

QUABOAG CURRENT

Connect with
us online



Quaboag Current
Newspaper

STURBRIDGE Federated Church lists Christmas schedule p2	WARREN Quaboag students participate in contest p5	REGION Central Mass basketball reunion p11
----------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------

Editorial/Opinion **4**
Sports **9**
Classifieds **14**

A TURLEY PUBLICATION
www.turley.com

Volume 17, Number 4

Friday, December 22, 2023

Police and firefighters bless others with a food drive

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer

EAST BROOKFIELD – With Christmas finally upon us, it is important to remember the members of the community in need, and that we have the power to extend a helping hand to uplift them.

The East Brookfield Police Department, led by Police Chief Joseph Lazarick, came together alongside the East Brookfield Baptist Church on East Main Street and Fire Department to create a food drive to be delivered to food banks in the surrounding communities.

“It’s a way to give back to the community and show the town the police department cares,” Lazarick said. “There’s a lot of people in need, so if we can help out in any way that is great to us.”

This is the second food drive of the year, and the Police Department hopes to continue

See **FOOD** | **PAGE 12**



Donations coming in left and right, ready to be packed up and delivered. TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

Library offers support and open arms to its community

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer

EAST BROOKFIELD – The library down on Connie Mack Drive has a passion and drive to serve the community and offers many services and has big plans to make it even more welcoming for all.

The library currently has a Mitten Tree where people can hang hats, gloves, scarves, mit-

tens, and even baby sweaters. People can also place donations of blankets and personal items under the tree.

“We are looking for mittens and hats so that we can send them along to kids in need,” Carolann MacMaster explained. Her passion and drive to help the community and children in need is evident in everything she does.

See **LIBRARY** | **PAGE 2**

Book review:

‘Of Time and Turtles: Mending the World Shell by Shattered Shell’ by Sy Montgomery

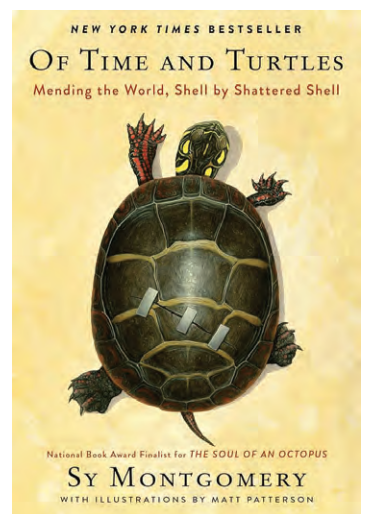
By Richard Murphy
Correspondent

On Sep. 30, the Southbridge Community Center hosted an evening event of the Turtle Rescue League with featured speaker, author Sy Montgomery.

Montgomery spoke passionately about turtles and their place in the world as well as the role of organizations such as Turtle Rescue League.

It is a subject she knows about as evidenced by the book she wrote that was on sale that

See **REVIEW** | **PAGE 15**



SUBMITTED IMAGE

Twinkling lights brighten up the history of Christmas

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer

STURBRIDGE — The history of Christmas in America was brought to life in a wonderful show of twinkling lights and all sorts of things to explore during Old Sturbridge Village’s Christmas by Candlelight.

The annual event showcases the way Christmas traditions have moved through history and is held late November until the end of December.

Visitors to the Village could enjoy a hayride and Christmas carols, hot chocolate and cookies, a magic show, historical Christmas story readings, and more.

See **CHRISTMAS** | **PAGE 8**



Mr. Potter welcomed audience participation in his magic show. TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

‘The Old Woman’s Cat’

Author publishes children’s book about adventurous cat

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

BARRE – Ever since she was a child, Alice Lesak has had a love for animals, and from the day she was born, her house has always had at least a dog or cat in it.

She has also always had a love for writing and storytelling, often joining together with her best friend in grade school to pen a number of tales.

“I have written stories since I was a little girl,” Lesak said.

Lesak has recently published her book, “The Old Woman’s

See **AUTHOR** | **PAGE 6**



Ring in the **NEW YEAR** with **GREAT EATS AND TREATS**

Ring in the New Year with a mouthwatering spread of delectable delights from Farmer Matt’s kitchen. Jumbo wings, mac & cheese, eggrolls, beef & broccoli, tachos, bavarian pretzel, and spinach and artichoke dip. Whether you’re hosting an intimate gathering or a lively bash, our diverse selection of dishes promises to satisfy every palate.



Farmer Matt
FARM-FRESH + LOCAL

Order online or in-store **FarmerMatt.com**

- community -

Federated Church announces Christmas service schedule

STURBRIDGE – The Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale has announced its Christmas service schedule, according to Rev. David Cote.

On Sunday, Dec. 24, Christmas Eve morning, the Church will celebrate the 4th Sunday of Advent at 9:30 a.m. On the same day, at 9 p.m., the Church will hold its annual Christmas Eve candlelight service.

“For the first time in a while, we’ll also be holding a Christmas morning service,” said Cote. “We welcome

members of the community to join us in worship.” The Christmas morning service begins at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 25.

The Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale joyfully celebrates Christ’s presence and God’s grace in our lives. For additional information, please visit the Church website at sturfed.org or contact the Church office by calling 774-304-1021 or emailing churchoffice@sturfed.org.

St. Aloysius Catholic School lists honor roll

HARDWICK – St. Aloysius Catholic School in Gilbertville lists students named to the first trimester honor roll.

Honors

Hannah LaRochelle, Sophia Adams and Christopher Rice.



PHONE
413.967.3505
Fax: 413.967.6009
Subscriptions: 413.283.8393

EMAIL
Advertising Sales
Dan Flynn
dflynn@turley.com

Tim Mara
tmara@turley.com

Editor
Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

WEB
www.quaboagcurrent.turley.com

@QuaboagCurrent

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

LIBRARY | FROM PAGE 1

The library also wishes to serve the community with two new additions to the library to kick off in early 2024: The Maker Space and The Library of Things.

The Maker Space is a space where anyone can come in and make things. Crafts, projects, and more fun group activities will be available soon.

The Library of Things will be a place where, just like with books, people can take out and borrow things like kitchen appliances, sewing machines, DVD players, and more.

They also have a food pantry where people can stop in if they are in need of food and take what they need, no questions asked.

The food pantry, the Mitten Tree, and the upcoming Maker Space and Library of Things are all seeking donations so that this library dedicated to the community can better serve it.

The library wants to be sure that all

members of the community can access and use the library to its fullest. They are working with the American Library Association to get a grant to create handicap-accessible doors for easier entry and exit.

Other additions include chairs and couches for a seating area at the front of the library, as well as being able to use the back lawn space for picnic tables and chares for an outdoor area for reading and learning. They also hope to use the money to fix up the playground.

Carolann, Leigh, and the rest of the East Brookfield Public Library want the community to feel welcome, as well as provide a space for all to enjoy and rest in. They want to inspire learning, fellowship, and time for friendships to bloom.

This is the perfect opportunity for you, fellow community members, to reach out to your small library, and see just how big their hearts are.



Carolann MacMaser (left) and Leigh (right) are shown with the Mitten Tree. TURLEY PHOTO BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

Support the local businesses that support your local newspaper.

Let them know you saw their ad in the

Quaboag Current



This holiday season, protect yourself and your loved ones from COVID & the FLU!

Holiday gatherings are starting up, which means it’s time to prevent the spread of germs by getting vaccinated!

The Flu and Covid vaccines are safe and effective for ages six months and older, and can help protect you from serious illness.

Healthy Quaboag is here to remind you to take care of yourself and those around you by getting vaccinated ahead of the holiday season, because YOU MATTER!

Find vaccines near you at www.healthyquaboag.org/rural-vaccine-equality-initiative-rvei/

Go to www.healthyquaboag.org to find vaccines near you.

TOWNS SERVED BY HEALTHY QUABOAG:

Barre | Belchertown | Brimfield | Brookfield | East Brookfield | Hardwick | Holland | Ludlow | Monson
New Braintree | North Brookfield | Palmer | Spencer | Wales | Ware | Warren | West Brookfield | Wilbraham



facebook.com/healthyquaboag



LEARN MORE

- community -

Sturbridge residents enter gingerbread house contest

STURBRIDGE – Several residents entered their gingerbread creations in Old Sturbridge Village's gingerbread contest, on display during Christmas by Candlelight.

Jennifer Oslen Pratt of Sturbridge entered her towering Christmas classic movie-inspired gingerbread house in the adult non-professional category (entry number 11) and the Dion, Dalena and Herrick family entered their gingerbread lantern, complete with sugar glass windows, in the family/group category (entry number 26).



Jennifer Oslen Pratt of Sturbridge had this colorful and whimsical entry in Old Sturbridge Village's gingerbread house contest. TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA QUIMETTE



The Dion, Dalena and Herrick family entered this realistic gingerbread lantern with glass windows made out of sugar.

St. Aloysius Catholic School news

Matching grant of \$40,000 towards scholarship drive

HARDWICK – St. Aloysius Catholic School in Gilbertville has been blessed with a pledge of \$40,000 in matching funds toward the school's 2024/2025 scholarship drive.

