

# QUABOAG CURRENT

Connect with us online



Quaboag Current Newspaper

**WEST BROOKFIELD**  
Author/poet speaks at library p2

**STURBRIDGE**  
Warriors face Dolphins p9

**EAST BROOKFIELD**  
Shelter dog finds home p12

Editorial/Opinion 4  
Sports 9  
Police Logs 11

Summer Camp 13  
Classifieds 14  
Legal Notices 15

A TURLEY PUBLICATION  
www.turley.com

Volume 17, Number 15

Friday, March 8, 2024

## Public hearing discusses FY 24 CDBG application

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

**NORTH BROOKFIELD** – Project Planner Joe Ferguson of Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission spoke about the fiscal year 2024 Community Development Block Grant application during a public hearing at the Board

of Selectmen’s meeting.

At the Feb. 27 meeting, Ferguson said the grant is capped at \$950,000 and the due date for the application is March 25.

“There’s no guarantee that submitting the application will result in an award, however, the state has approved a threshold waiver for North Brookfield,” Ferguson said. This waiver allows the town to apply for

funding, despite having a FY 20 grant open.

Ferguson said due to the funding cap, this grant round will only include one project, the continuation of a FY 21 project that funded the comprehensive design and phase one construction of infrastructure improvements on Mount Pleasant Street. The FY 24 grant would pay for phase two

construction.

Phase one construction is slated to start this spring.

“This project came out of FY 19 West Side Infrastructure Study and Mount Pleasant was identified in that study,” Ferguson said.

The board moved to support and approved the FY 24 CDBG application.

**Fire Department donations**

Fire Chief Darin Anderson said the department was asked to donate their old self-contained breathing apparatus bottles and packs to Sturbridge Fire Department for training and educational purposes during the emergency services course offered to students at

Please see **HEARING**, page 5



Sturbridge Scouts BSA Troop 163 celebrated five years on Feb. 4.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Scouts BSA Troop 163 turns 5

**STURBRIDGE** – In 2019 the Boy Scouts of America opened its flagship program to females and renamed it Scouts BSA.

The efforts to form Troop 163 began early in 2018, securing a chartering organization, recruit-

ing key leaders, and then promoting the new troop. Their first meeting was on Feb. 3, 2019, and their charter paperwork was submitted to Heart of New England Council, BSA on Feb. 5.

“I knew it was coming as they

opened up Cub Scouts to include females in 2018, after that I started looking and asking and making it known we needed a troop and needed to have the ball roll-

Please see **TROOP 163**, page 8

## Historical Society explores the area’s stone walls

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

**STURBRIDGE** – A common sight throughout New England, stone walls trace their way across fields and hills, along the roadways, and through forests.

Sturbridge resident Richard Paradise, a 13-year member of

the Trails Committee and a stone wall enthusiast, presented on these impressive formations at the Sturbridge Historical Society’s February meeting held at the Publick House.

A question he often hears from people is why stone walls are built in the woods.

“No one ever built a stone wall in the middle of the woods, it was

always a field,” Paradise said. Many of these fields have since grown in, becoming forests as we know them today.

In 1840 New England, 70% of the land was clear cut, compared to now, where 75% is forested.

As settlers removed trees for lumber or to create fields for farm-

Please see **HISTORICAL**, page 5

## Soap and syrup at the Market



Thompson’s Maple Farm brings flavorful ice cream to the West Brookfield Winter Farmers Market.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY RICHARD MURPHY

*Editor’s note: The Quaboag Current will regularly feature a spotlight story on different farmers market vendors. Learn about the people that bring food and locally sourced items to your community.*

By Richard Murphy  
Correspondent

**WEST BROOKFIELD** – The second last day of February, 2024 at the West Brookfield Winter Farmers Market was not sunny like the last two sessions, but we were lucky enough, as the rain abated and the temps were mild and the market, inside the First Congregational, was a hive of activity.

Turning left in the hall, the second vendor along the

Please see **MARKET**, page 7

**Farmer Matt**  
FARM-FRESH + LOCAL  
860 West Brookfield Rd.  
New Braintree, MA



### Farm-fresh Catering: Unforgettable Feasts

Elevate your event with Farmer Matt’s delectable catering services! From savory pulled pork to creamy mac and cheese, our farm-fresh dishes are perfect for any occasion. We handle delivery and setup, making your event stress-free. Birthdays, weddings, corporate gatherings – we cater it all! Contact us now for a memorable dining experience.

FarmerMatt.com/catering | (508) 980-7085

# - community -

## Author Jonathan Blake to speak at library March 12

WEST BROOKFIELD – The Merriam-Gilbert Public Library, 3 West Main St., welcomes West Brookfield's own Jonathan Blake for the launch of his latest book, "In the Kingdom", on Tuesday, March 12, at 6 p.m.

Blake will share poems inspired by his visits to the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont with its rolling hills, wildlife, and stillness needed for dreaming. A tribute to the

The Northeast Kingdom of Vermont has long been the wellspring for Blake's writing.

"In 1984 my parents purchased a small log cabin overlooking a pond in a sparsely inhabited valley at the end of a long dirt road in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont. In time, with the coming of grandchildren and great-grandchildren, the family built another cabin to accommodate the gatherings of the tribe," Blake said in a press release. "In the late 1980s, after a visit to our family cabin, the poet Bill O'Connell named the place Paradise. It remains a place where poems and peace can be found."

Please call or stop by the Library to register. Copies of "In the Kingdom" will be available for purchase and signing.

## Purple for Prevention Week

*Chris Herren to speak at free presentation March 7*

BARRE – Purple for Prevention Week, March 4-8, is dedicated to healthy choices and safe decisions in the Quabbin region, for people of all ages.

For anyone who is wondering how purple began as the color of prevention in our region, join Purple for Prevention Week Coordinators Quabbin Regional Middle/High School Administration on Thursday, March 7 at 6 p.m. for a free presentation by Chris Herren at the school, 800 South St.

His talk in 2013 was the start of all the work of Q-DRUG in the community, when students and community members connected

with his message of support and caring being at the center of prevention. Herren will be speaking about mental health, substance use, healthy choices, and how to support your children, yourself and your peers through difficult decisions.

There are a number of ways you might be seeing purple in our community this week:

- All elementary students in the Quabbin Regional School District have been given a purple ribbon to take home to decorate their homes in support of healthy choices. Healthy choices at the elementary age includes healthy eating, safe friendships, kindness to peers, active lifestyles, and connections with caring adults.
- Q-DRUG has decorated a

number of our local community municipal spaces, town commons, police and fire departments, roadways, and schools. This is the 10<sup>th</sup> year that Q-DRUG has decorated these spaces, in support of all youth making healthy choices.

• This is the second annual community decorating contest, where local families and businesses decorate their space as a part of a contest sponsored by Q-DRUG. To cast your vote for the best decorated, please visit QDrug.org for the voting ballot.

All are welcome to join Q-DRUG in supporting healthy choices for all in the district by sharing a purple ribbon on your home or business. For more information, visit QDrug.org.

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

## New Braintree Library to hold Story Time

NEW BRAINTREE – The New Braintree Public Library, 45 Memorial Drive, offers their next Story Time program on Monday, March 18 at 9 a.m.

The focus will be spring weather and will feature "Little Cloud" by Eric Carle, "It Looked Like Spilt Milk" by Charles G. Shaw and "Rain!" by Linda Ashman.

This reading and crafts program for preschool children is held twice a month on Mondays at the library. Parental supervision is required.

People may call the library at 508-867-7650 during regular business for more information.

## West Brookfield Historical Commission announces 2024 scholarship

WEST BROOKFIELD – The West Brookfield Historical Commission is pleased to announce its 2024, 13<sup>th</sup> annual scholarship in the amount of \$2000.

Qualified students must reside in West Brookfield and may attend Quaboag Regional High School, or be school-choice students, homeschooled students and independent school students.

This award is made possible through the J. Irving and Jane L. England Charitable Trust.

### Application criteria

The students must be planning to attend either a four-year college/university program or a two-year college with the intent to a transfer to a four-year college.

The Commission will show preference to study plans with concentration on history and history-related areas. Major or minors may include political science, social studies, anthropology, archaeology, historical preservation, museum studies and education in any of these related fields.

Applicants must submit a brief essay based on one of the notable persons or significant places listed on the application. All necessary information and the application can be found on the West Brookfield Historical Commission website. <http://westbrookfield.org>.

Essays are due no later than April 8 and can be emailed to [info@westbrookfield.org](mailto:info@westbrookfield.org) or mailed to West Brookfield Historical Commission, P.O. Box 372, West Brookfield, MA 01585.



**PHONE**  
413.967.3505  
Fax: 413.967.6009  
Subscriptions: 413.283.8393

**EMAIL**  
*Advertising Sales*  
Dan Flynn  
[dflynn@turley.com](mailto:dflynn@turley.com)

Tim Mara  
[tmara@turley.com](mailto:tmara@turley.com)

*Editor*  
Paula Ouimette  
[pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com)

**WEB**  
[www.quaboagcurrent.turley.com](http://www.quaboagcurrent.turley.com)

@QuaboagCurrent

The Quaboag Current newspaper is published by Turley Publications, Inc. • [www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)

# Join Us For the 2nd Annual Senior Resource Fair

**NO COST!  
It's FREE!**

**Date: Saturday, March 23rd**  
**Time: 11am-1pm**  
**Place: Ware Senior Center,  
1 Robbins Road, Ware**

**Participants include**

- Home Modifications Specialist
- Realtors
- Ware Senior Center
- Home Modification Loan Program
- Senior Placement
- In-home Care Services
- Movers
- Estate Appraisers
- Legal & Financial Planning
- Senior Living Options
- QV CDC Senior Outreach Program
- Senior Health Services

- Hospice & Palliative Care
- Funeral Services
- Supplemental Benefits
- Junk Removal
- Housing Authority
- SSDI Support
- Community Development Authorities
- And Many MORE

**For more information  
contact Danielle Souza  
(413) 949-0422  
or email:  
[danielle.souza@fairwaymc.com](mailto:danielle.souza@fairwaymc.com)**

**Light Lunch  
Will Be Served!**

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

# - community -

## Diana Fanning works 'Piano Magic'

Acclaimed pianist shares her gifts at Stone Church

HARDWICK – Friends of the Stone Church invites the public to hear gifted pianist Diana Fanning presenting an inspiring program of Romantic music by Maurice Ravel, Lili Boulanger, Frederic Chopin and Franz Schubert, at 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 9, at the Stone Church Cultural Center, 283 Main St., Gilbertville.

Tickets: \$25 at the door or through [www.tickettailor.com/events/friendsofthestonechurch/943173](http://www.tickettailor.com/events/friendsofthestonechurch/943173). Youth under 18 and holders of the Mass Cultural Council "Card to Culture" will be admitted at no charge. A public reception will follow the concert.

Fanning has toured extensively as a solo performer and chamber musician throughout the U.S. and in England, France, Austria, Switzerland, Holland, the Czech Republic, Canada and Germany. In recent years she has performed at the "Sound of Music" castle in Salzburg, and in Prague at the invitation of the International Dvorak Society.

After a solo recital in Munich, a critic wrote "Diana Fanning stunned her listeners with the rich spectrum of subtle colors and tonal nuances she revealed. Her recital seized the audience with a veritable deep magic."

Fanning's principal teacher was Ruth Geiger of New York City. She also studied with Marcelle Heuclin at the Paris Conservatory. Now an Affiliate Artist at Middlebury College in Vermont, Fanning has performed on numerous occasions as a concerto soloist with the Vermont Symphony Orchestra.

She was featured as soloist in a performance of Beethoven's "Piano Concerto No. 3" in the debut concert of the Champlain Philharmonic Orchestra and was invited back for performances of Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue". She appears regularly on Vermont public radio, has been a featured soloist on Vermont Public Television, and has appeared live on public radio in Boston and New York.

As a chamber musician, Fanning has performed with the Takacs, the Schumann, the Jupiter and the Alexander String Quartets, and with ensembles from Point Counterpoint Music Camp, which she owned and directed for 10 years with her husband Emory Fanning. As a member of the Davydov-Fanning Duo with the outstanding cellist Dieuweke Davydov, she has performed widely in the U.S., and completed eight concert tours of Europe.

Her recordings with Davydov and as a piano soloist have received enthusiastic reviews.



Pianist Diana Fanning will perform at the Stone Church Cultural Center on Saturday, March 9.

Although an international performer, Fanning is no stranger to Hardwick and Gilbertville. Her husband Emory Fanning appeared at the Stone Church in Don Boothman's "FOGO" (Friends of the Gilbertville Organ) series in 2004 and in 2011, its last year, to celebrate the inspiration of Gwen and David Huntress in promoting beautiful music in this venue. Barbara Boothman Grofic and Laura Boothman Stamm, Boothman's daughters, are sponsoring this special appearance.

