



QUABOAG CURRENT

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Quaboag Current
Newspaper

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Volume 16, Number 24

Friday, April 28, 2023

Chowder crew readies for 'soup's on' time

Asparagus chowder available on Church's lawn during Festival



Shown are some of the crew members responsible for cooking and serving asparagus chowder at the Asparagus and Flower Heritage Festival. From left are Wally Hall, Terry Hall, Karen Murphy, Mike Murphy, Linda Barron and JoAnn Bakulski. This year the chowder will be served on the lawn of the First Congregational Church of West Brookfield.

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WEST BROOKFIELD – For over 20 years, the kitchen crew at the First Congregational Church of West Brookfield, 36 North Main St., has been

serving up a well-guarded recipe that's only available for one brief day a year.

Crew member Terry Hall said the Church has been making its signature asparagus chowder, "since the beginning of time."

The recipe, which is an origi-

inal created by the late Sandra Plumb, is written down somewhere, but nobody knows the whole recipe.

"I have a copy, but it's secret," Wally Hall said with a laugh.

While the kitchen crew might not know the whole

recipe, they do know that the chowder is a sell-out hit every year at the town's annual Asparagus and Flower Heritage Festival.

In fact, the Church's chowder has always been part of West Brookfield's event cele-

See **FESTIVAL** | **PAGE 12**

Forum introduces candidates for selectmen's seat

By Dallas Gagnon
Staff Writer
Dgagon@turley.com

WEST BROOKFIELD – Two candidates are vying for a vacancy on the Board of Selectmen at the May 2 annual town election.

Candidates Stephen Piechotta and Brad Merkel were asked a series of questions at a forum last Thursday evening, which were prepared by townspeople and local government.

These questions were chosen with the purpose of further informing residents where each candidate stands on issues that directly affect their town.

Candidates were asked how they would encourage new businesses while preserving a small-town atmosphere, address the town's aging infrastructure and cable TV access, if elected selectman.

Both candidates provided a statement about who they are, why they are running and what they would do to help improve town government.

Merkel is a law enforcement officer with 10 years' experi-

See **SELECTMEN** | **PAGE 12**

C4R Watershed Council holds kick-off meeting

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

PALMER – The Chicopee 4Rivers Watershed Council held its spring kick-off meeting, highlighting the work that's been done since it was formed almost 10 years ago, and plans going forward.

River enthusiasts from the

See **C4R** | **PAGE 11**



Quabbin Visitor Center renaming honors Campbells

Dedication ceremony
will be held June 4

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – At the close of last year, efforts to rename the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Quabbin Visitor Center were successful

Now, the Visitor Center is named in memory of two peo-

See **CENTER** | **PAGE 1**



Shown from left are Paul Godfrey, Anne Ely and Mark Lindhult standing next to a poster Lindhult made using photos of Les and Terry Campbell, and some of Les' photos of the Quabbin Reservoir. (TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY PAULA OUIMETTE)



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- community -

Quabbin Community Band warms up for 2023 season

BARRE – The Quabbin Community Band will be starting its 2023 season under the direction of Margaret Reidy with the first rehearsal on Monday, May 1 at the Barre Town Hall, corner of Exchange and Mechanic streets.

Rehearsals run from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Band musicians from 12 years of age to 90 are welcome to participate.

Rehearsals continue every Monday night through Aug. 7 with the exception of Monday, May 29.

The Quabbin Community Band will perform in the Memorial Day Parade on Barre Common on Monday, May 29 at 11 a.m. Please assemble at the corner of Park and Broad streets.

The first concert of the season will be held on Sunday, June 18 at 6 p.m. at the South Barre Common.

The program for the first concert is as follows: “The Star-Spangled Banner”, “Alamo March”, “Great Expectations Overture”, “Irish Tune”, “Amparita Roca”, “Lazy River”, “Kentucky 1800”, “Comedian’s Gallop”, “Blue Goose Rag”, “House of the Rising Sun”, “Jazz Pizzicato”, “Salute to the University of MA”, “Phantom of the Opera”, and “Instant Concert”.

Concerts will be held every Sunday through Aug. 13. The first four concerts will take place at the South Barre Common and the last five at the Barre Common

An additional concert will be held in Oakham on Thursday, July 13.

This is a summer band, so although it is fantastic if people can make every rehearsal and every concert, vacations and other responsibilities intervene and musicians should come when they can.

Always bring a music stand to rehearsals and concerts.

This year the Quabbin Community Band will be operating under its present name for 50 years. Come and celebrate with the band on Sunday, Aug. 6 for a special reunion concert.

For more information, people may contact band President, Julie Rawson by emailing julie@mhof.net; or calling 978-257-1192.

Musicians of all levels are encouraged to attend. Someone next to you will provide a helping hand when needed.



Quabbin Community starts rehearsals for 2023 season on Monday, May 1. Musicians of all levels are welcome. (COURTESY PHOTO)

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- community -

Evan Couture performs in orchestra pit at WSU

WORCESTER – Worcester State University’s Visual and Performing Arts Department featured guitar solos and improvisations by Brookfield native Evan Couture (Class of 2023) at Worcester State Jazz’s concert on April 27 in the Blue Lounge of the WSU Student Center.

The first three works in the jazz program, “Summertime” by George Gershwin, “Riviera Paradise” by Steve Ray Vaughan, and “Stormy Monday” by T-Bone Walker, showcased Couture’s guitar performances as part of his “senior capstone” project.

Couture’s presentation of “Stormy Monday” also featured performances by VPA major Simon Abdal-Khabir (Class of 2024) on drums, Barry O’Toole on piano, and 2022 VPA major and alum Julian Wagner on bass.

Following the three works, Worcester State Jazz’s ensemble of 21 musicians under the direction of VPA Music Professor Jeremy Cohen performed five additional pieces that showcased the wonderful versatility of jazz.

In addition to Couture’s jazz concert performance, the VPA major with a minor in music is performing on guitar in the orchestra pit for Worcester State Theatre’s upcoming presentation of “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee”, a delightfully funny, Tony-award winning musical with music and lyrics by William Finn and book by Rachel Sheinkin.

The show opens on April 27 in Fuller Theater, located on the second floor of the Administration Building, and continues on Friday, April 28 and Saturday, April 29 at 7:30 p.m. before concluding on Sunday,

April 30 with a 2 p.m. matinee.

Tickets for the musical are \$7 for students, \$10 for seniors, and \$15 for general admission.

To purchase tickets online for the show, visit worcester.edu/VPABoxOffice. To purchase tickets in person, visit the Worcester State Student Center Information Desk or contact the VPA Box Office at 508-929-8843 or VPABoxOffice@worcester.edu.

Tickets will also be available at the door.

“The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee” is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International. All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com

About the Visual and Performing Arts Department

The Worcester State Visual and Performing Arts Department offers interdisciplinary and specialized artistic education that prepares students for professional lives in the arts. Its educational spaces encompass the Fuller Theater, practice rooms for music, and art studios at the University’s Sagamore Studios.

VPA students gain in-depth knowledge of their preferred art form - art, music, or theatre - plus an understanding of what the arts have in common, and how they are performed and exhibited in the real world.

Learn more at www.worcester.edu/VPA or connect with VPA on social media: Facebook/VPAatWorcesterState, Twitter and Instagram @WSUVPA. Follow our blog, The Artful Lancer, at WSUVPA.wordpress.com or subscribe to our YouTube channel, search WSU VPA.



Brookfield’s Evan Couture will perform guitar improvisations at Worcester State Jazz concert as part of his “senior capstone” work. In addition, Couture serves as the guitarist in the Orchestra Pit for Worcester State Theatre’s presentation of “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee” on April 27-30. (COURTESY PHOTO)

Bluegrass gospel service is April 30

WEST BROOKFIELD – The George Whitefield United Methodist Church, 33 West Main St., will have a bluegrass gospel service on Sunday, April 30 at 10 a.m.

All are welcome to attend.



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Grade 1.....	2
Grade 2	2
Grade 3	2
Grade 6	4
Grade 7	10
Grade 9	5
Grade 10.....	15
Grade 11	12
Grade 12.....	15

The School Choice application can be downloaded at www.wareps.org or picked up at Central Office
239 West Street, Ware, MA 01082

Deadline to submit applications is
May 11, 2023

The selection of non-resident students for admission will be in the form of a random drawing, when the number of requests exceed the number of available spaces.
The drawing, if needed, will take place on May 12, 2023.

The Ware Public School District strives to work with parents and the wider community to educate all students in an environment that supports high academic achievement, instills respect and fosters civic responsibility. We believe that the ultimate goal of education is to support students as successful lifelong learners.

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This advanced course for direct healthcare workers consists of academic and interactive, hands-on coursework. Foundational competency skills will be taught along with Healthcare Professionalism, Common Chronic Diseases, Patient-Caretaker Skills in a simulated home-care setting, Emergency Communication Procedures and two courses that lead to national certification: CPR/AED and Supportive Aide for Alzheimer’s and Dementia. After taking this course, students can apply for their license to be eligible to work as a CNA.

WORK-BASED LEARNING

This opportunity allows juniors and seniors to enter an unpaid, educational work experience with an individual, company, or community organization. The purpose of the Work Based Learning Experience is to gain meaningful work skills and practices as related to the student’s future career interests.

