

# QUABOAG

## CURRENT

**REGION**

Pathfinder FY 27 budget

Page 2

**WEST BROOKFIELD**

KofC dinner

Page 2

**NEW BRAINTREE**

Committee plans celebration

Page 6

Volume 19, Number 19

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

Friday, April 3, 2026

## It's hip to be square



Seniors enjoyed hip hop square dancing at the North Brookfield Senior Center last week. Shown from left were Karen Bessette, Nancy Olson, Shelley Fullam, Judy Manning and Paula Cummings.

### Seniors enjoyed hip hop square dancing

**NORTH BROOKFIELD** – Last week, seniors at the North Brook-

field Senior Center joined dance instructor and caller Dr. Rondae Drafts, for hip hop square dancing.

This program was funded in part by a grant from the North Brookfield Cul-

tural Council, a local agency, which is supported by Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Drafts is the executive director of MUSIC Dance, edu, a nonprofit organiza-

tion which offers performing arts opportunities to New England residents and music education throughout the east coast.

See HIP HOP PAGE 5

## School budget proposal reviewed

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis  
Staff Writer

**EAST BROOKFIELD** – The Board of Selectmen reviewed the budget proposal from the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District during their Monday meeting. Mark Carpentier, a member of the Finance Committee presented the budget. Some important numbers presented were the assessed operating over the minimum contribution was set at just over \$54,000, transportation is up over \$44,500, and the capital budget is just under \$150,000.

The overall budget for the district is about \$3.5 million, which is up over \$300,800 over the last year, but over \$400,000 of those dollars is debt excluded.

Additionally, some information about Spencer was presented, which shows them operating over \$250,000 over the minimum contribution, which will go to an override vote.

The budget presented also includes a \$1 million cut, which is equivalent to 12 full time equivalent po-

sitions, according to the memo by Carpentier. He said the town has two stabilization accounts, which total \$218,000, which can be tapped into to ease the deficit.

Board of Selectmen Chair Andrew Lynch suggested finding alternate funding for this year, and figuring out how to fund next year.

### Proposed bylaw changes

Lynch presented multiple proposed bylaw changes, including one that would restrict camping on public land without a permit. He said there are ongoing issues in town with that, but organizations such as Scouting America can get permits to have campouts in Pelletier Woods, and there are private lands which do not need permits, but rather permission from the owners.

Lynch said the town of Charlton had a citizen's petition to opt out of the new law forbidding the carrying of firearms on municipal property, and East Brook-

See E BROOKFIELD PAGE 10

## Help shape the future of the community

Learn about Community Heart & Soul program April 11

**NORTH BROOKFIELD** – Developed and field-tested over a decade in partnership with over 100 small cities and towns across America, Community Heart & Soul is a proven process for engaging a community

in shaping its future and it is coming to North Brookfield.

Lifelong residents and those new to town are being asked to participate in this program that could help identify ways to enhance the character of North Brookfield.

By gathering input from

See HEART & SOUL PAGE 6

## Selectmen OK'd CDBG grant application

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

**NORTH BROOKFIELD** – The Board of Selectmen approved the grant application for an improvement project for the South Common Street and St. Clair Avenue neighborhood.

At the March 24 meeting, Community Development Planner Shannon Sullivan of Central Massa-

chusetts Regional Planning Commission said the purpose of the public hearing was to present and discuss the fiscal year 2026 Community Development Block Grant application.

Sullivan said the CDBG program was enacted in 1974 and utilizes federal funding through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. She said there are approximately 11 entitlement communities in the state, which

automatically receive funding, while small communities such as North Brookfield, are required to follow a competitive application process.

The CDBG-funded projects must meet three criteria for approval: to benefit low-to-moderate-income populations, to remove or prevent slums and blights on an area basis and to respond to community development or urgent need.

Sullivan said the town

was given a "needs" score of 9 out of 10 for this grant year. The higher the score, the more competitive the town's grant application is.

"Which reflects a high need," she said.

The FY 26 grant application is for the South Common Street and St. Clair Avenue Improvements Project. This includes design and construction of surface and

See N BROOKFIELD PAGE 8



Children of all ages arrived at the Haston Free Public Library for the annual Easter Egg Hunt. Back row stands Gurli, Madison, and Maddison with their Easter baskets and bunny ears. Front row, left to right, stands Julianna, Amelia and Conrad.

## Library hosted annual Easter egg hunt

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

**NORTH BROOKFIELD** – Easter is on its way as the Haston Free Public Library, 161 North Main St., hosted its 5th Annual Easter Egg Hunt this past weekend.

About 15 kids arrived in

the Children's Library and came prepared with their own Easter baskets. Some of the kids were wearing rabbit ears as they looked for colorful Easter eggs all over the library.

Youth Services Librarian Brianna Lamb said there were over 90 eggs hidden throughout the library and that "there's lots of good

stuff to find." There were prizes inside the Easter eggs consisting of stampers, stickers, toy peeps, rings, necklaces, temporary tattoos, and some chocolate.

After a well-focused search, kids picked plenty of eggs, but somehow

See EASTER EGG HUNT PAGE 9

## Goodbye winter, hello spring

Winter Farmers Market came to an end

By Richard Murphy  
Correspondent

**WEST BROOKFIELD** – Winter ends in spring, at least it does in the West Brookfield Winter Farmers Market as March 25 was the last meeting.

All the vendors except one have been featured. Finally, it is the turn of Joy Hinton, impresario of Joy of Beans Coffee Shop who serves as coordinator of the weekly event.

### Joy of Beans

Joy was kind enough to share her story:

"The Joy of Beans is more than a cup of coffee. When I first started roasting it was just about a freshly roasted cup. Now, every day that I roast and sell coffee it evolves and represents more to me.

My coffee shop has a heartbeat of its own, it rep-

resents community and awareness. Joy of Beans is a place where we come together, talk, story, laugh and share knowledge, socialize and network. It's not just business but life experiences and at times, we help each other.

Since I opened the coffee shop I have learned more about the fabric of our community. I have lived in

and been connected to West Brookfield since I was 13.

I got married left and came back 39 years ago and have learned more about the broader community from the town lines of Leicester to as far as Springfield.

We gather at the shop every week. It goes beyond the borders of the Brookfields.

See WINTER MARKET PAGE 10



Joy Hinton and Joy of Beans Coffee.

TURLEY PHOTO BY RICHARD MURPHY

## - community -

# Pathfinder Tech presented budget proposal

**By Abigail McCoy  
Staff Writer  
amccoy@turley.com**

**PALMER** – Officials from across the region gathered at Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School last week as the district presented its proposed fiscal year 2027 budget, outlining continued growth, strategic investments, and increasing demand for career and technical education.

The event, held in the school's library, drew a strong turnout of select board members, finance committee representatives, town administrators, managers, and council members from all nine member communities; an indication, school officials said, of the district's deepening partnerships across the region.

"It was great to see such strong representation from our member communities," officials noted during the presentation. "The turnout and engagement demonstrated the continued partnership between Pathfinder Tech and the towns we serve."

### Budget overview and fiscal strategy

Superintendent Eric Duda led the presentation, opening with a series of recent highlights to illustrate what he described as a year of "growth and progress" for the district.

The proposed FY 27 budget reflects an overall increase of 4.98% compared to FY 26. Of that, the assessment to the district's nine member towns would rise by 2.27% collectively.

One contributing factor to the increase is a \$519,000 rise in the minimum local contribution requirement across member communities.

Despite these increases, district leaders emphasized their continued focus on balancing fiscal responsibility with program quality.

"Our goal continues to be balancing fiscal responsibility with maintaining high quality programs and opportunities for our students," Duda said.

### Expansion efforts and facility investments

A significant portion of the presentation focused on ongoing and recent expansion projects, including the district's partnership with the Cold Spring School in

Belchertown. The initiative will add 150 seats, expanding access to vocational education in the region.

"The excitement around the 150-seat expansion initiative with the Cold Spring school in Belchertown could be felt in the room," officials said.

District leaders also highlighted the successful redevelopment of the former Country Bank property at Four Corners. Renovated by Pathfinder students, the building is now fully operational and serves multiple community functions.

The space currently houses the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce and is used in the evenings for adult continuing education programs; an initiative that has grown significantly in recent years.

Costs associated with the Cold Spring expansion, including transportation and staffing, are being offset through revolving funds, meaning they will not impact member town assessments for FY 27.

### Rising costs and insurance adjustments

While the district remains

in a stable financial position, several cost drivers are putting pressure on the budget. Among the most significant increases are:

- 10% rise in transportation costs

- 12.7% increase in retiree health insurance premiums

- 9.83% increase in active employee health insurance

- 12% increase in non-employee insurance

District officials pointed to reforms made in FY 23 to health insurance offerings as a mitigating factor. The transition to tiered plans and expanded options has improved coverage while positioning the district for long-term savings.

Officials project that continued staff attrition and retirements over the next five to seven years will further reduce insurance-related costs.

### Financial position

Despite rising expenses, Pathfinder Tech reported no outstanding debt and no major capital requests for the upcoming fiscal year.

This stability is largely attributed to the district's success in securing more than \$1.4 million in competitive grants across FY 25 and FY 26.

"Through careful planning and strategic grant funding, the district has been able to invest in programs and facilities while avoiding new debt," Duda said.

### Enrollment trends

A key theme of the presentation was the contrast between regional enrollment trends and Pathfinder's continued growth.

Across the nine member towns, K-12 enrollment has declined by more than 20% over the past 12 years. In contrast, Pathfinder Tech has seen steady increases in enrollment, with particularly strong demand among incoming ninth-grade applicants.

"Even as overall K-12 enrollment declines in many communities, demand for career and technical education continues to grow," officials said. "We are seeing that reflected in our application numbers each year."

Enrollment is expected to increase further in FY 27, driven by both in-district students and non-resident tuition applicants.

### Programs and engagement

District leaders also highlighted several initiatives

contributing to student success and engagement.

Among them is the "PATH to Professionalism" framework, which emphasizes core values and workforce readiness skills. Officials credited the program, along with hands-on learning opportunities, for helping drive student interest and retention.

Pathfinder is also now in its third year as a cell-phone-free school; a policy administrators say has significantly improved focus, engagement, and productivity in classrooms.

Daily attendance rates exceed 95%, a figure officials cited as evidence of strong student investment in their education.

### Expanding adult education

The district's adult continuing education program was another area of growth highlighted during the presentation. Now fully self-sustaining, the program operates without financial impact on member towns while generating revenue and expanding course offerings.

In the past year alone, the program secured more than \$500,000 in grant funding.

## Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service at Old Sturbridge Village

**STURBRIDGE** – The annual Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service will be held at Old Sturbridge Village on Sunday, April 5 at 6 a.m.

The service is open to the public.

According to The Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale's pastor, the Rev. David W. Cote, seven local faith communities will gather at the original Baptist Meetinghouse located at the end of the Common at

Old Sturbridge Village.

Also participating in this year's service are the faith communities from Bethlehem Lutheran Church (Sturbridge), St. Anne/St. Patrick Catholic Church (Fiskdale), Brookfield Congregational Church (Brookfield), Elm Street Congregational Church (Southbridge), Holy Trinity Church (Southbridge), and St. Joseph Church (Charlton).

"The sunrise service is a simple but meaningful way to begin Easter," said Cote. "I believe that this Sunrise Service is a representation of Christ's love for us all. We come together as one body, as the sun rises to celebrate the hope that Easter brings. All are welcome to join us."

Those planning to attend should enter the Village through the security gate at the top of the parking lot

and proceed to the Meetinghouse on the Common. Attendees are encouraged to dress appropriately for the weather.

Food and drink are not permitted, except for bottled water. Old Sturbridge Village will not be open for touring during the event and restrooms will not be available. Guests are asked to leave the Village directly following the service.

## CANDIDATE'S STATEMENT



Select Board candidate Kadion Phillips (left) is shown with his family. SUBMITTED PHOTO

## A record of service, a vision for Sturbridge's future

**Kadion Phillips**

**STURBRIDGE** – Sturbridge deserves a Select Board member with a proven record of community service and a clear vision for what comes next – and I am humbly asking for the chance to be that person.

