

QUABOAG CURRENT

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Quaboag Current
Newspaper

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Friday, April 12, 2024

Selectmen revoke conditional licenses for auto dealer

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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STURBRIDGE – The Board of Selectmen held a show cause hearing regarding conditional licenses that were granted to Curboy Auto, Inc. several months ago.

At the April 1 meeting, Chair

Jamie Goodwin the board had issued the Class II and III licenses conditionally at the beginning of the year, with the hopes that the applicant would come into compliance with the conservation restriction.

“Since that time, they haven’t allowed Conservation on the property and it’s come to our attention that, per the Building

Commissioner, that they have constructed a large metal garage that has been raised with no permits,” Goodwin said. “It’s a large scale commercial garage that needed to be engineered and inspected along with having all of the electrical needs looked at and inspected.”

Goodwin said there are also concerns about whether or not

the applicants is staying within the footprint of 71 Mashapaug Road.

These issues give the board the ability to revoke these conditional licenses, Goodwin said, with the other board members agreeing. The board voted unanimously to revoke the licenses issued conditionally to Curboy Auto, Inc.

Goodwin said it also appears the applicant is operating a solid waste facility, which were concerns that were not part of the show cause hearing.

“It doesn’t seem like a lot of those automobiles are moving,” he said. “You can break the car down for parts, if you have a permissible facility, but

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Brooke Buzzell of North Brookfield will be part of Team USA for the Youth World Weightlifting Championships in Peru. SUBMITTED PHOTO

North Brookfield weightlifter prepares for World Championships

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Weightlifting is a sport that tests the endurance and concentration of athletes young and old.

16-year-old Brooke Buzzell of North Brookfield is a youth weightlifter who has put in countless hours of training to

persevere in a sport that tests your strength. Buzzell is a lifelong native of North Brookfield and is currently in her sophomore year at Tantasqua Regional High School.

Buzzell first got into CrossFit training at the age of 12.

CrossFit is a fitness program that produces measurable outcomes through lifestyle

See **WEIGHTLIFTER** | PAGE 6

Gallery artists take to the outdoors

Plein air session kicks off ‘Wet Paint Sale’

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WEST BROOKFIELD – Next weekend, nine artists from West Brookfield Art & Frame Gallery will leave their studios behind to take part in a plein air painting session on the Common.

From 10 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturday, April 20, artists will focus their talents on capturing the beauty of the heart of West Brookfield. Anyone interested in watching these artists create can stop by and get an up close and personal look at each one’s creative process.

This is the first time the gallery artists have joined together for a plein air painting event,

See **ARTISTS** | PAGE 10



This stately building is home to a doctor’s office off the West Brookfield Common, painted by Rebecca Fay. West Brookfield Art & Frame Gallery artists will demonstrate plein air painting on the Common on Saturday, April 20 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Planning Board hears economic report for 2023

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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STURBRIDGE – Terry Masterson, Economic Development and Tourism coordinator from the Sturbridge Tourist Association, presented a report to the Planning Board, looking at economic growth in 2023.

At the March 26 meeting, Masterson gave a detailed breakdown of where people spend their money in town,

and showed a promotional video that was created to promote tourism.

The report covered the One Stop Business Assistance policy, an inventory of retail and tourism related businesses in major corridors, consumer spending, retail activity, attendance and visitor data, new construction and emerging projects and digital marketing to promote Sturbridge.

Through One Stop Business Assistance, Masterson assists

businessowners through the process of opening a business in town, and shares available resources locally, regionally and beyond. He said a One Stop letter has been drafted to help new business owners.

Masterson said there is also a plan to start a sign subsidy program, using American Rescue Plan Act funds, on a 50% match up to \$2,500. This will allow businesses to improve or add new exterior signage.

See **REPORT** | PAGE 14

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- community -

Brookfield Community Club hosts annual Operation Clean Sweep

BROOKFIELD – The eighth annual John T. O’Leary Memorial Operation Clean Sweep will be held in Brookfield during the month of April.

John O’Leary single-handedly organized the town wide cleanup for many years until his death. Pausing only during the pandemic, this is the eighth year since the event was named in his memory.

As part of Operation Clean Sweep, the club will celebrate Earth Day which occurs on Monday, April 22. This year, the theme is Planet vs. Plastics, in conjunction with EARTHDAY.ORG – the driving force behind Earth Day.

Each person can make a small investment to ensure a green future is a prosperous future. To call attention to the impact of plastic waste on our local environment, the club invites Brookfield residents to participate in this year’s Operation Clean Sweep to help rid local roads of the litter and trash thrown out of passing cars.

Operation Clean Sweep is not limited to just one day. Volunteers can participate individually, as a family or with a group, to tackle a specific street on a day that works with their schedule.

Litter collection can be done anytime throughout the month of April. Orange bags can be picked up on April 13 and April 20 at the Brookfield Transfer Station.

Participants must plan to bring their filled bags back to the Transfer Station on Tuesday afternoons or Saturday mornings during the month of April.

Participants in this year’s Operation Clean Sweep can post photos to be entered into contests including “Most Unusual Trash Item” and “Most Orange Bags Filled”. Full details can be found on the Brookfield Community Club/Apple Country Fair Facebook page.

Operation Clean Sweep is sponsored by the Brookfield Board of Health, and coordinated by the Brookfield Community Club. They are grateful for the support from local community partners including the Town Highway and Recreation Departments, the Clean Lakes Association, Tip Top Country Store and the town’s Scout troops.

The Brookfield Community Club has been organizing events for the community, including the Apple Country Fair since 1979.

For more information, please connect with the club by mailing P.O. Box K312, Brookfield, MA 01506; emailing AppleCountryFair@gmail.com; or online at AppleCountryFair.com, on Facebook (applecountryfair), Twitter (@ACF01506) or Instagram (brookfieldcommunityclub).

Trees are Treasures

Earth Day/celebration at Wells State Park April 20

STURBRIDGE – Grassroots Central Mass will continue its tradition of celebrating Earth Day with its fourth “Trees Are Treasures” event on Saturday, April 20 at Wells State Park in Sturbridge from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

GCM, a local affiliate of Indivisible Mass Coalition is again co-sponsoring this year’s events with Brookfields Fight Fear. Both GCM and BFF are local groups dedicated to serving the communities we live in through finding and supporting solutions to issues in our communities, our state, and our nation.

This event includes a short, level walk along the Mill Pond Trail at Wells State Park, where costumed interpreters are stationed to discuss the importance of wetlands and forest ecosystems, at both child and adult levels. This is a family friendly stroll.

This free event will also include children’s crafts under the pavilion, storytelling, facepainting and a free tree seedling giveaway. Join GCM to celebrate and appreciate the beauty of our native forest.

For more information visit grassrootscentralmass.org/



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Town Clerks offer voter registration April 27

WARREN/WEST BROOKFIELD – Warren Town Clerk Laura J. Stockley and West Brookfield Town Clerk Heather E. Gough will hold voter registration in their offices on Saturday, April 27 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. for the annual town election, which will be held on Tuesday, May 7.

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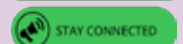
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- Yoga
- Nutrition in Recovery
- Meeting exploration trips
- ...and more!



For current hours and offerings:



- community -

Rep. Saunders speaks about need for Quabbin bill

By Nick Boonstra
Staff Writer
nboonstra@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – State Rep. Aaron Saunders (D-Belchertown) spoke at a meeting of the Friends of Quabbin on April 7, to promote a bill that aims to improve regional equity for the communities that host the Quabbin Reservoir.

House Bill 897, also known as An Act Relative to the Quabbin Watershed and Regional Equity, would create a trust fund to benefit Quabbin Reservoir Watershed Communities, which would be funded by a fee based on the amount of water used by supplied municipalities.

The fee proposed by the bill would be set at five cents per 1,000 gallons drawn, and would be expected to raise \$3.5 million for the fund, according to a summary document for the bill provided by Saunders. The bill also proposes to adjust how communities would be paid from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, basing payments on total state land acreage as opposed to acreage above the high water mark as is currently mandated.

Additionally, the bill would ensure that three members on the MWRA Board of Directors were residents of Connecticut River Basin communities. Currently, Monson Town Administrator Jennifer Wolowicz is the only one of the board's 11 members representing a community outside of the I-495 corridor.

Saunders explained that this bill, the first of its kind to be introduced in the House, was one that he proposed with a

focus on the future of the region, rather than its past. However, he made clear that it was the history of the region and its stewardship of the reservoir that made a bill like this necessary.

“When the Quabbin was built, when the four towns were taken from us, there were a number of communities that were also impacted forever,” he said.

Saunders went on to detail how many of the towns that contain the reservoir are left to rely primarily on property taxes over commercial development for raising municipal revenues, leading to both buildings and services that were beginning to degrade as a result of those lower figures. He said that this state of affairs was directly a result of the fact that these communities host the reservoir for other parts of the state.

“The lands that we protect for the Quabbin have foreclosed the ability for these communities to do anything else that may generate the type of revenue that funds public safety, that funds basic services that we expect from our communities,” he said.

Providing one example of suffering public facilities, Saunders said, “There is one usable room in the New Salem Town Hall; it’s in the basement. The rest of the building is not fit for human consumption.”

He said that this bill was not concerned with seeking repayment for these impacts historically, but rather was merely an attempt to recognize the worth of the region’s protection of the reservoir, as well as to assure that the region will continue to be able to protect it going forward.

“The water provides such innumer-



State Rep. Aaron Saunders spoke at a meeting of the Friends of Quabbin held at the Belchertown United Church of Christ Fellowship Hall this past Sunday. TURLEY PHOTOS BY NICK BOONSTRA

able value to the people and the businesses and the communities of eastern Mass that there ought to be some consideration given to the communities that steward this resource,” he said. He added that this consideration would come at a minimal cost to MWRA ratepayers, providing an estimated figure of an additional six cents per month for the average Boston water and sewer customer.

Saunders also said this proposed bill was coming at a time when the burden placed on the Quabbin Reservoir may soon be increasing.

“There are a great number of communities in the eastern part of the state who are dealing with very serious water quality issues,” he said. “These are communities that need a reliable source of water, and they are looking to us to provide that.”

He later added that he also wanted to make sure there would still be water left should communities in western Massachusetts also show an interest in joining the MWRA system.

Saunders admitted that he had encountered difficulty in trying to help those from different parts of the state understand why a bill like this would be so important.

“Oftentimes, the initial response I get back is, ‘Yes, it’s sad that four towns were drowned, but it was a necessary step in the Commonwealth’s future’ – so on and so forth,” Saunders said. However, he stated that it was possible to push back against this line of thinking. “The way this is combatted is through the voice of the folks who live

here in the region,” he said. “Not only recounting the past, but talking about what life is like in western Mass now.”

For this reason, Saunders emphasized the importance of individuals to speak out about the matter of regional equity as well as related topics such as water quality and public access to natural resources.

“The more that we can have these voices heard outside of just rooms like this, the more effective it is,” he said.



A view of the Quabbin Reservoir from atop Winsor Dam.



A bald eagle is shown flying over the Quabbin Reservoir.

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- opinion -



Transplanting your homegrown seedlings

I bet there are a few garden enthusiasts out there with seedlings up and growing indoors.

My tomatoes are just poking through, but my peppers are ready for transplanting. Why transplant you ask? It's important that we give our young plants room to spread out!

If seeds were sown in rows, chances are that several seedlings have sprouted and are now growing within a close proximity to one another. They are competing for nutrients and moisture.

Even if two seeds were sown in a single cell of a six-pack and both germinated, they too are competing with one another in that tiny of a space. So, if we want garden center quality seedlings, we must transplant them to their own cell or small pot.

