

WARE RIVER NEWS

SERVING THE WARE REGION FOR 129 YEARS

Vol. 137 No. 28

16 Pages

(Plus Supplements)

USPS 666100

\$31 PER YEAR - \$1.00 A COPY

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 2023

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

www.warerivernews.turley.com

Car Show for Charity

Brings 'New Hope' to veterans

By Paula Ouimette
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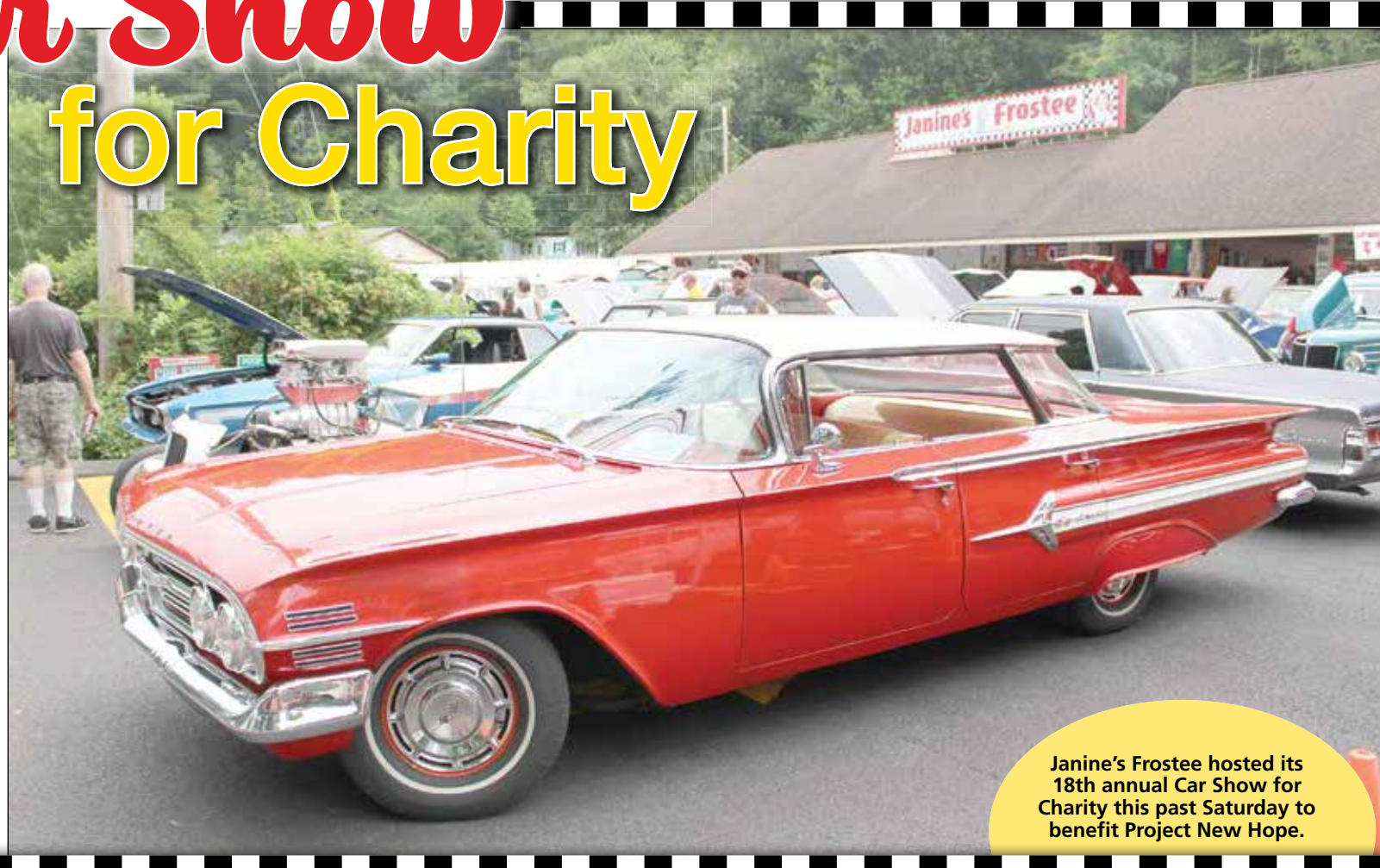
WARE – Bill Moore, president of Project New Hope, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping veterans rebuild with honor, said many veterans are struggling to provide themselves and their families with basic necessities.

"We're seeing a lot of the older veterans are finding it tough to make ends meet," he said, especially those on fixed incomes.

Because of this, Project New Hope provides a food pantry as well as a baby pantry, to help meet some of those needs.

This past Saturday, Roger Morrisette and the team at Janine's Frostee featured Project

Please see **CAR SHOW**, page 8



Janine's Frostee hosted its 18th annual Car Show for Charity this past Saturday to benefit Project New Hope.

School Committee reevaluates special ed position

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – The School Committee has restarted its search to replace Director of Special Education Jessica Bolduc for the second time since she announced her resignation earlier this year.

School Committee Chair Christopher Desjardins said at the July 26 meeting that the candidate they interviewed at the previous meeting wanted more money than they were offering and to only work a 10-month year instead of a 12-month year.

"We're kind of looking again to see if we can find someone," he said.

School Committee members discussed ways they could improve the process of finding candidates, to make sure the person they interview is the right fit and understands this is a full-time position.

Superintendent Michael Lovato said it brings the opportunity to look at things differently in the hiring process.

He said the process would be smoother if they could draft a contract during the interview process, then sign it once the School Committee approves the appointment.

Lovato said many school districts are changing the title of the position to make it more appealing to candidates.

He said there are unassigned duties in the school district that could be tied into this position, including overseeing social workers and counselors. He said this person could also help with internships and partnerships with local community colleges.

Please see **REEVALUATE**, page 5



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

These flower-powered fans groove to the music of Bearly Dead.

Rock the Park

Music festival keeps local arts and culture thriving

Bomba De Aqui.

Grenville Park was full of talented artisans, as well as vendors and local businesses. Food trucks and a beer garden kept festival goers fed and refreshed.

WARE – In its third year, Workshop13's "Rock the Park" delivered a one-day musical festival that channeled the psychedelic energy of the 1960s and 1970s.

This year, "Rock the Park" transported festivalgoers back to 1973, when a performance at Watkins Glen set records for being the largest single-day music festival of all time, featuring the Grateful Dead, the Allman Brothers Band and the Band.

"Rock the Park" also featured three powerhouse bands, including The Brothers Project, Bearly Dead and Professor Louie & The Crowmatrix. Thanks to support from the Ware Cultural Council, "Rock the Park" also had a performance by special guests



Bearly Dead performed the music of the Grateful Dead at Workshop13's third annual Rock the Park music festival.

SEE MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 7

Food policy council drafts vision/mission statements

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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WARE – Members of the Quaboag Valley Food Policy Council continued discussion about the nutritional needs of the communities it serves.

At the July 19 meeting, members of the QVFPC talked about how flooding from heavy rainfalls, as well as a recent tornado in North Brookfield could affect crops; possibly limiting future access to fresh local produce.

Homelessness continues to be a concern, as well as the inability to both prepare and preserve food received from food pantries.

Members suggested having a soup kitchen, where people could receive a hot, nutritious

meal without needing a kitchen or cooking utensils. Another suggestion was having a mobile food truck that could act as a soup kitchen to address homeless hunger and food insecurities.

The QVFPC is also working to compile a list of food pantries across the region.

Vision and mission statements

The members also continued to develop the Council's vision and mission statements.

Council Coordinator Caitlin Geaghan explained that the Council's vision statement is what they would like to achieve in a "perfect world," adding that it is usually very ambitious and broad.

Geaghan said the vision statement would be broad enough to

include a diverse variety of local perspectives, be easy to communicate, and be understood and shared by members of the community. The vision statement would also be inspiring and uplifting to all involved in the Council's efforts.

The vision statement the Council discussed was: "Quaboag Valley Food Policy Council will make healthy local food easily accessible for all community members."

Quabbin Public Health Nurse Kirsten Krieger said this vision encompasses many of the things members were talking about in a broad way.