My approach is simple: service, transparency, and smart growth guided by fiscal discipline.

My wife Michele, a proud Tantasqua graduate, and I chose Sturbridge to raise our three sons. That personal investment in future generations is exactly why I'm running.

As Chair of the Recreation Committee, and Vice Chair on the Community Preservation Committee, I've been a consistent advocate for our fields and open spaces – always in a fiscally responsible way. I have served on the Cable Advisory Committee, and I've coached and volunteered with youth soccer, baseball, and basketball – always working to make sure every kid has a positive experience that keeps them coming back year after year.

For more than 20 years, my professional roles as a teacher, principal, and Director of Technology have instilled a deep commitment to efficiency, accountability, and making smart, data-

driven investments – principles I will apply to every Select Board decision.

The question I hear most from neighbors is: Where are my tax dollars going – and how do I find out what's happening in town?

I believe every dollar spent must be tied directly to a clear benefit for our taxpayers. That means a cleaner, more useful town website, plain-language budget summaries, and easier ways for residents to watch meetings, get involved, and stay informed.

At the end of the day, residents simply want to see their government working for them – and that is exactly what I am committed to delivering.

Every decision I make will be thoughtful – grounded in fiscal responsibility, but always with an eye toward smart investment in Sturbridge's future. With significant commercial development along Route 20 and critical water infrastructure upgrades on the horizon, now is exactly the time for steady, forward-thinking leadership that prioritizes long-term fiscal health.

To learn more about my campaign, visit [www.kadion.org](http://www.kadion.org). I would be honored to earn your trust – and to help build a Sturbridge that truly works for everyone who calls it home.

## Troop 163 to hold waffle dinner fundraiser on April 11

**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](mailto:troop163sturbridge@gmail.com) with any questions.

## KofC sponsors spaghetti dinner

**WEST BROOKFIELD** – Knights of Columbus Council 11080 is sponsoring a Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, April 18 in Dugan Hall, Sacred Heart Church, 10 Milk St.

Proceeds from this event will benefit Supporting Orphans Nationally & Globally (S.O.N.G.). Dinner includes pasta fagioli, garden salad meatballs and sausage, spaghetti and sauce, Italian bread, dessert, water, soda, and coffee.

Cost is a \$15 donation and \$10 for children under

12 years old. Take-out is available at 6 p.m. and sit-down dinner is served at 6:30 p.m.

Admission tickets are also good for entry for a special door prize. Raffle tickets for a 50/50 Raffle and more will be available.

Advance ticket purchase is encouraged and appreciated. Tickets are available from any Knight or by calling 413-813-8100 or by emailing [wallyconnor122@gmail.com](mailto:wallyconnor122@gmail.com).

Tickets will only be available at the door while they last.

*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**.



**ROOF REJUVENATION**

Before you spend \$20,000+ on a full roof replacement, discover the soy-based treatment that can **SAVE** homeowners thousands.

SCAN FOR MORE

**Protect & maintain your biggest asset**

**Our eco-friendly rejuvenation treatment:**

- Extends roof life by up to 15 years (with applications every 5 years).
- Restores flexibility to old, brittle shingles.
- Locks in granules and adds a fresh waterproof seal.
- Costs 90% less than a roof replacement.

508-308-2041 CALL FOR A FREE ESTIMATE



**Wednesday, April 8th**  
7pm-?

# Musical Bingo

PRIZES!

948 Main Street, Warren  
413-436-8491

## FOR RENT

### Quabbin Estates

41 Church Lane, Wheelwright, MA 01094

Accepting applications for wait list.

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

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




Community Newspaper

## ADVERTISING

Works!

# - community -

## Quaboag Regional School District budget information meeting held

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Quaboag Regional School Committee held an informational meeting regarding the fiscal year 2027 school budget this past Monday.

Director of Finance at Quaboag, Nicole Goncalves, said the informational meeting will go over three versions of the budget, and will list some contributing factors.

According to the data collected by the Quaboag Regional School District, enrollment since 2007 has gone down to about 500 students. Students who attend also include school choice.

Another contributing factor is state and other aid, which goes over Chapter 70. True revenue for Chapter 70 is net of school choice sending and charter school sending tuition.

Transportation is based of reported expenditures in the FY 25 end of year report. Chapter 70 FY 26 cherry sheet estimate is listed at \$10,600,000.

The Governor's FY 27 local aid proposal is listed at \$10,676,590; a \$76,000 increase. Goncalves shared that the healthcare increase alone is more than that amount.

With school choice, the school receives revenues from the students that come into the school district and send money out for students

going out of district. Looking at both estimates the net receipts are up roughly \$600,000. Chapter 70 is going up in small increments.

Town contributions are also a contributing factor. A required minimum contribution is the amount that is calculated from the state that a town is required to pay to the school. The town must pay this amount or could face fines, withholding of funds or other consequences.

The above required minimum contribution is the amount the town is agreeing to pay to the school. However, they are not required to contribute over the required amount.

Goncalves said this includes the assessment for transportation, which is also rising in cost.

An increase in students placed out of district means an increase in transportation services needed for students. The increase for student transportation for FY 27 is about 5%. The budget increase for FY 27 is just over \$300,000.

The transportation reimbursement is based on an 85% return to district.

Health insurance is another contributing factor for the FY 27 budget. Health care costs are rising and lower reimbursements create a revenue gap.

Specialty medications are costly as well as GLP I Class medications are soaring in popularity. Goncalves even

added that retirees are living longer which increases costs as population ages.

"Costs are just increasing in general," Goncalves said.

These include utilities, paper goods, technology, salary increases, cleaning products, repairs and maintenance and a lot of other factors.

For the level service budget, expenditures for operation and capital is listed at \$24,190,847, which is up \$1,796,488 from FY 26, an 8% increase.

The next piece of the presentation looked at the possibility of restructuring the elementary school. This involves having West Brookfield Elementary School house students in grades K-three, and Warren Community Elementary School housing grades four-six.

There is also the possibility of closing one of the elementary schools, West Brookfield Elementary School in particular.

If this were to occur, the above minimum contribution would decrease to \$872,459 from \$1.3 million in FY 26.

A FY 27 budget comparison slide was shared listing the FY 26 approved budget, the FY 27 level funded budget, the FY 27 restructured elementary school budget and the FY 27 budget if WBES closes.

The School Committee will meet on Monday, March 30 to vote on a budget.

QRSD Superintendent Stephen Duff spoke about where the school district is at and how these certain budget factors impact it.

To Duff's knowledge, from 2012 to today, enrollment has decreased by over 325 students.

He said receiving school choice students has been considered a "lifeline" for the district. As the school district takes kids in, they use the funds to help support the education children are receiving.

"Why enrollment matters," Duff said.

The formula for the foundation budget is enrollment times foundation rate. However, costs continue to rise regardless of enrollment. The revenues decline while expenses continue to increase.

Over the years, the Quaboag Regional School District has made significant reductions, with ties to staff. Duff said he believes there have been over 30 positions eliminated during his time in the district.

Despite these reductions, he said the school district remains one of the top-ranked districts in Massachusetts.

"We are the top performing district and we do it with very little," Duff said.

The communities have supported education over the years and Duff feels that partnership is the school's strength. This success reflects hardworking students, dedicated teachers, strong

administrators, supportive families, and communities.

Though education is about supporting students, it also includes the schools having a financial system that must be sustainable. With costs in all areas continuing to rise, revenue from the state has not kept pace.

For transportation, if elementary schools split, the district may have to add a third tier of transportation. When adding a tier, you add additional transportation, but don't realize the savings until the following fiscal year.

Duff explained some of the one-time funds that have been used to stabilize the budget. Funds such as COVID relief, Free Cash, Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funding, American Rescue Plan Act funding, and school choice funding have been supportive temporary funding sources.

Duff describes these funds functioning as a savings account. Once the savings are used, they no longer exist. Yet, the ongoing expenses remain the same or increase as they are doing.

Each town is required to contribute a minimum amount to the school district. West Brookfield's required contributions increased by \$302,000, with transportation increasing by approximately \$200,000.

The current challenge is that West Brookfield is facing a significant financial

constraint. Free Cash has been used extensively over the last several years to help fund the operating budget. With funds extremely limited, the \$530,000 above minimum from last year is not available.

The challenge of some educational considerations the school district has made is teachers are spread across multiple buildings, which makes collaboration difficult.

Though these budget decisions are difficult decisions for the School Committee to make, there are some benefits to some of them. For reconfiguration or closing of a school, benefits could include better student groupings, more effective interventions, stronger teacher collaboration, improved curriculum consistency, better access to instructional coaching, and more efficient use of staff.

However if the district chooses to reconfigure, class sizes will go up.

Duff said the school district's commitment will always be put students first, supporting the staff, and working collaboratively with the two towns.

### Public comment

The School Committee opened the floor for questions from the public about the presentation.

One person asked about what would happen to the

See QUABOAG PAGE 10

## Quaboag students visit Washington D.C.

WARREN – Recently the majority of the eighth grade class and 20 ninth graders, for a total of about 100 Quaboag Regional Middle High School students, attended the Washington D.C. trip.

The group left on coach buses from Quaboag early Tuesday morning and returned to Quaboag late Friday night. In between the long bus rides were lots of educational tours, sight seeing, fun, and creating lasting memories with their friends in our nation's capital.

The trip included visits to the Smithsonian Museums, the White House, a ghost walk in Alexandria, the Holocaust Museum, the Capitol Tour, and the National Archives. After the tour of the Capitol, Quaboag students were met on the steps

by Representative Richard Neal (D) First Congressional District which includes Warren and West Brookfield. Neal spoke about how those serving in government should be in it for the common good and stressed the need for unity as a country.

Students then asked many thoughtful questions and took a group photo with their Congressman.

In the National Archives the students got to see up close, in their protective cases, the original big three documents of America – the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. The tour also included visits and walks around all the major memorials and statues, such as the Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, MLK Jr statue, Vietnam

Wall, and the Korean War Memorial.

A highlight for the students was the evening dinner cruise on the Potomac, which included dinner and dancing. Two other school groups were also on this large boat with Quaboag, yet it was the students from the 'Boag that dominated the dance floor and had the best time.

After a final morning at the Smithsonian Zoo, which included seeing the famous pandas, the students boarded the buses for the trip back to Quaboag tired but with lasting memories of a fun, safe, and successful trip.



U.S. Representative Richard Neal (D) 1st Congressional District spoke to Quaboag students.

**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.

**AMHERST RAILWAY SOCIETY**  
Operating Since 1965  
1130 S Main Street  
Palmer, MA 01069  
(413) 267-4555

Sat., April 4th  
CLOSED

Sat., April 11th ~ 9am-1pm  
WORK DAY & KIDS ON TRACK

Sat., April 11th ~ 9am-noon  
SURPLUS EQUIPMENT SALE  
West Hartford, CT

Sat., April 18th & 25th ~ 9am-1pm  
WORK DAYS

Interested in more information  
amherstrail.org

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

USDA INSP. BONELESS CENTER-CUT PORK LOIN CUT FREE ..... **\$2.09** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH PORK HAM (LEG) ..... **\$1.89** ea

USDA INSP. FROZEN PREMIUM CLEANED PORK CHITTERING 5 LB BAG..... **\$8.99** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF RIBEYE FOR ROAST CUT FREE **\$9.89** WHOLE OR HALF lb

USDA INSP. FROZEN SARA LEE CHOCOLATE CREAM PIE 19.6 OZ **\$4.99** EA

USDA INSP. FROZEN WHOLE TURKEY ..... **\$1.33** lb

**EASTER HAMS**

USDA INSP. FROZEN AMERICAN LEG OF LAMB **\$6.67** lb

USDA INSP. FROZEN HAM PORTIONS BUTT or SHANK..... **\$1.09** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH KAYEM BUDABALL WHOLE BONELESS PIT HAM ..... **\$3.69** lb

USDA INSP. MCKENZIES 1/2 SPIRAL HAM W/GLAZE PAK..... **\$1.39** lb

USDA INSP. SKINLESS & SHANKLESS KAYEM OLD TIME WHOLE HAM HARDWOOD SMOKED ..... **\$1.99** lb

USDA INSP. FROZEN BLUE SEAL KIELBASA FOR EASTER **\$5.55** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS HOLIDAY PORK ROAST STUFFED W/ HAM, CHEESE, PEPPERS, BACON, OLIVES **\$4.49** lb

**Lenten Specials**

USDA INSP. FROZEN KING FISH STEAKS W/ HEAD OR TAIL..... **\$5.99** lb

USDA INSP. FROZEN CONCH MEAT CLEANED 5 LB BOX..... **\$5.99** ea

USDA INSP. FROZEN SKINLESS SKINLESS HADDOCK FILLETS 2 LB BOX ..... **\$9.99** ea

USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN COOKED SHRIMP 21/25 COUNT 2 LB BAG..... **\$16.99** ea

**Happy Easter**

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

HOURS: Mon. - Wed. 8-4  
Thurs. 8-6 • Fri. 8-6 • Sat. 8-3

BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE

SALE DATES: 4/1-4/7/26

- opinion -



## Pruning your hydrangeas

It was encouraging to see so many gardeners out in force this past weekend, regardless of the fact that it remained a little chilly.

