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Mystery author to speak

Well, on Thursday, Jan. 18, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the Publick House Inn, on the Town Common, mystery writer Dorothy Cannell will speak during the Joshua Hyde Library's annual Stewing Over Mysteries event.

While a specific mystery will not be shared, Cannell will talk about how she grew up in England, her writing and why she loves it, and why she loves mysteries. She will also share her literary influences.

"I always wanted to write from the time I was a child," Cannell said Tuesday when contacted at her home in Maine. "My mother was a storyteller."

After moving to the United States, she was a stay-at-home mom during the 1970s, and began writing during those years. After seven years, she finally sold her first book, "The Thin Woman," in 1984, she said.

She has gone on to write 13 more mysteries in that series, which features Ellie Haskell, an interior decorator, Ben Haskell, a chef and author, and Primrose and Hyacinth Tramwell, sisters who own a detective agency.

She has also written two mysteries of a planned trilogy, featuring Florence Norris, housekeeper for the Stodmarsh family at their country house in England during the 1930s. She's writing the third installment now, and expects to finish by summer, she said.

Joshua Hyde Librarian Becky Plimpton said a number of years ago, 10 to 15 readers at the library would get together during a book

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Storyteller visits locally Jan. 18

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

STURBRIDGE - Picture it - cold weather, a nice hot stew and a good mystery; sounds pretty good doesn't it?

Christ Church offers resource workshop

First one to cover family resources

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

NORTH BROOKFIELD - Members of Christ Memorial Episcopal Church know that life can throw you some situations you might not be able to handle on your own, and they have developed four workshops to give residents those resources so they don't tackle issues alone. The workshops are made possible through a grant from the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts.

There will be four separate workshops, with the first to be held on Thursday, Jan. 18, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the church, which is located at 133 Main St. Child care will be offered by church members at nearby Haston Free Public Library.

The first one on Jan. 18 will focus on resources for families, including speakers from Healthy Families of Southern Worcester County, Worcester Family Resource Center through YOU Inc. and Grandparents Raising Grandchildren.

"Our church is trying to create a community of caring and we want to provide a network with all the churches, organizations, schools, town government, police, fire and EMS."

SUE LEWANDOWSKI

The three others will provide resources regarding drug and alcohol addiction support, domestic and sexual violence and veterans services.

"During my decades-long pursuit of trying to bring resources to people, I came to understand the interconnection of addiction, domestic assault and poverty," said Sue Lewandowski, a member of the church and someone who has focused on making sure others know what resources are available in the area. She has also focused on providing the community with information about events going on in town. "Everything is connected. We want to help provide

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Quaboag Coalition shares substance use surveys

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

WARE - Last spring, 1,681 students in eighth, 10th and 12th-grades at six area school districts answered questions about their use of tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, prescription opioids and heroin as part of a five-year drug awareness education grant the Quaboag Hills Community Coalition received from the federal government. It is a five-year, \$625,000 federal Drug-Free Communities grant awarded in the fall of 2016.

Ware, North Brookfield, Palmer, Belchertown, Quaboag Regional and Quabbin Regional students all answered the 121-question survey, which asked many questions about their use of the substances, including where and how they obtained them and whether their parents and peers disapproved of using the substances.

Plenty of good news There was plenty of good news from the survey results including less than 1 percent of the eighth, 10th and 12th-grade students in the Quaboag Hills region used heroin in the past 30 days, according to the results.

Also less than 1 percent of Quaboag Hills students in eighth and 10th-grade reported using prescription opioids meant for someone else and barely 1 percent of 12th-graders surveyed reported using them. This is a good news in an area that has seen its share of heroin and illegal opioid prescription use, as has most of the state and the country in the past few years.

The results also show that most students in the Quaboag Hills do not drink alcohol or use marijuana.

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Community Compact signed with state

Focus on water-user study, financial management

By Tara Vocino
Correspondent

EAST BROOKFIELD - Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito signed a Community Compact agreement with East Brookfield at Town Hall Tuesday morning.

The state awarded a \$30,000 Community Compact grant to fund the costs for doing a water-user rate study that will allow for the most equitable rate structure to be developed, according to town officials. The grant will also be used to improve day-to-day financial management.

"I'm thankful that the selectboard took the initiative to apply for it," Water Superintendent Dennis Clarke



Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito signed a Community Compact agreement at Town Hall on Tuesday morning. From left to right, Selectmen Joseph Fish, Shawn Richards, Theodore Boulay, Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito, and Sen. Anne Gobi (D-Spencer).

said. "Thanks to them for putting the time and effort into it, so that the department can focus on the cold temperatures,

plowing, sanding and snow removal."

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