Fanning's concert is also sponsored by a grant from Boston Financial Management.

Additional funding for our series comes from the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency; and by grants from the Local Cultural Councils of Barre, Oakham and Petersham, which receive support from the Mass Cultural Council.

### About FOSC

Friends of the Stone Church, Inc. is a public charitable corporation and community group organized in 2015 and open to all. Its mission is to preserve and protect the Gilbertville Stone Church Cultural Center and to make it available as a place of community enrichment.

The Friends are currently in Phase 4 of stabilizing the stone tower, with funding, in part, from the Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund, a program of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, administered through a collaborative agreement between MassDevelopment and the Mass Cultural Council.

The Friends welcome donations toward the ongoing preservation project and programs at [FriendsoftheStoneChurch.org](http://FriendsoftheStoneChurch.org), or by mail to FOSC, P.O. Box 347, Gilbertville, MA 01031.

## Quaboag Historical Society seeks nominations for awards

The Quaboag Historical Society requests nominations for the annual Lucy Stone Achievement Award and the Irving and Jane England Award.

The QHS recognizes its most impressive community leaders and volunteers each year with these two awards. The Lucy Stone Achievement Award is given annually in observance of the commonwealth's designation of Lucy Stone Day on March 8.

Born on Coy Hill in West Brookfield, Stone worked tirelessly throughout her life to obtain equal rights for all individuals. She was a lecturer for abolitionist and equal rights groups and the founder and editor of "The Woman's Journal".

For the Lucy Stone Award, the QHS requests nomination letters for anyone living in one of the six Quaboag Plantation area towns (the four Brookfields, New Braintree and Warren). Residents are asked to nominate individuals whose volunteer efforts have helped make their communities better places to live.

The nominating letters should provide a brief explanation of why the writer believes the nominee is deserving of the award. The name, address, and phone number of the nominator and the nominee must be included in the letter.

"For this award, we are seeking nominees who have done an exemplary job of giving back through community service," said QHS Co-President Amy Dugas, who described the motto of the Lucy Stone Award as honoring residents who make the world a

better place.

The Irving and Jane England Award, also presented annually by the QHS, is given each year to a resident of West Brookfield who has helped better the community through community service. Nomination regulations for this award are the same as those for the Lucy Stone Award.

Dugas and other QHS leaders feel it's important to take a few moments each year to honor those who contribute countless hours to improving their communities.

"Those people willing to put in the time, get involved, and make a significant contribution to the community should be recognized," Dugas added.

All award nomination entries should be submitted to the QHS by Friday, March 15. The recipients will be invited to attend a dinner which will be held at Salem Cross Inn in West Brookfield.

Nomination letters should be mailed to The Quaboag Historical Society, P.O. Box 635, West Brookfield, MA, 01585.

## CAMPUS NOTES

### Savannah Cote makes Dean's List

BIDDEFORD/PORTLAND, ME – The University of New England announces the Dean's List for the 2023 fall semester.

Local student making the Dean's list is Savannah Cote of North Brookfield. Dean's List students have attained a grade point average of 3.3 or better out of a possible 4.0 at the end of the semester.



**Quabbin Regional School District Should be YOUR CHOICE for School Choice.**

**Quabbin Regional Middle High School is hosting a Prospective Middle and High School Students School Choice Open House for Grades 6-12 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20<sup>TH</sup> 6:00 - 8:00 PM**

**The night will feature information on:**

- IB (International Baccalaureate) World School Diploma Programme
- AP (Advanced Placement) Courses
- Comprehensive World Languages including American Sign Language
- Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC)
- Opportunities for paid & unpaid internships
- Athletics, Clubs and Activities
- Innovation Pathways Program including **Advanced Manufacturing, Information Technology** and **Business & Finance**
- Rich STEM offerings including **robotics, biotechnology, cybersecurity, Project Lead The Way, horticulture**
- Award winning performing and visual arts programs including **music, drama, arts, video production** and **digital design**

Families new to Quabbin please R.S.V.P. to Jessica Bennett, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent [jbennett@qrsd.org](mailto:jbennett@qrsd.org) (978) 355-4668 ext. 8500

**Quabbin Regional Middle/High School**  
800 South Street, Barre, MA 01005 978-355-4668  
To schedule a campus visit or for more information please visit our website: [www.qrsd.org](http://www.qrsd.org)  
OR EMAIL: [schoolchoice@qrsd.org](mailto:schoolchoice@qrsd.org)

EOE: Quabbin Regional School District's Policy of nondiscrimination will extend to students, staff, the general public and individuals with whom it does business; and will apply to race, color, national background, religion, sex, disability, economic status, political party, age, handicap, sexual orientation, gender identity, homelessness and other human differences.



## THE CENTERED PLACE

SINCE 1988

### Yoga & Meditation Classes

Offering both onsite and online classes

Voted Best Yoga in the region by Town & Country Living Magazine



Yoga leaves you more relaxed, centered, open and energized. Come experience this for yourself.

YOGA FOR EVERY BODY

413 436 7374  
286 BRIDGE ST, WARREN MA  
[WWW.THECENTEREDPLACE.COM](http://WWW.THECENTEREDPLACE.COM)

# - opinion -



Brown creeper

A brown creeper regularly visits an oak tree in my yard.

The other day I watched the creeper fly to the bottom of the tree and make his way up the tree. A few minutes later a white-breasted nuthatch made its way down the same tree.

I think the creeper also grabs some mealworms, which I have out for the bluebirds and any other birds that wants them.

The brown creeper is a small brown bird about 5 1/2 inches long. It has brown streaking above and white underneath and a long, downward, curved bill.

Noticeable behavior is creeping up a tree trunk, then dropping down to the base of the same tree or another tree to start the process all over again. It probes bark for insects and larvae.

Sometimes it visits feeders for chopped nuts or suet.

The brown creeper blends in with the tree bark. When alarmed it will flatten itself against the tree and remain motionless. Its song is a series of high pitched whistles, "see wee see to wee" and the call is a high "tsee."

The female lays five to six white eggs with dark spots in a hammock style crescent shaped nest of bark, twigs, mosses and lined with feathers. It constructs the nest behind a loose piece of bark on a dead tree or in a natural cavity about five to 15 feet above the ground.

### Brimfield resident

I received an email from a Brimfield resident, who keeps me up to date on his bird sightings.

He said in a recent email, "I did a walk yesterday at Quabbin gate 43. A small group walked to the area where people can rent or launch boats. Not much about."

He said some folks heard pine siskins and saw a few white-throated sparrows. On the water, there were a few hooded mergansers and black ducks and in the distance some gulls flying about. On the way home he stopped by the ponds in Warren and the water was not open, so no birds.

He also took part in the Great Backyard Bird Count on Feb. 16 and 17. Here are his results: one red-tailed hawk, four mourning doves, two red-bellied woodpeckers, two downy woodpeckers, one

Please see **BACKYARD**, page 5

## Local fishing holes...



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

## Blueberry pruning 101

My blueberry bushes came to me as full grown plants uprooted from an acquaintance's yard.

He needed the space for something else, so I happily agreed to take the eight bushes off of his hands. They struggled a lot the first few years of being in their new home, I think because the move was a stressful one.

Over the last couple of seasons we've seen more fruit production, thankfully, but I know there should be more. I think I may need to improve my pruning practices.

We are nearing the end of the dormant season, but if I get right to it, the job can still be accomplished this year.

There are many good reasons to prune in the dormant season. Because there are no leaves on the bushes, you can really take a good look at what you have to work with. You can notice off-colors, bent branches and the like when there is no leaf cover.

Late February into early March is perfect timing because theoretically the coldest part of the winter has passed. Sometimes pruning reduces cold hardiness, but like I mentioned, we should be OK since we are nearing winter's end.

Some rules transfer from pruning one type of plant to another; in other words, you'd make these same type of considerations for pruning roses or other woody plants. Let's call these the obvious cuts.

First concentrate on dead wood. Prune away any entirely dead branches all the way to the ground.

If parts of branches are dead, make a cut to the next living part of the branch. If you see anything that looks diseased or a little "off," cut that section or branch away too.

Sometimes branches get damaged from animals or ice storms. Likewise, cut damaged branches back to a section that shows no signs of damage.

Now it gets a little more tricky, but it still should be straightforward and it applies to mature blueberry plants, not new plantings or super old neglected bushes.

Look at the base of your plant. Is it wider than 18 inches in any direction from the center? If so, cut away these stems at ground level or try to dig them up, roots and all in the coming weeks, then move them to a new spot, preferably a nursery bed where they can grow up a bit. I'm into a whole new topic, so let's get back to the task at hand.

Once the plant has been cut back to within its limits, look for growth coming from the base that is on an angle or crossing over other branches. Cut that away too, so that we encourage upright growth instead.

Okay, with that behind us, let's dive

into more difficult territory. Here is when you begin to rejuvenate the plant (listen carefully, self).

Old canes will be gray in appearance and thick. You probably don't want to cut away every one, but perhaps removing one-third of these stems would be a good plan.

Cut them back to ground level. Your next cuts will be what I can "fine tuning," or making cuts that thin out older twiggy growth in the upper part of the plant by cutting back stems to a younger, upright branch.

Go by color here. Younger growth is reddish in appearance. Hand pruners are your desired tool of choice, while bypass loppers or a hand saw is essential for the bigger cuts I mentioned first.

You'll be surprised by how great your blueberry bushes will look and just how productive they will be with this type of maintenance pruning accomplished annually. I think there is just enough daylight for me to get to my own pruning.

I can almost taste the blueberry pie come July. Yum.

*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.*



## QUABOAG CURRENT TEAM



EDITOR  
Paula Ouimette  
pouimette@turley.com



ADVERTISING SALES  
Dan Flynn  
dffynn@turley.com



STAFF WRITER  
Ryan Drago  
rdrago@turley.com



SPORTS EDITOR  
Greg Scibelli  
sports@turley.com

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.



@QuaboagCurrent

WEB

www.quaboagcurrent.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY  
CEO

KEITH TURLEY  
President

DEANNA SLOAT  
Graphics Manager



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.

## 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.

## Turley Publications Election Policy

This newspaper will print free self-submitted statements of candidacy only four weeks or more out from the election. All candidates running in both contested and uncontested races are asked to submit their statements to the editor to include only biographical and campaign platform details. Total word count for statements is limited to between 300-500 words maximum. Please include a photo.

We will not publish any statements 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.

# - opinion -

## BACKYARD from page 4

hairy woodpecker, three blue jays, two black-capped chickadees, three tufted titmice, two European starlings, two American robins, three house finches, 97 dark-eyed juncos, four white-throated sparrows, one common grackle and three northern cardinals.

He reported his first sighting on Feb. 16 at 1:40 p.m. and watched for 25 minutes and his second sighting on Feb. 16 at 3:30 p.m. was for one hour.

On Feb. 17 his sightings were 8:30 a.m. and 10:15 a.m., both for 45 minutes at a time.

Missed species, ones he has seen before, included pileated woodpecker, white-breasted nuthatch, brown creeper, American crow and American goldfinch.

### Bluebirds

The bluebirds continue to come to my feeder for the mealworms. I am purchasing more mealworms for the

bluebirds than when I had chickens.

I used to purchase the mealworms as a daily treat to my small flock. One hen would jump up and eat them out of my hand before I could put them in their feeder.

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



Bluebird

## HEARING from page 1

Tantasqua Regional High School.

The board approved the donation of the old equipment to Sturbridge Fire Department.

### NBEMA grant contract

Administrative Assistant Ashley Barre said North Brookfield Emergency Management Agency received \$2,700 through Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, which will be used purchase two medical bags for the Fire Department and safety gear for NBEMA members, such as jackets and shirts.

Anderson said the medical bags will contain first aid equipment to respond to medical calls when the ambulance is out of town.

### Mad Brook bridge

Representatives from BSC Group said the application has been submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation for the Mad Brook bridge project, and it has been returned with comments. BSC Group has addressed the comments and is preparing to resubmit the application to MassDOT.

The cost of the project is estimated at around \$1.5 million. The town could apply for grants to help cover the cost.

A representative from BSC Groups said he hopes to have the project fully funded by grants. He said sometimes if there is a shortfall, MassDOT will help provide additional funds.

### Appointments

Jason Benoit, Brian Hayes and Paul Benoit were appointed to the Fire/Highway Committee, bringing its membership up to five people.

Andrew Wiewel was appointed to the Parks and Recreation Committee.

### ARPA recommendation

The American Rescue Plan Act Committee submitted a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen, to pay \$18,242.51 for the repair and replacement of digital security cameras and associated systems at North Brookfield Public Schools. The board approved the recommendation.

### Annual town election

The annual town election will be held on May 6. There are open seats including one seat, Board of Selectmen (three-year term); two seats, School Committee (three-year terms); one seat, Water Commissioner (three-year term); one seat, Board of Assessors (three-year term); one seat, Board of Health (three-year term); one seat, Cemetery Commissioner (three-year term); three seats, Library Trustees (three-year terms); one seat, Housing Authority (five-year term); and one seat, Southern Worcester County Regional Vocational School Committee – Bay Path (three-year term).

