

BARRE GAZETTE

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Town Administrator by-law passes at STM

Article garners discussion and amendments

By Ellenor Downer
Editor
edowner@turley.com

BARRE – Just under 60 voters attended the Special Town Meeting held at Ruggles Lane School on Wednesday, Nov. 29 to act on a seven article warrant.

The first two articles passed unanimously without discussion. Article 1 raised and appropriated \$9,888 for Select Board expenses, \$9,440 for the reserve fund, \$3,098 for a land use clerk, \$14,805 for the Henry Woods Building, \$6,000 for a building department clerk, \$16,708 for capital debt and a transfer of \$52,435 from water retainer fund.

The second article for \$52,201.50 covered the new Department of Public Works union agreement. The Select Board and Finance Committee both had favorable recommendations on the articles.

Voters voters to pass over the Article 3 regarding funds for the police union contract.

Article 4 asked voters to act on a By-law proposal regarding Town Administrator duties. Moderator Joshua Smith gave the voters time to read the article before opening discussion.

Resident Matthew Urban asked if other department heads had an opportunity to comment on the by-law before tonight. Select Board Chair Maureen Marshall said there was discussion of the by-law at several Select Board meetings and a public hearing held.

After Department of

See BARRE, page 6

A piece of Barre's history preserved by Historical Society



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

The Barre Town Hall holds a preserved clockworks and Paul Revere Bell dating back to 1814 when it was part of the First Parish Church.

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

BARRE - A piece of the town's history was recently preserved and is in the form of a 19th century bell.

Thanks to the team effort of the Barre Historical Society and the Barre Savings Charitable Foundation, the Paul Revere Bell of the first parish church has a new home. The bell under a new clocking mechanism is now residing in the bell tower of Barre Town Hall.

This project was supported by

a grant provided by the BSCF, raising \$24,500 to preserve the clockworks and Paul Revere bell. BSCF President, Stephen M. Brewer who also served in the Massachusetts Senate from 1997 to 2015 was proud to see this unique history saved.

The Barre Savings Charitable Foundation has funded many projects supporting programs in communities such as Barre, Hardwick, New Braintree, and Paxton. When the BSCF was formed in 2016 when Fidelity merged with Barre Savings bank and had the goal of building

efforts to improve the quality of

life in these communities.

The BSCF has supported nearly 100 projects and funds with over \$500,000 raised in the last six years. Many programs supported by the BSCF include Coats for kids in Hardwick, Camp Putnam, and summer youth programs in Gilbertville. The \$24,500 grant is the largest grant provided by the BSCF that supported the clockworks and Paul Revere bell.

Brewer has a strong connection with the town of Barre as he served as the town Selectman in Barre from 1977-1984. In that

See BELL, page 6

Committee discusses capital needs with Select Board

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

HARDWICK – Mark Korzec of the Capital Planning Committee gave the Select Board an update on the town's capital needs.

At the Nov. 27 meeting, Korzec said nine departments have sent the committee a list of their capital needs over the next five-to-10 years. Two other departments have expressed interest in providing lists of capital needs as well.

One of the capital needs the town is facing is a new \$1.65 million firetruck for the Fire Department. The committee will be reviewing this need at its Dec. 18 meeting.

Korzec said the committee took action on the need for a police cruiser. Currently the Police Department has seven cruisers, and

this additional purchase will bring them to eight.

The committee required the Police Department to reduce their number of cruisers to six, and the department will dispose of two in order to do so.

An emergency repair request was received by the committee from Anne Barnes for the Town House, and Korzec said while her request is not in his committee's jurisdiction (due to being under the \$25,000 threshold) the committee supports her request.

Korzec presented two recommendations that the Capital Planning Committee voted one, the first regarding the school on Ruggles Hill Road. He said a town meeting vote from 2013 approved spending \$4,000 to prepare for the

See HARDWICK, page 7

Patrill Hollow Dam faces removal in spring 2025

By Paula Ouimette
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HARDWICK – Representatives from MassWildlife were joined by engineers from Tighe & Bond, to discuss the Patrill Hollow Dam removal, located within Muddy Brook Wildlife Management Area.

MassWildlife's Central District Supervisor Todd Olanyk was joined by Steven Mattocks, aquatic connectivity and fisheries outreach biologist and Chris Buelow, senior research ecologist. Representing Tighe & Bond were Daniel Hammerberg, project engineer and Daniel Buttrick, senior engineer.

Patrill Holl Dam

Patrill Hollow Dam is a 13-foot high, 190-foot long earthen embankment structure that impounds Muddy Brook and has a primary and auxiliary concrete spillway. The dam is located within the 1,937-acre Muddy Brookfield WMA and holds about 75 acre-feet

of water.

The purpose of the meeting was to provide information about the reasoning behind dam removal, and to hear questions or concerns from the public.

"We want to try to get as much information out to people as we can," Olanyk said.

Currently, the commonwealth has more than 3,000 dams, Mattocks said, and many are in dilapidated condition. Since 2005, MassWildlife's Division of Ecological Restoration has removed over 40 dams.

Buelow described Muddy Brook WMA as "one of the most important landscapes in interior Massachusetts for supporting rare and imperiled biodiversity."

Removal of the dam is expected to decrease stream temperatures and restore natural flow and habitat, benefiting many types of fish.

Hammerberg said the Patrill

See DAM, page 11

DA Early presents TEAM awards



Submitted photo

Members of the Massachusetts State Police, who assisted in the search for Owen Goderre pictured here along with Owen, his family and Col. Mawn and District Attorney Early.

By Ellenor Downer
Editor
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OAKHAM – The Oakham Fire Station's three vehicle bays were packed with State Troopers, police officers from several towns, dispatchers and other rescue workers this Tuesday afternoon.

They all came together for the presentation of Team Excellence and Merit awards by District Attorney Joseph Early. The District Attorney gave awards out to over 60 individuals. The rescue took place in Feb. 20 of this year. "On that February day, Owen's family was filled with dread and fear when they realized he walked out the door. It is every parent's nightmare," Early said.

Owen, a five-year old with

autism, left his house with the family dog, Teka. When they realized he was missing, they quickly searched outside and called 911. The rescue began. Early said autistic children seek water and there was concern as some of the search area was in the Ware River Watershed.

Within minutes the Oakham Police Department responded and soon the North Brookfield Police Department had a drone in the air as part of the search. Massachusetts State Police, Massachusetts Environmental Officers, Oakham and Rutland Fire Departments, Police Departments from Barre, Fitchburg, North Brookfield and Rutland as well as Oakham were on the scene. Rutland Regional Emergency Communication Center, Central Mass. Search and Rescue, Hampden County Sheriff's Departments and civilians all helped.

Police officers found Owen after a three hour search when a neighbor

saw footprints near the power lines on Coldbrook Road and alerted police. Officers followed the tracks and found Owen with his dog.

Colonel John Mawn Jr., Superintendent of the Massachusetts State Police when people ask why he joined this profession he said it was an opportunity to help others. He said State Troopers are ready to assist local departments. He recognized the well trained volunteer Search and Rescue.

"There is, perhaps, no type of call to which a police officer, firefighter, or search volunteer responds that carries a greater urgency than a child lost in a dangerous place. With a young life possibly in the balance, the dozens of first responders and civilian searchers who raced to find Owen and his dog that February day truly epitomized the core purpose of these calling, to help the

See TEAM AWARDS, page 6

Parade brings Santa Claus to town



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

Santa's elves helped lead the Christmas in Barre parade this past Saturday.

BARRE – The Christmas season doesn't truly start until the first Saturday in December, when the annual Christmas in Barre event brings Santa and Mrs. Claus to town, with a day full of activities and a parade.

This year, the jolly elf and his wife rolled in on the back of a beautifully decorated red wagon, pulled by a team of horses. After making a full lap of the Common, Santa and Mrs. Claus made their way into the Town Hall, where eager children of all ages lined up to greet them.

Turn to Page 8
for more photos



A miniature horse pulled a cart in the parade.



8 0 4 8 7 9 1 3 1 7 7

News of the Towns

Round Town
Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

No. 4 Schoolhouse to hold party
On Sunday, Dec. 17 there will be an annual Christmas Party at the No. 4 Schoolhouse, Farrington Road. The Christmas Party includes a visit from Santa. As a reminder, all functions and ongoing events are achieved through public support and donations. People should R.S.V.P. A.S.A.P. via email to Allison Dea Marinelli at marinellifamily@verizon.net. All are welcome. People should give the number of children, who will visit with Santa. People are asked to bring a snack to share.

This is the last call to purchase raffle tickets. The winners will be picked Friday, Dec. 8. There are numerous gift cards, certificates, passes, cinema tickets and more to giveaway, plus gift baskets and handmade items too. One ticket is \$5, three are \$10 and ten tickets are \$20. The Schoolhouse is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization making all donations tax deductible.

English Social Tea
The first event of the 250th anniversary year will be a free English Social Tea on Sunday, Jan. 14, 2024 from 2-4 p.m. at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road. Reservations are required and may be made by email at 250anniversary@town-of-barre.com. People may also sign up at the Barre Senior Center or at Grand View Terrace by Friday, Jan. 5, 2024.

Barre Historical Society selling long sleeved tee-shirts



Submitted photo
In celebration of the Christmas In Barre weekend events, during the Barre Historical Society Open House began selling long sleeved tee-shirts for Barre's upcoming Bicenquinquagenary 250th celebration year.

BARRE – The Barre Historical Society quality shirts are \$35 each. Adult sizes available in medium, large, XL, 2XL and 3XL. People may stop by the Historical Society to purchase a shirt. Quantities are limited.

The Nutcracker: A Classic Tale for Modern Times

Barre Players and Next Step Studio team up for holiday performance

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

BARRE – The Barre Players Theater and Next Step Studio of the Performing Arts have teamed up to present one of the most beloved and cherished traditions of the holiday season, with a weekend full of performances of “The Nutcracker”.

“The Nutcracker: A Classic Tale for Modern Times” will be performed at the Barre Players Theater, 64 Common St., for four performances. Dates include Friday, Dec. 8 at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 9 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 10 at 2 p.m.

Both matinee performances are already sold out, so make sure to reserve your tickets for the evening performances by visiting barreplayers.com. Tickets are \$17 each.

This is no ordinary performance of the classic Russian ballet; it features a modern and creative twist that is sure to entertain audience members of all ages.

Director and choreographer Hannah Hall said this is her fourth year leading the ballet, which features a mix of community members and dancers from her studio, Next Step Studio of the Performing Arts, which is located near the theater.

“It’s been really nice,” Hall said of directing and choreographing “The Nutcracker”.

Hall has been a dancer since 2004 and began teaching in 2010, later opening her own dance studio in Barre.

Being able to combine performers from the community and her dance troupe in one production is something “kind of rare,” Hall said, adding that it has been a wonderful experience.

“The dance company has worked very hard on their techniques,” Hall said. “The ballet leads have been studying ballet for years. It takes a ton of time and effort to get en pointe.”

Performing “The Nutcracker” can be a challenge, Hall said, as it doesn’t have a script, and she’s had to read the story and talk the dancers through the plot to help them bring their characters to life on stage.

Taking on the lead role of Clara is Anna Metcalf of New Braintree. A freshman at Quabbin Regional High School, Metcalf has been dancing at Next Step Studio of the Performing Arts since the studio first opened 10 years ago.

Metcalf’s interest in dance was piqued after taking a class



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette
Anna Metcalf and Fred Schaaf dance as Clara and The Nutcracker Prince in a recent performance of “The Nutcracker” at Hardwick Elementary School. A troupe of dancers toured the Quabbin Regional School District, performing in four of the elementary schools.



The mice creep in while Clara is asleep.

at the Listening Wellness Center, and now she takes classes with Hall four days a week, covering almost all genres. Metcalf is also in her fourth year on Next Step’s competition team.

This is Metcalf’s second time performing in “The Nutcracker” and she is “really excited” to play the role of Clara.

“To be able to do such a big role feels really amazing,” Metcalf said. “It’s a lot more acting than I’ve been doing in past dances.”

Joining Metcalf as a lead is Fred Schaaf of Wheelwright as The Nutcracker Prince. A junior at Quabbin Regional High School, Schaaf has been dancing since he was 8 years old, starting at Next Step the first year the studio opened.

Schaaf said he likes to “try everything once,” and that applies to dance technique.

“Hip hop is my favorite type of dance,” Schaaf said.

This isn’t Schaaf first major

role in a performance of “The Nutcracker”, having previously played the role of Fritz, Clara’s troublesome brother.

In playing the role of The Nutcracker Prince, Schaaf has discovered a new-found love for ballet, a genre of dance that he once considered to be a little boring.

“It’s a good way to express my new skills,” Schaaf said of his role. “I get to interact with a lot of characters.”

Playing the role of The Nutcracker Prince is a departure for many of Schaaf’s roles as a dancer, and he’s enjoyed exploring his character’s development.

“It’s a strong male character, which I don’t really have a lot of in dance. It’s also very militant,” Schaaf said. “I’m in ROTC and I get to do some of the steps on stage.”

Metcalf and Schaaf both bring their theater experience to their roles in “The Nutcracker”, having performed in a number of stage productions.

Schaaf has been acting since he was 6 years old and has been in quite a few shows, and Metcalf had her start acting in The Gilbert Players production of “Matilda” as well as Quabbin’s productions of “Cinderella” and “The Wizard of Oz”.

Prior to the Thanksgiving break, 20 dancers from the cast of “The Nutcracker” toured four elementary schools across the Quabbin Regional School District, giving students an exclusive glimpse of some of the highlights of the ballet.

See NUTCRACKER, page 11

Hubbardston
Ellenor Downer
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Open Space Committee to hold hemlock hike
The Hubbardston Open Space Committee will hold a hemlock hike on Saturday, Dec. 9 at 9 a.m. at the Ware River Rail Trail, 196 Williamsville Road. This is an easy one-mile walk along the Ware River Rail Trail in Hubbardston to learn about and appreciate hemlock trees from a local forester.

Participants will learn why hemlocks are ecologically important and what threats they face. People should wear bright orange for safety along the trail.

Sign-up is required since parking is limited. People may visit www.hubbardstonma.us and click the link about the hike to sign up. The event will happen rain or shine, but it will be cancelled if there is more than six inches of snow.

Santa events
The Hubbardston Center School, Elm Street, will host brunch with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 9 from 10 a.m.-noon. Donation is \$10. On Sunday, Dec. 10 Santa will go around town on a fire truck. People may drop off gifts, unwrapped and labeled. For more information on Santa’s route, people may email hubbardston.fire@gmail.com. On Saturday, Dec. 16 the Lions Club will sponsor pictures with Santa.

Pioneer Valley Brass
Pioneer Valley Brass Quintet will perform at the First Parish Unitarian Church of Hubbardston, on the Common, Hubbardston on Saturday, Dec. 9 at 5:30 p.m. The quintet includes trumpets, horn, trombone and a tuba. The performance includes an array of your favorite Holiday songs, arranged by the quintet members.

Christmas Eve service
The First Parish Unitarian Church of Hubbardston, on the Common, will hold a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Sunday, Dec. 24 at 5 p.m. The service is a very traditional observance of the holiday through music, singing and readings. All are welcome.

Hubbardston Light Fight
Hubbardston Light Fight takes place the first three weekends in December. On Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights participating households will turn on their light displays from 5-9 p.m. People may get a map of participating homes at One Stop Shop. Voting closes Monday, Dec. 18. For more information, people may visit https://www.hubbardstonma.us/special-events/pages/hubbardston-light-fight.

Senior center events
The Hubbardston Senior Center, 7A Main St., events include: Coffee with Friends Monday through Thursday at 9:45 a.m.; Bingo from 12:30-3 p.m. on Mondays; Knitting Group at 10 a.m. every Tuesday at 10 a.m. and WiiBowling beginning at 8:30 a.m. every Monday and Wednesday beginning at 8:30 a.m..

Barre Dining Center

BARRE — Elder Services of Worcester Area Nutrition Program welcomes guests to dine at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road. The following meals will be served for the week of Dec. 11. Lunches are back at the senior center, but require a pre-sign up. Volunteers are needed at the Barre dining site. Volunteers are needed for Meals on Wheels (mileage reimbursement) and in the kitchen. People should contact 978-355-5027.