Geaghan said the mission statement is the "why" the

Please see **FOOD POLICY**, page 2

West Brookfield resident honored for heroic actions

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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WEST BROOKFIELD – Resident Edward O'Donnell was recognized as a citizen hero at a recent Board of Selectmen's meeting.

On July 25, Fire Chief Richard A. Lapierre Jr. presented O'Donnell with a certificate of achievement commemorating his quick-thinking last month, saving the life of a 3-year-old child.

"Tonight, we honor him for his heroic actions," Lapierre said, before reading a narrative of the incident.

On June 24 at 6:53 p.m., the Fire Department was toned for a toddler on the roof of 14

Please see **HERO**, page 6



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

West Brookfield resident Edward O'Donnell, center, was recognized for his heroic actions, saving a toddler from a roof last month. Shown with him are from left, Warren Fire Chief Adam Lavoie, West Brookfield Fire Chief Richard A. Lapierre Jr., state Rep. Donnie Berthiaume, Board of Selectmen Chair Roland Sickenberger and Board of Selectmen Vice-Chair Eric von Bleicken.

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Students get ready for back to school

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Sampson visits K-9 fundraiser

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BUSINESS

Breezeland Orchards opens for season

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WareRiverNews

Wing hosts first Community Benefit Forum

By Ryan Drago
Correspondent

PALMER – Members of the medical community joined each other at the Palmer Public Library to hear about the Community Health Needs Assessment conducted by Baystate Wing Hospital.

The presentation on July 28 was organized and hosted by leaders of Baystate Wing Hospital and Health New England. The goal of their presentation is to advance community health through their assessment and collective action.

It has always been Baystate Health's mission to improve the health of the people in their communities and it's through these assessments that happen every three years to identify and improve the health needs of community members.

The first to speak and give the introductions was Senior Community Benefits Specialist of Baystate Health, Brittney Rosario. Rosario addressed the at-a-glance report included in the presentation that would be addressed by a myriad of speakers of Baystate Health and Health New England.

Pamphlets of the CHNA were provided to all in attendance. Rosario also noted that after the presentation, tables and poster presentations were available to learn about various programs and grants currently funded by both hosting parties in response to the community's needs.

The first speaker was Ron Bryant, President of Baystate Health Regional Hospitals. Bryant was proud to share his thoughts on the success Baystate has had in their efforts to provide the best support and care for their communities.

He sincerely acknowledged the hospitals' physicians in his remark that they are dedicated to the clientele and to each other.

"Every day, they want to come in as a team," said Bryant.

In agreement with Bryant was Vice President & Chief Nursing Officer/Chief Administrative Officer, Karli Barret.

Being a part of Baystate for 19 years, Barret spoke after Bryant's remark and agreed fully with the passion and dedication Baystate's staff has in serving the community.

This staff is "Passionate about the work that they do for this community," Barret said.

In their assessment, Baystate Wing Hospital serves communi-



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

Shown from left is Carol Zins of Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation, Emily Coderre of Education to Employment and Lindsay Aucoin, technical assistance coordinator of QVDC.

ties of Massachusetts in Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester counties. All these local communities have certain needs that revolve around varying aspects of health.

In partnership with Baystate during this forum was Health New England, and Vice President & General Counsel of HNE Susan Silver O'Connor, talked about their healthy partnership with Baystate Health in her statement. O'Connor referred to the substantial enrollment in their organizations.

Serving over 185,000 members in addition to taking care of over 52,000 Mass Health enrollees.

To elaborate on certain community health needs was Director of Assessment and Capacity Building at the Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts, Lisa Ranghelli. With more detailed insight on the CHNA, Ranghelli presented an overview of the communities they serve and what are the most common needs.

"It is such a broad focus," said Ranghelli.

There are different health outcomes and behaviors to look into and Ranghelli in her part of the presentation pointed out all the main health needs.

Some of the key building blocks of health include housing, food, and transportation. They continue to be a prioritized need in the rural and urban areas in the communities currently served by Baystate Wing Hospital.

These certain needs fall in line

with financial health and well-being. During the Covid-19 pandemic, many insecurities such as food, transportation, and housing brought a lot of financial hardship for families throughout central and western Massachusetts.

Violence and trauma were also highlighted as a main health need, more specifically interpersonal and collective violence affect health directly.

The other focus in the assessment included mental health, especially youth mental health.

In the assessment, it was recorded that 45% of youth felt sad almost every day for two weeks or more during the past 12 months.

During the pandemic, 19% of youth experienced post-traumatic stress disorder reactions. It was suggested by the research at Baystate that the best practice and model to build upon supporting youth and their health needs is to provide support groups and youth centers.

Acting on supporting youth mental health was guest speaker, Randy Gratton of Ware. A lifelong member of the town, Gratton is a recovery coach for the Behavioral Health Network and briefly shared his personal experiences and struggles as a youth.

Going through substance use treatment in the past, Gratton dedicates

Please see FORUM, page 7

Are You Old News?



Each week the Ware River News digs into its submitted photo archives and selects a people photo to publish. We need your help to help identify those pictured.



File Photo
Last week's photo from 2013 showed Ware firefighter Paul Russell Jr. teaching fire safety to a group of children. If you recognize the folks in this week's photo, please send their names and your full name to pauimette@turley.com.

Tickets available for Grange Fair chicken barbecue

WARE – The Ware Grange is holding a chicken barbecue at the Grange Fair on Saturday, Aug. 26 from 4-5:30 p.m.

People can eat outside under the tent, and take out

is also available. The meal includes a half chicken, baked potato, corn on the cob, dinner roll, drink, and dessert for \$25.

Reservations are required. Please call 413-284-1135 or

email waregrange@comcast.net by Aug. 18 to make your reservations for the chicken barbecue.

FOOD POLICY from page 1

Council exists, and is more concise than the vision statement.

"They explain the fundamental outcomes your organization is trying to achieve. A good mission statement is not limiting in the strategies or sectors of the community that may become involved in the project," she said.

The mission statement suggested to members was: "Quaboag Valley Food Policy Council's mission is to connect local resources, provide education surrounding food, promote local food availability, and improve the local food system for everyone."

Krieger and Project Coordinator for Community Health Emily Coderre suggested adding language about nutritious food. Krieger also

suggested adding "promote" and "advocate" for local food availability.

Gail Gramarossa of the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance said the Council should also include advocating with policymakers as part of the mission statement.

"That advocacy could be really helpful in a mission statement," she said.

Council member Howard Trietsch said the mission statement should also focus on bringing awareness to food and nutritional problems the Quaboag Valley faces.

"One of the first things your need to do about a problem, is make people aware of it, and define it," he said.

Coderre said herself and Geaghan will draft different versions of the mission statement for Council members to decide on.

The QVFC will resume monthly hybrid meetings in September at E2E, 79 Main St., with Zoom access available.

About QVFC

The Quaboag Valley Food Policy Council is funded through a grant received by the Town of Ware in partnership with Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation, covering the towns of Ware, Belchertown, Palmer, Monson, Wales, Holland, Brimfield, Warren, Brookfield, West Brookfield, North Brookfield and East Brookfield.

The Council is open to all, and everyone is welcome to join in the discussion.

For more information, people may email Geaghan at cgeaghan@townofware.com or Coderre at ecoderre@townofware.com.

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Verizon gets students ready for back to school

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – For the 11th year, the Verizon location at Gibbs Crossing made sure local students were ready to start school, by giving away free backpacks stocked with school supplies, and even snacks.

District Manager Tri Hoang has been with TCC, a Verizon Authorized Retailer for the past nine years, said the company hosts a number of events throughout the year to give back to the community, but this is one he and his staff look forward to every year.

“We do four big events every year, but this is my favorite,” he said. “This helps a lot of families that can’t afford it.”

With the help of his family and his own children, Hoang prepared about 250 backpacks by filling them with necessities, including paper, pencils, rulers, crayons and more. Through generous donations from costumers, the Gibbs Crossing location even gave out a variety of snacks.

Each backpack was expected to save families about \$25 per student.

“That’s why we do it every year,” Hoang said.

One grandmother, who stopped by to pick up backpacks for her two grandchildren, said this event makes back-to-school shopping more affordable for her daughter.

“This is a good day,” she said. “They’ve done it the last four years and they love it...they have so much stuff they carry back and forth from school.”