If you are interested in running for any of these positions, please contact the Town Clerk for nomination papers.

### Correspondence

The board received a letter from the town of Hardwick, thanking the Fire Department for providing mutual aid to a structure fire on Feb. 9.

## HISTORICAL from page 1

ing and grazing, they unknowingly freed the rocks beneath the ground's surface from the bounds of the trees roots. Freezing pushes the rocks up toward the surface, at a rate of a half-inch every year.

"When they cleared the trees, the frost pushed them up," Paradise said of the rocks. "Settlers thought they were put here by the devil because there were so many...they just kept coming up every year."

Settlers began piling the rocks as they emerged from beneath the ground, forming many of the stone walls we still see today; making up the 250,000 miles of stone walls that cover New England. Stone wall building normally took place over two-to-three days in both the spring and the fall.

The oldest stone wall is found in Portland, Maine, dating back to 1607.

Paradise's interest in stone walls was piqued after reading a book written by University of Connecticut professor Robert M. Thorson titled "Stone by Stone".

A geologist, Thorson explores how the rocks were formed, how they reached the surface, and the cultural significance of stone walls, which took three billion man-hours to construct.

"I got this as a gift right after I moved to Sturbridge in 2002," Paradise said of the book. Paradise has since had the opportunity to meet with Thorson and learn more about stone walls.

Paradise explained that there are two basic shapes of stones; flat and round.

The flat stones are granite and have always been a part of the New England landscape. The rounds stones were brought here 25,000 years ago by glacial till.

"There are more stone walls in this area than the whole country," Paradise said.

Paradise said there are four common types of stone walls in the area, including lace, rubble, single stacked and double stacked.

Rubble walls are a linear pile of stones, often seen along the edge of roadways. These haphazard-looking walls had a split-rail fence placed on top, to keep livestock contained.

The split-rail fences didn't survive the elements, and now just the stones remain.

Single stacked walls featured a singular row of stones, and double stacked walls were filled with rubble stones and had capstones on top.

Lace walls were designed to keep sheep flocks from straying, featuring a rickety, rocking design that sheep didn't want to scale. With sheep being known for their climbing skills, farmers created a wall that would move when touched using small, round stones placed under the flat capstones.

These walls didn't require a lot of stones to build, and have many gaps you can see through, similar to a piece of lace.

Merino wool was a fast growing market in the 1800s, after Napoleon Bonaparte invaded Spain and discovered the country's prized flock. Soon, flocks found their way to New England, when 4,000 Merino sheep were imported to Vermont.

Their numbers reached over one million at one point, but the craze eventually died down, with a brief resurgence during the Civil War as Merino wool was popular in making military uniforms. The Merino sheep struggled to adapt to the harsh New England weather.

Paradise said Old Sturbridge Village has two flocks of sheep, including hybrid Merino sheep.

Lichen is a common feature found growing on stone walls, reaching an inch in size every century.

"Lichen stones are very valuable," Paradise said.

Many walls have large gaps built into them, called cow stiles, allowing sheep, sheep dogs, and people to pass through, but not larger animals like cows.

Cairns, or small piles of stones, are another formation you can find in the area, although they are a rarer sight. These cairns were built by surveyors.

"No surveyor will ever touch one of these things," Paradise said. "They're very rare."

In his exploration of the areas stone walls, Paradise has only found two cairns, with one being near Leadmine Road and the other along the Midstate Trail in Rutland.

State line markers can also be found in your search for stone walls.

### Upcoming programs

Sturbridge Historical Society meetings are held monthly, September through May, at the Publick House. Meetings are usually held on the third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m., and guests are always welcome.

All programs are free to attend, with refreshments and meeting room donated by the proprietors of the Publick House.

Membership to the Sturbridge Historical Society is \$10 a year and helps to defray the cost of programs and speakers.

Upcoming programs include "The Manufacture of Under Hammer Guns in 18<sup>th</sup> Century Sturbridge" with Don Arnold, Charlie Blanchard and Doug Quigley on March 28 at 7 p.m.; "Sturbridge in the Civil War" with Wally Hersee on April 25 at 7 p.m.; "The Publick House's Role in World War II" on May 23 at 7 p.m.; and a walking tour of the Sturbridge Common led by Sandra Gibson-Quigley on June 8 starting at 9 a.m.

For more information and upcoming programs, follow Sturbridge Historical Society on Facebook.

*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.**

**FOR RENT**

**Quabbin Estates**  
41 Church Lane, Wheelwright, MA 01094

Accepting applications for immediate occupation. 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




**"Join the team that does more by 9am than some do all day!"**



Train now to a new career in 6 weeks. High hourly wages and generous bonus program. Van work available too!

Call or text 774-200-6762 or email jobs@mccarthybus.com to apply



**J.P. McCarthy & Sons**  
WWW.MCCARTHYBUS.COM

# - sturbridge -

## Maple Days underway at Old Sturbridge Village



STURBRIDGE – Old Sturbridge Village is open during the winter months with many seasonal programs and events each weekend with extended hours and the start of Maple Days.

Included with standard daytime admission on select dates in February and March, guests can see the entire sugar-making process,

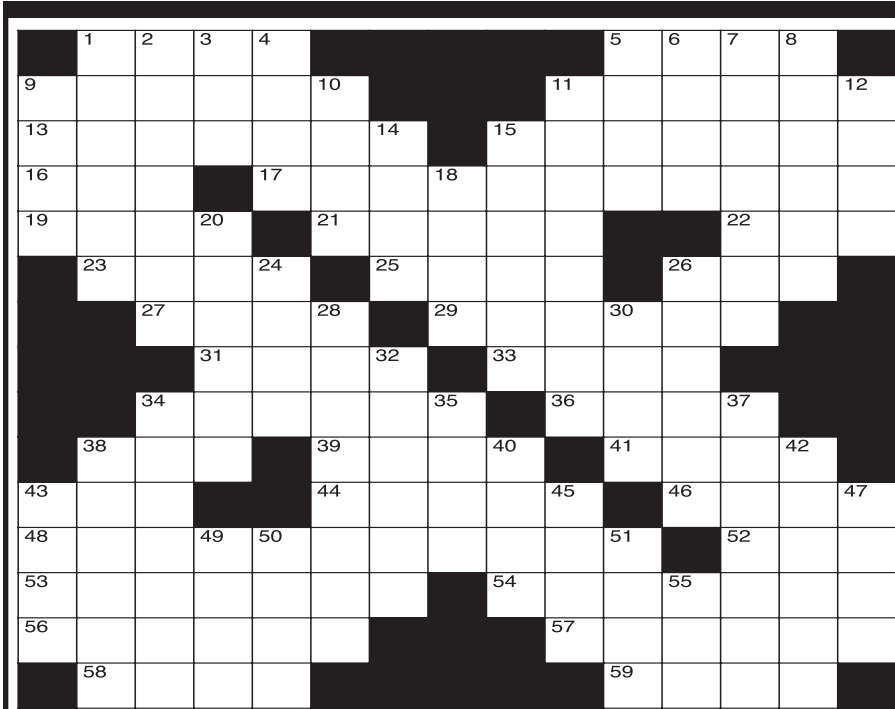
from tapping the trees to sugaring off, and learn why maple sugar was more commonly used than maple syrup in early New England. Costumed historians will also cook period foods made with maple products and the tinner and cooper will make maple-related items.

Maple Days are Friday through Sunday, Feb. 23 through March 17

from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Guests are encouraged to reserve tickets online and in advance for their date of arrival.

Tickets and more information can be found online: <https://www.osv.org/event/maple-days/>.

On Saturdays and Sundays during Maple Days, Ox & Yoke Café is offering a special Waffle Bar, featuring made-to-order waffles and a variety of toppings to create your own delicious masterpiece. The Waffle Bar is open on select days from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.



**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Chaps
- 5. Currently fashionable
- 9. Collision
- 11. More slim
- 13. European city
- 15. Implicitly
- 16. The side of something that is sheltered from the wind
- 17. The Mount Rushmore State
- 19. Gold or silver wire cord
- 21. Muscles along insects' diaphragm
- 22. Trent Reznor's band
- 23. Sweet juicy gritty-textured fruit
- 25. Broken branch
- 26. Indicates ten
- 27. Expression of

- annoyance
- 29. Brings together
- 31. Ancient city in Thrace
- 33. Sailors' spirit
- 34. Looked into
- 36. Muckraking woman
- 38. A type of cast
- 39. One's responsibility
- 41. Where golfers begin
- 43. Make a mistake
- 44. Semitic Sun god
- 46. Ancient Italian-Greek colony
- 48. Beheaded
- 52. A place to stay
- 53. Unwise
- 54. Most supernatural
- 56. "Dennis" is a famous one

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Baseball managers assemble it
- 2. Revised
- 3. Mountain is a popular kind
- 4. Takes to civil court
- 5. Pouches
- 6. A type of veil
- 7. Chants
- 8. Boston hoopster
- 9. Elongated appendage
- 10. Sailboat
- 11. 2017 Oscar-winning film
- 12. Actor Gosling
- 14. Monetary units
- 15. Assembly
- 18. Russian pop duo
- 20. Embellished with expressions
- 24. Infrequent
- 26. Temperature unit
- 28. Hydrophilic amino acid
- 30. Honk
- 32. Legislative body
- 34. Swinish
- 35. Russian assembly
- 37. Take over for
- 38. Put in advance
- 40. Satisfy
- 42. Felt
- 43. Dutch cheese
- 45. Witnesses
- 47. Strong insects
- 49. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
- 50. Ancient people of Scotland
- 51. Cheerless
- 55. Sick



**Nobody dreams of having multiple sclerosis**

Some dreams are universal: hitting a ball over the Green Monster; winning the World Series with a grand slam in the bottom of the ninth inning. Finding out you have MS is not one of them.

Multiple sclerosis is a devastating disease of the central nervous system where the body's immune system attacks the insulation surrounding the nerves. It strikes adults in the prime of life - and changes lives forever.

To help make the dream of ending MS come true, call 1-800-FIGHT MS or visit us online at [nationalmssociety.org](http://nationalmssociety.org).



**LOCAL KETONE PROMOTER**  
**Call For Information**  
**413-813-2391**  
*Leave Message*  
 Check Out Facebook at **Denise Dubowski**  
**Save Up To 25% OFF Retail Prices**

# - community -

## MARKET from page 1

wall has been coming to the Winter Market since its inception and the Summer Market for many years. Representing the farm is John Thompson.

And, why not? Thompson's Maple Farm is as local as it gets. Thompson growing up in North Brookfield, moved as part of the family to their land in New Braintree around 2000.

The maple operation could be said to have evolved, once begun, on an ad hoc basis.

In 2003, the Thompsons tapped a few of their own trees to satisfy curiosity, and for their own needs. The experiment worked and the business grew.

They would tap neighbors' trees in trade for syrup.

A new evaporator would be added, more evolution. The vacuum pump, to draw sap through the hoses from the trees, was next. Understandable, as there are around 1,200 taps now.

In what would be a departure, the family had an ice cream maker and Thompson would concoct some and thus, ice cream would grow into part of the business.

The ice cream biz is not a family dairy operation, but relies on milk products from Cooper's Hilltop Farm in Leicester.

That said, just about all the other ice cream ingredients rely on inputs grown on farm. Raspberries, strawberries, blackberries, and peaches are from family bushes, plants or trees.

Other ingredients are traded for with neighbors bartering ice cream or maple products. Thompson's Maple Farm has products with sweetness folks crave.

Around 2014, the Thompsons started showing up at farmers markets and events. There are the above-mentioned West Brookfield venues, but you can find Thompson's Maple at Sturbridge and Brimfield.

You can also run into them at the West Brookfield Asparagus Festival and the Sturbridge Harvest Festival and at other holiday fairs. Thompson has also been up at Farmer Matt's for some evening events.

That does not mean nothing is happening at the farm itself as regards visitors. This year, on March 16 and 17 the public is welcome to come up to 377 Dennis Whitney Road, New Braintree, for Massachusetts Maple Producers Association's 2024 Maple Weekend from 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

At the farm you can try some freshly made maple syrup right out of the new evaporator, and take a tour of their sugarhouse. They will also have the rest of the maple products and homemade ice cream for sale and to sample.

In the words of the late Jackie Gleason, "How sweet it is!"

### Elzire's Acre Goat Milk Soap

Making a right turn at the corner of the church, there is Chad Steiner tending to the table of Elzire's Acre Goat Milk Soap.

Why goat milk soap?

The short answer comes in a farm motto that is a play on words, and avers you can "Feel Like a Kid Again."

A longer answer is provided by the many testimonials at the Elzire's Acre website.

