

QUABOAG CURRENT

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Quaboag Current
Newspaper

WEST BROOKFIELD
Comedy/jazz night May 4
p19

STURBRIDGE
Sturbridge in the
Civil War p7

EAST BROOKFIELD
Meet the candidates
p3

Editorial/Opinion 4
Sports 11

Police Logs 16
Classifieds 18

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Volume 17, Number 21

Friday, April 19, 2024

Patriots Day at OSV

Re-enactors represent Revolution to World War II



From left, Doug Quigley, Chris Schleper and David Emerick of the Sturbridge Martial Band are shown playing classic songs for soldiers to march into battle to. TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

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

STURBRIDGE – Old Sturbridge Village hosted a weekend celebrating the patriots who served in some of the major American wars.

The Village hosted several historical re-enactment organizations to join the weekend and provide demonstrations, and wear the garb of a soldier from the 1700s to the 1940s.

The Revolutionary War featured a group in ceremonial gear at a typical camp the re-

bellious early Americans would have pitched. A boy held a flag and waited to support the 25th Continental Regiment.

Rob Keenan, the director of the regiment, has always loved history, and being able to step back into it as a re-enactor.

See REVOLUTION | PAGE 10

Board hears FY 25 budget presentation

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

five-year projects and taking a three-year look back, as well as analyzing revenue numbers.

STURBRIDGE – Town Administrator Robin Grimm presented the proposed fiscal year 2025 at a joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee.

At the April 9 meeting, Grimm said the budget process includes reviewing

“The problem is, if we wait until next year, we don’t know what the prices are and that’s going to be another two years beyond that, likely.”

– Robin Grimm,
Town Administrator

“When we talk about the importance of this town; of that very delicate balance of keeping it the pristine place that people want to come and enjoy...but also considering how

we keep those local small busi-
See BUDGET | PAGE 14

Electrical aggregation program moves forward

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

Allard said they filed a plan to create electrical aggregation in the town of North Brookfield five years ago, when electricity prices had increased to \$.33 cents per kilowatt-hour.

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Representatives from Colonial Power Group came before the Board of Selectmen to give an update about the town’s status for municipal electrical aggregation.

At the April 9 meeting, Mark Cappadona and Denise

“This would just have a town program with consumer protections in it.”

– Denise Allard,
Colonial Power Group

“There was a giant backlog at the Department of Public Utilities that has since moved on, and they’re giving us a directive...they want

See PROGRAM | PAGE 15

Club offers women’s only handgun course

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

BROOKFIELD – Starting next month, the Brookfield Rod & Gun Club, 56 Weber Road, will host its first ever women’s only Defensive Handgun 1 course with long-time firearms instructor Joseph Picariello.

Last year, Picariello decided to begin offering women’s only handgun courses in addition to his co-ed courses, when he saw

See COURSE | PAGE 9



Participants enjoy a recent women’s only Defensive Handgun 1 course taught by firearms instructor Joseph Picariello. The Brookfield Rod & Gun Club will be offering the same course over two days; May 30 and June 2. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Superintendent gives update on regionalization study

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARREN – Superintendent of Schools Stephen Duff gave an update on the Quaboag Regional School District’s regionalization feasibility study to include the town of North Brookfield.

At the April 4 Board of Selectmen’s meeting, Duff said the town of North Brookfield

expressed interest in joining the two-town district, made up of Warren and West Brookfield, a couple of years ago. Duff said the school district received a grant for \$125,000 to conduct a feasibility study to look at adding the town to the regional school district.

The study was conducted by the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools. The Regional Agreement Amend-

See STUDY | PAGE 19



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- community -

Board grants approval for canopy extension

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

STURBRIDGE – Town Planner Jean Bubon said Tarun Patel, owner of the LaQuinta Inn & Suites at 478 Main St., is looking to complete upgrades both inside and outside the hotel.

At the April 9 Planning Board meeting, Bubon said Patel has met with the Design Review Committee for approval to install new signage, new tiles on the outside of the building, and replace and extend the canopy.

“During that process, I determined that he should come in for a waiver of site plan because he was extending the canopy out a little bit,” she said. “The parking lot is not changing; circulation is not changing.”

Striping will be added to the parking lot to improve traffic flow, and two snow storage areas were also added to the site plan.

Project Manager Yunus Karakutuk said currently there are 67 parking spots and with the extended canopy, two spots will be lost in the front of the building. He said two cars will be able to fit under the canopy at a time.

“Instead of that, we are putting four new spaces on the left side,” he said.

This will increase the number of parking spots to 69. Bubon said the hotel is required to have 65 parking spots to accommodate the 62 rooms, plus employees.

Bubon recommended the board approve the waiver of site plan with conditions.

The board approved the waiver.

Town Planner update

Bubon said she has requested another extension of the MassWorks grant due to delays from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation. She said several towns are facing the same issue.

“We were hoping to be complete by June 30 to close it out, but we’ve been waiting for MassDOT for quite some time,” she said, due to a high volume of projects.

Bubon said when she did receive a review back from MassDOT about the project, a new traffic study and traffic counts were requested. She said now, a previous design with streetlights needs to be changed to a four-mast style, and there needs to be a shared use path on either side of the road in front of the frontage.

“We need an easement from the bank, so we’ll be working toward that,” Bubon said.

Bubon said new traffic counts have been done, and now the traffic study is being updated.

Bubon said more work needs to be completed on Route 20 in front of Yankee Peddler, due to settling over the winter, before final paving can be completed.

Bubon said a preconstruction meeting was held with representatives from Blueberry Hill Estates, and conservation easements have been signed by both the Conservation Committee and the Board of Selectmen.

Demolition of 505 Main St. has been completed and the owners are hoping to have a building permit soon to start new construction.

Bubon said the town has received access approval from MassDOT for the parking lot at 501 Main St.

Tri-Parish church seeks vendors for tag and craft sale

HARDWICK – The Tri-Parish Community Church announces their 18th Annual Plant and Bake Sale, on the Hardwick Common on Saturday, June 1 and Sunday, June 2 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. each day.

This popular East Quabbin area event will feature traditional, favorite and connoisseur perennials plus selected annuals, heirloom vegetable plants and herbs in time for spring planting. There is a wonderful variety in plants offered through Inishoven Farms of North Brookfield, Stillman’s Farm of New Braintree, Howe’s Farm of New Braintree, Tracie’s Greenhouse of Ware, the Hardwick Farmers Co-op of Hardwick and private gardens.

A delicious assortment of home-baked desserts and breads will also be sold. The event is held rain or shine.

The church is also seeking vendors for their annual tag and craft sale to coincide with the plant and bake sale. Spaces on the Hardwick Common will be offered for \$35 each. Applications may be obtained by emailing Marguerite at mcrevier1.mc@gmail.com or calling 413-477-6942.

People should reserve their space early. All are welcome.



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Effective Community Interviewing Training

Please join the Quaboag Valley Food Policy Council (QVFPC) for a training provided by the Collaborative for Educational Services (CES). Help us implement our Community Food Assessment by joining the data collection team and interviewing your neighbors through community chats!

This training is focused on how important building trust is when collecting data from community members who are sharing personal stories. You will learn how to respectfully approach people’s lived experience, record their responses, and provide support.

For more information please contact Caitlin at cgeaghan@townofware.com.

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- community -

Cable Advisory Committee discusses summer projects

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN –Cable Advisory Committee Chair Travis Baker reported to the other members of the committee about his meeting with the West Brookfield Cable Advisory Committee.

The West Brookfield Cable Advisory is need of help with their channel and has been down for nearly six years. There are only two members on the town's Cable Advisory Committee and one of them currently works for M-Pact-TV.

M-Pact-TV is the public access television station for the towns of Monson and Palmer. From what Baker was told their equipment in their studio is not hooked up and is probably no longer functional.

Baker said he learned that West Brookfield has fewer public access television subscribers than Warren does. He originally thought the town had more than Warren because he assumed that West Brookfield was slightly larger in population.

Members of the Cable Advisory Committee were surprised on how long West Brookfield's local access channel hasn't been operating. Baker pointed out that the struggles West Brookfield Cable Advisory has had started back around 2019.

From what Baker was told, in 2019 the town had a vote of no confidence against the head person of the cable

advisory and they were then relieved of their duties. A year later in 2020, the building where the studio was operating the channel was struck by lightning and caused significant damage.

Baker wanted to inform his fellow cable advisory members that West Brookfield's cable advisory is desperately looking for help. Baker is looking to set up some form of collaboration with West Brookfield's cable advisory and help them out.

"Be good neighbors," Baker said. "Help them out along the way."

The Cable Advisory Committee could help West Brookfield with studio operation and recordings for their town meetings. Baker said he will review their town bylaws prior to assisting the cable advisory.

Baker was thinking of helping West Brookfield cable advisory by giving them a mock set up of a studio similar to how Warren Community Access sets up theirs.

Quote for new desk

The Cable Advisory Committee reviewed a quote from Ockers Company that could help with new desk installation at the WCAT studio and at Quaboag Regional Middle High School. Ockers Company designs, installs, and supports cost-effective solutions that optimize business performance.

In addition to new desks, PTZ cameras will be installed in the school media center and auditorium. The company had quoted both projects for the school and the studio at \$38,460.

When asked if it there was a more inexpensive direction, Baker noted that after looking over used options and equipment Ockers was the cheaper choice.

The items and upgrades they will be getting from Ockers will also benefit activities at the school such as video editing courses and photography courses. Baker said Superintendent Stephen Duff will be discussing ideas with media course educators to see how the Cable Advisory Committee can help with these school programs.

The school currently has a rolling rack for equipment and can stay there for resources as many school meetings are recorded in the school. The Cable Advisory Committee plans on getting this installation project done in the summer where school is on break.

However, it was mentioned in the meeting that Quaboag does host summer programs and some may take place in the media center. Baker will keep in contact with facilities director Marc Astrella to see when summer programs are taking place and be able to a schedule an installation date.

The committee voted to accept the quote from Ockers and move forward with the project.

Memorandum for CAP increase

The Cable Advisory Committee discussed the memorandum for a CAP increase request to finance the Quaboag equipment and studio production. This request will go to the Finance Committee and Board of Selectman for approval.

This CAP increase will help support the funds for the Ockers project, but the Board of Selectman would make the final decision of approving a CAP increase for the Cable Advisory. In the past, Baker said the board has approved a CAP increases for the cable advisory.

The Cable Advisory Committee voted to accept the memorandum for the CAP increase.

Meet the Candidates night is April 22

EAST BROOKFIELD – The East Brookfield Public Library is hosting a Meet the Candidates night in the library, on Monday, April 22 from 5:30-7 p.m.