The benefactor, who wishes to remain anonymous, has supported the school in this initiative since its inception in 2016. The Scholarship Drive will run from Dec. 15 through March 15, 2024.

Last year, the scholarship drive raised a total of \$36,000 including the matching funds. The fund reduced the tuition for each of the school's 86 students by about \$450.

This year, the School Board is considering implementing a crisis fund with some of the proceeds, in addition to a fund for general assistance. Tuition rates will be set for the 2024/2025 school year after the drive ends in March.

Father Richard A. Lembo, Pastor of St. Aloysius Parish, is happy that the benefactor is once again offering such a generous match.

"There are overwhelming demands on families today. Being able to give some assistance to those who wish to provide a Catholic education for their children is important. We thank those who gave generously to last year's scholarship drive, and we hope that they will consider giving again. Besides providing these children with a top notch education, you are helping to build a foundation for their Catholic faith, something that will grow and sustain them during their lifetime," Lembo said in a press release.

St. Aloysius Catholic School's unique mission includes operating in a family-centered environment that provides Faith Formation, innovative academics, and a commitment to the local community. The school serves students in preschool through grade eight.

For more information about St. Aloysius Catholic School or to make a tax deductible donation that will be matched dollar for dollar to the Scholarship Fund please visit www.staloyuscs.com.

Donations can also be mailed to St. Aloysius Cath-



Angles watch over the shepherds during last year's Nativity pageant performed by students at St. Aloysius Catholic School. FILE PHOTO

olic School, P.O. Box 522, Gilbertville, MA 01031, noting "Scholarship Fund" on the memo line. Donations to the Scholarship Fund received prior to March 15 will help reduce tuition rates for the 2024/2025 school year.

For more information email Roberta McQuaid, at rmcquaid@staloyuscschool.com or call the school at 413-477-1268.

SCHOOL VAN DRIVERS

Monson - Palmer - Barre - Brookfield
\$19.50/hr.

WE WILL TRAIN & LICENSE YOU

Paid sick time, Paid FMLA,
Paid holidays.
Work the school schedule,
split shifts.

JP MCCARTHY BUS

email jobs@mccarthybus.com
text or call 774-200-6762

WE CARRY A WIDE VARIETY OF FROZEN TURKEYS, TURKEY BREAST, DUCKS, GESE, CORNISH HENS AS WELL AS FRESH HAMS & RED MEAT ROAST FOR YOUR HOLIDAY NEEDS!

HOLIDAY FAVORITES		HOLIDAY APPETIZERS	
USDA INSP. FRESH PORK CROWN ROAST... \$3⁹⁹ lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN RIBEYE FOR STANDING ROAST CUT FREE \$8⁸⁸ lb	USDA INSP. FRESH HOTEL TURKEY BREAST.... \$1⁹⁹ lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN WHOLE TURKEYS..... 99¢ lb
USDA INSP. FRESH STORE MADE HOLIDAY ROAST BONELESS PORK LOIN STUFFED WITH HAM, CHEESE, PEPPERS, OLIVES, SPICES..... \$4⁴⁹ lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TENDERLOIN CUT FREE \$9⁸⁹ lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN CAPONS..... \$5⁹⁹ lb	USDA INSP. CHICOPEE PROVISIONS BLUE SEAL KIELBASA..... \$4⁹⁹ lb
USDA INSP. FRESH SMOKED PORK SHOULDER \$2⁴⁹ lb	HOLIDAY HAMS	USDA INSP. FROZEN WHOLE TURKEYS..... \$5⁹⁹ lb	USDA INSP. YANKEE TRADER CRAB RANGOON 11 OZ BOX \$4⁹⁹ ea
USDA INSP. FRESH KAYEM BUDDA BALL BONELESS SMOKED PIT HAM..... \$3⁴⁹ lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF SIRLOIN SPOON ROAST \$5⁹⁹ lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN CODINO'S MANICOTTI W/ RICOTTA 4 OZ PAK..... \$4⁹⁹ ea	USDA INSP. FROZEN CAPONS..... \$5⁹⁹ lb
USDA INSP. FROZEN SKINLESS & SHANKLESS HATFIELD OLDTIME HARDWOOD SMOKED WHOLE HAM..... \$2⁴⁴ lb	USDA INSP. FRESH AMERICAN LAMB LEGS \$3⁹⁹ lb	USDA INSP. YANKEE TRADER SCALLOP WRAPPED IN BACON 10 PCS BOX..... \$7⁹⁹ ea	USDA INSP. FROZEN WHOLE TURKEYS..... \$5⁹⁹ lb
USDA INSP. FROZEN 1/2 SPIRAL HAM..... \$1²⁹ lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN IMPORTED LAMB RACKS \$15⁹⁹ lb	USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN COOKED SHRIMP JUMBO 16/20 CT, 2 LB BAG..... \$17⁹⁹ ea	USDA INSP. FROZEN WHOLE TURKEYS..... \$5⁹⁹ lb
USDA INSP. FROZEN HAM PORTIONS..... 99¢ lb	SCAN TO PLACE YOUR CHRISTMAS ORDER	HOURS: Mon. - Wed. 8-4 • Thurs. 8-6 • Fri. 8-6 • Sat. 8-3 SALE DATES: 12/21/23 - 12/27/23 • OPEN 12/24 8AM-1PM	USDA INSP. FROZEN WHOLE TURKEYS..... \$5⁹⁹ lb

90 Meat Outlet 90 Avocado St. Springfield 413-737-1288 www.90meat.com
We reserve the right to limit quantities.

GIFT CARDS AVAILABLE

BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE

FOR RENT

Quabbin Estates

41 Church Lane, Wheelwright, MA 01094

Accepting applications for our waiting list. The apartment features - w/w carpeting, kitchen appliances, maintenance coverage, laundry facilities. We specialize in Senior Housing and "Barrier Free" accessible units. Rent is \$810/mo. or 30% of income, whichever is lower. RD regulations. Handicap Accessible apartments when available.

CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT
413-477-6496
TDD (800)439-2379

- opinion -



Cookies made with a familiar herb

This weekend was supposed to be the weekend when all four of us partook in a cookie-making marathon.

Usually, we start baking right after Thanksgiving, but this year the kids were involved in a play, then a concert, and alas, there was no time. We started out strong yesterday and then I began to feel a little funny.

By midafternoon I was definitely under the weather and that was it for my cookie-making. We got two batches in before I left the kitchen.

One is an almond covered thumb print, and the second is a coriander cookie – one of my all-time favorites. It must have been a favorite to a few other folks along the line because the recipe dates back to the early 19th century!

I tried them for the first time at Old Sturbridge Village's Christmas by Candlelight some years back and making them has been a tradition in our house ever since. Why don't we take this opportunity to learn about a very versatile plant.

Most gardeners already know that Coriander (*Coriandrum sativum*) is one of the few herbs that goes by two different names depending on the part of the plant used.

Its foliage, known as Cilantro, is used fresh in a number of culinary delights. When the plant goes to seed, known as Coriander, it can be used in that stage as well, eaten whole, crushed or powdered.

I liken cilantro to being the "marigold" of the herb world. Either you love the smell/taste of it or you hate it.

I, for one, immensely dislike it and if given the chance to pick it out of my salsa I will certainly do it! Even in a restaurant.

I found it interesting to learn that some people possess a genetically predisposed aversion to it, according to studies by Charles J. Wysocki of the Monell Chemical Senses Center in Philadelphia. To me it has a bitter taste that I have a hard time describing beyond that. Dirty? Soil-like?

Most people that do dislike it have a similar lack of descriptive ability; they just can't put their finger on it, but they don't like the taste...or the smell of it. It's funny that when my oldest daughter received her Ancestry DNA results, she was shown not to possess the genetic aversion. Well, she didn't get that from me.

Cilantro is often used in salsa and other Mexican, Asian and Italian dishes including curries, sauces, salads and soups. If you prefer to grow the plant more for its greens and less for its seeds, manage it as you would spinach.

Sow seeds in the ground in the cool of the season and in succession every two weeks. It dislikes being transplanted but doesn't mind pot culture.

Harvest greens rather aggressively – about one-third of the plant at a time. Just like spinach, there are slow-to-bolt varieties to choose from such as aptly named "Slow Bolt" and "Longstanding". Cilantro's flowers are edible, and they attract lots of beneficial insects such as lady beetles, parasitic wasps and syrphid flies.

Coriander seeds, on the other hand, have a pleasant (at least to me) fragrance once dried. The scent is easier to pin-point too; nutty and spicy (ever so slightly) come to mind.

Coriander seed is also well known in various ethnic cuisines and is a favorite in spice blends, curry being the most popular. It is also used in the making of a number of distilled spirits, herbal liqueurs and Christmas cookies as I have come to find out and favor!

The Herb Society noted that during World War II coriander seeds were coated in white or pink sugar and thrown from carnival wagons, earning the name "confections" or "confetti." When the seeds were replaced by balls of colored paper the name confetti stuck.

