

QUABOAG CURRENT

WEST BROOKFIELD
Ham radio club meeting

Page 2

STURBRIDGE
Waffle dinner

Page 2

REGION
C4R watershed meeting

Page 2

Volume 19, Number 16

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

Friday, March 13, 2026



TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE

Volunteers visited West Brookfield Elementary School for Community Reading Day on March 2 to celebrate Read Across America Week. See more photos on page 5.

Board OK'd placement of underground conduit

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

STURBRIDGE – A representative of National Grid attended a hearing to get approval to construct underground electric conduit on Podunk Road, in addition to two manholes.

The representative said this is part of the solar project at the end of North Sturbridge Road. He said this conduit will run under an existing transmission crossing.

“We were planning on keeping that section overhead, but due to clearance issues between our distribution line and our transmission line, the most cost effective option for us is to go underground,” he said at the March 2 Select Board

See STURBRIDGE PAGE 6

Students welcomed guest readers to classrooms

Community Reading Day held March 2

WEST BROOKFIELD — Over a dozen guest readers joined students and staff at West Brookfield Elementary School on March 2 for

Community Reading Day. The day kicked off Read Across America week, a national celebration of literacy hosted by the National

Education Association.

The day also coincided with Dr. Seuss’ birthday, and many of the guest readers chose from his list of

classic books such as “The Lorax”, “Horton Hears a Who”, “Horton Hatches the Egg”, and “If I Ran the Zoo”.

Exploring Massachusetts property records

Historical Society presented first in a series of talks on genealogy

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

STURBRIDGE – The Sturbridge Historical Society held its first program of the year at the Publick House, welcoming genealogist Seema-Jayne Kenney to talk about “Exploring Massachusetts Property Records”.

This program was co-sponsored by the Joshua Hyde Public Library and supported in part by a grant from the Sturbridge Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Kenney started exploring her family’s deep colo-

nial roots when she was still in high school and she said genealogy is one of her passions.

“There’s nothing I like to do more than talk about genealogy,” she said. “The history of your house is a type of genealogy.”

Kenney, who is a resident of Upton, said her husband’s family has a house in Sturbridge, and that land records are a great way to learn about the history of your house and the land it is built on. She said if you go back far enough in your searching, you can even find land grants from the British crown to colonies.

“They’ve been recorded for such a long time,” Kenney said. “They’re accurate, they’re reliable, and they’ve been indexed.”

Kenney explained some of the important infor-

See PROPERTY RECORDS PAGE 8

Maple Days returned to Old Sturbridge Village

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

STURBRIDGE – It’s that time of year for Maple Days as the historians of Old Sturbridge Village demonstrate the sugar making process during early 19th-century New England.

Throughout the village, guests can make a few stops during their visit that are demonstrating maple sugaring.

During a recent visit, the Maple Sugar Camp was operating all day as two cauldrons of sap were being cooked over a wood fire. The historians at the camp, Keegan and Ethan, started with approximately 26-30 gallons of sap in one of their kettles and said nature controls a little bit of the process as the sap gets boiled down.

“Cold roots, warm day, good flow,” Ethan said.

See MAPLE DAYS PAGE 8



TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO

Ethan observed one of the fires at the Maple Sugar Camp as sap gets boiled down.

Business of the Year award winners announced

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

STURBRIDGE – Terry Masterson of the Sturbridge Tourist Association presented the list of businesses being recognized with the “Business of the Year” award to the Select Board.

At the March 2 meeting, he said this award program has been ongoing since 2022, after a similar program had ceased due to the pandemic.

“It’s become very popular. It becomes more popu-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The winners of the 2025 Sturbridge Tourist Association’s “Business of the Year” award program were recognized at the March 2 Select Board meeting.

See BUSINESS OF YEAR PAGE 10

Council held first meeting since new appointments

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Correspondent

BROOKFIELD – The Cultural Council, consisting of newly appointed members Ana Afton, Doreen Neifert, Tyler Neifert, Margaret Aubin, Jeanne Lytle, Margaret Powers and Jessica Smith held their first meeting together last Monday.

Afton was designated chair, Doreen Neifert was appointed as treasurer, and Aubin volunteered to be treasurer.

Budget and grant discussion
Afton said she was concerned about a past grant received by the council, which was used to fund a

band for a concert. She said one of the members of the past cultural council was a member of the band, which constituted a conflict of interest.

The council voted to rescind that grant.

Afton said the council also received a \$1,200 for Spookfield, but that is no longer a cultural council event, and the council voted to reallocate that money for other events.

In terms of the council’s current budget, Afton said they have just under \$413 dollars to work with, and that is supposed to last them until the beginning of May. She said that she would apply for a fair or

festival grant, which could provide the cultural council with up to \$5,000 dollars, and suggested putting that money towards a 250th anniversary celebration.

Discussion on 250th

The council conducted some preliminary discussions on possible events throughout this year, including the 250th anniversary of the United States celebration, which Afton suggested should be held on Aug. 15. Afton said she has reached out to vendors who may be willing to attend the celebration, and read off a long list of activities that could possibly be a part

See CULTURAL COUNCIL PAGE 10

- community -

Young author finished second book

By Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

BARRE – Twelve year old Rosalie S. Strzelecki of Barre believes the world needs more books.

She is helping to fill that need after just completing her second book in a trilogy. Her second book “The Guardian’s Sword: The Royal Prisoner” now joins her first book “The Guardian’s Sword: The Dawn of the Guardian.” She is already working in the third and final book in the “The Guardian’s Sword” series.

The home-schooled student said, “I always wanted to be an author, but I didn’t originally set out to write my first book.”

She sketched a scene of two knights dueling and began creating their backstories, their past and their future. She began writing on the next page and “that’s how ‘The Guardian’s Sword: The Dawn Of The Guardian’ was created.”

She still has the notebook with the original sketches.

She lives in Barre with her parents, Ted Strzelecki and Michelle Bennett and dog. She plays on the Quabbin Regional Middle School basketball team and likes to use the weight room at the school.

Her first book opens with the protagonist, Valorem Reltivar, engaged in a duel. She says, “His [Valorem Reltivar] old friend interrupts the duel and the trio ends up at an inn where they are given a quest for Veltem. On the quest, they face a dragon, avalanche, prophecy, a jousting tournament and knights that search for Arvencian blood.



Rosalie S. Strzelecki holds her two books, “The Guardian’s Sword: The Dawn of the Guardian” and “The Guardian’s Sword: The Royal Prisoner”.

Throughout the quest they find all kinds of people who are fighting for change – an old wizard, a group of rebels, and a scout looking for a knight to entrust with The Guardian’s Sword, which will save the world or end it.”

The story is fiction, but the author did research to make sure part of it was “historically accurate.”

Not only does Strzelecki like to write books, she enjoys reading. Two of her favorite books are “The Ranger’s Apprentice: The Early Years” by John Flanagan and “Eragon” by Christopher Paolini. She considers the Paoloni book motivational as Paolini is a young author as well.

Her favorite school subjects are writing and reading; and she also likes history. Not surprising her hobbies include writing books, writing and reading poetry and basketball.

The second book follows Valorem and his friends who are newly appointed Guardians as they try to find the evil prince of Arvence,

Maskotar. They face even more challenges, new creatures, new kingdoms and new enemies. They tackle this while learning to control a gift they’d never thought they’d receive.

Although Strzelecki doesn’t plan on writing for a living, she will keep writing books. Both her books are available through Amazon. Copies of her books will be available to borrow from the Woods Memorial Library in Barre soon.

She likes anything involving words.

She said, “I breathe words like oxygen, so I can always be found working on a new story or poem.” She also said, “I read that most people want to write a book. The trouble is, less than 3% do.”

She offers this advice to all those aspiring authors, “You don’t have to be a known author with a degree in English and editors to write a book. Age definitely isn’t a limit either. If it’s a book you can write, it is a book the world needs.”

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Federated Church announces 2026 Lenten services schedule

STURBRIDGE – The Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale has announced its 2026 schedule of Lenten services, starting with Ash Wednesday, and culminating in the Easter Sunday celebrations.

Services are held at the church located at 8 Maple St. and the community is welcome to attend.

The Rev. David W. Cote will officiate the services, which began on Ash Wednesday and continue through Easter Sunday on April 5. Refreshments will be served in Fellowship Hall following each of the Sunday services.

On April 3, Good Friday, the congregation will gather in the Chapel at noon for meditation and prayer. An ecumenical Stations of the Cross service will also be held at St. Anne’s Shrine, 16 Church St., Fiskdale.

The sunrise service at

Old Sturbridge Village is an ecumenical service, with local faith communities participating, including Bethlehem Lutheran Church (Sturbridge), Brookfield Congregational Church (Brookfield), Elm Street Congregational Church (Southbridge), Holy Trinity Church (Southbridge), and St. Anne/St. Patrick Catholic Church (Fiskdale).

Area residents who wish to attend are advised to enter the Meetinghouse by way of the security gate at the top of the parking lot, dress appropriately for the weather and wear sturdy walking shoes. Food and drink are not permitted, except for bottled water.

The Village will not be open for touring during this event and restrooms will not be available.

The Lenten season includes the following services: March 15, Fourth Sunday of Lent, 9:30 a.m.;

March 22, Fifth Sunday of Lent, 9:30 a.m.; March 29, Palm Sunday, 9:30 a.m.; April 1, Maundy Thursday, 6:30 p.m.; April 3, Good Friday Meditations and Prayer (Federated Church) and Ecumenical Stations of the Cross (St. Anne’s Church), noon; April 5, Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Serve at Old Sturbridge Village, 6 a.m.; April 5, Easter Sunday Service (Federated Church), 9:30 a.m.

The Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale joyfully celebrates Christ’s presence and God’s grace in our lives. Community members are always welcome to join in worship on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. Services are also live-streamed on the church’s Facebook page.

For more information, call 774-304-1021 or visit sturfed.org.

C4R watershed council to meet on March 22

PALMER – We have all heard Carpe Diem-seize the day, well our local rivers need us to step up to care for them as we enjoy their beauty.

Join the Chicopee 4Rivers Watershed, C4R, group as its members seek to continue their efforts to do that.