Candidates seeking election or write-in candidates seeking election for town office on Tuesday, May 14 are welcome to attend. Each candidate will have five minutes to talk and answer questions.

Please contact Library Director Carolann with any questions or for further information.

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- opinion -



Blueberry propagation experiment

A reader from Hardwick wrote in asking how to propagate blueberry bushes.

I've never tried to propagate blueberry bushes myself, but have always thought that it would make good sense, especially if you have a limited pocketbook and a few productive plants on hand already, or at least you know someone that does.

Obviously, you would not want to replicate a plant that doesn't produce well or one that turns out berries that aren't to your liking.

In researching this skill, I found there to be two schools of thought on the matter: propagation by either softwood cuttings or hardwood cuttings.

Softwood cuttings are taken when the bush is in active growth, usually late June through early July, roughly about two months after spring growth began. The growth is new, not woody, but should not be super pliable or light green in appearance either, nor should it contain any flowers or immature fruit.

A stem should be cut about 5-8 inches long and the leaves should be pinched off of the last couple of inches. Fill a 4 inch or slightly bigger pot with a material that will drain freely but not be too fertile.

You are mainly looking for anchoring material; good options being equal parts sand and peat moss or sand and perlite. I've even heard of people using bark mulch.

Some experts employ a rooting hormone; others say the cutting will root regardless. I will use it because I have some on hand.

You will notice that there are different types of rooting hormone. Usually, it will say whether it is the type for softwood or hardwood cutting right on the container.

I'll dip the bottom of the stem into the hormone. Using a pencil, I'll make a hole in the material I've chosen to root the cuttings in and insert the cutting into the hole so at least those two or three nodes from where the leaves were, are covered.

I set the pots in the shade, and I mist them a few times daily so that they will not wilt and die before they form roots. Experts say that this method will yield roots in 2-7 weeks.

Some challenges include keeping the media wet enough to prevent wilting, but not so wet that you end up with fungal problems.

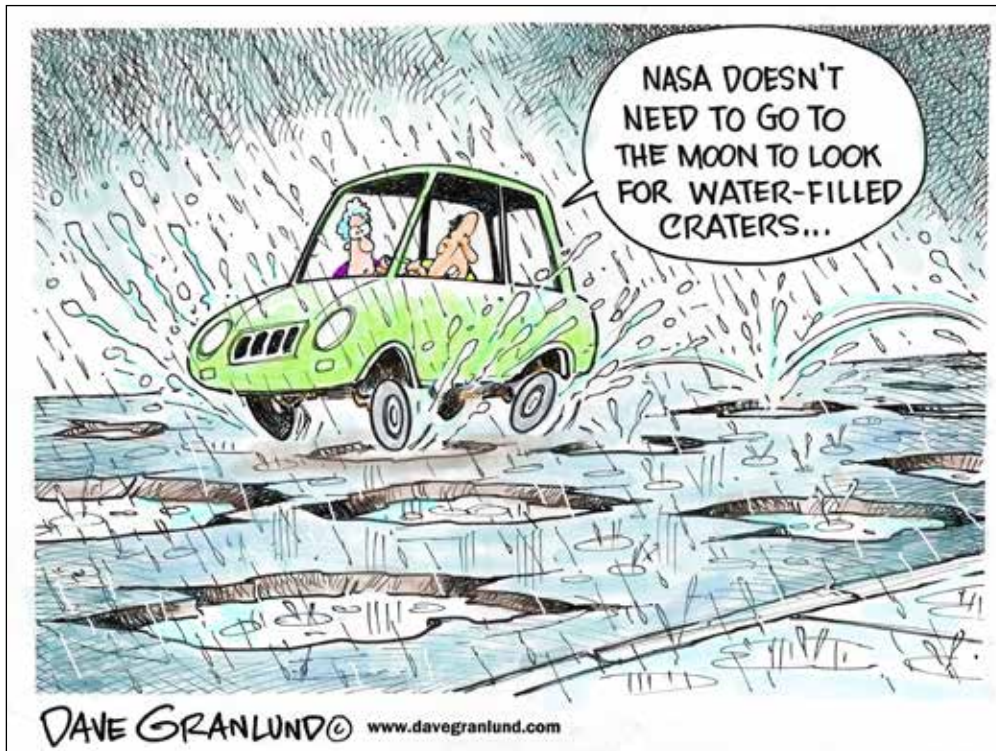
Hardwood cuttings, in contrast, are taken during the dormant season, usually around the time that you are pruning. One expert actually recommended using stems from branches that are pruned away.

The stems should be green or red in color and diameter-wise just smaller than that of a pencil. Much narrower stems seem to produce good results as well. It's important to cut off the tips of branches that contain any buds that look like flower buds - they are a little rounder in appearance.

The same pot size and anchoring material is recommended but you would use a rooting hormone geared towards hardwood cuttings; it is a bit stronger. Hardwood cuttings are handled the same way - placed in the shade and misted, but because they have to "wake up" then callus and root, they take a few weeks longer to show results in at least two months, maybe 3-4.

No matter which way you take your cuttings, it's important not to tug on them or

See GARDEN | PAGE 7



A Blandford resident saw a male northern flicker during the April 4 snowstorm among other birds at her snowbound feeding station.

I saw a male northern flicker before the snow storm last week near the Barre line. The day after the snow, I saw one by the edge of the road at the ball-field in the center of Oakham, the only bare spot.

The northern flicker is about 13 inches long. Distinguishing marks include a black band or necklace under its throat, black spots on its breast, gray head and long beak. The male has a black line at the base of its bill, which the female lacks. Both have a red patch on the neck and a white rump, clearly visible in flight.



Northern Flicker

The flicker is the only ground feeding woodpecker. Ants make up almost half of its diet. It also catches insects in the air and eats fruit, berries and seeds. It will come to feeders like the one in Blandford.

Flickers are cavity nesters and excavate a hole in a tree, fence post or cactus. They will use a nest box. The female lays seven to nine white eggs. They make a loud "kekekeke" for territorial display and a "woikawoikawoka" during courtship. They also do muffled volleys of drumming.

Flocks of robins

The Blandford resident also had a flock of about 25 robins in her yard. She said they departed before she could shovel clear strip of grass for them and put out mealworms. I saw many robins along the side of the after last Thursdays snowstorm and the day after as there was no other area clear of snow.

Pileated woodpecker holes

I received a photo from a Charlton resident showing a tree with numerous holes made by a pileated woodpecker. It was impressive.

I usually hear the pileated woodpecker more than I see them. Recently, I heard one and looked for it in the area of its hammering. I saw this one and it kept up its excavating as I watched it.

More snowstorm birds

A Brimfield resident, who sends me frequent bird sightings, said, "During the snow storm last week in addition to the usual suspects we had a field sparrow, a Carolina wren and about 36 goldfinch visit the yard. Some of the male goldfinch were beginning to show some yellow plumage."

Black vultures

The Brimfield resident said his wife saw two black vultures in the center of Brimfield feeding on a dead opossum. He said, "They are showing up in western Massachusetts more often recently."

Turkey vultures

A favorite roost for turkey vultures is near the transfer station in Barre on Depot Road. I saw several vultures circling over the area, several perched on lamp posts and a shed at the transfer station. One on the lamp post had its wings spread out. It was quite a sight to see.

I saw a turkey vulture spreading its wings like that several years ago on one of the high tension line poles in Oakham. It almost looked like it flew into the post.

Ospreys and herons

This Brimfield resident makes regular trips to several ponds. He said in his most recent email, "In Warren at the pond on South Street the osprey pair that have nested there the past three years have returned. Last year there were three great blue heron nests there that produced young. This year only one pair of herons has returned so far. At my last visit it looked like a heron was incubating eggs or maybe just sitting down?"

He also said, "At the great blue heron rookery at Conant Brook Dam in Monson there are four nest this year. On a visit last week the four nests had birds incubating eggs. There were six nest here last year but one of the trees with a nest looked like it was in danger of falling over, guess it did. And another nest has disappeared." He said there is an osprey pair at the playing fields in Wilbraham by the YMCA/Spec Pond. He saw one of osprey bring sticks to the nest and at another visit one was sitting on the nest.

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

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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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Quaboag Current Newspaper

Supper benefited youth baseball/softball program

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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WARREN – Quaboag Regional Middle High School hosted a spaghetti supper to benefit the Quaboag Youth Baseball and Softball program.

This was the second annual spaghetti supper where all proceeds go to support youth baseball and softball. The supper included spaghetti and meatballs, dinner rolls and a salad.

After the meal there was also a variety of cookies available to enjoy.

In addition to the meal, raffles were going on for guests to participate and win some fun prizes. There were more than 20 items donated by local businesses consisting of gift cards and gift baskets.

There was also a baseball set to be won during the raffle.

Vice President of the Quaboag Youth Baseball and Softball program is Heather Gough who kept busy during the fun supper. Gough was handing out a lot of uniforms to parents and their kids who participate in youth baseball and softball.

The businesses who sponsor the teams include G.D. Property Management, Pollard Building & Construction, SubaGuru of Massachusetts, Mero

Carpentry Inc, Bell & Hudson Insurance, Fountain & Sons, Sherman Oil, Country Corner Citgo, Central Package Store, Wickaboag Family Chiropractic, and Quirk Wire Co. Inc.

Felicia Zwirecki was running the raffles including the 50/50 raffle. All proceeds from the raffle go to the Quaboag Youth Baseball and Softball program.

Preparing the meals was Matt Jablonski, his wife Jessica Jablonski and Quaboag's cafeteria staff. Jablonski is the president of the program and the coach of the juniors team.

The Jablonski's appreciate all the support from businesses and the whole community as the spaghetti supper brings everyone together to connect.

"This brings all the families and community together," Jablonski said.

Quaboag Youth Baseball and Softball games began earlier this month and will be taking place at Dean Park, Quaboag Regional Middle High School, West Brookfield Common and West Brookfield Elementary School.

Members of Quaboag Youth Baseball and Softball would like to thank School Superintendent Stephen Duff and the Quaboag school district for hosting their spaghetti supper. The program would also like to thank the school's cafeteria staff for helping with the preparation of the meals.



A spaghetti supper took place at Quaboag Regional Middle High School to support the Quaboag Youth Baseball and Softball. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO



There was plenty of spaghetti and meatballs to serve.



Matt Jablonski is the President and juniors coach of Quaboag Youth Baseball and Softball and was handing out spaghetti suppers to guests.



The cafeteria was busy preparing the spaghetti supper.

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- sturbridge -

Southbridge Garden Club presents annual Spring Plant Sale

STURBRIDGE –The Southbridge Garden Club invites the general public to its third annual Spring Plant Sale on Saturday, May 18, from 9 a.m.-noon on the Sturbridge Town Common.

The sale takes place rain or shine.