Vendors at farmers markets are there often because something unique occurred. So, it is with El-



Chad Steiner of Elzire's Acre Goat Milk Soap.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY RICHARD MURPHY

zire's Acre. How did it happen?

Terri, Chad's wife, made kefir, a fermented milk drink with a sour taste, produced using a culture of yeasts and bacteria. A problem was the cow's milk drink disagreed with her.

She made the suggestion, "We should think about getting a couple of goats."

Does that not sound like a life changing idea?

A couple of goats is not the same as getting a couple of puppies or kittens. One must invest in fencing and housing and other expenses. That would lead Chad to suggest to Terri that making the investment pay might be a good idea.

From the name of the enterprise, it is obvious that they did not go into the kefir biz.

Chad generously complimented Terri's work in researching and developing the soapmaking.

Elzire's Acre Goat Milk Soap's farm is located in Princeton, though Chad, a Saint Louis native, was raised nearby in Warren. Terri's childhood home was not too far away in Leicester.

The herd has grown and now is comprised of five does, one happy buck, two recently born kids with two more pregnancies.

Chad has a superpower, and that is naming newborn goats. He names them as they are born. That does not mean it is without complications.

Goats can have multiple pregnancies and sometimes not all survive. As they are named at birth, dealing with the sadness takes some getting used to.

Still, the soap and goats are

their life.

Elzire's Acre fits in well at the West Brookfield markets as they seek to form partnerships with other vendors. For example, with Farm 46 for lard and Kelly Homestead Apiary for beeswax.

The soap is not wrapped in paper or plastic, but Biolefin, a completely biodegradable material.

Chad wants to give everyone the best experience ever. He was kind enough to give me one of the varieties of soap with the name Once Upon a Full Moon which my wife used both in the shower and for handwashing.

New to the goat milk soap experience, she reported it, "gentle and not overly sudsy, with a subtle fragrance. A good alternative to bar soap and body wash."

Elzire's Acre will be at several markets this summer, such as Charlton, Sturbridge, Shrewsbury, Billerica, Natick, Medford and Attleboro.

They will also be back in West Brookfield in summer.

The website is <https://getgoat-soap.com/> with a lot of information and a link to the interesting story of the origin of the Elzire name.

## Baystate Wing Hospital Auxiliary seeks scholarship applicants

PALMER – The Baystate Wing Hospital Auxiliary is making scholarship applications available for the 2023-24 academic year.

The Auxiliary will award scholarships of \$1,000 to seniors graduating from Belchertown, Ludlow, Monson, Palmer, Pathfinder, Minnechaug, and Ware High Schools who are pursuing higher education in a healthcare field. The students will be chosen based on their academic excellence, volunteer efforts and related community service, work experience, and dedication to their goals.

Applications and instructions for completing the application forms are available in each school's guidance department and must be completed and submitted by April 12. The Auxiliary Scholarship Committee will select student recipients and recommend them to the Auxiliary board for final approval.

Throughout the years, a wide variety of healthcare fields have been represented by area students who have received these scholarships, including premedical, dental hygiene, health system management, nursing, pharmacy, and radiology.

"Growing careers in healthcare is now more important than ever," said Evelyn Glabicky, president of the Baystate Wing Auxiliary in a press release. "We are so proud when we hear from our former scholarship recipients who are now providing healthcare throughout the region and Massachusetts."

For over 65 years, the Auxiliary has been actively supporting Baystate Wing Hospital through its sponsorship of special events and management of the gift shop. This diverse group of women and men includes teachers, nurses, and business owners, both young and retirees, who live in many different communities and are united by a shared commitment to support the mission of the hospital.

"We are thankful to the Auxiliary members for their continued commitment and support to our hospital and the many communities we serve," said Teresa Grove, philanthropy officer for Baystate Health's Eastern Region.

**LOCAL BUSINESS**

**ADVERTISING SPECIALS**

CONTACT US TODAY FOR DETAILS

NEWS

12 HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS

[www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com) • 413.283.8393

**LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET!**    **INFLATION**    **PRICE BUSTERS**    **PRICES IN RED ARE AT OR BELOW LAST YEAR'S PRICES!**

USDA INSP. BONE-IN CHULETA KAN KAN ..... <b>\$3<sup>99</sup></b> lb USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS PORK BUTT STRIPS ..... <b>\$2<sup>99</sup></b> lb USDA INSP. FROZEN BONE-IN CENTER-CUT PORK LOIN CHOPS ..... <b>\$2<sup>49</sup></b> lb SLICED IN OUR DELI TURKEY BREAST ..... <b>\$3<sup>99</sup></b> lb USDA INSP. FRESH SOUP (FOWL) CHICKEN ..... <b>\$1<sup>49</sup></b> lb USDA INSP. FROZEN HOG MAW (PORK STOMACH) ..... <b>\$2<sup>99</sup></b> lb USDA INSP. FROZEN BEEF SOUP BONES ..... <b>\$2<sup>29</sup></b> lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF RIB EYE CUT FREE ..... <b>\$8<sup>29</sup></b> lb USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF SHORT RIBS ..... <b>\$8<sup>88</sup></b> lb USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY 80% LEAN GROUND BEEF ..... <b>\$3<sup>66</sup></b> lb USDA INSP. FROZEN CORNED BEEF ..... <b>\$1<sup>99</sup></b> lb USDA INSP. FROZEN 1/2 TURKEY BREAST ..... <b>\$1<sup>29</sup></b> lb USDA INSP. 12 OZ BAG ORANGE ROUGHY FILLET ..... <b>\$2<sup>99</sup></b> ea USDA INSP. FROZEN TRADE WINDS CALAMARI TUBE & TENTACLES 2 LB BOX ..... <b>\$6<sup>99</sup></b> ea USDA INSP. FROZEN 21/25 CT. COOKED SHRIMP 1 LB BAG ..... <b>\$6<sup>99</sup></b> ea	<b>90 Meat Outlet</b> 90 Avocado St. Springfield 413-737-1288 www.90meat.com We reserve the right to limit quantities. HOURS: Mon. - Wed. 8-4 Thurs. 8-6 • Fri. 8-6 • Sat. 8-3
--	--	--

SALE DATES: 3/7/24-3/13/24    BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE

# - community -

## Zonta Club is accepting scholarship applications

The Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley is now accepting applications for Zonta International's Young Women in Public Affairs Award.

This scholarship is open to a young woman (ages 16-19) who has demonstrated leadership skills and commitment to public service and civic causes.

Deadline is March 8.

The Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley is also accepting applications for Zonta International's Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship.

Women of any age, pursuing a business program with major field of specialization in accounting, economics, finance, business management, business technology, information technology, marketing, operations management, human resources management, international business or entrepreneurship at an accredited university/college/institute, who demonstrate outstanding potential in the field and are living or studying in a Zonta district/region, are eligible.

Deadline is June 15.

For details about either of these scholarships, visit the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley's website at [www.zontaqv.org/scholarships](http://www.zontaqv.org/scholarships).

## Fine art sought for 'Celebrating the Figure' at ArtWorks Gallery

WARE – ArtWorks Gallery invites artists from throughout the northeastern U.S. to celebrate the human figure in the upcoming 3rd Annual Celebrating the Figure exhibition.

As in previous years, this show focuses on the realistic interpretation of the human figure and is open to all forms of applied mediums, sculpture, and printmaking. Photography and electronic media are not accepted mediums for this exhibition.

The deadline for entry is Thursday, March 7, by midnight. The entry form and full details can be found on [workshop13.org](http://workshop13.org).

ArtWorks Gallery is located at 69 Main St. The 3rd Annual Celebrating the Figure exhibition will be on display from April 6-28, opening with a reception on Saturday, April 6, from 3-5 p.m.

Gallery hours are Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m. Currently on display is All Things Animal, which is on display from March 2-30 and opens with a reception on Saturday, March 2, from 3-5 p.m.

The juror for the 3rd Annual Celebrating the Figure exhibition is Jeff Stauder. Stauder was born in Cambridge and raised in eastern Connecticut.

He received a bachelor's degree in art from the University of California at Santa Cruz and a master's degree from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, where he won the 1996 Dana Pond Painting Award.

Following graduate school Stauder moved to New York City where among other things, he created the Artists Theoretical Racing Circuit, a collaborative conceptual art project. He moved to

Please see **ARTWORKS**, page 11



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Even during the pandemic, Scouts BSA Troop 163 continued to grow.

### TROOP 163 from page 1

ing ready to start as soon as February of 2019 came around," said Troop 163 Scoutmaster Chrissy.

The troop started with seven Scouts and eight adult volunteers. It was the first in the area and the first troop to submit their charter paperwork with the Heart of New England Council.

The very first youth members of the troop came from all over, primarily Sturbridge but there were some from Brookfield, one from Charlton, and even one Scout coming all the way from Fitchburg.

"It was a bit of a misunderstanding," said Erin the troop's first Eagle Scout. "I thought Chrissy said Sterling not Sturbridge."

Erin and Chrissy knew each other through Scouts, as Erin was a youth and Chrissy an Associate Advisor in Crew 1 based in Gardner.

"I was just excited to be joining a troop, I think I would have traveled even further, but was happy it was only an hour away," Erin said.

Much like the Scouts, the leaders came from all over as well, most from Sturbridge, but some of the committee came from Winchendon and Fitchburg.

During their first year the troop grew from seven to 10 Scouts and had nine adult volunteers. They went to summer camp, at Camp Wanocksett in Dublin, New Hampshire, attended the American Legion Camporee, registered as a Scouts for Equality Unit, earned 35 merit badges, 22 ranks, performed over 100 community service hours, participated in over 25 nights of camping, and became a Gold Level unit under the Journey to Excellence standards.

JTE standards measure program opportunities, membership growth, leader training, and committee commitment.

Flash forward to this year, when the troop celebrated its 5<sup>th</sup> birthday and the accomplishments of their Scouts during that time. There was food, entertainment, guest speakers and a presentation.

Ranks and badges were presented to Scouts along with a special recognition of those who were founding members of the troop. It all concluded with a big cake, a troop version of "most likely to," a slide show, and lots of laughs.

The troop has grown to 19 Scouts and 15 adult volunteers. They're still a regional troop with Scouts coming from Sturbridge and the surrounding towns but also Worcester, Douglas, and Monson.

In total they have earned over 375 merit badges, over 150 ranks, participated in close to 1,000 community service hours, over 130 camping nights, earned JTE Gold every year, and that's on top of all the other stuff they do. It has produced four Eagle Scouts; another had just recently completed their project and there are two more in the early stages of project planning.

Members of the troop have served on staff at the National Scout Jamboree and the World Scout Jamboree. They have staffed council and district events; several Scouts are on camp staff and some will be Counselors in Training this summer and many go to summer camp for multiple weeks.

Twelve members of the troop are members of the Order of the Arrow, Scouting's National Honor Society, two have attended the National Order of the Arrow Conference. Nine of their adults have taken Wood Badge, which is an advanced leadership training and seven of their adults also have roles beyond the troop serving the district, council and/or section within the BSA.

Coming up this summer two of them are heading to Boulder, Colorado for the National Order of the Arrow Conference, one is heading to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico for a weeklong backpacking trek and twenty-four are heading to the Florida Keys in 2025 for a weeklong ocean adventure which includes snorkeling, ocean kayaking, paddle boarding, fishing, and more.

They have been deep sea fishing, rock climbing,



Boy Scouts of America welcomed females into its Cub Scout and Scouts BSA programs starting with Cub Scouts in 2018.

ice climbing; had paint nights, gone bowling, been indoor skydiving. They've visited the State Police for a tour and chat about drugs and internet safety, the Sturbridge Police came to a meeting to teach them basic self-defense strategies and maneuvers, a counselor came to speak to them about dating and healthy relationships.

"The Scouting program is so much more than ranks, badges, and camping. There are so many opportunities out there for them to participate in. We can't do it all but it's not up to me to limit their opportunities. I want them to experience as much as possible, and it's up to us as leaders to show them how much is available to them," said Chrissy. "Scouting is so much more than a troop meeting, it's literally a worldwide movement. This year some of our Scouts are hoping to participate in JOTA/I (Jamboree over the Air/Internet) where Scouts from all over the world connect via the internet and Hamm radios participating in various activities and events, that's so awesome!"

As with anything there are good times and then there are the not so good times. Recruitment, membership growth and finding adults to volunteer is always challenging.

The biggest challenge to date was COVID. It forced a patrol based, outdoor focused program to rethink and adapt to a new way of doing things.

Several units stopped meeting, and many saw a drop in membership.

"No way was I going to let that (COVID) stop us, we just got started. We always joke about their being 26 letters in the alphabet, if plan A fails, try plan B, C, and right on down the line," Chrissy said.

The troop did just that and ended up welcoming seven new Scouts to the troop during and shortly after the lockdown.

"We just kept on going, as safely as possible," Chrissy explained.

