the Fellowship Hall of the Brookfield Congregational Church.

Members of the Church provided hot chocolate and cookies for guests to enjoy while decorating their advent wreaths. Future events at the Brookfield Congregational Church can be found on www.bcc1857.org.

Quaboag students held Veterans Day Ceremony

WARREN – To honor our local veterans and induct Quaboag alumni veterans into the Veterans Wall, the eighth grade students in Joe Salvadore's Honors Civics class along with the Quaboag band led by music teacher, Jim Joinville, put on a Veterans Day ceremony for students, parents, and staff.

Student Madison Schreier started the ceremony by singing the National Anthem. Students then demonstrated the proper way to fold a flag, which was then received by Warren Selectman Derick Veliz, who addressed the assembly about the importance of remembering the sacrifices of our veterans.

State Sen. Peter Durant (R) attended the ceremony and spoke about the birth of the American veteran from the American Revolutionary War to today and how our nation rightfully honors their service that protects our way of life.

A moving musical interlude was provided by the Quaboag band performing "Ask Not" JFK tribute song narrated by Camden Olivo. Eighth grade students then placed a flag on stage for each major American conflicts and wars and read the number of Americans killed in that conflict.

Seventh grader Reagan Cieslak and 10th grader Cadence Cieslak introduced their dad, Patrick Cieslak, who was a Quaboag graduate who then joined the military and was deployed to the Middle East during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Patrick had his picture plaque join the other Quaboag alumni veterans who are on the Veterans Wall.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DERICK VELIZ

Jariella Male placed a flag for one of the major U.S. conflicts.

Quaboag alumni and veteran Pat Cieslak is shown with his daughters Reagan and Cadence, and wife Jamie. Cieslak was inducted into the Quaboag Alumni- Veterans Wall.

A salute during the playing of Taps.

The special guest speaker was William Kleinedler from New Braintree. Retired Staff Sergeant Kleinedler, dressed in full dress blues, shared his experience of serving in the Army for 15 years.

Kleinedler also shared his story of how in 2006 when deployed to Iraq, his Hum-V was hit by an IED. Three of the five soldiers in the truck were killed and Kleinedler was trapped inside.

After moments he was able to escape the burning flames. He was evacuated back to the U.S. and spent the next three years and multiple surgeries at the Brooke Army Medical Hospital in San Antonio, Texas.

While there he was able to pursue his life time love of art and engineering. He completed his first sculpture "Hope" which is housed at

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- opinion -

in the Garden
by Roberta McQuaid

Thanksgiving questions for the Garden Lady

Eva, who has a big vegetable garden in Ware, wrote in with this question for the Garden Lady: "We are supposed to have a low of 27 degrees one night this week. With that said, are my Brussels sprouts going to be OK? I was hoping to harvest them just in time for Thanksgiving." It has been a few years since I have grown Brussels sprouts, but I do remember that they do thrive well into late fall and early winter. A few frosty mornings won't hurt them!

For readers not familiar with Brussel sprout culture, I will elaborate. Brussels sprout seeds are started indoors, around the same time you would start their cousins, broccoli, cabbage or kale.

For me, seeds are sown off heat the first week of April through tax day. They are grown cool but under supplemental light to prevent stretching, and are transplanted once the first set of "true leaves" unfold.

I transplant mine into the cells of a six pack, although individual two or three inch pots are also a good option. Brussels sprouts can be moved into the garden a couple of weeks prior to Memorial Day, where fertile soil and eight-10 hours of direct sun are preferred.

They need to be given a lot more room than their cousins, about nine square feet of growing space per plant! It will pay off!

Placing transplants under floating row covers is smart, and will protect young plants from flea beetles and swede midge, then from various "cabbage" worms. The plants will grow tall over the course of their long growing season and will form buds along the stem.

It is the buds that we harvest, known as the "sprouts" we so enjoy. Experts recommend "topping" the plants in September, or cutting off the first couple of inches of top growth, so that the plant puts all of its energy into the sprouts it already has, making them bigger.

When I grew Brussels sprouts many years ago, aphid were a big problem. There are a number of varieties that have a spaced branching habit that seem to reduce the population of these pests. "Divino," "Speedia," and "Nautic" are all good choices.

Harvest the half-dollar sized sprouts after the first few frosts and you will be in for a great, sweet treat. Like carrots who endure a little cold, starches turn to sugars and yum!

Personally, I like to roast them for heightened crunch and a little more caramelization. I hope they will be a wonderful part of your family meal, Eva!

Melissa, who gardens in Palmer, just moved to a house that has a few "highbush cranberries" on her property.

"I was curious if this shrub is a tall version of the Thanksgiving cranberry and if so, if it is edible? The word 'highbush' reminds me of blueberries, so I thought maybe it worked out the same," she asked.

The American cranberry is not to be confused with Viburnum trilobum, an eight-12 foot multistemmed shrub sometimes called highbush cranberry, crampbark, or even cranberry viburnum.

The berries of this native shrub hang in clusters and are orangey-red in color. Although they are edible, birds generally find them a whole lot more appealing than we do, and will typically "gobble" them up before winter hits.

The shrub typically has great fall interest, too, with foliage that varies in hues of orange, red and purplish red.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 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

Black-billed cuckoo

In October, Massachusetts Audubon Society reported a black-billed cuckoo at Wellfleet Bay Sanctuary and another was seen at a different location in Wellfleet.

The black-billed cuckoo is often heard more than seen. They spend a lot of time in densely wooded eastern forests and thickets. It is slender, brown bird with white belly, long tail and as its name implies a black bill. It has a red ring around the eyes and white tips on the underside of its tail. They also have a hunch backed look. It is about the size of a mourning dove 11 to 12 inches without the plump body.

Cuckoos eat lots of spiny caterpillars and can make quick work of tent caterpillars and webworms. The spines of the caterpillars stick to the lining of their stomachs. To rid themselves of the spins they periodically shed the stomach lining and coughing it up in one giant pellet, similar to an owl.

They sing especially at night in midsummer. Their song is a staccato with less of a knocking sound than the yellow-billed cuckoo. They also perch motionless for long periods of time so they can be tricky to find. A good location to look for them are areas with tent caterpillars or fall webworms, a favorite food of these birds.

Audubon bird sightings

On Nov. 9, Massachusetts Audubon Society reported the following sightings at Wachusett Reservoir.

Sightings included: nine common loon, two horned grebe, one double-crested cormorant, two great blue heron, 135 Canada geese, four mute swan, one immature gadwall, two black ducks, 63 mallard, five ring-necked duck, 95 greater scaup, eight lesser scaup, 41 bufflehead, 11 hooded merganser, seven common merganser, one ruddy duck, one red-tailed hawk, three wild turkey, 11 ring-billed gull, one belted kingfisher, one northern flicker and one pileated woodpecker. Other birds included on common raven, one winter wren, one Carolina wren, 46 eastern bluebird, five cedar waxwings, 90 dark-eyed junco and 30 red-winged blackbird.