The Plant Sale will feature a wide selection of perennials, shrubs, vegetables, herbs, houseplants, cemetery boxes, and a garden treasure table with variety of garden-related items, such as small tools, flowerpots, gloves, decorative garden items, some surprises, and other goodies.

A representative from the Massachusetts Master Gardeners Association will conduct free soil testing. The Yankee Dahlia Society will be selling tubers and other items.

Other vendors include Missa's Organic Native Garden, the Worcester Conservancy, Eric's Aviaries, the Union Bee Company, and more. Shoppers will be able to browse and purchase one or more books on gardening, ecology, cooking, and landscaping at the Friends of Joshua Hyde Public Library Book Sale in Sturbridge.

Proceeds from the Spring Plant Sale support the programs, scholarships, and beautification projects that the Southbridge Garden Club sponsors. Your support is greatly appreciated.

The Southbridge Garden Club is a regional organization that welcomes gardeners of all abilities and has been serving the area since 1953. The organization became a member of the Garden Club Federation in



The Southbridge Garden Club will host its third annual Spring Plant Sale on the Sturbridge Town Common on Saturday, May 18 from 9 a.m.-noon. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Massachusetts in 2003.

The Club's mission is to "share an interest in horticulture and to expand our knowledge of gardening for our mutual benefit and that of our local communities."

Visit the Club's Facebook page for updates, <https://www.facebook.com/SouthbridgeGardenClub>

For more information, please call Sally at 508-207-6882.

'Rough Seas, Safe Harbor': Wings of Song perform spring shows

STURBRIDGE – Wings of Song, a community chorus that draws its 50+ members from many communities in south-central Massachusetts and north-eastern Connecticut, has begun rehearsing for a one-of-a-kind musical program that it will offer three times this spring: on Saturday, May 11 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Church, 16 East Main St., Webster; on Saturday, May 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the First Church of Monson, Congregational, 5 High St., Monson; and on Sunday, May 19 at 2:30 p.m. at St. Anne-St. Patrick Parish, 16 Church St., Fiskdale (Sturbridge).

Admission to all three concerts is free, with a free-will offering collected at intermission.

"Rough Seas, Safe Harbor" will take audiences on a huge sea voyage, much of it aboard a whaling ship that might have left New Bedford, in, say, the 1850s, and sailed practically around the world, separating crew members from their families for as long as two years.

Nym Cooke, who served as Music Director for a similar program presented by the Revels organization based in Cambridge, (the "Sea Revels"), has combined 29 stirring, eloquent songs of the sea into a seven-part odyssey. The individual sections of the program are titled "Home Port", "Setting Sail", "At Sea", "Shipwreck!", "Foreign Ports", "Wives and Mothers at Home" and "Return and Reunion".

The individual songs vary tremendously in their points of origin, but collectively they weave a moving tapestry of life at sea – and also of life at the home

port, for those left behind. There are recently composed choral works such as Allister MacGillivray's "Away from the Roll of the Sea" and Leon Dubinsky's "We Rise Again".

There are many short, anonymously composed sea songs, including chanteys (work songs) with titles like "Blow, Ye Winds, in the Morning", "Away Rio!" and "Cape CodGirls" (all of these capstan, or pumping chanteys).

There's a dockside street cry, "New Oysters!" and the part-song "To Portsmouth"; both are sung as rounds, and hail from 17th century England. There are classics of the sea-faring repertory, songs such as "What Shall We Do With the Drunken Sailor?" and "Blow the Wind Southerly".

There's an 18th century New England fugal tune, "Ocean" by Supply Belcher of Farmington, Maine, and the U. S. Navy's signature hymn tune, "Eternal Father, Strong to Save".

There's "The Last Hymn," the gripping narrative of the aftermath of a shipwreck, that will surely leave no eye dry. There are passionate songs of parting ("Fare You Well, Mary Ann," "Adieu, Sweet Lovely Nancy") and of homecoming ("The Jamestown Homeward Bound," "Rolling Home to Old New England").

There are choral arrangements by Cooke ("Sailing Away", "Where Am I to Go?"); there's a song about a young lady committed to an insane asylum by her cruel parents while her lover is at sea ("I Love My Love"); there are unforgettable, moving anthems of the ocean

like "The Mingulay Boat Song", "Leave Her, Johnny" and "The Seamen's Hymn".

As always at Wings of Song concerts, there are audience sing-alongs, seven of them this time, including "Somos el Barco" ("We Are the Boat"), "Deep Blue Sea" and some of the songs already mentioned.

Wings of Song will sing a cappella; with piano accompaniment by Brooks Milgate or Nancy Ducharme; and with a "fo'c's'le band" comprised of guitar and pennywhistle (Tim Loftus), concertina (Chris Maden), fiddle (Hunter Foote), stand-up bass (Ellen Bradley), banjo and harmonica (Leslie Sweetnam), and percussion (Sarah Jo Burke).

This is sure to be an unforgettable adventure – both musically and narratively – and the concert venues are sure to be crowded, so be sure to arrive early for a good seat.

All venues are handicap accessible. Audience members are invited to join the chorus for tasty (and free) refreshments after each concert.

These concerts are sponsored in part by the Monson and Sturbridge Cultural Councils, local agencies supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. Wings of Song is grateful for this support – and for the continued support of their many faithful audience regulars, supplemented by first timers whom they are always glad to see.

Anyone needing more information is encouraged to email Cooke at nymcooke@gmail.com or Wings of Song President Carol Curtin at carolcurtin77@gmail.com.

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- community -

Sturbridge in the Civil War program is April 25

STURBRIDGE – On Thursday, April 25, at 7 p.m., Sturbridge Historical Society will present Wally Hersee at the Publick House to discuss how the Civil War impacted Sturbridge and its inhabitants.

The response of town officers, Town Meeting, and volunteers will be explored. Hersee will also look at those men who responded to the call to arms and their battlefield experiences.

He will examine the stories of those men from Sturbridge who died in uniform. Most of us learned about the Civil War – its causes, battles, and outcomes – but we often do not know about or understand the impact of that all-encompassing war on our own community.

Hersee grew up in Medfield, where he refined his interest in local history. Having moved to Sturbridge it was only a matter of time before he took an active part in Sturbridge history.

A photographer for more than 45 years, his 2017 book, “Follow the Light”, tells of his photographic journey.

Hersee retired as a registered nurse in 2019. Today, he lives in town with his wife, Mary, and is active on town boards, volunteers at Tanglewood, and writes for the Sturbridge Historic Society on their Facebook page.

Join the Historical Society to learn about the role of Sturbridge in the Civil War. The program is free and open to the public, and is generously hosted by the Publick House.

Tri-Parish church seeks vendors for tag and craft sale

HARDWICK – The Tri-Parish Community Church announces their 18th Annual Plant and Bake Sale, on the Hardwick Common on Saturday, June 1 and Sunday, June 2 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. each day.

This popular East Quabbin area event will feature traditional, favorite and connoisseur perennials plus selected annuals, heirloom vegetable plants and herbs in time for spring planting. There is a wonderful variety in plants offered through Inishowen Farms of North Brookfield, Stillman’s Farm of New Braintree, Howe’s Farm of New Braintree, Tracie’s Greenhouse of Ware, the Hardwick Farmers Co-op of Hardwick and private gardens.

A delicious assortment of home-baked desserts and breads will also be sold. The event is held rain or shine.

The church is also seeking vendors for their annual tag and craft sale to coincide with the plant and bake sale. Spaces on the Hardwick Common will be offered for \$35 each. Applications may be obtained by emailing Marguerite at mcrevier1.mc@gmail.com or calling 413-477-6942.

People should reserve their space early. All are welcome.

Senate announces Chapter 90 funding for region

BOSTON – State Sen. Peter J. Durant (R-Spencer), along his colleagues in the Massachusetts Senate, approved \$375 million in bond authorizations for statewide transportation projects, including the state’s Chapter 90 program, which would create a reliable funding source for local infrastructure investments like roads, bridges, regional transit equipment and infrastructure, bicycle infrastructure, and electric vehicle infrastructure, among other things.

Projects funded by the annual legislation often improve quality of life for residents in every region of the state, and many play a role in environmental mitigation.

Every city and town in the Commonwealth would receive a share of \$200 million in funding to be used on maintenance and construction of roads and bridges. \$150 million would be allocated equally to six programs targeting specific transportation infrastructure, and \$25 million would be allocated to cities and towns through the rural roads program.

The towns in the Worcester-Hampshire District will receive \$11,928,953 in Chapter 90 funding. Below is a breakdown of Chapter 90 Funding in the Worcester-Hampshire District: Brookfield, \$167,473; East Brookfield, \$93,423; Hardwick, \$353,856; North Brookfield, \$306,023; New Braintree, \$203,707; Ware, \$424,825; and West Brookfield, \$229,488.

Of the \$375 million in total authorizations, the legislation would allocate \$25 million to each of the following programs that target specific infrastructure areas:

Municipal Pavement Program, which focuses on the improvement of municipally owned state numbered routes.

Municipal Small Bridge Program, which provides financial support to cities and towns for small bridge replacement, preservation, and rehabilitation projects.

Complete Streets Funding Program, which provides funding to municipalities for streets that provide safe and accessible options for all travel modes such as walking, biking, transit, and vehicles.

Municipal Bus Enhancement Program, which provides grant funding to build out infrastructure related to mass transit by bus.

Mass Transit Access Grant Program, which provides grants for design and construction improvements to access commuter rail stations or other mass transit stations, such as parking lots, drop-off and pick-up zones, bike storage infrastructure, and electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

Municipal/RTA EV Grant Program, which provides grants to Regional Transit Authorities and municipalities for the purchase of electric vehicles and related charging equipment.

A previous version having been passed by the House of Representatives, the legislation now awaits final enactment in each branch, before being sent to the Governor’s desk for her signature.

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 grassrootscentral-mass.org/

GARDEN | FROM PAGE 4

disturb them in any way in their pot, even though you may be anxious to see how successful you’ve been. You will know they are rooted by the quality of new growth you’d see; maybe even a new branch coming from the base.

Once sufficiently rooted the cuttings can be transplanted into a more fertile media and a larger pot or into a nursery area in your garden.

I’m excited to try taking cuttings of my blueberry bushes. I may even take some from my mom’s plants.

What a nice memory it would be to have the descendants of my childhood blueberry bushes growing on my own property.

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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News from the Quabbin Regional School District

Grade 8 went to Washington, D.C. April 8-11

From the desk of Colleen Mucha, Superintendent QRSD

BARRE – Each year, in the early spring, Quabbin Regional Middle School eighth graders descend upon the nation’s capital and this year’s trip had some added excitement.

The bus ride down to Washington, D.C. was filled with anticipation and wonder and it was sure to be truly out of this world.