They created guidelines for meetings and activities, the BSA adapted and modified requirements to meet the needs of a lock down, and the troop kept going. They got creative with their fundraising coming up with a drive through baked potato bar, rather than having in person dinners, used online meeting platforms, and met outdoors rather than indoors for meetings.

What's their key to success? It's several things: keep it fun, make it meaningful, everything is a learning opportunity whether they realize it or not.

Kalea, current Junior Assistant Scoutmaster, reflected on her time in the troop.

"Through Scouts, I have learned confidence and how to work as a team. In my troop there have been challenges, such as teaching knots. These have helped to shape me into someone who can work with anything thrown my way," she said.

"Scouting has opened up many opportunities and activities that I would have never done otherwise," said Peyton, Troop 163's most recent Eagle Scout.

"Joining the troop has helped me and the other members of the troop become better leaders," said Ali, current Assistant Senior Patrol Leader.

Troop 163 meets most Sunday nights from 4-6 p.m. and is open to any female age 11-17. A few of their upcoming events include a 21+ Dinner and Music event on March 22 from 6-10 p.m., a Waffle Dinner on April 18 from 6-8 p.m., their next can drive is June 2 from noon-3:30 p.m.

If you'd like more information on the troop, their fundraisers, or on how to join contact Chrissy by email at [ChrissyCSM163@gmail.com](mailto:ChrissyCSM163@gmail.com) or head over to their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/troop163sturbridge>.



sports@turley.com

@turleysports

facebook.com/turleysports

# SPORTS

## Warriors break away from Dennis-Yamouth

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

FIKSDALE—For the third consecutive year, the Tantasqua Lady Warriors celebrated a home victory in the Division 3 round of 32 state tournament game.

Led by senior Gabby Scanlon, who scored a game-high 22 points, the 13th-seeded Lady Warriors advanced into the round of 16 with a 47-38 win over the 20th-seeded Dennis-Yarmouth Dolphins before a large crowd, last Friday night.

“Gabby is a very good basketball player and she’s also a very good leader,” said Tantasqua girls’ varsity basketball coach Andrew Haley. “She didn’t score very many points in the first half, but she made

some big baskets for us in the second half. In my opinion, she was the best player in our league this year.”

The home victory improved Tantasqua’s overall record to 18-4.

During the past two years, the Lady Warriors season came to an end against Dover Sherborn in the round of 16. The two teams didn’t face each other in this year’s round of 16.

“I’m very glad that we don’t have to go to Dover Sherborn again,” Haley said. “We lost to them in the round of 16 the past two years.”

Instead, the Lady Warriors played against fourth-seeded Hanover in a round of 16 road game on Monday night.

Please see **WARRIORS**, page 10



Nicki Vejak holds the ball up looking to make her next move.



Maya Gidopoulos sends a pass inside the paint.

## Panthers suffer loss in first state tourney game

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

EAST BRIDGEWATER—When the MIAA announced the pairings for the girls’ basketball tournament pairings on February 24, there were 40 teams trying to capture the Division 3 state championship title. One of those teams was Quabbin Regional.

Since losing back-to-back games at the beginning of January, the Lady Panthers entered the state tournament having won nine of their previous ten games.

The Lady Panthers, who entered the state tournament as the 18th-seeded team, season came to an end following a 43-31 road loss to 15th-seeded East Bridgewater in a round

of 32 contest, last Wednesday night.

“I thought if we could hold them around 40 points, we would have a very good chance of winning the game,” said Quabbin head coach Evan Barringer. “We played very well defensively, but we just didn’t make a lot of our shots. We also missed a lot of free throws. If we faced them five times, the series would probably be tied 2-2 entering the fifth game. I really wish that we could play them again.”

The Lady Panthers, who’ll be losing four outstanding players, finished the 2023-24 campaign with a 16-5 overall record. It’s also the third

Please see **PANTHERS**, page 10



Lola Sukharev takes a three-point shot.



Angie Fritze makes her way down the court, eyeing a teammate to pass to.



Sophia Dufresne is pressured toward the sideline.



Micalia Ayala tries to shoot in traffic.



Olivia Holmes goes after a rebound.

## N. Brookfield gets win to start states

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Last Tuesday night, North Brookfield girls basketball was able to pull out a win in the preliminary round of the Division 5 state tournament. The Indians defeated Edward Kennedy Academy 49-43 to start the tournament season. North Brookfield was scheduled to face Renaissance of Western Mass. in the next round.

## Pathfinder ousted from tournament by Ware

WARE – Last Tuesday night, Ware girls basketball scored a win in the opener of the Division 5 state tournament over neighbor Pathfinder 41-22. The Pioneers would struggle on offense, falling behind 13-0 before finally scoring in the second quarter. Ware had no trouble keeping its lead from that point. Amelia Orszulak and Reese McKeever had eight points each to lead Ware. Megan Clark and Greenly Lagimoniere led Pathfinder with seven points each. Pathfinder’s season finished at 11-8 while Ware moved on to play Palmer in the Round of 32.



Victoria Stephens splits the Lady Indians’ defense.



Desiree Croteau drives to mid court.



The rebounders, Addison Doktor, Megan Clark, and Greenly Lagimoniere gang up under the net.



Taylor Allen fires up a bank shot.



Clara Green brings the ball down court.

# - Sports -

## Registration now open for Quabbin Valley baseball

The Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League is looking to infuse new talent into its league for the 2024 season.

Registration for the 2024 season is now open and any interested players can go to [www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org](http://www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org) to get registered, or to seek more information or make inquiries about the league. The league website will also be updated over the next month with information about the upcoming

season.

There are many open roster spots available in the league for the 2024 season, which is tentatively scheduled to begin on Sunday, April 21. The league plays most Sunday from late April through late August with playoffs following that. The league plays a 15-game schedule and typically fields six teams each year. Games are usually played at 10 a.m. with fields in Easthampton and

South Hadley normally used.

The Quabbin Valley league is an all-abilities league and all are welcome to join. Eligibility is players who are age 28 and over. You must be 30 to be eligible to pitch in the league. Your age for eligibility is whatever age you will turn in 2024. The league is also able to entertaining taking in an entire group as a team to add to the league. Please email the league board for to inquire

about entering a team.

The league is currently in the process of preparing for the 2024 season and held a meeting on Feb. 18 to discussion plans for the upcoming season. The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday March 24 at 11:40 a.m. at the Hangar Pub & Grill in South Hadley. All are welcome to attend the meeting, ask questions and express interest in joining.

### WARRIORS from page 8

Hanover defeated Saint Paul Diocesan of Worcester, 38-13, in the round of 32.

Scanlon is one of the Lady Warriors senior tri-captains, who played a home basketball game for the final time. The other two Tantasqua seniors are Nicki Vejack (5 points) and Riley West.

"This is a very good way for our three seniors to go out in their final home game," Haley said. "There were a lot of people here for tonight's game."

Scanlon, who has scored more than 300 points this season, made 12 of her 14 free throw attempts against the Dolphins (16-6).

The three Lady Warriors players who finished the round of 32 game with six points are junior Maya Gidopoulos, junior Maggie Johnson, and sophomore Sophie Webb. Sophomore Sophia Ezzo made an inside hoop at the start of the fourth quarter, which was her only basket of the game.

Webb suffered a right ankle injury with 3:57 left in the third quarter and had to be carried off the court. She sat on the bench for the rest of the game.

"Not having Sophie on the court is a massive loss for us. We're hoping that it's not a serious injury," Haley said. "We did face a lot of adversity in tonight's game, but the girls never folded."

Neither team scored very many points during the first eight minutes of



Gabby Scanlon heads into the arc.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

the contest.

Tantasqua's only points of the first quarter were a Johnson lay-up and a Scanlon made free throw.

It gave the home team a 3-1 advantage entering the second stanza.

The Lady Warriors made four 3-pointers in the second quarter, which helped them hold onto the lead.

Webb made two 3-pointers, while Scanlon and Gidopoulos made the other two shots from beyond the arc.

Webb's made her second 3-pointer with 40 seconds remaining in the first



Sophie Ezzo takes a shot near the free throw line.

half, which sent her team into the locker room holding a 17-9 lead.

With the help of a 13-4 run, the Dolphins took the lead for the first time at 22-21 following a jumper from the top of the key by senior Chloe Azoff (13 points) with 2:39 left in the third quarter.

Senior Jaylene Pires also scored 13 points for the visiting team from Cape Cod. Junior Siena Lauze added nine points.

The Lady Warriors quickly retook the lead when Scanlon made a pair of free throws.

After Dennis-Yarmouth made a free



Maggie Johnson looks to recover and shoot.

throw, Gidopoulos banked home a jump shot and Scanlon made two more foul shots giving the home team a 27-23 lead entering the final quarter.

The Dolphins did close the gap to 27-26 before the Lady Warriors put-together a 19-7 run.

Scanlon scored ten of those points, which helped the Lady Warriors build a double digit lead (46-33) for the first time.

The Lady Warriors had a couple of days off before making a long trip to Eastern Mass to play Hanover in the round of 16.

### PANTHERS from page 8

time that Quabbin lost in the round of 32 since the postseason format was changed in 2021.

A year ago, Quabbin celebrated a 62-49 home win over Lowell Catholic in a preliminary round home game before losing at third-seeded Bishop Fenwick in the round of 32.

The Lady Panthers lost to ninth-seeded Old Rochester on the road in the round of 32 in the 2022 state tournament.

"This was probably the first winnable round of 32 game that we've played in the state tournament," Barringer said. "You just have to give East Bridgewater a lot of credit because they made the plays. This loss doesn't take away anything that we've accomplished this year. I'm proud of my kids."

The Lady Panthers probably wouldn't have won 16 games or the Central Mass. Athletic Directors Association Class B championship without the services of Meg Doyle, Brianna Whitlaw, Riley Bassett, or Hannah Baxter. The foursome were starters and team captains this winter.

"The four seniors are incredibly special people to me," Barringer said. "They changed the culture of the Quabbin girls' basketball team. It's not only about the victories, which are awesome, but it's about the way that we do things now. I really don't want to think about next year yet, but you can't replace players like them."

Doyle, who'll be wrapping up her high school athletic career on the softball diamond this spring, scored seven

points in her final basketball game. Whitlaw and Baxter scored six points each, while Bassett finished with three points.

The Lady Panthers other starter was sophomore Mia Ducos, who scored seven points in the round of 32 contest.

"This was an amazing season and I'm sad that it has come to an end," Ducos said. "I've been playing basketball with the four seniors for a very long time and I'm going miss them a lot. I hope we're able to qualify for the state tournament again next year."

Almost half of the East Bridgewater High School gymnasium was filled with Quabbin supporters.

About 40 students, along with the cheerleading squad, made the two hour trip from Barre by bus.

"It was incredible to have that many of our fans come watch us play a road game," Barringer said. "The entire school community has supported these kids this year. We really appreciate their support."

A Bassett put-back hoop gave the Lady Panthers the lead for the first time at 6-5 with 3:20 left in the first quarter.

After the Lady Vikings retook the lead, Doyle, who scored more than 200 points as a senior, hit a base-line jumper giving the visiting team the lead back for the final time.

It did remain a close game for the first four minutes of the second stanza.

A Ducos jumper from the left side tied the score, 12-12, with 4:05 remaining in the first half.

The Lady Vikings (15-8), who were scheduled to face second-seeded Nor-

well in the round of 16, scored the final seven points of the second quarter. Eighth grader Jackie Pohl scored five of her seven points during that span.

East Bridgewater, who held a 19-12 lead at the break, leading scorer was senior Shania Gardner (16 points). Freshman Jenna Oman contributed with ten points.

With 5:50 left in the third quarter, Whitlaw buried a 3-pointer from the right corner closing the gap to 21-17.

The Lady Vikings responded with an 11-4 run and entered the final eight minutes of the round of 32 contest holding a 32-21 lead.

The Lady Panthers, who only made two field goals during the final quarter, couldn't make a comeback.

The other members of the 2023-24 Quabbin girls' varsity basketball team were junior Brooke Austin (2 points), Leanna Leger, junior MK Kingbury, junior Ana Dunn, sophomore Aubrey Thorpe, and freshman Abby Rogowski.

## Pioneers 2024 schedule released

LUDLOW – Earlier this week, the Western Mass. Pioneers have released their 2024 schedule. It includes potential participation in the U.S. Open Cup, which begins on March 19. The Pioneers have won an Open Cup match in the past. Later, the Pioneers have their "friendly" exhibition game scheduled for May 10. They will face 3rd Eye FC prior to the start of their USL-2 League schedule. Their opener for the regular season is against the Boston Bolts on the road May 14. Their home opener is scheduled for May 18 against Pathfinder FC of New York. The schedule continues through July 13 and includes a total of 14 games.

## Thunderbirds suffer loss to Islanders

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (25-24-3-2) could not overcome a 3-0 hole in the opening period as the Bridgeport Islanders (18-29-6-1) skated off as 4-1 winners at the MassMutual Center on Sunday before a seventh straight sellout crowd of 6,793.