You know a seedling is ready for transplant when it has its "true leaves," not the cotyledon leaves that were first to sprout from the seed, but those that come right after. At this point in growth plant roots aren't tangled up and therefore transplant shock can be kept to a minimum.

Although the seedlings may be tiny and appear fragile, transplanting them is quite simple.

First, take a wooden plant label or dull butter knife and "cut" into the row of seedlings. Then, use your implement "spatula-style" to remove a small cluster of plants from the bottom up.

I always tell folks to "think brownies!" Be careful to get as many roots as you can.

Once you've done this it is time to separate them from one another. Gently pull on a leaf, not the stem, to pry them apart.

Think of it this way: the plant has two leaves but only one stem. If it should snap, that's it! Leaves on the other hand, can and will be replaced if accidentally torn off.

Individual seedlings can be planted in small containers or cell packs filled with soil-less growing medium. We steer clear of garden soil because of the pathogens and weed seeds it may contain as well as its tendency not to drain very well.

Soilless mix is sterile, and has the ability to retain moisture yet drain freely- just what the young seedling needs as it grows additional roots and top growth.

Make a hole in the moistened growing medium with your finger, a pencil or wooden dibble. Insert the seedling to the correct depth then firm around it with your fingers.

Most are transplanted to the same depth they were growing in the pack.

One exception is tomatoes; they can be buried deeper than they started out. This is because tomatoes have the ability to make roots along the length of their stem.

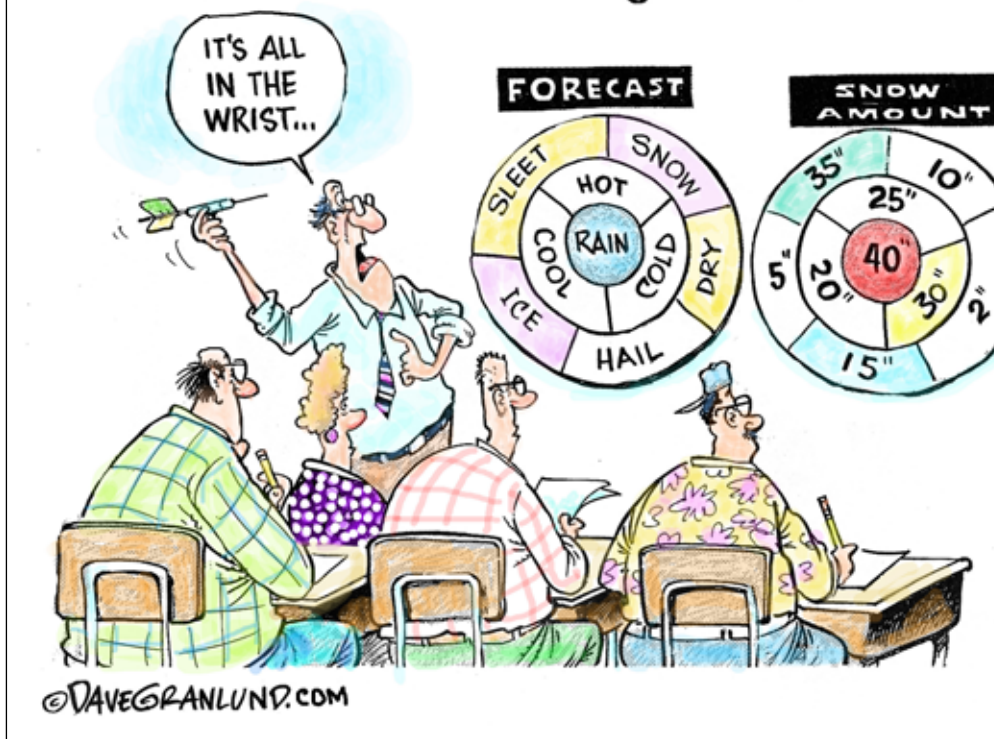
Another exception are marigolds. More roots mean healthier shoots!

Water the transplants well with a gentle spray. They can now be put back under the artificial lights you've rigged up.

Continue to keep the lights within inches of the plants for the stockiest growth. Or, if you're lucky enough to have a sunroom or hobby greenhouse, the seedlings will thrive there!

Shade them from direct sun for a few days after transplant to prevent wilting. Soon the roots will recover from the shock of trans-

Refresher course for meteorologists...



Should I claim Social Security at 68 or wait until I'm 70?

Dear Rusty:

I have a question regarding my SS benefits. I turned 68 this month and work part time.

I earned \$28,000 last year, but will probably gross \$36,000 to \$38,000 this year. My husband collects his SS and he earned \$25,000 last year.

I was told by a financial planner that I should apply for my benefits now, instead of waiting until I'm 70. I would collect \$1,700 per month at 68 and \$1,944 per month if I wait. Which is the smarter move?

Signed: Seeking Answers

Dear Seeking:

I'm sure your financial advisor would agree that your decision on when to claim your Social Security comes down to just a few basic things: 1) how badly you need the money, 2) your life expectancy and 3) whether you will receive a spousal boost from your husband when you claim.

Because you have already passed your Full Retirement Age of 66 years and 4 months, your work earnings won't negatively affect your monthly SS benefit amount. If you claim now, however, your work earnings will affect how much of your SS benefits will be subject to income tax.

Assuming you file your income tax as "married/filing jointly," up to 85% of the Social Security benefits you receive during the tax year will become part of your income taxable by the IRS. If you do not urgently need the extra money that your SS will provide, then waiting longer to claim will also postpone paying income tax on your received benefits and that may be a consideration.

Your life expectancy is key in making your decision on when to claim. You already know that your benefit will be \$244 per month more if you wait until you are 70 to claim.

If you claim at 68 (e.g., this month), you will collect about \$40,800 by the time you

reach 70. If you, instead, wait until age 70 to get that extra \$244 per month benefit, it will take you about 14 years collecting at the higher rate to offset the \$40,800 you would have received had you claimed now (in other words, you would break even money wise at about age 84).

If your life expectancy is longer, then waiting to claim may be the better choice. Of course, no one knows how long they will live but, for general guidance, average life expectancy for a woman your current age is about 87. Family history and your current health are obviously influencing factors as well.

If you wish to get a more personal estimate of your life expectancy, I suggest using this tool: www.socialsecurityreport.org/tools/life-expectancy-calculator/.

In the end, if you believe you will attain at least average life expectancy and you don't urgently need the money now, waiting longer will not only give you a higher monthly benefit in your later years, but also the most in cumulative lifetime benefits. If, however, you have reason to suspect you won't achieve at least average life expectancy or you need the SS money sooner, claiming before age 70 is likely the better move.

One other thing to consider: If your benefit as your husband's spouse will be more than your own earned maximum SS retirement benefit, then you should claim your SS benefit now. Your maximum benefit as a spouse would be 50% of your husband's full retirement age entitlement and, if that is more than your own benefit will be at age 70, then claiming now to get your maximum spousal benefit would be your best choice.

To get a spousal benefit from your husband, your personal FRA entitlement (not your age 68 amount) would need to be less than half of his FRA entitlement. If that isn't the case, then you should make your decision based only on your own Social Security entitlement, as described above.

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Send opinions to:

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

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- opinion -



Hamilton on Foreign Policy

We can fix our broken politics

Americans are fed up with politics.

That's the obvious conclusion of a recent survey by the Pew Research Center, which found many of us have "unrelentingly negative" views of politics and elected officials.

It's understandable that people are discouraged. There are plenty of reasons to feel that way.

I'm not especially alarmed at the findings of the survey, however. The key thing is that we maintain an interest in improving our broken politics.

That's critically important.

If the American people were to get so turned off by politics that they refuse to participate, that would be a real problem for our democracy. Fortunately, there's evidence that we haven't reached that point.

Americans have long had a healthy skepticism about political power and those who wield it, but the Pew survey suggests distrust has reached new heights. Some 65% of those questioned said thinking about politics left them exhausted.

More than half said it made them angry. Only a few said it made them hopeful or excited.

Asked to describe U.S. politics in one word, many came up with "divisive," "corrupt" or "chaotic." Asked to identify the strong points of our politics, more than half couldn't come up with anything.

It's obvious that our politics are going through a difficult time.

Congress seems dysfunctional, struggling to pass spending bills to keep the government operating. A single senator has blocked promotions for hundreds of military officers.

Election campaigns are filled with personal attacks. Divisions threaten our support for allies, including Ukraine, a rejection of the adage that politics stops at the water's edge.

Partisanship has reached new heights, with Democrats and Republicans seeming to inhabit separate worlds. The one thing both sides agree on is that our politics aren't working.

Dissatisfaction with politics crosses political, social and demographic lines, according to the Pew survey. It is shared by White, Black, Asian and Hispanic adults. It affects old people as well as young people.

Nearly nine out of 10 Americans say politicians are more focused on fighting each other than on solving problems. Some 28% distrust both major parties, the highest figure in nearly 30 years.

It's common to hear people say that neither party cares about ordinary people. Americans distrust the executive and legislative branches of government, and a majority have a dim view of the Supreme Court.

Americans are rightly suspicious of the growing role that money plays in politics. About 85% said that the cost of election campaigns keeps good candidates from running and that special interests have too much influence on politicians.

Only about a quarter of the people rate the quality of political candidates as very or somewhat good, down 20 percentage points in the past five years.

You might expect this distrust and discouragement would cause Americans to disengage from politics. Fortunately, that doesn't seem to be happening.

The elections of 2018, 2020 and 2022 featured some of the highest voter turnout rates in decades. About two-thirds of eligible adults voted in 2020, the highest rate for a national election since 1900.

Those are very encouraging signs.

The public has ideas for improving our politics. In the Pew survey, majorities favored limits on campaign contributions and spending.

The survey found broad support for term limits on members of Congress and for age limits on elected and appointed officials, including Supreme Court justices. Elections this month in Kentucky, Ohio and Virginia drew strong interest and participation.

In another hopeful sign, more young people have been running for office – and often winning.

We Americans have always been an optimistic and forward-looking people, confident in our ability to solve problems and make progress. We're right to be unhappy with the condition of our politics, but we have the power and the ability to make our politics better.

Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

Poetry and music series offered at Merriam-Gilbert library

WEST BROOKFIELD – A poetry and music series will be held at the Merriam-Gilbert Public Library, 3 West Main St. on Tuesdays, April 16, 30 and May 7 at 6 p.m.

Each evening will feature readings by area poets book-ended by a musical duet. This program is made possible by the West Brookfield Cultural Council as supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

On April 16, poets Karen Sharpe and John Hodgen will be accompanied by musicians Jerry Wilfong, Rich Falco and Rich Ardizzone. On April 30, poets Andre Juarez and Geoff Wilkinson will be accompanied by musicians Jerry Wilfong and Jim Capone and on May 7, poets Eve Rifkah and Paul Szlosek will be accompanied by musicians Jerry Wilfong and Rich Falco.

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

GARDEN | FROM PAGE 4

plant and will again be able to sustain the plant.

Night time temperatures can dip as low as 50 degrees for most plants. In fact, lower night temps will help to ensure the stocky specimen we desire.

Fertilize with half-strength liquid plant food every 10 days to two weeks. Begin to "harden-off" your transplants a couple of weeks prior to putting in the ground.

Thus far they have been kept in a carefully controlled environment. Planting them without a period of acclimatization may mean disaster!

Place them outdoors in a shady spot protected from the wind for only a few hours each day. As the days progress keep them out longer and increase their exposure to bright sun and wind.

Don't forget to water during this process, but forgo all fertilizer.