This year, backpacks came in four different colors, giving students many options to choose from, including green, two-toned blue, blue with pink polka dots and grey camouflage.

Hoang said families began arriving early to make sure they got their free backpack, as the event is always “sold out.”

Round Room, LLC., the nation’s largest Verizon Authorized Retailer, donated 120,000 backpacks with school supplies through more than 1,000 TCC and Wireless Zone retailers nationwide through the annual School Rocks Backpack



This first grader is ready for school to start with her blue and pink polka dotted backpack at Verizon in Ware.



These siblings have a head start on being ready for second grade and kindergarten.



This first grader tries a backpack on for size.



This preschooler was excited to start school.



Emma is ready to start sixth grade with her new camouflage backpack.

Giveaway.

Since 2013, the School Rocks Backpack Giveaway has provided more than 1.3 million backpacks to children across the U.S. ahead of the upcoming academic year.

“The School Rocks Backpack Giveaway is our company’s cornerstone annual event, and I couldn’t be more thankful for our store locations, employees and customers for helping us continue to do good in the thousands of communities we operate in,” said Scott Moorehead, CEO of Round Room, in a press

release. “The start of the school year is an exciting time for many, and we look forward each and every year to make school supplies more accessible for students so they can thrive in the classroom.”

According to the National Retail Federation, American families with school-aged children spent an average of \$864 on school supplies in 2022 – totaling \$36.1 billion spent in the U.S. last year on school supplies alone. Through TCC and Wireless Zone, Round Room aims

to ease the strain of rising school supply costs each year with the School Rocks Backpack Giveaway.

Supporters of the School Rocks Backpack Giveaway are encouraged to use #BackpackGiveaway on social media to help spread the word. To learn more about TCC and Wireless Zone, and the School Rocks Backpack Giveaway, visit www.RoundRoom.com, www.TCCRocks.com and www.wirelesszone.com.



Turley Photo by Michael Harrison

Michael Lebert (left) and Tommy Strawbridge hold up the free smart devices for passing motorists in downtown Palmer last week. The two represent the federal Affordable Connectivity Program in Western Mass.

Free phones, tablets and internet service available

By Michael Harrison
Correspondent

PALMER — Despite the heat and humidity, brothers Michael Lebert and Tommy Strawbridge have been spending hours in a vacant lot downtown to give away new smartphones and tablets.

It’s no Christmas in July promotion. The two are sweating out the days outside on behalf of the Affordable Connectivity Program, a federal government initiative approved and funded by Congress to bridge the digital divide faced by many people with low to moderate incomes.

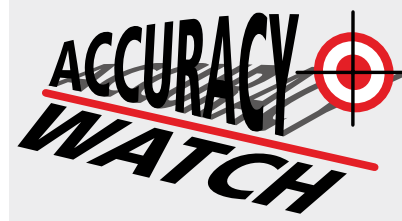
The Android smart devices, which offer free, unlimited calls, texts and internet access, are connected to a nationwide 5G network via T-Mobile.

The tablet also doubles as a phone. Both devices do everything all smart devices are capable of, including taking photos and running an array of apps.

Eligibility is required and many people, including U.S. military veterans, Social Security recipients, parents whose children qualify for free or reduced school meals, people who are unemployed, those covered by Medicaid, college students and many others can be approved in minutes.

“Once they qualify, we activate (the device), they leave here and their tablet or phone is ready to use – and it’s free,” said Strawbridge, who manages outreach for the Western Mass region.

Please see **FREE PHONE**, page 5



The Ware River News will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 3. To request a correction, send information to ekennedy@turley.com, or call 967-3505. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Ware River News, Attn: Editor, 80 Main St., Ware, MA 01082.

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Rock The Park



Festivalgoers customized their own pins to wear.



Bearly Dead singer Michael Butler danced with the crowd as the rain came down.



Lena shows off her butterfly face paint.



Turley Photos by Paula Quimette



Blake creates a sculpture with clay.



Vander Stevens, age 5 of Hardwick, sends some bubbles flying.



One of Workshop13's volunteers painted a giraffe on a young festival goer.

Legislature passes \$375 million transportation bill

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Legislature recently passed a bill that includes \$375 million in bond authorizations for transportation needs across the state, including \$200 million for the state's Chapter 90 program, which provides municipalities with a reliable funding source for transportation-related improvements, including road and bridge repairs.

"Ensuring that people in every region of Massachusetts have safe and dependable transportation options is fundamental to creating a competitive and equitable commonwealth," said Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland). "This funding invests in our infrastructure and transit systems everywhere, allocating much-needed funds to local roads and bridges, regional transit, EV infrastructure, and parts of the MBTA. I want to thank Senator Crighton for making this a priority, my Senate colleagues for their support, and Speaker Mariano and the House for agreeing on these critical investments in our infrastructure."

This legislation also authorizes \$175 million in programs that will support various transportation-related projects.

This includes \$25 million for each of the following: the municipal small bridge program; the complete streets program; a bus transit infrastructure

program; grants to increase access to mass transit and commuter rail stations; grants for municipalities and regional transit authorities to purchase electric vehicles and the infrastructure needed to support them; funding for pavement and surface improvements on state and municipal roadways; and new funding dedicated to additional transportation support based on road mileage, which is particularly helpful for rural communities.

State Sen. Jake Oliveira (Hampden, Hampshire & Worcester District) was glad to see the new funding dedicated to additional transportation support based on road mileage.

"Western Mass has considerably more rural communities than other areas of the state, so I'm glad to see the Legislature prioritize regional equity by taking more factors into account beyond just population and other socioeconomic factors. Addressing regional equity is about acknowledging and understanding that Western Mass has different challenges than other parts of the state. I'm grateful to Senate President Spilka, Speaker Mariano, and my colleagues in the Legislature for considering that," said Oliveira.

The bill having passed both the Senate and the House of Representatives, it will now be sent to the Governor for her consideration.

NEWSBRIEFS

Grange hosts gardening workshop Aug. 14

WARE – Ware Grange's next gardening workshop, "Flower Farmer," will be held on Monday, Aug. 14 at 7 p.m. at the Grange Hall at 297 Belchertown Road.

The presenter will be Roberta McQuaid, author of the weekly "In the Garden" column for Turley

Publications.

Come learn about flowers that have a long vase-life and simple arrangement principles. A door prize drawing will be held.

Visit Ware Grange on Facebook or at waregrange.org for more information.

Meetinghouse hosts outdoor concert Aug. 6

WARE – The Ware Center Meetinghouse, 295 Belchertown Road, is hosting an outdoor concert on Sunday, Aug. 6 at 6:30 p.m., featuring

Ragtime 5.

Please bring your favorite blanket or comfortable chair to enjoy the music.

National Night Out rescheduled to Aug. 15

WARE – Due to unforeseen circumstances, National Night Out will be postponed until Tuesday, Aug. 15 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Grenville Park.

There will be equipment from Fire, Police and Department of Public

Works, as well as games and giveaways for children and families. The Knights of Columbus' Hungry Squire Grill will be serving free hotdogs and giving out school supplies for children.

FORUM from page 2

himself to supporting youths and their health.

"Having mentors is our biggest need," said Gratton. "Continue to help, to listen, continue to mentor."

The final speaker to close out the forum was the Prevention and Community Health Director for the town of Ware and the Quabog Hills Substance Use Alliance, Gail Gramarossa. In her closing remark, Gramarossa talked about the grow-

ing model Baystate and Health New England has built in accommodating the most essential community needs.

Gramarossa strongly believes that their model will keep progressing. She acknowledged the new recovery center now open in downtown Ware. The center is located at 52 Main St., and can be reached by calling 413-277-6290.

The center is available for folks looking to get into recovery, treatment, and other health options. Their website is recoverycenterof-

hope.org.

To conclude the benefit forum, members of Baystate and Health New England got a final opportunity to tour different booths and learn about current organizations supporting different health needs in the community. The organizations represented include the Alzheimer's Association, the Quabog Valley Community Development Corporation, the Quabog Connector, and Healthy Quabog.

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Jim Walling found this 1994 Subaru Sambar on Facebook, which features a supercharged 660cc engine.



