

QUABOAG CURRENT

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Newspaper

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Fire Department welcomes gift from Algoo family

Generous donation replaced 200 feet of attack line firehose

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Algoo family, owners of North Brookfield Farms gas and convenience store, presented the town's Fire Department with an incredible gift this Christmas season with the donation of 200 feet of attack line firehoses.

"When I heard the department was using 50 year old hoses and equipment, I decided to call up the Chief," Ramkumar "Al" Algoo said at the store this past Saturday, when he invited members of the department to receive the donation.

"This is a good start," Algoo said.

Fire Chief Darin Anderson said the donation was "an in-

See **GIFT** | **PAGE 8**



The Fire Department was able to purchase 200 feet of firehose thanks to a generous donation from the Algoo family, owners of North Brookfield Farms gas and convenience store. Shown with the Fire Department are (from left, back row) John Tripp, state Rep. Donnie Berthiaume, state Sen. Peter Durant and Ramkumar "Al" Algoo. TURLEY PHOTO BY PAULA OUIMETTE

Tale as old as time

'Beauty and the Beast' brings magic to the Quaboag stage

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Quaboag Theater Department and 21st Century Community Learning Centers program proudly presented a production of "Beauty and the Beast".

This show wrapping up 2024 was one of the greatest shows Quaboag Regional Middle High School has ever done and featured many talented students in grades seven through 12. There were over 60 students involved that were part of the cast, crew and band and they all really worked hard to bring a great show to the school's stage.

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Abigail Jolin, a senior at Quaboag Regional High School, performed as Belle in "Beauty and the Beast". TURLEY PHOTO BY RYAN DRAGO

Trophies awarded to Bogey Lane's youth bowlers

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

EAST BROOKFIELD – It is a fun time to celebrate as the youth bowlers at Bogey Lanes received their awards from the youth candlepin championships.

A total of eight bowlers representing Bogey Lanes com-

peted in the 2024 International Candlepin Bowling Association's Youth Candlepin Championship in New Hampshire. After a weekend of bowling the youth bowlers of Bogey Lanes experienced tremendous success.

The bowlers competed in singles, doubles and team events up in New Hampshire

See **BOWLERS** | **PAGE 13**



Emily Black proudly held her award as the 2024 All Events International Candlepin Bowling Association's Youth Candlepin Champion for division IV girls. TURLEY PHOTO BY RYAN DRAGO

WBCA hosts presentation on housing

By Abby McCoy
Correspondent

WARE – On Dec. 18, the Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond held a meeting at Cedarbrook Village of Ware to discuss updates on the

local economy, business developments and ongoing housing issues.

The meeting was opened by WBCA and Beyond President Dan Flynn, who thanked local businesses for their support of recent community events. He

highlighted the success of the Wreaths Across America and Holiday Flair drive-through events, both of which drew large crowds and supported local businesses.

See **HOUSING** | **PAGE 12**



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- community -

Country Bank supports QV CDC with \$10,000 donation

WARE – Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serving central and western Massachusetts, announced a \$10,000 donation to the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation to help local communities in the region.

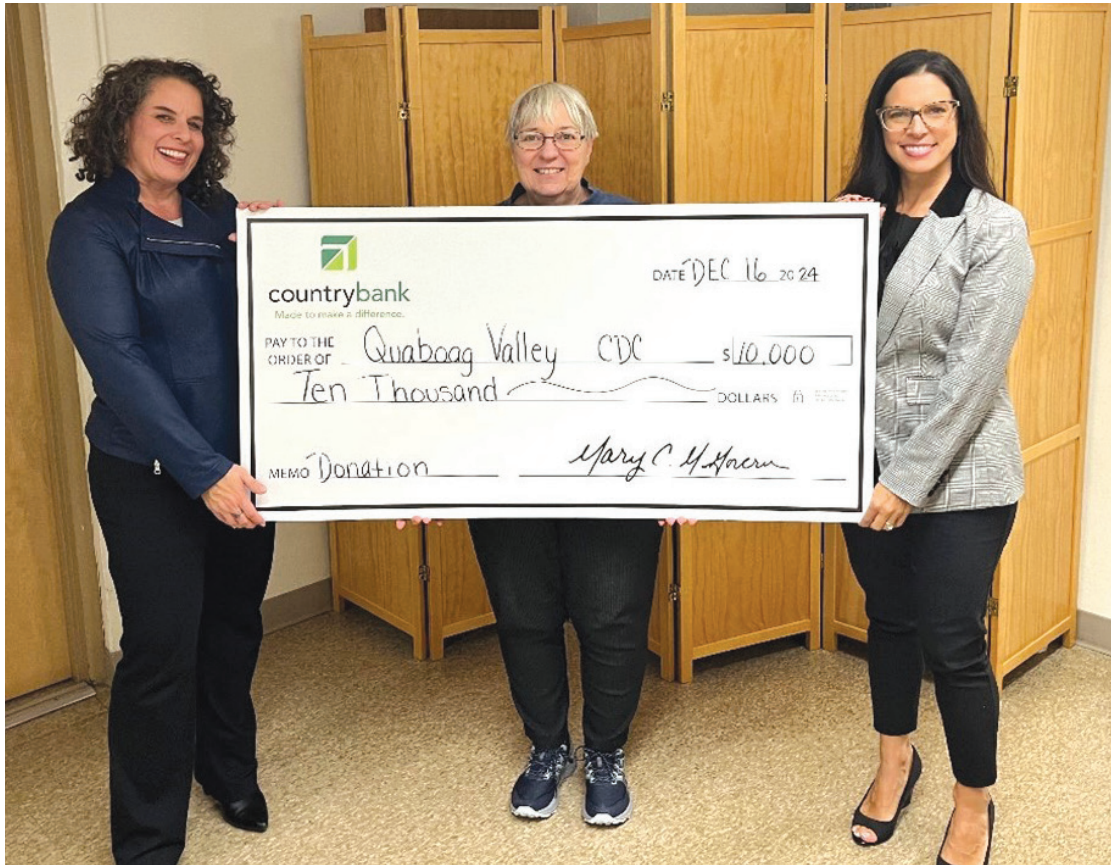
“The Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation is grateful for this generous donation from Country Bank. This donation will help us continue to run our Senior Outreach Program, which helps seniors with prescription pickup, grocery shopping, food bank deliveries and other chores. Country Bank’s support is not only an investment in the Quaboag Valley CDC’s mission, but an example of Country Bank’s commitment to making a difference in the community,” stated Melissa Fales, QV CDC Executive Director.

Seniors with underlying medical conditions can significantly impact their ability to get out safely to meet their everyday needs. The deliveries allow them to remain safely at home while addressing their critical needs.

To learn more about the various support programs the QV CDC offers, visit www.QV CDC.org.

About Country Bank

Established in 1850, Country Bank has a rich history of supporting personal and business banking customers through financial solutions with FDIC and DIF



Shown from left to right are Melissa Fales, Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation’s Executive Director, Carol Zins, QV CDC Senior Outreach Program Coordinator and Jodie Gerulaitis, Vice President of Community Relations at Country Bank. *SUBMITTED PHOTO*

insurance for added security. Country Bank is a full-service \$1.8 billion mutual community bank serving central and western Massachusetts with 14 banking centers and two business offices in Ware, Palmer, West Brookfield, Brimfield, Belchertown, Wilbraham, Ludlow, Leicester, Paxton, Charlton, Springfield, Uxbridge and Worcester.

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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

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Sturbridge Trail Committee offers two First Day hikes

STURBRIDGE – Join the Sturbridge Trail Committee on one of two First Day Hikes offered this year on Wednesday, Jan. 1.