With less than two months to go until the danger of frost is officially passed, our home grown seedlings won't have long to wait, and neither will we!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

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- community -

WEIGHTLIFTER | FROM PAGE 1

changes, centered on training and nutrition. Workouts consist of constantly varied, high-intensity, functional movements, and are most fun and effective among friends at a local CrossFit gym.

At the age of 14, Buzzell began her training in weightlifting. Getting more involved with weightlifting, Buzzell would soon join a gym and have a home gym of her own.

Exercises for weightlifting include the snatch, squats, deadlifts, sit-ups, pullups and the well-known Olympic event “clean & jerk”. The clean & jerk is a composite of two weightlifting movements, most often performed with a barbell.

Buzzell has been training hard in both CrossFit and weightlifting but has focused more on weightlifting in the past year. According to Buzzell, weightlifting is a combination of strength and technique and tests what your body can do in these exercises.

It is “a good tool to figure out what your body can do,” Buzzell said.

In addition to her own home gym Buzzell is also part of the Arkitect Fitness gym in Tyngsboro.

Buzzell’s weightlifting coach Brett Scott is the owner and Physical Therapist and Head Strength Coach of Arkitect Fitness. Scott has motivated Brooke to continuously grow in the sport of weightlifting and pursue other activities and events of the sport.

“I want to grow with the sport,” Buzzell said. “You get close with the people you train with.”

Buzzell and her parents speak highly of Scott as he pushes her and other teens to work hard and persevere in weightlifting.

Later this year in May, Buzzell will be competing in her first ever world youth weightlifting tournament in Peru. Her first inspiration to participate in weightlifting began with watching documentaries about athletes who got into weightlifting.

Seeing these stories of athletes engaging in weightlifting only encouraged Buzzell to know it is possible to put your body through these challenges and prove through physical capabilities.

Buzzell’s first local weightlifting competition took place in June of 2023 in New Hampshire. Brooke would then go to events such as the American opens and national championships and would qualify and become a part of the national team in December.

To this day, Buzzell holds several New England records in weightlifting. These records are in events such as the snatch and clean & jerk. When she qualified for Team USA, Buzzell was in the top 10 of weightlifters in the country based on weight class.

Buzzell will be one of 11 teenagers, all under 17 to compete in the youth world championships in Peru. More than 60 countries will be representing the sport of weightlifting.

Buzzell trains about three to four hours a day and looks forward to competing in the youth world championships. After getting into CrossFit in Sturbridge,



Brooke Buzzell is shown at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Buzzell had also encouraged her mother Kelly into training at CrossFit.

Both mother and daughter find it fun to workout together.

Both of Brooke’s parents are extremely proud of her and her accomplishments in the sport of weightlifting. Both parents have witnessed nothing but motivation in Brooke trying to improve in the sport and accomplish more heavier milestones.

“She wanted to prove to herself,” Kelly Buzzell said. “She gets a goal in her head and she just does it.”

Buzzell intends to continue participating in weightlifting and continue after high school. Buzzell also shared that she would like to own and run a gym someday. The idea comes from her positive experience being in a youth program for weightlifting and believes the experience would be positive for other youths as well.

“Weightlifting is good for any sport,” Buzzell said. “It keeps kids active.”

There are many youth weightlifters in the country, but Buzzell is one of few youth athletes in central Massachusetts to participate in weightlifting. Her Team USA teammates come from all over the country, including Pennsylvania, California, Florida, Kansas and Arizona.

Buzzell is the only representative from Massachusetts, but also all of New England.

Buzzell has traveled four times this past year for weightlifting events, including ones for American Opens and Nationals. The youth world championships in Peru will take place in May.



Brooke Buzzell will be one of 11 youth weightlifters representing Team USA.

Buzzell is looking forward to the experience and meeting other weightlifters from all over the world. Her next goal is to make the junior national weightlifting team.

After competing in the world championships for the first time, Buzzell hopes to qualify for the event next year. She is also planning on competing in the Pan-Ams that will take place in Ecuador.

Buzzell appreciates all the support from her family, friends and coaches during her ongoing journey in the sport of weightlifting.



Brooke Buzzell is shown at the American open finals which qualified her to be a part of team USA.

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School Committee discusses Tantasqua budget

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
epappas@turley.com

STURBRIDGE – The Tantasqua Regional School District Committee met to discuss the budget for the next fiscal year.

Superintendent Deborah Boyd provided a presentation of slides to discuss the budget. “This will be to talk about what is in the budget, and how we plan to pay for it,” Boyd said.

The budget is organized into six categories or “series”. The 2000 series includes a budget for paying for administration and teachers, professional development, special education, technology, library and medias, guidance counselling, and technical division teaching.

When it comes to where the revenue comes from to pay for the budget, it comes mostly from out-of-district tuition and school choice tuition.

According to a provided graph, 51.41% of students are enrolled from Sturbridge, 15.79% from Brimfield, 14.62% from Brookfield, 8.92% from Holland, and 9.27% from Wales.

“We are super proud to present a budget that takes care of student needs, but also keeps up with technology,” Boyd explained.

The main goal of the budget, according to the summary, is “to present a budget affordable to all five member towns while addressing anticipated student need in the areas of academics and mental health as well as other target areas in the District Involvement Plan.”

The presentation detailed the ways the budget will benefit and work for the students, whether from low-income families, English Language Learners, special education, or anyone else who comes to the school.

Student Representative report

The student representative provided a report about what the seniors are up to and the ways they are serving the community and what they are learning in their classes.

He also shared what the other high schoolers and junior high schoolers are doing, including field trips, fundraisers, and a few new menu items at the cafeteria including pulled pork macaroni and cheese.

He also shared various service projects, as well as a CPR and health course students are taking, as well as a way to bring meals to the local seniors.

School choice slots

Boyd discussed the current number of applicants for junior high

grades, and how many slots to put into place for new students to come in over the summer.

She brought to the committee, based off of numbers of the number of student applications, a number of suggested slots to make available for grades seven through nine.

Staff reports

Members of the school staff came forward to talk about the various achievements and fun things that the students of the junior and senior high school have accomplished.

Sports, extracurricular activities, and more were discussed, as well as shared remarks about how close it is already to the end of the school year.

School absences and tardiness was gone over, and which cases were to have specific rules in place, and what protocols needed to be implemented for controlling and absences.

They also discussed student discipline, including discussing ways to alter the way suspension has been used in the past as a form of discipline.

Student publications policies were discussed, as well as the facts of rights and freedom of expression, and how to ensure students have that right. They also covered reporting for students to be able to speak up.

They also discussed and revised various additions and edits to the student handbook.

New bill to supports plant-based food production

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Rep. James P. McGovern (D-MA), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee and Senior Member of the House Agriculture Committee, introduced a bill to support American farmers and rural communities through plant-based food production.

McGovern’s bill establishes new opportunities for farmers and food companies, creates new jobs in farming communities, advances U.S. Department of Agriculture’s efforts to connect American farmers to new markets at home and abroad, and expands consumer choices at the grocery store, through plant-based food research and production.

The Peas, Legumes, and Nuts Today Act, or PLANT Act, provides a blueprint for maintaining America’s leadership in plant-based food production, while empowering farmers and rural communities and producing delicious, affordable food options for all Americans.

“The PLANT Act will help us win the future of food,” said McGovern. “Plant-based foods are already creating new opportunities for farmers across the country and exciting new options for consumers, and this legislation will be a game-changer. By putting farmers and their communities front and center

as we grow the greatest plant-based sector in the world, we can create countless good jobs while showing the world what makes American agriculture so strong. Now is the time to embrace the enormous potential that plant-based foods have to strengthen our economy and our food system.”

The United States is already the world leader in plant-based food production, with over 55,000 people directly employed in a sector that generates \$4.5 billion in annual revenue. Other countries are making significant public investments in plant-based food innovation that may eclipse U.S. production.

Since 2020, Canada, France, Denmark, Australia, the European Union, and Sweden have all invested more in this sector than the United States. The PLANT Act would enable the U.S. to maintain a leadership role in plant-based food production by supporting farmers, food manufacturing workers, and rural communities.

Specifically, the PLANT Act would provide support for U.S. farmers who grow the ingredients used in plant-based foods; ensure that food companies who turn those ingredients into plant-based foods are eligible for USDA producer programs; and make targeted research and development investments at USDA to foster American innovation.

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BELCHERTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAM

2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

The Belchertown Public School District is now accepting applications for the following School Choice openings for the 2024-2025 school year:

Grade K	7	Grade 6	2
Grade 1	10	Grade 7	10
Grade 2	6	Grade 8	10
Grade 4	3	Grade 9	5
Grade 5	5	Grade 10	5

The Belchertown Public Schools combine innovation and tradition to provide positive educational experiences for all of our students through quality programs, dynamic teaching and healthy relationships.

The deadline for submitting a **complete** application is 4:00 p.m. on **Friday, May 10, 2024.**

The selection of non-resident students for admission will be in the form of a random drawing when the number of requests exceeds the number of available spaces. There will be two drawings for this purpose. The first will take place on May 10, 2024, and in the event of unexpected additional openings, a second drawing will be conducted on August 9, 2024.

The application and guidelines can be downloaded at www.belchertownps.org or picked up at 14 Maple St., Belchertown, MA 01007.

The Belchertown School District does not discriminate in the admission of any child on the basis of age, sex, gender identity, race, religion, color, national origin, sexual orientation or ancestry, athletic performance, physical handicap, special need, academic performance, disability or proficiency in the English language in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

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- community -

April fundraiser supports Make-A-Wish Massachusetts and Rhode Island

Hannaford Supermarkets officially kicked off their fundraising efforts for the month of April, which will support Make-A-Wish Massachusetts and Rhode Island, which grants life-changing wishes for local children with critical

illnesses.

Throughout the month, all 16 Hannaford stores in Massachusetts will be collecting monetary donations in kiosks located near store checkouts, with money benefitting the local nonprofit. The

promotion coincides with "World Wish Month," a month of global celebration in support of Make-A-Wish.

To donate, visit your local Hannaford store during the month of April and look for the kiosk near checkout.

To learn more about how you can help create hope for local wish children this World Wish Month, visit www.massri.wish.org/wishmaker.

SELECTMEN | FROM PAGE 1

you cannot leave it there in perpetuity without appropriate licensing from the town, Board of Health and the state."

Welcome sign

Town Administrator Robin Grimm said the town's welcome sign has been installed. She said the landscaping still needs to be completed.

"We know there were some questions about the way the sign was seated...we had to comply with DOT [Department of Transportation] breakaway standards," she said. "That was an important component of all this."

Grimm thanked Joe Faucher from Brimfield Sign who did "beautiful work and design work," on the sign, along with Town Planner Jean Bubon for her work to see the project and its landscaping through.

Grimm said the sign continues with the town's wayfarer theme. She said the faux stones at the base of the sign are temporary, and will be replaced with real stones when the roundabout project is completed by MassDOT.

"We did not feel financially, it was prudent to put that kind of money into real stones and have to dismantle them in maybe five to 10 years," she said.

"This was a solution in the meantime that we felt was the best sort of 'bang for the buck' and still got what we needed."

Grimm said the sign is angled to face drivers entering town from the I-90/84 corridor.

"Most of our tourism, most of our outside visitors, come in that direction," she said.

Grimm said the town will continue to work on improving the aesthetics of the Route 20 corridor.

Water tower replacement

Grimm said the water tank on Stallion Hill needs to be replaced and it will cost approximately \$3 million. She said the town could still provide water if the tank went down, but they would not have capacity for proper fire suppression.

An article regarding the water tower's replacement will be on the town meeting warrant.

"That tank is a critical part of the town, not just for the rate payers, but for the town as a whole," Grimm said.