Dan Tortora's 1954 Kaiser Darrin, a rarely seen car, was a favorite of attendees of the Car Show for Charity.



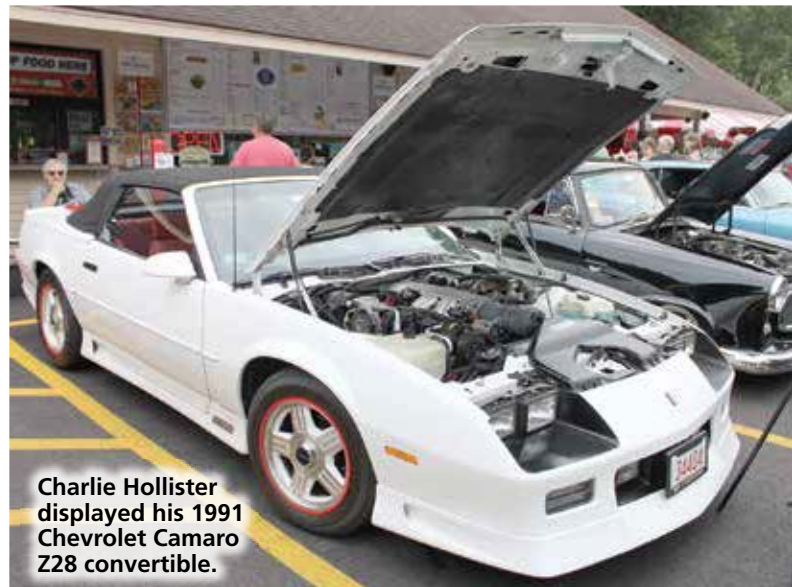
This 1931 Ford Model A Woody Wagon was in pristine condition. *Turley Photos by Paula Quimette*



Spectators looked at dozens of vehicles displayed at Janine's Frostee.



Mike Horrigan's 1957 Chevrolet 6400 features a wooden body he crafted using lumber from his sawmill.



Charlie Hollister displayed his 1991 Chevrolet Camaro Z28 convertible.

CAR SHOW from page 1

New Hope at this year's Car Show for Charity, which celebrated 18 years of giving back to the community.

Not only did the car show provide financial support for Project New Hope's mission, but it also gave Moore a chance to educate local veterans about services and programs they can receive.

"We were blessed we had an opportunity to interact with a lot of the local veterans there and talk about our services," Moore said. "I'm glad Roger reached out to me."

Morrisette said he chose Project New Hope, at the recommendation of his good friend and Ware resident Dan Diaz.

Morrisette said he had previously reached out to a national veteran's organization, but hadn't gotten a good response.

"It felt cold, like they had gotten so big they only wanted people to send them money," he said.

Part of being the featured charity at the annual event is the opportunity to be present and interact with members of the community, while working to promote the charity's cause.

"When I reached out to Bill Moore of Project New Hope, he was more than happy to meet with me and discuss our plan for the show!" Morrisette said.

Morrisette started the Car Show for Charity back in 2006, which coincided with Janine's Frostee's 50th anniversary.

"It's always been important to me to do things for others, to help out in any way I can," Morrisette said. "From then on it's been car show after car show, raising money for what I felt were worthy causes."

This includes the Molly Bish Foundation, the cancer care unit at the former Mary Lane Hospital, the local food pantry, Big Brothers Big Sisters and more. Last year, it was dedicated to support the family and legacy of longtime friend and car show judge, Robert Hoisington, who passed away from COVID.

Considered to be one of the best shows in the region by car enthusiasts, the Car Show for Charity always features an impressive range of vehicles, from hot rods to muscle cars, to rare and unusual models that you'd be lucky to see at another show.

Despite a stormy forecast, the cars and trucks (even vans) rolled in to vie for the top prizes. Diaz, the mutual friend that connected Morrisette and Moore,

brought three of his cars to the show, including a Toyota Supra that was recently used by the crew of the "Birthrite" movie, which filmed in both Ware and Brookfield.

Diaz has worked on other movies and television series, including "Shutter Island", "Dexter" and "Castle Rock".

"I'm just trying to bring movies this way," he said.

Diaz participates in car shows to help fundraise for charities, including this one. He said he really just likes driving his cars, and working on them with his children.

"It's kind of a stress relief...my wife has chickens, I have cars," he said with a laugh.

Charlie Hollister and his wife Sally of Wilbraham share the same hobby, and that's cars.

"I had a 1954 Ford Street Custom, but my wife wanted a convertible," Hollister said, which prompted the couple to purchase a 1991 Chevrolet Camaro Z28 convertible from Seattle, Washington six years ago.

"It's a great car," Hollister said, and a big departure from his 1954 Ford.

Hollister said his wife loves cars as much as he does, but she doesn't usually join him for the cruise nights and car shows he attends weekly.

"I'm a lone wolf," he joked.

Henry Merchant from Brookfield brought his blue 1984 Chevrolet El Camino, which he's owned for about five years.

Merchant said he enters the El Camino in a lot of shows and shared that his favorite thing about the car is the truck bed.

"I get a car with a truck," he said.

Jim Walling, owner of Firesafe Chimney Services in Ware, was just driving through town in his 1994 Subaru Sambar, a Facebook Marketplace find that he couldn't pass up, when his friend Tex (a Janine's Frostee team member) encouraged him to enter his unique vehicle.

The Sambar is classified as a "Kei car," a Japanese microvan, with the steering wheel on the right side of the cab, ample headroom, and a sliding rooftop.

This is the first car show Walling has ever entered, and he shared that he's getting ready to have the Sambar wrapped with his company's colors.

Originally imported from Japan, Walling purchased the Sambar from a Ludlow resident who had owned it for a year before selling it.

Jamal Richardson of Gilbertville is another newcomer to the Car Show for Charity, and he also has a car imported from Japan; his lilac-colored 1996 Honda CRV.

Since he purchased the CRV at the start of this year, Richardson has invested time and money into getting the car show-ready, with a number of custom features including front bumper, wheels, grill, interior, and of course the paint job.

The lilac paint covered a mismatched white and black body, and it is a Hypershift paint, which seems to change colors right before your eyes.

This was also Ware resident Mike



This Mercury featured a deep eggplant paint color, with purple accents.



The truck bed is Henry Merchant's favorite feature on the El Camino.

Horrigan's first time entering his vehicle at a car show, with his 1967 Chevrolet 6400 being perhaps the largest of the entries.

A working truck, the 6400 is still used by Horrigan to deliver wood after he bought it from a barn in Thorndike about four years ago.

Horrigan just recently finished rebuilding the body of the truck, using wood cut at his sawmill.

Dan Tortora of Charlton entered his 1954 Kaiser Darrin, which he has owned since 1968.

The second owner of the vehicle, Tortora bought the Kaiser Darrin as a graduation gift to himself before serving in the U.S. Army with the 82nd Airborne in Vietnam.

When he bought the car, it had 18 miles on it, and now it has 36,000.

Tortora has driven the car to numerous shows over the years, as far as Saratoga Springs, New York and Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

Just last week, Tortora showed the Kaiser Darrin at the Larz Anderson Auto Museum for American Car and Truck Day, and he plans to return this October for Extinct Car Day.

The 1954 is the last year Kaiser Darrin built cars in the U.S., before shifting manufacturing to South America.

Tortora's car is painted the factory shade "Yellow Satin," and he said many cars of this time period were painted eye-catching pastel colors.

Morrisette credited his staff for making the Car Show for Charity a success and creating an inviting atmosphere centered around having fun, amazing cars and helping a cause. He also thanked people in the community and businesses for their generous donations that included goods and services as prizes to be won.

He's also grateful for his long-time sponsors that help make the car show a success each year.

"St. Germain Insurance has been the lead sponsor with Monson Savings Bank as secondary, for several years," he said. "Their sponsorship helps to defray some of the costs of running a show of this size. I don't have the show so I can make money, I have it so together we can all raise money for someone else in need!"

About Project New Hope

Project New Hope has helped over 8,000 veterans last year alone through its food pantries in Worcester and Westfield, as well as close to 1,000 veteran through the baby pantries.

Sully's Food & Baby Pantry, named for Moore's mother whose maiden name was Sullivan, is located at 70 James St., Worcester and 1029 North Road, Suite 9, Westfield.