A family and dog friendly hike will start at 10 a.m. at the parking lot at Old Sturbridge Village Access Road (Leadmine Mountain trails) and will be led by Kathy and her husband Brian. The hike will be the Arbutus Park trail which is a loop of 1.5 miles of easy hiking and should take about an hour.

This hike is great for all ages and dogs as well.

The second hike is for the “more advanced hiker”. This hike will also

start at 10 a.m. at the parking lot at 197 Leadmine Road (Heins Farm and Leadmine) and will be led by Dave and his wife Joanne.

The hike will be a loop of Cow Stile and Mt. Laurel trails, of about 4 miles and should take approximately two hours. This hike is for more advanced hikers due to the terrain and speed of the hike, well behaved dogs on a six foot leash allowed.

Please dress for the weather, including footwear suitable for the winter trail surface conditions.

If we are experiencing dangerous weather these hikes will be cancelled. Do not forget your water bottle.

Berthiaume and Durant hold office hours across region

State Rep. Donnie Berthiaume’s Chief of Staff Donna Farmer and State Sen. Peter Durant’s District Liaison Jared Grigg and Communications Director Kim Mongeau invite constituents and town officials to meet them to express any concerns, ideas or issues that they may need assistance with.

Upcoming dates include Monday, Jan. 6, East Brookfield Senior Center from 9-10 a.m., Brookfield Town Hall from 10:15-11:15 a.m. and West Brookfield Senior Center from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Wednesday, Jan. 8, Ware Senior Center from 9-10 a.m., Hardwick Municipal Offices from 10:15-

11:15 a.m., New Braintree Town Hall from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and North Brookfield Senior Center from 12:45-1:45 p.m.; Monday, Jan. 13, Hubbardston Senior Center from 9:30-10:30 a.m., Barre Senior Center from 10:45-11:45 a.m. and Oakham Town Hall from noon-1 p.m.; Tuesday, Jan. 14, Spencer Town Hall (Tammy Ruda from State Rep. John Marsi’s office will also attend) from 10-11 a.m. and Leicester Senior Center from 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

To arrange a private meeting, contact Farmer by calling 774-402-4742.

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- community -

NBSB hosts successful food/toy drives during season of giving

NORTH BROOKFIELD – In the spirit of the season of giving, North Brookfield Savings Bank is thrilled to announce the success of its annual Food and Toy Drive.

These initiatives reflect the bank's ongoing commitment to supporting the communities it serves and making the holidays brighter for those in need. Due to the overwhelming generosity of community members, employees and neighbors of NBSB, the Food and Toy Drive made an impact in each of the bank's communities.

During the NBSB annual Food Drive, held from Oct. 1-25, the bank's communities came together to donate 693 non-perishable food items and over \$1,000 in monetary donations. NBSB contributed an additional \$3,000 to further support local food pantries.

These generous donations have had a profound impact this season of giving, providing crucial assistance to individuals facing food insecurity.

The generosity from their communities continued through the annual

Toy Drive, which ran from Nov. 1-29. Community members, employees and neighbors stepped up to the plate again, where NBSB was able to collect 388 toys for children in need, alongside \$1,432 in monetary donations.

NBSB contributed an additional \$1,500 to support those who need it the most and bring joy to children in the communities it serves this holiday season.

"Community is at the heart of everything that we do, and the success of this year's Food and Toy Drives is a testament to the compassion and generosity of our customers, employees and neighbors," said Audrey Moulton, Marketing Manager at North Brookfield Savings Bank. "We are proud to hold our annual Food and Toy Drives, making a positive impact for those in need during the Season of Giving."

The bank proudly partnered with the East Brookfield Baptist Church Food Pantry, Sharing Cupboard Food Pantry - First Congregational Church, St. Joseph's Parish Food Pantry, First Congregational Church of North Brook-



North Brookfield Savings Bank employee Joseph Ribeiro stands inside the West Brookfield Branch to present the West Brookfield Police Department with toy and monetary donations from NBSB's Annual Toy Drive Collection. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

field, Trinity Episcopal Church - Jubilee Cupboard, St. Francis of Assisi Parish Food Pantry and Palmer Food Share, Inc. through their Food Drive.

During the annual Toy Drive, NBSB proudly partnered with the North Brookfield Police Association's Toys for Joy Program, East Brookfield Toys for Joy Program, West Brookfield Police Association Holiday Toy Program, Ware Police Department "Christmas

for Kids" Program, Belchertown Firefighters Association Adopt-a-Family Program and Palmer Lions Club Holiday Toy Program to offer support to the communities they serve through the Toy Drive.

To learn more about North Brookfield Savings Bank's community giving efforts and the convenient banking products and services offered, visit www.NorthBrookfieldSavingsBank.com.



North Brookfield Savings Bank employee Jessica Shimansky stands outside of the North Brookfield Branch with Christie Driscoll from St. Joseph's Parish with non-perishable food and monetary donations from NBSB's Annual Food Drive Collection.

Cold weather clothing drive ongoing through spring

WARE – The Recovery Center of HOPE and the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance will be hosting a Community Cold Weather Drive to benefit local individuals and families facing hardships.

They will be accepting new and gently used gloves, mittens, scarves, sweaters, blankets, base-layers, jackets and coats and new beanies and socks.

Items will be collected through the spring and can be dropped off at the following locations: Town Hall, 126 Main St., Mondays and Tuesdays from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Recovery on Main, 78 Main St., Wednesdays from 1-3 p.m.; Ware Library, 37 Main St., Thursdays from 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; and Recovery Center of HOPE, Fridays from 2-4 p.m.

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.

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Please contact Pat James 413-726-8661.

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USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN PORK LOIN ROAST LOIN END or RIB END..... \$2³² lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF SIRLOIN SPOON ROAST \$5⁹⁹ lb	USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN CHICKEN PARTY WINGS PORTIONS 3 LB BAG..... \$5⁹⁹ ea
USDA INSP. FROZEN PORK BREAKFAST SAUSAGE LINKS FULLY COOKED \$2⁴⁹ lb	USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY 80% LEAN GROUND BEEF 7 LB BOX \$3⁹⁹ lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN ARMOUR COOKED MEATBALLS 4 LB BAG \$9⁹⁹ lb
USDA INSP. KAYEM BUDDABALL BONELESS SMOKED PIT HAM..... \$3⁶⁶ lb		USDA INSP. HILLSHIRE FARMS POLSKA KIELBASA 14 OZ OR 15 OZ... \$3⁴⁹ ea
USDA INSP. FROZEN BUTCHER WAGON BONELESS DINNER HAM AVERAGE 5 LB \$1⁹⁹ lb		USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN RAW SHRIMP PEELED & DEVEINED 51/60 CT 2 LB BAG..... \$7⁹⁹ ea
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- opinion -



A Christmas card gardening question

My long-time friend Jane sent a column request via her Christmas card!

"I still read your columns, Roberta. I like the folksy way you write! Can you please provide some tips on keeping my Poinsettia healthy?"

So, out of the archives comes this column, devoted to Jane and you guessed it, the poinsettia.

Every Christmas the poinsettia takes the stage, front and center, in grocery and box store displays. The deep red bracts lure buyers to make them part of their holiday decorating.

Pretty? For sure, but without proper care, the plant won't have a chance past New Year's Day.

Let's learn what we can do to keep this favorite looking its best throughout the holiday season and then some.

It's important that you start off with a healthy plant. Choose a poinsettia with dark green foliage all the way to the soil line. Color should completely cover the bracts on the upper portion of the plant.

Avoid plants whose flowers (located in the center of the bracts) show pollen. If pollen is evident, the plant is old.