Grimm said the town could receive up to a half-million in grant funding to help pay for the replacement.

Board members discussed how the cost would be covered, both through the

general fund and rate payers, and other funding sources.

Appointments

The board appointed Lauren Vivier as the Conservation Agent for the town.

Grimm said Vivier was selected from four finalists and the hiring committee as "very, very pleased" with Vivier during the interview process. She said the Conservation Commission and the assistant agent were supportive of hiring Vivier.

"We're lucky to have such a qualified applicant. Her background, her wetlands experience, and her management and leadership have spoken for themselves," Grimm said.

The board also appointed Florencia Sangermano as an associate member on the Conservation Commission. She also serves on the town's Open Space Committee.

As an associate member, Sangermano would attend meetings, and be able to fill in and cast votes when a regular member is unable to attend.

Health insurance discussion

Grimm said Sturbridge has one of the highest employee contributions for health insurance compared to other towns. She said having a 70/30 split for contributions puts the town in a "much more competitive position," without negatively impacting town services.

The town will have a 2.2% premium increase from the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association, which is about half of what was previously anticipated. This increase and moving to a 70/30 split, will raise the healthcare budget by \$122,000.

A low-cost healthcare plan will also be available for town employees.

The board voted to approve having the town pay 70% and employees 30% of health insurance.

Resignations

The board accepted a letter of resignation from Firefighter Joseph Doldorian and a notice of retirement from Building Inspector Nelson Burlingame.

Grimm said Burlingame will retire from his position May 21.

Conservation restrictions

The board signed conservation restrictions for Blueberry Hill, Lot 3, 6 Berry Farm Road; and Fiske Hill East Trust, Lot 4B. Board members also signed a declaration of conservation restriction for Lot 4A.

The property owner intends to donate Lot 4A to Massachusetts Fish and Wildlife within a year.

Dock permits

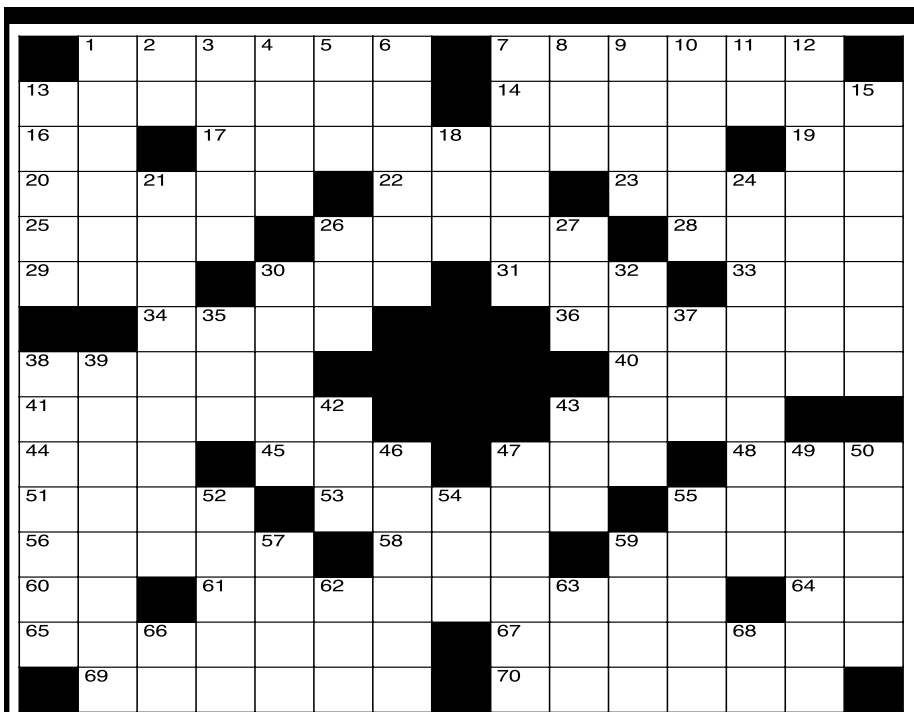
Grimm presented a draft dock application for the board to review. She said the board oversees temporary dock permits, and dock owners are supposed to come before the board each year, but there isn't a real format for applications.

"It's not actually a bylaw, it's a procedure," she said.

Warrant articles

The board voted to place and support the following articles for the special town meeting warrant: Article 56, snow and ice removal; Article 57, unpaid bills from a previous year; Article 58, transfer of \$72,000 from free cash for street lights; and Article 59, sewer betterment payoff in the amount of \$7,980 to cover recording fees for the Registry of Deeds.

The board also placed 42 articles on the annual town meeting warrant, pending further discussion.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Island nation
7. Platforms
13. Project plan
14. French fishing port
16. South Dakota
17. Oakland's baseball team
19. Military policeman
20. Ornamental stone
22. Garland
23. Process that produces ammonia
25. Mousses
26. Music notation "dal"
28. Fail to win
29. Peyton's little brother
30. Not near
31. Some cars still need it
33. Lizard genus
34. An idiot (Brit.)
36. Postponed
38. African country
40. Gazes unpleasantly

41. In a way, traveled
43. Ukraine's capital
44. Appropriate
45. Dash
47. Twitch
48. Swiss river
51. Data file with computer animations
53. City in S. Korea
55. Particular region
56. They have eyes and noses
58. Tear
59. Large Madagascan lemur
60. Not out
61. Ornamental saddle covering
64. A driver's license is one
65. Latin term for charity
67. Rechristens
69. Objects from an earlier time
70. Hindu male religious teachers

CLUES DOWN

1. Used as a weapon
2. Yukon Territory
3. Makes a map of
4. An established ceremony prescribed by a religion
5. Unnilhexium
6. Merchant
7. Playing the field
8. Folk singer DiFranco
9. Something to scratch
10. Mexican agave
11. Equal to one quintillion bytes
12. Session
13. North American people
15. Ranches
18. Electroencephalograph
21. A type of compound
24. Avenue
26. High schoolers' test
27. A type of meal
30. Gradually disappeared
32. Ancient Frankish law code
35. Popular pickup truck
37. Buzzing insect
38. Deal illegally
39. Lying in the same plane
42. Obstruct
43. Related
46. Challenge aggressively
47. Nocturnal hoofed animals
49. Bird's nests
50. Forays
52. ___ B. de Mille, filmmaker
54. Title of respect
55. One-time name of Vietnam
57. Self-immolation by fire ritual
59. Private school in New York
62. Political action committee
63. A way to fashion
66. Email reply
68. "The Great Lake State"

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Prize-winning pianist performs at Stone Church

HARDWICK – Friends of the Stone Church proudly present pianist Mackenzie Melemed in an exclusive return engagement at the Stone Church Cultural Center, 283 Main St., Gilbertville at 7 p.m. on Saturday, April 20.

He will perform works of Sibelius, New England composer Amy Beach, Brahms, Jaakko Kuusisto, and Beethoven, in “My Two Homes,” a program inspired by his background as a native New Englander and his adopted home in Finland. Melemed was honored to give the U.S. premiere. A wine and cheese reception with the artist will follow the concert.

Tickets are \$35 at the door or at FriendsOfTheStoneChurch.org. Students under 18 will be admitted at no charge.

Finnish composer Kuusisto died in 2022 but his music lives on. Melemed was honored to give the premiere performance of his Piano Concerto in Minnesota last summer. His piece for this concert is inspired by a small Finnish island, creating a beautiful soundscape.

Originally from Paxton, Melemed studied piano with Olga Rogach and attended the Bancroft School in Worcester. He received the \$25,000 Avery Fisher career grant for emerging musicians of outstanding ability in 2022.

This 29-year-old Massachusetts native has been credited with “pianistic maturity twice his age,” called “a magician for romance and sweet lyricism,” and lauded as a consummate solo artist whose “crystal-clear pianism” is “nothing short of thrilling.” Among his many prizes are The Julliard School’s 2019 Leo B. Ruiz Carnegie Hall Recital Prize,

the 2018 Arthur Rubenstein Prize, the Jade Medal at the 2019 China International Competition and the first prize and chamber music prize at Finland’s 2017 Maj Lind International Piano Competition.

Melemed graduated with a dual bachelor’s and master’s degree and an Artist Diploma from The Julliard School, where he studied with Robert McDonald and Emanuel Ax. The New York Times praised him as “an excellent young pianist.”

He has performed as a soloist at the White House (2004-2008), Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Warsaw Philharmonic Hall, and with the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Stamford Symphony, the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra, and the KBS Symphony in Korea. His mentorship by Emanuel Ax led to his 2022 performance at Tanglewood, summer home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

In 2021, Melemed was a laureate of the American Pianists Award; he received a \$50,000 cash prize from the American Pianists Association for the distinction.

Melemed’s 2023-2024 season includes several debuts and numerous re-engagements with orchestras in the United States, Canada and Finland, including the Edmonton Symphony, Tampere Philharmonic and the Lohja City Orchestra in Finland. A creative collaborator, Melemed commissioned a new Piano Concerto from Israeli-American composer Avner Dorman.

Melemed’s discography features world-premiere recordings of Dorman’s “Three Etudes” on the Steinway and



Pianist Mackenzie Melemed returns to the Stone Church Cultural Center, 283 Main St., Gilbertville on Saturday, April 20 at 7 p.m. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Sons label (2018) and Jeajoon Ryu’s Piano Concerto with Ralf Gothóni and Sinfonia Varsovia on the Warner Classics label (2019). Melemed is currently working on a solo album offering classics and works he has premiered, to be released in 2026.

This appearance is sponsored by the Salvadore Family of Auto Dealerships.

Partial support comes from the Mass Cultural Council and from Local Cultural Councils of Barre, Oakham and Petersham. Local Cultural Councils are local agencies which are supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

EBT, Connector Care and WIC

cardholders may claim two free admissions at the box office on the day of the concert, through the Mass Cultural Council’s Card to Culture program.

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

The Friends welcome donations toward our ongoing preservation project online at www.FriendsoftheStoneChurch.org or by mail to FOSC, P.O. Box 347, Gilbertville, MA 01031.





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ARTISTS | FROM PAGE 1

owner and artist Rebecca Fay said, but it's been an idea that's come up before.

Fay is one of the plein air artists, along with Susan Tilton Pecora, Chery O'Donnell, Gerard Blouin, Vanessa Varjian, Joanne Quinn, Cruger Johnson Phillips, Carole Bentley and Eileen Claffey.

The artists will paint "anything they want," Fay said, taking inspiration from nature and architecture.

"It's landscapes primarily," Fay said. "But they might pick up a twig and paint that."

Fay said this will be her first time plein air painting, and she already knows where she will set up and get to work, hoping to capture the morning light.

"I have never painted in front of somebody," Fay said, adding that she enjoys the solitude of her studio.

Others including Blouin, Tilton Pecora, Varjian and Bentley are all well versed in plein air painting.

"All of them are solid plein air artists," Fay said.

On Sunday, April 21 from 3-5 p.m., the gallery will host a "Wet Paint Sale" with an artists' reception, featuring the work they created in plein air.

Fay said the "Wet Paint Sale" is another first for the gallery, and she is excited to see the results.

The rain date for plein air painting and the "Wet Paint Sale" is Saturday, April 27 and Sunday, April 28. West Brookfield Art & Frame Gallery, 10 East Main St., will be closed during plein air painting.

Upcoming events

Following the "Wet Paint Sale," the next show displayed at the gallery will be "Spring Greens," with an opening reception on Friday, May 3 from 5-7 p.m.

On Friday, June 7, an opening reception will be held from 5-7 p.m. for local wood turner Frank White and his son Eric White, who will showcase their work in "Chip n' the Old Block."