Project New Hope is gearing up for its 9th annual Salute Our Veterans Motorcycle Ride on Saturday, Aug. 19 starting at Wagner Motorsports in Worcester and ending at Vernon Hill American Legion Post 435 in Worcester. Texas Roadhouse is providing food and musician Tony Garcia will perform live music.

Project New Hope is also partnering with Dollar Tree Stores and Operation Homefront to provide backpacks stocked with school supplies for military children. Last year 128 backpacks were distributed.

For more information about Project New Hope and its programs and services, visit www.ProjectNewHopeMA.org or call 774-243-7859.

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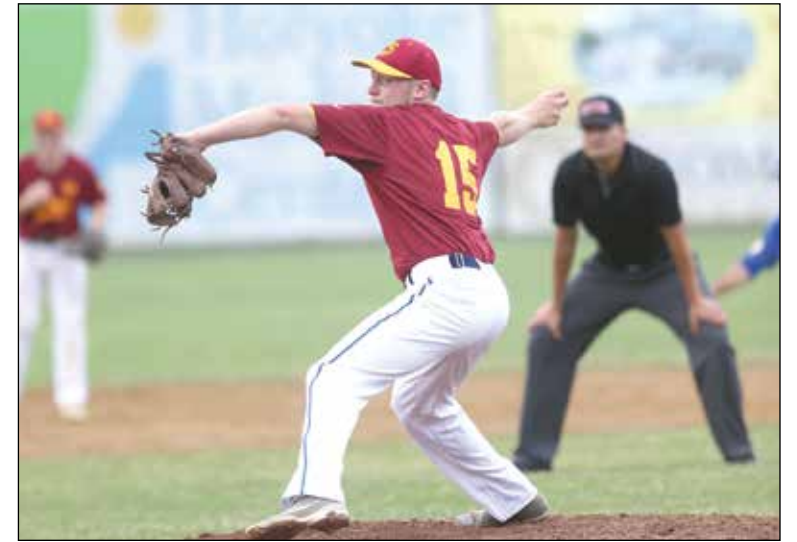


Zach Handzel, of Palmer, pitches for PeoplesBank.



Agawam's Cam Rivest delivers a pitch for DiFranco Realty.

St. Joe's season ends in playoff loss



Turley photo by Gregory A. Scibelli
Sam Schriber delivers a pitch for the Saints.

Bankers cash in for finals

WILBRAHAM – Last Friday night, PeoplesBank Tri-County baseball took down DiFranco in the opener of a best-of-three series 17-0 in five innings. The Bankers are the No. 1 seed in the Tri-County League playoffs. They would punch their ticket to the finals the following day when DiFranco forfeited the second game of the series, giving the Bankers the finals berth. The finals were scheduled to begin earlier this week.



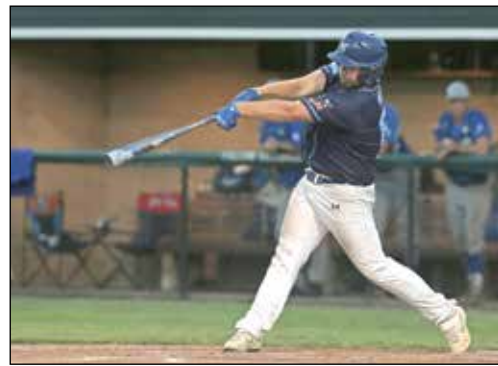
Joe Ferry, of Palmer, slides into third base safely.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Cam McDonald throws to first.



Dave Clark fields a grounder for PeoplesBank.



Nicholas Wilken, of Ludlow, swings and connects.



Ryan Hemenway, of Wilbraham sizes up a pitch.

DiFranco Realty advances to semifinals

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

EAST LONGMEADOW— Two days after losing to fifth-seeded DiFranco Realty at home in game one of the Tri-County League playoffs, fourth-seeded St. Joseph's made the trek to the East Longmeadow High School baseball field looking to even the best of three series.

Game two was a very close affair until the fifth inning.

With the score tied, 2-2, entering the bottom of the fifth inning, DiFranco Realty put together a rally. They wound up sweeping the opening round series with a 5-2 victory, last Wednesday night.

"Anytime that you're the higher seeded team and you don't win a game in a playoff series, it's very unfortunate," said St. Joe's manager Paul Marcinek. "We did have some good pitching in these two games, but we just didn't execute at the plate. We just left a lot of guys on base."

Marcinek shared the coaching duties with Jon Ferry.

DiFranco Realty celebrated a 6-1 victory in game one. Game two was postponed for a day due to rain.

St. Joe's, who finished the regular season with an 8-10 record,

left a total of six runners on base in game two. Five of them were stranded in scoring position.

DiFranco, who went 6-12 during the regular season, took a 1-0 lead against St. Joe's righthander Brandon Magni in the bottom of the first inning.

Centerfielder Cam Rivest, who's from Agawam, lined a leadoff single into leftfield. Rivest moved to third base following a perfect sacrifice bunt by first baseman Andrew Bunger.

After the next batter hit a ground ball back to Magni, an RBI single by designated hitter Carlos Pena gave the home team an early 1-0 lead.

St. Joe's did tie the score in their next at-bats.

With one-out in the top of the second inning, second baseman Jon Nickerson hit a flyball double to right field. Nickerson, who went 2-for-3 in game two, scored the tying run when left fielder Eric Corley (3-for-3) singled to center.

The duo of Nickerson and Corley combined for five of St. Joe's seven base hits in game two.

Nickerson, who also hit a bloop single to right field with one-out in the top of the fourth, scored the go-ahead run when catcher Adam Zebian hit a ground ball to the shortstop.

St. Joe's didn't keep the 2-1 lead for very long.

With one-out in the bottom of the fourth, DiFranco Realty

Please see **ST. JOE'S**, page 10



Coach John Leonard demonstrates with Quabbin eighth grader Aiden Crane during his advanced skill development clinic recently held at the high school gym.



Submitted photos
Brady Patchen carefully listens to instructions from former Villanova and UMass coach John Leonard during the well-attended skills clinic.

Locals participate in basketball clinic

Coach John Leonard hosted another advanced skill development clinic at Quabbin on July 12. The event featured more than

30 local players. Leonard brings a specific plan to instruct on various skills. There is another clinic in the works as Leonard is plan-

ning on returning for a dedicated post play clinic as well as another advanced skills clinic.

Cagers respond with pair of wins

AUBURN – After two close heart-breaking losses last week, the Quabbin Cagers rebounded with two consecutive wins over West Boylston and Tahanto in Auburn Summer Basketball league play.

And rebounded they certainly did, as the E.P. Wine-sponsored team controlled the boards in both games allowing multiple transition baskets in each game for the locals to take advantage.

This has been a work in progress for coaches Tim Hay and Luke Brownell as they are finding ways to increase offensive production. And controlling the boards along with offensive transition opportunities are just two of the expectations.

The losses the previous week by one possession in each game was certainly disappointing to the team and coaches, however, they were not discouraged. Posting a solid 61-41 win over West Boylston saw three players in double digits with guard Chris Prunesti-Leveille leading the way with 21 points followed by combo guard Jacoby Dillon with 12 and power forward Kyle Clark with 10 more.

Forward Nick Whitlaw contributed 6 points and Jaxon Warburton added 4 as well. Six cagers were in the scoring column as seventh grader Hayston Hay saw action and



Submitted photo
Quabbin's Anthony Quarterone employs an effective ball fake to get his opponent in the air on his way to the basket during his team's 41-27 win over Tahanto.

drained a three-pointer to continue the balanced scoring attack.

Rebounding was a key to the victory and Junior Kyle Clark powered down 10 caroms including six on the offensive boards where the 6'4 forward is beginning to exert himself.

Guards Ricky Janoure and Jaxon Warburton combined for seven loose ball recoveries as the Quabbinians totaled 18 for the

game. On defense, Whitlaw drew two charges and Warburton drew another. Whitlaw leads the team in drawn charges.

The Cagers then went on to down Tahanto by a score of 41-27 as Kyle Clark, having a break out summer season, paved the way with 16 points followed by Chris

Please see **CAREER**, page 10

sports

Teams clinch playoff spots as Valley Wheel season nears close

WILBRAHAM – Sunday’s action in the Valley Wheel Over-28 baseball league got a lot clearer as three teams cemented their spots in the playoffs while the fourth team will be determined by a matchup this week.