See GARDEN | PAGE 5



ARMY MARINES AIR FORCE NAVY COAST GUARD

By Hank Houghton,
Vietnam veteran

Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone,
In a one bedroom house made of plaster and stone.
I had come down the chimney with presents to give,
And to see just who in this home did live.
I looked all about, a strange sight I did see,
No tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.

No stockings by mantle, just boots filled with sand,
And on the wall pictures of far distant lands.
With medals and badges, awards of all kinds,
A sobering thought came to my mind.
For this house was different, so dark and dreary,
The home of a soldier, now I could see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone,
Curled up on the floor in this one bedroom home.
The face was so gentle, the room in such disorder,
Not how I pictured a United States soldier.
Was this the hero of whom I'd just read?
Curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed?

I realized the families that I saw this night,
Owed their lives to these soldiers who were willing to fight.
Soon round the world, the children would play,
And grownups would celebrate a bright Christmas day.
They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year,
Because of the soldiers, like the one lying there.

I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone,
On a cold Christmas eve in a land far from home.
The very thought brought a tear to my eye,
I dropped to my knees and started to cry.
The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice,
"Santa don't cry, this life if my choice;

I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more,
My life is my God, my country, my corps."
The soldier rolled over and soon drifted to sleep,
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.
I kept watch for hours, so silent and still,
And we both shivered from the cold evening's chill.

I didn't want to leave on that cold, dark, night,
This guardian of honor so willing to fight.
Then the soldier rolled over, with a voice soft and pure,
Whispered, "Carry on Santa, it's Christmas day, all is secure."
One look at my watch, and I knew he was right.
"Merry Christmas my friend, and to all a good night."

Local Newspapers are **IMPORTANT** Any Way You Look At It

OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

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

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

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

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

EDITOR
Paula Quimette
pouimette@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
Dan Flynn
Tim Mara

SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

SOCIAL MEDIA
f
[@QuaboagCurrent](https://www.facebook.com/QuaboagCurrent)

WEB
www.quaboagcurrent.turley.com

Turley Publications, Inc.
www.turley.com

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

Connect with us online



Quaboag Current Newspaper

Light the Night

Parks and Rec. host annual holiday decorating contest

WARREN – The Parks and Recreation Department hosted their annual Light the Night holiday decorating contest this past weekend, with a map highlighting contest entries throughout the town.

Students at Quaboag Regional Middle High School set up an individual display for each grade level.

People were able to use the map to visit each decorated house, then vote for their top choices. Light the Night winners will be listed in next week's *Quaboag Current*.

Students at Quaboag Regional Mid-



Grade 11 had a Hawaiian Christmas theme.



This light display featured the Grinch and Whoville. TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE



Grade six at Quaboag Regional Middle High School had a creative display of Christmas tree-shaped lights using milk crates, tomato cages and other items for the Warren Parks & Recreation Department's annual Light the Night holiday decorating contest. TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE



Grade 10 had winter fun in mind with their s'mores station, tent, skis and hockey stick.

GARDEN | FROM PAGE 4

Take this one to your next game of Cruise Ship Trivia!

It is easy to harvest the seeds. Simply let the heads dry to brown right on the plant. Clip them and place inside a paper bag; as they dry further, they will open, and the seeds will pop out.

Even if you are only interested in harvesting the seeds, multiple plantings (or a big garden patch) are necessary to get a decent-sized harvest. Let a few drop their seeds and you will be blessed with a few self-sown plants next spring.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 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.

CHRISTMAS SALE! TOY CLEARANCE!

OPEN: Dec. 22, 9am-10pm
Dec. 23, 8am-10pm
Dec. 24, 9am-7pm

INSTANT FINANCING - INSTANT FINANCING - INSTANT FINANCING - INSTANT FINANCING

GIANT TOY DEPT! MATTRESS SALE! TWIN: \$199 (REGULARLY \$299) FULL: \$269 (REGULARLY \$499) FULL: \$299 (REGULARLY \$599)	5 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER \$249⁹⁹ WAS \$299.99	FRIGIDAIRE DISHWASHER #7150 \$329⁹⁹ WAS \$599.99	SAMSUNG WASHER \$699⁹⁹ WAS \$899.99	MAYTAG DISHWASHER #MDB4949SKZ \$549⁹⁹ WAS \$849.99	GREAT GIFT IDEAS! SLEDS • TOBOGGANS ICE SKATES • TUBES	
	FRIGIDAIRE SIDE-BY-SIDE REFRIGERATOR \$1099⁹⁹ WAS \$1,599.99	AMANA WASHER OR DRYER #NED4655EW \$499⁹⁹ WAS \$599.99	MAYTAG DRYER #VEDC46HW \$549⁹⁹ WAS \$699.99	WHIRLPOOL FRENCH DOOR BOTTOM FREEZER \$1599⁹⁹ WAS \$2,699		10 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER \$439⁹⁹ WAS \$599.99
TV DEALS 50" Vizio \$259.99 (Regularly \$549.99) 55" Samsung \$329.99 (Regularly \$449.99) 75" Samsung \$699.99 (Regularly \$799.99) 85" Samsung \$999.99 (Regularly \$1599.99)	LG TOP FREEZER 18 CU. FT. \$699⁹⁹ WAS \$899.99	AMANA GAS RANGE #AGR1533CBAS • Stainless Steel \$599⁹⁹ WAS \$699.99	GE FRONT LOAD WASHER #GFWSOSSNWW \$749⁹⁹ WAS \$999.99	20 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER \$899⁹⁹ WAS \$1099.99	LG SMOOTH TOP ELECTRIC STOVE \$699⁹⁹ WAS \$999.99	G.E. OVER-THE-RANGE MICROWAVE \$199⁹⁹ WAS \$279.99

NO CREDIT? BAD CREDIT? NEW EASY FINANCING TERMS ON EVERYTHING IN THE STORE!

WHITCO

140 MAIN STREET
SPENCER, MA
508.885.9343

SEE WHITCO SALES.COM FOR 100'S OF DEALS!

Store Hours: Mon. through Fri: 9am-9pm • Sat: 9am-8pm • Sun: 10am-7pm

AUTHOR | FROM PAGE 1

Cat”, a children’s book based on the adventures of her cat, Jake, and his animal friends.

Lesak got Jake and his brother Jet as kittens after the passing of her 20 year old cat. The nearly identical brothers will be turning 7 years old on New Year’s Day.

“They were going to be housecats,” Lesak said of Jake and Jet. “But they were probably 3 months old when they figured out the dog door.”

One day, Lesak was informed by her neighbor that her large black cat, Jake, was outside playing with a baby fox. She wrote to one of her friends about the strange budding friendship between Jake and the fox, and her friend encouraged her to make this the subject of a book.

“I took an afternoon to write it,” Lesak said of the book, which was then

illustrated by Stephanie Koller. Lesak is already thinking about writing her next book.

Jake and Jet are joined by Lesak’s dogs, Katie and Max. Together, the group enjoys walks around Lesak’s quiet neighborhood.

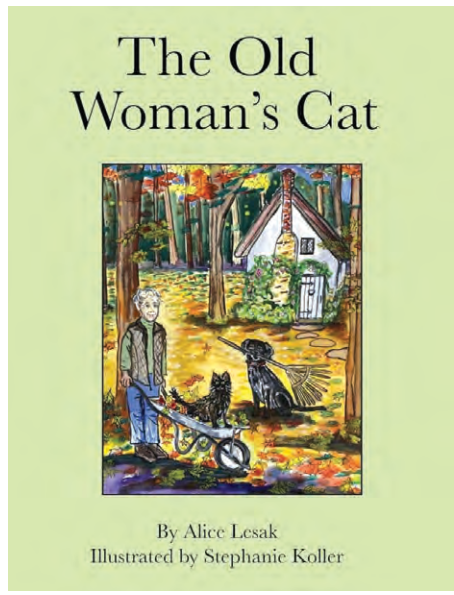
“These cats have been walking with us for four or five years,” Lesak said

It was during one of these walks this past spring that Lesak witnessed firsthand Jake’s interactions with the fox.

“Jake ran into the woods one day, I heard yowling,” she said. “Jake came out after the fox all fluffed up, chasing the fox.”

Lesak said a lot of “The Old Woman’s Cat” is fictional, but a few of the events that transpire in the book were inspired by things Jake actually did.

While this is her first published book, it is the second book she’s written, with



Barre author Alice Lesak has recently published “The Old Woman’s Cat”, a delightful children’s book detailing the adventures of Jake the cat and friends. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

ing. Having mostly worked on screenplays, Lesak always wanted to write books. She also felt a deep longing to leave the city, and return to the countryside, just like her home state of Pennsylvania.

“I wanted to move back here,” Lesak said of the east coast. She sent letter after letter seeking work, but never got a response back.

At this time, she was working for the Los Angeles County Bar Association, handling complaints filed against attorneys. In the heart of south central during the Rodney King riots, Lesak remembers seeing helicopters flying around while people in the community struggled with the violence and chaos of the time.

“The morning when it started, I looked out the window and saw a boy holding pieces of ashes in his hand... my mother went out and hugged him,” Lesak said. “At that point, we decided to move.”

Having just officiated a funeral service for her colleague’s life partner, Lesak realized a cross-country move would be easier through the church.