Black vulture

I received an email from a Palmer resident on Nov. 4. She said, "When I came home, I noticed two birds across from the house. I thought they might be vultures because of their face, but were not turkey vultures." She googled vultures and said, "It was easy to recognize them because of their face white feet and legs. Plus the head appeared to be gray and like a helmet. They were definitely black vultures. They stayed in that one spot for quite awhile. They didn't appear to be scared of anything. Cars going by did not phase them." Since then she has not seen them again. She said, "They are really a beautiful bird."

Helping birds

Bird feeders and feeding platforms are also hotspots for disease. Many wildlife diseases, like mange and avian pox, are spread by physical contact between healthy and sick animals. It is important to clean bird feeders frequently and remove any molding seeds and debris from them especially during the rainy weather. Moving the location of feeders to different locations also helps prevent the spread of disease.

Flocking birds

Birds are migrating. Last week I saw a large flock of blackbirds flying overhead. I also have seen flocks of about a dozen Canada geese flying overhead. Last week, my granddaughter, Lizzie and I saw a flock of geese flying low over her house. We could hear their wings beating. The robins that head south have also been flocking in my field and along the roads. Some robins over winter living in the swamps.

Winter berries

Every year a flock of robins come and make short order of the winterberries on a bush in my yard. I've spotted the bright red winterberries in several spots during my travels. I will keep an eye out for birds at those bushes.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

Should I take Social Security now or at age 70?

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters
By Russell Gloor

Dear Rusty:

I was born in April 1958 and my plan has been to take my Social Security at age 70.

However, my sister-in-law says that it is smarter to take it now while I am still working. I will be 70 in 2.5 years. Her husband collects his SS and has kept working. She believes their strategy will net more money than mine due to the fact he has continued to pay into the system and she believes it has super boosted his monthly benefit. What say you? BTW, Lord willing and the creek don't rise I plan on living at least till 87.

Signed: Questioning My Plan

Dear Questioning:

You have already reached your SS Full Retirement Age, so you can earn as much as possible without your SS benefit being negatively affected by Social Security's Annual Earnings Test. In fact, if your current earnings are among the highest over your lifetime, your SS benefit amount will continue to increase because of your higher current earnings. You are now also earning Delayed Retirement Credits, which will improve your monthly amount by.67% for each month (8% for each full year) you delay. That means that if you wait and claim at 70 you will get about 127% of what you would have gotten had you claimed at your FRA of 66 years and 8 months plus you'll also get all COLA increases which occur between now and then. So your life expectancy is key.

It usually takes about 12 years to break even money wise by claiming at age 70 vs. at FRA. In other words, if you claim at 70 instead of FRA, you'll have received the same amount of SS money after you are 82. Thus, if your life expectancy is greater than age 82, you'll get more in cumulative lifetime benefits by waiting until 70 to claim. Of course, no one really knows how long they will live, so it is a judgment you need to make. "Average" life expectancy for a man your current age is about age 84, but if you'd like to get a more personalized longevity estimate you can use this tool we use here at the AMAC Foundation: https://socialsecurityreport.org/tools/life-expectancy-calculator/

Another thing to keep in mind is whether your wife will get a widow's benefit if you die first. A widow will get the higher of either her own SS retirement benefit or the husband's benefit amount when he died. So, if you claim at age 70, your surviving spouse will benefit if her own SS is smaller because you waited until 70 for your higher SS amount. Just something else to keep in mind.

Yet another is whether your wife will be entitled to a higher benefit as your spouse while you are both living. FYI, a spouse will get a "spousal boost" if her own SS retirement benefit at FRA is less than 50% of her spouse's FRA entitlement. If so, your wife cannot claim her spousal benefit until you take your own SS retirement benefit. If your wife will be entitled to more as your spouse while you are both living, then delaying until age 70 means your wife cannot collect her higher spousal amount until you claim. Depending on your financial needs as a couple, that may affect your decision as well.

When to claim is always a judgment call which should consider your life expectancy,

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Send opinions to:

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- community -

WINTER MARKET
FROM PAGE 1

ble in line and she is a winter market veteran and appears at the summer market also. Linda had product, but said on Dec.10, she would have much more in microgreens and mature ginger and turmeric.

Turning the corner, to the left, there is Kelly Homestead Apiary from Charlton. Kelly Homestead is returning to its same spot. The farm is presided over by Ginger, who was assisted by her daughter, and the table is overflowing with product such as home hand dipped candles. New this year are garlic infused and Chipotle honeys.

After Kelly Homestead is Bucha Bros, LLC, a new vendor bringing something different to the Winter Market. The Bros, Ryan Laurie and Eddie Fisher are producing kombucha, a fermented tea beverage known for its health benefits. The Bros produce a kombucha without artificial means.

Rich Laba was born to farm and brings pork products from his special Berkshire breed of pigs. His Farm46 from Charlton is back. New this year are a variety of salamis. If they are anything like his other offerings, he is really bringing home the bacon.

Another new member of the Winter Market is Bryan Faucher, the entrepreneur of Golden Grain Artisanal Bread. His loafs are sourdough, plain or with cheeses such as gruyere. Bryan comes down all the way from Princeton. He has baked since he was a kid and loved the challenge.

Another first timer at the winter market, though they did have a presence on the common in the summer, was JARS Café & Bakery from up the street in North Brookfield. On the table were some of the handmade pastries and snacks baked in their kitchen and also, a number of colorful jars.

Susan Linnéa Kallander creates pet portraits and earrings.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY RICHARD MURPHY
Robyn Scott and Blair House Blooms have returned to the West Brookfield Winter Farmers Market held on Wednesdays at the First Congregational Church of West Brookfield.


Bryan Faucher and Golden Grain Artisanal Bread


Autumn Leaf Farm had eggs, mushrooms and microgreens.

Proceeding on, we came to the woodmen of Ware. First, along the wall is Bernie Wilson of B&D Enterprises. Ware native, Wilson is known for making pens out of recycled pallets, because he is "too cheap to buy wood," and more recently, out of the American Chestnut wood from the rehabbing of the covered bridge between Ware and Hardwick.

There are many other examples of his craftmanship as his table is bedecked with kitchen utensils. That "too cheap" business is not absolutely true. He has twice presented your correspondent with pens.

Second fellow from Ware across the Way is The Chairman of The Board. No, not Frank Sinatra, but woodworking artisan, Wayne Boulette, known for his cutting boards and other examples of craftsmanship.

Next along the wall after Bernie 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.

To the right of Susan is the table of Thompson's Maple Farm from up in New Braintree. Yes, they do maple syrup and other maple products, but also many flavors of ice cream. This year, the syrup will be in a new style of bottle.

Tying the room together in the center of the hall is Still Life Farm. Halley Stillman was there, as she has been for a number of years, to bring produce from greenhouses and roots from storage to the church.

At the door of the hall was Joy Hinton and her Joy of Beans. Joy manages the winter market.

There was a lot to see on the day, but as we were about done, two of the church staff, Clerk Terry Hall and Board Member Wally Hall told us how much the church appreciated the market.