Be wary of those that are displayed in plastic or paper sleeves or even those that are elbow to elbow. Poinsettias need room to spread out, and the longer they are cramped, the more likely it is that their quality will be impacted.

Wilted plants are also best avoided, as this may indicate more than dry soil alone.

Poinsettias are cold sensitive. I was aghast when an out of town florist delivered these to me without a proper covering!

Temperatures under 50 degrees for even a few minutes can damage the plant. Therefore, insert into a bag or protective sleeve for the ride home from the store and do not leave in an unheated car while you run other errands!

Once home, position the poinsettia in a location where it will receive indirect light for at least six hours a day. Avoid drafts, warm or cold, and place far enough away from windows to prevent the foliage from touching cold glass.

Chances are if you are comfortable inside, your poinsettia will be as well. Temperatures from 65-70 degrees during the day to around 55 at night will extend its life.

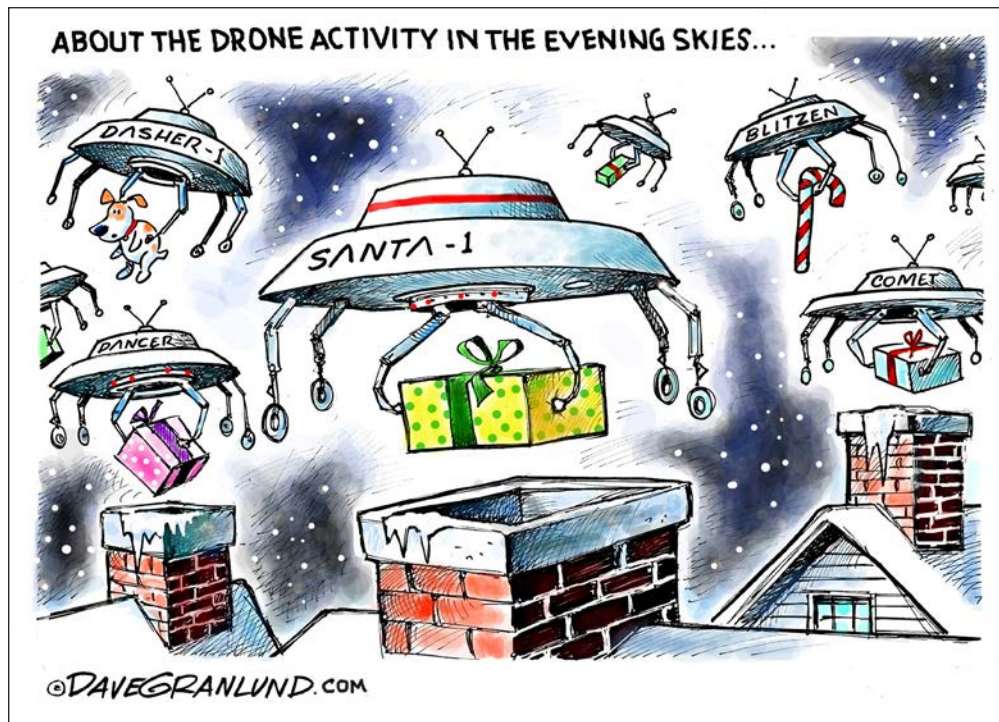
Check the plant often to see if it needs water. If the soil is dry, water until droplets leak through the drainage holes in the pot. Saucers shouldn't accumulate water. Dump the excess out after each watering so the plant won't reabsorb it and become waterlogged.

Soil that remains soaking wet is likely to cause root rot. A visual indication of this irreversible disease is curled, wilting foliage and bracts. Hold off on fertilizing the plant while it is in bloom.

It's unfortunate that few people keep their poinsettias past the holiday season. My mom tries for repeat bloom each year with varying degrees of success. This year, some bracts are just starting to turn red!

Here's what to do if you'd like to try it: In early April cut back the plant to eight inches. Fertilize with an all purpose houseplant fertilizer once a month.

New growth should appear by the end



SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

Worried has question about Taxation of Social Security benefits

Dear Rusty

I am past my Social Security full retirement age, and I am still working. I am married and we file our income tax jointly. My husband is 64 and is not working now, but he may or may not, be able to work in the next year or so. At what point will my Social Security benefits be taxed, if I decide to take them now?

Signed Worried About Taxes

Dear Worried

Many Social Security recipients are surprised to find that their benefits may be considered taxable by the IRS, so I welcome the opportunity to clarify this topic for you.

Whether or not your Social Security benefits are taxable depends on your overall combined taxable income for your IRS tax filing status. Taxation of Social Security benefits for a married couple (filing jointly) depends on your combined income as a couple, which is called your "Modified Adjusted Gross Income" by the IRS. Your MAGI consists of your normal Adjusted Gross Income on your IRS tax return, plus 50% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year, plus any non-taxable interest you may have had.

If your MAGI, filing jointly, exceeds \$32,000, then 50% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year becomes taxable, but if your MAGI as a couple exceeds \$44,000 then up to 85% of your received SS benefits becomes taxable (at your standard IRS tax rate). Note that these tax thresholds are less for those who file their taxes as a single - e.g., for someone whose IRS filing status is "single," half of their Social Security benefits become part of their taxable income

if their personal MAGI is over \$25,000 and up to 85% of their SS benefits are taxable if their individual MAGI is over \$34,000.

Another factor often misunderstood is that only a portion of SS benefits are added to your income amount taxed by the IRS. The amount added, somewhere between 50% and 85% of the SS benefits received during the tax year depending on your MAGI, becomes taxable income at your normal IRS tax rate.

So, in your case, if you claim your SS benefits now and your combined income your MAGI exceeds the above levels for a married couple, then a portion either 50% or up to 85% of your SS benefits received during the tax year will be included in your income taxable by the IRS. Note, too, that it is possible to have income tax withheld from your Social Security benefits by submitting IRS form W-4V to your local Social Security office.

You can download this IRS form at www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw4v.pdf.

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

OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

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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.

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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

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ments of candidacy inside the four weeks from election threshold. To publish any other campaign publicity during the race, please contact our advertising representatives. We also do not allow personal attacks against other candidates or political parties in statements of candidacy, nor do we publish for free any information about key endorsements or political fundraisers. Letters to the editor of no more than 250 words

from supporters endorsing specific candidates or discussing campaign issues are limited to three total per author during the election season. No election letters will appear in the final edition before the election. We reserve the right to edit all statements of candidacy and letters to the editor to meet our guidelines.

- community -

New fleet of F-35s at Barnes Air National Guard Base

WESTFIELD – Congressman Richard E. Neal joined U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren, U.S. Senator Edward J. Markey, Governor Maura T. Healey, Major General Gary W. Keefe, Colonel David L. Halasi-Kun, State Sen. John Velis and Westfield Mayor Michael McCabe in celebrating the stationing of a new fleet of F-35 aircraft at Barnes Air National Guard Base, which was made official after Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall signed the Record of Decision.

After the Secretary of the Air Force approved Barnes ANGB as the preferred location for the new fleet of F-35s on April 17, 2023, the selection required favorable completion of an Environmental Impact Statement. Upon favorable completion, the Secretary of the Air Force needed to sign and report to Congress the ROD.

Once reported to Congress, the decision to station the new aircraft at Barnes became official, putting in motion the assignment of twenty new F-35A Lightning II aircraft at Barnes ANGB.