The first gathering in 2026 will be held on Sun-

day, March 22 from 2-4 p.m. in the Palmer Historical Cultural Center, 2072 Main St., Three Rivers.

Come hear what C4R has accomplished and how you can help to keep it going. They will review water quality monitoring, paddling trails, clean ups, trail stewardship, leadership needs, and more.

For more informa-



tion, email chicopeewatershed@gmail.com.

Senior Center lists upcoming events in March

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The North Brookfield Senior Center, located at 29 Forest St., will offer the following events and ac-

tivities during the month of March.

Activities include: Music Bingo March 16 at 10 a.m.; MassEDP Presenta-

tion March 17 at 11 a.m.; St. Patrick’s Day Lunch by Tri Valley (sing up required) March 17 at noon; Free Art Class March 19 at 11 a.m.; Bemis Nursery Workshop (sign up required) March 23 at 1 p.m.; Hip Hop Square Dance sponsored by the North Brookfield Cultural Council March 24 at 1:15 p.m.; Ed Spater Medicare Specialist drop in hours March 24 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; and Free Drawing Class March 26 at 11 a.m.

STIHL **Husqvarna** **DR**

PARK SAW SHOP

LOGGING • ARBORIST • SAFETY

1292 PARK ST. PALMER, MA 01069

1-800-232-6132 (413) 544-9027

Mon-Fri 6:30am-4pm • Sat 7am-Noon

Shipping Can Be Arranged

RENTALS AVAILABLE

Ham radio club meeting to be held March 30

WEST BROOKFIELD – Local amateur radio operators and the public are invited to the next Quaboag Valley Amateur Radio Club meeting, March 30 at 6:30 p.m. at the West Brookfield Senior Center, 73 Central St.

This month’s program features Smitty KCIKA, who serves as a Net Control Station (NCS) for ARES, Skywarn, and CERT – roles that require staying on the air when conditions are at their worst.

Smitty will share a behind-the-scenes look at

how he prepares for storms, power outages, and field deployments. His presentation covers the radios he relies on, the battery and solar systems he built, and the reasoning behind his equipment choices. He’ll also discuss situational awareness techniques and multiple methods for maintaining communication when the grid goes down.

Whether you’re involved in emergency communications or simply enjoy operating portable from parks, summits, or Field Day sites, you’ll come away with

practical ideas you can apply to your own setup. All are welcome to attend.

For more information about the club, upcoming events, or licensing opportunities, visit www.QVARC.com.

The club also will be having a VE session for any hams looking to upgrade or newcomers looking to test for the first time. The exam fee is \$15. Session starts at 5:30 p.m. Questions? Please email Peter at pbaldracchi@charter.net.

Troop 163 to hold waffle dinner fundraiser

STURBRIDGE – Troop 163 will hold a fundraiser waffle dinner on Saturday, April 11, from 4-7

p.m. at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 345 Main St.

Waffles, toppings, and sausages will be served, and gluten-free waffles will be available. No tickets are required – pay what you can.

There will also be a silent auction with themed baskets, and Bluey and

Bingo will be there for photos.

Troop 163 is a Scouting America troop for girls ages 11-17. The troop is based in Sturbridge but has members across southern Worcester County. Please email troop163sturbridge@gmail.com with any questions.

Visit us on the web

www.turley.com

GREEN GOLD

WE ARE HIRING!

POST-HARVEST PACKAGING

JOB FAIR

MONDAY
18 March 2026

TIME
5:00 PM-8:00 PM

LOCATION
46 WORCESTER RD
CHARLTON, MA 01507

BRING YOUR RESUME & MEET OUR TEAM!

THIS PRODUCT HAS NOT BEEN ANALYZED OR APPROVED BY THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA). THERE IS LIMITED INFORMATION ON THE SIDE EFFECTS OF USING THIS PRODUCT, AND THERE MAY BE ASSOCIATED HEALTH RISKS. MARIJUANA USE DURING PREGNANCY AND BREAST-FEEDING MAY POSE POTENTIAL HARMS. IT IS AGAINST THE LAW TO DRIVE OR OPERATE MACHINERY WHEN UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THIS PRODUCT. KEEP THIS PRODUCT AWAY FROM CHILDREN. THERE MAY BE HEALTH RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH CONSUMPTION OF THIS PRODUCT. MARIJUANA CAN IMPAIR CONCENTRATION, COORDINATION, AND JUDGMENT. THE IMPAIRMENT EFFECTS OF EDIBLES MAY BE DELAYED BY TWO HOURS OR MORE. IN CASE OF ACCIDENTAL INGESTION, CONTACT POISON CONTROL HOTLINE 1-800-222-1222 OR 9-1-1. THIS PRODUCT MAY BE ILLEGAL OUTSIDE OF MA.

ROBINSON

TREE SERVICE

LLC

Professional - Reliable - Fully Insured

Tree Trimming and Removal
Emergency Tree Work • Stump Grinding
Crane Service • Firewood Delivery

All Major Credit Cards Accepted
100% Financing Available

162 Sturbridge Road, Brimfield, MA 01010
508-641-5249 • office@robinsontreeservice.net
www.robinsontreeservice.net

- community -

Marine animals visited Haston library

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Haston Free Public Library, 161 North Main St., had some underwater friends visiting from the Mystic Aquarium recently.

This program is known as the Traveling Touch Tank and is a popular program designed for large groups to learn about the marine life that lives at the Mystic Aquarium in Connecticut. Educators from the Mystic Aquarium bring an assortment of live invertebrates such as lobsters, horseshoe crabs and shellfish and are the usual features of the touch tank.

Youth Services Librarian, Brianna Lamb, said the traveling touch tank had an excellent turnout with over 100 people cycling through. “We’re really happy with the turnout,” Lamb said.

The Mystic Aquarium presenters were fantastic, and kids got to learn a lot about the aquatic life that can be seen at the aquarium. With a big turnout, the presenters brought a small



Kids got to work on a crab craft at the library before exploring the touch tank.

group of children into the room at a time for miniature presentations on their traveling touch tank guests.

While other families waited to see the tanks, the library offered various crafts. The library had a crab craft where kids got to design their own paper crab. There were also coloring sheets, ocean themed books, and a virtual Mystic

Aquarium tour playing in the library.

It was a fun learning experience for the kids and their families as they got to dip their hands into the world of aquarium life. The Traveling Touch Tank at the Mystic Aquarium is a fun educational program for all ages.

The Haston Free Public Library has a lot happening in the month of March.

On Wednesdays, March 18 and 25 there will be Community Connections at 10 a.m. Also happening on Wednesdays at 3 p.m. is Tabletop Gaming. On Thursdays at 4 p.m., the library will be hosting Lego Club. On Tuesdays, there will be Storytime and a craft at 10:30 a.m.

On Saturday, March 28 at 10 a.m., the library will be hosting an Easter Egg Hunt. On Tuesday, March 31, after Storytime and a craft, another Easter Egg Hunt will be held at 10:30 a.m.



A pool of crabs and shells were being explored during the touch tank tour.

Birds braved winter weather



Donna Major of West Brookfield took this photo of a flock of cedar waxwings outside the Barre Family Health Center on March 6.



This hawk was spotted in New Braintree at the Gildert's bird feeding station last week.



Solo/Duet poetry and music series starts in April

WEST BROOKFIELD – Solo/Duet, a poetry and music series at the Merrim-Gilbert Public Library will be held on Tuesday evenings in April starting at 6 p.m.

Each evening will feature poetry readings that will book-end a set of chamber jazz music. This program is made possible by the West Brookfield Cultural Council as supported by the Massachusetts Cultural

Council. In celebration of National Poetry and National Jazz Month

Performances are as follows: April 7, bassist Jerry Wilfong and percussionist-trumpeter Dick Hummel with poets Glenn D'Alessio and Susan Roney-O'Brien; April 14, bassist Jerry Wilfong, guitarist Mitch Seidman, and Chet Williamson, on harmonica with poets Clair Degutis and Jim Beshta;

April 21, bassist Jerry Wilfong, guitarist Rich Falco and trombonist Rich Arduzzone, trombone with poets Judith Ferrarra and Jonathan Blake; and April 28, solo bass recital by Jerry Wilfong with poets Beth Sweeney and Stephen Campiglio.

Free and open to all. Please stop by or call the library at 508-867-1410 to reserve your seat.

Nominations are needed for Quaboag Historical Society awards

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

Each year, the historical society recognizes its most impressive community leaders and volunteers 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 get 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 Quaboag Historical Society requests nomination letters for any-

one 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 briefly explain why the writer believes the nominee is deserving of the award. The name, address, and phone number of both the nominator and the nominee must be included in the letter.

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.

All award nomination

entries should be submitted to the QHS by Monday, April 13.

Nomination letters

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

West Brookfield Historical Commission announces its 2026 scholarship

WEST BROOKFIELD – The West Brookfield Historical Commission is pleased to announce its 2026, 15th annual scholarship in the amount of \$2,000.

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

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

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

on the West Brookfield Historical Commission website. <http://westbrookfield.org>

Essays are due no later than April 6.

Email info@westbrookfield.org or mail to: West Brookfield Historical Commission, P.O. Box 372, West Brookfield, MA 01585.

The application and details can be found on the Historical Commission website- <http://westbrookfield.org>.

Kelly Bado, O.D.

Doctor of Optometry

Eye Exams

Barre Opticians

395 Main St., Barre

978-355-2191

ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS

Most Insurances Accepted



Saturday, March 14th
7pm-11pm
Malarkey



EVERY FRIDAY
Karaoke

EVERY SUNDAY
DARTS
LUCK OF THE DRAW
5:30pm • All Welcome

Upcoming Events

Saturday, March 28th
7pm-11pm
Caboodle

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

- opinion -



An herb catalog and a favorite herb

One of my favorite seed and plant catalogs of all time is Richters Herbs (richters.com). I look forward to the paper copy arriving in the mail by early December.

The company is out of Ontario, Canada, and offers over 1,200 unique varieties, mostly herbs of all kinds with a few vegetables thrown in for good measure. I've ordered from them for well over two decades and think their products are just great, everything from common culinary herbs to unique medicinal plants and everything in between, even dye plants and ornamentals.