MONDAY – Chicken pesto, herbed potatoes, Scandinavian vegetables, Rice Krispie treat, pumpernickel bread

TUESDAY – Burger with chili and cheese, red bliss potatoes, green beans, fresh fruit, sandwich roll

WEDNESDAY – Roast pork loin with gravy, herbed bread stuffing, roasted California vegetables, cinnamon pears, whole wheat bread

THURSDAY – Teriyaki beef, brown rice, broccoli, chocolate mousse, fortune cookie, marble rye bread

FRIDAY – Jambalaya, rice pilaf, green peas, pineapple, whole wheat bread

*Higher sodium entree Meal includes milk and margarine. Menus are subject to change. All meals are served at about 11:45 a.m. each weekday. Reservations should be made the day before by calling 978-355-5027 before 10:30 a.m. The donation of \$2.50 per meal helps keep the program running.

Corrections policy

The Barre Gazette will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2. To request a correction, send information to Editor Ellenor Downer at barrenews@turley.com or call 978-355-4000. Corrections may also be requested in writing at Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

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Ballerinas dance across the gymnasium at Hardwick Elementary School.

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News of the Towns

PUBLIC MEETINGS

BARRE.

Zoning Board of Appeals – Dec. 7 at 7 p.m.
 Board of Health – Dec. 11 at 5 p.m.
 Water Commission – Dec. 11 at 6:30 p.m.
 QRSD Policy and Reform Subcommittee – Dec. 11 at 6:30 p.m.
 DPW Commission – Dec. 11 at 7 p.m.
 Cemetery Commission – Dec. 12 at 11 a.m.
 Cable Advisory Committee – Dec. 12 at 7 p.m.
 Conservation Committee – Dec. 12 and Jan. 9 at 7 p.m.
 250th Anniversary Committee – Dec. 13 and Jan. 3 at 6:30 p.m.
 Library Trustees – Dec. 13 at 6:30 p.m.
 Barre Housing Authority – Dec. 14 and Jan. 11 at 3 p.m.
 Select Board – Dec. 18 at 6 p.m.
 Planning Board – Dec. 19 at 7 p.m.
 Sewer Commission – Dec. 21 at 7 p.m.
 9/11 Memorial Development Committee – Jan. 10 at 5 p.m.
 Insurance Advisory Committee – Jan. 25 at 1:30 p.m.

HARDWICK

Board of Health – Dec. 7 at 6:30 p.m.
 Conservation Commission – Dec. 7 and Dec. 20 at 6:30 p.m.
 Paige Library Trustees – Dec. 7 at 7 p.m.
 Board of Selectmen – Dec. 11 at 6:30 p.m. and Jan. 8 and Jan. 22 at 7 p.m.
 Wheelwright Water District – Dec. 11 at 7 p.m.
 Planning Board – Dec. 12 at 6:30 p.m.
 Council on Aging – Dec. 13 at 9 a.m.
 Gilbertville Public Library – Dec. 13 at 4 p.m.
 Capital Planning Committee – Dec. 18 at 3 p.m.
 Finance Committee – Dec. 18 at 6 p.m.
 Gilbertville Water District – Dec. 19 at 5:30 p.m.

HUBBARDSTON

Public Safety Building Committee – Dec. 7 at 6 p.m.
 Library Trustees – Dec. 7 at 7 p.m.
 Board of Health – Dec. 12 at 7 p.m.
 Council on Aging – Dec. 19 at 4 p.m.
 Planning Board – Dec. 21 and Jan. 18 at 6:30 p.m.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

Parks and Recreation – Dec. 7 at 6 p.m.
 Special Town Meeting – Dec. 8 at 7 p.m.
 Tax Classification Hearing – Dec. 12 at 6 p.m.
 Select Board – Dec. 19 at 6 p.m.
 Planning Board – Dec. 27 at 6 p.m.

OAKHAM

Select Board – Dec. 11, Dec. 26, Jan. 8 and Jan. 22 at 6 p.m.
 Classification Hearing – Dec. 11 at 6 p.m.
 Board of Health – Dec. 20 at 5 p.m.
 Conservation Commission – Jan. 2 at 7 p.m.
 Special Town Meeting – Jan. 22 at 7 p.m.

PETERSHAM

Select Board – Dec. 7 at 5:30 p.m.
 Board of Health – Dec. 7 at 6 p.m.
 Cemetery Commission – Dec. 12 at 10 a.m.
 Petersham Historic District – Dec. 14 and Dec. 21 at 6 p.m.
 Board of Assessors – Dec. 19 at 4:30 p.m.
 Planning Board – Dec. 28 at 7 p.m.

RUTLAND

Capital Improvement Planning Committee – Dec. 7 at 6:30 p.m.
 Select Board Public Hearing – Dec. 11 at 6 p.m.
 Select Board Public Hearing – Dec. 11 at 6:10 p.m.

Baby's First Christmas

Once again the Barre Gazette will feature Baby's First Christmas in the Thursday, Dec. 21 edition.

Parents of all babies born in late November 2022 through December 2023 are invited to submit a photo of their baby, baby's birth date, name, parents names and town they live in, siblings, grandparents and great-grandparents to the editor Ellenor Downer at edowner@turley.com.

Deadline to submit is Monday, Dec. 11 by 5 p.m. There is no charge for running your baby's photo. Each child's picture will be displayed with an ornament or gift box as a background. The page also features ads from local businesses.

This has been a long standing tradition, which dates back to when Madeline Willey was office manager and Gene Kennedy was photographer.

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.**

Circle of Song performs Dec. 16, Barre Town Hall, 7 pm

BARRE— Circle of Song, the Barre based community chorus that has been singing together for 23 years, will be holding their annual Christmas Concert on Saturday, Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. in the Barre Town Hall, Exchange Street.

Known for taking on a wide range of music from many genres and singing it in four and sometimes eight part harmony, the chorus reaches high to provide a very enjoyable musical experience for the audience.

The program for the concert is as follows: "Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light" by Johann Sebastian Bach. This song stands the test of time

Possibly authored in Philadelphia circa 1800 by freed slaves, "My Lord, what a Mornin'" was arranged by black American composer Harry Burleigh. Henry Thacker Burleigh was an American classical composer, arranger and professional singer who lived from the middle of the 1800's to the early 1900's and is credited with a number of now popular arrangements of African American spirituals.

"Ballade to the Moon" by Daniel Elder, a young composer originally from rural Georgia, writes captivating modern music that engages the heart of the singer and the listener.

"America the Beautiful" was chosen for the Circle of Song concert as a reminder that we all, despite differences, are Americans with a charge to work together to create a vibrant world around us.

"Alleluia" composed by Randall Thompson is a gorgeous piece of music that is by far the most difficult on the program. Sung a capella, this relatively long piece offers all four parts to shine through with intricate and pleasing melodies. It is a Circle of Song favorite.

Lullabye by Billy Joel wrote "Lullabye" for his daughter Alexa Ray Joel. The singer-songwriter explained in 2022, "Alexa, who's my oldest and who's now 34, was about seven years old. Her mom [Christie Brinkley] and I were going to be breaking up, and she knew that was going to happen. During that time, she asked me, "What happens when you die?"

"Dona Nobis Pacem" by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart means Grant us peace, a good reminder for any time.

"Long Time Ago" is arranged by Aaron Copland; The lyrics were originally attributed to George Pope in 1837 but may have been adapted from an earlier song by John Cole in 1833. The sympathetic and emotive melody along with the piano arrangement added by Aaron Copland make this a particularly beautiful song.

"Imagine" by John Lennon and arranged by the Pentatonix; Few songs can stand the test of time like John Lennon's iconic song "Imagine." Imagine a world at peace without the overbearing barriers of borders or wars sparked by differences in religion and nationality that tear us apart. More so consider the possibility of living a life

detached from material possessions in the name of unified humanity"

"Daniel, Daniel, Servant of the Lord" is an African American spiritual/arranged by Undine Moore. She was a notable and prolific female African American composer of the 20th century. This fast paced and intense song has an engaging impact on the listener.

Returning to the circle at the end of the concert, members will sing "Christian's Goodnight." This song was published as a poem in 1871 by Sarah Doudney, English children's writer, novelist and poet. In 1886 it was put to music by well-known hymn composer, Ira Sankey. It has been picked up by numerous artists over the years, including the Grateful Dead.

Circle of Song personnel this year include Minnie Isgro, Janet Lawson, Pat Lameroux, Ben Wells-Tolley, Jack Kittredge, Dan Kittredge, Danny LeBlanc, Joan Bevers, Marcia Gusha, Nancy Afonso, Anne Kneeland, Lois Wells, Kelly Fragale, Paula Bowie, Cailan McClure and Julie Rawson.

There will be refreshments at the end of the concert and time for socializing. Circle of Song is always looking for new members to join in the group, the fellowship and camaraderie, and the challenge of making music together. All skill levels and ages are welcome. Contact Julie Rawson at julie@mhof.net or 978-257-1192. Circle of Song will resume in January of 2024.

Ryan Witkos receives CMMC

HARDWICK – Ryan J. Witkos, Town Clerk of Hardwick recently qualified for the Massachusetts Town Clerks' Association's prestigious Certified Massachusetts Municipal Clerk designation and will receive his commemorative pin and certificate at the MTCA Winter Conference in Devens on Feb. 1, 2024.

Currently, only 113 of the Commonwealth's 301 active town clerks hold this designation.

The CMMC designation is achieved by attending MTCA-sponsored educational courses and passing a two hundred and fifty-question aptitude test measuring the municipal clerk's knowledge of Massachusetts General Laws in categories such as elections and election procedures, vital records, campaign and political finance, town meetings, Chapter 40A (planning), Chapter 41 (zoning), ethics and public records.

Witkos served as Hardwick's elected Town Clerk for three plus years. Prior to that, he served as a Selectman from 1992 to 1997. He has also been Hardwick's Moderator for 22 years and a Constable for four years.

In addition, he continues his professional development through courses sponsored by the MTCA and the Secretary of the Commonwealth's Elections Division.

Oakham

Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

Lesson and Carols happens Dec. 17
 Lessons and Carols will be held on Sunday, Dec. 17 at 7 p.m. at the Oakham Congregational Church. Rehearsals will begin at next month at a time and date to be determined. This year's cantata "Go Sing It on the Mountain" by Pepper Choplin. Rehearsals are Tuesdays from 6-7 p.m. at the church.

Penpal letters reminder
 The second student penpal letters will be ready for pickup at the back door of Fobes Memorial Library on Friday, Dec. 15. Senior response letters are due back to the box by Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2024.

Benefit breakfast
 The Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, will hold a benefit breakfast to help local families at Christmas on Saturday, Dec. 9 from 8-9:30 a.m. The menu will include pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, strawberries, coffee, orange juice, tea and hot cocoa.

Cookies with Santa set for Dec. 16
 The Oakham Parks and Recreation Committee will hold cookies and cocoa with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 16 from 4-6 p.m. Santa will arrive by Fire Truck at 4:30 p.m. Children can pose with Santa for a picture.

Senior Center events
 Ongoing activities include Zumba Gold Mondays from 10:30-11:15 a.m., Corn Hole Tuesdays from 10-11 a.m. and Cards and Cribbage Tuesdays at 1 p.m. Other activities are Coffee Wednesdays from 9- 10 a.m. and BBC Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. People may bring a craft or project to work on while they enjoy a BBC series. FUNctional Fitness is held Fridays at 10:30 a.m. in the New Braintree Town Hall.

Drop off for Toys for Tots
 New, unwrapped toys only will be collected now through Friday, Dec. 15 at the Oakham Town Hall, 2 Coldbrook Road and the Fobes Memorial Library, Maple Street, for the U.S. Marine Corp Reserve Toys for Tot program. People may drop off at the Town Hall Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and at the library Tuesday through Thursday from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m.-noon.

People may also make monetary donations by visiting the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots website at <https://www.toysfortots.org/>. Any questions, people may email Maribel LaRange at maribel.larange@oakham-ma.gov or call 508-882-5549 extension 1.

New Braintree Historical Society to hold open house

NEW BRAINTREE – The New Braintree Historical Society hosts an open house on Saturday, Dec. 9 from 4-6 p.m. at the New Braintree Historical Society Museum, 10 Utley Road. All are welcome. There will be a town history display, food and drink, Santa's elf, little children's gifts as part of Christmas in New Braintree festivities.

Editorial deadline reminder

Deadline for e-mailed press releases is noon on Monday. Deadline for hard copy is noon on Friday.

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2024 QUABBIN HISTORY CALENDAR
by J.R. Greene

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Opinion

Letter to the Editor

St. Augustine's Mission has successful Fair

It was an entertaining, fun-filled Saturday when St. Augustine Mission held their Bi-Annual Holiday Fair on Nov. 18.

Lucky raffle winners took home thoughtfully created theme baskets, a \$500 cash prize donated by parishioners, five \$50 scratch tickets with \$50 cash, 50 gallons of heating oil, a \$200 Photography by Suzanne gift certificate, a lottery cash gift tree and a Thanksgiving turkey basket complete with all the fixings.

A special thank you to the businesses and who kindly donated services and gift certificates: E.P Wine Inc., R. J. McDonald Inc., Eagle Hill School, Market Basket, Changes Salon, Mimi's, Hardwick Co-op, Hardwick Winery, Stillman's Vegetable Farm, The Whistle Stop, Rose 32 Bakery, J & J Restaurant, Fidelity Bank, June's Bakeshop, Country Auto, Regin's Repair, Hardwick Crossing, Hannaford's, Wholesome Farmer's Market, Country Gourmet, Gagne's Garage, as well as the many items donated by the generous friends of St. Augustine.

Skillfully created crafts and the homemade bake table are always a big hit while a yummy lunch selection capped off the successful event.

St. Augustine Fair Committee
Wheelwright

Guest Column



By Russell Gloor

We're planning to claim at 62; what do we need to know?

Dear Rusty

My wife (born May 1962) and I (born April 1963) are retired and will soon be looking to start collecting our Social Security as we each hit 62. As this is new to us, I'm wondering what things we may need to be aware of or consider as we get closer to her 62 birthday in May. Any advice or information will be appreciated.

Signed Planning Ahead

Dear Planning

If you and your wife are both retired from working and have decided to start your (reduced) Social Security as soon as you are eligible at age 62, then there is nothing you need to do in advance of applying. The Social Security retirement benefit amount for each of you will be determined by your individual lifetime earnings record and your age when you claim. If either of you will be eligible for a spousal boost from the other, that will be automatically applied when both of you are collecting.

If your wife plans to claim her Social Security as soon as she is eligible, she should apply for her benefits about three months in advance and choose the option on the application which states "I want benefits beginning with the earliest possible month and will accept an age-related reduction."

For information, an applicant must be 62 for an entire month to get benefits, so your wife's first month of eligibility will be June 2024. Social Security deals only in whole months and pays benefits in the month following the month earned; so if your wife's birthday is between the 11th and 20th of the month her first Social Security payment will be received in her bank account on the third Wednesday of July. All subsequent payments will be on that same schedule.

Then, when it's time for you to claim, you should follow the same process as your wife and, if either of you is entitled to a higher amount as a spouse, it will be automatically applied when your benefits later start.

Applying for benefits is a relatively simple process if done online at www.ssa.gov/apply. Note that to apply online your wife will need to first create her personal "my Social Security" account, which is easy to do at www.ssa.gov/myaccount.

To prepare for applying later, you can also create your personal online account now (it's required to apply online), at which you will see what your estimated benefit will be at different ages. Of course, your wife first (and later you) can also call Social Security at 1-800-7721213 to request an appointment to apply for SS retirement benefits in person. Applications which are not done online are usually taken over the phone vs. requiring a visit to your local Social Security office, but applying online is, by far,

See SOCIAL SECURITY, page 5



In Past Pages

Five years (Dec. 13, 2018)

Barre voters said yes to the borrowing of \$500,000 for the purchase of a new fire truck to replace Engine 4 without any discussed. The article passed unanimously and authorized the treasurer with approval from the Board of Selectmen to borrow by the issuance of bonds or notes. Borrowing requires a 2/3 majority. One hundred fifteen registered voters or over double the 50 voter quorum came out Tuesday night for a Special Town Meeting.

Superintendent Dr. Sheila Muir said the goal of the Quabbin Regional School District was to merge New Braintree and Oakham elementary school students into one school. She said to merge all grades into one school, the school committee must follow the school closure process. Currently, New Braintree and Oakham students in kindergarten and first grade attend New Braintree Grade School and second through sixth grade go to Oakham Center School. The superintendent stated advantages of having kindergarten through sixth grade. It provides a better opportunity for learning, increases opportunities for small groups, the principal would be able to focus on one school instead of two. It also offers an opportunity for more effective grade level transitions.