I got outside too, mainly to clean up some leaves and debris from a bed near the front door. While I was there, I began pruning my pink flowered Hydrangea (*H. paniculata*), mainly by removing last year's blooms.

I often get questions about blue hydrangeas and how to prune and what to do to coax it into bloom. So, before you get the pruners out and have at it, read on.

Most established hydrangea bushes, the "Mop-head" types (*Hydrangea macrophylla*) say those older than 15 years or so, flower on "old" wood, in other words, from buds made on the previous season's stems. That is why they are not pruned in the fall or in the spring for that matter, unless the stem is dead or partially dead.

An early autumn frost, a hard winter, or a late spring frost can kill buds or even entire stems. If the stem does not leaf out at all the further we get into spring, it is likely dead, and you should cut it down to the ground.

Usually the plant's roots are not harmed, and new growth will emerge from the base of the plant.

However, with these older cultivars, you will be left with just foliage in summer because the buds made the previous year will have been cut away. Sometimes a stem is only partially killed and it may leaf out midway down the stem.

In that case, just prune away the portion that is dead and leave the rest. Don't worry that you may remove flower buds in the process; more occur further down the stem and will bloom if they too haven't been eliminated by Old

Man Winter.

Perhaps you have one of the newer cultivars such as "Endless Summer," "Penney Mac," or others that bloom on new growth as well as old growth. In that case how much you cut away is not as critical. You should get flowers even if last season's stems are cut to the ground because soon enough new stems will produce new buds.

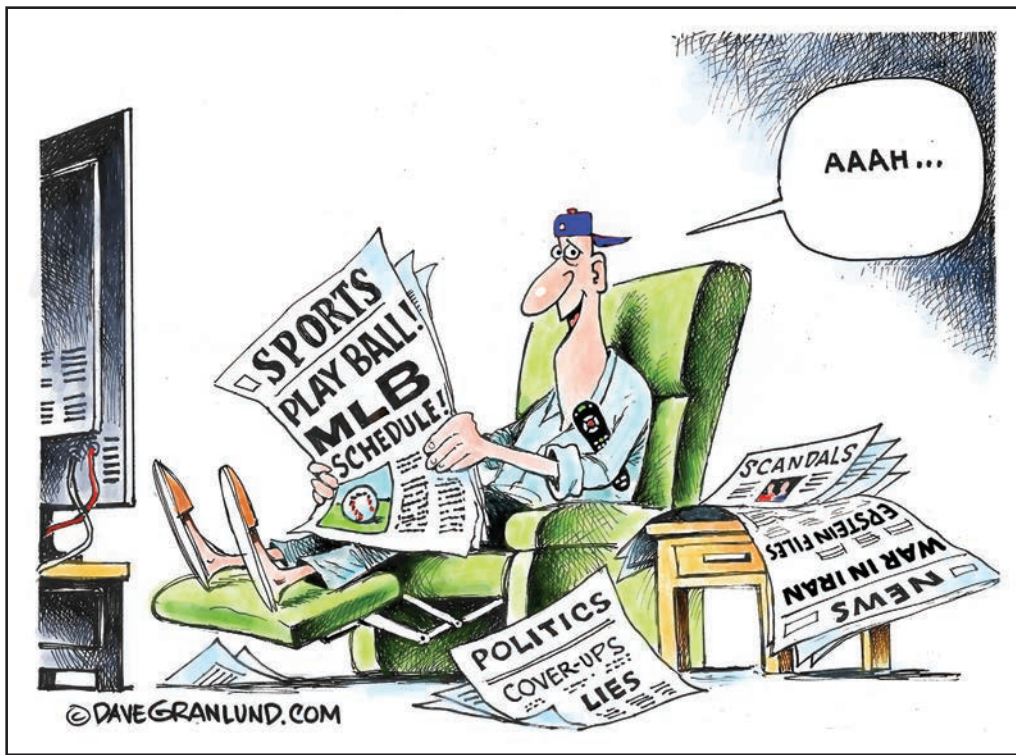
Sometimes people complain that they still don't get flowers and this is very perplexing. I've been to forums where everything from proper siting (morning sun, dappled shade) to fertilization is discussed (not too high in nitrogen, please).

One complaint was that our growing season is just borderline long enough for flowers to appear on new growth and reportedly some of these early repeat bloomers are being phased out because of it. If that's the case, I am sure they are breeding more dependable cultivars as we speak.

I had always wanted a hydrangea and finally bought one as a Mother's Day gift to self maybe four years ago. It is a newer generation and so far I have been very happy. It's filled out nicely and had well over two dozen flowers last year.

Hopefully the harsh winter will not effect my hopes for a repeat performance this summer. I wish you much success and many blooms on your hydrangeas!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 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](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



## I lost money as a widow and ex-spouse by not knowing the rules

Dear Rusty:

*I just found out, as someone who was collecting widow's benefits on my second husband, a very small amount, for some time, that I was, all along, entitled to divorce benefits from my first husband, which are much more. I thought I had to wait until my first husband passed before I could collect anything from him. Now I learned I have the right to collect as a divorcee. All of these years I have been missing out on a bigger benefit because I didn't know this. Please make this clear and stress it for others in my position.*

Signed: Lost Benefits

Dear Lost Benefits:

I am truly saddened that you lost out on benefits from your first husband for such a long time. Although you could not collect an ex-spouse benefit from Husband #1 while you were married to Husband #2, as soon as your current husband died you again became eligible for ex-spouse benefits from Husband #1.

Basically, the rules say you cannot collect benefits from an ex-spouse if you have remarried and remain married. In other words, you cannot be "currently married" to collect benefits from an ex-spouse. But the death of Husband #2 meant that you were now eligible to collect ex-spouse benefits from your first husband – husband #1. I hope when you later filed for your ex-spouse benefits you asked for six months of retroactive benefits.

In your situation, when



reach maximum until the spouse reaches FRA, which is somewhere between age 66 and 67 depending on the spouse's year

of birth.

your Husband #2 died, you actually had a choice – either collect your surviving spouse benefit from your recently deceased husband #2, or to collect a regular ex-spouse benefit from your first husband if that is more than your benefit as your second husband's widow. Regular ex-spouse benefits from your first husband are available even though he is still living (and, indeed, even if he remarried) because you are no longer married to husband #2.

This, however, is not always the way things work out for someone who has had multiple marriages. It all depends on the SS benefit each former spouse was entitled to. That's because your survivor benefit as your 2nd husband's widow is based on the full (100%) amount he was receiving from Social Security when he died.

In contrast, your benefit as your first husband's ex-spouse while he is still living will be based upon half (50%) of his full retirement age SS entitlement. And often, 100% of a deceased person's SS benefit is more than 50% of another living person's amount. But not always.

It's important to also know that if you claim any SS benefit before reaching your personal Rul Retirement Age, the monthly amount will be reduced. Benefits as a spouse (or a surviving spouse) do not

### QUABOAG CURRENT TEAM



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



ADVERTISING SALES  
Dan Flynn  
[dflynn@turley.com](mailto:dflynn@turley.com)



STAFF WRITER  
Ryan Drago  
[rdrago@turley.com](mailto:rdrago@turley.com)



SPORTS EDITOR  
Greg Scibelli  
[sports@turley.com](mailto: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



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

PATRICK H. TURLEY  
CEO

KEITH TURLEY  
President



[www.turley.com](http://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](mailto:pouimette@turley.com). Deadline for submission is Monday at noon for the following week's edition.

**Community newspapers championed "mobile-friendly"**

Keep up with current trends, our newspaper web sites are mobile-friendly too!

Easily connect with your community news, find quick links to our facebook feeds, browse newspaper archives and submit your own news items by visiting [www.newspapers.turley.com](http://www.newspapers.turley.com)

## What is "lifestyle medicine"?

We've known for decades that the foods we choose to eat and the habits (good and bad) we develop have a profound impact on our quality of life and health. At your regular appointments with your primary care provider, you are probably quizzed about your diet, alcohol consumption, drug use and level of activity.

Typically, doctors don't have the time during the 7½ minutes they spend with you to connect the dots and help you make meaningful changes in those aspects of your life. It's not their fault; most of them are at the mercy of insurers and corporate overlords.



your health

By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN  
Guest Column



So, it's usually up to us to change our lifestyle.

A branch of medicine emerged about 30 years ago – lifestyle medicine – in which an integrated group of practitioners, from internists to gastroenterologists to psychologists to nutritionists to pharmacists, supports people on this journey.

Lifestyle medicine gained momentum in the 2010s because of the explosion of chronic diseases, rising health-care costs, stronger long-term data linking life-

style to health, and dissatisfaction with medication-only approaches.

By the 2020s, many major health systems began integrating lifestyle medicine clinics.

There are several lifestyle medicine practices in Massachusetts, including at Massachusetts General.

In 2004, the American College of Lifestyle Medicine (ACLM) was founded, and earlier this year it

See HEALTH PAGE 6

**Our advertisers make this publication possible.**

Let them know you saw their ad in the Quaboag Current

- community -

# Filmmaker premiered latest movie

*In 'Dark Places' it's not easy to see the light*

By Richard Murphy  
Correspondent

AGAWAM – The movie industry in western Massachusetts may not be large, but fans and participants are not without passion for film, or whatever digital medium that cinema is captured on currently.

On March 14 the audience began arriving well before the evening's event was to begin, and why not.

The impresario locally is Ludlow native Geno McGahee, and people were arriving for his latest production,

"Dark Places". Dark as part of the title is apt as McGahee is known mostly for horror productions.

That does not mean he is not without the ability to work in other genres. Not exactly a fan of the Hallmark style, he did make a "Christmas Invitation", which may not be considered a tribute, but was fun.

"Deadly Western" was horror with aspects of what used to be called horse operas. His team of actors, used to working in the Bay State, traveled out west, rode horses, made a western and came home.

Also out in Cali, he would make "Fatal Justice", an homage to McGahee's favorite film, "Twelve Angry

Men".

This night, the premiere would be at Agawam Cinemas in the town of that name. Dedicated movie theaters are rapidly vanishing in this age of streaming, so it was a pleasure to experience a night out at the movies.

At a little past 7 p.m. everyone moved into one of the two theaters and took their seats as the movie began.

Lindsey DeLand as Natalie, is a beginning college student. She meets Jason, played by Jake Tyler, a boy next door type guy, or so it seems. They click and begin a relationship, but not too fast.

At home, things are not going smoothly for Natalie's

family. Eric Michaelian, portrays her dad, James, who is under stress due to an over-demanding workload. He is compensating with alcohol.

Gabbie Mendelsohn as Liz, the mom, is doing all she can to keep things together, and it is not going well.