That should be gratifying to everyone, shoppers and vendors alike.

W BROOKFIELD
FROM PAGE 1

of the east and west walls.

"This provides us the opportunity to review the existing structure and to see if there are other potential trouble areas that we need to correct from a structure standpoint," Haveles said.

Haveles also recommended the entire roof be replaced with architectural shingles that look like slate or wood (as originally constructed), pending approval by the local and state Historical Commission due to it being a historical structure.

He said the work he recommended would cost about $182,300 with an approximate $20,000 in architectural and structural engineering fees.

"It's not in eminent failure, but it needs to be addressed…the sooner the better," Haveles said.

Town Administrator Theresa Cofske said spending for this project would require town meeting approval.

Dog hearing

The board held a hearing to discuss three separate complaints regarding an 18-month old dog named, Goose. One incident occurred in February and the other two in October.

The resident whose dog was attacked during the first October incident said she had let her dog out into her backyard, which is surrounded by an electric fence. The resident said she heard yelping, and found her dog being attacked by Goose.

The resident said she grabbed a cover to a plastic tote and began hitting Goose with it to get him to leave her dog alone. She said Goose was biting her dog's neck and ears, and shaking her.

The resident said she was able to scare Goose away, and then she went inside to grab her cellphone and called 911. At this time, Goose returned to the backyard and the resident was unable to locate her own dog.

The resident said she ran to a neighbor's yard and Goose followed her. After neighbors tried unsuccessfully to leash Goose, he ran into the road and people were trying to catch him before his owner arrived.

The Animal Control Officer said a police officer arrived at the incident first, and Goose was already secured when she arrived.

A second resident said he was walking his dog near his home, when he encountered another person walking their dog. He said both himself and the other dog owner had their dogs on leashes, when Goose emerged from between houses.

He said he picked up his dog and tried to get to his house. He said Goose jumped up and grabbed his dog from his arms.

The resident said the other dog owner was able to call for help and a police officer responded. The other dog owner wrote that it was "a terrible ordeal" in a statement sent to the board about the attack.

Both residents present at the hearing said their dogs sustained puncture wounds and required emergency veterinary care. One of the residents said they reached out to Goose's owner and that the owner paid the full amount incurred so far.

Goose's owner said she is trying to make things right and expressed remorse for the incidents. She said she was unaware of the severity of one of the attacks and had been told it was a "nip on the ear" by the ACO.

Goose's owner said she also asked the ACO to forward her contact information to the other dogs' owners in case there were veterinary expenses.

Select Board Chair Roland Sickenberger asked Goose's owner if the dog had ever bitten a person, and she said Goose had nipped a neighbor's hand previously. The neighbor attended the hearing and shared details of the past bite.

Goose's owner said the fence in her yard has been repaired and she has also outfitted him with an electric shock collar. She said Goose is no longer allowed unsupervised in the yard.

Goose's owner said he is defensive against other dogs after he was attacked as a puppy. She said Goose is a rescue dog and she has received the phone number of a dog trainer that can work with her to address his behavior.

After closing the hearing, both Sickenberger and Vice-Chair Catherine Lamica agreed that Goose met the criteria of being a dangerous dog and voted as such. They voted to recommend the humane euthanasia of Goose.

Sickenberger notified Goose's owner of her right to appeal the board's order at the district court.

Tax classification

The board heard a presentation regarding the differences between a single and split tax rate during the tax classification hearing for the next fiscal year.

David Burgess of the Regional Resource Group said his company provided assessment services for the town in the absence of the town having a full-time assessor.

Burgess said the town has always had a single tax rate, and he explained what the difference would be if the town opted to go with a split tax rate.

"For a 10% change in the tax rate for the single-family property, the single family would save $49, when the same time, the commercial would pay $238 more," he said.

The town has about 90% residential and 10% commercial taxpayers. Burgess said farmers fall into the commercial category.

He said unless the split was closer to 60% residential and 40% commercial, he would not recommend a split tax rate.

Burgess said they have to wait for the Department of Revenue in order to set the tax rate.

The board members voted to retain a single tax rate for the next fiscal year.

- community -

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at Bethlehem Lutheran Church

STURBRIDGE –The Sturbridge faith community will join together for an Ecumenical Service of Thanksgiving on Tuesday, Nov. 25, at 7 p.m.

According to The Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale's pastor, the Rev. David W. Cote, six local churches will join together at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 345 Main St.

Participating in this year's Thanksgiving service, in addition to congregations from the Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale and Bethlehem Lutheran Church (Sturbridge), will be congregations from the Brookfield Congregational Church (Brookfield), the Elm Street Congregational Church (Southbridge), Holy Trinity Church (Southbridge), and St. Anne/St. Patrick Catholic Church (Fiskdale)

"In a season that calls us to remember our blessings, we gather as one community of faith to give thanks," said Cote. "This service reminds us that, no matter which church we call home, we share a community, a hope, and plenty of reasons to be grateful."

A free offering will be collected during the service for the benefit of St. Luke's Guest House, a short-term (non-emergency) shelter located at 141 Main St., Southbridge, Massachusetts.

St. Luke's is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization offering Christian hospitality and furnished rooms to adults, single parents, and families in need of temporary shelter while they address their challenges and work toward more stable housing. Their service area in Southern Worcester County includes: Brimfield, Brookfield, Charlton, Dudley, East Brookfield, Holland, Oxford, North Brookfield, Southbridge, Sturbridge, Wales, Warren, Webster, and West Brookfield.

Attendees are also encouraged to bring non-perishable food items. All donations collected will be delivered to local food pantries.

Spaces still available for craft fair

NEW BRAINTREE – The "Christmas in New Braintree Craft Fair" will be held on Saturday, Dec. 6 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. in the New Braintree Grade School and Town Hall.

The craft fair is being sponsored by the Tri-Parish Community Church. Eight foot by eight foot spaces are still available.

To reserve, please call 443-835-7530.

Handcrafted wooden spoons by David Thompson are some of the many items available at the Christmas in New Braintree Craft Fair on Saturday, Dec. 6 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

UBMITTED PHOTOS

Handcrafted quilled paper ornaments and other items by Carol Gancorz are some of the many items available at the fair.

MEL ALLEN
FROM PAGE 1

worth telling.

"All of these stories matter," Allen said during the author talk.

Many of these stories are included in Allen's new book, "Here in New England: Unforgettable stories of people, places, and memories that connect us all". Many stories featured in Allen's book come from his tenure at Yankee Magazine.

From his first published article in the 1970s to his retirement in 2025, Allen has captured New England's unique sense of place and the people who call it home.

Since his childhood, Allen knew he wanted to be a writer. He would always go to the library to grab some books to read and in high school, he wrote for his school paper.

Allen was teaching fourth grade in Maine and in that time learned how to keep an audience while reading to his students.

After teaching, Allen had written a story for the Portland Press Herald in Portland, Maine. In the mid 1970s, an editor from the Sunday Telegram got a hold of Allen and asked him to become a regular freelance writer for the newspaper.