On Monday, April 8, the buses found an open spot in a Maryland Home Depot parking lot. All 140 students climbed off the buses to not only stretch their legs, but to also witness the solar eclipse.

Students donned eclipse glasses and pointed toward the sky with great delight. Students could be overheard asking one another if they were seeing the same thing and if it felt colder to them.

This moment is one that our students will likely remember forever. Together with their classmates, they witnessed an extraordinary event that will not be repeated for another 20 years.

When asked by their own children if they remember the solar eclipse, many will be able to recall exactly where they were and who they were with, a lasting shared and meaningful experience for all.

The same can be said about the other events of the week. Students were able to visit the Washington Monument, National Air and Space Museum, National Zoo and even the Botanical Garden, just to name a few.

Students marveled at the architec-

ture, history and beauty of the area. They learned new and interesting facts and information as they bonded with one another, deepened and developed lasting friendships.

Here are just a few of their thoughts about the trip including something that may have surprised them.

“My favorite thing was the American History Museum. Something that surprised me was how faded the constitution is. My favorite food was Ramen at the African History Museum,” said Andrew.

“Something that surprised me was how the bricks changed at the Washington Monument and my favorite thing was the zoo,” said Aubrie.

“My favorite thing on the trip was the Botanic Garden. Something that surprised me was how quickly the trip ended. My favorite food was the pineapple from the hotel and it was a very fun trip, lots of walking but worth it. I made a lot of good friends so I’m happy about that,” said Lealani.

“My favorite thing was the Air and Space Museum, all of the Vietnam War names surprised me and my favorite food was Chipotle,” said Aiden.

“Getting closer to former and new friends and raspberry lemonade smoothie,” said Nick.

“My favorite thing was the zoo. Something that surprised me was the amount of names for the people that died in the 9/11 attack,” said Sophie.

Offering students the opportunity to experience, learn and discover new things together brings the Quabbin Regional School District great joy. We are



Students enjoy watching the eclipse on April 8. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

proud of our students and our staff and we are always humbled when we hear how well they represented our school, district and community.

One of our goals is to provide stu-

dents with diverse experiences where they can learn together. There is no better place than Washington, D.C. to deepen their understanding of civics and the purpose of government.



Chaperones shown are from left, Mrs. Brown, Ms. Eyler-Pelletier, Ms. Hicks and Mr. Deschamps.

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- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Midway between south and southeast
 - 4. For each
 - 7. Airborne (abbr.)
 - 10. Photographs
 - 11. They ___
 - 12. It's important in respiration (abbr.)
 - 13. Monetary unit
 - 15. Cool!
 - 16. A son of Jacob
 - 19. Cut off
 - 21. Devour
 - 23. Agent of one's downfall
 - 24. Best
 - 25. Network of nerves
 - 26. Partner to "oohs"
 - 27. Origins
 - 30. Sewing utensil
 - 34. Alias
 - 35. Swiss river
 - 36. Greek mythological figure
 - 41. Type of whiskey
 - 45. Lay to rest
 - 46. "Rule, Britannia" composer
 - 47. Select jury
 - 50. Feeling
 - 54. Action regarded as morally wrong
 - 55. Makes angry
 - 56. Act incorrectly
 - 57. Defensive nuclear weapon
 - 59. Class of escort aircraft carrier
 - 60. To what degree
 - 61. Buzzing insect
 - 62. The human foot
 - 63. "The Leftovers" actress Dowd
 - 64. A place to stay
 - 65. Sun up in New York
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. An involuntary muscular contraction
 - 2. Earnest
 - 3. Cuts out surgically
 - 4. Can't move
 - 5. Baseball stat
 - 6. British soldier
 - 7. Traditional medicine plants
 - 8. Political party controlled by managers
 - 9. Hebrew prophet
 - 13. Supporter
 - 14. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
 - 17. Liberty Mutual mascot
 - 18. Georgia rockers
 - 20. A place where building is done
 - 22. Large, deep-bodied fish
 - 27. Clothing retailer
 - 28. Supplement with difficulty
 - 29. Annoy constantly
 - 31. Founder of Babism
 - 32. Indigenous person
 - 33. Sea eagle
 - 37. Leave behind
 - 38. Time of day
 - 39. Colorless crystalline compound
 - 40. They lay out course requirements
 - 41. A diamond has three
 - 42. Algerian coastal city
 - 43. Remove cover
 - 44. Rechristened
 - 47. Distinctive practice
 - 48. Defunct phone company
 - 49. Turkish officer of high rank
 - 51. Eliminate from the body
 - 52. Witness
 - 53. Soviet Socialist Republic
 - 58. Founding Father Franklin

A Grateful Thank-you to the entire West Brookfield and Surrounding Communities

On the morning of March 16, 2024, an oncoming vehicle hit Joshua R. Kemp taking him immediately from us. A black cloud came over West Brookfield as news spread of Joshua's death. There was a forbidding silence all around us as word spread across the country and beyond. Family and friends stopped everything, boarding planes within hours to come to our family with the love and support that our family so desperately needed, as we faced this devastating loss. Everyone stayed with our family around the clock during the long week before services, as we patiently waited for Josh's release from the hospital because the final gift, he bestowed was in being an organ donor.

As Friday dawned with calling hours to commence in the afternoon, we were not in any way prepared for the overwhelming outpouring of support our family was about to receive, it was more than we could ever have imagined. In the bitter cold, with lines that had no end, we send a special thank-you to everyone at Varnum Funeral Home who diligently kept all running smoothly.

On Saturday, prayers, thoughts, and support stayed ever present at the funeral mass and onto the celebration of life at Teresa's Restaurant where the food was aplenty and stories of Josh's remarkable life unfolded. A grateful thank-you to all at Teresa's, as they were prepared for many, but not all that arrived. It was quickly all hands-on deck when everyone from wait staff to the cooks in the kitchen sprang into action to take care of all of us so seamlessly, along with such grace and compassion.

Our family sends our utmost thanks to the West Brookfield Police and Rescue Squad, as well as the State Police for their professionalism, outstanding service, and compassion at the scene of this devastating accident.

May you always have memories for comfort, Love of Good Friends for Support, and Abiding Faith to ease your Sorrow.

The Entire Kemp Family sends our most sincere thank-you and gratitude.

COURSE | FROM PAGE 1

an increasing need.

“Normally when I do my class, 20% would be women,” he said.

Picariello said many of the women in his class expressed that they felt more confident when surrounded by their peers and he set out to offer this new course. The Oakham Police Association was the first organization to host this women’s only course, with a very positive response.

One participant in that inaugural course, Krista Nelson, said, “My main reasons for wanting to take this class were to become more comfortable handling a gun. My husband is a hunter and handgun owner, we have young children at home, and it is important for me to know how to handle a situation involving a gun.”

Picariello said most of the women taking his course are looking to familiarize themselves with guns and many have a lot of apprehension about how to safely handle them. He said a lot of mothers and daughters take the course together, ranging from teens to senior citizens.

He said the mothers taking his course want their daughters to feel safe, and have a proper education about firearms safety.

“They’re so nervous coming in, but at the end they say, ‘that was okay,’” he said. “The more you know about something, the less likely something bad will happen.”

Maria Trout said she took the course last year and said it was a wonderful experience.

“I was shaking like a leaf at the beginning but by the end, I was super comfortable. I loved that it was an all-women’s class, so I wasn’t intimidated to ask things,” she said.

This is Picariello’s first time offering a course at the Brookfield Rod & Gun Club, which will be held over two days starting with classroom instruction on May 30 from 5:30-10 p.m. and at the club’s outdoor range on June 2 from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. The cost of the course is \$175 and there are no prerequisites.

Picariello said it’s easier to teach skills than it is to break bad habits, and he encouraged those unfamiliar with firearms to sign up.

There will be one instructor for every three students in this course which Picariello said goes beyond what is taught in a basic license to carry course.

Brookfield Rod & Gun Club’s Event Manager Sharron O’Day said the club has about 325 members and most are family memberships.

O’Day said not a lot of women come and shoot on their own, and about 90% of women choose to for self-defense reasons, rather than sport.

“When Joe approached me about the class, the board was really excited to do it,” she said. O’Day said many women prefer taking the course with other women because it’s a level playing field.

The time at the outdoor range is essential for keeping skills sharp, O’Day said.

“If you have to use your gun, you’re relying on muscle memory,” she said. “That muscle memory is really important.”

O’Day said the club hopes to offer women’s only shooting nights to continue building on the skills learned at Picariello’s course.

“They’re so nervous coming in, but at the end they say, ‘that was okay’...the more you know about something, the less likely something bad will happen.”

— Joseph Picariello, Wachusett Firearms Training

Picariello recently retired after serving 37 years as a part-time officer with the Princeton Police Department. Since 1988, he has been the principal firearms instructor for the department.

He is currently the owner of Wachusett Firearms Training offering firearms training to civilians.

Picariello also served for 17 years as the chief firearms instructor for the Wayland Auxiliary Police Department. He was a Level 4 Master Instructor/Trainer for the Municipal Police Training Committee and held several instructor certifications, including MPTC, Massachusetts Sheriff’s Association, NRA Law Enforcement Tactical Shooting Instructor, S&W Academy Patrol Rifle Instructor and is an REB certified OC Instructor, MPTC F.A.T.S. Instructor and Range 2000 Instructor.

He was on the MPTC Firearms Training Committee for 17 years and was Pistol Training co-chairman. He was also a firearms instructor for Westminster Police Department, Quinsigamond Community College Police and the Quinsigamond Community College part-time officer academy as chief firearms instructor.

Picariello is a Massachusetts State Police Adjunct Instructor in Mental Preparation for Lethal Encounters as well as a Basic Handgun Safety instructor and LEOSA instructor.

The women’s only Defensive Hand-



Firearms instructor and owner of Wachusett Firearms Training, Joseph Picariello, leads classroom training during a Defensive Handgun 1 course. SUBMITTED PHOTO

gun 1 course covers topics such as firearms safety, safe storage rules, ammunition, shooting fundamentals, basic marksmanship, loading and unloading, reloading: emergency and tactical, ready positions, steps of the draw and malfunction clearance.

Students will need to provide a handgun (Picariello has several available to borrow at no charge), a strong-side belt holster (he also has several right hand holsters students can borrow at no charge); 250 rounds full power ammunition (full metal jacket), two extra reloading devices with carrier; wrap around eye protection; ear protection, baseball cap, clothing appropriate for weather,

bag lunch (optional as there are several places to get food within 10 minutes of range), and note taking material.

After successful completion of the course, attendees will receive a certificate and letter detailing the training session which can be used to apply for an LTC.