“This is a great day for the City of Westfield and all of western Massachusetts, as Barnes has solidified its place in our community for years to come. The decision to station a new fleet of F-35 aircraft at Barnes comes after years of advocacy by the Western Massachusetts Delegation, as well as Major General Keefe and state and local officials. Ultimately, the Air Force recognized not only Barnes’ critical role in defending our nation, but also something we in Massachusetts already know – we take care of our servicemembers,” said Neal. “I want to thank the dedicated airmen and women of Barnes who faithfully serve our nation. It is their integrity that has upheld the superb reputation of the 104th – an integral factor in this deci-

sion-making process.”

“This decision is a big win for Massachusetts. I worked hard to get this commitment for Barnes to enhance our national security, position our F-35s at a more climate-resilient base, and strengthen our economy in western Massachusetts,” said Warren. “I’ll keep working to bring home more wins for Massachusetts servicemembers and their families through my work on the Senate Armed Services Committee.”

“Finalizing the decision to assign F-35s to the 104th Fighter Wing ensures Barnes Air National Guard Base will remain a key part of our nation’s air defense and a vital contributor to the western Massachusetts economy,” said Healey. “This decision not only reinforces the Wing’s historic legacy but also provides a lasting economic impact, creating high-quality jobs and enhancing the region’s resilience. This decision is a testament to the 104th’s extraordinary history and their ongoing dedication to the defense of our state and our country.”

The decision to station the new fleet of F-35 aircraft came after a rigorous selection process by the U.S. Air Force that reviewed F-15C units throughout the nation. Barnes was ultimately selected in April 2023 after the Air Force considered several factors, including community support, environmental factors, and cost.

The review process also included an assessment of the location’s ability to facilitate the mission and infrastructure capacity.

“The Department of the Air Force’s decision to allocate F-35s to the 104th Fighter Wing marks a monumental moment for our unit and its critical role in our nation’s air defense,” said Keefe,

The Adjutant General, Massachusetts National Guard. “The 104th Fighter Wing has long been a cornerstone of our nation’s air defense capabilities, and this transition to the next-generation airframe solidifies our readiness and relevance for decades to come. This decision not only enhances our operational capabilities but also ensures the Wing’s ability to continue its proud tradition of excellence as we look forward to future missions and challenges.”

“This Record of Decision continues the 78-year legacy of fighter aircraft operating at Westfield-Barnes Regional Airport and solidifies a bright future for the 104th Fighter Wing and the 1100 dedicated airmen and civilians who work on this base. We look forward to our nation’s most capable fighter aircraft, the F-35, inheriting the air defense mission from our venerable F-15C,” said Halasi-Kun, Commander of the 104th Fighter Wing. “This new aircraft ensures the critical defense of the airspace of New England and New York and the protection of the 40 million Americans beneath that blanket of freedom. None of this is possible without the support of our local communities and our elected officials. Local, state, and federal representatives were instrumental in this decision-making process. Their efforts ensured the future of this fighter wing for generations to come, and soon the premier aircraft will be placed in the most capable hands at the best location to defend this nation we love.”

“I am beyond thrilled that the Secretary of the Air Force has solidified the assignment of the F-35As to the 104th Fighter Wing today, ensuring that the 104th remains a critical piece of our country’s national defense strategy for decades to come. This final signature

is the product of the Commonwealth’s steadfast dedication to remain one of the best states in the nation for our service members and families to call home,” said Velis, Chairman of the Legislature’s Veterans’ Committee and a U.S. Veteran. “Through the passage of legislation such as the SPEED Act, and subsequently parts of the HERO Act, Massachusetts has demonstrated to the Department of Defense our commitment to continually surpass all expectations related to our care for service-members and military families and today’s announcement is a recognition of that support for our military.”

“With the stationing of the F-35s at the Massachusetts Air National Guard’s 104th Fighter Wing, the 104th will continue its proud stewardship as the first line of defense for the northeastern seaboard of the United States,” said McCabe. “The City of Westfield is honored to host them and would like to thank everyone who worked with us to make this happen.”

For nearly eight decades, the 104th Fighter Wing of the Massachusetts Air National Guard has played a critical mission in our nation’s air defense. One of the oldest flying units within the Commonwealth, the 104th provides operationally ready combat units, combat support units, and qualified personnel for active duty, all of which support the Wing’s goal to organize, train, and equip personnel to provide an operationally ready squadron to the Air Combat Command.

The assignment of a new fleet of F-35A aircraft at Barnes ANGB guarantees the long-term viability of the base, ensuring the 104th Fighter Wing can continue its vital mission for years to come.

GARDEN | FROM PAGE 4

of May. After the danger of frost has passed, move the plant outdoors. Continue to water but increase fertilization to every two weeks.

Pinch plants in late June or early July to promote bushy growth. At this time you may also wish to replot the poinsettia. Select a pot one size larger, filling around the root ball with a good potting soil.

Bring the plant indoors as temperatures fall.

The poinsettia is photoperiodic, and long nights of uninterrupted darkness encourage it to bloom. In greenhouses, growers go to great lengths to withhold light, as even small amounts can delay or stop the plant from setting bud.

At home, putting the plant in the closet for 14 hours each night is your

best bet. Most people get on a 5p.m.-8 a.m. schedule beginning on Oct. 1 and continue it for eight-10 weeks until color shows on the bracts.

Night temperatures should be no higher than 70 degrees or flowering may be delayed.

Regardless of whether you enjoy the poinsettia for the season or longer, may its colorful bracts brighten your holiday!

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.

EQLT holds New Year’s Day walk

NEW BRAINTREE – East Quabbin Land Trust will start off 2025 with a New Year’s Day walk, Wednesday, Jan. 1 at noon at the New Braintree Trail Station Site, 1700 Hardwick Road.

This will be a casual walk on the Mass Central Rail Trail in New Braintree and Hardwick. EQLT will also dedicate the Terry Briggs Memorial Bench in Wheelwright.

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The Quaboag Regional Theater Department and 21st Century Community Learning Centers program proudly presented a production of "Beauty and the Beast". The Ensemble performed during the song "Gaston". *TURLEY*
PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO

STAGE | FROM PAGE 1

James Joinville, director of the show and music director, has witnessed a lot of greatness coming out of this show and the students made it possible. With this show featuring a lot of props, costumes, technical components, music and choreography Joinville believes the students worked really hard and executed all of the show's performances wonderfully.

"It was challenging but the kids worked hard," Joinville said.

In Joinville's eyes "Beauty and the Beast" was one of the best shows Quaboag has ever done.

"The shows were unbelievable," Joinville said. "They brought the magic to the stage. One of the greatest shows this school has ever seen."

Many members of the cast had been performing for their high school for many years, while some are new to the theater experience at Quaboag. Abigail

Jolin is a senior at Quaboag and portrayed Belle.

For Jolin, it was a dream come true playing Belle in "Beauty and the Beast".

"Belle has been my favorite Disney princess since I was a kid," Jolin said.

Jolin has played lead roles before at Quaboag, but Belle was one of her favorite characters to play and the whole experience of the show was like being part of a big family.

"This cast was a huge family," Jolin said.

Madison Schreier portrayed the wardrobe Madame de La Grande Bouche and it was her first lead role. Schreier is a junior at Quaboag and has been performing in school plays since the eighth grade. She not only auditioned for the singing wardrobe, but other characters as well.

After finding out she got the role of Madame de La Grande Bouche one of the challenges Schreier faced was trying

to find the voice to portray the character. The character brings a lot of energy and Schreier said she wanted to "keep to the original portrayal of the character."

"I find myself within the character," Schreier said. "Keeping the energy was a challenge and I expect to be high energy when acting as that character."

Schreier executed the part wonderfully and also thought her costume for Madame de La Grande Bouche was great. The costume consisted of a lot of makeup and drawers to make up the wardrobe structure.

Schreier enjoyed playing the character and is very passionate about theater and looks forward to do more shows in the future.