Allen would travel all over the state of Maine to report and tell stories and build a portfolio for himself as a writer.

Allen recalled the very first story he wrote for Yankee Magazine, a story that was published back in 1977. The story was about Avis Dudley and the restaurant known as Dudley's Homestead, which was a local landmark in northern Maine. The story highlighted Dudley's establishment, which operated out of her homestead and was a dining destination in the region.

This was one amazing story shared during Allen's author talk in West Brookfield. It is a job where Allen became a feature writer as well as a profile writer. During his time at Yankee Magazine, Allen would listen to these stories, and many were happy, but some were sad.

No matter the story, Allen said "I've always loved telling stories and reading stories."

Allen became Yankee's fifth editor in the summer of 2006, after previous roles as senior editor and executive editor. In 2018, he was inducted into the Folio Magazine Hall of Fame for editorial excellence.

Many excerpts from "Here in New England" were shared with the audience who attended Allen's author talk. One story was about American author Stephen King, and the story was called "The Man Who Writes Nightmares". This shared story by Allen mentioned King's first break in writing and how he was teaching at the time.

Allen had written a story about King as a freelancer and also wrote a story about King's wife, Tabitha.

While traveling to cover various stories in New England, Allen shared that he was the second journalist to go whitewater rafting. Throughout his travels, Allen enjoyed exploring nature throughout New England.

Knowing many people who are native to New England, Allen believes a writer can make a story anywhere.

"You will never run out of ideas when you're a writer in New England," Allen said.

Another story Allen enjoyed writing was a story about an elephant named Rosie. A local veterinarian built a barn to help provide therapy and care for this elephant. The story was called "Hope for Rosie" and was set in Hope, Maine.

The story became a local cause with a fundraising jar in a country store to help cover the costs of bringing Rosie to Maine. The story grabbed national attention and Allen felt it helped educate people on elephants and their stature in the world.

"You never know what you're going to find while you're traveling," Allen said.

One humorous story Allen shared was titled "The Worst 30 Minutes of My Entire Life", a story featured in one of the chapters in his book. The story talks about Allen's encounter with sled dogs. The featured photograph from that story was shared during Allen's author talk and it was him attempting to drive a sled dog team in the bitter cold and snowy grounds.

At the end of his presentation, Allen took questions prior to signing copies of "Here in New England".

This book was Allen's first book that he feels is only coming from him. In other words, "first book to say, 'this is my book'."

When asked about what his favorite stories were, Allen shared a couple stories he is most proud of. One of them is a 7,000-word story called "The Man Who Listens to Soldiers", where Allen spent nearly a full year visiting Vermont for interviews.

Another is an inspiring story about a final canoe trip and is called "One More Down the River".

It meant a lot to Allen that many people who attended his author talk shared their connections with Yankee Magazine.

When it comes to teaching those who want to learn about writing, Allen wants those writers to always remember the three Cs of being a non-fiction writer: courage, compassion and curiosity. Allen has taught magazine writing and creative nonfiction for the past 25 years.

For what is next, Allen will continue to write and submit his stories. Allen will also plan on writing another book in the future. For more about Allen and his book, visit www.melallennewengland.com.

sports@turley.com @turleysports acebook.com/turleysports

SPORTS

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SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

Indians, Cougars set for Thanksgiving Eve

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WARREN – The outcome in four of the previous five meetings on the gridiron between the Ware Indians and the Quaboag Cougars have been decided by eight or fewer points.

The Indians, who squeaked out a 14-13 come-from-behind home victory in last year's game, holds a 9-6 lead in the Thanksgiving series, which started in 2009.

"We were able to win last year's game with a late touchdown," said Ware head coach Mike Fazio. "I always enjoy playing the game at home on Thanksgiving morning. There's nothing better than waking up and playing a football game. The turkey always tastes better after the game, especially if your team wins."

Jacob Cacace drags an Indian player down the sideline on this yardage run last Thanksgiving morning.

Brasen Sauriol displayed an impressive arsenal of his running talents.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY JACK CASCIO NEAP.SMUGMUG.COM

Cougars defensive pursuits continued throughout the battle.

Because this year's game is being held at Quaboag Regional, it'll take place on Thanksgiving Eve. Kickoff is scheduled for 6pm.

The Ware seniors, who'll be putting on the uniform for the final time, are Sean Bernier, Jadrien Berthiaume, Troy Dufresne, Brayden Compton, Enrique Martinez, Robert Wood, Ethan Corder, Phillip Dupell, Jacoby Heredia, Marek Luongo, and Alex Orszulak.

"A win on Thanksgiving game is also a very good way for the seniors to end their high school careers," Fazio said. "I just love coaching the kids on this year's team."

Ware will enter the contest with a 6-4 overall record.

At the end of September, the Indians suffered back-to-back one point losses at Belchertown and to the Springfield International Charter School at Veterans' Field.

The Indians lost another home game to archrival Palmer, 21-6, for the first time in ten years. They also lost a non-playoff game at Putnam, 42-26, on November 14.

The Indian's starting quarterback is junior Troy Jurczyk, who will be facing Quaboag for the first time.

"Troy has grown immensely this season," Fazio said. "He's been doing everything a little bit better each week."

Two of the Indians offensive threats are Berthiaume, who's a running back, and Orszulak, who's a fullback this season after being a tight-end last year.

The tight end is junior Dalton Marquis.

The members of the offensive line are junior Cam Grushey, junior Hunter Briand, junior Jayden Diaz,

See INDIANS PAGE 8

Ware vs. Quaboag

Ware leads series 9-6
2024: Ware 14-13
2023: Ware 20-14
2022: Quaboag 26-21
2021: Quaboag 22-7
2020: No game – COVID
2019: Ware 8-0
2018: Ware 20-16
2017: Ware 56-6
2016: Ware 34-7
2015: Quaboag 33-28
2014: Quaboag 36-12
2013: Quaboag 34-6
2012: Ware 46-8
2011: Ware 31-8
2010: Quaboag 48-13
2009: Ware 38-14

Previous Scores

Quaboag Football (0-9)
Friday, Sept. 5 – Abby Kelley 40, Quaboag 6
Friday, Sept. 12 – Belchertown 40, Quaboag 0
Friday, Sept. 19 – Quabbin 36, Quaboag 8
Friday, Sept. 26 – Mahar 20, Quaboag 14
Saturday, Oct. 4 – Worcester Tech 41, Quaboag 0
Friday, Oct. 10 – Bartlett 48, Quaboag 0
Saturday, Oct. 25 – North 46, Quaboag 0
Friday, Oct. 31 – Smith Vocational 14, Quaboag 8
Friday, Nov. 7 – Southbridge 32, Quaboag 8
Thanksgiving Game
Wednesday, Nov. 26 – vs. Ware 6 p.m.