DUAL ENROLLMENT

The Dual Enrollment Program allows juniors and seniors the opportunity to earn academic credit at both the college and high school level simultaneously. Dual Enrollment students enjoy the connection to their high school as well as the challenging and independent setting of the college.

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To learn more about the programs offered at WJSHS, visit:
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Garden Lady questions for a rainy Sunday

I received a pruning question from a reader as a follow-up to my recent article on the subject of what to prune when in terms of spring flowering bushes.

The question was directly related to pruning a white magnolia bush. Without knowing the species exactly, I would venture to guess that because it is white the question relates to *Magnolia stellata*, or the Star Magnolia and not it's cousin, the large pinkish-purple flowered Saucer Magnolia.

The Star Magnolia is a shrub or small tree that is highly adaptable to various soils and heat/cold conditions spanning from Maine to Georgia, to Minnesota and even the West Coast.

Fragrant flowers are 3-5-inches wide and typically made up of 12-18 tepals (a term for petals and sepals together) but depending on which cultivar or variety chosen, there may be upwards of 30-50 of these per flower.

What makes this bush extra showy (if double flowers weren't enough!) is that it blooms prior to leaf break, and the flowers show up beautifully against smooth gray bark.

Because it can stay in bloom long - if conditions are right, almost three weeks, sometimes there is an overlap of unfurling leaves alongside flowers.

It's a beauty alright.

Sometimes a heat wave, then a cold wave can turn the flowers to mush overnight, but it is a chance we gardeners take. This year the show is a glorious one, indeed.

Our reader wrote in that his Magnolia has suffered some damage in the late snowstorm we had. Branches were bent and broken and some corrective pruning needed to happen, but when? Typically, regular pruning would take place after flowering so as not to compromise upcoming blooms, but this type of pruning can be accomplished as needed to prevent further injury.

Prune back to limbs that show no sign of injury.

Regular training of the tree should be done within the first five years - magnolias are notoriously slow healers; so bigger cuts could take a long time to heal.

Thank you for your question. I hope this helps.

The following question came from Marvin, who is wondering how to acclimatize overwintered geraniums back into the garden.

"I potted some geraniums from the garden last fall and took them into the house. They have been blooming since late February and bring sunshine and joy to the room!!! I would like to put them back into the garden this spring. What steps do I need to take to make this transition successful? Cut them back? etc."

Yay! I am so happy that you had success with your geraniums.

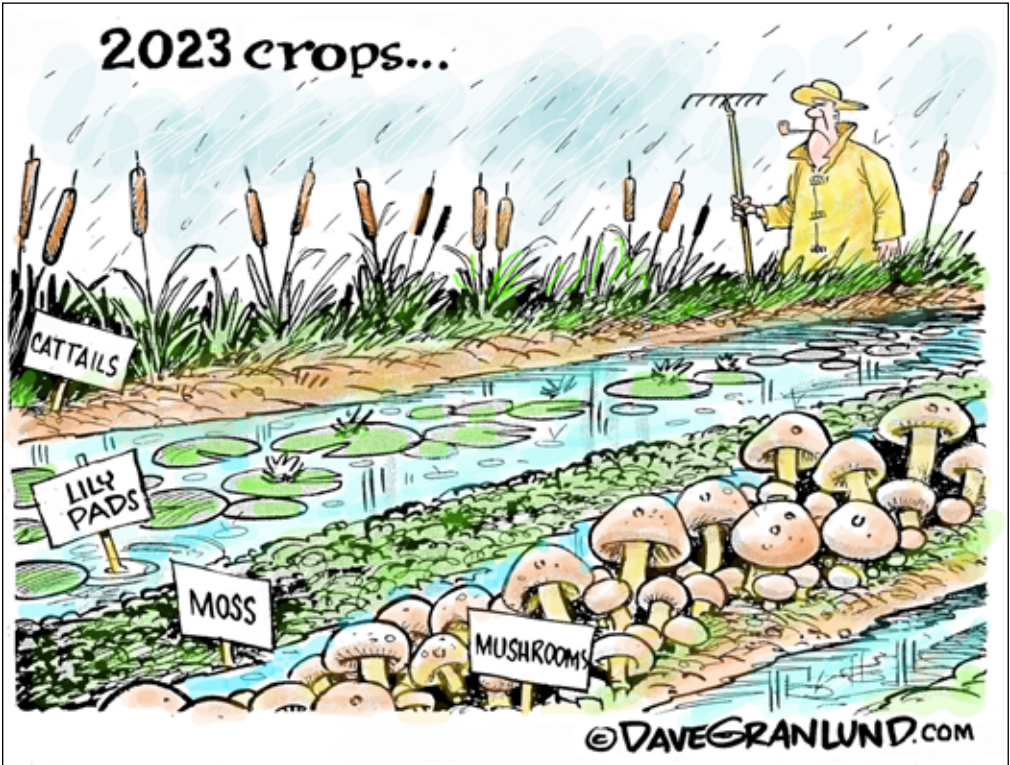
Like you, I have been doing this same process for a few years now and agree with you that they do indeed add "sunshine and joy" to our indoor spaces at a time when we need it.

You are smart to think about the transition back into the garden. If you were to simply move them outside on the first nice day, no doubt you'd be met with disappointment.

First off, I would gradually start reducing the amount of fertilizer you are giving them,

See GARDEN | PAGE 5

- opinion -



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Resident stands behind Board's decision on drag show

On Friday April 21, media outlets reported on the Board of Selectmen reversing their decision to allow drag performances at the upcoming Pride event.

In one such report, the opening story sentence was from the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts in essence saying the North Brookfield Board of Selectmen made a wrong decision. Comments like this create a negative tone for the reader before they even get to the reported story.

As a former member of the Board, I strongly concur with their decision not to have a drag presentation as part of the pride day activities.

While the ACLU says that "drag is a creative celebration of LGBTQ+ culture" for many it is considered "adult" entertainment and not family oriented as the Selectmen rightly believe. The ACLU continues to state that "the government has no right to censor LGBTQ+ people and expression."

In this they are correct, and its application would be to any organization. However, the government does have the responsibility to consider the well-being of its entire population when making community-relevant decisions and not solely the minority.

Based on this, the Selectmen exercised prudent judgment in its decision-making process.

James J. Foyle
North Brookfield

Pride festival supporter defends drag shows

When my son was a child, I frequently took him to the local spring pride celebration, in part to show support for our lesbian family members, and in part to simply broaden his outlook.

Drag performances have been part of the event for decades. Unlike at the strip club up the highway, everyone kept their clothes on, and most would be hard put to find anything either "vulgar" or "rude" about the performances.

I can now definitively report that, due to his early exposure, my now-adult son did not grow up to be either gay, or a drag queen - not that either identity would be problematic - but he did grow up to be a kind, thoughtful man with an understanding of the challenges faced by marginalized groups such as the LBGTQ+ community.

I urge the town officials of North Brookfield to reconsider their recent ban on drag shows at the upcoming pride celebration. Although a drag performance is clearly not everyone's cup of tea, it is hard to see how they pose any danger to our youth.

Nancy Grossman
Leverett

Town clerk lists election information

NEW BRAINTREE – The Annual Town Election will take place on Monday, May 1 from noon-8 p.m. in the New Braintree Town Hall, 20 Memorial Drive.

Offices up for election, and the candidates who have taken out papers are as follows: Select Board for three years: Dennis Letendre, Jr. and Randall Walker; Treasurer for three years Janet Pierce, incumbent;

Town Clerk for three years Jessica Bennett, incumbent; Assessor for three years Claire Reavey, incumbent and Assessor for one year to fill a vacancy, Shelby Pollard.

Other offices include: Auditor for three years Renee Gregoire; Finance Committee for three years, Amie Lefevre; Board of Health for three years Paul Thompson, incumbent; Moderator for three years Jeffrey Howland, incumbent; Constable for three years Susie Mulliken, incumbent; Quabbin Regional School District Committee for three years Peggy Thompson, incumbent; Constable for one year Rory Fitzgerald and two seats for Library Trustee for three years; Marjorie Wissiup, incumbent and Theresa Langelier.

Cemetery Commissioner for three years and Planning Board for five years are vacant on the ballot.

People may call Jessica Bennett Town Clerk at 508-867-2071, extension 102 or email townclerk@newbraintree.org with any questions or concerns.

OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and guest columns between 500 and 800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.

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

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Quaboag Current Newspaper

Quabbin Middle School lists grades 7 and 8 honor roll

BARRE – Quabbin Regional Middle School announces the third quarter honor roll for grades seven and eight.

Grade Seven, High Honors
Brent Benoit, Abraham Brown, Vivien Burch, Alianna Casey, Kaylee Correia, Samuel Feldman, Alison LaRoche, John Orsini, Stella Pears, Ellie Poulin, Kristen Schur, Ava Sobol, Benjamin Thompson and Erin Trottier.