Another familiar character in "Beauty and the Beast" was played by Quaboag junior Haylee Nash. She played the role of Cogsworth, the clock, and brought a comical element to the role in "Beauty and the Beast".

Performing in plays since elementary school Nash has always enjoyed performing. She did a lot of studying reviewing movies and plays as well as different actors who played Cogsworth to better understand the role.

One of the challenges Nash faced was studying all her lines as Cogsworth was a character who has much involvement in the story.

"This had the most lines I've gotten before, she said. "The song 'Human Again' I studied over and over."

Nash believes portraying Cogsworth was her best performance to date and she loved her costume for the character. Jokingly, Nash mentioned her clock hand mustache was moving a lot during rehearsals.

Nash looks back on the experience working with the Ensemble and remembers making new friends. Nash is planning on performing more in theatre and

See **STAGE | PAGE 7**



Belle read as the ensemble sang along.



The Beast, played by Parker Chaffee, arrived to the stage.



The Ensemble did an amazing job during all the songs in "Beauty and the Beast".



Belle made her way through the town during her opening song.

STAGE | FROM PAGE 6

pursuing it after high school.

Portraying Mrs. Potts is the talented Falon Rice. Performing since the seventh grade, Rice was living the dream playing role like Mrs. Potts. Rice described it as a comfortable role and being able to perform as a motherly and nurturing character.

After the shows Rice recalled a lot of kids wanting to take pictures with Mrs. Potts. When working with the younger grades, Rice found it important to remind them they're just as important as the lead role characters, even if they don't have speaking lines.

"Accept being important in the show," Rice explained.

Rice recalled being nervous but also the tremendous support from not only fellow cast members but from Joinville as well.

Rice recalled Joinville saying "you got this" prior to approaching the stage. Rice enjoyed working with all the cast of the show and thought a lot of great talent came together because of it.

"The show reconciled some feelings inside of us," Rice said. "There's upcoming potential in a lot of students."

Rice also enjoyed working on set design for the show and enjoyed working with Kennah Martino who played Chip. According to Rice, the casting was excellent and brought a great vision to life.

Natalia Veliz is a freshman at Quabo-

ag who portrayed the feather duster Babette. This was a role many other students saw Veliz playing. Babette is described as a very flirtatious character and Veliz said she doesn't see herself that way.

However, Veliz mentioned how fun it was playing the character and she loved her costume. One of the components to her role was singing a solo and at first it was scary. It was a learning curve, but Veliz saw playing Babette as her best role to date.

Veliz said she looks up to the older kids who have more experience performing in plays and thought of herself as a role model to the middle school kids who are new to theater.

"I see my seventh and eighth grade self in them," Veliz said. "Be someone they can look up to."

Veliz loved the experience of being a part of "Beauty and the Beast" and thought "everything we worked hard for paid off."

Amarie Martino, a sophomore at Quaboag, portrayed LeFou in "Beauty and the Beast". Martino remembered auditioning for different roles and the Gaston song was part of her audition.

From that point on Martino became LeFou, which came with a combination of acting, singing and dancing. With a lot to learn Martino liked her role a lot as she played a lovable character in LeFou.

The theater is a fun environment for

Martino as many of her friends were in the cast as well. What helped Martino execute the role and the musical numbers well was a lot of repetition.

Martino's siblings were in the play as well and her brother Dante and her have done plays together since the seventh grade.

She has every intention to continue performing in theatre and playing LeFou was her first lead ever and most favorite role to play.

"I wouldn't stop now," Martino said.

Amarie's sister Kennah is an eighth grader at Quaboag and she played Chip. Kennah said she had a lot of fun and had the perfect voice for Chip. She was very excited to get the role and loved working with Rice as Mrs. Potts.

"She's very nice," Kennah said. "Glad I got to play her child in "Beauty and the Beast"."

Kennah also performed in Quaboag productions such as "The Addams Family" and "Freeze Frame". For "Beauty and the Beast" Kennah wanted to get better at facing the audience and facing the character she is talking to.

Like her older siblings, Kennah loved working with them as well. She plans to act more in the future and plans to audition every single year she is at Quaboag.

The Beast was played by Quaboag senior Parker Chaffee, and it was the first time in his acting career he took on a more serious role.

"I originally didn't know how to do a

serious role," Chaffee said. "Tried something new."

Chaffee believes the roles were perfectly casted at the start and "Beauty and the Beast" is his favorite show the school has done.

For Parker, nailing the voice of the Beast was a challenge as well as making that slow transition from being an evil character to a soft and lovable gentle giant. Chaffee recalls on his favorite scenes to do in the play was the waltz with Abigail Jolin (Belle). The scene came together "very naturally" as Chaffee put it and describes it as "an iconic moment" in the play.

Chaffee will be part of the upcoming school production "Clue" but will always be remembered as Beast in "Beauty and the Beast".

After three successful showings of "Beauty and the Beast", Joinville is proud to add another memorable play to the history of Quaboag and their theater department.

The visionary behind the amazing costumes for the show was Christine Taylor. The choreography was organized by Bethany Frances.

There is a lot more in store for Quaboag's theater department and a lot of talented students are on the rise for new and exciting shows.

"There's a lot of talent coming up," Joinville said.



Gaston made his first appearance on stage.



The performance of "Beauty and the Beast" was incredible with music, dancing and talented students who love theater.



LeFou played by Amarie Martino sang "Gaston" to Gaston.



Madison Schreier played Madame de La Grande Bouche, the singing wardrobe.



Maurice met Mrs. Potts and Chip, played by Falon Rice and Kennah Martino.



Cogsworth was played by Quaboag Regional High School junior Haylee Nash.



Maurice came face to face with the Beast as Cogsworth hides.

GIFT | FROM PAGE 1

credible gesture,” and a major help to the department. “It’s unbelievable,” Anderson said of the support. Anderson said the department recently had its hoses and nozzles inspected, and catastrophic failure of the equipment was detected.

“We lost eight nozzles and thousands of feet of hose,” Anderson said.

Algoo’s donation will replace critical attack line firehoses, because right now, the department doesn’t have any backup. Anderson said it’s necessary to have backup in order to allow the hoses to dry between use in order to prevent damage and mold.

“I can’t thank Al enough,” Anderson said.

Anderson said the Fire Department will need about \$50,000 to replace all of the department’s hoses and nozzles in order to maintain the classification for its pumper. He said that some of the nozzles that failed are older than he is.

“Some of the hose is from 1977,” he added.

Anderson said the department has also applied for a state grant, which if awarded, would provide over \$100,000 in funding to purchase necessary equipment at a cost of only \$5,000 to the town.

He said the town of Warren was awarded the same grant last year and he has worked with that town’s department to complete the application which has been submitted. The grant awards should be announced at the beginning of 2025 and distributed in July.

“A lot of towns are in the same boat,” Anderson said of the need to replace aging equipment.

After the presentation, resident John Tripp donated \$100 to the Fire Department, to help with the efforts to replace the equipment. Anderson expressed his gratitude for the donations received, adding that



Ramkumar “Al” Algoo and John Tripp enjoyed a visit with Santa Claus this past Saturday. TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE

the department will “take anything anybody wants to give.”

People who would like to donate can mail a payment to the North Brookfield Fire Department, 56 School St., North Brookfield, MA 01535.

\$6 million intimate partner violence intervention study approved

BOSTON – A Veterans Affairs Boston researcher was approved for \$6 million in funding by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute to study a comprehensive, personalized intervention for patients who have experienced intimate partner violence, commonly known as IPV.