I love how the seeds are packaged in foil lined envelopes and quantities are liberal, often giving you enough seed for two or three years of sowing, depending on the variety. On occasion I have had to order plants that I couldn't find locally and despite the distance, they arrive in good shape.

Basil (*Ocimum spp*) is one plant in particular that we typically order seed of, and we will soon be starting it indoors. The Richters catalog boasts 29 varieties, and we grow nine of them in the Paul Rogers Herb Garden at Old Sturbridge Village.

A trip to our herb garden in season is really worthwhile. Who doesn't like Italian or Genovese basil? Picture the pesto!

But in addition to our old favorites, there is lemon, anise, cinnamon and spice, each with fragrant leaves. Looking for unique foliage? Try dark opal, whose leaves are tinted dark purple or bush basil, whose tiny leaves altogether make a round globe of a plant, and who could leave out lettuce leaf, with its crinkled pale green leaves.

Over the years I have found that there are just a few obstacles to growing great basil. Seeds should be planted indoors – rarely will they do well from an outdoor sowing.

Start basil about the same time that tomatoes are sown, in mid to late March. Make shallow furrows and space the seed one-eighth of an inch apart in rows within a small pot or seed pack. When true leaves form pluck out the tiny seedling and transplant it into a cell of a four or six pack, or an individual tiny pot.

Grow on indoors until the weather improves. Basil is particularly cold sensitive, so be sure that all danger of frost has passed before transplanting it into the garden.

Downy mildew disease was discovered to be

prevalent some years back. While I don't take any particular precautions, and my basil shows little sign of the familiar leaf blotching, Richters does offer seeds of resistant varieties for you to try if this disease has been troublesome in your garden.

Basil foliage has also been known to burn if planted outdoors without a period of hardening off. For this reason, gradually get seedlings used to bright sun and wind over the course of a week before planting in the ground.

Provide your transplants with fertile, well-drained soil in a sunny spot. If, over the course of the summer you notice that the leaves are no longer grass-green, but instead are pale or even turning brown, your plants may have a nitrogen deficiency.

I usually have had to "top dress" my basil twice after planting, each time with a sprinkling of balanced organic fertilizer and some aged compost. Usually they green up in a matter of days.

Basil has the insatiable desire to flower. We must "deadhead" or the plant will fulfill its earthly desire to reproduce by making and dropping seed, all at the expense of foliage production.

Since we grow this plant for its leaves and not its seed, or its flowers for that matter, clip away the buds at the first sign of them. Another challenge to basil growing has been the Japanese beetle.

Basil leaves riddled with chew marks should best be removed. Japanese beetles are relatively easy to hand pick in the morning and at night.

A gentle tap on a leaf will easily knock beetles into a wide mouth jar of soapy water positioned underneath. Ideally, basil leaves should be harvested after the dew has dried in the morning but before the sun shines too brightly; at that particular time its oils are the most pungent.

Enjoy the new catalog recommendation and be sure to get those basil seeds started by the end of the month.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



Male red-winged blackbird

On March 2, I received an email from a Worthington resident that he just saw a red-winged blackbird.

Male red-winged blackbirds arrive before the females. They are one of the first birds to return to northern breeding grounds, arriving in late February or early March.

Red-winged blackbirds are abundant songbirds, who inhabit marshes, wetlands and fields. The male is glossy black with bright red and yellow shoulder patches or epaulets. Females have streaked brown plumage.

The highly territorial males often sit on high perches, singing and displaying their epaulets. Their "conk-la-ree" is heard frequently. They are known for "dive bombing" crows, hawks and even humans to defend their territory. They primarily eat insects such as beetles, dragonflies and moths during the breeding

season and seeds and grains during fall and winter.

They nest in loosely associated colonies in shrubs or cattails and are found across most of Northern America. They are polygamous and a single male may mate with up to 15 different females in his territory. Red winged blackbirds can form huge roosts during the winter of up to a million birds.

Brimfield resident

A Brimfield resident sent an email recently. He said, "On Saturday I was driving to West Springfield to put up some picture at the library for an exhibit. Some members of the Allen Bird Club are displaying photographs there for the month of March. On the way I stopped by a nest in Ludlow that bald eagles have used for at least three years."

In Brimfield, he said, "Lately we have been seeing a Cooper's several times in the yard and a broad-winged hawk was seen on Feb. 22. The broad-winged hawk sat in a tree in front of the house for over an hour. Last year a pair of broad-wings had a nest on the next door neighbor's property. They could see the nest from their deck, but I was never able to see the nest walking around near where they described its location."

Turkey vultures

On Feb. 11, the Brimfield resident saw a turkey vulture in the center of Palmer near the intersection of Routes 20 and 32. This week, his wife saw 25 turkey vultures flying above that area. They often see vultures soaring over that area and the first of the year shows up in mid-February. He said, "I believe the vultures nest in the area, possibly on or near Mount Dumplin that is just north of the turnpike ramps."

Other birds and more

The Brimfield residents still has lots of junco about as well as a healthy the gray squirrel population. Recently they saw two and sometimes three red squirrels. He is enjoying the longer days and looking forward to warmer temperatures.

Red-tailed hawk

A Rutland couple saw a red-tailed hawk quickly grab a gray squirrel her husband shot. They watched it hungrily consume a "warm meal" in the yard. They moved their feeder nearer to the house due to the deep snow. They have lots of black-capped chickadees and woodpeckers come to the new location

Bluebirds

An Oakham resident sees bluebirds on a daily basis. She enjoys watching them.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005. The Palmer office has a new phone system and I will be getting an extension where messages may be left. I will publish the number as soon as it is set up.

QUABOAG CURRENT TEAM



EDITOR
Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com



ADVERTISING SALES
Dan Flynn
dflynn@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](https://www.facebook.com/QuaboagCurrent)
WEB
www.quaboagcurrent.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President



www.turley.com

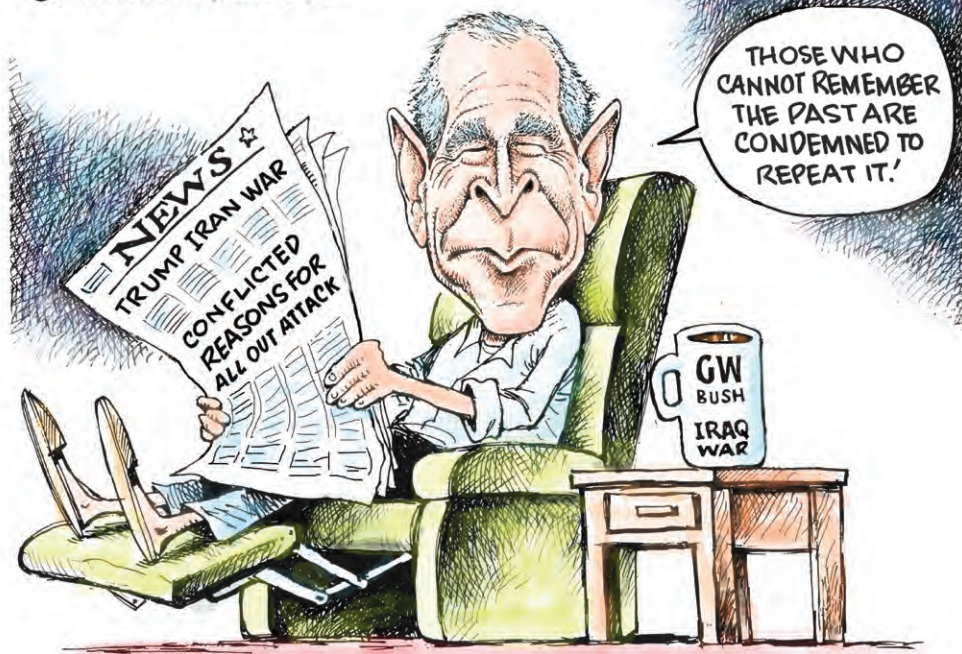
Turley Publications, Inc. cannot assume liability for the loss of photographs or other materials submitted for publication. Materials will not be returned except upon specific request when submitted.

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.

@JAVEERANLUND.COM



Why is my Social Security Retirement benefit so small?

Dear Rusty:
Can you help me understand?

I have paid into Social Security since I started working in 1978. I did have a lot of tax deductions, but I don't understand why I only receive \$350 a month from Social Security.

Signed: Befuddled Senior

Dear Befuddled Senior:
Your Social Security benefit is based upon your average monthly earnings for the 35 years over your lifetime that you earned the most while contributing to the Social Security program; however, your benefit isn't based on your contributions to SS. Your average lifetime earnings amount is called your Average Indexed Monthly Earnings, which are adjusted for inflation for years before you turn 60. Your earnings, your net earnings if self-employed, are provided to the SSA by the IRS.

Your AIME is subjected to a formula which calculates your "Primary Insurance Amount," which is the SS benefit you receive if you start benefits in the month you



reach your full retirement age. Your personal Full Retirement Age depends on the year you were born which, if you were born in 1960 or later, is age 67. However, if you claim Social Security before reaching your FRA, you will get only a percentage of your PIA, reduced from what you would get if you claimed at your FRA.

For example, if you claimed at age 62, you would only get 70% of the amount you would have gotten had you waited until age 67, or if you claimed at age 63 you would get 75% of your age 67 benefit. The reduction is less as you get closer to your FRA; if you claimed at age 65, you'd get about 87% of your full retirement age amount.

You can see your lifetime Social Security earnings record at your personal "my Social Security" online account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount (you will need to first create that online account), or you can call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 to request an

"Earnings Statement" be sent to you. That statement will show your lifetime earnings by year, the 35 highest of which were used to calculate your PIA (your Social Security benefit at your FRA). Generally, your Social Security FRA benefit will be about 40% or less of your average indexed monthly earnings.

So, to recap, your SS retirement benefit isn't based on your contributions to the program; it's based on your average monthly lifetime earnings. If you had less than 35 years contributing to the program, SS would still use 35 years in the benefit formula by using zero dollars in earnings for some number of years, which would result in a smaller AIME.