Ware Football (6-4)
Friday, Sept. 12 – Ware 12, Easthampton 8
Friday, Sept. 19 – Belchertown 21, Ware 20
Friday, Sept. 26 – SICS 20, Ware 19
Friday, Oct. 3 – Ware 27, Franklin Tech 14
Friday, Oct. 10 – Ware 48, Mahar 6
Friday, Oct. 17 – Ware 26, Athol 0
Friday, Oct. 24 – Ware 14, Greenfield 0
Saturday, Nov. 1 – Palmer 21, Ware 6
Friday, Nov. 7 – Ware 16, Pathfinder 12
Friday, Nov. 14 – Putnam 42, Ware 26
Thanksgiving Game
Wednesday, Nov. 26 – at Quaboag 6 p.m.

Pioneers, Orioles, set for holiday

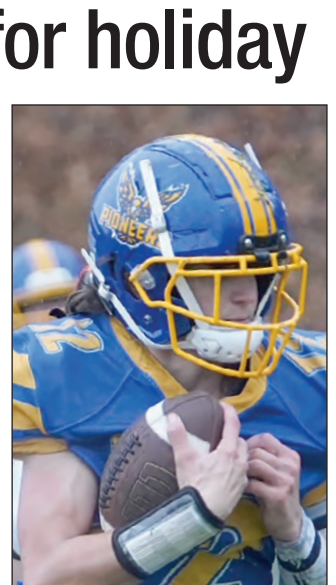
BELCHERTOWN – The Thanksgiving rivalry between Belchertown and Pathfinder had a small new layer added to it as two teams now find themselves matched up in the regular season during conference action. The situation has taken place with other holiday rivals such as Agawam-West Springfield and East Longmeadow-Longmeadow.

Because of that, Belchertown will be looking to avenge two straight losses to the Pioneers.

In last year's holiday game, Pathfinder and Belchertown were knotted 14-14. But a touchdown in the second half sealed the win for Pathfinder, giving the Pioneers it's 10th win in the all-time series against the Orioles. The two teams were able to play the game on Palmer High's Legion field with the Panthers on the road at Ludlow.

This year's game will kick off from Belchertown High School at 9 a.m.

Jake Mastej looks to make a tackle.



Nicholas Pfister looks to avoid tacklers as he makes a run for the sideline.

The Pioneers huddle up before a play.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY SOFIA DIGRANDE

Quarterback Anthony Arventos sends a throw up the middle.

Anthony Arventos sends a kick away in Pathfinder's holiday matchup with Belchertown last year.

Pathfinder vs Belchertown

Belchertown leads series 13-10

2024: Pathfinder 20-14
2023: Belchertown 61-14
2022: Pathfinder 47-22
2021: Belchertown 44-8
2020: No game - COVID
2019: Belchertown 44-7
2018: Belchertown 46-6
2017: Belchertown 39-0
2016: Belchertown 30-0
2015: Pathfinder 16-0
2014: Pathfinder 3-0
2013: Pathfinder 30-6
2012: Pathfinder 30-8
2011: Belchertown 29-0
2010: Belchertown 9-7
2009: Belchertown 41-6
2008: Pathfinder 15-13
2007: Pathfinder 34-8
2006: Belchertown 8-6
2005: Belchertown 25-0
2004: Pathfinder 28-0
2003: Belchertown 27-6
2002: Belchertown 9-6
2001: Pathfinder 48-24

Panthers beat Saint John Paul II to advance to quarterfinals

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

BARRE – Eighth grader Maria Hamm was the leading scorer for the Quabbin varsity field hockey team with 22 goals and 10 assists for a total of 22 points this fall. She also came very close to the leading the Mid-Wach B Division in scoring.

Because of a wrist injury, Hamm didn't play in the Lady Panthers round of 16 home match against Saint John Paul II. It forced longtime Quabbin head coach Shelly Zalneraitis to shuffle the starting lineup a little bit.

With Hamm watching from the bench, the seventh-seeded Lady Panthers advanced into the Elite 8 of the Division 4 state tournament for the third consecutive year with a 2-0 shutout victory over the 10th-seeded Lady Lions, last Tuesday afternoon.

"We're going back to the Elite 8 again and Uxbridge isn't in our way this time," Zalneraitis said. "Because Maria is injured, we did need to make a couple of changes in the starting lineup. The players adjusted to the changes very well. This is a very big win for us."

Junior captain Abby Rogowski who normally plays the low mid position was moved to center forward. Junior Makenzie Casey, who's also a captain, usually plays

See PANTHERS PAGE 8

- sports -

Gavin Williams follows his blockers through the fray.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY JACK CASCIO NEAP.SMUGMUG.COM

Cameron Evans plows through this Indian defensive duo.

INDIANS FROM PAGE 7

Martinez, and Heredia.

Dufresne and Bernier are the wide receivers.

A few of the Indians defensive players are Berthiaume, Dufresne, Orszulak, Bernier, Dupell, Diaz, sophomore Ian Hogan, junior Mekhai Johnson, and junior Enrique Burton.

While the Indians will be looking to end their season with seven victories, the Cougars (0-9) are hoping to end a 13 game losing streak.

Quaboag's last win came at David Prouty, 54-42, on October 26, 2024. Three weeks earlier, the Cougars celebrated a 30-18 home win against Worcester North.

The seniors listed on this year's Cougars football roster are Jacob Cacace, Kadin Dufault, CJ Kady, Jeffrey Bouchard, Steven Smith, and Elijah Wilhelm.

The Cougars are a young squad, as there are eleven 8th graders listed on the football roster

Prior to starting the football program at Quaboag, Dave Shepherd was the head coach at Ware High School for nine years.

PANTHERS FROM PAGE 7

the high mid, but started at center forward.

Those were only a couple of the changes.

Zalneraitis also praised the performance of sophomore Kayla Curran.

"Kayla was one of the heroes in today's game." Zalneraitis said. "She's normally a forward, but we needed a back, and she did a fantastic job at that position."

Unlike the past two seasons, Quabbin didn't have to face Uxbridge in the Elite 8. The Lady Spartans, who have captured the Division 4 state championship title during the past four years, are now competing in the Division 3 state tournament.

The Lady Panthers (16-4-1) began this year's journey in the Division 4 state tournament with a 3-0 home win over 26th-seeded Hamilton-Wenham in the round of 32.

The three Quabbin seniors, who played their final field hockey game on the grass field located next to the high school last Tuesday, are Maddy Stauder, Alyssa Ebert, and Farrah Wojcik.

"We're going to be losing three seniors who are very special kids," Zalneraitis said. "They've worked very hard and have made a lot of contributions this season. They're our leaders."

Stauder and Wojcik are also captains.

Since moving from Division 3 to Division 4 in 2023, the Lady Panthers have a perfect 5-0 home record in the state tournament.

It was also the first ever meeting between Quabbin and Saint John Paul II, which is a Catholic High School in Hyannis.

The Lady Panthers only had two shots during the opening period. Both shots were from sophomore Ellie Poulin, but goalie Talya Panepinto kept the ball out of the cage with kick saves.

Down at the other end of the field, Quabbin junior goalie Aubrey Thorpe made only two saves in the match.