Grade Seven, Honors
Haleigh Agurkis, Josephine Buck, Eleanor Carroll, Wyatt Clark, Brian Colleton, Aiden Crane, Adrien Cyr, Jake Doty, Olivia Drake, Aliyah Edouard, Andrew Erickson, Audrey Faucher, Sydney Freeman, Larrah Gagne, Daniella Gaudreault, Callahan Hardy, Samuel Jamieson, Ava Kinney, Matthew Labrousse, Emma Lindsey, Marcus McDonald, Kingston McKenzie, Lillian McKinstry, Max Melad, Audrey Niles, Anthony Noborini, Angelina Orr, Zion Parks, Aubrie Phelps, Moira Powers, Juliet Priestley, Veanna Salvatore, Carter Stevenson, Leah Thomasian, Noah Toupense, Akhai Tran, Catherine Tucker, Matthew VanScoy, Charlotte Wilder and Shane Woodruff.

Grade Eight, High Honors
Jacob Bassett, Madeleine Boisselle, Makenzie Casey, Kylie Cerezo, Sarah Churchill, Cameron Delamere, Kher-

ington Deschenes, Christopher Diaz, Lens Dorsainvil, Isabel Doty, Tess Dunphy, Alijah Flint, Steven Gagnon, Morgan George, Anna Hautala, Emma Hill, Jillian LaMontagne, Audrey Laursen, Nathan Marchand, Hannah Mellor, Anna Metalf, Autumn Nagle, Breann Parker, Ella Reeves, Andrew Rigney, Madeleine Scheeler, Lukas Tobin, Grace Vanoudenhove, Brendan Welch, Ellary White, Carlo Zolla and Leanna Zou.

Grade Eight, Honors
Alexa Araujo, Skyler Bard, Auguste Bellerose, Halo Bissonnette, Makala Boucher, Logan Bruley, Jayanna Cherry, Jacob Cogoli, James Cook, Melissa Cornelius, Benjamin Darcey, Oliver Doane, Owen Doolittle, Harry Egan, Quinlan Fauteux, Grace Flamand, Bryce Fleming, Jordan Greene, Jacoby Hartshorn, Ailey Majoy, Noah Mielt, Mia Miville, Jesse Newton, Kevin Njenga, Samantha O'Connor, Owen O'Donnell, Charlotte Oliver, Robyn Orne, Jaiden Ortiz, Madison Pedersen, Maya Putnam, Julia Quintal, Aubrey Reynolds, Arianna Riendeau, Emma Ryan, Kailynn Schuster, Sienna Shaw, Silver Spring, Emma Thompson, Gabriella Totas, Owen Twarog and Andrew Yeaman-Small.

Town-wide yard sale benefits rescue squad

WEST BROOKFIELD – The second annual spring town-wide yard sale will be held on Saturday, May 6 with a rain date of Sunday, May 7.

Maps will be available from May 1-6 for \$3.

This year, all proceeds go to the West Brookfield Rescue Squad, a nonprof-

it emergency service center that offers medical services to West Brookfield and surrounding towns. WBRS relies solely on donations to operate.

For more information, people may contact Jennifa by emailing w.brookfieldTWYS@gmail.com or calling 781-835-9785.

GARDEN | FROM PAGE 4

if any. We don't want a lot of tender new growth that could be susceptible to damage from the elements. Next, give the plants a good grooming. Lift up foliage to reveal any brown leaves or spent flowers and pinch these away.

Now comes shaping.

If the plants have grown lopsided prune them back to a good overall shape by cutting stems to right above a node (the place where the stems of the leaves attach). If you are happy, stop here and begin to harden them off.

I would try this beginning around Mother's Day Weekend barring there is no frost in the forecast. Find a sheltered spot (from wind and sun) and set them

outside for a few hours then bring them in for the night.

Gradually expose the plants to more and more sun until they are outside all day and night. The process should take a week to 10 days.

By following these steps, you will hopefully avoid sun scald and other issues. Best of luck to you!

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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MEMORIAL DAY
EDITION**


May 26, 2023

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QRSD Committee ratifies teacher contract

By Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

BARRE – The Quabbin Regional School District Committee, following an executive session to discuss collective bargaining at the beginning of the April 6 meeting, returned to open session to ratify the summary for the Quabbin Regional Teachers Association contract.

The new contract will run from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2026.

Student Advisory

Ella Reeves and Troy Budreau, both students at the Quabbin Regional Middle School, gave a report to the school committee.

Reeves said she was a school choice student at Quabbin, and her favorite subject was math.

She ran track and field and was on the swim team at the local YMCA. She said she was recently inducted into the National Junior Honor Society and was looking forward to the upcoming eighth grade trip to Washington, D.C.

Budreau, an honor student, said he played three sports: track, indoor track and golf. He also played baseball last year.

He said math was his favorite subject and he said the math department at Quabbin was one of the best.

Following their reports, School Committee members asked them questions.

In response to why she selected Quabbin, Reeves said it was academics and sports. When asked what needed improvement, Reeves said the high

school should offer more honors classes.

Budreau said it was an important need to be comfortable while learning and liked to listen to music with earbuds.

Superintendent’s report

Superintendent Sheila Muir said the new strategic plan would be ready for the May School Committee meeting.

She said the district received a \$60,000 school violence safety grant from the Department of Justice for the middle/high school only. It was one of 14 school districts in the state to receive funds, which will be used to hire a consultant to conduct a comprehensive review of the district’s safety plan and procedures.

Bids were due April 11 for the consultant.

Muir said the district would use rural school money to include all the district elementary schools and the Educational Support Center, which houses the district’s Central Office.

The Superintendent said she attended several meetings recently with various legislators.

She attended a Massachusetts Municipal Association meeting in western Massachusetts. Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll and State Auditor Diana DiZoglio spoke at the meeting along with state Sen. Joe Comfort and state Rep. Natalie Blais.

Muir said Lt. Governor Driscoll was “very aware” of the problems facing rural schools.

Topics of discussion included the

school funding formula; the Payment In Lieu of Taxes formula, which valued state land higher in urban areas such as Plymouth compared to state land in rural areas funds to both the schools and town government.

Muir said the meeting “sent the message the community was not alone.”

She also attended the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools with many of the districts with declining enrollment in attendance.

Director’s reports

Colleen Mucha said there were a lot of field trips happening at the elementary level including a trip to Nature’s Classroom at the end of May.

She said the district received a grant for \$300,000 over three years to focus on inclusion and co-teaching.

Once again, the Science Technology Engineering and Math Camp will be offered free again this summer at Ruggles Lane Elementary School and at the Quabbin Middle School. So far, over 100 students have shown interest in attending.

Joe Wyman said three students would be going to the Distributive Education Clubs of America from the district to a competition in Orlando, Florida for three days beginning April 22.

The school committee gave pre-approval for the trip and voted full approval at this meeting. They said they would like a report on the DECA Competition.

Kristin Campione said the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education found no areas of non-compli-

ance in special education. She also said she attended two unified track meets.

Andrew Walsh said new web page access would be done by the end of the month.

Cheryl Duval, Director of Administrative Services, said she applied for a Congressional District Grant for the chiller project replacement.

Greg Devine, Director of Guidance for External Partnerships said Worcester State University has a dual enrollment program with central Massachusetts high school students.

He said the Quabbin Post Grad students planned a town wide yard sale in New Braintree. They modeled it after similar town wide yard sales in neighboring towns.

Devine said the Credit for Life program sponsored by Country Bank was held and students from Leicester High School and Eagle Hill School also attended.

He said Roots at Gamma offered a non-traditional therapy program, which involved an hour per week at Roots farm animal rescue located in Gardner. Clients observe and interact with farm animals that included goats, pigs, ponies, donkeys, horses, geese, etc. and then to reflect on the animals’ behavior. The program provided transportation, but Muir said she hoped to possibly offer this program to students in need of this service and to find additional transportation funds for it.

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or email directly to ekennedy@turley.com



Sponsor a balloon and support Clowning For Kidz

WARREN – The Clowning For Kidz Foundation is an all-volunteer, interactive clown unit, established in 2008 in West Warren, for the sole purpose of providing aid to children-in-need under the age of 16 years.

The Clowning For Kidz Foundation raises its funding through the art of clowning.

Your dedication, name or business can be placed in a vinyl balloon on the Clowning For Kidz vehicle for a sponsorship of \$50 for a small balloon or a \$250 donation for a large balloon. The balloons are viewed by

spectators around New England.

If you are interested in sponsoring a balloon, please send your check to The Clowning For Kidz Foundation, P.O. Box 286, West Warren MA, 01092 and indicate in the memo how many balloons, the size and the text for each balloon.

The balloon donations are used to support the foundation's vehicle.

The Clowning For Kidz Foundation is anticipating a very active year as communities rally from the

pandemic. Local appearances for Clowning For Kidz are the Asparagus & Flower Heritage Festival on the West Brookfield Common on Saturday, May 3, and the foundation's Annual Car Show at the Ware High School on Saturday, Sept. 23.

If you would like to get involved or join The Clowning for Kidz Foundation, please email clowningforkidzfoundation@comcast.net for information about clown classes.

CENTER | FROM PAGE 1

ple who dedicated much of their lives to the Quabbin Reservoir, and were key in the creation of the Visitor Center.

The Visitor Center will now be called the Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center, and it will be dedicated in their memory at a ceremony on Sunday, June 4 at 1 p.m.