The study is co-led by Dr. Katherine Iverson, clinical research psychologist at the Women’s Health Sciences Division of the National Center for PTSD and VA Boston Healthcare System, investigator at the Center for Healthcare Organization and Implementation Research, and associate professor of psychiatry at Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine, and Dr. Melissa Dichter, a researcher at the VA Center for Health Equity Research and Promotion, and associate professor in the College of Public Health at Temple University.

It will test whether Recovering from IPV through Strengths and Empowerment – RISE – or brief advocacy counseling, which is the most common intervention, is better for improving self-efficacy and mental health symptoms, such as depression, among patients with past-year IPV at VA health-care facilities.

RISE was developed for patients experiencing IPV, to provide them with an individualized, motivational and flexible intervention that addresses safety planning, IPV health effects and warning signs, coping and self-care, social support, sexual violence over the lifespan, and connecting with resources and moving forward.

“Early research on RISE suggests it’s effective at improving patients’ self-efficacy and depression symptoms,” said Dichter in a press release. “However, it’s not known how well RISE works compared to what patients typically receive for IPV intervention in healthcare settings. That’s what we want to find out.”

The five-year study will randomly assign patients to either RISE or brief advocacy. Participants will answer questions about self-efficacy and depression symptoms before receiving treatment, 12 weeks later, and every three months after that for one year. Researchers will compare which intervention – RISE versus brief advocacy – worked better to increase self-efficacy and decrease depression symptoms.

More information is available at <https://www.pcori.org/research-results/2024/rise-versus-advocacy-based-enhanced-care-usual-patients-experiencing-intimate-partner-violence>

“IPV is more common among military Veterans, so there’s a particular need for more personalized, structured and comprehensive interventions among this group,” said Iverson. “What we learn from this study is likely to be helpful for improving health outcomes among Veterans, and among the general population, as well.”

The study was selected by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute, or PCORI, through a competitive review process in which patients, caregivers and other stakeholders join scientists to evaluate proposals. The award has been approved pending completion of a business and programmatic review by PCORI staff and a formal award contract.

“This project was selected for PCORI funding not only for its scientific merit and commitment to engaging patients and other healthcare stakeholders, but also for its conduct in real-world settings. It has the potential to answer an important question about IPV interventions and fill a crucial evidence gap,” said PCORI executive director Dr. Nakela Cook. “We look forward to following the study’s progress, and working with Dr. Iverson, Dr. Dichter and their team to share its results.”

PCORI is an independent, nonprofit organization authorized by Congress with a mission to fund patient-centered comparative clinical effectiveness research that provides patients, their caregivers and clinicians with the evidence-based information they need to make better informed health and healthcare decisions.

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The Algoo family and employees of North Brookfield Farms posed for a photo with Santa Claus.



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SPORTS

Cougars face off with Southbridge

WARREN – Last Wednesday night, Quaboag girls basketball had its home opener against Southbridge. The two teams will meet twice this season. The final score of the game was not reported as of press time. Previously,

Quaboag won two games on the road to open the season against one loss and were 2-1 heading into the Southbridge matchup. Quaboag faces Bay Path on Monday, Dec. 30 at 6:30 p.m.



Mia Letendre fights for the ball. TURLEY PHOTOS BY JACK CASCIO NEAR:SMUGMUG.COM



Quaboag girls basketball faced off with Southbridge last Wednesday night.



Madeline Potvin sends a long jump shot away.



Naiihly Peter goes for the three-pointer.



Juliette Boos tries to get around a guard under the paint.



Greenly Lagimoniere attempts a three-pointer. TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Pioneers jump out to a good start

PALMER – Last Monday and Wednesday, Pathfinder girls basketball was able to put up a pair of wins to get its season started. Last Monday night, the Pioneers opened up the year with PVCIC, defeating the visitors 36-12. Their defense was excellent throughout the game

though it took some time for the offense to get moving. Desiree Croteau had 15 points to lead all scorers. The Pioneers defeated Duggan 49-27 on Dec. 18 and are back in action Dec. 27 against Smith Academy at 6 p.m.



Desiree Croteau makes a pass along the perimeter.



Addison Doktor goes for a put-back.



Megan Clark approaches the basket for a layup.



Ciara Green reaches out to grab a rebound.

- sports -


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Turleysports

Athlete of the Month

NAME: Jacob Cacace
SCHOOL: Quaboag
 Cacace led the Cougars to a pair of touchdowns on Thanksgiving morning in a loss to Ware.

To nominate someone for Athlete of the Week, contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at 413-283-8393 ext. 258 or send an e-mail to gscibelli@turley.com.



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Boys middle school basketball action

BARRE – Prior to the Christmas holiday, Quabbin boys middle school basketball faced Paxton, coming up with a big win. It was Quabbin's final game before taking a break for the holidays. The middle school team is back in action on Jan. 7 against Bromfield.



Right: Nathan Gingras tries to keep the ball inbound. TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Ashton Dahlstrom hustles across midcourt.



Jack LeClair heads down the court.

T-Birds fall to Checkers on the road

SPRINGFIELD — The Springfield Thunderbirds (12-10-2-1) fell victim to a two-goal comeback by the Charlotte Checkers (15-6-1-2) last Wednesday night at Bojangles Coliseum in a 4-3 defeat.

The T-Birds did themselves no favors by taking back-to-back penalties just four seconds apart, resulting in 1:57 of two-man advantage time for the league's top power play. Steve Konowalchuk's team dug in, though, as Vadim Zherenko and the penalty killers did the job to survive the lengthy threat.

Charlotte still rode the momentum from the power play to the game's opening tally by Oliver Okuliar at 4:45 of the first period, giving the Checkers a 1-0 advantage.

After the burst from Charlotte, the T-Birds quickly chipped away on the shot board. At 15:00 of the frame, Dalibor Dvorsky brought Springfield even with his team-leading 11th of the season, cashing in on a rebound at the edge of the crease and driving it past former T-Bird Chris Driedger.

The 1-1 score continued for nearly a whole period of game action until the T-Birds' third and fourth units capitalized on back-to-back shifts. Tanner Dickinson started the scoring blitz with a wrister from the left circle that glanced off traffic and eluded Driedger at 14:02 of the second period, making it a 2-1 lead for Springfield.

34 seconds later, Mathias Laferriere and Drew Callin entered the offensive zone on a 2-on-1 and took advantage of the situation. Driedger made an initial

pad save off a Laferriere shot from the left circle. However, the rebound kicked right to Callin, who quickly deked to the forehand and put it behind Driedger to give the T-Birds a 3-1 advantage.

Penalties, though, continued to throw a wrench in the T-Birds' plans, and the Charlotte power play finally connected in the final minute of the second as Rasmus Asplund redirected a Trevor Carrick wrist shot behind Zherenko, chopping the lead to 3-2 at 19:21 of the middle frame.

For a second straight night, rookie Ben Steeves provided a clutch tying marker for Charlotte, taking a feed from Okuliar in the right circle and snapping a shot past Zherenko's stick hand at 3:55 of the third, bringing the game to a stalemate, 3-3.

The two teams did not generate much after the Steeves goal, with the two clubs combining for only eight shots in the entire third period, and the tie score carried into the final three minutes of the game.

Again, discipline proved pivotal, as Tobias Bjornfot drew a high-sticking double minor and a four-minute power play for the Checkers with 2:39 remaining.

The league's top man advantage lived up to their billing in the final minute, as Wilmer Skoog unloaded a blistering one-time slapper that found twine with 54 seconds left to give Charlotte the 4-3 lead. Springfield's last-ditch efforts to tie came up empty in the closing moments, and Charlotte completed the two-game sweep of the T-Birds.



Camden Ahearn heads down the court.