Registration is limited and should be done as soon as possible. To register or for more information, send an e-mail to wachusettfirearmstraining@yahoo.com or call 978-697-6654.

Checks should be made payable to Joseph Picariello and mailed to 22 Calamint Hill Road North, Princeton, MA 01541-1721.

Dynamic Collectibles, Cards and Craft Show is May 4

CHARLTON – Charlton City United Methodist Church, 74 Stafford St. announced a new quarterly series: Dynamic Collectibles, Cards, and Craft Show.

The first show will be held on Saturday, May 4 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Watch for dates for future shows every quarter.

Each show will be jam-packed with vendors and will feature baked goods and drinks. Any interested vendors of collectibles, cards, or crafts can contact Joe Dupont at joedupont@dynamiccardcollectors.com for this or future shows.

The May 4 show will feature rare Pokémon cards from Dynamic Card Collectors; comics and toys from Remember that Collectibles; a variety of trading card game cards from Wicked East Coasters and Toyland Treasures; Epicure products for food service from Barbara’s Epic Eats; Bee Jewelry and Scarves; Essential Oils and natural wellness products and tips; handmade greeting cards; fly fishing ties; Sweet Leilani Crafts & SassiePastries; anime/gaming/kawaii merchandise from Tokkishi; and many more.

Are you having difficulty communicating with your partner, struggling with boundaries, and healthy relationships?

We invite you to join us Friday afternoons from 1-2:30 pm to explore these topics and more.

This group will be held in zoom, is educational, confidential, and free.

Please contact Pat James 413-726-8661.

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- community -

REVOLUTION | FROM PAGE 1

“It’s re-experiencing and being able to teach about the times of our forefathers,” Keenan said.

Visitors got the chance to meet three people from the 1812 Marine Guard who were aboard the U.S.S. Constitution.

The members of the Historical Marine Education Incorporation, a non-profit historical organization, played the ship’s surgeon, Dr. Amos Evans, and the surgeon’s first mate, Matt Villamaino.

The First Lieutenant of the Marines, Stan Kumor, taught people about what a soldier would have had on the ship, and his wife, Jackie Kumor, had a table of toys from the era that children could hold.

“I love the time period,” Jackie said. “Seeing what women did and what roles they played while the men were at war. They owned properties and it was only after America became a country they no longer could.”

The Sturbridge Martial Band was also present, and three skilled musicians played the fife and drum to present a classic song soldiers would march into battle to.

The American Civil War had many people dressed and ready, and Ray Pedro of Battery B 1st of Providence, Rhode Island had an original 1845 canon.

The 15th Massachusetts Infantry was also present, and shared about where they originated in Worcester County.

And finally, to remember World War II, several organizers put together a reenactment of rifle maneuvers, and fired the 80-year-old weapons on the field by the blacksmith shop.

B. Historical from Connecticut also had a tent of technology used for communication during the war.

The event gave visitors a look into history as soldiers from the 1940s walked alongside American Revolutionaries in this timeline crossover. Stay tuned for the upcoming Redcoats to Rebels coming this summer.



Stan Kumor, the First Lieutenant of the Marines, is shown standing ready in a traditional uniform. TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS



Jackie Kumor displays the toys, dolls, and games that children of the time would have played with.



A soldier sends reports to home base using a radio that American soldiers would use to contact each other across fields.



Rob Keenan is dressed as a soldier of the 25th Continental Regiment, rifle at the ready.



Members of the American Revolution, holding a flag and tending to the camp.



The 15th Massachusetts Infantry from the Worcester County ready to join the fight with the Union.



Civil War soldiers of the Battery B 1st of Rhode Island standing with a canon.



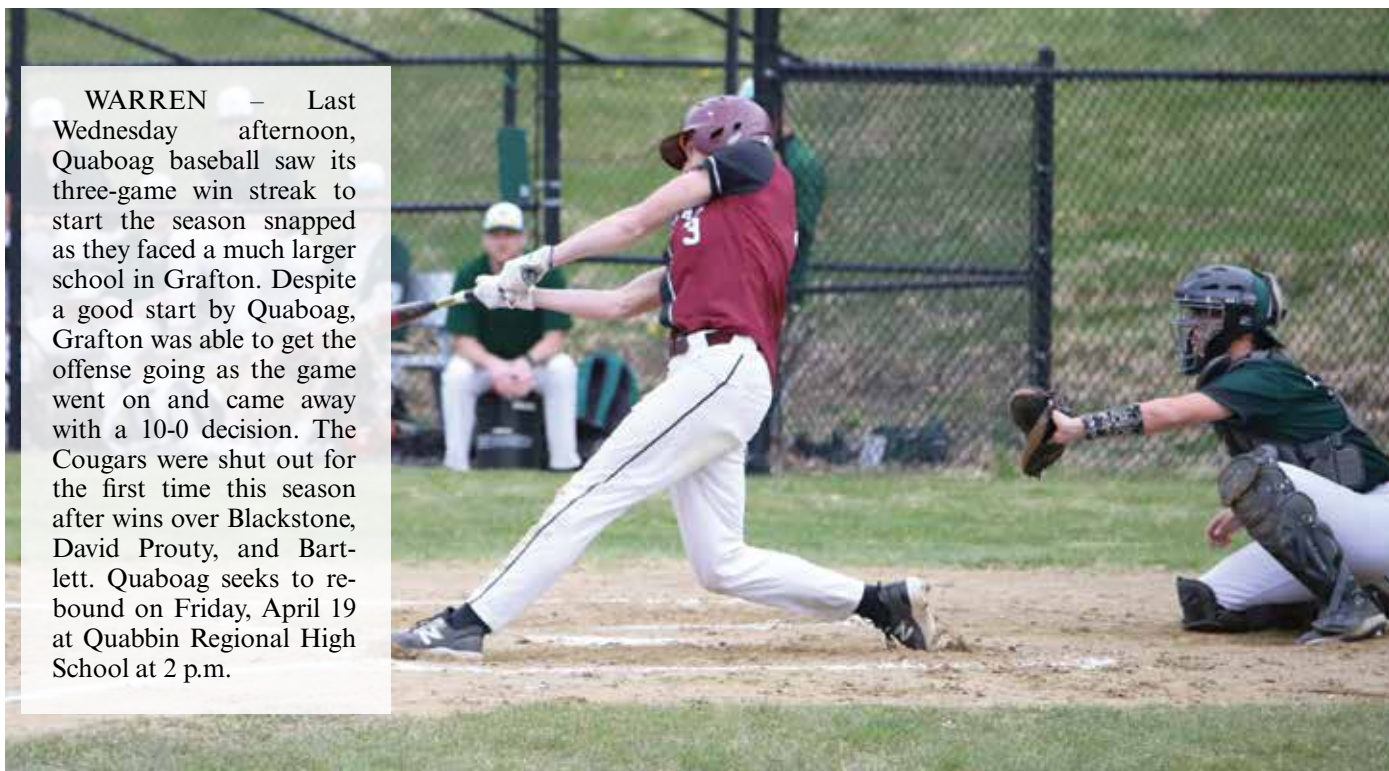
Three soldiers taking a break at the fire and lounging against their jeep.

SPORTS

Cougars suffer first loss

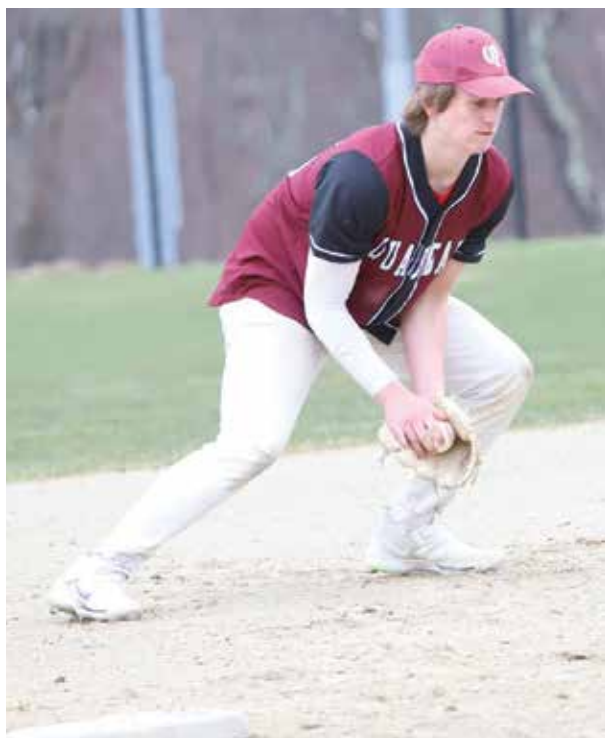


Brasen Sauriol fields a ball to left field.



Ryan Fernandez swings and connects. TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

WARREN — Last Wednesday afternoon, Quaboag baseball saw its three-game win streak to start the season snapped as they faced a much larger school in Grafton. Despite a good start by Quaboag, Grafton was able to get the offense going as the game went on and came away with a 10-0 decision. The Cougars were shut out for the first time this season after wins over Blackstone, David Prouty, and Bartlett. Quaboag seeks to rebound on Friday, April 19 at Quabbin Regional High School at 2 p.m.



Liam McGrath fields the routine grounder to third base.



Giovanni Twomey fires a pitch to the plate for the Cougars.



Matt Tiberii fields a slow roller to short.

Warriors suffer overtime loss at Agawam

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM—The Agawam boys' varsity lacrosse team hasn't had very much success against Tantasqua Regional during the past decade. That all changed in the only meeting of the regular season between the two squads.

After battling back from a three-goal deficit to tie the score late in the fourth period, Agawam junior Riley Jorgensen netted the game-winning goal with 1:54 remaining in overtime. It gave his team a thrilling 8-7 victory over the Warriors at Harmon A Smith Field, last Tuesday afternoon.

"We lost to Tantasqua twice last year

and we held a 5-0 lead in one of those games," said Jorgensen, who joined the varsity lacrosse team as a freshman. "It feels amazing to finally beat them in overtime."

The last time that Agawam defeated Tantasqua in a boys' lacrosse match was during the 2014 regular season when they celebrated a 10-6 win.

"Today's game was very exciting," said Agawam head coach Joe Heney. "It was nice to see the kids battle back in the fourth period. No matter what the score is we're always going to play as hard as we can. That's something that we take tremendous pride in."