Not even a minute into the festivities, both Sam Bitten & Will Bitten got the Thunderdome engaged in the game with a pair of fighting majors in bouts against Seth Helgeson and Eetu Liukas

respectively. However, the Islanders held a sizable edge in offensive zone time, and that translated into an early lead for the visitors.

At the 9:10 mark, Ruslan Iskhakov artfully slipped the puck to Matt Maggio in the left-wing circle, where the rookie swiftly moved the puck from backhand to forehand and uncorked a perfect wrist shot under the crossbar past Colten Ellis

Please see **THUNDERBIRDS**, page 11

# - Police/Fire -

## East Brookfield Police Log

During the week of Feb. 26-March 3, the East Brookfield Police Department responded to 220 building/property checks, 105 directed area patrols, five traffic controls, 13 radar assignments, six emergency 911 calls, three complaints, three citizen assists, two assist other agencies, two motor vehicle investigations, five safety hazards, one animal call and 59 motor vehicle stops in the town of East Brookfield.

### Monday, Feb. 26

3:29 a.m. Parking Complaint, East Main Street, Written Warning  
5:42 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Po-dunk Road, Citation Issued

### Tuesday, Feb. 27

1:48 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, North Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital  
6:54 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Unknown, Investigated  
11:12 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Out of Town, Unknown Outcome  
11:44 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Arrest(s) Made  
12:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Route 49, Citation Issued

4:09 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation Issued  
4:51 p.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Officer Handled  
5:09 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Po-dunk Road, Arrest(s) Made

### Wednesday, Feb. 28

12:51 p.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Officer Handled  
1:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued  
1:25 p.m. Assist Citizen, Unknown, Spoken To  
1:51 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, North Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital  
2:03 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Baker Hill Road, Officer Handled  
2:57 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued  
3:09 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued

### Thursday, Feb. 29

3:08 a.m. Safety Hazard, Adams Road, Officer Handled  
6:48 a.m. Safety Hazard, East Main Street, Taken/Referred to Other Agency  
8:22 a.m. Safety Hazard, Lakeview

Avenue, Taken/Referred to Other Agency  
8:43 a.m. Safety Hazard, Park Street, Taken/Referred to Other Agency  
9:52 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Phone Call, Officer Handled  
3:52 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued  
4:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Written Warning  
4:46 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Cottage Street, Citation Issued  
5:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued  
6:08 p.m. Safety Hazard, Park Street, Services Rendered

### Friday, March 1

11:46 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Arrest(s) Made  
1:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Arrest(s) Made  
4:33 p.m. 911 Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Adams Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency  
8:41 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Route 49, Citation Issued  
8:57 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Po-dunk Road, Citation Issued  
9:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East

Main Street, Citation Issued  
10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued  
10:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Route 49, Citation Issued  
11:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Route 49, Citation Issued

### Saturday, March 2

4:06 a.m. Parking Complaint, East Main Street, Written Warning

### Sunday, March 3

8:38 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued  
8:45 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Prospect Street, Transported to Hospital  
12:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued  
2:09 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued  
4:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation Issued  
4:46 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Route 49, Citation Issued  
7:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued  
7:53 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

## New Braintree Police Log

During the weeks of Feb. 19-March 4, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 27 building/property checks, 47 directed area patrols, 14 traffic controls, one radar assignment, six emergency 911 calls, four citizen assists, three assist other agencies, six safety hazards, four animal calls and nine motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

### Monday, Feb. 19

5:09 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Cut Off Road, Citation Issued  
6:43 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

### Wednesday, Feb. 20

8:28 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Barre Road, Services Rendered

### Thursday, Feb. 21

7:03 p.m. Welfare Check, Unitas Road, Arrest(s) Made

### Friday, Feb. 22

12:09 p.m. Carbon Monoxide Alarm, North Brookfield Road, Services Rendered  
1:34 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Services Rendered  
6:13 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Bernard Whitney Road, Officer Handled

### Sunday, Feb. 23

5:03 p.m. Medical Emergency, Tucker Road, Transported to Hospital

### Monday, Feb. 26

1:22 p.m. 911 Disturbance, Sibley Road, Officer Handled  
1:49 p.m. 911 Welfare Check, Barre Cut Off Road, Investigated

2:39 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

### Wednesday, Feb. 28

4:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old Turnpike Road, Citation Issued  
4:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Citation Issued  
10:16 p.m. Safety Hazard, Hardwick Road, Removed Hazard

### Thursday, Feb. 29

2:20 a.m. Safety Hazard, West Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency  
5:02 a.m. Safety Hazard, Gilbertville Road, Dispatch Handled  
7:17 a.m. Safety Hazard, West Brookfield Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency  
11:42 a.m. Safety Hazard, Padre Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency  
1:50 p.m. Safety Hazard, Webb Road, Removed Hazard

### Friday, March 1

7:27 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Services Rendered  
11:04 a.m. Medical Emergency, Memorial Drive, Transported to Hospital  
3:07 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

### Saturday, March 2

7:09 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old Turnpike Road, Citation Issued  
3:31 p.m. Welfare Check, West Road, Transported to Hospital

### Sunday, March 3

4:27 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning

## High levels of radon gas detected in 21.8% of Massachusetts homes

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer, and the "State of Lung Cancer" report reveals that it is detected at high levels in about 21.8% of homes in Massachusetts.

During January for National Radon Action Month, the American Lung Association in Massachusetts is urging everyone to help save lives by testing their home for radon and mitigating if high levels are detected.

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas emitted from the ground. Radon is odorless, tasteless and colorless, and can enter a home through cracks in floors, basement walls, foundations and other openings.

Radon can be present at high levels inside homes, schools and other buildings. It is responsible for an estimated 21,000 lung cancer deaths every year and is the leading cause of lung cancer in people who have never smoked.

Here in Massachusetts about 21.8% of radon test results equal or exceed the Environmental Protection Agency action level of 4 pCi/L, according to the Lung Association's "State of Lung Cancer" report.

"Radon in homes is more common than you think. In fact, high levels of radioactive radon gas have been found

in every state but most places in the country remain undertested, so this isn't something that should be taken lightly. Exposure to radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States," said Daniel Fitzgerald, director of advocacy for the Lung Association in a press release. "Testing for radon is the only way to know if the air in your home is safe. The good news is that it is easy to test. Do-it-yourself test kits are simple to use and inexpensive."

After high levels are detected, a radon professional should install a radon mitigation system, which is easy and relatively affordable. A typical radon mitigation system consists of a vent pipe, fan and properly sealing cracks and other openings.

This system collects radon gas from underneath the foundation and vents it to the outside. Contact your state radon program for a list of certified professionals in your state. Some state health departments offer financial assistance or low interest loans for radon mitigation.

Learn more about radon testing and mitigation at Lung.org/radon and take the Lung Association's free Radon Basics course at Lung.org/Radon-Basics.

### THUNDERBIRDS from page 10

to make it 1-0 for Bridgeport.

The penalty parade continued as two separate Springfield players were whistled for penalties just 45 seconds apart, opening the door for Bridgeport's power play. On the ensuing two-man advantage, Ellis made a save on an initial try by William Dufour, but Carsen Twarynski was positioned perfectly to slide the rebound home to make it a 2-0 score at 11:18.

In the final minute of the period, Brian Pinho further bolstered the Islander lead when he sidestepped a hit attempt before beating Ellis between the legs with a snapper at 19:23.

After being outshot 18-5 in the first, the T-Birds responded with some push-back in the second, but rookie Bridgeport goalie Henrik Tikkanen was steady in the crease. Mikhail Abramov finally dented the young goaltender at

12:11 when he deposited a loose puck in the blue paint after a Jakub Vrana slapper squeaked through Tikkanen's equipment. Abramov's second goal in as many days cut the margin to 3-1.

The T-Birds' best chance to get closer came in the middle portions of the third period, when back-to-back Bridgeport penalties handed Springfield a 5-on-3 advantage. However, Tikkanen and the gutsy Isles' PK unit stood up to the challenge, and a Springfield penalty would then nullify the advantage.

Karson Kuhlman put the game away at 16:48 with an empty-net goal to seal the visitors' seventh win in 11 tries this season against the T-Birds.

The T-Birds and Islanders complete their season series on Friday night for one final installment between the rivals inside the MassMutual Center. Puck drop is set for 7:05 p.m. at the Thunderdome.

### ARTWORKS from page 8

western Massachusetts in 2008, where he finally indulged his true nature by reveling in imagistic historicism.

That work has been exhibited widely in New England, including a solo exhibition at the University of Massachusetts. In 2022 he was awarded a Massachusetts Cultural Council Artist Fellowship Grant in Painting.

About ArtWorks Gallery and Workshop13

ArtWorks Gallery is Workshop13's

gallery on Main Street. This space features numerous art exhibitions each year and is also available to rent for individual or group shows.

Workshop13 Cultural Arts and Learning Center is a rural nonprofit arts innovator located in Ware and devoted to increasing the appreciation and accessibility of the arts, strengthening the creative life of our community through instruction, collaborations, and arts-based initiatives.

# - community -

## Second Chance celebrates adoption of longest shelter resident

EAST BROOKFIELD – Second Chance Animal Services is thrilled to announce the long-awaited adoption of one of its most beloved residents, Houston, an 8-year-old lab mix who spent over a year in the shelter awaiting his forever home.

Second Chance was founded in 1999 with the idea that every pet deserves a second chance at happiness and a loving family. Houston's journey exemplifies the organization's unwavering commitment to this mission.

Despite his extended stay, Second Chance never lost hope for Houston, believing that with the support of their dedicated volunteers, staff, and generous supporters, his perfect match would come along.

"Our team worked tirelessly to ensure that Houston received the love, care, and attention he deserved during his time with us," said Lindsay Doray, Chief Development Officer of Second Chance Animal Services in a press release. "We are incredibly grateful to our supporters whose generosity allows us to continue our mission of providing second chances to animals like Houston."

Houston's heartwarming adoption

comes at a significant milestone for the nonprofit which is celebrating its 25th anniversary. Second Chance recently released a heartwarming video on social media and their website, capturing the emotional moments as staff members bid farewell to Houston, sending him off to begin his new life with his loving adoptive family.

"We are overjoyed to see Houston find his forever home and begin a new chapter filled with love and companionship," added Doray. "His story serves as a testament to the incredible impact our supporters make in the lives of animals in need."

In addition to providing shelter and love, pets like Houston at Second Chance benefit from access to the nonprofit's veterinary hospitals, ensuring they receive comprehensive care to prepare them for adoption.

With four community veterinary hospitals, Second Chance offers subsidized rates for qualifying individuals, ensuring that pets can stay with the people who love them. Those who pay full rates not only receive quality veterinary care for their pets but also play a vital role in supporting all the programs aimed at helping pets in need.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Second Chance Animal Services' lonest shelter resident, Houston, is shown going home with his new family.

This integrated approach ensures that every animal receives the necessary medical attention and support, empowers them to thrive in their new homes.

Second Chance is committed to the mission of providing all pets with the second chances they deserve. Through the unwavering dedication of volun-

teers, staff, and supporters, the organization continues to transform the lives of pets like Houston, one adoption at a time.

For more information about Second Chance Animal Services and how you can support their mission, please visit [www.secondchanceanimals.org](http://www.secondchanceanimals.org).

## Country Bank supports communities with over \$1.2 million

WARE – Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serving central and western Massachusetts, proudly reported more than \$1.2 million in donations for 2023.

The bank's philanthropic efforts supported local non-profits throughout its communities, with 463 organizations receiving grants in 2023.

In addition to financial support, Country Bank's team members dedicated their time and expertise to make a difference. They volunteered 1,255 hours of community service, demonstrating their commitment to giving back.

Furthermore, 37 team members served on 65 non-profit boards and committees, actively contributing to the success of these organizations.

As a community bank, it recognizes the importance of supporting financial literacy; Country Bank held four Credit for Life Fairs for 1,500 high school seniors to educate them on credit, budgeting, and how their decisions impact their financial wellness. Classes were also held at Christina's House and within various



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Country Bank staff volunteered 1,255 hours of community service in 2023.

schools throughout the community.

In partnership with Greenlight, the

bank launched a debit card for kids to support parents in teaching children ear-

ly on how to spend, share, and save. The bank also introduced a new program to support financial literacy, Money School, to support local schools with educational opportunities for in-classroom teachings for all ages, and an online financial educational program on the bank's website.

One of the highlights of Country Bank's philanthropic efforts in 2023 was its partnership with the Wonder Fund during the "Season of Difference" Campaign. This collaboration aimed to support kids and families in Central and Western MA's Department of Children and Families system. By joining forces with the Wonder Fund, Country Bank demonstrated its commitment to improving the lives of vulnerable children and families in the community with over \$30,000 in support.