Thus, if you claimed before your full retirement age of 67, your SS benefit was reduced because you claimed early. And if you had less than 35 years of SS-covered employment, your AIME was less, resulting in a smaller PIA. And that is likely why

See SOCIAL SECURITY PAGE 10

PEOPLE/MILESTONE NEWS

As a free service for our readers, we will print all births, weddings, engagements, milestone anniversaries, major birthdays, military achievements, honors and awards. We have a "people news" form available for you to submit these listings. This material is provided to us by our readers and local institutions and we do not charge to print this content.

For more information, or to submit people or milestone news for the Quaboag Current, please email pouimette@turley.com.

Our advertisers make this publication possible.

Let them know you saw their ad in the Quaboag Current

- community -



Chris Kiraly-Thomas, also known as "Ms. K-T," a retired Quaboag Regional Middle High School teacher, read "Hot Dog" to Julie Jaskowski's first grade class.



Mark Lussier of North Brookfield Savings Bank read "The Lorax" to Ryan Hibbard's fourth grade class.



J.P. McCarthy & Sons school bus driver Lee Stevens read "Horton Hatches the Egg" to Tannis Rossi's second grade class.



West Brookfield Police Chief Nathan Hagglund read "If I Ran the Zoo" to Judith Knight's first grade class.



Charlton Police Officer Nick Harney and Red walked with kindergarten teacher Ghina Harney.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA OUMETTE
Patty Ostrout read "MANY, the Diversity of Life on Earth" to Laura Marino's fourth grade class.

Students welcomed guest readers to classrooms



Superintendent of Schools Stephen Duff took questions from students in Nicole Jones' fifth grade class.



Kim Brown of Country Bank read "Horton Hears a Who" to Payton Darger's second grade class.



Students dressed up as their favorite Dr. Seuss character, The Grinch.



J.P. McCarthy & Sons school bus driver Kelly Sutter passed out prizes to the students in Melissa O'Neill's third grade class.

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.

| | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET! | INFLATION | PRICE BUSTERS | PRICES IN RED ARE AT OR BELOW LAST YEAR'S PRICES! |
| USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN ASSORTED PORK LOIN CHOPS..... \$1.94 lb | USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN POINT CUT CORNED BEEF \$4.99 lb | USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN CHICKEN BREAST 10 LB \$1.49 lb | USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN THIGHS 10 LB 99¢ lb |
| USDA INSP. FRESH PORK SPARE RIBS TWIN PAK... \$2.22 lb | FROZEN WHOLE CORNED BEEF AVG 20 LB \$2.99 lb | Denten Specials | |
| USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS CENTER CUT PORK LOIN CHOPS or ROAST \$2.88 lb | USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF RIBE EYE CUT FREE \$9.99 lb | USDA INSP. FROZEN SCALLOPS ON HALF SHELL 2 LB BAG \$9.99 ea | USDA INSP. FROZEN SKINLESS HADDOCK FISH FILLETS 2 LB BAG. \$9.99 ea |
| USDA INSP. FULLY COOKED SMOKED BRISKET \$4.99 lb | USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY 80% LEAN GROUND BEEF 7 LB BAG \$3.99 lb | USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN RAW SHRIMP 26/30 COUNT PEELED & DEVEINED 2 LB BAG \$15.99 ea | 90 Meat Outlet 90 Avocado St. Springfield 413-737-1288 www.90meat.com |
| USDA INSP. SWISS CHEESE..... \$4.44 lb | USDA INSP. FROZEN BEEF OXTAIL..... \$9.99 lb | HOURS: Mon. - Wed. 8-4 Thurs. 8-6 • Fri. 8-6 • Sat. 8-3 | |
| SOUP'S ON! | USDA INSP. FROZEN PORK STOMACH \$3.49 lb | BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE | |

- community -

East Brookfield library lists events

EAST BROOKFIELD – The East Brookfield Public Library, 122 Connie Mack Drive, lists upcoming events, volunteer opportunities and ongoing programs.

Seed Program

The library's seed program is back for another exciting growing year starting Tuesday, March 17. Either come or call the library with the number of the items you would like.

The seeds are re-bagged, so if you need growing instructions see Carolann. Did you know she was named Massachusetts Agriculturist of the year by the National Grange in 2000 and has won a number of vegetable growing competitions including the heaviest tomato contest and the heaviest pumpkin at the Big E?

She has been named Grand Champion in the vegetable contest at the Big E 19 out of the 26 times she has entered. She knows her vegetables and is more than willing to answer any questions you may have.

Spring Egg Hunt

The Police Association Spring Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 4 be held at the Elementary School, please call the library for the time. The library will be on hand to give out special prizes.

Please check the library Facebook page for more details.

Meet the Candidates

Candidates seeking election or write-in candidates seeking election for the town office on Tuesday, May 12 are welcome to attend a Meet the Candidates night on Monday, April 27 from 5:30-7 p.m. Each candidate will have 5 minutes to talk and answer questions. Please contact Carolann with any questions.

Story-time

Story-time is available on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. for children ages 6 months to 6 years and their caregivers. Children can play games, lis-

ten to stories, and create art projects to take home.

Caregivers are required to stay with the child. One adult caregiver is required for every two children.

Knitting Group

Adult Knitting Group meets on Thursdays at 1 p.m. All skill levels are welcome. Bring a current project or check out the library's many pattern books for inspiration.

Library Book Talk Group

The Library Book Talk Group meets the first Tuesday of every month, at 11 a.m. Stop by the library and pick up the book in advance. Patrons are welcome to pick up the book even if they are not attending the discussion.

Pokémon Go Club

Meets every Monday, at 3:30 p.m. Players must have their own device to play on.

All children and adults are welcome. Children under 12 years old must be accompanied by an adult.

Drop in Craft

Every Monday in the children's room there is a self-directed craft project. Craft projects may have small parts. Children under 12 years old must be accompanied by an adult, with one adult for every two children. This project is available as long as the supplies are available.

Movie Time

Stop by the library with your lunch and enjoy a block buster movie, meet new friends on the first Monday of the month at 1 p.m., starting in May.

Puzzle Making/Adult Board Games

Join the library for an afternoon of games and snacks on the first and third Tuesdays of every month at 1 p.m.

If you like to build puzzles or play board games, maybe meet new people from the community, this program is for you.

Program is for adults 18 years or older. Walk-ins are welcome but registration is

preferred so staff can plan accordingly for the snacks and number of games.

Saturday Board Games

All ages are welcome to come to the library and play a few board games on Saturdays at 10 a.m.

Baking Decorating Class

Come learn how to decorate cookies, cupcakes and cakes. The library is looking for supplies for this program which include the following: cupcake wrappers, cake decorating supplies such as decorating tips, bags, sprinkles, cake mixes, cookie mixes, confection sugar and food coloring.

This program will be held on the last Tuesday of the month at 1:30 p.m. Donations for this program are greatly appreciated. Registration is required one week prior to the program. Please speak to Carolann for more details.

Fiber Art Group

This group meets on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. and welcomes anyone who is interested in fiber arts, which includes but is not limited to, knitting, crocheting, embroidery, hand sewing and cross stitching. Stop by if you would like to spend the morning with a group of people who also love to stitch.

Teen Volunteer Program

Interested in volunteering with the library? The library would love to have you. Let library staff know when you are available. For ages 12 and up.

Sponsor an Author

Do you have a favorite author? Hate being on the waitlist to check out their newest book? The library's "Sponsor an Author" program is for you.

Sponsoring the newest book guarantees that you will receive the book first as soon as we get it in. Your price is what the library pays. See Carolann for details.

Friends of the Library

Want to help the library but don't know how? Join

the Friend's Group.

Maker Space and Library of Things

Come visit the Maker Space area and Library of Things. There you will find cake pans, charcuterie boards, platters, small specialty appliances, tools, button maker and so much more.

The library is looking for items to add to the Library of Things and Maker Space, tools, small kitchen appliances, gardening supplies, baby monitor, DVD player. Let the staff know what you have and they will let you know if we can use it.

Food Shelf

Please bring new, unexpired food items to the library during regular hours. Personal items can include items such as shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, laundry detergent, toilet paper, diapers, wipes, deodorant, barrettes, hair ties, socks, reusable plastic containers for food, aluminum foil, plastic wrap, trash bags, dish soap, and more.

Food items suggestions: canned meat, canned vegetables, spaghetti sauce, mac and cheese that can be made without milk, baking supplies. The collected items will be distributed to local families and individuals in need. The food shelf is always available during normal library hours.

Technology Tuesday!

Need help with technology? The library is here for you. Staff can teach you how to do things like use the library catalog to look for books and materials, place holds, add Libby to your e-reader or phone, and generally make the most out of the online resources available for you.

Staff can also help with non-library related things like setting up an e-mail account. Note: If you would like help specific to your device, please bring it along.

Homework Help

Staff members will be available to assist children with homework questions on Mondays from 3-6 p.m. This is not a tutoring session; this program is designed for children to ask for help on a specific question.

Children under the age of 12 must have a parent or guardian remain with them.

Library Wish List

The library is in need of cheap paper plates (the kind that you must use more than one or your food will spill off), playdough, bubbles, large crayons, ribbon, card stock (all colors), purple glue sticks, small bags of chips, sandwich bags, large zip lock bags, cookies, juice, coloring books, construction paper, googly eyes and feathers.