Jorgensen, who netted a game-high five

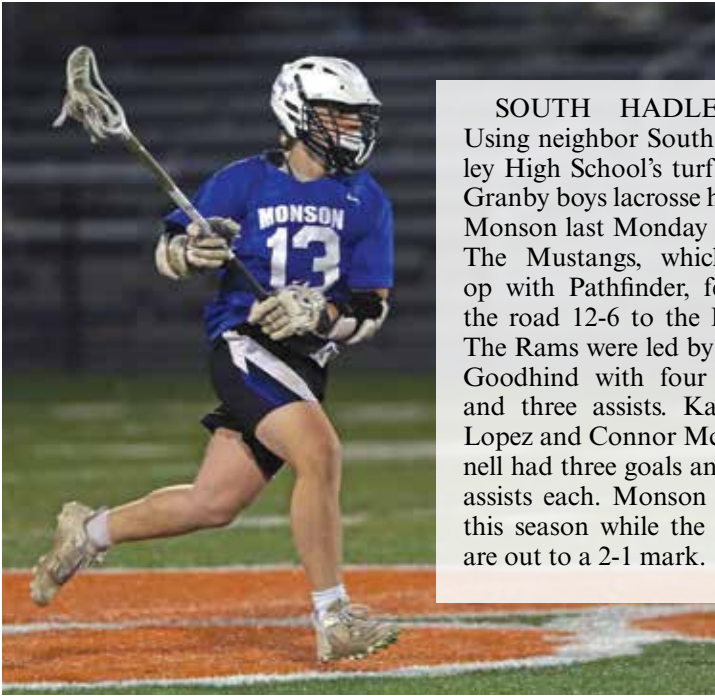
See **WARRIORS** | PAGE 13



Braeden Rich looks to make a play on defense. TURLEY PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

- sports -

Rams double up on Mustangs



Landon Couture sprints for the opposing goal. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEET-DOGPHOTOS.COM

SOUTH HADLEY – Using neighbor South Hadley High School’s turf field, Granby boys lacrosse hosted Monson last Monday night. The Mustangs, which cop with Pathfinder, fell on the road 12-6 to the Rams. The Rams were led by Riley Goodhind with four goals and three assists. Kamdyn Lopez and Connor McDonnell had three goals and two assists each. Monson is 1-1 this season while the Rams are out to a 2-1 mark.



Osvaldo Nieves sends a pass up the field.



Samuel Lauzier looks to make a pass on the run.



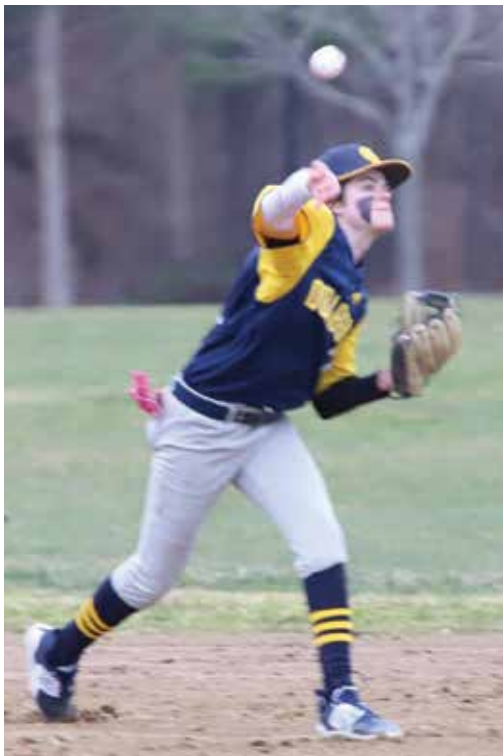
Brody St. Martin observes the offensive area looking to make a pass.

Panthers rebound from opener with win

BARRE – Last Tuesday afternoon, Narragansett Regional High School visited Quabbin Regional baseball. The Panthers scored a big 10-6 as they saw their offense get going for the first time this season. The Panthers were shut out in their opener. The Panthers saw their record go to 1-2 with a loss at Lunenburg, but it was very competitive as the Panthers were edged 9-8. Quabbin hosts Quaboag on Friday, April 19 at 2 p.m.



Finn Leander digs out a throw at first base. TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Aiden LaPointe follows through on a throw to first base.



Adam Adams delivers a pitch for the Panthers



Sam Morgan sends a throw back to the mound.

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League PALMER – The Commercial Elks League are only a couple weeks away from their season finale.

As of April 2, there is a close battle for first place between Acres (22-6) and The Champs R Here (21-7). Team BK is in third place at 16-12 and is hoping to win out the remainder of round three.

In fourth place. The Blue B's (16-12) are aiming to win out as well. Last in Line is in fifth place at 11-13. Life is Good and Compression are in sixth and seventh place and are awaiting their opponents for the playoffs.

In one match, the #1 seed Acres bowled against Team BK. This match would give Acres the opportunity to distance themselves from Champs R Here. Team BK is looking to win all three games and total

See BOWLING |
PAGE 13

Some roster spots still open in Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League

Headline: Rosters spots are dwindling, but there are still some spots available as the Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League prepares for its season opener on Sunday, April 28 featuring three games. 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. 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 used as well some expansion to the surrounding area this season. The league does not play on Mother's Day or Memorial Day weekends. 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.

- sports -

WARRIORS | FROM PAGE 11

goals in the non-league match, scored a game-winning goal for the first time in a varsity game. The five goals was also a career high for him. He scored five goals in a pair of victories against Chicopee Comp and Northampton a year ago. The Brownies (2-1) won the face-off at the start of the four-minute sudden-victory overtime period, and they were able to keep possession of the ball.

About 30 seconds before Jorgensen ended the match, Agawam had a very good scoring opportunity. Senior captain Nicholas Ugolini fired a shot at Tantasqua senior goalie Sam Panek (13 saves), who was able to deflect it away. The Brownies quickly regained possession of the ball and that's when Jorgensen scored the game-winning goal.

"We were able to recover the ball first before it got to the end line," said Jorgensen, who was also a member of the Brownies boys' varsity basketball team this past winter. "Then I received a pass from one of my teammates before firing a shot into the net. It just felt great because my whole team was counting on me to score a goal."

The Warriors, who made the trip to Western Mass. with a 2-0 record, suffered their first loss of the regular season.

"Agawam played a little bit better than we did today," said Tantasqua head coach James Putney. "We like to play fast and score a lot of goals, but they slowed the game down and controlled possession more. We do have a lot of potential and we're still trying to put the pieces together."

The visitors from Fiskdale took a 1-0 lead 22 seconds into the opening period following a goal by senior Aiden Way. Sophomore Michalak Fenton was credited with the assist.

Then back-to-back goals by sophomore Brayden Federico and Jorgensen gave the home team the lead for the first time.

Way scored another goal with 3:05 remaining in the first period tying the score at 2-2.



Pat Dunn receives a pass.

Less than two minutes into the second period, Jorgensen scored his second goal which gave the lead back to the Brownies.

Following an unassisted goal by sophomore Zach Godek, the Warriors retook lead when senior Trevor Harris fired a shot into the net past Agawam sophomore goalie Jordin Agosto (12 saves) with 6:40 left in the second period.

Neither team scored during the final six minutes of the first half and the Warriors held a slim 4-3 halftime advantage.



Aiden Way heads for the goal. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

With 7:53 left in the third period, Godek scored his second goal, which was unassisted.

A little more than a minute later, the Brownies cut their deficit to 5-4 following a Jorgenson goal. That goal was assisted by Federico, who entered the match with a team leading with five goals and four assists.

Two more goals by seniors Pat Dunn and Landon Rice helped the Warriors build a 7-4 lead during the first six minutes of the final period.

The Brownies battled back with goals from sophomore Casey Thomas, sophomore Jaden Holloway, and Jorgensen, which sent the contest into overtime.

Jorgensen, who had scored a total of four goals in the Brownies first two games of the regular season, became the hero a little more than two minutes later.

"Riley is a great kid," Heney said. "I'm very happy that he scored the game-winning goal in overtime."



Robert Cleary looks to pass.

BOWLING | FROM PAGE 12

pinfall in an effort to receive a playoff berth.

In game one, Team BK won the first game 395-391. Acres bowlers Paul Tereso and Bryan Surprise started off strong bowling 103 and 110. Mark Fitzpatrick held onto a slim lead to win game one by four pins and started with a 100.

In game two, Three of the four bowlers on Team BK broke the century mark to win 428-397. Dave Cobleigh of Acres bowled a 121 and Tom Bedard of BK was high man on his team with a 107.

In game three, Team BK won 398-384 for a three-game sweep over Acres. Carrying the team was Mark Fitzpatrick finishing strong with a 119 and a series of 321.

Team BK won total pinfall by a final score of 1221-1172.

Life is Good bowled against the Champs R Here. In game one, The Champs started off with a win 388-339.

In game two, Life is Good bounced back and won 388-355. In game three, The Champs R Here won the last game 388-371. John Colkos of Champs R Here led the team with a 112 in the last game.

Champs R Here won total pinfall 1131-1098 and received three points. With Acres losing all four points to Team BK, Champs R

Here move ahead and are the #1 seed.

Monday Night Men's League Prepares for Playoffs

The top four teams of the Monday Night Men's League will be participating in the season finale playoffs.

Over the next couple weeks, the playoffs for the 2023-2024 Monday Night League crown will be determined. Week one will feature the top four teams competing in semi-final matches. The two winning teams in the semi-final will bowl each other for the championship the following week.

The top four teams are Tag Team, who finished in first place at 65-51. Second place finisher at 65-51 is Pinheads. Four Stooges are in third place and finished with a regular season record of 64.5-51.5.

Fourth place team is Pin Pigs who finished with a regular season record of 63.5-52.5. Four points shy of Pin Pigs was Yahtzee at 59.5-56.5.

Monday night bowling continues as Palmer's longest running candlepin league starts off the first round of playoffs on April 15. The finals will be on Monday, April 22.

Visit Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes at 1446 North Main St. The alleys can be reached by calling 413-289-0013.

Win keeps playoff hopes alive for T-Birds

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (30-35-3-2) snapped their six-game slide with a 4-2 comeback win over the Providence Bruins (40-20-6-3) on Sunday afternoon inside a sold-out MassMutual Center, the 19th such crowd this season.

The afternoon started rocky, as Patrick Brown connected on a forehand from the slot area on the day's first shot to give Providence a 1-0 lead 46 seconds into the contest.

T-Birds starting goaltender Colten Ellis put himself into a pickle at 9:24 of the first when he mishandled a puck to the side of his net. After a pair of Bruins dislodged it, the third man on the attack, rookie Jaxon Nelson, deked to the backhand to beat Ellis and give Providence a 2-0 advantage. It was Nelson's first professional goal.

Brandon Bussi drew the net for the Bruins, and after shutting out the T-Birds on March 10, he had his sights on duplicating the feat on Sunday, holding the T-Birds off the board past the midpoint of regulation.

With their backs against the wall, the T-Birds leaned on their Man of the Year to jumpstart the squad. Off a draw at 13:08 of the middle stanza, Drew Callin pushed past his opponent to hack a shot toward Bussi's crease. The normally stout netminder sprung a leak this time as the puck sneaked under his legs to get Springfield on the board, cutting

the lead to 2-1.