On Saturday, July 27, the gallery will host "Tunes, Java Brews & Artist Views" from 7-10 p.m. The gallery and its favorite neighbor, The Joy Of Beans coffee roasters, join forces for a fun, outdoor, summer eve-

ning with live music from local singer/songwriter Adelaide Fay and her band.

On Friday, Aug. 2, an opening reception will be held from 5-7 p.m. for "Listening for the Light" with artists Vanessa Varjian and Cruger Johnson Phillips.

On Friday, Sept. 6, local artist, Karen Thompson Bullock and rare book dealer, Ron Bullock, present recent book restorations from their collection along with new, hand bound, blank books made by Karen. An artists' reception will be held from 5-7 p.m.

On Friday, Oct. 4 from 5-7 p.m. the gallery will host an opening reception for the second annual Jewelry Show, featuring three local jewelry makers, Jennifer Geldard, Cathe Palo and Cassandra Goldwater.

On Friday, Nov. 15 the gallery will hold its eighth annual Small Works Show with an opening reception from 5-7 p.m.



A familiar storefront in West Brookfield as painted by Rebecca Fay. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



West Brookfield Art & Frame Gallery will hold a "Wet Paint Sale" on Sunday, April 21 from 3-5 p.m.

West Brookfield Art & Frame Gallery is also hosting tarot readings and a jewelry making workshop.

Gallery hours at West Brookfield Art & Frame are Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sundays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

For more information about West Brookfield Art & Frame, or upcoming shows, follow them on Facebook, visit www.westbrookfieldartandframe.com, email yafacceber@hotmail.com, call 508-753-8604 or stop by during open hours.

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Library holds Rainforest Reptile Show on April 21

NEW BRAINTREE – Rainforest Reptile Shows, a hands-on traveling animal show, is coming to the New Braintree Town Hall, 20 Memorial Drive, on Sunday, April 21 at 3 p.m.

Children of all ages will have a chance to come into direct contact with live reptiles, artifacts and their incredible stories. This program is presented by the New Braintree Public Library and is sponsored in part by a grant from the Hardwick/New Braintree Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

The program is free and open to the public. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. People may call the library at 508-867-7650 during regular business hours for more information.

Town hosts rabies vaccine clinic April 13

WEST BROOKFIELD – The Town of West Brookfield is having a rabies vaccine clinic on Saturday, April 13 at the Highway Barn, 15 Front St. from 9-11 a.m.

The cost of the vaccine is \$20.

Support the local businesses that support your local newspaper.

Let them know you saw their ad in the

Quaboag Current

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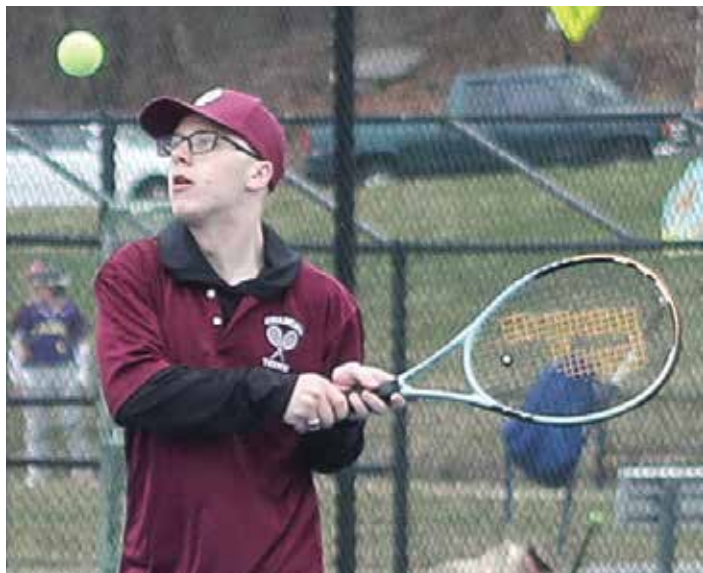
facebook.com/turleysports

SPORTS

Cougars out to hot start

WARREN – Boys tennis continues to be a powerful program at Quaboag Regional High School. In three matches this season, the boys, as a team, are 13-2 and team wins in all three contests. The

Cougars defeated Palmer, David Prouty, and Southbridge last week. The Cougars had one match this week and then next face Leicester on April 24 at 3:30 p.m.



The Cougars will continue their season with a matchup against Grafton next. TURLEY PHOTOS BY JACK CASCIO NEAR SMUGMUG.COM



Quaboag boys tennis opened up the season against Palmer last Monday.



The Cougars scored a big win over neighboring Palmer.

Panthers defeated in season opener



Adam Adams delivers a pitch for the Panthers.



Aiden LaPointe comes up with the grounder and throws to first.



Alijah Flint makes a cutoff throw home.



Sean LaPointe fires a throw back to the infield. TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

BARRE – Last Tuesday afternoon, Quabbin Regional baseball suffered a defeat in their season opener against Littleton High School. The Panthers lost 10-0 and are 0-1 on the season. Quabbin had a game against Narragansett scheduled Monday, but it was postponed. The Panthers will host Clinton on Friday, April 12, weather-permitting.

Registration now open for Quabbin Valley baseball

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

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

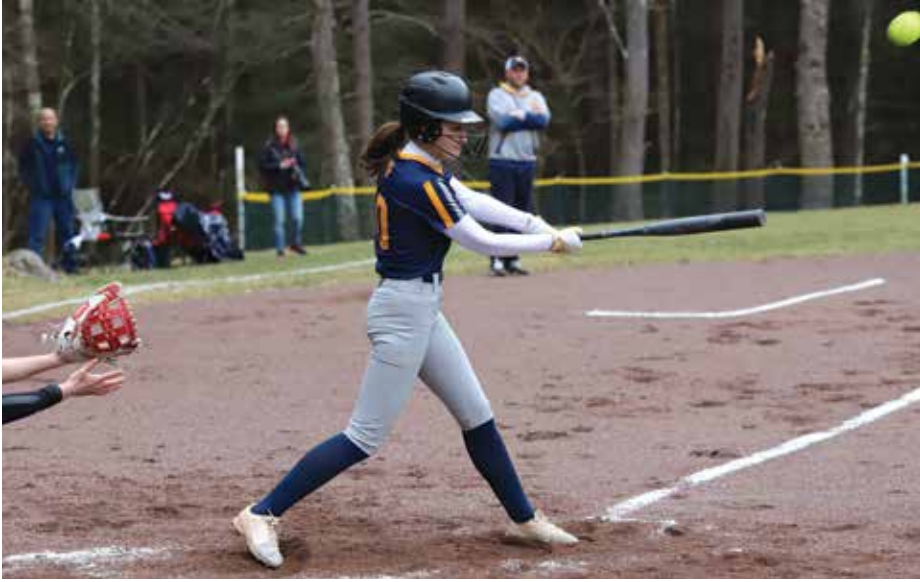
There are many open roster spots available in the league for the 2024 season, which is tentatively scheduled to begin on Sunday, April 21. The league plays most Sunday from late April through late August with playoffs following that. The league plays a 15-game schedule and typically fields six teams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

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

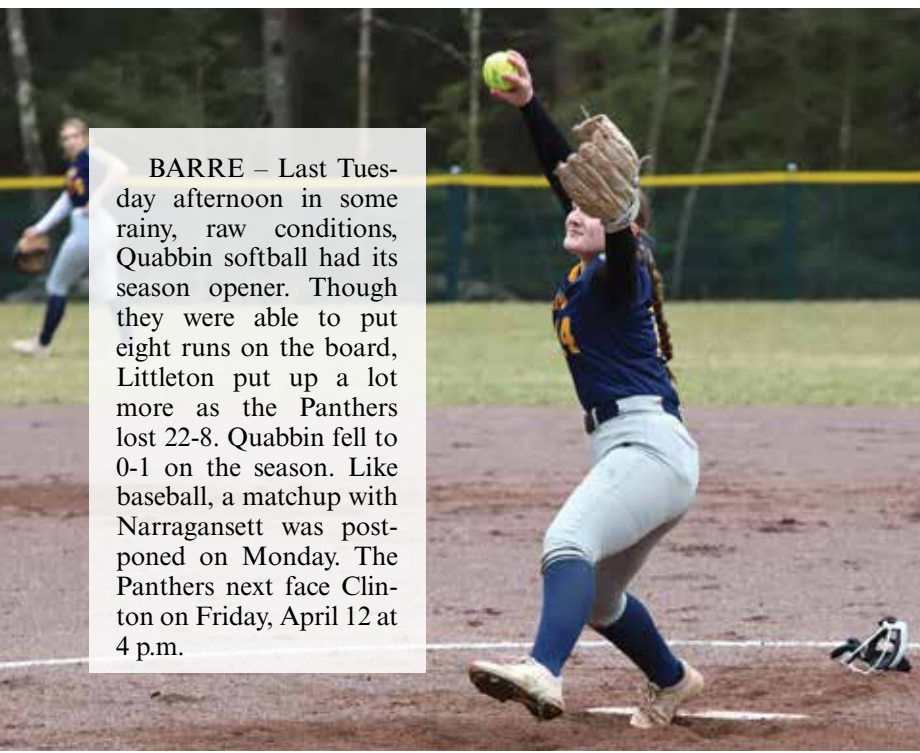
The league is currently in the process of preparing for the 2024 season and held a meeting on March 24 to discussion plans for the upcoming season. The next meeting will be held after the league's open practice for all players, including players interested in joining the league. The open practice will be at Beachgrounds Park in South Hadley at 10 a.m. on April 14.

- sports -

Quabbin softball loses wild one



Ana Dunn socks a base hit to center. TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

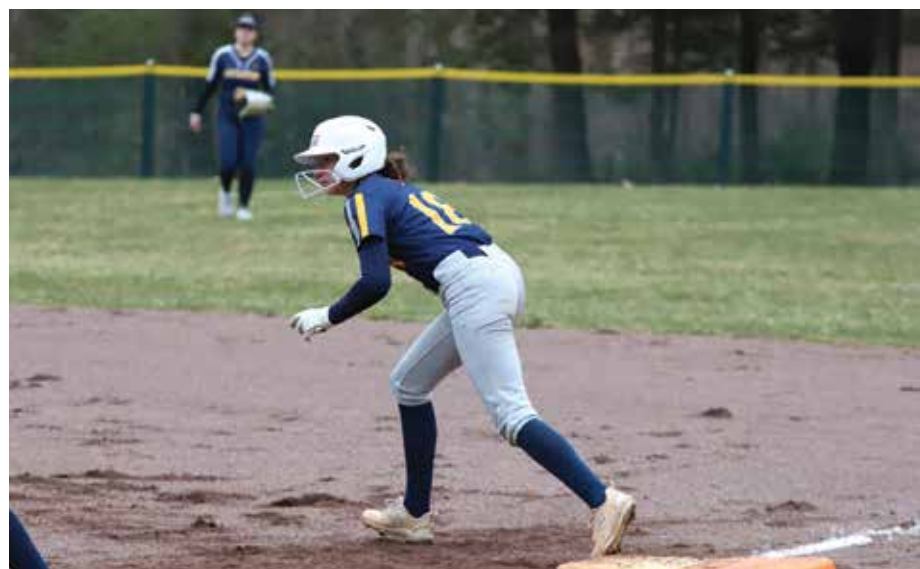


BARRE – Last Tuesday afternoon in some rainy, raw conditions, Quabbin softball had its season opener. Though they were able to put eight runs on the board, Littleton put up a lot more as the Panthers lost 22-8. Quabbin fell to 0-1 on the season. Like baseball, a matchup with Narragansett was postponed on Monday. The Panthers next face Clinton on Friday, April 12 at 4 p.m.