This honor comes two years after Les' death in 2020 at the age of 95. His wife Terry, died in 2007 at the age of 66.

"We've been working on this for two years," said Paul Godfrey, board member of the Friends of Quabbin, Inc., a nonprofit organization with over 300 members across the country.

Godfrey said the Friends, along with Pioneer Valley Photographic Artists and Quabbin Photo Group (photography clubs started by Les), contacted state representatives and senators to help them create a bill to rename the Visitor Center. Both state Sen. Anne Gobi and state Rep. Susannah Whipps were instrumental in bringing this to reality.

"They both pushed to get this through," Godfrey said.

As the end of the session neared, the groups were uncertain if their bill would become a law in time, especially as the world was dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.

On Dec. 28, 2022, the bill became law when Governor Charlie Baker put his signature on it.

It seems only natural to name the Visitor Center after the Campbells, as they both had a prominent role in making it what it is today.

Les was born in Ware and spent most of his life in Belchertown.

His involvement with the Quabbin Reservoir began when he was still in high school, and started working for the Metropolitan District Water Supply Commission in 1944 as a laborer.

After he graduated from Ware High School, Les became a Junior Civil Engineer.

He later went on to work in the Water Quality Laboratory upstairs in the Quabbin Administration Building where he stayed for 44 years, retiring in 1988.

Les was also an award-winning photographer, becoming nationally and internationally known for his wildlife photography.

"His photography came from his love of birds," said Anne Ely, board member of the Friends and member of both the PVP and Quabbin Photo Group.

Ely spoke about how Les would welcome photographers to his home and taught classes on how to matte and frame their photographs.

"There's a number of photographers in the Valley that now frame their work because Les taught that class," she said.

"He'd help any photographer," Godfrey added.

Les was also a pioneer in photography techniques including the innovative use of flash. He also developed lap dissolve multiprojector slide presentations.

"He had an international road show set to music," said Mark Lindhult. This show included the use of 12 projectors.

Lindhult is also a board member of the Friends group and a member of the photography clubs, and he remembered how warm and welcoming Les was to club members.

"The notion of a 'friendly critique'...it's really pervaded both photography groups," he said.

Ely and Lindhult said that while Les was responsible for many slide and photographic advancements, he never patented his work.

Ely said Les brought photography groups to the Quabbin Reservoir from all over the country, and he was instrumental in bringing the New England Camera Club Council to the University of Massachusetts in Amherst.

"He was very giving, his house was always open," she said.

Godfrey said Les was involved with the master plan committee at MDC in 1975 and he proposed the creation of the Visitor Center, which didn't immediately come to fruition.

By the 1980s, his proposal had piqued the interest

of MDC Commissioner William Geary and state Sen. Robert Wetmore.

"They liked the idea and between the two of them, they made it real," Godfrey said.

Les and Terry then formed the Friends group, comprised of a diverse group of people from around the region.

Terry quickly moved into the volunteer position of keeping the Visitor Center manned by a staff of Friends group volunteers for several years until she was hired as a Program Coordinator in 1988.

Terry started holding Tuesday Teas, a gathering for those displaced by the reservoir to talk about their feelings and get to know each other as they would have if they still lived in their original towns.

Tuesday Teas continue to be held the first Tuesday of each month at the Visitor Center.

Les amassed a large collection of photos taken of the towns lost to the Quabbin Reservoir, and he made stunning triptychs which are displayed in the Visitor Center.

These triptychs show views of the same place over time in a three-photo series, starting with photos taken by engineers before and during the construction of the reservoir, followed by a recent photo taken by Les.

"Everywhere you look, there's a Les or Terry touch," Godfrey said, gesturing around the Visitor Center.

Both Les and Terry were passionate about educating people about the Quabbin Reservoir, Godfrey said.

"There's so much more here than just water," he said.

The dedication ceremony will be held at the Visitor Center, 485 Ware Road, on Sunday, June 4 at 1 p.m. There will be guest speakers and refreshments.

A former student of Les' will be videotaping the ceremony.

Those wishing to attend need to register by May 12. People can register by visiting <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/8813b059a7d6416dad1cf461453a55c1>, calling the Visitor Center at 413-323-7221, emailing godfrey@umass.edu or mailing Paul Godfrey, 47 Harkness Road, Pelham, MA 01002.

When calling, emailing or mailing, please include your name, address, phone number, email, number of guests joining you, as well as any special needs you or your guests may have.

About Friends of Quabbin, Inc.

The Friends of Quabbin, Inc. is a nonprofit volunteer organization dedicated to protecting and enhancing public enjoyment and appreciation of the unique natural and historical resources of the Quabbin Reservoir.

Through annual membership dues and donations, the Friends are able to continue this work, as well as preserve key pieces of the landscape, including the Keystone Bridge in New Salem. The stone bridge has suffered damage and needs extensive repairs in order to be enjoyed for generations to come.

Donation forms are available on foquabbin.org and can be mailed along with checks made payable to "Friends of Quabbin, Inc" to Friends of Quabbin, Inc., 485 Ware Road, Belchertown, MA 01007.

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- community -

‘Trees are Treasures’ celebrates the forest on Earth Day

STURBRIDGE – On Earth Day, Grassroots Central Mass and Brookfields Fight Fear held their annual Trees are Treasures event at Wells State Park.

They brought 175 trees to give away, including sassafras albidum, serviceberry, swamp white oak and American hazelnut, and only had 13 left by the end of the day. They were all native trees and shrubs that were particularly helpful to pollinators, bees, butterflies and songbirds.

As many know, the songbird population in New England has gone down by one third and the bee and butterfly populations are struggling due to all the exotic plantings that are actually “junk food” for them and do not provide the nutrients of native plantings.

A walk along the Mill Pond Trail gave participants the opportunity to learn about healthy wetlands and the roles of beavers and muskrats. A presentation about stone walls explained how the popularity of wool correlated with the mysterious appearance of one of New England’s most recognizable features.

Trees are Treasures provided down-to-earth fun for the whole family, with many enthusiastic children doing nature-based crafts and games, including planting a pea seed to bring home, making butterflies and pretend binoculars, matching animals to their tracks and singing nature songs and listening to books about ecology.

Their parents and other adults learned about how to reduce their household’s carbon footprint and about a climate education bill for grades kindergarten-12 that is now in the Joint Committee on Education and needs more sponsors.

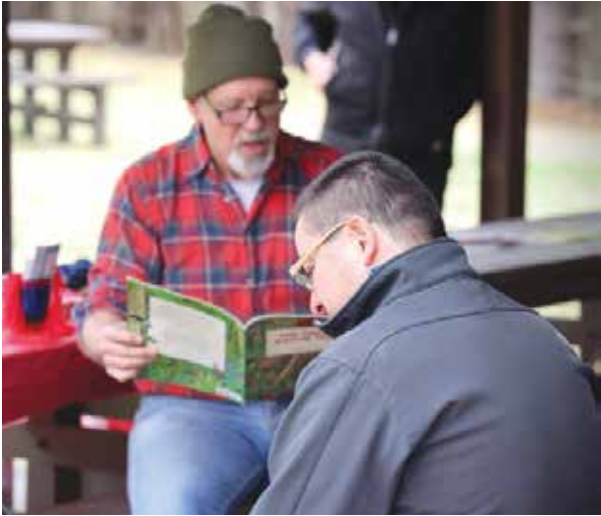
People also had the chance to learn about the sponsors of the event, Grassroots Central Mass., Brookfields Fight Fear and its umbrella organization, Indivisible MA Coalition.



All ages enjoyed this annual event to bring awareness to the world around us. (COURTESY PHOTOS BY JACKIE MUSHINSKY, SPENCER CABLE ACCESS)



Children made earth-based crafts.



Children enjoyed listening to books about ecology.



Participants at “Trees are Treasures” were able to take home free native trees.

Second Chance asks for help with injured puppy

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Second Chance Animal Services is caring for a sweet 8-month-old shelter pup who suffered serious trauma to his leg.

Natty came to Second Chance in great pain, enduring one of the most serious injuries a dog can face - a degloving injury to his leg. Skin and tissue were torn from the bone and muscle, leaving his limb exposed and vulnerable.

Second Chance veterinarians attempted to save Natty’s leg, but unfortunately, the injury was too severe. Despite pain meds and monitoring, he was in so much distress and pain that he was trying to chew his leg off.

Doctors had no choice but to amputate his leg to provide him with comfort.

“Natty was rushed into surgery this morning. We couldn’t let him wait another moment in pain, but now we’re asking for help. The costs for Natty’s care and surgery are great due to the severity of his injury,” said Second Chance Chief Development Officer Lindsay Doray in a press release. “We estimate his care may be close to \$2,500 and we’re grateful for any help for this sweet pup.



Natty is an 8-month-old puppy suffering from serious leg trauma. (COURTESY PHOTO)

Donations will help give Natty and pets like him who come to Second Chance with major medical needs.”

Those interested in helping can visit secondchanceanimals.org/natty to make a donation. Checks can also be mailed to Second Chance, P.O. Box 136, East Brookfield, MA 01515.

Edmond Isemwami joins EXIT Realty in Spencer

SPENCER – EXIT Real Estate Executives in Spencer announced the addition of Edmond Isemwami to its team of real estate professionals.