Following matching minors and another penalty to the Bruins, Springfield's man advantage earned a 4-on-3 opportunity, and the AHL's leading goal scorer made his presence known as Adam Gaudette rifled a one-time snapper over Bussi's glove at 14:40, tying the score off a perfect cross-ice setup by Jakub Vrana.

Special teams proved paramount for Springfield, as the penalty kill went a perfect 5-for-5, including two clutch successes in the final period. Gaudette provided more heroics at 10:32 of the third when he skated in on the right wing on a 2-on-1 and blistered a wrist shot over Bussi's blocker to give the T-Birds a 3-2 lead on his 44th goal of the season. The two-goal day for Gaudette was his 12th such game this season.

With Providence clamoring for an equalizer in the final minute, Callin, rookie Dylan Peterson, and Kean Washkurak gutted out a defensive zone sequence to clear their end. Washkurak capped things off with an empty-netter from the red line to give the T-Birds the victory.

The T-Birds look to earn a second straight win over the Bruins when they travel to Providence for a rematch on Friday night at the Amica Mutual Pavilion at 7:05 p.m.

- community -

BUDGET | FROM PAGE 1

nesses thriving,” she said. Grimm said the financial team also reviews all nondiscretionary spending, such as retirement, Medicare tax, health care, etc.

Insurance costs

This year’s budget will see a health care cost increase of just 3.51% over last year, even with a reduction in the amount employees pay in, thanks to a lower than anticipated increase from the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (2.2%).

“We went back to the Board of Selectmen and asked for consideration for 70/30. We looked at surrounding communities outside of Spencer; everybody was at that level or even higher,” she said. “When we incorporated that in, our overall increase with the 2.2 and that change was 3.5%.”

Having the 70/30 split will help to retain employees, and also to make the town more competitive in attracting new employees, Grimm said.

Grimm said town’s blanket insurance increased by 15.4% overall, which also includes building insurance. She said she has started pricing out building and property insurance to get more competitive rates.

Operating budget

Grimm said the operating budget provides level services in most cases, and increases in others.

“The increase you’ll see; we are continuing to work on cybersecurity and IT platforms,” she said. This includes updating the town’s phone system and

several servers.

She said the budget includes the addition of mapping software for planning and land use departments, and funding the reserve funds.

Grimm said labor negotiations with the Fire Department were “very successful,” and the memorandum of agreement was supported by the Board of Selectmen. It will now go before the department for a ratification vote.

“The budget sustains – we anticipated some numbers in there so it will not have a negative impact on these budget numbers if that contract is ratified,” she said.

Grimm thanked the labor union for having amicable discussions and solid negotiations.

She said the budget requests for both the Burgess and Tantasqua schools were both reasonable, with limited budgetary increases to maintain the town’s quality education system.

Departmental budget changes

Grimm said there are some key departmental changes for the FY 25 budget, including reducing the hours of a pool administrator position from 35 hours to 15 hours. The position was created last year, but it has since been determined that there isn’t a need for it to be full-time.

“Overall, there’s a pretty decent savings on that, and I think we can get what we need out of that position now with 15 hours,” she said.

There is a presidential election occurring in the next fiscal year, which is reflected in the Town Clerk’s budget.

Grimm said the Department of Public Works has included a diesel tank rental in the budget, due to the need to remove an underground storage tank.

The landfill is also seeing an increase in the cost of disposal and trucking.

Grimm said there is also an increase in the budget for Summer Recreation Help to account for appropriate coverage per the number of children.

She said there are changes to central purchasing, including an increase in the electricity line for town buildings and the reduction of the library’s propane budget down to zero following the completion of the new electric HVAC system.

New betterment requests from departments include purchases of a stand-on blower, deck ride mower, zero turn mower, water rescue equipment, Little League scoreboard and a dual axle trailer.

Grimm said overall, the budget seems to go up a lot, but that includes over \$1 million for the Senior Center project.

“So, you have to calculate the debt exclusion, even though it doesn’t impact the operating budget expenditure line items,” she said.

Capital purchases

Grimm said the Capital Committee reviewed a number of capital purchase requests, including a fire truck, utility response vehicle for the Fire Department, police command vehicle, DPW mid-size and smaller dump trucks, DPW roadside brush mower, IT Nutanix upgrade (for Town Hall and Public Safety servers) and IT phone system upgrade.

She said a lot of these could be purchased with free cash or through borrowing.

“We decided this year, given the fact that we have a significant amount of free cash...it’s wise to spend it,” she said, rather than borrow and pay interest.

She said the current free cash balance is \$7,744,556 and the proposed capital purchases total \$3,116,329.

Grimm said some of the larger vehicles have a two-year wait time to receive, and it would be less costly to purchase them now since the cost of these vehicles is not decreasing.

“The problem is, if we wait until next year, we don’t know what the prices are and that’s going to be another two years beyond that, likely,” she said, before the town would receive the vehicles.

Budget compared to last year

Grimm said overall, the municipal budget will increase by 6.3%. Without the \$1.1 million debt exclusion for the Senior Center, the increase would be 3.6%.

“That 3.6 when we account for it, left us with an excess levy capacity of \$12,870 to basically, effectively, have a balanced budget,” she said.

The overall increase for FY 24 was 5% and FY 23 was 7.25%.

Grimm asked anyone with questions about the FY 25 budget to stop by her office at Town Hall, call her at 508-347-2500, email her at rgrimm@sturbridge.gov or message her on the Sturbridge Town Administrator Facebook page.

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- community -

PROGRAM | FROM PAGE 1

you to choose some products for your plan," Cappadona said.

Cappadona and Allard said once the DPU has the town's selected products, it will issue an order within a couple of months.

"Probably one or two months," Allard said.

Cappadona explained the various products that ranged from basic service (similar to National Grid) at the lowest price, to products that use more renewable energy, and the "opt out" product.

Two of the products before the board included Option 1, which has about 5-50% more renewable energy than basic service and would provide more economical cost for those wanting renewable energy.

Option 2 has a lower rate, but less renewable energy. Option 2 also gives residents the ability to "opt in" for more renewable energy than the standard product.

Allard said the aggregation is only for electrical supply, National Grid would still provide delivery.

"This would just have a town program with consumer protections in it, that the town would have an available rate that folks would be automatically moved to," she said.

Allard and Cappadona said residents can move back and forth between suppliers without penalty.

The board selected Option 2 because it offered more options to residents.

Regional public health agreement

Board of Selectmen Chair Jason Petraitis said the Leicester Regional Public Health Coalition has an intermunicipal agreement for the Public Health Excellence for Shared Services grant. This agreement includes the towns of Leicester, Holden, Oakham, Barre, Hardwick, New Braintree, Brookfield and North Brookfield.

He said the agreement has been looked over and approved by town

counsel, and he read from the agreement:

"The purpose of the grant is to implement the recommendations made in that report [June 2019, Special Commission on Local and Regional Public Health] by increasing local public health capacity through cross-jurisdictional shared services, programs and agreements."

The intermunicipal agreement will expire when grant funds are no longer available, or when terminated. The agreement will not exceed 25 years unless permitted by statute.

The board voted to accept the grant services.

"Leicester will provide a shared services coordinator, regional administrative assistant, regional health inspector, an epidemiologist, and a public health nursing services," Petraitis said.

Soil sampling

The board signed an access and consent agreement to enter property in order to conduct soil sampling at the site of the former asbestos manufacturer, Aztec Industries, Inc. located at 14 South Common St.

The agreement also includes access to the town's adjacent property located at 10 Grove St.

The town has expressed interest in redeveloping both properties for public use and the Department of Environmental Protection wants to evaluate the potential risk of asbestos exposure to public health.

Parks & Recreation Committee Chair Brandon Avery said this is the first step to making the property usable, which could potentially include extending the rail trail through the property to bring access to the common, as well as other passive recreation.

Avery said the East Quabbin Land Trust is helping with grant applications for the project.

Hiring freeze

Petraitis said the town is looking at a

\$1.6 million deficit going into the next fiscal year. He said one of things they are considering is a hiring freeze, outside of necessary personnel.

Vice-Chair Elizabeth "Brooke" Canada agreed that it would be a good idea.

The board approved a hiring freeze for all new positions. Any existing positions that need to be filled will require the approval of the Board of Selectmen.

Letter for CMRPC

The board signed a letter of support for Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission, to apply for the Massachusetts Broadband Institute's Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program. This program could address digital disparities and promote access to technology for all residents, including low income and senior citizens.

The letter stated in part: "We believe that ensuring digital equity is crucial to bridging any existing gaps in access to information and services. As a small town with a strong sense of community, we understand the importance of providing individuals with the tools and resources they need to succeed in today's digital age. Through this planning effort, we can develop strategic initiatives to expand broadband infrastructure, increase digital literacy and promote affordable access to technology resources in North Brookfield."

Mount Pleasant Street project

Petraitis said the low bidder for the Mount Pleasant Street Phase 1 construction was Peter Amorello Construction & Demolition, Inc. for \$397,515. This project is funded by a Community Development Block Grant.

Fire Department reports

Chief Darin Anderson read the Fire Department's reports for December through February.

He said the department responded to 16 calls for the month of December, which included one mutual aid structure fire, four medical assists, one motor vehicle accident without injuries, two

carbon monoxide incidents, four false alarms, one system malfunction, one sprinkler activation due to malfunction, one smoke detector activation due to malfunction and one unintentional smoke detector activation

Anderson said brings the total number of calls for 2023 to 275.

He said this year is off to a busy start, with 34 calls for the month of January. This includes one chimney fire, six medical assists, three motor vehicle accidents with injuries, five motor vehicle accidents without injuries, one oil/combustible liquid spill, one electrical wiring/equipment problem, one threat to burn, two water problems, one good intent call, one false alarm, two sprinkler activations due to malfunction, four smoke detector activations due to malfunction, one unintentional transmission of alarm, three smoke detector activations (no fire) and two CO activations (no CO).

Anderson said the department also conducted 15 permits and inspections that month.

February had 30 calls, including one mutual aid structure fire, one chimney fire, nine medical assists, one motor vehicle accident with injuries, four motor accidents without injuries, one water leak, one animal rescue, two assist other agencies, one mutual aid/cover assignment, two smoke scares, one false alarm, three smoke detector activations due to malfunction, two CO detector activations due to malfunction and one smoke detector activation (no fire).

The department conducted 20 permits and inspections as well.

Parks & Rec. survey

Avery said the Parks & Recreation Committee received a strong response to a recent survey, including over 170 online responses and about 35 written responses.

"I would like to just thank everybody for their participation," he said.