Putting a new spin on a classic is just what fifteen year old Emma Langelier did when she assumed the role of The Nutcracker Prince this past weekend. "It was cool to be a hero, because the last time I was in a show I was a villain," Langelier said. The Barre Town Hall was transformed into a magical place where mice came to life, toys knew how to dance and a land of sweets could really exist. Next Step Studio of the Performing Arts presented three royal family friendly version of "The Nutcracker" last Saturday and Sunday. Over fifty dancers got up close and personal as New Step owner and director, Hannah Lee Hall, created an intimate setting to present the timeless and much loved tale.

10 years (Dec. 12, 2013)

The Oakham Board of Selectmen approved a residential factor of one the recommendation of the Board of Assessors at the tax classification hearing on Monday night. Assessor Peter Joyce said the Department of Revenue should approve the tax rate for Oakham this week. He said the rate probably would be slightly higher than last year, but the tax bill may be lower due to excess levy. Town Accountant Donna Couture explained the new growth was higher than anticipated. She said this was re-valuation year so values change.

Once again the Barre Players Theater presents a wonderful, Christmas play, "Fruitcakes" by Julian Wiles and directed by Cindy Richard. It is delightful play centered around some of the traditional holiday traditions like baking fruitcakes, holding a Christmas pageant and the grand illumination at the Beebos. Two maiden sisters, Miss Alice played by Celia Daniels and Miss Sara played by

LOOK BACK

No. 4 Schoolhouse - 1987



Children who live in the neighborhood of the old No. 4 Schoolhouse were all invited to the No. 4 Schoolhouse organization's annual Christmas party on Dec. 12. As an added surprise, a horse-drawn wagon pulled into the yard while Christmas carolers were singing, a very nostalgic setting.

Darlene Shatos are always squabbling, but they put aside their differences to bake fruitcakes for everyone in town at Christmas.

Hailing from Petersham and well known by many in the North Quabbin region, musician Barrett Anderson was honored on Dec. 8 with the award of 2013 Blues Artist of the Year at the 26th Annual Boston Music Awards gala event. Anderson was one of five nominees in the Best Blues Artist category, which included highly regarded blues musician James Montgomery and the well known Boston band Roomful of Blues. Anderson was on hand with friends and family and noted after his honors were announced, "I am excited and humbled to have won a Boston Music Award, specifically in a category with such great competition. I am so grateful to all the fans, friends, musicians and supporters, who helped get me to this point."

25 years (Dec. 10, 1998)

The famous holiday play, "It's a Wonderful Life," written by James W. Rogers, has completed its first of an unusual three week-end engagement. Further performances, with reserved seating, are booked for Dec. 11, 12, 18 and 19 at 8 p.m. and matinees on Dec. 13 and 20 at 2 p.m. The Barre Players, with Tim Waite and Suzanne Fullam sharing directional duties, do their expected great acting and pre-performance night audience registered approval.

Barre Selectmen questioned whether patrons of the Colonial Isaac Barre Tavern were violating the terms of its license by using the back door of the place as a regular entrance and exit. Selectmen Chairman Daniel Trifilo said he has received complaints from a few of the tavern's abutters and exiled the tavern's owner, Matthew Donlin before the board at the Dec. 7 meeting. The door in question faces an unpaved alley, which is owned by the building owner, Mark O'Conner. In an animated exchange with selectmen, Donlin said the terms of the original license, granted seven years ago,

should somehow be changed to accommodate the building's growing commercial development.

The Band of Voices will present a special performance, titled "The Longest Night," on the Winter Solstice, Sunday, Dec. 21 at 7:30 p.m. sharp in the Barre Town Hall. The whole community is invited to attend and participate in the words of the band's leader Nym Cooke, "warming our hearts against winter's cold, and lighting the darkness together with out singing."

38 years (Dec. 12, 1985)

Proposition 2 1/2 has forced most communities in Massachusetts not only to cut back on operating budget requests, but to virtually place needed capital improvement on the back burner. That trend is negligent and detrimental to the needs of the town and the planning and management process itself. The Barre Finance Committee recognizes that it is not enough to deal solely with the needs The town still has roofs, piping, roads, etc.

According to Richard Clark, attorney for the South Eastern Conference Seventh Day Adventists Church, Pioneer Valley Academy, located in New Braintree, has been sold. The closing occurred on

Dec. 3, 1985. The former private school was sold to Vernon-Holliston, Inc. of Lenox Street, Norwood. The selling price as in excessive of three million dollars. Clark stated at the time of the closing, Vernon-Holliston, Inc. had no specific plans for school buildings or grounds.

Just under \$300 was stolen from the Barre Gazette office some time during the early afternoon on Saturday, Dec. 7. The break was made through the rear of the office. Earlier in the same day, the intrusion alarm was set off at Uptown Video, the next office over from the Barre Gazette. Some vandalism took place at the rear of the video store. Eyewitnesses report a juvenile jumped from one of the windows at the rear of the building at that time. Police are investigating leads.



Seventy-five years and going strong

I was opening the curtains in my bedroom this morning to find that my Babi's Christmas cactus had burst into bloom!

How exciting for an indoor plant to live for seven plus decades, never mind that the last two have been under my care. It's no secret that I am not an indoor plant aficionado, but I do have my favorites, and this is one of them.

Read on to learn about this beloved plant, straight from the archives.

One horticulture related Christmas memories involves my mother's Christmas cactus. I remember the arching, woody stemmed plant on an iron stand in her bedroom; before that it lived in my Babi's house.

Every year, just in time for the holiday, it would flower, putting on quite a show, beautiful and exotic in hot fuchsia-pink.

Today, only five original branches remain. But if you look closely within the base of the plant, you'll see lots of new growth.

Perhaps if I follow the advice, I have outlined below this heirloom will be blooming in the home of my future grandchildren!

The Christmas cactus (*Schlumbergera bridgesii*) is an epiphyte, native to South America where it happily grows hanging from trees in the jungle. Inside, it prefers a location with indirect light. Positioning it in front of a north or east facing window is best.

During the summer months many people prefer to move the plant outdoors. I have had good luck placing it under the shade of a tree; too much sun will burn its leaves.

When night temperatures begin to dip into the forties it is time to bring the Christmas cactus indoors. Gradually acclimatize the plant to its winter home by increasing the number of hours spent inside each day.

It is very important that the Christmas cactus be planted in a well-drained growing medium. For this reason, either coarse sand or perlite should be added to any homemade potting soil.

A recipe that combines equal parts of either of these along with garden loam and leaf mold or compost should work out just fine. Christmas cactus like to be somewhat pot bound, but if the plant has been growing in the same pot for several years its soil is likely exhausted of nutrients.

Repot by gently teasing away some of the soil from the plant's roots. Replace it with the new soil mixture. Choose a pot that is a single size bigger than the existing root ball, or reuse the old pot.

Many people hear "cactus" and think that the plant is drought tolerant. With the Christmas cactus this is only partly true.

Although its leaves are succulent and can retain a fair amount of water, it is not a true cactus. As a general rule you should water Christmas cactus when the potting soil is dry to the touch.

Adequate moisture is especially necessary during the spring when it begins its growth and once buds are set. A diluted amount of liquid fertilizer can be added then as well, especially if the soil hasn't been refreshed in many years.

When the plant is done flowering, it will go into a period of rest; almost no water is necessary for nearly

See GARDEN, page 13

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Letters to the editor should be 350 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources. Send letters to: Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005 or via email to edowner@turley.com. The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

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Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

Most of the week has been rainy or cloudy, but at least the snow is staying away.

The eave troughs have been cleaned out so that is a good job done. Most of the driveway has had the leaves raked away.

All the Christmas decorations are up that are going up and my spare time is spent writing Christmas cards to those who I do not see. I did write a Christmas letter and also comment to each friend.

When I lay down to rest I usually have a book I am reading. I just finished "One Perfect Summer" by Brenda Novak and now reading "The Five-Star Weekend" by Elin Hilderbrand.

I keep a list of the books that I read so I don't purchase it a second time. My oldest daughter and the Senior Center furnish me with the reading material.

Due to the fact that my legs weren't working well on Saturday I missed the two Christmas fairs in town.

I did make the Swedish Apple Pie recipe on Saturday and mentioned that it had a lot of sugar and my penpal Nancy said she reduced the recipe to half of the sugar and it was still sweet enough. I will include it again as it is a quite recipe to make and with apples in plenty of supply the readers should enjoy it.

I also used a regular pie plate and only used three big apples.

SWEDISH APPLE PIE

- 1/2 cup melted butter
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 cup flour
- 1 egg
- pinch salt
- 1/2 cup nuts
- 1 tablespoon cinnamon
- 3 big apples, cored and slices thin

Combine all of the first ingredients and place them over the sliced apples that are in the pie plate. Bake for 45 minutes in a 350 degree oven. I like to serve it warm with vanilla ice cream. Good warmed over also.

This and That

My family are getting money gifts this year as I am unable to shop. A few years ago I was given a small Santa of felt with a pouch for his stomach with a folded bill in the pouch so I decided to make one for each of the family and that is how they will receive their gift.

The wreaths are on the windows by the front door and two bouquets of greens are in the den and on the back deck. One year I bought three Fraser Fir Christmas tree seedlings from the Worcester Extension Service and we planted two and I gave one away.

One got chopped down and it was not by George Washington, and the other was planted out by the vegetable garden. The Handyman investigated and found that the only surviving one was not faring well. He did bring in one small branch to prove we still had it. I liked the tree as the needles did not fall off when in water for a long time.

I have been trying to make a head band for my youngest daughter with Granny squares in crochet. I am still experimenting. She had me make eight hand towels with crocheted tops.

I guess the girls like to keep me busy and out of trouble. This old gal of 87 doesn't get into too much trouble way out in these woods.

I have been finally able to fit our car in the garage after moving a few things around. Speaking of the car, my son-in-law came up and took the pine pitch off the vehicle and took it to a car wash.

I also noticed that he set the clock. We have had the car for six years and were never able to learn how to set the clock. He needs to show me now so when the time changes again I will know how to do it. Car instruments are made too complicated for this old gal.

In fact one button on the car panel got hit by mistake and it was the emergency lights. We could not figure how to shut them off so I drove the car to a kind neighbor and he showed me what to do. Serenity Hill is serene again.

Have a good week.

Loon life span

In the Loon Preservation Committee newsletter, they discussed the loon life span.

"How long do loons live?" is one of the most common questions that LPC biologists are asked.

The two oldest known loons in the world breed in Michigan, at the Seney Wildlife Refuge. They used to be a pair, however, in recent years they have gone their separate ways. The male's exact age is known because he was banded the year that he hatched. The female's exact age is unknown because she was banded as an adult, however, we know her minimum age. This summer, the female was at least 37 years old, while the male turned 36 years old.

New Hampshire has a male loon who was banded as an adult in 2000, making him at least 26 years old. In addition to his advanced age, he has another claim to fame: he is the only loon, so far, in New Hampshire that has produced chicks after surviving lead poisoning.

The oldest known loon in New Hampshire is a female, who occupies a territory on Lake Umbagog. She was originally banded as an adult in 1993. Because she was banded as an adult, we don't know her exact age. We only know for sure that she was at least three years old in 1993. However, loons don't hatch chicks, on average, until they are 6 years old, and this loon hatched chicks the year she was banded. That means she was likely 6 years old or older in 1993. She is at minimum 33 years old, but more likely 36 or older.

Decrease in bird activity

I received an email from a man who said this year he has a very noticeable decrease in bird population.

He reports he has a male and female bobcat and squirrels, rabbits and chipmunks have disappeared. He said "maybe that's part of it."

Bird club

A Brimfield resident emailed, "On Nov. 30 I took part in a project for the bird club and afterwards we went to Forest Park in Springfield and saw a black duck, a chilly looking great blue heron, a hermit thrush and several golden-crowned kinglets.

He said he started to leave one feeder out overnight testing to see if there are still bears about. Here's hoping they have all gone into hibernation.

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.

One final word of caution: although you and your wife are now retired from working, be aware that if you claim SS benefits before your FRA and return to work, Social Security has an earnings test which limits how much you can earn before some benefits are taken away. The earnings test lasts until you reach your full retirement age.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

Wings of Song presents 'Celtic Noëls' concerts



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

Wings of Song Music Director Nym Cooke leads the 40-member community chorus at a rehearsal for "Celtic Noëls".

Community chorus sings songs of Brittany and beyond

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

As the chill of winter begins to creep in the air, and people prepare for the holiday season, the 40-member Wings of Song community chorus is busy rehearsing "Celtic Noëls", featuring Christmas music from Brittany and elsewhere in France.

Music Director Nym Cooke was first introduced to "Celtic Noëls" after receiving a recording of it as a gift from his wife, Daphne.

"The whole family fell in love with that music, and it became the number one Christmas disc for some years," Cooke said.

In the summer of 2004, Cooke and his daughter Thalia, set to work to make English singing versions of the Breton text, making it rhymed and metered.

Cooke said this is the only version of "Celtic Noëls" in English that he knows of, and it has quickly become a favorite of the chorus members.

"These pieces are going to stick around for a long time," he said.

This group of pieces was first recorded by the community chorus Ensemble Choral du Bout du Monde (Choral Ensemble from the Edge of the Earth) partly in a studio and partly in the Abbaye (Abbey) Saint-Guénolé de Landévennec in far western Brittany, France, in 1997. They were released on the CD "Noëls Celtiques" (Green Linnet Records) in 1998 and the disc has since won several awards.

Wings of Song, formerly the Quinebaug Valley Singers, will be performing "Celtic Noëls" for the fourth time, having first performed it alongside the Band of Voice, a Barre-based chorus in 2004 and 2008 and with the Quabog Choral Society in 2015.

There are nine pieces featured in "Celtic Noëls", with the first part of the program having music from the rest of France and the second part from Brittany.

"Celtic Noëls" is comprised of both newly composed music and older hymns, Cooke said. "It's got a primeval, primitive feel. One of those great classic sounds," he said, complete with drum, flute, gong and organ. "My version is a lot fiercer and louder than the original...but some of the pieces in this set are beautifully gentle. There's quite a range."

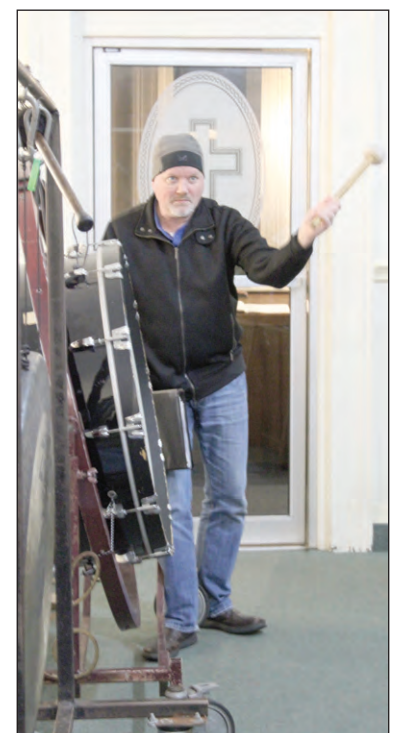
The "Celtic Noëls" are not only a celebration of Christmas from a Christian perspective; they are an affirmation of Brittany's own culture, and of Celtic culture in general. The particular flavor of Celtic music comes across strongly here: sometimes a little wild, often with a feeling of closeness to large, untamable, natural forces.



Brooks Milgate accompanies the chorus on the organ.



Chorus members join their voices together at a recent rehearsal.



"Celtic Noëls" features a variety of instruments, including a drum and a gong.



"Celtic Noëls", will be performed at two concerts, one on Saturday, Dec. 9 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Joachim Chapel, part of St. Anne/St. Patrick Parish, 16 Church St., Fiskdale and on Sunday, Dec. 10 at 3 p.m. at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 18 East Main St., Webster.

"The far western margin of Europe is largely Celtic," Cooke said. "It's shared by quite a wide north-south range."

Cooke said there is kind of a wild nature to Celtic music and in the opening piece, when the recorder first comes in, it's like a bird call.

"It's elemental and it's outdoors...some of it is in the cathedral and very human and devotional. It's both. That gives it that richness," Cooke said.