Lucas Gaspar looks for an open teammate.

- sports -

Middle school girls face Paxton



BARRE – Last Friday afternoon, Quabbin girls middle school basketball hosted Paxton. The Panthers then had two weeks off before returning action in 2025 when they face Bromfield Jan. 7 at 4:45 p.m. on the road.

Raegyn Wnek dribbles near the arc.



Emma Stauder looks to pass as opponent tries to steal the ball. TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Aubrey Pope heads for the corner.



Ayla Clark looks to bring in the rebound.



Maggie Leander works near the end line.

Coaching classes available

Coaches hired after Aug. 1, 1998 are required to take a coaching course to be eligible to coach high school sports in Massachusetts.

According to the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Association, all coaches hired prior to Aug. 1, 1998 are exempt from taking the Fundamentals of Coaching Course. Coaches hired after that and before July 1, 2005 must have completed the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course with the exception of Certified MA teachers.

All coaches (stipend or volunteer) first serving as an interscholastic coach after July 1, 2005 must complete the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course, and an approved Sports First Aid course.

The NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course requirement must be met through attending an MIAA sponsored Fundamentals of Coaching Class with MIAA Certified Instructors. Must be completed and passed prior to coaching a second year.

The NFHS Sports First Aid may be met by completing on-line courses with the NFHS www.nfhslearn.com. Must be passed prior to coaching a third year.

Additional requirements for all coaches:

Massachusetts requires coaches to be certified in CPR per Section 1. Section 47A of chapter 71 of the General Laws. Additionally, AED training is required and will most likely be done in conjunction with the existing mandated CPR training.

All MIAA member school coaches (stipend or volunteer) are required to take annually the on-line National Federation Concussion Course, or other MA Department of Public Health recognized education program, prior to the start of their season. Rugby Coaches must see Rule 76.2 for additional coaches' education information.

Any questions, please call Donna Harrington at 508-541-9804 or email dharrington@miaa.net.

Fundamentals of coaching classes are being offered on Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2025 from 4 to 8 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Classes are open until capacity is reached and then a waiting list is established. There are online components to the course once the classroom portion is completed

Railers announce major coaching change

WORCESTER – The Worcester Railers Hockey Club (@RailersHC), proud ECHL (@ECHL) affiliate of the New York Islanders (@NYIslanders) and Chief Operating Officer Michael G. Myers have announced that Bob Deraney has taken on a new role within the organization, Head of Scouting, effective immediately. Nick Tuzzolino has been named Head Coach & General Manager of the Worcester Railers.

“Bob has been a part of the Railers family for a number of years,” Myers said. “We can’t thank him enough for his dedication and commitment to this organization over the past several seasons. We look forward to him continuing to work with the team in this new role.”

Tuzzolino becomes the fifth head coach in Worcester Railers history after serving as Gen-

eral Manager & Associate Head Coach to begin the season. He first came to Worcester in June after he spent the 2023-24 season as assistant coach and director of player development with the Savannah Ghost Pirates. As a defenseman, he played over 500 games professionally between the UHL, IHL, ECHL & American Hockey League from 2007-2023. During his initial retirement, he coached the Buffalo Jr. Sabres of the Ontario Junior Hockey League from 2016-20.

“In his time here, Nick has demonstrated his readiness to lead the team both on and off the ice,” Myers said. “He has a wealth of experience in dissecting professional systems and working in pro player development. We’re excited for him to take the reins and continue his work on bringing a winning culture to Worcester.”

Next HoopHall ceremony announced

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced that the Class of 2025 Enshrinement Ceremony will take place on Saturday, Sept. 6, in Springfield – the Birthplace of Basketball.

The nominees for the upcoming class were set to be revealed on Thursday, Dec. 19, at 3 p.m. during “NBA Today” on ESPN. The Class of 2025 Finalist Announcement will be Friday, Feb. 14, as part of the NBA All-Star Weekend in San Francisco, and the Class of 2025 will be announced on Saturday, April 5, during the

NCAA Final Four Weekend in San Antonio.

Enshrinement Weekend will begin at the Mohegan Sun on Friday, September 5, with the Tip-Off Celebration and Awards Gala, inclusive of the Class of 2025 jacket and ring presentation and the annual Hall of Fame Awards. The Enshrinement Ceremony will take place the following day in Springfield’s historic Symphony Hall and will be available to a global audience.

A full schedule of events will be announced at a later date.

HOUSING | FROM PAGE 1

Following Flynn's comments, the Ware Town Manager Stuart Beckley provided an update on business licenses for food establishments, car dealerships, and restaurants which have recently been completed. Notably, Snow's Restaurant and Hanna Devine's on Main Street are set to reopen in early winter, which is expected to bring a boost to the local economy.

In addition, a volunteer group of residents and local businesses is working with the Parks Commission to restore the Beaugard Playground near the Reed Memorial Pool. These improvements will provide updated spaces for families and children in the community.

James Ferrera, Warren's Town Administrator, shared positive news for local taxpayers. He reported that the Department of Revenue set Warren's single tax rate at \$14.81 per thousand, the lowest in over a decade. This reduction will stabilize property taxes for many residents, with some seeing a slight decrease.

Ferrera attributed this to careful spending and modest increases in property values, thanking local departments, boards, and commissions for their efforts.

The main part of the meeting focused on the housing crisis in Massachusetts, with a presentation by Will Rhatigan, MBTA Communities Engagement Manager at the Citizens' Housing and Planning Association.

Rhatigan spoke about the state's housing shortage and the need for more affordable homes. He explained that CHAPA's "Our Massachusetts: Homes for a Thriving Commonwealth" campaign aims to build 200,000 new homes by 2030 to address this crisis.

In Massachusetts, housing prices have risen sharply since 2016. Statewide, prices have increased by 74%, while Ware has seen an 88% increase. This has made housing unaffordable for many, as families now spend more than 30% of their income on housing costs, which classifies them as "cost-burdened."

For some, this number exceeds 50%, placing them in the "severely cost-burdened" category.

This affordability issue is driving people out of the state, particularly those aged 25-45. In 2023, Massachusetts saw a net loss of residents in this age group. Many people are leaving due to the high cost of rent and housing, as well as job availability.

This trend has serious consequences for local businesses, which are struggling with labor shortages. A recent Mass Inc Small Business poll found that 61% of small businesses are struggling to fill open positions, and 65% of busi-

ness owners said housing costs are a major barrier to hiring.

Rhatigan explained the economic benefits of building more affordable housing. More housing means more residents, which translates to more customers and workers for local businesses. It can also increase tax revenue and lower costs for local services.

Additionally, with more people living close to their jobs, there is potential for more disposable income spent on goods and services.

Despite these benefits, housing in Massachusetts remains expensive due to a long-standing shortage of affordable housing. Rhatigan emphasized that the state needs to build more multi-family homes to address the growing demand as it is more cost effective to build multi-family homes that will suit more people rather than single family homes.

Rhatigan outlined both short-term and long-term solutions to improve housing affordability.

Long-term, he suggested reducing zoning and regulatory barriers to make it easier to build housing. In the short-term, he recommended programs to help keep people in their homes, such as rental assistance and first-time home-buyer programs.

Locally, Rhatigan encouraged Ware to adopt the Community Preservation Act, which could allocate a portion of the property tax levy to fund affordable housing. He also recommended creating an Affordable Housing Trust Fund and a Community Land Trust to help fund the creation and preservation of affordable homes.

Rhatigan called on Ware's business leaders and residents to get involved in addressing housing issues at the local level. He pointed out that decisions about housing are made at town meetings, and local leaders have a strong influence on policy. He encouraged business owners to speak up for more housing development by attending meetings, talking to local officials, and advocating for change.