Thorpe received plenty of support from junior Violet Kelley, Strauder, and Curran.

The Lady Panthers were given a penalty corner just before time expired at the end of the first half. Rogowski banged a shot into the cage, but it was disallowed by the referee. The first shot on any penalty corner must hit the boards, which is 18 inches high. The shot by Rogowski hit the netting above the boards.

Zalneraitis wasn't very upset with the call.

The match remained scoreless until the start of the final period.

The home team took a 1-0 lead following a penalty corner goal from Rogowski with 10:48 remaining in regulation. The scoring play began with Poulin inserting the ball to Casey. She then made a pass to Rogowski, who rolled a shot into the cage.

"I was disappointed that I didn't score a goal at the end of the first half," Rogowski said. "It just gave me a little bit of extra motivation to score a goal in the second half. I'm very happy that we won our final home game."

Seven minutes later, Casey fired a shot that bounced into the cage, which was assisted by Rogowski, sealing the Lady Panthers Sweet 16 victory.

Local players named to all-star teams

HOLYOKE – The International Volleyball Hall of Fame has made a tradition of hosting a showcase for both high school boys and girls players. The girls all-star showcase was held this week at Holyoke Community College in the Bartley Center featuring players from all over the region.

The IVHF is very proud to have its home in Western Massachusetts and we are very excited to again recognize the top players in our area." said IVHF Executive Director George Mulry.

Selected players are chosen by nomination and vote of the Western Massachusetts girls high school coaches.

There were two games scheduled to be played. One featuring the second team all-stars followed by a game between the first team all-stars. Both games were scheduled to be three-set exhibitions.

For more information on the Hall of Fame Girls All-Star Volleyball Showcase, contact events@volleyhall.org.

Players named to the first team included: Minnechaug's Anna O'Toole, Cora Pace, Maliha Daubon, and Nehir Elcin,

Player named to the second included: Agawam's Sophia Laprise, and Hannah Jock, Minnechaug's Haley Powers, Belchertown's Layla Liminski, South Hadley's Grace Matyszewski, Chicopee Comprehensive's Olivia Warren and Lori Vazquez.

Participate in the 2025 Turkey Trot

WILBRAHAM – Join the Nov. 27 Wilbraham Turkey Trot - a five-mile road race up Monson Road. The annual tradition, started in 1980 and has grown in recent years selling out at 500 runners the past several years. This year, the maximum has been increased to 550 participants.

There is no vaccination requirement this year. The course starts in Woodland Dell Cemetery just up from race headquarters at the Wilbraham United Church. Runners then make a left onto Main St. and head up Monson Road. Once summited, runners turn left and enjoy scenic views of the valley from atop Ridge Road and enjoy the downhill along Mountain Road before turning back on Main Street to the church. The race starts at 8:30 a.m. with bib pick-up beginning at 7:30 a.m. at the church.

The race focuses on providing a classic New England Turkey Trot with chip timing, race swag, and one big hill. Awards will be given for the first male and female runners to the top of Monson Road.

Registration is only $25 and available online at www.RunReg.com/13116

Residents are asked not to park on Woodland Dell or Main Street on Thanksgiving morning and to avoid driving on the route until after the race has concluded at 10 a.m. Any traffic will be detoured downhill from Monson Road to Main along Ridge and Mountain Roads.

Expected road closures are as follows:

Main Street: From Monson to Woodland Dell: 8:30-8:35 a.m.

Monson Road: Closed to downhill traffic from Ridge Road to Main Street: 8:30-8:50 a.m. (Traffic detoured down ridge road)

Ridge Road: Closed to uphill traffic from Mountain to Monson: 8:35-9:10 a.m.

(Traffic detoured down Mountain Road)

Mountain Road: Closed to uphill traffic from Main to Ridge: 8:40-9:25 a.m.

(Traffic can travel uphill via Monson Road)

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- community -

Christmas in New Braintree is Dec. 6

NEW BRAINTREE – New Braintree is kicking off the holiday season with its "Christmas in New Braintree" on Saturday, Dec. 6.

The event will include a craft fair hosted by the Tri Parish Community Church from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the New Braintree Grade School and Town Hall, both located on Memorial Drive, photos with Santa from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and crafts for children.

The New Braintree Congregational Church will be holding its traditional cookie sale and cafe during the craft fair.

The New Braintree Historical Society will be hosting a Holiday Open House at the museum at 10 Utley Road from 4:30-6:30 p.m., and there will be a town tree lighting ceremony at the town hall to bring an end to the festivities. All are welcome.

Anyone who would like to participate as a vendor or volunteer please contact Bonnie St. Cyr at 443-835-7530 or bonniestcyr@yahoo.com.

Wreaths Across America ceremony is Dec. 13

WEST BROOKFIELD – On Saturday, Dec. 13 at noon on the Common, a ceremony to recognize Wreaths Across America Day will be held.

Sponsor a wreath to remember and honor a West Brookfield veteran. Wreaths will be placed on all of West Brookfield veterans' graves at Pine Grove and Sacred Heart Cemeteries following the ceremony.

Last year, 400 wreaths were placed on veterans graves in West Brookfield.

For more info, contact Nadine Morin at 774-200-3396 or Joanne Dorman at 508-867-2524.

Troop 163's Shannon Finan attains Eagle Scout rank

STURBRIDGE – Shannon Finan of Auburn, a member of Scouting America Troop 163 of Sturbridge, has earned the rank of Eagle.

She passed her Eagle Board of Review on Oct. 30.

For her Eagle project, Finan installed three beehives for the Auburn Community Garden at Pakachoag Church, with the goal of providing a home for bees as well as supplying the garden with pollinators to help increase the growth of fruits and vegetables. She directed the building and painting of the boxes, as well as the clearing of the site at the garden, and helped while the bees were placed by a beekeeper.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Lewis Alderton, Soaring Eagle District Advancement Chair, and Shannon Finan after completing her Eagle Board of Review.

Members from Troop 163 and her former Troop 753, as well as her brothers from Troop 53, helped with the project.

As a member of Troop 163, Finan participated in many camping trips, hikes, trainings, and community service projects. She earned numerous merit badges and awards, including the National Outdoor Award for camping, the World Conservation Award, and the religious knot for earning the Ad Altare Dei and Pope Pious XII emblems. She also served as a den chief.

Outside of scouts, Finan has participated in the We the People competition and Model UN, been a member of the National Society of High School Scholars, and had her artwork displayed in a teen exhibit at the Worcester Art Museum. She also volunteers at her parish's community breakfast.

Finan is currently a student at Assumption University – she is interested in studying criminology and sociology and hopes to become a lawyer.

Troop 163 is a Scouting America troop for girls ages 11-17. The troop is based in Sturbridge but has members across southern Worcester County. The aims of the troop are character development, citizenship, fitness, and leadership.

To learn more about scouting or Troop 163, email troop163sturbridge@gmail.com.

WINTERFEST
FROM PAGE 1

fest and Kids Maker Market. One vendor was for jump rope making.