“By then I’m 36, still ordained,” Lesak said,

Lesak began applying to churches located within a circle on map she drew between Worcester and Springfield. A church located within that circle received her application and reached out.

“I got a call from the Tri-Parish Community Church, right there, dead center in my circle I drew,” Lesak said.

Lesak started her 12-year journey with Tri-Parish Community Church on Veterans Day of 1992.

“Massachusetts is home,” Lesak said. “Being here in the woods, the Swift River is just a mile down the road... I’m done, I’m happy.”

While leading the congregation at Tri-Parish Community Church, Lesak also worked on her therapy degree, eventually working for Valley Human Services, where she enjoyed connecting with people in the community until her retirement.

Now, when she isn’t writing books, Lesak is enjoying her time with Jake, Jet, Katie and Max, and traveling with them by camper to her home state to visit with her brother.

“You are not alone when you’re with animals,” Lesak said. “This is the happiest time of my life.”

“The Old Woman’s Cat” can be purchased through Amazon or Barnes and Noble. Make sure to search for both the title and “By Alice Lesak,” or “Illustrated by Stephanie Koller.”



Katie and Max enjoy snuggling.



Jake enjoys looking outside from the comfort of his warm home.



Alice Lesak gives treats to her dogs Max and Katie. TURLEY PHOTO BY PAULA QUIMETTE

the first still in the process of being illustrated. That book was inspired by her friend who lives on a nearby farm and has a house cat and a barn cat.

“I wondered if they ever talked,” Lesak said of her friend’s cats. “Would they ever want to trade places?”

Lesak herself thought about what it would be like to live a different life from the one she was living, and she has never shied away from taking chances and trying something new.

By the time she was 26, Lesak had become a minister, but she found herself wanting a change.

The “Star Wars” films were at their peak and Lesak decided she would follow in filmmaker George Lucas’ footsteps and attend the University of Southern California. There she earned her master’s degree in professional writ-



hardwickcrossing.com

262 Lower Road, Gilbertville

774-757-8907

Pro Shop 774-261-2634

HARDWICK CROSSING

EST. 2022

COUNTRY CLUB

OPEN 7 DAYS FOR LUNCH, DINNER & GOLF

Specials Posted on Facebook & Instagram

New Year’s Eve Party

With Live Music Beginning at 8 p.m.

Monday Trivia Night 6:30 p.m. - Wednesday, Music Bingo 6:30 p.m.

Gift Certificate Special

Receive Up to \$200 in Free Gift Certificates

Visit Our Website For More Details

BAR ONLY WILL BE OPEN CHRISTMAS EVE DAY

Function
Space
Available



Book
Your Event
With Us



think
OUTSIDE
of the
**BIG
BOX**

SUPPORT
COMMUNITY
BUSINESSES

- community -

Smola supports legislation requiring salary transparency by employers

BOSTON – State Rep. Todd Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Ways & Means Committee) has endorsed a proposed change in state law that would require most employers to disclose the salary range for open positions on job postings to better inform prospective applicants and help close the gender and racial wage gap.

Smola stated in a press release, “Supporting House Bill 4109 is about promoting fairness, equity, and transparency in the workplace. This legislation shows that in Massachusetts, we value equal opportunity and economic fairness for all. I’m proud to endorse this bill, which is not only a priority for the Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators but also supported by key business organizations like AIM and BEC-MA.”

House Bill 4109, An Act relative to salary range transparency, would require businesses with 25 or more employees to provide information on the specific range of pay for an advertised job opening, and to disclose this information to current employees being

offered a promotion or transfer to a new position with different job responsibilities. The bill was engrossed by the House of Representatives on a vote of 148-8 on Oct. 4.

“I believe in transparency in employment practices,” said Smola. “It’s crucial that we empower people seeking jobs with information about salary ranges. I am proud to stand with my colleagues and the business community to advance this important cause.”

Ten other states, including Connecticut, Rhode Island and New York, already have similar pay disclosure laws.

According to Smola, House Bill 4109 would impose penalties against any business that fails to comply with the salary range disclosure requirement, which would be enforced by the Attorney General. The bill calls for a written warning for a first offense, a fine of up to \$500 for a second offense, and a fine not to exceed \$1,000 for a third offense.

The bill requires the Attorney General to conduct a public awareness campaign to educate businesses about the new requirements. There will be a one-

year grace period after the law goes into effect before enforcement will begin.

For the first two years the law is in effect, covered businesses will have two business days after being notified of a violation to correct it before a fine is imposed.

House Bill 4109 also requires companies with 100 or more employees to annually file demographic and wage data on their workforce with the Secretary of State’s office, which is the same information they are already required to provide to the federal government. The Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development would then compile and post these reports with the data aggregated so as not to identify individual employers.

Smola said House Bill 4109 will help to correct a shortcoming in the state’s 2016 pay equity law, which requires men and women to receive equal pay for comparable work. Although the law prohibits employers from inquiring about a job applicant’s salary history, it does not prevent companies from asking about a prospective hire’s salary

expectations without having to disclose how much the position pays.

He said that House Bill 4109 is a legislative priority of the Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators, which is co-chaired by State Rep. Hannah Kane, R-Shrewsbury, and state Sen. Joan Lovely, D-Salem. The Caucus said the bill will help to elevate economic opportunity and eliminate barriers for women in the workforce.

House Bill 4109 is also being backed by several business organizations. This includes the Associated Industries of Massachusetts, which is the state’s largest nonprofit, nonpartisan business association representing more than 3,500 businesses in 150 different industries, and the Black Economic Council of Massachusetts, which advocates for Black businesses across Massachusetts.

House Bill 4109 now heads to the Senate for its consideration.

For additional information please contact Smola by email at Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov or call 617-722-2100.



Raelynn Brown

July 20, 2023

Parents: Ryan & Ashley Brown, Hampden
Grandparents: Art & Lynn Anderson, Wilbraham
Rick & Joanne Brown, Monson



Saturday, December 23rd
8pm-11:30pm
Tony Soul Project Band

Wednesday Nights ~ 7pm-10pm
Mix Tape Music Bingo/Prizes!

Friday Nights ~ 8pm-11pm
Karaoke

Upcoming Events
Saturday, January 6th
8pm-12am
The Gypsy Six
EVERY SUNDAY
DARTS
LUCK OF THE DRAW
5:30pm • All Welcome

948 Main Street, Warren, MA • 413-436-8491

CANTERBURY TAILS

Veterinary Clinic





(413) 324-1138

Proudly serving Ware and its surrounding communities

Dogs ★ Cats ★ Rabbits ★ Ferrets

10% Off First Visit

IF YOU MENTION THIS AD
(New Client Only)

Are you having difficulty communicating with your partner, struggling with boundaries, and healthy relationships?

We invite you to join us
Friday afternoons from 1-2:30 pm
to explore these topics and more.

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

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

CHRISTMAS | FROM PAGE 1

They could also admire the gingerbread house entries and vote for the best one, and walk the trail around the pond and through the covered bridge to see the path of lighted Christmas trees.

Everyone who came to the event got to learn something new about the history of Christmas in New England (fun fact- we didn't even celebrate it at all here until the 19th-century)

Christmas and its many traditions span generations, cultures, and histories. It's a time of remembering our families, and here in America, our melting pot of cultures.

Whether Puerto Rican, Polish, German, African, or English, there are countless ways and traditions that are a part of the Christmas season, and all deserve to be incorporated and learned

about.

Family and friends can get together and spend time at Old Sturbridge Village learning about all of this and more.

Christmas by Candlelight will be held Fridays, Dec. 22 and 29; Saturdays, Dec. 23 and 30; Wednesday, Dec. 27 and Thursday, Dec. 28. Arrival times are scheduled for 2 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. on each of those days.

Old Sturbridge Village is open rain or shine.

For more information about Christmas by Candlelight and other opportunities to experience the Village during the holiday season, visit www.osv.org. Reservations are recommended as this event sells out quickly.



A winter village scene is displayed.



A horse-drawn wagon circles the common during Christmas by Candlelight.



A beautiful scene depicting the many cultures of America and how they display the nativity.



The Casella family (left to right: Sean, Melissa, Mary, Sadie, and Chris) enjoying the lights and wonders of the celebration. *TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS*



People of all ages enjoyed a reading of "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" in the schoolhouse.



A path of beautifully lit pine trees leads the way around the pond.



A Christmas tree decorates the shoe shop.

SPORTS

Warriors fall against Doherty



FISKDALE – Last Friday night, a rough first half was too much for the Warriors to overcome as they fell to Doherty 59-50 at home. Bryce Tessier would lead the Warriors with 16 points. Elijah Webb had 13 points. Tantasqua hosts Minnechaug on Dec. 21 at 6:30 p.m.

Jack Repose sends a pass to the left side of the perimeter. TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Adam Howe tries to keep the ball away from an opponent.



Colm McGrath makes his way up the court.



James Sciaraffa runs into pressure.

Panthers' offense coasts to second straight win

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

BARRE—The Quabbin girls' varsity basketball team won the first two games of the regular season at home. They also held each opponent to fewer than ten points, which is something that doesn't happen very often at the varsity level.