“We’re excited to welcome Edmond to EXIT Realty,” said Michelle Terry, broker and owner of EXIT Real Estate Executives in a press release. “EXIT is growing and attracting quality business people like Edmond each and every day.”

Isemwami is a Realtor based in Worcester. He has background in Quality Inspection -Client Centered Approach- and a passion for helping people find their dream home.

Isemwami is excited to offer his expertise to the community. As a licensed Realtor mentored by an experienced team, he has developed a deep understanding of the local market and is dedicated to providing exceptional service to his clients.

When Isemwami is not working, he likes to read about real estate investing



Edmond Isemwami joined EXIT Realty’s team of real estate professionals. (COURTESY PHOTO)

strategies and building wealth. He is committed to providing personalized attention and building lasting relationships with his clients.

About EXIT Realty

EXIT Realty is a company founded and built on human potential.

A full service, forward-thinking, real estate franchisor with offices across North America, EXIT has to-date paid out more than a half a billion dollars in single-level residual income to its associates.

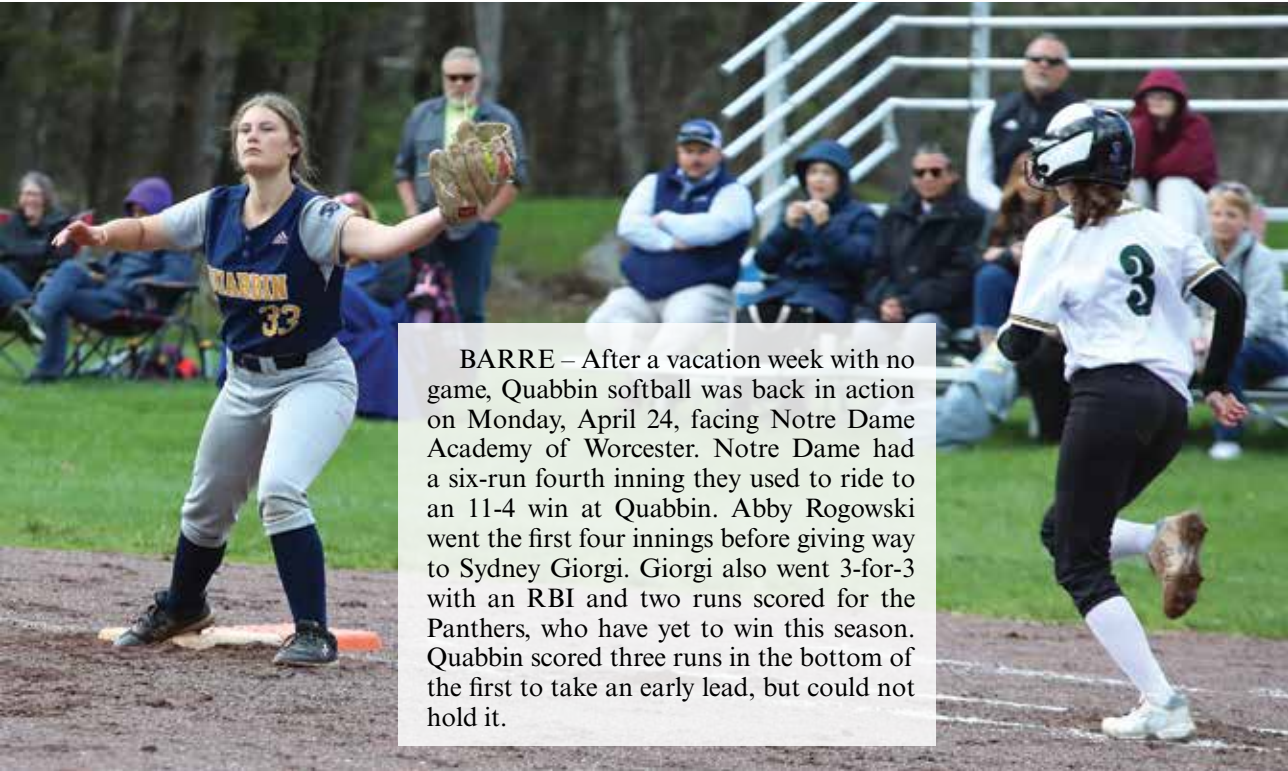
A portion of every transaction fee received by EXIT Realty Corp. International is applied to its charitable fund, and to date, \$7 million has been allocated to charity.

For more information, please visit www.exitrealty.com and www.joinexitrealty.com.

EXIT Real Estate Executives is located at 130 W Main St. For more information, please call 508-885-5555.

SPORTS

Panthers return to action



BARRE – After a vacation week with no game, Quabbin softball was back in action on Monday, April 24, facing Notre Dame Academy of Worcester. Notre Dame had a six-run fourth inning they used to ride to an 11-4 win at Quabbin. Abby Rogowski went the first four innings before giving way to Sydney Giorgi. Giorgi also went 3-for-3 with an RBI and two runs scored for the Panthers, who have yet to win this season. Quabbin scored three runs in the bottom of the first to take an early lead, but could not hold it.

Anna Hautala makes the out at second. PHOTOS BY RAY DUFFY



Abby Rogowski gets an easy out at first base.



Brynn Adam stretches for a catcher to save a home run.



Meaghan Doyle catches a pop fly.

Mustangs struggles continue

MONSON – Last Thursday afternoon, Monson High School boys lacrosse, which co-ops with Pathfinder Regional, fell against St. Mary's 10-5. The Mustangs have had a rough go so far this season, and have yet to win their first game. Monson hopes to rebound on Friday, April 28 against Smith Vocational.

See MORE MUSTANG PHOTOS | PAGE 11



Brayden Pratt eyes the field as he looks to pass. PHOTOS BY JACK CASCIO NEAP.SMUGMUG.COM



Brady St Martin looks to pass.



Matt Murphy makes a great defensive move at goal.

- community -



Turleysports

Athlete of the Month

NAME: Brandon Allen
SCHOOL: Quaboag

Allen would score a win in singles action for Quaboag at Palmer earlier this month.

To nominate someone for Athlete of the Week, contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at 413-283-8393 ext. 258 or send an e-mail to gscibelli@turley.com.



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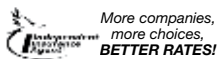
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Williams wins Icebreaker event

THOMPSON, CT — With the weather conditions cooperating one week later than expected, the 49th Icebreaker Weekend April 8 and 9 at Thompson Speedway successfully opened the 2023 New England racing season with plenty of heart-pounding thrills to set up the summer to come at the Big-T. The Thompson Outlaw Open Modified Icebreaker 125 came down to a stunning green-white-checker in one of the most spectacular open wheeled races in recent memory while winners in the Pro All Stars Series (PASS) Super Late Models and the Thompson local divisions proved themselves as the class of the field.

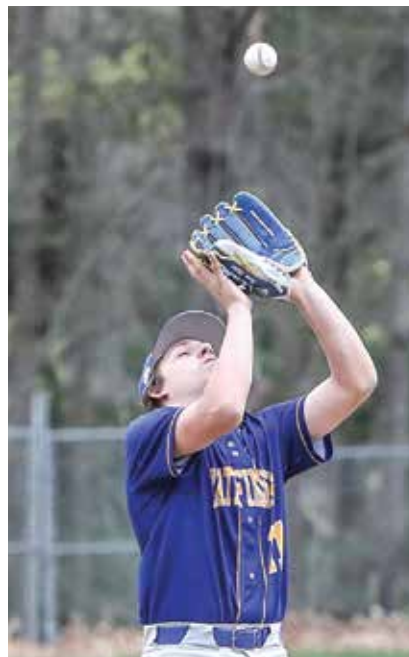
The 49th Icebreaker 125 included some of the Northeast's best Modified pilots ready to tackle the highbanks for the \$10,000 winner's share of the \$46,000 guaranteed purse. Keith Rocco and Matt Swanson brought the twenty-two-car field to green with Swanson getting the jump in the Gary Casella-owned #25. Swanson would hang tough before a hard charging Ronnie Williams overtook the lead on lap 25 followed by Woody Pitkat and Chris Pasteryak as Swanson slid to fourth. Carl Medeiros Jr. brought out the first major caution on lap 55 with several mid-pack teams taking advantage and heading pit-side for adjustments.

Realigned side-by-side to return the field to green, Ronnie Williams got the jump on a slip-sliding Pitkat with Rocco coming around to steal second. While

Williams, Pitkat and Rocco battled hard in the top-three, 2022 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour champion Jon McKenney joined the top-five. McKenney would make it to third with Anthony Nocella also joining the top-five before Anthony Bello's spin on lap 72 would bring the first crucial caution. While all the top runners jumped pit side for fresh Hoosier Race Tires, Williams and McKenney elected to stay on the field to lead the impending restart.