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- public safety -

East Brookfield Police Log

During the week of April 1-14, the East Brookfield Police Department responded to 390 building/property checks, 219 directed area patrols, 16 traffic controls, 17 radar assignments, 12 emergency 911 calls, five complaints, five citizen assists, one assist other agency, four investigations, one trespass, 11 safety hazards, four motor vehicle accidents, one larceny/theft/shoplifting, one scam, one fraud, one animal call and 114 motor vehicle stops in the town of East Brookfield.

Monday, April 1

2:38 p.m. Safety Hazard, East Main Street, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 4:27 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Lashaway Drive, Transported to Hospital
 6:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Harrington Street, Citation Issued
 9:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 9:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 10:09 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 10:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

Tuesday, April 2

9:23 a.m. Trespass, East Main Street, Report Taken
 12 p.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Spoken To
 12:43 p.m. Investigation, West Main Street, Investigated
 2:27 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Unknown Location, Spoken To
 4:20 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency,

Lashaway Drive, Transported to Hospital

Wednesday, April 3

5:12 a.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, West Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 4:20 p.m. Investigation, Podunk Road, Services Rendered
 6:06 p.m. Investigation, East Main Street, Investigated
 7:40 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, Route 49, Services Rendered
 7:49 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, Route 40, Merge
 10:21 p.m. Safety Hazard, West Main Street, Services Rendered

Thursday, April 4

6:32 a.m. 911 Safety Hazard, Harrington Street, Removed Hazard
 6:32 a.m. Safety Hazard, Faith Drive, Merge
 6:57 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Howe Street, Report Taken
 7:04 a.m. Safety Hazard, Flagg Road, Removed Hazard
 7:10 a.m. Safety Hazard, North Brookfield Road, Removed Hazard
 7:17 a.m. Safety Hazard, East Main Street, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 7:06 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Mechanic Street, Citation Issued

Friday, April 5

5:15 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 9:35 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, West Main Street, Transported to Hospital

10:45 a.m. Complaint, East Main Street, Officer Handled
 12:43 p.m. 911 Misdial, East Main Street, False Alarm
 1:45 p.m. Assist Citizen, Unknown Location, Officer Handled
 2:53 p.m. Radar, Harrington Street, Written Warning
 3:06 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Harrington Street, Citation Issued

Saturday, April 6

8:41 a.m. 911 Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, East Main Street, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 9:17 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, West Main Street, Spoken To
 10:17 a.m. 911 Larceny/Theft/Shoplifting, Harrington Street, Report Taken
 2:52 p.m. Safety Hazard, Baker Hill Road, Removed Hazard
 3:59 p.m. Investigation, West Main Street, Services Rendered
 4:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 6:20 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Summons Issued

Sunday, April 7

11:23 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Park Street, Transported to Hospital

Monday, April 8

6:50 a.m. Safety Hazard, East Main Street, Dispatch Handled
 10:53 a.m. Assist Citizen, Tarbell Drive, Dispatch Handled
 3:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 3:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 3:57 p.m. Parking Complaint, Connie Mack Drive, Spoken To
 3:58 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 4:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation Issued
 4:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasant Street, Citation Issued
 4:36 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasant Street, Citation Issued
 4:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Podunk Road, Citation Issued

Tuesday, April 9

9:07 a.m. Scam, Unknown Location, Officer Handled
 9:37 a.m. Serve Warrant, Tarbell Drive, Arrest(s) Made
 3:02 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 3:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 3:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 3:58 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation Issued
 4:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 4:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued
 4:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation Issued
 5:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Route 49, Citation Issued
 5:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Podunk Road, Citation Issued

Wednesday, April 10

9 a.m. Fraud, Connie Mack Drive, Report Taken
 6:45 p.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, West Main Street, Investigated
 10:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 10:27 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

Thursday, April 11

7:19 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

7:26 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 7:52 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 8:01 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 8:12 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Written Warning
 8:46 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 9:17 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 9:30 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasant Street, Citation Issued
 9:59 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Route 49, Citation Issued
 10:25 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Shore Road, Citation Issued
 10:45 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Route 40, Citation Issued
 10:56 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Route 49, Citation Issued
 3:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 3:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 3:26 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 3:36 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 3:58 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation Issued
 4:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 4:41 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Mechanic Street, Citation Issued
 10:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Route 49, Citation Issued

Friday, April 12

7 a.m. Safety Hazard, East Main Street, Officer Handled
 7:04 a.m. 911 Safety Hazard, Red Gable Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 7:12 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 7:42 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 7:54 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Street, Citation Issued
 8:09 a.m. 911 Safety Hazard, East Main Street, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 8:11 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 8:13 a.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Officer Handled
 8:29 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 9:01 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Mechanic Street, Citation Issued
 9:35 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 10:12 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 10:55 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 7:16 p.m. 911 Suspicious Activity, East Main Street, Spoken To
 7:37 p.m. Medical Emergency, Podunk Road, Transported to Hospital
 10:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Written Warning

Saturday, April 13

2:20 p.m. 911 Fire/Other, West Main Street, Investigated
 5:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Mechanic Street, Citation Issued
 7:26 p.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Rice Road, Spoken To

Sunday, April 14

9:30 a.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Officer Handled
 11:54 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Mechanic Street, Written Warning
 11:55 a.m. 911 Misdial, Mechanic Street, Spoken To
 2:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation Issued

Send Us Your Community Summer Events

Turley Publications will print your Summer event FREE OF CHARGE in our Summer Fest Supplement which will be published May 22, 2024. Total circulation of 85,000 which reaches over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley. Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

FREE Calendar Listings Reaching over 200,000 Readers in the Pioneer Valley

Event Name _____

Date/Time _____


Location _____

Description _____

Cost _____

Contact name & phone number for more information _____

Please specify if you would like your name and number printed in the paper.



Deadline for Calendar submissions is April 22.

MAIL YOUR LISTING INFORMATION TO: Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or email* them to: jamie@turley.com *Be sure to indicate "Summer Event" in the subject line of your email.

- public safety -

New Braintree Police Log

During the week of April 8-15, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 11 building/property checks, 42 directed/area patrols, six traffic controls, three radar assignments, one emergency 911 call, three citizen assists, one assist other agency, two safety hazards, one complaint, one motor vehicle investigation and two motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

Monday, April 8

12:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Cemetery Road, Investigated

Tuesday, April 9

2:25 a.m. Safety Hazard, Barre Cut Off Road, Officer Handled
 1:23 p.m. Assist Citizen, Unitas Road, Officer Handled
 5:49 p.m. Assist Citizen, Unitas Road, Officer Handled

Wednesday, April 10

4:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gilbertville Road, Citation Issued

Friday, April 12

2:58 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Unitas

Road, Transported to Hospital

Saturday, April 13

2:32 p.m. Safety Hazard, West Road, Investigated
 4:10 p.m. Assist Other Agency, West Road, Dispatch Handled

Sunday, April 14

3:53 p.m. Complaint, Barre Road, Dispatch Handled
 5:50 p.m. Assist Citizen, Unitas Road, No Action Required

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FOR SALE

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

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STUDY | FROM PAGE 1

ment Committee was formed and comprised of both district's school committees, a selectman from each town, and parents.

If North Brookfield were included in the regional school district, the amount received from the state per student would significantly increase.

"We would get a greater amount of foundation money because North Brookfield would be part of our region," Duff said. "You get extra money for regionalizing."

Duff said right now, North Brookfield is a municipal school district and doesn't qualify for transportation reimbursement like a regional school district does.

"So, for North Brookfield, the benefit to them, regionalizing with Quaboag is one, they're going to get their transportation reimbursement; two, the enrollment at North Brookfield High School is very low," he said.

He said the senior class has 23 students, and less in lower grade levels. Last year's graduating class had just over a dozen students.

"North Brookfield's enrollment at the middle and high school level is decreasing significantly," he said.

"So, students don't have the same opportunities that they have, say at Quaboag."

Duff said the proposed regional agreement has not been approved by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the most recent draft of the agreement was returned to the committee with revisions.

"There's a lot of factors that still need to be put into place," Duff said.

The next step is getting approval from DESE, then each school committee will vote on whether or not to continue moving forward. Duff said both committees need to vote in favor before it goes to a town meeting vote.

Duff said all three towns would need to vote in favor of regionalizing if the vote goes to town meeting. Duff said he didn't expect the vote to reach town meeting in the near future.

"We're not even at a point where the school committee can vote on it until we have an approved regional agreement through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education," he said.

Comedy and Jazz night comes to Great Hall

WEST BROOKFIELD – Two comedians will perform on Saturday, May 4 at 7 p.m. in the Great Hall in the West Brookfield Town Hall.

"The Conversation," a jazz trio from the Worcester area of professional musicians will perform a set of music - many jazz standards - bookended by the comedians' sets.

The event is another West Brookfield Cultural Council sponsored event, and the nominal admission fee will go to support the "Friends of the Merriam Gilbert Library" and the additional library programming they fund.

Comedian Joni Grassey started her comedy career in Atlanta at the famed Punchline Comedy Club. After touring the country for several years, she made the move to Nevada with her husband Rod where she quickly settled into life on the fabulous Las Vegas Strip working at Catch A Rising Star, the Comedy Stop at the Trop and the Improv comedy clubs.

Grassey was the featured comic in Fun-

niest Females at O'Shea's, hosted at Caesar's Magical Empire and appeared as a special guest in numerous production shows.

Michael Paskevich of the Las Vegas Review Journal called her "a quality Vegas mainstay."

After 25 years, she packed up her sequined jackets to move back to the area with her son Joseph.

She now performs throughout New England at clubs, private shows and fundraising events, and has gleefully shared the stage with Lenny Clarke, Steve Sweeney, and Ken Rogerson, among others.

Comedian Mitch Stinson is a former aircraft-carrier aviator for the U.S. Navy who, as a pilot, made over 200 carrier landings during his 10 year military career. Stinson has risen through the comedy ranks in the northeast U.S.

by virtue of his original material that offers unique insight into the transition from hot-shot Navy pilot to everyday civilian life... resonating with comedy crowds everywhere.



Mitch Stinson SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Joni Grassey

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2024 Seasonal Employment

Warren Parks & Rec. Dept. is accepting applications for Seasonal Positions including:
Lifeguard, Recreation Supervisor, and Counselors.

Job description and applications available online at **www.warren-ma.gov** or at Town Clerk's Office.

Mail applications to:
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WEST BROOKFIELD
Comedy/jazz night May 4
p19

STURBRIDGE
Sturbridge in the
Civil War p7

EAST BROOKFIELD
Meet the candidates
p3

Editorial/Opinion **4**
Sports **11**
Police Logs **16**
Classifieds **18**

Volume 17, Number 21

Friday, April 19, 2024

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