The Twins-Angels game held at Bruce Park in Suffield provided the stage for a preview to the playoffs.

The two teams have met in the last two playoff finals. It will not happen this year. Thanks to a complete game from Todd Bergstrom, as well as a two-run single in the ninth inning he also provided, the Twins prevailed over the Angels 6-4.

The game was close throughout, with the Angels and Twins trading leads a few times. Down 4-3 in the eighth, Trevor Portlock, of Wilbraham, drove home a run with a single to make the game 4-4. The Angels, unfortunately, could not bring home the go-head runs, which were at second and third with one out. Bergstrom was able to close the game in the ninth.

With the win, the Angels fell to 8-7 and their regular season is finished. The Twins are 8-6, and had a makeup game scheduled with the Tigers on Wednesday at Spec Pond under the lights. A win gets the Twins to 9-6 and the final playoff spot. But a loss would make the Twins 8-7 like the Angels, and put the Angels in the playoffs. The Angels hold a 2-1 advantage in their tiebreaker over the Twins this year, winning the first two matchups the teams had.

Elsewhere in the league, the Cubs cemented their playoff spot, winning their ninth game of the season with a 14-12 win over the Orioles. The Orioles would finish 1-14 and out of playoff contention.

The Cubs meet the Athletics on Thursday night with the top seeds on the line.

The Athletics defeated the Tigers on Sunday evening at Spec Pond 9-7. Both teams have already made the playoffs this year, but will look for momentum in their respective games later this week.

The two makeup games were necessitated from rainouts last Thursday night that wiped out all the action about two hours before the games were scheduled.

The playoffs are currently scheduled for this Sunday at Spec Pond with the 2 and 3 seeds playing at 2:30 p.m. and the 1 and 4 seeds playing at 6 p.m.

Quabbin Regional High School lists honor roll

BARRE – Quabbin Regional Middle High School announces the third trimester honor roll for students in grade nine to 11.

Grade Nine, High Honors

Tricia Brusco, Micah Cerezo, Kalina Dyer, Kenzie Gallagher, Grace Manna, Elizabeth Matheson, Hunter McQueston, Emmalise Skagerlind and Bianca Wilder.

Grade Nine, Honor Roll

Aaron Bodine, Owen Breuer, Branden Brooks, Troy Budreau, Garrett Erickson, Aiden Fuller, Charlie Giese, Ava Gilman, Adelaide Harmon, Emma Kahla, Emma Mckee, Adrian Parker, Parker Proulx, Brooke Roseberry, Wesley Sanderson, Cameran Vega, Samantha Vessair, Andrew Warfield, Collin Wilk, Hannah Zereski and Jin Xi Zou.

Grade 10, High Honors

Alexander Bedard, Kaeliana Boucher, Alisyn Brusco, Samantha Carlson, Matthew Erickson, Adam Faulha, Sydney Gagne, James Geary, Samuel Guertin, Isabel LaBelle, Ethan Salvadore, Kaylee Shaw, Sydney Slattery, Isabella Smith, Irene Stolgitis, Abigail Ure and Jaxon Warburton.

Grade 10, Honor Roll

Madylan Alves, Eamon Arnold, Haley Ayer, Kevin Boles, Kyle Clark, Ava Conlee, Isabel Coviello, Abigail Crawford, Teaghan Earle, Angelina Feliciano, Jack Fors, Ellie Frost, Sophia Gagne, Rachel Harrington, Rylee-Anne Hart, Makaylah Kingsbury, Marie Leber, Kun Liu, Veronica Mendrek, Benjamin Metcalf, Rhyann Orr, Alexandra Pease, Adelynn Prochnow, Luke Salvadore, Ezequiel Santoro, Sadie Sheldon, Julia Smith, Vanecia Tarquinio, Richard Tucker, Travis Wells, Cullan White, Ryan Wing and Summer Young.

Grade 11, High Honors

Kylie Casey, Edward Guertin, Abigail Hughes, Sophia Januszewski, Grace LaValley, Kelsey Marsh, Julianna Stanger, Eleanor Thompson, Michael Tobin and Benjamin Vasseur.

Grade 11, Honor Roll

Alena Arnold, Annabel Audino, Hannah Baxter, Conner Breeds, Baylee Garcia, Evan Cole, Rachel Conlon, Sara Ericik, Natalie Fisher, Jady Gonzalez, Colin Harmon, Emmah Hinckley, Jaxon Kelley, Sean LaPointe, Jake Leazott, Ally Legare, Paige Lindley, Annabelle Magill, Gavin Majoy, Natalia Marchand, Emma Masser, Cole Morrill, Camryn Orsini, Kayleigh Patch, Ariannah Racette, Carlee Rich, Kayla Sherblom, Amy Stauder, Heather Stuart, Gracie Talbot, Seth Twarog, John Waltz, Brianna Whitelaw, Nicholas Whitelaw, Aurelia Wilder and Kylie Woodruff.

education

North Brookfield Savings Bank hosts Back to School drive

NORTH BROOKFIELD – North Brookfield Savings Bank is a strong supporter of the local school systems and students who attend them.

They believe that every child, regardless of their financial circumstances, should have the opportunity to start the school year feeling confident, excited and ready to learn. That is why North Brookfield Savings Bank is kicking off the sixth year of their Back-to-School Supply Drive.

Throughout the entire month of August, North Brookfield Savings Bank will be collecting school supplies and monetary donations at all branch locations in North Brookfield, East Brookfield, West Brookfield, Ware, Belchertown and Three Rivers. All donations collected will be delivered to local public schools to be distributed to school children who may not have the needed supplies to start their year.

To get things underway, the Bank kicked off the fundraiser by purchasing over \$500 in supplies. The branch

employees, equipped with brightly patterned backpacks, lunchboxes, pencil cases, notebooks and various other fun supplies, are getting creative with their “Back-to-School” themed tables, in hopes it will encourage those visiting the branch to donate as well.

Some suggested school supply donation items that can be dropped at any North Brookfield Savings Bank branch location are: new backpacks (unisex), lunchboxes, spiral notebooks, pocket folders, 12” standard rulers, #2 pencils, pencil sharpeners, pencil case, colored pencils, washable markers, erasers, glue sticks, scissors and tissues.

“North Brookfield Savings Bank is incredibly proud to once again host the Back-to-School Supply Drive. We want all children to begin the school year with the essential supplies they need, in turn giving them the confidence and enthusiasm that allows them to continue to learn successfully,” said Nicole Syriac, digital marketing strategist. “It was so amazing to witness the generos-



Submitted Photo
North Brookfield Savings Bank employee proudly displays some of the school supplies donated in 2022 by generous community members, customers and NBSB employees.

ity displayed during our annual Back to School Supply Drive. Customers, community members and our employees were so giving and really showed how much they care for the children of our schools. We look forward to seeing that

same generosity this year.”
To learn more about North Brookfield Savings Bank’s community giving efforts visit www.NorthBrookfieldSavingsBank.com.

New bill sets to permanently increase federal funding for school meals

WASHINGTON, D.C. –U.S. Representative James P. McGovern (D-MA), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee and a nationwide leader in the fight to end hunger and improve nutrition, introduced legislation permanently increasing the federal reimbursement level for school meals to help address funding challenges, enhance menus, increase access to locally grown food, and support expanded services like after-school snacks and breakfast in the classroom.

H.R. 1269, the Healthy Meals Help Kids Learn Act, permanently increases the federal reimbursement level for all free, reduced-price, and paid-rate school meals by 45 cents for every lunch served and 28 cents for every breakfast served, with a yearly adjustment.

School meals help shape lifelong healthy eating habits, and research shows that students who participate in school meal programs have better overall diet quality than nonparticipants. Higher food costs are adding to the urgency of this legislation, and a permanent solution will give school districts certainty as they upgrade their meal programs and plan for the



future.