The Winterfest held various activities for kids including horseback riding, bonfire and s'mores, games and festive fun.

At the farm there was a winter wish room with a display of various handmade items. There were figurines, candles, handcrafted trees. Kids also got to hang out with Father Winter, who was traveling through the farm to meet the kids and the crafters during Winterfest.

Fusco says Wildwood Acres Farm & Forest School continues to grow its community and expand more offerings in the future.

At this school, Wildwood Acres is a place where kids engage with nature.

Wildwood Acres makes academics fun, fosters a deep connection with the environment, and promotes social development and personal growth. Students learn about real-world problem-solving, develop skills in teamwork, learn respect for all life, and cultivate a sense of responsibility, all while challenging their endurance and connection with the natural world.

TURLEY PHOTO BY RYAN DRAGO

Marcie Fusco (left), Andy Fusco, Walter Fusco, Harper Fusco, Father Winter and Lexi Thayer of Wildwood Acres Farm & Forest School are shown during the first Kids Maker Market.

For more information, visit wwoodacres.com. Wildwood Acres Farm & Forest School is located at 147 Wigwam Road.

SOCIAL SECURITY
FROM PAGE 4

your financial needs and your marital status. If you don't need the SS money now while you are working and believe you will, indeed, live "at least till 87," then waiting would likely be your best long-term decision. If you have doubts about your life expectancy, and/or if your wife will substantially benefit from a "spousal boost" if you claim earlier, then claiming now would also be a wise choice.

Finally, it's also important to understand that your SS benefits may be taxable by the IRS and, if you are still working, your IRS tax rate will likely be higher now than it would be after you retire from working. Note: The so-called "one big, beautiful bill" provides only temporary tax relief (thru 2028) on SS benefits - the IRS will still tax SS benefits but also allow a separate tax deduction to offset those SS taxes you pay.

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.

NOTICE

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

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 and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

- community -

Jarrod Little placed a flag for one of America's major conflicts.

Sarah Louis led the pledge with emcees Farrah Piermarini and Kynlee Miller.

VETERANS DAY

FROM PAGE 3

the Warrior and Family Support Center.

Since then he has completed four sculptures and multiple paintings. Kleinedler's courageous story and ordeal brought to life to the students the sacrifices that veterans have made serving our country and protecting our way of life.

Joinville and the Quaboag band closed the ceremony by playing each of the service songs. When the song of each branch played the veterans in attendance and the students who had family in those branches stood to be recognized.

At the end of the service songs more than half the auditorium was standing, showing the impact that Veterans have on all of us.

Any Quaboag or Warren High alumni that served in the military are encouraged to submit an application form and picture to be included in the next Veterans Wall induction. Email Salvadore at jsalvadore@quaboagrsd.org or call the school for the forms.

Eighth grade students folded the flag.

- public notices -

LEGAL NOTICE:
TOWN OF
WEST BROOKFIELD
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, 18-25, as amended by Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2009, The Wetlands Protection Act, the West Brookfield Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **WEDNESDAY, December 3, 2025 at 6:00 pm** in the first floor meeting room, West Brookfield Town Hall, 2 East Main Street.

6:00 p.m. – Public Hearing:

RDA – 119 Lakeshore Drive – Borlikoski – Erosion control at lake edge

NOI – 90 Lakeview Ave – Butland – Wall Replacement and site work

NOI – 83 Lakeshore Drive ext – Ballou – Wall Replacement 11/21/2025

- public safety -

New Braintree Police Log

During the week of Nov. 10-17, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 16 building/property checks, 15 directed/area patrols, eight radar assignments, one traffic control, six emergency 911 calls, three citizen assists, one assist other agency, one safety hazard, one property damage, one complaint, one property damage, two illegal dumpings, one motor vehicle accident, four animal calls and two motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

Monday, Nov. 10

8:58 p.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, Moore Road, Patient Refusal

6:36 p.m. Property Damage, Oakham Road, Investigated

Tuesday, Nov. 11

2:03 p.m. 911 Misdial, Igoe Road, Spoken To

Wednesday, Nov. 12

1:27 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning

6:08 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Officer Handled

6:10 p.m. 911 Welfare Check, Old Wine Road, Transferred Call to C3

8:52 p.m. 911 Safety Hazard, Gilbertville Road, Referred to Other Agency

Thursday, Nov. 13

12:44 a.m. Assist Citizen, Gilbertville Road, Services Rendered

9:02 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Ravine Road, Written Warning

9:07 a.m. 911 Animal Call, Oakham Road, Negative Contact

9:15 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital

10:44 a.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Spoken To

Friday, Nov. 14

3:24 p.m. Complaint, Hardwick Road, Spoken To

Saturday, Nov. 15

11:35 a.m. Assist Citizen, Gilbertville Road, Officer Handled

1:40 p.m. Illegal Dumping, McKay Road, Officer Handled

Sunday, Nov. 16

10:33 a.m. Illegal Dumping, McKay Road, Services Rendered

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE Call us at 413.283.8393

FOR SALE

FIREWOOD

DRYFIREWOOD Oak/maple, cu/split/delivered, $300 a cord, $285 for 2 or more. Edwin Wroblewski Logging, **413-824-0731**.
Buying standing timber, paying good money.

FIREWOOD
Fresh cut & split $225.00
Seasoned cut & split $325.00
All hardwood.
Tree length available
*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap). Quality & volumes **guaranteed!!** New England Forest Products
(413)477-0083

MORE HEAT LESS WOOD. Central Boiler Classic Edge HDX Outdoor Wood Furnace. EPA Certified. Titanium Stainless Steel. $2K Tax Credit. Call **(508)882-0178**

WANTED

WANTED TO BUY

ALL ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.

BUYING Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, kitchenware, cookware, knives, military, automotive, fire department, masonic, license plates, beer cans, barware, books, oil cans, advertising tins,hunting, fishing, signs, and more.

Donald Roy **(860) 874-8396**

ALWAYS BUYING ALL ANTIQUES:

Musical instruments, guitars, horns, keyboards, vintage electronics, jewelry, coins, watches, military cameras, sports memorabilia, art, sterling, signs, automotive, hunting, advertising, radios, ham radio equipment, audio equipment, toys, one item or entire estate.

Call Paul 413-206-8688.

ATTENTION SMITH & WESSON RETIREES:
Sell me your collection of S&W grips.
Tim **413-246-4966.**

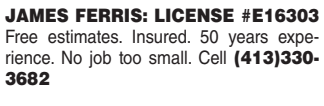
SWIFT RIVER SUPPLY
We buy guns.
Federal and state licensed.
413-658-5690.