RJ Marcotte stole away the lead from McKennedy and Williams as the tire strategy helped Swanson and Nocella battle for second. Nocella would take the lead on lap 78 with Pitkat following and stretching out their lead before the caution flag flew on lap 107 as the engine expired on Teddy Hodgdon's machine. Nocella kept the lead while a four-way battle for second saw Pitkat, McKennedy, Williams and Mike Christopher, Jr. toss and turn for position. Pitkat brought out the final caution on lap 123 after backing into the turn one wall to set up a green-white-checker between Nocella, Williams, McKennedy, Christopher Jr. and Chris Pasteryak. Nocella gave it all he could, but Ronnie Williams rounded the long-standing leader to claim the \$10,000 49th Icebreaker 125 over Jon McKennedy and Anthony Nocella. Mike Christopher Jr. brought the Baldwin Racing 7NY home in fourth and Todd Owen powered up to round out the top-five.

Four-run fourth lifts Pioneers



Trevor Millet readies to grab this pop up.

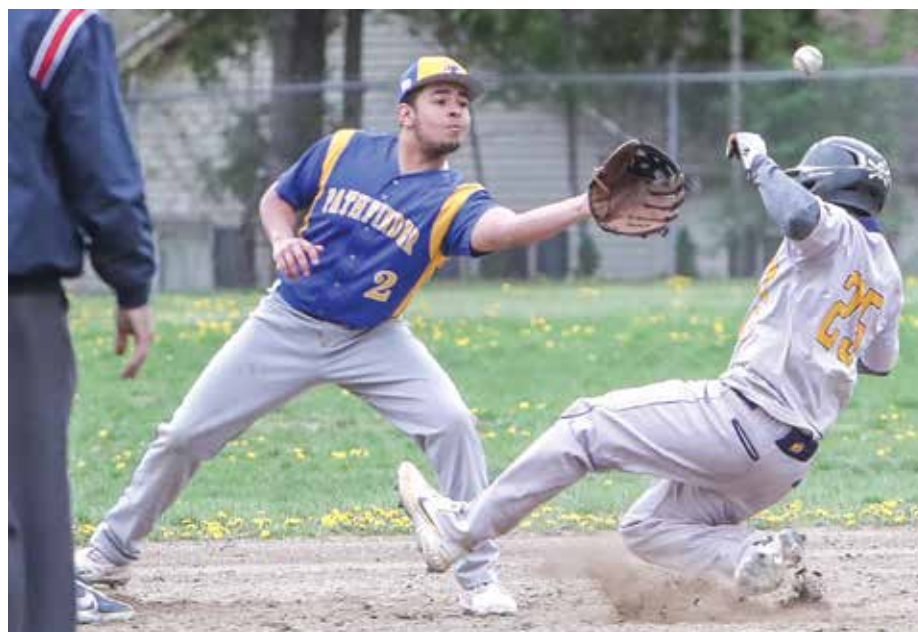


Tim Russell fires in a pitch during early action. PHOTOS BY JACK CASCIO NEAP.SMUGMUG.COM



Brayden Mega tags second base for the out.

PALMER – Last Tuesday morning, Pathfinder scored eight runs in the first four innings en route to an 8-5 win over visiting Putnam Vocational. Jesse Cygan had a 2-for-3 game with two doubles. Brayden Mega had a hit and two RBI in the game. The Pioneers are up to 5-2 this season.



Tage Valliere gets ready to catch the out at second.



Catcher Jarett Skowyra runs down a Putnam player for the tag.

- community -

Friends of the Town House gather area artists together

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Friends of the North Brookfield Town House held their first Arts Community Gathering on March 5.

People involved with the arts were introduced to the organization’s ambitious project: the restoration of the North Brookfield Town House as a regional cultural center.

An original slide presentation by Friends president Jim Buzzell told of the rich history of this iconic building and its great potential to entertain, heal, and revitalize the Central Massachusetts rural community with its Great Hall performance space, its classroom and workshop space, and its space for a restaurant and offices.

Bonnie Milner, of Long View Entertainment, emphasized the value of collaboration between the Friends and area artists. Eva Brown, Friends board member, described ROAR– Rural Opportunities Through Art and Restoration – the pilot programming being held off-site at present, and the many opportunities ROAR programs and the restored Town House hold for area creatives.

Following the presentation, a lively discussion ensued with questions and answers for participants and suggestions for the Friends.

The Friends of the Town House hope to hold other gatherings. If you are interested in attending one, please notify the Friends at friends@nbtownhouse.com.

FESTIVAL | FROM PAGE 1

brating the plant which was first brought to America from the Netherlands by Diederick Leertouwer.

“Our chowder has a reputation in the community,” Terry Hall said.

After the Church made the chowder for the first two years of the event, they handed the reins over to Festival organizers, before returning to the kitchen when they were asked by the town to be featured.

“The rest is history,” Terry Hall said. “The Festival has grown by leaps and bounds.”

Since it began over two decades ago, the Festival now has over 100 crafters and vendors, live music, clowns, activities, an array of food to suit every palate, and a variety of asparagus delicacies, including pizza and ice cream.

But the one menu item that people keep coming back for is the chowder.

“It gets better and better every year,” crew member Karen Murphy said.

Making the chowder is a labor of love and takes a tremendous amount of dedication by both the kitchen crew, and the tent crew.

“We all work great together as a team,” crew member JoAnn Bakulski said.

The tent crew is responsible for serving up and selling the chowder, which is available hot by the cup, or cold in a quart to take home to enjoy later.

Being part of either crew requires a lot of focus, Mike Murphy said.

“When I was first involved, I was a hauler,” he said. “I was told ‘don’t talk to anyone in the kitchen when they’re cooking.’”

The kitchen crew starts planning weeks in advance to make 55 pots of chowder, with each one holding two and a half gallons. Heading up this prep work is longtime crew member Karen Anderson, who has helped make the chowder for about as long as Wally

Hall has.

“She’s a very hard worker, and dedicated,” he said.

Even though the kitchen crew is making over 130 gallons of chowder for the Festival, don’t wait to buy some, it won’t last long.

“Last year we had 700 cups and 55 quarts,” Karen Murphy said.

The chowder will be available during the Festival on Saturday, May 20, starting at 10 a.m. until it’s sold out. The cost for a 12-ounce cup is \$6 and a quart is \$18.

The Church will also be selling an assortment of homemade cookies, water and soda.

New this year, will be the location of where you can buy your chowder at the Festival.

This year it will be sold on the lawn of the Church, instead of in the food court area. Tables and chairs will be set up for people to sit down and enjoy their meal.

“It’s something new...let’s change it up a little,” Terry Hall said.

This change will also make it easier for the tent crew to serve the chowder just a short distance from the kitchen, rather than wheeling it across the Common.

“It reduces the amount of distance,” Linda Barron said.

The proceeds from the chowder sales go to the Church’s general fund, to help support its missions, Barron said.

These missions include the food pantry which supports families in West Brookfield, Warren and West Warren; monthly meals at Dismas House in Oakham; Camp Putnam in New Braintree; multiple veterans groups; Abby’s House; and a mission in Africa.

“We have about 15 different organizations we continue to support,” Barron said.

Make sure to stop by the lawn of the First Congregational Church of West Brookfield to get your chowder, and plan to be there early before it sells out.

SELECTMEN | FROM PAGE 1

ence in public safety and holds a bachelor’s degree in business management.

If elected selectman, Merkel said he would not only try to attract businesses to the town, but determine what the right type of business is for West Brookfield and aim to bring that in.

He added he would make a point to hold traditions and offer a new approach to financial strains as well as consider what the town’s long-term goals are.

Merkel said his goals as selectman would include bringing business into town, considering the addition of a public safety complex with the potential of regionalizing, as well as making the town website more accessible.

Piechota is a retired, 30-year military veteran and long-term West Brookfield resident.

If elected selectman, Piechota said his goal would be to “preserve a fun, happy, [and] safe” community. Piechota said he would aim to “create an environment [that] make kids want to stay.”

Some of Piechota’s goals as selectman would be to “ensure all entities are equally represented,” including the Fire Department, EMTs and Highway Department; consider the addition of a public safety complex and unify the town administration as well as encourage new businesses.

New businesses and aging infrastructure

To focus on retaining a small-town atmosphere while encouraging business, Merkel said he would “keep values and traditions” as well as “prioritize our needs.”

He noted after 8 p.m. there are no coffee shops or self-service gas stations in town which could be an opportunity to generate revenue while offering residents services they would benefit from.

He suggested focusing on the gas station, or introducing a car wash.

Piechota said he would “preserve the history,” and “utilize our lake as an opportunity for businesses to flourish.”

He said adding a canoe rental and more small businesses around the lake sustained by townspeople, “is what we need.”

Merkel said Lake Wickaboag is a “crucial resource” for the town and also sees it as an opportunity to generate revenue.

Merkel suggested drawing in a restaurant like 308 Lakeside in East Brookfield as “something nice for people to stop.”

When asked how he would address aging infrastructure while protecting the town’s historic qualities, Piechota said he would suggest upgrading equipment and looking at grants - especially for the water depart-

ment.

Merkel said he sees Sturbridge as a model for updating the town but being restrictive.

He suggested hiring a grant writer for the town as they are “worth their weight in gold,” and the town could benefit from their specific writing skills.

He also suggested considering projects years in advance to manage resources.

Budgets and taxes

When asked what line items would be considered in a school budget, Merkel suggested allowing an assessment or a performance budget to track finances before making any decisions.

Before looking at budget cuts, Piechota suggested looking at potential grants to supplement some of those costs.