Mady Breault fires a pitch to the plate.



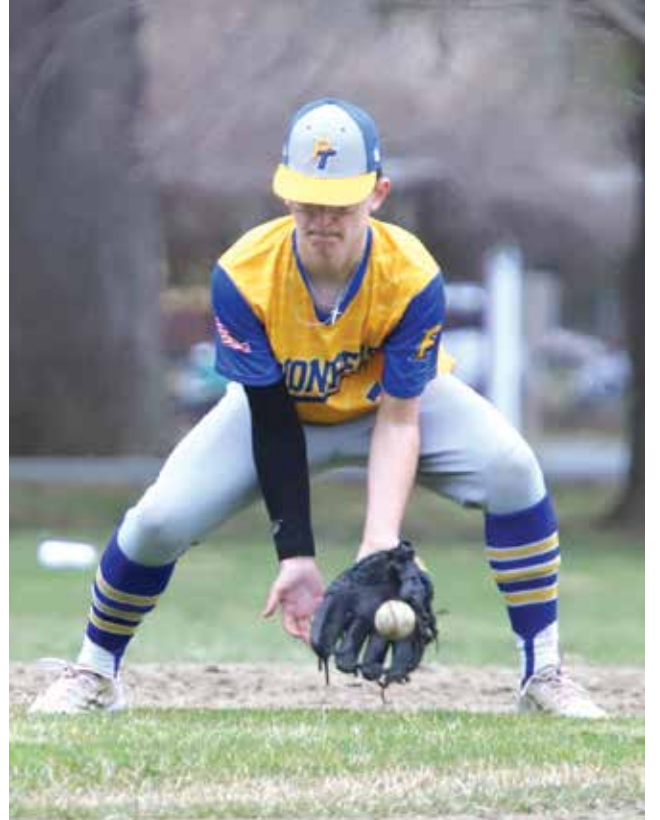
Meaghan Doyle makes the catch in center field.



Kherington Deschenes takes her lead off first base.

Pioneers look for another win

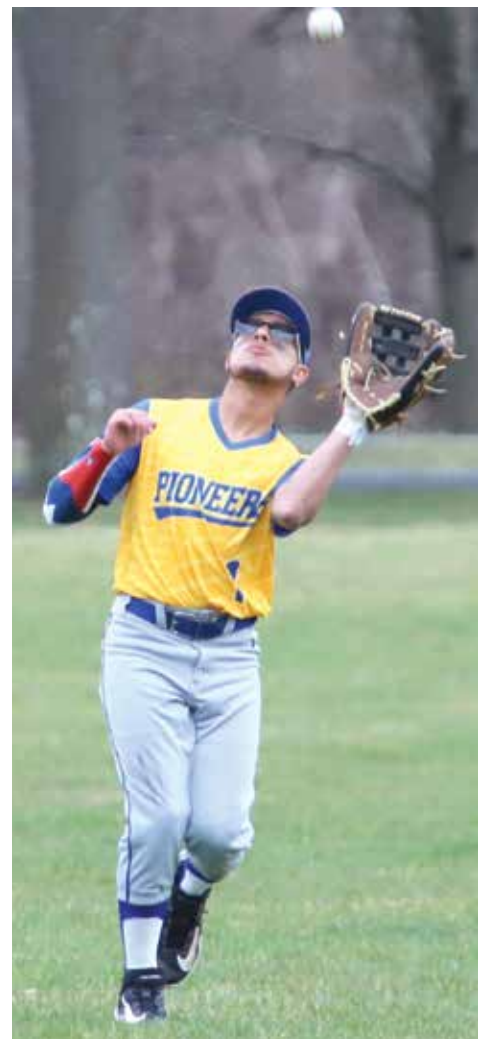
PALMER – Pathfinder Regional baseball got the win in their first matchup of the season against the High School of Science and Technology last Monday afternoon 10-9. But the action has been limited for the Pioneers since then thanks to poor weather. The Pioneers have had one game postponed by rainy weather and poor field conditions, and despite warmer temperatures, the Pioneers game against SICS earlier this week was also in danger of being postponed. The Pioneers are supposed to have their home opener against Commerce on Friday, April 12 at 2 p.m. at St. Joe's Field.



Brayden Mega cleanly fields a ground ball. TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



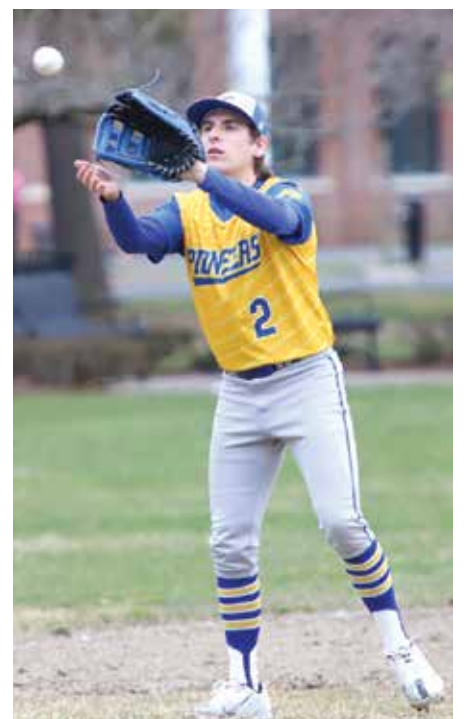
Hunter Griswold comes in to score a run.



Derek Castro Rivera makes a catch in left field.



Tim Russell makes his way down the first base line.



Zander Auffrey reaches up to make a catch.

- sports -

Registration now open to take part in Bay State Games

WOBURN – Registration for the 42nd annual Bay State Summer Games is now open. The 2024 Summer Games will include thirty sports with competitions from May 11 – July 27 at venues throughout eastern and central Massachusetts including Game On in Fitchburg, Boston Sports Institute in Wellesley, Union Point Sports Complex in Weymouth, and North Star Ice Sports in Westborough. Bay State Games participants range in age from 5 to over age 75 and represent more than 300 Massachusetts communities as well as surrounding New England States in some sports. From grassroots participants to accomplished amateur athletes, the Bay State Games provide opportunities for the athlete in all of us.

Seven high school showcase sports will take place for a variety of sports, including baseball, basketball, field hockey, ice hockey, soccer, softball, and volleyball. Athletes currently in grade 8-11 who live or go to school in Massachusetts are eligible to attend regional tryouts during the month of June. These tryouts will determine teams representing the various regions of the Commonwealth that will compete against each other in July. Check each sport page for

specific eligibility requirements.

The Summer Games include a wide variety of individual sports including swimming, track & field, figure skating, pickleball, wrestling, weightlifting, badminton, and more. These sports are open to a wide range of ages and skill levels from youth participants to masters-aged athletes. Adaptive sport divisions in archery, swimming, and track & field are offered, as well. Bay State Games also organizes tournaments for pre-existing teams in rugby, and 6v6 field hockey.

Returning in 2024, Table Tennis will take place on June 1 at PingPod in Boston after a 5-year hiatus from the Summer Games sport lineup. New venues include Babson College, which will host the Girls Basketball Showcase, and NorthStar Ice Sports, which will host Figure Skating and the Girls Ice Hockey Showcase. Game On in Fitchburg will serve as a hub venue for eight sports. Bay State Games expects 1,500 athletes and their families to attend competitions at Game On during the second week of July.

For questions, email info@baystategames.org or call 781-932-6555.

Calder's five goals score huge win for Railers

WORCESTER – It is hard to separate the various histories that were made in the Railers' 9-5 victory over Maine at the DCU Center Sunday afternoon but let's give it a try.

The triumph came after Worcester had fallen behind, 4-1, early in the second period. No Railers team in a history that dates back to 2017-18 had ever even earned a point, let alone won a game, after trailing by three goals.

Five Worcester goals were scored by Ashton Calder. That set a Railers record, established an individual league high for the season and was the first five-goal performance by a Worcester player of any uniform since the IceCats' John Carter scored five versus Cape Breton here on Jan. 4, 1995.

Do the math. It last happened 29 years ago.

Calder also had two assists for a seven-point day. That set a team record and tied the Worcester pro mark set by Jim Campbell of the IceCats on Dec. 28, 1999 in a 9-4 victory over Saint John. He had three goals and four assists.

Finally, the nine goals were the most ever in Railers history. They had scored eight four times before including Saturday night.

After taking two of three from the Mariners this weekend, Worcester is in position to win itself into the playoffs. The Railers play three games at Trois-Rivieres next weekend. Two victories and they are in. Worcester still has a chance to finish third, as well.

Maine has four games left, all versus first-place Adirondack.

Calder was plus-5, tying a Railers record. He has a four-game points streak during which he is 6-5-11. He has six goals in the last two games after enduring a stretch where he had six goals in 33 games.

"Basically," Calder said, "I just play the game the right way whether that means I score or make plays. Lately my linemate (Jake Pivonka) has been hot

shooting the puck so I try to find him a lot, and when I have a pass I'm a passer, when I have a shot I'm a shooter.

"I don't try to think about it too much. I just play my game and go from there."

As has happened throughout the season the Railers started slowly. That translated into a big early deficit and with the talented Brad Arvanitis in goal foe Maine, that deficit looked like Mt. Katahdin.

"I wasn't thinking good thoughts," coach Jordan Smotherman said of that bad beginning, "but we have a resilient group and they did not let down."

The Railers argued that the Mariners' fourth goal by Sebastian Vidmar was directed in off his skate. That was at 3:24. They lost the debate but Calder scored his second of the game at 5:10 and the mood changed.

"As soon as we scored the second goal everything on the bench shifted," Smotherman said. "It got everybody's attention. The shoulders all came back from a slouch."

Calder made it 4-3 at 6:50 on what might have been the pass of the year from Joey Cipollone. Reece Newkirk tied it at 10:42 and Christian Krygier put Worcester ahead for good at 11:11. It was Krygier's second goal of the season, first since opening night.

Calder got his fourth at 18:14 with the Railers on a power play.

Tyler Drevitch got Maine back on the board at 1:43 of the third period making it a one-goal with lots of time left. Calder got his fifth at 4:48, though, to restore some scoreboard space.

Brendan Robbins hit an empty net at 18:17 and Ryan Verrier got his fourth of the season at 18:37 to set the franchise record.

Henrik Tikkanen got the win with 22 saves on 27 shots. Arvanitis was replaced by Shane Starrett for the third period and he made two saves.

T-Birds suffer loss against Laval

LAVAL, QC – The Springfield Thunderbirds (29-33-3-2) witnessed history from their leading scorer, but an offensive surge from the Laval Rocket (32-28-6-2) was too much, as the home team emerged with a 7-4 win on Saturday afternoon inside Place Bell.

The matinee affair doubled as a day at the fights in the first 2:45 of the game, as two separate scraps elevated the temperature on the two benches and throughout the Place Bell crowd. First, Sam Bitten came to the aid of his brother Will after the elder Bitten took a sturdy check from Tobie Bisson. Six seconds after Sam and Bisson scrapped, Brayden Guy made an impression in his second Thunderbirds game as he scored a winning decision in a tussle with Laval penalty minute leader Riley McKay.

Things did not get off on the right foot for the T-Birds, as a net-mouth scramble just 4:04 into the contest saw Mitchell Stephens open the scoring, jamming a forehand through Vadim Zherenko and giving Laval the 1-0 edge. That goal came moments after Zherenko made a marvelous sliding blocker save on a Stephens one-timer in the opening minute.

The Rocket and their raucous crowd were hoping to run Springfield out of the rink just 3:17 later when 2023 fifth-overall pick David Reinbacher stepped up in the offensive zone to the right circle and uncorked a post-ringer under the bar to make it a 2-0 game on the rookie's second AHL goal.