New Braintree Police Log

During the weeks of Feb. 25-March 9, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 16 building/property checks, 63 directed/area patrols, 15 radar assignments, three traffic controls, seven emergency 911 calls, four safety hazards, four motor vehicle accidents, three citizen assists, two assist other agencies and six motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

Wednesday, Feb. 25

10:32 p.m. Safety Hazard, Oakham Road, Voice Message Left

Thursday, Feb. 26

6:26 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Oakham Road, Transported to Hospital

Sunday, March 1

12:09 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Crash, Ravine Road, Services Rendered

2:36 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Crash, Barre Road, Vehicle Towed

2:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, Old Turnpike Road, Merge

Monday, March 2

7:12 a.m. Safety Hazard, Gilbertville Road, Referred to Other Agency

10:26 a.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

11:08 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Memorial Drive,

Officer Handled
11:27 a.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

Tuesday, March 3

1:27 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

Wednesday, March 4

7:36 a.m. Safety Hazard, Worcester Road, Services Rendered

10:24 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, West Brookfield Road, Patient Refusal

10:58 a.m. Safety Hazard, Gilbertville Road, Officer Handled

Thursday, March 5

6:47 a.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Crash, Gilbertville Road, Vehicle Towed

Friday, March 6

12:49 a.m. Safety Hazard, Town Wide, Services Rendered

6:44 a.m. 911 Fire/Chimney, Barr Road, Extinguished

7:09 a.m. Safety Hazard, Barr Road, Referred to Other Agency

1:07 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Davis Road, Officer Handled

Sunday, March 8

11:03 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, West Brookfield Road, Patient Refusal

7 p.m. Assist Citizen, Bernard Whitney Road, Officer Handled

Local students named to Holy Cross' 2025-26 Dean's List

WORCESTER – College of the Holy Cross congratulates the students named to the fall 2025 Dean's List for outstanding academic achievement during the spring semester of the 2025-26 academic year.

The following local students made the list: Jenna

Dupell of North Brookfield, Class of 2026 and Alexandra Matheson of Sturbridge, Class of 2028

To qualify for the Dean's List, students must pass four or more letter-graded courses with no failing grades during the semester and earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

STURBRIDGE FROM PAGE 1

meeting.

The representative gave an update on the project, and said crews have set utility poles on Podunk and North Sturbridge roads. He said the underground conduit is "a key part of the process."

Town Administrator Robin Grimm said both the Conservation Commission and the Planning Board have signed off on the project. She said the town continues to work with National Grid to address tree removal concerns at the site of the project.

The Select Board approved National Grid's request.

Municipal fiber grant

The Select Board approved a memorandum of understanding with the town of Holland for a fiber optics project using Sturbridge's existing lines.

Holland Select Board Chair James Whalen spoke about the project, which the towns have worked on with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission.

Whalen said a fiber optic upgrade completed in Sturbridge created an intermittent delay in signal to Holland's town hall and elementary school. He said this created a safety concern, especially with IT and security cameras.

The town of Holland has appropriated funds to complete an assessment on available lines to create connections to the elemen-

tary school. Once the assessment is complete, the towns can apply for grant funding.

Town Administrator's report

Grimm said she has been attending regional dispatch meetings as the administrative representative of the town. She said it will likely take a year to shift from a town-run dispatch center to the regional dispatch center in Charlton.

"It goes through administrative changes and shifts and we want to be actively involved in that," she said. "They have voted to sort of give us a voice on anything that will impact future expenses."

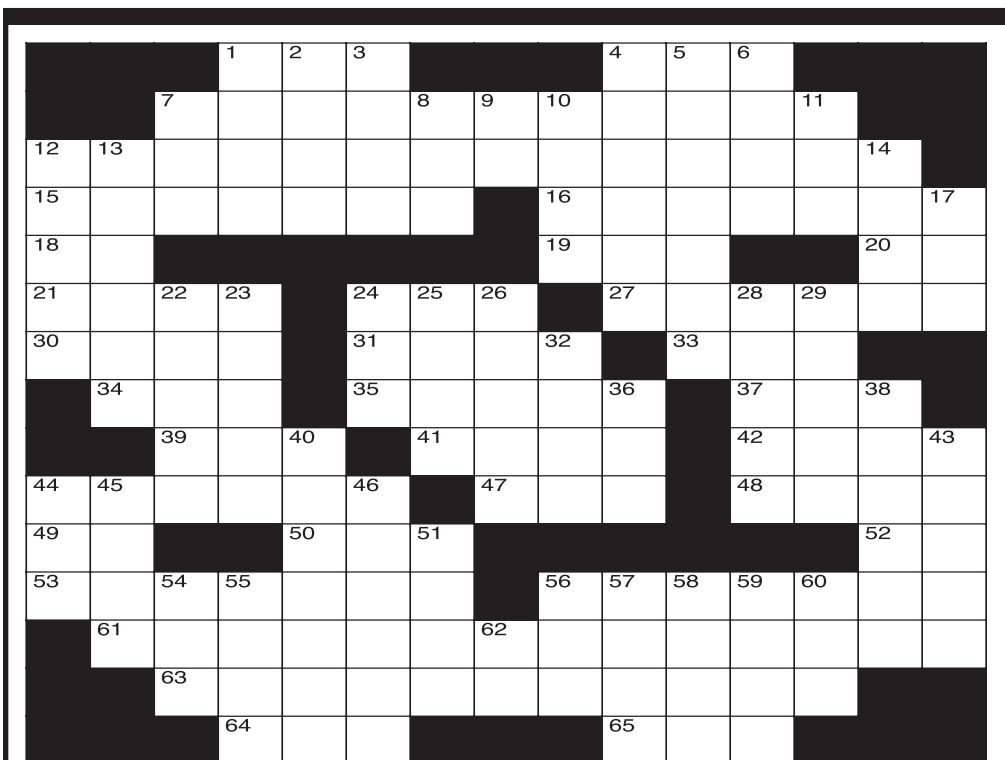
Grimm said she will be able to participate in the current contract negotiations as the labor representative.

"I'm pleased that we immediately were brought on officially with voting rights and voice," she said.

Grimm said she was a guest reader in the third grade during Read Across America day at Burgess Elementary School. The students are learning about civics and what a town administrator's role is.

"I had a wonderful time," she said.

Grimm said she read a book written by her husband's marathoner friend, about a cat that dreamed of becoming a faster runner than horses at the racetrack. She said it is based off the real story of Roadrunner, the cat.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Blockchain-based entity
4. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
7. Painted with glue
12. Legendary crooner
15. Structure made with strips of wood
16. Tropical fruits
18. Commercial
19. Comedienne
20. The Ocean State
21. Ancient Scot
24. Basics
27. Stated propositions
30. Scottish island group
31. Expression of annoyance
33. Large tree
34. Engine additive
35. Conspiracy
37. Drunkard

39. Someone who is morally reprehensible
41. Ancient Syrian city
42. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
44. Carry (slang)
47. Sweet potato
48. European river
49. The Golden State
50. Windy City ballplayer
52. New Testament
53. Possess spiritually
56. A treeless grassy plain
61. Popular historical novel
63. In a law-abiding way
64. A place to sleep
65. Criticize

CLUES DOWN

1. Impression in a surface
2. Computer language
3. Relating to the ear

4. Occupant
5. Member of Great Plains people
6. Social media firm
7. Digital audiotape
8. Midway between east and southeast
9. Chronic, progressive disease
10. Chinese lute
11. Not wet
12. Moves wings up and down
13. Communication devices
14. Swiss river
17. Female sibling
22. Receive
23. Relating to a type
24. General's assistant (abbr.)
25. Steep bank
26. Taxi driver
28. Moves into without difficulty
29. Bicycle manufacturer
32. Traditional rhythmic pattern
36. Fugitives are on it
38. Bitter-tasting organic substance
40. Die
43. Matched
44. Literary genre ___-fi
45. Cannot
46. Pounded
51. British rock group
54. Debt relief order
55. 2006 NL Cy Young winner
56. Green vegetable
57. Tough outer skin of fruit
58. ___ Spumante (Italian wine)
59. Ailments
60. Famed singer Charles
62. Camper

TURLEY Publications, Inc.
www.newspapers.turley.com

AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS
BARRE GAZETTE
COUNTRY JOURNAL
CHICPEE REGISTER
THE JOURNAL REGISTER
THE REGISTER

QUABOAG CURRENT
SENTINEL
THE SUN
WILBRANHAM-HAMPDEN TIMES
TOWN REMINDER
WARE RIVER NEWS

REMEMBER TO RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

SPORTS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

Indians fall in state playoffs



Kalyn Roy rushes down the court after making a rebound.

NORTH BROOKFIELD – After a successful girls basketball campaign, North Brookfield landed a spot in the Division 5 State Tournament, drawing a familiar opponent as the Indians faced off with Bethany Christian Academy.

The Indians offense was not able to get enough scoring and was defeated 45-29, ending their playoff run quickly.

The Indians usually play Bethany Christian twice a season, and North Brookfield split the games this season. Their season finishes 11-7.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Milcalia Ayala takes a free throw.



Sophia Giangrande eyes a teammate across the court.



Whitney Reno corral the ball.



Sophia Dufresne heads down the court

Local high school seniors headed to All-Star Games

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced the team rosters for the 2026 Western Massachusetts Senior High School All-Star Games. On Friday, Mar. 20, the Hall of Fame will host the 2026 All-Star event on the Jerry Colangelo Court of Dreams at the Hall of Fame. Sixty of the region's top seniors were selected to participate in the final high school contests of their prep career.

"We are honored to welcome Western Massachusetts' top high school basketball players to the 15th annual All-Star celebration at the Basketball Hall of Fame," said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. "This event

is a special opportunity to recognize the hard work and achievements of these outstanding seniors, and we invite the community to join us as they take the court one final time in their high school careers."

A committee of local coaches and media members, representing each division on both the boys' and girls' sides, selected the teams. Using the designated classes for the PVIAC Tournament, the players will be divided into six teams: two girls' teams, two boys' teams of Class A and B players, and two boys' teams of Class C and D players. Only graduating seniors are eligible for the All-Star Games. Rosters

See ALL-STARS PAGE 8

QVBL registration now underway

SOUTH HADLEY – Registration has opened for the Quabbin Valley Baseball League, an over-28 recreational league, held its first meeting of 2026 to prepare for the upcoming season.

For the 2026 season, the cost will be \$215 and will include a 16th game added to the regular season schedule.

During the 2025 season, the league experimented with playing on Mother's Day Saturday as well as a weeknight game to allow

players an opportunity to play under the lights. While the night games were very successful, the Mother's Day Saturday games were rained out.

Those elements will return along with a 16th game with an opponent to be determine as the league's board explores possibilities for interleague matchups with another league in the region.

For returning players to the league, the deadline is Mar. 22 at 12 noon to

See QVBL PAGE 8

T-Birds upset by Wild

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (22-27-5-2) put forth a big push down the stretch but succumbed to a late goal in falling 2-1 against the Iowa Wild (19-30-4-1) on Saturday night before the ninth consecutive Pink in the Rink sellout crowd of 6,793 inside the Mass-Mutual Center.