Natalie is fortunate to have a bestie, Debbie, played by Rita Marie Spence, not that in the end Debbie will be able to prevent the de-nouement.

Jason and Natalie develop their relationship as events unfold.

James avoids going into rehab but will not be able to save himself.

Natalie, worried about her dad, goes to the police, played by Lorrie Bacon, as detective Amy Trent, and partner Phil Godeck as Detective Adams. The duo is sympathetic and hear her story. After they heard her and she is leaving, she wishes them luck in finding the murderers of one of her professors. Professor Warren, played by Gus Bottazzi has been found dead.

Detective Trent insists she sit back down. The professor had attempted to proposition Natalie, and the detectives suspect she knows something.

Detective Amy admits that she is not unhappy with



"Dark Places" premiered on March 14. The film can be viewed on Tubi.

the demise of the professor. In fact, she is delighted.

Meanwhile, as the movie goes on, the Goat Head as the personification of Satan and leader of the cult, played by Danell Reese, makes his appearance. If he is not the complete incarnation of evil, he is doing a convincing imitation.

Natalie's relationship with Jason is moving along and her feelings continue to grow. He invites her to a family early New Year's celebration, and though she has some feelings she might

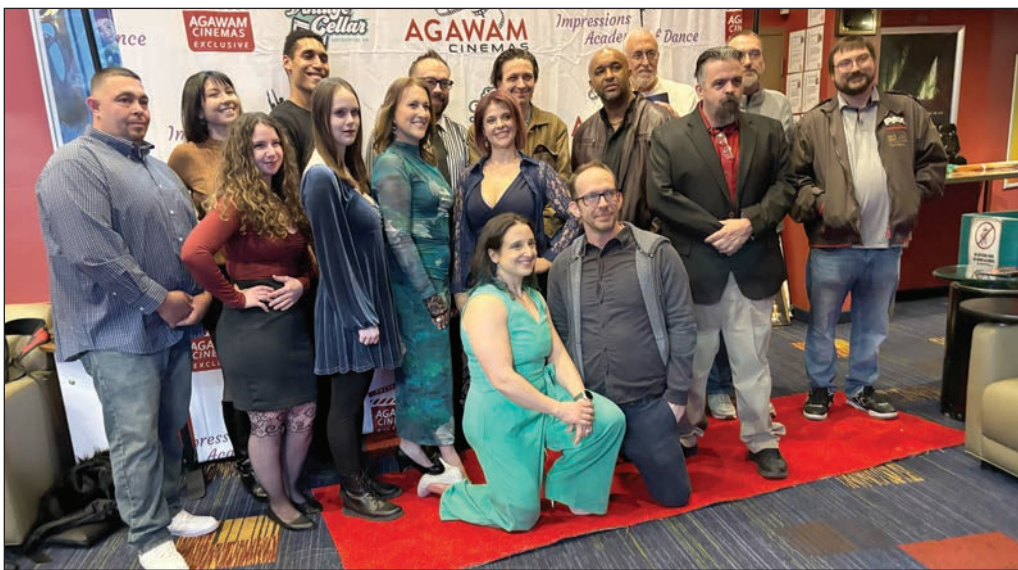
not be in a good place, she agrees.

So, she goes to the family's middle-class home and meets Jason's folks. Dwight an ex-police officer volunteers assistance in finding Natalie's dad.

The family and Natalie discuss it all and it does not all sound benign when Brent Northup as Bill relates his experience with a goat head.

Debbie senses something is wrong and investigates at Natalie's house, and con-

See MOVIE PAGE 8



The cast and crew of "Dark Place", the latest film by Ludlow native Geno McGahee

TURLEY PHOTOS BY RICHARD MURPHY



Shelley Fullam is shown with her mother, 98-year-old Linda Jones.

**HIP HOP FROM PAGE 1**

She is the former director of a hip hop dance company in Massachusetts and she has also instructed hip hop dance at MIT where one of the students was wheelchair bound. This was one of the inspirations for this class.

Drafts is a Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania native, grad-

uated from Pennsylvania State University with a bachelor's degree in speech communication. She later moved to Massachusetts and received a master's degree in education from Cambridge College.

"She comes every year and this is a new program she does," Senior Center Director



Shelley Fullam stepped in beat to the music.

Courtenay Rivera said.

Rivera said the Senior Center offers a lot of programs to keep seniors active, including chair yoga, regular yoga and functional fitness. The Senior Center also offers art and drawing classes, music bingo, special workshops with Bemis Nursery and much more.



Dancers learned various steps before the song was played.



Senior Center Director Courtenay Rivera (right) joined in on the fun.



Dr. Rondae Drafts led seniors through a square dancing routine.



Dr. Rondae Drafts was joined on the dance floor by Nancy Olson, Karen Bessette and Shelley Fullam.

## FIVE ISLANDS



\$1200/week

207-607-9333

Georgetown, Maine

2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathroom

Washer/Dryer, Fully Equipped

- Walk to Five Islands Wharf and Ledge-wood Preserve Beach
- Close to Reid State Park





# 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 -

### Quabbin Regional Middle School lists second quarter honor roll

BARRE – Quabbin Regional Middle School announces the second quarter honor roll.

**Grade Six, High Honors**  
Moriah Baxter, Elias Bellemer, Ella Bourgeois, Casey Coates, Troy Corbett, Clayton Cranston, Nolan Cronk, Kayla Despres, Ralph DiBenedetto, Joshua Doherty, Derek Ferreira, Rose Fleming, Logan Grandmaison, Annabelle Ickler, Aria Jackson, Jase Johnson, Abigail Kaijaia, Kylee Lomastro, Thendara Magario, Richard May, Sage Morin, Owen Nally, Avery Phelps, Nathaniel Putelis, Jacob Rigney, Aubree Roseberry, Sophia Serrano, Jorja Thorpe, Emma Tyler, Richard Valcourt, Irelyn Venne and Luna Yules.

**Grade Six, Honors**  
Caiden Ahearn, Lia Aiesi, Bella Arriola, Leona Barre, Aubree Barreto, Starlee Bisceglia, Danica Bjorklund, Edgar Blanchard, Makayla Boos, Audrey Breault, Emily Conway, Autumn Dahn, Hudson D'Amato, Charlotte Daniels, Riley Depasquale, Milena DeSouza, Elise Flores de Oliveira, Mckinley Ford, Andrew Gingras, Riley Greene, David Groner, Skylar Heyes, Michael Hicks, Brady Holmes, Laine Jenkins, Byran Jones, Mason Kazanovicz, Juliette Leger, Mia Longtin, Evelyn Lord, Annabelle Mazyck, Scarlett McDonald, Liam McKenzie, Logan McManaman, Chase McQuestion, Anna Medine, Jonah Melad, Olivia Mellor, Tonseth Miller, Aria Missildine, Julia Montague, Valky-

rie Moore, Tyler Nadeau, Hunter Nagle, Kelsey Nickson, Marjorie O'Connor, Penny Ouimette, Harris Paakkonen, Ivy Packard, Dylan Potter, Sadie Russell, Deklan Sampson, Raymond Seitz-Lagrang, Vincent Stark, Jaide Stillman, Tristan Tesell, Andrei Timofeev, Elias Tolman and Katara Tran.

**Grade Seven, High Honors**  
Ayla Clark, John Cook, Anna Coomey, Matthew Flamand, Maia Flint, Davin Goodwin, Lincoln Graves, Brady Malin, Kayla McHugh, Theodore Minton, Nolan O'Connor, Ximena Palomera-Espinoza, Liam Shaw, Alonzo White and Joseph Youngstrom.

**Grade Seven, Honors**  
Nevaeh Andrews, Prince Asare, Asher Baker, Julianna Bienvenu, Ava Blanchard, Jacob Blanchard, Talasyn Boissonneau, Aleksander Bonenfant, Garrett Boos, Colton Brooks, Vincent Broten, Jaysen Casano, Josie Castell, Cameron Charpentier, Charley Chauvin, Ryan Colgate, Hannah Cutler, Joey DeMalia, Ethan Donaldson, Hannah Dube, Pipsissewa DuBois, Mason Ferguson, Andrew Fuller, Addyson Garceau, Alexander Girouard, Colby Hill, Madilyn Houle, Jack Johnson, Ryan LaRange, Walker Larson, Maishao Lee, Carter Majoy, Adalyn McHugh, Sawyer Minton, Adelaide Moeller, Annaleigh Moncoeur, Magnum Rivera, Hazel Serra, Weston Stukuls Barrieau, Brayden Surprenant, Landon Swindlehurst, Kenzie Thorpe, Regan Toohill, Hana Mae Tousig-

nant, Easton Vayo, Anthony Wade, Everett Weisman and Brady White.

**Grade Eight, High Honors**  
Harrison Ashton, Saylor Bissonnette, Julia Blanchard, Winter Boyea, Eliza Brown, Joyce Brown, Emily DeMalia, Brody Despres, Maria Hamm, Nolan Herrick, Aimee Ickler, Evelyn Johnson, Pele Johnson, Caiden Lance, Grace Lantegne, Mathieu LeBlanc, Ava Maxim, Cameron McDonald, Madeline Omasta, Sebastian Palomera-Espinoza, Owen Pears, Evelyn Priestley, Madeleine Proulx, Lily Ryan, Andrew Scott, Hannah Shotwell, Madalyn Simons, Fiona Stevens, Baelin Sullivan, Kailyn Traynham, Katy Twarog, Maggie Ward, Elizabeth Welch and Raegyn Wnek.

**Grade Eight, Honors**  
Albert Afonso, Nicholas Badwin, Addyson Barringer, Amelia Breault, Caleb Brouillet, Ashlynn Casey, Henry Corbett, Enzo Fargnoli, Addison Ford, Eden Fortier, Lucas Gaspar, Emily Johnson, Amy Landrin, Theodore Langer, Maggie Leander, Jack Leclair, Pa Huam Lee, Aiden Leger, Mackenzie Levesque, Alessandra Lewis, Chiara Manna, Bree May, Valerie Metterville, Brayden Nadeau, Jonathan Nunes, Calleb Oliveira, Coleton Pina, Autumn Rector, Kira Rodden, Maci Roseberry, Thomas Schoonmaker, Bella Spring, Bentley St. George, Eva Stasiowski, Emma Stauder, Daisy Stevens, Arina Timofeev, Lila Wilson and Skylar Wisniewski.

### New Braintree celebrates its 275th anniversary and U.S.'s 250th

NEW BRAINTREE – The 275th Anniversary Committee is hard at work planning a spectacular 2026 to celebrate New Braintree's 275th Anniversary and America's 250th Anniversary.

The committee is planning to have three major events to celebrate throughout 2026, and they want you – neighbors, friends, and family – to be a part of every one.

The first event is on July 5 from 3-5 p.m.: Kick off the summer with the U.S. Air Force Heritage of America Band. This free community

concert will be held under the newly constructed pavilion.

Grab your lawn chairs, blankets, and favorite snacks for an unforgettable afternoon of music. There may even be an Air Force fly over.