He also stressed that businesses play a key role in improving the community. When local leaders speak up for housing, they help ensure that the town remains vibrant and economically strong.

The meeting concluded with a call for everyone to stay involved in the conversation about housing and the local economy. By working together, Ware's businesses and residents can help create a more affordable and thriving community.

As housing remains a key issue, local leaders are encouraged to continue advocating for solutions that will benefit everyone.



Will Rhatigan, MBTA Communities Engagement Manager at the Citizens' Housing and Planning Association gave a presentation about the commonwealth's housing crisis at the Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond's meeting. TURLEY PHOTOS BY ABBY MCCOY



Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond members listed while Will Rhatigan from the Citizens' Housing and Planning Association talked about a campaign to build 200,000 new homes by 2030.

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BOWLERS | FROM PAGE 1

and several bowlers had accomplished a first-place finish. The youth bowlers of Bogey Lanes had a great experience and competed against some of the best up and coming youth candlepin bowlers from all over New England and Canada.

The Girls Division IV team consisted of Dakotah Majka, Emily Black, Maddie Decelle and Grace Kolb. The girls dominated by winning the team division with a total score of 1188. Grace Kolb began the tournament by bowling a 120 in game one while her teammate Emily Black scored 116.

Black finished with a 319 in the team's division and Kolb finished with a 304.

Kolb and Black would also partner up for Girls Division IV Doubles. The doubles tournament consisted of each participant bowling five games each. The team of Kolb and Black rallied and combined for a score of 1019 to win first place in Division IV Doubles.

Black hit over 100 four times out of her five games. Her best games were the last three consisting of 117, 126 and 109 for a series of 542. Kolb had a series of 477 with her high games being 107 and 106.

Kolb is also the winner of the All Events for Girls Division III. After combining her scores in singles, doubles and teams, Kolb totaled 1275, which was one point higher than the 1274 bowled by Kya Smith from Stars & Strikes Bowling Center in Maine.

Kolb also won the singles tourna-

ment in her division with a score of 494 and once again pulled ahead by just one point.

Majka finished in first place for singles in Girls Division II.

For all events in Division IV Girls, the winner of it all was Black. After competing in all the events, Black had a grand total of 1352. Her score surpassed the second place score of 1346, which was bowled by Tatum Lohnes of Pajo's Bowling Alley in Nova Scotia.

By winning all events, Black not only has received several trophies for her accomplishments in the international tournament but will also receive a \$1,000 scholarship. After this experience, Black has been bowling excellent and remembers this experience as an amazing moment in her bowling career.

"I think it's amazing," Black said. "I was really proud of myself and lucky to be able to win this for not only myself but for my bowling alley."

Black is proud to be a part of this great youth bowling program at the lanes she calls home, Bogey Lanes. Black currently bowls in Bogey's Teen League on Wednesday nights and will return to the lanes in 2025 and will also be returning in 2025 as the defending All Events Champion.

The teens had a fun Christmas party this past Wednesday where they received their trophies from the ICBA Youth Championships. Presenting the trophies was Youth League Coach Sophia Hearnlaye and Bogey Lanes proprietor Dan Luksha.



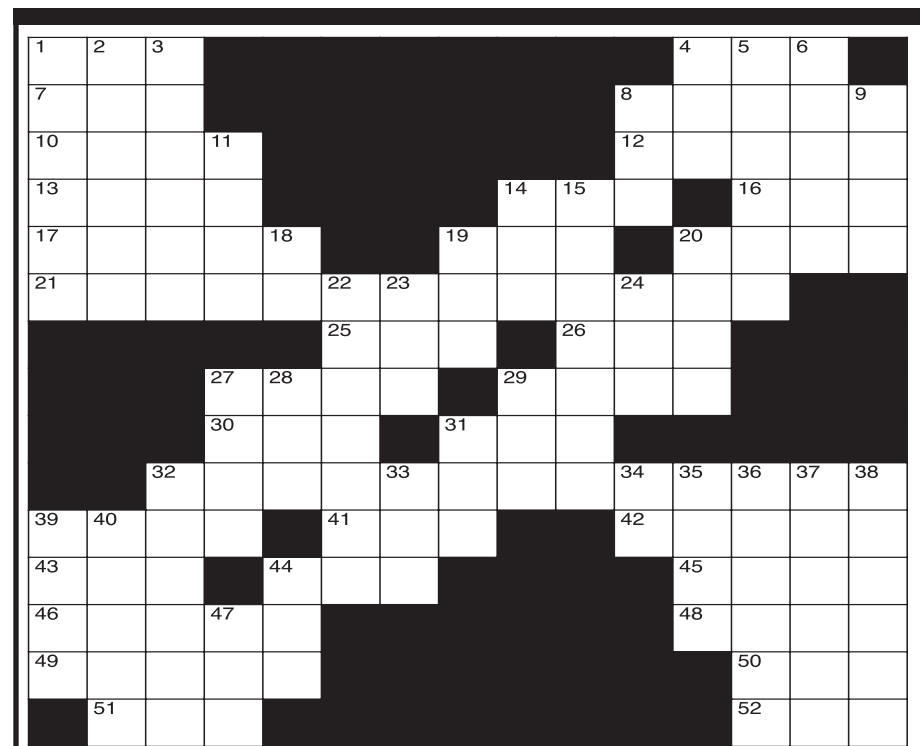
Emily Black is shown alongside Bogey Lanes youth league Coach Sophia Hearnlaye.



Members of the Bogey Lanes youth program received their trophies after competing in the 2024 international youth championships. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO



Emily Black and Coach Sophia Hearnlaye are shown with Bogey Lanes proprietor Dan Luksha.



- | | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------|---|
| CLUES ACROSS | 29. Touches softly | 52. Witness | 28. Possesses |
| 1. Central processing unit | 30. Mock | | 29. Split pulses |
| 4. Taxi | 31. Red-brown Pacific sea bream | CLUES DOWN | 31. Small amount |
| 7. Body part | | 1. Of cadmium | 32. Flat-bottomed riverboat |
| 8. Papal court | 32. Summer entertainment options | 2. Deliver a sermon | 33. Not good |
| 10. Young women making their public debuts | 39. Protective crust | 3. Inner regions of a shadow | 34. Atomic #31 |
| 12. Metal shackles | 41. Cool! | 4. Aggressive dog | 35. Assist in committing a crime |
| 13. Joseph's wife | 42. Behave in a way that belittles | 5. Smells | 36. Chauvinists |
| 14. Licensed professional | 43. Denial | 6. Twofold | 37. Get away |
| 16. Partner to cheese | 44. A place to sleep | 8. Former OSS | 38. One of a people who speaks a Semitic language |
| 17. Mild fruits | 45. Electronic counter-countermeasures | 9. Computer language | 39. Civil rights college organization |
| 19. File format | 46. Intestinal pouches | 11. Indian groom | 40. Combustible dark rocks |
| 20. Province of Indonesia | 48. SE Asia family of languages | 14. Automobile | 44. Grocery container |
| 21. Beloved grilled foods | 49. Sound | 15. Hairstyle | 47. Central nervous system |
| 25. Bar bill | 50. Select when yet | 18. Atomic #76 | |
| 26. Don't know when yet | 51. Give the impression of dishonesty | 19. Guy (slang) | |
| 27. Whale ship captain | | 20. Ladies' undergarments | |
| | | 22. Furniture with open shelves | |
| | | 23. Back-arc basin | |
| | | 24. Partner to flow | |
| | | 27. A type of horse | |

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Volume 18, Number 5

Friday, December 27, 2024

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