The two clubs, who combined for 23 goals in two games in Des Moines in February, continued a weekend of tight checking in the opening period, with young netminders Will Cranley of Springfield (eight saves) and William Rousseau of the Wild (nine saves) turning away every shot that reached the target in period one. Dillon Dube came the closest to breaking the tie for Springfield, ringing the post behind Rousseau with one offering.

The Thunderbirds were frequent penalty killers in the opening half of the game, and the Wild finally connected as their fourth power play began at 9:01 of the third, as Dylan Gambrell stole a clearing attempt, firing a shot on net to force a rebound off Cranley's pads. Tyler Pitlick drove to the rebound and backhanded it under Cranley to make it a 1-0 game as the veteran potted his ninth goal in 14 AHL games this season.

Cranley had to atone for his own gaffe late in the period when he turned a puck over right in front of an open goal, but he recov-

ered to sprawl back into his crease and make a stop to hold the score at 1-0 into the third.

Steve Ott's team emptied the tank in the final period, to the tune of an 18-5 shot advantage. After failing to connect on two more power plays, the T-Birds used a great effort on the rush to finally crack into the scoresheet as Matthew Peca made a perfect drop pass onto the tape of Hugh McGing, who one-timed it through Rousseau to even the score at 13:49.

The Thunderbirds had thoughts of jumping to the lead down the stretch, but Rousseau and Iowa kept Springfield from a tie-breaking goal. Instead, it would be the visitors who tasted victory late in the third. After a misplay at the offensive blue line from the T-Birds, Jean-Luc Foudy raced up the ice to set up a 2-on-1 with Gambrell, who one-timed a shot past a stretching Cranley with exactly 2:00 remaining in regulation. Springfield's last-ditch efforts with Cranley on the bench for a sixth attacker came up empty, and Iowa completed the two-game sweep of the weekend. The visiting team won each of the four matchups in the season series between the teams.

The T-Birds returned to a sold-out Thunderdome on Wednesday, Mar. 11 as they host the Providence Bruins for the first of two games wearing St. Patty's Day specialty jerseys.



The participants are off in the 48th running of the Holyoke St. Patrick's Road Race last March.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Road Race set to kick off big weekend

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – Last March, for the first time in several years, it was gorgeous weather for the Holyoke St. Patrick's Road Race.

More than 6,000 people participated in this year's event, with nearly 5,000 participants finishing the 10K, or 6.2-mile course.

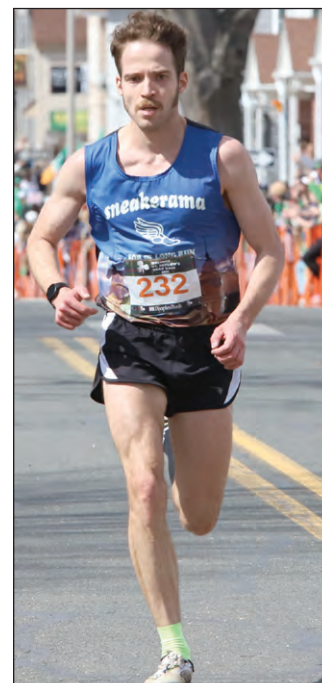
It was Samuel Whittaker of Salem, CT, who finished the race in 31:24. Alex Corbett, who placed second in last year's race, came in 23 seconds later at 31:47.

The top female finisher was Angelia Rafter at 34:13 and she placed 12th overall. Rafter is from Glastonbury, CT.

Among local finishers, Matt Provost of Monson was 19th overall at 35:09. Ryan Davis of South Hadley was a close 20th at 35:10. Lindsay Smith of South Hadley finished 22nd at 35:12.



Samuel Whittaker crosses the first line first overall.



Alex Corbett takes second in the race for the second year in a row.

While the race course, commonly known as a "hilly" course throughout downtown Holyoke ending with a turn off Beech St. and up the hill on Hamp-

den St. toward the finish line remained largely the same, there was one noticeable change in this year's event.

Presidential Timing took over the official timing du-

ties after 4RUN3 went out of business last year. Those looking for more results from the events can go to www.presidentialtiming.com to look at more specific results from the race. Like previous timers, you can look up people by name and bib number to get more specific results.

This year, the road race is set to take place on Saturday, Mar. 21 with the main race beginning at 1 p.m.

This year's race would feature runners from all over the region, the state, and surrounding states as many are preparing for the Boston Marathon, set to take place in just under a month. Many runners over the years have enjoyed using the St. Patrick's Day Road Race as practice for the marathon because of the challenging hills throughout the streets of Holyoke that runners

See ROAD RACE PAGE 8

- community -

MAPLE DAYS FROM PAGE 1

A total of six trees were tapped at the Maple Sugar Camp, and behind it stands about 40 more sugar maple trees that could be used in the future. Without the use of modern-day thermometers or hydrometers, the historians use their own judgement and focus on the movement of the water to measure the temperature.

At the Small House, Claire was making some maple sugar loaves.

There was a shelf full of sugar loaves inside the Small House and each one is in a different shade of color. The difference in color comes from the sap during the earlier runs of boiling.

Claire said butter is helpful when controlling the boil over.

There were also samples of tools early 19th-Century New Englanders used to tap trees. Claire showed a spile made of sumac that goes into the trees.

One of the interesting facts shared by Claire was that New Englanders back in the 1830s were not as pleased with the taste of maple sugar. It may have to do with their desire or preference of white sugar, rather than maple sugar.

"It can be a sticky mess," Claire said.

A lot of land in New England was clear-cut due to



Ethan, left, and Keegan were in charge of boiling the sap before it left the Maple Sugar Camp.

needing lumber for wood, which was used a lot in households for cooking and keeping warm.

At the Fitch House, Dani was busy grating maple sugar that will soon be used as an ingredient for tea cake. The tea cake includes three eggs, about three cups of sugar, and flour. A recipe book was used at Fitch House to make this tea cake; the only new ingredient added is maple sugar.

As part of Maple Days, guests can go to the Asa Knight Store to learn about what New Englanders used to sweeten their food and

drinks. Historian Steve, being the clerk at the general store, shared the history of the Asa Knight Store and all its fine products that come from over 30 countries.

Knight started his business back in the 1820s and ran the store until 1840, which was when his son took over. Old Sturbridge Village is fortunate to have found the records of Asa Knight's store, which include records of what he sold in his store.

There were a lot of interesting items that came from all over the world. Steve pointed out interesting items such as "British Oil," used for stomach aches and

other ailments. Rather than a toothbrush, there were "teeth brushes" being sold at the general store, as well as tooth powder.

"We're fortunate to know his building's history," Steve said.

When asked about what products were used to sweeten food and drink, Steve mentioned molasses, white sugar, and even maple sugar. According to the general store historian, farmers would make their own maple sugar, as it was inexpensive to make.

In the Asa Knight Store, back in the 1830s, barrels of molasses, sugar loaves,



Claire is shown inside the Small House showing ways to cook maple sugar.

and refined sugar were sold. Steve pointed out samples of bagged sugar loaves that were sitting on one shelf inside the Asa Knight Store.

After exploring the village, guests stopped by the Miner Grant Store and Ox & Yoke Mercantile to shop for anything maple. There was maple syrup, maple candy, recipe books for maple-flavored foods, maple scented soaps, lotions, and a lot more maple.

Maple Days at Old Sturbridge Village will conclude on Sunday, March 15. For more information, visit www.osv.org.



Dani is shown grating maple sugar in the Fitch House at Old Sturbridge Village during Maple Days. The maple sugar will be an added ingredient to tea cake.

PROPERTY RECORDS FROM PAGE 1

mation you will find on a deed, including the buyer and seller of the property, the amount paid for it, a description of the property, the date of the agreement, the date of recording and witnesses.

"You won't find specific genealogy information in the form of dates and locations," she said, such as birthdates, which are not commonly included.

Kennedy said there are six different types of land transfers, including a deed of sale, deed of gift, lease and release, mortgage sale, land grant and estate settlement.

She said the most common type of deed is the quitclaim, which provides "very little legal protection" to the grantee, or the person receiving the deed.

Kennedy said in Massa-

chusetts, land deeds go as far back as the 1600s.

She provided a list of resources to research land records, including MassLandRecords.com, a free online search engine. Another online resource is FamilySearch.org, which is provided by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

People can also access land records through the registry of deeds, of which there are 21 in the commonwealth.

"Basically they're by county," she said.

Kennedy gave a demonstration searching land records using MassLandRecords.com, and found 14 documents with her name in them. She said you can also search by address, but it is important to know if a house was renumbered or a street was renamed, or even if the town used to be part of a different town.

If searching land records that date before the 1960s, it is necessary to know the book and page the deed was recorded in by the registry of deeds. The filing cabinet was invented during the 1960s, and it revolutionized how information was stored in organized.

Kennedy said that people shouldn't be intimidated by using a resource's "advanced search" feature, as it was just going to provide them more options to look through to find information.

She also demonstrated how to search for land records using book and page, which she said can be a bit tedious. Each page can be printed out, and she recommended using legal or tabloid sized paper to make it easier to read.

Kennedy said if people are having a difficult time locating their home's deeds, they can also search for "reg-

istered land," which documents any property that has been involved with the court system. This applies to about 10% of the land in the commonwealth.

She said registered land is most common on Cape Cod, where there have been a lot of legal battles over beach properties.

Kennedy said the indexes are "only as good as the person reading the original handwriting," and she gave an example of how a misspelled name had stalled a family's genealogy search.

She said a family in Europe was trying to locate the grave of their great-grandfather in Millbury, but his last name was spelled "Jansen" in land records instead of "Jensen."

Through her research, Kennedy discovered that Jensen had purchased land in Massachusetts (sight unseen) while living in Iowa.

He eventually sold the Massachusetts land as an easement to New England T&T to place power lines. This sale occurred in 1920, and the deed was recorded in 1925.

Kennedy encouraged people to keep looking, even if they think they've hit a dead-end. She said that there were five deeds after Jensen's death, tied to his property.