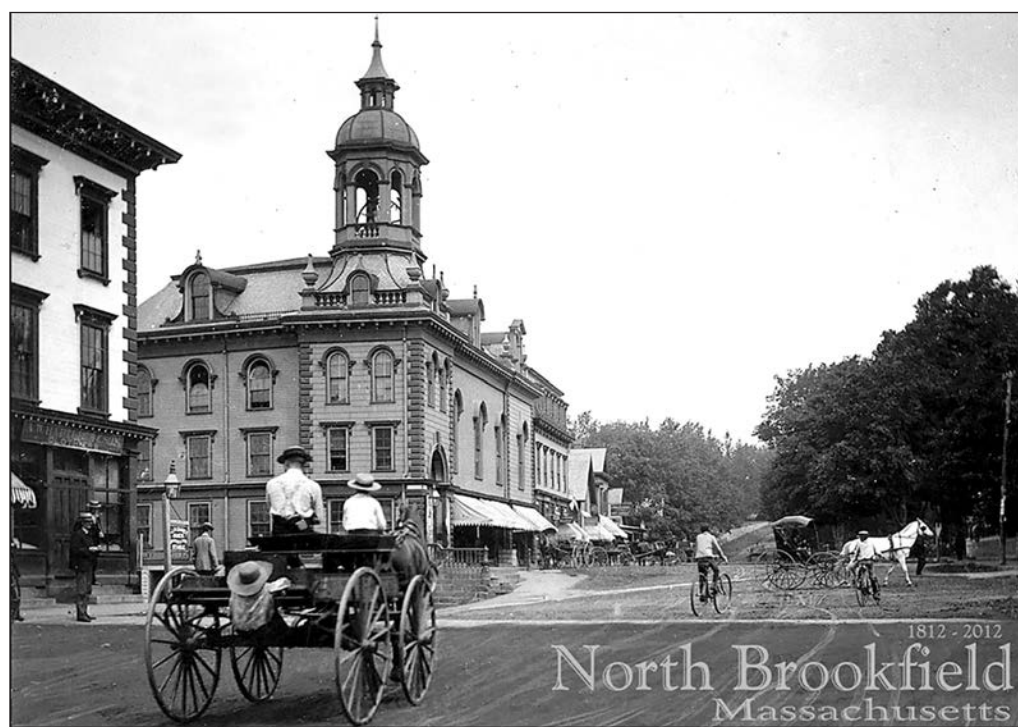
The second event will be on Oct. 3: Old Home Day Our classic town celebration will kick off with a parade at 1 p.m., farmer's market, kids' games, live music, and a bonfire in the evening.

Enjoy the beer and wine tent and plenty of local food. The committee is seeking volunteers and

sponsors to make this day a success. Have an idea or want to lend a hand? Email us at [newbraintree275@gmail.com](mailto:newbraintree275@gmail.com).

The third and capstone event will be on Dec. 31: The 275th Anniversary Gala from 6 p.m.-1 a.m. - Dust off your dancing shoes and get your fancy clothes ready.

The committee will close out the anniversary year with a New Year's Eve Gala in the Town Hall. It's the ultimate way to ring in 2027 and celebrate the legacy of the special town and people who call it home.



This vintage photo shows the Town House in North Brookfield.

#### HEART & SOUL FROM PAGE 1

neighbors, local officials, business owners and other stakeholders, citizens will be able to chart a path for their town's future.

A dedicated group of community volunteers are leading the way, guided by a Community Heart & Soul coach. Funded through a grant from the Greater Worcester Community Foundation, the two-year process works in phases:

identifying what matters most to the community; bringing in different stakeholders to be involved with the discussion; planning for the "long game" to chart priorities and potential plans for future growth; and helping the town prepare to act on these goals.

Residents are encouraged to join the group at the Haston Free Public Library from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturday, April 11 to learn about the benefits of the Community Heart & Soul

program, share what they love most about our community, and decide if they want to actively participate in this "home grown" effort to shape the future of North Brookfield.

Refreshments will be provided by Subway.

If you are unable to attend on April 11 or would like more information before the event, you can refer to the Community Heart & Soul website: [www.communityheartandsoul.org](http://www.communityheartandsoul.org).

#### HEALTH FROM PAGE 4

launched a certification program for health-care professionals who want to bring the practice to their patients.

Lifestyle medicine focuses on what it calls six "pillars" to address the root causes, not just the symptoms, of chronic illness. Those pillars are

**Optimal nutrition:** A whole-food, plant-predominant eating pattern.

**Physical activity:** Regular, consistent movement.

**Restorative sleep:** Prioritizing quality sleep for recovery.

**Stress management:** Techniques to manage and reduce stress levels.

**Avoidance of risky substances:** Quitting tobacco, limiting alcohol, and avoiding harmful substances.

**Connectedness:** Maintaining positive, supportive social relationships.

Their goal is to treat, reverse and even prevent chronic diseases such as diabetes, obesity and cardiovascular disease using evidence-based methods that may be used in conjunction with medication.

As long as you have a diagnosis of a chronic disease and are treated by a licensed health-care professional, it's likely your insurance company will cover care from a lifestyle medicine practice. Services like "wellness coaches" or "lifestyle programs" may not be covered.

Now, if all of this sounds a bit like Make America Healthy Again (MAHA), the signature program of our current health and human services secretary, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., you're not wrong. Kennedy is a proponent of people exercising and eating healthier in order to take control of their own health.

So, there are areas where MAHA and lifestyle medicine overlap, but the ACLM emphasizes that it's a health-care approach, not a political movement.

Lifestyle medicine supports vaccines, research-based conventional treatments and standard medical guidelines. Practitioners would agree that improving diet, sleep and stress management is good public health policy, and those tenets exist independently of politics.

That said, the ACLM supports coming changes in Medicare that are in alignment with its goals. The Make America Healthy Again: Enhancing Lifestyle and Evaluating Value-based Approaches Through Evidence (MAHA ELEVATE) for Original Medicare, was announced in December. Launching later this year, it will provide funding for "evidence-based, whole-person care approaches" not currently covered by Original Medicare.

I don't think there's anything about lifestyle medi-

cine that's inherently controversial or political. Those six pillars are certainly within the realm of traditional medical practice. And you can use the pillars on your own to improve your health, whether that means eating more plant-based foods, practicing mindfulness for stress reduction, going out to lunch with friends, quitting tobacco or taking a daily walk.

But many people need the advice and support of medical professionals to make the changes they need to become healthier and manage chronic diseases. If that sounds like something you need, you can learn more about lifestyle medicine at [lifestylemedicine.org](http://lifestylemedicine.org) and see if it would be a good fit for your health-care journey.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, R.N., a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate, is the founder of [www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com](http://www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com), which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. A Monson, MA resident, she is the author of "How to Be a Health-care Advocate for Yourself & Your Loved Ones" and her new book, "Advocating Well: Strategies for Finding Strength and Understanding in Health Care," available at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com). Contact her at [Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com](mailto:Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com) to set up a free phone consultation.

### St. Aloysius Catholic School Open House April 6

HARDWICK – St. Aloysius Catholic School is hosting an Open House on Monday, April 6, from 3-5 p.m.

Prospective families are encouraged to visit the school, located at 52

Church St. in Gilbertville, where they can tour the classrooms, meet the teachers and learn more about the rich, faith-filled educational experiences that await.

For more information,

please call the school and speak to Roberta McQuaid, Enrollment Coordinator, at 413-477-1268. Or apply on line at <https://www.staloy-siuses.com/join-our-family/application/>.

## GEARING UP FOR GREATNESS

# JOIN OUR DRIVER TEAM!

Now hiring for the 26/27 School Year.

### VAN POOL

BEACON MOBILITY



Transporting tomorrow's leaders starts with you – Become a difference-maker today.

STARTING AT

## \$23.70

PER HOUR

**Benefits available:**

- ✔ Dental
- ✔ Life Insurance
- ✔ Vision
- ✔ 401K

Apply Now

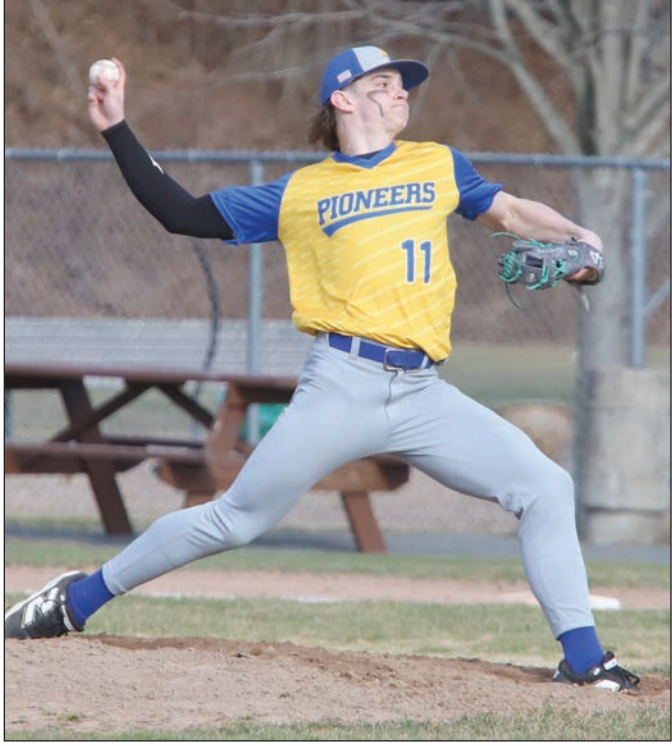


Tina - 978-868-3278

# SPORTS

SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

## Pioneers have tough opener



Emerson Boronski fires a pitch home.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

PALMER – The Pathfinder Tech baseball team got their season started very early with a cold afternoon at Legion Field in Palmer. The Pioneers were scored on early and often and lost to McCann Tech 13-2. Mc-

Cann had an eight-run first inning to pace the game. Pathfinder only got two runs in the bottom of the third inning. The Pioneers are back in action on Friday, Apr. 3 against Palmer High School at 4 p.m.



Ian Sauri Nieves lunges for a throw down to second.



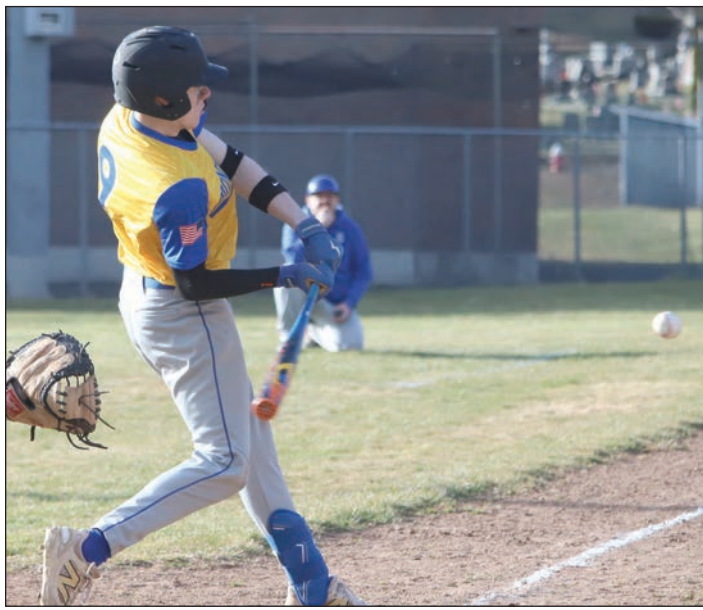
Brody Wetnicka fouls off a pitch.



Zachary Smith pitches in relief for the Pioneers.



Outfielder Andrew Sullivan sends a throw back to the infield.



Dayne Shanley takes a swing and sends a base hit to right.



Anthony Elliott extends to catch an out at first.



TURLEY PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Softball has utilized the double first base bags for safety for many years.

## Safety first: Extra bag coming to baseball

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

Over the past decade, safety has been a key theme for many of the rule changes that come through either the National Federation of High Schools, or the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association.

Rule changes have centered around taking care of athletes, limiting unsafe play, and especially anything that can result in concussions.

Years ago, softball implemented an orange bag, a safety bag, at first base. It's more commonly known as a double bag since there are literally two. The orange bag is directly to the right of first base and is mostly for the runner's use.

Any runner running out a ground ball in a way where they would run through first base, utilize the second bag, typically colored orange. The runner is required to step on the orange bag while the fielder can use the standard white bag. The purpose has been to avoid collisions between a hustling runner and the first baseman, who could get carried in a different direction by an errant throw. The second bag puts a little space between the runner and the fielder.

After seeing success with safety in softball, the double bag is coming to high school baseball. The NFHS is making the base a requirement for high schools beginning in 2027. However, several high

schools, including Agawam and South Hadley, have opted to install the double bags this season and implement the new rules to help high school students get used to playing with them before the rule is fully implemented.

Some schools will wait until next year depending on the time it takes to install another anchor for the double bag.