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES
THURSDAY AT 1PM

JUNK REMOVAL

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

SERVICES



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

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

ELECTRICIAN

PJ's Electrical
MASTER ELECTRICIAN
• Licensed & Insured •
Providing safe, reliable electrical services for residential and commercial projects.
NOW OFFERING FREE CONSULTATIONS.
Call today to schedule your appointment.
(413) 366-1703
(Lic. #24046–A)

BUILT 'N POWERED. Serving all your electrical and construction needs. Fully insured and licensed. Free estimates. 10% Senior and Veteran's discounts. Call Tom **413-472-4104.** Electrical Lic. #56789/ CLS Lic. #104505

JAMES FERRIS: LICENSE #E16303 Free estimates. Insured. 50 years experience. No job too small. Cell **(413)330-3682**

LICENSED ELECTRICIAN
I offer good quality electrical work, no project too small. Service upgrades, pools, trustworthy, dependable & insured.
Master Elec. #20773A.
Text/call Luis **413-218-3301**.

ZEN ELECTRIC COMPANY LLC

Fully licensed and insured; Master Electrician on staff. Call for all your electrical needs. No job too small. Senior citizen and Veteran Discount. A veteran owned company. MA License #8101A1.
Call John at (**413)206-6509**

Find archives of this local newspaper at **www.newspapers.turley.com**

SERVICES

HOME IMPROVEMENT

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

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

CHAMELEON
PAINTING & REMODELING
INTERIOR/EXTERIOR
Remodeling & Deck Specialists
Residential/Commercial
Fully Insured • Free Estimates
413-351-1147

LANDSCAPING

A+ ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BOBCAT SERVICE

Excavator Services
Overgrown property?
Extreme Brush Cutting!
Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal
Lawn/Arborvite Installed
Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand
Storm Clean-up
Small Demolition/ Junk Removal
Insured

Josh Rozell 413-636-5957

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

HOME IMPROVEMENT

please recycle this newspaper

SERVICES

MASONRY

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

PAINTING

INTERIOR PAINTING - only $249.00 for average 12x16 room. Free estimates, fast, dependable service.
Call **(508)867-2550.**

PRO PAINTING
Low, low prices. All phases interior, exterior painting and wallpapering.
Also minor carpentry.
413-310-5099.

PLUMBING

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

RUBBISH REMOVAL

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

SNOWPLOWING

RESIDENTIAL Snowplowing Service. Wilbraham residential only Call or Text now. Limited space available. **413-519-5439**

SERVICES

TREE WORK

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

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

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

TUNE-UPS

SNOWBLOWER & LAWNMOWER TUNE UP & REPAIR
A&M TUNE-UPS
Snowblowers, Push Lawnmowers, Riding Mowers & Small Engine Repair.
Work done at your home.
Call Mike (413) 348-7967

STUMP GRINDING

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

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

PETS

GERMAN SHEPHERD PUPS. Champion Czech and Belgian bloodlines. 30 years experience. 3M, 2F. Ready, w/shots. Now $1,200. **413-218-2321**

AUTO

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

HELP WANTED

SERVERS WANTED
Inquire at **Girly's Grill, 1315 Park St., Palmer, MA 01069**
or call **413-284-0005**.

HELP WANTED

CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT DIESEL MECHANIC

In charge of daily repairs & maintenance on trucks as well as keeping equipment records/ordering parts. Health insurance/ vacation. Mon-Fri. Come & meet with us!
RB Enterprises
Ludlow, MA

Town of Worthington
Highway Position Opening

The Town of Worthington is soliciting letters of interest from qualified candidates to fill two full-time Equipment Operator/General Laborer positions in the Town Highway Department.
Valid MA CDL operator, Hydraulic Hoister's licenses and OSHA-10 certification is preferred.
- salary rate range: $26.49 - $38.59 per hour

Further information can be found on the Town's website:
www.worthington-ma.us
Questions will be answered by the Highway Superintendent at 64 Huntington Road, Monday – Friday, 7 AM to 3 PM; the telephone number is 413-238-5830 or send letter of interest, resume and three (3) references with relevant contact information to: **highway@worthington-ma.us or to Worthington Highway Department, PO Box 643, Worthington, MA, 01098.** This posting will remain pertinent until the position is filled.
The Town of Worthington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

TOWN OF WORTHINGTON
INVITATION TO BID
SNOW PLOWING SERVICES
The Town of Worthington Highway Department is soliciting bids for seasonal plowing services for the 2025–2026 winter season. Work will include plowing backroads and selected blacktop sections throughout the Town of Worthington.
Minimum equipment requirements:
- ¾-ton truck or larger
- 8-foot plow (minimum)

Please contact the Worthington Highway Department for bid specifications and route details:
Worthington Highway Department
64 Huntington Road
Worthington, MA 01098
Phone: 413-238-5830
Email: highway@worthington-ma.us
The Town of Worthington reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids deemed to be in the best interest of the Town.

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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

QUAINT WEST BROOKFIELD BROOKHAVEN LAKE by babbling brook, l-shaped 2bdrm. ranch, 2/full baths, finished basement, walkout slider, enclosed front porch. Enjoy nature trails, very quiet private area. $2850/monthly rental fee. Bernice Stone **774-262-6667.**

FOR RENT

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

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.

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

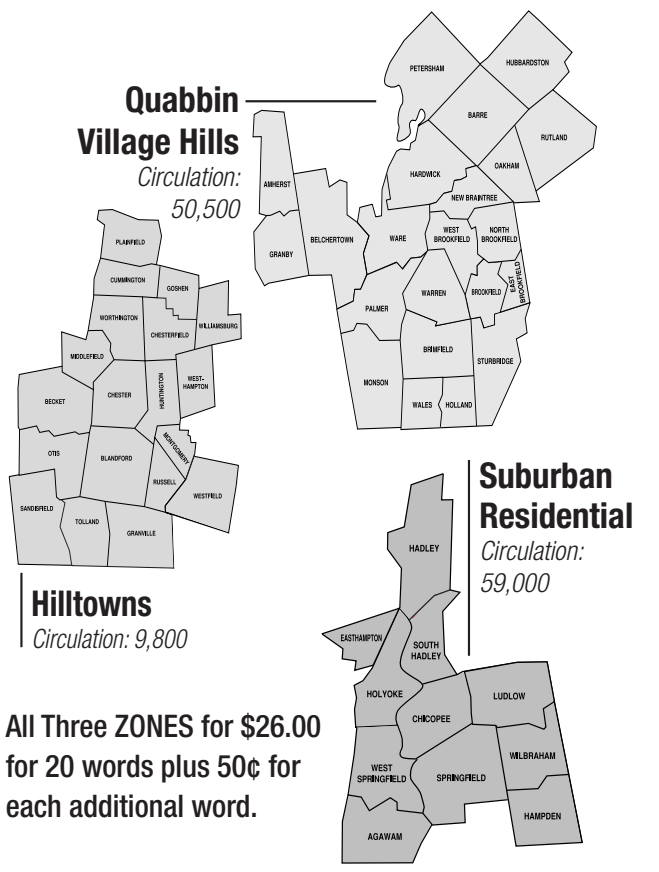
FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
or call: 413-283-8393

DEADLINES: ***FRIDAY AT NOON***

CATEGORY:

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



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

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

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

Make checks payable to **Turley Publications**

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

Your BUYLINE CONNECTION