"I still found things about him [Jensen] in 1948," she said. "There's a story right there just behind those dates."

Kennedy said researching land records can be very rewarding when doing your family's genealogy, as it gives a glimpse into who your family was friends and neighbors with, and sometimes it can even lead to new family information.

"There's always going to be a story," she said.

Kennedy is presenting two

additional programs this spring in Sturbridge about genealogy. On March 26, the Joshua Hyde Public Library will host "Getting Started with Ancestry.com: A Practical Introduction to Family History Research". This beginner-friendly session introduces you to the core features of Ancestry.com, including how to navigate your family tree, evaluate hints, and organize genealogical information on one of the most widely used family history platforms.

And in June, Kennedy will be at the Senior Center to present "Become the Ancestor Your Family Remembers". This session offers practical guidance on documenting your own life story using a variety of formats - from job applications and photo captions to vivid personal memories.

ALL STARS FROM PAGE 7

are on the next page.

For the 15th year, the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame will recognize one boy and one girl as the Western Massachusetts Players of the Year. A special presentation will be made for the recipients during halftime of one of the participating games. A panel of local media members selects the award winners, who are recognized for their achievements on the court as well as their sportsmanship and character off the court.

Participants in the Boys Class C and D game include: Ware's Jack Gaudreau and Brady Guimond, Palmer's

Dylan Doherty, Gavin Smola, and Stephen Fredette, Mahar's Jayden Delgado, Granby's Zavien Fernandez, and Monson's Austin Meacham.

In the girls game, participants include: Minnechaug's Cailin O'Brien, Kelly Cronin, and Elizabeth Woytowicz, Mahar's Hayden Comeau, and Agawam's Isabella Laprise,

And in the Boys A and B game, participants include: Holyoke's Jordan King-Perilli, Chicopee's Dominic Garcia, Belchertown's Jake Pacunas, Minnechaug's Miles Fergus, Chicopee Comprehensive's Brody Fay, and South Hadley's Isiah James.

QVBL FROM PAGE 7

be registered for the 2026 season in order to be guaranteed a roster spot. There will be open practices for all players but specifically targeted at new players scheduled for March 29 and April 4 at times and locations to be announced. The draft is currently scheduled to take place on April 4 following that practice.

The season is currently slated to start on Sunday, April 19 and following the success of the six-team fall league last year, the league will also have a fall league in September and October

this season.

The registration is live at www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org. Players must register and then pay the league dues via Venmo or contact the league leadership if an alternate form of payment is needed.

Aside from the weeknight and Mother's Day games, other games take place Sundays at 10 a.m. outside of Mother's Day, Memorial Day and July 4 weekends. Playoffs will be in August.

This is the 30th season for the league and league officials are looking to celebrate the anniversary with a couple of events.

ROAD RACE FROM PAGE 7

must navigate through. While there has been a considerable amount of snowfall this past winter, the Holyoke DPW will have the streets utilized in the race ready to go for both runners and spectators. Helping matters has been the recent warmer weather that has helped accelerate the melting of a lot of the snow.

Messages Edit

JOB ALERT

Turley
Publications, Inc.
www.turley.com

Send writing samples with resume to:

GREG SCIBELLI
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069

or email directly to
gscibelli@turley.com

NOW HIRING
Writers/
Journalists

- Must be dependable, professional and able to meet strict deadlines
- Salary based on a flat rate by story and photo

• Produce news and/or feature stories of local interest for various towns and cities.

Turley Publications seeks EXPERIENCED WRITERS/JOURNALISTS

to produce news and/or feature stories of local interest for various towns and cities.

- Must be dependable, professional and able to meet strict deadlines
- Salary based on a flat rate by story and photo

Send writing samples with resume to:



GREG SCIBELLI
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069
or email directly to:
gscibelli@turley.com

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.

WRITERS
HELP WANTED

SUMMER CAMP

Check Out These Great Camps!

The benefits of attending summer camp

Summer camp is something akin to a rite of passage for millions of youngsters each year. Many adults look back fondly on their experiences at summer camp, often crediting such times as formative periods in their lives.

Summer camp benefits children in myriad ways. Recognition of the many advantages of attending summer camp can serve as a great reminder of just how fun it can be for children to spend their time away from school at a camp of their choosing.

• Campers continue to socialize throughout summer.

Socializing isn't just for the school year. While children in high school might be independent enough to come and go with their friends during summer break, kids who are still in elementary school or middle school might not be old enough to handle such freedom. That can make it hard to stay in touch with friends, which in turn can contribute to feelings of boredom and loneliness. Camp provides ample opportunities for young children to socialize during a time of year when they might not see their school friends as often as they're used to.

• Campers can expand their horizons. Though some summer camps are exclusive to residents of certain communities, many tend to feature children from numerous towns or municipalities. Such camps provide an opportunity for campers to expand their horizons by engaging with youngsters who come from different backgrounds. Indeed, the Graduate School of Education at Harvard University notes that summer camp may be the first time children spend substantial amounts of time with people whose backgrounds differ from their own.

• Camp can get kids off their devices. Modern children are growing up in a digital world, and parents know how hard it can be to get kids to put down their devices and get outdoors. But the key to making that pivot could be access to outdoor play spaces. A 2025 study from researchers at the University of Michigan published in the journal Health and Place found that efforts to reduce kids' screen time are more successful when children are given a chance to play outside. Many summer camps are structured around outdoor play, making them a

potentially invaluable ally as parents seek to help children cut back on the time they spend using their devices. Children who do not attend camp and live in households where both parents work or in single-parent households where Mom or Dad works may be forced to spend much of summer indoors, which could increase the frequency with which they turn to devices to occupy their time.

• Camp adds structure to summer days. Once a school year ends, the structure a school day provides vanishes into thin air. Couple that with extracurricular

activities that go on hiatus during summer vacation, and kids accustomed to structure are left with little to do and no need to schedule their time. That can add an aimlessness to summer days. Camp can provide the structure kids are accustomed to but still offer a break from responsibilities like homework or the commitments required of extracurricular activities.

There's no shortage of benefits to enrolling youngsters in summer camp, where kids can socialize, grow and get off their devices while engaged in structured but stress-free activities.

summer@HCC

Holyoke Community College Summer Youth Programs for Ages 8-16



Save your spot and register today for summer fun!


- July 27-31, Minecraft Designers (ages 8-10, 11-14)
- August 3-7, Python Programmers (ages 8-10, 11-14)
- July 20-24, Make Your First Video Game (ages 8-10, 11-14)
- July 13-17, ROBLOX Coders (ages 8-10, 11-14)
- July 6-10 and 13-17, Fun Bites with Chef Swanigan (ages 9-16)
- July 20-24 and 27-31, Around the world with Chef Swanigan (ages 9-16)
- July 6-10 and 13-17, Cooking without Borders with Chez Vargas-Gonzalez (ages 9-16)
- July 20-24 and 27-31, Passport to Flavors with Chef Vargas-Gonzalez (ages 9-16)

Check out our adult enrichment courses, too! hcc.edu/bcs

HOLYOKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PATHFINDER TECH 2026 SUMMER YOUTH ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

REGISTRATION OPENS 8AM APRIL 1ST



CHOOSE YOUR FAVORITE PROGRAM!

WEEK #1: July 6 - 10
WEEK #2: July 13 - 17
WEEK #3: July 20 - 24

Hands-on fun for students entering grades 4 to 8!

Visit our website for program descriptions and availability!
WWW.PATHFINDERTECH.ORG/SUMMER-YOUTH-PROGRAM/



Proud publishers of 12 community newspapers

Turley Publications, Inc.
Call 413-283-8393 to advertise your business here

Greene Acres Equestrian Center L.L.C.

2026 Summer Riding Sessions

June 29 - July 3 • July 20 - July 24
August 10 - August 14 • August 24-28

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

Girl Scout Camp For All Girls!

DAY & OVERNIGHT

www.gscwm.org



Belchertown Kidz Club

TODDLER • PRESCHOOL • SCHOOL AGE
Offering Flexible Care Programs For Kids Ages 15 mo. - 12 yrs.
Open 7:00 a.m.-5:30* p.m. / MONDAY - FRIDAY
Both Full Time & Sibling Discounts

NOW ENROLLING FOR SPRING/SUMMER/FALL PROGRAMS

KIDZ SUMMER PROGRAM/K-6TH GRADE
Ages 5 - 12 yrs. • JUNE 22ND-AUGUST 21ST
9 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/YOUNG PRE-K Year round program for Ages 15 mos.-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 Follow Us 
belchertownkidzclub@gmail.com EEC LICENSED PROGRAM #177446

Join Our Toddler Room Waitlist



REGISTER FOR SIX WEEKS, GET THE SEVENTH FREE!

BEMENT SUMMER CAMP

FOR CHILDREN ENTERING GRADES K-9
Campers participate in a wide variety of fun activities including arts & crafts, swimming, nature programs, hiking, and 18 enrichment themes! Lunch is included and before and after care is available!

| | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| DAY CAMP JR. DAY CAMP | ENRICHMENT CAMPS | Weekly Tuition \$350-\$500 | MOUNTAIN BIKING & ADVENTURE CAMPS |
|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| WEEK 1: JUNE 15-19 | WEEK 2: JUNE 22-26 | WEEK 3: JULY 6-10 | WEEK 4: JULY 13-17 | WEEK 5: JULY 20-24 | WEEK 6: JULY 27-31 | WEEK 7: AUGUST 3-7 |
| Studio Arts & Crafts | Speech & Debate | Broadway at Bement | Magic Behind the Music | Graphic Novel Camp | Little Explorers Camp | Movie Magic Camp |
| Cross Country Camp | Taylor Swift Camp | Soccer Club | D&D Camp | Counselor in Training | Soccer Camp | Spanish Explorers |
| Gamer's Guild | STEM Challenges! | Mission Monadnock | History Hunters | Flag Football & More | PE Games & Sports | |

The Bement School
94 Old Main Street
Deerfield, MA 01342

Registration Link
bement.org/summer




Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

FOR SALE

FIREWOOD

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

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

MISCELLANEOUS

MILLING, TURNING, GRINDING, TOOLS. Tools inspection, tools granite surface plates, red head spindles and more. **CERA BIDE GRINDING, 34 Front Street, Indian Orchard, 413-543-1227.**

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

FRIDAY AT NOON

WANTED

WANTED! CASH for:

- Machinist tools, power tools & Snap on.
- Electronics & Audio Equipment.
- Sports Cards.
- 70s/80s/90s Toys.
- Antiques & Collectibles.