Quabbin began the 2023-24 season with a 59-8 non-league home win against Worcester Tech on December 11. Two nights later, the Lady Panthers coasted to a 51-9 victory over the Narragansett Warriors in another non-league home contest.

Evan Barringer, who's the Lady Panthers head coach, was very happy with his team performance in the two home games, but he knows his team will be playing some very challenging games down the road.

"We do play in one of the toughest girls' basketball leagues in Central Mass and we're going to be playing some challenging games," Barringer said. "We lost our season opening game on the road the past two years, so it feels nice to win our first two home games of this season. We just need to keep improving in every game that we play."

See **PANTHERS** | PAGE 10



Hannah Baxter grabs the rebound. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RAY DUFFY

Indians cruise to season-opening win

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Last Wednesday night, North Brookfield boys basketball got 17 points from Jose Rivera and defeated Parker Charter School 64-34. Ryan Roy had 14 points and the Indians posted 11 three-pointers in the game. The Indians scored early and often and had a commanding 41-16 lead at halftime. The Indians are 1-0 to start the season

Pioneers offense too much for Lions

PALMER – Last Friday night, Pathfinder boys basketball prevailed over visiting Ludlow 70-48. One of the big keys was a big second quarter for Pathfinder as well as great defense by the Pioneers in the final frame holding the Lions to just four points. Pathfinder was led by Hunter Griswold with 22 points followed by Richie Gula with 20 points. Seth Mitchell added 10 points for the Pioneers. While Ludlow got points from eight different players, it was not enough to combat Pathfinder's high scorers. Stephen Goodreau had 13 points to lead the Lions.

RIGHT: Richie Gula drives toward the hoop. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



See **MORE PHOTOS** | PAGE 10

- sports -

PANTHERS | FROM PAGE 9

The Lady Panthers, who have qualified for the Division 3 state tournament the past two years, are members of the Mid-Wach C League. They were scheduled to play their first league game at Hudson High School, who are the defending Central Mass. Athletic Directors Association's (CMADA) Class B champions, last Friday night.

"We're going to have a massive test at Hudson on Friday night," Barringer said. "They're the defending Central Mass. Class B champions and they're also the team to beat in our division this year. We're looking forward to playing them. Facing the quality teams in our league will also help improve our power rankings for the state tournament."

While the Lady Panthers scored more than 50 points in their first two games, they also played very well defensively.

"This is by far the best defensive team that we've had since I've been coaching here," Barringer added. "We made it very difficult on a very good Narragansett team in tonight's game. We put a lot of pressure on them, especially during

the first quarter. We raced out to an early 9-0 lead, and we never stopped after that."

One of the Lady Panthers key defensive players is junior Brooke Austin.

"Brooke Austin is the first player off the bench and she's becoming a defensive force for us," Barringer said. "Her defense has been inspiring and it's been awesome to see. We also want her to rebound the ball. She's a very good athlete."

Austin, who's one of the six returning varsity basketball players, was the first-year goalkeeper for the Lady Panthers soccer team this past fall.

Four Quabbin players reached double figures in the season opening victory against Worcester Tech.

Senior Briana Whitelaw, who's a three-point threat, led the way with 15 points. Freshman Abigail Rogowski, who's a three-sport varsity athlete, and sophomore Mia Ducos each scored 11 points, while senior Meg Doyle checked in with 10 points.

Ducos, who joined the varsity squad as an eighth grader, is the point guard and she runs the show offensively.

"Mia is a very good passer and she's been making very good decisions as our point guard so far this season," Barringer said. "None of the players really care how many points they score in a game. They just want to keep winning."

Ducos scored five of her seven points against Narragansett during the first half.

The only two Lady Panthers players to score ten or more points against the Warriors were senior Hannah Baxter and Doyle, who's a fourth year varsity basketball player. The duo each finished with a game-high of 13 points.

Baxter, who's a center, scored a career-high 18 points at Clinton last year. She made five inside field goals against Narragansett (0-2).

"Hannah was the most improved player on our basketball team last year," Barringer said. "She's continuing this season where she left off. It's been a lot of fun to watch her improve as a basketball player."

Doyle, who's a guard, is another fun player to watch play for Quabbin. She scored most of her points on fastbreak lay-ups following steals.

"Meg is one of the best athletes that I've seen in the 23 years that I've been teaching and coaching at Quabbin," Barringer said. "She's also a very good softball player."

The trio of Rogowski, Whitelaw, and senior Riley Bassett scored five points apiece in the Lady Panthers second home victory of the regular season.

All four of the Quabbin seniors are captains.

Rounding out the varsity roster are junior's Maykayla Kingsbury, Ana Dunn, and Leanne Leger, who did an outstanding job of singing the National Anthem.

"Leanne has sung the National Anthem at our two home games, and she just did a spectacular job," Barringer said. "It's what high school sports is all about. We're a fun team to watch play and it should be a very exciting season. I just love coaching this year's team."

The Lady Panthers were scheduled to host league rival Clinton on Tuesday night. Their next home game will be against Oakmont Regional on December 27.



Leanna Leger drives the baseline on her way to the hoop. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RAY DUFFY



Brianna Whitelaw takes a three-point shot.



Mag Doyle gets the layup after a steal.

Pioneers offense too much for Lions



Trevor Allard reaches out for a long layup. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Hunter Griswold takes a shot under pressure.



Seth Mitchell goes for a midrange shot.



Adrien Moskowitz pushes a pass to his teammate.

Reunion celebrates central Massachusetts basketball

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WORCESTER – Well over 100 people gathered to honor and recognize the contributions central Massachusetts had, and continues to have, to the sport of basketball.

On Nov. 25, the Worcester Public Library opened its community space to host the Central Mass Basketball Reunion, celebrating the legacy of the sport in Worcester, and recognizing some of its greatest athletes and coaches.

Emceeding the event was Ed Reilly, Worcester Academy's athletic director, who credited Worcester native and author Mark "Pathfinder" Epstein with bringing everyone together through his book, "Jack 'The Shot' Foley - A Legend for All Time: With Togo Palazzi and Central Mass Basketball".

Epstein is the son of Charlie Epstein, a local icon who owned and operated the Water Street sporting goods store, Charlie's Surplus. Epstein's father was also instrumental in supporting the basketball league at Crompton Park.

His book chronicles the lives of two men, Togo Palazzi and Jack "The Shot" Foley, who each had a profound impact on his life, and instilled his love of basketball.

"Mark has a big heart and a want to do good for others," Reilly said of Epstein. "His book has contributed to the renaissance of Worcester."

Epstein thanked Worcester Public Library staff and Executive Director Jason Homer for hosting the reunion, and also those in attendance.

"What a collection of talent assembled," Epstein said. "We could have one hell of a game at Crompton Park."

Epstein said central Massachusetts has had many of the greatest coaches and mentors of all time, including his "Uncle Togo" Palazzi.

Palazzi led Holy Cross to the 1954 NIT championship and was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player. He was the fifth pick in the first round NBA draft by the Boston Celtics, where he played four seasons before going to the Syracuse Nationals.

Following his basketball career, Palazzi turned to coaching, which he would dedicate more than 35 years of his life to.

He was the assistant men's coach at Holy Cross



Vinny Palazzi proudly wears a shirt from his late father Togo Palazzi's basketball camp. TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE

with George Blaney, and he was also the college's first women's basketball coach.

Sherry Levin, Holy Cross' all-time leading scorer in women's basketball history (scoring 2,253 points) grew close to Palazzi, first as one of his athletes, and more so as his colleague when she became a coach herself.

Levin talked about what it was like to sit with the "guys" and hear their stories about basketball.

"The stories were absolutely amazing," she said. "To be a part of this community...it's a passion."

Levin said Palazzi was like a family member to her, and he taught her how to be the best she could be, every day. It was his encouragement that shaped her into the coach she became, leading 14 seasons at Worcester Academy.

"He is a legend; the man, the player...most importantly, the person that he was. My beloved Togo," Levin said.

Joining the reunion were two of Palazzi's children, Elizabeth and Vinny.

Elizabeth said she was "honored and happy" to attend the reunion on behalf of her father, adding that she misses him a lot. Palazzi died last summer at the age of 90.

"He was my rock," she said.

Palazzi was also a doting grandfather, and was always helping Elizabeth take care of her daughter. He also had a special soft spot for his granddaughter's dog, Zeus.

Vinny recalled taking trips to the beach in the backseat of the family's Rambler, and how his father would sing Frank Sinatra. After each song, he'd ask his passengers, "how'd I sound kids?"

Vinny then sang an a cappella rendition of Sinatra's "My Way", in honor of his father, changing the closing line to the song to "Dad did it his way...how'd I sound kids?"

Bobby Foley, the all-time winningest coach in Massachusetts boys' basketball history in his 50 years as a head coach and Holy Cross graduate of the Class of 1963, shared some of his favorite memories of "The Shot."

"Jack wasn't a natural," Foley said (who is no relation to Jack). "He played nine hours a day to become the player he was."

Foley recalled Jack wearing his plaid shirts and cowboy boots when he went on to become a teacher, and the one time he brought a python into a bar.