He added “the price of everything has gone through the roof,” however, “our kids are entitled and deserve a good education.”

Regarding how he would handle a situation where someone is struggling to pay quarterly taxes, Piechota suggested potentially breaking the tax down into more frequent but less expensive installments to ease the amount.

Merkel said, “things are tough and are more and more expensive.”

He said while he understands that taxes are an important way to retain money, he suggested communicating with the townspeople and working with them.

Cable TV access/social media policy

When asked if the town should enforce a social media policy for employees, Merkel said he believes social media is “very important,” and “you should be held accountable for what you say and do.”

Regarding the issue of town cable access, Merkel said the concern may be contingent on finances.

He added the issue would have to be discussed among all members of the Board.

Piechota said the town has “everything all set” to reinstate cable access for residents and doing so is “critical for people to see town meetings.”

Working environment and transparency

When asked how one would improve the working relationship between town administration and residents, Piechota said he would “be transparent with the town.”

He added a top priority is for the “townspeople to see what’s going on,” and consider adding a question-and-answer section on the town website.

Merkel said he would also be transparent with residents and town employees alike.

He said he would seek out department heads and listen to the townspeople and their needs.

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New Braintree Police Log

During the weeks of April 10-24, the Hardwick/ New Braintree Police Department responded to 35 building/property checks, 49 directed/area patrols, eight traffic controls, 15 radar assignments, one brush fire, two complaints, two citizen assists, one scam, four emergency 911 calls, four animal calls and four motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

- Monday, April 10
2:32 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Old Turnpike Road, No Action Required
- Thursday, April 13
4:22 p.m. Fire/Brush, West Brookfield Road, Extinguished
8:44 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Ravine Road, Spoken To
- Monday, April 17
3:25 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Barre Road, Officer Handled
7:27 p.m. Scam, Barre Road, Officer Handled
- Tuesday, April 18
9:30 a.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Dispatch Handled
- Wednesday, April 19
3:52 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old Turnpike Road, Citation Issued
4:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old Turnpike Road, Citation Issued
- Thursday, April 20
3:14 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled
- Friday, April 21
10:15 a.m. 911 Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Ravine Road, Negative Contact
- Saturday, April 22
11:12 p.m. 911 Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Barre Road, Negative Contact

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- obituary -

Virginia “Ginger” Beaudry, 74

WEST WARREN – Virginia “Ginger” Beaudry of West Warren passed away April 20, 2023, after an illness, at the age of 74.

She was the beloved wife of the late Daniel Beaudry, and loving mother of Michael Wheeler of Worcester and Gary Wheeler of Auburn.

She leaves her cherished grandchildren Tyler, Brittany, and Garrett Wheeler, and devoted sisters Patricia Lindquist (James) of Uxbridge, Mary Deneault (John) of Auburn and Evelyn Pira (David) of South Carolina, along with her favorite niece Jessica Lindquist of Uxbridge, nieces Christina Deneault of Auburn, Kimberly Hashey of Northbridge, Angela Licciardone of Rhode Island and Ashely Schwalje of Pennsylvania, her nephews and Godsons Michael Deneault of Auburn, and James Lindquist of Douglas and nephew Ryan Pira of South Carolina.



Along with her husband, Virginia was predeceased by her mother, Mary E. Sullivan.

Ginger held a deep love for Cape Cod, where she raised her children for several years and returned for vacations.

She worked for many years as a social worker and was the former owner of the restaurant “Just Ginger’s,” in Warren. Most of all, she cherished time with her family, especially her children and grandchildren.

The family would like to thank Tri-Valley of Dudley and Beacon Hospice Care of Springfield for their excellent care of Ginger and extends a special thank you to Chaplain Francis “Frank” for offering spiritual support to her in her time of illness.

At Ginger’s request, there will be no services.

For online condolences, please visit www.MercadanteFuneral.com.

Death Notice

Beaudry, Virginia
Died April 20, 2023
No services

NOTICE

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QUABOAG CURRENT

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Quaboag Current Newspaper

Volume 16, Number 20 A TURLEY PUBLICATION www.turley.com Friday, March 31, 2023

Scouts BSA helps girls find their voice

Troop 163 closing in on five-year anniversary

By Paula Olinette
Editor
paula@turley.com

STURBRIDGE – One of the biggest challenges of self-defense isn't using your physical strength, it's finding your voice.

During one of their recent Sunday afternoon meetings, girls in Scouts BSA Troop 163 did just that, with the help of Tantasqua school district's school resource officer and Sturbridge Police Officer Nicholas Mardirosian, and the high school's health educator Nicole Evanski.

Both Mardirosian and Evanski are Rape Aggression Defense System trainers. Yelling "no" was something many of the Scouts felt hesitant to do, until they joined together to shout the Scout Law as loud as they could.

Mardirosian, who is also an Eagle Scout, explained the difference between screaming and yelling.

"Yelling projects confidence," he said. "Yell – it is okay to be vocal...learn to love your voice."

Repeating the same word or phrase over and over again while yelling can also help fend off an attack by alerting others, and sending a strong message to any potential attackers.

Verbal communication is just one aspect of self-defense, Mardirosian said.

"We only communicate verbally 20%," he said. The rest

to do, until they joined together to shout the Scout Law as loud as they could.

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"We only communicate verbally 20%," he said. The rest

See TROOP 163 | PAGE 7

Sturbridge Police Officer Nicholas Mardirosian demonstrates how to block a strike with Scouts Elinor C., left, and Ella P. (JULY)

Chamber's Legislative Breakfast looks at region's needs

By Richard Murphy
Correspondent

WARE – Last Thursday morning, people gathered in the dining room of Cedarbrook Village at Ware to enjoy a hearty breakfast buffet while socializing.

The repeat, however pleasant, was not the reason for attendance. Guests and members of the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce were there for a Legislative Breakfast, hosted

Ware Sen. Anne Gadi spoke about the East-West Rail project, and issued employees last recruiting and retaining employees. (TURLEY PUBLICATION PHOTO BY PAULA OLINETTE)

See CHAMBER | PAGE 8

New principal and IT director named at Quaboag

By Dallas Gagnon
dallasg@turley.com

WARREN – Interim Superintendent Maureen Binienda announced Casey Hanfield as the next principal of Quaboag Regional Middle High School. [We] are proud to present

ers and district representatives were involved in the committee's search.

Hanfield will begin his principal as of May 1, 2023. A search committee, which included

Spencer was the first woman.

Unlike Any Other

Author shares story of Bathsbeba Spooner

By Paula Olinette
Editor
paula@turley.com

STURBRIDGE – On what should have been a joyous celebration of love, Bathsbeba Ruggles took a vow which ultimately sealed her fate, earning her a place in history as one of our country's most notorious women.

Last Thursday evening at Sturbridge Historical Society's first event of the year, Warren author Ed Longergan, shared information about Bathsbeba Ruggles Spooner, the focus of his recent novel, "Unlike Any Other".

Spencer was the first woman.

Author Ed Longergan talked about his research into the life of Bathsbeba Spooner for his novel, "Unlike Any Other". (JULY)

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The annual salary range is up to \$62,775.00 depending upon experience, certifications, and in accordance with the DHCD Executive Director Salary Schedule/Calculation worksheet. The work week is 26 hrs. per week and includes a generous benefit portfolio. Candidates should apply in confidence by submitting cover letter and resume to G. Matthew Pike, MassNAHRO, 990 Washington Street, Suite 209, Dedham, MA 02026, ATTN: Warren E.D. Search. For a complete job description go to: <https://files.constantcontact.com/a08b9b0e001/042de6b4-8e7b-4f6b-ad76-4321183847e9.docx>
Managing agent respondents should submit a proposal to that same address.
Closing date is close of business on Wednesday, May 3, 2023. Late submissions will not be accepted.
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'Blue Boat Home' sails on May 13, 20, 21

STURBRIDGE – Three remarkable multi-media performances will take place in local venues in May.

The 40-member community chorus Wings of Song, accompanied by a small band, will present “Blue Boat Home,” a program of songs, texts, and images about the beauties of our planet and the challenges posed by climate change.

These concerts will be unlike anything people normally get to experience: both a celebration and a call to action.

While opinions on climate change vary within the chorus, there is universal agreement that the Earth, our only home, needs our careful stewardship. Some in the group like soprano Donna Dufresne, who wrote the concert’s opening number, “Wake Up!” feel that the time has come for us all to take responsibility and to act.

“Blue Boat Home” is named after the concert’s theme song, by Peter Mayer, which ends with the line “And the Earth is my blue boat home.”

Other composers and songwriters represented include Leonard Bernstein, Pete Seeger, J. S. Bach, Neil Young, Paul Winter, John Lennon, Marvin Gaye, Jean Ritchie, and Elton John.

There will be readings of texts by Thich Nhat Hanh, Carl Sagan, Joy Harjo, Robert Weston, Meghan Sterling, and others. Along with 44 images-of the Earth from space, of endangered and extinct species, of landscapes both polluted and pristine-will be projected throughout each performance.

The opening concert is scheduled for Saturday, May 13 at 7:30 p.m., at the chorus’s “home base,” St. Joachim Chapel. St. Joachim is part of the St. Anne-St. Patrick Parish in Fiskdale, which is located right up from the intersection of Routes 20 and 148.