"Celtic Noëls" has also inspired Cooke and others to become more involved with the Breton culture.

"The Bretons are very, very proud of their country," he said, and deeply connected to their language.

In recognition of Brittany's own language, which is much closer to other Celtic tongues such as Welsh than it is to French, and which is also a badge of cultural identity for the Breton people, the chorus will sing verses of several songs in Breton.

Performances of "Celtic Noëls" will be held on Saturday, Dec. 9 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Joachim Chapel, part of St. Anne/St. Patrick Parish, 16 Church St., Fiskdale and on Sunday, Dec. 10 at 3 p.m. at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 18 East Main St., Webster. Both venues are handicapped accessible.

Wings of Song concerts are always free, with a freewill offering collected at intermission. Complimentary refreshments are served in a jolly social hour after each performance.

About Wings of Song

For more information about Wings of Song or the "Celtic Noëls" concerts, email Cooke at nymcooke@gmail.com, or President Carol Curtin at carolcurtin77@gmail.com. People may also visit www.wingsofsong.org.

The chorus's spring 2024 concerts will feature music of the ocean, in a program titled "Rough Seas, Safe Harbor."

in my BACKYARD
By Ellenor Downer



I received an email last month from a Brimfield resident who reported an acquaintance from Hardwick had a fox sparrow and pine siskin in his yard recently.

The fox sparrow is a large sparrow, seven inches. It has rufous sneaking on a gray head and back, whitish underparts and boldly streaked with brown or rufous. It has an irregular central dot on its breast and a reddish brown rump and tail.

These sparrows feed on the ground with seeds, fruits and insects making up its diet. They often jump forward and back to remove debris from the ground to uncover food. They come to feeders eating the seeds scattered on the ground by other birds.

The female lays four to six light blue, green eggs with darker marks in a cupcake nest if grasses, lichens and leaves lined with grasses, fur and rootlets. It is placed on the ground under a small tree or shrub. Their song is a series of clear melodious whistles and is more melodic than most sparrows.

SOCIAL SECURITY, continued from page 4

the most efficient method; you can link to the application process from your online account.

One important thing to be aware of: By claiming at age 62, the monthly payment for each of you will be 70% of what it would be at your Full Retirement Age and that is a permanent reduction.

If you expect at least average longevity about 84 for you and 87 for your wife and if it is financially feasible, then waiting longer to claim would yield a higher monthly amount as well as the most in cumulative lifetime benefits. For those with an FRA of 67, SS retirement benefits claimed at FRA are 30% higher than at 62 and, if claimed at 70 are 75% more than at 62. And, although the decision on when to claim is always personal, a married couple should also evaluate their joint needs when deciding.

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Hardwick celebrates the holiday season with Santa and more



Turley Photos by Paula Quimette

Emmett Carlson, age 7 of Barre, tells Santa Claus what he wants for Christmas this year.

HARDWICK – Hardwick’s Classic Christmas on the Common was held this past Sunday, starting with the arrival of Santa Claus and his North Pole friends by way of John Deere tractor.

Dozens of area vendors and businesses lined the common, offering a variety of wares, services and treats – just in time for holiday shopping. A cookie walk was hosted by the Friends of the Paige Memorial Library in the Town House.

Santa Claus welcomed visitors upstairs in the Town House, where he heard each child’s Christmas wish. Gingerbread houses of all shapes and designs were entered into a contest, with many lucky winners taking home ribbons.



Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer hands out red noses to brothers Grant and Sawyer Verham of Hardwick.



Miles Rosario, age 5, and Lillian Rosario, age 4, of Paxton were eager to meet with Santa Claus.



Thea Richard, age 4 and Dean Richard, age 2 of Hardwick wore hats to match the jolly elf.

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			69						70				

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Spiritual leaders
- 7. Salt
- 13. Fortified wine
- 14. Edible mollusk
- 16. It begins with them
- 17. A way to compare
- 19. Government lawyer
- 20. Back parts
- 22. 8th month (abbr.)
- 23. Very willing
- 25. ...ex machina
- 26. Satisfies
- 28. Quebec river
- 29. A doctrine
- 30. Popular pickup truck
- 31. Dekagram
- 33. Naturally occurring solid material
- 34. Company officer
- 36. Villains
- 38. Cricket frogs
- 40. German founder of psychology
- 41. Endured
- 43. A female domestic

CLUES DOWN

- 44. A "place" to avoid
- 45. Cigarette (slang)
- 47. Canadian politician Josephine
- 48. French ballet/acting dynasty
- 51. Employee stock ownership plan
- 53. Belonging to the bottom
- 55. Sound
- 56. Yankees' slugger Judge
- 58. Dickens character
- 59. More wise
- 60. Flash memory card
- 61. Exposing human vice or folly to ridicule
- 64. Atomic #79
- 65. Longtime Braves pitcher Julio
- 67. Humor
- 69. Shawl
- 70. Preliminary assessment of patients

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Animal disease
- 2. Commercial
- 3. Craft supply
- 4. Storage units
- 5. Investment vehicle
- 6. Colorado Heisman winner
- 7. In a way, sank
- 8. Post-birth brain damage (abbr.)
- 9. Lay about
- 10. Intestinal
- 11. The opposite of yes
- 12. Caused to be loved
- 13. Messianic in Islamic eschatology
- 15. Showing since conviction
- 18. Not safe
- 21. The number above the line in a fraction
- 24. Yard invader
- 26. Pouch
- 27. Swedish krona
- 30. Start anew
- 32. While white or

- 35. Fourteen
- 37. Graphical user interface
- 38. Up-to-date on the news
- 39. Campaigns
- 42. Touch softly
- 43. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
- 46. Violent seizure of property
- 47. One who supports the Pope
- 49. Anxiety
- 50. Body fluid
- 52. Phony person
- 54. Title of respect
- 55. Chilean city
- 57. City in central Japan
- 59. Silk garment
- 62. Draw from
- 63. Automobile
- 66. Man
- 68. Legal bigwig (abbr.)

ANSWERS ON PAGE 13

Gilbertville Public Library receives new flag at Veterans Day ceremony

GILBERTVILLE – A new flag is flying at the Gilbertville Public Library courtesy of state Rep. Donnie Berthiaume and newly-elected state Sen. Peter Durant.

The legislators donated the flag, which was flown over the Massachusetts State House and presented it to Library Director Linda Payne and Eileen Giard, chairman of the library’s Board of Trustees during a Veterans Day ceremony on Nov. 11.

Berthiaume, a Navy Veteran, led the Pledge of Allegiance after he and Durant raised the new flag.

The legislators also toured the library, which was newly built and dedicated in 1913 and, save for a new, accessible entrance added in 2002, remains essentially as it was then with cathedral hardwood ceilings and ornamental woodwork.

A new solar light, donated by an Air Force Veteran, who was raised in Hardwick, is set to be installed soon.



Submitted photo

Library Director Linda Payne, State Rep. Donnie Berthiaume, State Sen. Peter Durant and Library Trustees chairman Eileen Giard, recite the Pledge of Allegiance beneath the library’s new flag.

BARRE, continued from page 1

Public Works Superintendent Jason Pimental said the Town Administrator and Select Board did not have control over the Waste Water Department, the Sewer Commission did, Select Board Vice Chair John Dixon made an amendment to Section K, 170-2 to add all applicable laws and by-laws. Town Counsel said he thought the amendment was okay and votes approved it.

Select Board Chair Marshall said since 2018 the auditors stated the town was not doing enough. She said since she was on the Select Board, there have been three Treasurers and three Town Administrators.

Marshall made an amendment to delete Town Hall as some people felt the reference to Henry Woods

Building with Town Hall in parenthesis was confusing. The amendment passed.

However, a motion to table Article 4 failed. The moderator said it required a 2/3 majority and failed with a standing vote of 28 to table and 27 opposed.

Select Board Vice Chair Dixon said this town by-law gave responsibility to the people rather than the Select Board. He said this by-law was “necessary” in addition to the Town Administrator job description. A previous Town Administrator brought up some issues, which a town administrator by-law addressed.

Interim Town Administrator Greg Balukonis spoke on the need expressed by the auditors for the town to have a fraud audit. This process involved a lot of paperwork and would be a primary focus for the new Town Administrator

Tammy Martin.

The Moderator ended discussion and the by-law passed with a standing vote of 32 yes and 25 no. It required a simple majority.

Voters passed over Articles 5 and 6. Article 5 concerned amending the code regarding the Council on Aging. The motion to pass over the article recommended passing it over. Article 6 asked to transfer a sum of money to the Capital Stabilization Fund.

The final article proposed by the treasurer had a favorable vote from both the Select Board and Finance Committee. Voters approved to adopt Massachusetts General Law known as the “prudent investor rule. The Treasurer said hopefully the town would see an increased interest on its investments.

The meeting adjourned just shy of an hour after beginning.

BELL, continued from page 1

time, the town hall caught fire in 1981. BSCF President Brewer strongly believes a town hall is needed in a town as it stands as a signature. Preserving this history by casting the bell with a new clock mechanism inside the town hall is a way to express pride in the town of Barre.

“We hope this effort will stand the test of time”, said Brewer.

The Team efforts of the Barre Historical Society, trustees of the church, and the BSCF made this project possible.

The History of the Church Bell and Town Hall

To provide the history behind the Paul Revere Bell and clockworks is President of the Barre Historical Society Robert Bentley. To help preserve the history, Bentley had collected the original clock hands and displayed them on the walls of the historical society and museum along with pictures of the First Church sign and a picture of the actual Paul Revere Bell from 1814.

The bell is tied to Paul Revere himself as it was made by his foundry. The bell is branded Revere & Son, Boston 1814. The bell was part of the First Parish Church in Barre that was located on the common. The Barre Historical Society has pictures surrounding an old map of the town highlighting the history of the bell’s journey and the history of the church.

In 1840, the church reached its second site of Barre. In 1848, the church was moved to a third site in Barre. The steeple had toppled



This 1814 period bell was from the Paul Revere & Son Foundry.



A map of the town of Barre dating back to 1891 that includes the original home of the Paul Revere Bell.

during the Great New England Hurricane in 1938. In 1969, the clock and bell were loaned to the town of Barre and placed in the town hall.

Recently, the remaining trustees of the church had donated the clockworks and bell to the Barre Historical Society. Thanks to the grant provided by the Barre Savings Charitable Foundation, it was a good time to refurbish the clock mechanism and make

the bell operational again at town hall.

New hands, controller and automatic adjusters were installed to make the clockworks and bell fully operational again and to be heard across the Barre town common. A great piece of history in the form of clockworks and a Paul Revere Bell has been preserved and is currently placed high up in the clock tower of Barre Town Hall.

TEAM AWARDS, continued from page 1

vulnerable,” said Colonel Mawn Jr. Owen’s father on behalf of his entire family thanked them for “all they do.” He said that February day we were strangers to you and everyone focused on finding Owen. He said he was eternally grateful for their service.

Oakham Police Officer Lucas Wise also received an award for his quick response to house fire in Oakham. He just finished his shift and spotted smoke coming from a home on Rutland Road. He called 911 and went to the house.



Submitted photo

District Attorney Joseph D. Early, Jr. presenting the Team Excellence and Merit Award to the more than 60 people, who helped find a missing 5-year-old boy in Oakham.

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HARDWICK,
continued from page 1

whole or partial sale of the property. He said the property could be divided into two lots, as the town's water supply is also located on the site. Korzec said the old ice rink and school building comprise 2.63 acres and the town well and emergency generator house is an additional 10,320 square feet. He said the decision to sell the property is under the authority of the Select Board. The Select Board voted to move forward with selecting a realtor to help find parties interested in the property. The second recommendation from the Capital Planning Committee is to compile a comprehensive asset list. The list will include land, buildings, bridges, and all capital property and assets. "Currently there is no asset list in town," Korzec said. "I think we need one."

Used car sales complaint
The property owner of 2089 Greenwich Road asked the Select Board to consider nonrenewal of the Class II used car sales and repair license held by Affordable Cars, which is owned and operated by Brian Gillespie. Gillespie has seven years remaining on a 10-year lease to operate his business at 2089 Greenwich Road.

The property owner purchased the site in 2021 and it had an open lease with Gillespie. Since this time, the property owner has determined that Gillespie's business practices were "basically deplorable." He said Gillespie gets used cars from three states, fixes them up, and sells them on consignment. He said most of Gillespie's sales are from outside of Worcester county.

"He's really preying on really vulnerable people who are spending all the money they own for these vehicles," the property owner said.

He said Gillespie has had his used car license revoked twice already, including in Ware in 2018. Gillespie said that decision was overturned, and that his license in Ware was transferred to Hardwick.

The property owner also said Gillespie doesn't apply for new licenses with towns, rather he comes in under joint ownership of an existing business.

"He's able to gain access that way, and not answer questions about losing his license in the state and any prior instances," he said.

The property owner said Gillespie had a contract to rent and maintain a port-a-potty from Parkers Portables, which he did not pay. The port-a-potty has since been repossessed.

Gillespie said he ended up buying two of his own port-a-potties, which is why he stopped renting one.

The property owner said the Police Department has been called to the site due to customer complaints, but there isn't much they can do.

"The state Attorney General's Office has two current complaints since he's acquired the license from Hardwick to operate this business of customers who've been cheated," he said.

Gillespie said the property has been inspected following complaints filed with the Board of Health and other departments, and no violations were found. Gillespie said the Building Inspector has also checked the site, and found no violations.

"He's been trying to get me out of there," Gillespie said of the property owner.

The Select Board voted to take the information from both parties under advisement.

Wastewater update
Water Pollution Control Facilities Superintendent Scott Potter said the alarm system at the Wheelwright plant was upgraded, giving them access to more than just a power outage alarm.

He said the Department of Environmental Protection and Environmental Protection Agency toured the wastewater treatment facilities, prior to the start of the town's wastewater upgrade project.

Potter voiced his opposition to hiring oversight for the construction phase of this project. He said digging has been completed in the first leg and there were no issues.

"I just think it's money that we don't need to spend on that," he said.

Town Administrator Nicole Parker said weekly project updates for the town's wastewater system upgrade are posted on the department's website.

Fire Chief retirement
Select Board Chair Eric Vollheim said he's been speaking with Fire Chief Raymond Walker and Deputy Chief Joshua Pease about Walker's upcoming retirement. Vollheim suggested the Select Board consider naming Pease as interim Fire Chief for a period of six months and then reviewing.

Select Board members Kelly Kemp and H. Robert Ruggles shared concerns about Pease taking on the role, while still being a full-time police officer. They noted the demands of both jobs.

Ruggles and Kemp also suggested speaking with other towns and exploring the possibility of sharing resources, as well as hearing from members of the Fire Department.

The Select Board will be meeting Walker and Pease to discuss the position.

Walker will be retiring on Dec. 25.

Conservation restriction
Cynthia Henshaw, executive director of the East Quabbin Land Trust, said she has been working with North Road property owner Chet Boronski.

Henshaw said Boronski will be donating an approximately eight-acre parcel of land that includes part of a hayfield to the EQLT and place a conservation restriction on the property. The EQLT will in turn donate the conservation restriction to the town.

"We're working in partnership to make this happen," Henshaw said.

The Select Board voted to accept the conservation restriction as presented.

Recognitions
Vollheim thanked Lagrant Electric for their help in installing a generator at the Fire Department. He also thanked Kemp for organizing the delivery of poinsettias to the town's senior citizens.

Kemp thanked everyone who donated and volunteered to deliver poinsettias this year.

Police Department grant

The Select Board accepted a grant on behalf of the Police Department in the amount of \$35,126.58.

Concert benefits Barre Food Pantry

BARRE – With Thanksgiving now behind us, we are on the home stretch towards Christmas and the Holiday season. It is always important to remember the great need to tackle the issue of food insecurity in our community.

On Saturday, Oct. 26, the band "Crawdad and The Witch Doctors" performed at the Barre American Legion Post 2. The four hour performance from 2-6 p.m. was the brainchild of band leader, Tim Messier (Crawdad). The band consisted of several members of Crawdad's band along with a few guests who showed up to perform alongside the band.

An Army veteran of 21 years and a long-term resident of Barre, Tim approached the American Legion to see if there was interest in a concert at the American Legion Hall with the specific purpose of

getting donations for the Barre Food Pantry. The American Legion was all in and offered their facilities to Crawdad at no cost. News went out through text messages, word of mouth and the Barre Residents Forum. There wasn't much time to plan, but the event went off as scheduled with a 50-50 raffle, cans of food and boxes of cereal for entry, along with some canisters for donations. Throughout the event, close to 50 people showed up and participated.