Call/Text Sam
413-531-5381

WANTED TO BUY

ALL ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.

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

Donald Roy (860) 874-8396

WANTED

ALWAYS BUYING ALL ANTIQUES:

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

Call Paul 413-206-8688

SERVICES

CHAMELEON PAINTING & REMODELING

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

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Handyman Services
Walker Home Improvement
Finish Carpentry • Framing • Drywall • Painting • & more!
(413) 687-5552

SERVICES



2*****A & B HOUSEHOLD REMOVAL SERVICE*****

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

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

ELECTRICIAN

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

LICENSED ELECTRICIAN

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

HEATING & AIR COND.

NO HEAT? Taking no heat calls - Oil and Gas, AC service also. 413-222-2904 Bobby.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

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

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

Read your local newspaper online at www.newspapers.turley.com

SERVICES

MASONRY

STOP WET BASEMENTS ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT WATERPROOFING

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

PAINTING

PRO PAINTING

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

PLUMBING

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

RUBBISH REMOVAL

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

TREE WORK

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

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

STUMP GRINDING

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

JUNK REMOVAL

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

PETS

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

HELP WANTED

The Town of Oakham is seeking an experienced certified municipal **TOWN CLERK.** 10 hours a week. \$31.82 - \$40.30 depending on experience. Email admin@oakham-ma.gov for a full job description and town employment application.

The Town of Oakham is seeking an experienced working **HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT.** The Highway Superintendent serves as the working department head responsible for the planning, administration, and day-to-day operations of the Town's Highway department. Pay rate is \$31.82 - \$40.30/hr depending on experience. Email admin@oakham-ma.gov for a full job description and town employment application.

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.

TAX SERVICES

2026 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.

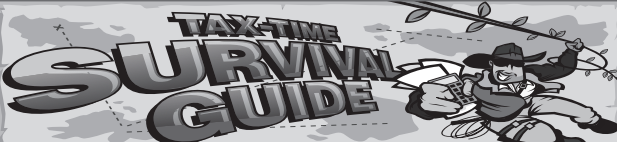
Personal & Small Business Federal & All States

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

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



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: **FRIDAY AT NOON**
or call: 413-283-8393

| CATEGORY: | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 Base Price \$26.00 |
| 21 Base Price \$26.50 | 22 Base Price \$27.00 | 23 Base Price \$27.50 | 24 Base Price \$28.00 |
| 25 Base Price \$28.50 | 26 Base Price \$29.00 | 27 Base Price \$29.50 | 28 Base Price \$30.00 |
| 29 Base Price \$30.50 | 30 Base Price \$31.00 | 31 Base Price \$31.50 | 32 Base Price \$32.00 |
| 33 Base Price \$32.50 | 34 Base Price \$33.00 | 35 Base Price \$33.50 | 36 Base Price \$34.00 |
| 37 Base Price \$34.50 | 38 Base Price \$35.00 | 39 Base Price \$35.50 | 40 Base Price \$36.00 |

Quabbin Village Hills
Circulation: 50,500

Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800

Suburban Residential
Circulation: 59,000

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

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

Make checks payable to Turley Publications

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

Your BUYLINE CONNECTION

DON'T BUY 'TIL YOU SEE US!!!!
END OF YEAR TV CLEARANCE!!!

GIANT APPLIANCE REBATES!!!
MATTRESS SALE!!!
BIKES, BIKES, BIKES!!!

12 MONTHS 0% FINANCING
WHITCO
 140 Main St., Spencer
 www.whitcosales.com
508-885-9343


Open: Mon.-Fri. 10am-8:30pm, Sat. 9am-8pm, Sun. 12pm-7pm

STURBRIDGE, MA
 Spacious raised ranch set on a private 1.8-acre lot in desirable Sturbridge. This home offers 3 bedrooms, and 2 full baths with over 2,100 sq ft of living space. Main level features hardwood floors, stainless steel appliances, spacious living room, formal dining room, and a large sunroom overlooking the backyard. Finished lower level includes a huge bonus room, with gas stove insert and slider to the patio, and incredible in-ground pool area, plus two additional rooms and laundry. Flexible layout could work well for an in-law apartment, ADU or extended living. Additional features include solar panels, providing significant energy savings, a built-in Generac generator, a 3-car garage, and long paved driveway. Surrounded by approximately 1,000 acres of protected land, located just minutes to Routes 20, I-84, and the MA Pike, in the Tantasqua school district. Available for \$640,000.



YOUR LOCAL REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS
We Do More So You Will Make More!!!

exp REALTY
 Michelle Terry Broker
 michelleterryteam.com
 130 W. Main Street
 Spencer, MA 01562
GIVE US A CALL TODAY! 508-202-0008



Brookhaven Assisted Care
 19 West Main Street, West Brookfield, MA 01585

MANAGEMENT TEAM:
 Erin, Laura and Nancy
 Over 56 years of service.

24 hour care, Medical Management, Assistance with activities of daily living, Activity Program, well trained, compassionate and caring staff.

Services Available In-House:
 Physician's / Nurse Practitioner services, Pharmacy services, Podiatry services

VNA services:
 Physical, Speech, Occupational Therapy, Hospice, Mobile X-Ray, Geriatric-Psych services
 Transportation available, Hairdresser / Barber
 Manager: Erin Glazier
 508-867-3325 ~ erin.brookhaven@gmail.com

LOCAL BUSINESS ADVERTISING SPECIALS

CONTACT US TODAY FOR DETAILS

NEWS

12 HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS

www.turley.com • 413.283.8393

Country Canine KENNELS

Boarding, Grooming, Daycare

Boarding starting at \$40 a night
 Daycare starting at \$26 a day

84 Greenwich Plains Road
 Ware, MA 01082
 (413) 277-0334 Office Phone
 countrycaninekennels@gmail.com

MS + NN PAINTING AND HOME MAINTENANCE

INTERIOR/EXTERIOR Home Painting & Maintenance

Residential/Commercial – Deck Specialists
 NO JOB IS TOO SMALL – FREE ESTIMATES
 Fully Insured – HIC License Holders
 81 Jackson Lane, Barre, MA 01005
774-321-4509
 Mmguzman.2011@yahoo.com

WHERE EVERYONE GOES FOR THEIR PIECE OF THE EARTH!

LANDSCAPE STONE
 White • Blue • Purple • Red
 Lt Gray • Dark Gray • Beige • Rip Rap

SCREENED LOAM STORED IN BUILDING

Construction Stone • Title V & Presby Septic Sand
 Concrete Sand • Chicken Coop Sand • Utility Sand
 Pool Liner Sand • 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 Sand, Gravel & Asphalt
 98 North Spencer Rd., Spencer
 bondsandandgravel.com
508-885-6100
508-885-2480

JARS Café & Bakery

23 Summer Street
 North Brookfield MA 01535

TEA FOR TWO
 1st Sunday Every Month
 Reservations Required

508-637-1577
 Tuesday-Sunday
 8am-2pm

- ❖ COFFEE
- ❖ GLUTEN FREE OPTIONS
- ❖ BREAKFAST SANDWICHES
- ❖ SOUPS
- ❖ COOKIES
- ❖ MUFFINS
- ❖ PASTRIES
- ❖ MAC'N CHEESE
- ❖ LUNCH & BREAKFAST MEALS

BRING IN ENTIRE AD FOR \$5 OFF
 with \$10 minimum purchase.

Adventure tours of Warren
 Share the Adventure with us!

Two Great Cruises aboard Norwegian Breakaway!



June 9-12 4-Day Boothbay Harbor Vacation \$899
 June 27....Lake George Cruise & Lunch\$185
 July 11.....Provincetown by Fast Ferry.....\$220
 July 19.....8-Day Bermuda & Halifax Cruise.....from \$1699
 Aug 30.....8-Day Nova Scotia Cruisefrom \$1699

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

Waterwheel Realty
We Keep Things Turning!
Paul Varney Sr.
 Realtor/Broker/Veteran/Auctioneer
Higher Experience: We have been selling & reselling area homes and land for over 40 years.
978-355-4438
 paulraymondvarney@gmail.com

Right now we have new and resale homes available
A Family Operated Business Since 1978
 12 Nichewaog Road, P.O. Box 339, Barre, MA 01005

Waterwheel Village
 A 55 & Better Community



A Unique Mobile Home Community
 in Barre Surrounded by a Wilderness Pond.
978-355-3454

HANNA'S ON MAIN
 91 Main Street
 Ware, MA 01082
 413-277-0009
 www.hannasonmain.com

Mon & Tues Functions Only • Wed & Thurs 11:00 AM- 9PM
 Fri & Sat 11:00 AM - 10pm • Sun 8AM - 9PM

We Are Open For Breakfast
 Every Sunday 8am - 12pm

Complete Catering Services!
 Hot Foods • Cold Foods
 Salads • Sandwich Trays

Graduations • Holidays • Anniversaries
 Business Events
 Birthdays • Retirements • Reunions

Live Entertainment Every Friday & Saturday Night

Function Room Available

www.hannasonmain.com
 413-277-0009

Join Us on Tuesday 3/17 To Celebrate St. Patrick's Day

OPEN MIC EVERY SUNDAY 2PM-4PM

HAPPY St. Patrick's DAY
 DJ From 4:00 - 8PM
 Playing Your Irish Favorites!
 Plus Prize Give-Aways!

We Are Open Tuesday March 17 12:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Join Us on Tuesday, March 17 For a Traditional Boiled Dinner & a Mug of Green Beer

KISS ME I'M IRISH

OPEN FOR LUNCH Wednesday - Friday at 11:00AM
 Dinner Served
 Wednesday - Friday at 11:00 AM • Saturday from 11AM- 10:00PM
 Sunday from 12PM - 9PM

KENO