A week later on Saturday, May 20 at 7:30 p.m., the chorus will sing for the audience it has developed in the Woodstock, Connecticut area, at the First Congregational Church (the “Hill Church”) on Woodstock’s beautiful common.

The final concert, on Sunday, May 21 at 3 p.m., will take place in the auditorium of the Shepherd Hill Regional High School in Dudley. A special feature of that concert will be some brief remarks delivered by Massachusetts’s “Climate Chief,” Melissa Hoffer, who was appointed to her newly created position by Gov. Maura Healey on the Governor’s first day in office.

Admission to all the performances is free, and people are invited to make a freewill offering at intermission.

A portion of what is collected will be donated to a leading organization working to combat climate change, such as the Clean Air Task Force. After the concerts, the chorus will announce the amount of its donation, and the recipient, in local newspapers.

All concert venues are handicap accessible. Doors will open half an hour before each concert; in Fiskdale and Woodstock, people are advised to arrive early in order to be sure of a seat.

Anyone wishing for more information on these concerts or on joining Wings of Song, whose fall rehearsal season begins Monday, Sept. 11, is encouraged to email Music Director Nym Cooke at nymcooke@gmail.com, or President Carol Curtin at carolcurtin77@gmail.com.

'Sheryl Faye Presents' Eleanor Roosevelt on May 4

WEST BROOKFIELD – The Merriam-Gilbert Public Library, 3 West Main St., is pleased to welcome the return of “Sheryl Faye Presents” with her portrayal of Eleanor Roosevelt - The First Lady of the World on Thursday, May 4 at 4 p.m.

Please call the Library at 508-867-1410 to reserve your seat for this special performance, which is being generously co-sponsored by the West Brookfield Historical Commission and Quaboag Historical Society.

- legal notices -

LEGAL NOTICE
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FY19 and FY 20
Public Performance Hearing

The town of North Brookfield will conduct a performance hearing regarding their ongoing FY19 and FY20 Community Development Block Grant Programs. The meeting will be held on **Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at 6:15 p.m.** as part of the North Brookfield Board of Selectmen’s meeting at the North Brookfield Police Department, 55 School Street, North Brookfield. These programs are being managed with assistance from the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC).

North Brookfield’s FY19 program is providing funds

for housing rehabilitation services to qualified North Brookfield households. The grant also provided funds for a planning project in the north-western portion of North Brookfield’s center that evaluated the condition of infrastructure as part of the West Side Infrastructure Planning Study.

The FY20 program is a joint community program with the town of Brookfield. Activities include housing rehabilitation services to qualified households in both towns, and improvements at the North Brookfield Senior Center, which is focused on roof replacement.

Any person or organization having questions or comments concerning North Brookfield’s CDBG programs and ongoing activities will have an opportunity to be heard. Written and verbal comments will be accepted

for one week preceding the hearing, at the hearing, and for one week following the hearing. Comments are to be directed to CMRPC’s Christopher Dunphy cdunphy@cmrpc.org, or (508) 459-3333.

The North Brookfield Police Department building is handicapped accessible. Persons who require special accommodation to attend the public meeting should contact the Office of the Board of Selectmen (508) 867-0200 at least two business days prior to the hearing.

These activities and programs are funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Housing and Community Development, Massachusetts CDBG program.

04/28/2023

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Turley Publications, an independent, family-owned newspaper company, is searching for an experienced leader to serve as its Executive Editor and put their mark on its newsroom. The ideal person will evolve community journalism coverage in the company’s 12 weekly papers and prepare its talented young journalists for the future.

He or she will work alongside the owners to develop the department’s overarching strategy and determine the direction the newsroom is headed both on a day-to-day basis as well as its long-term goals. While the editor works with the owners, the Executive Editor has a great deal of autonomy built into the position.

The perfect candidate will have strong, proven leadership qualities as well as editing, writing and coaching abilities. They will be able to mold coverage as they work with a great group of editors and writers.

The company is looking for a leader who will work in a collaborative manner while setting expectations and holding staff accountable.

It is imperative that the editor have creative problem-solving skills, a flair for innovation and a bent for adapting current practices when possible.

- The right candidate would:
- Ensure the papers have a good balance of news stories.
 - Be able to work with editors so they are able to provide readers with the best possible papers.
 - Be a mentor to all new hires, but particularly to writers, with the goal of developing a bench of future editors.
 - Be an editorial manager with a proven track record in leading newsrooms and have a bachelor’s degree or the equivalent experience.
 - Represent the company as the senior editorial staff member and would report to the owners, Keith and Patrick Turley.
 - Would also edit two of the company’s weekly newspapers, The Holyoke Sun and The Agawam Advertiser News, which are tabs.

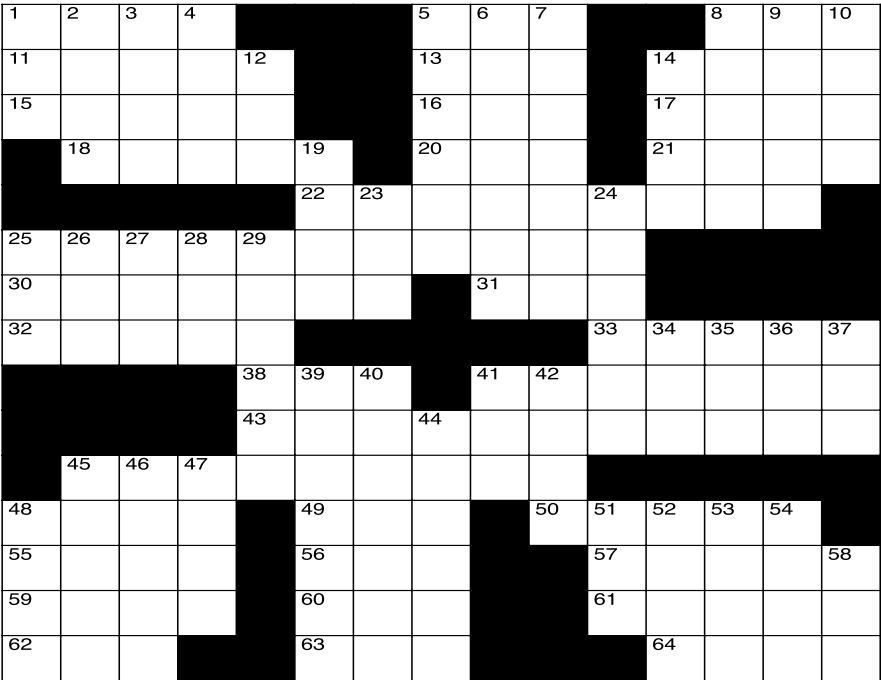
Turley Publications Inc. is an equal opportunity employer offering competitive salaries, paid vacation and sick time, a health plan and a 401k. It is a locally-owned family business that takes pride in all of the communities we serve.

Please send a cover letter explaining why you are the best candidate for the job and how you can be a crucial component of Turley Publications’ future, along with a resume, references and several clips to Eileen Kennedy at ekennedy@turley.com.



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24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069
413.283.8393
www.turley.com



- CLUES ACROSS**

 1. It's all over the beach
 5. A cirque
 8. Corpuscule count (abbr.)
 11. Influential report author
 13. Satisfaction
 14. Recurring only at long intervals
 15. Islamic calendar month
 16. Neither
 17. Gelatinous substance
 18. American electronic music producer
 20. Old computer system
 21. Professional organization
 22. Malaria mosquitoes
 25. Not composed of matter
 30. It's in the ocean
- CLUES DOWN**

 1. Soviet Socialist Republic
 2. Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
 3. Venomous snake genus
 4. Uninteresting
 5. Straightforwardness
 6. Expression of wild excitement
 7. Arrange in order
 8. East Indian cereal grass
 9. Hillsides
 10. Bird beak covering
 12. Baseball stat
 14. Edge of a surfboard
 19. Wrapping accessory
 23. Express approval
 24. Deduce
 25. Similar
 26. Born of
31. Peyton's little brother
 32. French commune
 33. Eyelashes
 38. Equal (prefix)
 41. Quality of little or no rain
 43. One who beheads
 45. Sung to
 48. Influential punk artist
 49. Amount of time
 50. Polio vaccine developer
 55. Abba __, Israeli politician
 56. Job
 57. Flat-bottomed sailboat
 59. Japanese wooden clog
 60. Folk singer DiFranco
 61. FL city
 62. Naturally occurring solid
 63. Language of indigenous Asian
27. Automobile
 28. Obligated to repay
 29. Live in
 34. Influential journalist Tarbell
 35. Set aflame
 36. OJ trial judge
 37. Scottish town
 39. African nation
 40. Egg-shaped wind instrument
 41. Mimic
 42. Frees
 44. In slow tempo
 45. Sword
 46. Related on the mother's side
 47. Mars crater
 48. Plant of the lily family
 51. Suitable in the circumstances
 52. Hillside
 53. Metrical foot
 54. Amazon river tributary
 58. Adult male human

QUABOAG CURRENT



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at meeting p12*

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celebrates forest p8*

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Friday, April 28, 2023

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