There wasn't much time to promote the event, but all-in-all over \$200 was collected along with several "food gift cards" and 6 tables loaded with 100's of pounds of donated cans, boxes and packages of non-perishable items. Director of the Barre Food Pantry, David Petrovic, showed up with his mom

and was extremely pleased with the results of the "Food for The Pantry Concert".

Early last week, a pick-up truck loaded with over 500 lbs of food, along with donations was delivered to the food pantry. Based on the success of the concert, Tim is hoping to do another benefit either during the winter or in early spring. Keep your eyes and ears open for future efforts.

The Barre Food Pantry serves Barre, Wheelwright, Oakham and New Braintree with emergency food assistance on the second Wednesday morning of the month and on the third Thursday evening of each month at the Barre Congregational Church. For more information, people may visit their website at www.barrefoodbank.org.



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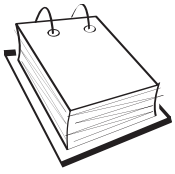
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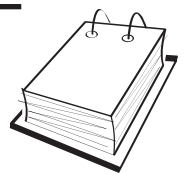
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Calendar of Events



THURSDAY, DEC. 7

CIRCLE OF SONG REHEARSALS are held every Thursday night, at the Barre Town Hall, Exchange Street, Barre. The choral group of 23 years sings in four-part harmony and often in other languages. People may email julie@mhof.net or call 978-257-1192 for more information. They perform several concerts during the year. New members are always welcome. Membership dues are sliding scale from \$25 per year for students and \$40 - \$70 for adults according to ability to pay.

WORCESTER CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY performs its ever-popular Baroque concert, "Efferevescence" to kick off the winter holidays today at 7:30 p.m. in the Princeton Congregational church, Princeton and Friday, Dec. 8 at 7:30 p.m. in Worcester Historical Museum in Worcester. Pre-concert talks are at 7 p.m. at both venues. Vanessa Holroyd is the flutist and John Mckean, harpsichord. Tickets are adult \$31-\$40, seniors \$29-\$38, college students \$10, EBT/WIC/Connector Care \$5 and youth 17 and under free. For EBT/WIC tickets, people should call the office at 508-926-8624 to order tickets.

Tickets are available by visiting the ensemble's website at www.worcesterchambermusic.org or by calling the office at 508-926-8624.

SATURDAY, DEC. 9

CHRISTMAS IN NEW BRAINTREE will hold a Craft Fair today from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the New Braintree Grade School and the New Braintree Town Hall, Memorial Drive, New Braintree. The craft fair has many vendors participated and a few vendors spaces are still available. Anyone interested in participating should email christmasinnewbraintree@gmail.com. Later in the day at 4 p.m. there will be a tree lighting

Where is this?



Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer

This week's mystery photo is from North Brookfield. If any readers know where this photo was taken, they may email edowner@turley.com or call the Barre Gazette at 413-967-3505, extension 100 with their answer by noon on Monday, Dec. 11. The names of those that correctly guessed the location will appear in the following edition. Bill Bowles, Stephen Craven, Evelyn Luukko, Jeremy Varnum and Phil Warbasse correctly identified the photo. The photo last week was of the field on Oakham Road in New Braintree by the Town Hall with Summit Farm in the background.

and tractor rides with stops around the common with light refreshments, crafts for children, caroling and ending with the annual tree lighting.

NEW BRAINTREE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OPEN HOUSE will take place today from 4-6 p.m. at the New Braintree Historical Society Museum, 10 Utley Road, New Braintree. All are welcome. There will be a town history display, food and drink, Santa's elf, little children's gifts as part of Christmas in New Braintree festivities.

PIONEER VALLEY BRASS QUINTET will perform at the First Parish Unitarian Church of Hubbardston, on the Common, Hubbardston today at 5:30 p.m. The quintet includes trumpets, horn, trombone and a tuba. The performance includes an array of your favorite Holiday songs, arranged by the quintet members.

FRIDAY, DEC. 22

SUPPORT GROUP for grandparent raising grandchildren will be held today from 9:30-11 a.m. at Worcester Family Resource Center, 20 Cedar St., Worcester. This group meets the third Friday of every month. People should call 508-796-1411 or email yiwfrycyouice@sevenhillsorg to register or for more information.

SUNDAY, JAN. 14

ENGLISH SOCIAL TEA, the first 250th Anniversary event, will be held today from 2-4 p.m. at the Barre Senior Center, 450 South Barre Road, Barre. Admission is free. Reservations are required by Friday, Jan. 5 by email at 250anniversary@town-of-barre.com or by signing up at either the Barre Senior Center or Grand View Terrace. Snow date is Sunday, Jan. 21.

Santa Claus comes to town



Santa and Mrs. Claus roll into Christmas in Barre with style, being pulled by a team of horses.

Turley Photos by Paula Quimette



Stanley Miknaitis drives his red convertible in the parade, with his son and granddaughter in the backseat.



Aimee Ickler of Barre tosses candy from a truck.



The Grinch and Cindy Lou Who joined in the fun.



Margo Petracone and her horse were decked out in red and green.



Quabbin Youth Football and Cheer members smile from their float.



The Quabbin Regional High School Band played a steady stream of holiday songs.



The color guard of Quabbin Regional High School's NJROTC marched around the Common.



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Panthers preparing for regular season



BARRE – Last week, Quabbin girls basketball prepared for their regular season opener. The Panthers are set to begin playing on Monday, Dec. 11 against Worcester Tech. The game is home at 6:30 p.m. Quabbin also had a pair of scrimmages last week against Nashoba and Palmer.

Hannah Baxter sets the pick as Mia Ducos drives toward the basket



Meg Doyle looks for an opening to pass inside the paint.



Brooke Austin wrestles for the ball with Christiana Dunn looking on in the background.



Riley Bassett reaches for the rebound with Hannah Baxter behind her.



Liana Leger with a jump shot

Pathfinder boys look at season ahead



The boys went 11-9 last year and made the state tournament.



Coach Zac Button gives his team some direction.

PALMER – Pathfinder boys basketball continued preseason practices last week. The Pioneers had a scrimmage earlier this week and are scheduled to open up with Pioneer Valley Christian on Dec. 7. Their home opener is on Friday, Dec. 15 against Ludlow. Last year's team went 11-9 overall. They faced Paulo Freire, a team that no longer exists, in the state tournament last year. They were defeated by 71-36. Pathfinder hopes for another run in this year's state tournament as well as a shot at Western Mass.



Pathfinder has another week of practice before opening up the regular season.



They faced Paulo Freire in last year's tournament.

PVSOA presents year-end awards

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—The Pioneer Valley Soccer Officials Association (PVSOA), which was formed in 1946, held its annual banquet at the Polish American Citizens Club in Ludlow on Dec. 1.

One of the highlights of the evening was the buffet catered by Tony & Penny's Restaurant. There was also an awards ceremony.

Ludlow junior Thomas Wadas is the 2023 George E. Russell Award (Boys Large School MCP award) winner.

"Thomas falls in line with all our former Ludlow players who have won the George Russell Award," said longtime Ludlow boys soccer coach Greg Kolodziej, who won his 200th career game this fall. "He's a very talented player who has worked extremely hard to get what he has achieved."

Wadas is the 24th Ludlow boys' soccer player to receive the Russell award, which is named in memory of the former Ludlow High School principal, since 1965. The first Ludlow boys' soccer player to win the prestigious award was Bob Duarte.

Wadas, who's a three-year varsity starter, didn't attend this year's PVSOA banquet because the Ludlow High School soccer banquet was held on the same night.

In his first three seasons as a member of the varsity soccer team, Wadas, who's a midfielder, scored 15 goals and 15 assists. He also helped the Lions (18-2-2) capture the Western Mass. Class A title for the third consecutive year. The Lions also competed in the



Pathfinder's Riley Sanderson was the Small School MVP.

Division 1 state tournament.

Pathfinder Tech senior Riley Sanderson received the Henry O. Holly/Dave Grieve (Boys Small School MVP award).

"I received an email from my soccer coach (David Wilson) telling me that I had been selected for the MVP award for small schools," said Sanderson, who led his team with 11 assists this past fall. "We weren't able to win any banners this year, but this is a nice way to cap off my high school soccer career."

Sanderson, who missed his junior season due to an injury, also scored 11 goals as a senior.

"Riley has an outstanding right foot, and he could've taken a lot more shots on goal for us, but he would always pass the ball to one of his teammates," Wilson said. "He always plays the game very hard and I'm very proud of him."

Junior Evan Costa led the Pioneers with 34 goals.

The Pioneers, who qualified for the vocational, Western Mass. Class C. and Division 5 state tournaments, finished the 2023 campaign with a 15-5 overall record.

The only other boys' soccer player from Pathfinder Tech to receive the MVP award was Josh Sikorski in 2010.

Minnechaug senior Kylie Ray received the John Kalloch Award (Girls Large School MVP award).

"This is a very special award, especially from the referee's association," said Ray, who'll be playing college soccer at Seton Hall University next year. "I was teammates with Reighan Demers, who received this award last year. It's nice to join her and the other previous MVP award winners from Minnechaug."

Ray is the seventh Minnechaug



Pathfinder boys soccer also received the Small School Sportsmanship Award.

girls' soccer player coached by Nundi Goncalves to be selected for the MVP award since 2005.

"I've been fortunate to coach many talented soccer players at Minnechaug," Goncalves said. "Kylie is one of them."

The Lady Falcons, who qualified for the Western Mass. and state tournaments, finished their season with a 13-5-2 overall record.

Pope Francis senior Isabella Meadows, who didn't attend the banquet, received the Robert C. Smith/ Stan Berntowicz Award (Girls Small School MVP award).

Minnechaug Regional also received the Bob McIntyre Sportsmanship Award (Girls Large School).

The Lady Falcons have only received two yellow cards during the past two seasons.

"It always feels good when your teams gets recognized for doing

something well," said Minnechaug sophomore Ava Kearney. "Coach Goncalves never wants us to get a yellow card during the game."

Palmer High School received the John Kurty/Benny Santos Sportsmanship Award (Girls Small School)

"It feels very nice to receive the sportsmanship award from the referees," said Palmer senior Grace Burke. "We're always very respectful to the referees and to our opponents."

Burke attended the banquet with teammates Nyela Dupre, Vanessa Baer, and Jordan Bigda, who are also members of the senior class.

It was the first time that the Palmer girls' soccer team has received the sportsmanship award.

"I was very surprised when I was informed that my soccer

COLLEGE Parker wins offensive player of the year

WESTFIELD – Westfield State University junior forward Delaney Parker and junior defender Jaida Cochran named to the 2023 United Soccer Coaches Division III Women's Soccer All-Region Teams.

Two-time MASCAC Offensive Player of the Year, Delaney Parker (Orange, MA/Mahar HS) was named to the 2023 United Soccer Coaches Division III Women's Soccer All-Region second team.

Two-time MASCAC Defensive Player of the Year, Jaida Cochran (Middleboro, MA) was named to the 2023 United Soccer Coaches Division III Women's Soccer All-Region third team.

Parker's recognition comes after finishing the year leading the MASCAC in goals and total points. Parker scored 19 goals on the season and tallied 48 points. She also finished second in the

MASCAC in assists with 10. It's the second time Parker has earned regional recognition in her career, she received All New England honors from NCAA Division III New England Women's Interscholastic Soccer Association as a first year.

Cochran's recognition comes after helping the Owls hold their opponents to only 31 goals and a 1.55 goals against this season while collecting seven shutouts on the season. Cochran's

All-Region recognition marks her second in her collegiate career

Sports

Quabbin 2023-2024 winter varsity schedule

BOYS BASKETBALL			GIRLS BASKETBALL						
Monday, Dec. 11	Away	Murdock	7 p.m.	Monday, Dec. 11	Home	Worcester Tech	6:30 p.m.		
Wednesday, Dec. 13	Away	Narragansett	7 p.m.	Wednesday, Dec. 13	Home	Narragansett	7 p.m.		
Friday, Dec. 15	Home	Hudson	7 p.m.	Friday, Dec. 15	Away	Hudson	7 p.m.		
Tuesday, Dec. 19	Away	Clinton	7 p.m.	Tuesday, Dec. 19	Home	Clinton	7 p.m.		
Friday, Dec. 22	Home	Maynard	7 p.m.	Friday, Dec. 22	Away	Maynard	7 p.m.		
Wednesday, Dec. 27	Away	Oakmont	7 p.m.	Wednesday, Dec. 27	Home	Oakmont	7 p.m.		
Thursday, Jan. 4	Away	Lunenburg	7 p.m.	Friday, Dec. 29	Away	Groton-Dunstable	6:30 p.m.		
Tuesday, Jan. 9	Away	Tyngsborough	6 p.m.	Thursday, Jan. 4	Home	Lunenburg	7 p.m.		
Friday, Jan. 12	Away	Gardner	7 p.m.	Tuesday, Jan. 9	Home	Tyngsborough	6 p.m.		
Tuesday, Jan. 16	Home	Littleton	7 p.m.	Friday, Jan. 19	Home	Hudson	7 p.m.		
Friday, Jan. 19	Away	Hudson	7 p.m.	INDOOR TRACK (meets at Wachusett)					
Tuesday, Jan. 23	Home	Clinton	7 p.m.	Wednesday, Dec. 13	Away	Meet 1	5 p.m.		
Friday, Jan. 26	Away	Maynard	7 p.m.	Wednesday, Dec. 20	Away	Meet 2	5 p.m.		
Tuesday, Jan. 30	Home	Lunenburg	7 p.m.	Wednesday, Jan. 10	Away	Meet 3	5 p.m.		
Friday, Feb. 2	Home	Tyngsborough	6 p.m.	Wednesday, Jan. 17	Away	Meet 4	5 p.m.		
Tuesday, Feb. 6	Home	Gardner	7 p.m.	Wednesday, Jan. 24	Away	Meet 5	5 p.m.		
Friday, Feb. 9	Away	Littleton	7 p.m.	WRESTLING					
Tuesday, Feb. 13	Home	Belchertown	7 p.m.	Saturday, Dec. 9	Away	Saint John's	10 a.m.		
				Wednesday, Dec. 13	Away	Shepherd Hill	6 p.m.		
				Wednesday, Dec. 20	Home	North Middlesex	6:30 p.m.		
				Thursday, Dec. 28	Away	Phil Tomkiel	9 a.m.		
				Wednesday, Jan. 3	Home	Marlborough	6:30 p.m.		
				Saturday, Jan. 6	Away	Tri-County	10 a.m.		
				Wednesday, Jan. 10	Away	Algonquin	6:30 p.m.		
				Saturday, Jan. 13	Home	TBD	10 a.m.		
				Wednesday, Jan. 17	Away	Nashoba	6 p.m.		
				Saturday, Jan. 20	Away	Granby	9 a.m.		
				Wednesday, Jan. 24	Home	Leominster	6:30 p.m.		
				Saturday, Jan. 27	Away	Whitinsville	10 a.m.		
				Wednesday, Jan. 31	Away	Tyngsborough	6 p.m.		
				Saturday, Feb. 3	Away	Triton	9 a.m.		

North Brookfield 2023-2024 winter varsity schedule

BOYS BASKETBALL			
Wednesday, Dec. 13	Home	Parker Charter	4 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 19	Home	Bethany Christian	7 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 3	Away	South Lancaster	7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 5	Away	Monson	6 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 9	Home	Immaculate Heart of Mary	5:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 11	Home	Murdock	5 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 16	Away	Immaculate Heart of Mary	6:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 19	Home	Sizer	7 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 24	Away	Trivium	5:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 26	Away	Bethany Christian	6 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 1	Home	South Lancaster	7 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 2	Home	Trivium	5 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 5	Home	Abby Kelley	7 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 8	Away	Abby Kelley	6 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 9	Away	Sizer	5:30 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 12	Away	Bromfield	7 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL			
Wednesday, Dec. 13	Home	Parker Charter	5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 19	Home	Bethany Christian	5:30 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 21	Home	Blackstone-Millville	5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 3	Away	South Lancaster	5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 9	Home	Immaculate Heart of Mary	7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 11	Home	Murdock	6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 16	Away	Immaculate Heart of Mary	5 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 19	Home	Sizer	5:30 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 22	Away	Abby Kelley	5 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 24	Away	Trivium	4 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 26	Away	Bethany Christian	4:30 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 1	Home	South Lancaster	5:30 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 2	Home	Trivium	4 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 5	Home	Abby Kelley	5:30 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 12	Away	Bromfield	5 p.m.