Some of the organizations receiving donations were The Ronald McDonald House, Christina's House, The YWCA, The Boys and Girls Clubs, Behavioral Health Network, The United Way, Salvation Army, The Food Bank of Western Mass, The Worcester County Food Bank, Be Like Brit, Juniper Outreach, Springfield Revitalize CDC, Friends of the Homeless, and 21 Senior Centers and 19 Food Pantries across the region.

Paul Scully, president and CEO of Country Bank, emphasized the bank's dedication to its communities. He stated in a press release, "As a community partner, we care deeply about the sustainability of our communities. We are honored to support many organizations through donations and volunteerism to help them with their work. Supporting and enriching our communities is not only a part of our mission; it's who we are as an organization, and we know that it makes a difference for so many."

To learn more about Money School and Community Support, visit [www.countrybank.com](http://www.countrybank.com)



**Function  
Space  
Available**

**KENO**

**HARDWICK CROSSING**  
EST. 2022

**COUNTRY CLUB**

**hardwickcrossing.com**

262 Lower Road, Gilbertville

774-757-8907

Pro Shop 774-261-2634

**BOOK  
YOUR  
EVENT  
WITH US!**

**OPEN 7 DAYS FOR LUNCH, DINNER & GOLF**

**f Specials Posted on Facebook & Instagram**

**Prime Rib**  
Every Thursday,  
Friday & Saturday  
*Online Ordering Available*

**Monday - 6:30 p.m.**  
**TRIVIA NIGHT**

**Wednesday - 6:30 p.m.**  
**MUSIC BINGO**

**Sip & Paint**  
Tuesday, March 12,  
Tuesday, March 26,  
Tuesday, April 9,  
Tuesday, April 23  
Starting at 6:30 p.m.

**Easter Egg Hunt**  
Sunday, March 24 at 1 p.m.  
**FREE**

**St. Patrick's Day Party**  
Sunday, March 17  
Live Music Starting at 3 p.m.  
*Tequila Mockingbird*  
Food & Drink All Weekend Long

**Easter Brunch**  
Sunday, March 31  
Seatings at 10:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m. & 2 p.m.  
*Menu Available on Facebook & Website*

Visit Our Website For More Details



# - community Summer Camp

## Register Now & Save!

**DON'T MISS OUT! REGISTER EARLY! MORE INFO AT BEMENT.ORG/SUMMER**

### Adventure Awaits You!

Summer camp at The Bement School

Bement camps are a unique day experience for children entering grades k-8.

Arts and crafts, swimming, nature programs, hiking and more. **Lunch is included. Before and after care is available.**

**ENROLL IN ALL WEEKS AND GET 7TH WEEK FREE!**

SESSION 1: JUNE 17-21  
SESSION 2: JUNE 24-28  
SESSION 3: JULY 8-12  
SESSION 4: JULY 15-19  
SESSION 5: JULY 22-26  
SESSION 6: JULY 29-AUG 2  
SESSION 7: AUG 5-9

Visit [Bement.org/summer](http://Bement.org/summer) for more information and to register. Register early!

**Enrichment Camps!**  
Led by faculty and staff from Bement as well as local area experts, enrichment camps are open to campers in a variety of grades. Check the website for specific offerings each week.

Digital Storytelling • Studio Arts & Crafts • Flag Football  
Book Blasters & Word Wizards • Bement Does Broadway & more!

Please contact [eoneal@bement.org](mailto:eoneal@bement.org) with questions.

**Stoneleigh-Burnham School**

### Summer Camps

in Performing Arts, Debate & Public Speaking

day & residential options available  
[sbschool.org/summer](http://sbschool.org/summer)

**Greene Acres Equestrian Center L.L.C.**

**April Vacation Riding Camp - April 16-18**

**2024 Summer Riding Sessions**

June 25-28 • July 22-25 • July 29-Aug 2  
Aug 5-9 • Aug 12-16 • Aug 19-22

9AM - 3PM LUNCH NOT PROVIDED

Basic Horse Care, Daily Riding, English & Western, Ages 5 & up

Call to Register (413) 813-9291  
53 Ware Road, Belchertown  
Email: [Amanda.greeneacres@gmail.com](mailto:Amanda.greeneacres@gmail.com)

## Belchertown Kidz Club

**TODDLER • PRESCHOOL • SCHOOL AGE**

Offering Flexible Care Programs For Kids Ages 18 mo. - 12 yrs.

Open 7:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. / MONDAY - FRIDAY  
Both Full Time & Sibling Discounts

Providing Childcare for 30 years!

**NOW ENROLLING FOR SPRING/SUMMER/FALL PROGRAMS**

**KIDZ SUMMER PROGRAM**  
Ages 5 - 12 yrs. • JUNE 17TH\*-AUG. 23RD  
10 Themed Weeks • Full & Part Time Options/Single Weeks or All Summer!  
Swimming • Field Trips • Close walk to Playgrounds & CHCS Pool  
Daily Creative & Educational Indoor/Outdoor Activities!  
\*Start of camp based on Belchertown School Schedule

**BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE**  
K-6th Grade • Full & Part-Time • Homework Support  
School Bus Pick Up & Drop Off • Indoor & Outdoor Activities

**PRESCHOOL** Year round program for Ages 3-5 yrs.  
Full & Part Time • Choose from Full Day or 3/4 Day Options  
Creative Educational Kindergarten Readiness Curriculum

**TODDLER** Year round program for Ages 2-3 yrs.  
Choice of Full Day 7:00-5:00 or 3/4 day option 8:30-2:30  
Come Grow, Learn, and Play!

**4 Stadler Street • (413) 323-5439**  
[belchertownkidzclub@gmail.com](mailto:belchertownkidzclub@gmail.com)

Follow Us

EEC LICENSED PROGRAM #177446

**THE MACDUFFIE SCHOOL**  
VERITAS 1890

**Co-ed • Grades 1-8**  
July 1 - August 16

**Race into summer at Camp MacDuffie!**

Be part of this year's camps and discover the true meaning of summer...having fun and making friends!

Space is limited so don't wait!

**Camp MacDuffie offers seven weeks of exciting camp experiences:**

Week 1: July 1 - 5	Week 3: July 15 - 19	Week 6: August 5 - 9
Week 2: July 8 - 12	Week 4: July 22 - 26	Week 7: August 12 - 16
Week 5: July 29 - Aug. 2		

**Camp programs include:**  
Arts • Athletics • Coding • Science • Dance • Lego's • And More!

Monday-Friday 9am-3pm • Area fields trips and lunch included  
Extended care available if needed 7:30am-5pm

Register now for summertime fun at [MacDuffie.org/summer-camp](http://MacDuffie.org/summer-camp)

The MacDuffie School • 66 School Street • Granby, MA 01033 • 413.255.0000 Ext.110

**THOMPSONS** QUALITY INSTRUCTION SINCE 1981

## SUMMER GYMNASTICS

[WWW.THOMPSONSGYM.COM](http://WWW.THOMPSONSGYM.COM)

**Fun Summer Programs**  
FOR 3 YEAR OLDS AND UP

p:413-532-0374 e:tgymnastic@aol.com

200 OLD LYMAN RD., SOUTH HADLEY

**SUMMER STREAMS AT PVCA**

A STATE OF THE ART SUMMER PROGRAM IN WESTERN MA SERVING THE COMMUNITY WITH THE LOVE OF CHRIST

WORKSHOPS INCLUDE: WEEKLY FIELD TRIPS AND LUNCH ARE INCLUDED FOR OUR FULL DAY PROGRAM FOR GRADES K-8

SPORTS CLINICS  
COOKING & NUTRITION  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
CODING AND ROBOTICS  
WORSHIP SONGWRITING  
CARTOONING/COMICS  
STOP MOTION ANIMATION  
DANCE & MUSIC  
CRAFTS  
AND MORE!

INTRODUCING OUR PRESCHOOL 1/2 DAY PROGRAM!

SPACES ARE LIMITED! LEARN MORE AND REGISTER TODAY AT:  
413-782-8031  
[PVCAMA.ORG/STREAMS](http://PVCAMA.ORG/STREAMS)

**PVCA**  
PIONEER VALLEY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

# 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**.

**BUY LOCALLY**  
support our community!

**FOR SALE**

**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**

**FOR SALE**

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

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**30" MICROWAVE**, over-the-range. Like new. \$200 or best reasonable offer. Ask for Ken **413-544-2074**.

**FOR SALE**

**4 YEAR OLD MYERS PLOW**, 3 sets of tires with rims 15", '94 Jeep Wrangler for parts only. Call **413-967-7118** or **413-658-8513**.

**WANTED**

**MILITARY ITEMS**  
USA. German. Japanese Collections & Small Items  
**(413) 207-3054**

**JUNK REMOVAL**

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

**ARA JUNK FURNITURE REMOVAL**  
Full house cleanouts, attics, basements, garages, pools, hot tubs, sheds, decks. Same day service. 8am-9pm. Credit cards accepted. Free estimates on phone.  
**Call Pete 413-433-0356.**

**SERVICES**

**A B Hauling and Removal Service**

**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.**

**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**

**HOME REPAIRS AND REMODELING.** Quality work. Carpentry, sheetrock, flooring, tile, etc. Fully licensed and insured. Call Chris **413-426-5160** for free estimates.

**SERVICES**

**ELECTRICIAN**

**NEED AN ELECTRICIAN?** Look no further! **PJ's Electrical** offers fast and reliable electrical services for your home or business. Call now for a FREE estimate! **(413) 366-1703**

**HOME IMPROVEMENT**

**HOME IMPROVEMENTS. REMODELING** 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**

**LANDSCAPING**

**A+ ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BOBCAT SERVICE**  
Excavator Services  
Overgrown property?  
Extreme Brush Cutting!  
Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal  
Lawn/Arborvite Installed  
Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand  
Storm Clean-up  
Small Demolition/ Junk Removal  
Insured  
**Josh Rozell 413-636-5957**

**DAVE MAZ LANDSCAPING**  
Lawn mowing, Spring thru Fall clean-ups, mulching, pruning. Holyoke, South Hadley, Chicopee, Hadley and Amherst. Call **413-536-3697**.

**MATT GUERTIN LANDSCAPING**  
Serving Wilbraham & Ludlow  
Weekly lawn care  
Landscape design and installation  
Hedge trimming, pruning, and mulching.  
Now scheduling spring cleanup  
For more services visit  
**mattguertinlandscaping.com**  
Call or text  
**413-266-9975**  
Insured - Commercial - Residential

**MASONRY**

**PAUL DOWD MASONRY**  
Design, build, restore, repair.  
All types of stone, brick, concrete, masonry. Free estimate. Call **978-257-8237. Pauldowd51@gmail.com**

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

**PAINTING**

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

**PLUMBING**

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

**RUBBISH REMOVAL**

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

**TAX SERVICES**

**2024 TAX TIME**

**CHANTEL BLEAU ACCOUNTING SERVICES**  
For Full Accounting & Tax Service  
Registered Tax Return Preparer  
228 West St., Ware, MA 01082  
**413-967-8364**  
Call For An Appointment  
The IRS does not endorse any particular individual tax return preparer. For more information on tax preparers go to irs.gov.

**AJE FINANCIAL SERVICES**  
588 Center Street  
Ludlow, MA 01056  
www.ajefinancial.com  
**(413)589-1671**  
Personal, Business, Corporate and Partnership Tax Filing  
Bookkeeping and Accounting Services  
Trusted Experts Since 1995

Personal & Small Business Federal & All States

**FAST TAX USA TAX PREPARATION SERVICE**  
**413-348-2279**  
IRS Certified Tax Preparers  
Independently owned and operated. Over 25 years experience.  
1622 B North Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069  
www.FastTax-MA.com  
Free E-File & Direct Deposit

**TAX TIME SURVIVAL GUIDE**

Call your local Turley Publications sales representative for information and rates on advertising your tax service here!  
**413-283-8393**

Call Your Local Turley Publications Sales Representative For Information And Rates On Advertising Your Tax Service Here  
**CALL 413-283-8393 TO PLACE YOUR AD TODAY!**

## 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
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!**

# - community -

## Final comment period for hydropower facilities on CT River

GREENFIELD – The Connecticut River Conservancy has been engaged in advocating for the health of the Connecticut River and the communities in the watershed since 1952.

As part of its mission, CRC has been a consistent participant in the relicensing of the Turner's Falls dam and Northfield Mountain pumped storage facilities for almost 12 years, working for a better deal for the river and its communities. These hydroelectric facilities use a public trust resource – the river - to produce power.

In exchange for this privilege, and to mitigate for impacts of the dams on recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, migratory and endangered species, water quality, and other resources, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission requires that hydropower operators provide direct benefits to the public and be protective of the ecological health of the river.

These requirements are laid forth in an operating license and the license serves as a public contract that CRC revisits periodically to examine the facility's impact on this public trust resource.