Despite the early stumbles, the T-Birds stayed with the program. At 11:06, with an abbreviated power play, Mikhail Abramov connected from the low slot off a centering feed from Hugh McGing, cutting the Laval lead in half. Ryan Suzuki nearly equalized the game just seconds later when he slipped behind the defense, but Rocket netminder Jakub Dobes stood up to Suzuki with a sturdy blocker save.

Despite the Suzuki chance at Dobes' end of the rink, Zherenko continued to

have a far busier period than the Laval goalie. To his credit, the T-Birds' second-year backstop stabilized and helped Springfield kill off a pair of abbreviated Rocket man-advantages to keep the 2-1 score intact after 20 minutes.

The T-Birds began the second period on another power play, and after a brief 5-on-3 ended, Adam Gaudette got the game evened up with a wristed from the right side just 1:03 into the middle period. The goal, his 39th of the season, brought him back into a tie with Samuel Fagemo of Ontario for the AHL goal-scoring lead.

Springfield, however, could not vault to the lead, and before long, the Rocket had scored two more to take a 4-2 advantage on goals 1:06 apart from Arnaud Durandeaun and Philippe Maillet.

Down but unfettered, the T-Birds again showed resolve. Gaudette drew a penalty shot after being held on his way in on goal on a breakaway. With a chance to become the first man in the AHL to reach 40 goals this season, Gaudette made no mistake, deking to the backhand and roofing a shot over Dobes to make it 4-3 at 11:40. The sharpshooter's 40th goal also marked the first time since 1990-91 that a Springfield AHL player recorded 40 goals in a single season.

Gaudette's marker also lit a fire under his team. Just 45 seconds later, Abramov whistled a cross-seam pass to a crashing Joey Duszak, who beat Dobes to tie the game, 4-4, at 12:25.

The 4-4 tie carried into the third, but an unfortunate break wound up putting Laval back in front for good. After Leo Loof fearless blocked a shot up near his face, the loose puck landed flat at the feet of Durandeaun, who snapped it into an open net before Zherenko could locate it, and the Rocket lead was restored, 5-4, at 6:37 of the third.

This time, a third comeback was not in the cards for Springfield, as Stephens added his second and third goals of the night with a power-play redirect at 10:25 and an empty-netter with 1:11

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- community -

BBB warns about scammers posing as friends

If a friend asks for a favor, you do it, no questions asked. Right? Time to rethink that policy.

In this new con, a scammer poses as a friend asking for a simple favor. The email is so convincing that Better Business Bureau staff almost fell for it.

How this scam works

You get an email that appears to be from a friend or family member. The message looks harmless and casual – like something a friend might really write.

For example, one version reads: “Hi, how are things going with you? Are you busy? I need a quick favor.” The message even ends with “Sent from my iPhone.”

Concerned about your friend, you reply and ask for more details. The “friend” quickly responds that they are trying to buy a gift card for their niece’s birthday.

However, they are traveling and having trouble purchasing the card online. “Could you get it from any local grocery store around you?” reads the email. “I’ll pay you back as soon as I am back.”

The request sounds reasonable. But

if you do buy the gift card, your “friend” will ask you to share the card’s PIN and/or send a photo of the back of the card.

Unfortunately, by doing this you are essentially handing money to the scammer. It’s nearly impossible to get the money back because gift cards do not have the same protections as credit or debit cards.

How to avoid similar scams

Reach out to your friend directly – If you get an unusual request, call or text your friend to confirm their story. No matter how harmless the story sounds, always double-check before sending someone money.

Use gift cards wisely – Never do business with anyone who insists on payment with gift cards. Remember, providing the numbers from the back of a gift card is just like sending cash.

For more information

For more information about this scam and others, visit BBB.org.

If you’ve spotted a scam (whether or not you’ve lost money), report it to BBB.org/ScamTracker. Your report can help others avoid falling victim to scams.

REPORT | FROM PAGE 1

Masterson said an inventory of tourism related businesses showed there are 125 in town, including four bakery and dessert makers, four coffeehouses, 32 restaurants/eateries/markets, three orchards, three wineries, six brewpubs, three wedding venues, 11 hotel/motels, four RV parks, 31 specialty shops and 25 health/wellness/spas and fitness.

Food and beverage based businesses account for 42% of businesses, and meal spending has continued to increase, totaling \$77.6 million in 2023 (a 5% increase over the prior year).

Hotel occupancy in 2023 increased by 11% over 2022, after seeing a significant (47%) drop in 2020.

Masterson said hotel occupancy accounts for 100,000 attendance, and RV parks bring in 90,000. Old Sturbridge Village has the largest attendance, at 200,000.

Other events and venues bringing in attendance include the Brimfield Antique Shows at 50,000; weddings, 40,000; and trails, 60,000.

Masterson said the new parking lot being created at 501 Main St. will increase access to the town’s trail, helping to boost tourism.

Masterson said the town has a 4% vacancy rate which is “very, very positive,” compared to an earlier report from the town which saw a 14% vacancy rate. He said four businesses have expanded or opened additional locations.

Masterson said Business of the Year Awards resumed in 2022, and voting for the 2024 winners will begin in April. He said the award is a “very important benchmark” for Sturbridge businesses.

“It’s really a positive thing,” he said.

Masterson said the Sturbridge Tourist Association and Central Mass South Chamber helped create the Sturbridge Regional Visitor Center located at 1 River Road. A new tour guide and map has also been printed.

Site plan approval

Applicants Rona Roy and Josh Roy came before the Planning Board to convert 5 Snell St., into a retail pottery shop.

The location was once a silversmith shop and was most recently used for residential purposes.

“I think it’s a great use of the property,” Town Planner Jean Bubon said.

Bubon said there is a provision in the zoning bylaw that allows for similar or continued uses in the commercial tourist district that doesn’t require additional parking, however, since the prop-

erty was converted to residential, the required parking spots were reduced. In order to convert the property back to retail, the owners would need to accommodate parking.

Bubon said a neighbor across the street has entered into a shared parking agreement with the Roys to allow this. She said the 5 Snell St. location fits in well with surrounding shops.

Bubon said the applicants had a survey done for the property and it was determined that the parking spots were encroaching on the right of way. Planter boxes were moved to ensure the parking spots are entirely on site.

Bubon said typically the town wouldn’t allow for parking that backs out on to the street, but it is a preexisting nonconforming parking lot, and a special permit has been granted by the Zoning Board of Appeals.

The applicants will then go to the Design Review Committee for sign approval, and also the Conservation Commission for the request for determination for the handicapped ramp.

“The handicapped ramp is exempt from zoning,” Bubon said. “It doesn’t need to meet any of the setbacks or anything from our end.”

Bubon recommended site plan approval with conditions.

John Roy said he and his wife are excited about the project. The pottery shop will be located on the first floor and the apartment upstairs will be renovated and upgraded.

“We’re just trying to make the lot a little more conforming than it is currently,” he said.

This includes moving planter boxes, and also dismantling a planter box on the north property line in order to allow for an accessible handicapped access. There will be two signs; one on the southside of the building (facing Route 20) and a free standing sign on the northside on Snell Street.

The applicants will utilize the existing outdoor lighting.

The board unanimously approved the site plan with conditions.

Open Space survey

Bubon said 11% of households responded to the recent Open Space Master Plan survey. She said it was mailed to every household in town.

“I don’t see a lot of opinions changed from the last time we did this,” she said of the survey results, but she will continue to analyze them.

Bubon said she met with the Open Space Committee, and they are starting to plan a public forum to go over the survey results.

Ice cream at Noble Energy

Bubon said Yo!Boca! Taco! will be opening at Noble Energy, serving tacos and ice cream, instead of Frisbie’s ice cream. She said the seating both indoors and outdoors will stay the same, as will the take-out window.

She said Yo!Boca! Taco! should open in the next couple of months.

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Explore Ware River Watershed with DCR on April 13

BELCHERTOWN – The Department of Conservation and Recreation’s Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center will offer several free programs in April and May.

On Saturday, April 13 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., explore the Ware River Watershed with a moderate 4.4 mile looped group hike near Muddy Pond.

Meet at the Ware River Watershed, Route 122 rest area parking lot in Oakham. The rest area is in the shape of a banana with grass and picnic tables.

(<https://maps.app.goo.gl/jWs-gofmrd6NDyGzB6>)

The route climbs/descends rough-

ly 140 feet in elevation. The foot path hikers will travel on is non-technical.

The last mile of the hike is on a scenic section of the Mass Central Rail Trail. The hike begins/ends north of Muddy Pond.

Visit the following website for additional information on the route: <https://www.trailforks.com/route/4mi-loop-near-muddy-pond-from-rest-area/>.

Register here: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/ab0e732a488d4dfda9847662dfe78286>.

Please dress appropriately for the weather and bring water and snacks. Dogs are not allowed anywhere on the Quabbin Watershed.



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- community -

Agriculture Committee advances omnibus legislation

BOSTON – The Joint Committee on Agriculture, chaired by state Rep. Paul Schmid (D-Westport) and state Sen. Jo Comerford (D-Northampton), favorably advanced omnibus legislation (H.4387) incorporating key components from several bills, including bolstering equity in agriculture, support for food systems, and assistance for farmers.

“We spoke to our farmers and heard their struggles, concerns, and hopes for the future of Massachusetts farming. This bill is a reflection of those conversations and highlights the importance of investing in this industry and community,” said Schmid in a press release. “This bill addresses the impacts of climate change on farms, invests in our future agricultural workforce, bolsters our local food system, prepares for emergencies, and addresses other pressing issues. I am thankful for Chair Comerford’s partnership in drafting this legislation to pave a path forward for strengthening farms, as well as the leadership of Speaker Mariano for creating this Committee and displaying unwavering support for our farmers.”

“This comprehensive omnibus bill, released by the Joint Agriculture Committee, addresses many of the issues plaguing the agriculture sector today. It ensures the state promotes agritourism opportunities and ensures that students attending Commonwealth vocational and technical schools are allowed to train on the proper equipment. It focuses on diversifying the state’s agriculture industry, with generations of new farmers in mind. And, it re-envision a stronger Massachusetts local food system,” said Comerford. “I am grateful for Chair Schmid’s leadership and collaboration on this Committee and our partnership in crafting this transformational omnibus legislation, as well as to Senate President Spilka for her vision and for continuing to champion the Commonwealth’s farmers.”

“This omnibus bill honors our strong agricultural history by taking the ambitious steps necessary to support the Commonwealth’s next generation of farms. By advancing this broad piece of legislation, the Joint Committee on Agriculture has signaled its desire to strengthen our local food system based on the recommendations heard directly from farmers and stakeholders across the Commonwealth,” said House Vice Chair Natalie M. Blais (D-Deerfield). “I am extremely grateful for the leadership of Chairs Schmid and Comerford, who not only stood up a new committee this session, but who have also made it a priority to hear directly from the agricultural community.”