Pathfinder 2023-2024 winter varsity schedule

BOYS BASKETBALL			GIRLS BASKETBALL						
Thursday, Dec. 7	Away	Pioneer Valley Christian	7 p.m.	Wednesday, Dec. 27	Home	Mohawk	5:30 p.m.		
Monday, Dec. 11	Away	Mt. Everett	6:30 p.m.	Thursday, Jan. 4	Away	St. Mary's	6 p.m.		
Friday, Dec. 15	Home	Ludlow	7 p.m.	Friday, Jan. 5	Home	Westfield	5:30 p.m.		
Thursday, Dec. 21	Away	Gateway	7 p.m.	Monday, Jan. 8	Home	Hampden Charter	5:30 p.m.		
Thursday, Dec. 28	Home	Palmer	7 p.m.	Thursday, Jan. 11	Away	Sci-Tech	7 p.m.		
Tuesday, Jan. 2	Home	Smith Vocational	7 p.m.	Tuesday, Jan. 16	Home	Hampden Charter	5:30 p.m.		
Friday, Jan. 5	Away	Hampden Charter	7 p.m.	Friday, Jan. 19	Away	PVCIC	6 p.m.		
Tuesday, Jan. 9	Home	PVCIC	7 p.m.	Tuesday, Jan. 23	Away	Duggan	7 p.m.		
Friday, Jan. 12	Away	St. Mary's	6:30 p.m.	Thursday, Jan. 25	Home	Smith Academy	5:30 p.m.		
Thursday, Jan. 18	Home	Pioneer Valley Christian	7 p.m.	Tuesday, Jan. 30	Home	Gateway	5:30 p.m.		
Monday, Jan. 22	Away	Duggan	7 p.m.	Tuesday, Feb. 6	Home	St. Mary's	5:30 p.m.		
Friday, Jan. 26	Away	Monson	7 p.m.	Friday, Feb. 9	Away	Hampden Charter	6 p.m.		
Monday, Jan. 29	Home	Gateway	7 p.m.	Tuesday, Feb. 13	Home	Sci-Tech	5 p.m.		
Thursday, Feb. 1	Away	Smith Vocational	6:30 p.m.	WRESTLING					
Monday, Feb. 5	Home	Hampden Charter	7 p.m.	Wednesday, Dec. 13	Away	Smith Vocational	6 p.m.		
Thursday, Feb. 8	Away	PVCIC	6 p.m.	Wednesday, Dec. 20	Home	Frontier	6:45 p.m.		
Tuesday, Feb. 13	Home	St. Mary's	7 p.m.	Wednesday, Dec. 27	Away	Northampton	5 p.m.		
GIRLS BASKETBALL				Wednesday, Jan. 3	Away	Mohawk	7 p.m.		
Monday, Dec. 11	Away	Baystate Academy	6 p.m.	Wednesday, Jan. 17	Away	Gateway	7 p.m.		
Thursday, Dec. 14	Home	Duggan	5:30 p.m.	Saturday, Jan. 20	Away	Granby	9 a.m.		
Tuesday, Dec. 19	Away	Smith Academy	5 p.m.	Wednesday, Jan. 24	Away	Duggan	7 p.m.		
Thursday, Dec. 21	Away	Gateway	4 p.m.	Wednesday, Jan. 31	Away	Mahar	7 p.m.		

Railers fall in physical battle

WORCESTER — The Railers were good ones. Worcester had reams of good chances that wound up with shots on net, but only two shots in net.

Calder put Worcester ahead at 11:44 of the first period by beating Milic with a quick wrist shot from between the circles. The Railers were still ahead, 1-0, with the game more than half over but the Admirals changed that with their first power play goal.

Kubicek got it at 15:06 of the second period. He drilled a low slap shot through traffic and past goalie Tristan Lennox for his third of the season.

Worcester responded well, though, and retook the lead before the period was over. Howdeshell got his second of the year at 17:38 via a snap shot from about 20 feet out. He was set up by a fine pass from the right wing by Joey Cipollone.

Norfolk regained the momentum early in the third period, however, with two goals just 52 seconds apart, both by Golder, both on the power play. The first one was a rebound at 3:54, the second a tap in from just outside the crease at 4:42.

The first power play came with Jake Pivonka in the penalty box for high sticking. The second happened when Worcester was called for two roughings, Norfolk one, on the same altercation.

Piercy was involved at the beginning then Connor Welsh wound up getting a minor as well.

The Railers had power play chances after that and eventually pulled Lennox but could not beat Milic. In those final 20 minutes, Worcester had 14 shots on net and no goals. Norfolk had eight shots and four goals.

SEND US YOUR SPORTS PHOTOS

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UMass hosting Pioneer Valley Tip-Off

AMHERST — The Pioneer Valley Tip-Off is a student-run high school basketball showcase featuring some of the best talent in Central and Western Massachusetts. The PVTO was started in 2011 by Scott Moses and Pat Salle, both students at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and it continues to be entirely student-run by the McCormack Student Leaders Club today. The PVTO is held each December on the University of Massachusetts Amherst campus, where we strive to create a professional environment for fans and players alike. This year's event will be held on Dec. 9 and 10 and will feature teams from throughout the region. A schedule is online at www.pioneervalleytip-off.com. All games will be held at the Mullins Center on the UMass-Amherst campus.

AWARDS, continued from page 8

The MISOA PVSOA inductee is Alex Goncalves, who's from Ludlow.

The Paul Bogan Service Award was given to Peter Manolakis, who's from Wilbraham.

The Jimmie Downie Award recipient is Tomasz Ludkiewicz, who lives in Granby.

The Larry E. Briggs Award winner is John Voight, who currently lives in East Longmeadow, but grew up in Hampden. He graduated from Minnechaug Regional.

Former Ludlow girls' varsity soccer coach Jose Anselmo, along with Chris and Diane Kolodziej, who do an outstanding job of running the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League, received Letters of Commendations.

The association is always looking for new referees.

COLLEGE, continued from page 8

at Westfield State.

Both Parker and Cochran were named to the MASCAC All-Conference first team earlier this month. For Cochran, this is her third straight

MASCAC First Team All-Conference recognition.

For Parker, this is her third straight MASCAC All-Conference recognition.

The two were cornerstones in helping the Owls win the MASCAC Championship, as the Owls finished 13-7-1 under coach Todd Ditmar.

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Education

Quabbin High lists honor roll

BARRE – Quabbin Regional High School announces the first quarter honor roll.

Students in Grade 9 attaining High Honors are Madeleine Boisselle, Makenzie Casey, Benjamin Darcey, Jack Desjean, Tess Dunphy, Anna Hautala, Scarlett Merriman, Anna Metcalf, Ella Reeves and Brandon Welch.

Students in Grade 9 attaining Honor Roll are Klavdiya Antonian, Skyler Bard, Carter Bassett, Jacob Bassett, Halo Bissonnette, James Cook, Isabel Doty, Leah Doucette, Brody Faucher, Quinlan Fauteux, Grace Flamand, Alijah Flint, Kathryn Ford, Jacoby Hartshorn, Violet Kelley, Sadie Kennan, Jillian LaMontagne, Alisha LaRange, Audrey Laursen, Ailey Majoy, Mia Miville, Samantha O'Connor, Owen O'Donnell, Charlotte Oliver, Sadie Ouimette, Nahdiya Pena Leary, Julia Quintal, Arianna Riendeau, Emma Ryan, Kailynn Schuster, Sienna Shaw, Owen Twarog, Grace Vanoudenove, Ellary White and Leanna Zou.

Students in Grade 10 attain-

ing High Honors: Aaron Bodine, Micah Cerezo, Kenzie Gallagher, Elizabeth Mattheson and Zoe Orellana Cadenas.

Students in Grade 10 attaining Honor Roll are Owen Breuer, Tricia Brusio, Troy Budreau, Kylee Costello, Mia Ducos, Kalina Dyer, Garrett Erickson, Aiden Fuller, Evelyn Giese, Ava Gilman, Madeleine Hardy, Adelaide Harmon, Ian Haupt, Emma Kahlau, Samuel Kane, Jacob LaValley, Collin Lindley, Madison Lyden, Grace Manna, Hunter McQueston, Garrett Pease, Parker Proulx, Wesley Sanderson, Allison Sprankle, Madelyn Stauder, Cameran Vega, Samantha Vessair, Andrew Warfield, Bianca Wilder, Farah Wojcik, Aiden Woodruff and Jin Xi Zou.

Students in Grade 11 attaining High Honors are Kevin Boles, Matthew Erickson, Isabel LaBelle, Ethan Salvatore, Irene Stogitis and Jaxon Warburton.

Students in Grade 11 attaining Honor Roll are Alexander Bedard, Kaeliana Boucher, Ava Conlee,

Teaghan Earle, Adam Faulha, Angelina Feliciano, Ellie Frost, Samuel Guertin, Rylee-Anne Harty, Lianna Leger, Kun Liu, Vincent Marinelli, Veronika Mendrek, Alexandra Pease, Ezequiel Santoro, Sadie Sheldon, Sydney Slattery, Isabella Smith, Richard Tucker and Abigail Ure.

Students in Grade 12 attaining High Honors are Baylee Garcia, Kylie Casey, Sophia Januszewski, Grace LaValley, Ally Legare, Camryn Orsini, Eleanor Thompson, Michael Tobin, Benjamin Vasseur, John Waltz and Brianna Whitelaw.

Students in Grade 12 attaining Honor Roll are Annabel Audino, Conner Breeds, Brianna Caponigro, Evan Cole, Samantha Dube, Jady Gonzalez, Colin Harmon, Carsyn Harty, Emmah Hinckley, Abigail Hughes, Jaxon Kelley, Gavin Majoy, Joshua Marcotte Jr, Kelsey Marsh, Emma Masser, Cole Morrill, Carlee Rich, Kayla Sherblom, Julianna Stanger, Amy Stauder, Heather Stuart, Lillian Swett, Gracie Talbot, Seth Twarog and Nicholas Whitelaw.

DAM, continued from page 1

Hollow Dam is considered a "low hazard dam" and is of intermediate size. He said the dam is considered "unsafe" according to conditions defined by state legislation.

The dam was originally built by the Mixer family prior to the 1940s, and it was potentially used to power a sawmill or a forge. The Mixer family owned the land prior to selling it to MassWildlife.

Hammerberg said the dam raises Muddy Brook by six and a half feet, and has two spillways; one located easterly with flashboards and one westerly with outlet structure. He said trees and brush have grown around the dam, and that regulations do not allow any such vegetation within 20 feet of the dam.

He said when trees die and fall over, it poses a risk to the integrity of the dam if they are too close.

"If trees fall over, they can take the root ball with it and cause failure of the dam," Hammerberg said. Hammerberg said there's evidence that the dam has been overtopped and causing a washout on the concrete structure.

The dam removal project would also include the removal of an old boathouse, which is submerged in the pond.

Options for the dam

Buttrick said there are three options that MassWildlife considered when addressing the Patrill Hollow Dam, the first being no action and just leaving the dam as it is since it is considered a low hazard.

Other options include dam rehabilitation or dam removal. Both of these carry a significant cost, with removal expected to range from \$500,000-600,000 and rehabilitation coming in over \$1 million, with an added cost of about \$10,000-15,000 to maintain the rehabilitated dam annually.

"We're not considering rehab," Olanyk said, with Buelow adding there isn't any-

thing reusable to repair.

Removing the dam, will have a "really great net benefit" Buelow said.

Buttrick said the dam is in the top 5% of priority projects for removal partly because of the benefits it could create, but also because of the availability of American Rescue Plan Act funds.

"There is no federal funding to rehabilitate," Buttrick said. "There's a real cost savings to remove a dam. Rehabilitation is two-to-three times more than removal. For that reason, MassWildlife has made the decision to remove this dam."

Olanyk said MassWildlife is a "poorly funded state agency," getting most of its budget through the sale of licenses and trapping fees.

"We don't have the funding to replace or maintain these," he said.

Citizen concerns

Abutter to the Patrill Hollow Dam, Randall Noble, said when his neighbor, David Mixer, sold the land to MassWildlife; including the dam in the purchase was part of the deal. Noble said Mixer was originally deeding the dam to him, but the sale to MassWildlife depended on them having ownership of the dam.

"David trusted MassWildlife," Noble said, when he included the dam in the sale. "I think MassWildlife's integrity is in question."

Noble said he has been removing brush off the dam daily, and said the dam's lack of maintenance is the responsibility of MassWildlife and no one else.

Noble asked Olanyk how much money MassWildlife received from the timber harvest at Muddy Brook WMA, but Olanyk said he did not know.

Conservation Commission member Neil Halin asked how the dam removal would affect the pond's wildlife. Buelow said most of the animals in the pond will be mobile.

Noble asked what would happen to endangered species that live in the pond, along with six species of

turtles.

"There's so much that's going to die," he said.

Buelow said he strongly disagrees with Noble and said MassWildlife is mitigating for all species.

Lucas Wright, resident and small-scale hydroelectric expert, asked Olanyk if MassWildlife had ever considered using its dams for renewable energy. Buttrick said most of MassWildlife's dams are small, without large watersheds, and they're not located on main stream rivers or rivers with significant heads.

The removal project

Buttrick said the project will include removing the embankment and full vertical extent of the dam; demolishing the westerly concrete spillway and boathouse; regrading the adjacent natural topography; and restoring the stream at the location of the westerly spillway.

Buttrick said the project will consider staging and laydown area, road crossing, upstream influence of stream and continued habitat management.

He said he was unsure if the existing beaver dam will remain stable with the removal of the dam, and said it may be removed to allow the beavers to have a chance to rebuild.

"Beavers have well-colonized Muddy Brook," Buttrick said.

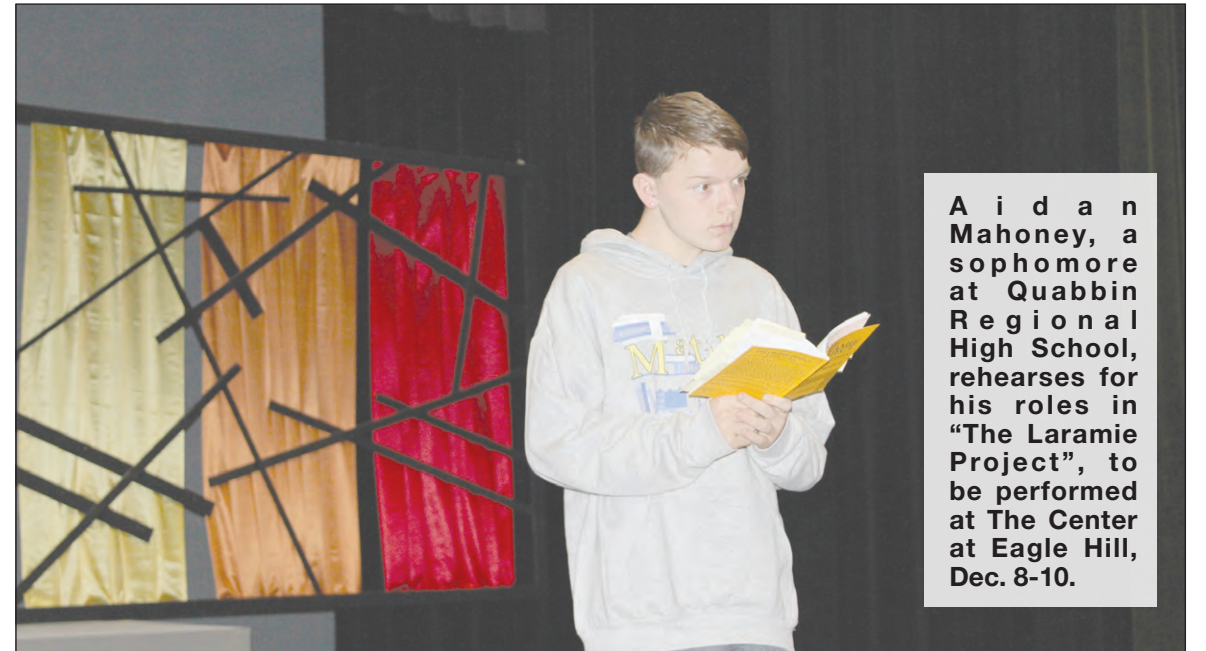
Buttrick said MassWildlife and Tighe & Bond are still in the early stages of the Patrill Holl Dam removal process, and will need to go through various permitting considerations at a state and local level.