On Feb. 22, FERC issued a notice indicating that the final license appli-

cations have been accepted as complete and ready for environmental analysis. This notice simultaneously initiated a 60-day period to submit comments and interventions for the projects.

The comment period will close on April 22. A comment communicates local concerns, recommendations, and desires to FERC as they make the decisions on what to include in the new license that will last for the next 30-50 years.

People are encouraged to submit a comment to FERC if you have concerns about how these dams impact the river, the surrounding communities, or your ability to interact with the river.

Public comments can be submitted by anyone or any entity that has an interest in or relationship to the river. This includes individual community members, town committees or commissions, Regional Planning Commission, recreation clubs, etc.

In addition to supporting the public's opportunity to comment, and submitting our own comments, Connecticut River Conservancy will also be filing a motion to intervene. This allows CRC to become a legal party to appeal this federal agency action if needed.

Nina Gordon-Kirsch, CRC's River Steward in Massachusetts, said in a press release, "These facilities have a major impact on the River and affect recreators, fish, water quality, and the ecology of the river basin. FERC will issue a new operation license to the facilities that will not be updated for another 40 years. This is truly a once in a lifetime opportunity to make positive change for the River and all beings who are in relationship with it. Don't miss this opportunity to help shape the River for future generations!"

Hydropower relicensing information, as well as a FERC Comment Guide, can be found by visiting [www.ctriver.org/our-work/hydropower/](http://www.ctriver.org/our-work/hydropower/).

The Connecticut River Conservancy will also hold a series of virtual office hours about how to comment on the hydropower relicensing process for the two facilities in Massachusetts as well as three facilities in VT/NH that are simultaneously going through this federal process.

During these office hours, CRC's Director of Policy and Advocacy/Vermont River Steward (Kathy Urffer), and River Stewards in Massachusetts (Nina Gordon-Kirsch) and New Hampshire (Kate Buckman) will be

available to answer any questions and help with your comments.

The following will be covered: Issues at stake for fish passage, recreation, erosion, and accountability; instruction on how to submit comments or get involved; questions addressed in Q&A.

The office hours can be customized based on who attends and what you most want to address. You can also submit a question to the speakers upon registration.

The office hours will occur on: Thursday, March 14 at 5:30 p.m.; Monday, March 18 at 11 a.m.; Wednesday, March 27 at 8:30 a.m.; Wednesday, April 3 at 7 p.m.; Thursday, April 11 at noon; and Tuesday, April 16 at noon.

Register by visiting [www.ctriver.org/event/hydropower-office-hours/](http://www.ctriver.org/event/hydropower-office-hours/).

### About CRC

Since 1952, Connecticut River Conservancy has been a voice for the Connecticut River watershed, from source to sea. It collaborates with partners across four states to protect and advocate for rivers, and educate and engage communities.

CRC brings people together to prevent pollution, improve habitat, and promote enjoyment of the rivers and streams. Learn more at [ctriver.org](http://ctriver.org).

# - public notices -

### LEGAL NOTICE: TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, 18-25, as amended by Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2009, The Wetlands Protection Act, the West

Brookfield Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **WEDNESDAY March 13, 2024 at 6:00 pm** in the first floor meeting room, West Brookfield Town Hall, 2 East Main Street.

6:10 – Public Hearing:  
• RDA – 7 Rodman Street – Gerald Nichols – Retaining

wall reconstruction  
• NOI Continuation – Rte. 9 Reconstruction and Rehabilitation  
03/08/2024

### TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that

in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L Chapter 40A, Section 9, and Section 11 Back Lot Permit, of the West Brookfield Zoning Bylaws, the Planning Board will open a public hearing on **Monday March 18 2024 at 7:00 pm** in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 2 East Main Street, for the following application:

Justin Paquette of 103 Rice Corner Rd, Brookfield seeks Special Permit approval to create a Backlot, approximately 6.5 acres at 141 and 143 Shea Road, West Brookfield.

Interested parties may review the plan at the office of the Town Clerk in the Town Hall, 2 East Main

Street, West Brookfield. A copy is posted on the display board outside of the Town Hall.

The Board invites all interested parties to attend the public hearing.

Rebekah Cornell  
Chairwoman  
03/01, 03/08/24

# Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

### SERVICES

#### TREE WORK

**AAA - TROM'S TREE SERVICE**  
Let me save you money. Tree removal, hazard tree removal, cordwood, stump grinding. We're fully insured and **workmen's comp.** for your protection. Free estimates. Mon-Sun Call Jason (413)283-6374

**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

**DRAGONWORKS SERVICES.** Chain saw work, climb, trim or cut. Rooted in excellence. Fully insured. Call Jacob LaDue for free estimate, 413-544-2898.

**H & H TREE SERVICE** All phases of tree care. Call Dave 413-668-6560 day/night.

#### STUMP GRINDING

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

### AUTO

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

#### AUTO FOR SALE

**2019 CHEVY SPARK LS**, \$9,500. Excellent condition, well maintained, original owner, 75,000 miles. No accidents, never any problems, non-smoker. Florida car. 413-769-3127.

#### AUTO PARTS

**4 YEAR OLD MYERS PLOW**, 3 sets of tires with rims 15", '94 Jeep Wrangler for parts only. Call 413-967-7118 or 413-658-8513.

Find archives of this local newspaper at [www.newspapers.turley.com](http://www.newspapers.turley.com)

### PETS

**WEST HIGHLAND TERRIER MIX PUPPY**, 3 months, current on shots, well socialized. 3 yr old Beagle female, \$200. 413-596-8190, 413-782-2305

#### HELP WANTED

**CLASS A DRIVER.** Triaxle dump trailer work. Local deliveries, minimum 40 hours, rate based on experience. **RB Enterprises, Ludlow, MA. 413-583-8393.**

**HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANIC.** Construction equipment and trucks. Experience required, full time. **RB Enterprises, Ludlow, MA. 413-583-8393.**

**SQUIER & CO.** is looking to hire an oil truck driver. \$40,000-\$60,000 full time. Squire will provide CDL school for the right candidate! Email: [squiereoil@verizon.net](mailto:squiereoil@verizon.net). Call 413-267-3184 or visit us at 5 Squier Ave., Monson, MA. Monday-Friday.

**TOWN OF WILBRAHAM HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR 1**  
The Town of Wilbraham is looking to fill two Heavy Equipment Operator 1 positions. For application and more information please visit [www.wilbraham-ma.gov](http://www.wilbraham-ma.gov). Open until filled. EOE

### REAL ESTATE

#### FOR RENT



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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

#### SHOP/STORAGE/MECHANIC FOR RENT.

3,000 ft. 2 plus garage for rent in Gilbertville. Two lifts, compressor, office, bathroom/washroom. Large 10 ft. overhead electric garage door. Oil heat, 3 phase electric. Room for 5 vehicles plus inside and outside parking. Located right on Rt 32. Perfect for a business or? \$2,000/month. Call Don @ (413) 758-3039.

### REAL ESTATE

#### ROOMMATES

**BRIMFIELD:** Own kitchen, bath, bedroom, living room, basement apartment. No pets or smoking. Heat, elect. included. \$800 per month. Call 413-355-0209.

**LOOKING FOR ROOMMATE TO SHARE HOUSE** in Palmer. \$300 per month. 413-342-3049.

#### 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.



**STAY ON TOP OF IT ALL!**

Subscribe Today!

**Turley Publications, Inc.**  
12 HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS  
413.283.8393  
[www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)  
24 Water Street  
Palmer, MA 01069

# QUABOAG CURRENT

**WEST BROOKFIELD**  
Author/poet speaks  
at library p2

**STURBRIDGE**  
Warriors face Dolphins  
p9

**EAST BROOKFIELD**  
Shelter dog finds home  
p12

Editorial/Opinion  
Sports  
Police Logs  
Classifieds

4  
9  
11  
14

Volume 17, Number 15

Friday, March 8, 2024

## Your BUYLINE CONNECTION

SEE OUR AMAZON STORE!  
BILL'S BEST DEALS

1,000s OF APPLIANCES!  
DON'T BUY TIL YOU SEE US!!!  
FAST DELIVERY OR PICK UP  
PRESEASON BIKE SALE!!!

**WHITCO TOY & BIKE**  
12 MONTHS 0% FINANCING  
140 Main St., Spencer  
www.whitcosales.com  
508-885-9343  
Open: Mon.-Fri. 10am-8:30pm, Sat. 9am-8pm, Sun. 12pm-7pm

**POST ROAD REALTY**  
BUYING OR SELLING...  
WE HAVE THE PERFECT FIT FOR YOU!  
www.PostRoadRealty.com

**NEW LISTING - \$849,900 - WEST BROOKFIELD**  
**37 LAKESHORE DRIVE EXTENSION**  
**OPEN HOUSE: SUNDAY, MARCH 10TH 12PM-2PM**

Welcome to Lake Wickaboag! Escape to your own lakeside paradise! This stunning property boasts a picturesque lakefront setting, offering unparalleled tranquility and breathtaking views. Enjoy the serenity of nature from your private deck, perfect for morning coffee or evening sunsets. With spacious interiors, modern amenities, and direct access to the water, this lakefront gem opens up a world of possibilities for water enthusiasts. This home, with three levels, features 4 bedrooms and 4 baths, a primary with en suite on the first floor and another primary on the upper level also with an en suite and balcony. Expand your horizons with two additional versatile rooms, perfect for customization to suit your lifestyle, such as an in home office or study. The breath-taking first floor great room has vaulted ceilings, custom woodworking, a fireplace and a wall of lakefront windows overlooking expansive decks and the lake. Don't miss this opportunity to make this idyllic retreat your home.

**Cassie Paolucci**  
774-200-3523

Follow us on Facebook  
MLS

**LEADMINE PROPERTY MAINTENANCE**

We have all your clean up needs.

- ◆ Small Lawn Mowing
- ◆ Stone Wall Repair
- ◆ Spring Clean Up
- ◆ House Painting
- ◆ Deck Repair
- ◆ Small Tree Jobs

**KEN GAUMOND**  
774.318.0460  
mountainlion757@gmail.com

Prompt Service ◆ Reasonable Rates  
Easily Reachable

**SOLD! HARDWICK MINI HORSE FARM!**

Thank you to my sellers and I hope the Buyer enjoys his new home. If you are looking to buy or sell, hire a local Realtor! Call me if you have a home to sell or are looking for one to buy. I would love to assist you!

**SOLD!**

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

Homes are still selling quickly. If you're in the market to sell your home in 2024, call and ask about my **SPRING SPECIAL!**

Listing Specialist  
Representing Buyers & Sellers for over 18 years  
508-341-8299

"Opening New Doors For Families Everyday"  
If you have friends or family who may need real estate services, I would appreciate your referral.

**LISA CARON**  
REAL ESTATE  
Broker/Owner • LISA CARON • Notary Public  
caronlisarick@aol.com • lisacaron.com  
42 West Main Street • Brookfield, MA 01506  
ABR, GRI, SRES, MRP, CDPE, PSA, SRS, RENE, E-PRO, C2EX

**FINISH LINE COLLISION CENTER**

435 Lower Rd., Gilbertville, MA 01031  
774-289-3016

Business Hours:  
Monday - Friday 8am-4pm • Sunday Closed  
Saturday By Appointment Only

**WHERE EVERYONE GOES FOR THEIR PIECE OF THE EARTH!**  
**LANDSCAPE STONE**  
ALL SIZES  
White • Blush • Blue • Brown • Purple  
Red • Lt Gray • Dark Gray

**SCREENED LOAM STORED IN BUILDING**  
Construction Stone • Title V Septic Sand  
Concrete Sand • Chicken Coop Sand • Utility Sand  
Chip Stone • Stone Dust • Silt • Crushed Gravel  
Crushed Asphalt • Crushed Concrete • Cold Patch

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

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

**LOCAL BUSINESS ADVERTISING SPECIALS**

CONTACT US TODAY FOR DETAILS  
**NEWS**

12 HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS

www.turley.com • 413.283.8393

## Support Your Hometown Businesses SHOP LOCAL

Adventure tours of Warren  
Share the Adventure with us!

**NIGHT CANADA & NEW ENGLAND CRUISE**  
Norwegian Gem - Departing August 30  
Call now - Availability Limited!

**NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE**

May 4	Kennedy Library	\$95
June 11-14	Boothbay Harbor Vacation	\$799
June 29	Lake George Cruise & Lunch	\$175
July 13	Cape Cod Canal & Lunch	\$130
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](mailto:adventuretours@att.net)  
or go to [www.adventuretoursofwarren.com](http://www.adventuretoursofwarren.com)



Now open Wednesdays 11a-7p

**St. Patrick's Celebration**

Be one of the lucky ones and discover the treasure of Farmer Matt's corned beef and cabbage dinner. Available Mar. 13-17.

FarmerMatt.com • 508-980-7085

**Farmer Matt**  
FARM-FRESH • LOCAL  
FarmerMatt.com  
860 West Brookfield Rd.  
New Braintree, MA