“If we want America’s kids to remain competitive in the 21st century global economy, we can’t just teach them science and math. We need to ensure they have access to healthy, nutritious food at school,” said Congressman McGovern in a press release. “The next generation of

Americans—our future doctors, nurses, engineers, mechanics, and leaders in every field across the country—all need us to step up and improve the quality of food in our schools. Food is just as important to their education

Please see **SCHOOL LUNCH**, page 14

Sound bath and meditation program Aug. 23

HARDWICK – The Gilbertville Public Library, 259 Main St., Gilbertville, will host a sound bath and meditation program with Brandy Lefsyk on Wednesday, Aug. 23 from 4-5 p.m.

This program has a suggested \$5 donation.

Lefsyk is a mother of three, movement muse, Hometownyogi and owner of Home & Heart Studio in Orange. She has been teaching yoga since 2004, is a Reiki master, licensed PTA with a background in exercise science and over 18 years teaching multiple fitness classes.

Sound baths are a meditative practice involving the use of resonant music. This creates an immersive sound that fills the room and the body, aiming to help people relax and let go of stress, anxiety, or other worries and concerns.

People report feeling deeply relaxed after sound baths, which may have health benefits.

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health

Physical therapist helps patients with Parkinson's

PALMER— Parkinson's disease is a brain disorder that causes unintended or uncontrollable movements, such as shaking, stiffness, and difficulty with balance and coordination.

Symptoms usually begin gradually and worsen over time. As the disease progresses, people may have difficulty walking and talking.

They may also have mental and behavioral changes, sleep problems, depression, memory difficulties, and fatigue.

"Patients diagnosed with Parkinson's disease and experiencing interference with their day-to-day movements may greatly benefit from Lee Silverman Voice Therapy®- Big," said Amanda Martins, PT, DPT, a physical therapist at Baystate Wing Hospital.

LSVT-Big is a nationally recognized rehabilitation therapy program that is proven to help people with Parkinson's disease improve upon the disease's impact on their walking, balance, and other activities of daily living, such as writing or dressing.

LSVT stands for Lee Silverman voice treatment, and it has two branches "big" and "loud." The treatment protocol is designed for individuals with Parkinson's disease and other neurological conditions. The treatment is unique and customized to each patient's goals targeting gross and fine motor skills.

"Because LSVT Big treatment is customized to each person's specific needs and goals, it can help regardless of the stage or severity of your condition," said Martins. "The treatment is unique and customized to each patient's goals targeting gross and fine motor skills address walking, balance, and other activities of daily living like writing, getting dressed, and other job-related tasks."

Although the LSVT - Big pro-



Submitted Photo

Amanda Martins displays an example of "Big posture and hands".

gram was designed for individuals with Parkinson's disease, it has been shown to be beneficial in the rehabilitation of individuals with other neuromuscular disorders such as stroke, normal pressure hydrocephalus, brain injury, and multiple sclerosis.

Martins received a bachelor's degree in exercise science from Westfield State University and earned her doctorate in physical therapy from American International College in Springfield.

Raised in Ludlow, Martins still holds her Portuguese roots in the town she knows and loves, with a diverse knowledge of the spoken and written language. She shares her valuable insight on athlet-

ic injuries from her own personal experience as a fellow Lion of Ludlow High School where she played soccer for over 20 years.

Martins sees an array of patients of all ages and abilities and brings a passion for providing sports and stroke rehabilitation as well as amputee and prosthetic rehabilitation to the region. She understands the physical, emotional, and rehabilitative aspects of getting the patient back to the highest quality of life and an athlete back in the game or on the field.

To make an appointment or for more information about Rehabilitation Services at Baystate Wing Hospital in Palmer, located at 42 Wright St., call 413-370-5254.

Legislators combat risks of extreme heat

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Sen. Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.), chair of the Senate Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate, and Nuclear Safety, Sen. Alex Padilla (D-Calif.) and Sen. Kyrsten Sinema (I-Ariz.) and Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (OR-01), Rep. Marilyn Strickland (WA-10) and Rep. Ruben Gallego (AZ-03) reintroduced the Preventing Health Emergencies And Temperature-related Illness and Deaths Act to address the rising health risks of extreme heat.

The announcement follows Earth's hottest day on record, the predicted hottest day in the past 125,000 years, and new national and local responses to extreme heat.

As climate change continues to worsen, extreme heat events in the United States are becoming more frequent, longer lasting, and more

severe. Earlier this month, nearly one in three Americans were under an extreme heat advisory or warning. Prolonged exposure to this kind of heat can have dangerous consequences for human health, including heat exhaustion, heat stroke, and even death.

The Preventing HEAT Illness and Deaths Act would improve and expand inter-agency efforts, provide \$100 million in financial assistance for community projects to reduce exposure to extreme heat, and issue recommendations for federal action on heat-health issues.

"It's no coincidence that we've seen back-to-back record-breaking heat this summer, it's the climate crisis announcing it's at our doorstep. We need to take bold and aggressive action to combat the climate crisis, but we also need to act fast to protect

Americans from the health risks of extreme heat that we are experiencing right now," said Markey. "My legislation would direct \$100 million in federal funding to help local communities on the front lines of the climate crisis stave off the worst outcomes of heat-related illness. As unprecedented waves of sweltering heat persist, I will keep calling on my colleagues in Congress to pass the Preventing HEAT Illness and Deaths Act and create a national response to save lives."

"As we learned from the 2021 Heat Domes, we must actively pursue short-term solutions to save lives during heat waves, in conjunction with long-term steps towards saving our planet," said Strickland. "The Preventing HEAT Illness and Deaths Act will address the dangers of extreme

Please see HEAT, page 15



Health committee leaders announce new legislation

WASHINGTON, D.C. — House Democratic Health Committee leaders introduced new legislation to further lower prescription drug prices for American families and rein in pharmaceutical price gouging.

The bill was introduced by Ways and Means Committee Ranking Member

Richard E. Neal (D-MA), Energy and Commerce Committee Ranking Member Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ), and Education and the Workforce Committee Ranking Member Robert C. "Bobby" Scott

Please see PRESCRIPTION DRUGS, page 14

Bill to allow Medicare coverage for medical wigs

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Rep. James P. McGovern and Rep. Ayanna Pressley alongside Sen. Richard Blumenthal announced that they are reintroducing the Wigs as Durable Medical Equipment Act.

This legislation would help individuals affected by alopecia and patients with cancer who are undergoing chemotherapy.

Many private insurance plans cover wigs for those undergoing treatments that cause hair loss or who are affected by alopecia areata. This bill would allow cranial prosthetics (wigs) to be covered under the Medicare program.

For both McGovern and Pressley, the issue is deeply personal. In 2019, Pressley revealed in a video that she had been diagnosed with alopecia universalis, an auto-immune disease which attacks the hair follicles.

Since then, Pressley has championed policies in Congress that support and express soli-

darity with the nearly 7 million Americans living with alopecia. In a 2021 interview with Vanity Fair, McGovern revealed that his thinking on this issue has been impacted by a cancer diagnosis in his own family.

With no known cause or cure, alopecia areata is an autoimmune skin disease affecting approximately 6.9 million Americans. The disease disproportionately affects children and Black Americans, particularly Black women.

Many individuals affected by Alopecia Areata utilize wigs as there are currently few effective treatment options.

Unfortunately, these prosthetics can come with a significant out-of-pocket cost from \$100 to several thousand dollars for individuals with low or fixed incomes. This is especially burdensome for children, who often want cranial prosthetics for attending school.

Diane M. (DeSantis) Moriarty, 79

WARE — Diane M. (DeSantis) Moriarty, passed away July 25, 2023, at the age of 79.

Born in Ware on Oct. 23, 1943, she was the daughter of Armand and Lillian (Ostiguy) DeSantis. Diane lived all of her life in Ware and took great pride in her work as an office manager for almost 30 years in the propane industry.

In her leisure, she enjoyed playing cards, cooking, baking, and gardening. She was known for her baking skills and was able to make the most beautiful cakes for any occasion.

Diane always looked forward to hosting parties and barbecues for her friends and family. She was a mother and grandmother to everyone, cherishing any and all time spent with the children in her life.

Diane was predeceased by her husband, Michael J. Moriarty Sr. in February of this year and her son, Sean P. Moriarty in 1991.