Now through the winter, field work and data collection will continue, and design work will be developed.

Public hearings will be held in the spring and summer of 2024, with construction expected to start in the spring of 2025.

Questions or concerns about the project can be emailed to Olanyk at todd.olanyk@mass.gov. People can also call him at his office at 508-835-3607.

High school students present "The Laramie Project"



Aidan Mahoney, a sophomore at Quabbin Regional High School, rehearses for his roles in "The Laramie Project", to be performed at The Center at Eagle Hill, Dec. 8-10.

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

HARDWICK – It's been 25 years since 21-year-old college student Matthew Shepard was brutally murdered in one of the most shocking anti-gay hate crimes, just outside of Laramie, Wyoming.



Joachim Tucker, a junior at Eagle Hill School, reads through the script during a recent rehearsal.

In recognition of this significant anniversary, Eagle Hill School has joined together with Quabbin Regional High School to present the moving stage performance of "The Laramie Project", and to continue to bring awareness to issues of equality, especially for members of the LGBTQIA+ community.

This is also the 10 year anniversary of Eagle Hill School's first performance of "The Laramie Project," Director and teacher William C. Gelinus said.

Even though Shepard's murder occurred long before any of his students were born, Gelinus said bigotry and hate are still prevalent today.

"I think it's unfortunate, but it's relatable to these students," he said of "The Laramie Project".

"The ease in which hate language is utilized by high school-aged students is a problem," Gelinus said. "That language, I do believe, was the basis for this crime. How it was just accepted, I think, made it easier for the two young men to target Matthew and carry out their hate crime."

Growing up in Barre but going to school out of town, Gelinus remembered how accepted and

welcomed he felt when he was able to join Quabbin Regional High School students in their production of "Fiddler on the Roof" in which he played Tevye.

"I'll never forget that," Gelinus said. "It was a great experience."

Gelinus has always wanted to bring that same partnership between the regional school and Eagle Hill School.

"It's a great opportunity for both high schools to work with each other and collaborate," Gelinus said. "They can learn from each other."

Joining the cast from Quabbin Regional High School, is Oakham sophomore Aidan Mahoney in one of his first big theatrical roles.

Mahoney had his first "real" experience in theater when he played Prince Charming in Oakham Center School's production of "Cinderella". He's also performed in "The Wizard of Oz" at Quabbin, and most recently in the school's musical, "Matilda".

It was during tech week for "Matilda" that Mahoney learned about Eagle Hill School's production of "The Laramie Project" when Gelinus joined Quabbin teacher Julia Tuttle in asking if any of the students wanted to work together.

"I thought to myself, 'this is huge,'" Mahoney said, and he introduced himself to Gelinus, and asked to join the cast of "The Laramie Project".

"I introduced myself and shook his hand very firmly," Mahoney said. "We talked for a few minutes about it and I'm here now."

Mahoney is playing Philip Dubois, Moises Kaufman, Jon Peacock, Phil Labrie, Murdock Cooper and Harry Woods.

Mahoney said he supports the LGBTQIA+ community and is an advocate for equality.

"Knowing the story behind Matthew Shepard and 'The Laramie Project', it was a crime against gays," Mahoney said. "There's a lot of people that support and other people don't and give people who aren't straight a hard time."

Mahoney said he feels like since Shepard's death, some things have gotten better in terms of acceptance, but there is still a lot of work that needs to be done.

"There are still people that retaliate against other people; their

thoughts, their opinions," he said. Eagle Hill School junior Joachim Tucker is in his first year at the school, hailing from California, and he is no stranger to the stage.

Landing a role in "The King and I" at just 7 years old, Tucker has acted in at least two plays a year from that point on.

Tucker plays three characters in "The Laramie Project", that of Doug Laws, Andy Paris and Jedediah Schultz.

Tucker said he saw "The Laramie Project" for his first time this year and that it was "very, very intense."

"Lately in history, LGBTQIA+ and trans youth have been having their rights taken away at an alarming rate. People don't realize," Tucker said. "This [the play] brings attention."

He said he hopes this performance will also help bring change.

Gelinus said the actors will perform "The Laramie Project" as it's written, and that audiences should expect strong language and mature content.

"The Laramie Project" will be performed at The Center at Eagle Hill, 242 Old Petersham Road, on Friday, Dec. 8 at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 10 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 each.

For more information or to order tickets, visit thecenterateaglehill.org or call the Box Office at 413-477-6746, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.



Director and Eagle Hill School teacher William Gelinus provides feedback to actors in "The Laramie Project".

NUTCRACKER, continued from page 2

"It was really fun," Metcalf said. "All of the children were so excited and that was probably my favorite part."

Hall said bringing "The Nutcracker" to the students was a way to show them what the performing arts have to offer. Dance, theater and music all help children to work together collaboratively to solve problems, and it's also a break from our technology driven world.

Metcalf said the arts also give children a safe environment just to be themselves.

"It's finding a community beyond their home...its their second family," Metcalf said. "It's also a great way to express yourself and it just builds character in general."

Schaaf said performing ballets such as "The Nutcracker" is a way to preserve history, and keep the stories alive.

"A lot of the arts have evolved and descended through history," he said.

Schaaf and Metcalf encouraged everyone to come and see "The Nutcracker", and enjoy the high level of talent the area has to offer at an affordable, community theater price.



The Nutcracker Prince and his toy soldiers use their hip hop moves to fight the Mouse King and his army.

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Barre Gazette

School district prepares to finalize strategic plan

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Superintendent Timothy McCormick provided an overview of the school district’s strategic planning, which is set to start in 2024-2025 and run for three school years.

“We did this work now, so that by the end of this school year, our two building principals could take this information, use this information, to work on their school plans so we’re all on the same page working cohesively for the start of 2024-2025 school year,” he said at the School Committee’s Nov. 20 meeting.

McCormick said a committee of 18 people, including students, parents, teachers, administrators, School Committee members met for three planning sessions with the guidance of a leadership team.

“Our next steps...is to drill down to the detailed actions, how this is going to actually work, how we’re going to hold ourselves accountable and what we can share with not only the school board, but the general public,” he said.

He said objectives outlined in the strategic plan include curriculum instruction enhancement, meeting the needs of all students and fostering a culture of belonging. There are five initiatives for each of these objectives, that are action steps.

“I’m very excited where we’re at,” McCormick said. He said once the plan is finalized, it will be shared with the School Committee.

“I think that this is going to be kind of a roadmap for our success for the next three years,” McCormick said.

Superintendent’s report

McCormick said the school district applied for and received the Project 351’s Playbook Initiative program, partnering with the Boston Celtics.

“This was a fairly competitive and rigorous process,” McCormick said. “I’m happy to say we were selected.”

He said they will be working with districts from across the commonwealth.

“The two students who were selected will become trainers,” McCormick said. “They’ll come back and share information with other students and staff in the building. Essentially what this work entails is working through conflict, working through social issues that happen...we really are excited for our student leaders and the training they’ll receive.”

McCormick said the program will help to foster a better sense of belonging to students and staff.

The school district also received a \$10,000 Safe and Supportive Schools Grant, to continue work with diversity and inclusion, as well as instruction.

On Nov. 9, the PTO hosted

the annual Veterans Day breakfast, recognizing over 30 veterans and featuring a number of guest speakers. Students in grades one through six, as well as High School students, all participated through poetry readings, songs, or making cards.

“It’s just a small token of our appreciation to all veterans. This year’s turnout was the best it’s been in several years,” he said, thanking all involved to make it possible.

McCormick said the bleacher installation has been completed in the High School gym. He said an event is being planned in the future to recognize and honor all donors.

Recognitions

McCormick recognized the school district’s John and Abigail Adams Scholarship recipients. This scholarship gives qualifying students a reduced tuition rate at state universities.

“We’re very excited for these students,” McCormick said.

Students include Anthony Sheard, Jacob Lamy, Jake Standrowicz, Tyler Warner and Olivia Giangrande.

McCormick also recognized students who decorated the walls leading to the gym. Students who contributed a lot of time and talent to the project include Nadia Sukharev and Claudia White.

McCormick also recognized a former North Brookfield Public School’s student (now

a student at Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical School), Joe Standrowicz, who built a gaga pit at the school for his Eagle School project. Standrowicz had first played the game while at Nature’s Classroom with his sixth grade class.

“Joe did this over several weeks,” McCormick said. “I just want to thank and congratulate Joe for his efforts for his project.”

The gaga pit is located before the tennis court.

McCormick also announced that the field hockey team made the state tournament, which they have for several years in a row.

“This one team has shown tremendous promise and growth the last couple of years,” McCormick said, thanking Coach Leblanc and the athletes.

McCormick spoke about the success of the Cook Kids Choir concert held recently, which he said was “fantastic.”

Regionalization update

School Committee Chair Ron Ryel said he has no update regarding the Regional Agreement Amendment Committee, and he has reached out to the chairman of that committee several times.

Ryel said the school district’s attorney reviewed a draft of the agreement, which he submitted to the RAAC in September to be reviewed by the committee’s attorney.

“We have not gotten a response back yet, as far as I

know,” Ryel said.

Ryel said the town will not be able to move forward with a town meeting vote until the School Committee votes on the final draft of the agreement once they receive it back from the RAAC’s attorney.

Administrators’ reports

Interim Director of Student Services Ann Knapp said the Special Education Department met earlier that day, and covered topics such as interpreting assessment results, special education services criteria, progress report guidelines, staff schedules and how to make a determination for reevaluation for special education eligibility without always using a psychological assessment.

“It was a great discussion,” Knapp said.

She said the out-of-district student spreadsheet has been updated and contains all information for fiscal tracking and state recording. Child Find notifications will be sent out soon.

High School Principal John Diorio said the afterschool homework club for students in grades seven through 12 is “going strong” on Tuesdays and Thursdays. He said the club is open to any students in those grades.

Diorio said the last math lesson study was held, and the studies have been helpful in improving student-centered instruction in the High School. He said they go to observe a classroom, then debrief afterward with all of the math

teachers, then create action steps to use in the classroom.

He said two math teachers and an English teacher visited another high school to collaborate and share teaching strategies with each other.

Diorio said a number of students were recognized at an assembly for their high academic achievement, growth, good citizenship and perfect attendance.

Diorio also welcomed the new administrative assistant, Theresa Sherman.

Student Council update

Student Representative Olivia Giangrande said Halloween room decorating took place the week before Halloween, with each grade level decorating their advisor’s classroom. A Halloween dance was held for students in grades seven-12.

A family conference night was held Nov. 13 and Student Council members helped run some tables.

Giangrande said the fall conference was recently held at Tantasqua Regional High School.

The annual Giving Turkey was held the first few weeks of November, with donations going to the school’s food pantry. Giangrande said the Student Council is now accepting gifts for the annual Giving Tree in December.

She said the Christmas in North Brookfield event will be held free for the community on Saturday, Dec. 9 from noon-2 p.m.

Library to hold ‘Feliz Naviduckie’ soap making workshop on Dec. 16

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Haston Free Public Library will be offering a “Feliz Naviduckie” soap making workshop for children ages 8+ on Saturday, Dec. 16 from 10-11 a.m., hosted by Gariné Arakelian of Kulina Folk Arts.

This event is free to attend. Participants will get to make their own soap creations using glycerin based soap and adding colors and scents, topped with an adorable festive rubber ducky.

These are perfect to give as gifts (or to keep for yourself).

Children must be 8 or older to participate and must be accompanied by an adult. No admission will be allowed after initial instructions are given, due to safety reasons.

Although this is primarily a children’s workshop, adults are encouraged to sign up too.

Arakelian has developed youth art programs for the Worcester

and Fitchburg art museums, and the Worcester Center for Crafts. She hosts many different creative workshops in the area including soap and candle making, painting, paper crafts, and skin care.

To register for this event, please call the library at 508-867-0208 or email Youth Services Librarian Brianna Lamb at blamb@cwmar.org. Space is limited.

‘Creepy Christmas’ comes to West Brookfield library with Jeff Belanger

WEST BROOKFIELD – On Thursday, Dec. 14 at 6:30 p.m. at the Merriam-Gilbert Public Library, 3 West Main St., join Jeff Belanger as he presents “Creepy Christmas”, which is based on Belanger’s New England Legends “Creepy Christmas” special that aired on PBS and his latest book “The Fright Before Christmas”.

Remember the famous Christmas song which goes, “There’ll be scary ghost stories and tales of the glories of Christmases long, long ago”? So, what happened to the scary stories?

Belanger brings the spooky back to the yuletide time of year with Creepy Christmas. From the origins of the holiday to the mon-

sters like Krampus, the Belsnickel, and Gryla, to the ghosts that lurk in the red and green shadows, Belanger will take you on a multi-media journey of this haunting holiday.

This program is not suitable for young children. Please stop by the library or call 508-867-1410 to register.

Haston library lists adult programs for December

NORTH BROOKFIELD – On Monday, Dec. 11 at 6:30 p.m. Jeff Belanger presents “The Fright Before Christmas” at the Haston Free Public Library, 161 North Main St.

Remember the famous Christmas song which goes, “There’ll be scary ghost stories and tales of the glories of Christmases long, long ago”? So, what happened to the scary stories?

Belanger brings the spooky back to the yuletide time of year with Creepy Christmas. From the origins of the holiday to the monsters and ghosts that lurk in its shadows, Belanger will take you on a multi-media journey of this haunting holiday.

Based on his “Creepy Christmas” PBS special and his latest book “The Fright Before Christmas”, this night may just save Christmas. This program is

not for young children.

On Thursday, Dec. 14 at 6 p.m. the library will host a Craft Night for Adults: Book Page Ornaments. Join library staff for this fun up-cycled craft, using scraps of discarded books to make a fun and festive ornament. Please register for these programs by calling the library at 508-867-0208 or by emailing hastonfreepubliclibrary@gmail.com.

QCC receives \$675,000 for Future Focus program

WORCESTER – Quinsigamond Community College was awarded \$675,000 in Transition to College funding from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The funding covers a three-year period and will go towards QCC’s Future Focus program, which supports adult learners from adult basic education programs.

“This funding is so phenomenal,” said the Coordinator of the Future Focus Program, Gilmarie Vongphakdy. “Transition programs such as Future Focus help support some of our nontraditional students who are often parents, working full-time, or individuals who haven’t used the English language in a college setting before. Also, this funding allows us to increase our offerings from five courses to eight courses and provide laptop loans. Lack of tech-

nology is a big barrier for many of our students.” The Future Focus program fully integrates students into QCC, provides academic and college readiness support services to enhance student retention and provides college credit coursework at no cost to the student. Students receive free tuition, fees, books, supplies and transportation if needed. People may visit www.QCC.edu/future-focus to learn more.

Durant sworn in as Senator for Worcester and Hampshire District

BOSTON – On Nov. 29 Peter J. Durant (R-Spencer) was officially sworn in as the next State Senator for the Worcester and Hampshire District by Governor Maura Healey.

Durant fills the seat vacated by former state Sen. Anne Gobi, who stepped down in June to take a role in Healey’s Administration.

“I am grateful to everyone in the Worcester and Hampshire District for trusting me to be your next State Senator,” said Durant in a press release. “I promise all the constituents of this district that I will work hard to ensure that your interests on represented on Beacon Hill. I will work continuously to make a

positive difference for our district and our Commonwealth. I will always stand with the taxpayers, help small businesses, and ensure that our state government is accountable.”

Durant looks forward to hitting the ground running. He and his team will begin building relationships with constituents, and local officials on day one.

Durant will be meeting with local officials over the course of the next few weeks to understand their needs and how he can best serve the community in Boston. He looks forward to being the liaison between the district and state government.

Durant will serve the towns of Barre, Brookfield, East

Brookfield, Hardwick, Holden, Hubbardston, Leicester, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Oakham, Paxton, Phillipston, Princeton, Rutland, Spencer, Sterling, Templeton, West Brookfield, Westminster, Ware, and the cities of Gardner, and Worcester, Ward 7, Precinct 2,4,5,6 and Ward 9, Precincts 3 and 4.