"Jack always walked to his own drum," Foley said.

Foley said near the end of Jack's life, he and a friend made the trip out to Barre to visit him, in the midst of a blizzard, after they heard that his health was declining. When the duo arrived at Jack's home, they found him outside shoveling snow in shorts and a T-shirt.

Gettings his start as a freshman on the Holy Cross basketball team before transferring to Providence College, was second round NBA draft pick Kevin Stacom.

Stacom played for the Boston Celtics, Indiana Pacers and the Milwaukee Bucks.

He talked about his first time meeting Palazzi, for a one-on-one match. Stacom said it was "blood and guts" for a couple of hours.

Stacom said he and Palazzi were going back and forth over the ball, but Palazzi got away with it.

Palazzi gave him advice that helped him throughout his career – whoever is closest to the ground gets control of the ball.

Stacom said he's never going to lose his love for the game of basketball.

Recently inducted into the Small College Basketball Hall of Fame, John Grochowalski was a sophomore at Assumption College when he went to Worcester Academy for a pickup game of basketball. He picked the scrawny, 6 foot 5 inch kid to play against.

"I grabbed him, punched him...did everything," Grochowalski said. "He had me in every game and said, 'nice job kid.'"

See REUNION | PAGE 12



North High School student-athlete Joe Okla read an anonymous poem about Jack "The Shot" Foley that is found in Mark Epstein's book.



Small College Basketball Hall of Fame inductee John Grochowalski talks about facing Togo Palazzi on the court during a one-on-one game.



Author and Worcester native Mark "Pathfinder" Epstein signs books at the Central Mass Basketball Reunion on Nov. 25.



Providence College grad and NBA player Kevin Stacom shares his favorite memories from his career.



North High School coach Alan Pettway talks about the athletic talent found in Worcester.



Holy Cross grad and retired coach Sherry Levin talks about the impact Togo Palazzi had on her career and life.

- community -

REUNION | FROM PAGE 11

This was Grochowalski's first match against Palazzi.

"Togo's sons came up to me and said 'John, it's not worth it, don't do it,'" he said with a laugh.

Grochowalski went on to play Series A basketball in Italy, and even there, the legend of basketball in central Massachusetts was well known.

"Don't think this is just central Massachusetts, you're well known all over the world," Grochowalski said.

Crompton Park continues to be where Worcester's basketball talent hones its skills, and Eddie Hippert shared the history of the 14-acre parcel of land.

"It was here that we started something very special," Hippert said.

It was Crompton Park where eight teams competed in a league, playing double headers several days a week.

"Players were from everywhere," Hippert said, including Boston, Springfield, Providence, Rhode Island, and Hartford, Connecticut.

Businesses sponsored the league, including Charlie's Surplus, and the newspapers covered every game. The crowds were enormous, especially when Bob Cousy brought the Boston Celtics to play in an all-star game.

"I was just a young kid sitting up in a tree watching; wanting to be there," Hippert said.

Crompton Park is still developing basketball players today, he said.

Helping to coach and mentor the next generation of players is North High School coach Alan Pettway. Growing up in Connecticut, Pettway

See REUNION | PAGE 13



The East Brookfield Police Department held a food drive which included donations from area residents, and as a result, Christmas came early for the East Brookfield Baptist Church Food Pantry which was blessed with a large donation of food. The Food Pantry is located at the East Brookfield Baptist Church, 262 East Main St., East Brookfield and is open to the public every Tuesday from 10 a.m.-noon. SUBMITTED PHOTO

FOOD | FROM PAGE 1

the food drives to happen twice a year - once in the spring, and once amidst the winter holiday season.

The day of donation had a great turn-out, and the police officers and firefighters were able to fill their vehicles to be able to bring food to those in need. There was even \$250 in monetary donations, and the departments hope to see even more at the next drive in the spring.

"I would like to personally thank all of the East Brookfield police officers and firefighters who helped make the event a success," Lazarick said.

The next food drive in the spring will feature Finn the Service Dog. You can bring some

nonperishable food donations, and hang out with the lovable support dog.

The Fire Department is also hosting a food drive for the cats who are sheltered at Ladybug Cat Rescue in Douglas. Things like cat litter, wet and dry cat food, disposable litter boxes, blankets, pet beds, and gift cards are what is most needed.

People can donate to the shelter directly, or through the Fire Department's donation drive in order to help a little kitten find their fur-ever home. You can drop off donations for the cats at the fire department and can find more information on their Facebook page.

The first responders of the community have truly stepped up this season to show how much they care, and we are thankful to have such amazing departments here to work with in the community.



RIGHT: Nonperishables are bagged and ready to go. TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21		22				23				
			24		25				26					
27	28	29		30				31				32	33	34
35			36					37				38		
39								40				41		
42					43							44		
45				46				47					48	
				49				50				51		
52	53	54				55				56		57	58	59
60					61					62		63		
64					65							66		
67					68							69		

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Droops
- 5. Subatomic particle
- 10. Not in danger
- 14. Nursemaid
- 15. Black band worn in mourning
- 16. Long song in opera
- 17. Edible seed of a Philippine tree
- 18. Chicago political family
- 19. Pursues pleasure from one place to another
- 20. Appetizer
- 22. Hill (Celtic)
- 23. Simple shoe
- 24. Songs to one you love
- 27. Secret activities
- 30. Upset
- 31. Popular hot drink
- 32. Body art (slang)
- 35. Fired
- 37. Blood relation
- 38. Identical
- 39. Porticos
- 40. Partner to cheese
- 41. Type of sword
- 42. Enough (archaic)
- 43. Surface layer of ground
- 44. Cotton fabric woven like satin
- 45. Choose for a post
- 46. Father
- 47. Tell on
- 48. Indian title of respect
- 49. Fonts
- 52. Fencing sword
- 55. Mock
- 56. Vaccine developer
- 60. Atmosphere surrounding a person or place
- 61. Marten with a short tail
- 63. Chinese temple
- 64. Invests in little enterprises
- 65. Popular cut of meat
- 66. Charity
- 67. Iron-containing compound
- 68. River in Northern Europe
- 69. One point east of southeast

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Exhausts
- 2. Genus of fish related to gars
- 3. Impudent behavior
- 4. Adherents to Islam
- 5. They come after A
- 6. Spoke
- 7. Room to receive guests
- 8. About opera
- 9. End-blown flute
- 10. Heroic tales
- 11. Member of a Semitic people
- 12. Dog's name
- 13. Opposite of west
- 21. Political divisions in ancient Greece
- 23. Ocean
- 25. Cool!
- 26. Young woman about to enter society
- 27. One from central Caucasus
- 28. Indian city
- 29. A way to serve ice cream
- 32. Emaciation
- 33. Escort aircraft carrier
- 34. Italian city
- 36. Mythical settler of Kansas
- 37. Unhappy
- 38. High schoolers' test
- 40. Measured in pace
- 41. Satisfies
- 43. Gullible person
- 44. Enclosed space
- 46. Substance used to color something
- 47. Shirt type
- 49. Discover by investigation
- 50. ___-Castell, makers of pens
- 51. Semitic Sun god
- 52. Grads wear one
- 53. French river
- 54. Part of a cap
- 57. Digestive fluid
- 58. Metrical foot
- 59. Body part
- 61. Very fast airplane
- 62. Supplement with difficulty

health & wellness NETWORK

NEW FORMAT
MAGAZINE SIZE

A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO
Turley Publications, Inc.
WWW.TURLEY.COM

AN ANNUAL SOURCE OF
Local Health Professionals

TO BE DISTRIBUTED IN
12 TURLEY NEWSPAPERS

THE REGISTER • COUNTRY JOURNAL
THE CHICOPEE REGISTER
THE JOURNAL REGISTER
WARE RIVER NEWS • BARRE GAZETTE
THE BELCHERTOWN SENTINEL
WILBRAHAM-HAMPDEN TIMES
AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS
THE SUN • TOWN REMINDER
QUABOAG CURRENT

DEADLINE
January 31, 2024

PUBLICATION DATE
February 21, 2024

CALL TODAY TO ADVERTISE
413.283.8393

REUNION | FROM PAGE 12

said he never knew about Worcester's impact on basketball until he started playing at Crompton Park. "508 does have a lot of talent," Pettway said. One of Pettway's student-athletes, Joe Okla, read an anonymous poem about "The Shot" that is fea-

tured in Epstein's book. Worcester Academy head coach Jamie Sullivan grew up on Vernon Hill, and said he is so proud to be from Worcester. He spoke about all of the coaches and players that had a profound impact, but often go unrecognized. Following the end of the program, Epstein invited

all in attendance to the White Eagle on Green Street, to continue celebrating Worcester's legends and the city's influence on the sport of basketball. "This was our life," Epstein said.