High school umpires are also being educated on the new rules concerning using the double bag in a baseball game. Andy Rogers, who is the coordinator and assignor for high school games, said it has been a part of recent meetings with umpires to prepare for this year. There are nuances to the double bag rule that umpires will need to enforce.

Among them, while the standard practice is that runners running through first base such as in the situation of trying to beat out a ground ball will use the orange bag and fielders trying to record a force out will utilize will use the white bag, there are couple of exceptions.

One is the dropped third strike. If there is a dropped third strike and a catcher throwing on the outside of the baseline to first base, the first baseman is allowed to utilize the orange bag to field the throw and record the out. The runner, in this situation, can use either base.

After a runner has run through first base, typically

See SAFETY FIRST  
PAGE 8

## Bay State Games announces new leadership changes

BOSTON – Bay State Games has announced new staff appointments and board leadership changes leading into the 2026 Summer Games.

Alanis Tirabassi has been promoted to deputy executive director. Alanis has been with Bay State Games since 2017, when she began as an intern while attending Salem State University. She was hired full-time as sports coordinator in 2020 and later promoted to director of operations before her recent promotion.

She joins Kevin Cummings, who has been with the Bay State Games since 1984 and has served as executive director since 1999, as part of the organization's two-person full-time staff.

In addition to her role with Bay State Games, Tirabassi serves as a committee chairperson for the

National Congress of State Games. She also works as a consultant for Dave McGillivray Sports Enterprises and Conventures Events, Communications & Marketing.

After more than 22 years as chair of the Bay State Games Board of Directors, Phil Gloude-mans will step down this spring. Under his leadership, Bay State Games has grown into one of the largest multi-sport nonprofit organizations in New England. He joined the Board of Directors in 1987 and he will continue to serve on the board and its executive committee.

Gloude-mans is the associate director of media relations at Boston College. Prior to his BC position, he held senior media relations roles at Brown University and Boston University, as well as with three international public relations firms

in Boston.

The Board of Directors has elected Dan Adams of Polsinelli PC Law Firm in Boston as its new board chair. Adams has served on the Bay State Games board for nearly 20 years and is head of sports and entertainment at Polsinelli PC. He holds a bachelor's degree from Boston College, a law degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and an MBA from Harvard University.

In addition to his volunteer work with Bay State Games, Adams serves on the Board of Directors of the East Greenbush Miracle League. His experience with state games spans decades, including as a three-time participant in the Empire State Summer Games

See BAYSTATE GAMES  
PAGE 8

## T-Birds grab win over Lehigh Phantoms

ALLENTOWN, PA – The Springfield Thunderbirds (26-29-6-2) got big performances from their leadership group en route to a 5-3 win over the Lehigh Valley Phantoms (27-30-3-3) on Friday night in a pivotal Atlantic Division battle inside the PPL Center. With the win, the T-Birds jumped back into the sixth and final playoff position in the Atlantic Division with nine games remaining.

Veteran leaders helped set the early tone for Springfield as captain Chris Wagner dropped a pass inside the blue line to Dillon Dube, who wired a wristed past Aleksei Kolosov at 7:28 of the first to hand the T-Birds the 1-0 advantage.

Lehigh Valley got a response courtesy of one of their veteran leaders 4:17 later as Anthony Richard finished a backhand bid past Vadim Zherenko off a set-up pass by pro debutant Cole Knuble to tie the score, 1-1.

Numerous scoring chances and one power play for each team also came up empty as Zherenko finished a busy first with nine saves, while Kolosov stopped the other 11 offerings that came into his crease.

The T-Birds' leadership group was not finished putting their stamp on the contest, as Dube created a turnover deep in the Lehigh Valley zone, nudging the puck into the slot for Wagner, who rifled a forehander through Kolosov at 7:09 of the second, extending the Springfield advantage to 2-1.

Zherenko barely had to lift a finger in the middle period as the T-Birds allowed a season-low two shots in the frame. However, the Phantoms' penalty kill, which had been struggling mightily against the T-Birds, answered the bell with two

man-down successes to keep their deficit at a single goal heading into the final period.

After failing to equalize on a power play to begin the third, the Phantoms eventually got the game squared up again at 6:32 when David Jiricek found Zayde Wisdom crashing the net to make it a 2-2 score.

Unruffled, the T-Birds then turned the game on its head with three goals in a 4:28 blitz, beginning with Alek Kaskimaki scooping up a rebound in the blue paint at 9:08 to restore the Springfield lead, 3-2. Wagner and Dube each picked up their third points of the night on the helpers.

Just 2:10 later, Marc-Andre Gaudet made an alert read up on the right-wing wall to steal a puck off a

See T-BIRDS PAGE 8



# - community -

## N BROOKFIELD FROM PAGE 1

subsurface public works infrastructure improvements.

She said the budget is not yet finalized for the project, but the town is allowed to apply for up to \$950,000.

Sullivan said design and construction costs are estimated at \$810,000-\$820,000. This includes the design and construction of the subsurface and surface public works improvements.

She said the cost of grant administration and program delivery is about \$130,000-\$140,000. This amount would be deducted from the FY 26 grant award and there are no matching funds required from the town.

If the project exceeds the \$950,000 grant maximum, it may be divided into two phases.

Sullivan said the project was identified through a study funded by a previous CDBG grant in 2014.

"It was recommended due to the existing conditions, location, available funds and projected costs," Sullivan said.

The FY 26 grant application is due Tuesday, April 21 and awards will be announced in the summer or fall.

The Board of Selectmen voted in favor of supporting the grant application for submittal.

**Chapter 90 discussion**  
Board of Selectmen Vice-Chair Jamie Gilman gave a presentation about the town's use of Chapter 90 funds.

Gilman said Chapter 90 funds are "huge" for the community and cover the cost of paving projects in town.

"We don't have money for paving," he said of the Highway Department's budget. "For us, Chapter 90 is a lifeline to keep our roads and infrastructure going."

Gilman said Chapter 90 funds are similar to a grant, and its amount is determined by the town's miles of roads, population and employment.

"Those three variables kind of factor into this equation as to how much money is made available to us," he said.

Gilman explained the town needs about \$250,000 per mile for paving, and the town has 84 miles of roadways. In the last five years, the town has been awarded \$520,000 in Chapter 90 funds a year.

"If we just use this money strictly for roads...it's two miles," he said. "What does that equal? Unhappiness. No one in North Brookfield will ever be happy with our road system...the numbers spell it out."

Gilman said in the past, the town has utilized Chap-

ter 90 funds to reclaim and resurface various roadways, improved drainage to North Street and chip sealing. He said no projects were completed in 2024, and that money was rolled over to the next year.

Several projects were completed in 2025, including work on Brickyard Road, Donovan Road, Fuller Hill Road, Town Farm Road, Hines Bridge Road, Stoddard Road, Walker Road, Smith Hanson Road and Tucker Road. Funding was also used to pay for engineering of the Complete Streets project for North Main Street.

He said the town's roads will continue to decline, despite the Highway Department's efforts, unless something changes with how the state awards Chapter 90 funding.

"This is a reality we have to face," he said. "We do what we can with what we have."

### Memorial Park update

John Tripp read a report from the North Brookfield Memorial Park Committee, which was recently formed by the Board of Selectmen to oversee North Brookfield Memorial Park, also known as Little Park, located at 188 North Main St.

Tripp said the committee organized at a recent meeting, discussed renaming the

park to reflect its purpose and drafted a mission statement.

He said the park became town property in the early 1900s, and it has been a popular sitting area downtown. In 2019, an electronic signboard was installed, and in 2020, Tripp and others volunteered to rebuild the park.

"After many hours of working with friends and volunteers, a plan and drawing was made," Tripp said. "Almost all the park was created with donations."

He said the rest of the work was completed with the help of the town's Highway Department. He said it took about eight months for the park to be completed through these efforts.

"The North Brookfield Memorial Park Committee intends to protect and maintain the park as it was built as a memorial park. It is now the centerpiece for travelers to gaze upon as they come to town," he said.

The Selectmen voted in favor of renaming Little Park to North Brookfield Memorial Park and accepting the mission statement and report from the committee.

### Water Commissioners protocols

The Selectmen read the proposed amendments to the water rules and regulations protocols from the

town's Water Commissioners.

Amendments include increases to the fee schedule for cross-connections and final water/sewer reads and changes to the billing schedule (now quarterly instead of biannual).

### Appointments

Justin Stearns was appointed to the position of driver/laborer on the Highway Department.

Stearns said he comes from a family of butchers and described himself as a being willing to try any task put in front of him.

"There's not much I won't attempt to do...you ask me to do it, I'll try my best," he said.

The board also appointed Pamela Ducasse to the Collector's Clerk position at the recommendation of Collector Kim Bent.

Ducasse said she was born and raised in North Brookfield, before moving to East Brookfield in the early 1980s. She recently moved back to town.

"I've held a variety of different office jobs and I've worked with some very confidential type information," she said. "I think I'd be able to help Kim in the office."

### Donations

The board accepted the donation of an AED from the North Brookfield Am-

balance Service to the Fire Department.

Peter Orsi said the AED will be used in the event the ambulance is out of town, providing the department with access to a working AED.

The board also accepted the donation of a Kubota tractor from the railroad corporation to the town.

### Resignation

The board accepted the resignation of Thomas Bessette from his position as interim Deputy Chief of the Fire Department.

"For the last 19 years, the North Brookfield Fire Department has played an important role in my life," Bessette said in his letter to the board. "The training and skills I developed as a member laid the foundation for my career and I genuinely believe I would not be where I am now without this department."

Bessette thanked the Fire Department's members and the Board of Selectmen for their support over the years.

### Grant application

The board approved a letter of support to Sen. Ed Markey to seek grant funding to replace the clarifiers at the town's Wastewater Treatment Plant.

"The clarifiers are a very important piece of the process," Sewer Superintendent Eric Cardenas said.

## MOVIE FROM PAGE 5

tacts Trent. The detectives are galvanized into action and learn some crucial information about Jason.

The situation at the party finds Natalie in trouble, but she pushes back and the

whole situation sees her resist but change as she rises to the occasion.

The detectives arrive at the house and find Natalie, but come to a conclusion that will shock Debbie and the audience.

So, it ended and the au-

dience stuck around for a lively Q & A with McGahee taking many questions about the movie and answering questions about his other productions as well.

"Dark Places" included interesting music and made good use of various Mas-

sachusetts locales. It will be interesting to see what McGahee does next.

Many of the actors are part of the production team, but Rick Caride does a lot of work, directing lighting among other duties and deserves mention.

"Dark Places" is available on the screaming platform Tubi as are most of the previous Xposse productions.



TURLEY PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI  
Now the double first base is coming to high school baseball fields.

# Now Hiring!

## Advertising Sales Representative

- ▶ Do you want to work in your community helping local businesses connect with their customers?
- ▶ Do you want a career supporting local journalism, which tells the unique stories of our communities?
- ▶ If so, then join our team! Turley Publications is looking for an outgoing, energetic person interested in selling advertising for our community newspapers and supplements. The right candidate will assume an established territory with a portfolio of customers.
- ▶ You must be a self-starter with excellent communication and organizational skills. Basic computer skills are required. Previous print sales experience is preferred but we will train the right candidate.

**Turley Publications** is a locally owned family business, offers a competitive commission structure, 401k, and health plan.

Send resume & cover letter to:

Jamie Joslyn  
24 Water Street  
Palmer, MA 01069  
Email: jamie@turley.com

## BAY STATE GAMES FROM PAGE 7

of New York.

Registration for the 2026 Bay State Summer Games will begin in early March. The 2026 Summer Games will feature events from May 9 through July 25 across 30 different sports throughout eastern and central Massachusetts.

Players from Western and Central Massachusetts schools have consistently participated in the Bay State Games during the summer, especially in sports like soccer, field hockey, and volleyball.

## SAFETY FIRST FROM PAGE 7

after beating out a ground ball, that runner must come back and touch the white bag. If the runner comes back and touches the orange bag, that runners is in play once they touch the orange bag and can be tagged out.