Her memory will forever be cherished by her son, Michael J. Jr., and



Death notices

Moriarty (DeSantis), Diane M. Died July 25, 2023 Services Aug. 5, 2023

Robert, Erica Died July 18, 2023 Services were July 27, 2023

Yestramski (Starzyk), Barbara Ann Died July 26, 2023 Services were July 31, 2023

his wife, Laurie, along with grandchildren, Kevin Demers and his wife, Erin, Brian Demers, and Sean M. Moriarty. Diane also leaves behind her siblings, Alfred DeSantis and his wife, Gail, Paul DeSantis and his wife, Claire, Linda Maxwell and her husband, Edward, Mark DeSantis and his wife, Cheryl, and Dean DeSantis and his wife Theresa, as well as many nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be Saturday, Aug. 5 from 9-11:30 a.m. at the Beers & Story Belchertown Funeral Home with a service to begin at 11:30 a.m. Burial will follow in New St. William's Cemetery in Ware.

For those wishing, donations may be made in her memory to St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Please visit www.beersandstory.com.

Barbara Ann Yestramski, 81

WARE — Barbara Ann (Starzyk) Yestramski, passed away at her home, in the early morning hour of Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at the age of 81.

Barbara was born in Ware on Aug. 25, 1941, daughter of the late Charles J. Starzyk and Helen M. (Kozlara) Starzyk. She was raised and educated in Ware.

Barbara was employed as an LPN for the former Mary Lane Hospital in Ware for many years.

She was a loving wife, mother,

grandmother and sister. Barbara will be sorely missed by all those who knew and loved her.

She is survived by her loving husband, John G. Yestramski; her son, Jeffrey Yestramski; and her daughter Christine Yestramski; her grandchildren, Kimberly Ann Martin and Heather Marie Martin; and her sisters, Louise Forbes and Paula Starzyk.



A Calling Period took place on Monday, July 31, 2023, in the Cebula Funeral Home Chapel, Ware, a funeral service followed in the chapel. Burial with Prayers of Committal followed in St. Mary's Cemetery, Ware.

For more information and an online guest book, please visit: www.cebulafuneralhome.com.

Erica Robert, 48

BROOKFIELD — Erica Robert, of 41 Molasses Hill Road died at Brigham & Women's Hospital in Boston surrounded by family on July 18, 2023, at the age of 48.

Erica lived an active life and enjoyed CrossFit, scuba diving with her husband, biking with her son, hiking with her daughter, and skiing with her family. She loved travel, live music, and spending time with friends.

Erica served as a Trustee for the Merrick Public Library, and had an extensive career in administrative social work at The Bridge

of Central MA and Open Sky Community Services.

Erica was predeceased by her beloved grandparents, Bernard and Lea (Fortin) Robert.

She leaves her husband and love of her life, Jason Szczypien; her son James (Jamie) Szczypien; and her daughter, Samantha Szczypien all of Brookfield. She also leaves her brother, Steven Robert of Northampton.

Erica leaves numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and close friends, including Dawn Dubois of Ware, Joanne Cebula of West Springfield,

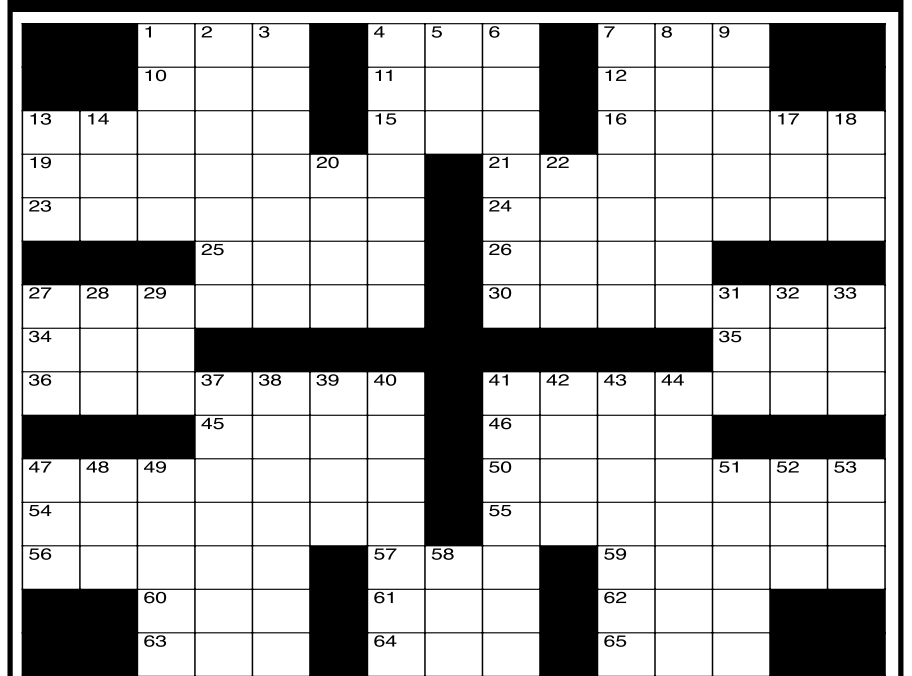


and Kim O'Kane of Ware. She was born in Ware on Nov. 12, 1974, daughter of Douglas and Theresa (Jacques) Robert.

Calling hours for Erica were held on Thursday, July 27, 2023, from 1-3 p.m. in the Varnum Funeral Home, 43 E. Main St., in West Brookfield. A celebration of life was held immediately following the calling hours from 3-6 p.m. in the Hitchcock Tavern, 7 E. Main St., in West Brookfield. Burial was private.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made in her name to The Friends of the Merrick Public Library, 2 Lincoln St., Brookfield, MA 01506.

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Indicates tire pressure
4. Request
7. Clairvoyance
10. 007's creator
11. Adult male
12. Scandinavian god of battle
13. Cloths spread on a coffin
15. Breeze through
16. Ladyfish genus
19. It's good to take them
21. Noble-governed territory
23. Members of U.S. Navy
24. Card game resembling rummy
25. Affected by injury
26. Member of a Semitic people
27. Left
30. Woman's cloak

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Plant of the nettle family
2. Fit to be sold
3. Rather
4. Collected
5. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
6. Patella
7. Ageless
8. Lists of course requirements
9. Pokes at
13. TV network
14. They ___
17. Cooking hardware
18. U.S. Army title
20. Iron-containing compound
22. Swiss river (alt. spelling)
27. Former French coin
28. Electronic countermeasures
29. Taxi

CLUES DOWN

- 31. Helps little firms
32. Woeful
33. Midway between northeast and east
37. Glowing
38. Tasks which should be done
39. An informal body of friends
40. Intrinsic nature
41. Neural structures
42. Brews
43. Where ships unload cargo
44. Singer
47. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
48. Southwest Scotland town
49. Most worthless parts
51. Viscous
52. Put to work
53. Old world, new
58. Swiss river

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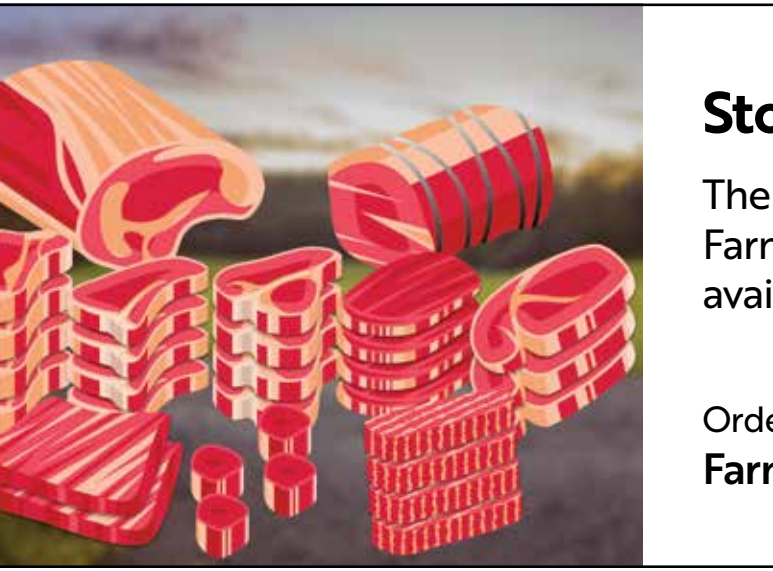
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