The following list of bills, some of which have been consolidated and re-drafted from their original forms, are included in the omnibus legislation:

An Act relative to the Massachusetts Food Policy Council (H.99) filed by Chair Paul Schmid

An Act relative to the

definition of farming (S.496) filed by Senator Anne Gobi (who is now serving as Director of Rural Affairs with the Healey/Driscoll Administration)

An Act relative to the definition of livestock (H.95) filed by Representative Adam Scanlon

An Act relative to the use of Department of Conservation and Recreation property for farmers markets and community gardens (H.96) filed by Chair Schmid

An act supporting farm diversification and sustainability (H.754) filed by Vice Chair Natalie Blais

An Act relative to an agricultural healthy incentives program (S.85/H.150) filed by Senator Gobi and Representative Domb

An Act encouraging the donation of food to persons in need (S.920/H.1594) filed by Chair Jo Comerford and Senator Edward Kennedy and Representative Hannah Kane

An Act Promoting Equity in Agriculture (H.87) filed by Chair Comerford and Vice Chair Blais

An Act defining agritourism (S.2469) filed by Senator Edward Kennedy

An Act relative to the use of hoisting equipment in Chapter 74 vocational technical education (S.1577/H.2337) filed by Senator Marc Pacheco and Representative Pat Haddad

An Act establishing a deer population control commission (H.858) filed by Representative Christopher Markey

An Act strengthening local food systems (H.88) filed by Chair Comerford and Vice Chair Blais

An Act relative to horse riding instructors (S.216) filed by Senator Bruce Tarr

Legislation helps access to medically necessary formulas

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Representatives James P. McGovern (D-MA), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee and co-chair of the Cystic Fibrosis Caucus, and John Rutherford (R-FL), co-chair of the Crohn’s and Colitis caucus, led their colleagues in introducing legislation to remove barriers to access for all Americans who require medically necessary foods to lead healthy lives.

The Medical Nutrition Equity Act would require coverage of specialized formulas, vitamins, individual amino acids, or other medically necessary foods under Medicaid, the Children’s Health Insurance Program, Medicare, the Federal Employee Health Benefit Program, and private insurance for patients with specific gastrointestinal and inherited metabolic diseases and disorders.

It is narrowly drafted to focus on individuals for whom medically necessary nutrition is the treatment for their diseases.

“I’ve heard devastating stories from constituents struggling to access medically necessary foods to keep themselves or their child healthy,” said McGovern in a press release. “As a dad and husband, I can’t imagine not being able to access the food your child or your partner depends on to live. To me this is simple: no one should struggle getting medically necessary food, and insurance companies shouldn’t be creating more barriers to receiving proper care. Our bill cuts through the red tape and

ensures those with inherited metabolic diseases or gastrointestinal conditions can access the nutrition they need.”

“Our health systems must be structured to support innovative treatments,” said Rutherford. “As co-chair of the Crohn’s and Colitis Caucus, where I advocate for those living with digestive diseases, I am excited to join Rep. McGovern to introduce this important legislation that would make medically necessary nutrition more easily accessible to patients across our nation.”

Approximately 2,000 infants every year are diagnosed with an inherited metabolic disorder. When left untreated, inherited metabolic diseases or gastrointestinal conditions can cause the body to fail to absorb necessary nutrients and food can even become toxic.

An inability to access specialty formulas forces patients to go without adequate nutrition or seek hospitalization to maintain nutrition levels. Already, 40 states require coverage of medically necessary nutrition, but coverage is highly variable from state-to-state and does not apply to patients covered by private sector health plans governed by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act.

This bill builds on the precedent of the 2016 National Defense Authorization Act which improved coverage for medical nutrition for military families enrolled in TRICARE, so more Americans can access medically necessary nutrition.

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- community -

Spaghetti for a cause: local school raises funds

Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
epappas@turley.com

Saturday, April 6, 2024

WARE – The St. Aloysius Catholic School, located in Gilbertville, has been working towards the goal of raising funds for the construction of a new playground for the students to enjoy.

Parents on the PTO board including Bill and Jennifer Moryl, Megan Morrison, and Joanne Barbale came together alongside other volunteers and the Knights of Columbus to make this dinner possible.

There was delicious spaghetti, homemade meatballs, salad, bread and butter, and dessert, all made by the members of the Knights of Columbus. The dessert was donated by Cakes and Confections by Jana.

All of the families of the school sold tickets for the super raffle, which had three amazing prizes: first place was \$500, second was \$250 in raffle tickets, and third place was a \$150 gift certificate to Teresa's Restaurant.

There was even a raffle for a trip to St. Maarten, and a St. Aloysius family won the trip! Students and volunteers also sold tickets for a 50/50 raffle for fun baskets and other prizes.

"This was a great collaboration and outpour from the community," Bill Moryl said. The Eddie Forman Band donated their time for the event and played fun music for the attendees to enjoy.

"We made a total of \$33,000 for the playground, and pieces of it were delivered over the weekend and work will start soon," Morrison said.

The event was a success, and the members of PTO and the rest of the families are hoping to be able to see even more people in attendance at the upcoming 5k race to be held at Grenville Park on May 4, 2024.



"The Moryl, Shunaman, and Barbale kids posing for a photo as they get ready to support their school." PHOTO SUBMITTED BY MEGAN MORRISON

ASSE seeks host families for exchanges students

ASSE International Student Exchange Programs, a nonprofit, public benefit organization, is inviting local families to discover the many rewards of hosting a foreign exchange student.

ASSE students come from more than 50 countries worldwide: France, Denmark, Spain, Italy, Ukraine, Japan and Australia, to name a few. They are between the ages of 15 and 18 years, and they are enthusiastic and excited to experience American culture, family life, school, sports, etc.

Students also love to share their own culture and language with their host families, who welcome the students into their home, not as a guest, but as a family member, giving everyone involved a rich cultural experience. Host families may be single parents, couples and single persons.

The exchange students have pocket money for personal expenses and full health, accident and liability insurance. ASSE students are carefully selected based upon academics and personality, and host families choose their student from a wide variety of backgrounds, countries and personal interests.

ASSE also offers qualified American students the opportunity to learn another language and culture by spending a school year, semester or a summer with a host family in another country.

Those interested in hosting an exchange student or becoming an exchange student abroad should call Alina at 1-800-677-2773, visit www.asse.com or send an email to asseusouth@asse.com to request more information or start the application process.

Send Us Your Summer Event Information

Turley Publications will print your summer calendar listings FREE OF CHARGE in our SUMMERFEST Supplement which publishes May 22.

Deadline for submissions is April 22.

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***Be sure to indicate "Summer" in the subject line of your email.**

Ready to launch in the Quabbin



Photographer Ed Comeau captured this majestic image of a bald eagle at the Quabbin Reservoir last week. SUBMITTED PHOTO BY ED COMEAU

- obituary -

Beverly Catherine Huard Zabek, 97

OWENSBORO, KY – Beverly Catherine Huard Zabek, 97, of Owensboro, went to be with the Lord on April 3, 2024, surrounded by her family.

She was born in North Brookfield, on Dec. 30, 1926, to the late William and Elizabeth Hack Huard.

In North Brookfield, Beverly played multiple roles; she was a Girl Scout leader, participated in the Saint Joseph's Women's Club, and served in the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary. In Owensboro, she was a member of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church and volunteered for parish picnics.

She also dedicated her time to the Daniel Patino Shelter.

Beyond her community involvement, Beverly found joy in basketball, passionately supporting the University of Kentucky and the Boston Celtics. She loved visiting with her neighbors and was always willing to lend a helping hand when needed or just providing company.

Her interests extended to motorsports, where she followed Formula One and NASCAR races, alongside a deep appreciation for classic cars. Additionally, Beverly loved puzzles, quilting, and bingo.

Her greatest joy came from the moments shared with loved ones, with a

special emphasis on her great-granddaughter and her family.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Leon A. Zabek, and son, James M. Zabek.

Those left to cherish her memory include her granddaughter, Sara E. Zabek (Chase), and great-granddaughter, Madison L. Morgan.

Burial will be in Walnut Grove Cemetery in North Brookfield.

The family would like to extend a special thanks to the staff who provided amazing care at Owensboro Health Regional Hospital as well as Hospice.

Care by Glenn Funeral Home and Crematory. Messages and condolences to the family can be shared at www.glenncares.com.

To send flowers to the family in memory of Beverly Catherine Huard Zabek, please the funeral home's website listed above.



Death Notice

Zabek, Beverly Catherine Huard
Died April 3, 2024

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TOWN TREASURER:

The Town of Brookfield is seeking qualified applicants for the full-time (40-hour week) position of Town Treasurer. Full job description at **brookfieldma.us**. Salary commensurate with experience. Current appropriation is \$80,498.62. Submit cover letter and resume to: **selectmen@brookfieldma.us**. Reviews begin week of April 15th. Open until filled. *The Town of Brookfield is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.*

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- legal notices -

LEGAL NOTICE: TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, 18-25, as amended by Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2009, The Wetlands Protection Act, the West Brookfield Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **WEDNESDAY, April 17, 2024 at 6:00 pm** in the first floor meeting room, West Brookfield Town Hall, 2 East Main Street.

6:00 - Public Hearing:

- NOI - Town Beach - Town of West Brookfield Conservation Commission - Yearly Beach Replenishment and Maintenance - 04/12/2024

TOWN OF NEW BRAINTREE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with MGL, Chapter 87, Section 3, a public hearing will be held at 9:30 a.m. on **Thursday, April 18, 2024**, in the Select Board's Meeting Room at the Town Hall on 20 Memorial Drive to consider the removal of trees on Ravine and Hardwick Road on the ROW. The trees to be removed have been clearly marked. Reason for removal: dead, diseased and/or will hinder road construction. All interested parties are invited to attend.

This meeting is open to the public.

Richard T. Ayer
Tree Warden
04/05, 04/12/2024

- public safety -

New Braintree Police Log

During the week of April 1-8, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 15 building/property checks, 44 directed/area patrols, six traffic controls, six radar assignments, three emergency 911 calls, one citizen assist, 15 safety hazards, one scam, one investigation, one motor vehicle investigation, two fires, three animal calls, two motor vehicle accidents and five motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

Monday, April 1

1:53 p.m. Scam, Oakham Cut Off Road, Report Taken

Tuesday, April 2

8:58 a.m. Safety Hazard, Gilbertville Road, Investigated
1:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Citation Issued
1:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning
8:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, West Brookfield Road, Investigated

Thursday, April 4

4:47 a.m. Safety Hazard, West Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

5:47 a.m. Safety Hazard, Utley Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

6:22 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Gilbertville Road, Report Taken

6:50 a.m. Safety Hazard, West Brookfield Road, Officer Handled

7 a.m. Safety Hazard, Padre Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

7:31 a.m. 911 Safety Hazard, Padre Road, Services Rendered

7:42 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Mara Road, Report Taken

7:42 a.m. Safety Hazard, West Road, Removed Hazard

7:43 a.m. Safety Hazard, Padre Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

7:59 a.m. Safety Hazard, Barr Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

8:31 a.m. Safety Hazard, Utley Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

8:34 a.m. Safety Hazard, West Brookfield Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

10:08 a.m. Fire/Other, Havens Road, Services Rendered

10:20 a.m. Safety Hazard, Dennis Whitney Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

10:34 a.m. Safety Hazard, Cushman Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

1:31 p.m. Assist Citizen, Unknown Location, Dispatch Handled

1:42 p.m. Safety Hazard, West Brookfield Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

2:59 p.m. Fire/Other, Gilbertville Road, Investigated

Friday, April 5

3:58 p.m. Safety Hazard, West Brookfield Road, Services Rendered

5:04 p.m. Investigation, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

Saturday, April 6

11:24 a.m. 911 Animal Call, West Brookfield Road, Services Rendered

Sunday, April 7

4:02 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Brookfield Road, Citation Issued

Monday, April 8

1:23 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Worcester Road, Transported to Hospital



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- 3 Find a quick link to the state pouimette@turley.com tts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

QUABOAG CURRENT

BROOKFIELD Operation Clean Sweep begins p2	WEST BROOKFIELD Rabies clinic is Saturday p10	REGION Saunders talks about Quabbin bill p3	Editorial/Opinion Sports Classifieds Police Logs	4 11 18 19
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Volume 17, Number 20

Friday, April 12, 2024

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