On situations like a clean base hit, a batter/runner who heads for first and rounds the bag, will utilize the white bag. But a runner running out a ground ball who touches the white bag

instead of the orange bag could be called out on appeal because it can be treated like missing a base.

While the normal white base is the border of fair territory, the orange bag is in foul territory. If a batted ball hits the orange bag, the ball will be called foul. A ball that hits the white bag or rolls over it is still fair.

The second bag at first base is orange in most cases, but can be another color.

For 2026, players playing on fields that have the double first base bag will use them with the rules that come with them. Adult leagues in the region have pledged to observe the rules of the double bag if they play on fields that have them. Most adult leagues go by MLB rules, which do not require a double bag at first base.

# Easter SALE!

HUGE REBATE PACKAGES AVAILABLE!

### HUGE KITCHEN PACKAGE & LAUNDRY REBATES

### MATTRESS SALE!

**TWIN: \$199**  
(REGULARLY \$299)

**FULL: \$269**  
(REGULARLY \$499)

**QUEEN: \$299**  
(REGULARLY \$599)

### PRE-SEASON BIKE SALE!

1000's IN STOCK!

E-BIKES IN STOCK!

WE REPAIR BIKES!

SPRING BIKE TUNE-UP: \$49.99!

### #1 RATED PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD: APPLIANCE DEALER 5 YEARS IN A ROW!

### 21 CU. FT. FREEZER

Reg. \$999.99

\$799.99

### AMANA WASHER OR DRYER

Reg. \$599.99

\$489.99

32" HD Smart TV.....\$99.99  
Regularly \$149.99

43" Smart TV.....\$199.99  
Regularly \$249.99

50" HDTV Television...\$229.99  
Regularly \$269.99

55" 4K HDTV Television...\$249.99  
Regularly \$349.99

65" HDTV Television...\$329.99  
Regularly \$599.99

75" HDTV.....\$499.99  
Regularly \$699.99

DELUXE DISHWASHER

Reg. \$499.99

\$299.99

DELUXE AIR FRY GAS RANGE

Reg. \$699.99

\$749.99

FRIGIDAIRE DISHWASHER

Reg. \$399.99

\$299.99

SAMSUNG TOP LOAD WASHER & DRYER

Pair - Reg. \$1199.99

\$999.99

AFTER REBATE!

G.E. 27 CU. FT. FRENCH DOOR REFRIGERATOR

Reg. \$1999.99

\$1399.99

5 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER

Reg. \$199.99

\$189.99

WHIRLPOOL 21 CU. FT. TOP MOUNT REFRIGERATOR

Reg. \$899.99

\$699.99

FRIGIDAIRE 18 CU. FT. REFRIGERATOR

Reg. \$699.99

\$599.99

FAMOUS MAKER OVER THE STOVE MICROWAVE

Reg. \$249.99

\$229.99

LG #3400 WASHER & DRYER

Front Load, Reg. \$1599.99

\$1399.99

MAYTAG DELUXE WASHER OR DRYER

Reg. \$699.99

\$549.99

WHIRLPOOL SIDE BY SIDE

Reg. \$1499.99

\$1199.99

WE INSTALL TELEVISIONS, MICROWAVES & DISHWASHERS!

INSTANT FINANCING UP TO \$10,000!

# WHITCO

140 MAIN STREET, SPENCER, MA

508.885.9343

SEE WHITCOALES.COM

VISA   MasterCard   AMERICAN EXPRESS   DISCOVER

Store Hours: Mon. thru Fri: 10am-8:30pm • Sat: 9am-8pm • Sun: 12 Noon-7pm

FOR 100's OF DEALS!

## T-BIRDS FROM PAGE 7

Phantoms defender before setting up Juraj Pekarcik for an insurance making tally and a 4-2 lead. Pekarcik also drew a Springfield power play following a post-goal cross-check by Sawyer Boulton.

The T-Birds did not score on the ensuing power play, but it set the table for Hugh McGing to join the party at 13:36, firing a perfect shot into the top shelf from the left circle and giving Springfield the 5-2 advantage.

Oscar Eklind finally halted the T-Birds scoring run at 17:44, but it proved to be too little, too late for Lehigh Valley. Zherenko needed to make just 18 saves for his 14th win of the season, while Kolosov had 27 stops in the losing effort for the Phantoms.

## - community -

### EASTER EGG HUNT FROM PAGE 7

there were at least a dozen still missing. Kids looked all over the library including all the bookshelves, desks, chairs, even behind the librarian's desk.

Hopefully these missing eggs will be found by next Easter.

Friends Madison and Gurli were at their first Easter egg hunt at the Haston Free Public Library and had a great time finding as many eggs as they could.

Lamb collected the eggs from the kids and handed out some prizes. A basket of eggs was placed neatly on the librarian's desk, except for those missing ones still hidden.

After a fun Easter egg hunt, children and their families stuck around the library and began checking out some books. Some kids took a seat and began read-

ing and were reading with their lucky bunny ears.

The Haston Free Public Library hosted another egg hunt for the kids on March 31.

It doesn't stop after the kids hunt for eggs. Adults can have fun at the library during Easter too. Starting

on Monday, March 30, the library will place 12 eggs for adults to find.

This egg hunt is limited to one egg per patron. Inside the eggs include prizes such as gift cards and library themed swag.

For more information, visit [www.northbrookfield-](http://www.northbrookfield-)



Easter eggs of all colors, including some golden eggs, were hidden all over the children's library.



Easter arrived at the Haston Free Public Library.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO



# Quaboag Hills

## CHIP GENERAL BODY MEETING

*Open to the General Public!*

Join us to review progress, hear updates, and discuss next steps for the CHIP initiative.

FOOD AND DRINKS WILL BE PROVIDED!

**MAY 1, 2026**

**10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

**E2E Center,  
79 Main St.,  
Ware, MA 01082**

**RSVP BY  
APRIL 24**

Scan QR Code or Use Link:  
<https://forms.gle/Bq8VtsUvLs2yan8V6> to Register



**CONTACT US**

413-807-0901

[sblake@townofware.com](mailto:sblake@townofware.com)

# - legals -

## Town of North Brookfield Notice of Public Hearing

The North Brookfield Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at 6:15PM** at the Senior Center, 29 Forest St., North Brookfield, MA. Public opinion will be received for 32 Summer St., regarding a change from office use to residential use (Section IV.A.2.i.) per the North Brookfield Zoning Bylaws. The property is also in the Downtown Overlay District. Any person interested in being heard or seeking information should appear at the above stated time and place. A copy of the proposed permit application is on file in the office of the Town Clerk, 215 North Main St., No. Brookfield, MA.

William King, Chair  
03/27, 04/03/2026

## TOWN OF NORTH BROOKFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Brookfield Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing to consider a petition to locate poles, wires, cables, and fixtures, including the necessary anchors, guys, and other such sustaining and protecting fixtures, brought before it by

Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc Tuesday, **April 21, 2026 at 6:15 PM** at the North Brookfield Police Department, 55 School Street, North Brookfield, MA 01535.

The pole locations that will be considered are as follows:

**Green Rd** – National Grid to install 3 JO Poles on Green Rd beginning at a point approximately 4,200' feet northwest of the centerline of the intersection of Shore Rd and Green Rd and continuing approximately 200 feet in a northwest direction. Install three new poles # 74, 74-50, & 75-84 on Green Rd.

**Ward St** – National Grid to install 1 JO Pole on Ward St beginning at a point approximately 300' feet west of the centerline of the intersection of Hines Bridge Rd. Install a new pole 71-2 for new residential home.

Said hearing will begin at 6:15 PM and continue until completion, and will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 166.

Jason M Petraitis, Chairman  
Jamie Gilman  
Ralph Kay

04/03, 04/10/2026

## E BROOKFIELD FROM PAGE 1

field could opt out if it is approved at annual town meeting.

Another proposed change was adopting a by-law to make the tree warden an appointed position rather than an elected position, and that person would not have to be a town resident to act as tree warden.

The last proposed change was a bylaw to restrict parking on town roads in weather emergencies, like floods, but cities in the state do not have existing bylaws, just policies. Lynch said using existing bylaws is easier, and creating new ones costs money.

## Town beach usage

Lynch says the Webster Water Ski Collective is planning on using the town beach for an adaptive water ski program, designed for people with disabilities.

He said they launch the boats off of the town beach, but there are restrictions around motorized vessels in swimming areas, which the beach is. He said they would have to close the area for swimming on that day, but before approval they will get in contact with the parks department to make sure there are no swimming programs that day.

The tentative date for this program is July 21.

## Emerging contaminants grant

Lynch said the town applied for an emerging contaminants grant through the Massachusetts Department of Ecological Protection in April of 2025, and they are nine months into this fiscal year still waiting on funds. He read an email from a Department of Environmental Protection representative, who said the state is still processing the application.

## Key fobs

Lynch said department heads, the selectmen, police, and executive assistants will have master key fobs to open every door in the building, and that town employees will have fobs that let them access the front door, their offices, and the mail room. He said guests can get codes to get in and retrieve materials if needed.

## MIIA insurance renewal

The board voted to allow Lynch to sign a renewal of the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association contract for health insurance for town employees. He said this will save the town \$60,000, and the town will pay the deductible for the 13 applicable employees on this insurance, which is \$1,000 per person.

Lynch said this will bring the health insurance budget to \$392,000.

## WINTER MARKET FROM PAGE 1

Connecting to families who have extended family in other states, I hear about their extended family and connect even though we have never met or talked. I am therefore connected in New Jersey, Georgia, and North Carolina to name a few of the most popular.

My fascination with coffee goes beyond Fairtrade. When I started sourcing coffee organic and fair trade were my guidelines. I have quickly learned that there is much beyond fair trade and organic certifications.

Fair trade is the foundation, but beyond means building on the foundation of fairness to create systems that restore, empower and sustain. It encompasses environmental regeneration, cooperatives, gender equity and inclusion, organic and healthy standards. Beyond fair trade is where justice meets abundance for people communities and our planet.

Not every coffee farm can afford a certification. if you grow more than one type of coffee bean you need a certification for each type, and that is expensive. That is where you lean towards cooperatives and partnerships.

I research the farmers practices to guide me in making a conscientious choice on sourcing my beans. But sourcing beans isn't all of it.

With today's climate, it is even more challenging. As a small batch current crop coffee roaster, not buying volume as larger coffee roasters do, presents its own limitations and frustrations as to what is available and when.

Serious stuff, the science of roasting is where the fun begins. I have roasted over a hundred different coffees from 30 different countries.

Not all of them make it to the shelf. It is still fascinating to me that a coffee bean can have a different roast profile ground at a specific grind size and brewed a specific way can change the taste of a cup. It is science and love that goes into a cup of coffee that



Shoppers enjoyed the final Winter Market of the season.

TURLEY PHOTO BY RICHARD MURPHY

makes it taste good.

Joy of Beans is open Fridays and Saturdays from 8 a.m.- 6 p.m. and on Sundays 10 a.m.-4 p.m. We serve coffee and pastries sourced from local bakers and New York bagels.

We also feature different artists and their crafts. We have a new art exhibit on the walls every month.

The latest project we are working on is called L.E.N. (Local Enlightenment

Now) It will be an opportunity, as a community to expand on the things we have in common, learn something new, or figure how to navigate the challenges in life. Each month will have a different subject and speaker. We are still in early-stage planning."

Joy is grateful for the wonderful support of family, especially her husband, Travis, and all he does to keep the shop going. It is not limited to picking up pastries on Saturday.

He is there to solve emergencies such as a stuck cash register not opening or a failed coffee grinder or just encouraging me when the day is a challenge. His words are what give me the strength and courage.

Grandson Chase is old enough to work in the shop. Joy noted time does fly.

Joy of Beans at 12 East Main St. is also on Facebook so one can keep up to date.

Back to the market itself. To the right coming in



Artist Susan Linnéa Kallander returned to the Winter Market.

the door was artist Susan Linnéa Kallander, back after a long market hiatus. She returned with her lovely crafts.