CALL YOUR TURLEY REP TODAY! 283-8393



**YOUR LOCAL
TRUSTED
RELIABLE
DEPENDABLE**

HOMIE PROs

<p>1 SWIMMING POOLS</p> <p>D.J.C. POOLS 108 Main St. (Rt. 32) South Barre 508-882-3913 978-355-6465</p> <p>VACATION IN YOUR BACKYARD Two Types of In-Ground/Above Ground Pools In-Ground Liner Replacements • Heaters Service • Chemicals & Supplies • Water Testing</p>	<p>2 INSURANCE</p> <p>www.moultoninsurance.com MOULTON Insurance Agency BUSINESS • AUTO • HOME • LIFE</p> <p>Very Competitive Rates • Experienced Professional Staff 99% Customer Satisfaction Rate • On-site Registry Processing</p> <p>Safety Insurance AUTO • HOME • BUSINESS</p> <p>Ware: 143 West Street, 413-967-3327 Belchertown: 45 N. Main Street, 413-323-7229</p>	<p>3 PAINTING & PAPERING</p> <p>SABLACK PAINTING & PAPERING Professional Workmanship Interior & Exterior • Residential & Commercial PAPER HANGING • DRYWALL SERVICE CERAMIC TILE FREE ESTIMATES • FULLY INSURED Warren, MA (413) 436-7686</p>
<p>4 TREE SERVICE</p> <p>H&H Tree Service Ware, MA FULLY INSURED Tree Care & Removal David Hamlin 413.668.6560</p>	<p>5 PLUMBING & HEATING</p> <p>Residential • Commercial • Industrial</p> <p>BECE Plumbing and Heating, Inc.</p> <p>FOR ALL YOUR PLUMBING & HEATING NEEDS SIZEABLE REBATES MAY BE AVAILABLE TO YOU CALL US TO DISCUSS HEATING EQUIPMENT UPGRADES www.becplumbing.com</p> <p>Warren, MA 413-436-0076 Ware, MA 413-967-0076</p>	<p>6 HOME, YARD, GARAGE</p> <p>ESTABLISHED 1914 HARDWICK FARMERS CO-OP</p> <p>Rt. 32, 444 Lower Road, Gilbertville, MA 01031 413-477-6913 • www.hardwickfarmers.net Open: Mon-Fri 8AM-5PM; Sat 8AM-4PM, Sun 9AM-3PM</p> <p>For All Your Yard, Garden & Garage Needs Become A Member & Save Money!</p>
<p>7 HEATING OIL & A/C</p> <p>SHERMAN OIL Ensuring Comfort and Service Since 1962 • FUEL • SERVICE 24/7 • INSTALLATION • AIR CONDITIONING 508.867.7447 • ShermanOil.com CHECK YOUR A/C TODAY & BEAT THE HEAT!</p>	<p>8 CABINET SALES</p> <p>MITA WOODWORKING, LLC PAXTON, MA Kitchen / Bath Design / Sales / Installation</p> <p>We Sell Cabinets Call to schedule an appointment In home or showroom</p> <p>774-366-5517 mitawoodworking@aol.com</p>	<p>ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE ON Local Home Pros THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE</p>

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

FOR SALE

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

FIREWOOD

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

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

WANTED

WANTED TO BUY

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

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

QUABBIN & SUBURBAN
FRIDAY AT NOON
HILLTOWNS
MONDAY AT NOON

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**.

A DUMP TRUCK
Cleaning out attics, cellars, garages, estate cleanouts, scrap metal removal. **413-569-1611 or 413-374-5377**.

BILODEAU AND SON ROOFING. Established 1976. New re-roofs and repairs. Gutter cleanings and repairs. Licensed/ insured. Call **(413)967-6679**

CHAIR SEAT WEAVING & refinishing - cane, fiber rush & splint - Classroom instructor, 20+ years experience. Call Walt at **(413)289-6670** for estimate.

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

SERVICES

HOME IMPROVEMENT

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

HOME REPAIR & REMODELING for all your interior & exterior needs. Carpentry, woodworking, porches, patios, windows, doors, painting, drywall, siding, landscaping, clean-outs. Competitive pricing. References. Please call Brendan **(413)687-5552**

HOUSE CLEANING

HOUSE CLEANING
Also cleaning/organizing of basement, garage, shed and finished attics. Charge according to job. Free estimates. Call **413-536-3697**, David.

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**

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

SERVICES

PAINTING

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

FORBES & SONS PAINTING & STAINING Interior, residential, commercial and new construction, wall-paper removal, sheetrock and plaster repairs. Quality products. Since 1985. Free estimates. Fully Insured. Call Brad Forbes at **413-887-1987**.

PLUMBING

GREG LAFONTAIN 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**

TREE WORK

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**

SERVICES

TUNE-UPS

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

STUMP GRINDING

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



SAW Stump Grinding
Call for a Free Estimate, Veteran Owned, Fully Insured
413-213-5470

AUTO

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

HELP WANTED

SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS WANTED Prefer local person. Will train. Lizak Bus' Warren, MA **(413)436-5262**

TOWN OF PALMER: CLERK BOARD OF HEALTH

Duties include responsibility for performing secretarial and general office support activities. Work often involves public contact and effective coordination with other Town departments and outside organizations. Work requires sound exercise of judgment, initiative, and discretion based on knowledge of administrative or operating policies and procedures. For a full job description please go to www.townofpalmer.com/jobs or contact Nicole Gauthier at ngauthier@townofpalmer.com. The Town of Palmer is an EOE/AA employer.

Post your job openings in our classifieds. **WE GET RESULTS!**

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT



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.

WEST WARREN: 1 BR., off street parking, first and last required. **774-922-0529**.

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 **DEADLINES: MONDAY AT NOON**
or call: 413-283-8393

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 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

Quabbin Village Hills
Circulation: 50,500

Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800

Suburban Residential
Circulation: 59,000

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

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!

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

REVIEW | FROM PAGE 1

evening, "Of Time and Turtles: Mending the World Shell by Shattered Shell". Included in the book were illustrations by artist Matt Patterson.

For children, there is "The Book of Turtles" by Montgomery and also with Patterson's illustrations.

Montgomery is a prolific author with titles that suggest an interest in subjects related to the natural world. She may be most known for her book, "The Soul of an Octopus: A Surprising Exploration into the Wonder of Consciousness". The author was able to connect with this surprisingly intelligent cephalopod.

The cover of "Of Time and Turtles" has a Patterson illustration that speaks to the subtitle of the book, "Mending the World Shell by Shattered Shell". It's a handsome turtle that has what looks like tape holding together its wounded shell.

It is a fair introduction to what is coming in the book, but it is not all that the book is about.

The modern world is a difficult environment for turtles. Doing what they have been doing for millennia in the age of the automobile means crossing roads where even conscientious motorists might crush a terrapin.

There are other environmental threats to turtles, some evidencing human cruelty.

That is a tragedy of the world we live in, but it is not the whole story. Montgomery was in Southbridge on the last day of September and not somewhere else because two town residents have taken on the task of rescuing turtles and have educated themselves and others and have made their town in western central Massachusetts a regional center of rescue and rehabilitation.

Montgomery has even equated it to a religious shrine.

"Last year, we attended a turtle summit, a symposium for turtle rehabilitators, here at the league. We came away stunned as if we'd visited Lourdes," she said.

The description of Turtle Rescue

League prior to the quote above read a bit more utilitarian as the author described a headquarters where security measures such as closed-circuit TV are necessary as even sick or injured turtles are valuable on the black market and are subject to abduction.

Compassion is serious business. "Of Time and Turtles" is about many facets of turtles and their existence today, but the story cannot be told without the people who seem to have put heart and soul into saving and rehabilitating these animals.

The two women behind the Turtle Rescue League, Alexia Bell and Natasha Nowick are most featured in the book, though there are others elsewhere.

Montgomery relates how Nowick and Bell became turtle rescuers. On a spring day, headed for a hike, they came across a crushed, mortally wounded turtle. Obviously suffering, it was euthanized by running over it.

Soon, hiking was out and rescuing turtles was in.

The two sought to learn from institutions and individuals with knowledge to impart. One of them was Kathy Mitchell of the New York Center for Turtle Rehabilitation.

"Mitchell had herself survived cancer, multiple sclerosis, and then a cancer relapse. With a survival prognosis of six months—which turned into a year, and then two, and then five years and counting. She imparted tenacity," Nowick said. "She taught us not to give up."

And "Never give up on a Turtle" is a Turtle Rescue League motto.

Bell and Nowick are not the whole show when it comes to Turtle Rescue League, but there are others who have found their way such as Michaela Conder.

Conder is from far away Kansas and moved to Rhode Island, living with her grandmother and commuting to Turtle Rescue League. Her devotion is evidenced by the quote, "When I look into the eyes of a turtle...It almost feels to me as if the entire universe is held within them. They have so much understand-

ing and knowledge." There are others, and Montgomery and Patterson should not be left out as throughout the book they are, heart and hand, part of the team.

Turtle Rescue League in Massachusetts is hugely significant in conserving turtles, but there are other places and entities involved in the struggle, such as the aforementioned New York Center for Turtle Rehabilitation, and New England Aquarium among others, but down south, the Turtle Survival Alliance outside of Charleston, South Carolina, is home to one of the "largest and most important breeding colonies for the world's most critically endangered turtles."

Cris Hagen is in charge of animal management at the South Carolina organization, and his bio seems evidence that he was born for the job. After a problem filled childhood and youth, he reformed himself and found his métier.