Durant previously served the 6th Worcester District in the House of Representatives from 2011-2023. He began his public service career as a member of the Spencer Finance Committee in 1999 and served as that Board’s chairman for three years before being elected to the Spencer Selectboard in 2006.

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Turley Publications is liberal with regard to its business coverage policies, but we do have some standards folks need to understand. First, local businesses and merchants are just as much institutions in our towns as the library and schools. Without them, there are no towns.

We will feature coverage of local businesses that are new, have a major expansion, moving, closing, under new management or ownership, celebrating a milestone anniversary, or have been thrust into the news realm. Merchants can request that coverage through the editor, or for our existing advertising clients, through their ad representatives.

For more information on business coverage for the Barre Gazette, please email edowner@turley.com.

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Public Safety

Barre Police Log

Sunday, Nov. 19
12:49 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, Hubbardston, Mutual Aid Assist
6:59 a.m. Police – Suspicious Person/Vehicle, Glazier Road, Officer Advised

4:47 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Wauwinet Road, Negative Contact
5:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued
10:01 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Falls, School South Street, Transported to Hospital

Monday, Nov. 20
12:11 a.m. Fire – Smoke Investigation, South Street, Investigated
4:23 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Worcester Road, Transported to Hospital
6:12 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Oakham, Cancelled

Tuesday, Nov. 21
12:05 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Report Filed
Summons: McGann Curtice Matthew Mallet, 25, Hubbardston
License Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With
5:02 p.m. Police – Fraud/Forgery, Woods Road, Officer Advised
9:29 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Town Wide, Information

Given
10:04 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, South Street, Officer Spoke to Party
10:21 p.m. Fire Motor Vehicle Collision, Gilbert Road, No Action Required

Wednesday, Nov. 22
12:46 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Hubbardston Road, Transported to Hospital
8:03 a.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Coldbrook Road, Message Delivers
9:35 a.m. Suspicious Activity, South Street, Information Given
10:58 a.m. Harassment, Summer Street, Officer Spoke to Party
4:26 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Barre Road, Written Warning
4:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Valley Road, Citation Issued
5:07 p.m. Police – Erratic Operator, Worcester Road, Officer Spoke to Party
5:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Written Warning
9:14 p.m. Fire – Mutual Aid Fire, Oakham, Cancelled
10:19 p.m. Police – Erratic Operator, West Street, Officer Spoke to Party

Thursday, Nov. 23
11:44 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Breathing Difficulty, Wauwinet Road, Transported to Hospital

4:44 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Hubbardston, Mutual Aid Assist
4:46 p.m. Police – Erratic Operator, Butterworth Road, Negative Contact
6:52 p.m. Property Dispute, Nichols Road, Officer Spoke to Party

Friday, Nov. 24
3:31 p.m. Police – Suspicious Person/Vehicle, Chamberlain Hill Road, Negative Contact
5:18 p.m. Overdose/Poisoning, Old Dana Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
7:04 p.m. Police – Suspicious Person/Vehicle, Old Coldbrook Road, Party Departed without Incident

Saturday, Nov. 25
7:20 a.m. Emergency Medical Service, Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Root Road, Transported to Hospital
8:56 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Main Street, Message Delivered
4:55 p.m. Police – Erratic Operator, Stetson Drive, Investigated
6 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Written Warning
6:48 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Seizures, Cedar Street, Transported to Hospital
9 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning

Rutland Police Log

Sunday, Nov. 19
12:02 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Whitehall Road, Vehicle Moved
3:13 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Maple Avenue, Officer Advised
1:30 p.m. Police – Larceny/Theft, Turkey Hill Road, Report Filed
5:46 p.m. Property – Lost and Found, Barre Paxton Road, Information Taken
6:09 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, North Brookfield Road, Mutual Aid Transport
6:56 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Turkey Hill Road, Negative Contact

Monday, Nov. 20
2:59 a.m. By-Law Violation, Inwood Road, Written Warning
3:18 a.m. B-Law Violation, Prouty Lane, Written Warning
5:31 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Citation Issued
7:50 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
9:29 a.m. Animal Wildlife, Fernwood Drive, Referred to Other Agency
11:24 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Citation Issued
11:40 a.m. Animal – Animal Complaint, Peters Avenue, Information Given
11:58 a.m. Public Assist, Main Street, Property Returned
1:18 p.m. Police – Larceny/Theft, Philips Avenue, Officer Spoke to Party
2:25 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Stroke (CVA), Prospect Street, Transported to Hospital
3:01 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Lincoln Road, Transported to Hospital
3:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
4:51 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Crawford Road, Report Filed
8:10 p.m. Police – Suspicious Person/Vehicle, East County Road, Peace Restored
9:34 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Falls, Glenwood Place, Transported to Hospital
9:38 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Falls, Sassawanna Road, Mutual Aid Transported

Tuesday, Nov. 21
5:48 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
8:22 a.m. Harassment, Hickory Drive, Report Filed
9 a.m. Court Duty, Main Street, No Action Required
9:05 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, East Hill Road, Transported to Hospital
10:39 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Brunelle Drive, Ambulance Signed Refusal
3:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
3:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
4:02 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Barre Paxton Road, Vehicle Towed
4:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning
4:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Written Warning
4:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
6:09 p.m. Police – Erratic Operator, Maple Avenue, Negative Contact
6:21 p.m. Lockout (Home or Vehicle), Barre Paxton Road, Information Taken
9:42 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Town Wide, Information Given
10:34 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Woodside Avenue, Report Filed
10:59 p.m. Animal – Animal Complaint, Turkey Hill Road, Information Taken
11:33 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Main Street, Vehicle Towed
11:59 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Main Street, Vehicle Towed

Wednesday, Nov. 22
12:02 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Main Street, Vehicle Towed
Summons: Maguire, Mary J., 58, Rutland
Charges: Leave Scene of Property Damage
6:56 a.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Main Street, Removed Hazard

Thursday, Nov. 23
2:48 a.m. Police – Noise Violation, Party, Maple Avenue, Party Departed without Incidents
5:07 a.m. By-Law Violation, Prouty Lane, Citation Issued
5:16 a.m. By-Law Violation, Clearview Road, Written Warning
1:33 p.m. Emergency Medical System – Falls, Lewis Street, No Transport Required
3:58 p.m. Police – Erratic Operator, Main Street, Arrest(s) Made
Arrest: Pastor, Susie M., 50, Clinton Charges: Operating Under the Influence – Liquor OR .08%, Alcohol in Motor Vehicle, Possess Open Container of, Marked Lane Violation
5:56 p.m. Police – Erratic Operator, Main Street, Information Given

Friday, Nov. 24
8:58 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Falls, Lewis Street, Public Assist
9:10 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Falls, Main Street, No Transport Required
11:50 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Choking, Prescott Street, No Transport Required
3:01 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Falls, Hunt Road, Transported to Hospital
6:08 p.m. Police – Suspicious Person/Vehicle, Wheeler Road, Party Departed without Incidents
7:06 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problems, East County Road, Transported to Hospital

Saturday, Nov. 25
10:49 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, Holden, Information Given
12:18 p.m. Police – Threats, Pommogussett Road, Report Filed
2:41 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Falls, Valley View Circle, Transported to Hospital
4:38 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Glenwood Road, Officer Spoke to Party
6:07 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Holden, Mutual Aid Assist

Oakham Police Log

Sunday, Nov. 19
5 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Written Warning
5:12 p.m. Moto Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Written Warning
6:09 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, North Brookfield Road, Mutual Aid Transport

Monday, Nov. 20
10:06 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued
3:01 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problems, Transported to Hospital
6:16 p.m. Lockout (Home or Vehicle), Deacon Allen Drive, Entry

Gained
Tuesday, Nov. 21
9:05 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, East Hill Road, Transported to Hospital
9:25 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Worcester Road, Information Given
9:28 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Old Turnpike Road, Vehicle Towed

Wednesday, Nov. 22
6:37 p.m. Police – Suspicious Activity/Vehicle, Coldbrook Road, No Action Required

9:11 p.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Scott Road, Firer Extinguished

Thursday, Nov. 23
8:48 a.m. Suspicious Activity, Worcester Road, Negative Contact

Friday, Nov. 24
9:21 a.m. Road Hazard, North Brookfield Road, Negative Contact
11:13 a.m. Identity Theft, Barre Road, Report Filed
3:01 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Hunt Road, Transported to Hospital

Hubbardston Police Log

Sunday, Nov. 19
11:30 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Gardner Road, No Fire Service Necessary
4:20 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Twin Hill Road, Animal Returned to Owner
4:38 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Williamsville Road, Transported to Hospital
4:51 p.m. Fire – CO Alarm (No Illness), Hale Road, Investigated

Monday, Nov. 20
10:43 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, High Street, Animal Returned to Owner
3:38 p.m. Emergency Medical Services – Breathing Difficulty, Williamsville Road, Transported to Hospital

Tuesday, Nov. 21
10:20 a.m. Court Duty, Gardner

District Court, Investigated
3:31 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Gardner Road, Report Filed
9:43 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Town Wide, Information Taken
10:57 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Town Wide, Maintenance Complete
11:10 p.m. Impeding Plowing, Gardner Road, Gone on Arrival

Wednesday, Nov. 22
12:17 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brigham Road, Criminal Complaint
Summons: Gachuma, Louis Kigathi, 23, Worcester
Charges: Stop/Yield, Fair to, Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle
1:37 a.m. Police – Erratic Operator, Gardner Road, Verbal Warning
2:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disables, Morgan Road, Removed Hazard

Thursday, Nov. 23
4:23 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Thompson Road, Transported by Life Flight
5:19 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Clark Road, Mutual Aid Transport

Friday, Nov. 24
10:15 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Lift Assist, No Transport Required
9:08 p.m. Police – Erratic Operator, Barre Road, Negative Contact

Saturday, Nov. 25
3:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Worcester Road, Public Assist
3:54 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Worcester Road, No Fire Service Necessary

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of Nov. 27-Dec. 4, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 56 building/property checks, 36 directed/area patrols, four traffic controls, 15 emergency 911 calls, six radar assignments, two complaints, one motor vehicle investigation, one investigation, one assist other agency, seven citizen assists, two scams, one illegal dumping, two trespasses, one threat, one motor vehicle accident, three animal calls and eight motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, Nov. 27
11:24 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Barre Road, Officer Handled
5:05 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Prospect Street, Transported to Hospital
7:34 p.m. 911 Elevator Call/Alarms, Petersham Road, Officer Handled

Tuesday, Nov. 28
7:21 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Greenwich Road, Officer Handled
8:18 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, High Street, Transported to Hospital
10:39 a.m. Trespass, Upper Church Street, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
2:11 p.m. Scam, Delargy Road, Officer Handled
2:11 p.m. 911 Safety Hazard, Lower Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
4:15 p.m. Safety Hazard, Mill Road, Investigated

4:48 p.m. 911 Animal Call, North Street, Merge
5:56 p.m. Fraud, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled
7:47 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Greenwich Road, Transported to Hospital

Wednesday, Nov. 29
11:21 a.m. Scam, Delargy Road, Spoken To
11:47 a.m. Assist Citizen, Delargy Road, Services Rendered
12:49 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Dispatch Handled
3:20 p.m. Illegal Dumping, Greenwich Road, Summons Issued
3:31 p.m. Assist Citizen, Muddy Brook Road, Spoken To

Thursday, Nov. 30
2:10 a.m. Assist Citizen, Hardwick Road, Services Rendered
3:54 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Services Rendered
10:23 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Turkey Street, Transported to Hospital
10:59 a.m. Assist Citizen, Church Lane, Spoken To
12:06 p.m. Investigation, Greenwich Road, Investigated
12:33 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Charity Hill Road, Transported to Hospital
3:06 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Old Petersham Road, Unfounded

3:30 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Voice Message Left
5:52 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Lower Road, Investigated

Friday, Dec. 1
3:51 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital
7:34 a.m. Safety Hazard, Main Street, Services Rendered
3:47 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Prospect Street, Officer Handled
3:59 p.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Lower Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
6:41 p.m. 911 Welfare Check, Barre Road, Officer Handled
11:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Church Street, Written Warning

Saturday, Dec. 2
7:43 a.m. Complaint, Goddard Road, Officer Handled
10:50 a.m. Trespass, Summer Place, Officer Handled
2:04 p.m. Assist Citizen, Barre Road, Officer Handled

Sunday, Dec. 3
7:09 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Greenwich Road, Transported to Hospital
6:42 p.m. Threat, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled

New Braintree Police Log

During the week of Nov. 27-Dec. 4, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 10 building/property checks, 28 directed/area patrols, nine traffic controls, two radar assignments, two safety hazards, one trespass, two emergency 911 calls and two animal calls in the town of New Braintree.

Tuesday, Nov. 28
5:20 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Barre Road, Transported to Hospital
6:27 a.m. Safety Hazard, West Brookfield Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
12:53 p.m. Safety Hazard, Gilbertville Road, Removed Hazard

Thursday, Nov. 30
5:28 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital

Saturday, Dec. 2
12:27 p.m. Trespass, Moore Road, Officer Handled

Monday, Dec. 4
6:10 a.m. 911 Misdial, Hardwick Road, No Action Required

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Public Notices

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
Docket Number: 23 SM 004485
Date Filed: 12/1/2023
ORDER OF NOTICE
TO: **Martin E. Tremblay and Noreen B. Tremblay**
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq)
U.S. Bank Trust N. A., as Trustee for LSF11 Master Participation Trust,
claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Barre, 160 Chapman Road, given by Martin E. Tremblay and Noreen B. Tremblay to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for First Magnus Financial Corporation, dated April 23, 2007, and recorded or filed in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book

41038, Page 313, and now held by Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status. If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **01/15/2024** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.
Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on 12/1/2023.
Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson,
Recorder
12/07/2023

Town of Barre Public Hearing Notice Transfer of Liquor License
TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Selectmen will conduct a Public Hearing on the application from Jason Pietrzak DBA Mile 61 Tavern, Inc., 90 Main Street, South Barre, MA, for a transfer of on premises, restaurant, All Alcoholic Beverages, License 00002-RS-0072 from Dominic's, Inc. DBA Barre Mill Restaurant. The Public Hearing will be held on **Monday, December 18, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Select Board Meeting Room, Henry Woods Building, 40 West Street, Barre.
Persons wishing to comment may do so at that time. The Board will also consider written comments received prior to the hearing.
For the Select Board:
Greg Balukonis
Interim Town Administrator
11/30, 12/07/2023

Town of New Braintree PUBLIC HEARING
Upon the petitions of National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., the Select Board of New Braintree has scheduled a public hearing on **Monday, December 18, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.** at the New Braintree Town Hall.
Plan marked jointly for National Grid and Verizon New England Inc. No. 30708490 dated September 22, 2023, for permission to install 1 JO Pole on **Ravine Road** beginning at a point approximately 60 feet east of the centerline of the intersection of Hardwick Road and Ravine Road. Installing JO pole# 30 for DOT Project.
Also for permission to lay and maintain underground laterals, cables, and wires in the above or intersecting public ways for the purpose of making connections with such poles and buildings as each of said petitioners may desire for distributing purposes.
Copy of map of pole peti-

tion is in the Select Board office if you would like to review.
The public is welcome to attend.
By: **Erin Ballard**
Executive Secretary
12/07, 12/14/2023
PUBLIC NOTICE OF TAX CLASSIFICATION HEARING TOWN OF OAKHAM
The Board of Selectmen of the Town of Oakham will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, December 11, 2023 at 6:00 pm** at the Town Hall, 2 Coldbrook Road,

Oakham, Massachusetts to discuss the percentage of the tax levy to be borne by each class of real and personal property for Fiscal Year 2024, pursuant to Chapter 369 of the Acts of 1982 of the Massachusetts General Laws relating to Classification and Taxation of Property, according to use. Interested tax payers may present their views either orally or in writing to the Board of Selectmen prior to or during said hearing. 11/30, 12/07/2023

Sale of Motor Vehicles Under MGL Ch 255 Sec 39A
Notice is hereby given by: Dave's Tow & Transport, Inc pursuant to the provisions of MGL C.255 sec 39a, that on 12/22/23 at 843 Worcester Rd, Barre, MA the following motor vehicle will be sold by private sale to satisfy the garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges and other expenses incurred, including sales costs.
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12/7, 12/14, 12/21/2023

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

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