Robyn Scott of Blair House Blooms was next with her beautiful tulips, followed by Gail and Autumn Leaf Farm with mushrooms, microgreens and eggs. Linda Fuchs of Flourish Farms had microgreens, and ginger as well as turmeric.

Turning the corner in the room was Ginger and Kelly Homestead Apiary, with all things honey and wax. Next, Ryan Laurie had healthy Bucha Bros Kombucha followed by Rich Laba and his wonderful bacon and other pork products.

The next corner had Bryan's Golden Grain Artisanal Bread with sourdough and other flavorful breads from that bakery.

From up in North Brookfield, Jadriana came with Jars Café & Bakery, bringing pastries, soups and their "gifts in a jar."

If you were looking for trouble, you came to the right place. Well, maybe not trouble, but a couple of mischievous woodworkers in Rocky Blount and Bernie Wilson who were fun to have around and craft great products.

Last on this list, but hardly last is John Thompson of Thompson's Maple Farm with maple products and ice cream.

All in all, it was a pleasant day, made even more so due to the trio making music. The Otters are a popular local sextet, but only three were in attendance. No matter, they did a good job.

So, au revoir winter. We'll get through three other seasons and welcome the winter market then.

## QUABOAG FROM PAGE 3

teachers if WBES closed. Duff addressed this and said there is a process to follow, but a lot of teachers will be able to remain a part of the district.

Duff said the school district does its best to take care of their people, but unfortunately there will be some tough decisions to make.

Some residents in the school district addressed concerns about kids being placed in reduced classrooms. The idea of 30 kids in a classroom appears rough for both the students and the teachers. Duff clarified that grade six will not move to middle school.

One West Brookfield

parent asked if there was a plan to try and increase enrollment. After the presentation, there seemed to be no clarification on how to turn enrollment around for the better. Duff pointed out that 60 of the 249 students at WBES are school choice.

Duff said he sees students coming to Quaboag because of the excellent education system. The school district has come a long way over the years offering new programs that keep students in the district.

He said closing a school is one of the last things the district wants to happen, but it does fall into a scenario the School Committee has found.

Duff said the amount per student for school choice (\$5,000) hasn't

changed in 20 years. When asked about the possibility of cutting sports and programs, Duff shared he is a big believer that sports, music, art and theater are critical components of some of the school's academic classes.

Some residents asked about the Proposition 2 1/2 override in West Brookfield. If the override goes through, the numbers that are currently on it will not be sufficient to maintain the level service budget that the school needs for West Brookfield's assessment.

The town would need a \$1.6 million override for one year. The override is not only for the schools, but for the entire town and their departments.

Rural Aid was also

brought up during the question period of the informational meeting. The school district could reach out as much as possible to their State Legislators for support. Rural Aid is a huge benefit, considering the subject Duff made about how 57 of the towns in Massachusetts are facing a potential override.

A parent asked about IEPs and school programs, before and after school. Duff said they're looking at putting things together to keep these valuable school programs.

"It's a very difficult decision that our school committee is going to have to make," Duff said. "The state is not funding the way they need to fund."

## PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to [notices@turley.com](mailto:notices@turley.com)
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit [www.publicnotices.turley.com](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)

## HELP WANTED

- 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.

## EXPERIENCED WRITERS & JOURNALISTS

## Send writing samples with resume to:

PAULA OUIMETTE  
24 Water Street  
Palmer, MA 01069  
or email directly to:  
[pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com)

**Turley**  
Publications, Inc.  
[www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)



## NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for the Quaboag Current, please email [pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com).

# 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**

## MISCELLANEOUS

**TROY-BILT 8-HORSE ROTOTILLER**  
Econo-horse. Very good condition.  
\$750.00. Call 617-306-3066.

## WANTED

### WANTED!

**CASH for:**  
• Machinist tools, power tools & Snap on.  
• Electronics & Audio Equipment.  
• Sports Cards.  
• 70s/80s/90s Toys.  
• Antiques & Collectibles.  
Much, much more!  
Call/Text Sam  
**413-531-5381**

## WANTED TO BUY

### 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**

## WANTED

### 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**

## JUNK REMOVAL

### ARA JUNK FURNITURE REMOVAL

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

## JUNK REMOVAL

### A Call We Haul FAST REMOVAL

Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts.  
We load it & take it.  
**413-531-1936**  
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

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

## OPPORTUNITY

### BUSINESS FOR SALE BIOLINKS OF NEW ENGLAND

Grease trap pumping business. Ninety customers, two pump trucks.  
Call Les **413-297-1513**

## 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**

## BOAT FOR SALE

**17' STARCRAFT ALUMINUM BOAT.**  
1994 w/90HP 2-stroke Evinrude motor. Trailer w/spare tire, in great shape. \$4000.  
Verne, **413-539-8246.**

## SERVICES

**ONE CALL DOES IT ALL HANDYMAN SERVICES.**  
No job too small. Call for all your household and property maintenance needs.  
**413-563-6993**

## ELECTRICIAN

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

**ZEN ELECTRIC COMPANY LLC**  
Fully licensed and insured; Master Electrician on staff. Call for all your electrical needs. No job too small. Senior citizen and Veteran Discount. A veteran owned company. MA License #8101A1.  
Call John at **(413)206-6509**  
Every customer gets a free gem stone.

## SERVICES

### HOME IMPROVEMENT

**HANDYMAN SERVICES.** 30 years experience, replacement windows, painting, patching, laminate flooring, carpet installation/repair, and storage solutions. Call/text **413-777-3376.**

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

## CHAMELEON

### PAINTING & REMODELING

### INTERIOR/EXTERIOR

### Remodeling & Deck Specialists

Residential/Commercial  
Fully Insured • Free Estimates  
**413-351-1147**

## LANDSCAPING

### A+ ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BOBCAT SERVICE

Excavator Services  
Overgrown property?  
Extreme Brush Cutting!  
Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal  
Lawn/Arborvitae Installed  
Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand  
Storm Clean-up  
Small Demolition/ Junk Removal  
Insured  
**Josh Rozell 413-636-5957**

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

## MATT GUERTIN LANDSCAPING

Landscape Design and Installation  
Paver Patios, Walkways  
For more services visit  
[mattguertinlandscaping.com](http://mattguertinlandscaping.com)  
Call or text **413-266-9975**  
Insured - Commercial - Residential

## 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**

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

## SERVICES

### 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.**

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

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

## H & H TREE SERVICE

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

## STUMP GRINDING

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

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

## HELP WANTED

The Town of North Brookfield is looking for a **part-time Program Assistant** for the Council on Aging. Please submit a resume with a letter of interest to the **Selectmen's Office, 215 Main St., North Brookfield, MA 01535;** or by email to [selectmen@northbrookfield.net](mailto:selectmen@northbrookfield.net).

## REAL ESTATE

### FOR RENT



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

## LAND WANTED

**Seeking 8-20 peaceful acres** in Central MA for pet memorial sanctuary. Especially interested in lease-option, phased sale, or seller financing. Respectful, serious inquiry. Patrick | **508-735-3232** | [founder@rainbow-meadow.org](mailto:founder@rainbow-meadow.org)

## FOR RENT



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

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

# 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](http://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](http://www.FastTax-MA.com)  
Free E-File & Direct Deposit

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
21	Base Price \$26.50	22	Base Price \$27.50
23	Base Price \$27.50	24	Base Price \$28.00
25	Base Price \$28.50	26	Base Price \$29.00
27	Base Price \$29.50	28	Base Price \$30.00
29	Base Price \$30.50	30	Base Price \$31.00
31	Base Price \$31.50	32	Base Price \$32.00
33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base Price \$33.00
35	Base Price \$33.50	36	Base Price \$34.00
37	Base Price \$34.50	38	Base Price \$35.00
39	Base Price \$35.50	40	Base Price \$36.00

**Quabbin Village Hills**  
Circulation: 50,500

**Hilltowns**  
Circulation: 9,800

**Suburban Residential**  
Circulation: 59,000

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

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

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

Make checks payable to Turley Publications

**OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!**

# Your BUYLINE CONNECTION

**DON'T BUY 'TIL YOU SEE US!!!!**  
**TOYS, TOYS, TOYS!!!**  
**GIANT APPLIANCE REBATES!!!**  
**MATTRESS SALE!!!**  
**BIKES, E-BIKES!!!**  
**WE REPAIR BIKES!!!**

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

**GORGEOUS** Single level living. Meticulously maintained - House is set back from the road on 2.23 acres. Three bedrooms PLUS an office. Many large windows for abundant natural lighting. Two-car garage leads into the partially finished basement. Hookup for a generator (included). Propane fireplace in lr. Extensive upgrades inc. complete kitchen renovation (2025), landscaping & hardscaping (2023-2024), Fenced in yard (2022), reeds ferry shed (2017), new hot tub (2022), heat pump (2022) & many more upgrades too numerous to list. The rear deck has a retractable awning & there is another granite patio area great for entertaining. This property is located near the Paxton line, & is 2.3 miles away from Moore State Park. This will not last long.

**OPEN HOUSE APRIL 12TH FROM 1-3PM**



**21 Thompson Pond Road  
 Spencer, MA - \$709,000**

**Lisa Caron Real Estate**  
 Broker, Owner GRI, ABR, SRS, RENE, C2EX, SRES, MRP, PSA, LMC, CDFE, E-PRO  
 42 W. Main Street, PO Box 447 Brookfield, MA 01506  
 Cell: 508-341-8299  
 Search Homes Instantly: <http://www.lisacaron.com>



**SAVE 10% OFF**  
 Select Lawn & Garden And Marine Batteries



**\*Excludes: 8201D, 8210, 8226, 8228, 8280, 8281, 8282, 8283, and 8746.**

**INAPA NAPA AUTO PARTS® WARE-WEST BROOKFIELD**  
 175 West St., Ware 413-967-5121 • 967-3184  
 116 Federal St. (Rt. 9) Belchertown 413-323-7661 • 323-9296  
 117 West Main St., W. Brookfield • 508-867-9947  
 Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8-7; Sat. 8-3; Sun. 9-2

**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

**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

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



**LAKEFRONT - POSSIBLE ADU**  
 21-22 BEACH DRIVE  
 WEST BROOKFIELD, MA  
 \$674,900



**NEW CONSTRUCTION**  
 95 TOWN FARM RD.  
 WARREN, MA  
 \$545,000

**Cassie Paolucci**  
**774-200-3523**

*Adventure tours of Warren*  
 Share the Adventure with us!

**Boothbay Harbor Vacation**



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 Cruise .....from \$1699

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

**JARS Café & Bakery**

23 Summer Street  
 North Brookfield  
 MA 01535

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

**TEA FOR TWO**  
 1st Sunday Every Month  
 Reservations Required

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

508-637-1577

**JARS Café & Bakery**

**OPEN NOW 7 DAY A WEEK!**  
 8am-2pm Mon-Fri  
 8am-3pm Sat. & Sun.

CHECK OUT ALL THE  
**Turley Publications**  
[www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)

**Flint Signs**  
 149 Broad St., Barre, MA  
 Tel. 978-355-3080  
[www.FlintSigns.com](http://www.FlintSigns.com)  
 Quality Handcrafted Signs Since 1973

**HANNA'S ON MAIN**  
 91 Main Street  
 Ware, MA 01082  
 413-277-0009  
[www.hannasonmain.com](http://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



[www.hannasonmain.com](http://www.hannasonmain.com)  
 413-277-0009

**Function Room Available**

**KENO**

**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

**Happy Easter**

**Join Us On Sunday, April 5th**

**Easter Breakfast Buffet**  
 with the Easter Bunny  
**8:30AM - 11:30AM**

\$39<sup>99</sup> per adult • Children (5yr-12yr) 12<sup>95</sup> • Children under 4 FREE

**Easter Dinner Specials**  
 Regular Menu Available  
**1:00PM - 6:30PM**  
 Reservations are Highly Recommended

**413-277-0009**  
[hannasonmain.com](http://hannasonmain.com)