Hagen manages the center's collection, but has 500 turtles at home. Kind of says it all.

In "Of Time And Turtles", you go with Bell and Nowick and Montgomery and Patterson and others to find, care for and interact with turtles. All the turtles have names associated with how they came to Turtle Rescue League, such as Fire Chief, a subject with an interesting biography.

Fire Chief inhabited a pond next to

a fire house in summer and was well known to the firemen. He would hibernate in a different pond in winter, but to get there he had to pass over a road and a truck caught him in one crossing. The Chief was left with a wounded shell and broken spine.

Thus, after a water rescue by Bell, the huge snapper came to Turtle Rescue League.

There was hope for his recovery. It would take tenacity, but that is a quality turtles seem to have and the team at Turtle Rescue League has it as well.

Fire Chief would have a long rehabilitation and as his getting around was a problem, the team developed a wheelchair, to aid mobility.

After the long recovery, he would be able to move out, sans wheelchair, but where? Certainly not to an environment where he could be injured as before.

A pond was dug with a backhoe at the new home of Matt and his wife Erin in New Hampshire and Fire Chief will be in residence, with friends, and one might even suggest, family. It's a lovely triumph.

"Of Time and Turtles" is many things, an adventure, a story, and even almost an introductory text book for us uninitiated. It would be difficult to read this book and not come away with a sense of wonder about the world of turtles.

Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP



Town of Warren, MA
Town Accountant
JOB POSTING
Full-Time – Town Benefited Position

The Town of Warren is actively seeking a qualified professional to fill the position of Town Accountant. The Town Accountant oversees the proper expenditure of all Town funds and the proper recording and maintenance of financial records, approves all financial payments and audits financial records and transactions. The Town Accountant is responsible for maintaining and improving the efficiency and effectiveness of all areas under his/her direction and control. A complete job description can be found on the Town's website www.warren-ma.gov.

Recommended minimum qualifications include graduate of a four-year college with a bachelor's degree in finance or accounting with three years of related work experience; or any equivalent combination of education, training and experience which provides the required knowledge of the position. Preferred experience with Vadar accounting module and municipal accounting. The anticipated salary range for this position is between \$56,000.00 to \$66,000.00 based on relative education and professional work experience. Resumes and Cover Letters will be accepted until **January 16, 2024**. Please email your resume and cover letter to Town Administrator, Jim Ferrera, townadministrator@warren-ma.gov.

Our advertisers make this publication possible.
Let them know you saw their ad in the Quaboag Current

S	A	G	S		B	O	S	O	N		S	A	F	E
A	M	A	H		C	R	A	P	E		A	R	I	A
P	I	L	I		D	A	L	E	Y		G	A	D	S
S	A	L	A	D		T	O	R		S	A	B	O	T
			S	E	R	E	N	A	D	E	S			
O	P	S		M	A	D		T	E	A		T	A	T
S	A	C	K	E	D		S	I	B		S	A	M	E
S	T	O	A	S		M	A	C		S	A	B	E	R
E	N	O	W		S	O	D		S	A	T	E	E	N
T	A	P		D	A	D		R	A	T		S	R	I
			T	Y	P	E	F	A	C	E	S			
S	A	B	R	E		R	A	G		S	A	B	I	N
A	U	R	A		S	A	B	L	E		M	I	A	O
S	B	I	C		S	T	E	A	K		A	L	M	S
H	E	M	E		T	O	R	N	E		S	E	B	E

Early Deadlines
for all LEGAL NOTICES...

All Papers Will Deadline Thursday, Dec. 21 at Noon for Publication Dec. 25-29

Happy New Year!

All Papers Will Deadline Thursday, Dec. 28 at Noon for Publication Jan. 1-5

Happy Holidays!

EARLY DEADLINE For All Advertising & CLASSIFIEDS

All Papers Will Deadline Thursday, Dec. 21 at Noon for Publication Dec. 25-29

All Papers Will Deadline Thursday, Dec. 28 at Noon for Publication Jan. 1-5

Turley Publications, Inc.
www.turley.com

24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069
413-283-8393

happy new year!

QUABOAG CURRENT

STURBRIDGE Federated Church lists Christmas schedule p2	WARREN Quaboag students participate in contest p5	REGION Central Mass basketball reunion p11	Editorial/Opinion Sports Classifieds	4 9 14
----------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------

Volume 17, Number 4

Friday, December 22, 2023

Your BUYLINE CONNECTION

CHRISTMAS SALE!!!
GIANT TOY CLEARANCE SALE!!!

OPEN DECEMBER 22ND & 23RD 8AM-10PM
OPEN DECEMBER 24TH 9AM - 9PM

1,000s OF APPLIANCES!
BEST PRICE
FAST DELIVERY OR PICK UP
GIANT TOY & BIKE DEPT!!!
SEE AD INSIDE

WHITCO TOY & BIKE
12 MONTHS 0% FINANCING
140 Main St., Spencer
www.whitcosales.com 508-885-9343
Open: Mon. thru Sat. 9am-9pm; Sun. 10am-7pm

POST ROAD REALTY
BUYING OR SELLING...
WE HAVE THE PERFECT FIT FOR YOU!

www.PostRoadRealty.com

37 LAKESHORE DR., EXT.
WEST BROOKFIELD, MA
\$849,900

LAKEFRONT!! There are many houses on a lake BUT this is truly a lake house. Amazing multi-level Colonial on beautiful Lake Wickaboag in quaint West Brookfield. Offering incredible views from most every room, this home features 4 bedrooms and 4 baths, including two primary with en suites and balcony. The breath-taking first floor great room has high ceilings, custom woodwork, a fireplace and a wall of lakefront windows overlooking expansive decks and the lake. Its openness to the kitchen creates a perfect area for entertaining. Take the spiral staircase to the 3 season room, kick back and enjoy the views. Use your imagination as each level has a flex room providing many options - office, theater, gaming, gym. Tons of storage and closet space throughout. The dock is waiting for your boat. 1 1/2 hours from Boston, 3 hours from Manhattan.

Cassie Paolucci
774-200-3523

Merry Christmas!

Holiday Hours
Christmas Eve 7 am - 1 pm (serving breakfast only)
Christmas Day Closed

E.B. FLATTS
245 W. Main E. Brookfield

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

I look forward to 2024 in my new location and helping past, present and future clients with all their real estate needs.

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

Feel right at home.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Find the home made for you.
Let us work with you to find your dream home.

Lisa Caron Real Estate
42 W. Main Street, PO Box 447 Brookfield, MA 01506
Cell : 508-341-8299
Search Homes Instantly: <http://www.lisacaron.com>

JOHN'S PAINT STORE
California PAINTS
SINCE 1977

46 Years and Counting...

- ✓ Interior/Exterior Paint
- ✓ Wallpaper
- ✓ Hardwood Flooring
- ✓ Carpeting
- ✓ Tile & Vinyl Flooring
- ✓ Window Treatments
- ✓ Interior/Exterior Stains
- ✓ ...and more

Everything You Need to Complete Your Project

JohnsPaintStore.com • 413-283-9427

Pioneer Plaza: 1240 Park Street, Palmer
Monday - Friday, 8 am to 5 pm - Saturday, 8 am to 2 pm

WHERE EVERYONE GOES FOR THEIR PIECE OF THE EARTH!
WINTER IS COMING!
BULK ROAD SALT • BULK TREATED SALT
WASHED WINTER ROAD SAND • SAND/SALT MIX
STOCK UP NOW!

Construction Stone • Landscaping Stone
Title V Septic Sand • Presby Sand • Concrete Sand
Stone Dust • Crushed Gravel • Cold Patch

Homeowner Friendly • No Minimums
PICK-UP OR CALL TO SCHEDULE YOUR DELIVERY TODAY!

Bond
Sand, Gravel & Asphalt
98 North Spencer Road,
Route 31N, Spencer, MA
508-885-6100
508-885-2480
www.bondsandandgravel.com

NOTHING SAYS FALL LIKE A FIREPIT IN THE BACKYARD

We stock 6 different styles
Prices starting under \$360
For Firepit and block

CONCRETE SOLUTIONS
199 East Broadway (Rt. 2A), Gardner
978-669-0088

Happy HOLIDAYS

Adventure tours of Warren
Share the Adventure with us!

7-NIGHT BERMUDA CRUISE -
May 24-31, 2024
Call now - January 15 deadline!

NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE!

Dec. 30Moulin Rouge!	\$125
Jan. 27Ain't Too Proud - Temptations	\$99
March 16. Frozen at P.P.A.C.	\$130
May 4Kennedy Library	\$95
Aug. 30....7-night Nova Scotia Cruise	from \$1499

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

FARMER MATT'S SIGNATURE SELECTION

Choose Farmer Matt's Signature Selection for a variety of meats and your choice of premium steaks. It's the perfect gift for the food lover on your list. **3-month or 6-month subscriptions** available.

Order online or in-store
FarmerMatt.com

Farmer Matt
FARM-FRESH • LOCAL

FarmerMatt.com
860 West Brookfield Rd.
New Braintree, MA